

1980

No 1

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March 6 – 7	Concert Civic Hall, Guildford (with Guildford Operatic Company). Evening
April 20	Concert, Mexican Theatre, Reading, with R A Alanbrooke Band. Evening
May 25	Concert — Regents Park 1500 — 1630 & 1800 — 1930
June 1 — 7	Concerts — Bandstand Eastbourne. After- noons and Evenings
27 — 29	Aldershot Army Display
July 2	Massed Bands Display — Larkhill. Evening
6	Kensington Gardens — Concert 1500 — 1630
13 — 19	Embankment Gardens. Afternoons and Evenings (Provisional)
27	Concert — Kensington Gardens 1500 — 1630
August 3	Concert — Hyde Park 1500 — 1630 & 1830 — 2000
17	Concert — Waterloo Park
23	Concert — Harlow with REME Band. Evening
24	Concert — Tunbridge Wells. Pantiles 1500 & Assembly Hall 1945.

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Lioness

Vol. LIII

1980

No. 1

EDITORIAL

On August 4th this year our Commandant-in-Chief HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will celebrate her 80th birthday, and we shall be sending her our loyal greetings on this special birthday. For more than half of her dedicated life Her Majesty has held the office of Commandant-in-Chief, first of the ATS and then of the WRAC, and has honoured us with her presence on many occasions during these years.

Many of our members and particularly those in Scotland will have been shocked at the untimely death of Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter so soon after she was introduced into the House of Lords. Lady Skrimshire had been a Life member of the Association since 1943, and a tribute to her appears on page 36.

For all our readers, but especially the many new members who joined the Association in 1979, may we draw your attention to the Shopping List on the first page. We have been persuaded to stock T-shirts which are proving very popular. The quality is good and the price is reasonable, and they are available in small and medium sizes. Still looking at the Shopping List may we remind you that there are still some copies of the Corps History at the special discount price of £5.95 which includes postage, while the paperback edition is only £3.35, postage included.

Crossword addicts can turn immediately to page 23 and compete for the £5 prize.

Cover Photograph

Three WRAC Provost and their mascot fly out to join the peace-keeping force in Rhodesia.

Left to Right: Standing - Lance Corporal Carole Pate, Corporal Jenny Parry, Sitting - Corporal Marion Clarke and George.

Courtesy of Daily Mail

Presentations LSGC



W02 Moira Colquhoun being presented with the LSGC Medal by Brigadier J N Ghika Chief of Staff London District.



W02 Joan Page receiving the LSGC Medal from Lt Col John Billington, Deputy Commander Lisburn Garrison just before she left for BAOR.

LSGC

WO1 J Dabbs and WO1 K J Bettison who enlisted into the WRAC in March 1964 joined the same intake at the Depot and Training Centre Lingfield and were in the same platoon and company. They received their Long Service and Good Conduct Medals on the same day – 27 July 1979 while they were serving in 10 Company WRAC.

WO1 J Dabbs received her medal from Brigadier A A Fielder, Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training (Army) during the passing out parade of WRAC and APTC NCOs at the Army School of Physical Training.

Brigadier A P Skinner OBE, Deputy Paymaster in Chief, Ministry of Defence presented WO1 K J Bettison with her medal at a ceremony held in the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, Duchess of Kent Barracks, after which a joint reception was held.

Both Warrant Officers have contributed a lot to sport for women in the Army, and have been involved in the integration of the training for men and women at the Army School of Physical Training. WO1 J Dabbs has also furthered sport for Great Britain, being manager of the Great Britain Ladies Handball Team and is currently assisting in the training of the Great Britain Ladies Ski Team. She has also been chosen to attend the Olympic Games in Moscow.



WO1 J Dabbs (left) and WO1 K J Bettison.

EMERGENCY TOUR – HONG KONG

Capt P J Gold WRAC

When I first arrived in Lubbecke at my new job as Staff Captain 'A' I was given a form to sign stating I was on the Emergency Stand-by Reinforcement Pool. "No-one ever gets called out" they said, so it was a shock when in June I was called into my Colonel's office, told to sit down and heard him say "How would you like to go to Hong Kong?"

Newspapers had been full of reports of illegal immigrants pouring over the border into Hong Kong from China and reinforcements were badly needed. I had three weeks' notice to go to Hong Kong for a period of up to six months as one of the service reinforcements. Then began the injections and collecting kit. I was initially instructed to take a sleeping bag, tropical combat kit and jungle boots! HQ RAOC at 2 Armd Div spent two days tracking down jungle boots only to find the requirement for them was cancelled!

Three weeks later I was sitting in the first class compartment of a British Airways 707 heading for Hong Kong. I had no idea what job I would be doing, whereabouts in Hong Kong I was going to be, or for how long. I was one of five staff officers from BAOR and UK who had been whisked out of our jobs to go to Hong Kong.

We were met at the airport and another Captain and I were taken to HMS Tamar, home of HQ British Forces, which contains a large presence of the Royal Navy, hence the name. HMS Tamar is a modern 27-storey building containing offices; messes, car parks and sports facilities in the one building. Living in Tamar is an experience in itself and the views over the harbour to Kowloon are spectacular.

I was based in the Colony Police Military Headquarters (Col Pol Mil) with a Scots Guards Captain, also a reinforcement, as G 3 Ops. There we monitored the illegal immigrant statistics, prepared situation reports, briefed and answered questions. It was very much a tri-service operation with the RN, Army and RAF all supporting the civil police in the prevention and capture of the Chinese illegal immigrants.

Our first few days in Hong Kong were devoted

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to familiarising ourselves with the border area and meeting the people with whom we would be dealing. This involved a helicopter trip by courtesy of the AAC over the islands and along the border. We were also taken along the length of the border by landrover to a majority of the observation posts to see the terrain and observe the tasks in which the soldiers were involved.

An additional problem was the arrival of Typhoon Hope which made a spectacular journey through the colony. Luckily it passed through within twelve hours and the damage and loss of life caused by it was less than feared. The typhoon created more work on the clearing up side for the troops as well as presenting an ideal foul weather situation for some of the braver illegal immigrants to sneak over the border.

The illegal immigrants were very determined in their attempts to get into Hong Kong as their array of weapons in the form of evil looking knives showed. Many of them attempted to swim across the bays, which in many cases would take several hours. The fact that they could not swim was no deterrent as the variety of floats picked up showed. No one can tell how many failed in their swim but the sharks were fairly active in most of the bays.

The numbers coming across the border illegally dropped dramatically as I arrived in Hong Kong. I would like to claim the credit but it was probably due to the return of the Chinese border division from Vietnam! In fact during my two months there the largest number of illegal immigrants caught in 24 hours was 146 compared to 500 - 600 per day a month earlier.

I managed to get a certain amount of time off from work and visited some of the islands, shops, tourist sights, restaurants and some of the more reputable night-clubs. At the end of two months I had spent all my money and become adept in the use of chop-sticks so it was time for me to leave. The situation had quietened down considerably on the border and the main influx of illegal immigrants was by boat from Macao which was more a Marine Police and Navy province.

During my stay in Hong Kong I was extremely well looked after by members of the Staff and WRAC who were all very helpful. My farewell party was extended somewhat by a 17 hour delay of my return flight! I returned to Germany a few days later laden with 'goodies' and a fast fading suntan. It was an interesting and informative two months and also exceedingly enjoyable.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Brigadier Anne Field CB Hon ADC Director WRAC who has been appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath in the New Year Honours.

Captain Jennifer Hindshaw of 33 Signal Regiment (V) who reached the final in the Granada TV contest "The Krypton Factor". Captain Hindshaw writes, "I found the programme very interesting and very much enjoyed competing, even in the assault course section which takes place at Holcombe Moor near Bury". Captain Hindshaw is a chartered accountant and lives in Manchester. She is the senior WRAC TA officer with 33 Signal Regiment whose headquarters are at Huyton, Liverpool. The final was due to be screened on 17th August last year but thanks to the vagaries of ITV was eventually shown on Sunday 11th November.

Pte A Whitehouse of CAD Kinton who has received the GOC's Commendation for prompt and public spirited action when she went to the aid of a London Transport Railway official who was being violently attacked by a passenger. Pte Whitehouse appealed to other passengers for help but was ignored. She succeeded in overpowering the assailant, and assisted in detaining him until the police arrived.

Lieutenant Caroline Paxton of 1 RMP, Northern Ireland, who passed her advanced driving test with the Institute of Advanced Motorists after a gruelling 1½ hours test.

Sgt E P Forster who won three awards while attending last year's Pupil Musicians Course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

W02 G E Sale who has received the Mary Naomi Wallace Award for 1979.

Pte Julie Smith of HQ Northern Ireland who is an Army biathlete and recently completed a 10 hour sponsored swim for charity. She raised nearly £200 for cancer and leukaemia.

Private Nicki Richards of 2 Armd Div Tpt Regt RCT, BAOR in Bunde who has received the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. She successfully completed the Bronze and Silver stages before joining the WRAC nine months ago, and while working for the Gold Award has spent a lot of her spare time working with deprived young children. Pte Richard's home is in Exeter and she was a member of the Devon Youth Orchestra in which she played the flute.



Pte Nicki Richards who has received the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

SERVING WITH LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

Lucy Rogerson (SSgt Lucy Flood ATS)

Early in 1945, having served with the ATS for three years in bomb-scarred UK I was delighted to find myself one of twenty-one girls selected for service in the Far East. I was a Corporal at the time. We mobilized with a number of other auxiliaries at Mullers Orphanage in Bristol, where we were issued with a tropical kit – Australian style bush hat, cotton shirts, light KD shirts and sheer luxury – Aertex underwear! Farewell at last to those huge, hideous khaki bloomers!

Late June found us aboard the “Empress of Scotland”, travelling as first class passengers with all the trimmings that went with VIP treatment in those early days of “cruising”. The ship was now manned by the Royal Navy and compared with Army rations, every meal was a mouth-watering revelation, served from silver dishes on starched damask cloths by white coated stewards.

We relaxed on the boat deck under blue skies and a hot sun for almost five weeks, until one morning a lone palm tree on the horizon heralded our approach to land, and by lunch time we hove to off Colombo, Ceylon. Disembarkation meant going over the side of the ship, one hand on the rope ladder, the other clutching our large hold-alls, and a perilous descent to the landing craft below. We all made it safely!

The next three weeks were spent at ATS Camp B13, a group of wooden huts erected in the thickly wooded high ground at Kandy. This was Headquarters Allied Land Forces, South East Asia and everyone here was working on Operation ZIPPER, the final plan for the re-occupation of Singapore and Malaya. Then with eleven other girls I went on to ATS Camp A2 and joined Lord Mountbatten's staff at Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia, situated amidst the trees and exotic blooms of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kandy. Our own quarters were in the village of Peredeniya. The huts were built on a hillside and from the road below resembled a miniature alpine village, minus the snow of course! Life here was certainly unique and very informal; we were now allowed to wear civilian clothes at all times except when actually on duty.

The Japanese surrender followed shortly after my move to SACSEA, and two of us were given

the job of typing the history of Forces ‘H’ and ‘F’ – two groups of allied prisoners of war who had worked under the Japanese on the Burma/Siam railway. These documents told the unvarnished truth about the terrible sufferings, hardships and indignities they had borne; some of the details were so gruesome we were often reduced to tears whilst typing.

Thanks to Ceylon's low cost of living we seemed to have plenty of money to spend, and off duty days were spent shopping in the bazaars or well-stocked shops in Colombo, if not swimming and surfing at Mount Lavinia, rounded off with a meal at the famous Galle Face Hotel.

One day in October 1945 all personnel attached to HQ SACSEA were called together during the lunch hour break for an informal address by the Supremo himself. Standing before us, hatless, this truly great man told us in a few simple words how our work in Ceylon was finished, and that we would shortly be going with him to new headquarters in Singapore.

Along with four other ATS auxiliaries from SACSEA I was on the 1st Sea Echelon to Singapore, but when we arrived on the dockside at Colombo we found there was no accommodation for us on the troop ship “Devonshire”. It was not possible to return to Kandy as we had been officially posted to Singapore and included in the draft. Eventually the five of us found ourselves in one tiny cabin on D Deck, next to the engine room and just above the water line. This was my first experience of what wartime ‘trooping’ was really like while for the next eight days we sailed ever nearer to the equator in overcrowded, cramped conditions.

As we were the first ATS girls to arrive in Singapore we were billeted with the WRNS in Ardmore luxury flats, familiarly known as the “Wrennery”. In Ceylon we had been looked after by native women and Tamil menservants who did all our cleaning and washing; here in Ardmore we had Chinese house-boys. The WRNS received rations from the Royal Navy, and once again we had our four course lunches and dinners, sat at small tables for four, and were allowed to bring our boy-friends for afternoon tea on any day of the week. It was interesting how the two Services combined living under the same roof. We were administered by WRNS Officers, but life here was very informal. The WRNS, many of whom were ex debutantes, were friendly and helpful and our stay at Ardmore was a happy one.

HQ SACSEA Singapore was established in

Cathay Building, an ultra-modern block of flats with its own cinema, ballroom, restaurant and squash courts; all of which were put to good use as Officers and All Ranks clubs. Lord Mountbatten's offices were on the top floor; General 'Boy' Browning (Daphne du Maurier's husband) Chief of Staff SACSEA one floor down; then Major General Sir Reginald Denning, KCB DSO MC, Principal Administrative Officer South East Asia, in whose office I worked as shorthand typist, now promoted to Sergeant.

