

1987

No 2

Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH
The late Dame Leslie Whateley DBE TD,
Director ATS 1943-46.

SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p
ATS shield	8.50	60p
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	2.00	35p
Clipboards	2.80	70p
Corps Drum Ice Bucket	12.00	2.00
Corps History (hardback)	5.50	65p
Corps History (paperback)	3.00	50p
Corps Shield	8.50	60p
Document Cases	1.00	35p
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	1.10	30p
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank Card Holder	.30	15p (up to 6)
Jewel Case (blue velvet)	1.20	25p
Key Cases (to hold 6 keys)	1.10	25p
Key Rings, leather	.50	20p (up to 6)
Pewter Figures:		
Musician with flute	17.50	80p
WRAC Private	17.50	80p
WRAC NCO with RMP	17.50	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
Sweatshirts (green, red, black, white and blue)	7.50	55p
T-shirts (white, red and blue)	3.50	40p
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)

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.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Stockport Branch have produced a Greetings Card with no message therefore usable for any occasion. The front cover depicts the ATS Badge.

Anyone interested should contact: Mrs Berry, 5 Queen's Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

WRAC embroidered rank slides on plain green background are available from Corps HQ. Prices as follows:

2Lt/Maj	£1.20 + 15p p&p
Lt/Lt Col	£1.50 + 15p p&p
Capt/Col	£1.80 + 15p p&p

Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

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.

EDITORIAL

This edition includes the application form for the 1988 ATS Golden Jubilee Grand Reunion and is another milestone on the way to the great event. All applications will be acknowledged but please be patient, we expect a deluge.

This edition also includes an updated list of Museum Benefactors. We have repeated the list of those Corps and Regiments who have supported the Appeal, the names of units and other organisations who have subscribed since the last edition of *Lioness* and the names of individuals who have either subscribed since the last edition or who have pointed out corrections to be made to their entry. Once again apologies for any errors and as the list will form the basis of the final Book of Benefactors it is important that the details are correct. The sums of money shown are the totals from both lists.

Finally, may I thank the director WRAC for the services of Lt Tracey Woolford who has been seconded to Corps HQ and has done most of the work in producing this edition.

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

Aug 16	VJ Parade, Torbay, Devon (start 1325 hrs)
Aug 23-29	Concerts – Pinewalk Bandstand, Bournemouth (1130-1230 hrs and 1500-1630 hrs daily)
Aug 30	Concert – Hyde Park, London (1500-1630 hrs 1800-1930 hrs)
Nov 14	Lord Mayor's Show, London
Dec 16	Concert for Chichester Cathedral Trust at All Saints Church, Hove (pm)

FRIENDS OF THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The Corps HQ has joined the Friends of the Imperial War Museum as corporate members.

The General Secretary holds four guest tickets which are available on request.

Tel: (0252) 24431 extension 8583.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

We are presently forming a Regimental Association. The main objective is to reunite all past and present members of ULOTC, primarily through social events.

If you are an ex-member of ULOTC or have served with ULOTC and are interested please send a large stamped addressed envelope to:

The Secretary
ULOTC Regimental Association
Yeomanry house
Handel Street
LONDON W1N 1NP

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Mrs Ann Peskey, former W430978 Cpl Peskey who has been selected to represent the UK as part of the British Sports Association disabled Team in Detroit Michigan, USA. The competition takes place in August. Ann's events are table tennis and air weapons. We all wish her lots of luck.

Colonel (Honorary) Mary Creagh OBE TD BA JP DL who has been named as the first woman High Sheriff of Merseyside, she will have the job of looking after Royal visitors and top judges.

Colonel Creagh is the President of the WRAC Association, Southport Branch and was appointed Honorary Colonel Great Manchester Army Cadet Force in 1986.

Major E O Coven JP, Chief Commoner of The City of London on her appointment as Deputy Lieutenant.

Pte M J Taylor has been awarded a GOC's Commendation for showing great presence of mind and professionalism in reviving a patient who had stopped breathing.

The Army Ladies Ski Team, who again won the Wilkinson Sword Inter-Service Trophy in Italy, earlier this year. The team consisted of: Capt Caddick, Capt Raine, Lt Bradley, Cpl Aga, LCpl Smith and LCpl Burns.

The Army Ladies Golf Team who won the Inter-Service Golf Competition in June of this year. The team consisted of: Maj S I F Johncey, Capt L Hope QARANC, Capt K J Bettison, Capt M A S Phillips, 2Lt K Toal, WO1 P T Swailes, Sgt S J Stonier, Sgt I Eadie. Cpl C A Hampshire and Pte E S D Allison.

The results of the Corps Championships held in Aldershot on 19 June 1987 were as follows:

Meechie Shield (serving members scratch competition)

1st Pte Doreen Allison – 12 RSME Regt RE – gross 91

2nd Maj Sheila Johncey – MOD – gross 94

Clemence Cup (serving members handicapped)

1st Maj Sheila Johncey – Net 75 (ahead on countback)

2nd Capt Ann Phillips – RAOC Trg Centre – Net 75

O'Dell Salver (retired members scratch competition)

1st Maj Jackie Whitehead

2nd Maj Margaret Harle

These positions were reversed in the Bowles Trophy.

The Clissitt Cup (open foursome)

1st Sgt Sarah Stonier (8 Sig Regt) and Pte Doreen Allison

2nd Maj Sheila Johncey and Maj Jackie Whitehead

MAJOR PARKER'S FAREWELL

Major Dione Parker was due to retire in November 1986 but very nobly extended her tour by 6 months until a replacement could be found.

Members of the Association through their Branches and her sister officers from Headquarter Mess subscribed to a farewell gift for her and the splendid sum of £1,000 was raised.

Major Parker chose as her leaving present a gold necklace and this was given to her by Brigadier S P Nield,



Brigadier Norman King who had been the Corps Secretary during most of Major Parker's tour as Assistant Secretary did the honours ceremonial.

A letter of appreciation has been received from Major Parker.

Director WRAC and Chairman of HQ Mess Committee at a luncheon party on 24 April at Guildford.

From: Major (Retd) D R M Parker

To: The Editor
Lioness

Dear Editor,

Would you please convey through *Lioness* my thanks to those branches of the Association and individual members of Headquarter Mess who so kindly and generously contributed to my retirement present. Their gift is a beautiful gold chain which I can wear on almost every occasion, and which every time I wear it reminds me of you all.

When I resigned my commission (reluctantly) in 1953 I little thought that I would have the opportunity to come back in a different capacity for a further ten years' service. It has been a delight to renew so many friendships from the forties and fifties and to get to know a whole new generation of our Corps. I am deeply grateful for the generosity and friendship of so many people.

Dione Parker

PRESENTATIONS



Pte J Davies of 56 Squadron RCT at Woolwich receiving her Army Canoeing colours from the Commanding Officer, 17th Training Regiment Royal Artillery and Depot, Lt Col R J R Symonds RA.



The traditional craftsmanship of the Norwich shoe industry enables Van-Dal to create the fashion shoe with that little extra width in attractively designed styles.

For further information and full colour catalogue write to Van-Dal, Dibden Road, Norwich.

DOUBLE FIRST FOR WRAC BAND IN HONG KONG



LCpl Sandra Burleigh playing on the border.

The British Army's only female military band put up a first when it made its initial trip to Hong Kong – only 39 years after formation.

Its packed schedule included public appearances in Hong Kong's shopping areas, military functions and schools concerts.

The most unusual event came when it made a trip to the border of Hong Kong and China to play for men on duty on the border. The band visited during a period which had seen a record of over 300 illegal immigrants captured in a 30-hour period when normally 30+ would be expected.

Rumour, of an amnesty allowing immigrants to stay, were the reason for the surge – not a hitherto unspotted desire of the Chinese to listen to the WRAC Staff Band.

The band, under its director of Music, Captain Ena Forster played in 31°C for the Gurkhas and yes the Chinese hills came alive to the sound of their music!

After the concert, the men of C Company 1/2 GR provided the girls with a genuine Gurkha curry.



Visit to the border.

REUNION NOTICE

The International Legion of Europe are holding their European Parade and festivities during the weekend of 5th and 6th September 1987 at Litchfield in Staffordshire. There is to be a Drumhead Service and Dance on the Saturday and a Cathedral Service and March Past on the Sunday. Details may be obtained from: The Secretary, Mrs A Stanton on (0827) 282383 or after hours on (0827) 50364. The address is: Office Suite 2, Wilnecot Lane, Belgrave, Tamworth B77 2LE.

A BRIEF LOOK AT 'LONG LOOK'

Lt J P Gregory WRAC

'How would you like to go to Australia?' Colonel Smith asked. Resisting the impulse to fling myself across her desk and embrace her (not a seemly thing to do to a senior officer) I managed to reply that I thought I'd like that very much indeed!

Exercise LONG LOOK is something that everyone has heard of, everyone wants to go on, and everyone assumes will never come their way. I could never work out how to get a place on the Exercise and, having been on it, I am very little the wiser; but I *believe* that it is a matter of being in the right place at the right time. This year an exchange was decided upon between platoon commanders of two female training establishments. The exchanging rank was to be a lieutenant and I was the only lieutenant available in the WRAC Centre. Lucky me!

I was told that I would be going to 1 Recruit Training Battalion (1 RTB) in Kapooka, the only recruit training establishment for the Australian Army. Extensive searches on varying scaled maps of Australia revealed no such place and I had to write to my opposing exchange officer, Captain Jill Curry, to find out where I was going. Kapooka turned out to be a military area 10 km south-west of Wagga Wagga (pronounced Wogga Wogga!) in the south of New South Wales.

The WRAAC has been disbanded and female recruit training had since been moved from Sydney to Kapooka where all male recruits in the Australian Army were currently being trained. The female training was almost identical to that of the males except that due to a high percentage of injuries – the physical training had been modified. Running with largepacks had resulted in pelvic injuries and so was stopped and the girls had slightly longer time for their runs. The subjects covered, however, were the same. The girls learnt weapon handling and shooting drill with arms, grenade throwing, claymore mine handling and fieldcraft as well as navigation, communications and first aid etc to the same standard as the men. I was warned above all else, to be physically fit.

The course consisted of 11 intensive weeks of training together with 4 days of pre-course administration and activities.

Altogether, a hundred and twenty personnel exchanged posts on this year's Exercise and two RAF VC10's were used to transport the personnel. One left from RAF Gutesloh and one from RAF Brize Norton. We left on 4 August 1986 and flew direct to Australia stopping only to refuel. We were scheduled to arrive in Sydney but because of the worst flooding there in a hundred years were diverted to Brisbane. Consequently we arrived at our units a day late and ready to sleep for a week!

However, Australian hospitality was immediately extended to us, sleep was impossible and I found myself out on the ski slopes the next day for a day's skiing on the Snowy Mountains of Victoria!

My platoon arrived 3 days later. I was to be platoon commander of 32 Platoon and I had a male sergeant and two female and two male corporals as my platoon staff. The recruits, however, were all female. The recruits arrived in buses from Melbourne and Sydney looking tired and confused. They were marched back to the lines and the process of turning them into 'Diggers' (or Private Soldiers) began. My platoon staff launched in and the noise was deafening. If the Platoon sergeant called 'Hallway 32!' forty-one voices yelled back 'Hallway 32' and with a great rush my platoon would arrive on parade in the hallway! That first night they were called out again and again and the camp resounded with their yells.

This was a busy time for me because I needed to go over the lessons I was to teach. Customs, Traditions and Army Organisation needed to be thoroughly learnt first. I suddenly realised that the background knowledge I took for granted whilst teaching at the WRAC Centre in England was missing out in Kapooka. For my first lesson my platoon staff were all lined up at the back of the room – listening with interest!

The recruits, however, went through just the same crises, fears, tears and triumphs as in England. Many of them worried about the physical training and, indeed some of them had cause to. One recruit, whose first choice of employment was PTI, failed to complete the first 2.4 km run and was obviously in pain. Closer medical inspection revealed that her knee was held together by bits of metal (this is my own interpretation of the doctors diagnosis!) and she had to be medically discharged. The PT training was intensive including swimming training, circuits, runs, forced marches, and finally runs with rifles and webbing (excluding largebacks). The PTIs were tremendous fun, totally impervious to female recruits tears and always full of humour. One of them was away while I was there, running round Australia. I think he had a sense of humour!

However, it would be a lie of some proportions to pretend that all I did was work. I was given every opportunity to see as much of Australia as possible and I took every one. The plan was that I was to work at Kapooka for 7 weeks and could then disappear into the country looking at other units and seeing different areas. During my static 'working' period however I managed to get to Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and the Gold Coast! I was particularly keen to get down to Melbourne as I have quite a few relatives there including my Grandmother who celebrated her hundredth birthday this year. I hadn't seen her for 15 years previously and we had quite a reunion. That alone, made the trip worthwhile!



Heals Sanctuary.

At the end of September I, another English officer based at Kapooka (Lt Angus Gordon-Lennox) and Capt Wally Jensen, an Australian officer set off in Wally's car to 'see' Australia! Wally had been given the much sought after job of showing us the land. We drove up the East Coast to the Gold Coast stopping for a few days at the Land Warfare Training Centre at Canungra.

By driving instead of flying we saw so much more of the land. We were able to stop off at places of interest and got well of the tourist track staying in small country towns at pubs. We passed through old gold mining country where once thriving towns were almost deserted and derelict.

We stopped for a night in Proserpine in the heart of the sugar cane area of Queensland. The sky was dark from the smoke of countless sugar cane fires. The farmers burn of the cane before cutting it. The fires were well controlled and extremely carefully watched as fire is one of the major hazards in Australia. Bush fires can spread faster than a car can drive if the wind takes them. The smell of sugar

cane was quite overpowering and everything, showers, beds, tables, everything had black ashes over it. It was not one of the best nights we had!

We managed to get over to the Whitsunday Islands for a brief glimpse of paradise! They were extremely expensive but quite beautiful and very unspoilt.

The next day we arrived in Townsville. By now we were well up into the Tropics of Capricorn and the weather was really humid. The tropics were just coming into the wet season and we had two days of downpour. Most of the houses at this latitude were on stilts for better air flow round the house. Air conditioning was essential. It felt as though we were in a different country to Wagga Wagga! We pushed on north to Cairns and explored the Atherton Table Land – a beautiful area of tropical rain forest, waterfalls and lakes. Of course we went out to the Great Barrier Reef on one of the boats and spent a day snorkelling off the outer reef.

It is a long journey from Sydney to the Reef but definitely worth it. At this point Angus and I left Wally and flew on the RAAF courier flights back to Sydney and then across to Perth.



Sheep shearing in the Rock near Wagga Wagga.

Perth is a lovely city – rather cut off from the rest of Australia but buzzing with a life of its own.

We flew back to Adelaide and spent a couple of days there but our flight back to the UK had been brought forward and we were now pressed for time. We had hoped to get into the centre to see Ayers Rock but time and distance defeated us... still... there's always next time!!

I have been asked several times what the highlights of the trip were. The things that spring to mind are holding a rather grump koala and shearing a decidedly unwilling sheep! I found Sydney the most exciting and beautiful city. The harbour view was breathtaking. However, the overriding impression I brought back with me was of friendly, hospitable people who were proud of their country, keen to show it off and very helpful.

I had a wonderful 3 months. A new world opened up to me and I learnt a lot, saw a lot and even worked a bit! So if anyone says to you 'How would you like to go to Australia?' ... I suggest you go!

BELIZE – THE TOUR OF A LIFETIME

Lt P Smith WRAC

I was posted to the 1st Battalion, The 22nd (CHESHIRE) Regiment as Assistant Adjutant in May 1986. The first question I was asked was whether or not I wanted to join the Battalion on their forthcoming tour in Belize, Central America from October 1986 to March 1987. Of course I jumped at the chance of a 6 month tour in the Caribbean.

As Belize is an operational theatre and WRAC are not normally allowed to serve there it was necessary for the CO to seek special clearance from the WRAC directorate and, through them, from the Ministry of Defence. I believe the justifications that won the case were that I would be based in Airport Camp and that female nurses and a dentist were also employed there.

So when the battalion deployed to Belize in October I went with them. As I stepped from the aeroplane in Belize the heat hit me in a great wave and the sun dazzled me. For the next 6 months I was to live and work in a country where the daily temperature averaged 30°C and the humidity was approximately 75%.

Airport Camp was the main military location in Belize but the companies from the Battalion were also based at Holdfast Camp in the north and at Rideau and Salamanca in the south and the soldiers went on jungle patrol from all locations. Other occupants of Airport Camp included a large number of RAF personnel and elements from other arms and services such as the Royal Engineers, the Royal signals and the Army Air Corps. The camp itself had been built in 1961 – to last 10 years – and was composed mainly of tin Nissen huts. Twenty-five years later it is still in use and is continually being added to.

After the mandatory 48 hours to allow us to acclimatise, we got into the daily routine of the early morning run. This involved getting up at 0520 hours to meet up with the other members of HQ Coy and then at 0530 hours we all set off in squad for a 3 mile run. Initially this proved exhausting and everyone sweated profusely whilst slogging round the circuit. However, it did become easier as the weeks went by!

Work each day began at 0830 hours and finished at 1630 hours. The lunch hour was in fact 2 hours and this allowed ample time to make use of the large swimming pool in camp as well as to sunbathe in the Mess garden.

Belize city, about 20 minutes from camp by vehicle proved to be something of a culture-shock when visited for the first time. Belize is definitely a third world country and all the buildings are wooden and very ramshackle. It is surprising that most of them are actually standing. But with hurricanes liable to hit Belize about one in 15 years there must be little point in building anything substantial!

In November I had my first chance to venture into the jungle. On Wednesday 5 November, I abseiled into the jungle from a helicopter to assist in clearing a new Helicopter Landing Site. The next 2 days were spent clearing undergrowth with machetes and blowing down trees with plastic explosive, clearing an area 50 ft in diameter. On the Friday afternoon the helicopter returned and actually landed on our cleared site to pick us up.

Between 17 and 21 November I went into the jungle for the second time, on a jungle familiarisation course. We learnt emergency signals and rescue procedures, the making and setting of traps and also how to kill and prepare chickens and monkeys as food. Living in the jungle for 5 days certainly made one appreciate the comforts of Airport Camp.

In December I spent a week at the forces Adventure Training Centre at St George's Caye, learning to windsurf. By the end of the week I was quite proficient at sailing out to sea but coming back proved a serious problem and inevitably the rescue boat had to come and fetch me! I also tried waterskiing but without much success.

There was never a shortage of things to do at weekends. Trips to Mexico, to the Cayes (idyllic little tropical islands with only about ten palm trees), visits to Banana Bank Ranch to horse ride or rodeo, or just sunbathing were some of the options open – all of which I tried and enjoyed



Windsurfing at the Forces Adventure Training Centre.

immensely. If one could stand the pace, life out in Belize was fun and action-packed.

Christmas in Belize was quite a novelty, although Carols and Christmas decorations seemed very out of place when the sun was shining and the temperature was 90°F. The festive season passed in an alcoholic haze and a round of parties, all great fun.

The beginning of 1987 marked the halfway point in our tour. The Recce Party from the Queen's Own Highlanders visited to plan their tour taking over from us in April.

In mid-January we had a 3-day exercise to practise the defence of Airport Camp. The mess closed down and everyone drew weapons and worked shifts and the RAF practised emergency procedures for runway accidents.

I spent the second week of February on St George's Caye at the Forces Adventure Training Centre doing the subaqua diving course. It was fantastic to dive down through clear blue water, where the visibility was about 25 metres, and see the brilliantly coloured fish and beautiful coral formations. We also swam out over the edge of the reef and saw it shelve down into the dark blue depths of the ocean. It certainly was the experience of a lifetime.



'Dinner in the jungle.'

Work in the office (yes I did do some!) was fast and furious towards the end of the tour as we planned our Public Duties Duty Rosters for Caterham. Time sped by until 18 March when I boarded the VC10 for the return flight to the UK where I took my 2 weeks R and R before joining our Rear Party in Caterham to welcome the Battalion back.

It is good to be home but a little boring. No longer can I spend my weekends relaxing in the sun under the palm trees or windsurfing on a warm sea! I shall certainly treasure my memories of Belize – it was a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience. My thanks to everyone who made it possible.



PEACE KEEPING IN CYPRUS

Lt I Thomson WRAC

Every 6 months a British Infantry Battalion is posted to the United Nations force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). From December 1986 to June 1987, this task was fulfilled by the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (3 RRF) who have two WRAC on posted strength – Lt I Thomson and SSgt C Muir.

