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No 1

# Lioness





# Lioness

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No. 1

## WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

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## CONTENTS

|                                            | Page |                                              | Page |
|--------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------|------|
| Shopping List ... ..                       | 1    | Ex First Voyage ... ..                       | 20   |
| Staff Band ... ..                          | 1    | WRAC in Colchester ... ..                    | 22   |
| Presentation ... ..                        | 2    | Bubbling Coffeepots ... ..                   | 22   |
| Congratulations ... ..                     | 2    | Sport ... ..                                 | 23   |
| Falkland Islands ... ..                    | 3    | TA ... ..                                    | 24   |
| Wrong, wrong and wrong again ... ..        | 4    | Association News ... ..                      | 26   |
| Ex Boot Breaker — Recruit Maker ... ..     | 6    | Dedication of the Standard ... ..            | 27   |
| RAVC Training Centre ... ..                | 8    | Reunions ... ..                              | 28   |
| Viking Challenge ... ..                    | 9    | Reunion Notices ... ..                       | 30   |
| N I WRAC Drill Competition ... ..          | 9    | Branch News ... ..                           | 31   |
| 500th Parade ... ..                        | 10   | Correspondence ... ..                        | 33   |
| Unit News ... ..                           | 10   | Births and Ruby Wedding ... ..               | 35   |
| Ex Santanda Sail ... ..                    | 15   | Tribute ... ..                               | 35   |
| Christmas Hampers ... ..                   | 16   | Obituary ... ..                              | 35   |
| Impressions of a Parachuting Course ... .. | 16   | London Gazette ... ..                        | 36   |
| Life with Commando Sappers ... ..          | 18   | Personal Column ... ..                       | 36   |
| Ex Lion Sun IV ... ..                      | 18   | Area, Sub Area and Branch Secretaries ... .. | 37   |

## SHOPPING LIST

|                                                 | £     | p&p           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| ATS silver plated brooches                      | 1.50  | 15p (up to 6) |
| Biro pens                                       | .25   | 20p (up to 6) |
| Bookmarks, leather                              | .40   | 20p (up to 6) |
| Brief Cases                                     | 1.65  | 35p           |
| Clipboards                                      | 2.80  | 98p           |
| Coasters, leather                               | .40   | 15p           |
| Coasters, leather (boxes of 6)                  | 2.30  | 35p           |
| Corps Drum Ice Bucket                           | 10.50 | 1.35          |
| Corps History (hardback)                        | 5.50  | 60p           |
| Corps History (paperback)                       | 3.00  | 50p           |
| Corps Shield                                    | 8.50  | 60p           |
| Glass Ash/Pin Tray                              | 1.10  | 30p           |
| ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank Card Holder          | .25   | 15p (up to 6) |
| Jewel Case (blue velvet)                        | 1.20  | 25p           |
| Key Cases (to hold 6 keys)                      | 1.10  | 25p           |
| Key Rings:                                      |       |               |
| Acrylic                                         | .45   | 20p (up to 6) |
| Green Leather                                   | .40   | 20p (up to 6) |
| T-shirts (white, red and blue)                  | 3.50  | 40p           |
| Sweatshirts (green, red, black, white and blue) | 7.50  | 55p           |
| Pewter Figures:                                 |       |               |
| Musician with flute                             | 15.00 | 80p           |
| WRAC Private                                    | 15.00 | 80p           |
| WRAC NCO with RMP                               | 15.00 | 80p           |
| Prints by Ken Howard:                           |       |               |
| Signed (indoor only)                            | 5.00  | 50p (up to 3) |
| Unsigned                                        | 3.00  | 50p (up to 3) |
| Scarves 27" x 27" (green with gold badge)       | 2.75  | 15p           |
| WRAC Brooches                                   | 1.75  | 15p (up to 6) |
| WRAC Association Badges                         | .60   | 15p (up to 6) |
| WRAC Association Brooches                       | 1.75  | 15p (up to 6) |

Silver plated pewter figures on a larger base can be supplied as a special order for about £25.

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

## Cover Photograph

Princess Anne congratulates Pte Euni Bolder on her shooting.

## WRAC STAFF BAND

### ENGAGEMENTS

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April<br>25-26                      | Concerts with the Guildford Operatic Company at Civic Hall, Guildford. (In aid of Army Benevolent Fund).                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| May<br>24-30                        | Concerts at Grand Parade Bandstand – Eastbourne. (Daily 1100-1230 hrs and 1500-1630 hrs).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| June<br>10-12<br>27-29              | RA Massed Bands Display – Horse Guards Parade, London. (Evening).<br>Aldershot Army Display, Rushmoor Arena.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| July<br>6<br>9-26                   | Royal Tournament Preview Parade at National Festival, Stoke on Trent. (Parade commences at 1430 hrs).<br>Royal Tournament Earls Court (Resident Band). Performances daily except Sundays).                                                                                                                                             |
| August<br>3<br>10<br>17-23<br>24-30 | Concert at Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells. (Afternoon).<br>Concert in Hyde Park, London. (1500-1630 hrs and 1800-1930 hrs).<br>Concerts in Regents Park, London. (Sunday 1500-1630hrs and 1800-1930 hrs Weekdays 1230-1400 hrs and 1730-1900 hrs).<br>Concerts at Pinewalk Bandstand, Bournemouth. (Daily 1100-1230 hrs and 1500-1630 hrs). |

## ROYAL ARTILLERY MASSED BANDS DISPLAY

The Royal Regiment of Artillery will be giving a Massed Bands Display on Horse Guards at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 10 June, Wednesday 11 June and Thursday 12 June.

Taking part will be The Kings Troops RHA, six Royal Artillery Bands, the Pipes and Drums of four RA (V) Regiments and the WRAC Staff Band.

The ATS and WRAC have enjoyed a long association with the RA, and it is hoped that many serving and retired members of the Corps will attend. Further details, including arrangements for the purchase of tickets, can be obtained from the Band President, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6QH.

12 WRAC girls from 17 Trg Regt RA and Depot Woolwich who took part in the RMP Chichester March. Led by Sgt Madge Smith they all successfully completed the march and also won the prize for the best Ladies Team. A total of £326 was raised from the event which was presented to the matron of Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital for the children's ward.

## PRESENTATION

### LSGC

WO2 Pat Rosewell was presented with her LSGC by Col Audrey Smith, Comdt WRAC Centre on October 4th last year.



Col Smith pinning on the medal in the Sergeants' Mess.



L-R: Cpl Storrar, Cpl Wilson, LCpl Wood, Capt Kirk QARANC, Sgt Smith, Col Anderson QARANC, Sgt Grant, Pte Hext, Pte Boulton, Sgt McIntyre.

Captain Alison Ewan who took up her appointment as Assistant Equerry to HRH The Prince of Wales on October 28th last year.

Pte Anne-Marie Mulholland (nee Briody) who came third in the European Judo Championships (under 48 kilos) in Sweden. Pte Mulholland is a switchboard operator in 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt in Aldershot.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### We offer our congratulations to:

Sgt Margaret Couser WRAC TA who was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for 27 years service. Sgt Couser is attached to 204 General Hospital, Belfast.

Brigadier Helen Meechie and Major (retd) Flossie Odell who won the Stableford Foursomes Competition at the Barton-on-Sea Golf Club Ladies Invitation Meeting on 27th August last year.

Fourteen members of the WRAC from Army HQ Scotland, who recently took part in a sponsored swim to raise money for the Commonwealth Games Appeal. The event was held over a two day period and the girls managed to raise £300 by swimming 166 lengths of the Commonwealth Pool. They swam for one hour in the form of a relay.



# FALKLAND ISLANDS WRAC DRAFT 6

## Capt J A Coates WRAC

On March 6th last year Falkland Islands Draft 6 departed from RAF Brize Norton by Tri-Star to begin what was to be an exciting, rewarding and exhausting four months for everyone. Draft 6 was the last WRAC draft to travel by sea to the Falkland Islands from Ascension Island, and that in itself proved to be a great experience.

We arrived on Ascension Island at mid-day, overdressed in our combats considering the oppressive heat. Within a few weeks we all wished that we had made more of those brief moments of sunshine when we were all shivering in the cold South Atlantic winter. Within three hours all 300 passengers from the Tri-Star had been ferried in sticks of seven by helicopter to our "cruise liner" MV Keren, a former Sealink ferry!

In the interests of our personal safety, all ranks of WRAC Draft 6 were accommodated in the appointed Officers' Mess area of the ship. We were all well looked after and were able to join in with all Mess and ship activities; this was everything from a sergeants to officers' mess games night, to the "Miss Keren" competition, which was only open to male contestants who gallantly squeezed their way into a colourful variety of bikinis and assorted underwear borrowed from the WRAC! Cpl Hunns and Pte Cobb volunteered to host a daily radio programme which proved to be most popular and entertaining.

The voyage presented us all with an excellent opportunity to get to know each other before arriving in the Falkland Islands and also to meet many of our future male bosses and contemporaries in a relaxed environment. It was just as well that we all got on so amicably as the only other signs of life during the 10 days voyage south were a whale, sighted so far away that only those with the keenest eyesight could see it, the SS Uganda travelling northbound, packed with troops, and an albatross which followed us in the hope of food for the last three days of the voyage. To prepare for our tour everyone on board had to undergo relevant training for approximately four hours a day. The subjects covered were first aid, films on the Islands which ranged from conflict to wildlife, PT and weapon training. The last was perhaps the most exciting as it involved firing SLRs off the stern of the ship at barrels towed along in the water. Fortunately no one shot the albatross.

The weather during the voyage was superb, the sun proving positively dangerous at mid-day. We did not encounter rough seas until two days out from the Falkland Islands, by which time most of us had our sea legs. We arrived in Port Stanley Harbour during the night and were all up early the next morning to catch our first sight of the Islands. It was cold but quite sunny, and we were met by the pale and tired Draft 5 who could hardly wait to complete the handover and take our bunks on the ship. We were taken straight away to our accommodation, "Tenko", which was co-located with the officers' mess accommodation at Look Out Rocks Camp. The female cabins were arranged in a closed circle, sleeping cabins enclosing the communal washing facilities and sitting room.

There were 22 members of Draft 6. One Captain employed as an SO3 J1 in HQ BFFI; one SSgt, Admin Assistant, employed in the Q Stores at Look Out Camp; 7 clerks, employed in HQ BFFI, FIAC (Falkland Islands Admin Company) and FIGPU (Falkland Islands Garrison Police Unit); 6 Supply Specialists employed by FI Log Bn (Falkland Islands Logistic Bn); 2 PCOs and 2 cooks employed in FIAC; 2 DTGs employed by 266 Signal Sqn and one stewardess employed as house orderly for the General, CBFFI. Individual members of the draft will doubtless have their own special memories of the Falkland Islands, particularly as all the various employing units were keen to run their own sport and recreational events and were indeed very independent professionally. However some of the highlights of the tour were drawn from the shared WRAC experiences described below.

One of the highlights of the tour was the WRAC disco which was arranged to raise money for charity. The General was very keen to raise £4000 to share between the local school which badly needed new video equipment and the Jubilee Sailing Trust which provides training ships for handicapped children to learn how to sail. The patron of the Jubilee Sailing Trust is Prince Andrew, who was serving on HMS Brazen while we were in the Falkland Islands. When the WRAC decided to assist, we chose a disco in order to capitalise on the scarcity of entertainment and rarity of the female species in the Falklands. Our plans paid off, and on the night 400 men, 45 girls which included WRAC, WRAF, QARANC and EFI and enormous stocks of duty-free alcohol met in the civilian gymnasium in Port Stanley. The ACC provided a cold buffet, all the civilian shops provided raffle prizes, and the soldiers with the largest portable Hi-Fi provided a free disco. Tickets had been sold rather indiscriminately, which resulted in a marked absence of the usual RSM figure who would preside at such a large all rank "do"! Consequently it was a fairly wild affair, OC WRAC and SSgt Barclay being the sole representatives of authority and rather underweight bouncers! As it was, there was very little trouble and we scooped in a record £1001.20 profit from the evening, which was a remarkable figure.

Professionally speaking, one of the greatest highlights of the tour was the period 11-14 May, as we were privileged to be in the Falkland Islands and take part in the activities which surrounded the opening of the new runway at Mount Pleasant. Until the opening of the airport, all aeroplanes were required to fly into RAF Stanley which was really inadequate in size and facilities for the Falkland Islands' Air trooping and rapid deployment requirements. Consequently all efforts had been made by the contractors (Laing Mowlem and ARC) to complete the runway ahead of schedule. One of the most important features of the new runway was its capacity to take wide bodied jets, while RAF Stanley had only been able to take Hercules. On 1 May the first Tri-Star landed at Mount Pleasant Complex, amid great excitement from both contractors who had seen at last the efforts of their labours, and service personnel, particularly the WRAC as we knew that it would not be too long before a Boeing 747 would be taking us back to UK from that very spot. This was actually just a proving flight to ensure that the runway could take the landing without sustaining damage, and to practise the Air Traffic control, security and reception personnel in their respective tasks. There were accordingly no VIPs on that particular flight, but just a few, presumably expendable RAF specialist personnel who were involved in various aspects of the creation of the new flight programme!

During the celebrations for the opening of the airport, WRAC personnel were employed in a variety of capacities. Everyone was called to contribute in some way, whether tasked with producing briefing folders for the many VIPs who flew from UK to the inaugural flight, waiting on at the various receptions or providing guards of honour and door openers at

the airport. It was a very exciting period, and one where everyone was called to give of their best in all respects in adverse conditions. The inaugural flight landed at Mount Pleasant Airport on Sunday 12 May, watched by hundreds of people and with considerable international publicity. The Secretary of State and VCDS were the two principal VIPs who arrived on the flight, who then took their place alongside Their Excellencies the Civil and Military Commissioners, Sir Rex Hunt and Maj Gen de la Billiere, to await the arrival in his own helicopter of HRH Prince Andrew, who performed the opening ceremony. It was a splendid occasion and many WRAC were present.

Even routine life held its excitements. There were many inter unit sports events held throughout our tour with the occasional "special", like the Port Stanley half marathon in which two of the draft competed. These supplemented the regular WRAC weekly PT sessions and Unit/Branch "Bimbles" ie route marches round various battlefield sites and other areas. In the last two weeks all members of the draft made their preparations for the return home. During this period we held our farewell party in one of the QM's spare stores cabins. More than a hundred people squeezed into a cabin designed to sleep eight. The SO2 J1 from HQ BFFI, who was one of the guests, commented that he would have to file a special report on the invalidity of previous claims to portakabin overcrowding!

To avoid genuine accommodation problems, some of Draft 6 were scheduled to leave the Falkland Islands on the plane which brought in our most welcome successors, Draft 7. SSgt Barclay and I travelled to the airport with those who were leaving and met the incoming draft. We waved goodbye to the majority of Draft 6 and ushered Draft 7 back to Port Stanley, where several of them had to start work straight away despite obvious jet lag after their 18 hour flight. After welcoming parties that evening, everyone struggled to complete their handovers as soon as possible and pack for the return flight. The rear party left Port Stanley by coach for the airport and flew by luxury Boeing 747 all the way home via Ascension. RAF Brize Norton has never looked so beautiful.

As OC WRAC Draft 6, I would like to thank all members of the Draft wherever they are for all their work, support and friendship during a tour which I think they will all agree, was the experience of a lifetime.



Capt Coates handing the cheque for £1001.20 to Maj Gen de la Billiere.

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

The appointment of Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) in the grade of ACO 3, equating to RO3, will become available from April 1986 at the Army Careers Information Office, Liverpool. To allow for takeover of the appointment the successful applicant will be required to commence employment 19 March 1986. Conditions of service are laid down in AGAI Issue 5/77, Volume 2, Chapter 41. DAR 2c will supply more details if required.

The starting salary is £7481 rising to £8917 after 2 years. ACOs are, however, affected by the Civil Service principle that a government servant who retires and is re-employed by the same department, other than by open competition, may not receive more on re-employment by way of salary immediately before retirement.

Applications, on Annex C to AGAI Issue 5/77, Volume 2, Chapter 41, are invited from serving or ex-service majors and below of the Women's Services and should be submitted direct to DAR 2c, Room 1107, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR soonest. Applicants should satisfy the conditions in paragraph 41.008b of the AGAI. The successful applicant, if not already retired, will be required to retire upon taking up the appointment.

Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications or experience which would be of value in connection with this appointment.

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

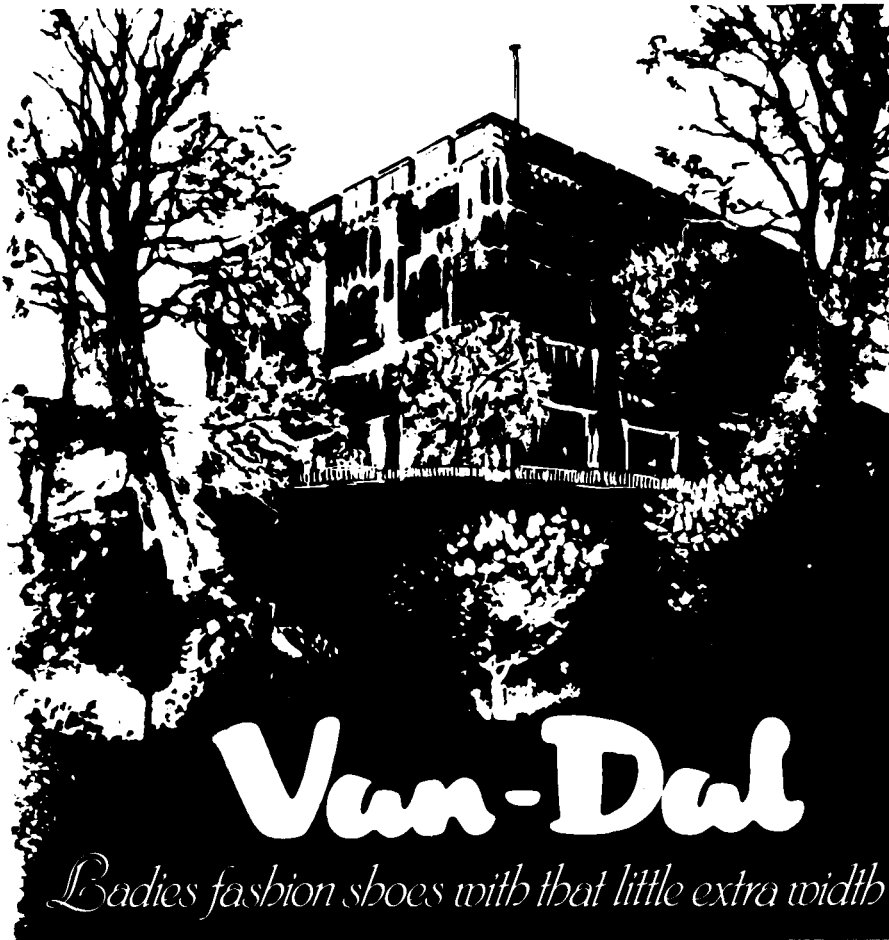
A vacancy will become available in the grade of AC03, equating to RO3, on 27 January 1987 at the Army Careers Information Office, 7 Ridley Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Conditions and salary are identical to those advertised above. Applications should arrive by 23 May 1986.

## WRONG, WRONG AND WRONG AGAIN (Life as a Women's Services Liaison Officer)

**Captain P F Wright WRAC**

Having been lucky enough to serve with a lively Gunner Regiment for over two fun-packed years in BAOR, I was not relishing the idea of moving onto pastures new. The promise of a WSLO post in Plymouth was attractive, but dealing with civilians (daunting) and school children (even more daunting) didn't make the task of saying fond farewells any easier.

I have always liked a challenge, and travelling in mid-winter from Dortmund to Plymouth with the thermal underwear having little effect in temperatures of  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  certainly proved to be a test of endurance. Funny how car heaters and windscreen wipers have a habit of failing to function when



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you need them most. I consoled myself with the fact that Devonians didn't know what snow was.