It was here in Cathay Building that I worked so near to Lord Mountbatten. We saw him regularly in the corridors, in the lifts or talking to his staff officers in the large foyer. There were comparatively few members of the WRNS and ATS employed in Cathay and he would often refer to us jokingly as his 'young ladies'. At our VJ Celebration Dance, in spite of the important engagements he must have had on that night, he came into the canteen and took a few steps with all the girls present. It was simple things like this, or the informal way he spoke to the troops, removing his hat and rolling up his shirt sleeves, which endeared him to everyone. He was, indeed, an inspiration to all the men and women who so proudly served under him in South East Asia.

When the WRNS were recalled to the UK, Ardmore flats were handed back to the civil authorities and I was moved to Tanglin Barracks and accommodated with other ATS now serving in Singapore. As a Sergeant I had my own room and a sweet little Chinese amah of doubtful age to 'do' for me. Two other rather exceptional amenities at Tanglin were the Chinese tailor who called once a week (usually on pay day!). If we required a garment making he would ask for a picture or sketch, take our measurements and the material we chose, returning the following week with the article almost finished. The other familiar figure was a young Chinese girl named 'Vicki' who wandered quite freely from room to room, calling "Dly clean Missie". Her services were also quick and immaculate, but most of all she loved to sit and talk to us about our homes and lives in England.

Our off-duty hours were usually spent in the many tiny shops, boutiques and bazaars in Singapore city, lunch at the famous Raffles Hotel and visits to the many beautiful buildings and churches. For the more serious minded there were seats in the gallery to listen to the War Crimes Trials. But the cost of living in Singapore was so high so on most of our days off we could be found swimming and sunbathing on the glorious white

sandy beaches surrounding the island. The ATS notice board was always crammed with invitations to picnics, boat trips to neighbouring islands or weekend trips to the hills, and every night there was a party, dance or beach barbecue by moonlight. For the more energetic there was tennis or riding at the Tanglin Riding School. Long leave was taken in the cool of the Cameron Highlands or on the peaceful tropical island of Penang.

On 30th November 1946 Lord Killearn and his civilian staff took over the administration from HQ SACSEA in Cathay Building and the Secretariat closed. I was posted to District HQ at Fort Canning to become PA to Brigadier A M Anstruther OBE, Chief Engineer Singapore District and was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Here I remained until due for repatriation and demobilization in June 1947.

REUNION AT BENBECULA

A brother and sister were re-united for a few hours on 9th October at Benbecula airport, in the Outer Hebrides. Chief Petty Officer Martin Le Cornu, RN is a Shipwright in HMS Herald, a Royal Navy Survey Ship at present operating between the Hebrides and St Kilda. His sister, Corporal Janice Pass, WRAC, is a Radar Operator at the Royal Artillery Range, Outer Hebrides. When CPO Le Cornu heard that his ship was going to be in the area he wrote to his sister suggesting a meeting. Luckily for them HMS Herald's Wasp helicopter flies occasional liaison trips to Benbecula and CPO Le Cornu was able to get a seat.



Chief Petty Officer Martin Le Cornu dropping in for a brief visit to his sister Cpl Janice Pass.

EXERCISE MIDNIGHT SUN

Sgt Dawn Hamer

"... Exercise Midnight Sun ... volunteers required, names to BSM ASP ..."

I was intrigued, so I put my name down along with Pte Sheena Tooke. I am a cook at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital and Sheena is a stewardess in the RA Depot Officers Mess.

The aim of the exercise, as we later discovered, was to travel to Finland by road and sea, then to trek through Lapland to the junction of the borders of Norway, Sweden and Finland. The party consisted of Captain Wilkinson RA, 6 members of the Depot Regiment RA, Sheena and myself.

Four months before the exercise started we began our fitness training programme. Our generous PTI Cpl "Taff" Allerton offered to help us out and Sheena and I found ourselves doing PT at 5 o'clock in the morning! We weren't exactly jumping for joy but it was all for our benefit so we got on with it.

We set off on July 2nd for Gottenburg in Sweden then by road to Stockholm to catch the Ferry to Helsinki. In Helsinki we received a briefing from the British Defence Attaché, and then we were really on our way.

We spent the first night in Juva where we stayed in an old barn on top of a pig pen. Washing was done in the lake and the toilet facilities were basic! We had difficulty in sleeping because we were so far north that it never got dark.

We were heading north towards Finnish Lapland and base camps were set up at points along the route by the admin party. Anyone who was not fit enough to walk could join the admin party and set up the next camp, go shopping and cook the evening meal. The forest en route was so impenetrable that we had to follow roads and tracks most of the time. The scenery was beautiful all the way, with many hills and lakes.

Finally we reached the "Sign Post of the Three Lands", our mission accomplished. Our homeward journey was by a different route so we saw even more of Finland. Looking back we felt we had achieved a great deal. We had walked over 20 kilometres and had a fantastic time. It was a great experience for me as I had never been abroad before, and I hope to do something similar in the future — if I have the chance.

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VISITING JUNGLE-TRAINING GUNNERS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

2 Lt E M Lemonde WRAC

I cannot describe my feelings of tense excitement as the VC10 began its final descent into Belize International Airport. After twelve hours' flying with a brief stop at Washington's Dulles Airport, I had finally arrived in Central America.

As we left the clouds behind, a coastal landscape of shallow, murky water appeared, dominated by large deltas formed as the rivers deposit their vast loads of silt on reaching the sea. Tangled masses of mangrove trees encroached on these inhospitable swamps which began to thin out as we flew away from the coast. I noticed a large, white bird of the heron family take lazily to the air and I was reminded of the fascinating Gerald Durrell books I had read as a child. My thoughts were interrupted as the engine noise changed and Airport Camp came into sight clustered about the runway. Tanned soldiers, dressed only in shorts, stood on the roofs of the buildings as the plane roared by, and I smiled as one group held up large white cards spelling out the word 'Magic'. The weekly arrival of the RAF VC10 was obviously quite an important occasion, bringing new faces and a reminder that there was indeed a civilised world beyond the jungle.

A short, bumpy bus ride, a brief welcome for all the new arrivals, and I was escorted to the mess and an adjoining hut where I was to share a room with the WRVS representative who had flown out with me that day. The excitement and the jet lag made me feel quite exhausted, and despite local time insisting it was four o'clock in the afternoon, I knew only too well that back in UK where I had

reluctantly left my bed at four in the morning, everyone was fast asleep. Belize greeted me with one of its dry season's rare rainstorms so that the air was very sticky and oppressive and made my jeans and T-shirt feel more like a fur coat. Although I had so much to see and many people to meet I collapsed gratefully into bed under my one sheet, having been assured that the mosquito net at my window really was sufficient to let me sleep undisturbed.

It was 3rd Field Battery of 47 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery who were doing a six month tour out here in the jungle so far away from the rest of the regiment back in Colchester. Major Christopher Burson, the Battery Commander, had arranged my ten day visit in such a way that I would see something of this fascinating country. I was whisked off on my first afternoon to Holdfast Camp which provided the security force in the northern half of the country. The two hour drive in a one-tonne landrover was an unforgettable experience. Sergeant Major Mayo drove over the ruts and stretches of unsurfaced, broken road, a wicked grin on his face, as though the unfortunate soldiers in the back were riding in a limousine, while insisting that the only way to improve the quality of the journey was to "glide" over any irregularity en route! We rested our dusty, weary bodies at a scruffy, little cafe affectionately named "Herman the German", after its proprietor, an incredible character who was not only German but also permanently inebriated. However there was no doubt in anyone's mind about the quality of his fantastic hamburgers.

Holdfast Camp was my favourite. With no jungle here to hack down it was well set out with all the necessary amenities and a comfortable happy atmosphere. The lawn that surrounded all the huts was well kept; there were the very popular and necessary showers and a volleyball court had been set up as the vital helicopter landing site.

During my ten days I was surprised by the varied geography in this small country. Here in the north the vegetation was far less luxurious so that in places dry fields and dusty tracks dominated the landscape, while trees still fought for breathing space along watercourses. It was a very different story in the south where the true rain forest had conquered the land, and again on the beautiful Caribbean Islands.

That evening, after a delicious six-course meal at "Herman the German" with many of the officers from the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Battalion, I stayed in the one reasonable

hotel in San Ignacio, the main town in Northern Belize. Thursday turned out to be a fascinating and very full day. It began shortly before seven o'clock as I sat on the verandah watching the sun come up and disperse the mist, while waking hundreds of beautiful and brilliantly coloured birds, butterflies and other insects who immediately began their weird tropical chorus to welcome in another scorching day with clear blue skies. I was with Lieutenant Willy McCracken who had flown out with me to join 3 Battery for just six weeks, and the two of us were picked up by Captain Richard Balkwill who was sporting the most gorgeous and enviable tan. The landrover with its little trio sped off westward towards the Guatemalan border leaving a trail of choking dust along the track. Our destination was the site of some fascinating and well preserved Mayan Indian ruins, which, being situated above the surrounding countryside, commanded a wonderful view. We had to cross a wide river en route at a small village where the women were washing clothes in the river, scrubbing the vivid coloured cloth on large flat stones from where the soap suds drifted lazily downstream. Having hailed the ferryman from the cafe we were able to drive very carefully on to an antiquated wooden structure that resembled a raft hauled across the river by two thick ropes as I wound a very rusty handle.

That afternoon Richard drove us to Spanish Lookout, a Medenite settlement that covered a vast area of land that had been cleared for agriculture. These people originally came from Germany, and years of very hard work have produced a thriving community in which they have built their own houses, cut miles of road and become self-sufficient in food. Having lost our direction we stopped to speak to a young boy who was wearing faded jeans and a straw hat as he drove the tractor which pulled a large plough attracting flocks of gulls. He must have been about thirteen with a beautiful face, ash blonde hair and large blue eyes. I noticed that strangely he never smiled and that none of the liveliness and curiosity of a child were present in his eyes. How sad that he should have been so totally absorbed with the serious realities of maintaining a reasonable existence.

I must mention that I did find time to make myself of some use! One of the reasons for my visit was to discover the soldiers' educational requirements in order to bid for courses and so on, on my return to Colchester. Much more enjoyable was joining the directing staff on

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Dibden Road, Norwich NR3 4RR.

Saturday morning to test the Crew Commanders' Course doing combat tasks.

Sunday was the day the Mess arranged a boat trip to one of the Cayes, the lovely Caribbean Islands that follow the coral reef down the east coast from Florida, the longest in the world after the Great Barrier Reef. It took nearly two hours to motor the twelve miles from Belize City harbour to Caye Chapel, one of the larger islands supporting a tiny settlement. Some of the Cayes are so small that they harbour only a cluster of palm trees in the centre that provide scanty shade. It was the sort of day that many of us must dream about sitting in our offices on a Monday morning. The sky was cloudless, the sea warm and crystal clear. A large crate of 7-Up, Coke and Martini rested against a palm tree while huge steaks sizzled on the barbecue and bronzed bodies gleamed in the sun, swimming and snorkelling. A huge wire netting trap held some of the most beautiful tropical fish that I have ever seen.

A few days later I was fortunate enough to join three other officers on a helicopter recce of Battle Group South, deep in the heart of the jungle. We landed at both main camps, Rideau and Salamanca, and flew over numerous small villages whose thatched huts clustered in jungle clearings.

My stomach tightened as we came in on the approach to the helipad on Little Quartz Ridge, which literally hung over the edges dropping hundreds of feet to the rain forest below. It was strange to look out over miles of impenetrable jungle; luxuriant, beautiful yet deadly unless you knew just how to arrive. Nearby was the Aquacale jungle school run by 2 Lt Matt Minshell who loved the rough outdoor living and assured me that iguana is really delicious! Despite their dirty, unshaven look I have never seen a more healthy, fit looking bunch of soldiers.

My visit had the most gorgeous, relaxing finish on Ambergris Caye, the largest off-shore island, where I spent two days at the small town of San Pedro. Matt and I had a fifteen minute flight in a 4-seater Cessna of Mayan or "White-knuckle" Airways, so-called as it is a hair-raising experience, but with the most lovely view of the surf breaking on the coral reef. The two days were just like a dream as I sunbathed on the white coral sand in front of Paradise Hotel. There was a friendly, relaxed and thoroughly intoxicating atmosphere, totally unspoilt by the few tourists and reminiscent of a Bacardi advertisement. We sat under palm trees drinking Rum and Coke and Pina Celladas (rum, coconut, pineapple and crushed ice), dived off the numerous small jetties into deliciously warm water and frequented the tiny bars along the beach in the evening. In the dark, the island was even more romantic with a full moon, a strong breeze rustling the branches of the palm trees and the phosphorescent algae making a myriad of tiny green lights in the water. It was very reluctantly that I climbed into the 8-seater Islander to return to Belize City. This so called "city" deserves a mention as the most shabby and unhygienic place I have visited. It had character however, and I enjoyed two evenings in small restaurants which served delicious Chinese food, and in a discotheque on the front called "Zorba the Greek".

I left Belize on Sunday afternoon in a complete daze. Everyone had gone out of their way to give me a marvellous time and as I headed homeward over the Atlantic I could not believe all that had happened over the last ten days. We had a two hour stop in Bermuda, sadly at three in the morning during a howling gale, and finally arrived at Brize Norton at about 0630 hours British time. As I sat in my office the next morning, telephones ringing, it all seemed unreal except that my flaking skin and blisters were authentic enough. I would get burnt all over again for just a few days of that unforgettable world in Central America.