Certainly Cyprus is a most sought after posting, even though the security state in the Middle East has put paid to many activities previously taken for granted! However, to spend winter in Cyprus rather than Catterick, as part of the UN, was a very welcome prospect.

The UN in its present form, came into existence after the 1974 invasion by the Turkish Army. After the war the Turks occupied or liberated (depending on your view!) the North of Cyprus, while the Greeks lived in the south. Stretching right across the middle of Cyprus is the 'Green Line': the UN Buffer Zone manned by troops from 5 countries – Britain, Canada, Austria, Sweden and Denmark.

Britain still owns part of Cyprus – two pieces of land called the Sovereign Base Areas based round EPISKOPÍ (West) and DHEKELIA (East). Therefore in this small Mediterranean country, four different administrations are at work, with varying degrees of efficiency!

Although myself and SSgt Muir were based at Dhekelia that did not stop us making full use of the opportunities available to UN troops. We were both required to make frequent trips to the UN (especially SSgt Muir) to liaise with our counterparts there. Our jobs were broadly similar to being back in the UK with some added 'interests'.

SSgt Muir as Service Funds Accountant had the problem of dealing with three different types of currencies, and communicating with half the Battalion 2 hours drive away; I had the problems of dealing with 4 police forces as well as organising a total of 29 visits (including the Duke or Kent), and all the PR work for the Detachment.

We both had the problems of a very active social life both at the UN and down in Dhekelia! It was not unusual to have to attend 6 or 7 functions in as many days. One particularly memorable occasion was when a Danish Colonel paid serious compliment to the Queen for 'providing such a beautiful mess dress for you to wear!' – much to the hilarity of my fellow officers!

For the Fusiliers, work on the line consisted of OP duties and guard duties. Each Fusilier became adept at briefing the many visitors to this OP and on his responsibilities. For commanders, the UN provided a unique chance to liaise with both Turks and Greeks as well as meeting counterparts from other countries.

In Dhekelia, Fusiliers again spent many hours manning vehicle checkpoints and guarding various installations in ESBA. Contrary to popular belief, Dhekelia is not 'Surf City' and many soldiers got a nasty shock when they realised the long hours of work required.

Despite being hard worked, most of the Battalion enjoyed the tour, and most were able to spend a week (or more) on adventurous training – either skiing, diving, parachuting, windsurfing or canoeing, as well as getting 2 weeks R and R. Many members of the Battalion flew home to wives and families for those 2 weeks, but both SSgt Muir and myself spent our leave visiting Israel and Egypt respectively.

As UN card holders an added bonus was the opportunity to travel freely over the whole island. North Cyprus is out of bounds to all Greeks living in the south, and for non-UN personnel there is very restricted movement.

As North Cyprus was forbidden territory, visiting it was perhaps all the more enjoyable. It is unlikely that we will return there, so both of us took the opportunity to spend time in more peaceful places as Bollapais Abbey, Kyrenia and north Nicosia.

Overall, although not the sunshine posting expected (we had the worst winter for over 20 years!), most members of the Battalion enjoyed their tour. SSgt Muir and myself have found the tour to be very busy, very rewarding, and very enjoyable and unfortunately for us unlikely to be repeated!

EXERCISE 'LION ROAM'

An expedition to Kenya in a Landrover by four intrepid WRACs from 9th Signal Regiment

Months of planning resulted in four WRAC arriving in Kenya for 3 weeks, instead of ten WRAC in 4 weeks. Despite this technical hitch four WRAC members of 9 Signal Regt, left a cool Akrotiri tarmac in December 1986 for hot sticky Nairobi, Kenya. Due to dangerous cargo on the flight the remaining six girls who had planned to be with us over the festive season were unlucky and didn't make it to sunny Africa. For their benefit and other unfortunates here is a brief narrative of the ups and downs of life in a safari Landrover.

Lt Sue Wilson, LCpl Lorna Kirk, Pte Sally Thorne and Pte Nicki Cole were the lucky four. After weeks of uncertainty we had made it. Disbelief turned to stark reality as on Friday 12 Dember 1986 we travelled via Cairo to Nairobi, courtesy of an RAF Hercules.

The British Army Training Liaison Staff – Kenya (BATLSK) team met us off the plane and bundled us with great speed to the British Barracks at Kahawa, Nairobi. Here we adjusted for the first few days to sticky temperatures, Kenyan drivers and the African poverty. Firstly we had to crack driving a Landrover. Despite a comprehensive 'Landrover driving course' we managed to break down less than a mile from the barracks (women drivers!). It was even worse when many inspections and a tow later, it was diagnosed as 'flooding'. Driver LCpl Lorna Kirk was suitably embarrassed!

The aim of the expedition was to attempt Pt Lenana (16,355 ft) on Mt Kenya. (The highest peak that is walkable without climbing expertise). But we were going to work up to this gradually!

We left the shelter and security of Kahawa Barracks and headed north 50 miles to Naivasha, passing fantastic views of the Great rift valley. By some amazing feat of navigation from our eminent leader (me!) we managed to find a camp-site down an incredibly long, dusty and bumpy track, at the Safariland Lodge.

After our first night in the 'bush', complete with man-eating ants, mosquitoes and grunting hippos, (heard but not seen), we moved out for the day to Longonot. This is an extinct prominent volcano in the Rift Valley. It took us a hard hour of walking and puffing to reach the crater rim. Two of us continued on to reach the summit at 9,111 ft. The thin air was hard work for everyone but the views of the Rift Valley, the Aberdare Mountain Range, the Mau Escapement and Lake Naivasha were superb. We moved on from Naivasha to Lake Nakuru a further 50 miles north. This bird sanctuary was teeming with life. The concentration of flamingoes formed a shimmering pink cover to the Lake. Large vulture type storks patrolled the edge, with hundreds of wader birds in the foreshore, on mudflats and sand bars. An 'ornithologist's paradise', but we were more interested in the four-legged inhabitants, especially the hippos which were rumoured to be along the north shore of the Lake.

Shanty towns and poverty

It was here that the poverty of some of the local people really hit us; tyres are cut up and used to make sandals, many walk barefoot. 'Rubbish' was displayed and sold on the road side. If you slowed down at a junction then children would run to the window to sell fruit or nuts. Beggars were on street corners, including many lepers and others suffering from elephantiasis. Large shanty town villages, made of cardboard and corrugated tin, had sprung up around rivers and water holes in towns. In these areas rubbish wasn't removed but just thrown into the street where children played. Never loud or very active the children just stared at strangers. We rarely heard a child cry. In Nairobi the shanty village of tin is burnt down every two years for diseases to be killed and people to start again from scratch. Food didn't seem scarce but the standard of living was very, very low.

Glorious mud

On reaching the Park we had time to spare before camping for the night, and so set off for some picturesque waterfalls. Unfortunately it had been raining in the Aberdares and the mud was running deep. As a result we got badly stuck twice, and never saw the falls! At one stage the rover was up to the body in mud and leaning at an acute angle to the left. The engine wouldn't start and we weren't going anywhere, forwards or backwards. LCpl Lorna Kirk was nominated to take her boots off and struggle through the mud to have a look. After unloading the kit we used knives and a machete to unblock one very full and muddy exhaust pipe. Amazingly the Landrover then started – and we continued on our puddle hopping tour. Rally driving and sliding techniques will have to be taught on the next Landrover familiarisation course! The struggle was well worth it as we stumbled across a very large herd of elephants, who stayed close enough for us to appreciate their enormous size. We stayed the night in 'Fishing Lodge'. This was basically a hut with communal area, sleeping room, toilet and cold, cold shower. Firewood was collected for us and a fire was soon blazing away. This helped to dry out a back-log of smelly and wet washing which was soon hanging around the room.

A 'guided' tour

A further 10 km up the muddy track was the Mt Kenya Park gates where we left the Landrover. We walked the 5 miles up hill to the Meteorological Station, where there was a hut which we had previously booked for the night. The walk, with packs, from 8,000–10,000 ft was very draining and took us 2½ hours. This was very good preparation and acclimatisation for the next few days.

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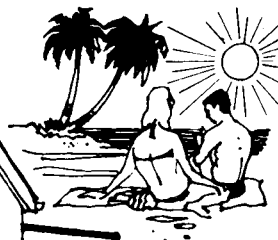
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After a cold night in the hut we started off at 0600 hrs, complete with guide and friendly American (who was sharing the guide). A short stint up a track and then to the infamous 'vertical bog'! this is the main obstacle for attempts up the mountain by this route. Luckily the rain had eased for a few days, making the going easier, although still very messy. Two hours later we emerged at the top of the bog to a glorious view across the Aberdare Mountain range where we had been only days ago. The final couple of kilometres were the hardest, but we eventually completed the 13 km journey in a very respectable 5½ hours. We reached Mackinders' Camp around midday with thick cloud sweeping up the valley. Occasional breaks in the cloud allowed marvellous sunlit views of the rugged snow covered peaks. It was hard to appreciate that we were only a few miles from the equator.

The final ascent up to Pt Lenana (16,355 ft) was started at 0300 hours the following morning. Unhampered by kit which we left at Mackinders Camp, we made good time.

The 'path' wound steeply up, crossing a glacier stream, towards the head of the valley and navigating a steep slope to the north of Shipton's peak. It was at this stage at 15,000 ft that LCpl Nicki Cole began to have problems, obviously altitude sickness. She felt dizzy and ill. Lt Sue Wilson who was also suffering at this stage, joined Nicki and turned back. It was a sad fact that 15,000 ft was probably the ceiling for altitude tolerance and it would take many hours or even days of acclimatisation to try and go on. LCpl Lorna Kirk and Pte Sally Cole struggled on upwards. The route continued up the Lateral moraine of the Lewis Glacier and then straight to the rocky bluff of Pt Lenana.

Pte Sally Cole almost made it, but sought refuge in the Austrian Hut at the side of the glacier and went no further. It was left to LCpl Lorna Kirk to complete the journey, so that one of the party had made it.

After a long and well-earned lie-in next morning we

travelled into Nanyki to cash some travellers cheques and by the Christmas carols that were being played gathered that it was Tuesday 23 December. We started the trek towards the coast where we wanted to spend Christmas.

With an exceptionally early start the next morning, we continued our journey towards Mombasa and remembered that today was Christmas Eve. No neon lights or messages of goodwill on this highway – only bright sunlight, the odd giraffe and a bit of tinseltown swinging from the dashboard of the Landrover.

We reached Mombasa at about 1100 hours, and weaved our way through the melee of traffic towards the town centre. For two nights over Christmas we booked into the luxury of the Castle Hotel which actually boasted electricity and hot water – also non-stop carols on the radio system. Had a great time washing clothes and hanging them from the windows. Later (after LCpl Lorna Kirk had crashed out for 3 hours) we explored the town – which was still open and teeming with life despite it being Christmas Eve.

After a Christmas meal of pizzas we retired to the Hotel 'promenade' to watch the world go by. We waited to see Christmas Day in and then were so shattered that we went straight to bed with Christmas carols ringing in our ears.

Christmas day was another hot sticky day, although the rain poured down most of the morning. We decided to try and find the Indian Ocean and go for a swim, but found the British Navy instead! We invited ourselves on to HMS *Nottingham* and were well hosted by the Petty Officers' Mess – who gave us a great tour of the ship. We were very grateful for their hospitality on this festive day – and the duty-free booze was a great bonus.

The following day we headed north up the coast to Malindi and after a couple of torrential downpours and a ferry journey we arrived at Silver Sands camp-site where the problem was finding a free space on the beach to erect the tents. The Indian Ocean was only 20 metres away and

we kept diving into it to escape from the intense heat. Unfortunately the ocean was not particularly clean and paradise smelt a bit!

During the last few days we hoped to see some game in the 'National Wildlife Parks' and so set off armed with cameras to see the sights.

We started our 'safari' (Swahili word meaning 'journey') into the bush and spotted many giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, impala (type of gazelle) and buffalo.

We stayed the night in a 'bantu' lodge. These were small 'houses' comprising beds, toilet and kitchen area. We had two (two beds in each) and settled our kit in them before leaving and travelling 20 km to Voi Lodge, a posh 'hotel' in the middle of the park. This oasis was the rich man's bed and breakfast for safari tours. It was similar to the famous Treetops Lodge, based around a water-hole which is floodlit at night for visitors to watch hippos wallowing in mud and lions drinking or alternatively, for the animals to watch humans getting steadily drunk in the bar!

We returned to the UK on Saturday 3 January and then eventually flew from there to Akrotiri, and back to 9 signal Regt. On our return we've all had a chance to reflect on the exciting 3 weeks and realise how lucky we were to have got there.

We will not forget the Kenyan people. A mixed, proud, tribal race who still seem to be coming to terms with the 1980s. Fascinating colours, the contrast of scenery and wildlife, these are but a few of the memories we will treasure of our trip to Kenya. Anyone want to go next year?

MOUNT PLEASANT AIRPORT FALKLAND ISLANDS

After battling with the harsh weather in England Draft 12 WRAC were pleasantly surprised to find the sun shining at RAF Mount Pleasant when we flew in on 16 January 1987. Our Tristar was escorted in as is the custom by two Phantom jets of 23 Sqn RAF. Whilst waiting to pick up our luggage we were briefed on the hazards of living in the Falkland Islands, in other words don't step on a landmine girls! There were other hazards however that they neglected to brief us on; the hairy ones, with two legs and deep voices for instance! More on that subject later.

On arrival we were met by our FOG's (Falkland Old girls) this made us FNG's (Falkland New Girls)! We were whisked away and led into the corridors of 'Death Star'. This complex at Mount Pleasant is very new and very large and with the windswept, barren hills all round it gives you the feeling you are living on a moonbase. It can be on first impressions very impersonal but once we had been 'lost and found' a few times it wasn't nearly as bad as we expected.

We live in Facilities, in fact some of us even work in Facilities! With the long, enclosed corridors you may never leave the building to get to work. A far cry from 'Tenko' in Stanley, where just going to the loo was a major expedition. Death Star however does offer us inmates a variety of amenities. There are 2 large gymnasiums with 8 squash courts, multi-gym and an indoor tennis court. Keep 'fat' classes are run every day. The Officers, SNCO's and Junior Ranks messes can all be found within Facility 12. There are 2 NAAFI Clubs, a NAAFI Shop and a Hairport. The football and rugby pitches are being grown but keep being eaten by the sheep! Such are the hazards of life in the Falklands.

'FI speak' is the language used. Such names as FILFY, the Falkland Islands Laundry Facility (what else!), FIASCO (Falkland Island Assistant Catering Officer) FIAT (Falkland Island Ammunition Technician) FIGOD (the Padre of course) reign supreme.

Working hours are long in the Falkland Islands. If you are on the RAF Establishment you work 6 days a week. If

you are lucky and are on HQ BFFI Establishment you work only 5½ days. Too much spare time is not a good idea here so no-one minds the long hours.

Without doubt the most exciting part of a four-month tour in the Falkland Islands is seeing the wild life. If you have seen one penguin you have probably seen ten thousand (plus taken just as many photographs) but they are the most entertaining of creatures. The elephant seals are an incredible sight, two tons of blubber sunbathing on a beach! (Memories of the 'keep fat' classes?) Fishing and birdwatching are activities you wouldn't normally dream of taking up at home but here you do. Nothing can compare with getting out to one of the Islands, like Bleaker Island or Sea Lion Island, and spending a day in what is still one of the few totally unspoiled parts of the world.

You need to have worked out an escape plan to get out of Death Star. By far the most comfortable way is by air. MINJO's (Men In Need of Jolly Outings) happen nearly every week courtesy of the Chinooks from 78 Sqn RAF. Teeny Weeny Airways (AAC) are great and always willing to carry an extra passenger if they have a spare seat. The most difficult way of escaping from Death Star is by vehicle. The 'Yellow Brick road' to Stanley should be the Eighth Wonder of the World. It is an experience not to be experienced.

Draft 12 consists of Sgt Anne Hopkins, the Chief Scrounger, Cpl Lynne Edwards and LCpl Angie Foxcroft who provide us with those all important blueis! In the Stores there are Cpl Gina Turner who is on her second tour and surprise, surprise, so is her fiancé! LCpl Louise Moore a very talented photographer, Pte Archy Archer and Pte Taff Cradle (the terrible twins), Pte Brigitte Dohoo who is going home early to her husband and Pte Stout our resident sports enthusiast.

Our 2 cooks Pte Lisa Caulfied and Pte Debbie Wilkie when not working can always be found fast asleep in bed! LCpl 'Madonna' Laver and Pte Jeanette Blythe can occasionally be seen emerging from the COMMEN. Last but not least we have a gaggle of Clerks: Cpl Sue Whitehead, LCpl Lorna Ridgway, Pte 'Frog' Page, and Pte Claud Jones all work in HQ BFFI. LCpl Lesley Dulston works in the Education Centre. The only other two members of Draft 12 not yet mentioned are Cpl Adrienne Wright and LCpl Tracy Clarke who both work in Stanley in blissful isolation from Death Star.

In conclusion Draft 12 WRAC are working hard but playing hard as well. We have planned with the help of the Cambridge Diet a Sponsored Diet to raise money for a local charity. Of course we also hope to be sylph-like for the husbands and boyfriends we have left 8000 miles behind!



Draft 12 WRAC in 'Loose Formation'.

REPORT FROM THE CAVES IN GIBRALTAR

Sgt L Ramsay WRAC

Gibraltar has never held the same fascination for me as it does for most people. I am not a particularly keen swimmer or at all interested in water sports or rock climbing. So, apart from enjoying the beautiful climate, basking in the hot sun on the beaches and drinking Sangria, Gibraltar was not all it was made out to be, for me anyway. This is until I discovered the Lower caves. I had been down on a trip as a matter of course early on in my tour and had been fascinated but no more. 'Your second trip is always the best' they told me. Sure enough on my second trip down I was hooked. I applied – along with the only other girl now qualified, the wife of one of the Royal Engineers stationed here – to be a Lower Caves Guide.

We did our training, which consists of 6 tours learning from other guides and one last tour on our own with a small group. Major Alan Kay RE, the Cave Custodian, tested us and we both passed.

The 'Caves' are a lower series of the St Michael's Cave complex which is used for Band Concerts and the like and belongs to the Gibraltar Government. The lower series belong solely to the Army who maintain them to the standard enjoyed now with lights and ropes to guide us along. They were discovered in 1942 purely by accident while the Royal Engineers were blasting through the rock to find a new entrance to an underground hospital. They have since been explored to their full and been maintained by the specialist Team Royal Engineers based here in Gibraltar. The caves are not offered as a tourist attraction and it is a special privilege for service personnel and their families and friends who manage to get on a tour. There are currently 20 military volunteer guides who put a lot of

work into it. A tour takes about 3 hours and entails negotiating obstacles and rope climbing in order to get through to the main part. Right at the end there is an enormous natural lake which we 'shimmy' around on a natural formation called rimstone which is about 4 inches wide at the widest point and about 1 inch in places. The water below is about 20 feet deep and anyone falling in receives a certificate. At times it is a bit like the adventures of Indiana Jones in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'!!

There are 37 miles of tunnels within the rock and only about 12 miles of main road outside which makes it a strange contrast. Most of the tunnels are used for storage these days and in the past have proved an important asset in the defence of Gibraltar.

The Lower St Michael's Series, as they are called, are living caves and form a wonderland of stalagmites and stalagmites which certainly are a wonder to behold. Each new group I take down are overwhelmed by their natural beauty. Having seen many of the underground caves in Yorkshire and at Cheddar I can safely say that for me the ones here in Gibraltar surpass them all for natural beauty.

The tours take a lot of physical and mental agility. Not only do we have to ascend and descend ropes and climb over boulders and jump ditches but we also have to coax others who are afraid of heights or are non-swimmers through the hazards.

Although at the end of a 3-hour tour I am physically and mentally exhausted, it has made my tour in Gibraltar worthwhile. Not only do I gain great pleasure from the caves themselves but it enables me to meet many people with whom I would normally have no contact at all.

So, if ever you are on holiday in Gibraltar, take my advice, contact the STRE, make it known that you are in the Forces and ask about a tour. They are the best part of the rock and you should not miss them.

WHAT DO THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME AND BONHAMS HAVE IN COMMON?

A major Auction of Militaria on 11th November 1987

On 1915 a sale was organised by the Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute who shared Queen Mary's concern about the future for badly disabled servicemen after their discharge from military hospital.

Sufficient money was raised to buy the Old Star and Garter Hotel at Richmond, which is the site of the present Home.