I was wrong. The Devonians had been forcibly educated on arctic conditions that very week. The City centre looked as if the whole population had decided to evacuate — but somewhat unsuccessfully as their cars had been abandoned in the most hazardous of places (on ice-packed roundabouts and hills). On one of these ice-packed hills stood the Royal Citadel which took more than 'n' attempts to reach. So much for being cool, calm, and collected; I was frozen and slightly less than calm.

Despite the cold start, my lot began to improve as I started work as a Women's Services Liaison Officer for Devon and Cornwall. This is a term that can be misleading. One applicant was convinced that I would offer her a vacancy as a Flying Officer or a Rating (a flexible applicant destined to go far!). The timetable for interviews and presentations to schools has to be planned around travelling times — quite a problem when the Moors have to be crossed in competition with the world's allocation of caravans, and when one assumes that all ferries take vehicles. Wrong again!

The long journeys into the depths of Cornwall can be rather fruitless when the occasional officer applicant seems only to be interested in the postings available south of the Tamar Bridge. The award for the most fruitless journey had to be given to a school in an almost inaccessible part of Cornwall. I felt like an intrepid explorer as I set off before breakfast (not good for morale) down caravan-infested country lanes. On arrival I was told "Oops — we've forgotten about your visit. Never mind, I expect you had a pleasant journey". With morale at an even lower ebb I set off towards Plymouth only to have a very close encounter of the damaging kind with a Mini Metro. Never mind, I expect the driver had had a pleasant journey up until that moment.

I have had my fair share of embarrassing moments. Problems with the projector during presentations certainly

sort the wheat from the chaff. At one particular 'officer producing' school I found myself addressing a group of less than vivacious young ladies. During my efforts to enthuse them I assumed that the film 'Dear Miss Jennings' was running onto the spool as usual. Wrong again; Miss Jennings lay in a large heap on the floor. I spent the following hour unravelling the mess.

Applicants tend to have a nasty habit of dropping you well and truly in it. One assumes that they will take any advice offered. Wrong. Some delight in appearing at Familiarisation Visits wearing jeans and carrying a co-ordinating plastic carrier bag, whilst others are content to ask senior officers at pre RCB what they did as an Assistant Adjutant (having been briefed about the job by irate WSLO only days before).

I had been worried that a WSLO's lot would be fairly routine. How wrong I was!

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

## VACANCY FOR AN ARMY CAREERS OFFICER ON THE ARMY RECRUITING STAFF

The appointment of Army Careers Officer-in-Charge at the Army Careers Information Office, 10 Church Street, Wrexham, Clwyd will become available on 1 December 1986. The successful applicant will be required to commence duty on 17 November 1986 to permit a two week handover/take-over. The post is in the grade of AC02 equating to RO2. Conditions of service are laid down in AGA1, Vol 2, Chapter 41. MOD (DAR2c) will supply more details if required.

The present starting salary is £8,896 rising by five annual increments to £11,265. ACOs are, however, affected by the Civil Service principle that a government servant who retires and is re-employed by the same department, other than by open competition, may not receive more on re-employment by way of salary and pension (or retired pay) than he/she was receiving by way of salary immediately before retirement.

Applications are invited from colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors (including Women's Services) and should be submitted on Annex C to the above AGA1 direct to The Ministry of Defence (DAR2c) Room 1112, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR to arrive not later than 27 March 1986. Applicants should satisfy the conditions in paragraph 41.008a of the AGA1. The successful applicant, if not already retired, will be required to retire upon taking up the appointment.

Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications or experience which would be of value in connection with this appointment.

## EXERCISE BOOT BREAKER — RECRUIT MAKER?

**Captain M F Lauder WRAC**

Something has happened to recruit training at Guildford. Suddenly trainees are darting furtively from bush to bush, leopard crawling across open ground and falling asleep to the rhythmic buzzing of mosquitos — and all this done with a determination and professional pride that surprised even their instructors. Ex BOOT BREAKER tests recruits' fieldcraft and map reading skills as well as their strength of character, and epitomises what the new regular recruit training programme is all about.

### The Background

As a result of the Groom Report a new and very detailed Common Military Syllabus came into existence in January 1985. The overriding principle is that all phase 1 recruit training, regardless of arm or corps, should last 8 weeks and

follow clear-cut training objectives. After considerable deliberation it was agreed that the syllabus, minus weapon training, could be taught to WRAC recruits in 7 weeks. It was considered to be imperative that, with the exception of weapon training, the course for WRAC should not differ from that designed for men. With the greater integration of service-women into hitherto male domains it was felt necessary to teach future generations of servicewomen the language of '58 pattern webbing and BATCO and all the skills and principles behind such enigmatic names.

### The Main Changes

Besides the obvious change in course length from 6 to 7 weeks there are many detailed changes in subjects taught. These are highlighted below. Taken altogether they have brought about one further change and that is in the overall character of the course. Although still largely academic, there is now a higher proportion of physical and practical work. The course is tougher and more testing for both recruits and permanent staff.

The following table shows periods allocated to subjects on the old 6-week course which was based on the 1976 Common Military Syllabus (CMS) and for the new course which started in April 1985 based on the 1985 CMS. The figures given for 1976 include out of hours working which accounts for the disproportionately high total number of periods. Main changes are marked with an asterisk.

| Subject                           | Periods on<br>CMS(R) 1985 | Periods on<br>CMS(R) 1976 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Recruit Induction                 | 9                         | 33*                       |
| Drill                             | 27                        | 29                        |
| Fieldcraft                        | 29                        | —*                        |
| NBC                               | 17                        | 17                        |
| PT                                | 57                        | 25*                       |
| Map Reading                       | 24                        | 21                        |
| Military Studies and<br>Education | 16                        | 21                        |
| First Aid                         | 18                        | 22                        |
| Signals                           | 15                        | —*                        |
| Security                          | 4                         | 1                         |
| Laws of Armed Conflict            | 3                         | 1                         |
| Military Law and<br>Discipline    | 3                         | 3                         |
| Welfare                           | 1                         | —                         |
| Financial Matters                 | 3                         | 3                         |
| Character Training                | 4                         | 6                         |
| Health and Hygiene                | 7                         | 8                         |
| COs Disposal                      | 11                        | 5                         |
| Adventurous Training              | 5                         | —*                        |
| Administration                    | 30                        | 71*                       |
| Parades                           | 23                        | 23                        |
| Long Weekend                      | 9                         | 5                         |
| Miscellaneous                     | —                         | 2                         |
| <b>Totals:</b>                    | <b>315</b>                | <b>296</b>                |

As can be seen from the table the PT syllabus has more than doubled in length, allowing more time for all over body fitness rather than just cardio-vascular prowess. The aim of the PT syllabus has remained the same — to enable recruits to pass the BFT.

Finally a few words to elaborate on the photographs which illustrate various parts of the fieldcraft syllabus. Primarily recruits are taught aspects of fieldcraft which are not directly associated with carrying a weapon, ie crossing ground tactically, field sentries, field signals and all that is entailed in living in the field. The instruction begins in the third week of the course with half-day sessions on local training areas. By week 6 recruits are ready to let loose on the unsuspecting public who

misuse the training area at Browdown Camp in Gosport for jogging, dog-walking and motor bike scrambling. Three days are spent at Browdown consolidating fieldcraft and map reading skills. Within this period recruits complete a continuous 24 hour exercise in the field — not long by Ex CRUSADER standards but for a unit with very little experience of organising or participating in any form of field exercise, Ex BOOT BREAKER is something of a breakthrough. For the recruits it is a highlight of their training — second only to the Passing Out Parade. Like their male counterparts, while the novelty is still there, they thrive on discomfort, lack of sleep and adrenalin. The serious and determined manner with which they approach the training and conduct themselves in the field is a credit to them and to their platoon staff. Typically, lessons enjoyed are lessons remembered.

A considerable amount of juggling was required to fit the course exactly into 7 weeks. A number of measures have been introduced to reduce the amount of time spent on administration from a massive 71 periods to a reasonable 30. The signals syllabus covers the sending and receiving of messages, use of the phonetic alphabet and communications security. The health and hygiene syllabus is designed to teach the principles of hygiene in barracks and in the field and therefore covers water purification, latrine construction and health in hot and cold climates as well as obesity, drug and alcohol abuse and various aspects of personal relationships. Adventurous training is not being taught fully as yet, due to a lack of qualified instructors and unit stores. However, this will be expanded shortly.

#### **The Benefits**

The new training programme benefits both recruits and their staff. The extra week enables staff to get to know their recruits better, especially when they are seen under testing conditions in the field or on PT. Ex BOOT BREAKER makes identification of potential NCOs considerably easier. For the recruits, besides gaining a broader knowledge of service life and being able to converse if not compete with the male army on equal terms, they see the principles of team spirit and high morale in action.

#### **The Problems**

Naturally the implementation of the new recruit programme was not without its problems. Like the rest of the services we have had to fight for, and accept, the occasional defeat over booking training areas. Much of the kit required has yet to be obtained. We currently operate on a pool of combat kit which necessitates the tedium of dry cleaning and fumigating at the end of each intake, before reissue to the next batch of recruits. Over and above that it was necessary to overcome a lack of expertise and experience on the part of the training staff. Special courses in signals and fieldcraft had to be designed and run purely for our benefit. All prior knowledge of exercise routine had to be shared to maximize on the little knowledge that was held. Despite all this, the training has been conducted with imagination and to a high standard.

#### **The Advertisement**

If you have got this far you will have realised that Training Officers and NCOs are not what they used to be. All the previous maxims of motivation, self-confidence and conscientiousness still apply but now a little more flair, adaptability and imagination are required. If you feel you have something to offer there is always a need for volunteers. Despite the long hours and constant pressure, most past and present training staff admit that the job satisfaction of recruit training cannot be equalled in their own employments.

#### **The Future**

The course is currently subject to validation, but all the

signs are that despite some minor amendments in programming, the balance is right. The permanent staff gain immense job satisfaction and the recruits are well trained.



**The Max Factor treatment.**



**Ready to yomp!**

## RAVC TRAINING CENTRE

The WRAC element of RAVC Training Centre has seen many changes in personnel recently. Capt Newnham has left to attend JDSC and has been replaced by Capt Mohan from 3RHA. Sgt Millward left early this year to be replaced by Sgt Lewis (nee Stewart). Sadly she is leaving in November to join her husband in Northern Ireland, and we wish her well.

The changes have not interrupted the steady flow of hard work by the WRAC whose industrious zeal has kept both the Dog School and Equine Division running. This has not gone unnoticed by our WRAC visitors. Col S P Nield, Comd WRAC UKLF accompanied by Lt Col C A Marriott, the then Comd WRAC Eastern/London Districts visited early last year. The new Comd WRAC Eastern/London Districts Lt Col M S Wing has also visited us. All were equally impressed by the cheerful morale displayed by WRAC servicewomen.

In May, Cpls Pedlar and Maxwell and Pte Heffey took part in the Royal Windsor Horse Show. This was followed in July by the Royal Tournament in which all the girls from Equine Wing participated. Cpl Pedlar and Pte Heffey were rewarded for their efforts by successes in the Princess Anne and Prince of Wales competitions. Further success was achieved by Cpl Wilson and Pte Davenport in the RMAS Horse Show in September where they gained first place in the Combined Services Team Event. The most recent success was achieved by Pte Dickey who was Best Lady Rider and 3rd overall at the Honourable Artillery Company Horse Show. Pte Gaut chased her home, coming fourth overall.

The Dog School have had some welcome trips abroad with LCpls Dufty, Medhurst, Revell and Wilson and Ptes Easton, Knibbs, Leese, Mattison, Riley, Robinson and Thompson going with the Dog Drafts to Germany. Pte Woods ventured further afield with the Dog Draft to Cyprus. Sadly the kennel-maids were unable to take part in the UK Dog Trials in July, but we have warned the men to take note — the talent is there.

Exercise Highland Steer II in June/July saw some of the adventurous attributes of the girls coming to the fore. Abseiling, rock climbing and canoeing proved to be no problem, although Ptes Damant and Baxter may wish to disagree!

On the sporting field the girls have made the most of the few opportunities that are available to them. We are taking part in a league competition against the WRAC contingent at Loughborough and are ahead on points at present. It looks as though we will win the cup at the end of the season. Our thanks go to LCpl Ball, our PTI, for organising the competition and for ensuring that we continue to have 100% BFT record. Still on the sports front, congratulations are due to Pte Hurst who successfully learnt to swim and Pte Williams for completing her Sub Aqua Course.

The unit has been able to organise internally two NBC training afternoons. Although our drills were a little rusty, we soon mastered the joys of canister changing.

So back to work, well wrapped up for winter. Neither rain nor snow will distract WRAC from grooming and exercising the dogs and horses.



Cpl Pauline Wilson, proud winner in the Combined Services Team Event at Sandhurst last September.

## EX BAVARIAN BACKSTOP

Pte Caroline Wallace of Inventory Control Point RAOC forsook the safety of the data encoder's office for the exhilaration of adventurous training in the German Alps. On Ex Bavarian Backstop, the intrepid Scottish lass volunteered to be a casualty in a demonstration of mountain rescue techniques by the German Army Alpine Rescue team. In no time at all she was flying down a hundred yard drop roped to her stalwart German rescuer and, as the picture shows, enjoying every minute of it.

Pte Wallace, who is 18 and joined the Army in October 1984, does not want to wait until next summer before she goes back to the mountains and so has already volunteered for Ex Snow Queen this winter.



Don't look down!

## VIKING CHALLENGE

Trg Bn & Depot RAOC  
WRAC Platoon

2Lt Sue Wilson WRAC

Six WRAC set off on Sunday 4 August from Blackdown Barracks, Deepcut on an expedition to Norway. It was an adventure just getting there, negotiating trains, ferries and buses across Europe, converging on Hanover and then north through Denmark and across the water to Norway. Two days later we reached the British Outward Bound Centre (BOBC), Isaefer, Norway. The group was to take part in a special expedition led by 2Lt Sue Wilson. Two weeks of walking and canoeing along the Stedestal Valley with sun, sea and scenery! Who could ask for more? It didn't quite work out like that; somewhere along the line we encountered rain, bog and mosquitoes.

The first phase was a five-day trek, beginning on August 6th. Pte Alison Cole, posted to BOBC Norway, joined us for the walking phase and became a valued member of the group. Spirits were high as she kept us stocked up with goodies such as eggs, washing-up liquid, Brillo pads and the all important apple-corn! Pte Helen Fairbank joined the group of six as a last minute replacement from 10 Coy WRAC. Obviously at ease in the camping environment, Helen's only problem was that mosquitoes enjoyed eating her flesh and by the end of two weeks there was no room for any more bites. She coped admirably under the aggravation, seldom complaining. Pte Emma Fry, of 37 Sqn RCT, was a person of many talents, getting the cooking cracked straight away by throwing everything in together! Unfortunately canoeing wasn't a major forte, but she amused us all with her determination to finish the walking, which we all found very hard.

One of the highlights of the expedition was Pte Maxine (Compo) Wright and her exploits. Named "Compo" for her high fashion taste for waterproof turn-ups (always too big for her) and her never ending quest for food, which for the ten days consisted of "4 man" ration packs. One wet miserable night was brightened by Max trying to salvage a mess tin from the river and then following the mess tin into the water fully clothed in her last set of dry clothes.

The culinary chores were tedious and were shared around the group. No-one was outstanding at preparing compo, but Pte Alison Cole and LCpl Nicki Watson, decided at one stage they wanted a change and would make a rice pudding. We were all impressed and our mouths were watering at the sight of this creamy pudding. Unfortunately it looked better than it tasted. All the rice had burnt and had to be prised away from the billy and binned.

LCpl Debi Reid lost her sense of humour after a night of torrential rain when the tent leaked, the sleeping bags were sodden and the cooker wouldn't light! However, she kept us all going, eventually making excellent fried sausages and beans.

After three days hard walking just below the tree-line, through bogs, under-growth and over rivers, we had covered approximately 40 km. On the fourth day, after a very rough night, we were exhausted and spent two hours at a bus stop praying that a bus would come along to take us to our final destination, Ose campsite.

The canoeing phase lasted four days and was an experience for us novices, paddling on the first day for about nine hours. Exhaustion drained us all with the fjord providing some hard water to paddle in. Once the wind was channelled down the valley, all forward movement was made twice as hard. The sea was harder still with jelly-fish, burn-fish and shark nets to negotiate.

On the last day the other groups canoed round the coast into Isaefer fjord while we were given a lift in the sea-rider boat. With all equipment handed in and a long awaited shower, we had a good meal and then travelled into Kristiansand for a final night in the town before boarding the ferry at midnight for the return journey.

## Northern Ireland WRAC Drill Competition

Saturday July 20th 1985 dawned as usual in NI — cloudy and unpromising; the contingency plans in the event of rain might be needed. However, the second Northern Ireland Drill Competition went ahead on schedule with the draw at 0930 hours to decide in which order the four competing squads would march onto the hockey pitch. Just the place to ruin the newly bulled shoes, but the rain kept off almost until the end.

Each squad completed a routine of drill movements which lasted 15 minutes including the inspection by Major Wendy le Gassick, Commander WRAC (NI). The eagle eyes of WO1 (RSM) Quinn from Queens University, Belfast OTC never let a slip go unnoticed as he did the judging, concluding that the overall standard of drill was very high. The long hours of practice were paying off.

Just as the last squad was completing the drizzle started, but undeterred SSgt Maggie Mudd from 175 Pro Coy drilled her squad to victory. Prizes and champagne were given away at the end of the morning to a delighted 175 Pro Coy, with medals for runners-up 12 Int and Sy Coy, ably led by Sgt Julie Wilkinson. 233 Sig Sqn (NI) directed by Sgt Jan Garnett were not far behind in third place, and last but by no means least were Sgt Nikki Kean and the WRAC Platoon. Perhaps 1986 will see a new winner, as this is the second successive year that the RMP squad has carried off the honours.



Maj Wendy le Gassick presents SSgt Maggie Mudd with the trophy and a bottle of champagne for her team.

## RED CROSS

The British Red Cross Society in Guildford is looking for a branch secretary for the spring or early summer. This is a part-time job with flexible hours. For more information ring Lt Col C C Norbury MBE MC on Guildford 572396.

## 500th PARADE

The first intake of the newly formed WRAC assembled in February 1949. The 500th pass off parade took place 37 years later on November 28th 1985 on a cold but sunny day.

Recruits' pass off parades are a regular feature of life at the WRAC Centre and normally only involve the training company concerned. This time, however, the parade included the whole unit. Members of Headquarter and Holding Company who thought that parades were only for the training companies, found themselves negotiating Waterloo Corner for the first time since their basic training. An unsuspecting sergeants' course assembled two weeks beforehand to learn that they would be on parade on the big day and the new recruits of 2 Training Company were catapulted straight into practising "advance in review order" and other relevant drill movements.

The occasion was a good excuse to invite guests, and all former company commanders, chief instructors and adjutants still serving were invited to view the spectacle. The sergeants' mess also invited ex training NCOs, and the knowledge that the audience was full of experts was a daunting experience for those on parade.

On the day itself the weather was kind and the bitter wind of the previous week had died down, leaving a bright chilly day. The Inspecting Officer was, appropriately enough, the GOC SE District, Lt Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett, who was about to move to his new NATO appointment in Norway. Five platoons marched onto the square under the direction of the RSM, WO1 Carol Wells, and she handed over to the Parade Commander Maj Mary Harwood. The march past was headed by the 500th intake of 1 Company recruits under the command of Capt Judy Salmon. The two platoons of 2 Company recruits, commanded by Capt Marion Lauder, were highly commended for their standard of drill after only three weeks and the members of Headquarter and Holding Company now watch successive parades with an expert eye.

Viewing the parade with nostalgia was Capt Margaret Ashworth MBE who was the RSM on the first parade in 1949. On that occasion she had the honour of laying the ATS flag to rest in the museum. She was happy to be photographed with the recruits who were passing out and seemed to thoroughly enjoy her day of memories. Indeed it was a day which will be remembered by many people and the stories surrounding the rehearsals and the parade will be told for years to come.



