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No 1

Lioness



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T-shirts (white with green badge)	2.75	30p
Sweatshirts (green with gold badge and black with white badge)	5.95	45p
WRAC Association Badges	.50	15p (up to 6)

Most items are in green with the Corps crest in gold. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to CORPS HQ A/C and sent to Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

Cover Photograph

QMSI Cairns demonstrating the essential parts of a pistol at the RMA Sandhurst to Senior Officer Cadets.

L-R: Officer Cadet Diana Nash, Officer Cadet Jennie Heap, Officer Cadet Phillipa Wright, Officer Cadet LCpl Bridget Collin.

March 5 - 6	Concert Civic Hall, Guildford (with Guildford Operatic Company). 7.30 pm
May 3	Concert Civic Hall, Wolverhampton. Evening
29 or 30	Concert Fairfield Halls, Croydon. Evening
June 2 - 7	KAPE Tour — Glasgow
27	Military Musical Pageant, Wembley. Evening
28	Military Musical Pageant, Wembley. Afternoon
July 8	Massed Military Bands, RSA Larkhill. Evening
18	Basingstoke Tattoo. Afternoon and Evening
25	Bristol Tattoo with Irish Guards. Afternoon
	Concert — Colston Hall, Bristol with Irish Guards. Evening
26 - 1 Aug	Concerts St James Park. Sun 3 — 4.30 pm & 6 pm - 7.30 pm Mon - Sat — 12.30 - 2 pm & 5.30 - 7 pm
August 2	Concert Kensington Gardens. 3 - 4.30 pm
6 - 8	Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo
10 - 15	Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo

Note:

a. The Band is releasing a new record in the New Year.

b. In August the Band is going to Canada for one week with the Band of the Irish Guards, Corps of Drums & Pipes.

CORPS BUGLE CALL

Can anyone tell us the origin of the WRAC Corps bugle call? Who composed it and when? The Director of Music tells us that it is in the book of Regimental Bugle calls, but there is no history of its origin.

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH
Tel: Guildford (0483) 71201 Ext. 383

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Advertising Representative:

Major E O Coven, JP (Retd)

Nuview Advertising, 22 Cadogan Court,
Draycott Avenue, SW3. Telephone: 01-589 8286

Contributions for next issue by 30th June, 1981
(Photographs in black and white only)

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Lioness

Vol. LIV

1981

No. 1

"THANK YOU"

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

Thank you all for your magnificent response to my appeal for special fund raising efforts to mark the eightieth birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Donations have poured in from every source, and all imaginable ways of raising money seem to have been tried. There have been sponsored swims, slims and silences! Units have run sponsored non stop disco dancing and trampoline jumping weekends, and from all quarters has come news of Bring & Buy Sales, Raffles, Luncheon Parties, Car Washing and Sports Functions etc etc.

We set a target of £15,000 and I am delighted to tell you that, at 31st December 1980, the amount raised stood at £15,121 with several hundred pounds arriving during the first few days of January so that your efforts will swell The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund by about £16,000.

It is a most splendid result and a wonderful example of working together for the benefit of elderly and sick former members of our Corps. I am sure that our Commandant-in-Chief will be very happy to learn the good news.

Thank you all for your support.

HEADQUARTER MESS

A number of retired officers who attended the Headquarter Mess Reception in November last year as a result of seeing the notice in *Lioness*, and who retired before 1955 when Headquarter Mess came into being, were unaware that they were entitled to be members of Headquarter Mess.

All officers who served in the WRAC and WRAC TA are eligible for membership of Headquarter Mess and should write to the Secretary at Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH if they would like to join.



HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother arriving at the Banqueting House Whitehall, for the Headquarter Mess Reception on 4th November 1980. Escorting Her Majesty are Brig E J Nolan CB, Deputy Controller Commandant, and Brig A Field CB Hon ADC, DWRAC.

EDITORIAL

Members who are unable to attend branch meetings may not be aware that the khaki WRAC Association badge has been replaced by an attractive round green enamel badge. This costs 50p, plus 15p for postage and packing.

Also, in response to repeated requests from ex ATS members, we now sell silver-plated ATS brooches. These are a replica of the brooches which were issued to the first ATS volunteers, and they cost £1.50 plus 15p for postage and packing. Both are available from Corps Headquarters and are included in the SHOPPING LIST on the first page.

Not yet included in the SHOPPING LIST, but on display for visitors to the Museum, are figures of a WRAC NCO in No 2 Dress and a WRAC NCO with the RMP wearing a flak jacket. They stand about 4" high and are exquisitely made in polished pewter, a metal of some value. The price will be £9.95 plus 50p for postage and packing, and orders will be taken immediately.

OPERATION DRAKE — SULAWESI

Capt A K Stasiuk WRAC

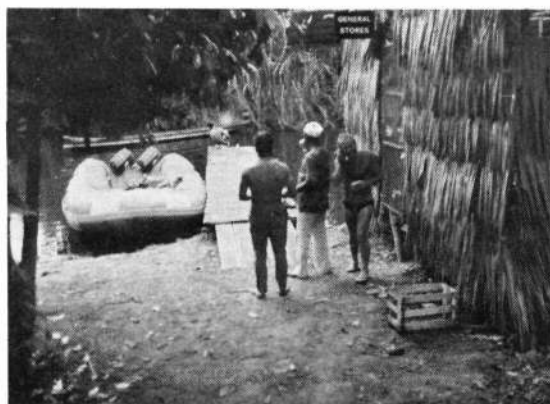
Imagine yourself on a small wooden coastal boat entering a huge bay ringed by tall, dark green, ragged mountains. The sun is shining high in the sky causing the water to sparkle like a million diamonds. As your boat chugs slowly across the bay you disturb flying fish which flash from under the bows of the boat and skim over the surface of the ripples to disappear under the surface again 30-40 ft away. As you watch them they remind you of little blue sparrows. Further away there is a commotion in the water as dolphins leap and dive around a patch of boiling water. The boiling is really tuna fish jumping in their attempts to feed. If you look carefully you can see odd flashes of the large silver fish as they rise a foot out of the water. A group of native fishermen are trying to encircle the patch of boiling water with a net, but the task proves difficult as the patch moves quickly and erratically. Only the most skilled paddler of the small dugout canoes keeps pace with the patch. On the shore you see many beautiful beaches; none are large but all are ringed by palm trees with the jungle stretching away into the mountains behind. Most of the beaches are deserted — no tourists here — but, here and there, there is a native village, a collection of bamboo and palm huts on stilts above the white sand. Behind the villages the jungle has been cleared to make fields, though the stumps of once mighty trees can still be seen as there are no cranes and caterpillar tractors to drag them away. The inhabitants of the villages stand in their doorways watching your boat chug past and some give a friendly wave. As you continue you pass close to one of the many islands in the bay. Here the water is shallower and if you peer over the side of the boat you can see through the milky green water to a coral garden of red, green, blue and white corals of assorted shapes and sizes. Four hours after entering the bay the boat finally ties up at Kolonadale "town" pier. "Town" is really a misnomer for this collection of corrugated iron and wooden huts, but it does have five shops, a market, two churches, two schools and five thousand people, and it is the closest approximation to a town for a hundred mile radius.

Operation Drake was a round-the-world expedition to commemorate Sir Francis Drake's voyage 400 years ago. Its dual aims were to provide adventure for young people between the ages of 18 and 24, and to provide a vehicle for scientific exploration in remote areas of the world. There were nine phases covering Panama (phases 1 and 2), Fiji (3), Papua New Guinea (4 and 5), Sulawesi (6 and 7) and Kenya. The link between each phase was provided by the Brigatine, the "Eye of the Wind" which carried a crew of 24 young explorers and 9 directing staff. In each country visited a land base was set up, normally in the jungle, by a team of directing staff from UK. This team, whose members changed for each country, provided all the logistics and experience necessary for the Operation to fulfil its aims. The young explorers changed for each phase and were drawn from all the English speaking countries of the world. Scientists, mostly from UK, joined the expedition for varying periods of time — anything from one phase to all phases. I found myself on the expedition almost by chance after a little bit of luck and a lot of help from my friends. To go on the expedition was the fulfilment of a lifetime's ambition to explore the jungle.

Already in the three weeks since leaving a cold and snowy England my senses had been inundated with new experiences — a jumble of colour, sounds, people, smells, places, feelings, pictures, sensations — from stomach heaving food markets to plush Hilton Hotels (free rooms to Expedition members), — from luxury jet planes to leaking wooden coastal boats powered by lawn mower engines — from holding the hand of a small, bare-foot, ragged child who cheerfully skipped by this 'novelty' in his town, to shaking the bejewelled hand of a smart local businessman who snapped his fingers for a servant to bring tea.

Having registered with police and local officials in Kolondale we were now ready to complete the final stage of the journey to Base Camp at Ranu. Thirty of us plus kit, piled into one large inflatable boat driven by two powerful outboards, and one enormous dug-out canoe that the advance party had bought and equipped with a high-power outboard engine. We raced back across the bay almost to the open sea. This time the journey only took 1½ hours. Then we followed a small river, the Ranu, inland for two miles. The river banks were over-hung with creepers, palms and razor-sharp edged reeds; the dense tangle inland looked impenetrable; everything was such a brilliant bright green. The air was filled with the high-pitched buzzing of cirraders, a sound that would constantly fill our ears over the coming months.

As we rounded a bend we suddenly arrived at Ranu Camp, a collection of Atap longhouses in a clearing on the banks. (Atap is made from long palm leaves that have been folded lengthwise and stitched to make a rectangular panel).



Base Camp.

The advance party had arrived one month previously to prepare the camp for our arrival. All nine had lived in the one existing hut while preparing for the sixty "incomers". They built six large huts, each 30 ft long and 18 ft wide, by first making a frame of wooden poles, felled from the surrounding jungle, and then covering the roof and walls with Atap. Four of the huts were for use as sleeping accommodation, one as a store, and the sixth as a Scientific Laboratory. They also built three small huts, one as a medical centre, another for the survey team and the last as a signals and Ops centre. These huts had been arranged around the edge of the clearing and in the centre stood a large mess "tent" with tables and benches made from split trees, and ovens made from biscuit tins sunk in banks of earth. The cow that lived in the clearing (belonging to a local farmer) found the ovens fascinating and frequently chose to stand on the mounds over them. Unfortunately the ovens could not stand weight and so collapsed. This was the first cause of the cook's threat to turn the cow into steak. Poor old Daisy became even less popular with the cook when she decided to check the quality of some newly baked bread and proceeded to munch the end off each of the six loaves!

To complete the camp the team had built three jetties, one each for boats, washing and water collection. A boat engine workshop had also been built so that our Engineer, Sgt Ben Cartwright REME, could have a suitable place to keep our boats in order — essential as our boats would be



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. SSAFA organised an escort to accompany them from the airport to a London station where the train took 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.

This could be the end of the story. Except that SSAFA will continue to watch over them. For 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. But the demand for our help is increasing as a growing number of ex-Service men and women of two world wars reach retirement age. We need both funds and voluntary helpers, especially in urban areas. You can play your part by giving some of your time as a SSAFA representative, signing a deed of covenant or remembering SSAFA in your will.* Offers of help will be welcomed by the Secretary, SSAFA, on 01-222 9221.

* Legacies up to £200,000 are now exempt from Capital Transfer Tax.

SSAFA

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27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BZ.

the only means of transport to the outside world apart from a 10 day walk. By the time we arrived the Engineering Team (Cpls Prior and Rimmer RE and civilian architect Mr Bob Powell) had already started work on a tree-top walkway at a site three miles further into the jungle. The walkway was an essential part of the scientific programme as it allowed scientists to study life at tree-top level, which is where most life happens in jungles. The task of building the walkways was not easy. It involved climbing two trees, each 150 ft tall, and then using a crossbow to pass a line across the 200 ft gap between them. The line was then used to pull across the main load-carrying cables. Once built the walkway proved to be a star attraction with all visitors and expedition members alike. Everyone enjoyed the thrill of climbing a very shaky ladder, then walking through the tree-tops looking at birds, butterflies and flowers before abseiling down the 150ft drop. Many of the scientists became so engrossed in their tree-top studies that they even camped on the walkway at night. Despite the dangers of visiting and using this structure there were fortunately no accidents, although on two occasions people got stuck while abseiling and had to be rescued by an expert climbing down a rope to them!

The scientists who had arrived with me were obviously keen to start their research and were disappointed to find the walkway not quite ready for use. However, anxious not to waste a moment of this unique opportunity to collect in this previously unstudied area they were soon busily collecting in the Base Camp area. "If it moves catch it" became the cry. The main projects planned were Entomological (including butterfly collecting), Botanical, Ornithological, a study of rats, a study of the health of the coastal and forest people, a socio-economic study and the drawing of a map, as none exists for the area.