The Queen gave a silver Indian casket to be auctioned and two letters sent from Khartoum by General Gordon were also donated. These were just three of thousands of items donated to the huge sale which lasted for seven days. Goods ranged from a herd of Shetland ponies to a pair of knitting needles.

Now, seventy years on, military memorabilia is needed to help raise money for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who live there today. More than £3,800,000 has to be found every year so that the Home's important work can continue, and that is why Bonhams the London Auctioneer is planning a sale of Militaria to follow the success of the first one. Bonhams will give a percentage of the proceeds of this sale to the Home.

If you have any items of Militaria or Memorabilia that could be included in this Auction, please contact Lt Col Rodney Cotton at Bonhams.

Final date for entry of items for Auction, Wednesday, 16th September

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The Director WRAC meets the Greenfinches.

THE GREENFINCHES **Major J L Ransom WRAC**

The Greenfinches, as they are affectionately known, have been constantly on operations for nearly 14 years. They are unique. They live and serve within their own community in the fight against terrorism in Northern Ireland. Never before in Britain have a group of women served for so long from their homes, living under constant threat to their lives. Once they join the UDR they become a target for the terrorist for the rest of their lives, even when they leave.

Being commander of these committed, dedicated, courageous women is a privilege that will be echoed, I am sure, by all nine of the previous WRAC Majors who have served with the Greenfinches.

I have 758 women under my command and this is quite a remarkable responsibility for a newly promoted Major! They range from 17 years to 60 years old and they are single, married, with and without children and several are grandmothers. The majority are local girls from Ulster but several are English and many are married to serving soldiers of the regular army. They are from all backgrounds but all have the desire to see peace in the Province.

The Greenfinches have had 4 girls killed as a result of terrorist action which demonstrates the sacrifices some have to make.

The Greenfinches are highly trained first aiders and several girls have been commended officially for their first aid on actual casualties caused by terrorist action.

On operations on both foot and mobile patrols the girls search women and children under 10, they operate the radio, chat up the public, drive and search vehicles. They are professional soldiers who have specific jobs to do in both the urban and rural situation.

They are anonymous because of the threat against them! They are ladies with purpose in life. If you ever serve

in Northern Ireland, look out for the Greenfinches, you will always get a wonderful Ulster welcome.

UNIT NEWS **10 COMPANY WRAC** **2Lt J R Sneller WRAC**

10 company has had a most busy period since the last edition of *Lioness*.

Starting at the top! Company HQ has seen many changes. A new 2IC, Capt Wendy Morrison took over from '007' Capt Nicky Murdoch. Capt Morrison joined us from Guildford – and we're still trying to impress upon her our own more relaxed ways!

Capt Nicky Marshall took over from Capt Carol O'Nians as Admin Officer to be left with the all too familiar problem of the telephones being out of order, or the Hoover not working!

In the same month we saw 2Lt Tracey Woolford posted to Corps HQ, Guildford. Her Career with the Army has taken her from RMAS to Aldershot, and now to Guildford – a regular globetrotter! Her job should prove quite interesting, in fact she's probably editing this article.

Taking over from her is Lt Diana Windsor Brown, and the Company has also welcomed a new subaltern 2Lt Helen Bishop from RMAS.

Both have arrived just in time for our 2½ weeks rigorous Company Training Exercise in Weymouth. Apart from the military training side of life, we all hope to improve our tans down by the sea at HMS *Osprey*.

On the sporting score, the company has done well in many sporting competitions, namely winning the Army Cross Country Championships and the UKLF Orienteering championships. We also entered a few fun events held for charity organisations and came away with some more prizes. The events were the Frensham Ponds Fun Run in aid of the Phillis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice; Starlight Marathon – for Action Research for the

Crippled Child and a sponsored swim for the British Heart Foundation.

In March, some members of 10 company led by 2Lt Jayne Sneller went on Exercise Snow King – a skiing week in the Cairngorms, Scotland. Luckily there were no broken bones so 2Lt Sneller is keeping her fingers crossed for no mishaps in the coming Adventurous Training week in August named Exercise Flint Stone – caving and canoeing.

After such strenuous exercise, the girls of 10 Company can now relax in the redecorated and refurbished NAAFI, christened 'Cats Whiskers' and are making good use of the wide screen TV purchased from a grant given by Corps HQ.

To promote yet more interest in the large screen TV a 'Punk Nite' was held consisting of a video-disco Roadshow. We hope to stir even more interest in the big yearly summer thrash which, this year, is a Bavarian Night, organised by the enthusiastic members of the Entertainment Committee.

10 Company's cookhouse also had a major redecoration programme and was christened 'First Impressions' by Col Hutley. This obviously boosted the morale of our cooks who featured top in the Army Cookery Competition finals.

Cpl Gregory ACC (1 of 3 men in 10 Coy) made his claim to fame on local television and radio by winning the title of Cchef of the Year. There was a second place for LCpl Grieve in the Army Chef of the Year.



Brigadier Patterson DACC presenting Cpl Mawbey ACC with his LS&GC medal.

There were 2 Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presentations within the Company. SSgt Palmer was presented with her medal by the Garrison Commander Brigadier Mountford RA and Brigadier Patterson DACC presented Cpl Mawbey with his medal.

In recent weeks, 10 company has been hosting Royalty with the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha of Jordan. Princess Aisha who has just been commissioned from RMAS was accompanied by 2Lt Woolford over an action-packed two-week programme. Some of the action was work and some social which clearly tested the staying power and stamina of her detectives (and 2Lt Woolford). What a way to end her tour at 10 Company.

251 SIGNAL SQUADRON

On 1 June 1987, 3 Sqn 10 signal Regiment became 251 Signal Squadron. An independence celebration was held in the 'Cats Whiskers' Club at the Duchess of Kent Barracks. The function was organised by 2Lt Tina Taylor WRAC and our thanks go to all the many helpers who put so much effort into producing such a first-class event.

Such a happy event cannot hide some sadness at the demise of 10th Signal Regiment (HQ UKLF) and we hope

that it will not be too long before the three newly-formed Squadrons are able to arrange an event where old friendships are rekindled and new ones forged.

The complexion of Squadron HQ has not changed although there has been a lot of logistical changing around of offices to accommodate a new Tech Stores and larger Orderly Room. Even the MT did not escape and were finally brought upstairs to live with SHQ's office area – they also did most of the work!

On Monday 11 May 1987, Her Royal Highness Princess Aisha of Jordan, honoured us with a visit to the Duchess of Kent Barracks. Although 10 Coy WRAC were her hosts. Princess Aisha managed to find time to visit SHQ, the Aldershot Military Exchange and the COMMCEN.



Princess Aisha (left) makes her first FASTNET connection on Pte Kim Murphy's console.



Pte Helen Sainsbury and LCpl Diane Youd take a break from the rigours of punch-up to share a joke with the Princess.

On the sports scene, the Sqn has had two recent successes. Firstly, we won the South East District (WS) Volleyball competition. This was held at St Omer Barracks on 21 May 1987. The final was against our old rivals, 10 Coy WRAC with whom we share the Duchess of Kent Barracks. Whilst no one player was outstanding, special mention should be made of the excellent skills of Pte Roz Stanners and the great efforts of Pte Sian Rickward and LCpl Nancy Thorne.

The other sporting event in which we did well was the South East District (WS) Swimming. This event was held at the RMA Sandhurst pool and our team came second overall but won the South East District (West) Trophy. Cpl Khrishna Lawton won the breast stroke for the second year running.



Lt A Hyde with members of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards.

GUARDSMA'AM

Yet another male bastion falls! A member of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Lt Annabel Hyde, has just taken up her new appointment as Assistant Adjutant in Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards.

The 22-year-old Lieutenant from Osborne, Isle of Wight is the first female officer to be appointed Assistant Adjutant with a Household Division battalion.

Appearing diminutive alongside Guardsman David Martin from Thetford (left) and Guardsman Mark Bunting from Newbury, Berks, the 5 feet 4 inches Lieutenant is overjoyed with her new posting.

Not only has she joined one of the country's most prestigious regiments, but in doing so she has also returned to her birthplace. Born in Hong Kong she lived there for 9 years before returning to the UK in 1975.

WRAC IN HONG KONG

LCpl Karen Baxter WRAC

It's been a while since an article has appeared in the *Lioness* from our part of the world and so before I depart in September I thought I would give you all an update. Life has been busy for us this past year and 1987 is also 'hotting' up. So what's been happening?

We have said farewell to Cpl Relf who left for the RMP Training Centre but is now a fully fledged civilian. In her place we have Cpl Michelle Jenkins who is very keen and we have aches and pains to prove it! Cpl Sue Kirkham has moved on to Mill Hill and the new girl is Cpl Carpanini who is fast losing hair and sleep over something in her office called PAMPAS. The 2IC of Army Support Element and OC WRAC has also left to go to the Falkland Islands and doing a swap with her is Capt Cox.

The 21 October 1986 will be a day to remember as thousands of well-wishers gathered around Queen's Pier

to greet the arrival of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to Hong Kong.

As HMY *Britannia* sailed through the harbour, a 21-gun salute was fired from HMS *Tamar*, followed shortly by a flypast of Wessex helicopters from 28 (AC) Sqn RAF and Scout helicopters from 660 Sqn AAC as well as aircraft from the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air force.

Following her welcome at Queen's Pier, the Queen was invited to inspect the Guard of Honour, which was provided by 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. Afterwards it was on to a welcoming speech at City Hall followed by a visit to the Cenotaph where the Queen placed a wreath.

Throughout her visit, the Queen was held to a very full and tight programme, coming and going from HMS *Tamar*, to the cheers and waves of local families and school children. Although the visit was only a short one the atmosphere created was very exciting and exhilarating and it only leaves me to say that 'I'm very proud to be British.'

The 8 January brought the annual Offshore Sailing Adventurous Training Expedition, Ex DISTANT VENTURE VIII, which was held to give service personnel deepwater sailing experience. The WRAC representation came from various branches of HQBF and included Capt Cox, WO2 (CSM) Dennis, Cpl Kirkham (ASE), Cpl Woodland (JSIS) and LCpl Chinnery (247 Sig sqn). Here is LCpl Chinnery's account of her part in the exercise. . . .

'Imagine a coral island with white sands, clear blue seas and a cloudless sky. This was the normal scenery for Distant Venture. This is an annual sailing exercise on the yacht *East Wind of the Orient* which disappears to the Philippines in January and reappears in Hong Kong in May. I travelled on the last leg which was San Fernando to Hong Kong.

'The journey began when we flew from Hong Kong to Manila and embarked on what was to be quite a memorable experience. There we boarded a bus for Anchorage (where we were to meet the yacht). After five gruelling hours we reached out destination, as luck would have it we had just recovered from that ordeal to experience another, an earthquake. Our skipper was calmly ordering lunch, while we were wondering what was going on. The walls were shaking and the table moving when he informed us casually that this was an earthquake! It rather set the trend for things to come. Anyway we safely got to the yacht via one of the local bunkers. (Canoes with bamboo outriggers and not too stable.)

'We set sail that afternoon and spent several days cruising around coral islands and generally getting the feel of the yacht in preparation for our five-day voyage back to Hong Kong. To supplement our meagre rations we were able to reprovision from the islands. We had a bit of trouble getting out from one because the reefs were not where the chart said they were and we spent 10 minutes leaning over the starboard side to move the yacht only to run aground a further 5 minutes later.

'All this was done in the receding daylight as we tried to reach Salvador Island for a barbecue. We made the island just as the sun was setting, to feast on fresh fish, fruit and vegetables plus the local brew to end a perfect day.

'Our next stop was Bolenao, a small fishing village. An overnight sail ensured that we arrived in time to see a beautiful sunrise and an audience of local fishermen when we sailed in. The locals mobbed us and we had a very warm reception. As *East Wind* was a frequent visitor we were assured a friendly welcome and plenty of invites to the locals' houses, and the offers came flooding in. We were invited to the local fiesta of which the less said the

better, as it was a very wet affair! We left the locals in full swing, we were invited to stay longer but it was very tiring and we needed the rest. (Honestly we did!!) We returned to San Fernando for our last stock-up of provisions and final run ashore. The guys took us to a few local haunts which your mother would definitely disapprove of, but it was a good night out. We slipped out of the harbour on Sunday to sail back. We had never-ending sunshine across the South China Sea. The trip was made interesting by schools of dolphins and flying fish, which gave us free shows in the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately for us we entered Hong Kong in a howling gale on the last day but it didn't mar the rest of the journey. Reaching Hong Kong we were glad to be back but it did seem a shame to leave our tropical paradise we had lived in for two weeks. I know that the crew, all eight of us plus those who have also participated in the whole exercise will remember it for a long time.' . . .

Also in the month of January was the Y-Guan Trophy aimed to cause a bit of friendly competition between the WRAC, WRNS, QAs and HMS *Tamar* wives.

Throughout the 5 weeks that it ran, various competitions were organised which included an assault course, ten pin bowling and a Naval Gun Run (just like in the Royal Tournament only scaled down a little!). The points for each competition were totalled up and overall winners this year were the *Tamar* wives. Comd WRAC, Maj Halliday presented the prizes. Many thanks to Cpl Jenkins for organising the event.

Towards the end of January, the New Zealand Forces once again played host to HQBF personnel on the exchange trip, Ex LITTLE LOOK. From 29 January to 6 March, Cpl England (QMs) and LCpl Parker (247 Sig Sqn) flew out to Singapore for 6 weeks of 'supposedly' hard work returning with vivid memories of their tour. This was followed by LCpl Tomlinson (247 Sig Sqn) who participated in the second part of the exercise which ended on 17 April.

At the time of writing this article the WRAC, WRNS and wives have just competed in the local Dragon Boat Race. Disappointed in being narrowly inched out of the final the team thundered home in the Plate competition. Our winning time was in fact faster than the overall winners. Next weekend we are taking part in the Internationals where we hope all our hard training over the months will pay off.

Yes we are still sending our maidens off to the jungle for the third year running. This year we have 17 girls going to Brunei for some jungle orientation (is that possible you ask yourselves?). They have been training hard climbing everything there is to climb in Hong Kong as part of their stamina training. Our thanks go to WO2 Dennis who has put together a very comprehensive training schedule . . . on second thoughts do we really thank her for that!! We wish all the maidens good luck, they will no doubt be writing about it in the next edition of the *Lioness*.

Well, what can I say, the CATS hockey team have done it at last. Throughout the season, they fought very hard in the 14 games that they played, only losing one of them. This means instant promotion to the First Division so hopefully they can keep up the good work for next season.

Whilst on the subject of hard work, last year in conjunction with the WRNS we managed to raise £1,726 for the WRAC/WRNS Benevolent Fund and the UK Kidney research fund. This year we have been asked if we can raise funds for the corps Museum and later this week some of the girls have organised a Horse Racing Evening! So all in all life is pretty busy in Hong Kong and time flies by at a rapid rate of knots. We have a lot lined up for the remainder of the year and hopefully it will be as successful and enjoyable as the beginning.

WRAC STAFF BAND RECORD/CASSETTE

'RESOLUTE'

The WRAC Staff Band have recorded a new record, music on it is as follows:

Marches

ATS March
The Lass of Richmond Hill
Greensleeves
Swing March
Girls in Green
Drum Majorette
Sons of the Brave
Duke of Cambridge March
Resolute *written by Capt E P Forster*

Concert Music

Festive Overture *by Reed*
Waltz in Blue
Cole Porter Symphonic Portrait
Rockford Files
Trumpets Wild
Trombone Trocadero

Plus the Cabaret Group playing *Take Five* and the Dixie Group.

The cost of the record or cassette is £4.99 incl VAT. Postage and packing is £1.00.

For the first time ever the record will be available from record shops and on sale wherever the Band are performing, but orders can be made to the Band President at the WRAC Centre. Cheque/postal order made payable to 'Central Bank WRAC Centre'.

BAOR

HRH THE DUCHESS OF KENT VISITS 29 COY WRAC

ON 16 JUNE 1987

Lt G D Andrews WRAC

Returning to your old unit is always special but returning at the invitation of the OC and Comd WRAC BAOR to share in a royal visit is extra special and so it was with great pride that I travelled to Rheindahlen to 'cover' the visit of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent to 29 Coy WRAC.

After weeks of heavy rain in Germany the outdoor elements of the programme, were not looking hopeful. Leaden clouds accompanied the previous day's dress rehearsal throughout, and the heavy rain literally dampened more than just spirits. But the dry weather programme was rehearsed and fortunately was put into practise on the actual day, the skies cleared and the sun shone down, enabling the company to be shown off in its best possible light.

Security has been exceptionally high in Rheindahlen since the terrorist bombing, and understandably was particularly tight for the royal visit. Over twenty plain clothed security men were in the immediate area of 29 Coy HQ and a delightful collie cross called Polly, a 'sniffer dog' had cleared all the buildings.

HRH The Duchess of Kent was greeted at the start of her visit by the OC, Maj Westlake and the RSM WO1 Mitchell as Sgt Easterbrook hoisted the royal Standard. Accompanied by Comd WRAC BAOR, Col Robertson and her ADC for the day Capt Fiona Gibson, Her Royal Highness delighted the German Press corps who had turned out in full to cover the Royal visit, and slowly made her way along the 23 strong Guard of Honour stopping to speak to many of the girls on her way.

In Company offices HRH was given a full brief on 29



Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent greets Cpl Rafter after inspecting the WRAC Guard of Honour on arrival at 29 Coy WRAC.

Coy WRAC by the OC, and showed particular interest in the numerous sports cups and trophies displayed for her to see. The Orderly Room excitedly awaited her arrival, and after Capt Jo Bower the 2IC was presented she introduced Her Royal Highness to the waiting Administrative Staff, before she was shown into the PAMPAS suite to see how the Army's Personnel administration is now done by computer.

HRH then visited the WRAC Junior ranks accommodation and after a tour of several rooms, was introduced to each of the Platoon Officers, and members of their respective Platoons in the sitting room. The next stop was the Rheindahlen military training area. Military training was of great interest to the German Press as women do not play any part in their armed forces. Any myths regarding women being any less competent with weapons than their male counterparts were soon dispelled with LCpl Shea from 4 Signal Gp proving to be a very good shot with the SMG on the 30M range. WO2 Cardy, for whom this was her last day in the Army before retiring to open a business in Southampton, explained that all aspects of military training were taken very seriously. Several girls had just completed their NBC training, and were possibly very thankful to be clad in their protective clothing, as they avoided becoming a substantial feast for the resident mosquitoes in the area who quite evidently were not on a 'micro-diet'!

Time waits for no man – and if you are a WRAC reporter neither does the bus. Trodden underfoot by the

ever-chivalrous Press I was left behind to find my own way to the WRAC WOs and Sgts Mess some 4k's hence. One high speed RMP Squad car and a certain amount of BFT practise later ensured that I arrived in time to have the honour of having tea with Her Royal Highness along with the PMC of the Sgts Mess, WO2 Kaye from 1 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt, and the SWOPT BAOR, WO1 Taylor.

The Garden Party, with representatives from all units and departments employing WRAC, was a pure delight. The combination of strawberries and cream, Earl Grey tea and background music by the Band of the 4/7 Dragoon Guards provided the classical setting for a Summer Garden Party; the sun shone throughout and June was as it should have been.

Although the visit to 29 Coy WRAC was thus over, HRH then attended the official Queen's Birthday Parade and Reception which was a marvellous spectacle of Marching Bands and the British Army and RAF at its best. Many WRAC in the area worked extremely hard throughout the evening, acting as official ushers, hostesses, stewardesses and cloakroom attendants.

Thanks and congratulations go to all the WRAC who were involved in the months of hard work, careful planning and preparation which was needed prior to the visit. It was all worthwhile in the end, because the visit was a resounding success, and HRH thoroughly enjoyed all the events, and in particular meeting so many of the girls.

ROWING WITHIN THE WRAC

Capt L J Scott-Fox WRAC

Although we do not count as a corps sponsored sport (yet!) there is a small band of WRAC personnel in BAOR who have taken up the rowing challenge.

Cpl Jan Williams (6 Intelligence Company) must be given full credit for initiating the interest into this sport in Germany. As the Army did not have a rowing club in the area the team joined the RAF(G) rowing association who are affiliated to the Dutch rowing Club 'Aenaus' at Roermond.

Last year two crews consisting of: crew one – Cpl Dale, Cpl Marshall, Cpl Williams and LCpl Mathews. Crew two – Cpl Ball, Cpl Jelliman, LCpl Rowson and LCpl Mason all from 6 Int coy competed at the Joint Services Regatta at Peterborough. This was the first time that the WRAC had competed at this event and despite fierce opposition from the WRNS and WRAF achieved a commendable fourth place in the coxed fours event.

