

1983

No 1

Lioness



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Vol. LVI

1983

No. 1

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SHOPPING LIST

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WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

February	Horse Rangers Association Parade
20	London
March	Concert, Civic Hall, Guildford
3 - 4	(With Guildford Operatic Company)
12	Concert for WRAC Association Meeting
May	Concerts — Eastbourne Bandstand
29 - 3	Sunday & Monday (mornings)
June	11 am - 12.30 pm
	Every afternoon 3 - 4.30 pm
	Every evening 7.45 - 9.15 pm
June	Wembley Musical Pageant
25 - 26	Saturday Evening Performance
	Sunday Afternoon Performance
July	Concert — Kensington Gardens
17	3 pm - 4.30 pm
21	Concert for AB Fund — Part of Guildford Festival
24 - 31	Concerts — Bandstand Bournemouth
August	Concerts — Regents Park
7 - 13	Sunday 3 - 4.30 pm & 6 - 7.30 pm
	Monday - Saturday 12.30 - 2 pm & 5.30 - 7 pm
14	Burma Star Parade & Church Service Whitehall

Contributions for next issue by
13th June 1983 in double
spacing. Photographs in black & white.

RETIREMENT

COLONEL E R DENNE MBE

EDITORIAL

As many of you will know, the Royal Star & Garter Home has for many years provided a permanent home or short-stay rehabilitation for disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

During 1983 the Home will be able, for the first time, to admit disabled ex-service women. Initially, numbers will be small and admission will have to be confined to the less severely disabled, i.e. those with diseases of the locomotor system (mobility problems) and, ideally, between 18 - 55 years of age.

To help cover the cost of the special facilities necessary for women, and for the endowment of beds, an appeal for funds is being made to the Women's Services, and to the three Service Benevolent Funds.

Any ex-service women wishing to be considered for either short or permanent admission to the Home should, in the first instance, write to the Secretary, Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey.

Six new branches have recently been formed at Wrexham, York, Swansea, Barnsley, Medway and in BAOR. This means that more members will live near enough to take part in branch activities. We wish these branches every success in recruiting new members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that Association subscriptions run from 1 January to 31 December and should be paid by 31 December. The February issue of *Lioness* is not sent to members whose subscriptions have not been paid.

Colonel Rosemary Denne is almost the last serving link between the ATS and WRAC. She enlisted into the ATS on May 10th 1946 and was commissioned on December 19th 1947.

Colonel Denne served with distinction in all her appointments which ranged from the Far East, through the Middle East to Northern Ireland and North West Europe. For her services in Cyprus during 1965 she was awarded the MBE, and in Aden in 1968 she was mentioned in despatches. She is an acknowledged expert in quartering matters and many officers, male and female, have reason to be grateful to her for her excellent instruction in this field. Her final appointment was as Commander WRAC at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces and she retired on December 5th 1982 after 36 years dedicated service to the Army and the Corps. She will be missed on the active list, but is to maintain her links as a retired officer in a quartering post in Germany.



Inspecting recruits at a Passing Out Parade at the WRAC Centre on November 18th last year.

Cover Photograph

LCpl Islay Forbes WRAC and Sefton at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Miss Kathleen Osman who was awarded the BEM for services to SSAFA, for whom she has worked in Plymouth since 1946. Miss Osman received her award from The Earl of Morley, Lord Lieutenant of Devon at an investiture held in Exeter on November 11th last year.

LCpl Julie Maycock, a driver in 1 Sqn 10 Signal Regiment, who scored a hat trick at the Army Canoe Championships at Monmouth on July 24th and 25th. She came first in the 250m sprint slalom, 500m sprint and the ladies long distance slalom. And all this after only two months canoeing with the Squadron.



Smile of success!

Captain A M Carter who came first in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 400 metres in last year's Army Individual Athletics Championships, and Corporal M Allerton who came first in the 1500 metres and 3000 metres races.

LCpl Diane Lee of 208 General Hospital (V) who qualified for her second Nijmegen Commemorative Medal by marching 40 Kms a day for four days from 20th - 23rd July last year. LCpl Lee is a cook in Merseyside's TA General Hospital, and in her civilian job is an audio typist for the social services in Liverpool.



Enjoying the Nijmegen March.

Sergeant Diane Newton of 49 Squadron RCT, Bulford, who won the Ladies' Award (Category 5) of the 1982 Army Photographic Competition. This category was sponsored by Woman's Own who presented a prize to the value of £100.

Sergeant Newton's winning colour photograph was a cheerful portrait of a servicewoman pasting up a target. She used her Zenith camera and intends to buy an Olympus 10 with the prize money.

A reception for the winners of the competition was held at the Ministry of Defence on 17 November 1982. Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP, Under Secretary of State (Defence Procurement) presented the prizes.



Sgt Newton talking to Mr Geoffrey Pattie MP and Brigadier H G Meechie Hon ADC, DWRAC.

PRESENTATIONS LSGC

Lieutenant Colonel A J Smith, Commander WRAC BAOR presenting the LS & GC to WO2 McIntyre of 29 Company in the WRAC Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess in Rheindahlen. WO2 McIntyre is employed in the Training Wing of Rheindahlen Garrison.



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Sergeants will be welcomed.

GOODBYE CHILWELL

ex-SSgt F Lee (Chilwell Garrison)

MANY THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

By the time you read this I shall be at home in London looking after my mother, now 85 and having to spend most of her time in bed -- but otherwise cheerful.

I joined the Chaplains' Department in March 1967 and during the whole of my time at Mill Hill, the WRAC Centre, and Aldershot I have had a great deal to do with the WRAC, much of it behind the scenes and unknown to the majority. It has been the "hidden" personal work which I have found most enjoyable and also rewarding. But the whole almost sixteen years has been something of an adventure, and it has been a privilege to live for fourteen of those years in WRAC Messes at Mill Hill and at Guildford, and to enjoy the friendship of so many, often much younger, members of the Corps.

I thank God for you all and for calling me to this particular ministry. I hope that anyone who would have written to me for any reason at Guildford or Aldershot will still feel free to do so at my home address -- 104 Evelyn Street, London SE8 5DD, or give me a ring sometime on 01 692-5787. You will be sure of an answer in both cases!

Joan Garwood

MISS JOAN GARWOOD -- CHAPLAINS ASSISTANT

Many of us will be sorry to hear that Joan Garwood has retired from the Chaplains Department.

Joan always took an active part in the unit at all levels of counselling, the organisation of Church Services, and as a member of the Officers Mess Committee. She will long be remembered for her great sincerity and charming, kind personality, as well as her beautiful flower arrangements.

All members of the Corps, past and present, take this opportunity to wish her every happiness in whatever is her next appointment.

A M M C

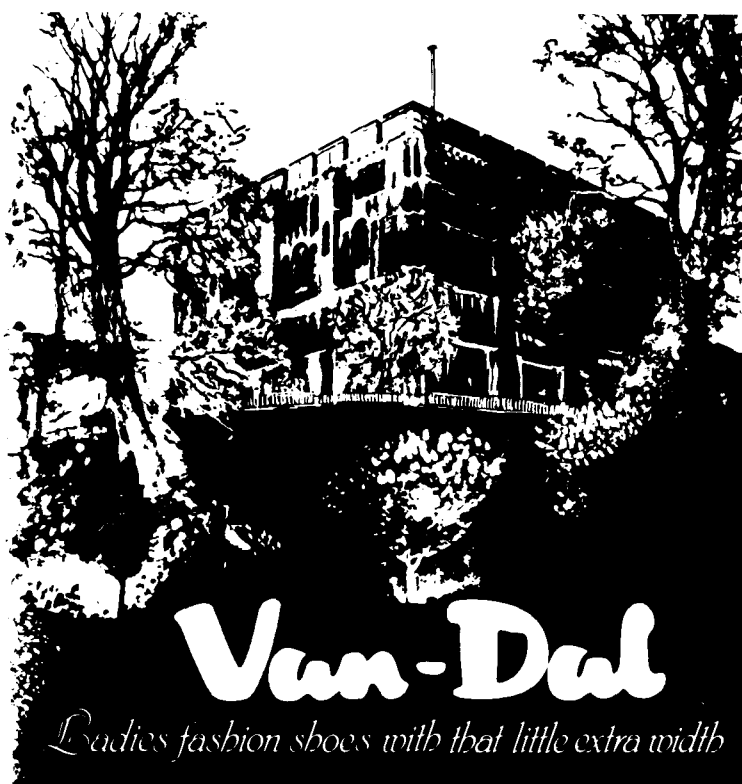
It was a bitterly cold day in March last year when Chilwell Central Ordnance Depot held a closure ceremony on the parade ground by the Main Gate, Chetwynd Road, attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, the Director General of Ordnance Services together with other senior officers and dignitaries.

The RAOC Staff Band played to the waiting assembly including the song "Last Farewell" which seemed most appropriate. A closure speech was made by the Colonel Commandant RAOC on the origins of the depot from the time that it was a shell-filling factory in 1914/1918 until taken over in 1934 for ordnance supply and ending with the final closure and sale in 1982.

A short service was held by the Chaplain to Chilwell Garrison and the choir from St Mary's Church, Attenborough, followed by a Flag Ceremony and the handover of Command of Chilwell Station.

The building fronting on to the parade ground is now HQ for RAOC Chilwell Station and a Signals Unit. Stores, offices and workshops in the depot are now empty, everything having been moved either to Bicester or Donnington apart from REME 38 General Workshop which remains in the depot.

After the ceremony I made my way past the civilian canteen to Highfield Road, now guarded by WD police, and climbed the steep hill leading to Queen Elizabeth Camp at the top. No one who used that road to the camp is likely to forget toiling up it several times a day, and might be interested to learn that there is now a large notice-board saying it is not to be used during frost or icy conditions! Only a few buildings now remain -- QM stores is closed and deserted, HQ offices is a Cadet Training Unit and D & E Coy Offices is a Scout Hut. The Officers Mess appeared to be still operational and the gym still stands, but that is about all that remains of a unit. Major General E P Readman pointed out that he could boast of having the biggest 'Attery' in the UK with nearly 4000 ATS under his command. "The Chilwell Story" compiled by Captain Mike Haslem of Chilwell Garrison tells the story of Chilwell in the last war when ATS were stationed there.



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TENERIFE

P M Matty

My first year in the Canary Islands has been completed and since May, when my friend returned to the UK I have been soldiering on alone. She is the only person I have met who did not like Tenerife!

The Spanish general election is over and we now have the first socialist government since Franco departed. The Pope visited Spain for ten days and as usual his visit was a big occasion in this predominantly catholic country. The TV coverage was tremendous.

June saw the start of my visitors, all of whom fell under the spell of the Canaries. Everyone was impressed with the variety of fruit available here which includes local bananas, passion fruit, grapes, mesembrillos, papayas, mangos and melons.

A day out in Puerto de La Cruz to see the

Botanical Gardens was very interesting. Plants and trees from all over the world are brought here to be acclimatised, and the most fascinating tree is the one with roots growing from the top down to the earth! From the gardens, on to Loro Park. Loro is Spanish for parrot and the variety of parrots is tremendous. They are beautiful birds, and free to fly away if they want to, but they obviously appreciate their present accommodation! Other birds such as budgerigars and love birds are also represented and they are flying free. A "Parrot show" is held every hour, and these creatures, being born comics, thoroughly enjoy going through their "party tricks" and riding their mini cycles, scooters etc. To finish the day, a super meal of paella in one of the many local bars. Puerto is the main tourist area, and full of hotels, apartments and bars.

La Orotava was the venue for the next trip, a favourite place of mine and set in the heart of the Orotava valley with its huge banana plantations. It is a lovely town with pretty gardens and old Canarian houses with their wonderfully carved balconies. One of these houses, "The House of Balconies" was the main purpose of our visit in order to buy some of the local embroidered goods. In fact one can watch the young

Canarian girls and elderly Canarian women doing this exquisite embroidery.

A visit to the south of the island was a "must". It is totally different from the north, and is drier, hotter and by no means as pretty. There are many beaches of both black and yellow sand, all of which are very popular for holidays. There is also a large tourist complex, "Playa de las Americas".

Every town and village has its *Romeria*, a sort of carnival with the men, women and children dressed in their national costumes. These differ for each of the seven islands and are very colourful. *Romerias* are real fiestas with everyone out to enjoy themselves. A cavalcade of decorated floats drawn by bullocks or donkeys and led by a group of Spaniards riding very smart Spanish horses is the highlight. There are groups of youngsters in the parade singing Canarian folk songs and playing guitars, and of course the inevitable stalls selling all kinds of goods. The day of the *Romeria* always ends with a fireworks display – and how the Spaniards love their fireworks!

Spanish TV is probably not so good as English TV but does now have two channels! We have plenty of old films, mostly of American vintage, but some English plays, in Spanish of course, and we have had "Dallas" which is now being followed by "Upstairs, downstairs". No TV licence to save up for!

Now, I ask myself what have I achieved in this first 12 months? I have received my "Residencia permit", which is a very important document, and means that the authorities, having well and truly vetted me, now accept me as part of their community. This document starts a number of things in motion such as income tax payable in Spain instead of in the UK, and permission to buy a car. It is needed for officialdom in many ways. Until the permit is granted a foreigner is more or less a visitor on temporary extension of the original 90 day permit and there is a large cosmopolitan community in Tenerife!

FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

The Falkland Islands Service held at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 26 July 1982 was attended by our Controller Commandant Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent who was wearing No 1 Dress (Ceremonial). Also present were our Director, Brigadier H G Meechie, two WRAC officers and two WRAC servicewomen.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

THE OFFICIAL SECRET OF TARTAN SKIRTS FOR ATS

The tangled tale of Lady Maud Baillie's tartan skirt, the women pipers of the wartime ATS and King George VI can at last be told – by kind permission of the Ministry of Defence, whose discreet officials have released the papers relating to these weighty events a mere 36 years after they occurred.

It all began on June 18th 1943 when the ATS band committee decided to improve national morale by taking the lady pipers out of the official uniform (appropriately known as regulation drab service dress) and putting them into Hunting Stewart tartan skirts, with matching pipe bags and Tam O'Shanter, otherwise known as Balmoral caps. But, as the correspondence reveals, there were formidable objections.

One Whitehall mandarin argued: "Hunting (Royal) Stewart tartans are in a special category and His Majesty's approval to use is always required ... On a previous occasion (1941) there were impediments to the approval being granted for ATS auxiliaries in Scotland... The Princess Royal objected on that occasion on behalf of the Royal Scots, but I can't trace the file".

The ATS counter-attacked with the aid of the Princess Royal who wrote on September 30th: "I hasten to tell you that I heard from the Queen this evening that she and the King approve of the ATS pipers wearing green Hunting Stewart tartan. I only hope this tartan is available".

It was not, as things turned out – not from the QM Store, anyway. Attempts to order 25 yards of a specially-woven material from a London manufacturer met the objection that anything less than 60 yards was not worth his time. Once again the War Office was forced to give way to the ATS and the necessary financial clearance was granted. The King then asked to see a sample of the tartan. He was sent two and wanted to combine the weight of one with the lighter shade of the other.

