

1985

No 1

Lioness



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Vol. LVIII

1985

No. 1

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

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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

Engagements

March

- 7-8 Concerts in Aid of Army Benevolent Fund (with Guildford Opera Company) at Civic Hall, Guildford.
- 23 Royal British Legion Dedication Service – St George's Chapel, Windsor.

April

- 13-14 WRAC Association Grand Reunion – Harrogate.
- 28 WRAC Association Hastings Branch – Parade and Concert, Hastings.

May

- 11-12 Biggin Hill Air Show – Biggin Hill, Kent.
- 26-31 Concerts – Bandstand Eastbourne. (Daily)

June

- 7 Concert – Fairfield Halls, Croydon (with REME Band).
- 9 Burma Star Aldershot Branch – Parade, Aldershot.
- 21-22 Military Musical Pageant – Wembley Stadium.
- 26 Grand Concert Kneller Hall (RMSM) – WRAC Band taking part.

July

- 10 Massed Bands – RA Larkhill.
- 12 SSAFA Centenary – Stratfield Saye.
- 14-20 Concerts – St James Park, London. (Daily)

August

- 1-10 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo.
- 15 SSAFA Race Meeting – Catterick Race Course.
- 18 Burma Star Ilminster Branch – VJ Parade, Ilminster.
- 25-31 Concerts – Pinewalk Bandstand, Bournemouth. (Daily).

PAINTING OF WRAC STAFF BAND

A recent painting of the WRAC Staff Band by Maggie Hambling has gone on display in the Imperial War Museum. The photograph below gives an idea but is no substitute for the rich colours of the original.

For members who are visiting London, the Imperial War Museum is in Lambeth Road, one stop on the tube from Waterloo. The painting is displayed just outside the excellent Museum Shop, and is likely to remain there for about six months. Thereafter it will be necessary to make an appointment to view.

For further information write to the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ or telephone 01-735-8922. This museum is well worth a visit if you have not yet discovered it.



The WRAC Staff Band painted by Maggi Hambling.

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.

GENERAL SECRETARY RETIRES

From: Brigadier N C King MBE

Dear Editor,

By the time *Lioness* reaches members I shall be handing over to Lt Col David Dunn and I wish to thank all the members of the Association for their kindness to me during the ten years I have been General Secretary.

It has been a rewarding and interesting time during which I have become accustomed to being addressed as Miss King or Ma'am.

I know that you will be as kind, understanding and forbearing with my successor as you have been with me.

Best wishes for an ever larger and active Association and thank you for ten happy years.

Norman King

PRESENTATION

BEM

LCpl Jo Ravenhill was based at COD Donnington when in June 1983 a massive fire completely destroyed a huge warehouse and all its contents. In the weeks that followed the disaster the staff at Britain's largest army depot had to work long hours frequently under difficult conditions to re-establish the stores supply system that stretched from Donnington to every British army unit throughout the world. For her outstanding contribution at this time, LCpl Ravenhill was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Cover Photograph

LCpl J Ravenhill receiving the BEM from Maj Gen B P McGuinness.

RETIREMENTS

BRIGADIER E J NOLAN CB

On 4th November 1984, Brigadier E J Nolan CB relinquished her appointment of Deputy Controller Commandant, an appointment she had held for seven years.

These have been seven very busy years for her, during which she has given unstintingly of her own time. It would be impossible to cover the whole sphere of her activities. She has supported the activities of the serving members of the Corps, as Vice President has taken a constant interest in, and contributed to the life of the Association, has, as Chairman of the Trustees, involved herself deeply in the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds and the Corps Museum.

For all that she has done, we are all very grateful. We look forward to her continuing interest in our various activities and wish her every happiness in her "retirement", if one can call it such. As Councillor for Wokingham District Council where she sits on the Planning and Community Services Committee, as District Council representative on the Court and Council to Reading University, as a local school Governor and as a Trustee of our own Benevolent Funds, it can scarcely be called retirement!

H.G.M.

BRIGADIER N C KING MBE

Brigadier Norman King retires as Corps Secretary in March 1985 when he will have completed just over ten years in the appointment.

When he took over from Colonel Phoebe Lipscomb in 1975 he became the first male officer to act as Corps Secretary. He immediately adopted our Corps as his own, and his calm friendly manner and experienced advice and guidance endeared him to us all.

I know that he has been an absolute tower of strength to the Association Branches and a wise counsellor on all matters, particularly those

affecting the Association and the Benevolent Funds. No problem has ever proved too difficult, and his quiet efficiency and unflappable manner has made working with him a great pleasure. The Corps certainly owes him a great debt of gratitude for all he has accomplished on our behalf.

Brigadier Norman will be very much missed, but we all hope that he and his wife will enjoy a long, healthy and happy retirement together.

E.J.N.

COLONEL A M M CLISSITT

On 23rd September 1984, Colonel Anne Clissitt retired having completed over 32 years' service in both the Territorial and Regular Army.

Before enlisting as a regular recruit, Colonel Clissitt had completed a course in dairy farming and had qualified as a chiropodist. Her TA service was with 319th (West Lancs) battalion from 1952-1955.

She was commissioned as a regular officer in 1956 and embarked on a career which culminated in her becoming Commandant of the WRAC Centre in 1980. Besides the United Kingdom, she served in Cyprus and Singapore and was awarded a Mention in Despatches for her service in Northern Ireland.

We thank her for her many and varied contributions to the life of the Corps and wish her a very happy retirement.

J.M.C.R.



The last Passing Out Parade.

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL (QM)
E J EDWARDS OBE WRAC**

A long serving member of the Corps and the WRAC Centre, Lieutenant Colonel Joyce Edwards leaves the WRAC after 35 years service. She joined the TA in September 1949 as a Driver with 46 LAA Searchlight Regt RA and stayed with them until she enlisted into the Regular Army on August 18th 1950 as a Stewardess. She had always intended to be a Policewoman but had to wait two years before she achieved this. In four years she rose from LCpl to Sgt and six years later was a W01 completing her other rank service in 1967 as RSM of the WRAC Centre. On commissioning she was AQM at the WRAC Centre, and then became an Instructor in WONCO Wing followed by a tour as 2IC Pro Trg Wing RMP Trg Centre. She then returned to Guildford in 1974 as AQM, and became QM in 1975 until she retired in August last year.

Lt Col Edwards' sterling service was recognised in 1959 when she was awarded the CinC's Certificate and gained the GSM with Bar Cyprus. In 1968 she was awarded her LS&GC and in the New Years Honours List of 1983 she was appointed OBE.

Lt Col Edwards will be missed, especially at the WRAC Centre, and we all thank her for her contribution to the Corps and wish her a happy retirement.

A.M.M.C.

TRIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Captain S M Springman WRAC TA
Cambridge University OTC**

Every now and then a few mad individuals decide that merely running or walking the BFT is not enough. After all it is only 2 miles and the slowest acceptable speed is 11½ minute mile pace. So, some may run cross country races, others try 10km road races and half marathons and a few brave souls attempt the marathon – the ultimate in endurance running – or is it? Just for a change, transport yourself to the

Pacific, Hawaii to be precise and imagine the following cocktail. Stimulating it may be, alcoholic it is not ... for starters, swim a couple of miles in the sea, then leap on your bicycle to pedal away for over 100 miles; then you can begin to run (or walk/crawl) the 26.2 miles. If you think it sounds fun then read on, the IRONMAN may be just the challenge for you.

This race was the first endurance triathlon. It began in 1978 on Oahu, Hawaii as a direct result of a drinking session in the wardroom of a US Navy ship. The argument was centred on the male ego – of course! Who was the fittest and best athlete, the swimmer, the biker or the runner? A mad proposition was put forward, why didn't these prospective supermen swim the 2.4 mile Waikiki roughwater swim, then ride the 112 mile round Oahu bike race and then finish themselves off with the 26.2 mile Honolulu marathon? That should settle the question once and for all. Well, it didn't. It gave birth to the biggest fitness craze since the marathon. In the first race fifteen people started and thirteen finished. Later on the venue was moved to Kona, Hawaii to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of insane men and women who wanted to become Ironmen. Six years later 100 people were on the tiny Kailua beach, wishing that they weren't about to start the 1984 race and some 8000 had applied to be there in the first place. No longer were they swimmers or bikers or runners, they were triathletes.

At least the Pacific was warm, a pleasant 72F. There were a few sharks and jellyfish around but they were kind enough to take the day off. The only other problem was the multitude of triathletes who wanted a quick start. A course in Sumo wrestling might have been advantageous when it came to dealing with nearly 5000 thrashing limbs! There were plenty of official boats, canoes, divers and lifesavers on hand in case anyone tried to drink too much salt water or suffered from a sudden fit of cramp, but the majority finished well inside the time limit of 2½ hours.

A quick shower and change for each competitor before they leapt on their trusty velocipedes. Most of them were probably a little apprehensive at this stage. They had either heard about or experienced the horrific conditions of the previous year. Not only did they have to cover this tremendous distance, but they had to cope with boiling temperatures, forbidding course and headwinds which gusted up to 55 mph. Many people had been blown off their

bikes, while others had to dismount and walk. Well, the wind blew, but only to about 15 knots. The never ending moonscape of black lava absorbed and emitted heat and the triathletes wilted during the hottest day of the year. Nobody told them that it was 98F and that the road temperature was a sweltering 137F.

Without these 3000 wonderful island volunteers, belly dancers and all, few triathletes would have finished. They manned aid stations at 5 mile intervals on the bike course and every mile on the run, handing out much needed water and food. Sustained by a strange and not very nutritious mixture of defizzed coke, guava jelly sandwiches and chocolate chip cookies, they pedalled on. The experienced amongst them stuck to eating vast quantities of bananas – "it's the mineral replacement, particularly potassium you know", they were heard to say during the pre-race seminars and briefings.

Just in case the bicycling muscles were still fresh by mile 111, they were given their final test by a not-so-short, really-quite-steep hill. Once at the top it was all downhill to the next transition area where the run began. After another change and quick massage to restore the blood flow to certain deprived parts of the anatomy, they staggered off at the start of the marathon. Those who were really racing, the top hundred or so (including no fewer than eight girls), went through those changeovers like an express train and set out on the run as if they hadn't thought about a warm-up swim or bike ride. The rest were trying to persuade their tired legs that it was not a run of 26 miles, merely a series of one mile races between the lifesaving aid stations.

Notwithstanding all the mental and physical problems, they finished. The winner ran strongly across the line in a new record, some 11 minutes faster than his previous one. Mr Ironman himself Dave Scott, had won the event for the fourth time. No one could say that the competition wasn't there, it was and Scott proved he was simply the best in the world. To finish off a race like that with a 25.3 marathon was incredible. The remaining triathletes crossed the finish line in various stages of exhilaration, exhaustion and dehydration between 9 and 17 hours after the starting cannon. Some ran, some walked, some staggered and some even crawled. Such was the singleminded determination of these competitors.

I was not the fastest Ironwoman in Hawaii, but I was the first European and the second amateur placed 11th out of 155 girls in 11 hours 22 minutes 24 seconds. What was just as exciting

was my overall position (141st) which meant that there were more than a thousand people behind me (not all of whom finished) and 85% of them were men! Who said we were the weaker sex?!



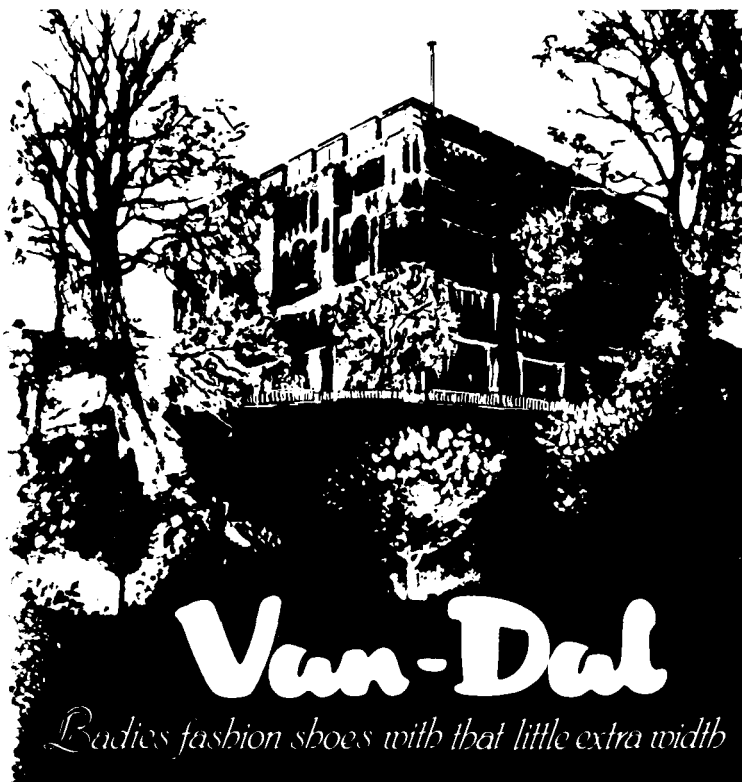
Cycling.



Running.

But not everyone has to go to such extremes. The Ironman is not the only triathlon. They range from a 400 metre swim, a 15 mile bike ride and a 5 mile run through the middle distance races up to and beyond the Ironman. There is no reason why any serving member or some retired members should be unable to complete a short event. The oldest woman to finish in Hawaii was 57 and the oldest man 66, and the benefits of this triple fitness sport were there for all to see.

How about organising an interservice competition? It really is fun and the fruits of success are well worth the effort when each and every finisher is a winner. For information on the forthcoming events, contact Aleck Hunter, British Triathlon Association, 3 Porters Avenue, Dagenham, Essex (01 595 3758).



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AN ASSISTANT ADJUTANT IN MUNSTERLAGER

Lt P A Oak-Rhind WRAC

About a year and a half ago I received a telephone call from my OC whilst I was on leave to be told that my posting had come through; I was on my way to Munster. We then discovered that 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment was actually in Munsterlager, near Soltau, not Munster and my heart sank. "What have you done to be posted to a hole like that?" everybody said. (And this was in Londonderry which is hardly a high spot of civilization.)

Over the next few days I was kindly informed that the town of Munsterlager consisted of two houses and a porno cinema, that the Armoured Engineers were "roughly, toughy tankies" who definitely would not want a female in the regiment, that I would never be accepted, and other such encouraging information. Needless to say, it was with great trepidation that I arrived at

Munsterlager to become the first female Assistant Adjutant with the regiment.

The first thing that struck me was the friendly atmosphere and the feeling of being in a very close knit community. This is probably because being the only Armoured Engineer Regiment people return to it throughout their army careers. It is also the only British Army unit in Munster, and enjoys a good relationship with the local population.

The Regiment is located in one of the prettiest barracks that I have seen and has very good facilities such as the stables, two brand new squash courts, four tennis courts and a theatre, to name but a few.

The town itself is not large but it caters for all the day to day necessities. There are some good shops and it is a thriving little community and, after all, Hamburg and Hanover are only an hour away for those who prefer a bustling city.

The job — well, it's a typical assistant adjutant's job, which needs no explanation. I have really enjoyed myself thanks, primarily, to the people. Everyone is friendly and happy to be a member of the Armoured Engineer family. I am proud to have been a part of, and to have been accepted into, that family.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Lt L J Scott-Fox who was one of the six prizewinners in the Junior Officers Military History Prize Essay Competition open annually to officers of all arms under the age of 26.

Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin DBE who became President of the British Horse Society last year.

Mrs J M A Mayo who was made MBE in the New Year Honours for services to army families. Mrs Mayo is better known to the many readers of "Soldier" by her nom-de-plume Anne Armstrong.

Captain A M Jenkinson of 602 Signal Troop who has won the Royal Signals Rose Bowl for 1984 which is presented annually to the junior WRAC officer considered to have contributed most by leadership and professional approach.

Mrs Leita Foakes who has worked at RAF Wethersfield for the last five years and on retiring was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by Air Commodore J A Barney, an award which is very rarely given.

Mrs Foakes (nee Catchpole) served from January 1940 to 1945 in Cromer, Chatham, Wrexham, Barmouth, Towyn and Camberley.

DWRAC VISITS GIBRALTAR

SSgt C M Arnold WRAC

In September last year the small contingent of WRAC in Gibraltar (7 strong) were delighted to receive a visit from the Corps Director. It was Brigadier Meechie's first ever visit to the Rock and the first visit by a Corps Director for some time.

Brigadier Meechie arrived on the MOD Charter flight on the afternoon of Tuesday September 18th and was met by Brigadier R T P Hume, the Deputy Fortress Commander, Air Commodore J M Pack CBE, the Air Commander and SSgt C M Arnold, the senior WRAC on the Rock. She was then escorted to Mount Barbary where she was to stay with Brigadier and Mrs Hume. Mount Barbary, the official residence of the Deputy

Fortress Commander, is a beautiful villa set high on the Rock with a stunning view across the Bay of Gibraltar to Algeciras in Spain. After settling in, Brigadier Meechie attended a briefing in the Rock Model Room of Fortress Headquarters, the Army Headquarters in Gibraltar. While there, she had the opportunity to meet a few of the employing officers of the WRAC on the Rock. In the evening, Brigadier Meechie attended a dinner party at Mount Barbary given by the Deputy Fortress Commander.

On Wednesday September 19th, Brigadier Meechie's programme began with a Rock Tour. She was accompanied by Major J D Griffiths-Eyton WG, the S02 G1 at Fortress Headquarters, who had arranged her programme. The Rock Tour covered O'Hara's Battery at the very top of the Rock, with views east and west, Farringdon's OP, run by 8 Surveillance Troop RA and which faces north to Spain, and the Apes Den. Unfortunately, it must have been too early in the day, for the Barbary Apes were nowhere to be seen. Also, although the weather in Gibraltar was hot and sunny, a sea mist prevented the Director from seeing across the Strait to Morocco.

Brigadier Meechie's first visit was to Fortress PC Tp RE where LCpl J Lendrum and Pte E Oakley are employed in the Forces Post Office. The Troop is located at RAF Gibraltar at the northern end of the Rock. After seeing the girls at work and touring the Post Office, it was then on to the Convent which is the official residence and offices of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar, Admiral Sir David Williams GCB. Before calling on His Excellency, Brigadier Meechie visited the WRAC who staff the Governor's office: SSgt C Arnold, Sgt S Dowley and Cpl K Budworth. Unfortunately, at the time of the Director's visit, Sgt Dowley was away on her Sgt's Course at Guildford. After her official call on the Governor, Brigadier Meechie went on to Fortress Headquarters where she held personal interviews with all the WRAC on the Rock. The two remaining members of the contingent, who have not yet been mentioned, are Cpl D Burnham, PA to the Deputy Fortress Commander, and Cpl P Minty, who is employed at Mount Barbary as Chef to the Deputy Fortress Commander.

Brigadier Meechie then attended a lunch at the Convent hosted by His Excellency and Lady Williams. After lunch, she called on Air Commodore J M Pack CBE, the Air Commander and then visited the WRAF Block. Being such a small contingent, the WRAC have no accommo-

dation of their own and Junior Ranks are accommodated with the WRAC at RAF Gibraltar. Thereafter followed calls on Rear Admiral G M F Vallings, the Flag Officer Gibraltar, and Brigadier Hume at Fortress Headquarters before going to Broadcasting House where Brigadier Meechie was interviewed by BFBS.

After a busy day, DWRAC expressed her wish to return to the Apes Den to see if the apes were up and about, and also to see if the mist had lifted to allow a view of Morocco. The apes were there; Morocco, unfortunately, was still shrouded in mist and remained so for the rest of the visit. The programme then allowed time for shopping before returning to Mount Barbary to relax and change for supper in a local restaurant.

The morning of September 20th was wholly taken up by a visit to the Lower Caves. This involved a lot of climbing over rocks which are thousands of years old, with the aid of ropes, and crouching (sometimes almost crawling) to get through some of the more difficult rock formations. The Brigadier was escorted through the Caves by SSgt Arnold and Cpl Chambers RE who was of great assistance and an informative guide.

The last item on Brigadier Meechie's programme was "tapas" with all the WRAC at Bomb House Lane Officers' Mess. The Deputy Fortress Commander had kindly offered the use of the Mess to the WRAC for this occasion, and tapas (small eats) and punch were provided.



L-R: Back Row: Cpl Minty, Cpl Burnham, LCpl Lendrum.
Front Row: Pte Oakley, Cpl Budworth, Brig Meechie, SSgt Arnold.

EX HIMALAYAN ENDEAVOUR

On Saturday 22 September 1984 at the early hour of 0530 Exercise HIMALAYAN ENDEAVOUR was officially under way. The party consisted of 14 members of British Forces Hong Kong: Major Alison Trehern, Lt Maggie Rawlinson QARANC, SMI Dave Baggailey APTC, Sgt John Moulding RAOC, Sgt Cess Beirne, Cpls Gladys Cox, Sandy Rolt and Tad Thomas, LCpls Linda Barker, Michael Lawton REME, Kryshna Lawton and Pat Millar, Pte Karen Dean and our invaluable civilian doctor Pat Muttrie.

It was hard to believe the expedition had actually started at last since planning had started way back in May with many fund raising activities and a strenuous fitness training programme including early morning runs around Victoria Peak.

After a smooth flight, during which we all tried, unsuccessfully to photograph Everest, we arrived at Kathmandu airport where confusion immediately arose in the antiquated customs area with some bulging kit-bags searched twice. Then it was on to the Hotel Paradise (The Fawltly Towers of Kathmandu) and a day's sightseeing and last-minute shopping before the hard work began.

We set off early on the Monday morning in an ancient bus jam-packed with expedition, porters, kit and locals hitching a lift. An eventful journey (which included 2 punctures, petrol trading, and a leap across a raging torrent followed by a change of bus as a main bridge had been swept away in the monsoon) culminated in our arrival at Dumre and a scene of total chaos as we attempted to sort everything out before setting off to the first night's camp site. Eventually we were ready and we set off on what was to be a memorable trek around the Annapurna Massif of West Nepal.

The routine of a Himalayan trek was quickly established. Such a trek is a little different from the usual type of expedition, as it is a condition of political clearance from the Nepalese Government that all such adventurous training expeditions must be fully civilianised and arranged through a local trekking agency based in Kathmandu. In this way the local economy benefits, and by camping and carrying its own

foods, the expedition does not deprive the villages through which it passes of all their winter supplies. Consequently, we were provided with a Sirdar and 3 Sherpas and a mini-army of porters, most of whom were paid off as their loads of food diminished.

A typical day started with a cough outside the tent door and cups of tea being handed in. This was followed by hot water for washing and a race to pack up your kit before your eager porters collapsed your tent around you! Breakfast consisted of various kinds of porridge, thin, thick and burnt with more sweet tea and we would then start walking at about 0700 hrs. After about 3 hours we would stop for lunch which was usually pancakes or chappatis, omelettes and yak cheese or tuna fish and more often than not took at least 2 hours to cook. (Happiness was 2 compo sausages for lunch!). It was then on to the evening campsite where side bets were laid as to whose porter would arrive last. LCpls Barker and Millar usually won! Bribery became common practice with sweets and cigarettes for the porters but, as none of them spoke English the bribes were not always successful. Whilst the rest of us were studying the form, we would be surrounded by a crowd of curious villagers who would appear as if by magic the minute we arrived. Word had gone ahead by some mysterious means and the doctor would be inundated by people with various ailments. Apart from doling out aspirins and throat lozenges, there was little she could do in most cases but ably assisted by Lt Rawlinson and Pte Dean she cleaned wounds and treated injuries where possible.

After the campsite was set up, a cup of tea would soon appear (2 hours later) and soon after dinner would arrive. The Sherpa chef would do his best to vary the menu which usually resulted in a mixture of Sherpa stew, steak and kidney pudding, Nepalese noodles and Nepalese baked beans — which are definitely not Heinz! By the time we had finished eating it was usually dark and so after the hurricane lamp had shot flames out for the third time each night, most people normally retired to safety and bed at the extremely late hour of 8 pm!

As the days wore on it soon became apparent who was washing and who was not, and who had lightened his kit by bringing only one tee-shirt. For the rest of us wash day was every day. A solution to the absence of a spin dryer was soon found in Sgt John Moulding whose strong wrists were useful when it came to wringing out clothes

of all types!

We had a phobia at first about getting our feet wet and took great pains in hopping from rock to rock. After a few days of walking through mini waterfalls and fording streams we soon learned to paddle. Cpl Thomas went one better than everyone else by hitching a piggyback from one of the Sherpas who carried her most of the way across the river before dropping her. Sgt Beirne decided to go even further and had the best bath any of us had on the whole trip by falling up to her neck in a fast flowing river. As it was icy cold, having come straight from snow-covered mountains, she shot out very quickly!

The highlight of our trek was the crossing of the Thorung La Pass which took us to the dizzy height of 17,770 ft. We had been climbing steadily over the preceding days and had spent a day at Manang, 12,000 ft, to acclimatise, before pushing on to the foot of the final ridge. The day began at 0300 and after a breakfast of AB biscuits and jam (no-one felt very hungry) we left the camp-site at 0430 to start the final 3,500 ft of climb. It was up-hill all the way and the effects of altitude soon began to tell with most people suffering to some extent from altitude sickness — breathlessness, headaches, dizziness and nausea. As we were only crossing the Pass however, we pressed on to the top and after a pause for photographs, beat a hasty retreat down the other side. And it was down — 5,000 ft in 2 hours — very hard on the knees!

We had found the trek up to the Pass very interesting and varied, and not too touristy as it was more remote. Once over the other side, however, we began to meet more trekkers most of whom looked immaculate so we felt that they could not be doing it properly. There were also some more Nepalese-style hotels and as everyone began to relax after the hard work of the Thorung La, Major Trehern became known as the loan shark as she lent out money for Fantas and Star Beer! And even 3 rupees for buckets of hot water!

As we descended the weather got hotter so Cpl Cox provided a tourist attraction by fainting in a local hotel. She was soon revived by the unsympathetic Cpl Rolt who proceeded to tell her her hair was a mess!

The final day of the trek from Naudanda to Pokhara was highlighted by LCpl Michael Lawton trading his dear wife LCpl Kryshna Lawton's lunch, which she wanted, for a sparkling bangle. As a consolation the trader assured her it would not turn her wrist green —

but it did!

Once on the outskirts of Pokhara we all intended to keep walking to the bitter end but some gave in — Major Trehern and the Doc were a little red-faced when caught getting out of a taxi by LCpl Barker and Pte Dean but immediately felt better when they admitted that they had just got off a bus!

And so back to Kathmandu where we quickly spent whatever money we had left only to learn that the air-line had run out of aircraft, as it had inaugurated a new route and that our flight was consequently delayed for 10 hours! All resources were pooled and it was very much a case of one Cola and 4 straws please! It was a very tired and hungry party that eventually arrived back at Kai Tak.

The expedition seemed to have passed very quickly after so long spent in preparation, but we had all enjoyed ourselves and gained much from the experience. Now we're trying to decide where to go next year!

EX BALTIC EAGLE

Cpl Ashman WRAC and Cpl Veale WRAC

Ex Baltic Eagle is the annual Army Air Corps offshore sailing regatta which starts from BYSC Kiel and involves several races around the Danish Islands. Last year this took place from 11-17 August.

Volunteers were required from AAC units, and imagining hot sun, calm seas and an inexpensive "holiday", four members of the WRAC Detachment, Middle Wallop decided to have a go. They were the OC Capt Pointet, Capt Gordon, former OC, Cpl Ashman and Cpl Veale. No sailing experience was required which was a good thing as none of us had really much idea which end of a boat was which. Lt Col Edgcombe had bravely volunteered to be our Skipper and we were to be the only all-girl crew entered in the regatta.

The exercise started with most of the crews arriving at 1 Regt AAC, Hildesheim early one wet



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Saturday morning only to find we were minus the coach which was to take us to Kiel. Good start we thought, no sun and no transport! All was sorted eventually and after loading of baggage, rations and other sailing paraphernalia we were off.

At Kiel the sun was shining, thank goodness. Our Skipper strode off down the jetty to supervise the taking over of the boat. The rest of us equipped with oilies, wellies and an assortment of maps and charts arrived at the boat which was called "Pochard", a contessa 28 footer our home for the next week. Putting on a brave face, as we were all expecting something slightly larger, we started to stow all the baggage on board. Being four females, there was rather a lot, especially as Capt Gordon had brought nearly the entire stock of Boots the Chemists products, never one for being caught on the hop! In fact her supply of lip salve came in handy, and even our Skipper was painting her lips with it after a few days on the high seas!

The first race was due to start at 2000 hrs that evening so we discussed tactics and got out of the mooring without causing a major collision. Feeling quite pleased with ourselves we set off for the start line, only to find when we got there that everybody else had begun the race ten minutes before. Not a crew to be put off by this minor point we carried on regardless. Only by the eagle eyes of Cpl Ashman (we forgot to mention that the rest of the crew all needed glasses, but had forgotten to bring them) did we manage to find every marker we were supposed to pass, and eventually arrived at our destination at 1330 hrs the next day – not even last which was good news.

As the week progressed we became more competent, being able to change sails on the move, which is no mean feat for the inexperienced, and actually knowing what the Skipper meant when he shouted in his gruff voice "Ready About", "Lee to Helm" and other nautical terms. In fact in two races we managed fourth place which really boosted our morale.

Our sightseeing tours of Denmark were not really as we had planned as the most we saw when we docked in the evenings were the showers (normally cold by the time we came to use them) and the toilet facilities, both of which were adequate but not really what we had wanted to see of Denmark. But on the last day we managed to dock early and spent some time at Aero Schobing, a lovely little town with cobbled streets and decent food which we

enjoyed as we didn't really have much time to cook on board.

The week did not pass without incidents. Capt Pointet was persistent in her attempts to get the crew efficient in "man overboard" drills and on two occasions very nearly succeeded, only for our Skipper to say "we would have come back for you after passing the finishing line". Cpl Veale found a most unusual place to snatch forty winks, harnessed to the companionway stairs, not even waking up when drenched by waves which at that time were breaking over the boat. In one race our Skipper decided to lodge a protest as we were sure the other boats had not passed one of the markers. To lodge a protest something red must be flown to show the Committee Boat we were protesting, and the only thing we could find was an item of Capt Gordon's lingerie, which only managed to stay secured for a few minutes before being blown away into the wild blue yonder, probably giving some Danish fisherman an unusual catch.

On arrival back at BYSC Kiel, the QM, 1 Regt AAC had laid on a barbecue for the prize-giving which was most appreciated by all the weary crews. Much to our surprise, we had managed eighth place out of eleven competitors, which we were all very pleased about. A lot of credit must go to our Skipper who showed great patience and enthusiasm.

