

1984

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Lioness

Vol. LVI

1984

No. 2

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

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SHOPPING LIST

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

WRAC STAFF BAND

The WRAC Staff Band will be playing for the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday November 10th. They will be standing at the Royal Exchange.

The Band's other engagements until the end of February 1985 are all military engagements.

VISIONS

The latest Staff Band record "Visions" costs £3.75 (£4.75 including postage and packing in UK). Personal callers can buy from RHQ, WRAC Centre or from the Band. Postal requests to Corps HQ.

VACANCY AT CORPS HQ WRAC

The post of Corps Secretary WRAC in Corps HQ WRAC, Guildford will become vacant in March 1985. It is a Retired Officer Grade 2 appointment, and interested eligible applicants should apply to Ministry of Defence (CM(S)4f) Lacon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY.

The duties include:

- Regimental Secretary to WRAC and Secretary to Deputy Controller Commandant.
- General Secretary of WRAC Association, distribution of Lioness, and Joint Secretary of ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
- Maintenance of accounts for the WRAC Association, ATS and WRAC Benevolent Fund, Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, HQ Mess Fund, Corps HQ and Museum Funds.
- Processing Corps subscriptions by serving officers and servicewomen, handling of covenants and tax claims for both serving and ex service subscribers.

ADVERTISING

Some 30 years ago when I took over the advertising in *LIONESS*, I discussed this magazine with Lionel Goodman, a charming man and a lifelong friend of my husband. He had served in the Army during the last war and had a considerable attachment to the Forces. He was the owner and Managing Director of a small factory turning out a limited number of wider-fitting shoes for ladies, their trade name being Van Dal.

The firm did not have a large enough output to warrant advertising at that time but nevertheless Lionel agreed to take space in our publication — a quarter page! Thus we became the firm's first advertising medium and Lionel began contributing on a personal basis (he did not at that time put the cost of his new venture through his company's books) to our minute revenue from advertisements.

The years went by and Lionel Goodman's business prospered by leaps and bounds. At the time of his death, last April, his wider-fitting shoes had become famous and his factory one of the most successful in Norwich. He took space in the leading National newspapers in which to promote his shoes but always remained faithful to his first publicity outlet — becoming our "longest serving" advertiser. Lionel Goodman's son, Simon, has taken his place at the head of the Florida/Van Dal Group of Norwich and will continue what has now become a family tradition in supporting *LIONESS*.

Incidentally, as well as creating a new standard in styling for wider-fitting shoes, Van Dal have produced *the* ideal shoe for wear with WRAC uniform — and I think this is indicative of Lionel Goodman's thought for our Corps.

EDWINA COVEN

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.

VACANCY FOR AN ARMY CAREERS OFFICER (WOMEN'S SERVICES) ON THE ARMY RECRUITING STAFF

1. The appointment of Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) in the grade of ACO3, equating to R03, will become available from January/February 1986 at the Army Careers Information Office, Cardiff. To allow for take-over of the appointment the successful applicant will be required to commence employment approximately mid-January 1986. Conditions of service are laid down in AGAI Issue 5/77, Volume 2, Chapter 41. DAR 2c will supply more details if required.
2. The starting salary is £6819 rising to £8078 after 2 years. (These scales should be due for revision wef 1 Apr 84 in line with Government policy for public service pay increases). ACOs are, however, affected by the Civil Service principle that a government servant who retires and is re-employed by the same department, other than by open competition, may not receive more on re-employment by way of salary and pension (or retired pay) than she was receiving by way of salary immediately before retirement. The principle is applied to ACOs 3 by
3. Applications, on Annex C to AGAI Issue 5/77, Volume 2, Chapter 41, are invited from serving or ex-service majors and below of the Women's Services and should be submitted direct to DAR 2c, Room 1107, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. Applicants should satisfy the conditions in paragraph 41.008b of the AGAI. The successful applicant, if not already retired, will be required to retire upon taking up the appointment.
4. Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications or experience which would be of value in connection with this appointment.

Cover Photograph

HRH The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant, taking the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on April 6th when WRAC Officer Cadets were on parade for the first time.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Mrs Jenny Wells who has been awarded life membership of the Royal British Legion in recognition of her long and devoted service. She is pictured receiving the Certificate from Brigadier Maurice Atherton, High Sheriff of Kent (left) watched by Branch President Lt Colonel Jim Shephard.

Mrs Wells joined the Royal British Legion in 1947 and has served in every office, becoming Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser in 1977. She is a past Chairman of the RBL Women's Section and is now a Vice President. She served in the ATS from 1940-1947 and as a Recruiting Sgt in the WRAC from 1964-1976, during which time she continued to work for the RBL and the WRAC Association.



Mrs Jenny Wells receiving the certificate of life membership of the Royal British Legion from the County President and High Sheriff of Kent, Brigadier Maurice Atherton. With them is the Branch President Lt Colonel Jim Shephard.
Courtesy Kentish Gazette

Cpl Nemeth (now Sgt Gerrard) and Pte Haggan (now LCpl) who won the Gold Medal in the Tri-Service "Cook and Serve" competition at Hotelympia 1984, beating off all male competition, and went on to win the Madame Prunier Challenge Trophy for the most outstanding performance or entry in the Senior Section from members of the Women's Services.

Mrs Russell who looks after the Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden at the WRAC Centre, and won five first prizes and three second prizes in the local Horticultural Society Show in June with our roses. For the third year in succession she has won the Rose Bowl for the greatest number of awards, and has this year been presented with a plaque to mark her success.

Private Juliet Tuke of 56 Squadron RCT Woolwich who won the Army Gymnastic Championships having strained a ligament a week before the Championships started.

Private Tuke left driver training in October 1983 but seems to have a very good future in Gymnastics.



Pte Tuke with her well-earned trophy.

Mrs Peskey (ex-Cpl Taylor) who gained three bronze medals for ice-sledging at 300, 400 and 500 metres in the winter paraplegic Olympics.

Members of 17 Sqn, 12 RSME who did a sponsored walk on April Fool's Day and raised £107.70 for the RNLI.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

A rumour has been circulating that 29 Company have struck gold, and it's true, with Cpl Julie Waumsley having just completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and now waiting to be called forward to Buckingham Palace to receive it.

The award was a challenge which she set herself when posted here just over two years ago. To take the whole award overseas is in itself unusual. The five sections of the award each bring different challenges, the most difficult of which was probably the "Residential Project" where the candidate has to live away from home and help with a community project. For Cpl Waumsley this meant a week in a German Youth Hostel in the Harz Mountains working with young people.

In the skills section she chose "Creative Writing", producing a beautiful portfolio of poetry and stories all presented in gothic script. Her "Expedition" coincided with a unit adventurous training trip combining canoeing, climbing, walking and windsurfing. Her community service weekends were spent leading Outward Bound courses for British children at Forces Schools and the "Sports Activities" gave no real problems as Cpl Waumsley plays hockey for 29 Company and BAOR.

We have the feeling that all this physical activity has affected Cpl Waumsley as she has just left 29 Company to train as a PTI in Aldershot. Congratulations and best wishes to her in her new career.



Cpl Waumsley displaying her work.

PRESENTATION LSGC

Thursday June 14th was a very special day for W02 Eileen Hobson. Thirteen months ago she was flown back from Cyprus to the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital Woolwich where she has been ever since. She is at present on the VSI list, but was well enough to receive her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from the Director, Brigadier H G Meechie.

Miss Hobson has had an interesting and varied career working with the Royal Corps of Signals. Her previous postings have covered much of the world with appointments in UK in 8 Sig Regt and 10 Sig Regt, Hong Kong (twice), 16 Sig Regt and NORTHAG Sig Sp Gp in BAOR, and 233 Sig Sqn in Northern Ireland. In January 1981 she was posted to Cyprus where she was the senior WRAC servicewoman with 262 Sig Sqn. In February 1983 she was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 2. Over the years she has been an enthusiastic member of her unit and has been involved in various unit activities. She organised a sponsored walk in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Appeal whilst serving with 16 Sig Regt and more recently whilst in Cyprus, she managed the Garrison athletics team.

Also present at the Medal presentation were friends and members of Miss Hobson's family, the Matron of the Hospital, Colonel D G M Anderson, the Senior Physician QEMH Colonel C J Garrett, and doctors and nurses on the staff of the hospital.



W02 Eileen Hobson after she had received her LSGC medal from Brig Helen Meechie.

HATCHED NOT DESPATCHED

Col S P Nield BA

The closure of the WRAC College Camberley on 30 April 1984 will have been received with some sadness by both past and present members, particularly those who had served there and worked to establish and shape the unit and the training of our officers, warrant officers and NCOs.

The WRAC College developing, as it had, out of the OCTUs at Craigmillar and Windsor, through the School of Instruction at Hindhead was very much part of the mainstream of our history as a Corps and a living link between the ATS and the WRAC.

Despite these regrets I am sure that most members have welcomed the closer integration of the professional training of our officers, already established through mandatory attendance at the JDSC and competitive entry to the Staff College Camberley, and will feel that the move of initial officer training to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is, in this context, timely.

Those who persist to the end of this article will, I hope, be reassured that the "daughters" born of this move, the WRAC Wing RMA and WONCO Wing at the WRAC Centre are not only healthy and lively but bear a strong family resemblance to their forebears. Hence my title hatched not despatched.

OFFICER TRAINING

No one was complacent about our officer training although it had served us quite well for some years. We were acutely aware of some serious deficiencies because of financial and staffing constraints. The most important of these were firstly the inadequacy of the short nine week graduate course and the lack of professional military content on all courses, notably tactical and weapon training and really testing exercises.

The incorporation of the WRAC College as the 4th College of RMA in May 80 led to the forging of much stronger and closer links across the A30 both for work and recreation, but the incompatibility of the intake dates and length of training invariably prevented us taking maximum benefit.

When it became clear in 1982 that the

physical move to RMA was to take place in the foreseeable future the opportunity was taken to redress some of the imbalances in our own courses. We needed agreement to a longer course, joint training of graduates and non-graduates and a release of RMA resources both manpower and facilities for increased military training. Given this, it would be possible to simplify our intake pattern to coincide more closely with RMA and take advantage of increased opportunities for joint training. To cut a very long story very short, we obtained agreement to all of this.

The first of the new 25-week graduate-non-graduate initial officer training courses arrived at the WRAC College Camberley in September 83 and the second in January 84.

Many will be interested to note the main improvements made possible by the longer course. The content of the academic instruction remains broadly the same but is now done jointly with male student officers from the Standard Graduate Course (SGC) with Victory College. All WRAC students are now trained to classification standard on the SMG and 9mm pistol. This is done separately. The WRAC Students are now taught roughly 2/3 of the standard RMA tactics course by WRAC Wing tactics instructor (a male officer) and take most tactics TEWTS and at least one tactics exercise with their male colleagues. I am sure generations of WRAC officers who have previously struggled with the black art of tactics at TDSC will be glad that their successors will at least understand the language. All our students are put through two taxing three day outdoor exercises run by the wing staff and supplemented heavily by RMA experts. The first concentrates on living in the field, fieldcraft skills, night navigation and energetic command tasks. The second is an arduous 36 hour cross country navigation exercise testing map reading, use of radio and by no means least, leadership skills. First Flight still lives and has been extended to include a move into the field as for an imagined approach to mobilisation. It is undoubtedly tougher but I believe a genuinely confidence building and leadership developing course.

The whole-hearted welcome and enormous assistance given to us by all at RMA has been very much appreciated both at work and at play. During the period of the piloting of the new course there have been joint adventurous training expeditions during recesses. WRAC students have represented RMA in sailing, athletics and riding. There have been strongly



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argued exchange debates with honours about even, and joint attendance at formal dinner nights and, I am sure, less formal parties. WRAC students were also active in the Annual RMAS Dinner where their spirited performances were, and I hope will be again, very much appreciated.

I will not pretend that there were no doubting Thomases. Some doubted the reaction of crusty RMAS Colour Sgts asked to train young women in fieldcraft and weapon handling. Others doubted whether it would be possible to teach graduates and non-graduates together. I knew we had won the hearts and minds of the Colour Sgts when I heard the muffled mutterings of "why do we want to teach women this anyway?" change to a swift yell from one Colour Sgt to male cadets of "Gentlemen you will NOT do that to MY ladies", then was told of the growing competition among RMAS permanent staff to be drafted on to WRAC exercises. The fear of mixing graduates and non-graduates was triumphantly and I hope finally put to rest when a non-graduate walked off with the academic studies prize in March 84.

WARRANT OFFICER AND NCO TRAINING

It was possible to make significant changes and improvements within WO & NCO training

as a result of the projected move. The WRAC College had not been able to meet all the Corps requirement for military training of WOs and NCOs for some time and cadre courses were being run in all large WRAC companies and some smaller detachments to make up this deficiency. Not only did this prevent any standardisation of training but it was also becoming increasingly difficult to run sufficient cadres as more and more WRAC units were integrated more closely with male units making it impossible to continue WRAC cadre training. Another area of concern was the uneasy balance of aim between increasing knowledge by classroom instruction and developing confidence and leadership skills by active training in small syndicate groups.

The key to the solution of both problems lay in the re-establishment of a separate WONCO Wing under command of a Major OC and some increase in staffing. Both were made possible by the projected move to WRAC Centre Guildford, and a separate WO/NCO wing was re-established twelve months before the move. During this period the wing trained over 600 students easily meeting the Corps requirement for training vacancies, and worked continuously to improve the content of the courses which are now heavily biased towards building self-confidence and

leadership in small teams or tutorial groups. The NCO training cadre courses will continue to be run by 29 Coy BAOR to save travel and expense but the wing at WRAC Centre should now and into the foreseeable future be able to accept all candidates for military qualification.

DATE FOR THE MOVE

The final date for the move of the two wings and the closure of the WRAC College remained in doubt until the end of 1983. This was because both RMAS and WRAC Centre Guildford were, and still are, in the midst of massive works services. The urgency to close the college was fuelled as ever by the need to make immediate financial savings in money and manpower. The Commandants and staffs of both units had to make enormous and sustained efforts to ensure that there was at least viable living and working accommodation available for each of the wings.

The WRAC Wing RMAS is now housed in part of Old College, generally accepted as being the most prestigious building in RMAS, in what generations of male cadets will remember as Waterloo lines, perhaps the Army's most famous battle honour. The wing is divided into two companies, Windsor and Edinburgh, so our much newer tradition lives on amidst the glories of Sandhurst.

WONCO Wing is now housed in refurbished accommodation which many will remember as the "band block". As a result of the careful planning and supervision of the Commandant and her staff this is without doubt one of the best accommodation blocks I have seen. It now consists of single study bedrooms each with washbasin, wall to wall carpeting and a telephone jack for exercise purposes, and within the block a bar and recreational facilities. It is very much better than the block we vacated at Camberley!

When the time came I would not wish you to believe that the College closed with a whimper. There were parties in all the Messes, barbeques and discos, fireworks and bonfires, for the last week or so of the college's life as well as a good deal of hard work.

SOVEREIGNS PARADE APRIL 84

The final day of the final term of the WRAC College was marked by the historic first appearance of the WRAC students and officer cadets of WRAC 4 on Sovereign's Parade. We were particularly fortunate that Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent our Controller Commandant was Sovereign's Representative on that day

which made it even more "our" day.

The drill required had been causing some mild anxieties for a week or two, but the RSM of Old College who put them through their paces was I think well pleased with the result and would not have a word said against "HIS ladies". I am told that they enlivened the parade rehearsal by borrowing the men's "blues", marching on and giving a drill display (much easier in trousers they tell me) and finishing with a spirited rendition of "Kiss me Goodnight Sergeant Major"! This was so effective it is said to have reduced the Academy Sgt Maj to speechlessness which is difficult to believe. I am told on even better authority that he was quietly very pleased that they showed such "form".

The Adjutant of RMAS had already, over the past year, cheerfully involved himself in the vagaries of WRAC Mess regulations, hairdressing and uniform tailoring and must as he watched the parade march off have wondered "what next?". The general comment made was that the parade was very successful and the drill and bearing of the WRAC students stood comparison with anyone. I for one was very proud of them.