My role was OC Young Explorers, which meant allocating them to different projects according to their interests, the needs of the projects and time available. It sounds easy but when thirty-eight people (assorted English, American, Canadian, Nepalese, Hong Kong, Chinese, Australian and Indonesian) all wanted to do different things (and some kept changing their minds) and the Project organiser changed requirements and dates of projects, life could get tricky! Ten days and six versions of a timetable later, life began to settle down. Things seemed to be going to plan so I took the opportunity to join the "Eye of the Wind" for a trip to Crab Island, part of the Bangaii group.

Crab Island was supposed to have been the island on which Drake careened his ship for a month and our task was to look for evidence of this. After a day's sail we arrived at the Bangaii group and threaded our way between the small satanic islands that lay shrouded in early morning mist. We had to keep a good look out for coral reefs in these uncharted waters lest we should really follow in Drake's "footsteps" and run aground! Here and there the local people had built huts on the reefs – a hut surrounded by miles of water! These served as good reminders of the walls that lay beneath the innocent looking waters. These islands appeared almost uninhabited; only now and again the by now familiar mosque could be seen standing, shining white on the shore amongst a small cluster of huts. In places large coconut groves could be seen stretching across an island. We reached our small island by midday having travelled right through the group. It lay on the eastern edge of the Bangaiis with open sea beyond. The proximity of the open sea meant it was subjected to large waves which broke to give large surf waves, the sight of which sent our Aussies into ecstasies over the surfing possibilities. The island was a mere mile long and 800 yards wide. It had one upland end, jungle covered, and a low corner occupied by a rather neglected coconut plantation. It had a number of beautiful white sandy beaches strewn with exotic shells and bits of coral. The crystal clear waters that surrounded it revealed the splendid coral garden that covered the sea floor, and was even more varied in colours and shapes than around Kolondale. One could watch large turtles gently gliding over the corals amongst the angel and other beautiful tropical fish.

We spent the next few days combing this deserted paradise for clues of Drake's visit. Alas, we found nothing except the remnants of two old Chinese plates and one Victorian saucer, and a lot of more modern junk, which proved that people had used the island. The island had been named "Crab Island" because Drake had reported the presence of many large crabs. We saw no large crabs, but every evening the beach was alive with millions of small hermit crabs scuttling in and out of the water. Drake has also mentioned large bats, probably fruit bats, but again we found only small ones. Our Ship's Captain thought one beach was suitable to careen a ship but we found no tools or ancient timbers or other evidence of this. Thus we found no positive evidence to prove this was Drake's Crab Island, so after a very pleasant week we upped anchor and sailed back to Kolondale.



Dugouts in the Bay. A leaf makes a good sail and saves paddling.

Back at camp the work had been progressing. A number of visitors had shown great determination to reach us as the journey took, on average, two weeks from within Indonesia and almost three weeks from UK. Many of the visitors were Indonesian officials who wanted to see for themselves the British Army Major who was collecting butterflies and the other members of the British Army who were helping to collect mosquitos!

Change-over time for Young Explorers phases 6 and 7 arrived far too quickly. With the enormous transport problems the plan was to filter people through to avoid congestion at the nearest air terminal (Kendari). This rapidly expanding 'frontier town' lay 150 miles south, reachable only by boat from our location. I went down to meet the incoming Young Explorers with the hope that during the sea trip I could interview them all and programme their activities for the duration of their stay. After three of these trips I became quite an expert on the local coastal boats. The voyage took anything from 22 to 50 hours according to how many coral reefs you got stranded on, whether the helmsman fell asleep, how well the steering worked, how long before it was realised the boat was going in circles, how many unscheduled stops were made at intervening vilalges. These boats were all built to the same design, a cabin at the front behind the wheelhouse and two cupboards at the back, one the kitchen (with a wood fire) the other the loo (a hole cut in the floor), and the intervening space roofed. The few bunks there were on these boats were invariably filled with "relatives" of the crew often on their way to hospital. Despite the expedition having chartered the whole boat we had to make do with the middle covered area – a platform over the hold. At night time we distinctly resembled sardines in a can as we all tried to lie

down to sleep. The food on these boats was included in the price of the fare. Food consisted of a bowl of rice twice or three times a day, with a fine sliver of fish if some had been caught from the line trailing behind, or we had passed a fisherman and bought his catch. To wash all this down we had tea or water from an open metal drum. Obviously cutlery was limited on these boats so the crew very obligingly gave lessons on how to eat rice with fingers. To while away the time aboard, language lessons were started, the crews being keen to learn English and we to learn Indonesian. By the end of a voyage all aboard were great friends and we were sad to learn that one of our first skippers had drowned when his boat sank in a storm in Kendari harbour. This incident also made us realise just how lucky we had been with our numerous journeys in these leaky little boats.

With the changeover completed life settled down again. I was standing in for the Ops Officer while he went on a mapping survey, and the cook while he went mountaineering. Cooking for 20-60 people in the field was quite a challenge. Making bread was easy provided the weevils stood still and the rain didn't put the fire out when the loaves were only half done, and of course, that the finished produce could be hidden from Daisy the cow. By now Daisy had become the camp pet and often hung around the mess hut for titbits. Bread, Alpen and biscuits AB were her favourites. The local chickens often investigated the rice sack and biscuit tin in the kitchen; consequently chicken stew was often threatened! We lived too far from the Kolondale market to get much fresh food as it opened at 5.00 am and was almost sold out by 6.30 am. Occasionally we bought real eggs but soon found that one in three were bad. Sometimes the locals would come with bananas and other fruits to swap for sardines, jam or biscuits AB. Our survey and project groups fared much better for fresh food as the villagers they visited were normally keen to swap or often just to offer their white visitors their hospitality. It was very humbling to meet people who had so little and yet were prepared to share everything with complete strangers, and it was much to our satisfaction that they started to visit us in our camp toward the end of our stay so we could return the hospitality.

The reaction of the local people to our food was interesting. Their diet consisted of rice, bananas, sweet potatoes, chillis and cucumbers, with the occasional fish, eggs and, even more rarely, chicken. Our food came in cans or packets of powders. What could they have thought when

we poured white powder into hot water to make a brown mixture, or a red mixture, or yellow or green each with a different taste? They were keen to try our foods and thought everything good. Our petrol burning stove, which made a fearful noise and was highly dangerous, also fascinated these people who only had log fires to cook and often only one cooking pot.

Having done my stint as cook I got the chance to take out a survey group. We decided to try to climb the nearby Mount Morowali (8000 ft) which had never been climbed before and was reputedly unclimbable. This mountain had fascinated me since the day we had first sailed up the coast. It was the first piece of the area we had seen, with its twin peaks standing majestically over the bay and clouds swirling round its lower slopes. My group was truly international being composed of an American, an Australian, a Nepalese, an Englishman and myself (Anglo-Polish) and we collected five Wana guides (the local forest people). We hadn't intended to take five guides but we had stopped at our nearest Wana village (5 hours from camp) the first night and persuaded one youngster to join us, then as we were leaving another young man joined us. The seven of us set off along a trail that led us through a waist-deep, icy cold, fast flowing river. The trail continued through the jungle up hills and down into swamps, then suddenly into a clearing where rice grew amongst a clutter of huge fallen tree trunks. By balancing along the tree trunks we made our way to the two bamboo huts in the centre which were packed with children, chickens and dogs. We handed round sweets and cigarettes. One woman was so delighted by her cigarette that she immediately lit it and passed it to her eighteen month old son, preferring her local weed wrapped in corn husks. They gave us hot water for a brew and handfuls of delicious fermenting rice grain to keep our strength up. We then made our way across more tree trunks to the far side of the clearing and the head of the valley where the path got steeper. Before long the path disappeared, this being as far as any of the locals came on foraging trips. We continued climbing the very steep hillside, but by the time evening arrived we had failed to reach the top of the ridge although we had climbed about 2000 ft. We found one of the infrequent rock outcrops to give us some flat space to camp on for the night and had just settled down when we heard voices below. Up popped two more Wana men and a boy, saying they had heard we wanted guides so they had come to join us. Not wanting to upset them and send them back

we decided to take them with us, hence our total of five guides.

For three days we struggled upward, first continuing up the hillside then along a ridge, with our guides having to cut through the thick undergrowth for the greater part of the journey. Our guides were remarkable people, very tiny in stature and dressed in nothing but shorts and T-shirts. Barefoot they pressed through the jungle using their razor-sharp parang to remove obstructions. They seemed oblivious to the sharp thorned briars of rotan that leapt out at every turn. The extra guides created a food problem and aggravated the water shortage as there were no springs or streams on the ridge and we had to collect rainwater and water from pitcher plants. The pitcher plant water had to be carefully filtered to remove numerous bugs. Only now and again could we get glimpses of the mountain top due to the density of the trees, but on the third morning we knew we were only a few hundred feet below the top. We pressed on, elated, and two hours later arrived at the base of a steep, slippery cliff.

Leaving packs behind, the better climbers set off to scale the cliff while another group traversed round to look for an easier approach. Eventually, and fortunately, they returned to report that they had found a small slippery gully that could be climbed, while wearing packs, to the top. The top was a tangle of small trees and roots covered with moss; there was not even the tiniest clearing for a camp. We had to fell trees to clear odd spaces for bashas. When we investigated the 200 yard long, 30 yard wide top we found one tiny lookout spot at one end from where we could gaze out across the lower slopes, the coastal plain, the bay with its numerous islands and down the coast to a headland 50 miles away. It was awe inspiring and somehow more impressive and satisfying to know that we were the first human beings to have gazed at that view. Even the Wana guides, who had thought us mad wanting to climb this mountain, sat spellbound by the view of their homelands. Unfortunately as we sat drinking in the view, the clouds drifted back and darkness began to fall. That night was cold and wet, and it was incredible to experience just how much the temperature falls with altitude even on the Equator. The poor Wana moaned with the cold, never having experienced it before. Even the huge fires they built could not protect them and they were convinced they would die. The next day was cloudy and damp and we wanted to leave but had to wait for a sufficiently long break in the cloud to be able to draw a map of the view. The clouds

finally broke just before nightfall allowing us enough time to make a quick sketch but too late for us to start moving off the mountain. We were condemned to another freezing night on top. In the morning when our Wana guides had realised that we were going home they set off gleefully down the track at a cracking pace. They virtually ran us back down the mountain so that a mere seven hours later we staggered back into the clearing with the two huts, grateful to be back in the strong sunshine.

After spending a few days investigating some of the nearby valleys and lakes we returned to Base Camp. By now it was time for the withdrawal to begin. The "Eye of the Wind" was to sail to Jakarta with most of the Young Explorers aboard and the rest were being sent to a distant National Park to conduct a search for ancient Standing Stones. The scientific programme was being brought to an end and the camp dismantled. To help thin the camp out and make packing up easier, non-essential DS were being encouraged to leave early. So as I had to be in Hong Kong early, to act as Expedition Liaison Officer, I left with two companions to travel 700 miles overland across the island of Sulawesi to the main town of Ujung Pandang. This trip proved to be a very exciting alternative to the usual 150 mile boat trip to Kendari. We rode in battered minibuses (14 people plus chickens in a tiny Toyota) along very bumpy tracks that wound through mountain ranges. We had to take boats for parts of the journey and to walk stretches of 40 miles at a time when even the tracks ran out. We stayed in Bashas, in Losmen (very cheap boarding houses) or with friendly local people. We lived on rice, bananas, sardines and food bought at roadside stalls — all sorts of weird and wonderful concoctions. We drank water, tea, local beer and a special sort of wine which has been matured with a deer foetus in it. We visited the famous Torraja country where they build house roofs to resemble buffalo horns and bury their dead in caves leaving life-like effigies outside often arranged in balconies like theatre-goers. From Ujung Pandang we took a detour to the island of Bali, then two days later to Jogjakarta on Java. We had only one day here and left wishing we could have had more time to investigate this mysterious ancient city which was once the capital of Indonesia.

For the final leg to Jakarta we took a train, travelling third class for £1.00 on a journey that took thirteen hours. The train was hot but vendors got on at frequent intervals to sell cold drinks. Food sellers also peddled their wares in

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competition to the official buffet car, so that for those who wanted it there was a constant supply of fresh fruit, rice, fish and chickens wrapped in the usual banana leaves in lieu of paper bags. Before long our carriage took on the appearance of a garbage tip as people cast away wrappers, peel and the like. As well as vendors, beggars also boarded the train to seek customers. The blind were led by ragged young children and the lame crawled along the floor in the garbage.

All too soon my time with the Expedition was over. I left sadly, proud of what I'd seen and done but regretful of all the missed opportunities. I shall always be very grateful to all those who helped me to participate in Operation Drake.

JOINT AIR RECONNAISSANCE INTELLIGENCE CENTRE

Capt H B Eaton

The Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre at the Royal Air Force Station Brampton, Huntingdon, celebrated its fortieth anniversary on the 11th of July, 1980.