A PRACTICAL LESSON IN PROMOTION

On a cool and misty summer morning in June the recruits of 2 Training Company marched on to the parade square at the WRAC Centre for their normal morning parade. Only the officers and CSM knew that this was to be no normal parade. While the permanent staff struggled to keep their eyes looking straight ahead, WO2 Poklekowski the CSM marched up to Col Maxine Gillespie and pointed out that she was incorrectly dressed on the parade square and was to report to the OC immediately. Never one to question an order (she is to be forgiven for her startled gasp of "What, right now Ma'am?") Cpl Gillespie duly marched to the front of the parade and halted in front of Captain Marian Lauder, OC 2 Training Company. As 114 grinning recruits looked on Capt Lauder ceremoniously removed the two stripes from Cpl

Gillespie's right arm and in their place pinned a sergeant's badge of rank. A stunned but proud Sgt Gillespie then faced the recruits and permanent staff to receive a rousing three cheers by way of congratulations on her promotion.

WO2 Sheila Poklekowski (nee Murray) was herself surprised when, expecting to return to her normal position on the parade square, she was told to form up in front of the OC. The tables had turned and now it was the CSM's turn to look startled as she was presented with her parchment warrant having achieved the substantive rank of WO2 in April last year. Once more a noisy "three cheers" echoed around the Centre.

We constantly strive for realism in training but cannot always guarantee to lay on a practical lesson in promotion. The recruits of intakes 481 and TA 83 must consider themselves lucky to have witnessed this rare event!



Sgt Gillespie receives her third tape from Capt Lauder watched by Lt Hatherell, 2Lt Pevalin and WO2 Poklekowski.

Contributions for next issue by
13th June 1985 in double
spacing. Photographs in black & white.

EX HIGHLAND TREK

Pte P Marshall WRAC

RV was at 0915 17 Sep 84. Ex HIGHLAND TREK aimed to walk a party from 242 Sig Sqn 40 miles along the Road to the Isles to raise money for Cot Death Research.

The party consisted of Lt Grundy, Foreman Zoing, SSgt Spick, Sgt Thomson, Cpl Collinson, LCpl Green, Pte Lea and Pte Marshall – myself. We lunched at Rannoch Station and then it was time to begin the Road to the Isles – the end of civilisation for 2 days!

To say it was the last stop to the moon would be no exaggeration. As soon as we had climbed one hill, another one would be there waiting. Sgt Ron Thomson tackled them all like a mountain goat and led all the way. Cpl Collinson wasn't so lucky. Her feet found all the dips and hollows and she spent most of her time picking herself up from the ground, which wasn't easy with a 40 lb pack on her back. The paths varied enormously. We walked on stones, grass and even crossed a few bogs. The scenery was breathtaking, it was like walking into an unknown, uninhabited world. There wasn't even a sheep to be seen.

That evening we set up camp by Loch Ossion. Miss Grundy, the Foreman and Sgt Thomson scouted around for wood and after a slap-up meal, we all sat around the camp fire watching the mist settle over the loch. The peace and tranquility of the wilderness was such a welcome change and the feet even stopped aching for a while!

The following morning was icy and misty. Once we had struck camp and bandaged blisters, the warriors went forth, and walked into one of the hardest days of their lives. At first things looked good but that soon came to an end. The path gradually disappeared, and we were faced with river crossings and had to build two of our own bridges. The scenery and beautiful country turned into a damp and cold place underfoot as we had to wade through bogland. Our spirits sank like our boots. Lunch seemed hours away.

Lunchtime brought the chance to warm ourselves, change into dry clothing and repair blisters. However we needn't have bothered as a wide river crossing after lunch was not the easiest

of things to do with a pack on your back as LCpl Lyn Green found to her cost. That afternoon the heavens opened, the path turned into a quagmire broken up with little streams, and we all battled against rain and wind, thinking that it would never end.

At long last we arrived at our second camp. Tents were erected in record time and meals were cooked between torrential downpours. Then it was inside our tents to put on dry clothing and Miss Grundy, living up to her nickname "Florence", came round with the plasters and Algipan. The night was terrible; the rain hammered down on the tents and the wind was ferocious. Visions of being blown away or crushed in a landslide were more than vivid. Great relief was felt when morning broke — it was the last day. We struck camp and set off on a real tarmac road to Fort William, the road to the mini bus and civilisation and my warm bed! At Fort William it was cups of cocoa all round and a chance to sit and rest while waiting for the mini bus to take us back to Craigiehall.

The walk was a lot harder than we had expected. Even so, despite the strained muscles and blisters and the weather, everyone said they had enjoyed themselves getting away from the daily routine of work, seeing some beautiful sights of Scotland and raising some much needed money for charity.

We managed to raise £350 which was presented to the Royal Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh for Cot Death Research. It was definitely worth it.

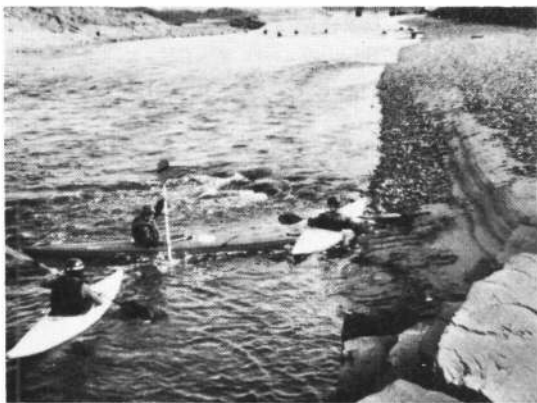
SELECTION CENTRE ON ADVENTURE TRAINING

Deep in the heart of Queen Elizabeth Park is the forgotten, neglected WRAC Selection Centre with eleven lost souls. Cast your mind back to your initial interviews and selection tests — do you remember them? Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that applicants now have to complete a 1½ mile run in addition to the academic tests. However, for the staff, life is still a routine of testing and interviewing with little time for light relief. So when an opportunity arose for some adventure training we

were delighted. Here follows the diary of events:

Day 1: Travel to Tywyn, Wales. Several hours by train. Nearly lost sleeping bags at Machynlleth. Sgt Cathy Harper IC Party. She is now on the "Noel Edmunds hit squad list". Introduction to Tywyn by Staffordshire bull terrier called Benson. Signed for climbing and canoeing kit. Storemen not amused by requests for wet suits in bust sizes!

Day 2: Meet our instructors. Introduction to canoeing on local river and sea surfing in the afternoon. A little worried that all three instructors were needed to fill the mini bus with petrol — at a manned petrol station! Do they know what they are doing? Non swimmers took to the water like ducks. All enjoyed the river experience, particularly the view of the river bottom. Early to bed. The Welsh air!



Canoeing down the river.

Day 3: The trek to the top of Cader Idris, rather steep for some — others like mountain goats. A few sense of humour failures. First real testing day. Lunch in the "cafe" at the summit. A mountain refuge hut! Cpl Michelle Robinson ate her packed lunch on the climb expecting hamburger and chips in the "cafe". Weather not too kind, good views. A chorus of happy birthday, a rock cake plus lighted candle for Sgt Lynn Etherington.

Days 4 & 5: The highlight of the week. The overnight expedition. Tents and 24 hour ration packs. A new experience to the younger members of the party. The weather on Thinog Fawr, an old artillery range, misty and damp. Walked the Roman Steps. Practised map reading. Learnt to wear our gaiters like professionals. Heavy packs, tired feet. Songs, charades and the birthday bottle around the camp fire made the overnight camp a success.

Morning too early. Bacon grill and oatmeal blocks. Coffee with grass. Map reading and casualty exercise — Cpl Lisa Twigg made a good "body", thence down the hills to the mini bus. Lunch a mixture of left over compo! Minor accidents on the way down resulted in sore bottoms and bruised legs plus a very wet and soggy Capt Lynne Finch who had an argument with a small stream.

Day 6: Barmouth Slabs and rock climbing and abseiling. Tea and toast in local cafe helped calm the nerves. Super views, good weather and some climbing converts. Early finish in order to prepare for disco — fragile next day.

Day 7: Sunday morning early start. Built and sailed the raft. Aberdovey woken by cheers of success. Tackled the confidence course at local Outward Bound Centre. Honoured by presence of all the Tywyn instructors — including Benson. All credit to the Group who in various ways overcame difficulties and sheer terror.

The afternoon given over to gentle introduction to orienteering at Abergynolwyn. Very enjoyable though some check points appeared non-existent!

Day 8: Trip to the slate mines at Friogs. Learnt to recognise "bladder bats" and take evasive action against rats. Very interesting mine workings. Abseiling into darkness — long ladder climb to daylight. Swimming demonstration to local school children in blue lagoon, an ice cold pool totally enclosed by rock.

Our grateful thanks to the hard working, patient and good humoured instructors: CSgt Ross Ashe-Cregan, Sgt Norman Jones and on occasions Capt Will Morris.



On the top of Cader Idris.

L-R: Capt Lynne Finch, Cpl Lisa Twigg, Sgt Lynn Etherington (sitting), LCpl Kay Hart, Sgt Marion Baird.

UNIT NEWS

10 COMPANY WRAC

We had a changeover of Chief Clerk when Sgt Daly got married in July to RSM Guttridge and was posted to South Cerney to be co-located with her husband. We wish her well for the future. Her replacement is Sgt Obe, also recently married and just returned from BAOR.

The unit military training programme has continued with a vengeance. Each month we hold a lecture evening and the wide range of topics covered include fire prevention, fitness, personnel and unit security, church army and current affairs. A Company Training weekend was held 2 - 4 November. We covered NBC, First Aid, Map Reading and Survival — in theory first and then put all our knowledge into practice on a day-long exercise on the Barossa training area. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed themselves despite working very hard. All sorts of incidents and problems were thrown at the participants and reactions were swift. In fact our mock hypothermia cases were treated so efficiently that they were in danger of suffering heat stroke! This was our second exercise of the year on Barossa as in August we held a similar one for the PTI Cadre Course when we were again lucky with the weather.

We have also had some fun events held in camp. In July we had an inter rank fancy dress "It's a Knockout" competition. Everyone was very imaginative and we had teams dressed as tramps, babies, school girls, football players and lots more. The event was followed by a barbecue and a spontaneous cabaret initiated by the ever enthusiastic PTI trainees. It was a very enjoyable evening and everyone taking part won a prize! We have also held inter-rank rounders and volleyball competitions. The SNCO's team won the rounders and one JNCO's 'A' team the volleyball.

On the sporting scene at unit level we have also been successful. We won the South East District Inter Unit Relay, the South East (East) District Rounders League and the South East (East) District Volleyball Championships. We were third in the South East District Inter Unit Swimming and fourth in the Army Inter Unit Volleyball Championships. We entered two teams in the six-a-side Hockey tournament in October. We are shortly embarking on a new sport, dry

skiing, on the ski slope in Aldershot.

We played host to the Army Inter Unit Rounders Tournament for the first time this year. This tournament is now being held in Aldershot due to the closure of the WRAC College. The tournament was held during the Farnborough Air Show week and so participants and spectators were able to see the Red Arrows performing overhead. We have also hosted sports teams for other sports, including volleyball.

Christmas started early with the Christmas pud stirring on October 31st. Christmas functions took place throughout December and included a Christmas Cake competition, Mess functions and the Junior Ranks Christmas Dinner and Disco on December 19th. 1984 has been an exciting and busy year for 10 Company WRAC, and we hope that 1985 will be as good.

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Whitefoord House is a short or long stay residential hostel for ex-servicemen and women, situated in the centre of Old Edinburgh, 200 yards up the High Street from the Palace of Holyrood.

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Enquiries and applications should be addressed to The Superintendent, Whitefoord House, 53 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BS.

D COMPANY – CAD KINETON

In just three weeks at CAD Kineton, D Coy WRAC had a complete change of management. At the end of July WO2 (CSM) Smith left us to go to 16 Sig Regt, and was replaced by WO2 (CSM) Bowdrey (who is now RQMS at the WRAC Centre and was replaced by WO2 Carmichael). One week later Lt Julia Spence was on her way to Benbecula (and her captaincy!) and her replacement was 2Lt Ann Edwards direct from the RMA Sandhurst. After an interval of another week Captain Jane Bartlett arrived as OC from HQ Western District to take over from Captain Clarissa Woodcock who is now at the WRAC Centre.

The Company has been very busy on the sports scene. As well as the usual friendly matches with neighbouring units we have entered several competitions. In the SW District Championships, teams representing the Company were 1st in the Rounders, 2nd in Athletics and Swimming and 3rd in the Volleyball. In the Bari Cup (Ladies) Hockey we came first and in the Army Championships 4th in Rounders and 5th in Netball.

The Company had what was ambitiously named a "Super Teams Competition" which took the form of inter-platoon, plus a team of officers and senior NCOs. We indulged in sports such as archery, .22 shooting, orienteering, cycling and doing an assault course. It was all good fun and 2 platoon were the overall winners.

Girls from the Company have been involved in several fund-raising events. Pte Anne Borthwick took part in a Raft Race which raised £100. Sgt Helen Beechey cycled with Cpl Beagle RAOC to raise £100 for Cancer Research. Much to the amusement of other members of D Company, four young girls spent a week hobbling after the Rutland Walk, LCpl Morris, Ptes Guest, Cooper and Borthwick (again!).

On Remembrance Sunday the Company, led by the OC and CSM took part in a parade through Warwick and attended the service afterwards. Villagers of Warwickshire were amazed and impressed by the fact that girls played the "Last Post" on bugles, LCpl Fiona Jackson at Warwick and Pte Julia Evans at Northend.

WRAC DETACHMENT FALKLANDS

July — November 1984

LCpl Ireland, Pte Cale and Pte Currie

Having met up with the other girls in the WRAC Detachment Number 4 at Guildford and having been issued with kit in which we resembled real soldiers, I began to look forward to my 4 month tour in the Falkland Islands, and also to the Survival Course prior to it in Tywyn, Wales. The Survival Course was enjoyable and also provided a good way of allowing the girls to meet and get to know each other pretty well.

Travelling down here was an experience on its own — with 11 hours of flying, and a couple of hours spent on the runway at Dakar. (It was a pity it was in the early hours of the morning though, as it would have been nice to see exactly where we were). Once on board MV KEREN — a car ferry ship — we were kept busy for 10 days with a training programme which was not really necessary but at the same time was a lot of fun. It included PT lessons with RPC and the REs — in which all were determined to prove to themselves and others, that they were capable of keeping up with the pace, even if it was a struggle!

Once on the Falkland Islands we found ourselves living in Portakabins at Lookout Camp and having to run outside to the showers each morning in the cold and snow. This was a good way to wake up, especially after a night out! The work we did was certainly different from what we had all been used to. The experience gained in each of the trades was excellent, coping with all aspects of the job and still giving plenty of job satisfaction after at least a 10 hour day. Work-wise the platoon is split within the two main parts of Port Stanley. This presents its problems in that girls tend to stick with their own crowd from work. However by spending some social time together the problem can be eased. The social life is easily spent enjoying oneself in the local NAAFI, one of the four pubs in Stanley, or at a party somewhere on the Island. The morale can always be guaranteed to be high thus making the social life here very enjoyable.

Having completed just under four months on the Falkland Islands, we can say that the time

has literally flown by. After reaching the half-way stage, when everybody wants home and boyfriends/fiances/husbands, you soon learn to cope with having another two months to complete, and make the most of the short time left.