EXPEDITION "ATLAS TREK" — MOROCCO 2 Lt S Hayes WRAC

When I was commissioned into the WRAC in April last year I had no idea that in less than six months I would be taking part in an Expedition to the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Some of the servicewomen employed with 41 Squadron RCT were invited to compete for places in the expedition party and as their Platoon Officer I was offered a place as OC WRAC if I could complete the fitness training. The training was much harder than I had expected and included a three day trek into the Cairngorms. After many week-ends spent training in various locations the final challenge was a 40 mile march along the South Downs Way. The march was to be completed in 24 hours, each of us carrying a bergen rucksack with a load of 30 to 40 lbs weight. As no concessions were made for the female members, Pte Gill Faulkingham, Pte Helen Joinson and I had to work hard and were delighted that we had secured our places in the expedition.

For the outward journey the expedition was split into two, the road party which took out the two landrovers and most of the kit, and the air party of ten which included the two servicewomen and myself. We flew to Gibraltar on 25th September and arrived to find gorgeous weather. After two splendid days spent sightseeing and sunbathing we took the ferry to Tangiers where we joined the road party. We spent three days acclimatising and training at a beach camp in Asilah, 25 miles south of Tangiers and left there on 1st October for Rabat the capital. From there we travelled to the High Atlas Mountains via El-Jadida, Marrakech and Asni, finally running out of road at the village of Imlil. We parked the landrovers and loaded our heavy kit on to mules. Carrying our bergens we climbed to the next village, Around, where we made our initial base camp prior to the march and the ascent of the Jebel Roubkiah. That evening we were royally entertained to Berber singing, dancing and mint tea.

We rose at dawn and prepared our equipment. Due to the extreme heat it was decided that the bergens belonging to the WRAC members would be carried on mules along with the tentage. This left us with 15 lbs weight, mainly food and water attached to our belt order. The climb, although exhausting in itself gave tremendous views. We made the French Alpine shelter, Neltner, by mid-afternoon, and set up a base camp for the final

ascent the following day.

The rise before dawn was made in an effort to beat the sun while we worked our way up a very narrow coil, leading to the top. After a four hour tough climb we made the summit at a height of 13,700 feet. This was the first time that any member of the WRAC had climbed the Jebel Toubkal. The views from the top were superb; we could see Marrakech to the North, under a layer of cloud, and the North Sahara lying to the South. After a rest at the summit we returned by almost the same route to our base camp at Around and decided to press on to the vehicles and start our journey to the North Sahara.

This journey took us two days via the tortuous route of the Tizi-n-Test, Aoulouz, Tazenakt, Ben Azzer and Vallee du Draa to Zagorra. Zagorra was very hot and oppressive. Due to a threatening storm we left after one night's camp and returned to Asilah, arriving in a torrential rain-storm which continued unabated for four days.

We returned to Gibraltar where we enjoyed one of the highlights of our trip, a tour of the Lower Caves. All that was then left was to pack our kit for the flight home, leaving the road party to

return to Tangiers. We arrived at Gatwick on the evening of the 16th October, a little sad that it was all over.



L - R Pte Gill Faulkingham and 2 Lt Sue Hayes.

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EX MOONBASE I

2 Lt J M Crosse WRAC

In August the commandos of 29 Commando Regiment RA went on exercise to Cyprus taking me, their Assistant Adjutant with them. The exercise known as Moonbase I was commanded by Major I A Wilkinson RA and designed to test and improve military and adventure training skills and to develop junior leadership.

We divided into 3 locations, Troodos, Evidhimou and Dhekelia in order to experience the different facilities available. Troodos offered hill walking, climbing and abseiling and although the temperature was lower in the mountains, the effects of altitude were quite apparent.

Arduous physical exercise was normally planned for early mornings and evenings, the average temperature being 31° – 34°C. As the sun rose at about 5.30 am this meant a very early start. I joined in on the first runs and the thought of reaching the sea for a dip kept me going. However, I discovered that riding was available at that hour and if I cantered along beside the commandos I could just about keep up!

Inland on the ranges, groups practised pistol shooting and firing SLRs and SMGs. As public relations officer I travelled in my landrover to cover these events and even underwent some instruction along with two civilians who were on an attachment. The ranges provided useful training in weapon handling prior to the Escape and Evasion exercise which took place among the hills near Evidhimou beach. Armed with SLRs the friendly forces came ashore by landing craft just as dawn was breaking. As the front was lowered, several soldiers leapt into the water keeping their weapons well above their heads. As more men advanced, red flares were lit and the smoke screened them off effectively from the beach. Another photographer and I were strategically placed in front of them as they emerged dripping from the water. At the same time we stood our

ground, clicked our cameras and protected the £200 of equipment from being shot up the beach. At one moment we were completely encircled by advancing troops, at the next they had vanished into the undergrowth.

I stayed at Dhekelia for a while to cover the parachuting. Sgt Rose, one of the Buccaneer Free Fall team was instructing some first time parachutists. Having watched them kit up and take off, I drove to the landing site. On a number of occasions photography was seriously impeded when the parachutist headed straight for me. The further I moved away the more he pursued me until I literally ran away to avoid collision. Orienteering was another of our sports, but a difficult subject to photograph. After the start the runners moved off so fast there was nothing left to see but the litter of race instructions strewn around.

Sadly Cyprus is divided. I spent some time with the UN forces on the border near Nicosia where 79 (Kirkcubbin) Commando Battery were patrolling the area. There was little activity though the Turkish soldiers could be seen clearly with the naked eye on sentry duty. Naturally photography was forbidden.

There was time for some sightseeing and the island of Venus lived up to her reputation. Of remarkable beauty was Aphrodite's birth place, reputed to be the place where the Goddess rose out of the water leaving it a transparent light blue. The Greek amphitheatre too, where monthly concerts are held, was a fine sight on a clear Cypriot night.

After 4 weeks it was time to pack up our headquarters at Radio Sonde and fly to England. Our next exercise was to be at Larkhill and although the weather was kind, somehow it did not remind us too much of Cyprus.



Dawn attack on Evidhimou beach.

News from Recruiters

Sgt A Sillett

Whilst our regular serving counterparts are beavering their way into trades previously dominated by our male colleagues, we in Recruiting are also doing our bit.

First of all we are both proud and pleased that Captain E B Allan (Retd) has been appointed Army Careers Officer at Chester early next year, the first female to hold this position.

Secondly, our male colleagues (Long Service List) held their convention at Blackpool in November and for the first time female Recruiters were in attendance. The convention was indeed a success with much being gained by both sides. I think all would agree that the idea of inviting WS Recruiters was a good one which will probably be repeated.

Looking back over 1979 it would seem that for WRAC and the QARANC it was the year of the woman, with much to look forward to in 1980.

WHAT A RECORD!

Lt Col D D Lister MBE

On 15th October last year Captain Antoinette (Tony) Harrison MBE CdeG WRAC enlisted Miss April Anne Woodford into the WRAC at the Army Careers Information Office in Forest Gate, London. April, who was recently promoted manageress of a well known firm of dry cleaners in Ilford, and is a keen member of the Essex Beagles Athletic Club, is to be trained as an administrative assistant.

The occasion was quite a milestone, as this was the 2,565th enlistment which Tony has carried out since she became an Army Careers Officer

(Women's Services). It is thought to be a record number of enlistments carried out by any one person.

Whilst it is difficult to describe in detail the activities in which she was involved during the war, it is sufficient to say that having been brought up in France by her English father — who had been an officer in the RASC, and her French mother, she operated as a courier in the French Resistance throughout the war. She was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for her services to France.

In 1945 she came to England for the first time to join the ATS as a driver, and it is difficult for those who know her now to realise that at that time she spoke not a word of English. She was commissioned in the ATS in 1948 but left to join the TA in 1949.

She came on to the London scene in 1954 as an Army Careers Officer where, apart from her full time job, she managed a Pop Group formed by WRAC Recruiting Sergeants and QAs, called the Militaries. They became quite well known and appeared on TV with Hughie Green (they were second in Opportunity Knocks), Eamon Andrews, in the Today Programme and a Dave Allen Christmas Show. Their proudest moment was when they performed before the whole of the Royal Family at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Tony who despite her upbringing in France is fiercely English, was made a Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List last year. This was the culmination of a notable career, and a well deserved honour of which she and her colleagues are justly proud.



Captain Tony Harrison and Sgt Lee Telford prepare Miss April Woodford for enlistment.

(Courtesy Stratford Express)

UNIT NEWS

12 COMPANY WRAC

It is some time since 12 Company was seen in print in the Corps journal, and perhaps we should remind our readers that here at Mill Hill we are the administrative and accommodating unit for clerks working in the Ministry of Defence and the Postal and Courier Operators and drivers who work for the Postal and Courier Depot RE. In numbers, including attachments and trainees, we fluctuate around the three hundred mark.

1979 has been a fairly hectic year for us. We said 'goodbye' to one Australian exchange officer Second-in-Command at the beginning of the year when Captain Mary McGregor returned home and was replaced by Captain Marilyn Power; alas, Captain Power spent only ten months with us 'Poms' at Mill Hill and has left now for the completion of her exchange appointment in Catterick. Captain Power was a real 'sport' and we wish her well in the snows of North Yorkshire. 12 Company welcomes a Brit Second-in-Command, Captain Catherine Buchanan, for the first time in eight years.

During the year we have participated in some interesting exercises in the recreational and adventurous training field. Skiing in Scotland, canoeing, rock climbing and hill-walking in Wales, and we were lucky enough to be invited to join the WRAC College on a summer adventurous training exercise at Mallaig on the west coast of Scotland. Along with our male postal colleagues, some members of the unit took part in an international March and Shoot competition in Denmark in July; most members of the team came back with souvenir plaques but Pte Denham of the Postal Depot went one better — she met an American Master Sergeant and came back with an engagement ring! In October, we sent a small team to Cyprus to take part in the Cyprus Walkabout, a gruelling sixty miles cross country/orienteering competition from Episkopi to Troodos. We must congratulate SSgt Pat Rosewell and Pte Cheryl Cooper on finishing the course. During the exercise, SSgt Rosewell, our senior PTI and never shy at coming forward on behalf of the unit, managed to chat up the RAF for three free seats on a subsequent training flight to Cyprus; as a

result, later in the month, all three of our PTIs went to Cyprus for a few days "snorkelling" — at least that was their story!

It would be wrong to give the impression that 12 Company does not work hard. This year we have run two corporals' cadre courses and had two regimental weekends when the requirements for annual unit training are fulfilled.

With a unit which includes some thirty-five senior ranks, it is not surprising that we have had a fair crop of LS & GC medal presentations. Our congratulations go to W02 (now W01) Carol Hill, Sgt Ann Ward, SSgt Mary Devlin, SSgt Marjorie Ackroyd and W02 Moira Colquhoun: It may be interesting to note that Miss Colquhoun achieved a remarkable double as she was promoted to acting W02 on the day the medal was presented.

On 7 November, a sponsored swim was held in aid of the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund in which twenty officers and servicewomen, sponsored by their employers and comrades, raised £1000. We have to admit to a little pride over this sum and we owe many thanks to everyone — swimmers, sponsors and organisers alike.

In conclusion, as I write this we are approaching Christmas and I am aware that the mail for British Forces overseas is coming into the Postal Depot by the convoy load. It would be wrong of me not to remind everyone who has ever served abroad of the marvellous job our Postal and Courier Operator servicewomen do on our behalf. Equally, clerks, working in Central London in five MOD buildings, often have to hold down two jobs because of other clerical deficiencies, our cooks are working sixteen hour days and our drivers are on the road at all ungodly hours. However, we are very far from being down-hearted and 12 Company looks forward with optimism to the challenge of the Eighties.



SSgt Pat Rosewell after the presentation of her Cyprus Walkabout certificate of merit.

WRAC ELEMENT (NI)

Climbing in the Lake District

Lt A M Bolwell

On 16th June last year fifteen intrepid explorers of the WRAC Element (NI) set sail on the Larne-Stranraer ferry to embark on a week's adventurous training in the Lake District. Two of the team, WO2 Joan Page and Pte Carol Anderson, together with Drivers Steve Garbutt and Alvin Adams on loan from 26 Sqn RCT, formed our back-up team providing transport and a hot meal at the end of the day's exertion. We were based in a one-roomed croft in Ambleside.

Only our expedition leader, SSgt Sheila McIntyre had any great experience of hill walking. She had inflicted this same torture on many other innocents in the past and the prospect of doing so again filled her with a wicked delight. Our aim was to give all those taking part an introduction into the arts of hill-walking, safety in the hills and map reading. We attempted four climbs in all. The first was Helwellyn, a 949m climb which involved negotiating the narrow and rugged Striding Edge where some members of the group learnt the true meaning of the word "vertigo". The weather was glorious, perhaps a little too warm for such exertions, but the encouraging sight of a large tarn on our homeward route encouraged all those who thought they were too exhausted to persevere.

Inspired by our success and the weather, we tackled Sca Fell, the highest peak in the Lake District, the next day. We soon learnt that to follow a map would have been wiser than to allow the keen but misguided group leaders to pick their own route across a middle track when we encountered a 15 foot chasm in the rock face which it was impossible to cross. The only way left was up so, desperately trying not to look down and pretending that we spent all our weekends doing this sort of thing, we scaled the sheer cliffs

and eventually reached the top path and our goal. None of us would have believed that we could have done it but the alternative of going down and returning to Ambleside defeated was too demoralising a prospect to consider.