The original Photographic Interpretation Unit was established in 1940 after Mr Churchill had urged the Air Ministry to form a specialized unit to gain intelligence from aerial photography. Earlier, a civilian aerial survey firm – the Aircraft Operating Company – had interpreted high altitude photography covertly obtained by the freelance aerial photographer, Sydney Cotton. Cotton's pictures of German naval bases, when interpreted, revealed so much detail that Mr Churchill insisted that the Aircraft Operating Company, with its specialized equipment, be placed on the Royal Air Force establishment.

The Photographic Interpretation Unit became the Central Interpretation Unit when an army section and a Royal Navy liaison element joined the unit later in 1940. Almost from its inception, the Unit has been organised on a joint service basis and has maintained this balance throughout its history. The Central Interpretation Unit outgrew the original premises at Wembley and moved to Danesfield House, beside the River Thames at Medmenham, in May 1941.

The Unit played a vital role during the 'secret war'; it was directly involved in the planning stages of nearly every operation of the war and in every aspect of intelligence. The peak period of activity was the preparation for Operation OVERLORD, the Normandy landings, when the CIU supplied detailed information on terrain, beaches, enemy defences and locations and also prepared landscape models of target areas. The CIU achieved many successes; the identification and subsequent destruction of German radar and electronic systems, the detection of the Nazi V1 and V2 secret weapons, the planning of bombing raids – including the Mohne dams raid – and the subsequent assessment of bombing damage, the selection of dropping and pick-up zones for the traffic of secret agents to and from occupied Europe, monitoring the movements of German

naval units, assessing the production capabilities of enemy industries, identifying the first German jet propelled aircraft, checking enemy transportation systems and providing information for Combined Operations and Commando raids on the coast of Europe.

After the war, the strength of the CIU was drastically reduced and it moved from Medmenham to Nuneham Park, Oxfordshire, where it was later renamed the Joint Air Photographic Interpretation Centre. In 1953, as a result of an increase in establishment, the unit was finally renamed the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre and later moved from Nuneham Park to new premises at Brampton in 1957.

JARIC, although predominantly a Royal Air Force unit, continues to reflect its joint service role and is staffed by members of the Royal Navy and Women's Royal Naval Service, soldiers of the Royal Engineers, the Intelligence Corps, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Women's Royal Army Corps, the Women's Royal Air Force and civil servants of the scientific and administrative grades. JARIC, administratively part of Strike Command of the Royal Air Force not only provides interpreted aerial imagery for targetting purposes but also for town and country planning, pollution studies, accident and disaster investigations and has even assisted in the search for the Loch Ness monster!

After an unbroken period of forty years existence, the role of the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre remains essentially unchanged and is as important today as it was in 1940 – the exploitation and reproduction of aerial imagery for the three Services and various civilian bodies.



Subaltern Margaret Hodgson plotting a photographic interpretation report on German defences in 1944.

CLIMBING IN THE PYRENEES

Lt P A Ash-Edwards WRAC FRGS

It was whilst climbing in the Alps in 1979 that I decided to take a climbing expedition to the Pyrenees. What I didn't envisage at the time was that it would eventually become the first all-female Services climbing expedition overseas.

The idea behind the expedition was to give people in the Women's Services an opportunity to participate in a serious mountaineering expedition. We were to attempt to traverse the high level route of the Pyrenees from Col du Somport in the West to Puigcerda in the East, by climbing the seven highest peaks in the range. The expedition was originally given the title of the 'WRAC Pyrenees Expedition', but the name had to be rapidly changed to the 'Women's Services (Army) Pyrenees 1980 Expedition' when Capt Angie Wood QARANC joined as our "medic".

Of the eleven originally selected only eight were to go to the Pyrenees and the other three were to act as reserves. Six were to make up the climbing party. This included myself, Capt Angie Wood QARANC who is WSLO in London and acted as my 2 IC; Sgt Annette Bell who is Admin Sgt at D Coy WRAC Bicester; Cpl Caroline Brodie PTI at 8 Sqn 8 Sig Regt Catterick; Cpl 'TC' Rees a driver at the AAC Centre Middle Wallop; and Pte Irene Roberts a driver at 40 Sqn RCT Catterick. On the support side there were W02 Carol O'Nians, Training Sgt Major at RMP Training Centre Chichester, and Sgt Penny Spinks a driver with 419 Tp Hounslow.

On a crisp morning in May after eight months of planning, we set off for France at 6 am from the WRAC College at Camberley. We had a super send off with the College staff and cadets lining the route to see us off. It took us about thirty hours to get down to the south of France, stopping only to call at French military units to obtain petrol. At Pau, we stopped at the French Army Airborne Forces Depot where after drawing

our petrol we were given a four course luncheon in the Officers Mess. We found that we were quite a novelty being the first British servicewomen in their unit! After lunch we drove to our destination of Col du Somport, which is one of the few crossing points in the Pyrenees range. We left the next day to attempt to scale our first peak, Pic du Midi D'Ossau, relatively small at 9,465 ft compared with the mountains we would be attempting later. This mountain is very like Mount Kenya, a lonely pyramid of purple-brown granite. Unfortunately we never saw it. On the second day out when we were getting near the slopes, it started snowing and we had continuous white-out conditions. The night before a final assault could be made on the peak, we stayed in a Cabane just below the mountain. During the night it started to snow again and this seemed to start off some huge avalanches which we could hear crashing down around us. So after four days in terrible conditions we decided to drop down to the valley having traversed around the side of the mountain to our next point where we met up with the support party.

Vignernale at 10,820 ft is the highest frontier summit in the Pyrenees. It is a huge plateau of schistose limestone surrounded by steep walls. We stopped at a Refuge en route and set out early the next day to climb up to 8,000 ft to another Refuge. The snow was deep and climbing was hard, and to add to our problems the mist came down and brought visibility to within a few feet. According to the altimeter and bearings we had, we should have been by the gap in the rocky ridge that would have taken us over to the next Refuge. But all we could see in front was rock. So we traversed twenty feet to the right, thinking that we must have been that far out, but the rock was getting steeper, and the snow looked as if it was ready to avalanche any moment. I made the decision then to turn back. It had taken us seven hours to climb up to this point, and it took us another two hours to get down to our Refuge of the night before.

The next morning we got up early to see a beautiful day dawning. We decided to make another attempt to reach the second Refuge and climbed up using the trail we had broken the night before, reaching the ridge 2½ hours later. We could see now that our tracks had stopped within 10 ft of the gap in the rocks, and where we had traversed round we had stopped within twenty feet of a crevasse.

We had now been cursed with continuous bad weather for over two weeks. The locals said that

this was the worst weather that they had experienced in May for many years, and that it was too cold to come out even for the tourists!

The next day we crossed over into Spain and moved to the valley head north of San Juan de Plan to climb Pico de Posets. At 11,073 ft this was the second highest in the range. The difference in climate and temperature was dramatic on this side of the Pyrenees. We were finally to get six days of blue skies and sun. This the support party enjoyed, but it was not so good for the climbing party as sixteen hours climbing in the sun on snow resulted in burnt swollen lips and bad sunburn on the face and hands for everyone, although we had all been well protected with the usual medications.

This mountain is very remote, and not so popular with climbers as other peaks. The climbing was superb, and from the second glacier we could see over a great expanse of mountains. We finally got to within 100 ft of the summit with just a narrow gully to climb before reaching the top. We were traversing around the foot of the rock wall to the gully when I felt something hit my rucksack. It was a rock the size of a football! We stopped then as the conditions were giving cause for concern. Just as I made the decision to turn back an avalanche came down the gully that we would have been going up. This confirmed our fears, and we started to go down. I had gone only 100 ft when I heard a huge crack above. I looked up to see an enormous avalanche bearing down upon us. I shouted 'Run' and we all managed to get out of its path.

The climax of the expedition had finally been reached and we were now to climb Pico de Aneto at 11,168 ft the highest mountain in the Pyrenees. With the snow level still at around 5,000 ft we expected the climb to be extremely hard work breaking the trail. So we left the Refuge Bassellance at 3.30 am and set off towards the summit. On the Aneto glacier we came across some Spanish ski mountaineers. They took their skis off for a particularly steep climb. We were right behind them, and a Spaniard turned around puffing a bit, and said "English women strong yes". It seems that they seldom see women climbing, and to see a party of six with no men, they just could not believe.

Just before the summit we had a sheer rocky ridge to climb over. The Spaniards at first didn't believe we were going to climb it, and watched in amazement when we did. It was extremely cold and we were in cloud, so we stayed at the summit only long enough to take photographs before

making the return journey to our Refuge.

When we reached the valley the next day we found a restaurant and celebrated. The meal was typically Spanish and the menu was really superb — clear chicken soup, fresh trout with courgettes, ice cream and a jug of wine. It may not sound much but after high altitude and arctic composite rations for 24 days — it was delicious!

We had two more mountains still to conquer — Pic D'Estats at 10,372 ft, and Pic Carlitte at 9,583 ft. These presented no real problems as the weather had improved. Also they were nearer the Mediterranean, on the other side of Andorra and the snow line was now at about 7,000 ft — a vast improvement. Unfortunately on reaching the summit of Pic D'Estats the cloud came down and we saw nothing, but Pic Carlitte was fantastic and from the summit we had our first clear view of the Pyrenees.

MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1948, the Society aims to encourage research into the history, traditions, uniforms, badges and similar aspects of the Armed Forces of Great Britain and the Commonwealth and, to a lesser extent, of other countries.

The Society's headquarters are in London and members meet there informally once a month throughout the year. Normally these meetings are at 2.30 pm on the second Saturday in the month, although in May and November meetings are held on Sunday instead, largely for the benefit of those members who cannot attend on Saturdays.

Further information can be obtained from: Military Historical Society, Centre Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3.

VISIT TO CHILDHOOD HOME IN HONG KONG

Last October Mrs Nancy Long realised her ambition to see Hong Kong again after a gap of fifty-seven years. She flew there for a two week holiday and stayed at the Mandarin Hotel. She first came to Hong Kong in 1923 when her father was posted to Stonecutters Island as Battery Sergeant Major of 94 Company RA.

Mrs Long joined the ATS in 1945 and served for two years as a corporal. Subsequently she was commissioned into the TA and as a captain worked as an administrative officer with 304 Battalion Surrey and Sussex Regiment based at Brighton.

In spite of strict security regulations Mrs Long persuaded the authorities to allow her to visit Stonecutters Island. Escorted by Cpl Sonja Steinert WRAC, who works as a clerk in HQ British Forces Hong Kong, Mrs Long was welcomed by Major Chris Ahearne RAOC, Senior Army Officer on the island, and was given a tour of the island.



Mrs Nancy Long on the steps of her old home on Stonecutters Island in Hong Kong harbour with Cpl Sonja Steinert WRAC.

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PRESENTATIONS

BEM

General Sir Timothy Creasey KCB OBE C-in-C UKLF presented Cpl Ann McNish with her BEM at the Royal Green Jackets recruits Passing Out Parade at Peninsula Barracks, Winchester on 17th October 1980.

Cpl McNish was posted to the Rifle Depot last July having served as a Staff Clerk at Headquarters BAOR since 1977. She was awarded the BEM for her service in BAOR.



Cpl Ann McNish receiving the BEM from General Sir Timothy Creasey, C-in-C UKLF.



WO2 Carole Austin receiving the LSGC Medal from Major General A C Birtwistle, then CSO HQ BAOR.

We offer our congratulations to:

Seven enthusiastic members of the WRAC Element Northern Ireland who did a 42 mile sponsored walk from Larne to Lisburn and won the Ladies Team Prize.



Still smiling despite blisters!

L - R: Capt Wendy Swinton-Eagle, LCpl Maxine Gillespie, Sgt Mo Hancocks, LCpl Jill Barker, Pte Claire Lynch, Sgt Sandra Wood, LCpl Shirley Smith (not shown Pte Kasia Wright).

SSgt Shirley Scott, Senior WRAC NCO of 33 Signal Regiment (V), who was presented with an inscribed and framed Lord Lieutenant's Certificate by Sir William Downward, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.



SSgt Shirley Stott shaking hands with Sir William Downward after the presentation.

Lieutenant Sue Marriott who successfully completed a six month Royal Signals Communications Qualifying Course and is the first WRAC officer to command a Communications Troop in Northern Ireland.



Lt Sue Marriott with some of the members of the Troop which she commands.

Pte Janet Hartley of 1 Squadron 16th Signal Regiment who won the 1980 BAOR Women's Slalom Championship.



Pte Janet Hartley winning the 1980 BAOR Women's Slalom Championship.

Private Wanda Boswell who was the first member of the WRAC to attend a course for Traffic Operators at the School of Transportation, Aldershot.