We are all travelling back on SS UGANDA, which is a much better ship than the one we came down on, so we are all looking forward to it, both for the chance to wind down, and also for the chance to be able to gain a fantastic suntan while sailing towards Ascension Island. After all, we have had three winters this year!



Looking very fit on three winters and no summers!

22 SQUADRON RCT Sgt M Hothersall WRAC

It's a year since 22 SQN RCT appeared in the Lioness and a very busy year it's been. Cpl Maycock, our canoeing champion, took part in Exercise "Royal Measure One" in January and February. The exercise was run by 1 ROYAL ANGLIANS and was held in Cyprus. Cpl Maycock's role was assistant canoe instructor, but she took part in all the Battalion activities such as sub aqua, water skiing, rock climbing, abseiling, plus battle exercises staged by the Battalion. Needless to say Cpl Maycock thoroughly enjoyed herself and was blessed with fond memories and a suntan. During the last week of February and the first week of March several members of the Squadron took part in Exercise "Snow Gale", a skiing exercise run by 10 Signal Regiment.

In March Lieutenant F J Blood handed over

command of Wilton Troop to Lieutenant N J Ewing who joined us from the Logistic Support Battalion AMF(L) where she was the only female among five hundred men. Lieutenant Blood left the WRAC for employment with Marks and Spencers.

On April 27th Maj-Gen R A Pascoe MBE Chief of Staff HQ UKLF visited 22 Sqn to present Institute of Advanced Motorists awards to Cpl John, driver for Lt Gen Sir John Akehurst KCB CBE, LCpls Coon, Menzies, Skarratts and Norfor and Ptes Holloway, Smith, Abbott and Gilderdale. It was a special day for Pte Gilderdale who after receiving her IAM award was promoted to LCpl by the OC Major J C Hale RCT.



Proudly displaying their Institute of Advanced Motorists awards.

A camping weekend at Cheddar Gorge was held in June with 20 members of the Squadron attending. Canoeing, riding and sightseeing were enjoyed by all with a barbecue being the main social attraction. The whole weekend was a great success.

In July, this year's Summer Camp Exercise "Cornish Venture" was held at Tregantle Fort near Plymouth over a two week period with each member of the Squadron attending for one week. Most members enjoyed the windsurfing, canoeing, sailing and abseiling.

LCpl Harry and Ptes Summerell and Dean took part in Exercise "Dragon Trail". The exercise was organised by 10 Signal Regiment and took the form of a walk along Offas Dyke, from North to South Wales, a distance of approximately 200 miles. While LCpl Harry drove the minibus in support of the walkers, Ptes Summerell and Dean did the walking. Walking is in the Squadron's blood and once again teams were entered for the Chichester

Marches and Windsor Walk, both 25 miles long and all walkers receiving medals and certificates.

Many of the girls were involved with Exercise "Lionheart" and "Bold Gannet". LCpl Gilderdale drove various members at the UKLF PI team in Germany on "Lionheart" and Pte Pooley remained in UK with other members of PI covering the airport and docks in the Newcastle area. Denmark was the venue for LCpl Booth with PI from SWDIST on Exercise "Bold Gannet", while Ptes Smith and Partington looked after members of G Trg UKLF on "Bold Gannet" also. Everyone enjoyed themselves and valuable experience was gained by those who had their first taste of continental driving.

Amidst all this activity several members of the Squadron found time for individual sports. Cpl John achieved third place in the Ludgershall Ladies half marathon. Cpl Walker went to Cyprus for the second year running with the army badminton team. Pte Pooley attended the West of England Judo Championships in Bristol and took the silver medal in the ladies under 8 stone for the second year running. At the Army individual athletic championships held at Tidworth, Cpl Thubron came first in the high jump and Cpl John came fifth in the 800m and fourth in the 1500m.

In October we had our ARU and Col M N V Duddridge OBE Comd Tpt and Move HQ SWDIST visited the Squadron as the Inspecting Officer. Apart from seeing the weapon training the Colonel saw several members of the Squadron taking a safe and skilled driving test. In addition, six drivers were tasked with plotting and timing a route and then driving to it. The Colonel presented LCpl Derdowski with the Stacey Cup awarded for meritorious service by a member of the squadron. This is the first year that the trophy has been awarded.



LCpl Derdowski receiving the Stacey Cup from Col Duddridge.

SPONSORED CAR WASH IN RHEINDAHLEN

Soap suds and wash leathers were the order of the day when the girls at 68 Sqn RCT held their second sponsored car wash this year. The cars kept rolling in until the hoses were turned off at 1700 hrs. By the end of the day the 15 girls had washed almost 100 cars of all shapes and sizes, raising another DM 600 to add to the DM 900 raised earlier this year.

Captain Eileen Cunningham WRAC decided that the car washes would be a good way of raising some money for Exercise A-Kwanza Backstop. She will be leading 12 girls from the squadron on an adventure trainin exercise to Kenya later this month. It will be first all female exercise from BAOR.

Each member of the team has had to pay DM 1000 towards the cost of flying out to Kenya, but they have also had a lot of help from people like Mr Ken Turner of Pioneer Mutual Insurance who has provided the entire team with medical cover.



The WRAC members of 68 Squadron take a short break to pose for the camera.

VACANCY FOR ARMY CAREERS OFFICER CARDIFF

The appointment of Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) in Cardiff advertised in the August 1984 Lioness is now likely to become vacant in March this year and not January/February 1986. All other details are as previously advertised.

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3PC DEPOT RE – ADVENTURE TRAINING 1984

LCpl C J McNulty WRAC

Our adventure Training for 1984 took place in Bavaria. It was organised by Captain Meacher, OC 32 PC Sqn RE with WO2 Couling in charge of administration. We stayed at the sapper lodge, the Hotel Alpenbuck situated just a few kilometers outside Sonthofen. The Lodge was run by Staff Sergeant Milner RE who made our stay in Bavaria a time to remember.

On the first morning we were up at the crack of dawn and after a hearty breakfast we set off fully equipped to spend the day walking the "Nebelhorn" which is just one of the many beautiful mountains Bavaria has to offer. We had a marvellous day, the weather was beautiful and the view 6,000 feet up on top of the mountain was breathtaking.

Next we tried our hand at canoeing. The first part of the morning was spent on a lake learning the basics of the sport, which would be needed to tackle the rapids on our afternoon 10km sail down the river. It was an experience that none of us will forget. Only the instructor managed to reach the end of the sail without capsizing. Poor LCpl Dawson capsized at least seven times. He never seemed to be disillusioned, but just emptied out the freezing water which had flowed straight from the mountains, climbed back in and tried his hardest to stay upright until we reached the end of our journey.

We also tried our hand at abseiling down a local quarry face. LCpl McKinnon RE, a qualified instructor for the Depot took our lives in his hands! We started with the easier of the two slopes learning the different techniques of descending which we all managed. Next for those of us who were more daring, we tried the harder side of the quarry, and as with the rest of the activities on the training, none of us would miss the opportunity.

Staff Milner was a qualified windsurfing instructor and was only too willing to pass on to us some of his knowledge in the sport. Once again as with the canoeing we were in the water more than on the board but it was great fun. I doubt very much if any of us would qualify for professional windsurfers at the moment but

some of the group showed potential.

We all had a marvellous time and were reluctant to leave, but after saying our goodbyes we boarded the coach for the long journey back to Dusseldorf.



WO2 Miller, Cpl Hickson, Pte Mearns, Pte Cox, Pte Temple.

RAVC TRAINING CENTRE Captain E A Newnham WRAC

Summer 1984 was a busy time for the WRAC element of the RAVC Training Centre. The annual adventure training exercise took place in the highlands of Scotland in late June and early July. Twenty-three WRAC took part in two weeks of abseiling, climbing, canoeing and hill-walking around the shores of Loch Nevis. A group of eight "volunteers" including three WRAC climbed Sgurr Na Ciche, at 1040 metres the highest point in the area, which left them with a great sense of achievement – as well as sunburn, blisters, ticks and mosquito bites! Despite these hazards and extremes of weather ranging from blazing sunshine to thunderstorms, the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Each year a team of WRAC rider/grooms from the Centre takes part in the show jumping competitions at the Royal Tournament, and last year the unit had six girls competing. They had all spent many hours practising their show jumping skills, and we were delighted when Pte Lorraine Heffey took third place in the Princess Anne Cup against stiff competition. The week at Earls Court is always popular with the rider/grooms, as it gives them a chance to mix with and compete against male and female riders from all three Services.

Later in July HRH The Princess Anne visited the unit to attend the Army (UK) Dog Trials. Princess Anne inspected a guard of honour which included two mounted rider/grooms, Cpl Islay Pedlar and Pte Angie Rimmer, and two kennelmaids with Army dogs, LCpl Alison Franklin and Pte Karen Lintott. At the end of an interesting day, which saw excellent displays of obedience and agility from working army dogs, Cpl Sharon Gillam and army dog Rax presented Princess Anne with a basket of flowers which Rax carried in his mouth. To Cpl Gillam's relief all went smoothly and Rax (who was trained by Sharon's husband LCpl Sid Gillam RAVC), refrained from eating the flowers, which he had shown a tendency to do in rehearsals!



Princess Anne inspecting the mounted Guard of Honour.



Cpl Gillam and Rax present flowers to Princess Anne.

The Dog Trials were quickly followed by RAVC Corps Open Day. Hundreds of visitors flooded the Centre to visit the Dog School, Stables and Veterinary Hospital. The rider/

grooms and kennelmaids spent a busy day explaining and demonstrating their jobs to an interested audience.

Finally, we said goodbye to our Admin Sgt of four years, Sgt Betty Blake, who has now retired, and welcomed Sgt Anna Millward from P & EE Shoeburyness. We hope she will enjoy her stay with the grooms and kennelmaids working for the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

WRAC LARKHILL GARRISON

Once again it has been a busy year at Larkhill. The WRAC have been involved in a variety of activities including charitable work, sports, adventure training and military exercises.

In November 1983, 20 of our girls ran a 24 hour sponsored disco and raised £1000. The money subsequently was donated to The Erskine Memorial Hospital, Glasgow, and the Star and Garter Home, earlier this year.

In the field of sport, we have been extremely active and although not the winner of any competition, we have always been close contenders. Individual sports such as hang-gliding, wind-surfing and sailing seem also to be well favoured. May proved to be a very enjoyable month for 12 of our girls who embarked on "Ex RAVEN'S STEEL", an adventure training exercise held in the Lake District between May 18-26. Activities included fell walking, rock climbing, abseiling and map reading.

We were hosts to a visiting party from Medway branch of the Association on July 26th. Several of the ladies had served at Larkhill during service with the ATS or WRAC and were most interested to see the Garrison as it is today. Our members who joined in the Reunion on 3 June had a lovely day and wish to say "thank you" to all concerned in the organisation at Southampton.

At the present time we have two members of our unit serving in the Falklands. We also have a WRAC Cook there on a rotation basis. Last, but by no means least, 5 Stewardesses, 1 Clerk, 6 Drivers and 1 Admin Assistant were privileged to go to Germany on Ex LIONHEART where they were employed in Exercise Control doing a variety of tasks.

SPORT

THE ARMY SPRINT AND LONG DISTANCE CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 16th Signal Regiment team travelled to Monmouth with the aim of equalling their previous achievements. As the team had won both the mens' and womens' championships in 1983, we would be seriously depleting our trophies cabinet if we were to lose them in 1984.

Due to postings and exercises the team had shrunk until only two men and four women were able to make the trip. As four was the minimum for a team entry, the men could only enter as individuals but the women's team had every intention of taking the team trophy back with them. Perhaps the biggest test of the competition was transporting the team and all its canoes from the Regiment's base in Krefeld, West Germany to Monmouthshire. We had left ourselves plenty of time for the journey and were able to get some practice before the event.

The first day of the Championships was devoted to the sprint races. Our team ranged in experience from the seasoned paddler to the complete novice, but there were points to be gained from every race so we were all entered for as many races as possible. Numerous heats were fought and won and surprisingly all our team made it through to the finals. With victory within our grasp, we redoubled our efforts.

Individual results for the ladies events were as follows:

- Capt Gill Gibson:
 - 1st Whitewater 500m
 - 2nd K1 500m
- LCpl Cath Truby:
 - 2nd Slalom 250m
 - 3rd Whitewater 500m
- 2Lt Diane Allen:
 - 1st Slalom 500m
 - 3rd Slalom 250m
- LCpl Caroline Calder:
 - 3rd K1 500m
 - 3rd Slalom 500m

These results put us into the lead and with only the pairs events to go we felt we were in with a chance.

In order to get maximum points LCpl Truby and 2Lt Allen ventured into a K2 canoe for the first time together and wobbled up to the start line to join the other competitors. With all four of our team in the same 500m event, the rivalry was fierce but the race was won by Capt Gibson and LCpl Calder whilst the other pair managed to stay afloat and finish in third position.

With these splendid first day results, the team was looking forward to the long distance event of the following day.

The water level was very low due to the hot summer, which meant the weeds kept tangling with paddles, canoes and competitors. The Long Distance route consisted of an eight-mile round trip, the first half being a four-mile paddle against the current before turning back to the easier down river stretch.

The results speak for themselves. In the Whitewater racers, Capt Gibson was second and LCpl Truby third. In the K1 event LCpl Calder was first, and in the slalom 2Lt Allen was first.

The sun had shone throughout the competition and four suntanned paddlers were able to retain the title for both Sprint and Long Distance ladies events 1984.



L-R: LCpl Truby, LCpl Calder, Capt Gibson, 2Lt Allen.

WORLD JUDO CHAMPION

Pte Anne Marie Briody, currently serving with 3 Squadron 10 Signal Regiment in Aldershot, has over the past nine years built up an impressive list of achievements in the field of Womens Judo. She took up Judo at the age of ten and won her first regional championship at the age of thirteen. Since then she has regularly competed in, and won, many National Championships.

She first qualified for the British Judo Squad in 1981 and the high standard she has reached means that she is regularly selected to represent the UK in overseas international events. At the age of nineteen Pte Briody has just become the Bantamweight (under 48 kilos) World Champion. She is also the 1984 Army Womens Judo Champion.

13 SIGNAL REGIMENT ANNUAL CROSS COUNTRY RACE

On September 7th in atrocious weather conditions, 13 Signal Regiment, held their annual cross country race. The Ladies race was contested by 30 girls and won by Sgt June Molloy. In second place was Cpl Terry Lang and LCpl Julie Cross was third.

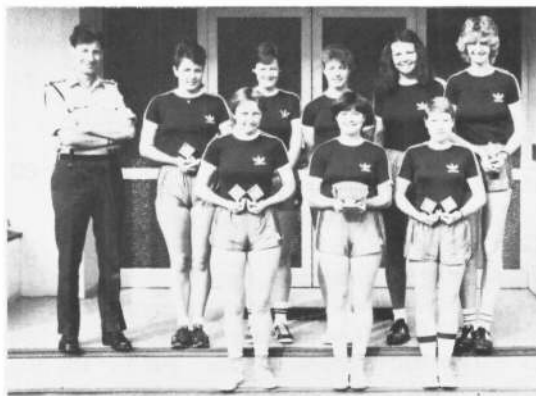


Sgt Molloy receiving her prize from Mrs Howard, wife of the Commanding Officer.