Our final climb was the Old Man of Conistone, which is a favourite climb in the area. The weather had been too good to last and it broke as we left the minibus, so a brightly coloured party of orange, red and yellow waterproofs trudged on up the mountain path.

The last day was spent sight-seeing and shopping in Windermere, exploring the local hostleries and exercising the skills previously learnt on Ullswater Lake. Some of the natives were a little overawed by the lake-pirates challenging them to a boat race or death by water-pistol, but a good time was had by all and it will be surprising if Windermere forgets or is forgotten by the WRAC for some time to come.

WRAC in Lisburn raised a total of £600 for charities last summer, most of the money coming from a sponsored disco and the rest from a raffle and jumble sale. Donations were sent to the Northern Ireland branches of Spina Bifida, Action Cancer, The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

Sgt Beryl Jones, SWOPT NI won the Army Challenge Trophies for Women's Field and Track Events in 1979. It is the first time in ten years that the same person has been awarded both Field and Track Trophies. Sgt Jones also holds the 1979 Army (Womens) Individual High Jump, Javelin and 400 metres.



Sgt Beryl Jones receiving her trophies from Major Mary Rook, DADWRAC NI.

181 PROVOST COMPANY

WRAC

Capt J A Jones WRAC Provost

At the outbreak of the troubles in Northern Ireland there were only 6 WRAC Provost NCOs to deal with the mounting problems. Now, some ten years later, the Company has grown to approximately 150 with girls deployed in the three main cities of the Province as well as many other town centres and border crossings.

Coy HQ is at Aldergrove from which NCOs go regularly to work in Belfast. But detachments are also permanently located in Armagh and Londonderry from where other girls are deployed to the smaller town centres and rural areas.

The role of the Company is to search women and children, and all servicewomen are employed in a variety of ways to achieve this end. A girl might well find herself on static searches, mobile or foot patrols, helicopter patrols, vehicle check points, house searches, train searches, pub checks, operations room duties or perhaps just "standing-by".

181 (as it is often referred to) probably has the widest range of trades of any WRAC unit. WRAC Provost NCOs serve alongside Radar Operators, Clerks, Supply Specialists, Drivers, Stewardesses, Kennelmaids and so on. The list is endless. All but Provost NCOs are volunteer "Searchers" on an 8 month emergency tour with the option of extending.

All permanent accommodation is quite modern but duties might well require a girl to "rough" it in poor conditions and it is for this reason that no one now pays food or accommodation charges. At Aldergrove the Company has its own junior ranks club where formal and informal parties are held regularly, while at Armagh and Londonderry the girls all share equally in the facilities available to the RMP.

Sports facilities are adequate too but it is not easy to get teams together. It is therefore not uncommon for the girls to be seen playing hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, squash, "It's a Knock Out" and even darts with the RMP, the AAC, the RAF, assorted infantry role battalions and the UDR, to name but a few.

All the girls who have served with 181 have a host of stories to tell about their "time on the streets" and the many ways in which they have played their part in the search for peace.



With the assistance of 1 Green Howards, 181 Provost Company christens its new flagpole outside Company HQ at Aldergrove.



LCpl Savage and two searchers at the scene of an incident.



Anthony Andrews of "Danger UXB" fame goes out on a "Sweeney" patrol with RMP and WRAC Provost NCO in Belfast. (Courtesy of John Paul, Scope Features)



Anthony Andrews with permanent staff and off-duty NCOs outside Company HQ at Aldergrove. (Courtesy of John Paul, Scope Features)

10 COMPANY WRAC

This has been a busy year for the Company and a list of the highlights and happenings could fill a book. Sport has continued to feature largely in the life of the unit with participation in most of the Corps sponsored sports and with success in many areas.

LCpl Jane Atkinson and Pte Sharon Stout were the first WRAC to take part in an Inter Service Swim across Lake Bala in Wales, completing the 3½ mile long course. They now proudly wear their tee shirts proclaiming "I SWAM BALA LAKE 79".

As an introduction to adventure training several people attended Summer Camp on three separate weeks at HMS OSPREY on Portland Bill. Camping, map reading, sub aqua, sailing and an introduction to rifle shooting were included. There was participation in Naval Internal Security Exercises and most people were entertained on board ships of the Royal Navy and NATO Navies. We are very grateful for the help given us by the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and WRNS.

DUCHESS OF KENT BARRACKS

We said farewell in January to Sgt J R Meachin ACC who was the cook NCO in charge of the Dining Hall for the barracks. Sgt J R Meachin was a popular and respected member of the Company who raised the level of messing to a very high degree. He had encouraged the cooks to enter competitions and by his example and training they have been very successful. We all wish him well in his new posting and extend our thanks to him and his family for all their help.

A Christmas concert was organised by Cpl Liz McClean of 3 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment in aid of Charity. About twenty-five members of the Barracks took part and put on a very professional and amusing show. £140 was made for two children's charities.

KINETON

The WRAC in Kineton have continued during the last 6 months to expand and from March last year the overall strength has increased by 18 to 74 servicewomen, the greatest innovation being the addition of three employed in lieu of RAOC soldiers. This has meant more work for us all, and Block 2 is now filled to capacity. At last we have a subaltern, 2 Lt Jane Grafton who joined us at the beginning of August, and has almost a full time job keeping track of the fifteen sporting activities the WRAC now enjoy. This year the rounders team excelled itself and definitely put Kineton on the map by winning the West Area Tournament and then going on to become the "runners up" in the WRAC Inter Unit Tournament: a feat never achieved by Kineton before.

In Athletics we were equally successful having Cpl Sue Sharkey the Army Women's Discus Champion in our midst who was also selected for the Combined Service Team. In the West Area Athletics Championships we tied for first place with Donnington, but our friendly rivals "up the road" are to be congratulated on eventually winning the Inter Unit Athletics.

Our squash team has started the winter well, with LCpl Sue Blackburn winning the West Area Individual Championships and she has been selected for the Army Women's Squash Team.

Nor have we been idle in local charity events. A team of four won the Kineton Village Pram Race and raised £86 in sponsorship money for Action for the Crippled Child. Another team came fourth in a charity Chariot Race raising £115 for local charities and winning the prize for the largest amount of sponsorship money.

Our assistance to Northern Ireland continues unabated. Three WRAC have been posted as searchers and another fifteen have participated in training assistance with Infantry Battalions.

WRAC BATTERY

DEPOT REGIMENT RA — WOOLWICH

2 Lt E J Warwick

The WRAC Battery seemed to me, its new Troop Commander a most daunting prospect. However I very quickly learned to say "troop" not "platoon" and "bombardier" instead of "corporal", and after a few duties as Regimental Orderly Officer I soon knew my way about.

In spite of shift work and employing officers who assure us that their WRAC are indispensable, we have managed to keep up a fair range of extra-mural activities. Cpl Dawn Hamer and Pte Sheena Tooke went on a Regimental Expedition to Finland and LCpl Alison Mills was sponsored by the Regiment for a cruise on the Sail Training Ship "Malcolm Miller". At present Cpl "Taff" Allerton is in Norway training for a place in the British Ladies Langlauf team.

Our drivers at 56 Sqn RCT have not been idle. Pte Janet Robinson was 1st out of 79 entries in the Greenwich Driver of the Year Competition. Also LCpls Griffin and Ashby and Ptes Severn, Luff and Thomas were presented with their ROSPA diplomas and congratulated on their safe driving within the Capital.

Our sports personalities include Pte Cheryl Castle who makes a habit of breaking 100m hurdles records and Pte (now Mrs) Jan Severn who won the Inter-Service shot putt competition. Cpl Taff Allerton when not skiing is winning cross country championships.



Pte Janet Robinson who won the Greenwich Driver of the Year Competition.

170 PRO COY RMP

EDINBURGH

A hitherto unmentioned part of the WRAC in Scotland is the pride occupying the Lions' Den in Edinburgh Castle.

The Corps is represented by a section of 1 Sgt and 6 Cpls working with 170 Provost Company RMP and we are generally employed with the men on all aspects of Provost duties. The exception is sport where we concentrate on the individual skills of our chosen event, and I can safely say that we are able to display a fine pair of heels to the men when they venture to challenge us at our games. Because we are subjected to trickle postings and are small in numbers, our doings depend very much on the collective mood at any given time, and of course on the Officer Commanding, but being a mere male he can be easily beguiled. This year has proved exceptional for us as we can gloat over our achievements with some justification. LCpl Jan Colbrom did very well in the WRAC Swimming Championships and has since been selected to swim for the Army Team and understudy for Jaws 3! Well done Jan. In the Zone Squash Competition, LCpl Tina Edmed reached the final of the plate and came a close second! Sgt Sandy Wareing took part in the Zone Table Tennis coming runner up in the singles and together with LCpl Liz Usher won the doubles.

At duty we do not act as a separate section, but one of us is allocated to each of the duty shifts and our Sgt finds herself commanding one of them. As MP GPD we are able to work with and do the same tasks as the men. The main event of the year is the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which for us brings the never ending task of pressing No 1's and bulling shoes twice a day throughout August and the beginning of September, with 9000 people attending each performance.

WRAC CENTRE CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION 1979

Col F M Cook and Lt G Howes ACC were faced with a difficult task when they were called upon to judge the eight entries for the WRAC CENTRE CHRISTMAS CAKE COMPETITION on 11 December 1979. A lot of thought, skill and hard work had been put together by the entrants to produce the highly original cakes displayed. After a great deal of deliberation and discussion the following results were announced:—

1st — Sgt Wood 2nd — Pte Pither
3rd — Cpl Donn

4 Squadron 16 Signal Regiment

The girls and men of 4 Squadron left their communicating jobs at HQ 1 (BR) Corps in Bielefeld for two weeks last summer and headed for the lakes and mountains of Southern Germany; their destination the picturesque hamlet of Oberkirch near Füssen in Bavaria which is situated on the shores of the Weissensee.

If they thought it was all going to be a holiday they were soon proved wrong. On the first morning everyone had to take a test in the icy waters of the lake and no one took long in proving their swimming prowess. That over, the real adventurous training could begin; we broke the party up into groups of about ten people, each learning a new skill every day; windsurfing, canoeing, mountain walking and sailing.

The sailing and the first instruction for the canoeists took place within sight of the camp but the windsurfers were allowed their first forays into the unknown on a nearby lake. Each evening brought its stories of just how many times someone can fall off a surfboard and still come back for more, or how big your blisters were after a long day's hike.

We celebrated the end of each week's course with a grand last night party which was heralded by the delicious aroma of barbecuing steaks and

the inevitable "bratties" with masses of salads and the good Bavarian beer to wash it all down. Those who attended the second week had the added fun of a visit from the local brass band who entertained us and half the countryside rather noisily well into the small hours!



Cpl J C Naylor outside the NATO Sports Centre in Füssen.

DO YOU LIVE NEAR BURY ST EDMUNDS?

6th (V) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment is looking for you if you could fill the job of WRAC TA Subaltern or Sergeant and train up to 20 WRAC volunteers. Previous experience is desirable, particularly for the sergeant. Evening and weekend training would be at Battalion HQ at Bury St Edmunds. If you think this is the job for you, get in touch with:

Lt Col T D Dean
6th (V) Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment
Blenheim Camp
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk TP33 3SW
Tel: Bury St Edmunds (0284) 2396/5720

TA

34(N) Signals Regt (V)

Cpl Jackie Turnbull, who serves with the Gateshead Detachment of 50 Squadron of 34 Signals, met Mr Roger Flaherty when he was serving with The Parachute Regiment as a regular soldier. They were married at St John's Church in Gateshead in November last year, with girls from the Detachment acting as a Guard of Honour.



L - R Pte Susan Griffiths, Pte Diane Askins, the Bride and Bridegroom, Pte Julie Hutchinson and Pte Ena Hall.

ANNUAL CAMP 1979

More than 400 male and female volunteers left their TA Centre in Gateshead, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Darlington and Hull on the morning of Saturday August 25th last year to take part in Ex 'SOUTHERN JAUNT'. For five days the Regiment moved progressively south west staying overnight in Worcestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon, and finally ending up on the outskirts of Okehampton Camp. We moved by night and kept up communications by day — a task which had to be practised for our BAOR role. 34 Signals relies heavily on its WRAC staff who manned and drove many of the 120 vehicles deployed on the exercise, in relays over distances of up to 100 miles.

One of the main features of Camp was the daily PT Parade at 6.30 am, the roll call providing the

incentive to brave the famous early morning mists of Dartmoor. Once the run had started, the girls provided an added incentive to the men, as they were usually ahead of them!

Col John Davies, Honorary Colonel to 34 Sigs held his Annual Parade on August 31st. Captain Mary Nicholson commanded the WRAC contingent, inviting Col Davies to inspect the girls prior to leading them past the saluting dais.

The Regiment provided 129 pints of blood for a team from the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. Men and women gave blood side by side, then watched it whisked off to Aldershot by helicopter. We were reliably informed that no other unit had provided so much blood at such a session, so we were justifiably proud.

Further visitors to Camp included the DC in C UKLF Lt Gen Sir Peter Hudson KCB CBE and ADWRAC NE District Lt Col Anne Bray. They watched the preparation of two further exercises planned for the second week of Camp. These were curiously named Ex "EQUAL PLEASURE" and Ex "STRANGE ENCOUNTER" — one lasting 24 hours overnight and the other 36 hours. These tested basic military skills and fieldcraft. The part most enjoyed by the girls was acting as terrorists under the Command of RSM Bob Mills. It is amazing what a pocket full of blanks and a handful of thunderflashes can do to a girl's morale alone in the middle of Dartmoor with the mist swirling round!