A jubilant Pte Boswell receiving her certificate from Colonel P J Marzetti, Commandant School of Transportation, surrounded by her fellow students.

GREEN GRASS — UNEMPLOYMENT

W02 B Bloomfield

Should you be in the process of leaving the Army for the greener grass of civilian life, perhaps you ought to stop and consider the question of unemployment.

You should not be fooled by the situation; it can, and probably will, affect you if you are about to leave the Service. Amongst the things we have learned to take for granted is the fact that endless potential employers will be falling over themselves to secure our experiences and expertise. Not so, sadly; even people who are highly skilled in trades and professions are lining the unemployment queues.

As soon as your terminal leave ends you are eligible to register for unemployment benefit and for six months earnings related income. I understand that the latter will probably cease in 1982. The basic rate of unemployment benefit is currently £18.50 per week which is signed for and drawn fortnightly.

Once you have registered as unemployed you have to attend the nearest job centre and register as being available for work. If you are wise you will also enrol with as many employment bureaux and agencies as possible, not forgetting the Regular Forces Employment Association. Those of you who have worked at the managerial level might find it useful to register with the Professional and Executive Register (PER). You are asked to complete a computer card after which your employment requirements are matched against existing vacancies. The point must be stressed however that vacancies in any profession even technical and allied managerial posts, are becoming increasingly hard to find.

When you realise that employment is not up for grabs you simultaneously realise that your income is not elastic. It is not then beyond the realms of possibility that a lowering of living standards may follow. You may also be faced with the prospect of taking a job requiring far lower capabilities than you possess. With so few jobs about, and so many people to take them, employers can understandably be very selective.

Even with your income lowered and savings depleted the cost of living still has to be given great consideration. The mortgage or rent has still to be paid and perhaps I had better not mention

the rising cost of gas, electricity, or running the car; the cost of dry cleaning, shoe repairs, holidays, entertainment, television licences, bank charges, milk, newspapers and plants for the garden. Not to mention feeding the dog/cat/budgie/goldfish/hampster, etc.

My advice after fourteen months of this experience is to stay in the Services as long as possible, certainly until after this present slump has passed.

You may never know how green the grass is on this side of the fence until you've tried the other — and that might be too late.

EXERCISE LLAMA BACKSTOP

Sgt M Pomeroy

Volunteers to go trekking in Nepal were wanted and this was an opportunity I could not allow to slip by. Exercise Llama Backstop was organised from HQ Rhine Area and applications were invited from all units in Rhine Area. At the time of my application I was stationed with 29 Coy Rheindahlen.

The group consisted of twelve members who included our team leader Capt (now Major) Valerie Batchelor and the doctor, Capt Penny Hicks. No special requirements were needed except a good standard of general fitness.

The exercise was to take us trekking around the Annapurna Himal, crossing over the Thorong Pass, a height of 17,750 ft then descending to Pakhara via the Annapurna Sanctuary. The trek was to take 26 days and cover a distance of 300 miles. In no time at all I found myself with a rucksack on my back heading for RAF Hendon where members of the party were to have an overnight stop.

The following afternoon we left Heathrow on a civil flight to Frankfurt, and on to Delhi. The heat when we stepped off the plane at Delhi was tremendous — it was as though a furnace door had been opened in our faces and the atmosphere was extremely humid.

On our arrival at Kathmandu the next morning we were met by a 4 ton lorry and transported to our hotel where we met the Sidar for the trek,

Jagat Man Lama. A Sidar has a very responsible job and has many years' trekking experience.

My first impression of my room in the Hotel Khokinoor was one of distaste. Believe me, on my return after 26 days trekking it was one of pure pleasure — and oh, what luxury. We spent two days in Kathmandu sightseeing and finalising last minute details before starting the trek.

Kathmandu is bursting at the seams with people, but it has charm in spite of the poverty and dirt. The Bazaars are an experience to say the least. How pleased you feel with yourself when you manage to argue a price down, only to find when you return to the hotel that someone has managed to get the same item a few rupees cheaper.

On the morning of our departure a 30-seater bus drew up a few yards from our hotel. We were all most eager to get started — that is until we saw the bus. It looked a wreck; it was already nearly full with porters and the roof was packed tightly with tentage and rations. Space was soon made available for ourselves and rucksacks and whilst the loading was being done a crowd was gathering to watch the spectacle.

The journey to Dumre where we were to start the trek was long, hot and very uncomfortable.

If you are nervous, avoid transport in Nepal. The drivers appear to have no regard for each other and overtake in the most hazardous fashion. The journey didn't pass without incident as the bus had a flat tyre, but luckily our porters knew what they were about and soon had us back on the road.

On arrival at Dumre the bus was unloaded. Jagat Man soon arranged the porters and their loads and in no time at all we were off on the trail. The porters carried their enormous loads in wicker baskets, and we had one woman porter with us whose load was as heavy as the men's.

The first day of our trek was short which gave us an opportunity to acclimatise to walking in the heat with packs on our backs. On arrival into camp in the late afternoon everything was being well organised by Jagat Man and Pansang our cook was busy preparing our dinner. To occupy ourselves we all took a refreshing dip in a nearby river — this was the first of many. Our dinner that evening and on subsequent evenings, was heartily eaten. Pansang our cook was very experienced and prepared a good selection of food which was a combination of fresh and compo.

We very soon settled into a routine of getting up at 05.30, packed and on the trail by 06.30.

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The first few days were extremely hot, but gradually as we climbed in altitude, it became cooler. As the climbing became more strenuous we each found our own walking pace and more or less kept the same pace throughout the entire trek. Our first rest day was spent at a place called Pisang. Jagat Man accompanied those who felt energetic on a walk into the Annapurna II Base Camp. On the tenth day of our trek we were preparing to cross over the Thorong Pass, and that night we camped at 14,500 ft. When the sun went down it became bitterly cold and we all huddled into our sleeping bags and put on extra clothing. Anything spare was passed on to our porters. In the morning we were up at 04.30 and on our way. Progress was very slow and the altitude took its toll. Nearly all of us, including the porters suffered from headaches and nausea. We reached the top of the pass at 09.30, an altitude of 17,750 ft, feeling triumphant. This was one of the real highlights of the trip. From the pass we descended to Muktinath at 12,460 ft as the following day was a rest day.

From Muktinath we made our way to Tatopani and the much talked about hot spring. At Tatopani Cpl Bernie Rimmer celebrated her birthday, a birthday I am sure she will never forget. A water buffalo was purchased and slaughtered. Pansang made a birthday cake and the inevitable pumpkin pie. Pumpkins became a standing joke amongst us as they were cheap and easy to obtain. We ate them frequently, prepared in every imaginable fashion.

From Tatopani we made our way to the Annapurna Sanctuary. On route LCpl David James fell and twisted his ankle. He stayed behind at Dhoman to rest whilst the rest of the party proceeded to the Sanctuary. By this time the weather had changed drastically. It was still hot in the morning but by mid afternoon thunder storms brought torrential downpours. On our descent from the Annapurna Sanctuary one of our group 2 Lt Lindsay Bonnass was unfortunately injured and had to be evacuated by helicopter to Kathmandu. The rest of the trek proceeded without incident, and it was with a great feeling of achievement that we walked into Pokhara, the end of our 26 day trek. The final night we camped by a lake and experienced one of the worst thunder storms of the entire trek.

The following morning a public bus conveyed us to Kathmandu where we spent two days. Three of us took the opportunity to go on a mountain flight, and viewed the whole Himalaya range which included the usually black, pyramid-shaped

rock of Mount Everest. The highest point of the world (29,028 ft).

All too soon it was time to say goodbye to the many friends we had made. The Nepalese are wonderful people, very warm, friendly and hospitable, and we said goodbye with much regret.



Packing the baskets and loading the bus.

EXERCISE REDCAP DIVER 1980 RMPTC ADVENTURE TRAINING EXPEDITION TO BELIZE

W02 O'Nians

We flew to Belize International Airport via Dulles, Washington, following the sun for what seemed hours and gaining six hours during the flight. Although we left England in the early morning, by late afternoon we had completed loading a small boat "Greciella" — and the following day we were crossing the deep blue of the Atlantic en route to Half Moon Caye, some 60 miles away, on the edge of the second largest barrier reef in the world.

The twelve exercise members were ranged evenly rank-wise from Lt Col to LCpl. There were four members of the WRAC Provost, Capt A Moore, Cpl L Magson, LCpl D Wicker and myself. Except for Cpl Magson we were all novices to diving. Our aim was to complete two surveys. Firstly a coral survey for Reading University,

which was to ascertain at what stage of the day Gorgonian Coral feeds. Needless to say this was round the clock observation. A second survey was carried out for Liverpool University to observe and monitor the movement of land snails. The exercise also intended to give service divers the opportunity to dive in tropical waters. Capt Moore, a qualified zoologist, undertook the scientific research and controlled the two surveys. A signals exercise was established in order to maintain a contact with Belize on the main land and from "our" little Caye.

We would also be hunting with metal detectors, in the hope of locating Blackbeard's treasure. Blackbeard the pirate sailed the high seas in the Caribbean many years ago.

The diving was good, the sea was clear and visibility was perfect. Half Moon Cayes "Drop off" was precarious because of the shallow corals, and each dive was accompanied by a friendly barracuda! I say "friendly" now, but at the time the menacing glare in the fish's eye and his gaping mouth gave one an uneasy feeling. They were inquisitive but not harmful if one showed no fear.

Our home on Half Moon Caye was a disused wooden hut on the beach. It served us well, but we did wish for a stronger construction when the near hurricane force winds pressed against the sides during the night.

We dived twice a day. Breakfast was at 6 am and so we would be ready to climb under our mosquito nets by 9 pm. We were completely self supporting, and the Caye was uninhabited except for a colony of pink-footed Booby birds, iguana, hermit crabs and coconut palms.

During the second week we visited the infamous Blue Hole. This is the only one of its kind in the world. It is a circular coral feature like an island of deep sea within the reef. The sea on the outside of this circle, 200 yards in diameter, was between four and eight metres in depth but within, the Blue Hole drops straight and deep to 500 feet. We dived no more than about 100 feet but Jacques Clouseau descended in a mini-sub. The second group in which I was a member, reached a depth of 32 metres, where from out of the black depth a Great Hammerhead shark came up to look at the four divers. Throughout the trip each group encountered a number of sharks but without any attacks. A shark "bang stick" carried by every dive group did much to boost one's confidence.

During the stay at Half Moon Caye we conducted the snail survey. After spending many

hours combing and sifting the area no snails could be found. It would seem the coral sand base of the Caye, the lack of fresh water, and the Caye being so far from the mainland, prevented any snail in its right mind from living on the island.

Towards the end of our stay on Half Moon Caye we journeyed to Long Caye, nearest land to Half Moon Caye. There we found a totally different atmosphere. Another uninhabited Caye, with large iguana basking in the white coral sand and large brightly coloured butterflies fluttering around. The water's edge was murky and smelly bordering a quite different plant life. Venturing into the island away from the shore, an expanse of stagnant water was found with dead trees standing silent and blackish water where mosquitoes would live in their thousands.

After two and a half weeks we moved to San Pedro on Ambergris Caye. The journey took longer than expected because the boat ran aground amongst the Turneffe Islands. After four hours of 'rocking' the boat standing shoulder high in water and unloading heavy equipment into small dive boats, we finally moved her.

San Pedro was so different — people, bars and small shops. The diving was quite different too. We had to travel along the coast and dive deep to find the unspoiled sea bed. We discovered interesting areas with vast gullies and caves to explore in contrast to the sheer "drop off" of Half Moon Caye. We were sorry when it was time to leave the clear warm waters and return to Belize.

SSAFA'S HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The SSAFA Christmas Market held at Chelsea Barracks, London on 26th November 1980 proved an enormous success and raised over £60,000.

The event received tremendous support from all three Services as did the "Great Paper Chase" lottery. Thirty-nine prizes were given, ranging from a two weeks' holiday in Jamaica for two to a £5 Sainsbury's gift voucher. The full list of winners and their prizes is available from the editor.

EXPEDITION — UNDER OBSERVATION

Lt H E Colmer

Members of the Depot and Training Regiment Caving Club spent three weeks last summer in the Vercours Region of Southern France. The aim of the expedition was to explore new cave systems, and also to cave in known systems that offered a challenge because of their sheer size and complexity. The expedition was necessarily limited to twelve cavers and these included a cross section of all ranks, male and female. I was fortunate to be selected together with Pte Alison Black, Pte Sheila Mackay and Pte Irene Roberts (ACA Member). Two qualified caving instructors accompanied the expedition — Cpl Ian James RCT and Sgt Frank Holmequest APTC.