BAOR (WS) VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984

The BAOR (WS) Volleyball Championships took place in Rheindahlen on July 23rd. Six teams took part and played on both indoor and outdoor courts.

The standard of play remained high throughout the day leaving 29 Company WRAC Runners Up and 13 Signal Regiment, captained by Sgt June Molloy, as the BAOR champions.



L-R: Back Row: Lt Col Howard, LCpl Gordon, Cpl Cullingworth, LCpl Evans, Sgt Exley, Cpl Lilley. Front Row: Cpl Reid, Sgt Molloy, Cpl Sutherland.

RAOC BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS D COY - CAD KINETON

From October 22nd - 26th a team of girls were at Blackdown Barracks representing CAD Kineton in the RAOC Badminton Championships. All the girls played well but LCpl Judith Haynes literally swept the board on October 26th on what proved to be a day of finals.

She claimed the ladies singles, ladies doubles, and (with LCpl Tai RAOC) the mixed doubles and the inter unit doubles. The latter was even more of a triumph in that she was the only girl to play in the inter unit matches.

Not content with that success LCpl Haynes went to Rheindahlen with the Army Badminton Squad where the team was placed second.

1984 was a very successful year for LCpl Haynes. In February she came first in the Army Ladies singles, and with the partnership of Cpl Walker from 22 Sqn Wilton, 1st in the Army Ladies doubles. We wish her every success in the Army Inter Service Championships this year.

INTER SERVICES LADIES GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 1984

The results of the first ever Ladies Inter Service Golf Championship held at the Aldershot Army Golf Club on 3 Oct 84 and sponsored by TOYOTA Military Sales Ltd are as follows:

1st Army	715 Strokes
2nd RAF	729 Strokes
3rd Navy	747 Strokes

Although this memorable victory was the result of an excellent team performance, special mention should be given to Capt Lesley Hope QARANC, a Scottish International who plays off a handicap of 1. On a day which could only be described as wet and muddy, she scored a magnificent 75 which was only 2 over par.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

1. INDIVIDUAL 18 HOLE EVENT

Name	Unit	Net Score
Maj SIF Johncey	12 Coy WRAC	74
Capt LA Hope	WSLO	
	Northumbria	75
Maj MHM Reakes	BMH Munster	77
Maj JFM Whitehead	MWS MRO	81
Lt KJ Bettison	HQ Lisburn	
	Garrison	83
Sgt MA Bradshaw	ACIO Leeds	89
Sgt L Eadie	ACIO Leeds	90
Brig H G Meechie	MOD	95
WO1 SC Taylor	HW SW Dist	86
(Reserve)		
Total Score of first 6		479

2. FOURSOMES

2. FOURSOMES		Net Score
Maj SIF Johncey	)	74
Sgt MA Bradshaw	)	
Brig HG Meechie	)	80
Maj JFM Whitehead	)	
Capt LA Hope	)	82
Sgt L Eadie	)	
Maj MHM Reakes	)	83
Lt K J Bettison	)	
Total Score of first 3		236
FINAL RESULT		715

WRAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 1985

The WRAC Golf Championship (open to retired members) will be held at the Army Golf Club Aldershot on Monday June 17th starting at 0900 hours.

The format of the Competition will be as follows:

MORNING — 18 Holes Stroke play incorporating:

- a. Individual Scratch Competition*
- b. Individual Handicap Competition (closed and open).
- c. Hidden Hole Competition (the player who gains the most strokes at a selected hole will be declared the winner).
- d. Ball Sweep (each player is requested to donate one ball. The player achieving the best net score will receive 60% of the balls, the runner up 30% and the third 10%).

AFTERNOON

- e. 18 Holes Greensome Stableford Competition (open).
- f. Putting Competition.

HANDICAPS

Handicaps for the Competition will be those declared at the time of submitting the entry form. The only adjustments to be made will be downwards as a result of handicap reduction awarded between the time of entry and the day of the Competition. Proof of handicap must be declared on the day.

ENTRIES

The inclusive entry to the Competition is £15 (less £6 green fees for members of the Army Golf Club) and includes: morning coffee, snack lunch, three course evening meal, two rounds of golf and entry fee.

Entries should be forwarded by 31 May 1985. Cheques to be made payable to the WRAC Golf Association.

Players are requested to make their own accommodation arrangements.

REPORTING

Players should report by 0830 hours for a briefing on the day's events. In the event of having to withdraw at the last moment a message can be left at the Club. Tel: Farnborough 540638.

* Serving members will compete for their own trophy.

WRAC REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

VIDEO AND TAPE LIBRARY

Brigadier A Field, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, has invited Brigadier E J Nolan to chair a committee to be tasked with collecting and recording on tape the experiences of members of the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC with a view to forming a permanent video and tape library. The committee will be composed of the Trustees of the museum and other co-opted members.

If you think that any incident or experience in your service should be in the museum archives, and you are willing to be interviewed to tell your story, would you please write to the Curator WRAC Museum, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH, and enclose a brief outline of your story.

ENTRY FORM – WRAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

SECRETARY
WRAC GOLF SOCIETY
HQ LISBURN GARRISON
BFPO 801

FROM

.....

.....

TEL. NO: EXT

Please enter me for the following Competitions:

- a. Morning Stroke Play YES/NO*
b. Afternoon Greensome Stableford YES/NO*
Partner/Partner required
My current handicap is
at Golf Club.

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to WRAC Golf Association to cover the cost of:

Society Rate	£13.00*
Army Golf Club Members	£ 7.00*
Entry Fee	£ 2.00*

Total:

Date

Signature

*Please delete as appropriate.

REBUILDING PROGRAMME

The museum has been closed for rebuilding and is expected to reopen in about a year. The main room will be larger, with more display space, so we shall be asking you in February 1986 if you have any items of uniform, photographs or documents which you no longer want to keep and are willing to donate.

Meanwhile, for those of you who know Queen Elizabeth Park, the museum office is located in Room 103 in the NAAFI building. Historical research will continue, and the museum shop (see Shopping List on page 1) is open Monday – Friday 9am - 4pm.

VACANCY FOR WRVS SERVICES WELFARE MEMBER

The Junior Leaders Regiment RE, Old Park Barracks, Dover, are looking for a WRVS Services Welfare member to start immediately and work with the regiment until December 1985.

For the job description and all details, please ring Dover 820333 ext 26, and speak to Capt Parrish RE or 2Lt Miller WRAC.

RUKBA

Last Summer belonged to the 1984 Olympics. Most of us sat fascinated before our television screens watching a magnificent display of glorious youth, beauty, bodily co-ordination and action. But for one in five of the British population youth is a memory. Nearly 10 million are old age pensioners and that means for many a life of physical pain, disability, inadequate housing, meals on packet soups and the slow erosion of savings by inflation — a life of little comfort and narrowing horizons. This is especially hard on professional people who have striven to build good lives for themselves and their children.

A typical example could be a former member of the ATS who served with the Royal Engineers, *Mrs Helen Carstairs who gave sterling service during the second World War to find herself at 61 with only the State Retirement Pension, a small occupational allowance and just £800 in savings. She married rather late in 1957, and became the proud mother of two sons. Fifteen years later her husband left her.

RUKBA (The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association) was formed in 1963 to assist those in dire need from a professional or similar background. Many were governesses, paid companions or widows of professional men who had met misfortune. Seeing an advertisement for RUKBA in The Radio Times Mrs Carstairs wrote to RUKBA's Applicants Secretary. Her appeal was placed before the Committee which accepted her as a RUKBA Annuitant, authorised immediate payment of an annuity for life. Unless Mrs Carstairs' circumstances change drastically for the better she knows she is able to rely on her bi-monthly cheque arriving promptly, as do our other 4,300 Annuitants.

To be eligible for RUKBA's help one must be of pensionable age or over forty and unable to earn ones living, live in the British Isles and meet certain maximum income and capital requirements. RUKBA is undenominational. A visit to Headquarters will show the usual busy administration offices of any large national charity but perhaps less customary is the Clothing Department where rows of second-hand good quality clothing wait despatch to Annuitants. Each is entitled to two parcels a

year. But for a special occasion such as a wedding or a grandson's graduation the Department will spend much time and effort to ensure an Annuitant is suitably attired and most certainly not feeling like one of the poorer relations.

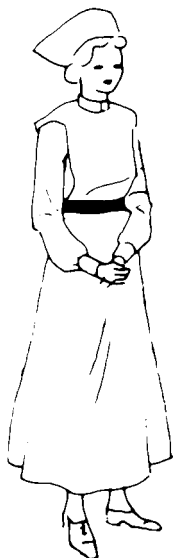
Eventually for many of us there will come a time when we cannot stay in our own home any longer. The Association owns two Residential Homes near Camberley. One for the frail elderly with a Nursing Wing and another for the active elderly. It manages a third, also for the active elderly at Cheltenham. "Sheltered" flats with a resident warden are available above the Headquarters offices in Hammersmith and there are 22 flats at Felixstowe, 20 flats in Bexhill and the Association has nomination rights in 21 other Homes in various parts of the Country.

Loneliness is rarely a worry for those living in residential accommodation but for people staying in their own homes it can be a problem. Happily RUKBA has 700 splendid Honorary Secretaries throughout the Country to whom our Annuitants can turn for help and friendship. They can also help the Association in other ways such as fund-raising.

Service to RUKBA is a tradition for many families. RUKBA is fortunate to have the Dukes of Abercorn as the President since 1868 and Members of the Royal Family as Patron since 1867. The Queen Mother is the current Patron and she graciously accepted the 5th Duke of Abercorn's invitation in July 1981 to attend the Garden Party at Abercorn House, our Home near Camberley, to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of its opening. The oldest Resident, 101 year old Mabel Evans proudly presented the Queen Mother with a bouquet of summer flowers. Nearly 50 years before, the old lady had worked on the magnificent robes for the coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth. Her Majesty was interested to see around the Home exquisite pieces of embroidery given by Queen Mary, a former patron.

RUKBA has grown in strength from the mid-Victorian era through the turmoil of social changes in the 20th century. Now the Association looks into the 21st century and plans to build a nursing home complex for the disabled elderly. If you wish to know how you can help RUKBA or if RUKBA can help you, please contact: The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL.

**Not her real name*



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
BENEFICENT
ASSOCIATION**

(Founded 1863)

Patron:

H.M. Queen Elizabeth
the Queen Mother

RUKBA

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

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

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

TA

31 (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

As always the WRAC members of the Regiment have played a full part in all the Regimental activities. They are an essential part of the Regiment and it is a hard task to keep our numbers within the 25% allowed in our establishment. With our WRAC Officers too we have a waiting list, a very different story from just a few years ago.

In addition to the regular activities of communications, cooking, clerical and medical duties there has been some time to find some fun. We fielded a highly successful team in the Courage Trophy Competition and the girls duly accepted their winnings of Courage Ale with style and smiles from Sir Harry Secombe. The girls had so much charm that Courages then presented them each with a tankard at a later date!

Under the constant enthusiasm from Captain Susan Fenney the orienteers of the Regiment were very successful in the London District Competition in March and that spurred them on to the UKLF Championships in May. Only an excess of other commitments kept them from the Royal Signals Championships. Against opposition we managed to hold our WRAC weekend in July and once again we had the hottest weekend of the year for that successful event. We had a new venue at St Martin's Plain Camp and for the first time we "allowed" the men to come along with us — the RSM and his permanent staff wanted to organise us! The Shooting Cup was won by a very new recruit, Pte Wiseman and the RSM made sure that we would never forget him by very kindly presenting The Francis Cup to be competed for annually for General Team Events. Headquarter Squadron Team took the honours for the first year with their great fund of knowledge and ability in all things!

At a later date eight girls took part in an adventurous training exercise aptly named CELTIC CHALLENGE. Lt Linda Webber and her husband Lt Ian Webber very nobly organised the stay in deepest Scotland, and everyone took part in windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, grass ski-ing, pony trekking, abseiling and of course hill walking. This now yearly trek to the North is

looked forward to by many lads and lassies of the Regiment and I am always assured that a good time is had by all.



Enjoying Ex Celtic Challenge in Scotland.

"Jog Along With Harefield" was what some of the girls did in September. The famous heart hospital had organised a sponsored jog, and Cpl Brenda Prater and Pte Betty Kolsky decided to run together to "jog" each other along. Pte Kolsky had only intended to run six miles but was persuaded to carry on for a further three miles to finish with Cpl Prater. They completed the nine miles in 2 hours 5 minutes and raised quite a substantial sum for the hospital.

Four officers and fifteen girls visited 4 RTR at Tidworth and were given an introduction to 4 RTR and their role and were shown the Chieftain and 438 with Swingfire. Unfortunately a gremlin prevented us from doing any simulated firing but a few girls practised loading dummy shells. The highlight of the day was taking a Chieftain out to the training area and having a go at driving. Yet again the gremlin (what was her name?) struck and the Chieftain retired hurt before all the girls had a go. The girls had a thoroughly enjoyable day and threatened to return for a further visit — at which 4 RTR immediately announced that they were off to Germany!



Pte Maslin and Pte Kelsey at Tidworth.

PRESENTATION OF ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR

On October 12th the Reading branch of the Royal Signals Association held a special reception in Reading for the purpose of making the formal presentation of an electric wheelchair to Gillian Howells who suffers with multiple sclerosis. By dint of tremendous effort on the part of the branch members, together with some welcome donations from the Reading Branch, Multiple Sclerosis Society, the WRAC Association and the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund, the required amount was raised and the wheelchair was presented to Gillian on the evening before the branch's 1984 annual dinner.

Twelve years after having to leave the TA because of the onset of her illness, Gillian is now confined to a wheelchair. She was brought to the reception by her parents, and a number of other members of her family were also present. Distinguished guests were present and also attending were Major Tony Verey TD, the present Commander of 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V), of which Gillian was a member, and Captain Eileen Carter TD, Gillian's former Troop Commander, now serving as PSO at 47 (Middlesex Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) at Harrow.



L-R: Capt Carter TD, Miss Howells, Lt Col Isaacs MBE TD, Maj Verey TD.



Stewardesses from 94 (Berkshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V) on duty at the reception.
L-R: Pte Janet Dent, LCpl Susan Hill, Pte Debbie Atkins.

BISLEY CHAMPION



Lt Sharon Barkley WRAC (V) proudly displays the TA WRAC SMG Championship Cup and medal which she won at the 1984 Bisley Championship.

GLASGOW AND STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITIES OTC

FORMATION OF A REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities OTC (TA) which was originally formed in 1746 and in the past was formerly called Glasgow University Senior Training Corps, and Glasgow University OTC (TA) has formed a Regimental Association.

It would like to contact all former Officer Cadets, Officers, or Permanent Staff Instructors who have served with the unit at any time in the past. An inaugural dinner (Black Tie) will be held in Glasgow on 18 May 1985. Those eligible and interested in joining the Regimental Association should write to Major N Hudson 1/52 Lowland at GSUOTC (AT), University Place, Glasgow W2.

CCF

SOMERSET JOINT SERVICES CADET COMPETITION Lt Richard Stephens CCF

Until the weekend of 2-4 November few people would have rated highly the chances of a girls' team against all-comers in the Somerset Inter Service Cadet Competition at Yoxter, but Wellington School CCF narrowly missed winning this year's event with just such a team! The competition was eventually won by the all-male Wells ATC with 257 points to Wellington's second position total of 255 points after a longer, tougher and more competitive series of activities than ever.