Due to postings the numbers were depleted over the Winter and once the ice had melted from the canals a slightly revised crew consisting of Capt Leslie Scott-Fox, Cpl Ann Marshall, Cpl Jan Williams, LCpl Sharon Mason and coxed by LCpl Maggie Rowson were back on the water preparing for the 1987 Regatta. We were very fortunate in having Lt Col T Kirkpatrick RE to coach us and he provided us with a gruelling training programme. (Marvellous for losing weight). The crew were given a boost of confidence the week prior to the Regatta by winning the ladies section of the Mini-head River Race at Roermond which is a course of 3km.

Despite the cold wet and very windy weather the women services BAOR Rowing Team qualified for the finals of the Coxed Fours Event after a very fast time in their heat. The final proved to be a very exciting race and we were narrowly beaten into second place by HMS *Heron*. It certainly made all the training seem worthwhile and blisters on the hands were forgotten!

We recently received a grant from the WRAC Nuffield Trust and purchased six lightweight blades. They have helped tremendously and we are very grateful indeed to the Trust for the grant.

On 26 May, Comd WRAC Col N R Robertson MBE presented the crew with their BAOR Sports colours; before LCpl Rowson departed for UK. Col Robertson has given the crew a lot of support and has watched us training at Roermond on several occasions.

Looking into the future with the departure of LCpl Rowson and Cpl Williams in the Autumn we will be hoping to get another crew together for next year. The Dutch League has started and the word is slowly spreading that rowing is a fun sport. It would be very nice to see more



BAOR Women Services rowing Team with Comd WRAC BAOR and the coach.

From left to right: Cpl Williams, LCpl Rowson, Col Robertson MBE, Cpl Marshall, LCpl Mason, Capt Scott-Fox, Lt Col Kirkpatrick.

WRAC crews competing at the regattas and giving the WRNS and WRAF a run for their money.

ANNUAL MILITARY TRAINING CAMP (WRAC)

1 PC REGT RE

Pte F Rogers WRAC

The WRAC element of 1 Postal and Courier Regiment Royal Engineers attended their annual military training camp at the Soltau/Luneburg training area over the period 12–17 April 1987.

The course assembled at a tented camp in a wooded area some 12 kilometres from Luneburg on a pleasant Sunday evening. After a briefing from the RSM and a meal, a bar stock was issued to the duty squad and the evening was free to relax. All very nice. Was this an indication of how the week would be? Not a chance!

Monday morning, Reveille 0600, BFT 0630, breakfast 0730, wash up the breakfast pans, clean the loos and be on parade for 0830.

Inspection by Lt Hay (borrowed from 32 Armd Engr regt and fondly christened Ma'am Sahib), and the RSM. Not even a loose thread on a buttonhole escaped.

We were then given a briefing about the SLIA by the Range Warden WO1 Bridgeman RMP. The rest of the day was spent learning about the four basic military skills – NBC, Map Reading, First Aid and Skill at Arms.

That evening we had another briefing from the RSM about how to look after ourselves in the field. The briefing included various subjects ranging from blisters to hexamene burners.

Tuesday morning – another 0600 Reveille followed by PT at 0630. The PTI Sgt Lindley wasn't the most popular member of the directing Staff but when it was over, we felt refreshed and ready for anything. The rest of the morning was spent learning basic tactics and how to work safely with pyrotechnics. Tuesday lunchtime we were issued with ammunition, pyrotechnics, rations and maps which were distributed to the sections before departing on exercise.

The first march was only 7 kilometres which doesn't sound much, but when loaded down with our webbing, including large packs, rifles and ammunition and an ambush en route was far more difficult than any of us anticipated. On arrival at our first RV we established a Patrol Harbour and were able to feed ourselves and ease our aching feet. Just to dampen our spirits we were issued the grid reference of our alternative location in case of compromise. It was 14 kilometres away!!

At the Patrol Harbour, apart from the sentries on duty, we snuggled up in our sleeping bags and tried to get some sleep. No such luck! at 0100 hrs we were rudely awakened by thunderflashes, small arms fire and flares. We had been compromised so off we went on our 14 kilometre march. It was pitch black and map reading wasn't easy. We found out later that DS were waiting in ambush on our anticipated route, but were fooled when we took an 'unorthodox', alternative route!

It took all night but we eventually arrived at our new location and established our new Patrol Harbour. The DS appeared at about midday and we knew something was about to happen. Lo and behold we were gassed and fired at. We also sustained a casualty who had to be given first aid and taken on a stretcher to the next alternative location. Thank goodness it wasn't too far.

At this point we were at our lowest ebb and there were definitely some sense of humour failures. To make things worse we were ambushed again en route. Our ambushers beat a hasty retreat however, and they were wise to do so, for we were not in the mood for lenience and ready for a torture session if we had caught them.

On arrival at our alternative location, the RSM met both section commanders at midnight and gave them a Grid Reference where a 4-tonner was waiting. The first section there would ride the rest of the way home. The second section would walk the rest of the way.

A 7-kilometre speed march was all we needed. Tired limbs were thrashed to the point of exhaustion over that 7 kilometres. On arrival at the 4-tonner both sections were close together and because of that effort put in by everybody the RSM allowed us all to ride back to base camp. We sang all the way.

Our final day in camp was relaxed. After weapon cleaning etc we played volleyball and were joined by the Comd WRAC BAOR, Col Robertson and our own CO Lt Col Brown. Col Robertson joined in the volleyball and proved to have the worst service ever seen. We appreciated her coming to see us however, a real boost for morale.

That night we finished off a very strenuous week with a party round the camp fire.

Final comment from the RSM 'I wish some of the men showed as much determination as the ladies when the going gets rough. Well done girls.'

DIVING WITH J BATTERY 3RD REGIMENT ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY Lt J V H Burrows WRAC

Every Assistant Adjutant knows how difficult it is to extricate herself from the office and persuade the boss that the regiment really can run without her. It was thus that I volunteered to take on the administration of Exercise SPANISH QUADRANT – adventure training on the Costa Brava at a diving centre called Estartit.

So it was early one morning that I found myself sitting in the LAD minibus with Landrover in convoy on the road from Paderborn to Spain with 12 soldiers from the regiment. It took us 26 weary hours of non-stop driving.

On arrival at the Castel Montgri campsite we were shown to very comfortable mobile homes and it was there that I met up with the Diver Supervisor, WO2 Bob Cotter. We took a trip into Estartit to the harbour to meet up with the boat owner, Peter Lane, who was our means of getting out to the Medas Islands where we would be diving and, more importantly, of obtaining compressed air.

Once the wind had abated, we spent a sunny two weeks diving twice a day completing a total of 18 dives and reaching a maximum depth of 30m. There were starfish, groupers, octopus, the poisonous scorpion fish and an abundance of sea cucumbers all to be seen.

The aim of the exercise was to further qualify divers up to sports diver level so in between dives there was a certain amount of theory work that had to be done.

After a fabulous two weeks the journey home was somewhat complicated with the minibus alternator packing up. As we were unpacking the kit outside J Bty, I could sense the buzz of telephones up to RHQ saying 'the diving mob had just returned from their holiday' – the penalties of having a suntan! Sure enough within 15 minutes the BK J Bty leant out of the window and gleefully announced I was to report to the Adjutant immediately.

I dumped my kit and dashed up to RHQ, we had just been given 'Active Edge Prepare'. I discounted any thought of getting any sleep for the next 24 hours!

6 INTELLIGENCE COMPANY EXERCISE CORSICAN BACKSTOP Cpl J I Williams WRAC

When volunteers were asked to come forward for a mountain walking expedition to Corsica, Cpl Lorraine Dale, LCpl Dee O'Donnell, LCpl Maggie Rowson and myself, jumped at the chance for a couple of weeks away

in the gorgeous sun. Little did we know what lay in store for us, and after weeks of special PT sessions and weekends walking in all weathers to get acclimatised the party consisting of four ladies all from 6 Intelligence Company and four men set out on 28 August 1986, led by our team leader Sgt Jon Lee. Our aim was to walk the GR 20 route across the Corsican Mountains.

The journey to Corsica took exactly 24 hours travelling through Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and then via a ferry from Savona to Calvi in Corsica. On arrival at our campsite in the foothills of the mountains at Calenzana, we were hot, tired and aching from the Berghans which we carried weighing about 60lb each. For girls of an average height of 5'5" and weighing only around 8½ stone, they seemed extremely heavy.

On 30 August we climbed over Capu D Pratu some 828m and upwards to Capa Ghiovu, 1,629m high. None of us had ever experienced anything like it before. It was tough, just rock, rock and more rock, but there were yet more arduous climbs ahead.



Ex Corsican Backstop. Left to right: Cpl Dale, LCpl O.Connell, Pte McMenamin, Lt Denyer, LCpl Rees, Cpl Williams.

The 31 August saw us moving from the campsite further inland to the Rostonica Gorge. Our overnight stop was at a small village called Nesa, and by kind permission of the mayor we camped in the local school yard. In the morning we walked down to l'Ile Rousse and caught a train to Corte. From the railway station in Corte to the next campsite it was a 6 km trek up hill. As the light began to fade it was decided to split the team into two groups, a fast one consisting of the men, and a slower group consisting of all the girls, in order that the fast group could go on ahead and book in at the campsite and then come back and help us with our loads. However this was probably the biggest mistake of the expedition as the men somehow managed to miss us on their way back down! On reaching the bottom of the road, without sight of us, the men became alarmed that something had happened to us, so Sgt Jon Lee went to the local police station and hospital to check if anything had happened to a group of four British girls. Meanwhile we had reached the campsite where we were settling down to a relaxing cup of hot soup!

The following day we trekked up the Ravine de Bravino, and learnt that French maps are not to be trusted! A contour interval of 20m represented by parallel contours of the map was actually a sheer rock face on the ground, and again we suffered from the sharp and awful thorn bushes ripping our arms and legs to ribbons.

On 3 September we spent a day walking in the Ravine de Rivisecco, but we stopped at one of the many waterfalls,

and all took it in turns to shoot down the waterside in our shorts and tee-shirts into a deep cool pool. It was most refreshing.

The next day we pursued our course up the ravine, determined to conquer the peak. Unfortunately, Maggie Rowson sustained a knee injury so she and Dee O'Connell stayed back at base camp, while Cpl 'Loz' Dale and myself went on with the men. The COI below Mount Rotundo, approximately 2,622m high, once the sun had moved over it became very cold indeed, at this stage the survival blankets came out. We tried to keep warm through the night, waking in the early hours of the morning to find everything including our hair covered in frost.

On 6 September we moved to a campsite just outside Bastia ready for our journey home. This last campsite was on a beach so we spent the last 2 days finishing off our already impressive tans and doing plenty of swimming.

We finally arrived back in Rheindahlen around midnight on 9 September after a fortnight of sheer hard work, definitely a case of 'Man against the Mountains'. We had walked over 130km in possibly some of the roughest terrain in the world.

It's no wonder we adopted the word 'STEM' (Strength Through Eternal Misery) and as Lt Denyer kept reminding us 'No pain, no gain'.

68 SQUADRON RCT Capt L A Taylor WRAC

It is surprising how many tasks one finds to do rather than sit and write *Lioness* Notes. If only I could find an interesting angle, an amusing phrase or a Subaltern to write this for me! However. . .

Following the Zeebrugge Ferry disaster 16 drivers were detached to assist in driving families and officials. This work called for compassion, understanding and dedication since, the hours were often long and unsocial and the passengers frequently required moral support. All the drivers under WO1 Bob Bustard and Sgt Cindy Wyllie are to be commended for all their efforts during the 5 weeks.

Visits by Royalty including the Queen, Princess Anne and Princess Alice have meant that the CP trained and VVIP drivers LCpls Jackie Walker, Heather Bruce-Jones, Debbie Booth and Pte Sharon Golder have been busy.

Work aside the Squadron has taken part in many sporting events. Notable achievements have included SSgt Brenda Smith, Cpl Pauline Doran and Cpl Juidith Haynes representing the Army in Hockey, Netball and Badminton respectively. Cpl Karen Griffith, LCpl Gail Travers, Pte Karen Staples and Pte Lynne Hebden were also selected for Inter-Service squads. At unit level, the Volleyball and Netball teams fought hard to gain second place in the inter-unit competitions, and the Orienteering team under Cpl Debbie Stevenson qualified for the Army Championships in the UK.

In April, 10 WRAC 'volunteered' to act as models in the Kays Catalogue Fashion Show. It was only after hours of practice on the catwalk and the promise of a free outfit of their choice after the Show, that it was announced than an audience of 400 would be watching! Nevertheless they all rose to the occasion raising DM2000 for charity.

It looks as though the latter half of 1987 will continue to keep us working and playing hard.

13 SIGNAL REGIMENT Lt N P Moffat WRAC

This has been a most productive past few months for the WRAC of 13 Sig Regt, largely characterised by time spent

filling up the RHQ trophy cabinet. Notable sporting achievements include winning the BAOR Inter Unit Cross Country Championships and coming runners-up in the Army finals, and more recently winning the BAOR Volleyball Championships. Regimental Tennis training has also taken a high priority recently, as we prepare to defend our League and Inter Unit winners titles this summer.

Meanwhile, on the home front a series of challenge matches have been staged between the Senior Ranks plus Officer and the Junior Ranks. Despite numerous attempts to fudge the results in the '13 Sig Regt WRAC Trivial Pursuits Championships 1987' the Senior Ranks eventually had to concede defeat to the combined trivial might of Cpl Elayne Brady, Cpl Lesley Swanwick, LCpl Karen Prentice, LCpl Sarah Moorekite and LCpl Phil Mattison. Rumours that the Seniors spent hours deliberating over each question only to surface consistently with the wrong answer are completely unfounded! In our defence however the Volleyball and Squash challenges were decisively taken by the Senior Ranks so honour was duly restored.

Approximately 20 WRAC were fortunate to be able to take part in Exercise SNOW QUEEN. On our return we discovered that the snow was as thick on the ground at Birgelen as it was in Bavaria.

In March I made the lamentable mistake of parking next to the terrorist car at Rheindahlen. Returning from an evening out, I discovered my precious car scattered about the garrison and suspended from the tree tops. Relating my tale of woe to all who cared to listen I was repeatedly confronted by ubiquitous quips such as 'who says cars don't grow on trees'? My thanks go to the WRAC who offered and gave help following the devastation.

The WRAC Expedition, Exercise Alpin Backstop, travels to Switzerland in July to trek across the Alpine Pass Route and discover pastures new.

We are also making a concerted effort towards training for Nijmegen and will be entering as part of the Regimental team in this year's march.



Left to right: LCpl Hilton, Lt Moffat, Sgt Robinson, SSgt Cranwell-Child, WO2 Livesley. Below Sgt Wilson.

EXERCISE TABEI TRIANGLE NOV 86 or Pte Murphy's Epic Adventure to NEPAL!

Exercise Tabei Triangle was an adventurous trek along the Nepalese Himalayas. The exercises's name originated from the first Japanese lady to climb Mt Everest in 1975. The small group consisted of Capt Elspeth Mollison, Sgt Tina McMahon, Mrs Amanda Faucher and myself, Pte Hilary Murphy.

After months of vaccinations and gruelling preparations we set off armed with the essential rucksacks, walking boots and sunglasses bound for Kathmandu.

On arrival a pleasant 18°C welcomed us to this historic city. The narrow streets were congested with bicycles, cows and cars. The dusty make-shift roads were bumpy but the buildings were spectacular.

Eventually after much haggling and bribing we bought the essential trekking permits, which would allow us to legally walk the famous trek from Jiri to Everest Base Camp over a 3-week period. To reach our starting point required a day's travel on a bus that looked as if it had come straight from a hippie commune.

After some amazing mountain scenery we arrived at Jiri tired, hot and a little numbed from our 12 hour marathon journey. We spent the night in a teahouse, which was comfortable but far from hotel standard. Our first meal was admittedly treated with a little suspicion, but as hunger took over we tucked into tasty *dhal bhat*. This traditional meal consisted of rice with a lentil base sauce, sometimes served with vegetables.

The Nepalese people were sadly poor, but very friendly. They appreciated our feeble attempts at the Nepalese language, taught to us by a helpful Gurkha back in camp.

Through the trekking agency we had hired a Nepalese guide, Kammwe, and several porters. The porters would carry most of our equipment whilst we struggled with day packs.

The daily routine then began with reveille around 0630 hrs, pack the tents away (when not staying in a teahouse) and begin walking 0800 hrs. We would then walk up till mid-morning when we would stop for brunch at a teahouse along the trail. The walking would continue till around 1600 hrs. Once darkness fell the temperature dropped and we eagerly awaited our evening meal at 1900 hrs. Exhaustion took over by 2030 hrs so it was time to crawl into the sleeping bag.

Our rapid ascent to the Sherpa capital, Namche Bazar allowed us to stop after 9 days consecutive walking. The day's rest was essential at this point to help us to acclimatise to the high mountain levels.

The trail continued further up into the mountains. We passed more incredible scenery and mighty Everest was in sight. Higher still we climbed to see yaks grazing in the sparse fields. The scenery gradually changed to a bland glacial environment.

Our final conquest, the ascent of Kala Patar (5548 m) was achieved a few days later – 500 m higher than Everest

base camp. This arduous stoney trek was well worth seeing the best view of Mount Everest. Celebrations began with a bar of rationed chocolate and a sip of a Tia Maria miniature left from our flight.

The exercise had been a great success and we had all achieved what we set out to do. The experience of a lifetime is the only way I can express such an adventure. I would gladly save up the money to see this beautiful country again.

PARACHUTING

LCpl C M Wallace WRAC

I am the first and only member of the WRAC at the Joint Service Parachuting Centre (JSCP) at Bad Lippspringe. In February, I started on a year's detachment as an Assistant Parachute Instructor, working alongside 20 male soldiers in the training of military personnel on Basic Freefall Parachuting Courses. The work we do is hard, both physically and mentally, and our average week is a 7-day working week, 8.00 am – 10.30 pm each day! As the only female I am required to work just as hard as the guys if not more so as I am under constant scrutiny from my seniors, compatriots and course members. I am also the only representative of the WRAC which means that I have to make a very good impression so that future attachments can be viewed favourably.

When I first started my detachment here the men unfairly thought I would have an easy time being the only female member of staff in a male dominated environment, but after being here for 5 months and being expected to do the same physical work as my male counterparts they have accepted me as one of the crew and don't give me any special concessions. I must admit at times I wish they would!

My job title is Assistant Instructor but I can assure you that my job involves a lot more than just instructing. We have to do all the manual labour within the centre, ie building, painting, cleaning. I believe that by the time my tour here ends, I will be a qualified brickie, mechanic, painter and cleaner as well as a skydiver. Despite all this, I do thoroughly enjoy the work especially the actual parachuting and teaching.

Parachuting is, at the moment, almost totally male dominated. So far this year we have had three females on courses and that is out of 200 students. Let us try and follow the first British gold medal holder, Sgt J Smith WRAC, and show that we can be as good, if not better, in Adventure Training Activities especially Parachuting.



WRAC Association Grand Reunion ATS Golden Jubilee

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 1988

Afternoon

Service of Thanksgiving – St Paul's Cathedral

HM The Queen, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and HRH The Duchess of Kent have been invited.

Preacher – Rt Reverend Ronald Gordon, Bishop to the Forces.

TICKETS ARE AT NO COST TO INDIVIDUALS

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 1988

8.30 am	Barbican opens.
11.30 am	Branch Secretaries Meeting.
12.30 pm	Council Lunch for Branch Secretaries.
2.30 pm	AGM in Grand Hall of Barbican (entry by membership card).
6.00 pm	Buffet Supper in concourse (no food to be taken to Grand Hall).
7.30 pm	Evening Entertainment in Grand Hall with very well-known stars from the stage, television and radio plus the Staff Band of the WRAC – Director of Music, Captain E P Forster.
10.30 pm	Reunion ends.

COSTS

Tickets to St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 7 October 1988 are at no cost to individuals although a collection will be taken. Tickets for the Grand Reunion in the Barbican on 8 October 1988 are at an all-inclusive price of £15. This includes entry to the Barbican all day, the Buffet Supper, the evening entertainment. Separate tickets will be issued for the entertainment and the supper for control purposes but as the Association is subsidising both events they cannot be separated in the costings.

Entry to the AGM will be by display of Association membership card.