In conclusion I would like to thank all members of my permanent staff at the WRAC College. I was never in any doubt that I had the privilege and pleasure of working with the "first team". The dedication, energy, imagination, goodwill and cheerfulness from all ranks which surmounted every endeavour and many setbacks ensured that the two wings were capable of independent and healthy life by the time they left. It is perhaps invidious to pick people for special mention from such a superb team effort, but I feel I must mention two. The first is Major (QM) H R Haynes whose dedicated hard work and sheer resolution in the face of enormous difficulties ensured that the gigantic physical problems involved in a three-way move of a large training unit were overcome so successfully. The second is Colonel (Rtd) "Bertie" Baxter, without whose wise advice, dedicated work and calming influence I am sure a succession of Commanders would have gone quietly mad. I am sure that all would wish to join me in thanking him and wishing him all the very best for the future.

One final word on the future. I saw over 100 student officers and cadets and approximately 900 WOs and NCOs through the College during my tour and I believe that for so long as the Corps continues to recruit and retain such high quality young women it will not only carry on the proud traditions of the past but will go on into an equally proud future.

Contributions for next issue by
13th December 1984 in double
spacing. Photographs in black & white.

FROM MA'AM TO MEMSAHIB

ex-Captain R A P Stiven

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Command and Staff College at Quetta, it is the Pakistani equivalent of the British Army Staff College at Camberley. The Course is designed to prepare specially selected officers, usually majors, for command and staff appointments. There are normally two British Army families sent here each year, just as there is a reciprocal arrangement for Pakistani officers in Camberley. The British students this year are Major Nick Stiven, Royal Artillery with his wife, Rosie (that's me) and Major James Leslie, Army Air Corps, formerly of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, his wife Christine and their two boys, William and Charles. There are many other Commonwealth and foreign students at the Staff College and to give you some idea of the cosmopolitan flavour of our community, they include Turks, Jordanians, Zambians, Saudis, Australians, Canadians and Germans. Despite the Gulf war we also have Iraqis and Iranians and, interestingly, the latter live opposite the Americans. We now have to be circumspect about our association with the Libyan family here.

Nick and I have been at the Staff College, Quetta since February of this year and the Course lasts until December. We came here by choice as Nick has had family connections with Pakistan and Quetta and I, having just retired from the WRAC, felt like a bit of adventure.

If you look at a map of Pakistan, you will find Quetta in the centre of the country, high up in the mountains of Baluchistan. We are only about fifty miles from the border with Afghanistan. Quetta town was almost completely destroyed by the earthquake of May 31st 1935 when many thousands of people lost their lives. Luckily, the Staff College only suffered a few cracked walls. Rumour has it that Quetta is due another earthquake and we experienced an earth tremor on our arrival at Islamabad in January.

The Quetta Staff College itself was formally opened on June 1st 1907. It had been the brain child of Lord Kitchener who realized the need to establish an institution based on Camberley lines, to provide trained staff officers in the Army in India. Quetta was selected as the most suitable site because of its similarity to the North

West Frontier where the Indian Army was chiefly committed. Many famous names have passed through the Quetta Staff College, Field Marshals Auchinleck and Slim, John Masters, the author, and Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein who was a member of the Directing Staff from June 6th 1934 to June 28th 1937. Members of the Women's Army Corps attended the Courses in the 1940s but sadly the College is now an all-male stronghold. It wasn't until 1954, seven years after Partition, that the Staff College had its first Pakistani Commandant. Prior to this, the Commandants had, of course, been British.

The students are given a lot of work to do. The Staff Course is still in English and the working weeks lasts from Saturday to Wednesday, Friday being the Islamic holy day. Work starts at 0730 hours and continues until 1400 hours. Twice a week there are compulsory sports afternoons with opportunities for riding, polo, tennis, squash, cricket or volleyball. The evenings are usually spent working with one's syndicate colleagues preparing for the next day's work. Syndicate work can and often does last from 1900 hours to the early hours of the morning. The students work very hard indeed and there is little time for relaxation at home. The Course is divided into four terms with approximately a week's break between each term. Most of the Allied students use the breaks to see as much of this part of the world as possible. We spent our first break visiting Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and the Swat Valley in north Pakistan. The next break, in July was spent visiting Lahore, Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Towards the end of the Course, we shall be going on an Allied Officers Study Tour. Run by the Staff College, the Tour will take us all over Pakistan and provide us with a thorough briefing on the country.

As the Staff Course is run in English and because the Pakistani Army is organised on our own lines, it is easy to think that the officers we meet here are merely darker versions of British officers. This is where the similarity ends. Here the pace of life is slow, and eastern ways and attitudes prevail. It seems that there is little or no concept of time and speed. Problems are discussed endlessly and solved with group solutions which are either right or wrong. There are no "grey areas" and there seems to be little room for individual thought. Coming from the West, where time is always at a premium, these attitudes can be rather hard to come to terms

with and I think our husbands find the Course most frustrating at times.

In Pakistan, under the present regime of martial law, there has been a revival of Islamic thought and ideals. As a result, the consumption of alcohol is forbidden and more restrictions have been placed upon women as far as dress and activities are concerned. These changes have directly affected Mess life at the Staff College. Now, functions take the form of dinners only, as women are not allowed to dance in public. Likewise, they should not be seen to socialise with men other than their husbands. The result is that at every function, all the women will be together at one end of a room and all the men at the opposite end. With everyone drinking Coke, 7-up or Fanta, it is very difficult to have a relaxed atmosphere! It is only after dinner, when the band is playing, that the evening begins to liven up a little. Most of the men get together and perform tribal dances for the ladies, which is an interesting sight.

At least in the home the word of memsahib is law. We live in a bungalow and have four servants, a cook, a bearer, a dhobi/ayah (laundry-woman/maid) and a mali or gardener. They have all spent most of their lives as servants and are very proud to belong to the British house. Likewise, we are responsible for them as far as housing, clothing, food and health are concerned. There is no welfare state here and to them one is the man/bap (mother/father) figure. Our cook, a seventy-five year old widower, lives in one room at the rear of our garage. My dhobi lives with her husband and five children in a two-roomed hut at the bottom of our garden. None of this accommodation has cooking, heating or sanitation facilities. Families share communal toilets and use camping stoves for cooking. A bath is usually a wash-down in a bucket with water obtained from the communal tap. Our servants are all Christians and as such are generally regarded as somewhat inferior and not true Pakistanis in this Islamic State. However, if you think that this way of life is appalling, remember that a majority of the population are still living in tents or mud-huts and a permanent job with a roof over one's head is indeed a luxury.

With our husbands working so hard all hours of the day and night, the memsahibs are left to their own devices. So what do we do with our time, especially as we have all these servants running around us? Well, first we have to organise the servants and assign them their duties

for the day. There's invariably a crisis of some sort to settle; either the water tank is empty or the electricity has blown again.

Organising the servants is no easy task and can take all the tact and diplomacy required of a Company Commander. My training and experience in the Corps comes in very handy here but there are times when I wish that my last Sergeant Major was around to sort everybody out! Then, there's the shopping to do. That is not exactly a quick trip down to the local supermarket either. Shopping in the bazaar can take anything from two to four hours. Vegetables and fruit have to be selected, carefully examined, sampled and then purchased. As the stall-holders are always keen to try out their English with the memsahibs, perhaps a cup of chai (tea) will accompany the transaction. Purchasing meat (mutton and beef only) takes a little more time. You select the cut you want from the whole carcase, trying to ignore the flies and the remains of the animal lying around your feet. As Tuesdays and Wednesdays are meat-less days, chickens are all that you will find. Chickens should always be chosen "on the claw" and dealt with while you wait. It's an unsavoury business but at least you know that the meat is fresh. The

trap we all fall into is to judge things here by Western standards. The important thing to remember is that Pakistan is a long way east of Istanbul and that the Western way of life might just as well belong to another planet. Shopping at Sainsbury's will somehow never seem the same again!

Having fought your way home through camel and donkey carts, tongas and motor-rickshaws, you can relax up at the College pool or go for a game of tennis. With temperatures of 93°F plus in the shade for most of the day, tennis can be rather exhausting. The Pakistani officers' wives tend to stay at home with their children and very rarely take part in any sport. However, there is strong support for the AL NISA Ladies Club which is run by the Staff College ladies. The Club provides a comprehensive programme of demonstrations and visits to places of local interest, such as Quetta's onyx factory. All the Commonwealth and foreign ladies have been encouraged to take an active part in the Club's activities.

Life isn't all bridge parties and coffee mornings here. We live in an interesting area as far as world events are concerned and occasionally an opportunity arises for us to venture out of the Staff College and witness at



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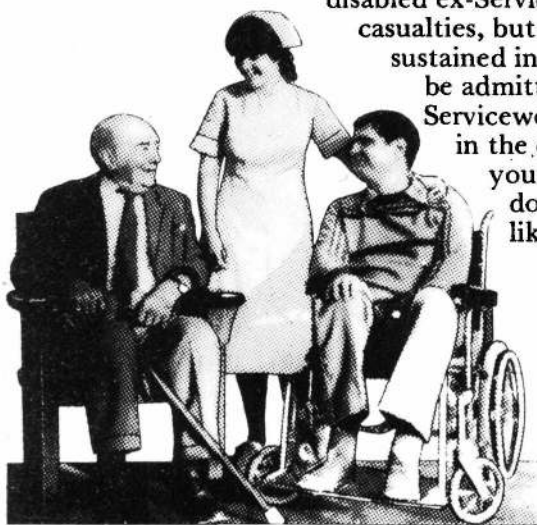
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first hand what is going on.

A scan through the daily newspapers will show you that Pakistan is not only famous for drug-smuggling but also serves as a haven for the Mujaheddin from Afghanistan. Quetta, being so near to the border, as well as having a large share of Afghan refugee camps in its environs, tends to be one of the chief focal points for these freedom fighters. The International Committee of the Red Cross has established several hospitals in Pakistan devoted to the care of the wounded Mujaheddin. One of these hospitals is in Quetta. Looking for some voluntary work, I made an application to the Chief Administrator but was disappointed to find that only qualified nurses were accepted. Nevertheless for my pains, I was given a guided tour of the wards.

The Mujaheddin find their way across the border usually with relatives to help them. They are brought to Quetta by the Red Cross and given medical treatment. One relative must stay with the patient in the hospital throughout the treatment to nurse and care for him. When fit, the patient is released and returns with his relative to Afghanistan to fight again. There are also women and children in the hospital who have been wounded during air-raids or who have been caught in cross-fire. Out of all this tragedy, it is the Mujaheddin themselves who impressed me most of all. Some have been terribly mutilated by mines and bombs but in spite of their wounds, they are determined to go back and fight again. Seeing such unconquerable, fighting spirit at first hand, the thought struck me that it was no wonder that the British had such a hard time fighting these people in the past.

However, there are parties to go to and parties to fix. If you happen to be a British student stationed in Quetta, you are expected to arrange some form of National Day Celebration during the year. It has become traditional to celebrate the Queen's official birthday as our National Day. Our Reception took place in May so as not to clash with Ramadan in June, and so far, it has been the highlight of our year. Our Defence Attache and his wife flew down from Islamabad to attend the Reception which was held on the Mess lawns beside the Staff College building. A local military band was to play throughout the evening but we wanted something special and more British for a finale. Subedar Mir Ullah filled the bill. Now in his seventies, he is probably the most famous piper in Pakistan, having played the bagpipes at the Queen's

Coronation. We arranged for him to come from Karachi for the occasion.

So, for a glimpse of the social highlight of the year, please read on. Picture, if you can, a pleasantly cool evening with the sunlight still pink on the surrounding mountains. You are walking slowly along a wide path leading through elegant rose-filled gardens. On your right, you see the Staff College building standing stately and imposing in the spotlights. All around you is the unmistakable sound of a military band playing some familiar melody. Twinkling coloured lights hanging amongst tall trees catch your eye and you are ushered on to a smooth lawn where you find yourself in the middle of a truly colourful gathering. Your hosts introduce you to the chief guests of the evening. You then meet the hierarchy of the Staff College together with a selection of Pakistani, Commonwealth and foreign students. Waiters with tall puggris and dressed in smart white uniforms, bearing the College Crest, offer you food and drink. The evening light fades, the band plays on and the floodlit buildings glow against the dark blue night.

As you glance around the lawn and admire the tasteful Western dresses, the shimmering saris and the Pakistani shalwar kamiz with their sparkling dupattas, a strange sound fills the air. All eyes are fixed on the Mess entrance and there on the steps is Subedar Mir Ullah in full dress uniform playing the bagpipes. To hear those familiar Scottish tunes ringing out loud and clear amongst these wild and rocky mountains, that have witnessed generations of British soldiers, made us all feel a little homesick and regretful that the days of the Raj are over.

Thus, the first part of our year in Quetta comes to an end. Yet, as I sit on the verandah surrounded by fragrant honeysuckle and sipping my chotapeg, I can still look forward to a few more months of being a memsahib.



Major and Mrs Stiven at the Staff College, Quetta.

LONDON MARATHON

Pte Sharon Pollock of HQ Battery, 17 Training Regiment RA & Depot had the honour of starting the 1984 London Marathon on Saturday May 13th. Pte Pollock, a clerk, was recently posted to Woolwich from trade training and at 19 years old is the youngest member of the Battery.

Although professing to being very nervous before the event, Pte Pollock carried out her duty "in the finest tradition of the Gunners".



Starting the London Marathon.

A LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE ON A QUICK TRIP TO THE LEBANON

Cpl K A Robinson WRAC Provost

It was about 7.30 a.m. on a very wet Wednesday in February when I was first summoned to the CSM's office. I began to think nervously about why he could possibly want to see me! He quickly explained the worsening situation in the Lebanon and how plans were under way to evacuate all British subjects. Very interesting thought I, but why is he telling me all this? Little did I know what lay ahead! Then he dropped the bombshell. "Cpl Robinson, you are going to the Lebanon along with seven members of the RAF Police to assist with evacuation". I was put on six hours standby and

told to get my kit assembled, keeping it to a minimum.

At 1610 hours, the order came to report to Limassol New Port by 1730 hours, the evacuation was on. I arrived at Limassol and met the RAF Police with whom I was to work. A ship — the Sol Georgios — had been chartered and we all duly boarded. At 1905 hours we set sail and were on our way.

We were directed to a cabin measuring about 18 x 9 ft, which was intended to be an office, rest room, sleeping accommodation, and if the need arose, the sick bay. A quick recce of the ship revealed 36 military personnel and a crew of 8 Cypriots. The military personnel consisted of a platoon of Scots Guards, cooks, medics, signallers, RAOC and ourselves.

We had not been out of port very long before we discovered that our ship was in fact a flat-bottomed German car ferry and had definitely not been designed for our journey, especially in a force nine gale. It was not long before most of the personnel on board could be found with their heads over the side of the ship, where everyone soon learnt to assess wind direction. Although I had not been struck by sea sickness, I found it difficult to keep my balance whilst trying to distribute pills to the needy. The only solution to the problem seemed to be to adopt a horizontal position and to remain there. Before long, everyone had found somewhere to lie down. The night seemed to last forever, but eventually daylight broke and revealed waves which seemed to be as high as the ship and which continued to toss her about.

After breakfast, we were told that about 280 evacuees were expected to make their way to Jounieh, which is just north of Beirut, to be lifted off, so preparations to take them on board had to be made. The only way to get below decks was to walk the full length of the upper deck and go down a set of iron steps. Due to the weather, this was proving to be a difficult task, so a rope was tied from one end of the ship to the other which helped the healthier ones to get below decks. It was difficult to decide which was worse — the wind and the waves up on the deck or the smell of the diesel fumes below decks affecting already delicate stomachs. Once below, we set about erecting camp beds and distributing blankets. This task completed, we rapidly returned to the upper deck. The day progressed with the cooks providing some excellent meals under difficult conditions, although not many people seemed to appreciate their culinary

skills as the weather had still not subsided.

