

1987

MASTER COPY

No 1

Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1919

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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	1.65	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	.75	35p
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	1.10	30p
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank Card Holder	.25	15p (up to 6)
Jewel Case (blue velvet)	1.20	25p
Key Cases (to hold 6 keys)	1.10	25p
Key Rings, leather	.40	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.

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.

Cover Photograph

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent is presented with a basket of flowers by Lance Corporal Samantha Fabb.

EDITORIAL

As the temporary occupant of the Vacant Editor's chair I cannot let the opportunity pass to pay tribute to Major Dione Parker who has edited *Lioness* for the past 10 years.

She joined the ATS in 1942 having previously been a FANY with SOE for 2½ years. After a staff course in 1944 she became a military assistant to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, transferring in 1946 to the office of the Under Secretary of State. Early in 1947 she was posted to Germany as DADATS BAOR, becoming DADWRAC in 1949. Her last job was on the staff of the newly created WRAC Staff College from 1951 until she left the Corps in 1953. She joined Corps HQ as Assistant Corps Secretary in 1977.

The affection and esteem with which she is regarded by members of the Association and Headquarter Mess is illustrated by the messages and donations which have been received on her behalf.

We all wish her a happy retirement.

The main preoccupation of Corps HQ in the past six months has been the WRAC Museum Redevelopment Appeal. There is a message from the Deputy Controller Commandant on page 20 and a list of Benefactors on pages 36 and 37. As these lists will form the basis of the Book of Benefactors to be kept in the Museum please notify any errors and omissions to Corps HQ.

WRAC STAFF BAND

ENGAGEMENTS

April

19th Easter Parade, Battersea Park, London. (3pm)
24th–25th Concerts Guildford Civic Hall — for ABF (with Guildford Opera Company) (7.30 pm)

May

24th–29th Concerts — Bandstand Eastbourne (Daily 11–12.30 am & 3–4.30 pm)

July

6th–18th 'A Pageant of Monarchy' Shalford Pk, Guildford (7.30 pm daily + 2.30 pm on Saturdays) (No Sunday performances)
26th–1st Aug Concerts — Regents Park, London. (Sun 3–4.30 pm & 6–7.30 pm Mon–Sat 12.30–2 pm & 5.30–7pm)

August

23rd–29th Concerts — Bandstand Bournemouth (Daily 11–12.30 pm & 3–4.30 pm)
30th Concert — Hyde Park (3–4.30 pm & 6–7.30pm)

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

A vacancy for an Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) has become available at the Army Careers Information Office, Barnett House, 53 Fountain Street, Manchester. The appointment is now vacant and the date of commencement of employment is open to negotiation.

The present starting salary is £7,930 rising to £9,452 after 2 years.

Applications are invited from majors and below of WRAC or QARANC and should be submitted direct to DAR 2c Room 1112, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR to arrive not later than 27 February 1987.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

LCpl K A Smith, PTI at WRAC Centre, for earning a Royal Humane Society Award and a Leicester Police Award, for her quick thinking and bravery in administering first aid to a seriously injured casualty at a road traffic accident in December 1985.

Sgt Janet Clark of the Recruiting Office in Glasgow who received her LS & GC Medal from the Director of Army Recruiting, Brigadier I S Baxter.



Cpls Sue Wright and Donna Myers judged as best WRAC crew at Army Diving Championships at Army MT School in Leconfield

Mildred Mary (Molly) Sivewright QMAAC and ATS on reaching her 100th Birthday. Members of the Sunderland Branch celebrated it with her taking flowers, chocolates and champagne on behalf of the whole Association. (See also page 35).

Mrs Kathleen Bottomley who served in the QMAAC and the ATS celebrated her 90th Birthday in Morlon Close Nursing Home, Keighley in Yorkshire with a visit to her by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford.

Miss J A Jones OBE who served in both World Wars and celebrated her 90th birthday at Conway in North Wales on 14 November.

Major (Retd) E S Beedle on her appointment as Sheriff of Lichfield.

Major E O Coven JP, Lioness Advertising representative on breaching one of the last bastions of male chauvinism on her appointment as Chief Commoner of the City of London. She is the first woman to hold the post in its 800 year history.

Band Records

The WRAC Sheriff Band now have 5 of its members who hold the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and wonder whether it is a record? Within the last year the medal has been presented to the Band Sergeant Major WO2 Tull, Sgt Henniker and Sgt Brandon. WO2 Friend received hers a few years ago and the Director of Music, Capt Ena Forster is due to receive hers very soon.

Talking of records, the Band is just about to make a new long playing record which will be on sale, both from the WRAC Centre and commercially, from April 1987.

NEW DIRECTOR WRAC

Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA



Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA

Brigadier Shirley Nield assumed the appointment of Director, Women's Royal Army Corps on 26 September last year when she was also appointed Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty The Queen.

Brigadier Nield was born in Oldham and educated at Chadderton Grammar School and Sheffield University where she obtained a degree in Psychology. This was followed by a post graduate diploma in Social Science from the same University.

She was a member of Sheffield University Officer Training Corps and was granted a TA Commission in September 1956. She served as a Platoon Commander with 320 Battalion WRAC (TA) from 1958 to 1960.

Brigadier Nield was commissioned into the regular Corps in January 1961. She was Senior Personnel Selection Officer (WRAC and QARANC) from April 1965 to October 1975 before going to command 12 Company WRAC at Mill Hill. She then went on to be Commander WRAC in Northern Ireland, then Commander WRAC in BAOR. This was followed by a tour in the Ministry of Defence as Liaison Officer WRAC, Directorate of Recruiting. Brigadier Nield commanded the WRAC College Camberley from 1982 to 1984. She moved to her present appointment from Wilton where she was Commander WRAC at HQ UKLF until August 1986.

Our new Director has many interests including drawing and painting, photography, music, theatre, reading, light opera, amateur dramatics and walking.

EXERCISE RHINO EXPRESS 1986

Cpl J McBroom WRAC

Way back in February a notice appeared on orders to state that Capt E E Cunningham WRAC would be leading an adventure training expedition to Kenya and 12 volunteers were required. There was a mad rush and a few months later our merry band of 12 was confirmed — Sgt Pam Murrison, Cpls Krishna Lawton, Helen Cliffe and myself, LCpls Gloria Robb, Euni Bolder, Claire Holmes, 'Sam' Sampson and Ptes Celia Duffield, Jo Colton and 'Marmalade' Atkin, all members of 3 Sqn, 10 Sig Regt (HQ UKLF) based in Aldershot