Members are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

British Rail are offering concession fares and hotel rates for rail travellers and special rates in their hotels for Association members travelling by other means. A leaflet giving details is enclosed.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion ATS Golden Jubilee

APPLICATION FORM

(Application can only be made by the individual named. You cannot apply for someone else)

Surname..... Title/Rank..... First names Address Postcode..... Association Branch..... Army No Date of Enrolment..... (If known) (If known)	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Date received..... Member YES/NO Life/Annual Length of membership..... Subs paid for 1988 YES/NO Branch confirmed
I wish to apply for tickets for the following events: Service in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 7 October 1988. (No cost) AND/OR Reunion activities on Saturday 8 October 1988 including Buffet Supper and entertainment. I enclose my cheque/PO for £15 payable to WRAC Association for events on Saturday 8 October 1988.	TICKETS SENT TICK HERE ☐ TICK HERE ☐ TICK HERE ☐ St Paul's Supper Entertainment ☐ ☐ ☐
NOTES 1. ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED. 2. TICKETS AND PROGRAMME OF EVENTS WILL BE SENT OUT IN MID-1988.	Receipt: Attach here Send to: CORPS HEADQUARTERS WRAC QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK GUILDFORD SURREY GU2 6QH Telephone: 0252 24431 Ext Guildford 8583

PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS FORM ARE ACCEPTABLE

SPORT

BADMINTON

INTER SERVICE COMPETITION

1987 was the Army's turn to host the Inter Service Competition. Having narrowly won the team trophy in 1986 for only the third time in the 34 year history of the competition (the WRAF have won it on the other 31 occasions) we knew the WRAF would be back with renewed determination to regain the trophy.

We welcomed four newcomers to the team this year, Pte Stacey Shearer from RARDE who played singles and doubles with Cpl Judith Haynes, Pte Morag Christie from QATC who played doubles with Sgt Dawn Southern, LCpl Prentice from 13 Signal Regt who played singles and QPte Angela Siddell who also travelled across from BAOR.

Cpl Haynes and Pte Shearer were the success story of the tournament and remained unbeaten in 3½ days of hard competition, winning the ladies doubles tournament. Both these two and Pte Lyn Hebden and QPte Angela Siddell playing second couple provided some very exciting badminton, keeping spectators on the edge of their seats for hours on end. The final result however did not come our way this year but yet again went to the WRAF by 7 rubbers to 5. In the Individual Tournament Cpl Haynes featured again in the finals. In the singles she was narrowly beaten by PO WREN Sharpe.

We now await for next year when revenge will be sweet!

BERLIN TOUR – MARCH 1987

By kind invitation of Comd WRAC and G3 PT HQ Berlin Inf Bde the Army Badminton team went to Berlin in March this year. For most of the team it was their first

visit to 'The city that never sleeps' and for Pte Morag Christie her first time flying. After a rather bumpy flight we were all thankful to make a safe landing in West Berlin. Determined to see and do as much as possible in one week, there was hardly time to unpack our bags before we were on the Autobahn to the city centre and up to the top of the Funkturm for a panoramic view of a very wet West Berlin.

Day One was devoted to training and a tour of the Western sector which was conducted at breakneck speed, stopping at places of interest only long enough to leap out of the mini-bus, take a photograph and leap back in again.

Our first match was against a Berlin combined Service team. Representing the Army in the Ladies singles, Pte Stacey Shearer, Pte Morag Christie and Cpl Angie Irving all had excellent wins. In the Ladies doubles Cpl Westley and Pte Christie won both matches and Pte Shearer and Cpl Irving won one and lost one. The men were equally successful in their match and in the Mixed we won two and lost one. We celebrated in one of Berlin's many Indonesian restaurants before some team members, still with energy to burn, went in search of a disco and others went back to bed.

The next morning a guided tour of east Berlin was the first of several visits to the Russian sector and is definitely the best way to see this part of the city.

The next day we had a match against a local German club who provided harder opposition than our first match but when we discovered the first lady was the Berlin champion Pte Shearer did not feel so bad about losing her singles. The final result was 15 rubbers to 6 to the German club. After several more training sessions in preparation for the Inter Service competition, two hectic shopping trips to East Berlin and an evening meal in one of east Berlin's top hotels, we were pleased to return home for a rest.



Badminton Squad. Front row left to right: Cpl Westley, Cpl Murray, Cpl Haynes, Sgt Southern, LCpl Prentice, QPte Siddell, Pte Christie, Pte Shearer and Pte Hebden.



Ex Spartan Hike. Back row left to right: Capt Stone, Capt Caddick, LCpl Stevenson, LCpl Burns, Capt Raine, Capt Paxton. Front row left to right: Lt Bradley, LCpl Smith, Cpl Aga, Maj Crinson, Capt Ford.

ARMY LADIES SKIING EXERCISE SPARTAN HIKE 87

On 4 January, 14 hopefuls departed from their units in UK and BAOR to participate in Ex SPARTAN HIKE, a 5-week exercise aimed at training and selecting a team for the Inter-Services in Courmayeur, Italy. They were to be joined later by the Team Manager Capt Caroline Paxton and Capt Carolyn Caddick. After a fairly epic journey which included a Landrover which had to be left running or hand cranked when stopping (very embarrassing when moving off the ferry) the BAOR and UK contingent met up in Fulpmes, Austria.

The team were straight into training on arrival, which had some of them moaning about jet lag. However, their trainer, affectionately known as 'Starsky' (what else with a surname like Hutchinson) was relentless and unmerciful. The 5 days training paid off and the team were glad of it by the time the 3 Div Meeting started on Tuesday 12 January 1987. For some of the team the 3 Div Races were their first experience of ski racing and they discovered just how nerve-wracking and demanding it can be, standing in the start gate with the wind blowing a gale, a temperature of 10°C and 60 gates ahead of you knowing there was only one way to go! The results of the 3 Div Meeting were good. LCpl Anita Burns was first lady having come first in both the slalom and giant slalom. Capt Carolyn Caddick came second and Capt Vanessa Raine third.

At the end of the 3 div Meeting, 5 of the team returned to their units, the UK girls returned in the more faithful of the Landrovers. As Pte Debbie Hill had her leg in plaster an offer of assistance in driving them by the Royal Engineers was gratefully accepted. However by the time we had loaded the Landrover up we weren't convinced we'd had a good deal as there was barely enough room to breathe in amongst skis, boots, kit and Royal Engineers! Those returning to BAOR had a much better deal riding in comfort in an escort XR3i.

Ten of the girls had been selected to go forward to the Army Championships, LCpl Anita Burns (68 Sqn RCT), Capt Vanessa Raine (HQ RSME), Capt Carolyn Caddick (CRLS HQ NWDIST), Lt Alison Bradley (Trg Bn & Depot ACC), Maj Barbara Crinson (7 Dental Gp), LCpl Karen Smith (3 Trg Regt RE), Cpl Tela Aga (4 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt), Cpl Fay Stevenson (HQ 4 Sy Coy), Captain Annie Ford (4 Sqn, 16 Signal Regt), and Capt Sue Stone (9 AEC). For the last week the group were joined by their secret weapon, Scott Dobson, the former Army Champion, now a ski instructor in Edinburgh, who was to

coach the girls for the remainder of the Army Meeting. Capt Caddick won the Slalom and LCpl Burns won the Giant Slalom with LCpl Burns coming first in the Army Ladies Combination. We were lucky to be visited for the last few days by Comd WRAC BAOR, Col N R Robertson MBE who is now the Chairman of Skiing. In spite of the fog, mist and snow, Comd WRAC came up the mountain to watch the races and have her first lesson on skis. Col Robertson was also present for the Army prize-giving and was able to award the McFie Cup which has now been redesignated to be awarded to the best newcomer to Army Ladies Skiing. This year it was awarded to Lt Bradley, another first this year was the award of Army Team Colours to Captain Caddick and LCpl Burns.

An early start was made for Italy on 1 February 1987. again it was sad farewells to those who were not travelling on and had done so well at the Army Meeting. Those selected to go on were LCpl Burns, Capt Caddick, Capt Raine, Lt Bradley, LCpl Smith and Cpl Aga. The journey to Italy was long although very scenic and had to be accomplished at speed to get the team settled in Courmayeur and ready to race by the following day.

The Inter-Services competition was fought hard from the first race. Whilst the WRAF had the first lady in the giant slalom race, Capt Caddick and LCpl Burns came in close behind putting the Army just ahead on time. The results were the same for the slalom. This although the individual combination was won by Cpl Stephanie Robinson of the WRAF, the Wilkinson Sword Inter-Service Trophy was retained by the Army Ladies Team.

For the first time two of the team, Capt Raine and LCpl Burns were invited to participate in the British Championships to be held in Courmayeur during the following week. The dates of the races were changed once the competition started which meant they were only able to compete in one discipline, the slalom. However, they came 6th and 7th respectively which was a very creditable result and a great feather in our caps as it is the first time any Army ladies have entered this competition.

As a postscript we must thank Sealink who provided free crossings for our Landrovers and passengers and Berghaus who gave considerable reductions on equipment purchased from them.

TENNIS

TOUR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The setting: Brize Norton, wednesday 27 May. A misty morning at 3 am. Six tennis hopefuls and a dozen racquets from the four corners of the Service empire converge on an RAF Movements Check-In Desk.

The Situation: Desperate. Six people trying to squeeze into two known vacant VC10 seats. Lt Richardson, keen to negotiate the small(!) problem of lack of seat space... volunteered herself to the RAF as auxiliary crew member. Frantic speculation continued until 4 am when a miraculous 'all clear' signal was given; duty passengers had failed to turn up! the rush began to check in before any of the duty passengers decided to turn up.

The Scene: America and a downtown motel. The Army ladies Tennis Tour of Washington had begun! The motel staff seemed to adjust quite quickly to these strange English tennis players. We set about establishing a routine for our few extra practice days, before the matches proper began. With temperatures nudging the middle 90's and humidity at a similar level we soon discovered that early morning sessions were the solution. This fitted in conveniently with...

The Sightseeing: Midday sightseeing trips were fitted in and around tennis commitments. Capitol building was

seen, the museums visited and American ice-cream discovered near the White House.

The Tennis: (Oops nearly forgot.) Edgemoore Club; our first serious match. This was a small wooden club-house with verandah and four old men playing doubles. However the appearance belied the tennis standard. We fought vainly for a couple of singles wins! Throughout the afternoon tennis racquets were seen swinging wildly not only at tennis balls, but also at a plague of locusts which were hitting DC with vengeance! Our opponents told us that these creatures appear in swarm once every 17 years . . . the sound effect of thousands of these things was like something out of *Alien*.

Columbia Country Club. A scene from Dallas . . . an imposing white mansion set by a rolling golf course. Lunch consisted of cubes of delicious melon, cocktail sticks, dips and iced lemonade. We won this match quite easily and their captain told us that she was going to phone round to our other opponents and tell them to produce an American 'A' team. Our WRAC plaque was received with much typical American enthusiasm.

Skyline Racquet and Health Club. We were certainly being treated to the complete spectrum of American tennis clubs. This one was a city indoor complex built to feed the 'body mania' of the Americans. Apart from the 'tennis fluid' indoor courts there was also an indoor fitness arena with scores of people riding nowhere on exercise bikes, jogging around an indoor circuit, and the inevitable beauty parlour!

Aspen Hill Racquet Club. This was another luxurious fitness centre/tennis club in a structure approaching the size of a hangar. The hospitality and tennis here was superb. So horrified were the opposition when we told them that we had to pay £12 for a tube of tennis balls that they presented us with a free tube each! Tennis balls retail at £2 for 3 out there, and the Sec A(W)LTA contemplated financing the whole tour through sales back home!

These then were the main highlights of the tour, although additional matches and practices were arranged with Fort Myers Officers Club and we scrimmaged briefly with the men's team of the University of the District of Columbia. And finally . . .

The Tributes: To LCpl Callow for her ability to navigate the streets of Washington while sitting backwards in the boot of the team car. . . .

To Lt Richardson for her tennis tutorials each morning. . . .

To Pte Shackleton for keeping her cool while the Secretary A(W)LTA was driving her the wrong way round the Washington beltway in the rush hour while she knew the deadline time for her flight home was rapidly approaching . . . 2½ hours to travel 25 miles!

To Pte Shackleton, again, for getting straight off the plane on Friday and on to the tennis court. No such thing as jet-lagged tennis.

To LCpls McNair and Callow's instant acceptance of American culture – colourful(!) cotton shorts and tops bought downtown. . . .

HELP REQUIRED

Air commodore Dame Felicity Peake DBE AE is looking for a female retired officer, living in London, to do voluntary work at the Imperial War Museum. The job will involve working on the PR side of the membership section in the office of 'The friends of The Imperial War Museum'.

Further information can be obtained from:
Dame Felicity Peake 01-629 1264 or a message can be left on 01-735 8922 ext 255.

BOOK REVIEW

A WOMEN'S WAR – LIFE IN THE ATS

by Margaret Dady

Published by The Book Guild Ltd

25 High Street, LEWES, East Sussex

Price £7.50

Margaret Dady joined the ATS and was posted to the Intelligence Corps after basic training. She served as a Lance corporal with a unit in Hampstead until her demobilisation. Subsequently she went to Dusseldorf to work with Control Commission as a civilian, and there she met and married her husband. Sadly, Margaret Dady died in 1984, and the book has been published as a tribute from her husband.

Before the war the author was a freelance journalist and illustrator, and this book is a series of antidotes, recorded informally and humourously about events in the ATS. We never learn anything about her work, which was no doubt very secret except that she was recruited with the prospect of going to India, where she had lived as a child, but this never materialised.

Events at the Training Centre and War Office Selection Board are graphically and amusingly described, and one suspects that her irreverent sense of humour got in the way of a commission. She spent VE Day as thousands of others did, outside Buckingham Palace and inside the pubs. The book ends with a detailed description of demobilisation, and even that final event had its funny side. What a pity that this book was not published in her lifetime, when we might have had her own illustrations or some photographs.

FOCUS ON THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS

(The following is based on the Annual report of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent funds. Although copies of the report are sent to branches of the Association and units through the chain of command, the aim is to give to a wider circulation a knowledge of the work of the Funds.)

The Trustees of the Funds meet twice a year to determine policy, approve the accounts and issue guidance for the operation of the Grants Committee which is the main channel for getting help to those in need.

The Benevolent Fund office is within Corps HQ and is staffed by the case Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Laurence-Smith who has been with the Funds for 12½ years and deals with all the cases sent to the funds by agencies such as SSAFA, Forces Help Society, DHSS, Royal British Legion, Association Branches and other organisations. Once investigated the cases are taken to the Grants Committee for decision.

Lt Col M W Soames has been Chairman of the Grants Committee for 14 years and as well as its permanent members who are retired officers approved by the Trustees of the Benevolent Funds, the Grants Committee also has a different serving officer and warrant officer as members at each of its meetings to ensure that as wide a range of opinions and experience as possible can be used to make decisions. Once a grant has been approved by the committee it is sent to the agency which investigated the case for them to disburse the money according to the decision of the committee. Money is not given directly to the individual.

In 1986 the Grants Committee met every fortnight throughout the year and a total of 849 cases were considered.

An analysis of cases dealt with by the Committee is shown:

	ATS	WRAC & QMAAC
General distress due to ill health, debts etc	95	58
Clothing	66	31
Beds and Bedding	19	7
Light and Fuel	102	40
Furniture and Furnishings	90	41
Funeral Expenses	24	3
Removal and Storage Charges	9	4
Railway, Bus fares etc	6	8
Holidays, Convalescence	36	7
Maintenance, Nursing Home Fees etc	16	8
House repairs, decoration	31	5
Rent, rates and Mortgage	29	18
Telephone Installation and Accounts	30	4
ABF Loans to serving soldiers	-	2
Medical expenses, Wheelchairs, Spectacles etc	8	2
No grants made	29	21
	590	259
	TOTAL: 849 (includes 2 ex-QMAAC)	

In the case of the ATS this reflects an increase of just under 19% compared with the last financial year. In the case of the WRAC the increase is one of 39% – a reflection of the growing dependency of the WRAC on the funds.

The amounts spent on grants in 1985/86 was £130,337 as against £96,739 in 1984/85; an increase of 34 per cent. It may be of interest to note that during the last 11 years ie 1974/75 to 1985/86 the number of cases dealt with has more than doubled and the amount spent on grants has increased from £9,350 to this present figure of £130,337.

The Trustees are very grateful to all those who make donations to the Funds but, in particular, the serving members of the Corps, who subscribe under the Day's Pay Scheme for without their help the Funds would never be in a position to cope with such a large number of cases and such considerable expenditure. Seventy-five per cent of servicewomen now covenant their donations and the amount recovered from the Inland Revenue from these covenanted donations amounted this year to £16,166.

The Trustees approved a donation of £6,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund who are always so helpful and respond so generously to all major cases submitted to them. As well as helping in individual cases where our own funds have been unable to meet the full amount of financial aid requested, the Army Benevolent Fund provide Annual Supplementary allowances to five ex-servicewomen who are suffering particular hardship.

The Army Benevolent Fund also made Interest Free Resettlement Loans to a Warrant Officer and Senior NCO towards the purchase of furniture and furnishings prior to retirement from the Corps. There is no doubt that the loans are of tremendous help in making the transition from service to civilian life.

The funds are providing 107 television sets under a Television Rental Scheme with Thorn EMI Business Communications at a cost to the WRAC Benevolent Fund of £6,500 for the year. In addition, the funds are paying for 85 licences. This service is offered to selected elderly women who are to some degree housebound, who live alone and are dependant on their television for company and of course are having to manage on a very basic income.

The ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds in conjunction with the Army Benevolent Fund have been able to arrange for one week holidays at Pontin's and Haven Holiday Centres for nine one-parent families and their children. The ABF pay the fares to the holiday centre and for the holiday itself while the ATS/WRAC Benevolent funds provide a subsistence allowance and the pocket money for both the mother and her children.

Finally, readers may be interested to know of some

organisations who can offer residential help for servicewomen in a variety of circumstances from convalescence to full-time rented accommodation and help for the disabled whether or not caused by war.

Douglas Haig Memorial Homes

Alban Dobson House

Freen Lane

MORDEN Surrey SM4 5NS

01-648-335

(841 homes for rent in the UK to ex-service personnel and their dependants)

The Royal British Legion Homes

c/o 48 Pall Mall

LONDON SW1Y 5JY

(Homes at Broadstairs, Cromer, Ripon, Brecon and Warwick)

Royal Star and Garter Homes

RICHMOND

Surrey

Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation

446 Fulham Road

LONDON SW6

01-385-2110

(138 self-contained units for the disabled with medical help in a family atmosphere)

Scottish Veterans Residences

33-34 Charlotte Square

EDINBURGH EH2 4HF

(Homes in Edinburgh and Dundee)

Housing Association for Officers Families

Alban Dobson House

Green Lane

MORDEN

Surrey SM4 5NS

(Assistance to dependants)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Annual General Meeting 1987

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on Saturday 11 April 1987 at 2.30 pm.

The Chair was taken by Brigadier A Field CB, Vice-President of the Association who welcomed 220 members to the meeting. She said that with the Grand Reunion next year she was aware that attendance would be smaller than usual. In the event it was a very commendable turnout and she thanked members for their support.

A message of greeting was received from the Canadian Women's Army Corps Unit No 47 of the Canadian Corps Association.

An Association-wide Policy had been negotiated on the Insurance of Branch Standards and Standard Bearers and Public Liability. Branches could obtain details from Association HQ.

The Chairman of Council, Colonel E J Bowles said that the number of Association Branches had risen to 64 with new branches having been approved in Andover, Cleveland, Grimsby, Inverness, the Isle of Wight and Stockport. The Folkestone and Dover Branch had closed.

The strength of the Association had risen to 8276.

226 tickets had been issued to 25 Branches for the Remembrance Day Parade and Service in Whitehall. Wolverhampton Branch had laid the Association wreath.

Council had rejected a resolution calling for a March Past during the 1988 Grand Reunion.

Council had approved a resolution that priority for tickets for the 1988 Reunion would be given to Association members on a first come first served basis.

The Chairman of Council paid tribute to Major Parker on her retirement after 10 years as editor of *Lioness*.

Mrs E Laurence-Smith, the Honorary Treasurer said that the accounts for the year ending 31 October 1986 had shown an excess of Income over Expenditure of £7,297 and the General Fund stood at £76,823 which was a healthy state. However, it was to be expected that there would be heavy expenditure on the Museum Redevelopment and the 1988 Grand Reunion.

Income from Investments valued at £85,158 had been £8,007 and this would enable the Association to maintain the annual subscription of £1 through 1988.