Three members of the Orderly Room accepting an invitation from General Hudson's helicopter pilot to act as ballast on a refuelling trip.

L - R Pte Moira Hindle, Sgt Carol Sparks, Sgt Pat Pointon.

33 Signal Regiment (V)

Liverpool

At camp this year the WRAC members of the Regiment were *actively* involved in the "Tickle Test". 0630 hours saw all able-bodied females jogging round the camp, sometimes even overtaking squads of gasping men! It was initially thought that although the WRAC were to run their test, their results would not be included in the Regiments overall results, and we are most grateful to Col E I Millington DDWRAC who on her visit to camp, corrected our mistake, so that the high WRAC pass rate was a valuable contribution to the Regiment's position! Many thanks are due to Lt Christine Parkinson, assisted by LCpl Caroline Bateman for coaxing even the most lethargic bodies into action.

The Regimental WRAC teams who took part in the North West district shoot at Altcar were very successful; they took both the WRAC Team Rifle Trophies with WRAC individual winner and runner up cups going to LCpl Hazel Smith and Pte Denise Avery. 2 Lt Angela Dixon and LCpl Hazel Smith won the WRAC pistol match, and were winner and runner up respectively in the individual event. The WRAC team is proud to have beaten several infantry teams when competing on equal terms.

In August, a team of WRAC was one of the 3 teams entered by the Regiment for the RMP and City of Chichester March. It was a great triumph that all the girls completed the 40 kilometre course, despite some difficult moments, and in addition to being each awarded the March Gold, the WRAC team also won a team prize for excellent turnout and performance. At the end of September a number of WRAC went to Paris for the Val de Marne Marche and, as well as marching 30 km. had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

The WRAC team in the UKLF orienteering championships at Aldershot in May was also successful in being placed 5th overall.

We are very proud of Captain Jennifer Hindshaw who reached the final of the TV quiz show "The Krypton Factor". She is the only woman ever to have got this far in the competition, and her army fitness training for the

Tickle Test must surely have helped her over the enormous assault course.

All in all the WRAC picture in 33 Signal Regiment is a very favourable one. The enthusiasm and efficiency of the WRAC means that there is a very low turnover of staff, and consequently few vacancies for the large number of would be recruits. Given half a chance, the WRAC would take over the Regiment and, no doubt make a very good job of it too!!



Maj Gen P F A Sibbald OBE, GOC North West District, presenting the Efficiency Medal/TA to SSgt Shirley Stott and Cpl Susan O'Rourke during the Regimental Parade.
(Courtesy S S Barton, Truro)



The WRAC team after their successful shoot at the North West District Skill at Arms meetings. L - R LCpl Cheryl Dawson, 2 Lt Angela Dixon, Pte Denise Avery, LCpl Hazel Smith.

Hanging in the Tower of London

W02 H T Thorne WRAC (V)

No, not another violent death in that grim fortress! This time it was the hanging of a WRAC shield to join 300 other heraldic shields in the Yeoman Warders Mess.

I had the good fortune to attend the Ceremony of the Keys in Her Majesty's Tower of London, and was escorted by Yeoman Warder Cedric Ramshall who is an ex RSM Royal Artillery and has served with many TA Regiments. I found the experience both moving and interesting. After the ceremony we were invited into the Yeoman Warders Mess where I noticed that the walls were covered with heraldic shields which had been presented by many units and regiments from all over the world. However I was aware that a WRAC shield was not among them, so on 16th June last year a shield was presented to the mess on behalf of the WRAC in 38th Signal Regiment (V) and the Manchester Branch of the WRAC Association.

Royal Irish Rangers, in all 52 performers, men and WRAC, most of whom had to learn from scratch.

Even if you do not manage to take the high road or low road to Edinburgh at Festival time to see the Tattoo for yourself, you can catch a sense of the occasion and excitement on the television. This is no "routine job" or "just another Tattoo" and standards are very high. None of the Irish dancers had danced before and so despite the terrible winter, petrol strikes and many other attendant problems, rehearsals started in January and the team never looked back.

The WRAC Officer Cadets of Queen's OTC accompanied by men of the Royal Irish Rangers and all dressed in traditional Irish Dance dress gave a great rendering of "The Boys of the Town". Discomforts of the cold and wet were set aside when the pipes struck up "Killaloe" to be followed by the Scottish Officer Cadets dancing "Mhairi's Wedding".

Some of the girls and men were far more experienced veterans in the dancing stakes, 2 Lt Magnus Cormack and 2 Lt Margaret Martin having danced at the Tattoo in Washington DC in 1976 and several others took part in the 1977 Tattoo. The Scottish music was provided by the pipes and drums of the Royal Scots.

It was lovely to have several visits from Scotland's new DADWRAC Major Joanna Perry and it was not all rain and dancing. There was, for those with even a smattering of German, a great chance to become friends with the Bavarian performers from Munich and two Scottish/Irish Munich parties were exchanged. Dancing, beer, bagpipes and Bavarian marches equals an evening of guaranteed success.

Few Officer Cadets in Scotland or Ireland have the chance to see or hear the massed bands of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, the Royal Horse Artillery in action or massed pipes and drums and all in all it was the kind of five weeks which is completely exhausting, thoroughly challenging, a load of fun and excellent experience.

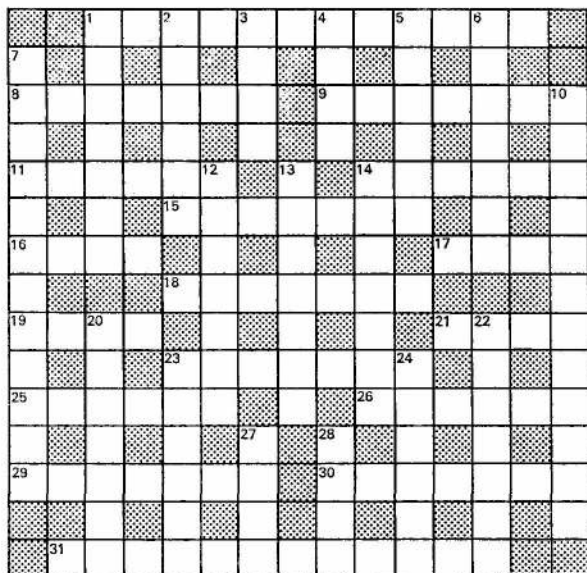
As a side line, 2 Lt Cecilia Burdon-Davies already a very busy Officer in charge of the Scottish WRAC, joined the massed bands to play her oboe in the finale and Pipe Major Elaine Marnoch played the bagpipes with the massed pipes and drums.

Taking some of the wetter nights in particular, perhaps our Corps motto for the Tattoo should have been "Gentle in step, resolute in rain"!!!

UOTC

EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 1979

One of the attractive and outstanding items of this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo was a programme of Scottish and Irish dancing performed by the Scottish Officers' Training Corps, Queen's University Belfast OTC and the



ACROSS

1. See that something is not done again when you finish a sentence? (3, 1, 4, 2, 2).
8. Pet menu very often (7).
9. Makes a crawler stop on the road (7).
11. Often brought by the butcher boy and taken by the waiter (6).
14. Force parasites to the right of the river (6).
15. There could be a bad snag in part of the fortification (7).
16. The highest note a fish can give? (4).
17. Area which is backward in car organisation. (4)
18. The man who sent a telegram containing two letters (7).
19. After one short day, they are pals (4).
21. Has one the right to keep a stick outside for such a child? (4).
23. It may pick up things and feel them (7).
25. This one's missing! (6).
26. Swamp where fish swallow the professional man? (6).
29. Be fascinating and alter name to 'Duck City' (7).
30. Putting to flight (7).
31. Bad-tempered race? (5 - 7).

DOWN

1. Spoke out musically? (5, 2).
2. The trees without tops are not ours! (6).
3. The boy's crazy to transmit! (4).
4. It's said to be perfectly correct when you love the girl (4).
5. King Charles spaniel, for instance? (3, 3).
6. They may emphasise it's not quite that wonderful girl inside (7).
7. Without a chance of winning, being from a certain breed? (3, 2, 3, 4).
10. Is it had by one who comes to a funny end? (3, 4, 5).
12. The foolish fellow that is not heartless becomes wise (7).
13. It's improved if one has the man at both ends (7).
14. Spectacle of a worker after a soft time (7).
20. A spider gave hope to King Bruce -- but not this way! (7).
22. How the fisherman's face glowed? (7).
23. Worries the girl at first (6).
24. The dignified one of twelve? (6).
27. Two Roman characters make him religious (4).
28. How a foreigner makes a fur? (4).

Name

Address



CAN YOU IDENTIFY the Junior Commander whose company is being inspected by HM King George VI? We know that this company was attached to the Depot of the East Surrey Regiment at Kingston on Thames and the date is about 1941.

If you know the name of the officer or the sergeant or any of the auxiliaries, please tell the editor.



BOOK REVIEW

HEDGEROW HARVEST

by Amoret Scott

Printed and Published by Oxford Illustrated Press Ltd., Shelley Close, Headington, Oxford OX3 8HB. £4.95.

This charming recipe book will enable you to rediscover the joys of finding natural ingredients in your garden and in the hedgerows to prepare delicious dishes. These are traditional recipes for traditional preparations, many of which have been lost in these days of manufactured and frozen foods. Moreover, for those who live in the country the ingredients are there for the picking. Some of them would normally be dismissed as weeds, but the author tells us how to extract their appetising and health-giving properties.

Both imperial and metric measurements are given and the instructions are concise and easy to follow. This is an ideal volume for those who are seriously concerned with maintaining nutritional value in natural food, and a charming book for those who enjoy reading and collecting recipes.

Amoret Scott served in the WRAC as Lt Amoret Scudamore. She is an experienced hedgerow harvester and collector of unusual recipes, and has also made a collection of 19th century tradesmen's bills and illustrated menus.

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QE, relieves distress among ex-officers and dependants, with financial grants, help in finding places in Residential Homes for the elderly, Nursing Homes and Convalescent Homes and, if necessary, assistance with fees. It gives help and advice regarding retired pay and pensions and in the preparation of appeals regarding Disability or War Widows Pensions. The Resettlement and Employment Department is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service and helps ex-officers of all ages to find employment.

If you hear of any ex-officers or officers' widows in distress, please tell them to write to The General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QE. (01-235-8112).

ASSOCIATION NEWS

BRANCH NEWS

HEADQUARTER MESS RECEPTION

Officers of Headquarter Mess WRAC are holding a Reception at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, on Tuesday 4th November 1980. The Commandant-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has graciously consented to be present.

All ex officers who served in the QMAAC, ATS, WRAC and WRAC (TA) who would like to attend will be very welcome, and should write for further information and the price of tickets to the Secretary Headquarter Mess, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

BATH. We continue to hold our meetings twice a month at members' homes. This year we gained some new members and our strength now stands at 58. For those members unable to attend our regular meetings we keep in touch with periodical "news letters".

We look back on 1979 as a very enjoyable year, including the Grand Reunion at Guildford of course, and later the Sub Area Reunion at

Christchurch. Autumn found us busy with preparations for a Jumble Sale and the management of our successful stall at the Bath Halloween Fair, held at the Guildhall on 2nd November 1979. The stall certainly reflected the hard work put in by our members. We were delighted with the visits to the Fair by Col E I Millington DDWRAC, also our Chairman of No 2 Sub-Area Lt Col E E Michell (Retd) and our new Secretary of No 2 Sub-Area Lt Col D J Freeland (Retd). The proceeds of these two events were donated to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and other charities when we met for our Christmas Dinner on 17th December 1979.

DUMFRIESSHIRE. Our branch is small but active and we have had a busy year. We had our annual dinner in February, and in March we had a showing of slides and films of holidays in Malta and the south of France while it was still snowing here! Our President, Miss E M Brown TD had the

honour of being presented to the Queen at the Grand Reunion in May.

Our summer outing to Maxwellton House near Moniaive home of the famous Annie Laurie, was a great success as it was a glorious sunny day. Mrs Stenhouse, the present owner who had invited us, escorted us round the house and museum, and the beautiful chapel where Sunday services are still held.

About 50 members and friends attended our Christmas Party on 4th December and we hope that most of our members will be at the Scottish Reunion on April 19th where we look forward to meeting many old friends.

GLASGOW. Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter (Chief Commander Betty Harvie Anderson) who died on November 7th last year enlisted in Glasgow in 1938 and was one of the founder members of the Glasgow Branch. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

If you accept that ...

All ex-Servicemen and women have a continuing duty

- to remember fallen comrades
- to give succour to their dependents
- to assist those afflicted with war disabilities
- to support those who have fallen on difficult times
- to advise and help those who today are returning to civil life
- and to transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy



... your place is in The Royal British Legion

ONE OF 3,853 BRANCHES WILL ACCEPT YOUR MEMBERSHIP
OR YOU MAY PREFER A WOMEN'S SECTION BRANCH

**GENERAL SECRETARY
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
49 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.**

HARROGATE. The branch has recently enjoyed an action-packed programme of monthly meetings and social events which have been well supported by members.

On the "food front" we have had a bar snacks evening at a village pub, supper at a local restaurant, our Annual Dinner and a Pie and Peas supper at the home of member Mrs Muriel Harding to whom we are indebted for splendid food and hospitality. A party also visited the International Food and Wine Exhibition which took place in Harrogate and to which the Branch members were invited.