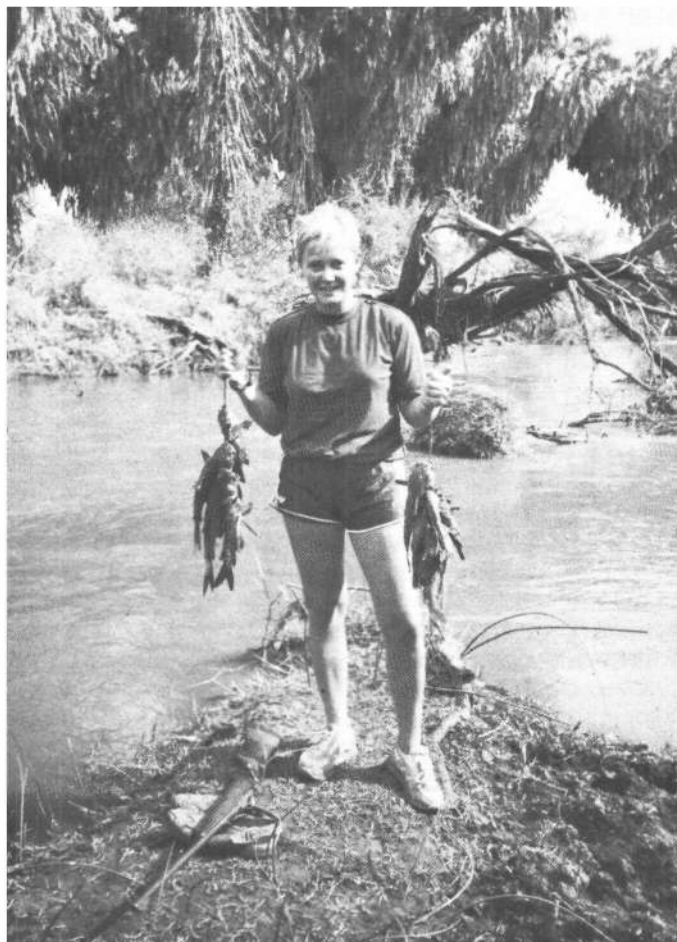
We had by now heard about the plight of the Black African Rhino (their numbers having fallen from 20,000 in the early 1970's to around 200 today in Tsavo National Park alone) and we set about ways to raise money for the Save the Tsavo Rhino Appeal. We held a 24 hour aerobics session, our OC Maj M S Wilson-Brown R Signals went on a sponsored slim and managed to shed 24 pounds, an excellent disco was held, half marathons run, four girls did their first parachute jump and we received kind donations. We managed to raise £1300 and this money was sent to Tsavo National Park in Kenya to help finance a special solar-powered electric fencing which will form part of a rhino sanctuary to protect the rhinos from being killed by poachers.

Our aim was to complete a 300 mile foot safari through Kenya's largest and most notorious national park — Tsavo. Tsavo covers an area of 11,000 square miles (larger than Israel) and is renowned for its lack of water, presence of tsetse fly and barren wilderness. However it had always been a paradise for both large and small game and we were guaranteed to see plenty of game. We were to follow its three main rivers; the Tsavo River which starts in the foothills of Kilimanjaro and flows east, the Athi River which flows from north to south through central Kenya and joins the Tsavo River to form the River Galana, which flows eastwards into the Indian Ocean. We knew that our expedition coincided with the end of the dry season and the rivers would be low, but only our leader had any idea of what lay ahead for us when we landed at Nairobi airport.

We stayed overnight at the British Army Training and Liaison Staff HQ in Nairobi (BATLSK), where we also collected our vehicles and stores. We had our first taste of the hustle and bustle, poverty and totally different lifestyle



10 Sig Regt trekkers take a break in front of Rhodesia Hill.



Pte Atkins huntin', shootin' and fishin'.

that we are accustomed to back home and our overnight accommodation at BATLSK came as a bit of a shock — a long wooden shack with just camp beds and mosquito nets! Little did we know that we would look back on this night as sheer luxury.

We set off eagerly that morning to begin our 200 mile journey south to Kamboya, the Park HQ of Tsavo West. We had been invited to stay, during our acclimatization period with Bill Woodley, a senior game warden and former founder of Tsavo. We eventually arrived at the Woodley's house, in the Park itself, as the sun was setting behind the Chyulu Mountains. We could see Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance — it was like a scene from the film 'Out of Africa'. Their back garden stretches across the vast park to the horizon and just yards from their verandah were 3 water-holes, where a herd of elephants drank contentedly. That first night was very memorable — we were serenaded by the many strange and hypnotic sounds of the bush; lions, elephants, hyenas, and crickets filled the air. I was either too excited, nervous or overwhelmed to get much sleep that night.

During the acclimatization period we went on several game drives through the park and visited the rhino sanctuary, Mzima Springs and the various lodges situated within Tsavo West. Our first glimpses of game consisted of elephant, impala, giraffe, zebra, hartebeests, baboons and a variety of colourful birds. We also visited Eleanor, a 26 year old elephant that the Woodley's had raised from birth and was now set free in the wilds of Tsavo East. Even though I knew she was harmless, my legs shook a bit when all 4 tons of her made straight for the bananas I was carrying for her. LCpl Euni Bolder tried to make a 'trunk call' (groan) whilst Sgt Pam Murrison smiled but kept well away!

We left Kamboya and set up our main tented camp alongside the Athi River. From here we progressed onto

short day walks and became acclimatized to both the intense heat and the bush. The main walk began some 40 miles north of this camp and we abandoned the relative luxury of our tented camp for just the bare essentials — a fire, a camp bed and a mosquito net. From now on we were able to sleep out in the open under the stars. There used to be a mad scramble to gain an inner camp-bed position alongside the land-rovers to which we tied our nets. Cpl Krishina Lawton was always too slow and invariably got the end bed and only a jerrican to tie her net to! No one slept peacefully those first nights — thoughts of snakes, spiders and lions were just far too vivid. Our walking days began early, well before the sun had any intention of getting up and we would breakfast, break camp and be on our way by first light (around 0545 hours).

The first phase of our walk was rough going. The bush was very thick and consequently very dangerous and slow to negotiate. We walked in single file, protected by heavily armed rangers, one always leading and one always tailing. We knew when to remain still and silent and when to quicken our pace depending on the signs of the leading ranger. As the days progressed we could recognize game trails, sounds and spot well-camouflaged animals in the thickest bush, but these early days were spent just trying to combat the intense heat (temperatures soared above 100°F by 10 am) and the huge thorns.

Within 7 days of averaging between 8 — 12 miles per day we had become real bush babies. We could move quite easily through the bush and we could set up our fly camps within minutes, wherever the location — in the bush, alongside the river or even on desolate airstrips. We would walk until midday, as the sun would be just too strong, and would spend our afternoons bathing and washing ourselves and our clothes in the muddy, crocodile infested rivers. All three rivers were quite low so it was relatively safe to wash in the rivers, although we always had an armed escort over us crocodile spotting. Luckily we never had any close encounters! Every second or third day we would drive to the nearest lodge (often 50 plus miles away) where they very kindly let us use their facilities — showers, toilets (luxury indeed!) and their swimming pool! We were always so dirty from the red dust of the park that we had strict instructions to wash first before we were allowed to use the pool or the bar! All the lodges had fantastic panoramic views across the Park with large water-holes where all types of game congregated. We often saw elephants, buffalo, wart-hogs, impala, zebras and baboons all quite happily drinking alongside one another. Quite amazing.

The further south we walked down the Athi River the more open the bush became and as we joined the Galana River and started to head westwards up the Galana and Tsavo River, the more plentiful the game became. Ironically, the only game we didn't see on the entire trip was a rhino although we came within hours of seeing one. Our rangers had spotted very fresh rhino tracks and we were then shown a rhino scrape and an imprint in the sand of where a rhino had spent the night. We had to make a large detour to avoid a confrontation as the rhino would probably have charged and the rangers would be forced to shoot it to save one of our lives — not a wise move as we were here to save the rhino! Another close call with nature was when a pride of lions passed by just 25 metres ahead. Luckily they weren't that interested in us (must have eaten!) otherwise it could have been an interesting situation! We had to be very careful walking along the rivers, especially the Tsavo river, because there was always an abundance of game, some more dangerous than others. Hippos, we discovered, are very dangerous and leave the river at night to graze on the riverine vegetation. They usually return to the water by first light

but not all the time, as we discovered when this huge hippo dawdled past us just ahead of our path. Fortunately we managed to retreat without being spotted, as this animal too, would have gone for us.

We had caused quite a sensation amongst the local people and word had fast spread across Kenya about the 12 girls walking through the bush. The local Africans couldn't quite believe their eyes the day we appeared from nowhere to cross the famous Nairobi — Mombasa railway line at Tsavo junction, a notorious man-eating lion spot. It was even more incredible that we should disappear back into the undergrowth, after just a brief water stop!