**Lt Gen Sir Geoffrey Howlett inspecting the recruits.**



**Capt Margaret Ashworth with the recruits.**  
*Courtesy Soldier Magazine.*

## UNIT NEWS

### **C COMPANY 15 BN RAOC DONNINGTON**

C Company have been involved in a variety of activities since our last Lioness report. During June and July, the Company was very busy preparing for the ARU and for many sporting activities.

Our swimming team, captained by 2Lt Vicky Fifield excelled themselves after hours of training and are to be congratulated for a fine effort by winning the Western District RAOC Championship and coming third in the Inter Unit Swimming Championships held at RMAS. The Athletics team also did exceptionally well, winning the West Area Inter Unit Championships and coming a close second within the Inter Unit Finals. As a result of their high standards on the athletics field, Major Liz Elliott and Pte Sheila Strickland were asked to train with the Army Athletics Team. We hardly saw Captain Chris Tinker during June and July as she was away winning the

Inter Zone Tennis and representing the Army.

During the early days of August, and not to be deterred by the tropical rains, we set off for our Summer Camp at Monmouth. It was staged over a three week period, during which the Company came down in one week packages to enjoy hill walking in the Brecon Beacons, canoeing, caving, abseiling and rock climbing, not forgetting the weekly barbecues. Despite the weather conditions a good time was had by all, so much so that many have requested continuation training in their chosen activities.

During September and October, the members of C Company were heavily committed to their hockey. The team, captained by Cpl Tracy Reilly and coached by CSM Irene Hall, did very well. One of their final matches was the Bari Bowl Competition which is an annual competition run by the RAOC for all RAOC units employing WRAC.

By the time November came around we were all geared to attend not only the Remembrance Sunday Parade but Cpl Jan Robinson's Charity Disco which was held in aid of liver and kidney research. Dancing went on well into the small hours and at the final count she managed to raise the princely sum of £300.00. Sporting fixtures for November consisted of the Inter Unit Hockey Competition, held at Bulford at which C Company team just lost to CAD Kineton. During the last week in November the Netball team was despatched to Bulford to compete in the West Area Women's Services Inter Unit Netball Championships. They met strong opposition but by 3 o'clock the next day they had telephoned through to say that they had taken the cup and would be back much later that evening!



Cpl Tracey Reilly accepting the RAOC Bari Bowl hockey cup on behalf of the team.

### 3 SQN 10 SIGNAL REGIMENT (HQ UKLF)

"3 Sqn — Where's that?" people ask (politely). "Aldershot", we reply (keenly). "Oh ... Aldershot (pause) ahh ... Signals (silence) oh well, never mind", they mutter and then desert us! So, to prove that life in 3 Sqn 10 Sig Regt isn't all cries of "Aldershot Military, can I help you?" and tapping out endless signals behind locked doors within the headquarters of South East District, let's put the record straight.

1985 has been a fairly eventful year for the Sqn and the months have just flown by. The "unusual" began during Ex WINTEX when amongst the many exercise requests came one to despatch urgently a dead snake to London Zoo through our courier service. The origins of the snake and the relevance of it to the exercise remain a mystery, and Pte "Sam" Reen was clearly unimpressed by their VIP passenger! The months of May and June took the majority of the Sqn down to Browndown Camp for Ex EVERGREEN, our Regimental camp. The Solent beaches and glorious weather proved an idyllic setting for the usual array of military and adventurous training, and a map-reading exercise on the Isle of Wight was an added bonus: Rumour has it that everyone actually enjoyed themselves — judging by the smiling faces and sun tans!

The summer months proved to be quite physical ones! By recruiting anyone who wasn't sick, on leave or in possession of a good excuse, we fielded two teams of 8 for the first WRAC assault course competition. Cpl (now Sgt) Karen McGrath had the onerous task of training the teams and the days leading up to the competition saw 3 Sqn girls running everywhere with huge logs raised above their heads or leaping over 8 foot walls much to everyone's amusement. However the training paid off and our "A" team had a resounding victory on the day. We also managed to be runners up in the volleyball, tennis and rounders district league competitions despite having no real sporting gladiators!



The winning SEDIST WRAC Assault Course Team

L-R:

Standing: Pte Duffield, Pte Man, LCpl Kirkwood, Pte Mulholland  
Seated: Lt Cooper, LCpl McBroom, Capt Cunningham Cpl McGrath.

Marching became a popular Sqn pastime and a team of 14 girls led by the 2IC travelled to BAOR to participate in both the Monchengladbach and Rheindahlen Marches (30 kms and 40 kms respectively). Two medals each and a special trophy later sowed the seeds for a Sqn Chichester march team the following month. We were invited to enter a few teams in a fancy dress "It's a Knock-out" competition, organised by 10 Coy WRAC, which was a great success and rounded July off nicely. Whilst a 16-strong Chichester march team trudged through the mud and rain, a further 12 members of the Sqn were canoeing in Cyprus on an adventurous training exercise, KYPROS KICK. In August we also celebrated WO1 Jill Trainor's commissioning after 4½ years as the DSO Aldershot COMMEN and welcomed WO1 Elaine Willacy from BAOR. Lt Trainor is now serving with 19 Inf Bde at Colchester and her departure is a sad loss to the Sqn.

Two major events in September dominated our lives; Ex BRAVE DEFENDER and a visit by HRH The Princess Anne. During the exercise we had visions of a military version of "Dial-a-Disc" through-out our exchanges whilst the Royal Signals bandmen played at switchboard operators but they proved us all wrong and were a great hit. Immediately after

the exercise the Sqn was in full cry preparing for the Royal visit. Rehearsals, parades, and hair-cuts were in great demand and the actual visit was a memorable one. The Princess talked to every single member of the Sqn who was involved in the visit after she had witnessed an NBC, first aid and SMG firing display.

With the Royal visit over, 10 members of the Sqn set sail aboard a JSSC Nicholson 55 foot yacht to Cherbourg and enjoyed a week's sail training in the Channel and Solent area. Despite initial sea sickness and rough weather, a few keen sailors have emerged.



Princess Anne talks to Pte Thomson, LCpl Kirkwood and Pte McGhee.



On board "Sabre" enjoying a week's sail training.

## D COMPANY -- CAD KINETON

The Company sadly had to say goodbye to their OC Captain Jane Bedborough who is now posted to FHWS Wilton, but in her place welcomed Major Norma Heath from Bicester. Another new arrival at Kinton is 2Lt Nancy Small who came from RMA Sandhurst to replace 2Lt Ann Edwards who was posted to Germany in January as Asst Adj to 21 Engineers.

On the sports scene, CAD Kinton are busy competing in everything that comes along. The hockey team have done extremely well and with three trophies under their belt hoped to attain the Bari Bowl (Ladies) Hockey but unfortunately

only made the semi-finals. The volleyball team competed for the SWDIST Cup which they won and went on to the Women's Army Finals in October which sadly they lost. However, the six-a-side hockey team was victorious.

An enjoyable evening was had by all when D Coy invaded The Castle one Monday night. The social occasion is one of many which have been arranged for the Company including concerts to UB40, Manilow and Elton John.

At the moment organisation for a skiing exercise in Bavaria is in the air and several girls have volunteered for an adventurous sail training exercise from Gosport to Gibraltar.

## BAOR

### VISIT OF THE DEPUTY CONTROLLER COMMANDANT TO VICTOR TROOP

On September 24th last year Victor Troop, 28 Signal Regiment Rheindahlen was visited by Brigadier A Field, Deputy Controller Commandant. Brigadier Field was accompanied by Colonel N R Robertson, Commander WRAC BAOR.

The Brigadier was escorted around the Joint Communications Centre by the CO, Lt Colonel Cliff Walters and WO1 June Skelton who has recently joined the Troop from 39 Signal Regiment (V).

Sgt Linda Fairnington showed the Brigadier round the COMMCCEN where she met LCpls Linda Flinn and Julie Gwynne and Ptes Heather McNair and "Betty" Oxford. Cpl Fran Price then escorted her round the telephone exchange, and explained the plans for the new exchange which is shortly to be installed. Cpl Sandy Bell then showed her round the Systems Control. Afterwards Brigadier Field met the Admin Staff and day off shift who had gathered together in the rest room. She commented that she had last visited us in 1969 and noticed that we had new chairs!



Brig Field presents Army colours for Lawn Tennis to Pte Heather McNair.



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## 68 SQUADRON RCT — RHEINDALEN

### 29 COY WRAC

#### WO1 (RSM) D McFALL WRAC LEAVES BAOR

Keeping secrets from people is always difficult but keeping a secret from an RSM is almost impossible. However, WO1 Taylor and friends did an undercover job worthy of MI5 in preparing WO1 (RSM) Dorothy McFall's farewell on November 29th last year. RSM McFall had been with 29 Coy WRAC HQ BAOR since May 1984 and a few surprises were sprung on her before her departure for the WRAC Centre at Guildford. The afternoon began as she had envisaged with farewell interviews with Comd WRAC, Col N R Robertson MBE and OC 29 Coy WRAC Maj G R Harvey, but as they say "The best laid plans of mice and men ..."

On return to Company Offices, phase one was put into operation. All her Garrison colleagues had gathered to join her in a last farewell drink and on the stroke of 4 o'clock, she was ushered outside to be met by a gleaming Rolls Royce and whisked away to be driven around the Garrison in style. Phase two saw an all ranks bi-service activity with WOs providing convoy flags and poles, Lts assembling them, Majs lending a hand and by the time RSM McFall returned from her tour of Garrison, Army and RAF representatives had formed a flag guard and a lone piper played a moving lament! As all RSMs need refreshment, it was provided in the form of champagne and as strains of "Will Ye No Come Back Again" drifted on the evening air, Rolls Royce and RSM were escorted to the Sgts' Mess by two ranks of flag bearing WRAC Sgts.

Not only will WO1 McFall be remembered for her unflagging efforts on behalf of 29 Coy WRAC and as RSM for BAOR/BERLIN, but also for her ability to lose Mess keys with alarming regularity. So to that end Comd WRAC presented RSM with a "key" to the Mess that no one could lose — and an open invitation to return as soon as possible.

During the past year, the Squadron has been "on the move". After hours of calculation our figures reveal that 75% turnover of WRAC personnel has taken place. It is not surprising that those in driver training wing whose responsibility it is to run the BAOR driving familiarisation are looking tired! The trend looks set to continue since in the New Year SSgt Babs Robertson and Sgt Kate Woodcock both leave on promotion. Likewise in January SSgt June Ryner returns to the UK. We wish them all the best in their new postings.

The Joint Tasking Office continues to receive floods of AF F756s requiring drivers to go to such countries as France, Belgium, Holland and Italy, in addition to the length and breadth of Germany. The customers also vary considerably from an American Captain to a British Major General. The number of letters received suggest that the girls are reliable and that their safe driving and professionalism is appreciated.

In July, 23 personnel were involved in the Queen's visit to the Royal Tank Regiment at Sennelager. For some of the 7 WRAC involved, this was their first Royal visit. However as a result of thorough planning and a high standard of appearance and driving, the day went very smoothly.

In the summer, whilst the majority of our customers were on leave, three parties went adventure training in Sonthofen, Bavaria. The groups enjoyed a week of hill walking, basic navigation, windsurfing and water skiing. A further 12 girls tried their hand at sailing from Kiel Yacht Club. By all accounts both activities were a great success. With the onset of winter 14 girls will be donning skis and goggles to try skiing on Ex Snow Queen. No doubt the apres ski will be picked up quicker than the snow plough!

Finally, when not working everyone seems to keep busy. Recently, LCpl Teresa Caudy and Pte 'Wolfie' Smith helped to raise £1000 for MENCAP. The two girls took part in a sponsored 24 hrs Pool Competition against a team from the Railway Inn, Preston.



The RSM "At Home".



The Queen's visit to Sennelager.

L-R Back Row: Pte Salt, Pte Brooks, Cpl Nolan, LCpl Mould.  
Front Row: Pte Hayward, Pte Hoadley, LCpl Gibbs.

## EXERCISE SANTANDA SAIL 85

**Cpl Bean WRAC**  
**68 Sqn RCT**

On June 27th Pte Bruce-Jones and I set out from 68 Squadron Lines Rheindahlen to embark on a once-in-a-life-time adventure, Exercise Santanda Sail. The aim of the exercise was to sail from Kiel (N Germany) to Mariehamn (Finland) to visit the Tall Ship Pommern ... but more about that later....

There were three yachts taking part in the exercise: "Flamingo", "Kranich" and "St Barbara", and after arriving at Kiel and meeting other crew members, we were assigned to our yachts. I was assigned to Flamingo, a beautiful 50 year old yacht, which was 57 ft long and had a 100 ft mast. It was magnificently built with its highly polished woodwork and shiny brass fittings. I was soon to find out how the brass was kept so shiny! All the members of my crew were from different units in BAOR, and all male. During the first evening ashore seeing the sights of Kiel, it was obvious that being the only female, a sense of humour was definitely required!

The following morning the crew of Flamingo were hard at work replenishing rations, making stag rosters and doing mandatory sailing drills, eg man overboard drills, sail changing and reefing. After successfully completing and passing these, we set sail for Mariehamn. After being at sea for five days, between bouts of sea sickness, 4 hour stags, and doing "Galley Rat" (a nautical name for chief cook and bottle washer) we finally arrived at our destination, Mariehamn.

Although it was 0100 hrs, it wasn't dark, something which we were beginning to get used to. It was too early to berth in the marina, so we celebrated our arrival instead. We were up early to berth Flamingo, and it was tidy up, and polish the brass time (yet again!) before we changed from weary sailors into tourists, armed with cameras, and set out to see the sights.

First on the agenda was the aim of the exercise "Pommern", a retired four masted barque or Tall Ship, of outstanding quality and well worth visiting. Then it was off to the museum, appropriately opposite the ship. As in any maritime museum it was filled with splendid models, paintings and photos, with various tools, machinery and equipment from very old boats, which took a lot of explaining and digesting. Our visit to the museum ended with some of the crew hiring cycles to tour the town and some going on spending sprees. I joined the latter.

Evening found us back at the Flamingo, where couples from various boats in the marina had been invited on board. The ensuing party was an enjoyable evening's socialising to end a lovely day on a beautiful island.

The following morning, July 5th, saw us up bright and early, replenishing food and water supplies, and with the sun beating down we set sail for Sandhamn. To get to Sandhamn we had to sail through the Swedish Archipelago, which if you believe everything you read, supposedly has 7,000 islands in the area. The scenery was beautiful and the views caused many of the crew to hold their breath ... or was it the tricky

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navigation? As the weather was so hot we were having problems with the wind, or lack of it, so we used the motor and finally berthed at Sandhamn around midnight.

July 6th was yet another scorching day and started like any other ... but soon proved to be completely different when catastrophe struck. "Kranich" one of the yachts on the exercise ran aground on some rocks. "St Barbara" went to her rescue and managed to persuade her to continue on her voyage. Although there was slight damage to "Kranich", it was nothing major, and the whole fleet continued to Nyashamn.

With a gale warning forecasting force 7 we set sail from Nyashamn and had enjoyable sailing towards Karlskrowa. With good winds, and wondering if the sun would ever set properly, we reached speeds of up to 10 knots and covered 154 nautical miles in 24 hrs. We arrived at Karlskrowa around midnight, and spent the next few days shopping and sampling some of the local delights before it was time to set sail for Faborg (Denmark).

The sail to Faborg started pleasantly enough, but towards the evening the winds started to pick up, and it was decided to put into harbour for the night. The port of Allinge was the obvious choice, but being very small there wasn't enough room so we sailed on to Gudjehm where we just managed to squeeze all three yachts in. Our arrival in Gudjehm caused quite a stir with the locals, as it seemed half the population came to watch our arrival, and stood in admiration as "Kranich" and "St Barbara" moored alongside. It made everyone feel like royalty, and made all the effort of shining and polishing seem worthwhile.

The following day, July 11th, also held a nice surprise and proved quite exciting. We managed to radio link with Esso Humber (a tanker) and were invited aboard for dinner by the captain. After a rather rough and bumpy episode we moored alongside. However, while the 2nd stag were aboard the tanker, the bow warp on "Flamingo" broke, which meant we had to circle around in rather rough weather until they had finished eating. The Esso Humber not only served us with a splendid spread but also provided essential rations such as tomato ketchup, of which we were running dangerously short! (My thanks to the captain and his crew).

In the morning, heading towards Gronsund, the weather had improved to the extent of everyone baring their chests and topping up sun-tans. We stayed overnight at Stubbekobing, where the never ending chore of getting the yacht "ship-shape" was rewarded with a trip to the local pub. An early morning followed an early night and at 0500 hrs we set sail for the last port of call, Svenborg, where we spent one of the quietest nights of the whole exercise.

We slipped moorings at 0900 and made good progress on the last leg back to Kiel. It was uneventful sailing and we arrived safely at Kiel having completed 1260 nautical miles without major mishap at 1800 hrs, which of course called for celebrations. Everyone showered and changed, then met in the clubhouse where a vote of thanks was given, and a good evening was had by all.

July 15th saw the end of the exercise Santanda Sail 85, with crews tidying boats, polishing brasses (for the last time!) packing, swapping addresses and waving farewells. I would like to thank everyone on the exercise for making it such an enjoyable, eventful, educating and interesting trip. (With special thanks to the makers of Brasso!).

## 242 SIGNAL SQUADRON

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Throughout November and December of 1985 the WRAC members of 242 Signal Squadron collected enough tins, bottles and packets of food to make up two large Christmas hampers. Sgt Rena Tyler was the driving force behind the idea and she and the girls in the telephone exchange "persuaded" members of Headquarters Scotland to give generously or else!

The lucky recipients of these hampers were Mrs M Malpas and Miss M Alexander, both ex ATS/WRAC of Edinburgh. Both ladies were delighted with their unexpected Christmas gifts and shared "war stories" with their visitors, Pte Linda Compton and Pte Gale Syph.



L-R: Pte Gale Syph, Miss Alexander, Pte Linda Compton.

## IMPRESSIONS OF A PARACHUTING COURSE

Pte Jan Sowerby

What could be the most exciting way to spend three weeks' away from the hassle of work? You may think three weeks' leave in a nice hot country. For me, it was a three week basic parachuting course at JSPC Lippspringe.

On the morning of September 21st I made my way to JSPC(L) to join a crowd of about 70 eager waiting students, seven of us being WRAC or WRAF. After an opening lecture by the OC, we were divided into three syndicates to begin our rigorous ground training!

Over the next three days the atmosphere became more relaxed as everyone rolled about the grass, hung from harnesses and shouted the ever famous "one thousand two thousand three thousand" ... As throats became sore and limbs began to ache, the only thought on my mind was what I was

about to do. I was well assured by my instructors that every-one WOULD do at least one jump — no doubt with the helpful hand of the jumpmaster.

At last the day arrived, the wind had dropped and the clouds had disappeared. As the command for "kit on" was shouted, the adrenalin began to flow. We waited on the flight line, our kit was checked and we were ready to go. I sat as number 2 in the plane, the memory of the flight now just a blur in my mind. We reached 2000 ft and the plane door was opened. If there has been one moment in my life when I can honestly say I was terrified, it was then.

Number 1 in the door, GO! Number 2 in the door. I remember sitting there and looking up into the aircraft, GO... a gentle push from the jumpmaster and I had gone! I tried to count but my mind was a blur. Suddenly my body was straight and I was just hanging there. I looked up and checked the canopy which was all right. I let out a scream of delight and looked around to see the other parachutes. I began to fall quickly and I realised that I had to think of my landing. I took up the correct position and THUD!! I hit the ground hard but I was safe and unhurt.

Over the next three weeks' I managed to achieve eight jumps. We would have done more but as it was late in the year the weather was poor. After my first jump I began to relax and enjoy it more, I also became more aware of what I was doing.

Besides making a whole new bunch of friends from all over BAOR, I found the course a challenge but loads of fun. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys adventurous things, and I would like to thank all the staff at JSPC(L) for all the excellent training and advice they gave me.



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## Life with Commando Sappers

Pte Deborah Mair, aged 18 from Ayrshire, is presently serving with 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers which is based at Seaton Barracks in Plymouth. This specialised unit is part of 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines and each man in the squadron has passed the Commando Course at Royal Marines Lympstone and can therefore wear the coveted green beret.