After settling into Yoxter Camp on the Friday evening the team members, SSgt Michelle Hainsworth, Corporals Rebecca Cozens, Julie Frier, Julie Simpson and Rebecca Whall, watched a demonstration of the Field Gun Race which they faced the next day. Undaunted by the prospect of stripping down, carrying and re-

assembling all the parts of gun and limber weighing together as much as a mini car, they showed what pluck, determination and organisation can achieve by completing the task only 4 seconds more slowly than the beefy team which had rehearsed the exercise as a display item! These same qualities made them the outright winners of the Barrel and Plank and Radio Control tests, second place in the Initiative, Map Reading and .303 Shooting, and third position in the .22 Shooting and First Aid events.

The Mendip weather was unusually kind, but it takes a real sense of duty and determination to rouse yourself quietly, pack your belongings in your rucksack, climb out of your tent into cold pitch darkness and cook and eat your breakfast by 06.20 hours, especially knowing that the adults have the comforts of their bunks in Camp! The girls' evident enjoyment of this and all the challenges of the varied activities speaks of their spirit and character which earned the respect and admiration of all present.

The team was trained and accompanied to Yoxter by Lts Jane Brace and Richard Sepehens, together with Ldg Seaman Ian Burden who acted as team manager and valued assistant to the Directing Staff in a variety of roles. For them this particular team's performance was an unforgettable demonstration of the triumph of preparation, co-operation, skill and character over apparent physical disadvantage. Very well done the Wellington girls!



**L-R: Cpl Rebecca Cozens, Cpl Julie Simpson,
SSgt Michelle Hainsworth, Cpl Julie Frier, Cpl Rebecca Whall.**

REUNIONS

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1984

The Northern Area Reunion was held at Imphal Barracks in York on October 13th and the Study Centre was packed to capacity. So many members wanted to attend this year that many were unable to obtain tickets, so we shall have to choose much larger premises for our future gatherings in the North.

We were pleased to welcome Brigadier E J Nolan (Deputy Controller Commandant) and Brigadier N C King (General Secretary) who gave us a resume of Corps and Association news and provided up to date information on the Benevolent Funds. Tributes were paid to Brigadier King for his ten years of service as General Secretary and best wishes for the future were expressed to both Brigadier Nolan and Brigadier King on their forthcoming retirements.

Films on the theme of "Then — And Now" were shown — the first two featuring wartime activities of the three womens' services in general and the ATS in particular, and the third a current recruiting film for the WRAC which was accompanied by a commentary from Captain Marguerite Stewart. Some nostalgic memories were evoked amongst those of the older generation.

After tea a hush descended as Brigadiers Nolan and King prepared to tackle the huge drum containing tickets for the Grand Reunion Draw and gradually all the lucky prize winners were identified and recorded. A collection was made for The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, and a tombola and raffle operated during the afternoon produced a second set of prizes and winners.

All in all it was a rather hectic afternoon, and thanks are due to our Chairman, Lt Col G K Ramsey, for her hard work and for arranging for the Reunion to be held at Imphal Barracks.

BRITISH EX-SERVICE WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA

A reunion for all British ex-service women will be held in Sydney from 8 - 10 November. For more information write to the Editor.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1985

The AGM will be held at The Conference Centre, Harrogate on Saturday, 13 April 1985 at 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 24 March 1984.
2. Business arising from the Minutes:
 - a. Association Standard.
3. Report of Council.
4. Report of Honorary Treasurer.
5. Report of the Editor Lioness.
6. Report of Committees:
 - a. ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
 - b. Museum Trustees.
7. Resolutions:
 - a. Council Resolutions — Amendments to rules:
 - (1) Delete rule 4 (b) and substitute:
"Life Vice-Presidents of Council may be elected by Council".
 - (2) Amend rule 8 (b) as follows:
Line 4 *delete* "The four Life Vice-Presidents"
insert "The Life Vice-Presidents"
Line 17 *delete* DDWRAC UKLF
insert Commander WRAC UKLF
Line 18 *delete* The Commandants
WRAC College and WRAC Centre
insert "The Commandant WRAC Centre"
 - b. Election of Council Vice Presidents.
 - c. Election of Chairman.
8. Reunion 1988.
9. Any Other Business.
10. Place of Next Meeting.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club was held at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, on Saturday 6th October 1984. A record number of 305 members and 30 guests attended, some of whom have joined. It was a very happy occasion and time was set aside for getting in touch with old comrades, both present and absent.

A telegram of loyal greetings was sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and a gracious reply has been received. Flowers and good wishes were sent to our Patron, Dame Leslie Whateley, who unfortunately was unable to be with us. A letter from Dame Leslie was read out by the Chairman.

A bouquet of flowers from the management and staff of the hotel was presented to our oldest member, Mrs Graeme-Caldwell, who was celebrating her 92nd birthday and had travelled up from Poole.

The membership continues to increase and now stands at 685 including 277 Life Members.

The date of the next luncheon will be Saturday 5th October 1985 at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, which will be the Business meeting when a new Committee will be elected. We hope as many members as possible will attend.

We welcome enquiries from former members of the ATS, irrespective of rank held, and anyone wishing to join is invited to write to the Honorary Secretary, Miss C I Lawrence, 23 Trinity Close, The Pavement, London SW4 0JD.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE DOVER CASTLE

About 300 ATS and WRAC, Dunkirk Veterans, Burma Star Veterans, Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery attended a Remembrance Service at St Mary-in-the-Castle Church, Dover Castle on October 21st. A record number of standards were paraded, including one from the Royal Naval Association. Two NCOs of the Royal Irish Rangers arranged the standards, and the Last Post and Reveille were played by

Ranger McCormick. Two junior WRAC officers took the collection which was donated to the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

Brigadier E J Nolan and Lt Colonel E A Robinson attended the service. Other distinguished guests included Mr Peter Rees, MP for Dover, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Dover.

After the service refreshments, which were provided by all the local WRAC Association branches, were available for the visitors.

REUNION NOTICES

GRAND REUNION 1985

By the time this appears in *Lioness* the Grand Reunion will be almost upon us, and there is little to add to previous information on the subject.

Bookings have been made from all parts of the country (plus one or two from overseas members) and it looks like being a large and memorable gathering. If you have not yet made up your mind, there may still be time to include you if an early application is made. For details see the information given in the issue of *Lioness* 2/84.

The Northern Area Branches, and Harrogate Branch in particular, are looking forward to welcoming you to our territory. We hope for a fine weekend, and that you will all have a thoroughly enjoyable time and meet many old friends.

HASTINGS BRANCH

On Sunday April 28th the Hastings branch are having an Anniversary Parade to which members of other branches are cordially invited. The WRAC Staff Band will be leading the parade and many local dignitaries will be present. The parade starts at 3 pm, and at 7 pm there will be a Concert on the Pier.

Branches who would like to attend and bring their Standards should advise Mrs K M Campbell, Honorary Secretary, Hastings Branch, by 15 March, and let her know if you need accommodation. Everyone is most welcome.

CREWE BRANCH

Crewe Branch are hosting a Western Area secretaries' meeting to be followed by a Social at 2 pm on Saturday, September 28th at the Victoria Social Club, Gatefield Street, Crewe. There will be a buffet, stalls and music. Everyone is welcome.

WRAC ASSOCIATION BANNER

A rare WRAC Association banner has been handed into the safe keeping of the 4th Battalion the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment. The hand-made banner belonged to the Lonsdale Branch of the WRAC Association which was inaugurated in October 1954 but disbanded due to declining numbers in January 1973. Only six similar banners are known to be in existence.

Former branch secretary Mrs Doris Grant kept the banner in her attic until she handed it to Lt Col Chris Day, CO of 4 KOB. Those who watched the handover in Lancaster included former branch members, Col Shirley Nield, Comd WRAC, UKLF, who was visiting the North West at the time, and Lt Col Gael Ramsey, Comd WRAC North East and North West District. The banner will take pride of place in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. Mrs Grant, who joined the ATS two days after war broke out and spent two of her six years service at the former Bowerham Barracks in Lancaster, said that she was very pleased that the banner would be well looked after.



L-R: Lt Col Chris Day, OC 4 KOB, Col Shirley Nield, Comd WRAC UKLF, Mrs Doris Grant holding the banner.

BRANCH NEWS

ABERDEEN The Branch is one year old with 27 members, and we meet every two months with an average attendance of 12-14 members.

Our first meeting was a visit to our Chairman's home where we had a most enjoyable evening. In March we had a bar supper and in June we had a hilarious evening at the Ten Pin Bowling Alley. In September we met to discuss the forthcoming Remembrance Parade and our Christmas buffet and dance. Major Ruth Henderson attended the meeting and gave us a very interesting talk on "The WRAC today".

We attended the TA Remembrance Parade at Prince Charles Barracks where we laid a wreath, and on November 14th we were invited to the WRNS Association Craft Evening.

Our Christmas buffet and dance was held on January 18th.

BATH Our membership stands at 53, 11 Life Members and 42 Annual Members. We meet twice a month, and average 12-18 at most meetings which we hold in members' homes.

Our AGM was held on March 19th at the Christopher Hotel, Bath. Twenty-six members attended, and we enjoyed a Fork Buffet meal before the meeting.

After another Jumble Sale in May, we were then looking forward to the Sub-Area Reunion at Southampton on June 3rd. This turned out to be a most enjoyable day, which ended with an excellent tea-meal, not forgetting the raffle. Although the Secretary wrote to the Southampton team just after the event, we would like in this report to congratulate them again for a great Reunion programme.

On July 8th a Fork Luncheon was held at the home of one of our members, Mrs Joan Mant, at Langridge, Bath. Again some of our members assisted in the running of this event. A raffle was held and all gifts had been donated by members and friends. It was agreed that the proceeds from this luncheon would be divided between The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and The Dorothy House Foundation (a terminal illness hospice), and we were able to send £106 to each fund.

At a Mini-Market being held at a local church

in Bath, we again collected prizes for this event which took place during the evening of July 12th. Proceeds from our Raffle Stand totalled £21 for our own Branch Fund. On September 9th, 33 of us, members and friends, had a trip to Lyme Regis, stopping off en route home for a pre-booked bar meal. We held a Jumble Sale on October 13th and ran our Stalls at the Halloween Fair, The Pavilion, Bath on October 26th.

BOLTON This Branch continues to thrive. We meet regularly at the local Royal British Legion Club on the last Thursday of the month. On the anniversary of 'D' Day several of our members with their husbands attended a special concert organised by the Royal British Legion. The evening was spent in pleasant nostalgia.

Eight members made the trip over the Pennines in October to attend the Northern Area Grand Reunion at York, and spent a very enjoyable afternoon.

Remembrance Day saw several of us on parade, along with many other Service and Ex-Service Organisations at the local War Memorial, where Mrs Kath Toppin laid the poppy wreath on behalf of the branch. The Remembrance Service led by the Mayor of Bolton was followed by a March Past.

We held a jumble sale on November 24th and our Christmas Fayre on November 29th. An interesting assortment of goods were on sale and we all enjoyed a fresh salmon and salad supper along with other delectable goodies provided by the members. Our Annual Dinner was held at a local hostelry on December 6th, and we sat down to a very enjoyable Christmas meal.

We have made donations to the Royal British Legion, The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and our local home for disabled ex-service men "Broughton House". We are now concentrating on raising money for the Grand Reunion at Harrogate.

BOURNEMOUTH This Branch continues to meet regularly with about 15 members attending each meeting.

We had a very interesting meeting when the Police attended and gave us a good talk on the new Community Season Service.

We must also thank Southampton branch for our splendid Sub-Area Meeting and wonderful tea. We all enjoyed our trip around the various points, and we had started our day with a lovely ride and picnic lunch in the New Forest. At each

meeting we have a small raffle which enables us to pay part of the expenses for the coach on these occasions. We sent £10 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

BRADFORD We continue to thrive with an average attendance at meetings of 35-40.

For the third year running we have hosted a reunion for the 1914-18 veterans, which included a lunch for sixty. We were grateful to various ex-service associations who made donations towards the cost. The veterans all enjoyed themselves and it was a pleasure to serve them.

We held an Autumn Fayre and a Charity Stall in the market which enabled us to make generous donations to the Harrogate Grand Reunion and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. About thirty of us hope to attend the reunion next April.

We have had two evening trips and a visit to Hull branch. We also enjoyed two lunches and an evening meal at the University. Our standard, supported by members, has been on numerous parades, including the Battle of Britain Parade, the Remembrance Parade and at two Festivals of Remembrance, and also in Belgium and France with the Dunkirk Veterans. We would like to thank our Standard Bearer, Mrs Norah Kendall.

We have recently enrolled six new members including two ex-WAAF, Mrs Irene Ward and Mrs Muriel Blowman. Another new member, Mrs Elaine Hepworth (nee Derwent), was in the ATS in Bradford in April 1939. We welcome them all.

CHELTENHAM It is good that the Branch continues to thrive, and to hold the interest of the members, a number of whom live far from our main meeting place of Cheltenham, so are unable to attend meetings regularly. We now have 71 members.

A Wine and Cheese Party held in early May was well attended and successful financially as well as socially. Official guests included representatives of the local branches of the British Legion, WRAC Association and WRNS Association.

During the summer months visits were made to the homes of members living in the surrounding country, which not only gives great enjoyment but assists to keep expenses down by not having to hire a hall for meetings.

Sadly we have lost two founder members of the branch during the year, and regretfully the branch now contains many elderly members. We

find the recruiting of the young to the Association difficult, although every effort is made to do so.

We have sent donations to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and the Royal Star and Garter Home.

EAST KENT Another busy year with varied activities including a Garden Party, Garage Sale and a monthly meeting in Canterbury's Westgate Gardens in the spring. We made visits to various members' homes for afternoon tea. Raffles and auctions were held at all these events to help raise money for our funds.

We had our Reunion Dinner in March and a Birthday Dinner in October which was attended by between 20-30 members. We receive invitations from other branches in Kent to attend their functions and many of our members take advantage of the chance to renew old friendships.

In September we were invited to our Vice President's home for tea. Among those present was a former member of our Branch now a member of Deal Branch, Barbara Whitton ex QMAAC who was celebrating her 90th birthday. Our hostess had made a special cake with candles and Barbara was presented with a posy.

Several members attended the AGM in London, the ATS Dinner Club luncheon and the Remembrance Day Parade at Whitehall. Our standard has been carried at three different services this year.

We are looking forward to the Grand Reunion at Harrogate in 1985, where we hope to meet many friends.



Barbara Whitton receiving her birthday cake from Mary Richardson, Vice President of the branch.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



HARROGATE The Branch has had quite a busy year with a variety of activities which have been well supported by all the members who live near enough to Harrogate to attend meetings.

Social events have included a get-together supper at the Regency Restaurant, our Annual Dinner at the Courtlands Hotel, a visit to the Royal Hall to see "La Vie Parisienne", a social evening and Easter Bonnet competition and an expedition to join members of York Branch at their Buffet Supper.

Meetings in the Club Room have included a film show, an illustrated talk on the National Trust and a talk on the work of the RNLI, all of which were very interesting and informative. Two memorable meetings were devoted to folding up Grand Draw counterfoils ready for inclusion in the drum at the Northern Area Reunion, but we managed to combine business with pleasure by having planning discussions and a good gossip at the same time!