The French Alps were chosen as the area most suitable for our needs. It offered a selection of systems that gave a good progressive build up for the novices amongst us. Before going to France, vertical training for the expedition started in full during the Easter break on the North Yorkshire Moors, followed by further training in Derbyshire and the Mendips. As caving was a fairly new experience to Ptes Black and Mackay and to me, we were grateful to gain experience in England before going foreign.

What is caving? Caving is a sport and a science which has grown in popularity over the past few years. The term "cave" means an horizontal hole in the side of a mountain or hill. A pothole on the other hand refers to a vertical shaft. Both terms however are loosely used and many caves are called potholes and vice versa. Indeed, a cave can contain potholes, the term "caving" then means both. Caves are formed mainly in limestone, an organic rock made in the sea millions of years ago by marine animals and plants.

Single Rope Technique (SRT) is the method used to descend and ascend a single fixed rope. The technique of descent is called abseil and involves passing the rope through a friction device. For the ascent or prusik, mechanical rope clamps called ascenders are used. Upward progress is made in small increments by moving up the ascenders one or two at a time.

For the outward journey the expedition was split into two. The male contingent and vehicles departed from the United Kingdom by LSL to Ghent, whilst the females left from Dover by

civilian ferry to Zeebrugge. We arrived at a camp site 20 kms south of Grenoble in glorious sunshine, a place called La Chapelle en Vercours. The first day was spent in setting up camp and sorting out equipment. Our first venture into the underworld was an unexpected one. Two French cavers were stuck at the bottom of a cave which they had been down for nearly 24 hours. It was decided to send four of the most experienced cavers down. Pte Irene Roberts was one of the members. She was half way down the cave along with Capt Des Norton waiting for any messages to come up or down. The cave, Puits Vincents turned out to be the deepest that any of the group attempted. We heard that if you tripped at the entrance you could bounce all the way to the bottom some 413 m below!

The next day, the party split making trips to two different systems. The Bournillier system had a spectacular entrance which could have housed St Paul's Cathedral, whilst the Gournier had its own characteristic. The journey into the cave involved overcoming the entrance which was a lake, followed by a high traverse into an enormous chamber which allowed plenty of opportunity for exploration. The underground landscape was decorated with unbelievable formations, features which included stalacmites, stalactites, curtains, gour dams and flow stones.

As the expedition members were now gaining experience both in caving techniques and the use of equipment, it was decided to venture into vertical caving.

Gour Fumant, a vertical cave depth 163 m, length 1.9 km with 8 pitches, was chosen to be the first one. A group led by Sgt Frank Holmequest made the first descent. Progress was slow and only four pitches were completed. A second attempt on a later day and the objective was achieved. The rewarding trip lasted some 5½ hours. Pte Alison Black proved to be very slick abseiling and prusiking on the rope. Her technique was a pleasure to watch.

As the days passed we explored a variety of caves, all having their own excitement and challenge. We spent one day ascending a steep rough slope for some 1¼ hours (who says cavers are not climbers?) in extremely hot conditions, to the entrance of Gour Fovet. This cave was well worth a visit. It combined some easy horizontal caving with the more difficult vertical climbing and a large number of beautiful formations.

Before we knew it our three weeks were up and it was time to pack for the return journey to England.

UNIT NEWS

VISIT OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

It was with considerable excitement that we learned that Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent was going to visit Lisburn during her visit to Northern Ireland. Unlike similar visits elsewhere which are usually announced well in advance the security situation here kept the visit secret until almost the last moment.

Her Royal Highness spent an hour in Lisburn talking to members of her two Corps, the WRAC and the ACC. She visited the new Communications Centre in 233 Signal Squadron and spoke to several of the girls who work in this very busy Squadron.

The second stage of the visit was an afternoon tea party which was attended by WRAC and ACC from throughout the Province. Several of the ACC soldiers brought their wives and we are pleased to say we had two husbands along as well! Her Royal Highness was very interested in learning about the conditions her servicemen and women live and work in, whilst serving in Northern Ireland and spoke to most people present.

All too soon it was time to say goodbye to our Controller Commandant. It was an afternoon to remember and we hope that Her Royal Highness enjoyed her visit as much as we did.



HRH The Duchess of Kent visiting 233 Signal Squadron.
L - R: Maj Helen Homewood, Sgt Sue Stephens, Sgt Angie Crouch, Cpl Sue Catterall.

WRAC COMPANY TRAINING BATTALION AND DEPOT RAOC

CRACK SHOTS

There will be two members of the WRAC Company at Blackdown who won't have to learn to shoot when the WRAC begins to carry weapons in self defence, for both are already accomplished shots.

Sgt Denise Curran has been shooting for ten years (she is a pretty good netball shooter too!) She is the current WRAC individual Smallbore Rifle Champion and is the only female in the Army Squad. Sgt Curran has represented the Combined Services since 1978 and is also a member of the England Squad.



Sgt Curran receiving the Army Individual Smallbore Cup from Lt Col M A Marshall RAOC, CO Depot & Training Bn RAOC.

The acting Chief Clerk Cpl Gillian Flanders is a member of the winning WRAC team in the Southern Region Triathlon Competition. Triathlon involves pistol shooting, cross country running and swimming. The team which consists of Captain Trish Watkins, Cpl Jeanne Challinor, and Cpl Flanders is training hard to qualify for the National Triathlon Competition in March 1981.



Cpl Flanders receiving the Southern Region Triathlon Ladies Open Team Shield from Lt Col M A Marshall RAOC.

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12 COMPANY WRAC

12 Company WRAC has had a busy and exciting year. In October we said goodbye to Major Anne Brown and Captain Catherine Felton, our Office Commanding and Second-in-Command, and welcomed their successors, Major Rosemary Cornwell and Captin Liz Towell.

In response to the Vice President's appeal for funds the outgoing OC led the unit in a mammoth fund raising effort which resulted in the sum of £1,800 being presented to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund the week before her departure.

On 8 October HRH The Duchess of Kent, our Controller Commandant, visited the unit. Not even the most demanding of rehearsal schedules can prepare for the unplanned — like the Royal Standard which unfurled itself prematurely minutes before HRH arrived and had to be hastily refurled again ready for the Royal Rolls as it drew up outside the Guardroom. HRH spent two hours at Mill Hill and met a great many of those serving here. After a visit to 12 Company Headquarters she toured the Postal and Courier Depot and the Gymnasium — newly opened this summer — and met many of the MOD Clerks over tea in the Junior Ranks Dining Hall. The day was generally agreed to have been highly successful.



HRH The Duchess of Kent talking to Pte Susan Holtham and Pte Kim Smith who work in the sorting office.

(Courtesy of Keystone Press Agency)

40 SQUADRON ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

Capt M D Power WRAAC

The word for 40 Squadron RCT in 1980 has been 'participation'. Despite a total of only 21 bodies including myself, the WRAC in 40 Squadron RCT have successfully participated in sporting activities, unit training, NE District exercises, civilian lorry driving competitions and supported other areas of the Army during the year.

On the sporting scene our main interests have been swimming and rounders. We proudly boast of our second place in the rounders league for NE District and hope we get the chance to better that position next year. Three members of our Squadron were selected for the NE District Team for the Army Swimming Championships and with a bit of training perhaps we will retain the NE District Swimming Relay Cup that we currently hold.

Some mention should be made of the training and competitions which we have entered which are associated with the 'bread and butter' side of our lives — driving. Pte Linda Shackleton won the Commercial Motors Woman Lorry Driver of the Year award at Leeds this year and Pte Nettie Box was placed second in her class at the same competition. Perhaps the event that inspired them to greater things was our annual weekend competition the 'Dales Cup'. This competition tests the knowledge of individuals on the Highway Code, includes a Road Run abiding by the rules of the road and tests manoeuvring skills in a mini, landrover and trailer and 4-ton truck. We hope this competition encourages better driving.

Mention should also be made of the successful participation by our girls in areas totally divorced from the day to day tasks normally associated with driving for a Transport Support Unit. Pte Irene Roberts took part in two adventure training exercises during the year; walking and camping in the Pyrenees and caving in the Vercours area of France. On the other side of the coin, Pte Jackie O'Grady has just returned to us after a six month detachment with the RCT Mobile Display Team, which took her to all parts of the United Kingdom.

WRAC DETACHMENT RAOC WORTHY DOWN

A six hour sponsored disco/dance undertaken by junior ranks at RAPC Worthy Down raised £200 for the Old Rectory Home for Handicapped Children at Kings Worthy. The cheque was presented on 31 October by three of those who took part: LCpl Karen Lindsay, LCpl Andrea King and Pte Elizabeth Hay. Receiving the cheque was Miss Lynn Ballard (Nursing Officer) and also in the picture are Mrs Mary Long (Secretary PSA), Mrs Christine Mills (Chairman PSA) and Mr A Briddon (Garrison Sgt Major). The little girl with aspirations to join the WRAC is called Naomi.



PARACHUTING FOR THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S MEMORIAL FUND

Although a small troop of eight servicewomen, the WRAC at the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT decided to accept the challenge to raise money for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. With the many and varied facilities for sporting activities on camp, it was decided to organise a sponsored parachute jump. Ptes Sue Parkin and Dawn Nortcliffe, already intrepid canoeists, were unanimously elected to train for the jump. Neither of them had done any parachuting and they trained with members of the RCT Silver Stars Display Team for their first jump. After tense moments for those on the ground, Ptes Parkin and Nortcliffe came to earth safely if not particularly gracefully. Sponsorship raised £76. The rest of us were willing to back the parachutists financially but not willing to jump

out of a perfectly serviceable airplane at 2600 ft.

Four pounds was added to the total of £76 making a very appropriate figure of £80 which was sent to the Fund appeal. Ptes Parkin and Nortcliffe have not been put off the sport and hope to continue parachuting in the New Year.

THE WRAC BATTERY THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF ARTILLERY

A number of servicewomen took part in the School's Summer Adventurous Training Exercise and returned windburnt rather than sunburnt. Pte Sue Parkin won the Army Ladies Slalom Canoeing Championships and one of the highlights of the summer season was a victory in the Western Zone Rounders Championships.

The Christmas Term was also busy. Pte Lorraine Hassall completed a freefall parachuting course and made five jumps from JSPC Netheravon. Pte Jane McMillan prefers to keep her feet on the ground, however, and has done extremely well in completing her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award scheme.

LCpl Jean Watson made her debut as a band conductor at the RA band concert in November after winning a music competition in the RA magazine "Plain View". She conducted 'Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill' with such style, confidence and, of course, competence that Andre Previn should look to his laurels!



LCpl Jean Watson conducting "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill".

TA

PRESENTATION OF A GUIDON TO THE QUEEN'S OWN MERCIAN YEOMANRY

It is probably fair to say that any Regiment or Battalion looks forward with pleasure and pride to the presentation of a new Guidon or Colour. Certainly The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry, who were formed in 1971 as The Mercian Yeomanry from three Yeomanry Regiments and 268 Regiment Warwickshire Artillery based in Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, had looked forward for a number of years to the time when we would have our own Guidon.

It was with great pleasure that we learnt in January last year that Her Majesty had graciously agreed to present the Guidon on 6th June and would spend much of the day with the Regiment to meet as many people as possible. Annual Camp was therefore rearranged so that 6th June fell on the last Friday.

The hard slog now started — obtaining tents, marquees, mobile loos, stands, Regimental and District flags. Fencing off the parade area from the cattle that graze the park. (More of the cattle later). Drawing up invitation lists. It was soon evident that we would be entertaining about 2,500 people. Last but not least was the practice drill. Not an easy task with TA soldiers and officers.

So to the last fortnight at Camp at Leek. As well as normal military training, tents and marquees were erected, stands assembled and drill continued. Everybody in the Regiment had his or her own weather forecast for June 6th, some more optimistic than others. Everything seemed to be going according to programme with no major snags. Then on the night of Wednesday 4th the cattle got out and did their own parade through marquees, leaving an inevitable mark, and into the formal gardens where they did untold damage to newly planted flowers and lawn edges. It was a sorry sight and everybody felt sorry for the

gardeners who had put in so much hard work. With a mammoth effort, gardeners appeared on the Thursday from all over Staffordshire and did a marvellous repair job.

To everyone's relief the morning of June 6th dawned bright and sunny. Final preparations were made at Leek training camp and then into the coaches for the journey to Shugborough. Just over 2,500 spectators arrived and at 9.40 the Regiment marched on Parade for the final trooping of the three old Regimental Guidons.

At 10.15 Her Majesty The Queen arrived by car at the gates of Shugborough from where she was escorted to the Hall by a Regimental Escort mounted in Land Rovers. At 10.30 she appeared on the dais to a fanfare of trumpets. Thereafter the Parade to consecrate and present the Guidon took place. Following the parade, during which she inspected the Regiment and made a short address after the consecration service, 400 old comrades of the three old Regiments were reviewed by Her Majesty. She spoke to many. She then joined the Officers and Sgts Messes for photographs before visiting the Other Ranks Reception, the children's creche, the Sergeants' Mess and the Official Reception, then a short break before a reception and lunch with the Regimental officers and their wives in Shugborough Hall. At 2.15 escorted again by a Regimental Escort, she left for her other duties in Staffordshire. It was indeed a memorable day for the Regiment, their families and friends and the old comrades.