The Chairman of the Trustees of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds, Brigadier E J Nolan reported that the Funds were in a healthy state with assets now standing at over £1½ million pounds a position which had been enhanced by legacies of £13,931 from the estate of Mrs Fleetwood-Jones, Mrs Groom and Mrs Pyke, and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund by a legacy of £7,500 from the late Miss Young of Folkestone a member of London Branch.

The Grants Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt Colonel M W Soames had considered 849 cases and made grants totalling £130,337. This had been an increase in the cases of 19% for the ATS and 39% for the WRAC, and an increase of 34% in the sum distributed in grants.

The Funds had provided 107 television sets to former servicewomen and paid 85 annual TV licences.

Twelve single parent mothers had been able to take their children on holiday under any Army Benevolent Fund scheme and the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds paid for subsistence and pocket money.

The Princess Royal's Memorial fund had paid an annuity of £3.50 per week to 56 former servicewomen living on low incomes and alone, and had also given them a £40 Christmas bonus making a total of £220 per year per annuitant.

The Chairman paid tribute to Mrs Laurence-Smith, the Case Secretary on whom all the extra work load outlined above had fallen. Without her dedication the work of the Funds would be much more difficult to administer.

The Vice-President paid tribute to Brigadier Nolan's 17 years with the funds in various capacities.

The Chairman of the Trustees of the Museum had been open to a certain extent over the period and that a new shop had been installed.

After a gap of 10 months a new Assistant Curator had been appointed.

The Museum Redevelopment Fund stood at £31,000 and £4,140 had been received since the February *Lioness*. Included in the donations were £1,000 from the Royal Regiment of Artillery, £500 from The Grenadier Guards, £500 from Duchess of Kent Barracks, £800 from Catterick Garrison, £300 from Beaconsfield, £300 from 12 coy WRAC, £250 from Sergeants' Mess Guildford and £200 from WRAC at Middle Wallop.

Council had proposed that Major E O Coven and Brigadier E J Nolan be re-elected as Council Vice-Presidents in existing vacancies.

The Chairman of the 1988 Grand Reunion organising committee, Brigadier E J Nolan gave an updated report to the meeting.

There would be a range of souvenirs all depicting the ATS badge.

There would be an upper limit of 2,000 tickets for both the Service in St Paul's and in the Barbican. Council have

stated that tickets would be issued on a first-come first-served basis. Priority would go to WRAC Association members and provision would be made for overseas members who would receive their August *Lioness* later than UK members.

Tickets for St Paul's would be at no cost and entrance to the AGM would be by membership card. There would be a charge of between £15 and £20 for the Reunion to cover buffet supper and the entertainment as well as something towards the cost of hiring the Barbican and other administrative expenses.

Wolverhampton Branch requested that members should send the words and music (if known) of camp songs so that a song sheet could be prepared.

The Vice President said that she would consult the Royal British Legion and London District to see if it would be possible to have an exclusive column for the Association on Remembrance Sunday 1988 and for the WRAC Staff band to play at the Ceremony.

Saturday 8 October 1988 in Grand Hall of the Barbican Centre was agreed for the next AGM after Somerset Branch had proposed a suspension of rule 7(a) of the Association which required the AGM to be in March or April.

Copies of the full minutes of the AGM are held by Branch Secretaries should members wish to read them. A personal copy may be obtained by application to the Corps Secretary.

REUNIONS

495 BATTERY, 93RD SEARCHLIGHT REGIMENT

I returned yesterday from a Reunion in Blackpool with ten other 'girls' from the 495 Battery, 93rd Searchlight Regt. We trained at Kinmel Park in Rhyl in 1942 and were sent out to our first site at Chalfont-St-Peter in August 1942. We have kept in touch over the years and held our first Reunion together in London in 1967, this being our 45th Anniversary we decided to meet again rather than push our luck and wait for the 50th!

The other ten were: Ptes – Gertie Smith, Ethel Smith, Audrey Osborne, Helen Pickington, Eleanor McAll, Helen Payne, Bettie Arkle, Alma Pierpoint, Alice Hartley, Jan Kerr and myself May Carley. These of course were our names, many of us have since married.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1987

Another successful Northern Area Reunion was held in the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday 16 May with contingents from almost all of the Northern Branches attending plus various individuals from further afield.

Lt Col C A Marriott, Chairman of Northern Area, opened the proceedings by extending a welcome to everyone, especially members of new Branches attending for the first time and former ATS members of 555 (M) HAA Battery who had gathered together for the first time in many years as a result of a 'where are they now?' plea in the *Lioness*.

A special welcome was given to Brigadier A Field CB, Deputy Controller Commandant, who had travelled north for the occasion. Brigadier Field said how pleased she was to see so many old northern friends and to be back again in Harrogate, the scene of the memorable 1985 Grand Reunion. Looking forward, she gave a resumé of up-to-date plans for the 1988 Grand Reunion in London and answered a number of questions concerning arrangements. She also commented on the substantial increase in membership over the last few years and the number of new Branches formed, which showed the thriving state of the Association. The Benevolent Funds were providing increasingly needed help and the

Museum Fund was gradually mounting so that the new Museum would provide a permanent record of our history. The fact that substantial donations had been received from male units reflected the esteem in which the service of women in the Army was held.

After tea the lucky prize winners in the Raffle were identified and in due course the crowd dwindled as members gradually departed on their homeward journeys.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club will be held on Saturday 3 October 1987 at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London W1.

Membership of the Club continues to increase, but we would like to hear from many more ex-ATS. Enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mrs A A Juby, Cobbs View, Marlington, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5AG.

NEW ZEALAND WRAC ASSOCIATION

NZ WRAC Association are planning their Reunion 30 September to 2 October 1988 in Wanganui. Please contact: Mrs Pauline O'Connell, 75 Pitt Street, Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand for information.

CWAC VETERANS 29TH ANNUAL REUNION 1987

CWAC Veterans 29th Annual Reunion 1987, this event is sponsored by the Canadian corps Association, CWAC Unit No 47, the last weekend in September 1987, in Toronto Canada. for complete Reunion brochure write to: CWAC Veterans Reunion Chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9.

Calling all ex-ATS members who were at Western Command HQ Chester CEAO Branch, L Coy Chester Group ATS between 1942-46. A grand reunion is planned. Please contact Mrs Laura A M Gibbs (née Robbins) 8 Gaveston Rd, Leamington spa, Warwickshire.

HOLY LAND TOUR 1948-1988

The Palestine Police Old comrades association are inviting all those who served with them in Palestine during May 1948, to join them on a Holy Land Tour.

For a brochure and more information contact WRAC Corps HQ or the Palestine Police Old Comrades association: Tel 01-203-1057.

Mr H R Jones of The Tywyn Tourist Association, The Institute, Neptune Road, Tywyn, Gwynedd is planning a reunion for those who were stationed in Tywyn and the surrounding district during the Second World War. Anyone who served there might like to contact Mr Jones.

4 COMPANY WRAC SINGAPORE All Ranks Grand Reunion

Calling all members of 4 Coy WRAC who served in Singapore from January 1969 - December 1977. There will be a Grand Reunion, hosted by Col Nan Robertson MBE and WO1 Dorothy McFall, on 18 March 1988.

We would be delighted to see you and your families at this Reunion.

Depending on the response and numbers it is proposed that the Reunion take the format of a Dinner or a Buffet Supper. Accommodation will be available.

Those of you wishing to attend please write to WO1 D McFall WRAC, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH by 30 September 1987, enclosing your name, address, telephone number and stating numbers plus accommodation required.

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MESS DRESS (EVENING GOWNS)

UNIFORMS

BEIGE LINEN (OVERSEAS DRESSES)

A HIDDEN FORT REVEALED

Memories Relived

Brambles and nettles had been swept aside and the years as well when Northern Ireland's latest tourist attraction the Fort at Helen's Bay on the County Down shore of Belfast Lough was opened to the public on Saturday 9 May.

The opening ceremony performed by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Down, Colonel Norman Brann OBE ERD, himself a former TA Gunner, marked the 50th Anniversary of the formation in 1937 of the first two TA units in Northern Ireland, which manned the forts covering Belfast Lough, 188 (Antrim) Heavy Battery, Royal Artillery (TA) and the Antrim (Fortress) Company, Royal Engineers (TA).

The fort once equipped with a battery of two 6-inch guns and 3 powerful searchlights has been disused since 1956. Once it formed part of the defences of Belfast Lough. As a tourist attraction it now forms part of the nearby Crawfordsburn country Park.

Memory Lane

To a background of music played by the Northern Ireland TA Staff Band some 25 former gunners, sappers and ATS of the pre-war era were on parade for an informal inspection and chat with the GOC, Lt General Sir Robert Pascoe.

Among the ladies on parade was retired civil servant Anna Lipsitz who joined the ATS at the fort as Army Number W102291 in 1940. Subsequent war service trained her in map making and for her first post-war civilian employment as a topographical draughtswoman with the Ordnance Survey, Anna subsequently served post war with the WRAC (TA) attached to the Intelligence Corps (TA) ending her service as a captain in 1964. Asked if she had enjoyed the TA service Anna said that she had enjoyed every minute of it, indeed she would be in it today, if she were young enough.

Not impressed with Anna's Army Number was Nan Blackwell who joined in 1937 with the Army Number W2624. She found romance at the fort as she married the senior gunnery instructor. The arrival of their first child in 1942 ended her military career. After Army life and some travelling with her late husband the couple settled in Bangor where Nan stills lives. The photograph shows the GOC Northern Ireland talking to former ATS girl Anna Lipsitz, on her left is Nan Blackwell.



The GOC Northern Ireland, Lt General Sir Robert Pascoe having an informal chat with pre-war TA veterans who served at Grey Point fort from 1937.

BRANCH NEWS

ALDERSHOT Well Hello there! – You haven't heard from the Aldershot Branch for so long that it has been decided to let you know what we have been doing, and what we hope to be doing.

It is nice to tell you that we used to meet in members houses, but our attendance has increased so that now we need to use a church hall. Our programme of the last year was made up of varied meetings – a talk on 'Brave Men I Have Known' by a member of the British Legion who was on 'secret' service during the last war and a demonstration of cake icing and decorating given by one of our members was quite hilarious at times, especially when it came to folding paper icing bags and 'having a go' at the icing itself.

In April we attended the 'Ceremony of the Keys' at the Tower of London, by arrangement with Mrs Carpenter, secretary of the Greater London Branch. Her husband is a Warder there, and gave us a very interesting guided tour of the grounds, followed by a lovely supper in the Warders Bar, where we were made to feel very welcome.

We seem to be 'into' food at our Branch because other programme evenings included a barbecue and an 'Eating Meeting'. This is when members bring prepared dishes together with the recipes, and they are all tried/tasted – remember not to eat before the meeting! What is surprising is that there is always a balance of savoury and sweet items, though it is never arranged that way.

We had a trip on the River Wey from Guildford in a 'narrow' boat which included a meal, very aptly named the Bargemasters Platter.

Our Annual Dinner (food again!) was held in Aldershot, and our year finished with the AGM in November.

The year 1987 marks 25 years since the Branch was formed – yes – our SILVER JUBILEE YEAR. The 30 January 1962 to be exact was when the inaugural meeting was held, and we have two founders who are still active members of the Branch.

In the beginning the Branch was fortunate in having as its Chairman the late Mrs Dacre, who was ex-Chief Commander Baker. Although she lived a long way out of Aldershot, she attended meetings in all weathers. We cover a very large catchment area, and some of our members today travel from quite far afield.

During its 25 years, the Branch has had its share of ups and downs, but it is now firmly established, with regular meetings and attendances of 16 to 18, though there are three times that number on our books; but that is the same with every branch I dare say.

However, to pleasanter topics. This being our Silver Jubilee Year, a couple of the main events arranged are a Summer Fayre open to the public but to be held on a usual meeting evening in June. All the proceeds will go to the Museum Fund – as our special birthday contribution – the fund needs all our help doesn't it?

In September a coach outing is being arranged to visit the Royal Marines Museum and the D Day Tapestry at Portsmouth and Southsea.

We have already had a theatre outing, after which we were taken on a conducted tour behind the scenes, and another of our meetings was given over to a really entertaining talk by one of our members who had been lucky enough to have been on a long holiday in China, just after the Queen's visit no less.

It is to be hoped that we can report in a future edition of the *Lioness* that the Fayre was a financial success and was of benefit to the Museum fund, for do not forget that without the Museum who will know what contribution was made by women to the service of our country both in war and peacetime.

Happy Fund Raising to you all.

ALDERSHOT BRANCH STOP PRESS:

The proceeds from the Summer Fayre were: £617.47 making a grand TOTAL, to date, of: £800.00.

This from a small branch of 20 participating members. We throw out a Challenge to all branches – you have until the end of the year – BEAT THAT! We hope you do for the sake of the Museum Fund.

ANDOVER At last we have got our branch started! We have had five meetings up to date and our numbers are increasing due to asking around and publicity in local newspapers.

One of our meetings was a luncheon date which we all enjoyed. We were represented at the Branch secretaries Meeting held at the victory services Club and our Secretary appreciated the experience.

Eight of us attended the Area Reunion at Larkhill and spent an interesting afternoon being entertained and shown around by serving members. We all enjoyed the recruiting film we were shown and all agreed how facilities for work, leisure and accommodation has changed.

CANTERBURY The Branch continues to flourish with 76 members in 1986. We decided this year to hold some of our gatherings in the afternoons and found it very successful.

As we have no regular 'home', many of our members act as hostess in their homes, where once the business is dealt with, we end up with a good natter. Tea is either provided by the hostess or as an American tea. At all these meetings we hold a Raffle and Bring and Buy Sale with the proceeds going to Association funds. We are also invited to visit other branches when they have special functions.

We had a very successful Coffee Morning in July which was held at the home of the Secretary and now seems to have become an annual event. We raised £260 half of which was for the WRAC Benevolent Fund, and half for a local charity. Later in the year we held a sale of cakes, knitted goods, bric-a-brac etc which preceded our AGM and made a profit again.

In our programme for last year we included a Birthday dinner in October, a Christmas lunch in December and by special request another lunch in March of this year. You can see by this that we are very fond of celebrating here in Canterbury.

We were able to send £150 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, £25 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, £10 to the Museum Fund and £25 to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Congratulations to our members for collecting these sums by their hard work during the year.

In September, 17 of us joined with 9 members of the Medway Branch for a lunch at the Union Jack Club followed by a visit to the Imperial War Museum. We have planned to do something similar this year.

Our Standard has been represented four times this year, and our thanks go to our Standard bearer and her Escorts.

Finally, we would like to send our best wishes to members and friends in all branches, looking forward to meeting them at the Barbican in 1988.



Canterbury Branch Birthday Dinner in October 1986.

CHELTENHAM The Cheltenham Branch now embraces the many counties adjoining Gloucestershire and, while only between 30 and 40 members are able, vicariously, to attend our fund-raising activities in Cheltenham, we keep in touch with all the others by newsletters and outlying members are consistently generous with donations. We have, therefore, been able to justify our *raison d'être*, which is to contribute regularly to both the Princess Royal and the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds.

Unfortunately, many of our members are retired ATS or WRAC and our type of gatherings do not attract younger ex-WRAC members. Because of distance and weather in and around the Cotswolds and the general busyness of all with the other charitable organisations, activities in Cheltenham are confined to spring and autumn though the town-dwellers much enjoy private tea-parties in the country during the summer months. Moreover we ourselves value the friendships that are forged and the simple fun that attends such events! We are always represented in HQ and SW Area functions and reunions, albeit in small numbers, and of course take part in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

While our numbers are increasing as we look forward to 1988 and all that the jubilee implies, we have sadly in 1987 lost two of our much loved members Lt Col 'Doff' Pooley and Peggy Heasman, both of whom we miss very much and have to be thankful that neither of them was ill for very long. We have also had one or two resignations about which we are sad but both are because of moves and we hope they will join other branches and still keep in touch with the camaraderie of the WRAC Association in some way.

DEAL We started our year with the resignation of Mrs Betty Powell our chairman and our hard-working, conscientious Secretary Mrs Ruby Quinn. Ruby has now been elected Vice-Chairman and is able to give strong support and advice to the new secretary and chairman Mrs Doris Brindley.

With the sad disbandment of the Dover Branch we have been most fortunate in having several of the members enrolled in our branch, and look forward to their participating in our future activities.

A kind invitation from our President Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel for the January meeting to be held at her home, this was followed by a very good and jolly tea party, despite a cold foggy day there was a very good attendance.

In February 23 members celebrated a late date Christmas lunch which was far from being a dull affair, as can be seen, also 2 members celebrated(?) their birthday with raised glasses.

Once again we have been most fortunate in receiving generous invitations from Burma Star Association to attend their social functions, bazaars and jumble sales all of which have proved of financial benefit to our branch for which we are most grateful. On 5 July the Burma Star Association have an Open Day for the family at the Royal Marine Barracks and hopefully our stall will be fully laden with 'goodies', keeping our fingers crossed the weather will be kind!

Despite thunder rumbling, torrential rain, 32 members enjoyed a coach trip to Old Mill Tonge which proved of great interest to all, the electricity failed soon after our arrival but this did not stop our hosts supplying us with an excellent cream tea.

As this months' meeting coincided with the General Election date we held our meeting on the coach, a case of the captured audience, and it was decided that the annual Dover Service would not be held this October, but should be organised for early spring 1988, as next October is going to be a rather busy one for all the branches.

We are now looking forward to our annual garden party on 15 August, our hosts are again Captain and Mrs D Bloy to whom we are more than grateful for providing us with such a very pleasant venue.

EXETER Membership has risen to 45 and we are very busy getting this new branch off to a sound footing. We hold bi-monthly meetings at the British Legion HQ in Exeter with a social event at members' homes in between and we are trying to introduce a varied programme to maintain interest.

Three members attended the Reunion at Larkhill and had a very enjoyable and interesting day.

GLASGOW We opened our 1986/87 session with a coffee evening and holiday gift stall, the proceeds from this going to the Erskine Hospital Fund. We welcomed to the November meeting Major Alison Ewen, we were the first branch she visited as the new Commander WRAC Scotland, she brought with her 6 serving WRAC who each in turn, told of their life, and jobs in the WRAC. Many thanks for a most enlightening evening. Also in November, 7 branch members attended the Remembrance Service in Glasgow and laid the branch wreath, another 6 members attended the Service at the Cenotaph in London also the Albert Hall Remembrance Service. We welcomed to our Christmas party Major Anne White, Warrant Officer Pam Nye and SSgt Zoe widozeski from the new Regimental Pay Office in Glasgow.

February 6th was the Branch's 40th Anniversary which we noted was the 35th Anniversary of the Queen's ascension to the throne. The branch sent to Her Majesty, loyal Greetings and congratulations and received from Her Majesty, her thanks and good wishes for the branch's 40th Anniversary. This we celebrated with a dinner. Major Ewen and Captain Mathieson were our guests. Our Anniversary cake was cut by Miss Christine Kelly who had just celebrated her 90th birthday.

Our fund raising effort this year was very well supported, we raised £500 for Erskine Hospital which the members presented personally to the Hospital on 12 May and had a very enjoyable visit.

Our Branch now has 102 members. Donations from the Branch this year were sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and the Earl Haig Fund.



Late Christmas Lunch – February 1987.

INVERNESS We are very pleased to announce the successful forming of a new branch in Inverness. To date we have a membership of 42. We meet on the second Monday of each month. The first meeting was held on 11 February, at our April meeting we had a very interesting and informative talk by Mr Henderson and Major Montgomery of the British Legion about the 'Earl Haig Fund' and various methods of assistance which can be obtained for ex-service members and their families. To raise funds a coffee morning and cake 'n' candy sale was held on 9 May which proved very successful. We received a generous donation of £20 from the Glasgow Branch to help get us established.

In June we hope to visit St George Museum.

We are delighted with the response we have had and hope it continues.

LONDON Branch membership is still increasing and we are doing our best to encourage those who might be joining just in anticipation of our Jubilee to come to our monthly meetings and to stay with the Association thereafter.

In March, 4 members were able to relive wartime experiences when we were asked to talk to a group of young actresses at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts who were presenting a play, 'The Passing Out Parade' which is about a group of ATS recruits doing their Basic Training in 1944. We spent a lovely afternoon with them telling them how it really was! Later we were able to attend a performance and to meet the author, Anne Lavery who told us that the play was based on her own actual experiences. Discovering that she was not a member of the Association we prevailed upon her to join and she is now a member of London Branch. The play was a great success and the young cast, coached in a day at WRAC HQ Guildford performed drill which was a credit to WO1 D McFall, their instructor. Perhaps some of you who are in touch with amateur dramatic groups will try to have it performed in your area?