The Squadron of 262 officers, men and Deborah as the only female, were on exercise last summer in the burning heat of Cyprus where all the men were put through a gruelling training programme of running with their full packs, each pack weighing about 60lbs, and physical exercise in temperatures, varying between 90-100 degrees. This programme is designed to test one of Britain's fittest military squadrons.

Pte Mair enjoyed Cyprus and felt part of the whole exercise. She participated in many of the manoeuvres and took part in a night exercise, although she was not allowed to carry any weapons. In her own words — "The aim of the night exercise was to be picked up by a landing craft on the shore in complete darkness and then dropped off further up the coast. As we approached the coastline, we were in total darkness and silence. The ramp went down and we all jumped into the sea and swam or waded to the shore. The object was to do the landing without being seen or heard. I was to be picked up by a landrover while the lads did section attacks on each other. It was all very realistic as the noise of the battle intensified. I was glad to be picked up as I wouldn't have liked to do the gruelling 14 miles march back to camp."

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Cyprus and am looking forward to going to Norway for Arctic Warfare.

## EX LION SUN IV

2Lt A K Edwards WRAC

On May 14th last year England was experiencing torrential rainstorms. It was therefore with considerable glee that we waved goodbye to our colleagues at CAD Kineton and departed for a month of glorious sunshine in Cyprus. We were embarking on Ex Lion Sun IV, a venture begun some six months before, when, on a cold miserable December day, leafing through various files I came across a letter investigating the possibility of WRAC joining 32 Ordnance Company on a month of military and adventurous training in Cyprus. The opportunity was too good to be missed. After countless phone calls, letters, meetings, signals cancellations and cancelled cancellations, plus an extremely rigorous training programme, 27 members of D Company arrived at South Cerney to join 32 Ordnance Company.

We arrived at RAF Akrotiri on May 15th and instantly everybody began stripping off combat jackets, rolling up sleeves and complaining about the intense heat! Initially we lived in accommodation at Episkopi, then moved into Bloodhound Camp. This was a little spartan, but we weren't complaining. Sgt Helen Beechey and I lived in an old kitchen which was, in spite of an oven or two, quite spacious.

In spite of initial doubt from the men in 32 Ordnance

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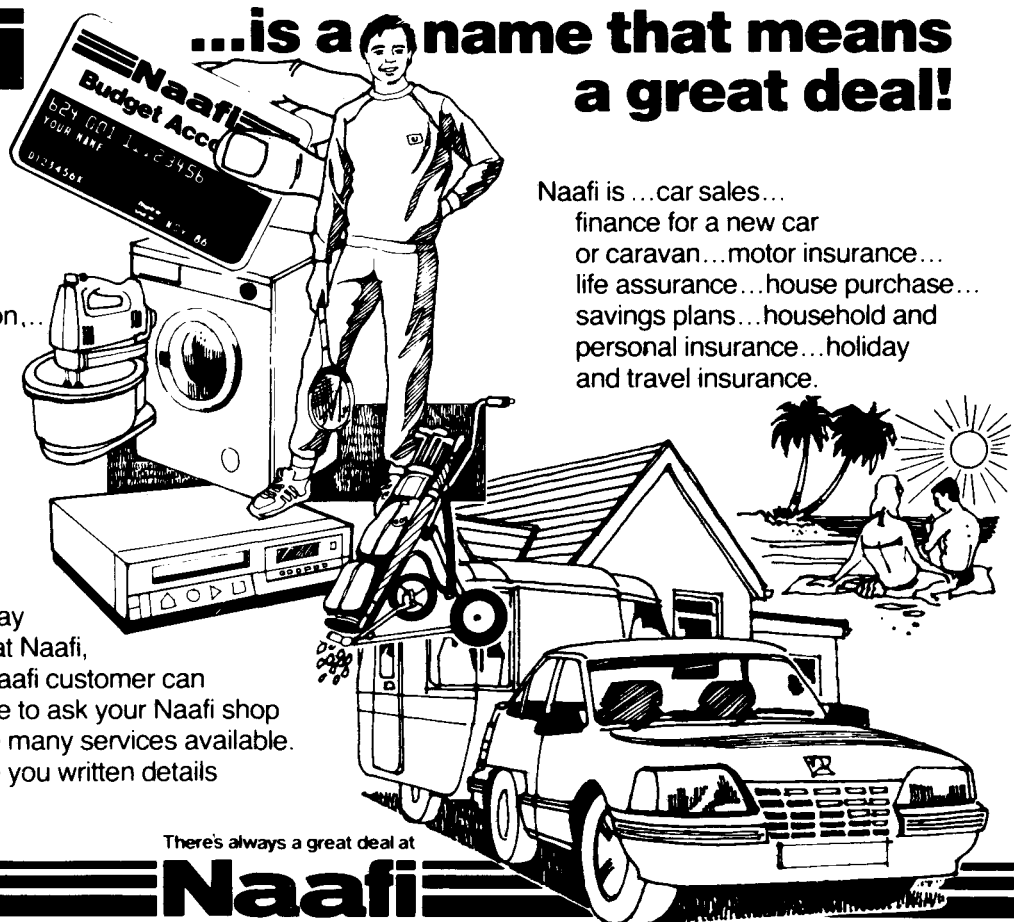
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Company, who had had no previous experience of working with WRAC, an excellent rapport was soon established. The girls were dispersed amongst the sections (about two per section) to form a totally integrated company. I commanded a mixed platoon, a novel and enjoyable experience. Thank goodness we learned some infantry manoeuvres at RMAS!

We spent the first week on the beach. No, "Lion Sun" was not a code name for operation Lie-in-the-sun as some of my fellow, green-faced, male officers suggested. The week was spent assault boat handling, beach assault training, participating in platoon and section manoeuvres, sea survival training, canoeing, command tasks, sailing and snorkelling.

After all this most of us were suffering either from sunburn or prickly heat. It was almost a relief to climb back into our tropical combats and spend a few days on the ranges. This was followed by three days of regimental training at the Bloodhound Camp. I instructed in -- would you believe -- the setting up of an ambush and anti interrogation drills.

By now, we were of course fully prepared for the rigours of life in the field. We donned our webbing and set off into the bondue, avoiding snakes and lizards, pursuing and being pursued by 'SIPO' terrorists, whose main aims appeared to be capturing WRAC. Pte Helen Green, when captured forgot all about her anti interrogation drills. However, she was under threat of a lizard being put down her blouse and she was blindfolded. This four day exercise culminated in a dawn beach attack, which was tremendously exciting, running up the smoke-covered beach, simulated artillery fire, cold wet combats clinging to aching limbs.

After the intense heat of the plain, it was time for a cooling off period. We spent six days on the Troodos mountain range, practising our map reading, route planning, hill walking, orienteering, rock climbing and abseiling. Some of the girls even managed to do some pony trekking. According to LCpl Pauline Harris, the ponies knew the route so well that you could have put an explosion in front of them and they would have just kept plodding on! We discovered a great "English" pub in Troodos, the Dolphin, which kept flexi hours and dispensed the infamous Keo beer.

The unit was allocated three days of rest and recuperation when we could visit local places of interest. None of us wanted to return to the UK; we had all had a marvellous time. 32 Ordnance Company were the perfect host unit and we would like to thank them for asking us to join them on the exercise.

## AND ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

### EXERCISE LION SUN IV Pte Diane Cooper WRAC

We left Brize Norton for Cyprus on a Boeing 727 in the very early hours of the morning, everyone anxiously preparing themselves for the days which lay ahead. Flying was a new and exciting experience for me. We soon descended on RAF Akrotiri and made for Bloodhound Camp -- our home for the next month.

On arrival we were divided into groups and sections. Group 2 went off to their designated accommodation high in the Troodos mountains to indulge in a bit of rock climbing, abseiling or orienteering -- a new experience for some of the girls. My group was left in the hands of Major Lampard ready

to try out the wide variety of beach activities. We found it difficult to remember that it was an exercise and not a summer holiday!

During the first week we were up at about 0530 hrs, starting the day with a gentle jog down to the beach. After the run we prepared ourselves for the activities which lay ahead, and I managed to end up with windsurfing. I hoped I would someday be able to conquer this sport, but for the first few days I seemed to spend all the time in the water. We also did some canoeing, scuba diving, water skiing and dinghy sailing. The odd five minutes sun bathing also seemed a very popular sport!

After the first week of getting acclimatised we got down to some real army stuff, and I had my first experience on the ranges which I enjoyed. Surprisingly enough I managed not to damage anything and occasionally hit the intended target! Following the days on the ranges, we were ready to spend the next couple of days on First Aid, map reading and NBC, all necessary information for the next three nights living rough in the terrain of Cyprus.

The exercise was a memorable experience. It proved the limits to which people can go before their sense of humour fails, especially when all we did during the day was walk for miles in scorching heat, occasionally fighting off the enemy. Thankfully there were the water bowzers to relieve us at every check point. The beach landing was the most exciting experience. It was a real drama running off the landing craft into the cold water and up across the beach while thunder flashes were being thrown all around us.

After such an exciting week, our group was ready to try out the activities in the Troodos mountains. We were soon leaving the mountains behind and returning to tidy up the many acres of Bloodhound Camp. With so many hands this usually tedious task was very quickly done. Then came a couple of days rest and recuperation, and the opportunity to see other parts of the island.

My conclusion on Ex LION SUN IV is that it was an experience which will be remembered by myself and many other fortunate people for many years to come. A lot of thanks go to all those people who made it possible for us WRAC to attend such an exercise, especially 32 Ord Coy who invited us along and helped to make everything what it was.



L-R: LCpl Jill Roberts, Pte Kay Martin, Pte Carol Cullen, Pte Jackie Carney, LCpl Bev Hoult, Pte Wendy Telfer, Pte Andrea Priestly.

## Exercise First Voyage 7 - 14 July 1985

**Capt R A Adams WRAC**

What must they have thought, our three brave instructors as the nine girls from the WRAC Selection Centre Guildford stepped on board HMSTY DASHER for a week's Sail Training? Fortunately we never really found out, but we got a fair idea when we were immediately put to work loading stores for the week ahead. The exercise was nicknamed FIRST VOYAGE as I was the only one of the nine who had had any previous ocean-going experience. A Nicholson 55 is a fairly big yacht, or seemed so when scrubbing the deck and galley, but when trying to pack away our belongings it definitely shrank in size.

First we were grouped into three watches of three with an instructor supervising each watch. We were briefed on the yacht whilst moored at JSSC Gosport. Then laughing at each other's unsteady legs and occasionally green faces, we sailed off to Alderney. This leg was completed overnight and the stars and moon shone brightly. On arrival at Alderney the fresh air and busy night took its toll and we rested in the sunshine on the beach, some even daring to go for a swim, before taking a look at the town. From Alderney we sailed to Guernsey, and there revelled in much needed showers. The port was Cpl Julie Browning's home town, and she paid her mother a surprise visit whilst ashore. That evening during the changeover of watch Pte Clare Sessions woke the oncoming watch with an unexpected, even to her, cup of salt water tea, an event the Skipper CPO Andy Ritchie will never forget! From Guernsey we sailed to Sark and there we dropped anchor near a small bay rather than go into the port. Consequently the crew had to be taken ashore by dinghy. Pte Carol Christianson, IC oars, showed a propensity to row in regular, neat circles without really getting anywhere, but at least we made it ashore.

We left the beautiful Channel Islands for Cherbourg, France, where we stocked up on the mandatory "duty free" and delicious bread, cheese and pate, a welcome break from compo and Capt Fiona Moore's custard. The return crossing from Cherbourg to Poole was the most difficult. The weather broke and as the English coast approached rain and mist closed in around us. Sails went up and down, winches were tightened and eased with great rapidity. Extra hands were called up on deck and Cpl Rose Hopkins recklessly volunteered to go to the top of the mast for improved visibility, an offer which was not taken up. However Pte Andrea Powers managed to sleep through all the excitement and it was not until we were safe in Poole harbour that she emerged from her bunk only to be told to get straight back to bed. During the brief stay in Poole Sgt Heather Bradbury fell in love. No, not with a rugged mariner but with a floppy eared puppy spotted in a pet shop, which the whole crew was dragged out to see. After Poole we sailed to Cowes, mecca of the yachting world. Now an

experienced crew, we sailed into port looking scornfully at passing gin palaces and baby dinghies. Our downfall came with Cpt Kim Austin getting the ropes twisted into an embarrassing knot of her own creation whilst mooring up.

Our final journey to Gosport was one of anticipation and regret. Looking forward to the end of hand pump loos and time shares in bunk beds, but reluctant to say goodbye to the fresh air and fun. Our thanks to CPO Andy Ritchie, Sgt Dick Boast and Cpl Bill Farrant for undertaking such a venture. It was an experience and challenge which we shall never forget.



**L-R: Sgt Bradbury, Cpl Hopkins, Cpl Browning, Pte Sessions, Pte Christiansen, Capt Moore, Capt Adams.**

## WRAC MUSEUM

The building of the new museum is finished and work will soon start on the project of redesigning, reconstructing and refurbishing the interior. In keeping with modern museum design, the new building is almost solid brick allowing the minimum of natural light.

The Trustees have decided that a new concept is needed which will tell the history of the Corps chronologically from 1917 (when the first members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps were recruited) to the present day. The intention is to use models, photographs and other artefacts to illustrate the role of women in the army doing different jobs with different units in different parts of the world, and to show more of the 37 year history of the WRAC in addition to its predecessors of the two world wars. All this will take time, and it is not possible to say when the museum will be open to the public. The Chairman of the Trustees will speak about this at the AGM in April.

We are ready now to receive your gifts of uniforms, documents, photographs, badges etc if you can spare them. If you kept a diary or a scrapbook during the war, it would be of special interest.

The museum shop has never closed, and it will remain open as usual from 9 am to 4 pm Mondays to Fridays. Personal shoppers are welcome and orders by post are dealt with the same day. For prices and postage costs see "Shopping List" on page 1.

## JUNIOR LEADERS REGIMENT – ROYAL ARTILLERY

2Lt Lesley Disney left the Corps in June to have a baby. A pram was considered more appropriate than a gun when it came to pulling her out of the camp! Lesley's husband is based at Portsmouth and she has returned home to Brixham.



Saying goodbye to 2Lt Lesley Disney.

## ATS TRAINING CENTRE



No 4 Platoon, 3 Coy, The Training Centre at Guildford with Sgt Barbara Williams (now Mrs Jones) in charge.

Mrs Jones (nee Sgt Barbara Williams) has sent us this photograph, but she can't remember the date.

Are you in the picture? If so, can you recall the date of the course and any names?

*Editor*



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## VACANCY AT CORPS HQ

The post of Assistant Corps Secretary in Corps HQ WRAC, Guildford will become vacant in October this year. It is a Retired Officer Grade 3 appointment, and interested eligible applicants should telephone or write to Corps HQ for more information. This is a small, friendly unit and we work in very pleasant surroundings. Although it is a full-time post, leave and public holidays are generous, and there is plenty of variety without undue pressure. Duties include being Curator of the WRAC Museum, for which there is a full-time Assistant Curator, and editor of *Lioness*. If you want to keep in touch with the Corps and your friends, here is your opportunity.

## WRAC in Colchester

**Cpl Shirley Davison**  
**19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn**

Colchester is the oldest market town in England, situated in north east Essex, 8 miles from the sea at Clacton and 51 miles north east of London. It was an important Roman city called Camulodunum, and parts of the Roman wall still exist today. A castle was built here in Norman times and can be visited in Castle Park near the town centre.

Colchester's major industries include diesel and electrical engineering, printing and insurance. Colchester Garrison is the second largest garrison in the UK, housing three infantry units (KOSB, 2 R Anglian and 1 Staffords, shortly to be replaced by the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders); HQ Colchester Garrison; HQ Eastern District; 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn, 156 Pro Coy RMP and many other units. However, there is only a small WRAC element (about 22 of us) and we are scattered around the garrison. The WRAC officers at present are Capt P A Oak-Rhind, WSLO Colchester, 2Lt C A Gow, Asst Adjt 45 Fd Regt RA and Lt J Trainor, Admin Offr 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn. SSgt Lorraine Deverill is the WRAC Welfare Assistant who is kept fairly busy. For a long time I was the only WRAC representative in 19 Inf Bde HQ & Sig Sqn but have now been joined by three cooks from training in Aldershot, Ptes Liz Barnett, Marie Jennison and Helen Tedford who are all busy cooking for the men on Goojerat Barracks. The remainder of the WRAC are with the Pro Coy, HQ EDIST and 4 JNCOs with 95 Security Section.

Accommodation for the single girls (which includes the QARANC who work in the MRS and Dental Centre) is currently under review as we are bursting at the seams. Hopefully the problem will be resolved in the near future as we would like to see more WRAC joining us in Colchester.

## BUBBLING COFFEEPOTS

**LCpl W Abbott WRAC**  
**175 Pro Coy RMP**

Although it is a far cry from the ski slopes of Bavaria, the need for hot liquid refreshment is necessary on the streets of Belfast. As ever the WRAC live up to the nickname of "coffee-pots", providing a welcome cuppa and a smile wherever they may serve as a WRAC searcher in Northern Ireland.

Our duties as searchers can involve anything from border foot patrols with 3 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who are the local regiment at present, to sitting at a computer terminal checking car registration numbers, providing an all important service against the terrorist threat. The fun side of these duties away from the unit is the flying to and from work by helicopter.

Away from work, life in Ireland is just as varied. The girls from 175 Provost Company RMP have been at the forefront recently by winning the WRAC drill competition, stepping it out against several other WRAC squads, to retain the cup. LCpl Wendy Abbott recently travelled to England as part of the Women's Services Northern Ireland Athletics team. She went to the WRAC Inter-Units meet at Aldershot in July and returned twenty-four hours later with the winning team, retaining the trophy for the second year running. Cpl Alison Chaters followed to Aldershot the following week for the Inter-Units championships. Her team gained first in several events. Running is still popular, with Cpls Pyper and Collins taking part in anything from "fun runs" to half marathons. WO2 L Pring, CSM of Aldergrove Det leads from the front and is regularly seen entering such events herself.

So if you've served in Northern Ireland, or are thinking of volunteering for a posting, it's all go over here and if you learn nothing else, at least you'll be an expert coffee maker!



**LCpl Jackie Emery ready for action.**

## SPORT

### WRAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 1986

The WRAC Golf Championship (open to retired members) will be held at the Army Golf Club Aldershot on Monday June 2nd starting at 0900 hours.

The format of the Competition will be as follows:

#### MORNING — 19 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 £18 (less £6.50 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 16 May 1986. 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.

### ENTRY FORM — WRAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

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WRAC GOLF SOCIETY  
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PARSONS BARRACKS  
DONNINGTON  
TELFORD, SALOP

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 | £15.00* |
|--------------|---------|

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Army Golf Club Members | £ 8.50* |
|------------------------|---------|

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| Entry Fee | £ 3.00* |
|-----------|---------|

Total:

Date .....

Signature .....

*\*Please delete as appropriate.*

#### DID YOU SERVE WITH THE GUNNERS?

If you served with the Gunners, make a date to meet Old Comrades on ARTILLERY DAY at Larkhill, near Salisbury, Wiltshire on Saturday 5 July 1986.

## CROSS-COUNTRY SUCCESS FOR BAOR AGAINST THE FRENCH AT SAARBURG

**Capt K S Morgan WRAC**

For several years a male cross-country team has been invited to compete against the French forces in their cross-country championships at Saarburg in Germany. This year the invitation was extended to the ladies. So on December 2nd a team of eight ladies set off with the men to take on the French.

We arrived on the Monday afternoon to enable us to walk (or run depending on ones physical state), the course. We smiled as our "guide" said the course was only 4.6 km, but we were soon to find out why it was so short!