Late afternoon saw a Sea King from RFA Reliant hover over the deck, but unable to land. As a result 6 members of the British High Commission were winched down to the ship. They soon discovered that a horizontal position was best and joined us.

We were still unable to see any land but we had received instructions to stand off as we were unable to enter either Jounieh or Beirut due to the weather, and there we remained until the next morning.

By this time, I'm pleased to say, the weather had improved and we sailed into Jounieh Bay. We dropped anchor in the bay while we waited for further instructions. The captain of our ship decided that the swell was too heavy to risk taking the ship into Jounieh Harbour. It was therefore decided that a shore party should be landed to liaise with the Embassy Staff who were waiting for us in Jounieh. A "water taxi" was summoned but again, due to the swell, was unable to tie up alongside the ship. The only way to get down to this taxi was to go over the side and climb down a very shaky rope ladder. Once at the bottom, we had to jump from the ladder to the taxi which had backed up alongside. The first two who went down managed to board the taxi, but alas, I was not to be so successful. When I got to the bottom of the ladder, the taxi driver was unable to hold the craft against the ship any longer and drove off, leaving me hanging at the end of the ladder while the ship rolled. After what seemed like an eternity (in fact about 10 minutes) the taxi returned and I managed to climb aboard. When the rest of the party were aboard, we were ferried into Jounieh Harbour where the Americans were also evacuating their nationals. We soon made contact with the representative from the British Embassy and set up a search area and handling point in a disused fair-ground near the harbour. The number of evacuees had dwindled from 280 to 90, most of them in good humour despite the situation, so we soon had them processed and ready to move. It was decided that it would be impossible to transport them back to the ship via water taxi, so the services of the Sea King from RFA Reliant were requested.

At 1540 hours, the first evacuees were air-lifted out of Jounieh. We thought they were going to the Sol Georgios until they flew straight past and landed on the RFA Reliant which was anchored further seaward. On completion of the evacuation, we too were lifted by helicopter to

RFA Reliant where we learned that the evacuees were to be flown straight to RAF Akrotiri by Chinook helicopters. We thought that our luck was in and that we too would return to Akrotiri, but alas, it was not to be! Before long we were shepherded back onto a Sea King helicopter and flown back to the Sol Georgios. Once on board, we set sail for Limassol only to be ordered to a rendezvous with RFA Reliant which was by now 20 miles out to sea. It was possible that we would be sent back to Jounieh to be retasked. With this thought in mind, everyone tried to get some sleep.

During the early hours of the morning, we were ordered to make full speed back to Limassol. We arrived in Limassol at 1000 hours on February 11th, in a very tired and dirty state. We were met by the Commander British Forces Cyprus and his entourage, and after Customs clearance, we were transported back to our various units. At last, dreams of a hot bath, clean hair and clothes came true. It was a memorable trip, one which I'll never forget, but I'm glad that I joined the Army and not the Navy.

SPORT

INTER SERVICES LADIES FOIL

The Army retained the Inter Services Cup which they won last year with the following results:

Army v Royal Navy	10 - 6
Army v Royal Air Force	9 - 7



L-R: QMSI Tim Johnston (former coach), Capt Eileen Clark QARANC, Capt Sue Reid QARANC, Cpl Leeann Relf WRAC, Capt Jane Ripley WRAC and QMSI Peter Brierley (coach).

Front Row (reserves): Pte Jackie O'Sullivan, Pte Fiona Branigan, Pte Jenny Flanagan.

SUCCESS FOR ARMY SKIERS

BRITISH OLYMPIC SKIER IS PRESENTED TO DWAC AT WRAC SUPER TEAMS COMPETITION

Corporal Lauren Jeffrey, (23) of the Women's Royal Army Corps, who represented Great Britain in the Winter Olympics, was presented to the Director of the WRAC, Brigadier Helen Meechie, on June 10th.

Lauren, who is a Physical Training Instructor with the WRAC, represented Great Britain as part of the winter Olympic team in Yugoslavia at Cross Country Skiing, taking part in the 5 kilometer, 10 kilometer and 20 kilometer races. She joined the WRAC in 1978 and began her career as a driver, but transferred to be a Physical Training Instructor in 1979. A former Combined Services Badminton player, Lauren has been employed at the Intelligence Centre in Ashford, Kent since 1982. From April 1985, she will be released from her duties to train full time for the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Lauren was presented to Brigadier Meechie before the start of the WRAC 1984 Super teams competition. WRAC officers and service women who have represented the Corps in the past year compete as the WRAC Netball, Hockey, and Tennis etc teams, in a competition run on the same lines as the BBC Superstars. The event was attended by Alfred Marks.



Cpl Lauren Jeffrey with Brig Meechie and Alfred Marks.

The Army Ladies Ski Team swept the board at the 1984 Women's Inter-Services Downhill Ski Championships. For the first time in the competition's history the WRAC won both the team event and the overall individual title.

The Inter-Services, hosted this year by the Royal Navy, took place in Les Arcs in the French Alps. A team of five skiers competed in the Championships, they included Lt Jenny Chambers (16 Sig Regt), W02 (Budgie) Rosewell (HQ NEDIST), Cpl Yolanda McCammont (RA Depot), Pte Anita Burns (RA Depot) and the team trainer and captain Lt Carolyn Caddick (2 Inf Div HQ and Sig Regt).

The team had 10 days before the actual racing started to get their skiing legs back into shape and get down to some serious race training. Lt Caddick, the team trainer, and a hard task master, put the team through its paces on some pretty hairy looking courses. The theory that if we made it through the training courses, we would find the competitions easy was later to be proved correct.

The first race of the meeting was a Royal Navy Ski Club Race, in which the Army and the RAF were permitted to compete hors concours. This gave the team valuable racing experience, particularly for one member of the team who had never raced before.

The racing started in earnest on March 1st with two runs of the special slalom. At the end of the first run the RAF team, who have won the overall Team event for the past 8 years, were in the lead, with the Army a close second and the Navy third. The second run, however, proved to be the downfall of the RAF Team, with 2 of their 4 skiers falling. The individual results at the end of the slalom race were: 1st Caddick, 3rd Burns, 5th Rosewell, 11th McCammont. These extremely good results put the Army ladies firmly in the lead with the Navy second and the RAF third.

The Giant Slalom, on the second and final day of racing was one extremely long run down an international standard course. However, the Army Ladies rose to the occasion and all skied extremely well, allowing the Army Team to consolidate their leading position after the special slaloms. The RAF Team who also skied very well in the Giant Slalom, managed to pick up precious seconds, which enabled them to improve their

overall team result. The final team results for the Inter-Services Competition were: Army 1st, RAF 2nd, Navy 3rd. In addition to this team win, the Army managed to secure the overall individual Inter-Services Title, which was won by Lt Carolyn Caddick for the third year in succession.

Following the Giant Slalom (the final race in the competition) the prize giving was held on one of the open air terraces in Les Arc's. Shara Lewis, the British Ladies Slalom Champion was there to present the trophies — including the Wilkinson's Sword which is the Team Trophy. All that remained was to participate in the festivities that had been laid on by the Navy Ski Club. In fact the Navy had arranged numerous festivities throughout the two weeks of our stay in Les Arc's, all of which were extremely well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

The team are looking forward to defending the championships next year, which will once again be hosted by the Royal Navy in Les Arc's, France. However, next year a team of 6 skiers must be provided, which means taking a minimum of 9 skiers to Les Arc's for race training and selection. If you are a reasonably good skier (ie competent parallel turns) and would like to try for the Army Ski Team please contact either the Army Women's Ski Representative, Capt Isabel McCord on Aldershot Mil 2427 or the Army Women's Team Captain, Lt Carolyn Caddick on York Mil 2518.

INTER-SERVICE NETBALL

The RAEC Centre provided the venue for the Inter-Service Netball Championship on April 4th and 5th. In the opening game the Navy began very strongly with a 15 goal lead, but eventually lost by 44 goals to 36 to a more experienced RAF side.

On the second day, the Army with four newcomers in the team began their quest for the trophy in very convincing style by beating the RN 60-19.

The scene was then set for a cliffhanger with both the Army and RAF determined to win. The Army were soon in dominating form with both shooters — Captain Karen Ibbotson and Pte Alexandra Hall — hardly missing a goal. The RAF fought back well in a strongly contested game, but the Army emerged as eventual winners by 44 goals to 34 to regain the coveted trophy.



L-R: Pte Burns, Cpl McCammont, Lt Caddick, W02 Rosewell, Lt Chambers.



The winning WRAC Team with the Wilkinson Sword Trophy.

UKLF AND ARMY SLALOM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sgt P A Coley WRAC

The WRAC were well represented at the UKLF and Army Slalom Championships held recently, and acquitted themselves so well that some of their scores put those of some of the men to shame.

For those of you not versed in the art of Slalom canoeing, let me give you a brief introduction. As with slalom skiing, its skill is derived by negotiating a path between strategically placed poles or gates. In canoeing these gates are suspended above the river, usually just above the trickiest and most unwelcoming parts. The paddler attempts to steer her way through the poles without touching either of them, lest she incurs penalties, which would then be added

to the length of time she takes to complete the course. Penalties are also added for failure to go through the poles. Each paddler gets two runs of the course and her fastest time overall is taken as her score.

Sounds dead easy on paper doesn't it? If you could see the bruises and damage to the boats you would know just how much of an understatement that really is! The effort that all the girls put in, particularly at Bala for the Army championships, was fantastic, especially when you consider that the men didn't want us to paddle as they thought it would be beyond our capabilities.

The first competition was the UKLF championships held at Llandussyl, South Wales in June. The good weather meant that the water was low, so there was a lot of bumping and scraping, and some unintentional swimming practice. By the time Friday came Lt Phipps, Cpl Sadie Hughes 15 Bn RAOC, Cpl Julie Maycock, LCpl Jill Potter 10 Sig Regt, Cpl Sharon Maysbury ASMT Leconfield, Cpl Trish Quigley 181 Pro Coy, Sgt Pat Coley School of Infantry had all arrived and practised the course.

We competed in three events which ran concurrently with the men's events, they were Individual, Team events and mixed C2 event. For the first time ever we had enough girls to enter two teams in the Corps team events, the difficulty in this event is that three paddlers set off together and must pass through a designated gate within fifteen seconds of each other, their time finishing when the last paddler crosses the finish line.

Mixed C2. This was more of a fun run than a serious competition, especially as the girls had never paddled C2's before. A C2 is a two man boat that the paddler kneels in and paddles on one side only. Cpl Sharon Maybury and her partner, Jim Waterhouse won this event and Cpls Maybury and Hughes with their respective partners did well to beat many of the husband and wife teams.

The Individual event was won by Sgt Coley with Cpls Maybury and Quigley 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In the face of such enthusiasm, the organisers couldn't fail to invite the top five women paddlers up to Bala to compete in the Army championships. Because of other commitments only three of us could get there, Trish, Sadie and myself.

Looking at the river I wished I had also been somewhere else, however after several practice

runs and umpteen swims, some of which were quite nasty, we entered in the Individual event. Unfortunately each one of us capsized and swam on one of our runs, but happily we got to the end of the course on the other. At this stage of the game the emphasis was on completing the course upright to prove to the men that we could do it and we really didn't care who won. In fact Trish was third, Sadie second and I was first, and all of us happy to have succeeded.

WRAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Meechie Shield (Individual Scratch Competition)

Winner	Sgt L Eadie	ACIO Leeds
Runner Up	Brig H G Meechie	DWRAC MOD

Clements Cup (Individual Handicap Competition)

Winner	Brig H G Meechie	DWRAC MOD
Runner Up	Sgt M A Bradshaw	ACIO Leeds

Clissitt Cup (Foursome Competition)

Winners	Maj J F M Whitehead	MWS MRO
	Lt K J Bettison	HQ Lisburn Garrison

DIARY DATES

3 Oct 84	Inter Service Golf	Aldershot
2 Nov 84	Quarterly Medal Competition	Aldershot
5 Nov 84	WRAC GC V APTC GS	Aldershot
17 Jun 85	Corps Championships	Aldershot

Details of the above events will be published in due course by the Secretary WRAC Golf Society.

Retired members of the Corps will be invited to play in the next Corps Championships and the details will be published in the February 1985 edition of Lioness.

SQUASH

The start of 1984 produced a busy fixture schedule for the Army Women's Squash Rackets Association. The Inter Zone and Army Individual Championships took place on 15-17 January and 19-21 January respectively at Waverley Squash and Social Club.

The Inter Zone was won convincingly by London and Eastern District where the Army No 1 and 2 seeds, Sgt Joyce Tuomey and Sgt Kathy Johnstone provided exceptional strength and depth to the team.

The Army Championships followed straight on from the Inter Zone and promised to produce some very interesting matches. After some very competitive squash the Individual Championship Final predictably saw the clash of the Army No 1 and 2 again, with Sgt Joyce Tuomey in three straight games retaining her title. The first round losers went through to a Plate Competition, and in the final Sgt Anne Hopkins beat Sgt Caroline Johnson 3-0. A trophy for the best individual and most determined effort went to Pte Winkles who had travelled from Benbecula for this event.

These competitions led to the selection of the Army Squad for the Inter Services Championships:

1. Sgt J Tuomey.
2. Sgt K Johnstone.
3. Cpl S Blackburn.
4. Capt D J Foggin WRAC.
5. Capt J R Dixon WRAC. Res. Cpl J Todd.

The Army excelled themselves this year and retained the Championship Trophy for the fourth year running, giving the WRNS and WRAF a resounding 5-0 defeat. The prizes donated by Pilgrim Trophies of Aldershot were presented by Brigadier E J Nolan CB, Deputy Controller Commandant.

A TALE OF THE UNEXPECTED

The Encounter

Alarm went. Turned it off. Switched on light. Got up. Dawn chorus just beginning. Bloody birds. Shaved. Cut myself. Repaired damage to face. Another alarm went. Turned it off. Combed hair until it was just so. Dressed. Noted starch and razor-edge creases with satisfaction. Put on George Boots. Checked reflection in toecaps.

Adjusted hair. Digital alarm started beeping. Turned it off. Started again. Turned it off. Certainly made sure I was going to wake up on time. Well — had to. Important day. Final check of appearance in full-length mirror. Brushed hair again. Practised stern face. Put on beret. Adjusted until it was perfect. Looked for ash-plant. Couldn't find it. Slight panic. Rush around a bit. Find it in original place. Phew! Checked beret again. Adjusted trousers. Straightened jumper. Opened door. Walked to car. Walked back to house. Picked up car keys. Walked to car.

Pulled up in reserved space in car park. First time ever. Told to move due to Black Alpha. Got to start obeying such rules now. Went to new place. Checked beret in rear view mirror. Opened door. Got out. Put on Man of Destiny Face. Did slow survey of area with narrowed eyes. Like Clint Eastwood. Saw nothing wrong. Disappointed. Headed towards office. Two soldiers walked past. Didn't salute. Thought about disciplining them. Decided not to. Answer to question "Don't you know who I am?" might be embarrassing. Pretended I hadn't noticed. Put on preoccupied mind-on-higher-things face.

Arrived in office. Changed Adjutant Out board to Adjutant In with casual air as if I did it every day. Walked confidently through Orderly Room. Said "Morning chief". Ignored answer. Saw Subaltern in office. Second Lieutenant in fact. Hair looked a bit long. Predatory look appeared on face. Time to use silky supercilious sarcastic tone laden with Adjutantal menace. Good way to start the reign. Make everyone scared of me. Opened my mouth to say my office isn't a barbers shop (rather good I thought). Said two things: Subalterns not allowed in my office; and get your hair cut. Also showed correct amount of warped humour, when Subaltern turned round. Interesting shape. A girl.