Speakers at out meetings so far this year have been from The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Pestalozzi International children's Village and the Aeromedical Service of St John Ambulance. Thanks to the generosity of members we were able to make donations to the last two worthy causes.

The first of our coach outings, to Blenheim Palace was held in May and much enjoyed by the 35 members who went on it.

MANCHESTER We resumed our meetings on the first Wednesday in March, with an attendance of 16 members, who said that they had missed our monthly get-togethers.

The branch secretary attended the AGM and spent a very pleasant weekend in London.

A small party attended the Northern Area reunion in Harrogate which they enjoyed but said that it wasn't long enough.

Our one young member, Wendy Steven, who is in the Territorial Army has been to Gibraltar for annual camp, with the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry, and arrived back just in time to attend our dinner at the Manchester Masonic Hall on 27 May.

There were 36 of us present, and we were pleased to have some of the Stockport Branch with us, as well as our members from Preston, and Rotherham, who said it was worth the travelling, to meet old friends. We had a very enjoyable evening, and our raffle for charities raised £37.

Our branch will be represented at the dedication of Bradford's Branch Standard and hope for fine weather.

PENRITH The death of a much respected and loved ATS Company Commander occurred at Penrith recently.

Miss Betty Shepherd, former Junior Commander, never lost contact with the 'girls' of 'S' Company, Mersey Group ATS, who were based at Altcar, Hightown, Birkdale and Southport between 1941-45. Captain Betty Shepherd will be remembered also as Headquarter Company Commander at Guildford in the 1950's.

Just 2 years ago 'S' Company held a reunion luncheon at Altcar Camp to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the end of the war (see photograph and report *Lioness* No 1/1986) with Junior Commander Miss Shepherd as special guest. She attended every reunion until last year when through failing health she could not attend the one at Crewe.

Born the daughter of a Penrith solicitor, she did much charity work for a local hospital and the WRVS after her retirement. After some 15 years dedicated service she was bursar at St Mary's School, Calne for 20 years until

retiring to her home-town of Penrith, Cumbria. There, in addition to much charitable work, she was also a diligent and much respected secretary of the Penrith Branch of the WRAC Association, contributing immensely to the happiness and success of the branch. Always a most conscientious and hardworking person she was a fair but firm commander with a delightful dry sense of humour. A very loyal and kind friend, it was always a pleasure to be in her company. Her presence will be greatly missed by the many who knew her.

SALISBURY The branch continues to meet on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month, at the RBL Club in Salisbury. As our members are drawn from a widespread rural area, the attendance at evening meetings is about twenty. Branch members have given interesting talks, Mrs Thirza Sillick on her visit to China, and our new Chairman, Miss Dorothy Stevens, told us about her two-month trip to New Zealand. Mrs Veronica Dodkins, who was a civilian internee at Liebenau Camp from 1939 to 1943, gave us a fascinating account of her experiences as a British girl in wartime Germany.

More than 30 members enjoyed our daytime events, a lunch party at the local college's restaurant in April, the sub-area Reunion at Larkhill in May, and a visit to Exbury Gardens, near Beaulieu. We look forward to hearing the WRAC Band when we go there for our August event.

Our fund-raising efforts are monthly raffles, a coffee morning, and a silent auction. These have enabled us to send a donation to the Museum Fund.

SOMERSET Since our AGM in October last year we have had some enjoyable get-togethers.

Our Annual Dinner in February was attended and enjoyed by 24 members.

In March a 'Snap and Supper' evening was held in the British Legion Club in Taunton. 19 of us enjoyed this fun night when we all took along photographs of our Service days, which certainly brought back happy memories.

April brought our skittles night with 36 members and friends enjoying a good supper and a game of skittles. The AGM in London was attended by two of our members. A party of 9 of us went to the Sub-Area Reunion at Larkhill. What a good reunion, so much to do and see. We shall all remember the living conditions of the present serving WRAC with their own bed linen, bedside TV and the pay!! What luxury! Best of luck to them.

In May we tried a Pub Lunch get-together, but this was poorly attended due to holidays and other commitments. Perhaps we will try it again next year.

Our final event before our next AGM will be our annual Barbecue on 15 July which is held at the home of one of our members Mrs Rebecca Hardinge-Francis. If this year proves as popular as last, we hope to exceed the 51 people we catered for then. We hope that our oldest member Mrs F Stark at 91 will once again be able to join us.

SOUTHPORT We are a very new branch, in fact we celebrated our first birthday in February, but from day one our aim was to purchase and have dedicated our Standard, which I'm pleased to say we did in October 1986.

The day of the dedication was a really lovely sunny October day and everyone really enjoyed themselves who took part in the Service. Southport visitors and locals were really surprised to see the amount of ladies who took part in the marchpast, and even more surprised to see ladies leading the column.

The support we had from people was amazing.

The Dedication was held at Lord Street West Church, the Service was conducted by the Rev F Dennis Edwards, leading the congregation was the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Colonel J Graeme-Bryson OBE TD DL LLM

JP, His Worship the Mayor Councillor P R Papworth and the Mayoress Mrs A E Papworth, the President of our Branch Colonel M Creagh OBE TD BA JP DL, Vice-Chairman West Lancashire District Council, Councillor Baily and Mrs Baily. We were also fortunate in having a serving member of the WRAC Captain C A Caddick, from North West District, who very kindly took the Salute and in fact laid our wreath at the Cenotaph. Also on parade were the Branch standards of Bradford, Chester and representatives of Liverpool WRAC Association for which we were most grateful. We were also very pleased that the Standards and members of various other associations took part.

Last but not least all of our own members who put so much hard work into raising funds, the RBL Southport for allowing the use of their facilities for our meetings and for the Dedication itself. Mr Jimmy Blindell for an excellent job of Parade Marshal, Hesketh Bank Silver Band for their superb music, the local ACF for helping with the seating of guests and the Honour Guard to the dignitaries, and not forgetting Porter Bros of Liverpool for making our Standard.

It was indeed a day for all to remember.

STOCKPORT Hello to you all.

This is our first contribution to the *Lioness* and we are very proud to now have enough members to be officially recognised as a branch. We hope to continue to increase our numbers by advertising in local newspapers, libraries and our local radio station.

We all feel 'Gung Ho' about getting our group off the ground and would welcome any advice from you 'veterans'.

We would like to place on record our great appreciation for the kind help and support we have been given by 'A' Coy, 1st Battalion, Mercian volunteers, who kindly let us use their barracks for our monthly meetings. Watching the young, enthusiastic recruits doing their drill in the hall below certainly brings back memories.

It is hoped that our unit is the acorn from which a mighty branch will grow. With the good fellowship, enthusiasm and good humour abounding in our group it certainly will not be for want of trying.

At each of our meetings, members bring gifts and we hold a raffle which is helping to swell our funds a little, which of course pleases our Treasurer enormously and she keeps an eagle eye on our finances admirably.

We hold our meetings on the second Thursday of the month and we extend a hearty welcome to any member of the ATS/WRAC to call in and see us at 7 pm at The Barracks on Greek Street (called The Armoury by the locals).

Up to date we have had a couple of dinner outings as a group, and some of us are making a visit to the Edinburgh Festival with the Tameside Branch of the Eighth Army Veteran's Association, who very kindly extended an invitation to us. We are making many friends with other wartime associations and one of our girls kindly represents us at the MADLEA meetings in Ardwick, Manchester. Whenever we meet the people who served in the forces like ourselves, we find the same *bonhomie* and friendly concern which we always took for granted in those days. I am pleased to say that in our Stockport group this is stronger than ever.

To misquote a famous queen: 'We may have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but we have the heart and mind of a young ATS girl.'

Happy days!

SWANSEA This branch continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month at Swansea Guildhall. We have recently enrolled seven new members, a big welcome to

WRAC Museum Redevelopment Appeal

Benefactors

Other Corps and Regiments (£5,385)

The Life Guards
 The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons)
 The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)
 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards
 The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars
 The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)
 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)
 Royal Tank Regiment
 Royal Regiment of Artillery
 Grenadier Guards
 Scots Guards
 Irish Guards
 Welsh Guards
 The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)
 The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)
 The King's Own Scottish Borderers
 The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)
 Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons)
 The Gordon Highlanders
 The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)
 The Royal Anglian Regiment

Association Branches (£2,604)

CARDIFF AND NEWPORT	MANCHESTER
DEAL AND WALMER	SALISBURY
DOVER	SUNDERLAND
EDINBURGH	WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND
HARROGATE	WOLVERHAMPTON
KENDAL	YORK
LEICESTER	NORTHERN AREA
LIVERPOOL	SOUTH WEST AREA

Units and Other Organisations (£12,558)

31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (V)
 8 Signal Regiment
 Canadian Women's Army Corps Unit No 47
 WRAC Detachment AAC Centre Stockbridge
 34 (N) Signal Regiment WRAC (V)
 80 (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron (V)
 WRAC Officers, WOs and SNCOs of 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment
 WOs & Sgts Mess WRAC Guildford
 WRAC Detachment 61 (City of Edinburgh) Signal Squadron (V)
 WRAC 15 Bn RAOC
 150 (N) Tpt Regt RCT (V)
 Army Support Element HQBF Hong Kong BFPO 1
 WRAC Centre
 WRAC 1 Postal and Courier Regt RE
 WRAC 28(BR) Signal Regt (Northag)
 23 TPT Regt
 WRAC 13 Signal Regt
 WRAC BMH Hanover

National Westminster Bank Guildford
 Lloyds Bank Guildford
 PRESTO

AMOT
 AMSSEE

The King's Own Royal Border Regiment
 The King's Regiment
 The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)
 The Royal Irish Rangers (27th (Iniskilling) 83rd and 87th)
 The Queen's Lancashire Regiment
 The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot)
 The Gloucestershire Regiment
 The Royal Hampshire Regiment
 The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's)
 The Light Infantry
 The Royal Green Jackets
 Army Air Corps
 Royal Corps of Transport
 Royal Army Ordnance Corps
 Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
 Corps of Royal Military Police
 Royal Army Pay Corps
 Royal Army Veterinary Corps
 Royal Army Educational Corps
 Intelligence Corps
 Army Physical Training Corps
 Army Legal Corps
 Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps
 The Ulster Defence Regiment

Individuals (£14,757)

Maj A M H Aggleton
 Lt Col R D Allerton MBE
 Miss S E Allpress
 Maj E A Angus TD
 Mrs C Arnold
 Mrs R F Ashton
 Maj D M Athoe
 C Atkinson
 Mrs M P Beeston
 Miss L Bell
 Capt C A Bevan
 Lt K J Blackburn
 Mrs S L Boettinger
 Miss E de Bourbel MBE
 Mrs S Bowden
 Capt J Bower
 Mrs Z Bowness Smith
 Lt Col A K Brown MBE
 Capt T Buchanan
 Lt J Burrows
 Mrs D K Calvert
 Capt F E Canham
 Maj S F Carnson
 Capt E Carter TD
 Maj T M Carroll
 Mrs C Chandler
 Col D P Clark MBE
 Miss R Clark
 Maj M A Clarke
 Mrs D B Clay
 Lt Col J M Clements
 Lt Col A V Cobb MBE TD DL
 2Lt C J Colby
 Lt V S Collins

WO2 M E V Colquhoun
 SSgt L Cooper
 Dame Frances Coulshed DBE TD
 Miss N G Cowton
 Maj A Crofton MBE
 Mrs M Davies ED
 Miss M Davies
 Mrs A V Davis
 Miss D E Day
 Maj D M M Duddridge
 Maj E Duncan
 2Lt M M Eccles
 Lt Col E J Edwards OBE
 Miss K N Edwards MBE TD JP
 Maj M L Edmondson
 Lt Col R M Engel
 Maj M J Evans MBE
 Mrs G L Finney
 Col J Fisher CBE
 Maj J A Flake
 Col B Forbes Adam MBE
 Capt A Ford
 Maj A C Fowler MBE TD
 Lt C Frearson
 Lt F M Gardner
 Maj M E D Gibbes
 Lt Col G J Gibbs
 Col E W Gibson MBE
 Capt F J Gibson
 Lt A E Glasse
 Lt Col J Godolphin MBE
 Miss M G Goodwin
 Mrs K J Grapes

Mrs P L M Griffiths
 Capt V A Grimmett
 2Lt K M Halford
 Col C E Hammond CBE
 Capt A E Hancox
 Mrs O Hardy
 Maj F M Harford MBE
 Maj E E Harrison MBE
 Mrs C Hartrey
 Brig S A E Heaney CB MBE
 TD
 Maj D G Hill
 Miss M Hill
 Mrs P M Hillier
 Mrs Hold
 Mrs M A Hood
 WO2 W Hooton
 Miss L A Hudson
 Maj K Hughes MBE
 Mrs I E Hunter
 Mrs M J Hunter
 2Lt A V F Hyde
 Maj A J Isaacs
 Capt P K Jarman
 Capt A M Jenkinson
 Mrs E C Jolley
 LCpl C Jones
 Maj E G Joynt MBE
 Miss E Keane
 Lt S E Kemp
 Mrs J N H Kick BEM
 Mrs Y J T Kingdon

Lt S M Kingham
 Miss M Kirwan
 Mrs E R Kisby
 Maj The Hon Verona Kitson
 OBE TD
 Mrs F E Lanchester
 Capt M F Lauder
 Miss C I Lawrence
 Lt Col J L Lawson MBE
 Miss A G Learmouth MBE
 TD
 Mrs M J Lewis
 Maj M E MacLagan MBE
 2Lt S Macleod
 Miss E A Mahony
 Lt A P Mann
 Capt (QM) A Maskens-
 McIntyre
 Capt S May
 Mrs W McBeath
 Mrs M T McGregor
 Brig H G Meechie CBE
 Lt Col M S F Millington OBE
 TD
 Lt N P Moffat
 Lt E D F Morgan
 Lt Col M H Morgan MBE TD
 DL
 Miss D M Morris
 Lt Col T Morris MBE
 Maj G F Murgatroyd
 Miss M E Myatt

Major D E M Nightingale
 MBE
 Maj R M Park
 Maj O M Patch
 Mrs J M B Phillips
 Brig The Hon Dame Mary
 Pihl DBE
 Capt K E Platts
 Mrs B Pointon
 Miss E E Poole-Hughes TD
 JP
 Miss S Portal
 Lt C A Prosser
 Maj G E Prosser
 Miss C S Purdy
 Lt Col A I Purton OBE
 Miss M E I Rainsbury TD
 Miss A E Ralph
 Col G K Ramsey MBE
 Mrs S M Reed
 Col S P Richards
 Lt A Roberts
 Lt Col E A Robinson
 Maj E R Robinson
 LCpl S Rosborough
 Maj H L Sanders MBE
 Miss P Sanders
 Lt Col G E M Saunders-
 Davies
 Lt H F Scott
 Miss F I Seward
 Maj R M Shaw

Maj M E Snowden
 Lt Col M W Soames MBE
 Lt C A Spanner
 Mrs K Spencer TD
 Mrs H Stanforth
 Mrs F Stark
 Miss J M Stratford
 Capt L A Taylor
 Lt I Thomas
 S P Thomis
 Maj G W Thompson
 Mrs R V K Thompson
 Mrs W S Thompson
 Mrs C R Tindal-Caril-
 Worsley
 Capt J M V Turner
 SSgt R Tyler
 Brig Dame Mary Tyrwhitt
 DBE TD
 Miss I Vaughan Morgan TD
 Mrs M Waggott
 Mrs G H N Walford MBE
 Maj K A Waterworth
 Lt Col H V Webb MBE TD
 Capt M E Wengler TD
 Mrs M F Wentworth Reeve
 CBE TD JP
 Mrs E I Wilkinson
 Maj M Wilkinson
 E M Williams
 Mrs M M Williams
 Col D H I Wilson OBE



WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

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

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them, and a 'thank you' to the faithful few who attend in all weathers and keep the spirit of comradeship alive. Our secretary attended the AGM at the Victory Services Club in London and enjoyed her day out. All the members would like to wish a speedy recovery to Mrs Veronica Barrington who has recently been ill, and Mrs Murill Price who was involved in a car crash.

Several of us went to tea with our Vice-Chairman at her home, we discussed plans for visits to other branches and plans for the 1988 Grand Reunion. On Saturday 6 June we all met at the Swansea Centenary to remember the D Day landings. We look forward to a busy time ahead.

WREXHAM The Wrexham Branch are doing quite well, we have enrolled new members and our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the RBL Headquarters Wrexham. We participate in all local activities and visit many members who have been sick. We are off on a barge on the Llangollen Canal on 29 June which we are all looking forward to. We held a Rummage Sale on our local open air market and raised funds.



Wrexham members at their Dinner presenting a plaque to the Chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND We continue to meet twice a month and meetings are well attended, average attendance being 20 to 25 members. We have had some interesting outside speakers, and members have also made their contribution to our evenings with slide shows and talks about their hobbies.

The christmas shopping trip, and the summer outing were well supported and we all thoroughly enjoyed the Sub Area Reunions at Bath and Larkhill.

The Battle of Britain Service was well attended also the Remembrance Sunday Service, at the Weymouth Cenotaph and the Royal British Legion Service in the evening of that day. On these occasions we were happy and proud to see our Standard amongst the others, and to hear later the complimentary (and envious!) remarks on the smartness of our Standard Bearer, Mrs Anne Scott.

We supported, once again, the Royal Star and Garter Home annual raffle, and have contributed to the Museum Development Appeal. A special fund raiser in the form of a sale of ATS spoons took place, and we were able to send £40 to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and £30 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund as a result.

A teletmessage of congratulation to HM the Queen was sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's 60th birthday, and we received a teletmessage of thanks for this from her private secretary.

The early months of this year have brought us some sadness with the deaths of two Life members, Miss Beryl Rowe, and Mrs Alice Mitchell, and two Annual members,

Mrs Louise Fellowes and Miss Ailsa Horlock, the latter being a comparatively recent member.

Our member from America Mrs Una Buyce returns to USA in May after a long stay home. She has attended every branch meeting and outing, which is quite good for a young 82-year-old. She intends to return in 1988 for the Grand Reunion!

We now have 31 Annual members and 11 Life members.

WOLVERHAMPTON Many of our members will remember 1986, but for some it was their first year in the Association but for 6 it was 40 years since they, with others, had formed a branch in Wolverhampton. The branch now has a flourishing membership of 80, with two WAAF and one WREN and members living overseas and in all parts of the UK. Some members are not often with us, but by receiving the *Lioness* they keep in touch with all that is happening. The comradeship still exists, and it is thrill when they visit us after many years.

On 6 September 1986, we celebrated our 40th birthday, and the committee formed to arrange the celebrations gave unstintingly of their time, both before the event and on the actual day. The afternoon commenced with the showing of a WRAC recruiting film, by courtesy of Sergeant Major Ken Richardson of the Wolverhampton recruiting Office. His wife, Carol, is a member of our branch. After the film, our Chairman, Miss Mary Davies, welcomed our guest of honour, Miss A G Learmouth MBE TD (President of Liverpool Branch). She then introduced the three members present who with herself, had joined the Wolverhampton Branch in 1946, Miss Betty Nutt (Treasurer), Mrs Dorothy Daydon and Miss Nancy Bailey, the other two members were away on holiday. Also with us were Mrs Connie Lamb. Mrs Joan Heath and Mrs Lucy Bowyer, former members of Wolverhampton Branch who helped to form the Shropshire Branch, and Mrs Jean Webster, now with Crewe Branch.

Looking back over the 40 years, our Chairman recalled many enjoyable events. In the early days there were many visits to Birmingham Branch, and it was there that we first met Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and the Grand Reunions in the Royal Albert Hall.

Other highlights were the special celebrations in 1963 for the 25th Anniversary of the ATS, in 1967 the 50th Anniversary of the three women's services, in 1969 the Golden Jubilee of the Association, in 1974 the 25th Anniversary of the WRAC and the Guildford Reunion in 1979 when the Association was 60 years old. We look forward to many more happy times together.

Miss Learmouth spoke of the long time she had known wolverhampton Branch, and that it was wonderful to see the branch grow not only numerically, but also in friendship and congratulated the Chairman and the Secretary, Mrs Mary Beeston, for their work for the branch. As a little reminder of the last 40 years and to commemorate the occasion, Miss Learmouth presented the branch with a Corps Shield, which the Chairman was delighted to receive on behalf of the branch. The Chairman then presented Miss Learmouth with a cut glass bud vase, and thanked her for travelling from Liverpool for this special occasion.