Having obtained the material it wanted, the ATS then moved to its second objective – a style more becoming than that of the standard ATS skirt. The ladies wanted something that followed the correct line of a tartan fitted with a zip instead of press studs.

The bureaucrats objected they had no model for such a style, whereupon a triumphant ATS

officer replied: "We are sending herewith a sample of a tartan skirt as requested. The skirt is the property of Lady Maud Baillie, Deputy Director ATS London District and it would be appreciated if great care could be taken of it while it is being copied..."

Senior civil servants carefully minuted telephone calls about the return of the garment and in the nick of time, the pipe band paraded for Salute the Soldier Week in 1944 shortly before D-Day.

Satisfied Soldier's Course

ACIO LOWESTOFT

LCpl D Franklin WRAC

Recruiting has always interested me and so I decided to apply for a Satisfied Soldier's Course, which I knew to be a visit to the ACIO in my home town.

After speaking to my Troop Officer I 'phoned the ACIO Lowestoft and there I spoke to a very friendly and helpful Sergeant Major, WO2 Green. He was interested in my enquiry and invited me to join his staff for a short detachment at my unit's convenience. He asked me to send details of how I had spent my four years in the Army and gave me an idea of what I could expect to do, such as visiting my old school and meeting people in the ACIO.

I arrived at the Careers Office and was made to feel at home straight away by WO2 Green RWF and SSgt Kingston REME. They explained to me the present recruiting situation and told me that the only employments open to women's services at the moment were Shorthand Writer, Data Telegraphist, Switchboard Operator, Royal Military Police, Postal and Courier Operator, Experimental Assistant in Gunnery. There would be no vacancies for nurses throughout 1982.

I was kept busy most of the time by helping the staff with documentation on medicals and tests, because every applicant quickly gains a thick file.

There was only one application for Women's Services and I spoke with her for a while, mainly answering her questions about training and general life in the WRAC.

Midweek I met and had an interview with the ACO Norfolk/Suffolk, Major W Jones LG, and

later he enlisted a young man into the RAMC. Attestation certainly has more meaning these days and it showed in the smiles of the recruits. The new recruit certainly was pleased, as well he should be, to be up to the high standard required.

I gained a lot from my visit, and it was the insight I needed to decide if I would like this kind of work in the future.

How to go about it? You must become a substantive corporal and then leave the WRAC and re-enlist with the Recruiting Services. This means you could have a family and then join up once the children go to school. It is necessary to sow the seed to young people early and give them the right impression of the Army, hoping that when they leave school recruiting figures will be allowed to rise.

FREEDOM OF VIERSEN



In May last year Ordnance Services Viersen were granted the Freedom of Viersen. Pte Power drove the Chelsea Pensioners during the celebrations, and is pictured above with her passengers.

EXERCISE "BRITISH PRINCE"

Sgt G Inger WRAC

Two weeks sailing around the Mediterranean for only £30 sounded unbelievable, but that's what happened to LCpl Carmen McKenzie and me last August. We are both serving with 42 Survey Engineer Regiment at Barton Stacey and had been selected as crew for Leg 2 of Exercise "British Prince". This was the Postal and Courier Services voyage to commemorate the centenary of their first overseas mail delivery. The 55 ft yawl HMSTY Sabre was to sail between England and Alexandria in four legs with crews changing at Gibraltar, Sardinia and Cyprus. We were on the Gibraltar Sardinia leg.

We left Luton Airport on August 5th for Gibraltar, where we had four days to prepare for the voyage and explore the rock. I think we were all surprised at how small Gibraltar is, but nevertheless there was plenty to see. We were taken on a very interesting tour of the tunnels inside the rock and we managed to hire a PRI Landrover to explore the rest of the island, which included the famous apes. On the evening before we left Gibraltar we hosted a very successful party on the boat to thank all the people who had been so helpful during our stay.

Most of the next day was spent in stowing and re-stocking the boat, until at 4 pm with a crowd of well-wishers who had come to see us off we slipped from our moorings and headed for Cartagena in Spain, with the wind gusting up to a force 8 gale and a nasty lumpy sea. This weather, which fortunately only lasted for a few hours, was the worst we were to experience in the whole trip.

We arrived in Cartagena at 1 am on Friday, August 13th. After a few hours sleep we raced ashore to explore, and then after replenishing the rations, water and fuel we left at lunchtime for Ibiza.

The Skipper had made a roster for duty cooks and Carmen and I were down for the same duty. Our first day for cooking was Friday the 13th but despite the date everyone survived!

Our next port of call was San Antonio in Ibiza which we reached early the following afternoon. We dropped anchor in the harbour and

rowed ashore for the evening. San Antonio turned out to be a very lively holiday town full of discos and bars. None of us felt very lively so we did not stay there very long. Instead we found a lovely little bay just along the coast where we spent the following day swimming, snorkelling and sunbathing.

We left Ibiza at 6.30 pm on Sunday, August 15th for the short overnight sail to Palma, Majorca, arriving at 11.30 the following morning. We tied up to a very expensive looking marina full of luxury yachts, some of which had helicopters on board! It made our boat seem very small indeed. We had an evening ashore and had an excellent meal in a Chinese restaurant, after which we went for a pleasant walk through the busy streets and quiet parks before returning to Sabre.

Leaving Palma at 10.15 on August 17th we headed for Minorca, our last port of call before Sardinia. We sailed for 24 hours before arriving at the beautiful unspoilt little bay of Puerto del Mahon. This was such a natural place, totally unspoilt by tourism, that we were sure that we would be able to have a good local meal in the only restaurant in the village. After studying the menu we found that the waitress came from Southend! However, she was a very good interpreter and we had the best meal of the whole trip. We left Puerto del Mahon very reluctantly at 7 am on August 19th and sailed towards Sardinia.

The following morning, while I was helming, we nearly ran into a school of whales but luckily the lookouts were alert and I just managed to avoid them. That afternoon the Skipper suggested that we stopped the boat and all went overboard for a swim. With the memory of the whales still in our minds we were a bit dubious but in the end had a very enjoyable half hour in the water.

We reached Cagliari at midday on August 21st, earlier than expected. The harbour was not very pleasant and we noticed dead rats floating in the water. As most of the town was shut on the Sunday we decided to go for a short sail to a bay about 15 miles south of Cagliari which contained the ancient ruined and partially submerged city of Nora. We stayed there for lunch and again the snorkels were put to good use as we went exploring amongst the remains. All too soon we had to leave this lovely little place and return to Cagliari.

The new crew were due to arrive and take

over Sabre on the Monday afternoon, so we spent that morning cleaning and emptying the boat in preparation for them. We left Sabre that afternoon, spent the night at RAF Decimomannu and flew back to Brize Norton the following day. We arrived back at Barton Stacey on a cold rainy evening, the Mediterranean then seeming a different world.



The crew at Cagliari, Sardinia.

HONG KONG TO USA AND FREE FALL

Cpl J A Johnston WRAC Provost

In January 1981, on posting to Hong Kong Pro Coy RMP, I was delighted to learn that there was an opportunity to participate in Adventure Training Courses run by APTC here in the Orient. I applied to attend a Basic Free Fall Parachuting Course and was failed at the medical because I was too light! By the time I was 'fit' enough to re-apply I was told that for technical reasons parachuting had been halted, temporarily. Eventually I was offered a place on a course last February, though my frustrations were still not over as when jump-day arrived I was on duty! Others on the course who made their descents included Cpl Julie Arrowsmith, Cpl John Trevarton and Sgt Barry Cawdell, SIB.

There was talk of a trip being arranged to USA in order to have a spell of serious free fall parachuting in good conditions and I was more than pleased to secure a place, especially as I had not even made my first descent. Julie and

Barry were also included on the expedition as were Sgts Paul Armstrong RADC and Michael Daniels REME. The only member of the party who knew where we were going (Raeford Drop Zone - North Carolina) was the leader, Major David New, who had been there before.

After travelling BCal DC10 and RAF VC10 we arrived in Washington DC and headed for the Greyhound Coach Terminal and the overnight coach for Raeford. Our arrival must have been a strange sight - twenty-one pieces of luggage and six tired and hungry travellers from Hong Kong being dumped at 6 am at the side of a dual carriageway, flanked by closed shops and garages.

We had breakfast at a roadside diner and then, following a phone call, were met by Gene Paul Thacker the owner of the Parachute Centre who took us to the Drop Zone and showed us our accommodation for the next three weeks - if we lived that long! Then we were introduced to the Thacker boys - Tony and Tim - who were to be our instructors, and the jumping started in perfect weather with virtually no wind. The parachuting was a little slow on the first day with only two of us jumping (my first, second and third jump in one day!) Then it was off to a barbecue with the US 82 Airborne Division Sport Parachute Club.

The next day the parachuting started in earnest and there were stories of how people thought they had ten seconds left to live and how others kept complaining of 'blue grass' (an expression meaning rolling on your back instead of being face to earth when in free fall). The third day was my big day. I made my first free fall parachute jump and then two more; ten jumps in three days! After the ensuing celebrations I had a day of mandatory rest.

On other days further causes for celebration seemed to follow fast. Major New progressed to 25 seconds delay, Mike Daniels used his reserve for the first time in his jumping career, Paul Armstrong qualified for his 'C' Licence and started jumping high performance chutes. Barry Cawdell was busy trying to use up all the rolls of film so kindly donated by Kodak in Hong Kong.

Four members of the party took a day off and went to Dyess USAF Base in Texas as guests of the 18 Airborne Corps Sport Parachute Club. Travel was by a Hercules and the intention was to do a demonstration jump at the USAF Open Day. Unfortunately the display was cancelled due to high winds. Back in Raeford, Paul Armstrong graduated to a square and Mike Daniels qualified for the coveted 'D' Licence and

collected other awards and qualifications en route. On our last week-end in Raeford the Carolina Sport Parachute Council held its Annual Competition. Four of us entered and Major New came third in the accuracy event.

Besides the parachuting there was a good social life at the Drop Zone. Most evenings were spent 'liaising' with top class international parachutists from UK, USA, Canada, France and Holland. Many friendships were made and renewed. There were a lot of dealings with the US Army Parachute Team "The Golden Knights" and some joint parachuting.

Suddenly, due to RAF problems, our last day came earlier than expected. We left Raeford in a great hurry; not however before we, thanks to Paul Armstrong and Julie, had organised a barbecue for the Thacker family and all the parachutists, pilots and staff at the Drop Zone.

Some 140 jumps were made in all and it was an unforgettable time for me. I achieved 20 second free-fall delays on high performance parachutes, and was also able to visit the beaches of South Carolina and make an army of new parachuting friends and acquaintances. To tell the truth I enjoyed being a Drop-out!



Coming in for a good landing after making her first jump on a high performance parachute.

UNEMPLOYED SCHOOL LEAVERS

Captain D J Foggin B Sc WRAC

"Leave your military unit and go to Scotland to teach civilians adventure training". That was the order to some thirteen WRAC instructors during 1982.

The three services were given the task of devising a scheme of adventure training for unemployed 16-18 year olds during the summer months. The aim was to give the young people a challenge, and help to increase confidence, willpower and moral fibre. The Army's part of the scheme was run in the Scottish Highlands at Fort George.

The instructors started with a ten day course of staff training at JSMTTC Tywyn. We were given activities which we were expected to teach the volunteers, and some preparation for what was ahead of us. There were many questions, especially concerned with discipline. "What happens if one of them hits me?" "How do I deal with civvies?" The answer to all the questions was simple and straightforward, "Lead by example".

Before the first course arrived, Fort George was a hive of activity, and it was soon obvious that instructors were not there only for adventure training. Lorry loads of bedding, beds, furniture, canoes, bicycles and boats seemed never-ending, and were unloaded by anyone who was handy.

May 18th saw the first 300 volunteers arrive with their multi-coloured hair-dos, safety pins and all! For many it was their first opportunity to have a go at anything challenging, let alone adventure training. They were not given long to regret their decision. Kit was issued immediately and they were soon beginning their daily round of a great variety of activities. The day normally started with early morning training at 6.45 am and often finished as late as 10 or 11 pm. The programme included rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, sailing, rafting, hill walking (including

a stroll up Ben Nevis!), riding, cycling, survival training, shooting, watermanship and sports.

The girls made up 25 per cent of the total intake, although in the RSM's opinion they created 75 per cent of the problems! There were certainly a few amusing incidents. One girl wore her DMS boots for two weeks before complaining that they did not fit her. It was discovered that she had been issued with one foot size 6 and the other size 8! Another girl found her rucksack uncomfortable until the instructor turned it up the right way! A third complained about the compo rations, and particularly the taste of the water, until it was pointed out that the jerry can was filled with fuel!

Survival was always an interesting activity for both instructors and volunteers. The night was spent under "biffas" and wallowing in mud, and the day hunting for mussels and nettles to eat. No survival training would be complete without having to capture, kill, prepare and cook fresh meat rations. The capture phase involved the retrieval of the rations from wherever the AAC actually dropped them. Luckily these rabbits and chickens were good swimmers! Admittedly we never had to kill the animals; our problem was trying to defrost them in time!

The volunteers gained a lot of experience from the courses. The letters they wrote to us, their comments in the national and local papers and their expressed wish to come back again are all evidence of this. The humour and personalities of the instructors were the key to the success of the scheme, and it was without doubt successful. 2 500 young people passed through Fort George without major incident, proving to us that the key to success really was to lead by example.

RAVC TRAINING CENTRE

If you had asked anyone last year the whereabouts of Melton Mowbray, most would probably have replied "Melton-where"? or muttered something about stilton cheese and hunting. But at the beginning of August 1982 the RAVC Training Centre at Melton Mowbray was suddenly on the map, with hordes of press and public trying to enter the Camp. In addition a WRAC Rider-Groom, LCpl Islay Forbes, awoke on several mornings to find her picture in the national newspapers or on TV. The reason for the interest was the arrival at Melton of Sefton and seven other Household Cavalry horses injured in the dreadful bomb explosion in Hyde Park in July. The horses were referred to the RAVC Centre for further veterinary treatment, and for rest and recuperation in the peaceful Leicestershire countryside.

After the initial furore of their arrival, Sefton and his friends settled down to a more leisurely way of life. Veterinary treatment was carried out by Capt Ruth Eyre RAVC, the Centre's Veterinary Officer, and LCpl Forbes was joined by Ptes Norah Caddle, Nikky Ruscoe and Caroline Thornton in caring for the horses. All the horses were stabled, but allowed out to graze and walk around once or twice daily. After a while, their individual characters began to show through, and we found that Sefton was more greedy and bossy than the others! He would shove the girls out of his way to get to his feed in the morning, but he was very good tempered.

Although the publicity had temporarily subsided, Sefton and his friends continued to receive parcels containing vast quantities of sugar lumps, apples, carrots and polo mints. Get well cards and letters were delivered by the sackful. Even "pin-ups" of chestnut mares arrived to adorn the stables!