HM The Queen inspecting WRAC members of the Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.

38 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

THE VISIT OF THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF THE PRINCESS ANNE, MRS MARK PHILLIPS GCVO

Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne made a visit as Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps to 38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers) on Saturday 19th July. This was her first visit to a Territorial Army Signal Regiment.

In the morning Princess Anne visited the Manor Top TA Centre in Sheffield where she inspected a Guard of Honour provided by members of Headquarters Squadron and 64 (Sheffield) Signal Squadron and presented medals and awards to members of the Regiment. One of the recipients of an award was WO2 Hilda Thorne, who received a second Efficiency Medal to add to her existing Efficiency Medal and Bar, representing a total of 30 years of volunteer service. WO2 Thorne, who will retire in March 1981, has served continuously since the re-embodiment of the TA in 1947.

After lunch in the Officers Mess Her Royal Highness moved to the grounds of Sandbeck Hall, where she visited displays set up by 46 (Derbyshire) Signal Squadron (V) from Derby and Leicester, 87 (Nottingham) Signal Squadron (V) from Nottingham, and 93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron (V) from Blackburn and Manchester. Despite a break in the weather which produced some very heavy showers, she visited all the displays and spoke to all taking part before having tea with some of the soldiers and servicewomen and their families. In the evening Princess Anne attended a Regimental Officers Dinner and Ball at the Cutlers Hall, Sheffield.

Music during the visit was provided by the Band of 34th (Northern) Signal Regiment (V) which included a number of WRAC Bandswomen.



Her Royal Highness presenting the second Efficiency Medal to WO2 Hilda Thorne of 93 (East Lancashire) Signal Squadron (V).



Her Royal Highness meeting members of 46 (Derbyshire) Signal Squadron (V).

From the left: Pte Helen Roome, LCpl Ann Cadman, Pte Kath Ware, Pte Pat Hallam, Lt Sally Reading and Squadron OC Major Mike Wright.



At Manor Top TA Centre Her Royal Highness meets (from front) Pte Angela Jones and Pte Kathryn Denby of 64 (Sheffield) Signal Squadron (V).

(Courtesy of Sheffield Newspapers Ltd & Capt J H M Millar)

34 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

FAREWELL TO CAPT MARGARET HOPE WRAC TA

Lt Col A W Illingworth TD
CO 34 (N) Signal Regt (V)

Margaret Hope joined the ATS in September 1939 ten days after her nineteenth birthday which she celebrated on the day that war broke out. By January 1940 she was a LCpl and working as a cook, and she continued in this trade until 1944 when she was promoted to Sgt and posted to an ATS Training centre to train recruits. At the end of the war she worked in a Resettlement Centre in Washington Co Durham where she was promoted to SSgt.

In 1946 she was posted to BAOR as W02 with the Royal Signals in Minden, and served also in Hannover and Hamburg before returning to

England in 1948 to join 463 Regt RA in Sunderland, a regiment she remained with until she was posted to Guildford in 1952 to train recruits.

By 1957 she was RSM with 12 Company WRAC at Kingston on Thames, but the following year returned north and after a short tour in Edinburgh was posted to Durham.

In 1965 RSM Hope left the regular army to start what was to be fifteen years with the TA, joining this regiment in 1967 and reaching the rank of Captain. We wish her happiness in her retirement and know that her skill and experience after forty-one years in uniform will be of great benefit to those local voluntary organisations to which she is sure to give her time.



Capt Margaret Hope WRAC TA.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

AGM 1981

UOTC

A HAT-TRICK FOR NORTHUMBRIAN UNIVERSITIES OTC

2 Lt U M Daly WRAC (TA)

After winning North East District's Maiden Scurry Competition, a march and shoot type exercise for Regular and Territorial WRAC teams, in the first two years of its existence, Northumbrian Universities OTC were determined to go for the hat-trick. Was any other motivation necessary? "Why not competition from within?" suggested the CO. Training began in earnest as the universities came up, just two weeks before the event, with the 'A' team being challenged by a 'B' team. The 'A' team, led by Lt Cherrylyn Summers, was soon in friendly rivalry with the second team led by 2 Lt Judith Skilbeck; each team Captain urging and encouraging her team to give of their best with the enthusiasm of an American football coach! Once again the talent of NUOTC on training runs gave entertainment to the bemused Saturday afternoon strollers in Jesmond Dene Park in the centre of Newcastle.

On the day, the fast 1200 metre march to the range for a shoot immediately tested the calibre of the teams, and proved that the effort of zeroing their weapons in a force nine gale the previous day on Whitburn ranges had been worthwhile. With the long navigation march, command task and a set of questions and tests at the end to come, both teams were doing well. The command task might have been confused with a displaced section of the Mini-Metro automated production line with tyres sailing overhead on ropes, if it had not been for the glorious Yorkshire mud. Splashing over the rain-soaked Catterick fells the girls navigated accurately to the finish, both teams completing the course well within the bogy time.

A little luck is always useful, and so it was when the DS on the map-reading test stand found that the two 'A' team girls chosen at random were both geography graduates.

After an exhausting but exciting day we knew the hat-trick had been achieved. Someone was heard to ask "Can we now keep the trophy?"

The 'B' team were not to be outshone and finished in a very creditable third place.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Saturday 16 May 1981 at Carisbrook Hall, Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London at 2.30 pm.

Members wishing to attend should apply for admission tickets to General Secretary, WRAC Association, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH. Applications through Branch Secretaries where possible please, who are requested to list the names of those for whom tickets are required.

The AGM will be followed by fund raising activities organised by London Area Association Branches in aid of The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on 19 April 1980.
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. Branch Resolution — Greater London Branch: "That the Association should specify a beret or such like headdress to be worn on occasions such as Remembrance Parades".
 - b. Election of Council Vice Presidents.
8. Any other Business.
9. Date and place of next Meeting.

CHURCH SERVICE

On Sunday morning 17 May 1981 the Corps has been invited to attend the 11 am Service at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. We hope the WRAC Staff Band will be playing.

Space is limited and it will therefore be necessary to issue tickets for the Service so as to ensure that members are not disappointed by being unable to get in.

Tickets from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

REUNIONS

NORTHERN AREA REUNION – 1980

The Northern Area Reunion was held in Harrogate on 27 September and was attended by most of the Northern Area Branches and individuals from such places as Manchester, Bolton, Newcastle and Sunderland. A number of "regulars" were absent through sickness or holidays but a happy afternoon was spent by all those who were able to assemble from various parts of the north.

Lt Col A Bray, Chairman of Northern Area, extended a welcome to everyone present, particularly Col F M Cook whom most people knew when she was Chairman of Northern Area prior to moving to the WRAC Centre and who was to settle in York on retirement. She also confirmed how pleased everyone was to see Col V K Stead back and looking so fit after her recent operation. On a sadder note, the sudden death of Miss Nicholson, Secretary of Kendal Branch, had come as a shock to all who knew her. Finally, Lt Col Bray drew attention to the raffle, Bring and Buy stall and collecting box and asked everyone to contribute generously since the proceeds would form the Northern Area donation to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund to commemorate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday.

Unfortunately the Director had been unable to come this year owing to duty commitments but had sent apologies and a message of good wishes and Corps news which was read to the assembled Company and was much appreciated.

Col Cook then said how pleased she was to be attending another Reunion in the north and to see again so many people whom she had come to know over the years. Last year, TV cameras had been introduced at the WRAC Centre so that video

tapes could be used in training and an experimental film had been made of various stages in the progress of a real intake at Guildford. The recruits were in most cases unaware that they were being filmed so that the film gave a true impression of the highlights of training from arrival at the Centre to passing out at the end. After some preliminary information Col Cook showed this video film, which brought back nostalgic memories to those familiar with Guildford and a most interesting insight to people whose memories of training were of ATS vintage.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss F Bell, Secretary of Sheffield Branch.

After and much chatter the raffle prizes were drawn and towards 6 pm members started their homeward journeys.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club was held on Saturday 4th October 1980 at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel and was attended by 214 members and guests.

Our Patron, Dame Leslie Whateley, was unable to attend but a telegram of love and good wishes was sent to her on behalf of all Members of the Club. Dame Leslie later telephoned the Hotel expressing her thanks.

The President, Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, proposed the Loyal Toast and this was followed by "The Club" proposed by the Chairman Miss M L Nicoll who made special mention of two 90 year olds, one a member and one a guest. The Vice-President, Dame Mary Railton proposed the Toast "Absent Friends". It was a very happy occasion.

A Raffle was held which proved to be very successful and the splendid sum of £71.25 was raised which was a great boost to the Club Funds.

The Luncheon for 1981 will be on Saturday 3rd October at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel and it is hoped that a number of members who were unable to attend this year will be able to come.

Any ex ATS who are interested in joining the Club can obtain particulars from the Hon Secretary Miss C I Lawrence, 23 Trinity Close, The Pavement, London SW4 0JD.

REUNION NOTICES

QMAAC TEA PARTY

The Annual QMAAC Tea Party will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London on Thursday 19 March 1981 from 3 pm to 5.30 pm.

Tickets price 80p from General Secretary, WRAC Association, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION

The 1981 Northern Area Reunion will be held in Harrogate on Saturday 17 October 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 1981

Meetings at the Maltings Day Centre, Stafford St, Wolverhampton 7.30 - 9.30 pm on Mondays 23rd March, 27th April, 22nd June, 28th September, 26th October and 23rd November.

BRANCH NEWS

GLASGOW We continue to hold our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in the Royal Artillery Club, 38 Elmbank Crescent, and have a variety of activities such as coffee evenings and whist drives.

The highlight of our session was the Scottish Reunion in the City Chambers where we met old and new friends and enrolled thirteen new members for the branch.

We were sad to lose Miss Christina Joan Tolland who died on 30th October. She was a founder member of the branch.

HARROGATE The Branch continues to flourish and a number of new members have joined us during 1980. Unfortunately many of them live too far away from Harrogate to attend any of our functions, but the local members who are able to come have done so regularly and given loyal support to all activities which have been arranged.

We have enjoyed another round of gastronomic delights, which included our Annual Dinner at a local hotel, a 'bar snacks' outing to a village pub, supper at another one a little later and an outing to Ripley Castle where we were given a private guided tour of the Castle and afterwards provided with a delicious home-made supper. (Strangers to this locality may not be familiar with the name of Ripley Castle but would probably recognise it as the setting for a number of films and television programmes since it is a favourite location spot for historical sequences).

Meetings in our Club room have also provided some interesting evenings (in addition to those spent just catching up with the news!) We had a

talk by the Crime Prevention Officer on preventing attacks on our persons and homes which was accompanied by a most illuminating and thought-provoking film. Miss M Greene came to give a demonstration of how to make Christmas decorations and we were delighted to welcome Col D H I Wilson who showed her superb colour slides of New Zealand and gave a vivid description of her trans-world visit.

In late summer we had a stall at the Rotary Club Charity Gala and after much searching for ideas decided upon a "Green and Orange" stall selling all kinds of goods in Association colours. This, together with a small competition aimed at amusing children, raised £40 for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

Three of us attended the AGM and Scottish Reunion in Glasgow, having a thoroughly enjoyable weekend 'north of the border' and most members were able to attend the Northern Area Reunion held in Harrogate in September.

At the time of writing preparations are in hand for the 1981 programme and we look forward to another successful year.

LEICESTER We continue to flourish and we have been most pleased to welcome several new members since the last Open Day at the WRAC Centre. We now meet at Toc H House in Leicester, and this has proved to be a very friendly and comfortable venue.

We have all been very saddened by the death of Lady Barnett. She was Honorary Colonel of 308 Bn WRAC/TA for several years, and later became President of our Branch of the Association. At our recent Annual General Meeting members expressed their sorrow. She was remembered with affection by those who knew her, and to show our regard in a tangible way we made a donation from funds, and members who wished to give made their own contribution to Lady Barnett's Charities Fund. The Association was represented at her funeral by Miss D Palmer and Miss D White.

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

LONDON Our meetings have continued throughout the autumn and winter months. We have had to leave the Duke of York's Headquarters and now meet at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo on the third Thursday of each month.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in November when our officers and committee were elected. Members were present at the service of the planting of the cross at Westminster Abbey and at the Parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

PENRITH 1980 started off for the branch with a most pleasurable evening when we had the Director, WRAC, as chief guest at our Annual Dinner. During the evening Brigadier Field found time to speak to each member and with other guests from Carlisle, Whitehaven and Haslingden in Lancashire, and it was of great interest when she spoke about present day life and conditions in the Service. There were many exclamations of disbelief from ex-ATS ladies when they compared their conditions during the war years. We are most grateful to the Director for finding time to visit us during her very busy tour.