We were accompanied at all times by 4 Kenyan wildlife rangers; Mohammed, Kosi, Eptyo and Elui. Although they could speak no English, nor we Swahili, we had established quite a rapport with them, built on mutual respect. We would sit for hours around the fire whilst Bill Woodley told us tales about his men. His rangers were susceptible to all types of dangers in the bush and they had had their fair share of problems. Elui, for example, had been mauled by a badly wounded leopard, horned by a rhino, beaten up by 2 buffalos, attacked by a crocodile, constricted by a python *and* bitten by a spitting cobra. It was hard to believe how this little, old, toothless Kamba had survived!

We had walked 220 miles in just 20 days but the climax of the expedition was to climb both Rhodesia Hill, on the Tsavo River (3,600 feet) and then Ngulia Mountain (6,500 feet). Although we didn't relish the thought of climbing either mountain, we were looking forward to the views from the top. They were hard work, especially Ngulia, which we had climbed in an amazing 2 hours, but it was worth every ounce of effort for the magnificent view from the summit. We could see the route we had taken across the wild, desert wilderness — just quite breathtaking, and we all felt a tremendous amount of pride and personal satisfaction. It was a great feeling.

Now that the walking was completed we could relax and enjoy more of the delights of the Kenyan countryside and the coast on the Indian Ocean. En route to Malindi we had been invited to the annual rodeo on Galana Ranch, a 1.6 million acre ranch and the largest in Kenya. We entered 2 teams for the rodeo competition and Captain Cunningham, Cpl Helen Cliffe, LCpl Gloria Robb and Pte Celia Duffield all volunteered their services. With the rodeo over we completed our journey to the coast and well, what can I say? Glorious sunshine, palm trees, golden beaches and the Indian Ocean lapping at our feet. We packed a lot into our few days R & R including snorkelling from the coral reef to see the masses of tropical fish, a visit to the snake and crocodile farm, bartering and haggling for souvenirs from the markets and much, much more. It was worth every mile we had walked!



End of the walk — Tsavo River.

Well, everyone had had their off days, but we all came back singing the praises of such a beautiful country and its wildlife. We had left behind some good friends we had made along the way and had experienced the chance of a life-time. It had cost us just £200 each as we were very fortunate to receive some very generous grants.

Finally ... I must mention something about Duchess, the 7 day old baby elephant we found abandoned in the bush. Her mother had been killed by poachers for ivory. She looked so frail and pitiful when we arrived at the Woodley's home to be cared for and no-one held out much hope for her survival. She was named Duchess after our barracks in Aldershot and within a week she looked so much better — a little fatter, a little taller and now sporting a few hairs on her tail. She weighed a mere 15 stone and she was everyone's friend. She has been unofficially adopted by us and we hear that she is progressing very well. We have just sent nearly £100 to help with her food bills — it would be nice to visit her in the years to come, like Elsa, wild and free



Pte 'Marmalade' Atkins nursing baby elephant.

THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Pte Bain WRAC

"Pte Bain! Pte Bain!" I hear ringing in my ears. Oh no I'm late for work! Turning over in my bed, half opening my eyes, I saw my Sergeant, who seemed very urgent. Through my naturally cheery morning mood I was just able to gather that I was going to Earls Court four days early. That's all I needed; two days to go, nothing ready, essentials still in the shops. To add to my confusion, I had to report to company offices in No 2 Dress for inspection because I was to present Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne with a bouquet of flowers on 22 July. After Sergeant had left, I bourned to continue my sleep. Suddenly it dawned on me what was happening. I leapt out of bed not knowing where to start.

The work itself was both mentally and physically exhausting. As I look back now, I am surprised at how we were able to work so well under the busy conditions. Even though we worked long hard hours we still managed to enjoy a good social life, which enabled us to get to know the other people in the Tournament.

As 22 July grew nearer I was surprised at how calm I was. Suddenly my big day was here. It wasn't until I was getting changed into No 2 Dress that my calmness was over-taken by nerves.

I stood at the end of the red carpet for what seemed to be forever, but before I knew what was happening Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne was standing in front of me. After the presentation of flowers she spoke for a few minutes and then went on her way to the Royal Box. It had all gone far too quickly — like a dream when you wake up but can't quite remember it clearly.

THE ROYAL TOURNAMENT

Pte Cook WRAC

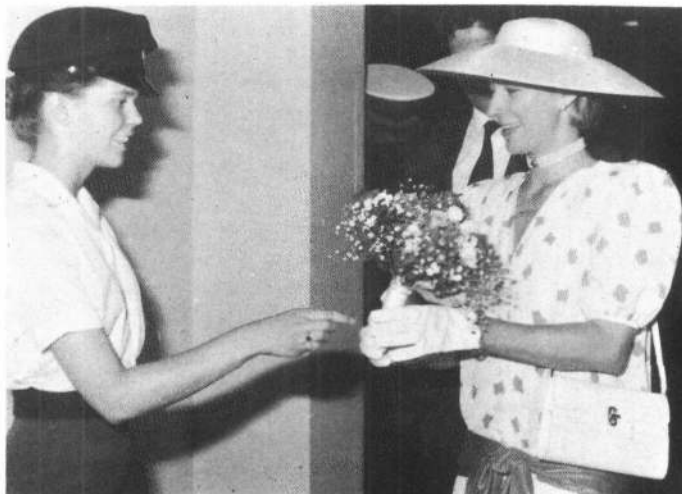
I arrived at The Royal Tournament, Earls Court not knowing what to expect, except for the fact my job for the next 3 weeks was to be an usher. However that soon changed when the Sergeant found out I could type, as the Commandant needed a typist.

It was not long before everything was in full swing and the public were crowding in to watch the performances which were given twice daily for the full 3 weeks.

The work was tiring especially as we had two duty clerks duties to do as well, and it was very noisy because our office was right next to the arena. This made it rather difficult to communicate on the telephone, what with the RAF Brass Band blowing outside the door, or the King's Troop galloping their horses around the arena on a musical gun drive! However, there were compensations for our working conditions: one of these was being present on the Royal Carpet ("Carpet Duties"), whenever Royalty visited the show. This happened fairly frequently; Her Majesty The Queen, Prince Andrew and the then Miss S Ferguson, Prince Edward, Princess Anne and the Duchess of Gloucester all visited the Tournament. As you can see in the photo I was lucky enough to be chosen to present The Duchess of Gloucester with a bouquet of flowers on her visit.



Pte Pat Bain talks to Princess Anne

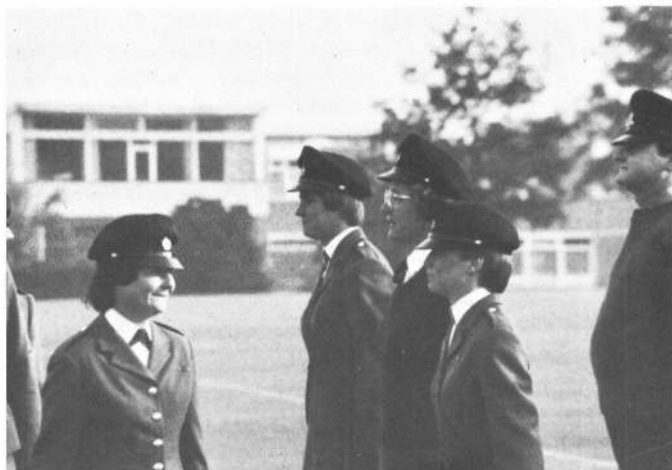


Pte Louise Cook presents bouquet to Duchess of Gloucester.

UNIT NEWS

WRAC CENTRE

On Friday 3 October 1986, the WRAC Centre said farewell to WO2 Mary Linnegan, well known for her bubbly personality and her mischievous sense of humour. She had served 22 years and finished her time as CSM HQ & H Coy.