The first part of the course was over very flat, narrow and boggy tracks around the starting field. This gave the male teams plenty of chance to give us verbal encouragement. However, we then had to run out into the lanes and face "the hill". It rose steadily for almost three-quarters of a mile, the last 200 yards rising sharply. At the top there was no opportunity to relax because after a short downhill stretch there was yet another shorter hill. The course continued through woodland tracks, finishing in a small sports stadium.

If the course did not fill us with trepidation, the unknown opposition did. The French appeared fit, strong and full of confidence. Despite these worries LCpl Hanson stormed away from the start, shadowed by Cpl Gash. The expected French challenge failed to materialise as the British girls showed their true worth. At the top of the hill the race was already decided with Cpl Gash 1st, 2Lt Vickers 2nd, Cpl Hanson 3rd, Cpl Sleightholme 4th, Cpl Julyan 6th, Capt Morgan 8th, 2Lt Allen 9th, Pte Thornton 11th and our teams of 4 taking 1st and 2nd place.

The race was followed by a huge celebration meal and a formal presentation ceremony with all competitors wearing Service dress. Although the British Army won the races, it would be hard to match the French for hospitality. They made us very welcome.

## TA

**156 TPT REGT RCT (V)**

**Cpl Keen and Pte Clarke**

Last summer, we were privileged to realise one of our most cherished ambitions, to visit Canada and America. This fabulous experience would not have been possible without the help of Colonel Maxwell, 156 Tpt RCT (V). We travelled as clerical assistants to 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards on exercise "Pondjump", flying from Brize Norton on a cold rainy Monday morning by a VC10. We flew to Edmonton via Newfoundland, and were naturally very tired after the ten hour flight.

First we stayed at camp Wainwright, Alberta, where we were able to explore Edmonton City, and then Vancouver, thanks to a flight with the Canadian Air Force. We were left overwhelmed by the vastness of the place, the cars, the shops and the buildings. Everything was superb, including the beautiful beaches and parks which we made the most of.

In order to travel to the States we hired a sports car. The left hand drive proved no problem as we had driven in Germany when on exercise, but the twenty-five foot high traffic lights in the middle of the road took some getting used to.

We took the interstate route that ran from Vancouver to Mexico down the West Coast. We had three weeks before our flight back to Edmonton, so decided to make the most of it. We drove through Washington, Oregon, and then the "Orange" state of California. The scenery was out of this world, particularly the lake country of California, so we had to stop for a swim to cool off, and naturally sample the local vino.

San Francisco is well known for its cable cars and magnificent Golden Gate bridge. Alcatraz prison was visible in the distance from Fishermans Wharf. We passed through Hollywood, and visited the Universal Film Studios where we were attacked by Jaws! Finally we visited Disneyland which is typically American; big, bright, a fantasy dream world, and like living in a fairy-tale. Walt Disney characters, depicted in their natural settings all round us.

We had visited places with names we had only heard of in films and television, and returned with marvellous memories. The Americans and Canadians made us very welcome in spite of the difficulty they had understanding our "scouse" accents. Life in America seemed to move much faster, though maybe it was being on the road all the time! We both decided we could adapt to the way of life in Vancouver, which had everything, beaches, mountains, parks and a modern city centre.

Our journey home was by Hercules, made memorable by a party at an overnight stop in Newfoundland with 29 RA Commandos. What more can be said except we eagerly await our next CO's assignment.



**Cpl Keen and Pte Clarke on exercise!**

## 31 (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

As always the WRAC have tried, and succeeded, to add an extra something to the spirit of the Regiment, and although we are a mixed Regiment there are many times in every year when the girls like to think they reign supreme!

We started off 1985 with a visit in January from the Commander UKLF, Col S Nield, and she was accompanied on that occasion by Lt Col C Marriott, Commander WRAC Eastern and London Districts, on almost her last visit to the Regiment. We are always happy to welcome our WRAC visitors and at Camp in June Lt Col S Wing visited the Regiment at Scarborough. Lt Col Wing has since visited 47 Squadron at Harrow and hopefully we will see much more of her throughout her tour at London District.

In addition to our Regimental/Royal Signals role, which obviously takes up most of our time, some of the girls participated in the Courage Trophy and the Cobham Cup, and all Orienteering Championships have been tackled by our ever increasing number of experts. LCpl Betsy Kolsky, SSgt Jan Billin and Capt Susan Fenney will have to beware of younger competition with the Regiment as Pte Karen Amey will soon leave them behind.

A mention must be made of LCpl Janet Wilson-Brown who led a successful team of three male cooks to win the London District Cookery Competition in April. This gained them a place at the UKLF Competition which they now intend to win this year.

Our annual WRAC Weekend took a different form in 1985 and is described by Capt Susan Fenney. "The Regiment's latest WRAC weekend was held on a wet and windy weekend in the middle of July — just a typical English summer weekend. Thirty-five intrepid volunteers set out from London on Friday evening to arrive in the very early hours of Saturday morning at 11 Signal Regiment's Adventure Training Centre at Torver, near Lake Coniston. After what seemed like only a few minutes sleep, we were turfed out of our beds to stagger, still half asleep, what seemed like miles, to the banks of Lake Coniston where we rapidly became wide awake on the command to get in and swim to the canoe. Leading from the front, Capt Susan Fenney led a very reluctant group into the freezing water. After that experience, breakfast was very welcome indeed and the party then split into three groups to tackle various activities. SSgt Alun Perry from our own Regimental Training Team and the only man from the Regiment on the weekend (brave chap!) led an intrepid group of fifteen up Helvellyn and along Striding Edge. Everyone was given the chance to navigate as Pte Sue Eglinton found to her shock, and novel methods of descent were employed with notable effect by SSgt Jan Billin and Cpl Sue Healy. All this worked up an appetite calling for a stop for emergency rations (i.e. cream teas) in Ambleside until the shop ran out of stocks.

An even braver group took to the rock face for climbing and abseiling. Pte Sharon Gage overcame her fear of heights, but was horrified while halfway up the face to find Sgt Ann Corrigan hurtling down past her. Luckily, no harm done! Those few who had liked the water in the morning took to their canoes and once they had stopped paddling in circles went off down the lake. A cheerful group returned some time later minus their instructor who appeared a quarter of an hour later with Sgt "Ossy" Osborne in tow literally — much to everyone's amusement.

On Sunday, the whole group went abseiling where most people managed to overcome their misgivings. After lunch,

a very tired bunch of girls waved goodbye to their instructors and promptly fell asleep on the coach back to London. An enjoyable and confidence-building weekend — thank you 11 Signal Regiment — but next time, would somebody please arrange better weather?"

Again it is time for the various Civic Parades, so we are seen by the public in the City, Hammersmith, Coulsdon, Harrow and Wandsworth and this means we are seen to be involved in the Territorial Army of today.

All in all another good year; our numbers go from strength to strength, and the number of trade results gets better all the time. We have two new officers commissioned from the ranks, 2Lt Jennie Hastings and Capt Anne Hancox who is the first female Traffic officer in the Regiment. Our enthusiasm never fails and long may it be so.



Col Nield visiting 47 Sqn at Harrow.

## THE COLONEL IN CHIEF'S VISIT TO UNITS IN SCOTLAND

### 2Lt Fiona Farquaharson WRAC (V)

In October of 1984 I was sitting gloomily at work having been informed that we, in the Arrears Department were to lose our jobs at the end of January.

Meantime in RHQ, 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V) the CO (Lt Col Howard Culley) and Adjt (Capt Peter Costello) were debating as to who would act as Aide-de-Camp for the forthcoming visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, GCVO. Having scoured the list thoroughly they found to their dismay that I would be the only officer available.

So, in what is laughingly called Spring, I found myself whisked off on a grand tour of Scotland. Whereas most units are content with a day tour of the unit, we found ourselves co-ordinating a three day tour involving NATO Forward Scatter Station, Shetlands, Satellite Ground Terminal, Balado Bridge, 632 Signal Troop Hebrides and 32nd (Scottish) Signal Regiment (Volunteers), Glasgow rounding off with a Reception and Dinner in Glasgow City Chambers.

We started off on our tour leaving behind a sunbathed Glasgow to fly up to the Shetlands with the "hangers on party" (their words), the SO in C, Maj Gen R Benbow, Comd 2 Sig Bde, Brig K H Olds, Regt Sec, Col J A D Francis and CO 32 (Scottish) Sig Regt (V), Lt Col H A Culley. The wind

and snow lashed Shetland furiously for most of that day and we waited with baited breath lest the Queen's Flight Andover carrying HRH, Master of Signals, Maj Gen J M W Badcock and OC 242 Sig Swn, Maj David Anthonisz was unable to land at the BP airport, Scatsta. As it came into view the wind dropped and a somewhat feeble sun put in a belated appearance.

Dressed warmly for the occasion, the Princess was undaunted by the weather and proceeded to enjoy a guided tour of the bleak Collafirth Hill Forward Scatter Station given by the OC FSS Shetland Major David Collins. After presenting the LS and GC to WO2 (FofS) Lee Brown, HRH then went off for afternoon tea with the wives in the Foreman's married quarters in Urafirth.

Our next venue was 632 Signal Troop in the Hebrides and we were met by the Commander of the RA Range Brig M A C Murray and the Troop OC, Capt Tim Peacocke. For those of you who, like me, had believed that Benbecula was a one horse island, think again. The ranges are the largest in Britain and the permanent staff, a mixture of RA, REME, R Signals and RAF are frequently invaded by various visiting units using the range facilities.

After lunch in the WOs and Sgts' Mess (another super meal in our 3 day gastronomic tour of Scotland) the Princess nipped off to change into trousers, jumper and Barbour jacket. Then followed a visit to the main comms complex before heading yet again for our trusty aircraft fleet.

Meantime the rest of us were struggling into our immersion suits and there was much hilarity and plenty of offers to help the ADC (complete in No 2 Dress, tartan skirt, court shoes and 10 tons of golden aiguillettes) as she attempted to place all 5' 2½" into a suit which even the six footers amongst us found difficulty in filling!

Waiting on St Kilda was the OC, Capt Tim Edwards RA and the members of his castaways, a mixture of REME, RA and R Signals. Cpl Howse, as the Royal Signals detachment commander, accompanied the Princess on a tour of the COMMCEN.

At short notice it was decided that a trip to the top of the hill was in order so two landrovers groaned up the steep slopes to the top and the Princess was able to obtain some personal photographs of the magnificent view. By now we were way behind schedule and the soldiers and their wives were waiting patiently back in Benbecula for the afternoon tea to begin. After the presentation of LS & GC to WO2 (FofS) Peter Roscoe and yet another cup of tea, the Princess spoke to everyone before embarking on an unscheduled shopping trip.

Whilst in the hectic preparation for a Royal Dinner Party at the house that night, Brig Murray's wife, Rosemary, received a surprise phone call requesting her immediate presence in the JRC in order to accompany the Princess on a trip to buy some tweed. Mrs Murray's flexibility was proved beyond doubt when they arrived back only twenty minutes before the guests were due to arrive.

We left Benbecula the next morning to set off again for Edinburgh and to transfer to our helicopters for the short journey to Cultybraggan Camp in the heart of Perthshire for the visit to 32 Signal Regiment (V). Formerly a Prisoner of War Camp, the nissen huts at Cultybraggan still have the "pot-belly" stoves reminiscent of the ones in "The Great Escape". Under the watchful eye of WO1 (RSM) Brian Peel, the camp had been transformed by the working party over the past fortnight. For the waiting regiment it had been an early start to add the final lick of paint, re-align the masts and sweep the paths. The MO found some spare time to tidy the garden outside the MRS.

The Pipes and Drums, adding a splash of colour in the Regimental Red Grant tartan struck up as the Royal Wessex arrived. The Princess presented a Royal Pipe Banner to the Regiment and then spent two hours in the field visiting the the four Signal Squadrons and the LAD on exercise. Although it was bitterly cold and snow showers descended upon us from

time to time, the Princess carried on regardless and spoke at length to all the soldiers.

After lunch in the WOs and Sgts' Mess the Princess visited the new Training Centre and HQ Squadron. Although we were behind schedule again, I had resigned myself to the fact that Royal Princesses are not to be hurried and it was far more important that the visit should be enjoyed. We set off in our helicopters for the last time, heading for Glasgow with the RMO directing the AAC pilots to the HLS "Follow the A82 and it's a large field on your right".

The Reception and Dinner in Glasgow City Chambers, at which the Royal Signals Corps Band was present, was a splendid finale to a marvellous tour. Although the preparation for the visit was at times hectic, the three days had passed amazingly quickly and, fortunately, without any hitches. The whole tour had been a tremendously enjoyable experience. However, as the Princess said her final farewells and departed from Central Station in the Royal Train, I couldn't help but breathe just a wee sigh of relief.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1986

The AGM will be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 12 April 1986 at 2.30 pm.

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's opening remarks.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 13 April 1985.
4. Report of Council.
5. Report of Honorary Treasurer.
6. Report of Editor Lioness.
7. Report of Committees:
  - a. ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
  - b. Museum Trustees.
8. Resolutions:
  - a. Council Resolutions. Amendment to rules:
    - (1) Rule 10a after "approved by Council" add new sentence: "BAOR should constitute an Area in this context"
    - (2) The specification of the Association Standard should appear in the Rules.
  - b. Election of Council Vice Presidents.
9. Reunion 1988.
10. Any other business.
11. Date and place of next Meeting.

## DEDICATION OF THE WRAC ASSOCIATION STANDARD

Mrs Jenny Wells presented the WRAC Association Standard for dedication at the WRAC Centre, Guildford on Thursday October 24th 1985 by order of the Council. This bald fact hides a long story with a successful conclusion. It was decided back in 1984 that the Association should design and approve a new Standard, as those already in existence were not uniform nor were they capable of being copied other than at enormous expense. A flag making firm was employed, and after several setbacks over the question of getting the colours right (there is apparently no British Colour Code equivalent of beech brown) the new design was approved by the Association AGM at Harrogate in April 1985.

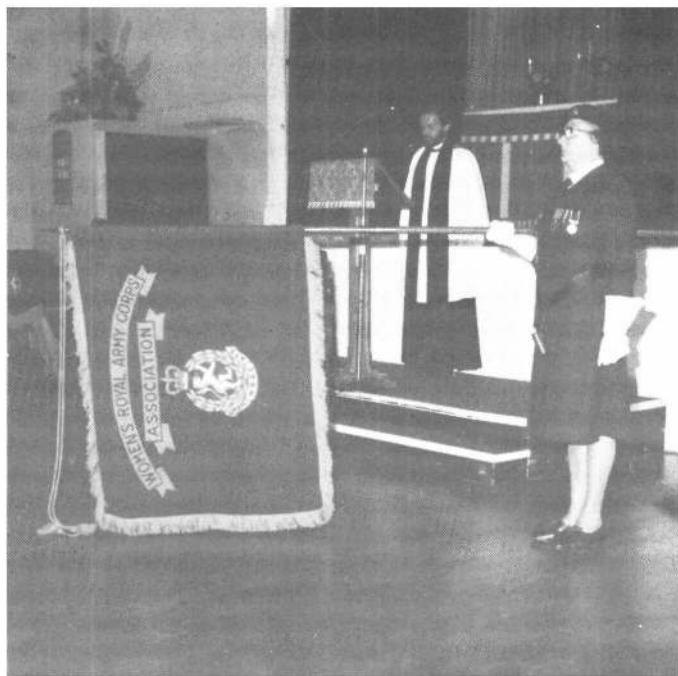
At the subsequent Council meeting on June 7th last year it was decided that despite the fact that the Standard had been inside Westminster Abbey and St Peter's Church Harrogate it should be formally dedicated. The Commandant of the WRAC Centre kindly agreed that the ceremony could take place in the Church during a Sunday service. It then transpired that Deaconess Jenny Patterson who conducts the services on Sundays was authorised to perform that duty but did not have a "licence to bless". (This is something to do with the continuing controversy over women priests which is exercising the General Synod). However, after each Passing Out Parade at the Centre there is a Church Service in the Assembly Hall before the Prize Giving, and we are invited to present the Association Standard during one of those services. October 24th was chosen as the most suitable day. An even more auspicious date would have been November 28th when Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey Howlett was due to take the salute at the 500th Passing Out Parade, but the Standard had been invited to attend the Muster of Standards at the Festival of Remembrance in The Royal Albert Hall on November 9th. So October it was.

On October 22nd the mist was so dense that the recruits marching on to the square to rehearse for their parade were unable to see or find their right markers. The Band was like a phantom regiment playing ethereal music somewhere in the gloom. The General Secretary who had invited members of Association Branches within a 100 mile radius to send representatives was worried for their safety and made contingency plans lest Mrs Wells could not make the journey. It did not bode well. However two days later the early morning mists dispersed by 9 am, the Canterbury Branch representatives who were kindly bringing Mrs Wells set off before the sun had risen and all in all it was a glorious autumn day. An engine gremlin rather than the weather affected the Portsmouth Branch travel plans but they made it, and seventeen Association members from five branches were able to see the parade, the dedication and prize giving.

Mrs Wells brought the Standard forward at an appropriate point in the service, carrying it at the slope down the central aisle. She presented the furled Standard to the Rev Graham Holdaway who received it and placed it on a stand alongside

the retired QMAAC and ATS Standards. After a bidding prayer and an explanation of the reason for the ceremony he unfurled the Standard and placing his hands upon it, blessed it and dedicated it to the tradition of service which the Association represents. During the final hymn Mrs Jenny Wells came forward again and received the newly dedicated Standard back into her care and held it at the "carry". The Standard was lowered in salute during the singing of the National Anthem, then trooped back through the congregation which, with Association members, the Centre staff, the recruits and their parents, represented many generations of those women who have given service to the British Army.

The Association members were invited to lunch in the Elizabethan dining hall which they all enjoyed. There was time for a quick visit to the museum shop before returning to Corps HQ to say goodbye, and then the homeward journey.



**Mrs Wells lowering the Standard in Salute during the singing of the National Anthem.**



**L-R: Miss Ellison, Mrs Davies, Miss Brown, Mrs Alexander, Col Lipscomb, Mrs Mephram, Mrs Wells (with the Standard), Mrs Dennis, Mrs Jordan, Miss Bourne, Miss Clover, Mrs Haughey, Miss Bray.**  
*Courtesy Rowan Studios, Bordon.*

Contributions for next issue by  
13th June 1986 in double  
spacing. Photographs in black & white.

#### **UNION JACK CLUB Officers' Annexe**

The officers' annexe at the Union Jack Club opened last July. It consists of one complete floor of 10 single bedrooms for both men and women with supporting baths, showers and lavatories, and a separate bar/ante-room and television and dining room. Individual twin-bedded rooms in the families block can also be allocated to officers' families when available, with cot facilities for babies and very young children. All officers, retired officers, and their immediate families whether accompanying an officer or not, are eligible. For full details write to: The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo, London SE1 8UJ or tel: 01-928-6401.

## **REUNIONS**

#### **ATS DINNER CLUB**

The Luncheon and Business Meeting of the ATS Dinner Club took place on Saturday 5th October 1985 at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London, presided over by Mrs J Croom-Johnson. It was a successful and happy occasion and 330 members attended. A raffle was held which raised £152.44. Apologies were received from 67 members. The President, Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, sent her regrets as she was attending a meeting for the 1988 Association Reunion. The Chairman said members would be sad to hear that the Vice-Presidents, Brigadier Dame Mary Railton and Colonel Vera Stead, had resigned as Vice-Presidents, and members would wish her to thank them for their help and support over the years.

Our Patron, Dame Leslie Whateley, was unable to be with us but sent her good wishes for a happy day. Flowers were sent to Dame Leslie expressing the affection of all Club members. Loyal Greetings were sent to Her Majesty the Queen and a gracious reply was received. The membership continues to increase and, we hope, will continue to do so for many years to come. The date of the next Luncheon is Saturday 4th October 1986.

The Treasurer, Miss Wade, submitted a report which showed the Club funds to be in good shape.

A new Committee has been elected as follows: Miss D A Brook MBE (Secretary), Miss M Hill (Vice-Chairman), Mrs E Nancarrow, Miss K R F Salter, Miss P Thesiger TD (Chairman) and Miss E Wade (Treasurer).