Items of general interest included a talk and demonstration on Skin Care, a visit to the Royal Hall in Harrogate to see "Oklahoma" and colour slides of California resulting from the Secretary's trans-Atlantic safari earlier in the year. The highlight of the year was a Garden Party held at the home of the Chairman, Mrs G D Watkinson, where a variety of stalls and competitions and much hard work on the part of members raised a gratifying sum of £70 for The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. We also had a competition and publicity stall at the Donkey Derby organised by Harrogate Rotary Club.

We turned up in force at the Northern Area Reunion and were able to meet up with some of our long-distance members who live too far away to attend normal branch activities. Members also attended the Grand Reunion in Guildford which will long be remembered, especially by the Secretary who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

During the year we have acquired a number of new members, both locally and in some distant parts of the North where no local branch exists, and we hope that 1980 will be as successful a year as 1979.

LONDON. Our meetings have continued during the summer and autumn months, including an evening of colour slides entitled "A Re-cap of Past Royal Events" and a successful Bring and Buy sale.

Our main event was the luncheon held at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo on 20th September, to celebrate the 60th Birthday of the Branch and 40 years since the formation of the ATS. Our special guests were Brigadier E J Nolan CB, Brigadier N C King MBE, Colonel M S F Millington OBE TD and Mrs B Mayhew who was at one time

secretary of London Branch. The meal was excellent, served in a very comfortable room. Brigadier Nolan gave a very interesting talk on the recruitment of the WRAC and Miss A M Martin recalled the early days of London Branch. It was a very happy and memorable occasion.

PENRITH. Penrith branch of the Ex-Service-women's Association was recently honoured by a visit from the Deputy Controller Commandant of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Eileen J Nolan, who gave an exhilarating talk on the day-to-day life of women serving in the Army.

Brigadier Nolan, who was previously Director of the Corps, outlined the co-operation which existed between all three women's Services, WRAC, WRAF and WRNS.

Later, over coffee, there was an interesting discussion among members, and some wry comments on Service life 'then and now'.

Two earlier meetings took the form of expeditions. To go down the mine at British Gypsum, members were dressed for the occasion, complete with miners' lamps. Mr J Rafferty, mine manager, showed all aspects of the works and made this a particularly pleasant evening.

The second visit was to Yanwath Pele Tower, with the added bonus of examining agricultural bygonies collected and displayed in the tower by Mr and Mrs Altham.

PLYMOUTH. Once again we here in Plymouth seem to have a lot to relate.

After the climax of our attendance at the Reunion at Guildford, we came back to Plymouth with boosted enthusiasm for our own future efforts, and with fresh heart for our weekly working evenings preparing for our Christmas Fair.

We have held a couple of Jumble Sales which always swell the coffers and helped towards subsidising our very first Annual 'Regimental' Dinner. This was a members only affair and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our weekly working evenings were held at our President's house and we were busy making toys, knitted goods, bottling, and nearer the time, the inevitable cakes and goodies. The Fair on 10th November was opened by one of our local TV personalities (who was an ex-Officer in the Devons) and the hall was a very rewarding sight when the stalls were set out. Mary Alpin, the

Welfare Officer, had written to nearly 100 local firms for prizes and the response was excellent. We had also had a lottery and by the end of the day we had made over £500 profit.

On 9th November we all attended the Festival of Remembrance in Plymouth and it is not an idle boast that our Standard Bearer and Escort were the smartest of them all! We also had the honour of seeing two of our ladies parading with the male veterans of the First War, and the standing ovation which they received was both moving and deserved.

At the beginning of December we had our first AGM with another three new members joining. The Committee was returned to office en bloc, the votes having been counted in true election style by Lt Col C G Parsons (our President) and Major N Pike. At this meeting the President handed over a cheque for £100, an anonymous gift to the Branch. Our Christmas Party took place on 10th December, and we had three nights of carol singing for the Cambodian children.

Shortly we start our fund raising activities to help take a party to the Glasgow Reunion, and then with our weekly working evenings towards next year's Autumn Fair (interspersed with the inevitable jumble sales) we will have come full circle.

SALISBURY. The branch continues to flourish, meeting each month at the Royal British Legion. We have gained several new members, some through advertising the Grand Reunion at Guildford.

We were very sorry to lose our devoted Chairman in May. "Rusty" as she was known to everyone had been ill for some time but continued to be cheerful and helpful to the end. She served in the ATS and WRAC from February 1942 until August 1964. From October 1964 until October 1974 she worked at UKLF Wilton as a civilian. She was also a member of the Royal British Legion and was well known in Salisbury for her many good works.

In May we were the guests of Lt Col Gibson for supper at her cottage in Hyde. In June we were welcomed by Lt Col Freeland, and being a lovely warm evening we were able to have supper in her beautiful garden. Our annual visit to Col Macfie was in July, and we enjoyed raspberries and cream followed by a sing-song round her pianola. Our Annual General Meeting took place in November.

We would like to express belated thanks to all concerned who made the Grand Reunion at Guildford such a memorable occasion. Mrs Dodkins was delighted to be amongst those members who were presented to The Queen. We all had a wonderful day.

STAFFORD. Once more an enjoyable and interesting year with a variety of activities. We now have permanent accommodation in the Blind Centre for our meetings, and go out and about on trips during the four summer months. Our membership is now thirty-three plus four associate members, and including our six new members this makes an average attendance of about eighteen. Several members unable to attend are kept in touch with the "goings on".

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of a very loyal member, Mrs I Bostock, our President for six years.

Several members attended the Remembrance Day service and our wreath was laid at the memorial.

Our successful jumble sales enabled us to make our usual Christmas donations including Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. We also had a very successful Tombola Stall at the Stafford Pageant which boosted our funds as well as helping the pageant fund.

Our very interesting and useful talks have included making Christmas decorations, and "Stafford as it was" by the Curator, William Salt Library. Our talks on antiques and palmistry were very informative, past and future!!

One evening in June members enjoyed the hospitality of our President, Mrs Dickson, in her home at Barlaston and another member, Mrs Hayden entertained us in her home at Gnosall where we all had fun on her spinning wheels (beautifully made by her husband). We were not quite up to the standard we had been shown! Both trips were very much appreciated.

We also visited the Regimental Museum of the Staffordshire Regiment Lichfield. Mrs Beedle our member and her husband Major Beedle, the Museum Curator, gave us a most informative tour, rounded off by a wonderful spread in the NAAFI. It was all very enjoyable.

At our November meeting we had a most interesting talk and film from the Army Careers Officer. We all thoroughly enjoyed seeing life as it is now in the WRAC compared with our only categories in 1938 — Orderlies, Cooks and Clerks.

They really do have some exciting jobs and we all wished we hadn't been born so soon.

Of course the highlight of the year was the Grand Reunion at Guildford in May. We shared our coach with Wolverhampton and Newcastle Branch members. The raffle "on board" was fun and everyone won a prize. On the return journey all agreed that Her Majesty the Queen had made it a never to be forgotten wonderful day for us all and the many friends we had met.

ULSTER. On 17th November twenty-five Members attended our Annual General Meeting. The present Officers and Committee were all re-elected and their efforts during the past year were sincerely appreciated.

Several suggestions were proposed in respect of the distribution of the monies received from our Wine and Cheese Party. It was finally agreed the money be donated as follows: Lord Mountbatten Memorial £50; Not Forgotten Assn £50; Cambodia Relief Fund £50; Combat Cancer Fund £25; Kidney Research £25.

We have welcomed four new Members to our Branch and we all look forward to a continued happy Association and a more peaceful 1980.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND. At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch held on 21st November 1979 Mrs N Trent was elected Chairman, Mrs W Easton Vice-Chairman, Miss R M Stanbridge Secretary and Mrs M Pearce Treasurer.

We have had several enjoyable meetings, and we send all good wishes to members everywhere.

WIMBLEDON. We learned with regret of the death of one of our members, Mrs M Harris, who served in the QMAAC and also in the ATS. A member for many years, Mrs Harris resided at the Royal Cambridge Home for Army Widows, East Molesey.

We now have a membership of 77 and continue to hold our meetings on the second Friday of each month (excepting July and August) at the Wimbledon Community Centre.

During the year we have raised £37 for our funds from a Bring and Buy Sale; enjoyed a trip to the Holy Land through colour slides projected by Dame Mary Railton; exhibited our "talents" at a Make & Take evening; been initiated by Mick Moorshead into the art of making lanterns from

old Christmas cards; been shown how to make an attractive floral decoration by Mrs Iris Smith and then encouraged to make our own arrangements; and held our Annual Dinner at the Berni Steak House, Wimbledon.

In May, several members attended the Grand Reunion at Guildford and had a most enjoyable day, especially Miss Pearl Whitfield, who had the honour of being presented to the Queen.

In August we were kindly invited to tea by our President, Dame Mary Railton DBE and Col L E Holt. We had our brains taxed by a bird quiz and our physical skills tested in a knock-out croquet tournament. In the latter event, some of our play had to be seen to be believed!

November 11th saw thirteen of our Members on parade at the Cenotaph, the Association wreath being laid by Mrs Iris Smith.

Our AGM was also held in November and both our Chairman, Mrs Barbara Young, and Hon Secretary Miss Doris Lee, retired after four and eight years respectively in office. Our thanks to them both for all their hard work. Our new Chairman and Secretary are Miss Pearl Whitfield and Miss Frida White.

Our Christmas Party on December 14th concluded a very successful year.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Members at the Guildford Reunion last year may have seen a Wolverhampton Association member wearing the Norwegian National Dress. She was ex ATS Dorothy Melby, married to a Norwegian, Anid Melby. They live with their family on a farm in Norway and we in Wolverhampton were delighted that Dorothy was presented to the Queen. Wolverhampton members were interested in a story Dorothy told us of Grave No 9 at Trandum in Norway.

Trandum is a Military Camp on a hill surrounded by pine forest. During the war the Germans occupied the camp, and secretly people were taken deep into the forest, bound together and shot. After the war the Norwegians made the Germans dis-inter the bodies which were transported to Oslo and identified, and then taken back to Trandum and buried. There were 173 Norwegians, 15 Russians and 6 British. Dorothy takes all English visitors to see Grave No 9, the British grave. She receives poppies from her aunt, who is a member of the Royal British Legion in Derby, and places these on the grave. On Norway Day people come from miles around to the early morning service at the Monument.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1980

The AGM is to be held on Saturday 19 April 1980 at the City Chambers, Glasgow at 2.30 pm.

Details of accommodation in Glasgow have been circulated to Branch Secretaries and members' attention is drawn to the general invitation by Scotland to all members to attend the Scottish Reunion during the evening of 19 April 1980. Details of tickets under Reunions. Members can obtain details of accommodation in Glasgow direct from Tourist Information Bureau, George Street, Glasgow G2 1ES (Tel 041-221-7371) who issue a booklet and make bookings.

It has unfortunately not been possible to arrange for a Secretaries' lunch in Glasgow and the Secretaries' Meeting will therefore be held in the City Chambers immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

AGM 1980 – AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 26 May 1979.
2. Business arising from the Minutes.
3. To receive the report of Council.
4. To receive the report of the Honorary Treasurer.
5. To receive the report of the Editor of *Lioness*.
6. To receive the reports of Committees.
7. *Resolutions*
 - a. Council Resolutions: That Association Rule 8 (d) line one be amended to read "The Council shall meet at least twice a year and".
 - b. Election of Council Vice Presidents.
8. Any other Business.
9. Date and place of next Meeting.

REUNIONS

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1979

The 1979 Northern Area Reunion was held at Impahl Barracks, York on Saturday 29 September and was attended by members of most Northern Area Branches plus visitors from further afield, including west of the Pennines.

Lt Col A Bray welcomed everyone to the Reunion on this, her first public appearance as Chairman of Northern Area, and said how nice it was to see so many present from near and far. The Director unfortunately had not been able to come on this occasion owing to other commitments, but sent a message of good wishes to everyone.

The highlight of the afternoon was the WRAC Staff Band which had come specially from Guildford to play at the Reunion, and gave a delightful concert of varied music which was greatly enjoyed by a most appreciative audience. During the interval, whilst members of the Band took a well earned breather, Mrs White (QMAAC member of Hull branch) entertained with three beautifully rendered monologues – an excerpt from Henry Esmond, a hilarious anecdote about a presentation cup with an unfortunate inscription and a story about Lizzie Leckonby who is a familiar figure to all enthusiasts of Yorkshire dialect.

Mrs L Dodds of Bradford Branch proposed a vote of thanks to Captain Hopkin and the Band, and to Mrs White for contributing to such an enjoyable programme, and the resultant applause indicated that this was well and truly seconded.

Our thanks are also due to Lt Col Bray, Major J Edwards of the WRAC Centre and various members of staff who had worked extremely hard with prior arrangements at Impahl Barracks to make the Reunion such a success.

After tea the lucky prize-winners in the raffle were discovered, and the proceeds of the raffle and a Bring and Buy stall will ensure a healthy contribution to the Benevolent Funds from Northern Area. Towards 6 pm members started on their homeward journeys and, like all good things, the 1979 Reunion came to an end.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club, with 163 members attending, was held at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel on Saturday 6th October 1979.

In the unavoidable absence of both the President, Dame Leslie Whateley, and the Vice-President, Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, the outgoing Chairman Mrs A J Stevenson presided at the Luncheon and subsequently took the chair at the three yearly business meeting.

Mrs Stevenson proposed the Loyal Toast which was, as usual followed by "The Club", proposed by Lt Col M S F Millington, and "Absent Friends" by Mrs G Graeme-Caldwell, a member who was celebrating her 87th birthday.