A month after their arrival most of the horses were ready to be turned out to grass, and the press arrived to witness the big event. LCpl Forbes described the day:- "After posing with Sefton for some photos, I was asked to lead him up and down the paddock at the trot. My reaction was 'Help! I'll never hold him, he'll gallop off into the distance with me at the other end of the rope!' But Sefton behaved



impeccably. He trotted and cantered as obedient as a lamb, even when he was turned loose then caught again for the TV cameras to recapture the moment. I was amazed how patient he was, because he was obviously eager to be allowed to graze. Eventually I let him loose for the last time and having paused for a drink he cantered over to his companions, probably glad to be free from the crowds". Sefton, at least, had become used to the publicity, "Acting just like a ruddy film star"! commented Colonel K R Morgan-Jones, Commandant of the RAVC Training Centre.

At the end of September, Sefton and five other horses returned to London to prepare for public duties again. Copenhagen, Bandit and Zaney remained at Melton for further treatment under the care of Capt Eyre, LCpl Forbes and the other Veterinary Hospital staff. All the girls agree that it was a unique experience to look after such VIPs (or VIHs!) but one they would prefer not to repeat. They, like the rest of us, still remember the morning when so many men and horses were appallingly killed and injured by yet another dreadful terrorist act.



Sefton out to grass with his groom LCpl Islay Forbes.
(Courtesy Sun Newspapers)



A kiss for the horse of the year.
(Courtesy Soldier Magazine)

PRIZE CROSSWORD COMPETITION SOLUTION

There were 73 entries for the Crossword Competition, from as far afield as Majorca and Canada. Colonel Anne Clissitt, Commandant of the WRAC Centre, performed the draw, and the first correct solution opened on 1st November 1982 was submitted by Mrs K Eastham of Caddington, Beds who has received the prize of £5.



CELEBRITY FOR A DAY

Cpl A J Mason WRAC
3 Sqn, 10 Signal Regiment

On the night of July 18th last year some 60 or more soldiers representing the regiments and corps involved in the Falklands dispute plus many more stars of stage and screen paid their personal tributes, in the presence of HRH The Prince of Wales, to those who fought and those who gave their lives in the South Atlantic.

WO1 Newbold from the Parachute Regiment Depot was in overall charge of military personnel and shepherded us from the Adelphi theatre, which was our base, to the Coliseum where the show was filmed live by London Weekend Television. Also included amongst the service representatives were members of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Merchant Marine and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

We rehearsed our two appearances over the weekend and also gained some insight into how the theatre works. It seemed odd to be rubbing shoulders with stars like Harry Secombe, Twiggy and Tommy Steele, people who had only existed before on our TV screens. During the rehearsals we had ample opportunity for autograph hunting and spotting as many stars as possible.

Our appearances were at the beginning and end of the show, and involved very little leg-work, but they were nerve-wracking enough. The first appearance was introduced by Sir Laurence Olivier, and each corps, regiment, and service was announced by him in turn, including the SAS who were there "in spirit". The Paras, Welsh Guards and Gurkhas drew the greatest applause. These introductions were followed by a stirring rendition of "Rule Britannia" which dimmed an eye or two.

There then followed appearances by many artists, including comedy, singing, magic and ballet - quite a mixed selection. Unfortunately we were not able to see the whole show either in rehearsals or live, although we managed to see some acts on screen at the Adelphi where we filled in the time until our second and final appearance.

Then came the grand finale. We walked across

the stage in single file, each service, regiment and corps alternating with a celebrity, and the QARANC representative and I escorting John Inman. We then all came back on stage - servicemen and women, actors, singers and dancers, en masse for the moving and patriotic "Land of Hope and Glory" led by Dame Vera Lynn. Finally we sang the National Anthem.

We remained on stage for some time after the audience had left so that Prince Charles could meet the cast and stars (including us!). We left the theatre tired but happy that we had been given the opportunity to take part in the salute to the Falklands Task Force - stars for a night.

THE ROYAL MILITARY POLICE AND CHICHESTER ROUTE MARCH

Cpl K E Cormack WRAC

Two and a half thousand entries from all over Europe turned this march into a truly international event, with both civilian and military taking part. On July 31st we all gathered at Chichester Barracks to celebrate the occasion. There were lots of organised games, like volleyball and football, and the beer tent was open all day. The biggest part of the celebrations was a "disco under the stars" where everybody really enjoyed themselves forgetting that the following day they would be "on the march".

There was a choice of three routes, 10K, 25K and 40K. Cpl Godfrey and I as part of the mixed team from Communications and Security Group (UK) chose to march the full 40K.

Everyone congregated at the start area at 8am on Sunday 1 August. Off we marched to the strains of a lone piper and cheering crowds. Although it was a very hot day morale was high throughout. There were checkpoints every 5 miles or so with refreshments and First Aiders ever ready to dress the odd blister or two!

It was an enjoyable, if somewhat gruelling day and I was glad to see the finishing post. We all received a medal to prove we had completed the full course and then went down to the town centre to watch the final event, a parade through Chichester. It was led by pipes and drums with the majority of the marchers striding along in full No 1's plus their medals. The crowds were out cheering everyone along and enjoying the spectacular colours of all the different uniforms.

ARMY CAREERS OFFICER RETIRES

Captain Pat Earls retired at the end of March last year after nearly 42 years service in the ATS and WRAC. For the last 18 years she was Army Careers Officer in Northern Ireland, and for eight of those years she also carried out the duties of Women's Services Liaison Officer.

In her spare time Captain Earls is a DIY enthusiast, and to make things easier for her in the future the staff of the Army Careers Information Offices in Northern Ireland presented her with various pieces of Black and Decker equipment.



Lt Col Hewitt CRLS presenting the farewell gifts to Capt Earls.

The Officers Association have a Country Home "Huntly" at Bishopsteignton, South Devon which has been restricted to male ex-officers over the age of 60 years.

As an experiment they have now agreed to accept a limited number of female ex-officers over the age of 60 years. Cases of chronic infirmity cannot be accepted since there are no facilities for nursing at "Huntly".

Applications should be made to The General Secretary, The Officers Association, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY. Tel: 01 930 0125.

END OF AN ERA AT LATIMER

Lt Col E A Robinson WRAC

As I write, the last students are leaving the National Defence College at Latimer. The College moves to the Royal Naval College at Greenwich during 1983, and sadly no members of the Corps will be employed on the permanent staff in the future.

Since the College was founded in 1947, members of both the ATS and WRAC served at Latimer. One of these WO2 Aggie Doig, who was on the staff in 1952 and is now the CSM at the RAEC Centre, recently returned for a nostalgic visit. She is pictured above outside the Officers Mess with four of the last servicewomen to be stationed at Latimer.

Taken over as a POW camp and interrogation centre for senior German officers during the last war, Latimer House, the home of the Cavendish family, opened its doors as the Joint Services Staff College in January 1947. In 1972 the name was changed to the National Defence College and our present Director, Brigadier Helen Meechie, had the distinction of being one of the first two female students to attend a course at the College in 1976.

When Sergeant Sue Buncombe is posted from the College to the RA Depot in April 1983 she will be the last member of the Corps to say farewell to a unit in which many members of the Corps past and present spent many happy years of service.



L-R: Pte K R Mullin (stewardess), Cpl M E Simon (driver), LCpl V H Ritchie (stewardess), Pte M J Harrison (cook) with WO2 A Doig.



Remember her?

She is now being cared for by RUKBA with a life long annuity and, should it ever be necessary, a place in a Residential Home or a Sheltered flat, but we have no pictures of the ever growing number of others like her who are in desperate need of RUKBA's help.

RUKBA is the Charity which looks after the impoverished and/or infirm elderly of professional or similar backgrounds – people who, in their prime, did so much for others, and are today struggling to exist themselves. Will you help us now to give them the security and help they so greatly need?

Last year we spent more than £1½m assisting over 4,800 people. Only the amount of your donations and legacies can decide how many more we can help this year. Please be kind and support our work with a generous contribution – and please remember RUKBA in your Will.



Please do!

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UNITED KINGDOM
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ASSOCIATION**

(Founded 1863)

Patron:

H.M. Queen Elizabeth
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RUKBA

To: The General Secretary,
RUKBA,
6 AVONMORE ROAD,
LONDON W14 8RL.

I'd like to help – here's my contribution

Name

Address

Amongst its many Annuitants, RUKBA is helping to support Ex ATS Officers and a considerable number of Widows and relatives of Army Officers.

Apart from perhaps becoming Subscribers to RUKBA, Members might care to help its work by volunteering to be our local representatives, known as Honorary Secretaries, who are needed in various parts of the Country. They are our personal link with our Beneficiaries and keep us in touch by visiting and reporting their needs, or by helping them in any way they can. We shall be very pleased to hear from any Members who would like to help the elderly or infirm in this very practical way.

UNIT NEWS

WRAC CENTRE

Lt J J Wolfe WRAC

To substantiate a popular rumour – The WRAC Centre is alive, well and thriving! Over 1113 Regular and TA recruits have been trained at the Centre since April last year. In addition to this important and time-consuming task, members of the unit have been involved in a multitude of activities. Three members entered the London Marathon on 9th May and finished with very creditable timings – WO2 Pat Swailes finished in 4 hours, 2Lt Phillipa Wright took 4½ hours and Major Rosemary Warne 5½ hours. They were well supported by members of the unit who went along to watch the 17,000 runners participate. From this event, £695 was raised by unit sponsorship for a local appeal for cancer equipment and £146 for the UDR Benevolent Fund.

Her Majesty Queen Noor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan visited us on July 23rd. During her visit she watched recruits tackling an obstacle race wearing full NBC equipment.

Brigadier H G Meechie Hon ADC MA made a formal visit to the unit on September 23rd for the first time in her official capacity as Director of the Corps. She was shown around the salient departments of the unit and her parting gesture was to watch five "volunteers" complete their BFT. A gallant band of subalterns led by Major (now Lt Col) Chris Marriott ran the course and not un-naturally finished with creditable timings.

Lieutenant General Idrassa Fall visited the Centre after attending a language school for a month. He was accompanied by three other Senagalese officers, only one of whom was a fluent English speaker. All officers brushed up their French and an amusing lunch was enjoyed by all.

On October 6th our annual Sports Day was held in the form of an "It's a Knockout" series of competitions and games. Training Company emerged the triumphant winners but credit goes

to everyone for their ingenuity with their costumes.

The film crew arrived in October to begin a hectic schedule of filming for the new recruiting film. They filmed a variety of scenes of members of the Corps at work and some shots of the recruits preparing for their Passing Out Parade the following day. Sadly October 21st dawned cold and rainy and for the first time in eons the wet weather programme had to be adopted and so no filming could take place. The crew returned on December 16th for a second, more successful, attempt.

Sporting talent abounds in such a large unit and we were the winners of the District Championships for Athletics, Rounders and Swimming. Cpl Joan Gaskell, Cpl Jan Bird and LCpl Denise McNaught were selected to represent the Army in the above sports respectively.

Finally I will cite a few "one-off" tasks where individuals made an invaluable contribution to various events. Five cooks joined No 5 Catering Region in Denmark to feed those participating on Ex AMBER EXPRESS, and two Cpls assisted with the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Guildford. Many members have been the "civilian population" on NI training exercises, have volunteered for tests at Porton Down and have helped local disabled residents tackle their shopping throughout the year and at Christmas.



Queen Noor with Brigadier Meechie and Major Howitt.

THE LAST HAIRDRESSER

With the return to civilian life of Pte Isobel Cox, the employment of hairdressers in the Corps has come to an end after more than forty years. The last "appointment" went to Major John Howitt RAEC, Unit SEO.

A GIFT TO THE WRAC CENTRE

Following her visit on July 23rd last year, Her Majesty Queen Noor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has graciously presented to the WRAC Centre the magnificent piece of silver shown below.

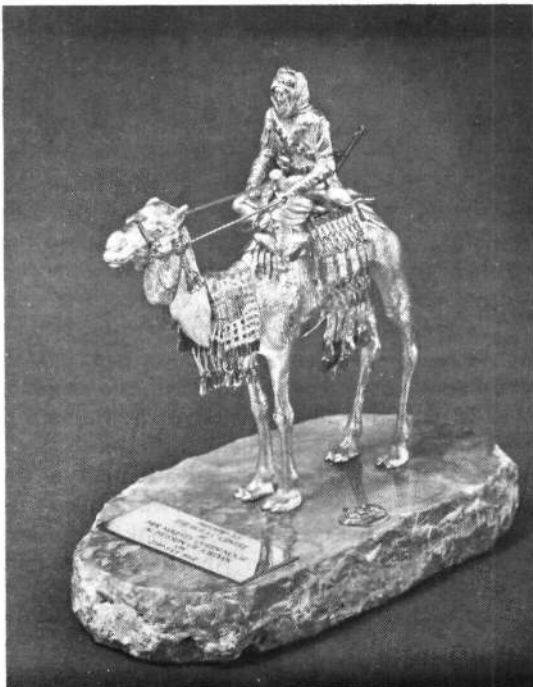
Accompanying the gift was a letter to the Director which reads: "I remember with pleasure the interesting tour of your facility at Guildford and, with this in mind, I would be pleased if you would accept this small gift to join the other distinguished donations in your Mess. The visit was inspirational in our efforts to develop some kind of similar experience for women in Jordan and I hope that a connection may be formed between our two countries.

I send you, and your colleagues at the WRAC, warmest wishes for the coming year and my hopes for continuing successes in your work".

Noor Hussein



The unkindest cut of all!
Capt James and LCpl Pickles with Pte Cox laughing in the background.



ROYAL VISIT TO HONG KONG

HRH The Duchess of Kent visited the WRAC in Hong Kong on October 27th last year. She was greeted on arrival at HQ British Forces by the Commander British Forces, Major General D Boorman CB and Commander WRAC Major E D Elliott MBE.



Major Elliott is presented to the Controller Commandant.



The Duchess of Kent meets Sgt L A Carter in the Joint Comcen in HQ British Forces.



The Duchess of Kent, accompanied by Captain B M Quinlan talks to members of the WRAC.
L - R. Pte Brennan, Pte Oldham, Pte Davies, Pte Luff, Pte Jewell.

HQ BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG

The Chinese Dragon Boat Race Festival

13 WRAC and 8 WRENS from Headquarters British Forces took part in the 1982 Dragon Boat Race Festival. The Chinese Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the death of Wat Yuen, a Government Official who drowned himself in 296 BC. Races take place all over Hong Kong and the Far East to symbolise the Chinese attempts to divert the sharks from Wat Yuen's body by beating the water with sticks.

We entered the Stanley Competition against 11 other women's teams. Practices began in May in wooden boats provided by the race organisers. The boats, rather like those shown at the start of Hawaii 50, hold 22 paddlers, a drummer and a helm. After several disasterous attempts by OC WRAC to fulfil the role of helm, we decided that more muscle was required. Thankfully Fleet Chief PTI Terry Linehan RN, offered to take over and his presence proved invaluable.