WO2 Linnegan inspecting at eye level.

During a "surprise" parade on Thursday 2 October 1986, all available permanent staff, including the warrant officers, formed up to be inspected and at the end of the parade Miss Linnegan was given a brief tutorial on the Band Sergeant Major's role and she then followed Band Sergeant Major Tull in leading the Band and the parade off the square.



EVERYONE READY?

BRIGADIER MEECHIE'S FINAL PARADE AS DWRAC

Question: What do you do when you have a Passing Out Parade at which DWRAC is going to be the Inspecting Officer, the Bishop of Guildford has agreed to take the Church Service and the Assembly Hall (which is the only building which will hold all the recruits and their guests) has contractors working in it?

Answer: You hold a Drumhead Service and have addresses and presentations on the Parade Square' (You also pray for fine weather.)

This is the predicament the WRAC Centre found itself in having invited Brigadier Meechie to take her final parade at Guildford as DWRAC on 14 August 1986. Furthermore, because it was such a special occasion, the Bishop of Guildford had been invited to take the Church Service. Since the whole of Phase IV of the Major Maintenance programme at Guildford hinged upon the Assembly Hall being altered to make it into a kitchen and Dining Room facility there was no question of delaying the work.



Promptly at 1040 hrs on 14 Aug 86 Intake 509 of No 2 Training Company marched down the road to the square, preceded by the WRAC Staff Band. The weather was ideal for a parade with no rain, no blazing sun but a light breeze. Brigadier Meechie inspected 101 recruits and the WRAC Staff Band, including LCpl Andrea Davey of the Australian Army Band Corps who had arrived for Exercise Long Look only 5 days before the Parade. Immediately after the Advance in Review Order the drums, including drums formerly used by the ATS band, were placed on the square. The service was a reduced form of the normal service with only one hymn, a short address and fewer prayers. Despite the vagaries of the Public Address system, whereby the clergy could hear themselves through the loudspeakers at least one second after they had spoken, the service went well and those participating felt that it was truly an act of dedication.

For all recruits their Passing Out Parade is a momentous occasion but for Intake 509 it was particularly special as it was the first to include a Drumhead Service and the last parade to be taken by Brigadier Meechie as Director of the Corps.

LONDON DISTRICT PROVOST COMPANY

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent met members of the WRAC Provost when she visited London District Provost Company RMP on 26 November 1986. The visit was designed to show Her Royal Highness how WRAC Provost are employed within the RMP world. The Duchess spoke to girls employed on General Police Duties as well as those with more specialised employment as Chief Clerk, collator of Police Reports, Platoon Commander and Dog Handler. After visiting the various departments in the unit, Her Royal Highness was driven to Marlborough House where security search techniques and equipment were demonstrated to her, and where a WRAC Provost Drugs Dog Handler put her dog through his paces.

The Duchess presented the Long Service and Good Conduct medal to Sergeant Jacqueline Barker WRAC who works in the unit's Q Stores.

10 COMPANY WRAC

10 Company have entered a quiet period since the last edition of "Lioness".

In the aftermath of our Company Training Exercise a number of girls managed to enjoy two weeks of good weather on the Dorset coast on an adventurous training week with the Royal Navy.

A team of girls and Second Lieutenants Tracey Woolford and Jayne Sneller took part in the 'Starlight Marathon' which was a sponsored 24 hour walk to raise funds for a children's charity. The team were the most successful ladies team to participate and received a trophy. In a joint venture with 3 Squadron, 10 Signal Regiment, a number of volunteers assisted with the organisation of a Bring and Buy Sale to raise funds for the Corps Museum appeal. A number of senior ranks from the Duchess of Kent Barracks can still be seen on a Sunday morning continuing to sell items at local Car Boot sales!



Pte Currie abselling during 10 Coy visit to HMS Osprey.

Northern Ireland WRAC Drill Competition

Lt D A Bould WRAC

At last the day had arrived, after literally months of deciphering the drill instruction (what's a slow march?) and hours of practice either at seven in the morning or six thirty in the evening, but never interfering with working hours. Saturday 6 September came not a moment too soon for the 5 drill teams entering the Northern Ireland WRAC 1986 Drill Competition. There were nervous glances skyward, as the Summer held true to form, but dead on 10 o'clock as the first team, 233 Sig Sqn marched onto the square, the sun broke out and the spectators were able to appreciate all the hard work that had been put in by the Garrison Sergeant Major of Lisburn Garrison, WO1 J Duffus, Queen's Own Highlanders and WO2 T Donaghy, Argyll and Sutherland Higherlanders, in preparing the square with penants and guide posts to create the right atmosphere for the day.

— It became immediately obvious how hard everyone had worked, as the complexity of the competition was revealed. The slow march section evoked many compliments from the spectators. This was due to the initial planning of the Garrison Sergeant Major and the high standard attained owed much to the advice and help given by WO2 Donaghy. 176 Provost Company RMP brought their own secret weapon along with them on the day in the form of the Drill Sgt from the Grenadier Guards and his style was quite apparent in their superb drill performance.



Northern Ireland Drill Competition winning team from 12 Intelligence and Security Company.

Commander WRAC Northern Ireland, Major W le Gassick kindly agreed to act as Inspecting Officer for the competition and somehow managed to look as equally enthusiastic for the last team as the first, having watched the same 35 minute drill sequence four times previously. But down to what we were all there for on the day. For those who have competed in the competition in past years, you will know that the plate had become almost a fixture within the 175 Provost Company lines. Could it be wrested from them? The competition was certainly fierce and close fought and there was no bets being placed on the winner until the announcement was made by the judges for the day. Shrieks of joy and green berets being thrown in the air, accompanied the news that Sgt Julie Wilkinson and her team from 12 Intelligence and Security Company in Lisburn had just pipped the Londonderry girls.

FIVE MONTHS AT BEACONSFIELD

Capt J A Coates WRAC

The WRAC Detachment has had a most busy and successful few months. Starting in June many members of the detachment took part in the Beaconsfield charity stretcher race — either as marshalls or as bodies on the stretchers for several of the male teams from the RAMC Centre, a considerable sum being raised for local charities.



Back Row: Pte Robertson, Pte Vale, Pte Davies
Front Row: Capt Coates, Flt Lt Jones, Pte Harding
In Front: Cpl Matten.

Fairly soon after this, once the WRAC announced the launch of the Corps Museum Appeal, we started making plans for our Prize Draw and Barbecue. The Barbecue was held Thursday 11 September and Lt Col Robinson kindly agreed to be our guest and draw the raffle. It was an excellent evening and £313.50 was raised by the detachment for the Museum Appeal.



Lt Col Elizabeth Robinson and Capt Judith Coates before raffle draw which raised £313 for the Museum.

On the sporting scene whilst holding our own in the league sports, we have not been able to defeat many of the great sporting teams in the district especially the WRAC Centre and RMAS, however our moment of glory came with the South East District Assault Course competition at Blackdown Wednesday 24 September when the Beaconsfield 'A' team came first and the Mixed Beaconsfield and school of PT team came second.

Unfortunately a recent Inspectorate of Establishment Visit suggests that the size of the detachment will be reduced in 1987, but hopefully this will not affect the detachment's participation in sporting and other Corps events in the District.

56 SQUADRON RCT — BEST LADIES TEAM

On Sunday 10th August 1986, 11 WRAC girls from Woolwich took part in the RMP Chichester March. Led by Sgt Madge Smith they all successfully completed the March and although there was a lot of stiff competition, won the best ladies team award for the second year running (marching?).