Mrs Mary Beeston looked back to the time she first became secretary, with local outings to Cadbury's and Star Aluminium, and at meetings we had held a Pippa Dee party, beetle drives, Dutch or American suppers etc, etc, attendances were very small in those days, but members did enjoy themselves.

Everyone was then invited to help themselves to the masses of food which had been donated by the members, including two beautifully iced birthday cakes. One had

been brought by Mrs Emily Roberts, our only QMAAC, member who it was a delight to see. The other cake came from Mrs Joan Bleasdale.

Committee members sold raffle tickets and also tickets for a 'Guess the name of the doll' competition, the doll had been donated and dressed by Mrs May Edwards of Crewe.

Time went all too quickly, and we finished our celebrations by trying to discover if any of our members had served in the same place without realising it. It had been a hectic but perfect day, and we say thank you to all who helped to make it go so well. We look back with gratitude and satisfaction, and now we look forward with hope, and to many more reunions amongst our many friends.

Correspondence

Mr J Robinson, husband of ex-Sgt Nancy Robinson W/ 45448, née Morin, sent in this photograph, he is trying to trace anyone in the ATS or RA who served in any of the locations or with any of the units shown. His wife was the victim of a traffic accident and suffers from amnesia, he wants to be able to help her piece together fond old memories.

12 July–21 July '44 'A' Coy 60 AA Bde Gp; 22 July–15 November '44 'C' Coy 60 AA Bde Gp (these two units may have been in Devon near Exeter); 20 October–24 November '44 Course No 36 WOs and NCOs; 16 November '44–8 May '45 No 1 Coy AA Comd; 9 May–23 June '45 'B' Coy Berks Gp ATS in Arborfield near Reading.

Nancy has vivid memories of a large house with a large number of peacocks in the grounds and also she thinks she may have paid the ATS gun crew girls in Torquay and Newton Abbott.

Please contact: Mr J Robinson, 24 Ashcroft Court, King's Hedges, Nr Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2SW if you can help.



**Members of 'A' Coy.
L-R Front row: LCpl Marie Teggert, Sgt Nancy Robinson.**

Will ex-Pte Betty Florence Coulter who wrote into corps HQ wishing to join the Lioness Club please send us her address so we may contact her.

Mr Richard Gwillim of 16 Hardthorn Avenue, Dumfries DG2 9JA a member of the Scottish Far East POW Association has kindly sent the Museum archives a photograph of the headstone of the grave of Subaltern H M Davies ATS who died on 4 September 1948 aged 42, and who is buried in Kranji Military Cemetery.

Mrs Enid Rush (née Northcott) writes from 42 Fillace Park, Horrabridge, Yelverton, Devon and would like to hear from anyone who served with her at the Royal Citadel Plymouth (Coastal APT) between 1942–45.



The International Monchengladbach Military Competition. Left to right: LCpl Lee, SSgt Davies, Lt Vickers, CSM Cardy and 2Lt Glasgow.

Mrs Given Fimey (ex-Sgt Cook) known as 'Cookie' writes from 5 Woodgreen Croft, Oldbury, West Midlands and would like to hear from anyone who served in No 9 Coy, War Office ATS Signals stationed at Cheltenham in 1941 and in No 1 Coy in London.



Mrs Dorothy Ricketts (née Abell) from 94 Andrew Rd, Bustleham Hill Estate, West Bromwich, West Midlands, sent in this photograph and would like to hear from anyone who recognises themselves. She particularly remembers Sgt Brittain, Vera, Nella-De-Carteret, Jean and Jeannie who served with her in 7 Coy 15 ITC, Hyderabad Bks, Colchester during 1943/45. Dorothy is on the right of the photograph in the Back Row.

Miss Cecilia Pritchard (known as Pritchie) writes from 96 Ruskin Park House, Champion Hill, London SE5 8TH and sends us this photograph taken when she worked on casualty evacuation in Brussels Belgium February 1945 and then Holland. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. As well as those in the photograph, Cecilia particularly remembers Olive Hayel, Elizabeth Marshall, Mary Reid, Isabel Laind, Lt Marsh, Iris Phillips, Ivy Galliene, Shelia Wood, Gladys Coward, Queenie Hurd, Joan Vincent, Joyce Bloir and Brenda Sutherland.



B Platoon, Cecilia Pritchard second from right, middle row.

Mrs Kathleen Anne Andrews of 27 Barler Place, Queensborough, Isle of Sheppey, Kent ME11 5BQ, is trying to contact Ex W/185364 Pte Anne Barker (née Bammer) who served in Leicester and at Warwickshire House, Gower St, London during 1943. Anne formerly lived at 3 Priory St, Colchester.

Any information on Anne's whereabouts, please contact Mrs Andrews.

K W Busby of Woodland Cottage, Alne Hills, Great Alne, Alcester is trying to contact Dorothea (Dicky) Banks.

Shelia Kerr (née Fraser) writes from Inglewood, Taybridge Terrace, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2BS telling

us an amazing story of coincidences between herself and another Shelia starting when they met on the first Training Course for TA officers in Windsor. Shelia would very much like to hear from the other Shelia, who she believes married a Major R Carmichael RA.

Mrs Muriel Muldoon (ex-Capt Clarke) would very much like to hear from her old Junior commander friend – Shelia Bramwell. Shelia served with her in the Middle East 1943–44. Muriel lost contact with Shelia when she moved from a farm in 'Minety Wiltshire'.

Any information would be appreciated: 21 Nursery Close, Mickleton, Glos GL55 6RY.



WOs & NCOs K Coy Colchester.

Rose M Stanbridge from 3A Edwardsville, Rodwell Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset sent in this photograph of her fellow WO and NCOs of 'K' Coy, East Anglian Group ATS, stationed at Plum Hall, Colchester in 1946. Rose is third from the right in the back row and would be delighted to hear from anyone who recognises themselves.

It has been brought to my notice that Mrs Jean Armour Brown MBE who received her award for work as Secretary at the House of Commons is now at Kildean Hospital, Drip Road, Stirling, Scotland.

Mrs A Kurdi of Middleton House, Middleton Tyas, North Yorkshire DL10 6PP would like to hear from anyone who was stationed at Scotch Corner Hotel during the Second World War and in particular ATS officer Mary Morrison.



Tanglin Barracks, Singapore. Ex-Sgt Goodwin is ninth from right in third row.

Miss M Goodwin (ex-Sgt ATS/WRAC) from 24 Hillview Rd, Chislehurst, Kent sent in this photograph of Tanglin Bks, Singapore 1946–47 and would like to hear from anyone who recognises themselves.



Clerks serving in Records Office, Edinburgh 1941-42.

Mrs Nell White (née Steele) from 'Algarth' Rufforth, York sent in this photograph and would like to hear from anyone who recognises themselves. Nell is sitting second from the right on the front row.

William E (Paddy) Madden writes from PO Box 3761, Santa Barbara, Cal 93130 USA, he is desperate to contact Florence Phillips who was an ATS cook, stationed in the Cheltenham area in Sep/Oct 1945. Paddy was serving in the British Army 6th Airborne Div and spent some time at Ullenwood Camp just outside Cheltenham. Any information on Florence's whereabouts please write to him.

Mr N H Long of 65 Coronation Road, Aldershot GU11 3QA would like to hear from ex-WRAC Ann Millar who was serving in Aden 1964-66.

Mr J J Longland writes from 157c Park Avenue, Purbrook, Nr Portsmouth, Hants to say that due to his wife's recent operation it will be quite some time before she can resume correspondence, with reference to the ex-members of the 93rd Searchlight regt, in the fashion of the past.

Ex-RSM M E Norcott (Dilly) would like to inform everyone who knows her of her new address: 23 Owen Walk, Highlands, Stafford ST17 9VY.

Mrs Alma Cheshire (née Springer) of 4 Toynnton Place, Gt Grimsby, Lincolnshire would love to hear from Mrs Barbara Allen (née Trons) they became friends around 1956/57 when Barbara joined the QA Nursing Service. Also any ATS members who served under Sgt Rowe/Fitzsimmonds at Wellington Bks, Bury, Lancs around 1942 era.

Mrs Dorothy A Harvey (née Patterson) of 20 Park Farm Close, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7DQ, would like to hear from anyone from 1 Company stationed at King Alfred College, Winchester or The Close, Winchester Cathedral.

Mrs Dorothy Burke (ex-Sgt Felton) would very much like to hear from anyone who knew her at C Coy Office, APO Nottingham. She is now at 11 Oakfield Court, Mapplewell, Nr Bamsley.

Mrs C D Harvey (née Duncan) of 75 Poplar avenue, Albion Park Rail, NSW, Australia 2527 would like to hear from anyone who served with her between 1941-1944, especially those stationed at Bulford and Yeovil.

Mrs J P T Robertson-Power (née Joan Robertson) of 2 Sanden Court, Beachfield Rd, Sandown, Isle of Wight,

would like to hear from the girl who swapped postings with her in May 1943, for her to go to Taunton not Derby.

Mrs Betty Wilson (née Tyson) writes from 14 Claremont Rd, Eccleshall, Stafford ST21 6DT, she was a Cpl in 497(M) HAA Battery 144 Regt and is hoping to contact anyone who served with her between 1941/45 mostly in the Derby and Grimsby areas.

Miss Eileen Hobson, an ex-Warrant Officer in the WRAC, was discharged from the Army on medical grounds in 1985. A Data Telegraphist by trade, she served alongside members of the Corps throughout her career. She is now suffering from Stiffmans Syndrome, a rare disease affecting the central nervous system, and is a long term patient in the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital (QEMH) at Woolwich, where she was admitted in May 1983.

Eileen would love to hear from members or ex-members of the corps with whom she has served. She is always pleased to receive visitors at QEMH and to receive letters from old friends. Unfortunately she is no longer able to write in reply but a letter or a visit would be greatly appreciated. For information she served with the following units: 1968-70 10 Sig Regt (Hounslow), 1970-72 252 Sig Sqn, 1972-75 16 Sig Regt (Bielefeld), 1975-76 233 Sig Sqn, 1976-78 Hong Kong Gurkha Sig Sqn, 1978-79 28 Sig Regt, 1979-80 8 Sig Regt (course tutor), 1980-83 262 Sig Sqn.



Mrs Amy Cartwright (née Brinkley) and Nora Cowton were stationed at 'Cark Camp' Flookburgh, Nr Grange and would be delighted to hear from anyone stationed with them. 38 Roman Close, Mount Outlane, Huddersfield.



Mrs E C Studzinski (ex-LSgt Esther Studzinski, née Lupten) better known as 'Stoodgie' would love to hear from her best maid, Sgt Mary McGregor 'Mac', pictured above, seated second from left. Also from anyone else who served at the Clothing Store in the Ordnance Depot in Stirling between 1940-45. Please write to Esther at 76 Bannachra Crescent, Tullichewan Alexandra, Dunbartonshire.



'Bomb Alley' Volunteers. Front row, on left, Pte Gladys Wickens now Mrs Linton.

Mrs Eileen Ballance (née Charles) of 65 Cuttleslowe House, Park Close, Oxford would like to hear from anyone shown in this photograph. It shows some of the volunteers who went to 'Bomb Alley'.

Mr Alan Cooper, RAF historian, researcher and author writes from 104 Dursley Road, Blackheath, London SE3 8QB asking for any ex-ATS members to contact him, as he needs information for his new book. Mr Cooper plans to write a book depicting what women did during World War 2. This will include the services and civilian occupations. He would be grateful for any information.

BIRTHS

Chilton. On 22 March 1987 to Major & Mrs Graham Chilton (Major Bobbi Chilton née Rosley) a daughter Rebecca Susete Rosemary.

Griffin. On 15 October 1986 to Major and Mrs M C C Griffin (Captain Pam Griffin née Robinson) a second son Patrick Charles Calton.

Johnson. On 1 March 1987 to Major & Mrs Peter Johnson (née Longlands) a daughter Nicola Rachel.

RUBY WEDDINGS

Ballance-Charles. On 5 December 1947. Captain Derek Ballance, Royal Signals to J/Comd Eileen Charles ATS. Now at 65 Cuttleslowe House, Park Close, Oxford.

Tipton-Scott. On 2 August 1947. Trooper Roy Tipton, Royal Armoured Corps to LCpl Nancy Scott ATS now at 91 Dawley Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire.

45TH WEDDING

Owen-White. On 6 April 1942. Ernest and Ada stationed at Stansted, Essex from 1941-43, attached to RA Searchlight Battery.

SILVER WEDDING

Kirby-Redmore. On 22 September 1962, Mr William Kirby (ex-RAF) to Sgt May Redmore ATS and WRAC. Now at 119 Westcott Street, Hull.

OBITUARY

Ashworth. Miss M. Ashworth MBE of Guildford on 28 February 1987. ATS and WRAC.

Appleby. Captain Judith Anne Appleby on 4 January 1987. WRAC TA.

Atkinson. Miss B Atkinson of Westgate-on-Sea on 30 January 1987. QMAAC.

Bernays. Mrs Nancy Bernays of Bristol on 30 March 1987. ATS.

Claridge. Mrs D M I Claridge of Marlborough on 15 May 1987. QMAAC.

Clark. Miss Ruth Clark of Carlisle on 12 February 1987. ATS.

Dodd. Miss Catherine Dodd of Stoke-on-Trent on 10 February 1986. QMAAC.

Ellison. Ann Ellison of Cheshire on 10 March 1987. WRAC.

Fellows. Mrs Louise Fellows of Weymouth in February 1987. ATS.

Goodman. Mrs A Goodman (née Nan) of Bradford on 18 January 1987. QMAAC.

Goodwin. Mrs Amy Goodwin of Swansea on 11 March 1987. QMAAC.

Greenaway. Mrs Eileen Greenaway (née Spedding) of Winchester on 28 May 1987. ATS.

Gumble. Mrs Muriel Gumble OBE. ATS.

Ham. Mrs Mary Alice Ham (née Beadnell) on 13 January 1987. QMAAC.

Heasman. Mrs Margaret Heasman of Cheltenham on 16 April 1987. ATS.

Hewitt. Kathleen Mary Hewitt of Salisbury on 12 March 1987. ATS.

Holder. Mrs Patricia Holder of Australia on 15 October 1986. ATS.

Horlock. Miss Ailsa Horlock of Lymington in March 1987. ATS.

Mackenzie. Margaret Mackenzie MBE of Dolphington on 8 April 1987.

Manning. Mrs D Manning (née Philpott) of Canterbury on 22 January 1987. ATS.

Martin. Mrs B M Martin of Gosport in 1986. QMAAC.

Mathews. Miss Rosemary Mathews of London on 15 January 1987.

McCartney. Mrs Margaret McCartney of Cornwall in May 1987.

Mitchell. Mrs A S Mitchell (née Bartlett) of Dorchester on 14 February 1987. ATS.

Mowie. On 5 May 1986. ATS.

O'Rorke. Miss A C O'Rorke of London in July 1986. ATS.

Pooley. Lt Col D L Pooley of Stroud on 23 February 1987. ATS and WRAC.

Reynolds. Mrs Marion Reynolds (née Thurston) of Mannamead in April 1987. ATS.

Rowe. Miss Beryl Ann Rowe of Yetminster on 17 January 1987. ATS.

Ruston. Mrs Louisa Ruston of Merseyside in February 1987. ATS.

Shepherd. Captain Elizabeth Shepherd of Perith on 15 April 1987. ATS and WRAC.

Smallwood. M Enid Smallwood on 27 June 1987 at Rugby. Senior Commander ATS.

Stanley. Miss G E M Stanley OBE TD of Devon on 22 June 1987. Chief Commander ATS.

Sutton. Mrs Doris Sutton (née Dancy) of Hull on 13 February 1987. ATS.

Swift. Miss Eleanor Margaret Swift of London in February 1987. ATS and WRAC TA.

Tansley-Witt. Lt Col B A D (Bertie) Tansley-Witt on 28 January 1987. WRAC.

Trussler. Mrs Nora Trussler of Farnham on 30 March 1987. ATS.

Urion. Mrs Lilian Doris Urion (née Battison) of Walshall on 4 April 1987. ATS.

Waring. Mrs Clare Waring (née Horsfall) of Featherstone in January 1987. ATS.

Warmington. Mrs Gwendaline Warmington (née Swirski) of Rugby on 4 July 1987. ATS.

Warren. Mrs Frances Violet Dorothea Warren OBE of Hartley Wintney on 6 July 1987. WAAC and WAC.

Whateley. Dame Leslie Whateley DBE TD of North Cerney on 4 July 1987. Director ATS 1943–46.

Whitham. Mrs Gladys Lucy Whitham of Portslade in April 1987. QMAAC and ATS.

Williams. Mrs Audrey Babs Williams (née Parker) of London on 2 February 1986. ATS.

Wood. Miss Florence Wood of Gravesend on 11 September 1986. ATS.

Woodburne. Constance Vera Woodburne OBE of Carlisle on 17 February 1987. ATS.

Young. Muriel Young of Bromley on 19 April 1986.

OBITUARY

Leslie Violet Lucy Evelyn Mary Whateley was born on January 28, 1899, of appropriately military stock. Her grandfather was Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood VC. Her father, Colonel Evelyn Wood, whose active service started with the Ashanti expedition of 1895, was secretary of the City of London Territorial Association between the wars.

She was educated at the Convents of the Holy Child, St Leonards-on-Sea and Cavendish Square, and at the age of 16 worked as her grandfather's secretary when the Field Marshal was engaged on his book *Winnowed Memories*.

She joined the ATS in 1938 and at the outbreak of the war in 1939 was posted to the War Office where she swiftly won a reputation as an outstanding administrator. Her rise was meteoric and in 1941 she was appointed Deputy Director of the ATS.

As Director of the ATS from 1943 to 1946, with the rank of Chief Controller (equivalent to major-general), Dame Leslie commanded some 200,000 women of 17 nationalities stationed in all parts of the world.

Dame Leslie worked closely with the late Princess Royal, who was Controller-Commandant of the ATS, and it was during Dame Leslie's time as director that the present Queen did her training at the ATS Mechanical Transport Training Centre Camberley as Second Subaltern Windsor.

She was appointed CBE in 1943 and DBE in 1946, receiving the Territorial Decoration in 1951.

The French made her a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in recognition of her services in equipping and training French *volontaires féminines* during their stay in Britain. The Americans, whom she had advised on the enlargement of their women's services, awarded her the Order of Merit.

Dame Leslie wrote two books: *As Thoughts Survive* (1949) and *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (1974).

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FOR SALE Mess Dress with sash original design hence £30. Size 18, 5'3". Greatcoat £40. No 2 Dress £50. Major's Forage cap £10. Tel: Loughborough 212345.

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FOR SALE Size 14, height 5'6" lined Mess Dress with silk sash £60. Two No 2 Dress, sizes 12 and 14 £30 each plus hat, beret and bag. All in good condition. Tel: Shere 3641 or 09012-3020 for messages.

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LONDON GAZETTE

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

MBE

Major S M Bishop

BEM

Staff Sergeant S A Sansom, Sergeant D H Carter, Sergeant P A Manson, Corporal J I Williams

Service Awards in Ulster

Mention in Despatches

Captain J F Harper

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Captains: N A Murdoch, Y Pritchard, E A McKay, D Mapley

Lieutenants: C E L Brown

Short Service Commissions

Captains: E R Mollison, R A Thackery, S. Madsen, L J Lodge, V Raine, C J Vye, K D Jones, M I MacDonald, M R Roberts, J K Hurford-Dawson

Lieutenants: E C Barton, 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 H Vickers, Y Anderson

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Lieutenants: A E Richards

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Majors: R M Park, E D Elliott MBE

Captains: S E Bates

Short Service Commissions

Captains: J D Ashton, M G E Piers, R A Adams, J A Dando, J A Salmon, E J Warwick

2 Lieutenants: N J Small, D D Jardine

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 Representative of QMAAC: Mrs M V Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex RM7 8DR
 Secretary/General Secretary;

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Employment Officers are situated in branches throughout the UK and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit Resettlement Officers, corps HQ WRAC, Post Offices, Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

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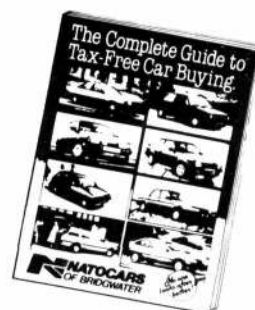
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