The summer months were devoted to outings. In May we energetically explored the Valley Gardens and Pinewoods and worked up an appetite for a fish and chip supper at Oliver's afterwards. June found us on a Mystery Tour in the Dales and in July we visited the Treasurer's House in York on a special "open night" arranged by the National Trust.

On the May Day Bank Holiday we ran our usual fund-raising stall at Bilton Gala and although the weather was more arctic than spring-like there was no shortage of customers for our Tombola and "Snoopy" raffle and a useful profit was made.

In October members attended the Northern Area Reunion in York and by the time this Lioness is published we shall be busy preparing to welcome everyone to the Grand Reunion in Harrogate. We hope you will all enjoy your visit to our home ground!

HASTINGS This has been another very good year for the branch. We have had a number of invitations to attend functions of the other ex-service groups in the area, and have entertained some of them ourselves.

Once again we had a very successful Annual Dinner in April when about 25 sat down to an excellent dinner at "Pinehurst" in St. Leonards. We participated in the Charities Fair at the White Rock Hastings and once again made a nice profit and had an enjoyable day. In August about twenty of us paid a visit to the Museum at Guildford and everyone enjoyed their day. A

number of our members attended the Church Service at Dover Castle as guests of the Dover Branch and were entertained afterwards. They were all pleased to be invited and had a memorable day. The Remembrance Day Parades were well attended and the Standard was carried with pride.

On December 12th we had our first Christmas Lunch in a Hastings restaurant, to try and bring out members who dislike coming out in the evening.

HULL We have had an interesting year and enrolled some new members. We meet on the first Friday of each month at the Royal British Legion, Beverley Road, Hull at 7.30 pm.

We were highly delighted with the results of our second social evening, held this time at Londesborough Barracks, Hull. The success was due to the loyal support of some of our other Yorkshire branches — Barnsley, Bradford and York. We were again able to give a substantial amount to Northern Area towards the 1985 Grand Reunion in Harrogate.

We have managed quite a few social events including a visit to the theatre last autumn to see "My Fair Lady", a luncheon at the Royal Station Hotel in January and a visit to York Branch for their Disco evening at Imphal Barracks. A party went off to Whitby on a glorious Sunday and enjoyed their ride over the heather clad North Yorkshire moors and a few hours in Whitby where it was Regatta weekend. On another occasion Miss Hildyard of Withernsea very kindly entertained a small party by taking them for lunch on the south side of the Humber.

One of our QMAAC members, Miss Elsie Thompson is just managing to get out again after breaking her hip 2½ years ago. She is a staunch member of the British Legion. Three of us went to see her and she kept us well entertained by her stories of the First War and her experiences in Hull in the last war when she managed to keep a milliner's shop going through the thick of the air raids, being bombed out once and damaged several times. Another member is a Dunkirk Veteran and two of us had the privilege of going with her on the annual Dunkirk Pilgrimage.

The Dunkirk commemoration this year was overshadowed by the D-Day ceremonies but it is just as much a part of the history of the Second World War. At both ceremonies at Dunkirk and Le Panne our WRAC standard was proudly paraded by Mrs Norah Kendall of Bradford Branch.

KEIGHLEY We celebrated our first birthday in January and now have 34 members. Our first year was dedicated to fund raising, which included jumble sales and a silent auction. Having outgrown the Secretary's lounge and the local RBL rooms, we now meet in the Drill Hall.



Founder members of the branch.

PLYMOUTH The Branch continued to go along steadily, bearing in mind the vagaries of wind, weather and the gradual onslaught of years, though we have a varied age-group and this in itself is a tonic. Our jumble sales, which average three a year, prove great fun. Our annual Autumn Fair, which this year included some of the other branches of the Plymouth Federation of Ex-Services (Royal Artillery, Royal Signals, RAFA and Jnr WRNS Association) proved a good exercise in liaison and resulted in some remuneration for each Branch to help them with their winter programmes. We have also enjoyed two good skittles nights complete with a light supper at a well known old hostelry at Hatt, near Callington, Cornwall. This was an outing for everyone who could manage it plus husbands and friends. A summer day trip to Brixham was much enjoyed by members and families, and we managed two Beetle Drive evenings.

The branch attended the Plymouth Annual Festival of Remembrance, held in the old Guildhall. Our standard-bearer and escort party played their part in the solemn parade, and other branch members collected for the Poppy Appeal and sold programmes.

We held our AGM on November 5th, and look forward hopefully to a good year and the April Reunion and Association AGM at Harrogate.

PORTSMOUTH We meet every month, with a good attendance at meetings.

On June 3rd the Secretary and two members

attended the service at Portsmouth Cathedral when the Queen Mother unveiled the D Day window. The rest of the branch waited outside to take pictures.

On June 6th four members of the branch marched in the special D Day Parade and we were the only ladies in the Army contingent, except for one from the Royal British Legion, but before the end of the day we had signed her up for the Portsmouth Branch! After the parade we were entertained to lunch by the City Council and our table consisted of mostly Free French Forces. Over 200 came from France to take part. We had a very good time chatting to these gentlemen who, to our shame, nearly all spoke very good English. It was a day we will all remember and we all have a certificate from the City Council to remind us. The members who could not march in the parade (as the numbers were restricted) had tickets for special places on the Guildhall Steps alongside the Saluting Base. In all the years of attending parades in the City we have never seen so many people. There were thousands along the route clapping and cheering and it made us feel very proud to be part of it all.

We had our usual Christmas Dinner in December. During the year we have sent £10 to the Royal Star and Garter Home and £15 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

GRAND REUNION DRAWS

Thanks to the generosity of those who donated prizes for the Grand Reunion Draw, there were no fewer than 68 lucky prizewinners. The first eight prizewinners were:

Major C M E Pugh RTR:

Mini-cruise to Hamburg plus garment of couture tailoring and £150 cash.

Pte Harding:

1 week's holiday for 2 in Devon.

Miss E Ellison:

Bargain break weekend for 2.

Mrs L Bowyer:

Townsend Thoresen return crossing.

Cpl Butcher:

Sealink return crossing.

Mrs C Needham:

£100 Moss Bros outfit.

Miss S Davies:

Limited edition Coalport Harewood plate.

Cpl Robertson:

12 bottles of Beaujolais Villages.

ROCHDALE In October last year the Rochdale Observer did a write-up on the ATS in the last War after having accepted our invitation to send a reporter to one of our meetings. The photograph below was taken at the time and published in the newspaper.

We had a Christmas Party at our meeting in November. Everyone excelled themselves with home-made Christmas fare and decorations, and we had a wonderful spread. We invited the Burma Star Association to join us and they were very appreciative.

Our Christmas Dinner was held at the Midway Hotel on December 13th, and was shared with the Women's Section of the British Legion, as some of us are also members of that Section.



Clockwise from the left: Mrs Fouracre, Mrs Butterworth, Mrs Barker, Mrs Price, Mrs Foster, Mrs Whitham, Miss Champken, Mrs Goudie, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Schofield, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Howorth, Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs Bottley.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HOUSE SUPERVISOR

The Royal British Legion Women's Section are seeking a house Supervisor for Castle of Mey House, Haslemere, Surrey which houses 22 elderly ladies in self-contained flatlets.

In return for nominal duties an honorarium of £750 a year will be paid (to be reviewed annually) and a two bedroom unfurnished flat provided, heating, lighting and constant hot water are also included.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be aged between 50 and 60 years and will be wishing to supplement a pension; employment is envisaged until the age of 65, but this could be reviewed.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from: The National Secretary, The Royal British Legion Women's Section, 'Haig House', 48 Pall Mall, LONDON SW1Y 5JY.

SALISBURY We continue to meet during the winter months at the Royal British Legion on the fourth Wednesday in each month. We have several new members and about 20-25 of our 50 members come to meetings.

During the summer months we had several very happy party evenings at the homes of Mrs Pyke, Lt Col Gray, Major Bowden, Major Clarke, Mrs Taunton and Major Gibbes.

Several members spent a very enjoyable day at the Southampton Reunion.

Our Annual General Meeting was in November. On November 11th we joined the Royal British Legion for The Remembrance Parade and Wreath Laying. We have sent £25 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and a donation to the Royal British Legion.

SHROPSHIRE Eight members of the Swansea City District Branch of the Association visited Telford at the invitation of the Shropshire Branch on September 8th. They were met at Oakengates Railway Station, taken on a tour of the town centre and returned to the Oakengates Community Centre for a buffet lunch provided by the local members. A coach tour after the meal was much enjoyed. This included a visit to the Coalport Museum, the famous Iron Bridge and a drive back via the COD Donnington. Mrs Enid Goodwin (Cpl Tyler) had asked to see the Depot where she had served as an ATS storewoman from 1942-1946. She was able to take a sentimental look at the "sheds" through the new west gates. The visit was rounded off by a splendid tea at the Community Centre before they embarked on the lengthy return rail journey to Swansea.

Shropshire members hope to visit Swansea in early 1985.

SOMERSET We continue to meet four times a year, but our 34 members live in various parts of Somerset, Devon and Wiltshire, and many of them find it impossible to attend meetings.

Our Vice-Chairman invited us to her home in July where we enjoyed a barbecue on a beautiful summer evening. Four of our members attended the AGM in London also the Sub-Area Reunion at Southampton in June.

We are busy planning the Sub-Area Reunion for June 2nd when we look forward to welcoming Association members to Tiverton.

STAFFORD This Branch continues to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Royal Naval Association Club and our membership now stands at 30 with 4 Associate Members.

We have had a busy and interesting year with talks on Russia and Old Stafford, demonstrations on Hair Styling and the preparation of German Salads and a talk on Health Foods. We have also been out to dinner on five occasions during the year.

Several of us went to Wolverhampton in September for the Western Area Reunion and had a very entertaining afternoon. We are now looking forward to next year and the Grand Reunion in Harrogate.

SWINDON During the past year we had some changes when our Chairman and two other members resigned due to family commitments. We now have eleven members. Attendance at our monthly meetings is usually very good, and we continue to hold a raffle and an occasional "Bring and Buy" sale in order to boost our funds.

During the summer we met at members' houses, enjoying the lovely weather in their gardens and chatting over tea, and we also spent a very pleasant evening in Marlborough Forest.

In October a party of members, husbands and friends visited the local theatre to see "Kismet" performed by the Swindon Amateur Light Operatic Society, and in November we held our Cheese and Wine Party to celebrate Christmas.

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND We have had a happy and successful year, continuing to meet twice a month with the exception of the summer months.

Those of us who went to the Area Reunion at Southampton enjoyed it immensely and the sit down tea was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Southampton Branch for all they did to make this such a happy and successful event. This coincided with our own town's D Day celebrations, but we saw part of the Parade drawn up as we left Weymouth, and some of our members were able to go to the D Day Dance two days later. Our summer outing was to Morwellham Quay and a good time was had by all.

Our AGM was held on November 7th. We gained one new member during the year, and we now have 28 Annual Members and 12 Life Members.

WIMBLEDON Meetings are held at the Community Centre, St George's Road, Wimbledon SW19 at 8 pm on the second Friday in the month with the exception of the November meeting which takes place on the third Friday. No meeting is held during the month of August. A fee of 25p room money and 10p raffle money is charged at each meeting. Membership is now 74 with 38 Life members, 34 annual members and 2 honorary members.

In August we had a lovely day with Dame Mary Railton and Colonel Holt at Great Bedwyn. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and we had a delicious tea after watching some of our members showing their expertise on the croquet lawn.

Seventeen members attended the AGM in November when the officers and committee were re-elected en bloc for a further year. Sadly, Dame Mary Railton told us that she would be resigning as President at the end of 1985.

Our visit to the Tower of London for 14 members and husbands was really absorbing. The Ceremony of the Keys was the highlight, and Yeoman Warder and Mrs D K Carpenter were extremely knowledgeable in the detailed history of the Tower. We would all like to thank them for making it so interesting and for their hospitality.

Eighteen members attended the ATS Dinner Club luncheon in October which is always a very pleasant occasion.

We have donated £15 to the Royal British Legion, £10 to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, £10 to St Dunstan's, £10 to the Marie Curie Appeal and £20 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

WOLVERHAMPTON Members and friends of this Branch gave magnificent support on September 22nd, when we hosted the Western Area reunion which was attended by more than 100 members. It was the hard work of all our members that made the day such a success. We were very pleased to welcome the Chairman of Western Area Lt Col A Bray, and our guest Mrs Croom-Johnson, Chairman of the ATS Dinner Club who was presented with a cut glass bud vase, a reminder of her visit to Wolverhampton. We were delighted to welcome to her first secretaries meeting, the new Secretary of Western Area, Mrs Joan Bleasdale. The Chairman read out a message received from HM The Queen, in

response to a message of Loyal Greetings sent from Wolverhampton, also a greetings telegram received from Dorothy Melby our member in Norway.

The first item was a sentimental journey, when our Secretary, dressed in ATS uniform introduced an ATS recruiting film made in 1941 (courtesy of The Imperial War Museum), and Iris Ricketts showed the cine film she had taken at the Plymouth reunion. Dorothy Turley organised the Tombola Stall, and her mother had crocheted a blanket, sold it and donated the money to our Funds.

Members were on the White Elephant and Book Stalls. Gladys Tolley's aunt has supported the branch for 36 years, donating cakes etc, whenever asked. Nancy Hope a friend of the branch, volunteered to supply cups of tea, and with other members did the washing up and preparation of food. Joyce Curtis (ex-WAAF) was on the door collecting tickets. It is always a pleasure when Mrs Roberts, our ex-QMAAC member comes to any of our events, and we were delighted to see her on the 22nd. Wyn Oldham, our member from Zimbabwe planned her holiday so that she could attend the reunion in her home town.

Five new members joined our branch, and we were able to send £100 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, £100 to The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and £100 to The Compton Hall Hospice in Wolverhampton.

Meetings at the Maltings Day Centre, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton 7.15 pm – 9.30 pm on Mondays 28 January, 25 February, 25 March, 22 April, 24 June, 22 July, 23 September, 28 October, 25 November. Serving members on leave always welcome. Contact Secretary on Wolverhampton 56086.



Western Area Reunion.

Front Row L-R: Mrs M Beeston, Secretary Wolverhampton Branch, Mrs Wyn Oldham from Zimbabwe, Lt Col A Bray, Chairman Western Area, Mrs M Davies, Chairman Wolverhampton Branch.

ATS WITH THE BEF 1940

Ex-CSM Cynthia (Sally) Healey has completed her book "ATS with the BEF 1940" and the foreword has been written by Mrs M F Wentworth Reeve CBE TD JP, formerly Controller Wagstaff ATS.

Copies of the book are obtainable from Miss Healey, Badgers Cottage, Pleck, Marnhull, N Dorset DT 10 1NY. The cost is £4, which includes postage, and the proceeds will be divided between the ATS Benevolent Fund, the Royal British Legion, the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Salvation Army.

Correspondence

Mrs Pollie Ward (nee Ibbotson) of 374 James Reckitt Avenue, Hull HU8 0JA writes:

"I was overjoyed to read in the last "Lioness" the account of the D Day Parade on the Promenade at Weymouth on June 7th 1984. Forty years ago I was there. We were attached to 67 AA Brigade stationed at Nottingham House, Weymouth.

We witnessed the build up to D Day, with troops and tanks filling the specially widened country lanes. We watched the REME Wading Trials in the Bay; this was the newly introduced DUKW, a self propelled lighter in the sea and a medium-sized truck ashore.