We are very proud that one of our ex-WRNS members, Mrs Joan Stordy, was elected as President of the Penrith Chamber of Trade. During a very demanding year she has still managed to attend our branch meetings.

Through the generosity of an ex-WAAF member who placed her lovely home and garden at our disposal, we held a very successful coffee evening and raised over £30. Such wealth has been unknown in the branch and we are still reeling from the sudden affluence. We were therefore happy to make a larger donation to The Princess Royal's Fund. We have also visited a small Stately Home in the area as part of our programme of 'outdoor' meetings.

Another interesting evening was provided by a local lady Mrs Vi Graham, who was the last Laundry Maid at Lowther Castle from the days of the famous "Yellow Earl", the 5th Earl of Lonsdale. She brought the most beautiful samples of her laundering and gave us lots of hints for our household items.

The last meeting last year was held in the Royal British Legion Club and after a business session

and welcoming a new member, Mrs Yates, we held an American Supper as a gesture to the Christmas season.

Membership and attendance at meetings remains steady.



Brig Anne Field, DWRAC, with members of the Penrith Branch.

PLYMOUTH We have been going great guns as a branch with a lot of hard work and a good social life.

We have had two jumble sales and two dinner and dance evenings. Our highlight was entertaining the WRNS Association in the Guildhall's Charter Room, and among our guests was Dame Jocelyn Woolcombe who was Director of the WRNS from 1948 to 1950 and is now President of the Association of Wrens.



Members of the Plymouth Branch with their WRNS guests.

(Courtesy of Western Morning News)

SHROPSHIRE The Shropshire branch is now in being and quite a lot of interest has been engendered. Most of our members are ex ATS, but we hope that by persistent newspaper reports of our monthly meetings, more people who are eligible to join will do so and thereby swell our ranks.

If any of you have "old comrades" living in Shropshire, ask them to ring Telford 595782.

STAFFORD We have spent another active and enjoyable year with our membership creeping up to forty-two including four associate members.

Our meetings included a talk on Israel with beautiful slides, a demonstration in connection with the Bamix mixer offer, the history of Sainsbury's with a talk on "Value for Money" (the produce shown was given as extra raffle prizes), and a visit from a palmist. We also had a talk with slides on the Stafford canals, and a most informative film shown by the Area Manager of the AA who answered our motoring queries.

Our summer coach trips included Bridgmere Nurseries and the Gladstone Pottery Museum.

Several members attended the Area Reunion at Wolverhampton where they had a most enjoyable afternoon and fourteen members joined a coach trip to the Wolverhampton pantomime.

Our successful jumble sales and spring fayre has put our funds in a healthy state and enabled us to make our usual Christmas donations, including £30 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

ULSTER The Ulster Branch continues to flourish and membership has increased.

Many members accepted the invitation to visit WRAC HQ in Lisburn on 10th September 1980 and it was a most enjoyable afternoon. A mannequin parade was laid on and a delicious tea. Things certainly have changed from our day! After a tour of the quarters we are all convinced that we had it 'rough'. We should like to thank Major Helen Homewood who was our hostess.

On 20th September many were invited to a luncheon organised by the Omagh Branch in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh, Co Tyrone. The hotel

is built in the grounds of the old Lisnally ATS Camp and quite a few of us had spent some time there, so it revived many memories. The weather was beautiful and the afternoon most successful. Many thanks to Mrs Kathleen Twist who was responsible for making the arrangements and also to her husband for providing the sherry.

On Saturday 15th November we held our Annual General Meeting. It was unanimously agreed to donate our total £200 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund to mark the 80th birthday year of The Queen Mother.

WOLVERHAMPTON Our membership is now 30. We were delighted to welcome members of neighbouring branches to join us for last year's New Year's Dinner. In March we enjoyed the hospitality of the Cardiff branch at their reunion where we listened to a Welsh Choir and WRAC TA served the meal.

In June members were invited by Miss Shelah Lambah (a founder member) to a Bring and Buy sale which raised £40 for the Jimmy Savile Stoke Mandeville appeal. Shelah organised competitions with prizes and an excellent buffet.

Our most exciting day was the Wolverhampton reunion on 18th October which every news media was asked to publicise. It was a great success due to the hard work of the reunion committee, and others who helped with the organising. Again last year our member in Norway, Dorothy Melby placed a poppy wreath on the war grave where five British servicewomen are buried. The final event in our calendar was our Christmas Dinner on 15th December.

We now look forward to our first meeting in March and hope that we can match our 1980 fund raising, when we were able to send £50 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, £50 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and £50 to a new cancer care home being built near Wolverhampton.

Correspondence

THREE GENERATIONS

Mrs Mary Andrews has written about her mother, the late Gladys May Brotherton, who drove for the Women's Legion in the First World War. She drove ambulances and staff cars, and experienced the prejudice against women in uniform at that time. The soldiers refused to help the girls swing their starting handles on frosty mornings — no self-starters in those days — and civilian women spat at them as they drove through London's East End for taking away men's jobs. She married in 1917 but her husband (Mrs Andrews' father) went to Mesopotamia (Iraq) immediately after the wedding, so she continued in the Women's Legion until after the Armistice.

In the Second World War Mrs Brotherton joined the ATS in 1941 at the age of forty-seven and was rapidly promoted to Sergeant.

Mrs Andrews (Mary Brotherton) also joined the ATS in 1941 intending to become a driver but was selected as a radar operator and served happily on gun sites (444 (M) HAA Battery RA) on the Forth, the Thames and the Tees before going to the Edinburgh OCTU. She was commissioned in 1943 and served with 642 Battery on the Mersey, the Severn and finally in Buzz Bomb Alley under canvas outside Rye. That was followed by a posting to CAD Kinton and finally to the RAEC in Stourport before demobilisation in 1946. Her younger sister, Brenda Brotherton was in the ATS from 1944, mostly serving with Signals.

Mrs Andrews rejoined the ATS in 1947, went to Barnard Castle and three days later met her future husband! Her final posting before leaving the ATS for the second time to become an Army wife was at the Guildford Training Centre.

The family saga continues twenty-six years later when Imogen Andrews joined the WRAC as a private at Guildford — starting out where her mother left off! She was commissioned at the end of 1977 and married Captain Ian France RAOC at the beginning of 1979. Imogen is now with 22 Squadron RCT at Wilton.



Pte Gladys Brotherton ATS in 1941.



Pte Mary Brotherton ATS in 1941.



Lieutenant Imogen France WRAC in 1981.

Mr F R Foster of Ty-Mynydd, Fforchneol Row, Cwmaman, Aberdare, Mid-Glam CF446HD is trying to trace a family friend who joined the ATS in 1942. She was Sarah Anna Stephenson, known as Sally, single and about 22 when she joined up. At the time she was living at Silsden, West Yorkshire though her family came from County Durham.

Mrs Irene Little, 13 Wansbeck Road South, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 3RE writes: "Can you ask anyone who remembers serving with me at basic training Guildford, trade training Catterick, NCO training at Liphook, and at HQ NID Signal Squadron, Lisburn, N Ireland to contact me at the above address. My maiden was McGivena (Sgt)".

Miss Gibson, Secretary of the Dumfriesshire Branch writes referring to the correspondence about long-standing friendships:- "The President of our Branch in Dumfriesshire, Captain E M Brown TD and five members of the branch have kept in touch since early 1939 and were all at the Scottish Reunion in Glasgow last April. Miss Brown was enrolled as Company Commander of 'C' Coy Dumfries TA on 21st February 1939. Miss Boyd was enrolled as Deputy Commander and the others joined soon after".

Mrs P Linington (ex LCpl Peggy Hennessey) of 56d Staplers Road, Newport, Isle of Wight writes: "My sister (ex Pte P M Hennessey) and friend (ex Pte Joyce Caffell) and I are anxious to get in touch with anyone who served in 616 (M) HAA Battery or 627 (M) HAA Battery. Our last posting was at Broadlands House, Staplers, Newport, Isle of Wight, only a few doors away from where I now live. I served from 1941 until the end of the war. At one time we were under canvas at Foulness Island, and foul it was, but we had many a laugh cooking in the open. The soup never arrived on the officers' table for the wind blew it away before it got there! They were happy days for all the ups and downs."

Mrs Susie Hamilton (nee Hayes) of 11A Park Street, Treforest, Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan writes:

I feel I must tell you what a wonderful time I had in London during the Remembrance Services weekend. A few of the older ATS arranged to meet in London, taking advantage of the British Rail "Anywhere for £1 with a senior citizen rail card". What a grand reunion we had. We visited the Field of Remembrance on Friday morning at the time the Queen Mother was due and to my surprise she spoke to me. The ATS badge I was wearing must have caught her eye as she remarked that it was nice to see the ATS again. I felt so privileged and overjoyed.

On Saturday we watched the Lord Mayor's show and very much enjoyed seeing and hearing the WRAC Band. We certainly gave them a cheer and a good clap. Later in the day I went to the Remembrance Service in the Albert Hall.

On Sunday we marched with the Royal British Legion contingent. In all it was good to enjoy good fun and fellowship with old pals we joined with in 1938.

QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER COMMANDANT IN CHIEF COMMEMORATIVE COVER FOR 80TH BIRTHDAY

On 4th August 1980 a special cover was produced. The envelope has the Queen Mother's personal coat of arms embossed in gold on the left side and the special GPO stamp issued for Her Majesty's birthday is cancelled by:

- a. Specially designed BFPO cancellation — BFPO 8080
- b. Cancelled at Glamis Castle
- c. Cancelled at Edinburgh
- d. Numismatic cover containing special crown

Covers cost £1.50 each and the numismatic covers cost £3.00 each. Cheques made payable to Major A J Martin QM A/c — order to Major A J Martin, G Trg, HQ SE District, Steele's Road, Aldershot, Hants. Money will be refunded if covers are all sold.

BOOK REVIEWS

LIVING AFTER A STROKE

by **Diana Law and Barbara Paterson**

Published by Souvenir Press Ltd, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA. £5.95

A few years ago a recruit brought me a number of leaflets advertising a service at All Souls Church, Langham Place, arranged especially for those with speech difficulties. She was anxious that we should pray for the service and try to encourage some of the girls to attend. On reading "Living after a Stroke", I discovered the origin of this annual service, and a great deal more interesting information concerning the handicapped, their pluck, patience and perseverance in the face of seemingly overwhelming odds.

Diana Law had a successful career in the ATS (FANY) during World War II. She then worked for the British Council, Shell, and later moved to ICL where she became manager of Education Liaison Services.

At 47 a massive stroke almost killed her and left her partly paralysed and totally speechless. Her mother (then already 78) and her sister refused to accept the verdict that she was now "virtually an idiot" and they set out to find the skilled support she needed.

"Living after a Stroke" recounts the story of Diana's years of struggle, her treatment at various hospitals and rehabilitation centres (including Osborne House) and the great help and encouragement she received from family, friends, professionals and "ordinary" unknowns cheerfully carrying out their everyday jobs.

Thanks to this, and her Christian faith, courage, determination and sheer hard work, Diana has recovered an independent life and recaptured effective speech. She is now devoting her life to helping other people deprived of speech as she was. Her initiative has led to the founding of a new charity, an association for dysphasic adults, and she has inspired and helped to set up a network of "speech clubs" throughout the country and abroad. In 1978 she was awarded an MBE for her work.

Diana sums up her story quite simply: "My message is hope, not despair. Laughter, not tears". Could anything be more timely, or more relevant? This book is not only for those who have suffered as she has, but for us all.

Joan Garwood

COLLECTING METAL SHOULDER TITLES

by **Ray Westlake**

Published by Frederick Warne at £12.95

Collecting items of military uniforms is now big business as all collectors of "militaria" know, but until comparatively recently shoulder titles were not considered worth collecting and were given away. Some of you who read this may still have your metal ATS shoulder titles, and they could be worth more than you think. Rare examples of early shoulder titles can fetch as much as £30 a pair.

The author is a member of the Royal United Services Institute and is Assistant Secretary of the Military Historical Society. He has one of the finest collections of British shoulder titles in the world, and is considered to be the leading authority on the subject.

This book is not so much for reading as for reference, and indeed at £12.95 it would be expensive unless the buyer were also a potential collector. A thorough search of the attic and nearby junk shops might be fruitful and might start the reader off on a fascinating and profitable hobby.

TRIBUTES

Lady Barnett

Honorary Colonel WRAC/TA 1956 - 1967

Lady Barnett's association with the Corps lasted for 28 years. It began in 1952 when as Lady Mayoress she opened the WRAC/TA Centre in Leicester.