56b Sqn RCT — Best Ladies Team in Chichester March
Back Row: LCpl Cox, Cpl Mason, Pte Medway, Pte Davies, Pte Jones, Sgt Smith
Front Row: Pte Boulton, Pte Oliver, Pte Evans, Sgt Grant, Sgt Greenwood.

Members of 56 Sqn RCT also took part in the London and South Ruislip Regional Contest for the Lorry Driver of the Year competition held on 22 June 1986. The WRAC contingent won the Austin Trophy for the Best Ladies Team and Private Oliver won the Morris Trophy for Best Female Driver.



Back Row: Pte Oliver, Pte Jones, Pte Medway, Pte Evans.
Front Row: Cpl Baker, Maj Honeysett RCT, LCpl Wilkinson.

44 SQUADRON RCT

For the uninitiated 44 Squadron RCT is situated in the beautiful grounds of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Twenty WRAC help make up the strength of the Squadron comprising of A and B Troop. Squadron life tends to be busy, hectic and frantic supplying all modes of transport not only for the Royal Military Academy but also for the Staff College, Camberley. The girls participate in all aspects of Squadron life and training, deploying and driving on all the Academy exercises. Not only to the mundane areas of Salisbury, Thetford, Okehampton and Aldershot but also to the more exotic and interesting parts of the globe such as France, Germany and Cyprus, where incidentally Cpl Veronica Ridge, whilst driving a 4 ton MK to Akrotiri Airport managed to burn out the vehicle and entire contents of personnel baggage. The subsequent inquiry completely exonerated her but not after a lot of heartburn and leg pulling.

On the sporting side of life Cpls Julie Maycock (now Miss Maycock) and Debbi Bakewell represented the army in canoeing and volleyball respectively. Sgt Elizabeth Obeng, Cpl Debbi Bakewell, Cpl Veronica Ridge, LCpl Karen Ramsay, Pte Sarah Gray and Pte Kes Byrne have been members of successful Academy volleyball, hockey, athletics and netball teams. Cpl Dee Healey, Cpl Dizzy Pask and Pte P J Meredith left the Squadron for greener pastures in civilian life.

On a more serious note; during the Easter recess of this year a small party went to the Isle of Skye adventure training to climb the mountains. On the second day an avalanche caused Lt P A Jones RCT to fall about 1000 ft. During the fall he suffered a broken thigh. Cpls Graham Jack and Debbi Bakewell then went to the aid of Lt Jones and as the citation for her GOC's commendation says, "LCpl Bakewell although tired and distressed due to physical exertion and witnessing the accident to Lt Jones quickly regained her composure and immediately went to the assistance of Lt Jones. In blizzard conditions, LCpl Bakewell shielded Lt Jones from the elements with her body. For some 2½ hours, although becoming intensely cold, LCpl Bakewell determined to keep Lt Jones awake and as cheerful as possible in the circumstances putting the comfort of Lt Jones before her own personal needs." Some 5-6 hours later in near blizzard conditions Lt Jones was air lifted to hospital where he spent the next 6 weeks in traction. For their subsequent actions in aiding and undoubtedly saving the life of Lt Jones they were awarded the GOC's Commendation.

Past members of the Squadron will be pleased to know that the escape committee is still active. So if you're in the area of 44 and want to call in for old times sake and a cup of tea, please do so we'll be pleased to see you and you're guaranteed a home run...

22 SQUADRON RCT

Capt N Ewing WRAC

Squadron personnel have now hung up their grass skirts and got back into uniform after a highly successful summer camp. As a very welcome break from the ever increasing workload most members of the Squadron went on a fortnight's adventure training camp to Vauxhall Barracks in Monmouth. To even up the numbers and add a bit of friendly competition some of the lads from 414 Tank Transporter Unit RCT came with us.

On arrival at the camp everybody was quickly thrown straight in at the deep end, quite literally with a quick canoeing capsizing drill and swimming test in the nearby

river. Chivalry hasn't died in the 1980's, the lads were all too keen to let the girls go first, they hung back and had to be coaxed before joining in. Don't expect the lads to show the way!

The days started bright and early at 07.00 hrs with PT to shake out the cobwebs and get rid of the previous night's hangover. For some, that was the cold shock treatment as they had a daily dip in the river. Throughout the week everyone had a go at each of the activities: canoeing, abseiling, climbing, windsurfing and walking. The climbing and abseiling was soon a firm favourite as Colour Sergeant Andy Hayes got most people to try it. Corporal 'E' Humphrey previously scared of heights was soon dangling on the end of a rope doing a 100 ft abseil. Pte Edgeworth was scampering up the rock face finding hand holes where no-one else could. As an incentive Colour Sergeant Hayes set up a climb with a bottle of wine as a prize, unfortunately there weren't many who were successful.

There was also a bit of light-hearted diversion in the canoeing when SSgt Ray Waite tried to get 7 standing up in canoes at once. On the first attempt LCpl Karen Stamford got an early ducking but on the second attempt it was successful.

The week ended with a day off and a trip to Barry Island, the fun park.

Other events in the Squadron have included Pte Porter coming first in the West Area 100m breaststroke, backstroke and individual medley. She then went on to compete in the Combined Services Championship.



BACK L-R

Sgt Sharkey, LCpl McCann, Cpl Whitwood, Cpl Calcutt, Cpl Rodgers.

FRONT L-R

Cpl Myers, Sgt Murphy, Sgt Roberts, Cpl Richardson.

7 members of 1 Training Company and 2 members of Headquarter & Holding Company WRAC Centre Guildford joined thousands of other runners on 25 May 1986 in the Band Aid "RUN THE WORLD" Fun Run. The team travelled to Harlow in Essex to take part in one of the main runs outside London, and all managed to complete the 5.5 mile course in under an hour. Their efforts were well rewarded with sponsorship from the WRAC Centre which raised £235.36p for the charity.

Contributions for next issue by 13th June 1987 in 1½ spacing and 54 characters to the line.

Photographs in black and white please.

SPECIAL EXPEDITION - NORWAY 86

Cpl C Beckett WRAC
13 Postal and Courier Squadron RE

The expedition was organised by Lieutenant Mollison WRAC of 40 Army Education Centre at Munster and for the four of us who took part it turned out to be an unforgettable experience.

It seemed as if we were doomed from the start by not being able to get enough people to take part. The WHAC are very few at Munster so it meant looking elsewhere for a volunteer, Pte Debbie Lee from 68 Squadron RCT came to make up the numbers.

On the 12 August 1986 Lieutenant Mollison, myself, Pte Lynne Marshall of 204 Signal Squadron and Pte Lee left Munster for the start of our little adventure. After a very long journey which was mostly by coach and overnight ferry we finally arrived in Kristiansands in Norway the following morning. Over the next eight days we found out what the word 'PAIN' really meant! Especially for our legs and backs.

The expedition was split into walking and canoeing and the mountains were by far the toughest to tackle. Having little experience of walking, the weight of the rucksacks, which held enough clothing and food to last 4 days plus the distances and heights we had to cover were all alien to me. After getting a grasp of the map reading there was no stopping us.

At times we had river crossings which were difficult and at one stage we had to form a link in order to cross a very rough stream.

I think one of the things I will remember most was the view from our tents in the morning. The view was almost breath-taking the clouds had formed a blanket just below us and it was as if we were sitting on cotton wool.

We started walking near Valle and camped the first night on the North West side of the Holte Heil Ridge.

The day after with good weather we reached the top Fjell at a height of 1218 metres (approx 4060 ft). Then along the Hovdefjellet Ridge downhill to Farani and then spent the rest of the trip walking along the river until we came to OSE where the Araks Fjord starts.



Far canoe: Lt Mollison and Pte Marshall
Near canoe: Cpl Beckett and Pte Lee.



Pte Marshall, Pte Lee, Cpl Beckett.