It spoke. "Hello, I'm Sue". Said "Hello, I'm Adjutant". Don't want to encourage first name terms. Not with one-pippers. Grinned wolfishly at the thought. Asked "Are you lost?". After all don't want it said that Adjutant is so busy being tough he's forgotten his manners. It replied "No, I work here. I'm the Assistant Adjutant". Picked myself off floor.

Day going badly. First day in job too. No one interested in me. Don't they know I'm Adjutant. Phone rings. Ring Ring. "Adjutant". "Can I speak to Sue please?". "Why?". "She'll know the answer". Huh. Colonel seems more interested in

Sue too. Both run the stables together. "Would you like some coffee?". "What?". "Would you like some coffee?". "Yes please". Difficult not to respond with such kindness. I'll manage. Ring Ring. "Adjutant". "Can I speak to Sue please?". Oh boy. Chief Clerk walks in with huge pile of files. Heart lightens. This is it. Responsibility. Decisions to be taken. Put on resigned OK-Chief-let-me-have-it-face. Phone rings. Ring Ring. "Adjutant". "Hello, I wonder if you can help me". "Yes of course, that's what I'm here for". Feeling better now. Being useful. Coffee arrived. "Thank you". A smile. (A little one). Dealt with problem on phone. Put phone down. Turned to tackle pile of files in In tray. In tray empty. Odd. Sue's tray overflowing. This is ridiculous. Leap up in anger. Coffee spills all over desk. "Rats". Colonel walks in.

She'll have to go. How to work it? Rack the brains. Rack Rack (WRAC WRAC? Adjutant retains sense of humour in adversity). Hit on brilliant idea. Send her Adventure Training with Mad Murray. Plenty of scope for tragic accidents while abseiling, rock climbing, white water canoeing, pot holing. Possibility of getting irretrievably lost during treks on Dartmoor. Hound of the Baskervilles? Fiendish giggle. Turn

to Sue with Insurance Salesman smile. "Sue, you're working too hard, have a few days off in Devon". "Thank you". Heh heh. Must go and play some Wagner. Time Passes. "Hello Adjutant".

Ah well. If you can't beat them... New plan forms. Got to face up to realities of situation. Start behaving like mature adult, sensible human being. Stop being at odds, work together. Form a constructive wholesome relationship working together for the greater good. Equal partners without distinction. Each respecting the other's capabilities. Sounds good. Time to make a start. "Sue, there's no need to call me Adjutant. We share an office, we work together, we're a team. I don't think there's room for too much formality. You can call me Adj! ". "Thank you".

Plan going well. Everyone now thinks Sue perfect. Never makes mistakes. But she will. One day she will. And then

MOVE OF WRAC DIRECTORATE

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EX MARRAKESH EXPRESS

Cpl S Welland & Cpl S Elliot

Ex Marrakesh Express was a 15 day expedition to Morocco mounted by members of 1 Training Company of the WRAC Centre from 5th – 19th December 1983. Our journey started from Guildford via RAF Hendon to Luton.

The flight from Luton to Gibraltar was an experience in itself. The pilot had informed us that the airstrip at Gibraltar was the shortest he had ever had to land on, and didn't we know it! Especially when we had to back pedal to help the aircraft to a halt. The 'G' force soon got rid of all the lines on our faces. Sgt Lawrence looked a distinct 10 years younger. We stayed overnight at Gibraltar and so had time to explore before flying over to Tangiers where our expedition really started.

From this point onwards we each had to carry our packs, weighing approximately 38 lbs. At the airport we got through customs with no problems until Cpl MacDonald decided to take a "happy snap" of our arrival. Unfortunately two Morocco policemen were in her viewfinder and were not at all impressed. They marched over, took the camera from her, ripped out the film and crushed it underfoot. First lesson learnt ... don't take photos of PC Plods in Morocco!

At the railway station in Tangiers we had to wait a considerable time for our train to Marrakesh. The journey was long and slow but without many incidents. We arrived in the early hours of the morning and spent a few hours in a cafe eating croissants and tangerines while we waited for the bus to take us to Asni. When the bus arrived our rucksacks were thrown on the baggage rack on the top of the bus. The driver, who must have been trained by the RCT, gave us a hair-raising journey along mountain roads and tight bends to Asni. We kept looking behind to reassure ourselves that our packs were still there. On reaching Asni we walked to the hotel followed by a crowd of Moroccans attempting to sell us cheap jewellery and trinkets. The hotel was comfortable and put us in good stead to begin our trek the next day.

The next 6 days were spent travelling by foot around the Toubkhal Mountains where the terrain was arduous. Capt Braybrook was the first to trip over followed by Cpl Welland at regular intervals much to the annoyance of 2 Lt Hoskins who had

to keep picking her up. The panoramic views were absolutely tremendous, and it was incredible to see so much beauty in a land of so much poverty.

On route we experienced many changes in the weather. One day at lunchtime we were basking in the sun, and only three hours later we were in the middle of a snow storm with drifts up to two feet. It was quite frightening as Cpl Butterworth began to show signs of hypothermia and Cpl Dodd started to suffer from snow blindness. The pair of them were heroically tended by Cpl Elliott. That evening we were all in our sleeping bags by 1630 hours. The following day we started to walk down hill eventually getting away from the snow. Once again the sun was shining as we spent a few hours drying out!



L-R: Cpl Welland, Capt Coates, Cpl Butterworth, Sgt Lawrence, Cpl Elliott, Cpl Dodd, 2 Lt Hoskins, Capt Braybrook.

On our return we began to get rid of the excess weight in our rucksacks, donating a pair of old boots to a local who thought all his birthdays had come at once! We gave sugar and chocolate to the children, and plasters to the local women who had to be shown how to use them.

One of the villagers invited us to tea on his roof. He brought out a huge brass table and generously gave us lemon tea or mint tea and walnuts, the first fresh food we had had in days. The berber tribesmen were very kind, helpful and generous to us even though they lived very simply.

Back at the hotel, steak and bread had never been consumed in such large quantities. Even though the water was cold a lovely bath was heaven. After a day recuperating and haggling

with our old clothes for souvenirs, we started our return journey.

From Asni to Marrakesh we went on the same bus. From Marrakesh to Casablanca we were unable to get seats on the train as the whole population of Morocco appeared to be on holiday due to Mohammed's birthday. At Sidi Kazem we had to change trains, and there must have been 600 people waiting for our train to Tangiers. Needless to say when the train arrived everyone went mad, some even jumping in through the windows.

From Tangiers we sailed to Algeciras in Spain, and after yet another long wait we boarded the train that would take us to Paris, then on to Calais and eventually the ferry and back home to Guildford. We were relieved to see our duty driver at the station waiting for us. It was a wonderful experience and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made this expedition possible.

UNIT NEWS

10 COMPANY WRAC

10 Coy is under new management having undergone a complete change of officers since the beginning of the year. First to leave, to go to RPO Brighton last February on promotion, was the 2IC Capt Val Wright. She was replaced by Capt Davina Hay, posted in from Dortmund. Next to go was Lt Bridget Williams, as A/Adjt to 49 Fd Regt RA at Topcliffe. Maj Claire Weaver, the OC, left in April on posting to MOD and was replaced by Maj Jackie Smith from the WRAC College. Finally, Lt Chris Ronan was posted on promotion to Capt to ASMT Leconfield. The Platoon Commanders are now 2Lt Sally Holt and 2Lt Alison Wright, straight from RMA Sandhurst. We are very sad to lose WO1 (RSM) Beresford who retired from the army in June, but we welcome WO1 (RSM) Laycock who took over from her.

The 40th Anniversary of D Day was a proud day for us. 2Lt Sally Holt led a detachment of WRAC servicewomen from 10 Coy WRAC and 3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt in the D Day Parade in Portsmouth. A very exciting day for all

concerned, not least because after the parade the whole contingent were entertained to lunch on board HMAV St George from 20 Maritime Regt RCT.

In Aldershot in June, everyone seems to become involved in the Aldershot Army Display and for the first time 10 Coy took over total responsibility for the Souvenir Stand. The Aldershot Army Display was also a busy time for the Duchess of Kent Barracks Admin Staff as we had to accommodate and feed most of the WRAC participants in the Display. (In fact we have transitees all year round — the record so far this year is 1222 transitees accommodated in one month in March 1984!).

The Company had plenty of visits in the first part of the year. On April 18th Recruiting Staff from around Britain visited and May 15th was the turn of WSLO London, Capt Judy Salmon with 10 potential officers. The GOC South East District Lt General Sir Geoffrey Howlett came on May 23rd, and we were visited by Lord Trefgarne, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces.

The first Company Training day of the year was on Saturday April 14th and covered a range of activities from BFT to Orienteering. In addition to our unit commitments we have had no less than five adventure training exercises. The first run by our new Platoon Officers was held from May 11th-14th in Wales, and amongst other activities everyone managed to climb Snowdon!



At last at the top of Snowdon!

L-R: Back Row: 2 Lt Holt, 2 Lt Wright, LCpl Coombe, Pte Kelly.

Front Row: Pte Wilson, Pte Davey.

Those who attended were 2 Lt Holt, 2 Lt Wright, LCpl Coombe, Pte Davey, Pte Wilson and Pte Kelly. We have also had two one-week exercises in Scotland with 242 Signal Sqn in late May and early June where the activities included rock climbing, abseiling, cycling, hill walking, camping

and rafting (the test came in sailing the raft after construction). There were also two exercises held at HMS Osprey in June, the highlight being a helicopter trip – courtesy of the Royal Navy. Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to our next exercise which we hope will take place in September or October.

The Company has been successful on the Sports Field too, and we have won in the period January to June 1984 the South East District (W) Hockey League, the South East District (W) Squash league, the South East District Hockey Cup, the Army Inter Unit Hockey and the South East District Inter Unit Relay (Athletics).

We have also hosted VIP teas following numerous sports events held in Aldershot.

In short, it is good to report that despite the turbulence, 10 Coy is alive and well and very busy, continuing to live in Aldershot.

29 COMPANY WRAC

We have had a large turnover of personnel recently. Captain Alison Miller left us for Woolwich in October, the position being filled by Captain Angie Carter who left in March to become a full-time housewife. We are now keenly awaiting the arrival of Captain Emma Ford. Lts Gill D'Orton-Gibson and Sue Littlejohns have moved on with 2Lts Fiona Frost and Debbie Fenn taking their places, and Lt Bridget Collin is soon to move on promotion to Shrewsbury with 2Lt Sharon Parks already in position to replace her.

The OC Maj Sue Wing has had to cope with all of this and is now welcoming our new RSM, WO1 (RSM) Dorothy McFall. We bade a fond farewell to WO1 (RSM) Carol Wells by towing her from Coy Offices to inside the Sgts Mess in a laundry trolley. We wish her all success in her new post at the WRAC Centre.



Saying goodbye to WO1 (RSM) Carol Wells.

Activities within 29 Coy have been varied ranging from trips to Pop Concerts to see Culture

Club and the Eurythmics to another series of sporting successes. These have included our team of Sgt Gill Flanders, Cpl Caroline Thompson, Cpl Jill Cousin, LCpl Del Rees and LCpl Castel Hanson winning both the BAOR and UK Cross country Championships. Representation at BAOR level has been earned by Maj Sue Wing and Cpl Julie Waumsley for Hockey, Pte Maxine Brown for Netball, WO2 Nicky Rochelle, Cpl 'Titch' Pulfer and Pte Lyn Williams for Table Tennis with WO2 Rochelle also chosen for Badminton. Our Orienteering Team is shortly to return home for the UK Championships.

The first weekend in May was a Regimental Weekend for 29 Coy which included a Church Parade with the Staff Band. Whilst Officers and Warrant Officers attended a Study Period the majority of 29 Coy had a sports afternoon with 65 a side rounders!

A contingent of eleven girls from the Devon ACF visited for two weeks and were shown various aspects of Army life including WRAC drill which caused some hilarity as many of them were used to Light Infantry Style Drill. Throughout the visit they were "chaperoned" by Sgt Sandy Barclay.

On the military side our team of Lt Bridget Collin, Sgt Sandy Barclay, Sgt Ann Godfrey, Sgt Alison Stead and Cpl Angela Soakell came second in the SMG competition of the Rhine Area Skill at Arms Meeting with Cpl Soakell best WRAC shot and 4th overall with the men. Annie Oakley eat your heart out!

The next few months look just as hectic with amongst other things, a Special Expedition to Norway, a Bed Race and of course Ex Lionheart.

BAOR

Time has just not stood still for those of us serving in Germany over the past few months. In October last year we welcomed WO2 Nikki Rochelle as SWOPT (WS). Since her arrival sport has been on the up and up. Two netball teams from BAOR played in a demonstration match for a German civil organisation in Celle in order to promote women's sport, and the Army Women's Hockey Team took part in an international hockey competition in Breda, Holland producing a highly creditable performance. We

are most grateful to "Q" for all her hard work.

On February 1st, the 35th Anniversary of the Corps, we heard that the post of Comd WRAC BAOR and Berlin was being upgraded to Colonel and that Lieutenant Colonel Smith was to be promoted on the same day.

At the beginning of May DWRAC decided to make a short unofficial visit to Rheindahlen for a weekend coinciding with the annual visit of the Staff Band. This was the beginning of a mammoth weekend! On Friday night we held a Corps Reception which was followed by a Band Concert in the Garrison Theatre. Captain Ena Forster, the Director of Music, conducted the Band from a rather precarious podium as half the stage was unusable! After a Junior Officers and Warrant Officers Study Day on the Saturday the Band played at a Regimental Dinner Night at which the officers entertained the Director and the Director of Music. Sunday morning proved to be the high spot of the whole weekend when 176 servicewomen and 6 officers marched through Rheindahlen behind the Band to the strains of "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill" for a sponsored Church Service in the Garrison Church. This was the first time that a parade of this kind had taken place and it made us all very proud of our own talented Staff Band and our Corps. Thanks must go to the Band for a most enjoyable and entertaining tour. With these events behind us we now have the main exercise in BAOR in September to look forward to!

3 PC REGIMENT RE WRAC ELEMENT

Visit of HRH The Duchess of Kent

On 16 May 1984, HRH The Duchess of Kent visited the WRAC Element of 3 PC Regt RE in Caernarvon Barracks in Dusseldorf. On her arrival she received an initial briefing by the OC 33 PC Sqn RE, Major Bruce McCandlish, who explained the many functions of the Postal and Courier Regiment. HRH then proceeded to the Sorting Office where she was escorted by Captain Sarah Sherring a WRAC officer permanently employed with Postal and Courier.

The Duchess of Kent met several WRAC

servicewomen on her visit to the Sorting Office who explained the various aspects of their job. A lunch was held in the Headquarters Dusseldorf Station Officers' Mess at which WRAC officers from Rhine Area were present.



HRH The Duchess of Kent being greeted at Dusseldorf Airport by Col Audrey Smith, Comd WRAC BAOR and Mr Newington the Consul General.



HRH The Duchess of Kent visiting the Sorting Office of 3 PC Regt RE with L-R: Sgt Barrick, WO1 Wilding and Capt Sherring.

WRAC DETACHMENT RA RANGE HEBRIDES SPRING FAYRE

By popular demand the WRAC Detachment decided to hold a Spring Fayre donating all proceeds to the Leukaemia Research Fund and the Leukaemia Society. Saturday March 17th was to be the day, and for three months the girls worked furiously producing a variety of handicrafts, cushions and soft toys. The knitting circle produced all kinds of woollens ideal for our Hebridean climate. Jigsaws by the dozen arrived. Trouser suits, jackets, watches and a lot of other things, including donations from the rest of the Garrison, were gratefully received. Friday the 16th had most of the Detachment at the BATS theatre, trying to turn the old cinema into a smart community hall.

Stalls soon began to take shape and the tables bulged with many different wares. Back in the kitchen a small team was busily preparing a variety of buns, bread rolls and cake slabs. Books of all shapes and sizes, bags, shoes and accessories were all there to tempt buyers. A few attractive items had been auctioned earlier.

The Bazaar was a hive of activity for two hours, with the cake stall well up in the placings. At the end of the day a total of £315 was made after a lot of hard work by Cpl Ros Smith and her team who all agreed that it was well worthwhile.