Paddling a canoe by oneself is by no means easy. Paddling in time with 21 others to the beat of a drum is almost impossible! Early practices

were accompanied by screams of frustration as paddles became entangled and girls hit their thumbs against the side of the boat. Practice makes perfect though, and by the end of the ten practices we considered ourselves as good, if not better, than previous service teams.

The day of the race, June 25th arrived all too quickly. It was a public holiday and unfortunately we woke to a very rough sea. We arrived at Stanley in time to see our male Joint Service team sink before the start of the race! They were by no means the only ones. By the end of the European men's competition, 15 teams had sunk without completing the course.

As we were now running an hour late, the organisers cut out the semi-finals for the women's events. This meant that we had to win our heat to qualify for the final. We were beaten by a foot for that place, which was disappointing as our lane positioning had not helped and our opposition were in the more sheltered spot. Nevertheless, true to Service tradition, the girls rallied round and are now looking forward to this year's event.

ROYAL BRUNEI MALAY REGIMENT WOMEN'S COMPANY

Major R D Patrick

Women's Company RBMR or Pasokan Askar Wanita (PAW) was a year old on 29 June last year. Since the formation of the Company, it has grown from the initial Loan Service team of 5, (plus 6 officer cadets) to 80 all ranks. Last August a further 50 servicewomen joined as new recruits, to be employed as Dental Surgery Assistants, Clerks, Comcen Operators, Pay Clerks, Drivers, Logistics Accountants, Storewomen, and, a breakthrough for the Regiment, the training of 4 midwives/medical orderlies. The second intake have completed trade training and are now employed within the Regiment. This will be interesting for us all as they settle into their jobs in a male dominated society! Two servicewomen from the first intake are currently in UK on courses, Pte Normah at Arborfield on a basic electronic technicians course, and LCpl Suraya on a PTIs course in Aldershot.

The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment was formed in 1962 and has expanded from a small force, trained and officered by the British Army, to the Regiment it is today. A small cadre of British servicemen and women are involved in training and support in what is now a tri-service force. The Regiment consists of two infantry battalions, a Flotilla, Air Wing, Armoured Recce Squadron, Combat Engineer Squadron, Force Workshops, Rapier Battery and the Women's Company. Future plans are to produce more technicians, as the Regiment relies heavily on a contract engineering firm — mainly expatriate. From August last year, selected youngsters from schools, both boys and girls, embarked on a 4 year avionics engineering course, the first two spent as civilians sponsored by the RBMR, and the last two as military members. Eventually they will maintain the helicopters and other sophisticated weaponry and equipment involved in RBMR. Elsewhere our recruiting for Women's Company is excellent — over five hundred applicants for fifty places.

Our first course of twenty-two servicewomen who joined last September have become our instructors, clerks, drivers, cooks and storewomen. They acted as "guinea pigs" for the main recruit courses following them. Training of all



WRAC/WRENS DRAGON BOAT RACE TEAM

Cpl Steinert, Cpl Davies, Cpl Wheeler, LCpl Raven, LCpl Fatkin, LCpl Webb, LCpl Kane, LCpl Heathcote, Pte King, Pte Benn, Pte Margison, Pte Wilson, Pte Luff, Pte Stewart, FCPT Lineham, LWren Dixon, LWren Hewitt, LWren Sangster, POWren Wilson, Wren Hogg, Wren Stephens, Wren Bostock, Wren Jones, Capt Quinlan.

recruits is very similar to that done by the WRAC. Activities such as drill, physical training, sport, education (military calculations and communication skills), first aid, hygiene, map reading, military subjects such as security, pay and allowances, fire training, kit inspections, introduction to the Brunei Enactment (military law), etc are also taught. Recruits are also taken into the jungle to be aware of the problems their male counterparts face and also because Brunei is more than 80% jungle. Additionally each recruit is taught to fire the M16 rifle from any position at 200 metres; a difficult task in the heat and humidity of Brunei. In fact the M16 rifle is nearly as big as some of our servicewomen. At present we do not carry weapons on parade, but in the near future it is likely that our women will carry the Colt Commando which is a 'scaled down' and lighter version of the M16.

The first course of potential NCOs have been shown all parts of the Regiment, and the types of employment offered. They thoroughly enjoyed their flights in helicopters and going to sea in the fast patrol boats from Flotilla. They even had the opportunity to go on roturks around the Flotilla base and the nearest islands. They had to come back down to earth when their NCO Cadre Course of 4 weeks took place, when they were taught more of their responsibilities as Junior NCOs, instructed in drill, methods of instruction, leadership, orders etc. They also organised a 'Beach Barbecue' and an evening entertainment. The climax of their course was an expedition to the jungle. The whole course plus OC, Platoon Officers and CSM were airlifted to the Temburong, a particularly deserted part of eastern Brunei. We were dropped in a small kampong (village) deep in the jungle with all our equipment. Over the next two days we walked eight miles in primary and secondary jungle following firstly an ancient Iban track, and then hacking our way through dense secondary jungle beside a major river. The first day was hard work, walking across small bridges, most of which had collapsed; along the track blocked in places by huge fallen trees; scrambling over landslides etc. We camped and made bashas that afternoon close to the river. As it was the rainy season it was very hot and wet. An interesting night followed with the OC having an eyeball to eyeball confrontation with a scorpion.

The following day saw us in secondary jungle which is very dense and thick, walking through the fields of the local Ibans and talking to them

whenever possible. Ibans (sometimes called Dayaks) are some of the original tribesmen of Borneo. They used to be very fierce, and are known throughout the world as the head hunters of Borneo. When we have visited them in their Longhouses they proved to be extremely kind and hospitable, with a great capacity for enjoyment, laughter, song, dance and the inevitable rice wine or tuak. Our last exciting moment of this trip was just half a mile from our RV point on the river with two military perahu or longboat. Sitting down for a rest in a clearing, the girls suddenly got up and ran across the clearing screaming with horror. The male sergeants unsheathed their parangs and pointed to a tree 20 feet away from us. In the branches of the tree was a huge black cobra coiled around one branch. The OC announced confidently that it would go away with all the noise being made and fortunately it slid away into the undergrowth. The expedition finished with the RV with the boats and we went down river in style to Bangar, the only town in the Temburong 18 miles downstream.

A Passing Out Parade of the 22 followed a week later, taken by the wife of the General Advisor to His Highness the Sultan. It was an exciting and emotional day with the Loan Service team solemnly shaking hands after completion of the Parade — but bursting with pride. There were many compliments, one of the most valued coming from Major E R C Flanders WRAC, DADWRAC Hongkong at the time, who was able to visit us for a few days.

After the experiment of the first course, our second course began in April last year, finishing finally on June 4th. The course had been lengthened slightly to allow more time for practical work. Map reading was taught almost completely out of doors, with numerous climbs to tops of hills to look at features. Drill improved as our young NCOs became more experienced and confident. His Highness the Sultan of Brunei was asked to be the Inspecting Officer, and we were all delighted and honoured when he accepted. After a great deal of hard work with rehearsals, programme production, seating plans, painting of everything not moving (not PAW staff who were the flashes of green seen running everywhere!) the "great day" arrived. His Highness arrived by helicopter having flown himself from one of his Istanas (palaces). All Malay members of PAW were on parade, with a 'back up' of R Company (the male Recruit Company). 2Lt Rosnani Ismail was the Parade Commander. Her words of

command and parade procedure were excellent, as she also had to give additional words of command for the male soldiers with their rifles. In all she commanded over 200 personnel on parade. His Highness took the inspection and salute expressing obvious delight that the girls were so smart and able. We were pleased that the WRAC slow march was used by the Director of Music on the first slow march past. A new quick march (Askar Wanita) and Advance in review order was followed by a speech from His Highness, which called upon all Bruneian women to follow the example set by Women's Coy — both in loyalty to the State and to himself, and dedication in the line of duty. After prayers and prize presentation, His Highness was shown around the RBMR museum before going to the Officers Mess. Here the PAW Officers were again presented to His Highness and he complimented us on a very good parade.

We are now reaching the end of Puasa or Ramadan — the fasting month which means that it is half day working only — 0730 hours to 1330 hours without a break and no food or drink. All non-Muslims are allowed to drink, eat and smoke, but we have to close our doors and not be seen. Any Muslim seen breaking the fast is fined by the religious courts. Major festivities are about to start with visits to His Highness and his wife in the Istana and visits to homes of our servicewomen and officers.

Brunei is a very interesting and exciting place to be at present. Although she is independent in internal affairs, Britain has overall responsibility for defence and foreign affairs until the end of 1983. The State is improving facilities for the independence celebrations and building is going on everywhere. Links with the Asian States of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia are becoming closer, and ministers visit these countries more and more. Ties with Australia are also becoming closer as the nearest coast (Western Australia) is only 5 hours flying time. The interior of Brunei becomes more modern as each Longhouse boasts its own TV, radios and cassettes. It is a changing world, a mixture of old traditions and beauty, and the new technology from the West and Japan. Our servicewomen with the approval and backing of His Highness lead their countrywomen into a difficult but challenging time for women in a Muslim State, and Brunei is now in transition to becoming an integral part of the international scene in South East Asia.

Where there's a will, there's a way...

... to help Peter and many other
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Cutting down trees in the jungle to build a Basha.



Constructing a bed on "A" poles cut from trees in the jungle.

LIFE ON THE ROCK

SSgt Karen Davies WRAC

Greetings from the Rock of Gibraltar! We are a very small WRAC contingent — only two SNCOs and four JNCOs, which is hardly surprising considering the size of Gibraltar, which is 3½ miles long and ¾ mile wide, with a population of about 29,000. Service personnel and dependants from all three Services account for 7,000 people.

The Service units are scattered all round the Rock, and the four JNCOs live with the WRAF at RAF Gibraltar, facing the steep north face of the Rock, a mere stone's throw away from Spain. They have all the usual advantages of living in a large unit, and are well liked and respected by the OC WRAF. Many 'joint Service' friendships have been formed, and Cpl Liz Beattie is busy planning her wedding in April to an RAF policeman. We wish her good luck and happiness in her second 'service' career.

Sgt Kate Payne and I are accommodated at Fortress Sergeants Mess, just off Main Street in the very centre of Gibraltar. As the name implies, it is the main street, offering a variety of shops, bars and restaurants. In some places it is just wide enough for single traffic and a single flow of pedestrians. When a cruise ship is in port Main Street resembles a slow exodus from a football ground, and the residents try to stay away until order has been restored.

As well as living at different locations, we also work in varied locations. The two Postal and Courier Operators, LCpl Gina Flood and Pte Carol Gilmartin, work in the Forces Post Office on RAF Gibraltar, occasionally being loaned out to help in the Navy's Fleet Post Office. Gina is also busy making wedding arrangements, as she marries a soldier from 1 Stafford, the infantry battalion stationed here, in January. Carol also has wedding plans, and shortly returns to 12 Coy WRAC. They will be missed here and our good wishes go with them.

Cpl Liz Beattie is clerk/typist to the small SIB detachment, but has spent a lot of her time working as PA to the Deputy Fortress Commander at Fortress Headquarters. Liz's office overlooks the Bay of Gibraltar and Spain one direction, and the Straits of Morocco in another. Very tempting on a hot Mediterranean day!

Sgt Kate Payne, Cpl Jenny Crockett and I

form the secretarial and clerical support on the military side for His Excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief. We work in his official residence, the Convent. Despite its name the Convent does not house nuns — although it was the home of Spanish Franciscan monks in the 16th century. However, there is the story of the grey nun who is said to haunt the Convent after being tried and found guilty by the Inquisition for breaking her vows. She was immured in one of the bedroom walls of the Convent after being caught when trying to elope in disguise with one of the monks. Thankfully she has not sought my company, although she did visit one Governor's wife in the 1950s!

As befits a Mediterranean resort, Gibraltar has a very temperate climate, rising to about 85°F in the summer and rarely falling below 60°F in the winter. Unfortunately, it is not always sunny, but is often hidden away under a cloud called "levante", which is a Spanish word for "easterly". The warm, moist air from the Mediterranean basin blows up against the Rock from an easterly direction, and rises quickly to form a dark, damp cloud of condensation over the city. Trapped by air currents it hangs over the Rock for sometimes weeks at a time.

The present Governor is an Admiral, but his predecessor was General Sir William Jackson, who retired a short while ago. Lady Jackson has very close links with the Corps. She joined the ATS in 1942, and as a young junior commander (captain) was posted to Singapore to the same staff branch as the then Lt Col Jackson. She left the Service on marriage in 1946. Lady Jackson has retained a great interest in the Corps and gave her full support to the WRAC in Gibraltar.



L-R: Sgt Kate Payne, Cpl Liz Beattie, General Sir William Jackson, Lady Jackson, SSgt Karen Davies, Pte Carol Gilmartin, LCpl Gina Flood.

3 PC REGT RE WRAC ELEMENT

3 Postal and Courier Regiment, Royal Engineers is stationed at Dusseldorf, West Germany. In addition to the Postal and Courier Operators, servicewomen from five other units are also administered. These are HQ Rhine Area, HQ 2 Gp RCT, Station Staff Dusseldorf, 626 MCTG RCT and REME Tech Services. Members of 16 Sig Regt, 12 Dental Gp RADC and 4 Sy Coy are also accommodated. The WRAC Element numbers a total of 73 servicewomen.

In the sporting field the girls have made their mark in BAOR, winning the BAOR (WS) Inter Unit Tennis Single and Doubles Championships, the BAOR (WS) Table Tennis Individual, Doubles and Inter-Unit Championships and the BAOR (WS) Volleyball Championships. They also won the 1982 Rounders League and were runners-up in the 1981-82 Hockey League. Lt Cunningham, Cpl Armstrong and Pte Smith represented BAOR in the Inter-Zone Tennis Championships and Cpl Armstrong also played Squash for BAOR and Table Tennis for BAOR, the Army and the Combined Services. Not surprisingly, we hope to do as well this season with our Cross Country, Hockey and Netball teams.

Last May, 3 PC Regt RE held its Annual Military Training at Olen Camp in Belgium where the WRAC spent ten days learning battle and weapons skills and brushing up their first aid, NBC and map reading skills. The training ended in a two day exercise putting into practice all the skills learnt. Cpl Hickson and LCpls Crossley and Allard, with LCpl Broughton as cycle orderly very nobly volunteered to join the 3 PC Regt RE team for the Nijmegen March. They all completed the distance in splendid style and marched very smartly in the parade afterwards. We also had three volunteers to attend the WRAC Survival Course at the Long Range Reconnaissance and Patrol School. LCpls Cooper, Patrick and McCammont are now experts at catching, killing, skinning and cooking their own dinner!