One day it rained from dawn to dusk and all of us found it hard to cope because the weight on our backs felt like it had doubled. It was a hard slog across mountain sides, river crossings, rocks, boggy land, jungles of trees and somehow through it all we still managed to keep a sense of humour.

At the end of every day compo food tasted like steak and chips! It was a time we could sit round the burners and work up an appetite and talk about all the funny things that had happened over the day. After a full stomach the place to be was in a sleeping bag because of the cold.

I think I preferred canoeing to walking and we used the Canadian double canoes. Although it was awkward and difficult at first getting used to the paddles and matching your partner stroke for stroke. The view while we were canoeing down the Fjords was also breathtaking and at some points you could pass really close to waterfalls cascading down rock faces. On a few of the nights we stayed in Norwegian camp huts which were scattered along the side of the Fjords and this gave us a chance to dry our kit out. On the second day of canoeing we had glorious sunshine and ended up burning our faces and suffering from sun burn which was a contrast, especially after all the rain on previous days.

Alas every good thing has to come to an end and before the long journey back to Munster we had to hand in what seemed to be an endless amount of kit and also say goodbye to the staff at the BORC Centre and all the friends we had made.

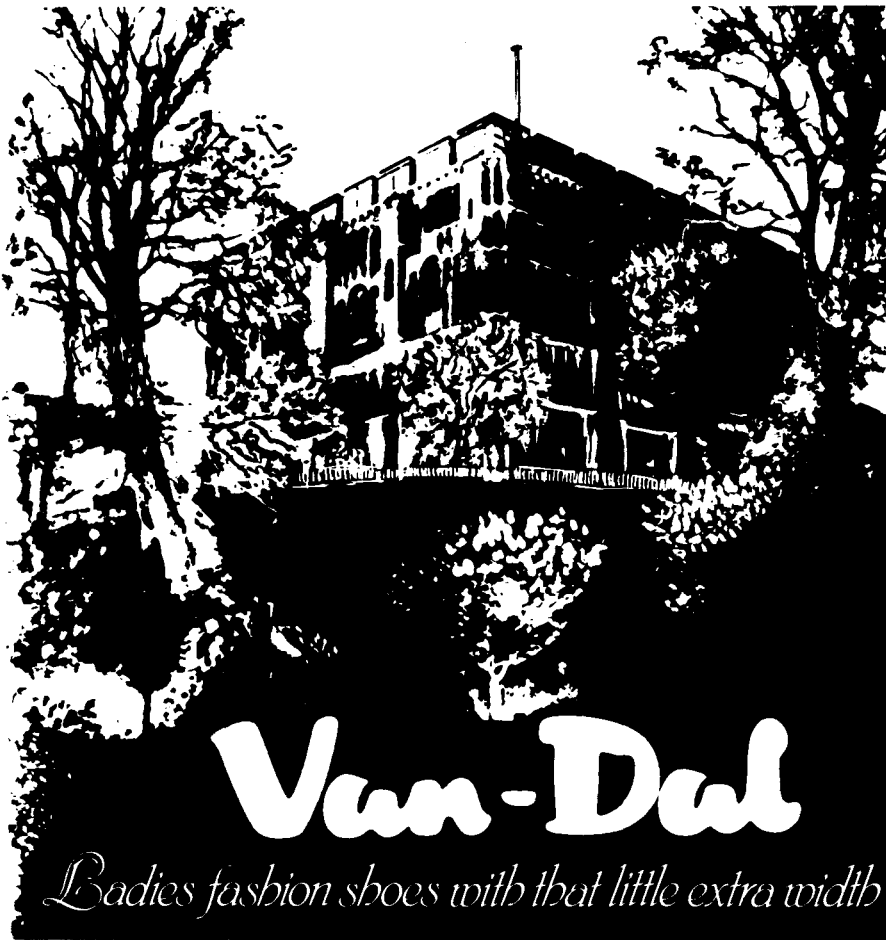
Norway is a beautiful place and walking over the mountains and canoeing down the Fjords is an experience not to be missed and I'm certainly glad I went.

RECRUITING NEWS

ACIO Glasgow staff said "farewell" to Sgt Agnes Banford on completion of her 22 years in the Corps. Two of Sgt Banford's previous 'bosses' - Mrs Mollie Gale (TA) and major Margaret Sharp (Recruiting) were among those who attended the informal buffet that followed.

In the previous week CWRAC Major Sue Westlake and serving recruiters 'Dined Out' Sgt Banford in a Glasgow hotel, along with the surprise guest - ex 'Scottish Recruiter' Colonel Nan Robertson! and finally 222 Squadron RCT, where Sgt Banford had her Recruiting Office, 'drank her out'!

Having started her career with the TA before joining recruiting for 16½ years Sgt Banford has now handed in her uniform and is back with the TA as a clerical officer, where we all wish her well.



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IN THE BEGINNING 1938-1943

QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK AND 40TH SURREY PLATOON ATS

Ex Warrant Officer D E Day ATS/WRAC

The 40th Surrey Platoon was formed in the latter part of 1938. It was a Local Service Platoon to be employed with the Queen's Royal Regiment at Stoughton Barracks should hostilities occur. Weekly training was held in The Drill Hall, Sandford Terrace, Guildford. 'In-camp' training for eight days took place in Stoughton Barracks on 31st July 1939.

The Platoon was called up for the Duration of War on 27 August 1939 (at 1/- [5p] a day!) and was employed on documentation for the Queen's Royal Regiment Reservists, reporting for duty in the Drill Hall. The Platoon then moved to Stoughton Barracks for duty as clerks, cooks, orderlies and storewomen, the only trades available to ATS at that time.

Adjacent to Stoughton Barracks a Militia Camp was under construction, into which the Queen's Royal Regiment moved in stages, beginning early in 1940 when the building of huts and garages was completed, but the Camp was far from finished. The Barrack Square was still partly a field and personnel had to use duck boards to reach their place of duty. The ATS marched daily from Stoughton Barracks to the Camp which was then known as Queen's Camp, but the Company office remained in the Barracks.

When the Camp was finally ready for occupation the ATS moved in. Training of soldiers and ATS then began in earnest. The Barrack Square was now in full use and the first ATS squad duly marched on for drill instruction — forerunners of the many hundreds to follow. The writer of this article was a member of this Squad. The newly constructed bungalows in Tylehost Road were taken over and occupied as offices, Stores and sleeping quarters by General Service volunteers who had now joined the Platoon. Here members 'dug for victory' and a good crop of vegetables was grown.

In 1941 The Queen's Royal Regiment vacated Queen's Camp — a very sad day. The ATS then took over the Camp which was renamed No 7 ATS Training Centre, solely for the training of new recruits. The Camp then completely changed and was administered solely for members of the ATS with about a hundred recruits arriving weekly.

As the majority of the 40th Surrey Platoon was enrolled for Local Service they travelled daily to duty from their home and it was therefore decided that they should no longer be employed in Queen's Camp but should work with REME Workshops, then situated in what is now the Map Store.

31 (GL) SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

Yet another year when it can be said that the girls of the Regiment held their own and what would the Regiment be without them?

Regrettably as with all TA units there is always a hole in the bucket and though the number of girls recruited was excellent, the number leaving cancelled out any significant increase overall. This is a mixed blessing of course, otherwise we would be prevented from recruiting as we would exceed our percentage level allowed within the Regiment.

We were delighted to have a visit in April from the Director, Brigadier Meechie, when she was able to visit Regimental Headquarters and then go onto the new TA Centre at Southfields which at that stage had not been officially opened. She was accompanied by Commander WRAC London District Lt Col Sue Wing and she was able to attend the official opening ceremony at Southfields later in May. The Regiment is always sad to say goodbye to "friends in high places", but wishes the Brigadier every success in her new appointment. Captain Carter was very pleased to be at the farewell to the Brigadier at Guildford on Saturday 2 August.