LCpl Wharton and Pte Wing at the cake stall.

MT TROOP, SCHOOL OF SIGNALS

"Smashed that myth about women drivers"

— This was the banner headline of the Bournemouth & District Echo following the better driving competition held at Blandford Camp recently. Hardly surprising really when LCpl Meg Thomas had a perfect run on the Institute of Advanced Motorists road test, to set a standard that no one else was able to emulate. Our friendly MTO, Captain Frank Atkins, was interviewed by reporters and expressed no surprise at the success of the women.

Our two "fresh from the egg" privates, Gail Holcombe and Lorraine Chivers, have rapidly discovered what life in a busy MT is all about, and manage to keep on smiling despite the extras, early starts, and late finishes. Burning the candle at both ends is never quite as appealing when your first detail is at 0430 hours to catch the first shuttle out of Heathrow.

On the fitness side it is fun as all the girls waltzed through the BFT. We have also supplied unit representatives in athletics, rounders and swimming. Living as we do in the married quarters patch, just going to and from work is a great way of keeping fit and burning off the excess calories. Rumours that male members of the troop were in training caused all five female hearts to flutter until it was discovered that they only intended to challenge us to a game of volleyball!



L-R: Cpl Thomas, Pte Chivers, Pte Holcombe, LCpl Thomas.



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!

**THE ROYAL
UNITED KINGDOM
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(Founded 1863)

Patron:

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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.

181 PRO COY WRAC

Visit of HRH The Duchess of Kent

For obvious security reasons the impending visit of our Controller Commandant had to be kept secret until the last moment and the whole programme arranged on the pretext of the OC's birthday. When the identity of our visitor was revealed on the morning of 4th April the effect on morale was noticeable. HRH was to visit us in Aldergrove and everyone who could possibly be released from operational duties was to have the opportunity to participate.

The Duchess of Kent arrived by helicopter at Alexander Barracks and was met by the OC, Maj Sheila Johncey and the CSM, WO2 Bowers. HRH first visited Coy HQ where some of the SNCOs and clerical staff were presented. The OC gave a short brief on the role and deployment throughout the Province of the WRAC Provost and volunteer searchers. HRH expressed great interest in the variety of operational tasks and was very sympathetic about the added problems of security for those who were off-duty and keen to indulge in normal recreational activities. On the way to the Training Wing, HRH kindly agreed to sign our Visitors' Book.

The Trg NCO, Sgt Mudd then introduced HRH to some of the detailed aspects of searching operations. Cpl Wilson described the protective and operational equipment carried by those on duty and demonstrated the use of "plasticuffs" and truncheons. She also explained that, fortunately, they are very rarely needed! LCpl Ward gave a practical demonstration of a female body search and a handbag search using LCpl Hagen as the suspect terrorist! HRH was then shown some of the literature, a radio transmitter and a mercury tilt switch.

The last part of the visit was a tea party in the 1 QO HLDERS Corporals' Mess. HRH had the opportunity to chat to a great many service personnel in addition to meeting Comd WRAC, Maj Glynis Harvey and Comd Catering Lt Col Dougie Hathorn. In addition to being our Controller Commandant, the Duchess of Kent is the Colonel in Chief of the ACC, so those members of the ACC serving with 1 QO HLDERS were invited to share in the occasion. We were



HRH meets LCpl Elaine Hagen who acted the part of a "Terrorist" in a searching techniques demonstration given by LCpl Sue Ward.



HRH meets members of 20 Platoon over a cup of tea
L-R: LCpl Bethell, Cpl Rowland, LCpl Rhodes, LCpl Robertson.



WO2 Bowers presents the plaque as Capt Canham and Maj Harvey look on.

also delighted to welcome three "Greenfinches" from 9 UDR and HRH was able to hear first hand about their work in Northern Ireland.

At the end of the visit, WO2 Bowers presented the Controller Commandant with a 181 Pro Coy WRAC plaque, which we hope will serve as a memento of her visit. Before leaving for the airport, HRH said some very kind words to the NCOs present about our work in Northern Ireland and how pleased she was to be able to come here again after three years. HRH was escorted to the airport by the Comd WRAC Northern Ireland.

The conversation was buzzing after the departure of HRH. Everyone had enjoyed the visit enormously and it was marvellous that HRH made time to speak to every single member of the Company who was present, throughout the afternoon. We were proud and delighted to have been able to host her visit to the Province on this occasion.

WOMEN DRIVERS

181 Pro Coy WRAC, the WRAC Company in 1 RMP in Northern Ireland have received a rather special award. The drivers have maintained a record of accident-free driving for more than a year, covering a total distance of over 114,000 miles. This means that each of our four drivers has averaged 28,500 miles. We understand that this is a rather remarkable record.

The achievement was marked by the presentation of a Diploma by the Comd Tpt & Mov HQNI to the Company on April 10th. Apparently the average time between accidents in other companies is about 6 weeks. So much for the derogatory remarks about women drivers!



LCpl Fleischmann receiving the Safe Driving Diploma from Lt Col Green RCT, surrounded by L-R: WO2 Daly, LCpl Watson, LCpl Lewis, SSgt Hockaday, LCpl White, Sgt Wilson, LCpl Simpson, Maj Johncey.

242 SIGNAL SQUADRON HQ SCOTLAND (ARMY)

Lt F J Grundy WRAC

It has been a busy and productive year for the girls of 242 Signal Squadron and those of Headquarters Scottish Command. Our units are co-located in the splendid surroundings of Craigiehall, approximately 8 miles north of Edinburgh city centre.

During October everyone spent a week on Exercise SNOW LION — the Squadron battle camp. This intensive military training programme comprised NBC, First Aid, Map Reading, Weapon, Current Affairs and Fitness Training. We had a week of torrential Scottish rain but morale remained high throughout.

On our return, the two newly formed hockey teams travelled to Catterick with the 11-a-side team coming 3rd in the Zone Championships. The season culminated in a magnificent 6-a-side win over our local naval shore ship — HMS Caledonia. Badminton has gone from strength to strength. Many girls play every week during the evening and managed to bring most of the Army in Scotland Badminton Championship trophies back to Craigiehall. The cross country team have done extremely well this season, coming 2nd in the Zone Championships. Two people were then selected to run in the Army Championships and one girl was chosen to represent the Army at Inter-Service level.

Most evenings are taken up with some sort of activity. The winter sees badminton, shooting and hockey and now that the summer is here, if popmobility isn't running the girls are usually challenging the men to a game of rounders. We also have some very keen athletes who have been training hard.

Exercise WINTER SAFARI — Squadron ski camp — was the highlight of the spring. This was a two week exercise, resulting in everyone gaining their bronze downhill proficiency awards and, it is rumoured, some girls applying for arctic training! May and June saw Exercise RANNOCH CANTER, the summer adventure training camp, take place. Held on the shores of Loch Rannoch in Perthshire, it was a testing week for all. Rock climbing, abseiling, a 25 mile "trek" and overnight camp, a 36 mile cycle ride around the loch and a raft building and sailing race kept everyone busy.

We have also been busy in the public eye. Girls, dressed in No 2 dress jackets and our

traditional tartan skirts, have helped out at many functions. School Grand Days, the Tri-Service Beating Retreat, the Royal Tournament and Edinburgh Military Tattoo are a few. The Commcen and Telephone Exchange personnel have been busy with numerous exercises as have all the girls working in the Headquarters.

RAC CENTRE – BOVINGTON & LULWORTH

The WRAC Detachment based in deepest Dorset, has seen many changes since the last edition of *Lioness*. The most notable change must be in the weather! Glorious hot, sunny days are infinitely better than horizontal rain and whistling winds. However, those arriving here in January and February must have wondered whether this was the end of the world. Certainly the first to notice this was Sergeant Carol Rich who assumed the post of Admin SNCO in Lulworth. A veteran of the Falklands, having been a member of the first detachment to go there, even she was dismayed by the weather.

The detachment PTI, Corporal 'Fred' Sleightholme departed for BAOR – peace descended on Bovington, but she was sorely missed! I hope she enjoyed her tour here as much as we enjoyed her humour and PT lessons (in retrospect)! Corporal Lynn Symonds came down from Middle Wallop to take over as PTI. She quickly settled in and made herself an invaluable member of the detachment. Unfortunately for us, Cpl Symonds left Bovington at the beginning of June. We were very sorry to see her go, particularly after such a short tour, but she went to Aldershot on well deserved promotion to Sergeant, and we wish her all the best.

Captain Jan Ransom, left us for the Falklands as OC WRAC. The odd letter and postcard has found its way back, giving the impression that despite the cold and the wind, she is enjoying her tour down there. Her appointment has now been combined with that of Assistant Adjutant RAC Centre Regiment, so Lieutenant Sue Mawby donned the mantle of OC WRAC. Staff Sergeant Anne Scott remains as the only contin-

uity in the Detachment – indeed Bovington would not be the same without her. Cpl Nina White, another veteran of the RAC Centre, has moved on to Cyprus after two years as staff car driver for the Director Royal Armoured Corps – another who will be greatly missed. However, for all the departures, the arrivals have settled in well and established their own place in the Detachment.

Exercise Ladies Luck took place one Saturday in early February. The exercise involved cross country driving with clerks, cooks and admin assistants navigating. Pte Emmitt set everyone a problem by getting her Landrover bogged in. I don't know if she blamed her navigator LCpl Church, but the next day LCpl Church was in the MRS with chicken pox!

In March, various members of the detachment joined the 1st Royal Tank Regiment's Adventure Training Camp, held at Renney Lentney once again. They all participated in rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing and pot holing. The pot holing invariably left everyone caked with mud, so the standard procedure for cleaning up was to jump off a bridge into a fast running river 40 feet below. The WRAC were very highly thought of by 1 RTR.

SSgt Margaret McKendrick was given the unenviable task of drilling into shape a platoon of thirty, plus one OC WRAC, for the big D-Day Parade held on the seafront at Weymouth on Sunday June 7th. Having lost her voice once or twice, and terrified the platoon with some form of order, she very wisely disappeared on leave. Over 1000 men and women were on parade with detachments from the WRNS and WRAF. The parade was kept standing in one spot either at attention or at ease for over 1½ hours – the OC standing at the front anxiously waiting for a member of the platoon to keel over. Thankfully none did, although several soldiers passed out. The march past and parade down the promenade, came as a welcome relief, and the WRAC platoon, so I'm reliably informed were the smartest of the Women's Services on parade. I certainly hope so, as those who took part had put a great deal of time and effort into the parade. It was certainly a privilege to be able to participate on such an occasion. Although the WRAC has only a short history in comparison with other Corps and Regiments, on that day thoughts went back to the roles played by the ATS forty years ago and I'm sure everyone walked a little taller and with an added spring in their step.

**GUARDS DEPOT
WRAC DETACHMENT
35th ANNIVERSARY DAY**

Lt J E Martin WRAC

On February 1st the WRAC Detachment at the Guards Depot celebrated the 35th anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps. The Commandant, Lt Col W H M Ross SG very kindly gave his permission for all available members of the Detachment to have the day off work; regrettably there were a number of drivers away on essential details.

The day began at 9.30 am with a parade, formed up under the auspices of Cpl Rose Hopkins. The eleven girls were inspected by the Commandant of the Guards Depot who complimented them all on the standard of their shoes; proving that it is not just the Household Division who can produce a good shine! We then went to All Saint's Church for a short service conducted by Padre Tony Appleby. It was one of the few opportunities we have as a Detachment to say the Corps Collect.

The serious side of the day now over we proceeded to the swimming pool for some fun and games organised by OC WRAC, Lt Jill Martin. The final event in the swimming pool was a water polo match. Pte Jackie Campbell seemed to be the top scorer of her side which won 8 - 4. She was supported in goal by team-mate Pte Kath Barbour who produced some excellent saves.

A buffet lunch was held in the Sports Bar of the Depot. Among the official guests were the new RSM, WO1 Dave Gibson, and the new Company Commander, Maj Henry Blossie-Lynch.



Lt Col W H M Ross SG inspecting the WRAC Detachment of the Guards Depot.

The highlight of the day was a trip to Gomshall to visit the old mill and its shops and to see the produce of the local pottery. After this we sat down in the mill to sample its well-known cream teas. We returned to Pirbright having thoroughly enjoyed our day of celebration.



**L-R: Back Row: Ptes Campbell, Taylor, Murphy, Federl, LCpl Dray
Middle Row: LCpl Doyle, Ptes Yarborough, Lovelock, Barbour.
Front Row: Cpl Chatfield, Lt Martin, Lt Col Ross, LSgt Hopkins.**

**REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT
ASSOCIATION**

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of three years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements. Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars.

Our Employment Officers are situated in 40 Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Job Centres.

During the period 1st April 1983 - 31st March 1984 the Association assisted 9,685 men and women with their resettlement and placed 3,849 in employment. Of those placed, 26 were from the WRAC.

BRIGADIER NOLAN VISITS CYPRUS APRIL 12th - 19th

On April 17th during her visit to Cyprus, Brigadier Nolan was entertained by the WRAC at Dhekelia. The entertainment took the form of a one act play, a comedy-cum-horror aptly named "Who Dares Might". The play was written and directed by Pte (Soo) Dyer.

The cast (mostly Signals personnel employed in the Communications Centre) were Cpl Pam Fielding, LCpl Taff Martin, LCpl Dee Hughes, Pte Liz Duff, Pte Sally Harbour, Pte Flo Mitchell, Pte Soo Dyer, Cpl Karen Richardson and Pte Jan Voak.

The play was about a party of ATS based in a hotel in Southern France during World War 2. Sound effects were provided by BFBS Dhekelia and the props were loaned by various departments in the Garrison. It was a great success. Brigadier Nolan thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, staying on afterwards for tea and cakes (provided by Pte Jan Voak) and an informal chat when she took the opportunity to bring the girls up to date on WRAC matters.



L-R: Cpl Fielding, Cpl Martin, Pte Duff, Brig Nolan, Pte Harbour, Pte Mitchell, Pte Dyer, Cpl Richardson, Pte Voak.

THE INTELLIGENCERS

A tape cassette called "The Intelligencers" is a musical history of the Intelligence Corps played by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers (Chatham). Side 1 is devoted to that theme. Side 2 contains regimental marches of the Intelligence Corps and other Corps associated with them. The WRAC Regimental March is included.

The cassette costs £5 (£5.30 including postage). Orders to Col (Retd) Felix Robson, Corps Secretary, Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent. Tel: Ashford 25251 ext 208.

WRAC LARKHILL 24 HOUR SPONSORED DISCO

On November 10th and 11th last year 23 WRAC girls from Larkhill Garrison, dressed in a variety of guises, danced their way through 24 hours and to the successful collection of nearly £1,000.

The event was organised by LCpl MacFadden, the then PTI, whose efforts produced a well supported and worthwhile charity event. For those concerned, the drama and excitement was not destined to end on November 11th.

On January 9th this year, eight of the fund raisers set out for Glasgow in a self-drive minibus to present a £500 cheque to the Erskine Memorial Hospital, near Penicuik. On the southern outskirts of Edinburgh disaster struck, their minibus left the road, crashed into a ditch and overturned. Despite being shocked, cut and bruised the party was not deterred from its mission and LCpl MacFadden and Pte Turton duly arrived at the hospital on Tuesday morning to present the cheque.

The remaining £450 was presented to the Royal Star and Garter Home on March 28th by four other fund raisers accompanied by Lieutenant Law WRAC. On this occasion the minibus journey passed without event and a most enjoyable day was had by all.