Members were sad to learn that Dame Leslie Whateley felt obliged to resign her Presidency of the Club, and hoped she would continue to keep in touch by accepting their invitation to become a Patron. Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt was appointed President with Brigadier Dame Mary Railton and Colonel V K Stead as Vice-Presidents.

The following members were elected to serve on the Committee for a period of three years: Miss M L Nicoll (Chairman), Mrs H Bell, Mrs J Croom-Johnson, Miss C I Lawrence (Secretary), Mrs B D J Vaughan and Miss J. Wager.

The new Secretary, Miss C I Lawrence, would be pleased to send particulars about the Club to any ex-ATS members of the Association. Her address is 23 Trinity Close, The Pavement, Clapham, London SW4 0DJ.

REUNION NOTICES

SCOTTISH REUNION 1980

The 1980 Scottish Reunion will be held at the City Chambers Glasgow on 19th April 1980 from 6.30 to 10 pm. Tickets at £4 each may be obtained from Mrs M Gale, 145 Maxwell Avenue, Bearsden, Glasgow G16, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Scotland is looking forward to being the host to all members of the Association for the Annual General Meeting. For information about accommodation see under "Association News".

QMAAC TEA PARTY

The QMAAC Reunion Tea Party will be held at The Victory Services Club (near Marble Arch), 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Thursday 20 March 1980. Timing 3 pm to 5.30 pm. Tickets price 80p from Gen Sec, WRAC Association, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

SOUTH WALES REUNION

A Reunion will be held at TAVR Centre, Park Street, Cardiff, on Saturday 8th March 1980 at 2.30 pm. This will take the form of a "Get Together" as so many people were disappointed at not being able to attend the Guildford Reunion. Refreshments, Stalls etc will be held in the afternoon, and there will be a Buffet and Welsh entertainment in the evening, starting at 6.30, to which husbands and friends are invited.

For further information and tickets (£2) please contact Mrs E Poole, 31 Wingfield Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques made payable to "South Wales WRAC Association".

NORTHERN AREA REUNION

The Northern Area Reunion will be held at the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, on Saturday 27 September 1980, from 2.30 to 6 pm.

Full details will be published in the next issue of the Lioness. Prior information obtainable from Miss M Bradley 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate North Yorkshire HG2 9BY. Telephone: 0423-57023 evenings.

WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH MEETINGS 1980

Meetings at the Maltings Day Centre, Stafford St. Wolverhampton 7.30 – 9.30 pm on 24th March, 28th April 23rd June, 22nd September, 27th October and 24th November.

RCT 'AT HOME' – SATURDAY 12 JULY 1980

The annual RCT Corps Week "At Home" will be held on Saturday 12th July 1980 at Buller Barracks, Aldershot commencing at 2.30 pm. The programme includes side shows, band display, arena events and children's races. Teas are available.

All ATS and WRAC personnel who have served in RASC or RCT units are cordially invited.

Correspondence

Mrs Nancy Hayward (nee Vincent) a member of the Plymouth Branch who lives at "Sorrento", Coad's Green, Launceston, Cornwall, writes:

"Mrs Crosley's letter in the last issue of *Lioness* asks if her friendship with Mrs Neath constitutes a record.

I joined Transport Section of the ATS in 1940. At the end of the war, after having driven many thousands of miles together as convoy drivers, seven of us went our different ways and arranged to keep in touch with each other. Over the years we have attended each other's weddings, babies'

christenings, silver wedding celebrations and now children's weddings. We have for the past few years arranged a reunion on the last Sunday in July, and our close relatives join in with us. As our addresses range from the Scottish border to Cornwall we arrange a luncheon party in a different part of the country each year.

Does this also constitute a record?"



Four of the seven who have kept in touch since the end of the war in an early wartime snapshot taken before drivers were issued with slacks and battle tops.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

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

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



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

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE-PLEASE'

Mrs M Beeston, Secretary of the Wolverhampton Branch, sent us the following letter which was written to the Daily Mirror by M Leader, Acacia Avenue, Huyton, Liverpool:

"My family were killed in the blitz. Determined to hit back, I added two years to my age and joined the ATS – aged 14 years 2 months. On my sixteenth birthday I received a card from my Commanding Officer. She wrote 'Every good wish, bogus 18'. They had known almost from the start: the War Graves Commission had exposed me!! Nevertheless I had four very happy years".

Editor's Note: Sorry Mrs Anstey of the Plymouth Branch, but this must surely be the record!

Mrs Vera Wayland of 10 Leith House, Stockton Road, Reigate, Surrey (ex W/87298 Pte Vera Mawson who served with 486 and 538 HAA Bty RA stationed at Shirley Park, Croydon in 1941) writes:

"I would be happy if anyone who served in the above units would get in touch with me. I have (through the reunion at Guildford last year) entertained two of my friends after thirty-five years! It was quite a weekend and made me determined to try to catch up with more of my long lost friends. Could anyone help me to trace ex W/84964 Pte Helen Freda Hubescher who returned to Switzerland?"

Miss B Humphreys of 4 Tintern House, Abbots Manor Estate, Victoria, London SW1 would like to get in touch with her wartime friends. She writes:

"During my service in the ATS I made some very special friends. But when we all went our different ways I lost touch with them as they all got married and I only had their single names. I joined up in 1939 and was posted to Blackdown, Hampshire. I was attached to the RASC for a short time and then joined 24th HAA Regt RA and was with them from 1939-1942. The girls I knew were Mollie Lee, Rusty Spurdle, Sandy Gullen, Joan Ward, Betty Nash, Betty Greenslade and Isobel Cruikshank. They all knew me as Elizabeth".

Mrs L M Ashcroft of 155 High Street, Skelmersdale, Lancs, WW8 8AF writes that as LCpl Lily Harding she was the cook at the Officers Mess Guildford from 1949 - 1953. She would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers her, particularly Sgt Burgess, LCpl O'Leary, Pte Mary Smith who lived in Hull and Mickey Barrett.

Mrs M Tungate (W/119661 Driver Ancliffe) of 34 Longleat Drive, Louth, Lincs LN11 9ND writes: "I am a member of the Hull Branch. I was at No 1 MTTC Camberley in 1942 training to be a driver, and went on to 172 Regt RA at Nottingham and 582 (M) HAA Regt at Gorleston near Yarmouth, returning later to No 1 MTTC Camberley to train as a driving instructor. I am now disabled with arthritis and would dearly love to contact some of the drivers I knew. They are Drivers Morgan-Williams, Victoria Eley and Joan Scott from 172 Regt RA at Nottingham, and Driver Joan Lance who was my friend during my happy days at No 1 MTTC Camberley, and also CSM Petter at No 1 MTTC".

Miss N Jones of 10 Forsythia Close, Branston, Lincs has written on behalf of her friend Miss Beryl Betterton who was a sergeant in the WRAC and served between 1950-1960. While she was on holiday in Canada in July 1978 Miss Betterton was involved in a very serious car accident as a result of which she remembers very little of her life before the accident. However she does recall certain incidents when she was in the WRAC, and Miss Jones would like to contact anyone who was serving with her and remembers her.

The president of the South Australian Association, Mrs Bette Rose, would like to know if anyone remembers 'Spike Morgan' of 522 (M) HAA Bty RA, 154 Regt – if so her address is now 'Ty-Coed', 9 Koonunga Avenue, Rostrevor Park, South Australia 5073.

Mrs E R Powell of 12 Witney Path, Mayow Road, London SE23, writes: "My number was W/466 and I served with the 12th Light RA from 1939 until 1941. I would very much like to trace any of the ATS who were with us".

Mrs Beedle (ex Major Jacobs WRAC) of 26 The Charters, Lichfield, Staffs has sent a cutting from the Lichfield Mercury of 15th October 1939 headed "Unique Presentation to local ATS" which describes a ceremonial presentation of regimental collar badges to the 40th Staffordshire Company ATS from serving soldiers of the South Staffordshire Regiment. The Lichfield Mercury claims that this was the first ceremony of its kind, and the idea behind the unique event was to express the appreciation of the Regiment for the excellent service which the ATS had rendered since their embodiment.

Mrs Beedle would like to know whether this was, in fact, the first or only ceremony of its kind. She remembers wearing with pride the badge of the unit to which she was attached, but cannot recall any formal presentation.

Capt D S Evans TD, Secretary Liverpool Scottish Museum Trust is researching into the 18th West Lancashire Company ATS which began its affiliated life with The Liverpool Scottish by interviewing volunteers on 12th December 1938. They were the first ATS Company in Liverpool and after uniforms were issued they obtained permission to wear the Forbes tartan. If any of our readers served with this unit or can give us any more information about it, please write to the editor.

184 Landor Road,
Whitnash,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire CV31 2LE.

Dear Editor,

In the last issue of the Lioness, Mrs M Crosley asked if her friendship with her ex ATS friend Dulcie Neath was a record. Well I'm sorry to say that she is beaten by one year.

In 1939, sixty 3rd Warwickshire ATS from Coventry were posted to Shrivenham in Wiltshire and from that year until now ten of us have kept in touch.

In 1976 our numbers grew to fifteen so we hired a small coach and travelled back to Shrivenham where, by invitation, we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Officers Mess and then a

general tour of the camp. What memories it brought back! Since then we have met every year and I enclose a cutting from the Coventry Evening Telegraph showing us at our Company Commander's home trying to march as we did in those early days, but laughter got the better of us.

Yours sincerely,
D M Morris (Miss)

Sorry Mrs Crosley, ten of the original 3rd Warwickshire ATS have beaten your record. Where are the volunteers who met in 1938 and have never lost touch?

Editor



The 3rd Warwickshire ATS

1939

1979



Courtesy Coventry Evening Telegraph

Mr N Charlton of Little Leigh, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4RF writes: "A Norwegian officer Colonel Larsgaard who was with the Norwegian Forces in this country in 1943 would like to have news of an ATS officer, Jean Douglas who was at the ATS Training Centre at Strathpeffer in 1943/44.

Can you help? I would be most grateful as it would be a means of repaying the great kindness shown to us by Colonel and Mrs Larsgaard".

Mrs Helen Kerr Green (nee Higgins) of 6 St Michael's Way, Childs Erroll, Market Drayton, Salop TF9 2DE would like to contact old friends. She joined the ATS early in 1939, trained in Dumfries and was later posted to Leeds. From there she went to Nevilles Cross, Durham where she trained recruits for 2½ years. Off duty she wore a "Leslie" tartan skirt.

Mrs Bertha Wonnacott (nee McManus) of 22 Beacondown Avenue, Beacon Park, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2RU, would like to contact Pte Sylvia Hancock of Falmouth and SSgt Ducker of St Austell. They all served in 630/188 AA Regt RA.

106 Brocks Drive,
North Cheam,
Surrey SM3 9UR

Dear Madam,

On reading in the Reunion issue of "Lioness", I see that most of the letters from members hoping to contact old comrades mention serving in one unit only. Which started me off adding up my postings during 15 years ATS/WRAC service. When my ticket for the 1979 Reunion arrived, I remembered that at the 50th Anniversary Service in the Abbey and at the Garden Party afterwards recognising old friends was fairly easy, because we hadn't aged all that much by then. At the 60th Anniversary Service, six of us made sure of each other's company, but we didn't see anyone else

that we had known before. I envied one enterprising lady outside, with her furled umbrella held aloft, and impaled on the ferrule was a piece of pink paper showing the name of her former unit. Several people emerged, and joyous greetings were exchanged.

As May last year drew nearer, I felt the need for some form of identification, but I would have needed a sandwich-board at least. Being very much a hat-and-gloves occasion of course I did not use one, though as it happened it would have kept the wind and rain at bay. I did meet a few, mainly ex BAOR types (Western Command where are you?). We loved the photograph albums of HQ Rhine Army at Bad Oeynhausen, especially those of the Summer Camps. I was there! No-one appeared under the MELF stand, and the photos were pre Mau Mau days.

Now to make everyone envious, and to start a competition, if not an actual controversy, here is a list of most of the places I served in. I must make it clear that these were all legitimate postings, and though it may look like it I was not just one jump ahead of the Redcaps. The list does not include courses; and when I think of the places I saw on leave..! To give more details I would need to write a book, and maybe I will.

Joined the ATS at Ripley, Lancaster.
Posted to MGTC The Manchester Regiment.
Posted to AA at Oswestry.
Posted to 19 ITC near Liverpool.
Posted to ACA at Hammersmith.
Moved with ACA to Rome and Vienna.
Came home on Demob, didn't like it and re-joined at Sloane Street.
Posted to BAOR at Bad Oeynhausen.
Attached at Hook of Holland.
Posted to Chilwell.
Posted to Fayid, Egypt.
Posted to Nairobi, Kenya.

Then I married a Royal Engineer. He was posted to BAOR, Hanover and Cologne, then we went to Aden and finally to Mill Hill.

I cannot remember the ATS Unit numbers because we always identified with the military units, and loved wearing their "collar badges".

Now do I qualify for a place in the (Army) Guinness Book of Records? Could we brighten up the winter by finding out if someone else has a more varied tale to tell, of who went where and when. (We'll never know why).