The highlight of the Summer was the opening of Elizabeth House, the new WRAC accommodation. The move into the accommodation finally took place on June 19th and it was officially opened at a reception on July 14th

by Brigadier H G Meechie, Director WRAC. The building is light and spacious and can accommodate 43 women. Everyone has a single room with a wash hand basin. Most rooms are arranged in groups of four, each with a set of ablutions. Each floor has a sitting room, ironing room, drying room and kitchen between 12-15 rooms. There is a laundry where the washing machines are plumbed-in and a paved outside drying area with rotary dryers. Huge cellars underneath are used to store luggage and garden furniture. There is a large grassed area behind the building for sun-bathing which will, eventually, be screened with bushes and trees for privacy. Elizabeth House is greatly appreciated by its occupants who now find the results of a domestic evening well worth the effort.



Brigadier Meechie unveiling the plaque to mark the official opening of Elizabeth House.



Elizabeth House in Caernarvon Barracks, Dusseldorf.

A LITTLE CHEER IN THE COLD NORTH

It was a cloudless sky and a very sunny day that welcomed Brigadier Eileen Nolan, the Deputy Controller Commandant to the North East in October. Her first visit for nearly 20 years started with attending the Northern Area of the Association Reunion held in the Royal Bath Assembly Rooms, Harrogate on Saturday 23 October.

Greeted by 122 members, Brigadier Nolan was invited to give a short presentation on the Association which brought everyone up to date on the latest news. She met many old friends and we were pleased to have her with us.

On Monday 25 October, Brigadier Nolan visited HQ North East District at York where she met Brigadier B P McGuinness, Deputy Commander and Colonel J D Redding, Deputy Chief of Staff. From here she visited the newly re-developed WRAC accommodation, South Side Flats, built on the flatlet concept and ultra modern in design. Ten girls share each flat, which is bright and cheerful and has a sitting room and utility room fully fitted with modern facilities. She was able to meet and talk with members of the WRAC in York employed with R Signals, RCT and RAPC.

The visit culminated in a luncheon given by the WRAC officers of the North East in the HQ North East District Officers' Mess. Last time she was in York, Brigadier Nolan was the Youth Liaison Officer at Cavalry Barracks, and no doubt she found many changes. She was delighted to see so many past and present members of the Corps.



LCpl Lorraine Youel, a military accountant with RPO York, shows her room to Brigadier Nolan. Capt Liz Warrick, Garrison Adjutant HQ York Garrison, looks on.

12 COMPANY WRAC

1982 was the centenary year of the Royal Engineers Postal Services. The highlight of the celebrations was the visit on July 16th of HM The Queen, which was followed on July 24th by the granting of the Freedom of the London Borough of Barnet.



Sgt Steward explains to the Queen what goes on in the sorting office at HQ PCDRE.

EXERCISE "OAK LEAF"

Exercise "Oak Leaf" was the annual camp for female members of the CCF from Alleyn's School Dulwich which 12 Company WRAC was tasked with organising, and which took place in the second week of August last year.

Our accommodation was the National Trust's Exmoor Base Camp in Countisbury, North Devon. In return for a reduction in the cost of the Base Camp, the nine cadets and six permanent staff worked for twenty hours on three of the National Trust's North Devon estates - Arlington, Heddon and Watersmeet. The work was very demanding and nobody escaped without a blister! Our tasks involved clearing paths using long handled scythes, cutting off the lower branches of developing trees and cleaning undergrowth around saplings. The National Trust does a great deal to preserve Britain's heritage and it was rewarding to feel we had contributed to some of their conservation work.

As the week was the cadets' summer camp,

some military and adventure training was included in the programme. Parades took place during the week and an orienteering exercise was held which was completed successfully by all the cadets. Some of the group went on a six mile pony trek across Exmoor while others went on a fishing trip. At the end of the week, in the pouring rain, everybody tried abseiling.

On our final evening, after a barbecue, each of the three syndicates performed a sketch in which they highlighted some of the funnier aspects of the week. Everyone agreed it had been successful and was a fine example of WRAC servicewomen and CCF cadets joining together to make an exercise enjoyable.



Cadets from Alwyn's School CCF working for the National Trust on the Countisbury estate.

WRAC DONNINGTON **Exercise Hardfell V** **Capt J E Grafton WRAC**

The WRAC Element COD Donnington, now redesignated C Company 15 Battalion RAOC, took advantage yet again of the adventurous training facilities at Capel Curig Camp North Wales from 6th - 20th August last year. Exercise Hardfell V was nearly abandoned when instructors were called away to Scotland to train unemployed school leavers or for duty in the Falklands. However, we were helped out by a group of people from various units who made the exercise go with a swing.

We managed to achieve a good deal of hill

walking, canoeing, rock climbing and orienteering. Pony trekking was an optional extra which provoked much hilarity. We also completed an overnight bivouac and I am pleased to say all the tents stayed up. Due to gale force winds and torrential rain I played coward the following week and the troops had a snug night indoors instead!

Extra mural activities ranged from a general knowledge quiz compered by Corporal Sue Blackburn, a current affairs lecture, a visit to a local castle, a pottery, a woollen mill, a pub and sports matches. We also got to know the other units in camp and on the final evening helped the RM Commando Cadets put on an amusing concert. This was followed by a farewell party with all units present. The Gurkhas, recently back from the Falklands were great company comparing their run up Snowdon a mere four times a day to our six hour slog once a day!

ROYAL VISIT TO DONNINGTON **Cpl L Ramsay WRAC**

Friday June 4th 1982 was certainly a day to remember. The day began much the same as any other, and though preparations had been extensive it took a few minutes after waking to realise that this was THE DAY!

Being a flower bearer, I had to report to HQ Building in the Depot at 0930, where I was to meet Major Ham who was in charge of flower bearers and umbrella men! Every effort was made to ensure that kit was immaculate, make up flawless and hair in place. The radio was on, as usual, but today the DJ mentioned Donnington. "The Queen will today visit the Ordnance Depot at Donnington". A cheer rang out from the accommodation block — the day had begun in blazing sunshine.

As the Royal car drew close to the HQ entrance bodies physically straightened up to look smarter than smart. The car door was opened and the Queen was here. The day continued according to plan, with the sun shining even stronger. The Queen seemed to have a smile for everyone. Flowers and cuddly toys were given to her in Building B5 and B6. The crowds were not great in number but their warmth and affection was overwhelming. A break for lunch was a delight. A change of shirt, a long, well earned drink and the cooks had done us proud — a royal salad!

The afternoon was even hotter but no-one

really cared; the Queen was here and we were all happy. The garden party was a treat, an array of colour and splendour. Uniforms were glistening in the sunshine and dresses were colourful and eye-catching. The Queen must have spoken to nearly everyone as the hot afternoon rolled on.

As the Royal car stood waiting for the Queen at the close of the afternoon, Private Heather Mallett, the youngest WRAC girl at Donnington, presented Her Majesty with a bouquet.



WO1 D Mapley talking to the Queen.

D COMPANY WRAC 16 BATTALION RAOC

Ex Final Try — Capelcurig

2 Lt K P Austin

Exercise Final Try was aptly named, for although D Coy had been involved with adventure training as part of 16 Bn RAOC on Exercise Holdfast Surprise at Aberdaron and Exercise Western Dragon at Penhale, the Company had two previous exercises cancelled, and this was to be the last attempt to organise their own adventure training before 1983.

The advance party set off on October 2nd and thanks to our MTO LCpl Gill Hills we made good progress to Capel Curig. On arrival at camp, the battery on the 4 tonner promptly exploded causing the brakes to seize. A fine beginning we thought! However, all was sorted out before the arrival of the main party on Sunday.

On Monday the training began, and so did the rain. A busy programme kept us all warm, and when spirits fell Sgt Caroline Johnson had a variety of songs to keep us cheerful. Our orien-

teering improved after a chaotic first session when everyone (except the OC camp of course) headed off in the wrong direction at the very first checkpoint. However, after a second briefing all checkpoints were found.

The weather could not spoil canoeing, where rain didn't matter as the whole party got soaked anyway. Rock climbing and abseiling were enjoyed by most, especially Pte Price, who despite needing the assistance of her safety rope a number of times, managed some very difficult climbs.

Our 2IC Captain Jane Gwilliam visited the camp and joined us for a session of canoeing, this time with rapids, and a session of pony trekking.

The grand finale was the Snowdon walk, where a splendid effort was made by all, Pte Dawn Newton bravely carrying a pack twice her size, and many soldiering on despite blisters. At the summit our rendering of 'Hey Jig a Jig' must have been the loudest ever. At least we were incognito!

8 SIGNAL REGIMENT CATTERICK

A team from 8 Signal Regiment, led by Lt O'Hara, took part in Exercise Maiden Scurry, a march and shoot competition held at Strensall. The long and arduous hours of training paid off when the girls were judged winners of the regular teams, and runners up in the overall competition which included TA and UOTC teams.



Cheerful faces of a successful team!

10 SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE EVERGREEN 82

Lt Annabel Stiff WRAC

Exercise Evergreen is designed to give members of 10th Signal Regiment the chance to escape from the somewhat mundane environments of the switchboards and COMMCENS of Southern England. Last year the exercise was held at Fremington Camp near Barnstaple. I attended the second week of the camp and luckily we were blessed with good weather.

The first day began with a 3 mile run as a warm up, followed by a long evening of lectures and briefings and finally a very welcome sleep. The next day the "great walk" began! Seventeen miles along the North Devon coastal path, a camp out overnight and a further seventeen miles over Exmoor the next day. Not only were blisters and sore feet a problem, but also heat rash and sunburn! The trek proved to be challenging but some of the cliff top views made it worthwhile.

Contrary to popular opinion, the WRAC do make good shots as they showed on the ranges at RAF Chivenor. After a morning of firing both SMG and pistol the girls went for a two hour pony trek on Exmoor. This was a great relief for the blisters and aching feet. Section tasks took up the entire Friday morning and gave everyone the chance to exercise their leadership. That afternoon sections set off to make maps on the sand dunes of Braunton Burrows in preparation for the night's march. After tea at Fremington we returned to the Burrows and discovered that what had seemed simple navigation by daylight was certainly a different matter in the dark. Eventually everyone found their way back to the car park and were welcomed by some hot soup.

There was an early start again on Saturday morning. Everyone completed two hours of NBC training, .22 range shooting, climbing and abseiling a 50 foot wall, and practice in setting up a VCP. After all this exercise not even the PTI's lecture on cholesterol could put anyone off their lunch! A disco, with entertainment provided in the form of section sketches, ended the camp in a relaxed mood. It was a good week and was certainly a welcome change from our normal working surroundings.

A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS

LCpl Karen Bassey (left) and Cpl Naomi Catton pictured with the money they raised for the South Atlantic Fund. Both are switchboard operators serving with 1 Sqn 10 Signal Regiment in Wilton and both are married to Paras. Cpl Catton's husband is with 1 Para serving in Northern Ireland whilst LCpl Bassey's husband is with 3 Para and served in the Falkland's where he was wounded.

We held a Squadron Barbecue on July 3rd at which Cpl Catton and LCpl Bassey organised a raffle and raised a total of £61.



12 RSME REGIMENT WRAC DETACHMENT

2 Lt V A Grimmett WRAC

56 SQUADRON RCT

Congratulations to those who entered the London Area heat of the Commercial Motor Lorry Driver of the Year Competition which was held at Ruislip last June and had a very successful day.

LCpl J M Smith won the Morris Trophy for the best lady driver, and the Austin Trophy for the best ladies team was won by LCpl J M Smith, Pte J Armstrong and Pte L J Harness.



L-R: Sgt D Hopper (Team Trainer), LCpl J M Smith, Pte J Armstrong, Pte L J Harness, Major (QM) T W Honeysett. The girls won the two rose bowls.

Last year's Summer Camp was spent at Strensall Training Camp near York. Although a long way for the Detachment to travel, the surrounding area and facilities provided more than enough to ensure that everybody was kept very active all week. Not only military skills were practised but other activities were included which gave us a chance to try something new.

The first exercise was map reading with a little extra thrown in. Cpl Naples set the groups off at intervals with an RV and several points to go through. But on the way they found both SSgts lying by the side of the road apparently injured, and although initially hesitant, each group managed to console and deal capably with their casualty. Prior training had been given in voice procedure, so the signals exercise ran very smoothly, giving everybody a chance to practise what they had learnt in the classroom. An exercise totally new to some was the escape and evasion exercise which took place near the Ripon Parks Training area. The "hunted" were dropped some distance from their final RV and left to fathom out where they were and find their way back without being spotted. Our two ACC cooks willingly helped track down the "escapees" and a few did get caught, but by no means all.

With superb range facilities by the camp, the range day was a great success. The competition shoot produced some good results and a fair amount of friendly rivalry as well. The final exercise took place overnight on Ripon Parks Training area, with the emphasis definitely placed on initiative. Slight problems were encountered when "enemy" patrols of CCF Paratroopers, also on exercise in the area, captured some of the friendly forces, but a solution was soon found. A great deal was learnt from this exercise especially that unless you request information, equipment — or even food — it does not arrive, no matter how hungry you are!

But it was not all hard work. Everybody was given the opportunity to go riding at the local stables. After searching for the brakes and failing to find anything resembling a steering wheel, most people enjoyed themselves — despite sore after effects. Some even came back for more!

The cooks managed to produce a scrumptious barbecue for an evening party on the last evening in camp, and with the prospect of 24 hour compo packs to come, it was much enjoyed.

LIFE WITH THE RAOC

2 Lt C A Tanner WRAC

I am a WRAC officer with a small platoon of girls attached to the RAOC Training Centre at Blackdown. On receiving my first posting order at the WRAC College my heart sank at the thought of moving four miles down the road to what seemed a very unexciting place. I was to be proved wrong! Since being attached to the RAOC in January last year I have been involved in many interesting ventures. I have literally thrown myself around the Blackdown assault course with the rest of the WRAC platoon. Crawling through wet sand lends a new meaning to "gritting your teeth" when you are still chewing it hours later!

As WRAC Platoon officer my main tasks are concerned with welfare and administration, in that order. The job itself incorporates much more than this and nobody can ever predict what is going to happen from one day to the next. The only parts of the job which never change are parades. In-nights and the never ending pile of administration. "In-nights" intrigue the men. They can never understand why I travel to the accommodation every Monday night just to chat to the girls. In fact it is a very important and useful period where I get to know the girls and they get to know me.

I have been lucky enough to be nominated for several sailing courses and completed one off-shore course alone with five men for a week. Needless to say the men survived! There were times though, when I thought I was dying while trying to cook a greasy breakfast with my stomach very close to my throat. Last May I went to Plymouth for two and a half weeks on the Units Summer Camp, where again I was mainly involved with sailing. On one particular day I was greatly embarrassed when, with four other people in my boat, I was unable to stop my dinghy heading straight for the pontoon and

half a dozen boats. Frantic attempts to correct my position failed and we ended up beached in shallow water with everybody shouting instructions at me. Feeling "all at sea" after this episode, I tried my hand at windsurfing. I spent three hours trying to stay on the surf board for more than two minutes at a time.