The girls again were very successful in the Courage Trophy Competition under the leadership of Lt Vicki Hutchinson — not only were they the first WRAC team but were placed 14th overall which is very good in competition with all male units who train continually for such activities. Our usual stalwarts for Cross Country Running and Orienteering have proved their worth during the year in spite of heavy commitments with all the trade and military skills. The WRAC Weekend held at Lydd in August was successful and the Francis Trophy was competed for and won by 83 Sqn girls led by Cpl Beverley Holley. The Francis Trophy was very kindly donated some years ago by one of our past RSMs and he hopes to come back one year to present it himself.



Princess Anne, Pte Hull, Pte Williams, Pte Eglinton.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from HRH The Princess Anne at Annual Camp in NW Europe and Capt Susan Fenney was honoured to be appointed to the Princess — her one regret was that combat kit didn't lend itself to wearing the gold aiguillettes.

There has been some sadness in the Regiment this year with the death of Pte Julie Watkins in a road traffic accident on her way home from exercise in April. Pte Jane Maslin from 41 Sqn is seriously ill with multiple sclerosis but she is just about to go off on a holiday thanks to the generosity of the Regiment. Jane's courage is tremendous and our

thoughts and good wishes are with her all the time. On a happier note there have been four Regimental marriages to cheer us though it does become confusing with ranks and names of both sexes. Congratulations to all concerned and it is understood there are more dates fixed for next year — maybe we should run a marriage bureau alongside the trade training!

4TH (V) BN RRW WRAC WEEKEND SNOWDONIA 19/20/21 SEPTEMBER 1986

Sergeant Lesley Darvell WRAC

A small party of WRAC set off from Llanelli on 19 September arriving at Capel Curig Camp, North Wales around midnight. After a hearty breakfast the planned route to Snowdon was via the Watkins Path giving everyone a chance to see Gladstone Rock and the inscription set into the stone.

It was a beautiful morning and the mountains could not have looked better. The 'going' was firm to hard and the 'fillies' were frisky. Colour Sergeant Smith, who led this WRAC expedition was hard pressed to keep up.

The summit was eventually reached and the view was breathtaking. It represented quite an achievement for some of the girls who made the ascent. A short time was spent on the summit, to catch breath, take photos and partake of the iced cold drinks sold in the cafe.

The descent was a relaxing stroll down the railway line, but by the end of the day the party had covered approximately 12 miles and were feeling the strain.

The evening was spent in Betws-Y-Coed, sampling the local brew, and recalling stories of the day. It was rumoured that the Yeti had been sighted twice.

We don't think that the summit of Snowdon has ever been assaulted by a prettier band than the one that did it on 20 September 1986.

BAOR

The last few months have been particularly hectic for all WRAC in BAOR. Exercises, visiting VIPs, sports competitions, adventure training, military training and of course the usual Regimental and Unit commitments have meant that the girls have been kept extremely busy. With the traditional Christmas celebrations now underway, various social functions are now filling up the diaries too. Now for news from the units

29 COY WRAC

1986 has been a year of changes and achievements for 29 Coy WRAC. Nearly all of the old familiar faces have moved on from Coy offices and a new set have taken their place. We said farewell to the OC Maj Glynis Harvey, who has gone to HQ BAOR, and welcomed Maj Sue Westlake, who comes from HQ Scotland. Capt Annie Evanson, the 2IC has returned to Guildford and in her place, on promotion is Capt Jo Bower (formerly OC 1 Pl).

From Catterick is Lt Gilly Potts who takes over as OC 1 PI Lt Gilly Cole OC 2 PI has left and is now Asst Adjt with 22 AD Regt RA and she has been replaced by 2Lt Katie Glasgow from 16 Sig Regt. 2Lt Nicki Vickers OC 3 PI has moved to 29 Cdo Regt RA to become the Asst Adjt and is replaced by 2Lt Liz James, who came straight from Sandhurst.

The Orderly Room hasn't been safe from changes. The Chief Clerk SSgt Elaine Smith has gone to Leconfield and has been replaced by SSgt Mandi Moore from the Big House. Cpl Babs Howell, the Docs Clerk has been replaced by Cpl Michelle Boyden.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT — BATTLECAMP 1986

2Lt I Rose WRAC

Having only just completed my training at Sandhurst I was astonished to discover, on the day that I reported to 16 Signal Regiment, that I was to deploy immediately to Battlecamp in the Vogelsang training area. Indeed I believed the whole idea to be a total spoof, a prank on the newest subaltern in the Regiment. Slowly though, it occurred to me that perhaps the whole Regiment would not parade on the main Square with rations, ammunition, webbing, camcream and screaming Sergeant Majors for my benefit alone. That I was to be thrown into an Exercise situation immediately was confirmed by Lt Trudi (I'm off to Cyprus) Sutcliffe who insisted that I produce my Platoon Commanders notebook, Silva Compass, Whistle, Aide Memoires and gave me 3 times DM1 for the phone lest I lose my Platoon on the moor. Everyone knows Trudi never gives money away, unless it's for a very good reason! Signed up, stamped up and packed, I reported to the

Company Sergeant Major to find out what I should do next! I discovered that I was to command 6 Platoon of B Company and was promptly given my Order of Battle (ORBAT) or (List of who's in whose gang).

The camp started with a two and a half day exercise during which we all were expected to march to a river crossing point and paddle to the far side and then in darkness, move tactically to a Company defensive position. Each Platoon was made up of men and women so all chores, from digging trenches to making tea were shared. The need to deploy Observation Posts (OP's) and Recce and Fighting patrols meant that no one got much sleep. The exercise culminated with a major attack during which we were able to fight off the enemy using our crafty tactics and various manoeuvres. Whilst all of us were very tired by the time 'Endex' was called, we felt we had learned a great deal. New skills were acquired and most of us began to realise how much team work mattered if any team was to be successful and achieve its aim.

After a very long sleep the second phase of camp began on Monday morning. The Squadrons were split into sections for the four days of training. An inter-section competition was held with points awarded for NBC, First Aid, range work, the assault course, orienteering, map reading and grenade throwing. There was also a less serious award for "Wally of the Day"!

The Ranges at Vogelsang are very diverse and our tasks included static SMG/Pistol ranges and a combination of Section drill, firing weapons and endurance. The assault course proved to be very amusing. Those sections with no WRAC in their teams had to carry a log instead (what a comparison!). The young officers team put in a good effort — after pawning one of the three WRAC officers for two crates of beer, we managed to achieve a very competitive time.

In conclusion Battlecamp 86 proved to be most enjoyable and the majority of soldiers and servicewomen enjoyed it in retrospect, and our map reading in particular improved enormously.

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16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Cpl Mary Harffey

Cpl Mary Harffey was serving with 16 Signal Regiment in January last year when she had a serious riding accident. She was attending an equitation course with the Blues and Royals in Sennelager, when she fell and injured her back. She was immediately rushed by helicopter to the Werner Wicker Clinic near Cologne which specialises in spinal injuries, but in spite of excellent and timely treatment she has unfortunately remained paralysed from the waist down. Mary Harffey's courage in the face of such misfortune has been an example to all of us. She has at all times remained cheerful and positive. She is without doubt determined to minimise her disability.

16 Signal Regiment has been fund raising in order to help Mary to obtain special equipment and items that she now needs. A sponsored run by members of the Regiment raised over DM 2000 and a spectacular fund raising drive by 1 Squadron collected over DM 4000. Combined with a similar sum raised by 4 Squadron, a pool of money has been formed to help Mary's rehabilitation. Her immediate requirement has been a light weight wheelchair which can be collapsed and put into a car. She will then require a car specially converted for use by a disabled driver, fortunately, Mary is already a qualified driver.