L-R: Back Row: Ptes Harvey, Stanley, McCann, Aggett, LCpls MacFadden and Skyrine.
Middle Row: Ptes Trott, Wood, Sessions, Watson, Holley, Woods, Cpl Hancock, LCpl Williamson
Front Row: Ptes Jameson, Swinson, Turton, Thorne, Cpl Shand, Pte Jackson.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Major F M Harford (Retd) MBE

Some people look upon the Royal British Legion as just a war veterans' society whose members meet to exchange memories of "battles long ago". This is not the case. The Legion is an ex-service organisation actively concerned with the care of ex-servicemen and women and their dependants who are disabled or in any kind of need. Branches of the Women's Section play an important part in the work of the Legion both locally and nationally. Many of the collectors who work so hard for the Poppy Appeal are Women's Section members and they also help on the Service Committees which are concerned with the welfare of the ex-service community in their own area. Branches work hard to raise funds for a number of schemes run by the Women's Section. Although these schemes are under review the main aim of the Section is, and will remain, to help as many members of the ex-service community as may require it.

Life is not all work and there is a social side to the Women's Section. Many branches hold regular meetings to which guest speakers come to talk on a variety of interesting subjects. Outings are arranged, and visits to theatres etc. Where there is a Royal British Legion Club, members of the Women's Section are made welcome.

To carry on the work which we believe to be worthwhile, we need younger members. There are comparatively few young ex-service members in most branches and we believe they have an important part to play in furthering our aim.

When you leave the Service do get in touch with your local branch of the Royal British Legion Women's Section. You will find rewarding spare time occupation in a caring and friendly organisation.

Major General J H Hild MBE, Commander Communications BAOR left Joint Headquarters, Rheindahlen on April 11th on retirement after 35 years of Army service. Our picture shows Private Paula McNeil, a member of his Branch staff, presenting him with the plate which had been displayed on his staff car when he took up his appointment, and which had been used by successive Chief Signal Officers until the title was changed. The plate had been suitably mounted as a farewell gift from his Branch Staff.



BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY CORONATION ROAD NORWICH NR6 5HD

The post of Director of the Norfolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society becomes vacant on the 1st January 1985 but the successful candidate will be expected to work as Director Designate from 1 November 1984.

Applicants should be in the 45 to 58 age bracket, with experience of organisation and management, some accounting experience and the ability to get on with people.

A four day working week will include some evening and weekend work.

Salary £5250 p.a.

Car ownership is essential for which mileage allowance on duty is payable.

Applicants must be fit and live within 20 miles of Norwich.

Applications marked Confidential with CV and the names and addresses of 2 referees should be submitted to the Director, Norfolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society, Coronation Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 5HD.

RETIREMENTS

Lt Colonel (QM) A I Purton OBE

Lt Colonel Audrey Purton whose service has spanned 40 years is our last link between the ATS and WRAC. She joined up in the summer of 1944 and after basic training at Guildford did a year as a storewoman before joining the ATS Provost. As a lance corporal she was with a detachment on a troopship ferrying between Tilbury and Cuxhaven, carrying families one way and returning with DPs and ex-concentration camp victims. Her next posting was to Egypt, and then Cyprus for duties in connection with illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine.

By then she was in the WRAC and promotion came fast. In 1958 WO1 Purton became the first WRAC Provost RSM, having already become the first female instructor at the all-male RMP Depot at Inkerman. In 1962 she scored another first by being the first WRAC Warrant Officer to be commissioned for Provost duties.

For her last nine years of service she held the DAPM WRAC Provost post in HQ PM (A). She was promoted Lt Colonel (QM) in 1979 and was awarded the OBE in 1982. We look forward to seeing her at Corps functions when she returns from Canada, and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

MAJOR L A E HOPKIN MBE LRAM DIRECTOR OF MUSIC WRAC STAFF BAND 1974 - 1984

In March this year we said "Au revoir" to Major Lynnette Hopkin who completed 34 years service with the WRAC Staff Band.

Major Hopkins studied at Birmingham School of Music for 3 years and after six months teaching in a school she joined the WRAC in August 1949 as a musician. In 1954 she broke her service

but re-enlisted in 1955, as a LCpl, since when she completed 19 years unbroken service as a servicewoman rising to WO1. During this time she gained her LRAM (1958) and was the first recipient of the Naomi Wallace Medal for Music (1952). She was awarded her LS&GC in 1968 and MBE in 1970. From 1971 to 1974 she attended the Royal Military School of Music as a Student Bandmaster and was commissioned on 12 June 1974 and appointed Director of Music.

Major Hopkin, apart from being a capable conductor, is a very able performer on the clarinet, an accompanist on the piano and a teacher of woodwind instruments. She learnt instrument repair and did much in maintaining the Band instruments.

Throughout her service Major Hopkin has maintained the highest personal and musical standards. She is highly respected in both military and civil musical circles as a conductor, performer and teacher. She has a deceptively quiet manner which belies a keen sense of humour and she will be missed by many. She does not intend to be idle in her retirement, and others will have the privilege of her musical expertise.

We wish her every happiness and thank her for all the pleasure she and the WRAC Staff Band have given members of the Corps in the last 34 years.



Maj L A E Hopkin MBE LRAM.

HEADQUARTER MESS

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRAC

MAJOR PAT RUSTON, MBE WRAC

Major Pat Ruston retired from the WRAC (and Royal Signals) last November after more than 40 years service. In her honour a Dinner was held in the Hall of Selwyn College, Cambridge on September 17th. It was a memorable occasion for, unknown to "Auntie Pat" (as she is affectionately known by many in 36 (EASTERN) Signal Regiment (V) and others for whom she has worked untiringly since she was posted there in 1961), many with whom she had worked throughout her service had been invited to be present and the committee managed to keep it a secret. Also unknown to her, a presentation fund had been set up and she was given a music centre to give her pleasure in her retirement.

To the great delight of the Committee, Brigadier Anne Field kindly agreed to take the chair at the Dinner and to make the presentation, and the WRAC was represented also by Colonel Nan Robertson.



L-R: Col Pat Hopper, Major Pat Ruston, Brig Anne Field, Col Geoffrey Dicker, Col Nan Robertson.

The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant, was present at a dinner at Guildhall, City of London on July 12th to mark the 35th anniversary of the WRAC. The principal guests were Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces and Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe. Brigadier Eileen Nolan, Deputy Controller Commandant, presided, and Brigadier Helen Meechie, Director WRAC, members of the Army Board, senior army officers and more than 300 past and present officers of the Corps attended.

A message was received from HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief - "I was delighted and deeply touched to receive the thoughtful message of loyal greetings from the officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps on the occasion of the Regimental Dinner. To all of you gathered tonight in the Guildhall I send my warmest good wishes for a successful and thoroughly enjoyable evening celebrating your 35th anniversary".

GIFT TO RMA



The silver compote which is engraved with a ladybird and inscribed "Presented by the Officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps Headquarter Mess on the formation of the WRAC Wing at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst April 1984".

BOOK REVIEW

WHEN THE 'CHUTE WENT UP

By Dolly Shepherd

Published by Robert Hale

Price £9.25

In Edwardian England before women had the vote, Dolly Shepherd was entertaining crowds at Alexandra Palace and throughout Britain with her reckless performances as a stunt parachutist. In her daring knickerbocker suit she soared above the clouds, rescued a colleague in mid-air and performed countless other intrepid acts.

Sadly, Dolly Shepherd died a few months before her 97th birthday shortly after completing this book. A tribute to her appeared in the February 1984 *Lioness*, as Dolly Shepherd the stunt parachutist was also Mrs Elizabeth Sedgwick ex-QMAAC, an active member of the QMAAC Luncheon Club until its disbandment, with a wide circle of friends among QMAAC members of the Association.

This is an extraordinarily engaging book and captures exactly the atmosphere of those pioneering days. A selection of excellent photographs from the studio portrait of the beautiful young girl in her knickerbocker suit to the photograph taken last year of the handsome elderly author surrounded by the RAF Falcons is an added bonus for the reader. The epilogue headed "But Never a Dull Moment!" says it all.

THE ATS BAND

**Lt Col Angela Cobb MBE TD DL WRAC (TA)
Retd (nee Stebbings)**

I would like to put the record straight about the formation of the official ATS Band in view of the article written in the February 1983 *Lioness* "ATS Band Founder Signs off".

While at OCTU in early 1941 it was in my

mind that the ATS should have its own Corps Band and on being posted to the ATS Training Centre at Droitwich I discovered that the Worcesters at Norton Barracks had a combined drum and bugle band. With the help of both COs the girls were transferred to Droitwich. Unfortunately most of them were NCOs which caused a few problems when applying for an establishment. However, Sgt Lorna Gilpin became Drum Major with Sgt Hedderley as Band Sgt. Sgt Morris of the Welsh Regiment was attached to us for training. After many visits to the War Office and a tremendous amount of help from Junior Commander Prudence Neill (later to become a BBC Announcer) and our Director, Chief Controller Jean Knox we finally became the official band of the ATS. In January 1942 we were moved to the ATS Transit Camp in Gower Street, London to join the Special Drill Platoon with whom we had been touring the country doing Recruiting Displays. Junior Commander Rhoda Eagleton was in charge of the Special Platoon and Colonel Bunny Tattersall (Public Relations War Office) was our boss and accompanied us, planning all our exhibitions and displays.

In the meantime I was most anxious to have a full military band and it was agreed to send out a circular to all units asking for volunteers with musical instrument experience. Among those who replied were a number of pipers from the Dagenham Girls Pipe Band and the Ladies Coatbridge Pipe Band who were already serving in the ATS, so we were able to form a drum and pipe band, and to play continual music on the march and do pipe and dancing displays. Both the Special Platoon and Band were trained in drill at Wellington Barracks by the Guards and as a result were superb on parade.

In 1942 the Special Platoon was disbanded. By this time our Bandmaster, Charles Monk of the Essex Regiment, had trained up all our new musicians and we set off round Britain, including Northern Ireland, playing for "Music While you Work" in factories, doing troop concerts, visiting American bases and the wounded in hospitals, playing in Lord Mayors Parades in various cities for Warship Week, Salute the Soldier Week and Wings for Victory. We had a rhythmic section and a dance band and took part in the BBC Variety Band Box programmes from the London Casino. We also played for the Victory Parade in Paris and London and we toured all of Italy, Egypt and Palestine.

TA

39 (CITY OF LONDON) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

On Friday February 10th the Lord Mayor of London, The Rt Hon Dame Mary Donaldson GBE, visited the Regiment to attend a Dinner in the HQ Officers Mess. This is an annual engagement in the Lord Mayor's social calendar which has been taking place for a number of years. The Regiment is honoured to be one of the few TA Regiments in London to receive a visit from the Lord Mayor.

It is customary for the R Signals members of the Regiment to provide a guard of honour, drawn up in front of the TAC. This year, as there is a lady Lord Mayor, the WRAC provided the guard.

There were twenty-four members drawn from each Squadron — Dundee, Banbury, Tunbridge Wells and London. The Guard Commander was Lt B Moores and she accompanied the Lord Mayor and the Commanding Officer on the inspection. The Lord Mayor spoke to many of the girls and complimented them on their smartness and turn-out.

Then, accompanied by her Sheriffs and her husband The Rt Hon Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, she entered the TAC when she was introduced to the senior officers of the Regiment before visiting the Sgts Mess and the Lynx Club, the Junior Ranks Club, to meet other members of the Regiment. She was then introduced to the guests before going in to Dinner. They included the Master of the Skinners Company, to whom the Regiment is affiliated, the Mayors of Hackney, Banbury and Tunbridge Wells, Chairmen of the City, South East and Wessex TAVRAS. The military guests included Maj General Benbow, Signal Officer in Chief, Brigadier McKinnon, Commander Comms HQ UKLF and Brigadier Meechie, Director WRAC.

The meal was prepared and cooked by our ACC and WRAC cooks and served by our stewardesses helped by girls from other trades. With a great deal of assistance from the regular permanent staff on the administrative side, the entire evening was organised and run by the TA members of the Regiment and it was pronounced a resounding success by everybody present.



LT B Moores presenting the Guard of Honour for inspection.



The Lord Mayor inspects the Guard of Honour.



The Lord Mayor in the Junior Ranks Club talking to Pte Fields, Pte Taylor, Pte Chambers, LCpl Grace, LCpl Parkhouse, Cpl Day, Pte Pugh.

IT'S A WOMAN'S LIFE IN THE LIGHT INFANTRY!

2 Lt E G Marchant WRAC (V)

The 6th Bn The Light Infantry is one of the few Infantry units to have WRAC personnel serving with them. The Battalion has a Home Defence role and it is this role which allows us to continue being part of the Battalion.

Life with the Infantry is both varied and demanding. It has taken several years for women to be accepted by their male colleagues, and I am afraid to say, there are still pockets of resistance within the Battalion where chauvinism is rife! However, this process of acceptance has been made easier by the willingness of all the girls in the platoon to have a go at whatever training is required.

Most of the thirty-odd strong platoon are based with the HQ Coy in Bath; the remainder are attached to Rifle Companies as far afield as Truro and Falmouth.

Trades vary from signaller to cook, driver to clerk, stewardess to storewoman. In addition each girl is expected to maintain a high standard of fitness and fire her personal weapon regularly. Infantry skills also feature in the training programme.

On occasions the platoon carries out its own training. So far we have navigated our way around Sennybridge Training Area in the dark, completed the assault course on the same training area and most recently, with the assistance of the training team from the Light Division Depot, launched ourselves off a cliff face near the Brecon Beacons, carrying out top-roping and abseiling training.



The WRAC March and Shoot team.

EDIST ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

After using 1983 as a stepping stone into the Army's world of sport and achieving runners up in the Edist Orienteering Championships at Rowany Warren, 3WFR WRAC (TA) accepted the challenge of 1984. Only Lt Varney and Pte Atkinson were available from the 1983 team and hopes were not high as a complete novice in the guise of Pte Norman was co-opted to make up the team.

We left Beeston very early on a dismal Sunday morning and arrived in Cromer with much trepidation as everyone else seemed so calm, collected and self assured. The course was not easy, with many climbs and soft areas, and our progress was not helped by the sudden showers of rain and snow, but gradually one by one we drifted over the finishing line. Tension grew as our times were calculated and we were neck and neck with our arch rivals of last year, EMU OTC.

Then at long last the final times went up. Not only had we won the team event but our dark horse Andrea Norman triumphantly collected the individual trophy!



L-R: Pte Atkinson, Lt Varney, Pte Norman.

34(N) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

In the last few months, WRAC members of this Regiment have been involved in a very wide range of activities. HQ Squadron at Middlesbrough have the smallest total of WRAC (29), but the widest range of trades, with clerks, pay clerks, stewardesses, cooks, medical assistants, drivers and recently the first Regimental Policewoman, Pte Terment. LCpl Tuffs and Pte Murkin were members of the Regimental team in the TA Cross-Country Championships.

49 Squadron at Leeds and Hull have 44 WRAC, mostly in the trades of Data Telegraphist and Switchboard Operator, although two recent recruits, Ptes Marshall and Last, were enlisted into a previously male stronghold as Combat Power (men?) (persons?)/Drivers. Many girls in the Squadron are keep-fit addicts, taking part in sponsored walks (Hadrian's Wall) and climbs (Pennines 3 peaks). Cpl Devlin, the Sqn PT Instructor, Ptes Cunningham and Plumb, were members of the Regimental Cross-Country team. The Squadron had this year gained two new WRAC officers, 2 Lts Penny Wood and Janet McClean. Also to be congratulated is Pte Cunningham who was nominated as the most improved recruit on her Guildford Recruit Course.

50 Squadron at Darlington and Gateshead have 41 WRAC again mostly Data Telegraphists and Switchboard Operators, with a recent Telemechanic and two Driver enlistments. Three girls were members of the Cross-Country team, LCpl Cooke and Ptes Munro and Widdrington. The team won the NE District WRAC/TA Championship in January, and finished third in the UKLF Championship on March 31st. Particularly deserving mention is Pte Widdrington who was the individual WRAC winner at Catterick and who finished second in the UKLF race. The girls have not stopped training for the summer, and indeed their most recent efforts were in the Great North Run. They are also taking part in

the Nijmegen Marches in July.