Eventually I managed to Sail Board all of four yards before postponing the exercise until another day. I decided it was easier to take up the prone position on the sand, soaking up ultra violet rays.

Several weeks after Plymouth I found myself with the RAOC Apprentices College at their Summer Camp in Tenby, South Wales together with three girls from my platoon. Despite my innate fear of heights, I found myself dangling from a cliff whilst supposedly rock climbing. To get over one particular crag I had to stand on the helmeted head of the poor climbing instructor. I was also catapulted into the air three times whilst para-ascending. It is amazing the lengths (or heights) to which one will go not to lose face when everybody else is eager to do their fourth or fifth jump.

After a year with the RAOC Training Centre, I can honestly say life has not been boring and I have enjoyed and learnt a lot from my first posting. Where next?

DEPOT REGT RA

The WRAC Battery of the Depot Regt RA won the Army Netball competition last March helped by girls serving with 56 Sqn RCT. Members of the team were Sgt Darby, Cpl Ashby, Cpl Davison, LCpl Lowe, LCpl Parker, Pte Baker and Pte Hardy.

EXERCISE QUARTER FINAL

Exercise Quarter Final was the last of three major field exercises to be staged in Germany last year. BAOR chiefs conjured up a realistic war scenario into which they put a massive fighting force, backed by 400 tanks and 6,600 other war vehicles, including armoured personnel carriers, along with 40 helicopters, some of which were gigantic troop carriers.

It all added up to a dynamic consolidation of our defences in West Germany, bringing into play an amalgum of 16,000 BAOR based regulars, plus a force of 4,000 regulars and territorial soldiers, who were especially flown out from the United Kingdom to take part in this three-brigade armoured divisional exercise.

The manoeuvres centred on an arena bounded by Brunswick, Hameln, Minden and Osnabruck in the north of Germany.

Surveying the battle scene from the top of an armoured personnel carrier was Captain Gillian Perks, attached to the Royal Army Educational Corps. Gillian — who did a B Sc degree in Pure Mathematics at Birmingham University — teaches soldiers to get through their promotion examinations, but during the exercise she has turned her back on classroom work in favour of doing a correspondent's job at the big mock war front in north Germany, during two major exercises, KEYSTONE and QUARTER FINAL. Swopping her teacher's chalk for an editor's pen, Gillian has turned out her own troop newsletter specially written for soldiers in the field which has been well accepted among the 24,000 troops taking part in the mammoth Rhine Army exercise.



On exercise.

66 YEARS ON THE WAAC

Have you heard of the latest advance? —
I don't mean of Tommies or Jacks
But this awful invasion of France
By these wonderful women the WAACs

Having filled all our places at home
They speedily turned their backs
Upon Blighty, and set out to roam
Over France, did these wonderful WAACs

At first we got only a few
But of late they've been coming in packs
And for weeks upon weeks upon weeks
We've had WAACs upon WAACs upon WAACs

There are Typists and Housemaids and Cooks
"Lady Carpenters", Chauffeurs and Clerks
And trades which you can't find in books
Are pursued every day by the WAACs

Like locusts they spread, and anon
Ere Haig thinks of launching attacks
All the Chiefs of his Staff must be drawn
From the NCO ranks of the WAACs

I hear that the Kaiser grows grey
And his poor crazy cranium cracks
That, in short, he is fading away
Through the tales he is told of the WAACs

He boasteth, poor fool, in his pride
That his Rhine can resist all our 'hacks'
But he'll want a more turbulent tide
Or his 'Fatherland' flooded with WAACs

When this wild wicked war is well won
Tumque nobiscum erit Pax
The foot on the neck of the Hun
Will be shod by the shoes of the WAACs

*Ian Nesbit
France 1917*

RETIRED OFFICER VACANCY

Immediate vacancy exists for R03 in WRAC Directorate at MOD. Full details available from MOD (WRAC) Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA or MOD (CM(S)4f), Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

TA

92 Signal Squadron (V)

Sergeant Glynnis Mann of 92 Signal Squadron (V) was presented with her Territorial Efficiency Medal on 16 November last year by Major General Michael Hicks, Commander North West District. The special ceremony took place at Canterbury Street TA Centre, Blackburn. For Sgt Mann the presentation was beautifully timed, as she retired officially from the Squadron the following day with twelve years TA service.



L - R: Major General Hicks, Major Dave Smith the Squadron Commander and Sgt Mann.

HQ 151 TRANSPORT REGIMENT RCT (V)

ATS BAND FOUNDER SIGNS OFF

Capt M A A Smith TD RCT (V)

Not many WRAC members can claim to have been one of the very first ATS, to have founded the *original* Corps band, or to have appeared in their own show at the Aldershot Garrison Theatre in a fairy costume and ammo boots. But Miss Edna Rimington, who has just retired after nearly 20 years' service to the TA as a civilian clerk, has done all that and more.

Volunteering at not quite 18 for the ATS Company formed in Wimbledon by the formidable Mrs McGregor-Whyte – "no reams of Army Forms then, just a few lines on her headed writing-paper"! – W/1233 Volunteer Rimington went to Camp with the 6th Surrey Regiment TA in August 1938, and mobilised a year later. Although nearly all her war was officially spent in Parsons Barracks, Aldershot, it was by no means uneventful. Life clearly needed livening up, so young Edna, whose family had theatrical connections, was instrumental in starting the very first ATS band early in 1941. She was the solo drummer. This Aldershot's band success inspired the formation of the official ATS band, which it pre-dated by about a year. Not content with that, Edna Rimington also scripted an increasingly ambitious series of pantomimes and variety shows, appearing alongside peacetime professionals as a comedienne. Meanwhile, despite a total language barrier, tiny Corporal Rimington also commanded a gang of friendly Italian POWs working on the RAOC sidings. "They used to leave me little presents like baked hedgehog; the thought was nice but the taste was awful".

Edna was posted to the Demobilisation Centre at Olympia shortly before the end of the war and her own release. She managed to make a theatrical connection even there by demobbing David Niven. Prevented by family commitments from staying on in the ATS as a member of the official band, Edna spent several years as dresser

to Dame Anna Neagle. In 1960 she donned uniform again as a sergeant clerk in the WRAC TA detachment attached to 39 Signals Regiment in London. Serving until 1969, she then started working for the TA as a civilian. In 1969 she was posted as civilian Chief Clerk to HQ 151 Transport Regiment RCT (V) at Croydon, and gave loyal and valuable service there until her retirement on New Year's Eve 1982.

Now living in New Addington, near Croydon, Edna Rimington has no intention of stagnating. She plans to devote even more time to the local RSPCA clinic, and to a new interest — writing children's stories. No one who has had the pleasure of serving with her will doubt they will be well typed, well thought out — and fun to read.

We wish her well in her new venture.

39 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Visit of DWRAC

We were pleased to be able to welcome the Director, Brigadier Meechie, on her visit last September to our TA Centre in London. During her visit the Brigadier met the Staff at RHQ, all regular soldiers who keep the Regiment running while the rest of us are at our civilian jobs. She then went on to meet the members of HQ Sqn starting with our Recruiting Office. There she had a chance to talk to some of our newest recruits and to find out what had brought them to the TA in the first place. She then toured the remaining HQ Sqn offices meeting girls employed as clerks, medical assistants, drivers, cooks and stewardests.

From there she went to 1 Sqn training rooms and met some girls taking a typing test and others who were learning how to tune one of our radios. She also saw some girls from 3 Sqn (Tunbridge Wells) and 5 Sqn (Banbury) who had travelled to London for the visit.

Despite the lack of time the Brigadier managed to have a few words with most of the girls, finding out what their civilian jobs were and why they enjoyed the TA. The evening was rounded off with a short stop for a drink in the Lynx Club followed by supper in the Officers Mess before the Brigadier's departure.



Brigadier Meechie talks to Captain Liesching, the recruiting officer, and two new recruits.



Pte Breach (far left) and Pte Fletcher (left) are taught operation procedure by Cpl Elder (right).



Sgt Hardy and LCpl Stewart-Brown from 3 Sqn (Tunbridge Wells) show their work to Brigadier Meechie.

33 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Princess Anne's Visit

Captain Catriona Millar WRAC (V) hosted the visit of HRH Princess Anne, Colonel in Chief The Royal Corps of Signals, when she visited 33 Signal Regiment and 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V). Captain Millar commands the Squadron's Communications Centre, and her civilian job is teaching modern languages in Chester.

Later in the tour of the Regiment's Squadrons, Major Jenny Hindshaw who commands Headquarters Squadron was presented to Princess Anne.



Captain Millar standing beside Lt Col Tony de Vere Hunt, CO of 33 Signal Regiment.

37th (WESSEX & WELSH) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

WRAC representatives from the whole Regimental Area came together on July 6th last year to express their pride in the achievement of Lt Col Jean Blackwood, the first WRAC Officer to command an operational regiment, and to present her with a Royal Signals commemorative plaque.

37 (Wessex & Welsh) Signal Regiment gathers its strength from Stratford-upon-Avon, Stourbridge and Cheltenham in the north, Cardiff and Brecon in the west and Bridgwater and Exeter in the south. RHQ, together with 57 Sqn, is well placed in Bristol, the hub of the Regiment.

Lt Col Jean Blackwood joined the Regiment

as a Lieutenant on its formation on 1st April 1967. She has had a great deal of experience of command, having been Troop Commander of Receiver Troop, 57 (City & County of Bristol) Signal Squadron. Promotion to command 57 Signal Squadron followed and she went on to fill the appointment of Second in Command of the Regiment, taking in her stride the appointment of PMC of the Regimental Officers Mess.

A Signal Regiment is a complex command requiring technical and administrative expertise. We wish our new Commanding Officer success and offer our congratulations on being "The First".



Lt Col Blackwood displaying the Royal Signals plaque after the presentation.

UOTC

FIFTH CONSECUTIVE WIN FOR NORTHUMBRIAN UOTC

On the weekend 19th-21st November last year, a team of WRAC from Northumbrian Universities Officers Training Corps led by Lt Judith Skilbeck were once again the outright winners of North East District Troops Annual March and Shoot Competition, Exercise Maiden's Scurry. This is not an unusual event for the Unit, as in fact, it was the fifth consecutive time that Northumbrian UOTC had succeeded in overcoming opposition from both regular and territorial army units to win the event. To underline the Unit's strength, a second team from Northumbrian UOTC containing some recruits finished in third place.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1983

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

It is only fitting that in the year that full-bore shooting became a feature in the WRAC sporting calendar, it should also happen that one of its highest standards was attained by a member of the WRAC.

Captain Hazel Mackintosh TD WRAC (V) represented Northern Ireland in full-bore target rifle, in both the individual and pairs events, at the 12th Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. Not only did she attain Northern Ireland's first medal of the Games, but also the first medal ever for full-bore shooting. This success was attained in the pairs event, wherein she was partnered by Belfast born RAF pilot David Calvert.

Hazel took up small-bore shooting when still reading for her Chemistry degree at Queen's University in the mid sixties. To this interest she added full-bore target rifle in 1971, which she has vigorously pursued at national and international level, and has won many trophies at Bisley.

In 1975 she qualified as a Regional Coach, and many officer cadets at Queen's OTC, where she is the main instructor on small-bore shooting, have benefited from her enthusiasm.

She is a civilian instructor with 2390 Sqn ATC from Belfast Royal Academy, where she teaches, and she coaches young students in the art of small and full-bore shooting. She is also an active member of the Ulster Rifle Association, with whom she practises and competes.



Capt Mackintosh collating small-bore scores.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 12 March 1983 at 2.30 pm in the Carisbrooke Hall at The Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch).

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 17 April 1982
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 — Election of Council Vice President
8. Any other Business
9. Place of next Meeting

It is necessary for all members attending the AGM to have tickets to obtain admittance to The Victory Services Club. Tickets can be obtained from the General Secretary, WRAC Association, Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH.

The AGM will be followed by a Band Concert given by the Staff Band of The Women's Royal Army Corps lasting about 45 minutes. A cup of tea will be available after the Band Concert.

REUNIONS

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1982

A large and happy crowd gathered in the Royal Baths Assembly Rooms in Harrogate on 23 October for the Northern Area Reunion. In addition to members from various Northern Area Branches we were delighted to welcome a

number of "new faces" from other parts of the country. Apologies for not being able to attend were received from Miss Learmouth and Miss Sheila Gowans.

Colonel V K Stead, Vice-Chairman of Northern Area, introduced the new Chairman Lt Colonel G K Ramsey, who expressed pleasure at being present to meet everyone, both ex-service and serving. She extended a special welcome to the Deputy Controller Commandant, Brigadier E J Nolan CB and also to her own husband Lt Col M Ramsey, who had bravely agreed to face the sea of female faces as Guest Speaker!

Brigadier Nolan thanked Northern Area for inviting her to the Reunion and said how pleased she was to be back in this part of the world where she always felt so much at home. She brought greetings from the Director, Brigadier H Meechie who had just returned from abroad and was unable to attend, and also from all at Corps HQ. Brigadier Nolan also said how pleased she was to see the new Chairman of the Association, Colonel F M Cook, who would be taking office shortly. After commenting on the huge success

of the Plymouth weekend and passing on various items of Association news, Brigadier Nolan concluded by giving an explanation and progress report on the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

Lt Col M Ramsey then gave a fascinating talk on Hong Kong where he had until recently been Assistant Provost Marshal. His beautiful colour slides were greatly enjoyed (particularly by those present who had also at some time served in Hong Kong) and we all had a very clear picture both of service life and the colourful and exotic background.

A vote of thanks was given by Miss A Walton of Sheffield Branch.

Tea and chatter then became the order of the day -- and as many people had met friends whom they had not seen for many years a lot of reminiscing took place over the tea cups!

Towards the end of the afternoon the raffle was drawn and the lucky prizewinners collected the large array of goodies awaiting them. Then, regretfully, everyone gradually dispersed to start homeward journeys, and yet another successful Reunion had come to an end.



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QMAAC REUNION

First World War veterans — all ladies in their 80's and 90's and members of the QMAAC, the forerunners of the ATS of the Second World War — met for a day's reunion in Meads, Eastbourne, in July.

The Old Comrades Luncheon Club had been disbanded after the 1981 Annual Luncheon, as many members had difficulty in travelling to London from all parts of the country, and this reunion was planned for those living along the south coast. In fact they also came from as far afield as Essex, Plymouth and Cirencester.

These stalwarts of 68 years ago had many stories to tell — some grim, but all recounted with humour, and the room reverberated with happy laughter. One had joined the newly formed Women's Emergency Corps at the beginning of the War in 1914 and was among the first of the "women soldiers". The others had joined on the formation of the WAAC in 1917. They were often scoffed and jeered at, until they proved their worth. They had come from all walks of life, some had served in England and some in France.

They were greeted by a Union Jack and their hostess Mrs E Sedgwick (known as "Shep" in the Calais area where she was a driver-mechanic attached to the Army Service Corps). They were served drinks, a buffet lunch, and, later, tea by her daughter and two friends. It was an exhausting day with six to eight hours of chattering and story swapping, to say nothing of travelling time. However it was undoubtedly a very successful and happy day for all.