We were in the Signal Office and were busy accepting and sending messages for the many regiments in the area. On the night of June 5th it was different. Officers talked in hushed whispers, and then the planes started going over and they were ours.

During the next few days we watched the American soldiers queuing on the Promenade to embark for France. Weymouth had its restriction ban lifted, evacuees arrived from London, and the V1 attacks started. It was a strange sight to see these London children playing in safety on the beach whilst the embarking soldiers formed up on the Promenade behind them.

I too have taken part in a Parade on Weymouth Prom; the ATS Birthday Parade in September 1943. On that occasion one of our number did faint away! How the article from RAC Centre, Bovington and Lulworth brought back memories."

Mrs Joan Lovell (Henry), Mrs Mary Bentley (Dawson) and Miss Betty Pearce of the Hastings Branch all served with the RAPC at Finsbury Circus and Clifton Street, London and would like to hear from others who were also with the unit. After the Cenotaph Service Betty Pearce who had been billeted in Hanover Square met a Medway branch member Mrs Nancy Waters (Bennett) and discovered that she had also been attached to the RAPC and billeted in Hanover Square. Please write to Betty Pearce at: Garden Flat, 283 London Road, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex TN37 6NB. She will pass on letters for Joan Lovell and Mary Bentley. They want to know how many readers remember the choir formed by Sgt George Mitchell which later became "The Black and White Minstrels".

Mrs Stephenson and Miss Williamson, President and Vice-President of the Hull branch want to say thank you on behalf of the branch to Mrs May Kirby (nee Redmore) for all the help she has given to the branch. Mrs Kirby was one of the first members of the branch and has been Treasurer for nearly twenty years. Now that she is retiring they want her to know how much they appreciate all that she has done.

Mrs M P Beeston (nee Allison) of 77 Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton, WX10 0PX, who is Secretary of the Wolverhampton Branch, met an ATS friend Chris Gibbs at the ATS Dinner Club luncheon whom she had last seen when they were both stationed with the 23rd Scottish General Hospital in Germany in 1945. They are meeting again at the Harrogate reunion in April and would like to meet other members who were also serving with 23rd Scottish General Hospital in France and then Germany at the end of the last war.

Mrs Goodwin (Cpl Tyler) of 24 Glanbryden Avenue, Uplands, Swansea would enjoy contacting any member who served at Donnington during 1942-1946.

Mrs M Bateman (nee Marian Rawles) of 75 Crosby Street, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire, enjoyed reading about Bovington and Lulworth in the last Lioness because she was posted there in 1958. She would like to hear from others who were there in those days, Sgt Daw, Sgt Forshaw, Pat Nestor, Betty Watson, Hilda Mackie and Hilda Munden.

Mrs Elsie Robinson of 39 Jesmond Road, Harrogate, N Yorkshire writes: "The article on the Women's Section of the RBL in the last Lioness was very interesting, but I don't think it made clear the point that ex-service women are eligible to join as ordinary members with the same privileges as male members, and not necessarily in a Women's Section. We have a super new club in Harrogate, and if anyone is too shy to go alone, I would be glad to hear from them and introduce them".

Mrs D K Calvert (nee Dorothy Woolston) of 6 Scott Cottages, Beach Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk NR30 5EZ has already found through "Lioness" two ex-ATS who served with her, and wonders if anyone else was in B Troop, 495 Battery, 232 HAA Regt RA.

Mrs Peggy Linington (ex LCpl Hennessy) of 56D Staplers Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, her sister ex Pte Pat Hennessy and their friend ex Pte Joyce Caffell who served in 616 and 627 (M) HAA Regts from 1942 - 1946 would like to contact anyone else who was with them, especially ex Pte Fidler. They particularly remember their officer Major Lillywhite RA.

Mrs F M Julian, PO Box 115, Matamata, North Island, New Zealand who used to live at Uddington near Glasgow would like to contact Lena Carroll, a Glasgow girl who was stationed at 12 Radnor Place, Paddington and also Gwen Smith who was a sergeant at Storrington Camp. She would also like to hear from anyone who was stationed near Paisley during the war.

BIRTH

ROUSE On October 1st 1984 to Captain and Mrs R L Rouse (Captain Sally Rouse) a son, Benjamin.

MARRIAGE

BRISTOW - FLAHERTY On 18 August 1984 at St Patrick's RC Church, Consett, Co Durham. Captain Christopher David Bristow RAEC to Captain Bernadette Mary Flaherty WRAC.

LONDON GAZETTE

OBITUARY

Butters. Miss Eva Butters of Glasgow on 17 October 1984. ATS.

Greenhalgh. Miss Pauline Greenhalgh of Oxford on 12 December 1984. WRAC.

Hacking. Miss Ursula R Hacking of Cheltenham on 3 August 1984. Junior Commander ATS.

Hall. Mrs A M D Hall of Chalfont St Peter on 14 October 1984. WAAC and WRAF.

Hodgson. Miss Muriel Hodgson of Dumfries on 1 November 1984. ATS.

Hornsby. Pte Maria Hornsby of 181 Provost Company WRAC on 11 December 1984 as the result of a traffic accident. Army Women's javelin champion.

Howie. Miss M C Howie on 3 April 1984. Subaltern ATS.

Jones. Mrs K A Jones (nee Pettit) of Mayfield, Sussex in October 1984. ATS.

Keene. Miss Esther (Jimmie) Keene of Southwick, Sussex on 4 July 1984. ATS.

Macrae Johnstone. Miss Janet Macrae Johnstone on 27 May 1984. ATS and WRAC.

Marquis. Miss Mary Marquis of Glasgow on 1 January 1985. ATS.

Norris. Mrs A Norris (nee Findlay) of Hull, Yorkshire on 17 November 1984. ATS.

Perkin. Miss Jeanne F Perkin of Liverpool on 30 October 1984. WRAC and TA.

Peters. Mrs E I Peters (nee Clewlow) of Stafford on 29 September 1984. ATS.

Pyman. Mrs E D Pyman (nee Dacombe) of Littlestone-on-Sea, Kent on 18 September 1984. WRAC TA.

Rawlings. Mrs Louisa J Rawlings (nee Pugh) of Corsham, Wiltshire on 16 July 1984. QMAAC.

Senior. Miss Doris M Senior of Leeds on 22 April 1984. QMAAC.

Williams. Mrs Lottie Williams (nee Mills) of Clynnog-fawr, Gwynedd on 12 October 1984. ATS.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

BEM

Staff Sergeant S Perry, Sergeant E J Terry, Sergeant J P M Tuomey, Corporal L D Butcher

SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

Corporal D A Burnham, Captain M N Murray UDR

APPOINTMENTS

Brigadier A Field CB appointed Deputy Controller Commandant, 5 November 1984 in succession to Brigadier E J Nolan CB tenure expired.

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonel: J L Lawson MBE

Majors: K F Binks, D F Davies, S J Westlake, V L Wright

Captains: S E Tait, D J Armstrong, S L Littlejohns, J Dowson

Lieutenants: C A Hewitt, C A Woodhead

2Lieutenants: T Stewart, A K Edwards

Short Service Commissions

Majors: S M Lucas, G A Short, L B Smith

Captains: J M Stockdale, B E Good, J Barry, S T Aungiers, D E Russell, G F Wing, B M Simmonds, M L Harris, C L Lee, J E Chisolm, C B Davies, F E Elliot

Lieutenants: E P Forster, S F Currie, L C Dougherty, L N R Forsythe, J P Gregory, C E S Harrill, F J Boxell, H L Hoskins, S K Hart, M I Macdonald, N J Payter, M S Johnson, R C Lodge, L G Lush, W V Morrison, A K J Wright, K J Bettison, K L Scott, H V White, J A Walton, R A L Thackery, K A Phillips, K E Platts, C Lester, L E Davies, J Hands, D L Pollington, S J L Whitehead, J K Hurford-Dawson, K D Jones, P R Simms, C Haigh, M H Thornton, C E Binns, J E Brodie

2Lieutenants: S A Holt, S M Parks, J E Pevalin, S M Wilson, D D Davis, C A Gow, A D Hall, J J Hayes, F A Kirkpatrick, L A Miller, D J Ogden, J C Palmer, D J Taylor, C M Wilson

Short Service Volunteer Commission
Lieutenant E J King

RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Colonel A M M Clissitt
Lieutenant Colonel (QM): E J Edwards OBE
Majors: C D Green, S Taylor, M J Craggs,
E M Miseroy
Major (D of M): L A E Hopkin MBE
Captain: W H Swinton-Eagle

Special Regular Commission

Captain K M Lawson

Short Service Commissions

Captains: K M Collinson, J R Salter,
B Flaherty, P A Grant, E A Towell, C Jones
Lieutenants: S P Rouse, M Hutber, L C Fox,
S Crawford, J R Fisher

2Lieutenant: P J Wood

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accepted. Contact A Humphries, 39 Painsway,
Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts. Tel: 0980-23989.

FOR SALE. Greatcoat, No 2 Dress and other
uniform items. Size 12/14, 5' 8". All good
condition. Tel: Mrs Sharpe, Hungerford 84149.

FOR SALE. No 2 Dress and extra skirt. Size 14,
5' 3", £25. Apply QM, WRAC Centre, Queen
Elizabeth Park, Guildford. Tel: 0252-24431
Ext Guildford 246.

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6.7/8 with badge. No 2 Dress jacket in mint
condition, 2 field officers forage caps 6.7/8,
miscellaneous badges. Tel: Passfield (042877)
272.

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Excellent condition, £15 ono. Tel: Mrs Reeves
0733-73894.

FOR SALE. Greatcoat £50, Mess Dress and Silk
Sash £50, No 2 Dress £50. All size 14, 5' 6".
Contact Mrs S Rouse, 11 Fargo Road, Larkhill,
Salisbury. Tel: 0980-52688.

FOR SALE. No 2 Dress, brand new. Size 12
£70. Contact Miss A T Holder, 16 Etherstone
Green, Streatham, London SW16 2QZ.

FOR SALE. Mess Dress, No 2 Dress, No 2 jacket
(unworn), Greatcoat. All excellent condition.
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BALANCE SHEET — 31st OCTOBER 1984

	1984		1983	
	£	£	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS				
GENERAL FUND				
Balance at 1st November 1983		54,463		48,273
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure		7,653		6,084
Gain on Sale of Investment		—		106
		<u>62,116</u>		<u>54,463</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND				
Membership Life Subscription	3,384		3,199	
Lioness Life Subscription	4,937		4,622	
	<u>8,321</u>		<u>7,821</u>	
	<u>£70,437</u>		<u>£62,284</u>	
REPRESENTED BY:				
FIXED ASSETS				
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less Depreciation		43		185
INVESTMENTS				
At Cost per Schedule (Market Value £69,774)		58,175		54,213
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock of Badges	856		248	
Sundry Debtors	720		555	
Cash at Bank — Current Account	1,476		2,075	
— Deposit Account	3,127		1,469	
— Investment Account	6,204		3,794	
Cash in Hand	138		82	
	<u>12,521</u>		<u>8,223</u>	
Less: Sundry Creditors	302		337	
	<u>12,219</u>		<u>7,886</u>	
	<u>£70,437</u>		<u>£62,284</u>	

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1984

64

1983		Market Value	
Cost		Cost	31st October 1984
£		£	£
6,248	M. & G. Charifund — 4,195 Units	6,248	10,857
2,912	London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 — £4,359.53	2,912	3,849
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. — £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8¼% Treasury Loan - 1997 — £6,718.09	5,311	5,845
2,433	8% Treasury Loan - 2002/06 — £3,336.04	2,433	2,744
3,679	7¼% Treasury Loan - 2012/15 — £6,548.12	3,679	5,353
3,046	8¼% Treasury Loan - 1987/90 — £3,490.98	3,046	3,229
8,793	11½% Treasury Stock - 1989 — £9,927.62	8,793	10,171
5,765	12¼% Treasury Loan - 1995 — £5,991.31	5,765	6,516
4,978	14% Exchequer Stock - 1986 — £5,101.54	4,978	5,373
3,974	12¼% Treasury Loan - 1992 — £4,331.65	3,974	4,765
3,475	10½% Exchequer Stock - 1988 — £3,477.36	3,475	3,390
1,568	8½% Treasury Stock - 1984/86 — £1,536.99	1,568	1,527
1,981	City of Bristol 11½% Redeemable Stock - 2008 — £2,006.26	1,981	2,066
—	10% Treasury Stock - 1992 — £2,001.19	1,981	1,921
—	11¼% Treasury Stock - 1991 — £2,021.61	1,981	2,118
<u>£54,213</u>		<u>£58,175</u>	<u>£69,774</u>

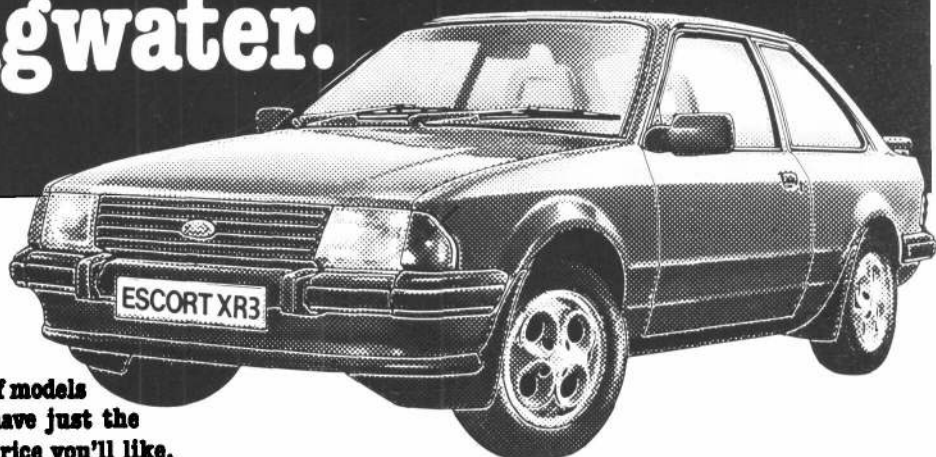
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1984

	1984		1983
	£	£	£
INCOME			
SUBSCRIPTIONS			
Annual	2,720		2,966
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	266		244
	<u> </u>	2,986	<u> </u>
			3,210
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION			
Subscriptions... ..	5,556		4,548
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	360		330
Advertisement Revenue	560		596
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	6,476		5,474
Less: Cost of Publication	6,432		6,663
	<u> </u>	44	<u> </u>
			(1,189)
OTHER INCOME			
Income from Investments	6,651		6,199
Deposit Account Interest	567		249
Sale of Badges	10		4
Funds received from Disbanded Branch	50		—
Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion	(27)		(24)
	<u> </u>	7,251	<u> </u>
			6,428
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD		<u>£10,281</u>	<u>£8,449</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1984

	1984		1983
	£	£	£
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD...		10,281	8,449
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EXPENDITURE			
Branch Expenses:			
Capitation Fees	400		425
Grants	52		34
Funds Repaid to Western Area	37		—
	<u> </u>	489	<u> </u>
			459
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
A.G.M. Expenses	1,038		929
Printing and Stationery	281		140
Postages	130		78
Subscriptions and Donations	150		140
Share Purchase Expenses	38		127
Sundry Expenses	56		54
Audit and Accountancy Fee	304		296
Depreciation	142		142
	<u> </u>	2,139	<u> </u>
		<u>£ 2,628</u>	<u>£2,365</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE ...		<u>£ 7,653</u>	<u>£6,084</u>

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