In 1956 she was appointed Honorary Colonel 308 (NC) Bn WRAC/TA based in Leicester, Northampton and Peterborough. After the amalgamation of 307 and 308 Battalions she was Honorary Colonel WRAC/TA 49 Div/Dist until the re-organisation of the TA in 1967 brought this to an end. She then became President of the WRAC Association, Leicester and Nottingham Branch, and remained so up to her death in October 1980.

During all these years she carried out numerous engagements with immense enthusiasm. Whether

it was Annual Camp (she only missed one in 11 years), a week-end exercise, riding with 308 Bn Saddle Club of which she was President, a beauty contest or a Christmas party, she would be there meeting all ranks at work and socially, and captivating them with her friendliness, her sense of fun, her intelligence, charm and elegance. Neither did she confine her interest to the TA. She visited the Depot, attended a Commissioning Ceremony at the School of Instruction, and ADWRAC's conferences at York amongst other engagements with the regular Corps.

In 1960 she presented a glochenspiel from 308 Bn to DWRAC — then Brigadier M K R Colvin — which is still in service with the Corps band today.

As President of the local Association branch she frequently came to the Annual Dinner, and for several years she and her husband entertained the members at a summer party in their garden.

Major General C M M Man CB OBE MC, GOC 49th Infantry Division TA and North Midland District 1964-1967 has summed up her contribution to the Corps in these words:

"I, like everyone who knew her, was shocked and dismayed at the tragic death of Isobel Barnett. Of all the many tributes paid to her there have been none to my knowledge which refer to her period as an Honorary Colonel in the WRAC/TA. It was in this role that I first met her in 1964 and she made a deep impression on me. She had never been in the Women's Services before, but to see her in her uniform and to watch her talking so easily to the girls you would never have guessed this. Her appointment seemed to bring out all her natural talent for making people feel at home and relaxed in her presence, not an easy thing to do for any senior officer, and I, then a newly appointed major general, learnt from her in this respect.

She was a great and charming lady".

V V K

Colonel J Hands

All members of the RAEC and WRAC who knew Colonel Jill Hands will have learned with sadness of her death at her brother's house on 27 September 1980.

Colonel Hands joined the WRAC in 1954 as one of the few officers commissioned for staff duties. She served in a variety of staff appointments in UK and BAOR until 1963 when she relinquished her commission in order to care for her mother. In 1965 changed circumstances

allowed her to return. She was a classics graduate and she applied to specialize with the RAEC and served with them until early 1975 when she had reached the rank of Lt Col and held the appointment of Inspector at the Institute of Army Education Eltham Palace. In 1975 she transferred to WRAC general duties and remained with us serving as 21C WRAC Centre and ADWRAC London District. In 1976 she was promoted and posted as Commandant of the WRAC College Camberley. This appointment promised to weave together the two threads of her career and she was looking forward to her tour at the College with keen anticipation. Sadly it was not to be as illness intervened very shortly after her arrival there.

She fought against it gallantly for four years supported by the constant loving care of her family. The odds were always impossible but in refusing to recognise them her spirit was never defeated.

No one could have appreciated and enjoyed her Army career more than Colonel Hands — she delighted in it. In return the two corps with whom she served are fortunate to have shared the talents of such a gifted officer.

Her breadth of interests, clear mind and her needle-sharp and infectious sense of humour made her a constantly stimulating companion and she will be sadly missed by the many members of the RAEC and WRAC who were privileged to enjoy the gift of her friendship.

BML
SPN

Lt Colonel Eileen Ellingsen

The sad news of the death of Eileen Ellingson on 19th October was not unexpected. She had been very ill for nearly two years but in her usual indomitable manner, she had borne this illness with great courage and cheerfulness. She will be best remembered in the South as DADWRAC Eastern Command, where she served with me for over two years, and as ADWRAC Aldershot District.

She leaves a host of friends in Scotland, having lived all her life in Edinburgh.

Her genuine interest in the Corps, tempered with good common sense, and a real sense of humour made her an outstanding officer. So many who joined the Corps in the post war years will be forever grateful to her for the help and guidance she gave. We shall all miss her very much indeed and we offer our sincere sympathy to her family.

CEH

OBITUARY

Ball. Mrs D M Ball (nee Smith) of Leeds, Yorkshire on 18 October 1980. QMAAC.

Barnes. Mrs K M Barnes of Betchworth, Surrey in November 1980. ATS.

Barnett. Lady Barnett of Cossington, Leicestershire on 20 October 1980. Honorary Colonel WRAC TA.

Barnett. Mrs D M Barnett of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 4 February 1980. ATS.

Black. Mrs E Black of Dundee in August 1980. ATS.

Boreham. Mrs E S Boreham of Plymouth in May 1980.

Breakwell. Miss M Breakwell of Wolverhampton in September 1980. ATS.

Collins. Mrs M Collins of Cardiff in 1980. QMAAC.

Dryburgh. Miss K M Dryburgh of London SW3 in 1980. ATS.

Dunlop. Miss H Dunlop of Edinburgh on 16 October 1980. ATS.

Ellingsen. Miss L E Ellingsen of Edinburgh on 19 October 1980. ATS and Lieutenant Colonel WRAC.

Forth. Miss S M Forth of Bournemouth on 16 October 1980. ATS.

Friend. Captain I T Friend of Chatham, Kent on 21 July 1980. WRAC.

Guggisberg. Miss S R Guggisberg of Axminster, Devon on 1 June 1979. Junior Commander ATS.

Hands. Colonel J Hands of London on 27 August 1980. WRAC.

Hare. Mrs V M R Hare (nee Long) in Durban, South Africa on 2 January 1981. S/Sgt ATS and WRAC.

Macrae. Mrs L Macrae (nee Mackintosh) of Edinburgh, on 14 December 1980. ATS.

Matthews. Mrs E B Matthews of Kempston, Bedfordshire on 4 December 1980. QMAAC.

Mayhew. Mrs B Mayhew of Streatham, London on 17 November 1980. QMAAC.

Moore. Mrs A M Moore (nee Macauley) of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 13 December 1980. Treasurer Cheltenham Branch.

Mycock. Miss L Mycock of Leek, Staffordshire on 1 September 1980. QMAAC.

Needle. Mrs I Needle (nee Silver) on 23 October 1980. Member of Didcot Garrison Group ATS.

Osler. Miss N Osler of St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex in 1980. QMAAC.

Platt-Higgins. Mrs M Platt-Higgins of Brighton on 16 December 1980. ATS 1939-1950.

Sansum. Mrs F Sansum of Wolverhampton in December 1980. QMAAC.

Taylor. Mrs M Taylor of Barry, South Wales on 12 September 1980. ATS.

Tolland. Miss C J Tolland of Glasgow on 30 October 1980. ATS.

Turner. Miss O M Turner of Southsea in August 1980. ATS.

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS AND SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

BEM

W02 M Templeman, Sergeant J K Raynor, Sergeant M R Francey, Sergeant J L Moates, Corporal D M Keay, Staff Sergeant M C Comer UDR

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

Sergeant D P Bendy

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Majors: S M Bishop, L C Browne, R E Cornwell, J A Flake, L M Ganter, M A Harwood, M R King

Captains: J P R Perry, P J Gold, C D Hume-Lewis, I M McCord

Lieutenants: C R Paxton, A Smith, J L Ransom, E A Newnham, J M Anderson, S J G Turner

2/Lieutenant (on probation): G M Gibson

Special Regular Commissions

Majors: A B M Stead MBE, J F M Whitehead

Captains: S M Lucas, P A Hetherington

Lieutenants: D Ryder, L Blake

Short Service Commissions

Captains: A S Stevens, S A Wicks, K G Brook,
D E Baxter, V J Freeman-Tozer, A Pritchard,
N S Rixson, J Ball, J Knatt

Lieutenants: F E Elliot, S M Gale, C Woodcock,
C R Haigh, C E Ford, H E Colmer, J L Hillier,
A C Rankine, M A E Tarpley, C D Wilding,
J McElwee, J Dabbs, V Rogers, J Ball, D Foster,
V J Curry, A S Rose, J C J Harper,
C H Merrington-Rust, J S Young, D J Foggin
2/Lieutenants: C J M Kett, S P Horton, A R Beisly,
C J Bisco, H C Emery, C J Ford, M A Joint,
D H Miller, N A Murdoch, V Raine, L J Turner,
C S Wilkinson, A E Stiff, A M L Michelli

2/Lieutenants (on probation): L F Carlisle, S E A
Knapp, E A H Dunn, L A Emery, S A J Fausset,
E K Jackson, E V Jordan, A M King,
A J Langham, S A N Ogilvie, S J Quinlan,
J R Salter, N A Thomas

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Lieutenants: A H Sanderson, M J Defty

2 Lieutenant: C Greenwell

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Colonel: F M Cook

Major: A J H Hodgkinson

Captains: P K Jarman, F D Ponikowski

Captain (QM): S J Mitchell

Short Service Commissions

Captain: E Brown

2/Lieutenant: A D Farmer

Special Regular Commission

Major: A B M Stead, MBE

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Ward c/o 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, BFPO
804. Telephone 0662-44294.

FOR SALE Greatcoat, excellent condition. £120
ono. Size 14. Length 43". Beret never worn £5.
Ring 0242-42188 (shift worker).

FOR SALE Greatcoat £50. Mess Dress (fully
lined) £45. No 2 Dress £40. Size 14. Height 5' 8".
Tel: Capt A M Parfitt, Blandford Mil (Blandford
52581) Ext 209.

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tel: Weybridge 45288.

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BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1980**

	1980 £	1979 £
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1st November 1979... ..	23,861	17,344
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	7,185	6,517
Profit on Sale of Investment	13	—
Transfer from Special Fund	291	—
	31,350	23,861
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND		
Membership Life Subscription	2,361	2,054
Lioness Life Subscription	3,219	2,683
	5,580	4,737
SPECIAL FUND		
Legacy – Lt. Col. C.A. Cecil	—	391
Lioness Donation Fund	—	291
	—	682
	<u>£36,930</u>	<u>£29,280</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture – at cost less depreciation	—	38
INVESTMENTS		
At cost per schedule (Market Value £31,154)	29,175	23,013
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Badges	68	11
Sundry Debtors	230	187
Cash at Bank – Current Account	2,136	1,877
– Deposit Account	2,988	2,043
– Investment Account	2,557	2,280
Cash in Hand	32	15
	8,011	6,413
Less: Sundry Creditors	256	184
	7,755	6,229
	<u>£36,930</u>	<u>£29,280</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1980

Cost 1979 £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1980 £
2,303	M. & G. Charifund – £2,067 Units	2,303	3,574
2,912	London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 – £4,359.53	2,912	3,096
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8½% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £6,718.09	5,311	5,106
2,433	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £3,336.04	2,433	2,310
3,679	7¼% Treasury Stock 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	4,469
3,046	8¼% Treasury Loan – 1987/90 – £3,490.98	3,046	2,845
1,789	9¼% Treasury Stock – 1980 – £1,802.18	—	—
1,490	9¼% Treasury Stock – 1983 – £1,545.68	1,490	1,414
—	11¼% Treasury Stock – 1989 – £5,862.75	5,168	5,511
—	12¼% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £2,894.94	2,783	2,779
<u>£23,013</u>		<u>£29,175</u>	<u>£31,154</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1980

	1980 £	1979 £	
INCOME			
SUBSCRIPTIONS:			
Annual	3,500	2,771	
Proportion of Life Subscriptions ...	<u>203</u>	<u>151</u>	
	3,703		2,922
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION –			
Subscriptions	4,526	4,494	
Proportion of Life Subscriptions ...	228	192	
Advertisement Revenue... ..	<u>250</u>	<u>242</u>	
	5,004	4,928	
Less: Cost of Publication	<u>3,712</u>	<u>3,478</u>	
	1,292		1,450
OTHER INCOME			
Income from Investments	2,755	2,109	
Deposit Account Interest	822	270	
Sale of Publications	—	8	
Sale of Badges	40	11	
Branch Funds received on closure ...	35	—	
Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion	(17)	(13)	
W.R.A.C. Reunion (net)	<u>—</u>	<u>573</u>	
	3,635		2,958
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£8,630</u>	<u>£7,330</u>	

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1980

	1980 £	1979 £	
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD... ..	<u>8,630</u>	<u>7,330</u>	
EXPENDITURE			
Branch Expenses:			
Capitation Fees	344	174	
Grants	<u>69</u>	<u>24</u>	
	413		198
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Printing and Stationery	561	102	
Postages	143	206	
Subscriptions and Donations	15	60	
Share Purchase Expenses	50	42	
Sundry Expenses	25	16	
Audit and Accountancy Fee	200	184	
Depreciation of Office Furniture ...	<u>38</u>	<u>5</u>	
	1,032		615
	<u>£1,445</u>	<u>£ 813</u>	
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>£7,185</u>	<u>£6,517</u>	

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