Mrs E Sedgwick (in the chair) surrounded by Mrs F Williams, Mrs G Williams, Mrs N Giles, Miss C Doar, Mrs G Parry, Mrs V Hill, Miss I Bray, Mrs M Curtis.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The 21st Birthday Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club took place on Saturday 2nd October 1982 at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, and was attended by nearly 300 members. A splendid cake was kindly donated by Marks and Spencer.

A special effort had been made to collect as large a sum as possible in aid of The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and a cheque for £459.05 was handed by the President to Brigadier Nolan.

The Membership of the ATS Dinner Club, which is open to all ranks, now stands at 598. Former members of the ATS who wish to join should write to the 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 W1 on Friday 11 March 1983 from 3 pm to 5.30 pm. Tickets price £1 from Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION — 1983

The Northern Area Reunion will be held on Saturday 22 October 1983 from 2.30 - 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. Tel: 0423-57023.

Overnight or "weekend break" accommodation at reasonable cost can be arranged if required.

MANCHESTER BRANCH

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm in the RAMC Barracks, Kings Road, Manchester 16.

ROTHESAY, ISLE OF BUTE 1940-45 REUNION 25 APRIL - 6 MAY

The citizens of Rothesay, Isle of Bute, have conceived the idea of a Reunion for all those who, as members of the armed forces served on the Isle of Bute from 1940 to 1945. The Marquess of Bute has accepted the office of Patron to the Rothesay Reunion with GOC Scotland as Honorary Joint President.

So far as can be ascertained, predominantly Royal Navy formations, mainly of submarines with surface support and the Naval Headquarters at Kyle of Bute Hydro were present during this period. The army presence consisted of Commandos, Royal Engineers (Amphibious and Bridging Units), RASC and Ack Ack units.

A skeleton programme for April 26th to May 6th covering items as wide ranging as whist drives (apparently popular at the time), fashion show, ballroom and country dancing, military band performances, variety shows and of course Receptions are planned with the organisers asking for the presence of HMS Rothesay, and a submarine which hopefully will be "open to visitors". It is also intended, if sufficient material is available to mount an exhibition of papers, memorabilia and above all photographs of the period.

Obviously this Reunion will be naval orientated but the organisers are keen to welcome back all who served in Bute during the period 1940-45, and this means any members of the ATS who served in Rothesay at that time.

Further particulars from A. Hatfield, 40 East Princes Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute, and if you have any papers, photographs etc, please contact Mr J Macnamara, 30 Argyll Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute.

If there is sufficient support from ex-ATS members for this reunion, Captain P M Stevenson (Retd) ACIO, 78 Queen Street, Glasgow, will liaise with the organisers to arrange an ATS function within the programme.

WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH Meetings 1982

Meetings at the Maltings Day Centre, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton 7.30 - 9.30 pm on Mondays 24 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, August, 26 September, 24 October, 28 November, December.

BRANCH NEWS

GREATER LONDON The branch has now entered its second decade and the membership over those years has grown from about 50 to over 150 members. Because our membership is so widely spread geographically — from St Albans to Eastbourne — the average attendance at meetings is about 30. We are very fortunate to be able to meet at a Church Hall right in the middle of London, which makes travelling slightly easier for some members who live at a distance.

The branch has settled down into a yearly routine of an AGM in October, another meeting in March with a theatre outing in January and a summer outing in June or July. This year we went to see "Cards on the Table" at the Vaudeville Theatre and, in July, we visited Clondan Park near Guildford. There was also a rather special extra visit on an evening in May to the Tower of London, which included being present at the Ceremony of the Keys. The visit was kindly arranged by our new Secretary's husband who is a Yeoman Warder.

HARROGATE The Branch has enjoyed another successful year with an increase in membership and enthusiastic support from all the members.

We were all saddened by the death of our former Chairman, Georgina Winterburn, following a painful and distressing illness. Members attended the Requiem Mass and a donation of £20 from members and friends was sent to St Gemma's Hospice in lieu of flowers. "Georgie" was a popular and loyal member of the Branch and her presence at our get-togethers is greatly missed.

During the year we have visited the theatre three times – twice to Harrogate Theatre to see "Plaza Suite" and "Hindle Wakes" and the third visit to the Royal Hall to enjoy "Kismet".

As usual, food has figured prominently in our programme and gastronomic delights have included our Annual Dinner at the Open Arms Restaurant, supper at the "Cock and Castle", a fish and chip supper following a safari in Harrogate's lovely Valley Gardens and a Faith Supper in our meeting room. We also had a very interesting talk on Cheeses by the proprietors of "The Cheeseboard" (a local specialist cheese shop) and mouth-watering samples of rare and unusual cheeses were enjoyed by all.

Another outing was a Mystery Tour of the Yorkshire Dales, arriving in Ripon in time to hear the Hornblower blow his historic horn in the Market Place and to enjoy an unexpected bonus in the form of a display by Morris dancers who happened to be performing around the Market Cross that evening.

We were invited as a Branch to attend a Marks and Spencer "Fashion Spectacular" at the new Conference Centre and a demonstration of New Zealand lamb cookery at the Royal Hall. Members took advantage of both, even though they occurred on consecutive days!

In addition to a couple of social evenings when everyone caught up with the news, nearly all members of the Branch attended the Northern Area Reunion and were able to see some of our more distant members who live too far away to attend normal meetings.

Once again we operated our Tombola and Competition stalls at the Rotary Charity Gala, which unfortunately struck a wet and chilly day this year. Some hasty re-arrangements by the organisers enabled us to raise a useful sum for the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. In view of the weather it was amazing how many people turned out to support the event.

LONDON We had good attendances at our meetings in 1982, and continue to get new members. One of our members, Miss Ivy Brown gave an interesting account of her holiday in Australia, and Mrs Win Arnold, also a member, who does valuable work for the London City Mission, told us of the help that is given to people in need.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in November, when our committee and officers were elected, and we sent a donation to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

Members were present at the Parade at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

A varied programme has been arranged for 1983, including talks on the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Royal British Legion.

MANCHESTER Our membership has increased this year to 92 which includes 22 members from Bolton Sub Branch. The meetings are fairly well attended but many of our members live too far away to come regularly.

The first meeting last year was in March where all the talk was about the Plymouth reunion. In April seven members attended the Plymouth reunion and enjoyed a memorable weekend. In May four of our members visited Liverpool Branch for a very short but most enjoyable time, and not forgetting to mention the lovely refreshments we tucked into! It was also very nice to have met some members from Chester Branch. In June we held our Annual Dinner at the Masonic Temple Manchester. This was an enjoyable evening and we welcomed many old friends. Edna Davidson had travelled from Yorkshire to be with us. Later in the month ten members visited our Treasurer's home and enjoyed a lovely lunch and wine in her garden. £5 was sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund as the result of the Bring & Buy Sale.

In August fifteen members went to the British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Home in Blackpool, where a bed was being dedicated. Our Branch is pleased to have been part of the fund-raising team. Several members joined the Battle of Britain parade and service in Manchester Cathedral in September, and the sub Branch in Bolton held a dinner in late October at which fifteen members were present.

Six members paraded in Bolton on Remembrance Sunday. Fourteen members paraded at

the Cenotaph in Manchester, and the wreath was laid by Mrs Trimble. Our Bring & Buy and Buffet Supper was held on December 2nd. Several members came and gave generously and enjoyed a pleasant evening. Our thanks to everyone who donated and gave goods.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Betty Dean who has left the area. Betty has been a loyal and hardworking member for many years, and we wish her and Raymond many happy years in Wales.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday March 3rd.

SALISBURY We continue to meet at the Royal British Legion Club during the winter, while summer meetings are held in members' homes. Those of us who attended the Grand Reunion in Plymouth had a most enjoyable weekend.

In May, we shall be hosts for the Area Reunion and we look forward to meeting old friends on Sunday May 15th.

Betty Everall (nee McQuire) died last August after a short illness. Many members will remember her as a Sgt Cook in Southern Command days. She was a very lively member of the branch and will be much missed.

We are looking forward to our annual party in March at UKLF Wilton.

SOUTHAMPTON We are pleased to report a successful and happy year. Membership remains healthy and meetings are well attended but we would like to attract some younger ladies to bring fresh ideas to the branch.

Last March we invited the local WRNS Association branch to a Quiz evening. It was so enjoyable that we invited them to join in our Cheese and Wine party which is a fund-raising occasion always held in July. On that occasion we were able to send £50 to the South Atlantic Fund. The WRNS in turn invited us to a Musical Quiz and buffet supper which was a splendid occasion, and also to their Trafalgar Day celebrations.

STAFFORD Towards the end of 1981 our Secretary, Miss Dilly Norcott decided after seventeen years in office that it was time to retire from being an active member of the Branch, and a presentation was made to her at the Annual Dinner in January. At first it was thought that the Branch would have to close down as there were no volunteers to carry on the good work but in February Mrs Daphne Jervis, who for a time was Chairman of the Branch, was persuaded to take on the duties of Secretary.

Once the changeover was completed we settled down to a successful year and have recently recruited two new members. Our activities have been varied and included a Beetle Drive which was a new experience to some of our members and caused a lot of laughs, speakers on various subjects including a talk on Stafford's twin town, Dreieich, in Germany, cake decoration and a fascinating evening of slides with music. During the summer we were invited to the home of our President Mrs Ruth Dickson, for a buffet supper, and on another evening we had a ramble on our local beauty spot, Cannock Chase.

Two of our members attended the Reunion in Plymouth in April and were full of praise for the excellent organisation throughout the whole time there. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On two occasions this year we have run a Tombola stall at events run at a local home for handicapped people. As we found all the prizes, the profit was divided between us, so helping a worthy cause and increasing our bank balance.

We now look forward to a successful 1983.

ULSTER Our AGM was held in November at the RBL Hall in Bangor and was well attended. Mrs May Milne was elected President, Mrs Elizabeth Buckley, Chairman, Mrs Alison Warnock, Vice Chairman, Miss Gwen Angus, Secretary and Miss Letitia Arthurs, Treasurer. The branch has donated a total of £350 towards welfare and medical appeals.

Many of us accepted the invitation of the Omagh Branch to their annual luncheon which was held in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh and it was a very enjoyable occasion.

Forthcoming events will be our Annual Luncheon on March 5th and our Wine and Cheese evening at Government House, Hillsborough some time in May.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND Weymouth & Portland Branch held their annual dinner dance on March 6th last year at the Hotel Prince Regent, Weymouth. 112 people had a very enjoyable evening, and for the members it was also our 25th year as a branch, making it a double celebration. We had a 20" x 20" cake, fully decorated and with the Corps colours and ATS badge.



Admiring the birthday cake before the celebration dinner.

WOLVERHAMPTON 1982 was a very successful year with increased membership and more members attending meetings. From the hidden talent among members we have learnt what to do with old Christmas cards and how to make paper flowers.

In May we had a social afternoon at the Royal British Legion Penn when Iris Ricketts showed her cine film of the Plymouth reunion. Stafford branch members joined us for the afternoon, and Mrs Roberts, our QMAAC member, brought a piece of her delicious golden wedding cake. In June, once again members enjoyed an afternoon at Shelah Lambahs.

Our Norwegian member, Dorothy Melby, was in England on holiday and gave a talk on War Graves in Norway at our August meeting.

In November, our chairman once again carried our standard at the Festival of Remembrance at the Civic Hall in Wolverhampton. On stage this year were two Gurkhas and a Chelsea Pensioner, all of whom received a great ovation.

Donations last year were sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, the Royal British Legion Housing Association Amenities Fund and the Royal British Legion Penn.

Correspondence

Miss D G Hart (ex SSgt ATS) of 28 Coneyburrow Road, Sherwood Estate, Tunbridge Wells has written to us about her experience with the British Expeditionary Force in France in 1940. "We did our overseas training under Junior Commander Maxwell, at Saltdean near Brighton, and embarked from Southampton for Le Havre. Various detachments were dropped off at Mons, Arras, Paris and finally at Nantes which was our HQ where we were attached to a RASC MT unit. Our CO was Senior Commander Wagstaff, and our billets were large Nissen huts in the grounds of a large chateau.

"We came out by truck, sleeping in ditches, railway sidings, monasteries and other odd places finally arriving at St Malo. There we had to load what was left of our baggage — the French dockers ignored us — and join the other men and women packed like sardines on the Belgian SS Princess Astrid. We had to wait at St Malo for the girls from Arras and Paris (the switchboard operators in Paris stayed at their posts until the last possible moment) but finally we set sail, only to be turned back after one and a half hours at sea by a British submarine who requested our captain to escort a hospital ship back to England. We set off again, and this time reached Southampton safely on June 16th 1940, from where we were sent to the ATS Training Centre at Aldermaston".

Mrs Joyce Hall (nee Preston) of 107 Langdale Gardens, Estover, Plymouth PL6 8SW served with 539 (M) HAA Battery at Netley and afterwards with 435 (M) HAA Battery in Essex as a radar operator. She would love to hear from anyone who served in these units with her.

Mrs A F T Holt of 72 Pendlebury Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 4BU, a member of the Manchester branch, is collecting material for a record of "Women in the Second World War". She asks for articles and photographs and will copy and return them if the owners so wish.

Mrs Doreen Ashcroft (Pte Doreen Riddle) of 71 Jackroyd Lane, Newsome, Huddersfield, West Yorks HD4 6RB who served with Royal Signals 'D' Company stationed at Slaithwaite 1942-1944 seeks reunion with her war-time friends — especially those who were with her in the Officers Mess, Beech House, Neilds Road, Slaithwaite. Namely Hester (cook), Nina (assistant cook) whose home town was somewhere in Scotland, Jenny (batwoman), Hilda, Enid and Gladys, and not forgetting Nellie who was down at the Mill.

She also wishes to contact friends who were with her at Army HQ East Hill School, Ashford, Kent, namely Anne, Florrie and Joan Parris whose home town was Chatham at that time.

Mrs Evelyn O'Neill ("Tommo" Thompson) of 33 Bede Burn View, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear, and a member of the Newcastle Branch served in 484 HAA Battery RA from 1941-1946. She writes that since joining the branch she has met seven of her "484" friends, and hopes to meet or hear from others.



Four ATS members of 484 HAA Battery RA in Belgium in November 1944.

Mrs L Allott (nee Lily Parker) of 2 Caples Street, Reefton, South Island, New Zealand would like to contact old friends who served with her in 463 LAA Battery at Combe Hill, Wendover, Bucks and also in the Middle East.

Mrs Doreen Hargreaves (nee Dewar) of 107 Buncer Lane, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 6SY would like to hear from anyone who served with No 2 Command Signals HQ York from 1942-1946 or any ex-ATS in her area.

Mrs Ann Gowing (nee Pte Matthews) of 4 Gibraltar Crescent, West Ewell, Epsom, Surrey who is a member of the Wimbledon branch, would very much like to hear from anyone who served at the Command Pay Office in Mickleham, Surrey. She is still in touch after forty years with one friend from those days, but would so much like to meet some of the others again.