The new Secretary Miss D A Brock MBE would be pleased to send particulars to any ex-ATS members of the Association and her address is: 3 Pippin Walk, The Limes, Hardwick, Cambridge CB3 7QD.

## **BRITISH EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S REUNION SYDNEY 8 - 10 NOVEMBER 1985**

**Peggy Gordon (nee Jones) ex ATS Signals**

We set off for Sydney, New South Wales and the British Ex-Service Women's Reunion on Wednesday November 6th last year — Betty Rose (nee Morgan, 522 Heavy Ack Ack), her husband Gordon, my husband Bill, and myself, taking two days to do the 1427 kilometres journey from our home city Adelaide, South Australia. We arrived in torrential rain at Wollongong where we were warmly welcomed by the Ex-Wrens who were putting us up for the night. On the Friday we congregated at the Railway Station, four ex-Wrens, two ex-ATS and two husbands to make the 1½ hour journey into Sydney, arriving at the Great Southern Hotel in the heart of the city about 4.30 pm.

That night we met at the British Ex-Service Club in Kent Street, to introduce ourselves and meet other ex-service women from all parts of Australia and from New Zealand, Canada and Britain. Two members had served in India.

We were given an envelope containing a name tag — each had a motif in the corner to denote the service, a programme of the weekend's activities and tickets to luncheon and coach tour. There were lists on the central table giving the names of ex-service women attending, their place of serving and occupation. Imagine how eagerly we perused these! Alas, only two members attending were able to renew their previous acquaintance. The evening however, had everyone chatting and set the scene for the events of the following days.

Saturday came, and many of us found, and wandered round, Paddy's Market in the morning, but arrived back at the Hotel in time to board the buses for the scheduled coach tour at 11.30 am. We were driven past many fine buildings, old and new, in the City. We stopped briefly to view the Sydney Harbour Bridge and passed through lovely suburbs, gardens ablaze with colour. We were lucky to have a driver both enthusiastic and knowledgeable to point out the places of interest. Eventually we climbed to the magnificent North Heads which dominate the entrance to the Sydney Harbour. Looking west in brilliant sunshine, we could see the City, the Opera House and prominent against the skyline, the harbour bridge, known affectionately as the "coathanger". Here on the Heads we had a picnic lunch of chicken salad and champagne. It was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

In the evening was the long awaited Dinner at the Hilton, attended by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Sir James Rowland KBE DFC AFC and Lady Rowland and the Reverend Roger Bush OBE and Mrs Bush.

We sat at tables for eight. The menu featured Pumpkin Soup, Chicken Florentine and Passionfruit Mousse. We had the loyal Toast before coffee, and then a friendly Address from His Excellency the Governor. Messages were read from Her Majesty the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Anne. The Directors of the three Services WRNS, WRAC and WRAF also sent congratulatory goodwill messages and best wishes, and there was a telegram from Miss Bradley, Honorary Secretary of the Harrogate branch of the Association. The evening ended with very lively entertainment — a skit put on by three sisters miming the Andrew Sisters. Much nostalgia here!

On Sunday morning, we lined up to lead the Remembrance March supported by our ex-service husbands, and a Band. The March Marshal, in no time, had us in step, swinging along, head

and shoulders back! The years seemed to drop away. We marched through the quiet Sydney streets to the Cenotaph in Martin Place, where the Reverend Bush conducted a short service and Mrs Olive Durkin read the lesson.

After the March we boarded coaches for HMS Kuttubul at Potts Point and were given a delicious smorgasbord luncheon. So ended a memorable weekend. This Reunion was organized and superbly run by the Association of Wrens, Sydney, and they are to be congratulated on a splendidly successful weekend. We now look forward to our next Reunion in 1987 in Melbourne, Victoria.

## MERSEY REUNION – 1985

On Tuesday October 22nd, nineteen ex-members of the ATS who served at Altcar, Fort Crosby, Formby and Southport during the war years met for an excellent lunch at the Red Rose Club at Altcar Training Camp, Hightown, Near Liverpool, by kind permission of and under arrangements made by Major Bob Bate-Jones, the Camp Commandant.

They had travelled from as far afield as Cumbria, Cheshire, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Tyne and Wear, and Shropshire as well as from the surrounding Merseyside. Many had been employed at Altcar when it was the Western Command Weapon Training School, doing duty as cooks, medical orderlies and clerks. They were billeted in three requisitioned houses in Hightown, approximately a mile from the camp. In those days they walked or cycled to work down a dusty cinder path and consequently never had clean feet! Now there is a permanent roadway.

The "girls" were taken on a tour of this immaculate training camp after lunch and were intrigued to contrast the present modern kitchens and equipment with that used in the 1940s. However in spite of the spartan conditions a splendid bond of comradeship was established in those days and now, although mostly grandmothers, they still keep in touch with one another.



### STANDING L to R:

Mary Creasey (nee Spence), Phyllis Leaver (nee Campbell), Olive Dowle (nee Whitehead), Margaret Simpson (nee Webster), Vera Godsall (nee Groves), Nellie Johnson (nee Hagan), Angela Buchanan (nee McGrath), Florence Hall (nee Wainwright), Dilys Russell (nee Davies), May Howes (nee Coombes), Mary Mills (nee Fleming), Margaret McGee (nee Baker), Sheila Roberts (nee Rothwell), Jean Buckland (nee Appleton), Betty Rigby (nee Winstanley) and Marjorie Townson (nee Booth).

### SEATED L to R:

Joan Crooke, Betty Shepherd (Company Commander) and Molly Pace (nee Hyde) (Platoon Commander).

*Courtesy Sefton Newspapers Ltd, Southport.*

## CAMBERLEY ATS

A reunion tea party was held in London on November 19th last year for the members of the NCOs Cadre Course which took place at No 1 MT Training Centre, Camberley in March 1945.

Her Majesty The Queen honoured the gathering with her presence and nine of the original course attended.

In most cases, it had been forty years since the NCOs had met, and various photographs and letters of interest were lent by the WRAC Museum at Guildford.

After tea, the husbands joined the party for drinks.

## KINE REUNION 1985

On November 9th 1985 there took place at the Victory Services Club in Seymour Street, London a Reunion for the "Kines". It was sixteen years ago that Lois (Howes) Jackson and Gladys (Tulett) Stapylton decided to write to the last-known addresses of nearly three hundred ex Kine-Theodolite Operators, ATS, to see if there was any interest for a Reunion in 1970. The response was remarkable! A Kine Gazette had been in existence from 1945 to 1953, and two early Reunions held, but there had been no contact since, except with special friends.

The 1970 Reunion was held, attended by over a hundred, and the decision taken to make it a five-yearly event. It was thirty years after those "young, strong, healthy girls" had joined the ATS, and we were astonished that we could still recognise one another, discovering after very few minutes that people do not change in their basic nature and personality, however the hair colour and general shape may deceive. The years fell away as the evening progressed.

We met again after five years, and then another five. And just recently was this fourth meeting. But time is telling at last. Where all the news used to be of births, the attainments of all those wonderful children, and the worldwide adventures of those without families, nowadays there are more and more griefs among the joys. One of the most poignant was the death, only a fortnight earlier of Jo (Booth) Case, whom we had not seen since those days in Cuxhaven, Germany, in 1945. She intended to come to meet us all, for her first time. It was a bitter blow. And we missed sadly Lois Jackson, who died soon after our last Reunion.

However, there were present some whom we have not heard from for years: Kay (Tuckey) Maule, who in the '50s distinguished herself in the Wimbledon tournaments; Honor (Pryor) Warner, known to every member of the early Trials Wing at Lydstep (near Manorbier, where we were all trained); Chris (Allen) Coxon who joined at the beginning of 1940 and who saw Gladys's advertisement in "Woman's Own"; Eline (Fritsche) Morgan, who was one of our early bards at Ty-Croes; — we were great verse-makers — and Isabel (Coleman) Fenton who was 'discovered' after many years by chance, by an ex-Kine guest at her sister's dinner table; as well as the familiar faces of the nucleus who have kept in touch: Chris Purdy from the first women's Kine course in 1939: Instructor, Capt Rampling, father of Charlotte the actress; Mickie (Titcombe) Smith and Fay Treeby from the second course. And from the third course the Heavisides sisters and Peggy (Carter) Welch who with her husband stayed in Pembrokeshire. They keep the Cross Inn at Penally. Di (Devenish-Meares) McLean travelled from New Zealand to be with us, and more, and more ... "Judy" (Garland) Dieli and Joan (Noble) Laeon who came from California, and Nancy (Haslett) Munro from British Columbia. Vere Fisher, who 'stayed in'

and came out as a Colonel was there, as was Joan Lavery who five years ago was awarded the MBE and Joan (Hawes-Smith) Busch who is one of the Greenham Common group. "Scottie" Littlefair now helps Gladys organise these gatherings.

There were messages from those who could not attend: most disappointingly from Mrs Margaret (Alcock) Lang, who as "Queen Kine" as we call her — Senior Commander ATS, our Commanding Officer — led us through many discomforts and difficulties and into some very interesting jobs of work (secret experiments, on fire-control systems, the development of new AA weapons, including rockets; the application of RADAR to gunnery and gunnery practice; and tracking the V2.) Wherever there was a moving target, there we were. Not in action against the enemy, however. We were never Battery ATS. Dangers and excitements we had, but not that particular one.

Others who could not be with us were Marnette Linton (J/Cdr. ATS) who was our favourite officer, before she was wooed from us by the Secret Service; Joan (Cotter) Ferrell, who was our Chief Instructor for nearly three years; Evelyn (Cochrane) Dent, who is as gentle now as she was then. She was, briefly, Instructor before going as Superintendent to the Special Rocket Exp. Est. at Aberporth; Elaine (Tinn) Scovell who from her house in Malta is writing up our history, and many more.

We have been sharing news these last four years by news letters, the second of which was circulated recently, and copies of both have found their way into the WRAC Museum at Guildford.

We joined up, as all women did in those prehistoric days, "to do a man's job". The qualifications to become a Kine-At included School Certificate Maths, and to be a Kine officer, a BSc was required. Not so very common among girls in our day, and we regarded ourselves as a bit special. Those who had not come straight from school were teachers, librarians, civil servants, secretaries, and two of the "Lydstoppers" had been students at the Slade School of Art. This basis of a common school experience made us fairly compatible colleagues and hut-mates, whatever rank we attained, (and naturally, most of us didn't!) and, with the wartime incentives which drove everyone, our bonding could not fail.

Considering that not more than 500 were trained, and a maximum of 200 deployed at any one time, to have over a hundred still attending reunions, and many more on the mailing list, does seem to say something for us.



**Back Row:** Ruth Rich, Molly Tapp, Doffy Brewer, Doris Turner, Beth Sagar, Kath Davies, Kit Lavery, Win Goldson, Honor Pryor, Rita Bates, Chris Allen.

**Middle Row:** Irene Hersee, Win Wright, Heather Geary, Mr Knott, Major George Harding, Major McMullen, Val Cox, Scotty (Mgt) Sybil Wood, E Mary Knaggs.

**Front Row:** Lois Howes, Mary Lee, Sheila Caws, Major Hopkinson, Col Wilkinson, Marnette Linton (J/Cdr), Penny Pool, Jessie Wareham Pickard.

## REUNION NOTICES

### NORTHERN AREA REUNION — 1986

A Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Lounge Hall, Parliament Street, Harrogate, on Saturday 10 May 1986 from 2 to 6 pm.

Tickets £2.50 (including tea) obtainable from Northern Area Branch Secretaries or direct from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9BY (Tel: 0423 57023) not later than Saturday 3 May. Please send SAE with remittance made payable to "WRAC Association — Northern Area". Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance. They will not be on sale at the door. There will be a Bring and Buy stall at the Reunion.

If anyone needs accommodation in Harrogate please contact Miss Bradley as soon as possible beforehand, giving details of requirements, type of hotel and approximate price range.

*Note:* Miss Bradley's telephone number will be changing to a six figure one in Spring 1986 (exact date not yet known). If 57023 does not connect, the new number will be 507023. Code figure remains the same at 0423.

### WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH Meetings 1986

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

Any serving members on leave, or ex-service are welcome to our meetings.

### HULL BRANCH SOCIAL EVENING

Hull Branch are arranging another Social Evening, the date to be Friday July 11th 1986. The venue this time will be the Minerva Masonic Hall, Prince Street, Dagger Lane, Hull.

Once again we are hoping to see our fellow members from the West Riding branches, and we can assure them that it will be a good evening. Tickets, £2.00 will include a Buffet Supper.

## BRANCH NEWS

**BOLTON** Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month and our membership has grown to more than twenty. It has been a busy year with jumble sales, grocery collections and monthly raffles.

In May we held a Bric-a-Brac stall in the town centre. It was a huge success, and all proceeds went to Broughton House and the Royal British Legion.

We have been involved in a few parades in Bolton, starting with the inauguration of our new mayor, the Dunkirk Veterans and the VE anniversary service when a wreath was laid by the chairman on our behalf.

We held our usual grand buffet at the spring fair, another buffet at the birthday celebration of one of our members and a barbecue at the secretary's home. We were shown a film of the battlefields and war graves, and were given details of organised trips at reduced rates. Our annual dinner was held on October 31st in the newly rebuilt Albert Hall which was gutted by fire two years ago.

Five of our members attended the Royal British Legion Festival at the Albert Hall on November 9th and were at the Cenotaph parade on Remembrance Sunday.

**BRADFORD** Bradford Branch continues to flourish with a membership of 72 and an average attendance at meetings of 35. We have had a good year, the highlight being the Grand Reunion at Harrogate which 30 of our members attended.

In September we had a Women's reunion with a buffet supper. We had ATS, WAAF, WRNS and Land Army and everyone enjoyed themselves.

November saw us hosting for the fourth year a lunch for the 1914-18 veterans. The numbers get smaller each year but 54 came, including Mrs Kathleen Bottomley who served in the QMAAC from 1917 - 1919 and in the ATS from 1938 - 1940 and is a founder member of Bradford branch. Thirty members of the branch provided and served a meal for the veterans and they were visited by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. We also had a visit to a clog factory, and our Standard has been paraded on numerous occasions by Mrs Norah Kendall and supported by members. Sadly, three of our members died last year, Mrs Merle Thompson and Mrs Jean Green who came to every meeting, and Miss Kathleen Wright who lived in Northumberland. They will all be missed.



WRNS, ATS, WAAF and Land Army celebrate 40 years of peace.  
*Courtesy Bradford Telegraph & Argus.*

**CANTERBURY** On October 24th in response to an invitation from Corps HQ, four members of our branch went to Guildford for the dedication of the new Association Standard. We arrived early and were greeted with coffee and biscuits, and invited to attend the passing out parade of new recruits which preceded the Dedication Service.

It was a lovely sunny morning and we took our seats on the parade ground with other members from nearby branches and the parents and friends of the recruits. The WRAC Band marched on and took up their position. Then came the recruits (a very smart intake) who were inspected by Maj Gen P M Welsh OBE MC who later took the salute.

We then made our way to the Assembly Hall for the Service. One of our long-serving members, Mrs Jenny Wells, had the honour of carrying the Standard for the blessing, which she did with her usual expertise. After the service there was a presentation of proficiency certificates by the Inspecting Officer, and then the Association members were photographed with the Standard.

We were invited to lunch in the Junior Ranks Restaurant which we all enjoyed, after which we said goodbye to Corps HQ and travelled back to Canterbury. Our grateful thanks to all the staff at Corps HQ for such a memorable day.

**CREWE** Our membership, after our first year, stands at 32, some of whom live quite a distance away. There is usually an attendance of about 17 members at meetings and plenty of enthusiasm for whatever is being planned. This first year has been mainly given to fund raising, jumble sales, raffles at meetings, and of course our Secretaries' Meeting and Social which was held on September 28th and was a great success. Plans for this day started six months earlier in March, and everyone quietly beavered away with preparations. We feel their efforts were well rewarded. Success was also due in no small part to all the visitors from other branches. Their support, friendliness and enthusiasm made it a great day and we would like to say thank you to all of them.

A group of us went to Harrogate for the Grand Reunion and we all agreed it was a wonderful weekend. Some of us also attended the ceremony at the Cenotaph and found that a very moving experience.

We have been very fortunate regarding accommodation for our meetings and appreciate the kindness of everyone in helping us to get off to a good start.

**EXETER** We are a newly formed branch and we held our first meeting last October. On November 22nd, nine ex-ATS members enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Swan's Nest, Exminster. We meet again on January 8th and look forward to increasing our membership this year.

**HARROGATE** Most meetings during the latter part of 1984 and early 1985 were devoted to preparations for the Grand Reunion, so that our normal activities were somewhat disorganised! However we did manage to hold a number of social events commencing in January with our Annual Dinner, when a delectable meal was enjoyed at the Imbercourt Hotel. We visited the Royal Hall to see "Carousel", and on the May Day Bank Holiday £109 was raised by a Tombola and Raffle at Bilton Gala. At the end of May we visited the Viking Centre in York and in June a "nature walk" in the Valley Gardens and Pinewoods was followed by a basket supper at the Crown Hotel. In July we set forth on a Mystery Tour in the Dales and in August an enjoyable evening was spent in the meeting room with a faith supper and games. September and October brought a "planning" meeting and the AGM, and in November we had a most fascinating talk on the work of the Royal Observer Corps. At the time of going to press we are looking forward to our Christmas Party on 11 December.

The high point of the year was undoubtedly the Grand Reunion and we were delighted that all the planning and hard work bore fruit and resulted in such a memorable weekend. The invading hordes certainly made an impact on the local population and everyone now appears to be well aware of the existence of the WRAC Association in their midst!

Early in 1985 we moved to a new meeting room in the Harrogate Ex-Servicemen's Social Club and this has given us more space and much more attractive surroundings. During the year we have acquired some 16 new members, mostly as a result of publicity in connection with the Grand Reunion, and as most of them live locally we now have a much larger attendance at meetings and feel we can embark on more ambitious and interesting events in the future.

We hope that members from other parts of the country who enjoyed their stay in Harrogate will pay a return visit on some future occasion. Our meetings are held on the last Wednesday of every month throughout the year (with outings in the summer months) and any visiting member who would like to join us is assured of a warm welcome.

**HULL** We have had a very eventful year, taking part in many of the ex-service parades in the Town, including Battle of Britain and Remembrance Day parades. We were represented at parades and dances to commemorate forty years of peace on the anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

On January 12th our Standard was dedicated at St John's Church. We are very grateful to two of our members whose generosity has made it possible for us to have our own Standard.

**ROCHDALE** We have had a marvellous year since becoming our own branch, and have gone from strength to strength, not only in numbers, but in comradeship. We had decided we would like our own Standard to parade, as we had usually marched behind the Standard of the British Legion Women's Section (of which several of us have become members) but when we saw the Standard at Harrogate we were determined we would have one. We were fortunate as the husband of one of our members donated £100 and we had raffles, jumble sales, bring and buys, a car boot sale and sold football cards to raise the rest. We sent off for our Standard. It arrived in October and although we are not having it dedicated until April, as we were not going into church we were able to parade it in front of our Mayor and townspeople on Remembrance Sunday. It was a very proud day for us.

Twelve of our members thoroughly enjoyed the Grand Reunion at Harrogate. Some of you might have seen us arriving in our luxury AGE CONCERN coach!

We joined Manchester Branch in May for their annual dinner which is always a lovely occasion. We also borrowed the Association Standard for our Mayoral Sunday parade in May, took part in the 40 year Victory parades in May and August and joined in the dedication parade for the Standard of the Royal Artillery Associations Rochdale Branch.

We are now looking forward to the dedication of our Standard on April 13th at 3pm at our Parish Church. Any members who can attend will be very welcome and we are having a buffet at the British Legion before the parade.

**STAFFORD** We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Royal Naval Association Club in Stafford and now have four Associate Members and 30 members of whom 4 have joined us during the year. Sadly we lost a very loyal and enthusiastic member when Mrs Doreen Brassington died in August after 16 years with this branch. Ex-RSM "Dilly" Norcott, who was for many years Secretary of this branch, and who had a stroke in February is making some progress but is still unable to walk without a frame.