90 Squadron at Middlesbrough have 31 WRAC, once again mostly Data Telegraphists and Switchboard Operators. However they are very proud of Sgt Barclay, an HGV Instructor and Qualified Testing Officer, and one of only 5 members of the Regiment qualified to drive our bulk refuelling vehicles. For their extra-curricular activities, four WRAC in 90 Squadron recently decided to be really high-flying and signed up for parachute training. Led by the intrepid Pte Yeaman, who sports green and brown hair to match her combat kit and will soon, hopefully, be the first fully trained WRAC Technician in the Regiment, OCdt Vassie and Ptes Cornfield and Stevenson spent two Bank Holiday weekends jumping, first off benches and then out of aeroplanes. Like their male course-members who tried their hand at imitating the birds, they are all well and truly hooked on the sport. Their only complaint is the lack of weekends free from trade training and signals exercises so that they can return to the sky and that all-too-short float through the air down to the hard ground.

This then is a quick overview of 34 Signal Regiment (Volunteers). Don't get the idea that all we do is adventure training! Currently we are in the midst of a very full training schedule leading up to our participation in Exercise Full Flow/ Lionheart '84 when we hope once again to prove our skills as Combat Communicators "Swift and Sure".

COMMISSIONING CERTIFICATES

If you have never received your Commissioning Certificate, it is lying unclaimed in a cupboard in Stanmore. Certificates dating from the early 1950s, and belonging to Short Service Commissioned officers, can be claimed from Mr S W Bowlt, Room M20, MS2(B), MOD, Government Buildings, London Road, Stanmore, Middlesex.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1984

The Annual General Meeting was held at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday 24 March 1984 and was attended by 375 members.

Brigadier E J Nolan CB Vice President of the Association was in the Chair.

Colonel F M Cook, Chairman of the Association reported that new branches had been formed at Aberdeen, Bolton, Deal and Keighley and that there were now 57 branches. There were 3458 ex Service members and 4085 serving members making 7543 members in all. In order to help increase membership, Council had produced a poster for use by branches.

There had been a good gathering of members at the Opening of the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 10 November by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother when Corps crosses were planted in memory of QMAAC, ATS and WRAC.

The Association was well represented on Remembrance Day in Whitehall by Shropshire Branch with 129 members on parade from Shropshire, Barnsley, Kent, Deal, London, Greater London, Wimbledon and Aldershot. It was encouraging to see the resurgence of branches outside the London area attending this National Ceremony.

Mrs E Laurence-Smith The Honorary Treasurer reported that although the excess of income over expenditure was down by £2821 on the previous year there was still a healthy excess of £6084. Our overall subscriptions were down by £632 due to fluctuations in our serving strength. Out of the total annual subscriptions of £2966 only £403 came from ex service members. Furthermore, of our total income 76% came from investments. Lioness cost £1189 more than subscriptions, and the balance was met from

investment income.

The Annual subscription of £1 was divided 20p to the Branch and 80p to Association HQ. In its turn the 80p was divided 20p to Subscription account to finance capitation fees to branches for Life members, postage, stationery, the AGM and other administrative expenses. The other 60p goes to finance Lioness which last year cost £1.33 per member or more than double the Lioness subscription. The balance was met from investment income. Costs were bound to go on rising and therefore if the Association wish to defer raising subscriptions for as long as possible, it should continue to invest.

Major D R M Parker the Editor of Lioness appealed to members for interesting and topical contributions to the journal. Major Parker thanked Major E O Coven for doubling the advertising revenue and explained the need to show advertisers that their expenditure was justified. It would therefore be appreciated if purchasers of cars through NATOCARS would say where they saw it advertised, and if purchasers of VAN DAL shoes would tell Major Coven or the Editor of their purchase.

Brigadier E J Nolan CB the Chairman of ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds thanked Lt Colonel M W Soames for continuing as Chairman of the Grants Committee, and all the members of the Committee for their support. The presence of serving officers and warrant officers on the Grants Committee was very important as they were able to see the many safeguards which ensured that grants were only made to those in genuine need and were able to participate in the decision.

The Grants Committee considered 541 requests for help of which 2 came from QMAAC, 394 from ATS and 147 from WRAC. Every request for assistance was examined by an organisation on the spot and an impartial report presented to the Grants Committee.

Grants made during the year increased to £59,576 reflecting the increasing numbers needing help.

The Funds also provided fifty-three television sets under contract hire and paid for 38 TV licences.

The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund had 44 annuitants each receiving £3 per week. They all live on their own on minimal state incomes and are housebound to some extent by illness, infirmity or injury. The Fund is entirely dependent on donations by individuals and branches which are invested to provide the income. Brigadier Nolan

gave examples of cases helped by the Funds.

Brigadier E J Nolan as Chairman of the Museum Trustees explained that the Museum was likely to be closed at the end of the year for about eight months as part of the rebuilding of Queen Elizabeth Park.

The Museum welcomed the gift of any badges, buttons and coloured formation signs and also written reports from those who had done unusual jobs in out of the way places, during and since the last war.

Council proposed that details of the Association badge be inserted in the rules and that it be "The Association badge is a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown, with a Lioness rampant within the wreath. Beneath the laurel wreath a scroll with the words QMAAC, WRAC, ATS". Plymouth branch moved the adoption of the resolution, the WRAC College seconded it, and it was carried unanimously.

Edinburgh branch proposed that the Branch subscription to Association Headquarters be reduced from eighty pence to seventy pence. After discussion the resolution was unanimously rejected.

Hastings branch proposed that the specification of an Association Standard be

inserted in the rules. The Chairman explained that on the formation of the Association and subsequently the Association had discussed the provision of standards, and the majority of branches had not wanted them. It was for this reason that it was not included in the rules. There was in existence an old standard which had been used as an example by branches, but it was very expensive to make and very heavy.

It was agreed that Council would consider a new design and put a recommendation to the next Annual General Meeting.

Colonel B M Laverack, Miss A G Learmouth, Mrs H E C Weldon and Major E O Coven were elected Council Vice Presidents.

Lt Col G K Ramsey the Chairman Northern Area outlined the arrangements for the Grand Reunion on 13/14 April 1985 at Harrogate.

Brigadier Nolan reminded members that 1988 was the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS and a Reunion Year. It would be necessary to decide what form the Reunion should take at the Annual General Meeting in 1985.

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



WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from both world wars. We come from Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster and from the Falklands.

Now, disabled, we must look to you for help. Please help by helping our Association.

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA. We promise you that not one penny of your donation will be wasted.

Donations and information:
The Chairman, BLESMA,
Midland Bank Ltd.,
60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX



Give to those who gave - please

BLESMA

BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

REUNION NOTICES

ATS DINNER CLUB

Once again the Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club for members and their guests will be held at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London; the date Saturday 6th October. We look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Our membership continues to increase and we are always pleased to welcome new members. The Chairman and Committee wish to stress that *membership of the Club is open to all former members of the ATS irrespective of rank held at the time.*

Enquiries for membership should be made to the Hon Secretary, Miss C I Lawrence, 23 Trinity Close, The Pavement, London SW4 0JD who will be pleased to supply the necessary information.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – DOVER CASTLE

Last October the Dover branch organised a Remembrance Service in the Chapel at Dover Castle. Over 200 ATS and WRAC, Dunkirk Veterans, Royal Artillery and Burma Star Veterans with standards, attended the Service and the Mayor of Dover was also present. During the Service the Chaplain displayed a chalice used for Communion which was presented by members of the ATS.

The Dover branch have planned a second Remembrance Service in Dover Castle on Sunday 21 October 1984 at 3 pm and would welcome any members of the Association who would like to attend. Refreshments will be served after the Service.

Enquiries to Mrs J M Bishop, 13 St Annes Court, Heathfield Avenue, Dover, Kent CT16 2JY.

A Reunion will be held in the Study Centre at Imphal Barracks York, on Saturday 13th October from 2 to 5.30 p.m.

Tickets £2.50 including tea obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorks HG2 9BY (Tel: 0423-57023). *Please send stamped addressed envelope, large enough to hold 6" x 4" ticket, with remittance payable to 'WRAC Association – Northern Area Committee'.*

As the Study Centre has a limited capacity, early application is advised – preferably before Saturday 22 September.

There will be a Bring and Buy Stall, Raffle and Tombola to raise funds for the 1985 Grand Reunion.

GRAND REUNION 1985 HARROGATE

The Grand Reunion will be held in Harrogate on 13/14 April 1985 in the International Conference Centre. Detailed arrangements, costs and literature will be available later, but meanwhile, outline information is as follows:

Programme

The Secretaries' meeting and lunch will take place on Saturday morning followed by the AGM in the afternoon. There will be a Mayor's Reception early on Saturday evening followed by a Reunion Dinner. On Sunday morning there will be a service at St Peter's Church followed by a March Past.

The WRAC Staff Band will be present and will play during the Dinner, for the Church Service and at other times during the weekend.

A guided coach tour into the Yorkshire Dales will be arranged on the Saturday morning for those who wish to see something of this beautiful

area. Alternatively there will be a visit to Harewood House, home of the late Princess Royal who was Controller Commandant of the ATS and WRAC, which may particularly appeal to members. Costs cannot yet be quoted but will probably be in the region of £1.50 to £2.00. Otherwise, there is plenty to see and do locally in Harrogate for anyone who prefers a free morning for shopping or sightseeing.

Accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation in Harrogate which should meet all tastes and pockets, and all hotels will be within a few minutes' walk of the Conference Centre and shopping area. The type of accommodation available consists of:

Type 'A' Boarding House/Small Guest House
(Approx £7.00 per night or less)

Type 'B' Larger Guest House/Small Hotel
(Approx £7.00 to £11.00 per night)

Type 'C' Medium Hotel
(Approx £11.00 to £15.00 per night)

Type 'D' Luxury Hotels

The new International Hotel, which is part of the Conference Centre complex and linked directly to it by a bridge lounge, has offered us a very special reduced rate for the weekend. This will be £19.50 per night for one night's stay and £37.00 (ie £18.50 per night) for two nights. This covers luxury room and an enhanced Continental breakfast which includes juice, yoghurt, cereals etc, but omits the bacon and egg course. Those who want the superior accommodation will find this considerably less expensive than weekend break terms at other top hotels.

Conference Rail Fare

A greatly reduced rail fare will be available to everyone attending the Reunion and application forms will be issued at the time of booking.

Booking

Branch Secretaries have already received a circular giving the above information together with a questionnaire form on which to indicate the number of members likely to attend and their requirements for forward planning purposes. If you are not in regular contact with your Branch and have not been included in this survey please complete the provisional booking form below and send it to Miss Bradley as soon as possible so that final details and a book-

ing form can be sent direct to you later in the year for a firm reservation to be made.

Secretaries will be sent bulk supplies of booking forms for their members so everyone should be able to obtain one either through their Branch or by direct application.

Raffle

A Grand Reunion Draw is under way to raise funds for the Reunion and reduce personal costs as much as possible. Prizes include holidays and a large number of valuable goods and the draw will be made at the Northern Area Reunion in York on Saturday 13 October 1984. Tickets are 10p each in books of five and can be obtained through Branch Secretaries or direct from Miss Bradley.

Northern Area Branches are working hard to ensure that the Grand Reunion will be a memorable one and we hope to meet as many of you as possible in Harrogate.

PROVISIONAL BOOKING FORM

Name

Address

.....

Branch

1. I hope to attend the Reunion and expect that I shall require accommodation to be booked

in a Type hotel.

2. I wish to attend the Mayor's Reception YES/NO

3. I wish to attend the Reunion Dinner YES/NO

4. I wish to attend the Church Service YES/NO

5. I wish to join in the March Past YES/NO

6. I am interested in:
Yorkshire Dales Coach Tour YES/NO
Visit to Harewood House YES/NO

Please return this form (enclosing a stamp for receipt of booking form) to Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorks HG2 9BY (Tel: Harrogate 57023).

NB

The above is intended for members who are isolated and not in touch with a local Branch. It is anticipated that most members can easily contact their Branch Secretary for details and a copy of the final booking form.

WORLD WAR TWO CWAC VETERANS 26th ANNUAL REUNION 1984

We still haven't located all our CWAC friends of those great days of World War II. The news Media have helped a great deal in other years, so once again we call Canadian Women's Army Corps Veterans to Annual Reunion through the medium of this release.

This event is sponsored by the Canadian Corps Association, CWAC 47, the last weekend in September 1984, in Toronto, Canada. This is the 26th Annual Reunion for our Canadian Women's Army Corps.

For complete Reunion Brochure write to: CWAC Veterans' Reunion Chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9.

TRIBUTE TO BLESMA

After last year's "TRIBUTE TO BLESMA" the Seaside Entertainment Appreciation Society was re-organised and now has as Vice-President Colonel V K Stead OBE TD DL JP, Vice Chairman of Northern Area of the WRAC Association.

"TRIBUTE TO BLESMA 1984" is on Wednesday October 17th at the Empress Ballroom, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Tickets £2.00 from David Wagstaff, 45 Gateside Drive, Layton, Blackpool FY3 7PN. Pageant of the Standards and Band Tattoo, possibly finishing with ballroom dancing.

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BRANCH NEWS

CAMBRIDGE This Branch has now been in existence for four years with a membership of 42, nearly half of whom are Life members.

In spite of long distances and transport problems, we have an average attendance of 18 members at our monthly evening meetings.

During the last year we were guests for an evening of the local WRNS Association. We attended the WRAC Staff Band concert in Regents Park, and six members took part in the Cenotaph Service and Parade on November 13th. Others attended local Remembrance Parades.

Meetings have been varied with Bingo sessions, Bring and Buy sales, Raffles and a very interesting talk with slides of a holiday in Sri Lanka given by Major Lillie. At most meetings a member has unearthed some long forgotten photographs and this usually provokes some very interesting yarns.

The highlight of our year was the Annual Dinner held in January at which we were very pleased to have as our guests of honour Brigadier E J Nolan CB, Deputy Controller Commandant and Lt Colonel C A Marriott, Commander WRAC London/Eastern Districts. Brigadier Nolan very kindly gave an interesting talk about the WRAC and the Association. We were able to reciprocate

by presenting a cheque for £100 to the Benevolent Fund.

We are now saving up for the Grand Reunion at Harrogate next year.

CHESTER The branch continues to meet regularly, with approximately 25 members each time. We have held two very successful socials; at one the Chester Town Crier made the announcements, and this made it a very colourful affair. Both socials helped to boost funds, enabling us to send donations to various charities. A very happy time was had by 30 of our members at an excellent Christmas dinner. Visits are regularly paid to one of our members who is terminally ill, and we keep in touch with others who are unable to attend meetings because of sickness.

We have enjoyed some very interesting demonstrations and talks, particularly by Sgt Ward, Recruiting Sergeant from the Army Information Office who talked to us about the army of today.

At the beginning of April some of our members attended a ceremony held by the Normandy Veterans Association in Chester Grosvenor Park, where the Duke of Westminster planted a tree in memory of the fallen of those landings, and a park bench was blessed and commemorated in their memory. We also took part in a parade organised by the British Legion with a service held in Chester Cathedral to commemorate D-Day. Various functions are being organised for the summer and we will have our annual dance in the autumn.

GLASGOW We meet every second Tuesday in the month. Our programme has been varied and interesting, with Coffee Evening, Holiday Gift Stall, Matters of Opinion, a Film of a visit to Africa and Social Evening.

Major McDonald Gaunt, acting Commander of the Erskine Hospital came to our November

meeting to show a film and give a talk of the work and care of the war disabled. We were delighted to present him with a cheque for £400 which the Branch had raised during the year.

LONDON We continue to meet once a month at the Union Jack Club and our membership is increasing. In February we were given a talk by a representative from Sainsburys on how to obtain "Value for Money". In March we heard about the work of the "Save the Children Fund" illustrated by some excellent slides of Princess Anne's recent tour, and in May we held a very successful Bring and Buy Sale.

Several London Branch members attended the Association AGM at the Victory Services Club and enjoyed the concert given by the WRAC Band.