Imprest Section of the Command Pay Office at Mickleham, Surrey in July 1942.

Bottom Row L-R: Pte Matthews (now Mrs Ann Gowing), LCpl Newman, Pte Mowbray, Lt Craecroft, Pte Hand, Pte Waters, Pte Bruce.

Mrs M E Dann of "Wayside", 10B Glebe Road, Dersingham, Nr Kings Lynn, Norfolk writes that she has been trying to find her old ATS colleagues for more than two and a half years. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers working in the RAOC Stores at a vehicle repair workshop in Buntingford, Hertfordshire from 1943 to 1946. She was then Pte Talbot (Basher) and she particularly wants to contact those who shared Hut 13.

Miss Madge Cole (ex SSgt WRAC) of Flat 2, 82 Davenport Avenue, Hessle, N Humberside HU13 0RW has been very ill and is hopefully making a good recovery. She has written a letter to Corps HQ expressing her gratitude and appreciation for a grant from the Benevolent Fund to cover the cost of travel to stay with friends in Germany, so that she could have a holiday.

Miss Cole would be greatly encouraged if members who served with her from 1961-1977 would get in touch with her.

MARRIAGES

Mrs C Salusbury Jones

At St Margaret's Church of Scotland, Gillingham, Kent on 11th September 1982, Captain G A Thomson WRAC to Major G M White RE.

On 1st October 1982 in Norfolk, Anne Ramsden (ex WO2 WRAC) to D Whitaker (ex REME).

Will old friends please contact on Wymondham 606987.

The members of the 11th County of London ATS formed in 1938 in Kensington and attached to Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment would like to pay tribute to their Senior Leader who died on July 27th 1982.

Mrs Salusbury Jones (nee Adams) served with QMAAC in Rouen during the first world war and remained in France until the Corps was disbanded. She joined the ATS in 1938.

She was a grand person, and a great friend and helper to all new members of the unit as they joined up in 1938 and 39. The company went to Longmoor in September 1939 to the Royal Engineers Training Camp and her previous experience of army camp life was a great help to all.

Members of the 11th County of London ATS when they met at the 1982 ATS Dinner Club luncheon last October agreed that she would be much missed by us all.

AMW

TRIBUTES

Colonel M D Thorne CBE TD

Colonel Diana Thorne's death on July 14th will have come as a shock to those members who served with her in the ATS and the WRAC TA and and who saw her at the Reunion in Plymouth last April.

Colonel Thorne enrolled as a Company Commander (Captain) on November 1st 1938. By June 1941 she was DADATS Eastern Command, and then became DDATS Eastern Command with the temporary rank of Controller, an appointment which she held until May 1944. Subsequent appointments were at AFHQ in Italy, West Scotland District and Northern Ireland District before going to the War Office as Deputy Director of Operations (ATS) in February 1946. She was released in March 1948 in the rank of Controller, and was subsequently appointed to a TA Commission.

Colonel Thorne was appointed as a Chief Commander to command the County of London Group ATS (TA) which in March 1949 became 327 (County of London) Battalion WRAC (TA). Having raised this battalion, she was its commanding officer until her retirement as an Honorary Colonel in May 1952.

Major A A Locke BA

Major Anne Locke, whose death was reported in the last Lioness, retired from the WRAC to live in Oxford where she was a Church lay reader and a prop of the local branch of "Civil Aid". Earlier she had been a Chaplain's Assistant, serving with my father who was a Chaplain in Taunton in the 1950s.

Major Locke was always full of energy and was involved in countless good deeds for the local community. This, however, did not prevent her from attending every function connected with the WRAC Association and Headquarter Mess to whom she gave unstinting and loyal support.

BMQ

OBITUARY

Abbey. Miss E G Abbey of Edinburgh on 1 October 1982. Unit Administrator QMAAC Boulogne.

Armitage. Mrs G Armitage of Bradford in September 1982. QMAAC.

Armstrong. Mrs G Armstrong (nee Hoy) of Edinburgh on 29 June 1982. ATS.

Barclay. The Hon Mrs Phyllis Barclay MBE of Somerleyton on 25 December 1982. ATS.

Bocquet. Miss B Bocquet on 11 July 1982. Subaltern ATS.

Cheeseman. Mrs M Cheeseman of Forest Gate, London on 6 December 1982. QMAAC. Served at No 3 Rest Camp, Folkestone.

Cobb. Miss Maude Evelyn Cobb of Leeds on 31 October 1982. Founder member of the Women's Section of the Leeds Branch of The Royal British Legion. QMAAC.

Collins. Mrs D H Collins (nee Miller) of Weymouth on 5 May 1982. ATS.

Cridland. Miss Muriel Cridland of Carshalton, Surrey on 10 October 1982. ATS.

Dacre. Mrs M B Dacre OBE TD ("Ma Baker") of Bridgwater, Somerset and formerly of Four Marks, Hants on 26 November 1982. Chief Commander ATS and first Chairman of the Aldershot Branch.

Davey. Miss Marjorie V Davey of Wimbledon on 25 December 1982. Junior Commander ATS.

Davies. Mrs Lyn Davies (nee Ledbury) of West Bromwich on 15 December 1982. ATS and WRAC.

Everall. Mrs Betty Everall (nee McQuire) of Wilton, Salisbury on 31 August 1982. ATS.

Ford. Miss S L Ford of Wolverhampton on 11 June 1982. ATS.

Gosden. Mrs L Gosden (nee Milburn) on 2 March 1982. QMAAC Etaples.

Gow. Mrs Martha Gow of Liverpool on 22 October 1982. ATS.

Inglewood. Lady Inglewood (nee Proby) of Penrith, Cumbria on 30 June 1982. ATS.

Ingram. Miss Dorothy L Ingram of Chelsea, London on 13 September 1982. QMAAC.

Kowalski. Mrs Gwen Kowalski (nee Mitchell) of Leicester.

Laverton. Miss Paddy Laverton of Stone, Staffordshire on 17 November 1982. ATS and WRAC.

Leech. Miss C R Leech on 25 December 1982. QMAAC.

Linnell. Mrs Nora Linnell (nee Cassidy) of Liverpool on 2 July 1982. ATS.

Marshall. Mrs E Marshall (nee Butcher) of Sheffield on 18 July 1982. QMAAC.

May. Mrs M C May of Wolverhampton on 4 October 1982. ATS.

McElroy. Mrs J McElroy of Newtownards, N Ireland on 27 July 1982. Subaltern ATS.

Meade. Mrs Rhoda Meade (nee Beaney) of East Malling, Kent in July 1982. ATS.

Palmer. Miss M A Palmer of Norwich on 7 June 1982. ATS.

Richold. Mrs K E Richold of Brighton in September 1982.

Rowlinson. Mrs H G Rowlinson (nee Garnham) on 24 February 1982. QMAAC Abbeville and Calais.

Salusbury-Jones. Mrs Christina Salusbury-Jones (nee Adams) of Maidstone, Kent on 29 July 1982. QMAAC Rouen and ATS.

Smith. Miss A D Smith of Ayr.

Smith. Mrs D M Smith (nee Butler) of Tenby, Wales on 13 May 1982. ATS and WRAC.

Temple. Miss B Temple of Lewes, Sussex on 26 September 1982. Chief Commander ATS.

Thorne. Miss M D Thorne CBE TD of Knowl Hill, Nr Reading on 14 July 1982. Controller ATS and Colonel WRAC TA.

Waiting. Mrs A M Waiting (nee Peters) of Cumbria on 4 October 1981. ATS.

Way. Mrs Eileen Way (nee Carter) of Wrexham on 26 November 1982. ATS.

Wilson. Mrs Rachel Wilson (nee Dunwoody) of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada on 29 October 1982. QMAAC and ATS.

Winterburn. Miss Georgina M F Winterburn TD of Harrogate on 28 July 1982. Former Chairman of Harrogate Branch. Subaltern ATS and Captain WRAC TA.

Wood. Miss Monica Wood of Leicester on 16 October 1982. WRAC TA.

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonels: G K Ramsey MBE, E A Robinson

Majors: K J Dyer, D L Halliday, R M Lawrence, W A le Gassick, J M Roulstone, A Trehern, V E Trout

Captains: V L Wright, S Davies, A E Ewan

Lieutenants: D J Millar, S J Littlejohns

Special Regular Commissions

Major: R Morgan

Captains: D Ryder, J A Dathan

Short Service Commissions

Captains: S L Bates, M C Fisher, J Dabbs, V Rogers, H E Colmer, F M Gitsham, G M Perks, L Marsh, J E Bennett, J A Braybrook, A M Carter, V Evans, J K Petty, H M Thain, S Westall, B M Clough

Lieutenants: P A Braithwaite, H A-C Snow, A Hughes, R E Walton, K A Ibbotson, G F Wing, N J Overton, B M Clough, C A Dryburgh, M T Crook, M L Harris, S M Aitken, C B Davies, D L Porter, H C Emery, C J Ford, M A Joint, D H Miller, N A Murdoch, L J Turner, C S Wilkinson, A E Stiff, S E Loudon, W H Loughman, V Raine, S G Brown, L M Patrick, H Booth, P J Crosse, K P Austin, L M Davis, R E A Farrant, G E Haddon, J M Lane, M M Mackee, M A S Phillips

2 Lieutenants: L E Baxter, K M Munnoch, F J Boxell, H L Hoskins, P J Sinnatt, M H Thornton, S A Mawby

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS

OBE

Lieutenant Colonel (QM) E J Edwards

MBE

Major A K Brown, Major J L Lawson

SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

BEM

Corporal C A Blackman,
Staff Sergeant R Fee UDR

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Colonel: E R Denne MBE

Lieutenant Colonel: C G Parsons

Major: M R King

Majors (QM): D Jones, K Hughes MBE

Short Service Commissions

Captains: C A Watson, G E Sharpe,

S M A Beament

Lieutenants: J L Petrie, S A Hunt, J Abbott,

C R Haigh

2 Lieutenant: J Smith

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN CHARGES — 4 lines £2.00, additional lines 60p each. Non members 50% extra. Write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

AUTHOR would be pleased to hear from ex-ATS Intercept Operators or anyone associated with Bletchley Park, including out stations during the last war for book to be called "Ladies in the Park". Please write to: Eric N Rhodes, 18B Arlington House, All Saints Avenue, Margate Kent CT9 1XS.

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FOR SALE Sash and epaulette for Mess Dress. As new £15. Tel: Lt D M Brees, 0625-27263.

FOR SALE Mess Dress £25, Greatcoat £35. Size 16. Height 5' 7". Tel: Farnham Common (02814) 4309.

FOR SALE Three No 2 Dress uniforms, size 12-14, 5' 2". £40 each. Contact Capt Longlands, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford.

FOR SALE Greatcoat, No 2 Dress in first class condition, 2 blouses with tab ties, jersey, stable belt. Size 16. Height 5' 6". Telephone Mrs E B Allan, 6 Selkirk Drive Chester. Tel: Chester 674939.

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FOR SALE No 1 Dress new 1980. No 2 Dress new 1980 Greatcoat new 1975 Mess Dress new 1975. Size 12-14. Contact Mrs C E E Smedley, 1 Netley Mansions, Southern Parade Southsea. Tel: Portsmouth 816312 (evenings).

FOR SALE Greatcoat size 16 length 42" £50. Mess Dress size 16, £10. Contact Lt Col Ramsey, York 59811 Mil ext 2467 (working hours) or York 35722 (evenings).

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BALANCE SHEET -- 31st OCTOBER 1982

	1982 £	1981 £
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1st November 1981	39,368	31,350
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure ...	8,905	8,018
	<u>48,273</u>	<u>39,368</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND		
Membership Life Subscription	2,857	2,550
Lioness Life Subscription	4,073	3,560
	<u>6,930</u>	<u>6,110</u>
	<u>£55,203</u>	<u>£45,478</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
FIXED ASSETS		
Office Furniture and Equipment		
At cost less depreciation	327	470
INVESTMENTS		
At cost per schedule (Market Value £55,271) ...	44,734	35,782
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of Badges	319	167
Sundry Debtors	1,100	108
Cash at Bank -- Current Account	2,630	2,856
-- Deposit Account	3,220	3,319
-- Investment Account	3,352	2,941
Cash in Hand	57	60
	<u>10,678</u>	<u>9,451</u>
Less: Sundry Creditors	536	225
	<u>10,142</u>	<u>9,226</u>
	<u>£55,203</u>	<u>£45,478</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1982

1981 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1982 £
2,303	M. & G. Charifund -- 2,067 Units	2,303	3,798
2,912	London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 -- £4,359.53	2,912	3,710
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. -- £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8¾% Treasury Loan - 1997 -- £6,718.09	5,311	6,248
2,433	8% Treasury Loan - 2002/06 -- £3,336.04	2,433	2,861
3,679	7¾% Treasury Stock 2012/15 -- £6,548.12	3,679	5,517
3,046	8¼% Treasury Loan - 1987/90 -- £3,490.98	3,046	3,378
1,490	9¼% Treasury Stock - 1983 -- £1,545.68	1,490	1,590
8,793	11½% Treasury Stock - 1989 -- £9,927.62	8,793	10,498
5,765	12¾% Treasury Loan - 1995 -- £5,991.31	5,765	6,875
--	14% Exchequer Stock - 1986 -- £5,101.54	4,978	5,765
--	12¾% Treasury Loan 1992 -- £4,331.65	3,974	4,981
<u>£35,782</u>		<u>£44,734</u>	<u>£55,271</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1982

	1982 £	1981 £
INCOME		
SUBSCRIPTIONS:		
Annual	3,613	3,585
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	<u>229</u>	<u>206</u>
	3,842	3,791
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION –		
Subscriptions	5,548	5,503
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	290	254
Advertisement Revenue	<u>413</u>	<u>255</u>
	6,251	6,012
Less: Cost of Publication	<u>5,101</u>	<u>4,862</u>
	1,150	1,150
OTHER INCOME		
Income from Investments	5,334	3,874
Deposit Account Interest	401	815
Sale of Badges	22	39
Funds held on behalf of Western Area	37	–
Q.M.A A.C. Reunion	<u>(29)</u>	<u>(23)</u>
	5,765	4,705
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD ...	<u>£10,757</u>	<u>£9,646</u>

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1982

	1982 £	1981 £
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>10,757</u>	<u>9,646</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Branch Expenses:		
Capitation Fees	390	363
Grants	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>
	414	379
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
A.G.M. Expenses	668	457
Printing and Stationery	47	146
Postages	96	170
Subscriptions and Donations	135	35
Share Purchase Expenses	48	37
Sundry Expenses	34	24
Audit and Accountancy Fee	267	238
Depreciation	<u>143</u>	<u>142</u>
	1,438	1,249
	£ 1,852	£1,628
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ...	<u>£ 8,905</u>	<u>£8,018</u>

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