Yours sincerely,
Louise Brown (nee Kinley)

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS

CB

Brigadier A Field Hon ADC

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Colonel: E R Denne MBE

Lieutenant Colonel: A Bray

Lieutenant Colonel (QM): A I Purton

Majors: S P Hawkins, S Taylor, C E Birtwistle,
E R C Flanders, R D Patrick, R G Warne

Majors (QM): E A Henderson

Captains: D L Halliday, F A Walthall, R E Cornwell,
G A Thomson, G R Harvey, K F Binks, D Platts,
P J Samson

Lieutenant: P A Boram

Special Regular Commissions

Captains: H Bellingham-Smith, G A Short,
J F M Weston-Davies

2/Lieutenant: L Blake

Short Service Commissions

Captains: E M T Tomczak, E A Towell,
J M Mumby, N Collins

Lieutenants: C P Marshall, M C Fisher, D E Baxter,
P A Ash-Edwards, S L Blenkinsop, K N Carter,
J J Langdon-Mudge, C R Paxton, M A Wilson,
P A Woods, J D Ashton, A J Moore

2/Lieutenants: A S Negus, D Foster, M A Hamilton,
C R V Bailey, J L Bartlett, D E Binns,
L J Bownass, J E Grafton, F Gray, S E Holt,
F A S M Moore, E A Rice, P M Smith,
E M Storey, S L Vincent, V J Jessop, J M Crosse

2/Lieutenant (on Probation): C J M Kett

Short Service Voluntary Commission

2/Lieutenant: M Lockhart

Regular Army

Colonel: B M Laverack MBE

Major: A M Lea-Cox

Captains: L D Cowley, P A Laing-Morton
Morton

Lieutenant: I E McCulloch

Special Regular Commissions

Captain: C M Ranford

Short Service Commissions

Captain: J E Edwards

Lieutenants: K N Carter, F E Rendall

2/Lieutenants: C J H Faulkner, P T M Cawthorne,
A L Farley

ARMS AND THE WOMAN

The issue of combat roles for women in NATO's armed forces is being discussed at the annual conference of senior women officers of the Alliance, in the Hague on 8-10 May. Lieutenant Colonel E L Gonsalves, Principal Legal Adviser of Headquarters 1 (Netherlands) Army Corps, will address delegates on new provisions in humanitarian law affecting the status of service-women.

The conference will be chaired by Air Commodore Joy Tamblin ADC, Director Women's Royal Air Force, and will draw delegates from 11 NATO countries. Besides Air Commodore Tamblin, the UK delegation will include the Directors of the Women's Royal Naval Service and Women's Royal Army Corps.

The conference will be opened by Mr C L J van Lent, the Netherlands State Secretary for Defence. One session of the conference is being attended by *HM Queen Juliana of the Netherlands*. Among the speakers will be Group Captain Helen Renton, a Defence Fellow at Cambridge University, who will talk on the future employment of women in the UK armed forces.

OBITUARY

Bostock. Mrs I F Bostock of Hyde Lea, Stafford on 26 September 1979. Junior Commander ATS and President of the Stafford Branch for six years.

Bush. Miss Ruth Bush (Bushie) of Petersfield, Hants on 4 January 1980. ATS.

Crompton-Inglefield. Lady Crompton-Inglefield of 15 Beaufort Gardens London. Junior Commander, ATS.

Coombes. Mrs Coombes of Westgate, Kent. ATS.

Dickinson. Mrs E Dickinson of Ashdown, Nr Saffron Walden, Essex, in May 1979. ATS.

Emery. Miss M Emery of Weston Park, Bath, on 22 November 1979. ATS.

Fraser. Miss A K Fraser of Westgate, Kent. QMAAC.

Graham. Mrs W Graham OBE of Stretton-on-Fosse, Gloucestershire on 12 September 1979. QMAAC and Controller ATS.

Green. Miss J K Green of Newbury, Berks on 2 September 1979. ATS.

Harris. Mrs M R Harris of Royal Cambridge Home, East Molesey, Surrey on 2 July 1979. ATS.

Holmes. Miss K M Holmes of Bathampton, Bath on 30 December 1979. ATS.

Long. Mrs J Long of Froxfield, Marlborough, Wilts on 23 August 1979. Chief Commander ATS.

Murray. Miss G Murray of Hawick, Roxburghshire on 11 August 1979. QMAAC and ATS.

Otto-Jones. Mrs K M Otto-Jones of Cardiff, Glamorgan in August 1979. Chief Commander ATS.

Parrott. Miss D E Parrott of Sevenoaks, Kent. Subaltern ATS.

Reeder. Miss W Reeder of Cheshire Foundation Home, Spofforth, Harrogate. ATS.

Skrimshire. Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter (nee Harvie Anderson) of Quarter by Denny, Stirlingshire on 7 November 1979. Chief Commander ATS.

Starkey. Miss A Starkey of Holgate Road, York on 17 June 1979. QMAAC.

Stepney Williams. Miss A M Stepney Williams on 16 May 1979. Subaltern ATS.

Waterland. LCpl K Waterland on 16 August 1979 as a result of a traffic accident while serving in Northern Ireland. WRAC.

Welsh. Mrs M E M Welsh (nee Campbell) of Tarvin, near Chester in October 1977. Chief Commander ATS.

Wilson. Mrs H B Wilson of Bulith Wells, Powys, Wales on 4 December 1979. Senior Commander ATS.

TRIBUTES

The Right Honourable The Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter OBE TD DL (ex Chief Commander M B Harvie Anderson)

All our members will have been shocked and sad to learn of the death on 7th November 1979 of the Rt Hon the Baroness Skrimshire of Quarter OBE TD DL only a week after she was introduced into the House of Lords. Lady Skrimshire was the first woman to hold the office of Deputy Speaker in the House of Commons. She was a member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee from 1962 to 1970 and again from 1974, and was a Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means from 1970 to 1973. In 1973 she was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Stirlingshire. She was Conservative MP for East Renfrewshire for twenty years until her retirement last year when she was made a peeress in the Birthday Honours.

Fellow members of the Association will remember her better as Chief Commander Betty Harvie Anderson who joined the ATS in December 1938 and was released in March 1946. Much of her distinguished service was spent in AA Command and her final posting was as ADATS Headquarters East Scotland District.

The funeral took place in Dunblane Cathedral. The Association was represented by Miss M M Thomson TD, and Major D M Henderson represented the WRAC. A memorial service was held at St Margaret's, Westminster on 5th December at which Lieut Colonel M S F Millington OBE TD represented the Association.

Mrs W Graham OBE

All ex ATS from Northern Ireland, particularly those who attended Greypoint Camp in June 1939, will have been saddened to read of the death of Win Graham on 12th September 1979 aged 85.

Mrs Graham served in France with Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan during the First World War. It was not surprising therefore that she was chosen to start the ATS in Northern Ireland on its formation in 1938. Owing to family commitments she remained there, as the senior ATS Officer, throughout the war, firstly as Commandant and later when two GD Groups had been formed, as ADATS HQ NID.

Always ready to exploit the maxim that "Northern Ireland is different" when it was to the advantage of service women there, she insisted on a high standard of discipline and welfare and was liked and respected by all who served with her. Mrs Graham did much to establish the Association after the war and will be greatly missed by her many friends.

MSFM

Miss Grace Murray QMAAC and ATS

Friends of Miss Grace Murray — "Mac" as she was known — will be sad to learn of her death in Hawick on 11th August 1979 at the age of 89. She served in QMAAC in France — mainly Le Havre — from 1917-1919 and was awarded the Belgian *Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth*.

She joined the ATS in 1939 with the 1st Cambridgeshire Platoon and served in London, Nottingham, Warrington and at No 9 Training Centre, Pontefract where she was a Personnel Selection Officer.

After discharge from the ATS in 1943 she taught for some years in Ipswich, keeping her Service contacts by attending many of the Reunions in London. She finally moved up to Roxburghshire to be near her niece and family and maintained to the end the same humour and interest in life which made knowing her such a pleasure.

CEG



**Thank God
you're not in their
situation.**

Like a number of young soldiers trying to keep the precarious peace in Ireland, he was killed. His wife and child were still in married quarters in Germany, his former posting.

They were flown back to England. At the airport SSAFA had organised an escort to accompany them from the airport to a London station where the train was to take them to Scotland. SSAFA had booked a sleeper, and at the end of this long journey, another SSAFA representative had arranged for their relatives to meet them at the station.

But this is not the end of this SSAFA story. SSAFA will continue to keep a friendly eye on this bereaved family for as long as it is necessary, to make sure that the widow and her child shall never feel friendless and forgotten.

Just one more case in the long history of SSAFA, where love and care and competence have combined to smooth the path for a family at a bad time. And there is no time limit on SSAFA's help. Once a man or woman has served in war, or in any of the Regular Armed Forces, their dependants can turn to SSAFA for the rest of their lives.

Legacies of up to £100,000 are now exempt from capital transfer tax.

SSAFA
The Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmen's
Families Association,
27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ.

**THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND AUXILIARY
TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)
BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1979**

	<u>1979</u> £	<u>1978</u> £
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1st November 1978... ..	17,344	12,062
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	6,517	5,138
Profit on Sale of Investment ...	—	144
	<u>23,861</u>	<u>17,344</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND		
Membership Life Subscription	2,054	1,473
Lioness Life Subscription	2,683	1,777
	<u>4,737</u>	<u>3,250</u>
SPECIAL FUND		
Legacy – Lt. Col. C.A. Cecil	391	391
Lioness Donation Fund	291	291
	<u>682</u>	<u>682</u>
	<u>£29,280</u>	<u>£21,276</u>
Represented by:		
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture – At cost less depreciation	38	43
INVESTMENTS		
At cost per schedule (Market Value £23,649)	23,013	16,055
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Badges	11	32
Sundry Debtors	187	215
Cash at Bank – Current Account ...	1,877	1,013
– Deposit Account ...	2,043	1,973
– Investment Account ...	2,280	2,095
Cash in Hand	15	14
	<u>6,413</u>	<u>5,342</u>
Less: Sundry Creditors	184	164
	<u>6,229</u>	<u>5,178</u>
	<u>£29,280</u>	<u>£21,276</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1979

<u>Cost</u> <u>1978</u> £		<u>Cost</u> £	<u>Market Value</u> <u>31st October 1979</u> £
2,303	M. & G. Charifund – 2,067 Units	2,303	3,212
1,423	London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 – £4,359.53	2,912	2,921
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
1,332	8¼% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £6,718.09	5,311	4,955
943	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £3,336.04	2,433	2,210
3,679	7% Treasury Stock 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	4,371
3,046	8¼% Treasury Loan – 1987/90 – £3,490.98	3,046	2,784
1,789	9½% Treasury Stock – 1980 – £1,802.18	1,789	1,762
1,490	9¼% Treasury Stock – 1983 – £1,545.68	1,490	1,384
<u>£16,055</u>		<u>£23,013</u>	<u>£23,649</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1979

	1979 £	1978 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions:		
Annual	2,771	2,223
Proportion of Four yearly and Membership Life Subscriptions	151	144
	<u>2,922</u>	<u>2,367</u>
The Lioness Publication —		
Subscriptions	4,494	3,748
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	192	179
Advertisement Revenue	242	229
	<u>4,928</u>	<u>4,156</u>
Less: Costs of Printing, Postage, etc.	3,478	2,164
	<u>1,450</u>	<u>1,992</u>
Income from Investments	2,109	1,417
Deposot Account Interest	270	61
Sale of Publications	8	10
Sale of Badges	11	1
Branch Funds received on closure	—	7
Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion	(13)	(10)
W.R.A.C. Reunion	2,018	—
Less: Costs incurred	1,445	—
	<u>573</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>7,330</u>	<u>5,845</u>
Deduct: Total Expenses — per schedule	813	707
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u><u>£6,517</u></u>	<u><u>£5,138</u></u>

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1979

	1979 £	1978 £
EXPENDITURE		
Branches:		
Capitation Fees	174	110
Grants	24	15
	<u>198</u>	<u>125</u>
Expenses of Annual General Meeting and Secretary's Meeting	—	45
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Printing and Stationery	102	159
Postages	206	84
Subscriptions and Donations	60	55
Commissions, etc. re purchase of Shares	42	43
Sundry Expenses	16	27
Audit and Accountancy Fee	184	164
Depreciation of Office Furniture	5	5
	<u>615</u>	<u>537</u>
	<u><u>£813</u></u>	<u><u>£707</u></u>



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"Buying a car from Natocars Limited of Bridgwater is quite different from dealing with any other firm".

"To start with you'll almost certainly be dealing with another lady. Most of the key positions in the company's customer liaison team are held by women, which is perhaps why Natocars has such a good reputation for efficiency with the personal touch."

"Second, you won't be bothered by salesmen; or saleswomen. Because Natocars haven't any. Instead of spending their time trying to sell you a car, Natocars devote their energies to seeing that everything goes smoothly on the car you want to buy".

"And because the firm was founded ten years ago to provide the Forces with the special kind of car purchase service you need, it's easy to buy a car from Natocars wherever you are based".

"Most customers use Natocars personal mail order service, rather than visit Bridgwater, and over the years thousands have found this a very pleasant and trouble-free way to purchase a car. In fact it's hard to think of a better way".

"Natocars offer a wider range of vehicles and back-up services than any other firm you can think of, whether you are in the market for a new or used car, Tax Free or Tax Paid, at home or overseas. You'll be sure of full NATO discount (up to 17½% even on a Tax Paid car) and confidential credit from 10% deposit with up to four years to pay. Part-exchange, insurance, even a free Germany ferry service - you'll find everything you need at Natocars".

"You can take my word for it.
And I'm no lady!"

Ronnie Barker

A better way to buy your next car

Natocars

Wylds Estate
Bristol Road · Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4DG
Telephone:
Bridgwater (0278) 55555
To telephone from Germany,
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