Our programme has been varied and interesting with talks on Fire Prevention, Crime Prevention, RAF Mountain Rescue work, Bottle Art, the work of the Samaritans and a talk by our President, Mrs Ruth Dickson, on her holiday in Australia and the Far East.

We have also enjoyed several social functions including a dinner in January, our usual "Birthday of the Branch" dinner in April, supper in a country pub in July and a visit to our President's home in August for a most enjoyable buffet supper. We also had our first ever Coffee Morning at the Secretary's home at the end of October which was both profitable and well supported.

The highlight of this year was without doubt our visit to Harrogate in April for the Grand Reunion. Twelve members went from this Branch and had the most wonderful and unforgettable weekend. We are still talking about it and will be until the next Grand Reunion comes along. Many congratulations to the Harrogate Branch and all who organised it and our thanks to them for giving us such a happy time.

**ULSTER** We held our Annual General Meeting on November 16th last year and were delighted to welcome Major Wendy le Gassick DADWRAC N Ireland, who chaired the meeting during the election of office bearers. The following were re-elected for a further year. President Mrs May Milne BEM, Chairman Mrs Muriel Wallace, Vice Chairman Mrs Kathleen Parker, Secretary Mrs Alison Warnock, and Mrs Eileen Mitchell was elected Treasurer. Of the 8 members on committee 4 were re-elected.

Of our 107 members, only a third support the branch, and half of those are serving or ex WRAC/TA. Without them we should find it hard to exist. We appeal to members who are reading this report to make an effort to attend our next meeting, which will be our annual luncheon, in the Members Room, Balmoral Show Grounds on Saturday March 1st.

It was agreed at the AGM that our yearly donation to a charity would be given to SSAFA.

15 members travelled to Co Tyrone in September to attend the Omagh branch luncheon. It was wonderful to meet so many ex-ATS who had travelled so far to make their branch luncheon a great success.

**WIMBLEDON** Meetings are held at the Community Centre, St George's Road, Wimbledon at 8 pm on the second Friday in the month, except the November meeting which is on the third Friday. No meeting is held in January and August. A fee of 25p room money and 10p raffle money is charged at each meeting.

25 members attended our AGM in November when we welcomed Miss K Gregson as our new President, and Mrs B Young agreed to be Vice President. Other officers volunteered to serve again.

Our thanks go to Dame Mary Railton and Col Holt for their hospitality in August. Dame Mary's "dining-out" at the Berrylands Hotel was attended by 28 members and one guest, Col Holt. Dame Mary was delighted with her present which was half a dinner service in the Colclough Ivy Leaf pattern and six matching fruit bowls. It was a pleasure to see four founder members of the branch, Kay Gregson, Grace Matthews, "Sammy" Samuda and Barbara Wyeth.

We have donated £15 to the Royal British Legion, £10 to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, £10 to St Dunstan's and £40 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

**WOLVERHAMPTON** Membership in recent years has reached the 70s, with two ex-WAAF and one ex-WRNS enjoying the comradeship at our meetings.

The highlight of the year was the reunion in Harrogate in April. Tilly Woodray who arrived from America joined some of our members from Wolverhampton and we all enjoyed the weekend. Our thanks to all who organised it so well.

In June, Jan Taylor gave a talk on her visit to Russia and Shelah Lambah gave her annual tea party with a delicious tea, lovely prizes and a Bring and Buy which raised £40 for the children's ward at New Cross Hospital.

We had a day at Kinver, a beauty spot near Wolverhampton in August and visited a small glass works in the afternoon. In October we were joined by friends and members of the local RBL branch for an interesting talk on candles with a display in all shapes and sizes.

Seven of our members attended the Cenotaph service and parade, and as this was our first visit we felt very proud of have taken part.

Next September the branch will celebrate its 40th birthday with an afternoon party at the United Services Club and we hope that any founder members who have moved away from the area will join us again for this occasion.

**YORK** 1985 was a very busy year for York Branch. Membership increased and all branch meetings were well attended. One of our most interesting meetings was a talk given by Dr Josephine Butler who had been on the Prime Minister's staff and was a secret agent during the war. She is now over 80 and is still active in Cancer Research.

The highlight of the year was the Annual General Meeting and Reunion in Harrogate where York branch member Miss Mary Atkinson carried the Association Standard at the Church Parade. She was also a Standard bearer at the VE Day Thanksgiving Service in Westminster Abbey.

York Branch took part in a parade by all Ex-Service Associations and a Thanksgiving Service in York Minster to celebrate 40 years of peace, which had been preceded the Friday evening before by a very successful Buffet Dance attended by over 200 Ex-Service men and women and their guests.

## Correspondence

Mrs Jean Newton who organised the British Ex-Service Women's Reunion in Sydney from 8-10 November last year wrote to Brigadier Helen Meechie, DWRAC "I am writing to thank you for your kind message which was read out at the British Ex-Service Women's Reunion dinner on November 9th last. It was received with great enthusiasm from the many ex-ATS and WRAC ladies present.

The oldest lady present, 96 year old Miss Emmy Gaunt, was a member of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps from 1917-1919, and she had a "ball" and kept up with everyone else. Two ATS ladies met for the first time since their initial training in 1942, and there was great excitement and exchanges of addresses.

Thank you again for your kind message, and I am sure you will be pleased to know that the reunion was a resounding success."

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Colonel Julia Cowper of The Old Rectory Nursing Home, North Kilworth, Market Harborough, Leicestershire who was editor of Lioness from 1950-1953 sends her best wishes to all serving and retired members of the Corps. She would love to hear from anyone who remembers her in the ATS and the early days of the WRAC.

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Mrs E L Daniels (nee Ball) of 48 Huia Road, Point Chevalier, Auckland 2, New Zealand, who served in the WAAC and QMAAC and was attached to the RASC, sends greetings and good wishes to those who shared two Christmases during the Great War at "Oakcroft", Grove Park, Kent.

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The Treasurer of Bradford branch, Mrs Nora Houldsworth (nee Hay) writes to say that she and her twin sister Mrs Mary Evans of Pontypridd, South Wales served in the ATS together, and have been reunited after 39 years with Mrs Eileen Kent (nee Garbutt). Also at the reunion was Mrs Evelyn Arnold (nee Bentley). The last time they were all together was when they were telephone switchboard operators at HQ Northern Command, York with No 1 Company, 2 Command Signals stationed at Fulford Barracks from 1942-1946. This has resulted in two new members for Bradford branch.

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Mrs L Brown of Flat 26, Brooks Taylor Court, Albion Place, Oxford OX1 1UB would like to hear from any ex-ATS who served with 124 OCTU and were attached to 'C' Coy, North Wales Group ATS, Welsh Border Sub-Area. She particularly wants to hear from Sgt Parry ATS who gave her away at her wedding in Llandrindod Wells, Vera Bright and any others who were there between 1940-1944 and knew her and her sister Pte V Jackson. Her name was Lilian Jackson and their billet was the Southend Hotel.

Mrs Margaret Heasman (ex Junior Commander ATS) of 17 Hillside Close, Cheltenham GL51 5AS joined 13 County of London Company before the war and went to camp in July 1939 at Pirbright. She writes that the latrines were a great shock, being completely public but the girls made a joke of it. Imagine their rage when the City of London Coys who followed them had hessian curtains to give them privacy. She found these verses when clearing out, which she thought would amuse pre-war ATS:

The County of London can take it,  
For the County of London are tough,  
We sit in a row, don't care what we show,  
We are not worried by life in the rough.

But the City of London are ladies,  
And the decencies must be observed,  
So we've draped the latrines with discreet little screens,  
That their modesty may be preserved.

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Mrs K M Brierley of 25 Cherry Lane, Sale, Cheshire M33 4NF wishes to thank all the members of Manchester Branch for the lovely gift she received on her resignation as secretary of the branch.

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Mrs Constance Tarr (nee Poole) served with the RAC Tactical School at Bulford, working as a batwoman to the students. They moved to Oxford in November 1942 where she stayed until May 1944 when the RAC Tactical School was disbanded. She was then posted to the ASCW at Winterbourne Gunner until her release on 11 July 1945. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her, and would particularly like to know the whereabouts of their officer, Junior Commander Heather Spencer who lived at the time at Shepton Mallet in Somerset.

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Mrs June Robinson (nee Pte June Burgess) of 3 Whiteland Rise, Westbury, Wilts wants to hear from other members who served in 517 (M) HAA Bty RA from 1942 - 1945. She was a GL Wallah so would especially like other ex GL Wallahs to get in touch.

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Mrs Gladys Hayton (nee Hallett) of 38 Wavell Avenue, Poole, Dorset BH17 7HH would like to hear from CSM Boshier of "N" Coy, billeted at the Picardy Hotel, Bournemouth in 1942.

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Mrs Patricia Longland (nee Baxter) of 157c Park Avenue, Purbrook, Portsmouth PO7 5EY who served with the 93rd S/L Regt RA is gradually making more contacts with ex-members of the Regiment, and they would like to arrange a reunion.

If you served with "Searchlights" or know anyone who did, please get in touch.

Mrs Betty Simpson (nee Gawthorpe), emigrated to Perth, W. Australia last month. She is staying with her daughter at 10 Wanbrow Way, Duncraig, W. Australia, 6023, and would love to hear from her friends.

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Mrs I T Ellis of 287B Buckland Road, Mangere Auckland, New Zealand would like news of W02 Barbara Saberton who was 'C' Company CSM at Didcot.

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Mrs Mary Gregory of 5 Moreton Avenue, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire wrote to us from Sydney on November 10th last year at the end of the splendid reunion for ex service-women during the weekend of November 8th - 10th. She and her sister were on their way to stay with another sister in New Zealand and will be home in England at the end of March.

"The weekend started on Friday November 8th with an informal get-together, which we missed as we were on a Jumbo Jet flying from Bali to Sydney. We landed at around 1130 on Saturday, were taken by friends to our hotel, showered and set the alarm for 4.30pm and fell asleep! Later we dressed in our formal finery and arrived at the Sydney Hilton hotel at about 7 pm. We were warmly welcomed by everyone (all these ex service women's reunions are warm, friendly affairs, aren't they?). We had a reception drink and enjoyed a beautiful meal of Cream of Pumpkin Soup, Supreme of Chicken Florentine, Passionfruit Mousse, coffee and mints, served as only Hilton hotel staff know how. Wine was flowing freely, also fresh orange juice and iced water. The guests of honour were HE The Governor of New South Wales, Sir James Rowland KBE DFC AFC and Lady Rowland, the Rev Roger Bush OBE, padre to the British ex services in Sydney, and Mrs Bush.

The cabaret was "The Wrendrew Sisters", three very talented ex-Wrens dressed as ATS and giving a perfect rendition of the Andrew Sisters' wartime favourite numbers. Two other artists (professional, I think) had us all singing and laughing the evening through. We really enjoyed it all!

On Sunday morning we marshalled at 10 am under the expert command of a retired sergeant major. He was wonderful with us ladies, and kept us in step all the longish march through Sydney. It was a perfect parade, with the ladies leading the ex services homage to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

Then we went aboard an Australian warship for a magnificent smorgasborg prepared by the Australian Navy. I have never seen so many different salads, meats and sweets, prepared and presented so beautifully. Around 3 pm the reunion broke up as people made their way home to almost every state in Australia. The overseas visitors from UK, Canada and New Zealand were treated with special attention all the weekend, and we were deeply appreciative of all the kindnesses.

At the dinner messages (very friendly personal messages) were read out from the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Anne. What gave me a thrill were the messages from our own Brigadier Meechie (bless her!), Monica Bradley, Secretary of Harrogate branch and Joan Bleasdale, Secretary of Western Area. Knowing these people from our own reunions and hearing their messages from the other side of the world almost brought tears to my eyes.

I am looking forward to meeting my old friends when I get back again next March".

## BIRTHS

**HAYWOOD** On September 7th 1985 to Mr and Mrs Nigel Haywood (Captain Louise Haywood) a second son, Thomas Edward.

**JAMES** On November 14th 1985 at Odstock Hospital, Salisbury to Karen (nee Grantham-Wright) and Julian, a daughter, Charlotte Emily.

**MARTIN** On October 31st 1985 to Lieutenant and Mrs T M Martin (Captain Jill Martin, nee Harrison) a daughter, Victoria Jane.

**PITTENDREIGH** On September 20th 1985 to Major and Mrs D W Pittendreich (Captain Mairi Pittendreich, nee Paterson) a daughter, Catriona Mairi.

## RUBY WEDDING

**TARR — POOLE** On 12th June 1945 in Salisbury, Pte Lewis Tarr 195 Field Ambulance, 6th Airborne Division, to Pte Constance Poole ATS. Now at 136 Gerrards Green, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3EA.

## TRIBUTE

### Colonel M D Morgan TD

The unexpected news of Colonel Dorothy Morgan's death at the age of 82, at her home in Majorca on 16th July, 1985 came as a great shock to her many friends.

She had retired from the service in October, 1956. After some time in this country and when her artist sister retired they went to live in Majorca. Despite the distance, she retained great interest in the Corps and returned to the UK a number of times over the years. We last saw her at the Guildhall Dinner in 1984 and she had planned to visit again in September, 1985.

Colonel Morgan joined the ATS in Scotland in 1938 and served in Scottish Command for the whole of the war. Thereafter she filled a number of appointments as ADATS both in England and the Middle East. Her WRAC appointments included 2IC Medical Services and WRAC Records, Commandant WRAC School of Instruction and AAG, AG16.

Colonel Morgan will be remembered by her friends for her perceptive kindness, and with great affection; their sorrow consoled only by the knowledge that she died peacefully.

S.A.E.H.

## OBITUARY

**Allen.** Mrs S G Allen of St Kilda, Victoria, Australia on 15 April 1983. Junior Commander ATS.

**Baker.** Mrs Marjorie A Baker (nee Mutter) of Old Sunningdale, Berkshire in February 1985. Junior Commander ATS.

**Brassington.** Mrs Doreen Brassington (nee Farmer) of Stafford on 2 August 1985. ATS.

**Bryan.** Mrs Juniper Bryan (nee Munro) of Belfast in 1985. ATS.

**Clark.** Mrs Betty Clark (nee Evans) of Pontypridd, South Wales on 22 November 1985. ATS and WRAC.

**Fraser.** Miss T Fraser of Edinburgh in July 1985. ATS and WRAC.

**Green.** Mrs J Green (nee Keighley) of Shipley, Yorkshire on 17 August 1985. ATS.

**Hawkins.** Mrs Mary Hawkins (nee McNeil) of Cardiff in August 1985. ATS.

**Haynes.** Miss A M Haynes of Orpington, Kent on 3 November 1985. Junior Commander ATS.

**Hicks.** Mrs L E Hicks (nee Miskin) of Barntown, Wexford in 1985. ATS and WRAC.

**Hill.** Mrs May Hill (nee Bramble) of Cirencester, Glos on 18 July 1985. WAAC.

**Humphries-Cox.** Mrs N Humphries-Cox (nee Crook) of Gloucester on 12 December 1985. ATS.

**James.** Miss Alexandrena James of Liverpool on 2 February 1985. ATS.

**Leech.** Miss Ethel Leech of Bolton on 8 January 1986. ATS.

**Leonard.** Mrs Babs Leonard (nee Herriman) of Stoke-on-Trent on 15 July 1985. Sergeant WRAC.

**Loughland.** Mrs I I M Loughland (nee Tilson) of Newtownards, Co Down. Junior Commander ATS.

**Morgan.** Colonel M Dorothy Morgan TD of Mallorca on 16 July 1985. ATS and WRAC.

**Nixon.** Miss L S Nixon on 16 October 1985. Junior Commander ATS.

**Norris.** Mrs Nona Norris on 13 July 1985. Commandant Halifax Training Centre and Bradford Group. Chief Commander ATS.

**Pelly.** Miss Iva M Pelly of Cirencester, Glos on 9 November 1985. Chief Commander ATS.

**Perry.** Miss Hilda Perry of Folkestone, Kent on 9 November 1985. ATS.

**Pyke.** Mrs Rosemary Pyke (nee Bald) of Salisbury, Wilts on 1 September 1985. ATS and WRAC TA.

**Reid.** Mrs Catherine Reid (nee Pow) of Ayr on 19 May 1985. ATS.

**Richardson.** Miss Elsie (Ricky) Richardson on 4 September 1984. WRAC Provost.

**Robb.** Mrs Jessie Robb (nee Armstrong) of Tranent on 6 September 1985. ATS and WRAC.

**Saxon.** Mrs Norah Saxon TD of Chester and Llandudno on 22 July 1985. Chief Commander ATS.

**Spickett.** Miss Kathleen Spickett of Wolverhampton in November 1985. ATS and Captain WRAC TA.

**Stevenson.** Miss Mima Stevenson of Bangor, Co. Down. ATS.

**Sullivan.** Mrs A V Sullivan (nee Lappin) of Liverpool on 6 August 1985. Captain WRAC.

**Thompson.** Mrs M R Thompson of Shipley, Yorkshire on 14 June 1985. ATS.

**Wall.** Mrs Margaret Wall (nee "Panda" Allen). ATS and Major WRAC.

**Walmsley.** Mrs S R Walmsley (nee Rogers) of Chester on 15 November 1985. ATS and WRAC.

# LONDON GAZETTE

## NEW YEAR HONOURS

### BEM

Sergeant S I Dowley, Sergeant M J Cox (V)

## SERVICE AWARDS IN ULSTER

### BEM

Sergeant K L Southwell

### Mention in Despatches

Lance Corporal J Stevens      Lance Corporal L Newell, UDR

## PROMOTIONS

### Regular Army

Colonel: F E Hutley

Majors: J A Lindsay, I M McCord, P M Simpson

Captains: V J Curry, S M Aitken, W C Armstrong, M G E Piers,  
B A Cartman

Lieutenants: C M E Gregg, F E Frost, F A Rose

### Special Regular Commissions

Majors: C C Kennedy, P A Binnie, D M H Duddridge

Captains: R E Walton, L M Patrick

### Short Service Commissions

Captains: A J Shiel, P J Crosse, E E Cunningham, A C Merry,  
S C J Gait, D B Robertson, R A Adams, J A Dando,  
J A Salmon, E J Warwick, F J Gibson, P A Pyatt,  
D E Smith, B I Williams, S K Reed, N J Ewing,  
J E Greenhalgh, S E Loudoun, S G Rundle, D L Porter,  
S E Stone, K A Morrison, L N R Forsythe, S P Gardner,  
V J Martin, S J L Reaney, C A Caddick

Lieutenants: C J Howling, C M Briggs, M C Clinch,  
F E Hamilton, K M Stevenson, A K Brown, J V H Burrows,  
G M Bushell, S M Clarke, G D Cole, N A Garnett,  
A E Glasse, D A Hathaway, S M Jones, M S King,  
A P Mann, J S May, J H E McCausland, G A Potts,  
D J Redman, T J Sutcliffe, J C Wollacott,  
S V Hindmarsh, A J Kerr, D M Tognarelli,  
C R Atkinson, J Bower, S Deasy, D Hill, P A Lucas,  
V M Wood, F Bruce, S E Robins, G A Fesemeyer,  
B Walters Davies, E J Dullam, C S Knipe,  
J J M Proctor, D C Skipper, S D Wilkerson, V K Williams

2 Lieutenants: V S Bright, K L Daly, J M Deans, P J Dickens,  
V A Fifield, J Gavin, T M Nation, C A Spanner,  
B J Taylor, N G Hilton, A V F Hyde, H L Jones,  
N J Small, J C Weir, A J Wheeler, S Wilkes, T J Woolford

## RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Regular Army

Captains: J J Wolfe, S Rawlings

### Special Regular Commission

Major: J F M Whitehead

### Short Service Commissions

Captains: P M Watkins, J M Chadwick, E K Anderson,  
S E Watson, K A Morrison, R A Thompson, K G James,  
J M Stockdale, B E Good

Lieutenants: J E Martin, J A Stevenson, W H Loughman.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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

**BUNGALOW TO LET.** 2-bedroom bungalow, Sherburn-in-Elmet, N Yorks. Commutable distance York. £130 per month. Contact Capt J A Coates, Tel Chester Mil (24666) ext 343.