MANCHESTER We have changed our meeting evening to the first Wednesday in each month, the venue remaining the same. We have had several new members recently, including a TA member who joined after we met at the Harrogate Reunion last October.

We are holding Book and Plant sales at our meetings, which are proving a success. The money raised will go towards the 1985 Harrogate Reunion.

We had our Annual dinner a little earlier this year on May 22nd. Forty-five members attended including twelve from Rochdale sub branch. The oldest member present was in her eighties, the youngest in her twenties. Everyone agreed it was a splendid evening.

We were all very saddened by the death of Miss Jessie Borthwick in January. Since her retirement in 1978, Jessie had devoted herself to looking after an aged mother, who survived her by two months.

We now have 62 annual members and 26 life members. The average attendance at meetings is usually 20 to 25.

Rochdale sub branch still flourishes and they hope to become a branch in the near future.

SHROPSHIRE The branch was founded in 1980. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, usually in the Oakengates Community Centre Telford, at 7.30 p.m. Currently there are 30 members. More members would be very welcome, and anyone who is interested should contact the Secretary, Mrs Chris Grigg — Tel: Telford 56305.

The Annual outing last summer was to Hereford. Members and friends were given a guided tour of the Cathedral and Treasury. A pub meal was enjoyed on the return journey.

Last October we were hostesses for the Western Area Reunion held at the Royal British Legion Club Oakengates.

Four members paraded at the Cenotaph, whilst six others paraded at COD Donnington on Remembrance Sunday.

The Christmas Dinner was held at the Caledonian Hotel, Oakengates. A Buffet Supper was held at the monthly meeting on December 13th. Members provided the food and drinks.

Regrettably we were fog bound early in the New Year. One meeting had to be cancelled, as many members have to travel several miles across the county to Oakengates.

Seven of our members had an enjoyable weekend in London to attend the AGM this year, and enjoyed meeting old friends. A monthly Raffle and Produce Stall help to boost branch funds.

SOUTHAMPTON We have had an extremely busy year with varied activities including talks by an antiques expert and a member of the Samaritans Association, and a demonstration of dealing with a chicken (jointing and boning etc.). At our Christmas Party we were joined by the local WRNS Association, and at our annual dinner we were fortunate to have as guest of honour Colonel Nan Robertson, HQ UKLF, Wilton, near Salisbury.

We were the host branch for the No 2 Sub-Area Reunion which took place on June 3rd. 135 members of the Association gathered at the Royal Victoria Country Park on the outskirts of the town, and after lunch we set off in coaches for a tour of Southampton, visiting places which have connections with D-Day, with an official guide from the city's Department of Tourism in each coach. The tour culminated at the Bargate

Museum where a D-Day tapestry is displayed with many other objects of particular interest — especially to people who were in the forces at that time. After this we returned to the Country Park for a high tea. Everybody seemed to enjoy the occasion and we were fortunate in having a fine, sunny day.



L-R: Mrs Nias (Secretary), Mrs Chapman (Chairman), Brig Nolan, Col Robertson, Lt Col Michell, Mrs Blampied, Mrs Clement (Vice-Chairman).

ULSTER Once again the two Annual Events for members of the Ulster branch have taken place and were very successful.

Our Luncheon in March was attended by 75% of members. We were delighted to welcome Major Glynis Harvey from HQ Northern Ireland. The surprise of the afternoon was the guest speaker our Commandant-in-Chief. Alas not in person, but a recording of HM Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) addressing the ATS "Somewhere in England" in May 1940. One of our members Ex RSM Georgie Preston remembered the occasion well. At the time she was NCO I/C of a contingent of ATS from Northern Ireland. The member who brought the record also brought some old ATS Recruiting Posters and other Prints to decorate the walls of the dining room.

In May we held our Wine and Cheese Party which is always a very popular event. It was held at Government House now known as Hillsborough Castle. The house stands in beautiful grounds which our guests enjoyed

walking around. The party was held in a large room known as the Throne Room, and our guests were able to tour the other rooms. We were delighted that serving members of the WRAC were able to join us, and we welcomed Major Sheila Johncey, Captain Frances Canham, W02 (CSM) Bowers, Lt Leslie Scott-Fox, Sgts Wilson, Porter, Mudd and Russell all from 181 Provost Company WRAC, and also Lt Jo Dunn from HQ Lisburn Garrison.

Many members of the branch are looking forward to the Grand Reunion in Harrogate in April 1985, when we hope to meet many Irish Ex Service women who are now residing on the Mainland of the United Kingdom.

WOLVERHAMPTON We are still very active in this branch, with about 50 members. Discussions and talks are organised by the members and we have all been taken on a visit to Australia through one of our members, Iris Tolley showing photographs and telling of her holiday there.

Our Easter Bonnet Parade had a difference. Members were asked to wear hats which depicted song titles such as "I write a song", "Waltzing Matilda" and "Lavender Blue".

In May some members went on a day trip, first to Stuart Crystal Works to see cut glass in the making and then a tour round the countryside to Bewdley where we were very pleased to meet Miss Mapp who is a founder member of the ATS Dinner Club.

Our new members are looking forward to their first reunion in Wolverhampton in September.

Last year Wolverhampton branch were pleased to send a donation of £100 to the Star and Garter Home, raised through the kindness of Miss Shelah Lambah, who each year invites members to a Bring and Buy and Social afternoon at her home. £50 was sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

Correspondence

Mrs J M Bishop of 13 St Annes Court, Heathfield Avenue, Dover CT16 2JY would like to hear from any members who remember her as LCpl Jean Wakerell who joined in 1941 and served with the Royal Military Police from 1943 to 1945.

Mrs Nancy Robinson (nee Mornin) of 24 Ashcroft Court, Kings Hedges, Nr Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2SW would like to contact anyone who served with her in Northern Ireland from 1940-1944 (Ballymena, Omagh, Belfast and Londonderry) and with AA units in Newton Abbot, Corby and Arborfield from 1944-1945.

Mrs V J Worsell (Tommie Simpson) of Mowbray Court Holiday Apartments, Lascelles Terrace, Eastbourne trained as a driver in the ATS and was stationed at No 1 VRD at Feltham and later at Laleham near Staines where she made many friends. At the end of the war the girls were demobilised and went their separate ways, agreeing to meet the following year. They did so every year, meeting in Ruby Symons' flat in London. Three years ago they decided to make the reunion a weekend affair at Mrs Worsell's hotel. This year all fourteen of them were present with their husbands. They all know each other's husbands, children and grandchildren, and have remained firm friends since their wartime convoy-driving days.

Mrs R A Martin (nee Rosalie Gardner) of 110A Elms Vale Road, Dover, Kent CT17 9PF served from 1942-1944 with 519(M) HAA Battery and was then transferred to 524(M) HAA Battery, and later served with the RAMC at Huddersfield. Her photograph shows her with friends from 524 Battery. If you are in the picture, please get in touch with her.



Mrs P Harpin (ex Cpl Dickinson) of 32 Paynesdown Road, Thatcham, Berks RG13 4RU would like to get in touch with anyone who remembers serving with her between November 1961 and June 1965. She did her basic training at Lingfield, attended a B3 Clerks Course at Yeovil, worked in the Orderly Room at FVRDE and was then posted to the RE Survey Teams Office at HQ FARELF.

Mrs Edna Rooks (nee Enderby) of 7 Anglesey Square, Farringdon, Sunderland is trying to trace ex-ATS girls who served with her in 559 (M) HAA Battery RA from 1942-45. Most were Scottish, and she remembers Jean Miller, Betty Adams, Margaret Campbell, Margaret McFadgen, Essie Bilsky and Olga Grieves. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers those days, and the many nights running to Command Post in pyjamas, tin hat, boots and overcoat.

Mrs Ella Brook (nee Mead) of 14 Arnold Avenue, Athersley North, Barnsley, South Yorkshire would like to hear from anyone who served in 568 (M) Heavy AA Battery. She has already contacted four old members of the Battery and would like to know what happened to the others.

Mrs Ann Swaby (nee Meiklejohn) of 213 Naenae Road, Lower Hutt, New Zealand writes that her husband Peter, late Captain in the Royal Corps of Signals, died in November last year. He made many friends in the WRAC, particularly during his service in Scotland, and she feels that they would wish to know of his death.

Mrs T I Ellis (ex Pte Terry Champion) of 287B Buckland Road, Mangere, Auckland, New Zealand would like to hear from anyone who served with her, particularly Pte Betty Payne who used to live in Croydon. They trained together at Guildford and served together at Didcot.

Mrs F (Stevie) Matthews of 18 Sidney Road, Woodford Halse, Daventry, Northants would like to contact anyone who served with her in 630 (M) HAA Battery from 1943-1945 or with the RAOC.

Mrs L M Cowshall, 1 Southdown Cottages, The Triangle, Willingdon, Eastbourne, E Sussex, BN20 9PH would like to hear from anybody who was with RAOC York 1941-1943, especially Hut 12, Low Moor, Fulford Barracks.

Mrs Pauline O'Connell (nee Yeo) of 75 Pitt Street, Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand who served from 1953-1956 and was stationed at the Army School of Education, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield would like to contact anyone who served with her.

Mrs P Carpenter, 23 The Casemates, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB is helping Yeoman Warder Harrison to collect information about Tower prisoners. With the approval of the Constable of the Tower of London, he is building up a card index of Tower prisoners and their inscriptions through the ages for historical use.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the Tower was designated as a prisoner of war collection centre, and in the ensuing months received the captive crews who spent a brief time there. It is known that ATS girls were posted to cook for the prisoners. If you were one of them, he would like to hear from you. Each letter would be acknowledged and treated as copyright, and would not be published without permission. The aim is to build up a dossier for the Tower's archives for future reference.

If you can help, please write to B Harrison, Yeoman Warder, Middle Tower, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB.

Ex-Senior Commander Irene Walker would be very interested to hear from friends who knew her in the ATS between 1939-1949, and in particular Coy Asst J I M Eldridge (nee Turnbull) and Sub I E McKeag (now Hunter). Her present address is 13 Cedar Close, Bacton, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 4NS.

Mrs K M Brierley (ex CSM Woolley) of 25 Cherry Lane, Sale, Cheshire, would like to get in touch with anyone who served with 196 Platoon at Donnington 1944, previously in Cottingham, Nr. Hull, Yorkshire. She is in touch with Mrs B Tait (ex Cpl Blakemore) and remembers some names, Joan Mather, Olive Dunbar, Elsie Tiplady, Nicky Carter and the Dolling sisters, also Pte Wagstaff. The officer was Miss D Lyall-Grant.

Mrs Wyn Oldham (ex-Pte Swift) of PO Box 2219, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe is coming to Wolverhampton for the Western Area Reunion on September 22nd. She hopes to meet Mrs Irene Roussel (nee Surtees), Mrs Margery Hunter (nee Painter), Judy Muscroft, Sally Bilton and Mary Gambles.

BIRTHS

HAYWOOD On January 28 to Mr and Mrs Nigel Haywood (Captain Louise Haywood, nee Smith) a son, Christopher Robert.

HOMEWOOD. On April 13 to Major and Mrs Homewood (Major Helen Homewood) a son, Richard Erskine.

MARRIAGE

GITSHAM-JACKSON At the Church of St John the Baptist, Colerne, Wiltshire on April 7th 1984, Captain F M Gitsham WRAC to Captain D G Jackson RE.

RUBY WEDDING

PROBERT-LEIGHTON. On April 29 1944 at Brompton Parish Church, Chatham, PO Albert Edward Probert RN to Elizabeth Leighton ATS. Now at 90 Hill Street, Withington, Manchester.

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OBITUARY

Borthwick. Miss J D Borthwick of Stretford, Manchester on 29 January 1984. ATS.

Butler. Mrs Margaret Butler (nee Greenop) in March 1984. ATS 1939-1945.

Campbell-Baugh. Mrs K Campbell-Baugh (nee Rutherford) of Stainton, Penrith on 7 March 1984. ATS.

Carrick. Mrs A B Carrick (nee Merry) of Bury, Lancashire in October 1983. QMAAC.

Chandler. Mrs Edith Chandler of Eastleigh, Hampshire on 11 May 1984. ATS.

Chapman. Miss Marie Chapman of Henfield, Sussex on 5 March 1984. QMAAC and ATS.

Clark. Miss Margaret Clark of Edinburgh on 25 March 1984. ATS.

Clarson. Captain Emily Clarson (nee Sadler) of Burton-on-Trent on 26 December 1983. ATS and WRAC TA.

Croucher. Mrs Sally Croucher (nee Booy) of Canterbury, Kent on 8 May 1984. ATS.

Dewings. Mrs O Dewings (nee Griffiths) of Kendal, Cumbria in March 1984. ATS.

Emberson. Miss Gertrude Emberson of Pinner, Middlesex on 25 December 1983. ATS.

Farmer. Miss Betty Farmer of Cheltenham on 22 January 1984. Junior Commander ATS and founder member of the Cheltenham Branch.

Fraser-Johnson. Mrs Doris Fraser-Johnson (formerly Kennedy) of Bournemouth on 13 July 1984. Senior Commander ATS. Formed Bournemouth Company ATS in 1938.

Gray. Mrs D M Gray of Redhill, Surrey on 28 December 1983. ATS.

Hardy. Miss Phyllis Hardy of Plymouth. ATS.

John. Mrs Mabel John (nee Page) of Canterbury on 13 May 1984. ATS.

Kerrigan. Cpl Heather Kerrigan of Castlederg, Co Tyrone on 14 July 1984 while on patrol. UDR.

Lawson. Mrs Grace D Lawson of Stembridge, Somerset on 10 April 1984. Junior Commander ATS 1939-1945.

Lee. Miss M D Lee of Merseyside on 21 May 1984. ATS and WRAC.

Lion. Mrs Monica Lion of Southbourne, Bournemouth on 29 May 1984. ATS.

Marsh. Lt Colonel Margaret Marsh of London on 30 March 1984. ATS and WRAC.

Oakman. Miss P M Oakman BEM of North Weald, Essex. ATS and WRAC.

O'Connor. Miss Kathleen O'Connor of Maidstone, Kent on 1 March 1984. QMAAC.

Osman. Miss Kathleen M Osman BEM of Plymouth. ATS.

Pike. Miss Elizabeth Pike of Auckland, New Zealand on 28 February 1984. ATS.

Scoble. Mrs Patricia Scoble (nee Garfield) in New Zealand on 9 February 1984. ATS.

Shaw. Mrs Jessie Shaw of Hull, Yorkshire. WRAC.

Stayton. Mrs Isa Stayton (nee McCadle) of Dalswinton, Dumfriesshire on 19 November 1983. ATS.

Walmsley. Major Bertha Walmsley of Preston, Lancashire on 23 December 1983. ATS and WRAC.

Wells. Mrs E J Wells (nee Gilhooley) of Whitehaven, Cumbria. ATS.

Wilby. Mrs F P Wilby TD (nee Wynd) of Wimbledon, SW19 in 1983. Chief Commander ATS.

Williams. Mrs G M A Williams of South Ockendon, Essex on 7 March 1984. QMAAC.

LONDON GAZETTE

BIRTHDAY HONOURS AND SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

OBE

Lieutenant Colonel J C Blackwood TD

BEM

Corporal S A Woodcock, Lance Corporal J A
Ravenhall

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

Captain J S Young

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

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Lieutenant Colonels: A K Brown MBE,
J E Johnstone MBE
Major (QM): H R Haynes
Captain: C R Paxton
Lieutenant: F J Grundy

Special Regular Commission

Captain: E M Wilson

Short Service Commissions

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J A Parker, A M Jenkinson, L P May,
S A Blythe, S J Quinlan
Lieutenants: M R Wilton, T J Phipps,
S A Mawby, J A Simons, C S O'Nians,
A J Scarff

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonel: J M Clements
Lieutenant Colonel (QM): A I Purton OBE
Captains: R A P Stiven, Y Harding

Special Regular Commission

Captain: R E Cook

Short Service Commissions

Captains: M L Haywood, A J Mellier, L Marsh,
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