**FOR SALE** Officers Greatcoat, silk lining. Excellent condition £50. No 2 Dress uniform brand new £75. Size 10/12 height 5' 3". Contact Mrs Leach, c/o Major Leach, 7 Sig Regt, BFPO 15. Tel: Herford Mil ext 4444.

**FOR SALE** Greatcoat £50. Mess Dress with silk sash £50. No 2 Dress £50. No 2 Dress jacket £10. Riding mackintosh £25. All size 12/14 height 5' 7". Contact Mrs J E Martin, c/o 664 Sqn AAC, BFPO 29.

**FOR SALE** Greatcoat and new No 2 Dress size 12. No 2 Dress size 10 5' 3". Any reasonable offers. Tel: Mrs Lawson 0705-503727 or Capt Moore Guildford Mil ext 270.

**FOR SALE** Mrs Freeland (Lt Col Retd) has Greatcoat, 3 Tropical dresses and uniform handbag. All in good condition. Size 14, height 5' 5". Contact Col S P Nield Tel: Salisbury Mil (0722-336222) ext 4146 with offers.

**FOR SALE** No 2 Dress hardly worn £100. Mess Dress and silk sash hardly worn £100. Captain's stars. Size 10, height 5' 3". Tel: 0202-631090.

**FOR SALE** WRAC Insignia, 14" square, hand embroidered gold and silver kid, wire and thread, green background. Ideal for presentation or Mess decoration. £75 ono. Tel: Rugby 71603.

**FOR SALE** Forage cap with badge, brand new. Size 6.7/8 £42. Tel: Capt Flint Marchwood Mil ext 254 or 0703-86366.

**FOR SALE** Mess Dress with silk sash £50. No 2 Dress with collar badges £50. Size 14. Tel: Capt Bedborough, Salisbury 336222 ext 126 in working hours.

**FOR SALE** Mess Dress £45. No 2 Dress £40. Barrack skirt £15. Beret £7. Contact Lt Sloan SEME ext 409 or 51 Rollesby Way, Thamesmead, SE28.

**FOR SALE** Mess Dress and No 2 Dress. Size 12/14. 5' 6". Both hardly worn. Tel: 0734-789961.

# WRAC ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS BY AREA

## AND SUB AREA

### SOUTH WEST AREA

|               |                                                                                                          |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Colonel S P Nield, BA, Comd WRAC UKLF, Old Sarum, Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 0AG |
| Vice Chairman | Lt Colonel (Retd) D J Freeland, Overstream House, Heytesbury, Wiltshire BA12 0EE                         |

#### NO 1 SUB AREA

Chairman

#### NO 2 SUB AREA

|           |                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman  | Lt Colonel (Retd) D J Freeland<br>Overstream House, Heytesbury, Wiltshire BA12 0EE |
| Secretary | Miss J Beresford,<br>6 Heath Farm, Barford St Martin, Nr Salisbury, Wiltshire      |

#### BRANCH SECRETARIES

|                       |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BATH                  | Mrs J Morris, 25 Roundhill Grove, Bath BA2 1JT                                         |
| BOURNEMOUTH           | Mrs V Lovell, 29 Norwich Mansions, Norwich Avenue West, Bournemouth BH2 6AL            |
| CHELTENHAM            | Miss L Stuart-Taylor, 17 Cambray Court, Cambray Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1JU       |
| EXETER                | Mrs E E Matthews, 32 Ashley Crescent, Woolbrook, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9UP              |
| GUERNSEY              | Mrs L Hamilton, Le Puits, Havelot, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands            |
| PLYMOUTH              | Mrs C King, 22 Springhill, Pennycross, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3QZ                         |
| SALISBURY             | Mrs J Morgan, 21 Hedley Davis Court, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7UE |
| SOMERSET              | Mrs C Sloley, 25 Viney Street, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3AY                               |
| SOUTHAMPTON           | Miss D Pledge, Flat 4, 47 Blenheim Ave, Highfield, Southampton, Hants SO2 1DQ          |
| SWINDON               | Mrs J Turner, 59 Saffron Close, Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7JB                       |
| WEYMOUTH/<br>PORTLAND | Miss R M Stanbridge, 3A Edwardsville, Rodwell Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8SQ         |

### SOUTH EAST AREA

|               |                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Lt Colonel C R Bolland WRAC<br>HQ South East District, Steele's Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DP |
| Vice Chairman | Vacant                                                                                          |

#### NO 1 SUB AREA

Chairman Vacant

#### NO 2 SUB AREA

Chairman Mrs J J Wells, Jewells, Faussett Hill, Street End, Canterbury, Kent

#### BRANCH SECRETARIES

|            |                                                          |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ALDERSHOT  | Mrs D Davis, 3 Drake Avenue, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey |
| BRIGHTON   | Mrs V M Bradford, 30 Bodiam Avenue, Brighton BN2 4LB     |
| CANTERBURY | Mrs D Dennis, 27 Oakwood Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent  |
| DEAL       | Mrs R Quinn, 17 Patterson Close, Upper Deal CT14 9LZ     |
| DOVER      | Vacant                                                   |
| HASTINGS   | Miss D Dixon, 39 Pine Avenue, Hastings, E Sussex         |
| MEDWAY     | Mrs R Feilder, 166 Richmond Road, Gillingham, Kent       |

### LONDON AND EASTERN AREA

|                            |                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman                   | Lt Colonel M S Wing, WRAC, HQ London District, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX  |
| Vice Chairman<br>(London)  | Lt Colonel (Retd) M S F Millington OBE TD, Flat 3, 88 Greencroft Gardens, London NW6 3JG |
| Vice Chairman<br>(Eastern) | Vacant                                                                                   |

#### BRANCH SECRETARIES

|                        |                                                                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CAMBRIDGE              | Miss W Cracknell, 72 Campkin Road, Arbury, Cambridge                    |
| GREATER<br>LONDON      | Mrs P Carpenter, 23 The Casemates, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB  |
| ILFORD                 | Miss E Holmes, 40 Shepherds Hill, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex RM3 0ND   |
| LONDON                 | Miss E Ellison, 26 Blackstone House, Churchill Gardens, London SW1V 3DT |
| NORFOLK AND<br>SUFFOLK | Mrs K Berwick 101 Buckingham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7DE             |
| WIMBLEDON              | Miss E White, 6 Lammas Court, Moor Lane, Staines, Middlesex TW19 6EA    |

## WESTERN AREA

|               |                                                                                                                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Lt Colonel J L Lawson MBE WRAC<br>HQ South West District, Beacon Barracks,<br>Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4<br>9NY |
| Vice Chairman | Vacant                                                                                                                      |
| Secretary     | Mrs J Bleasdale, 3 Knoll Croft, Aldridge,<br>W Midlands WS9 8LR                                                             |

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

|                        |                                                                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CARDIFF AND<br>NEWPORT | Mrs M Crook, 9 Cherry Close, Fairwater,<br>Cardiff CF5 3RQ                        |
| CREWE                  | Mrs M Pover, 89 Heron Crescent, Sydney,<br>Crewe, Cheshire CW1 1YB                |
| SHROPSHIRE             | Mrs C Grigg, 54 Oakfield Road, Shawbirth,<br>Telford, Shropshire TF5 0NB          |
| STAFFORD               | Mrs D Jervis TD, 45 Barn Bank Lane,<br>Moss Pit, Stafford ST17 9HB                |
| SWANSEA                | Mrs I Tack, 486 Carmarthen Road,<br>Cwmdu, Swansea, Glamorgan SA5 8LL             |
| WOLVER-<br>HAMPTON     | Mrs M Beeston, 77 Campion House,<br>Heath Town, Wolverhampton, Staffs<br>WV10 0PX |
| WREXHAM                | Mrs S J Jones, 3 Marford Row, High Street,<br>Coedpoeth, Wrexham, Clwyd           |

## NORTHERN AREA

|               |                                                                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Lt Colonel C A Marriott WRAC<br>HQ North East District, Impahl Barracks,<br>York YO1 4AU     |
| Vice Chairman | Colonel (Retd) V K Stead OBE TD DL JP<br>Massey Garth, Spofforth, Nr Harrogate,<br>Yorkshire |
| Secretary     | Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue,<br>Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG2 9BY                        |

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

|               |                                                                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BRADFORD      | Miss I Weston, 24 Woodcott Avenue,<br>Baildon, Shipley, W Yorkshire BD17 6AN  |
| BARNSELEY     | Mrs I Whitehead, 5 Cayton Close,<br>Newlodge Estate, Barnsley S71 1RQ         |
| BOLTON        | Mrs M P Turner, 188 Newby Road,<br>Brightmet, Bolton, Lancs BL2 5JH           |
| CHESTER       | Mrs E Roscoe, 18 Vicarage Road, Hoole,<br>Chester CH2 3HZ                     |
| HARROGATE     | Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue,<br>Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG2 9BY         |
| HULL          | Mrs P Ward, 374 James Reckitt Avenue,<br>Hull HU8 0JA                         |
| KEIGHLEY      | Mrs E Wilson, 17 Shann Avenue, West<br>Lane, Keighley BD21 2TL                |
| KENDAL        | Mrs C Davidson, 90 Hallgarth Circle,<br>Kendal, Cumbria                       |
| LEEDS         | Captain M Conley TD, 24 Alexandra Road,<br>Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4HD          |
| LEICESTER     | Miss D Palmer, 40 Greenhill Road,<br>Leicester LE2 3DJ                        |
| LIVERPOOL     | Mrs M J Barton, 3 Fairfield Avenue,<br>Huyton with Roby, Merseyside L36 4JE   |
| MANCHESTER    | Mrs J Jurgens, 429 Norris Road, Sale,<br>Cheshire                             |
| NEWCASTLE     | Mrs M A M White, 12 Dene View, Gosforth<br>Newcastle on Tyne 3                |
| PENRITH       | Miss E Shepherd, Victoria Cottage,<br>Carlton Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8LP |
| RICHMONDSHIRE | Mrs F E Davies, 4 River View, St Martins,<br>Richmond DL10 4RD                |
| ROCHDALE      | Mrs M Schofield, 2 Rothwell Street,<br>Rochdale, Lancs OL12 9BL               |
| SHEFFIELD     | Miss F Bell, 60 Fairburn Drive,<br>Stannington, Sheffield S6 5QL              |
| YORK          | Mrs P Lindsell, 44 Windmill Way, Haxby,<br>York YO3 8NJ                       |

## SCOTTISH AREA

|               |                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Major S J Westlake WRAC,<br>HQ Scotland (Army), Edinburgh EH1<br>2YX |
| Vice Chairman | Miss M M Thomson TD, 8 Cairns Drive,<br>Milngavie, Glasgow G62 8AJ   |
| Secretary     | Vacant                                                               |

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

|               |                                                                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABERDEEN      | Mrs M Ross, 24 Great Southern Road,<br>Aberdeen, Scotland                             |
| AYRSHIRE      | Mrs H G Hay, 3 Angus Avenue, Prestwick,<br>Ayr                                        |
| DUMFRIESSHIRE | Miss A Gibson, 14 Eastfield Road,<br>Dumfries DG1 2EQ                                 |
| EDINBURGH     | Major (Retd) M G Campbell MBE,<br>11 Paddockholm, Corstorphine, Edinburgh<br>EH12 7XP |
| GLASGOW       | Miss E Alexander, 91 Dinart Street,<br>Reddrie, Glasgow G33 2DW                       |

## **NORTHERN IRELAND AREA**

|               |                                                                                        |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Major W A le Gassick WRAC,<br>HQ Northern Ireland, BFPO 825                            |
| Vice Chairman | Miss E F Thompson, 7 Mooretown<br>Terrace, Killarn, Newtownards, Co Down,<br>N Ireland |
| Secretary     | Vacant                                                                                 |

### **BRANCH SECRETARIES**

|        |                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| OMAGH  | Mrs M Bailie, 2 Kensington Drive, Knock,<br>Belfast 5 |
| ULSTER | Mrs A G Warnock, 3 Erinvale Park,<br>Belfast 10       |

## **BAOR AREA**

|               |                                                                     |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman      | Colonel N R Robertson MBE,<br>HQ BAOR, BFPO 140                     |
| Vice Chairman | Vacant                                                              |
| Secretary     | Mrs J Finlay, c/o 1st Battalion, The<br>Gordon Highlanders, BFPO 24 |

## **HQ BRANCH**

|                            |                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman<br>HQ Branch      | Colonel (Retd) E J Bowles,<br>12 Chantry Court, Church Road, Frimley,<br>Camberley, Surrey                           |
| Vice Chairman              | Vacant                                                                                                               |
| Secretary                  | Lt Colonel (Retd) D Dunn,<br>General Secretary,<br>Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park,<br>Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH |
| Representative<br>of QMAAC | Mrs M V Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road,<br>Romford, Essex RM7 8DR                                                          |

**THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND  
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)**

**BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1985**

|                                                 | £             | 1985 | £              | £             | 1984 | £              |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|----------------|---------------|------|----------------|
| <b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>                        |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>                             |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| Balance at 1st November 1984 ... ..             |               |      | 62,116         |               |      | 54,463         |
| Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure ...      |               |      | 7,410          |               |      | 7,653          |
|                                                 |               |      | <u>69,526</u>  |               |      | <u>62,116</u>  |
| <b>LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND</b>                   |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| Membership Life Subscription ... ..             | 3,719         |      |                | 3,384         |      |                |
| Lioness Life Subscription ... ..                | 5,460         |      |                | 4,937         |      |                |
|                                                 |               |      | <u>9,179</u>   |               |      | <u>8,321</u>   |
|                                                 |               |      | <u>£78,705</u> |               |      | <u>£70,437</u> |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>                          |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| <b>FIXED ASSETS</b>                             |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost          |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| less Depreciation ... ..                        |               |      | 2              |               |      | 43             |
| <b>INVESTMENTS</b>                              |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| At Cost per Schedule (Market Value £79,659) ... |               |      | 64,175         |               |      | 58,175         |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                           |               |      |                |               |      |                |
| Stock of Badges ... ..                          | 235           |      |                | 856           |      |                |
| Association Standard ... ..                     | 199           |      |                | —             |      |                |
| Sundry Debtors ... ..                           | 460           |      |                | 720           |      |                |
| Cash at Bank – Current Account... ..            | 2,828         |      |                | 1,476         |      |                |
| – Deposit Account... ..                         | 3,415         |      |                | 3,127         |      |                |
| – Investment Account ... ..                     | 7,703         |      |                | 6,204         |      |                |
| Cash in Hand... ..                              | 38            |      |                | 138           |      |                |
|                                                 | <u>14,878</u> |      |                | <u>12,521</u> |      |                |
| Less: Sundry Creditors ... ..                   | 350           |      |                | 302           |      |                |
|                                                 |               |      | <u>14,528</u>  |               |      | <u>12,219</u>  |
|                                                 |               |      | <u>£78,705</u> |               |      | <u>£70,437</u> |

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1985**

| 1984<br>Cost<br>£ |                                                          | Cost<br>£      | Market Value<br>31st October 1985<br>£ |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| 6,248             | M. & G. Charifund – 5,564 Units                          | 10,247         | 17,527                                 |
| 2,912             | London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 – £4,359.53              | 2,912          | 4,011                                  |
| 50                | Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond            | 50             | 50                                     |
| 5,311             | 8¼% Treasury Loan - 1997 – £6,718.09                     | 5,311          | 6,063                                  |
| 2,433             | 8% Treasury Loan - 2002/06 – £3,336.04                   | 2,433          | 2,794                                  |
| 3,679             | 7¼% Treasury Loan - 2012/15 – £6,548.12                  | 3,679          | 5,451                                  |
| 3,046             | 8¼% Treasury Loan - 1987/90 – £3,490.98                  | 3,046          | 3,229                                  |
| 8,793             | 11¼% Treasury Stock - 1989 – £9,927.62                   | 8,793          | 10,176                                 |
| 5,765             | 12¼% Treasury Loan - 1995 – £5,991.31                    | 5,765          | 6,725                                  |
| 4,978             | 14% Exchequer Stock - 1986 – £5,101.54                   | 4,978          | 5,242                                  |
| 3,974             | 12¼% Treasury Loan - 1992 – £4,331.65                    | 3,974          | 4,895                                  |
| 3,475             | 10½% Exchequer Stock - 1988 – £3,477.36                  | 3,475          | 3,477                                  |
| 1,568             | 8½% Treasury Stock - 1984/86 – £1,536.99                 | 1,568          | 1,510                                  |
| 1,981             | City of Bristol 11¼% Redeemable Stock - 2008 – £2,006.26 | 1,981          | 2,187                                  |
| 1,981             | 10% Treasury Stock - 1992 – £2,001.19                    | 1,981          | 1,996                                  |
| 1,981             | 11¼% Treasury Stock - 1991 – £4,005.27                   | 3,982          | 4,326                                  |
| <u>£58,175</u>    |                                                          | <u>£64,175</u> | <u>£79,659</u>                         |

**THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S AUXILIARY CORPS AND  
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1985**

|                                                 | £     | 1985 | £              | £     | 1984  | £              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|-------|-------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                                   |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| <b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>                            |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| Annual ... ..                                   | 3,167 |      |                | 2,720 |       |                |
| Proportion of Life Subscriptions ... ..         | 281   |      |                | 266   |       |                |
|                                                 |       |      | 3,448          |       |       | 2,986          |
| <b>THE LIONESS PUBLICATION</b>                  |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| Subscriptions... ..                             | 5,857 |      |                | 5,556 |       |                |
| Proportion of Life Subscriptions ... ..         | 401   |      |                | 360   |       |                |
| Advertisement Revenue ... ..                    | 504   |      |                | 560   |       |                |
|                                                 | 6,762 |      |                | 6,476 |       |                |
| Less: Cost of Publication ... ..                | 7,099 |      |                | 6,432 |       |                |
|                                                 |       |      | (337)          |       |       | 44             |
| <b>OTHER INCOME</b>                             |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| Income from Investments ... ..                  | 7,237 |      |                | 6,651 |       |                |
| Deposit Account Interest ... ..                 | 789   |      |                | 567   |       |                |
| Sale of Badges ... ..                           | 49    |      |                | 10    |       |                |
| Funds Received from Disbanded Branch ... ..     | —     |      |                | 50    |       |                |
| Q.M.A.A.C. Reunion ... ..                       | —     |      |                | (27)  |       |                |
|                                                 |       |      | 8,075          |       |       | 7,251          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> ... ..                      |       |      | <u>£11,186</u> |       |       | <u>£10,281</u> |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                              |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| Branch Expenses:                                |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| Capitation Fees ... ..                          | 561   |      |                | 400   |       |                |
| Grants ... ..                                   | 174   |      |                | 52    |       |                |
| Funds Repaid to Western Area ... ..             | —     |      |                | 37    |       |                |
|                                                 |       |      | 735            |       |       | 489            |
| <b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>                  |       |      |                |       |       |                |
| A.G.M. and Reunion Expenses... ..               | 1,291 |      |                |       | 1,038 |                |
| Printing and Stationery ... ..                  | 576   |      |                | 281   |       |                |
| Postages ... ..                                 | 271   |      |                | 130   |       |                |
| Subscriptions and Donations ... ..              | 270   |      |                | 150   |       |                |
| Share Purchase Expenses ... ..                  | —     |      |                | 38    |       |                |
| Travel Expenses ... ..                          | 202   |      |                | 29    |       |                |
| Audit and Accountancy Fee ... ..                | 350   |      |                | 304   |       |                |
| Depreciation ... ..                             | 41    |      |                | 142   |       |                |
| Sundry Expenses ... ..                          | 40    |      |                | 27    |       |                |
|                                                 |       |      | 3,041          |       |       | 2,139          |
|                                                 |       |      | <u>£ 3,776</u> |       |       | <u>£ 2,628</u> |
| <b>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b> ... .. |       |      | <u>£ 7,410</u> |       |       | <u>£ 7,653</u> |

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| Ford           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Austin Rover   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| Land/Range     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rover          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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