She was a popular and industrious member of the COMMEN, in Bielefeld and members of 4 Squadron, and the Regiment alike will miss her, and wish her well for the future.

1 SQUADRON, 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

1 Squadron continues to struggle manfully(?) through its heavy work load in its usual quite and uncomplaining manner. Being the HQ BAOR Commcen, O Tp comes under fairly close scrutiny from visiting dignitaries, which have recently included HRH The Princess Anne, the SO in C, Col Robertson Comd WRAC BAOR and even the Controller Defence Communications Network review team. The Squadron also managed to go down to Bavaria for its annual Summer Camp. Despite the fact that it rained and snowed for the first two weeks, those hardy men and women of 1 (SIS) Squadron, (Snow in Summer!) doggedly continued to partake in mountain walking, water-skiing, windsurfing, canoeing and horse-riding. The last two weeks saw blazing sunshine and an increase in activities. Pte 'Budgie' Eagleson demonstrated the 'Inverted Abseil' to an audience of bemused German tourists, and a team of about twenty of us were narrowly beaten 12 goals to 3 by the local German XI at football. Nevertheless a good fun time was had by all, and well done to S Sgt (SQMS) McCaffery for working so hard to ensure that it all took place successfully.

Onto more sober subjects! The Squadron held a sponsored 24 hour Trampoline Bounce for Cpl Harffey, who was paralysed in a riding accident. To date we have raised DM 4300 (about £1200) and thanks must go to all who bounced and spotted through a long and tiring night, especially to Cpl Moscrop and WO2 (F of S) Jack for their unstinting enthusiasm which got it off the ground (no pun intended!).

LCpl Janet Lewis and Pte Julie Wickenden have replaced Pte Mhari France. SSgt Helen Telford the CQMS has moved on to Sandhurst and her replacement is SSgt Gill Rich. The Admin Sgts have changed; Sgt Dawn McLean of 1 pl has been replaced by Sgt Shirley Fryer, Sgt Lynne Etherington of 3 Pl has been replaced by Sgt Joan O'Hagan.

29 Coy WRAC

Ex Snow Queen took place from January until March 1986 and 29 Coy WRAC had the opportunity to use the RCZ hut. Approximately 20 girls attended and a high standard of skiing was achieved, (along with a few bumps and bruises!) In July 29 Coy WRAC entered a team for the Nijmegen marches. This event was by no means easy, it was spread over 4 days and the teams covered 40 kms a day. Despite the fact that everybody was footsore and weary, the whole team enjoyed the event. Ex Bavarian Backstop ran through July and August. This involved 3 pl (the girls who work at Ord Svcs Viersen). It was a Summer Camp designed to train the girls in adventurous training. They all took part in hill walking, canoeing and windsurfing. The whole exercise was extremely popular and very worthwhile, and coupled with superb weather, the girls could not have failed to have a good time.

29 Coy WRAC has done extremely well in the sporting side of life — winning the BAOR Netball, Hockey, Volleyball and Cross Country. We came runners up in the Army Volleyball. 29 Coy WRAC has managed to field a team for nearly every organised event and all credit must go to all those who participate.

WRAC ELEMENT, DUSSELDORF

"WRAC Element, Dusseldorf?" we heard someone say at a recent sporting fixture, "Didn't know there were any WRAC at Dusseldorf — there can't be many."

"No there aren't" her friend replied, "Only a few, and they're all posties". Well, if that's what people think, it's probably time someone wrote an article about us for Lioness!

Dusseldorf is a lovely city about 30 minutes drive from the Headquarters at Rheindahlen. Caernarvon Barracks, where we all live, is in the north of the city near the banks of the Rhine and about 20 minutes tram-ride away from the Altstadt, which is good for pubs, discos and restaurants (even at 5 am!). It is also just across the road from the city's International Airport, which is good for flying home, but bad for that delicate "morning-after-the-Altstadt" feeling (especially at 5 am!).

Far from being "just a few posties", we in fact number about 90, and represent 11 WRAC, and 2 QA trades, and are spread throughout 8 different units. We have PCO's, drivers, cooks, clerks, military policewomen, RCT clerks, movement controllers, admin assistants, DTGs and a few solitary representatives — our PTI, supply specialist and military accountant. In fact, just to prove our versatility, we don't even all live in Dusseldorf — a few of us are based in

Rheindahlen but, as members of the detached squadron of 3 Postal and Courier Depot RE (a Dusseldorf unit) we manage to retain our Dusseldorf status.

So what do we get up to? All sorts of things! So far this year Pte Cobb of 3PCDRE, has run in — and completed — the Berlin Marathon, during which a group of spectators mistook her for Princess Diana, no less, because of her blonde hair and her Union Jack shorts! LCpl Walker (HQ[BR]RCZ) and LCpl Randles (4 Sy Coy) both recently spent a month trekking around Kathmandu on Ex Himalayan Backstop, and returned exhausted, but thrilled to have completed this arduous trek in such breath taking surroundings. Cpl Cutts, a member of 16 Signal Regiment who is currently based at Dusseldorf, has just returned from a few months spent "down under" on Ex Long Look. As she has come straight back into the start of a German winter, we strongly suspect that she wishes she had stayed there for another 6 months, but we are glad to have her back, anyway.

We have a saying in Dusseldorf that "a good man is a well-trained man". In order to maintain future supplies of good men, Sgt Major (yes, that really *is* her name!) and LCpls Squires and Temple run the local Cub Scout Pack. They obviously manage them well, as the pack is thriving. So far they have managed not to get their two sets of uniform mixed up, and I am reliably informed that there is no truth to the rumour that LCpl Temple recently typed up the minutes of a "CO's Pow Wow".

In June 1986 WO1 D Waddington WRAC, the first ever female WO1 in the trade PCO, arrived at 3PCDRE to take over the very demanding job of WOIC CDO or, as she describes it, "WOIC the sharp end" the place where hundreds of sacks of mail undergo all sorts of mysterious postal transformations every day! We are all quite convinced that Miss Waddington will prove to be the first of many females to hold this post.



WRAC ELEMENT, DUSSELDORF ROUNDERS TEAM BERLIN JULY 86
Back: LCpl Saunders 3PCDRE, LCpl Kearney Stn Staff, Cpl Stevenson 4Sy Coy, LCpls Bryant & Hall 3PCDRE
Front: Cpl Clare 3PCDRE, Pte Money Stn Staff, LCpl Drury 3PCDRE.
 (Missing: Cpl Venn-Hall).

Sports-wise we are a keen bunch, and we are prepared to travel in order to compete — the further the better! LCpl Callow (Dusseldorf Stn Staff) visited Gibraltar this year as part of the Army (Wmns) Tour team, and she certainly deserved to, having represented Dusseldorf admirably all summer, and played for the Army at Wimbledon. WO2 Bowers (HQ[BR]RCZ) and Cpl Clare (3PCDRE) travelled to UK to represent BAOR in athletics, and Cpl Clare has also represented BAOR in volleyball (accompanied by LCpl Saunders of 3PCDRE) and is a member of the BAOR

hockey squad, along with LCpls Saunders and Bryant, and Pte Druce, all of 3PCDRE. In July 1986 our rounders team travelled to Berlin in order to compete in the Inter-Unit Competition, and although unplaced, all of the team members thoroughly enjoyed their weekend, and managed to fit in a little sight-seeing when not battling it out on the rounders pitch.

We also play one or two less conventional sports, and have a few martial arts experts, (who are occasionally seen doing strange things in the gym) and our resident 10 pin bowling champion, Cpl Bellamy who is the BAOR Ladies Champion, and half of the Army Ladies Doubles Champion team!

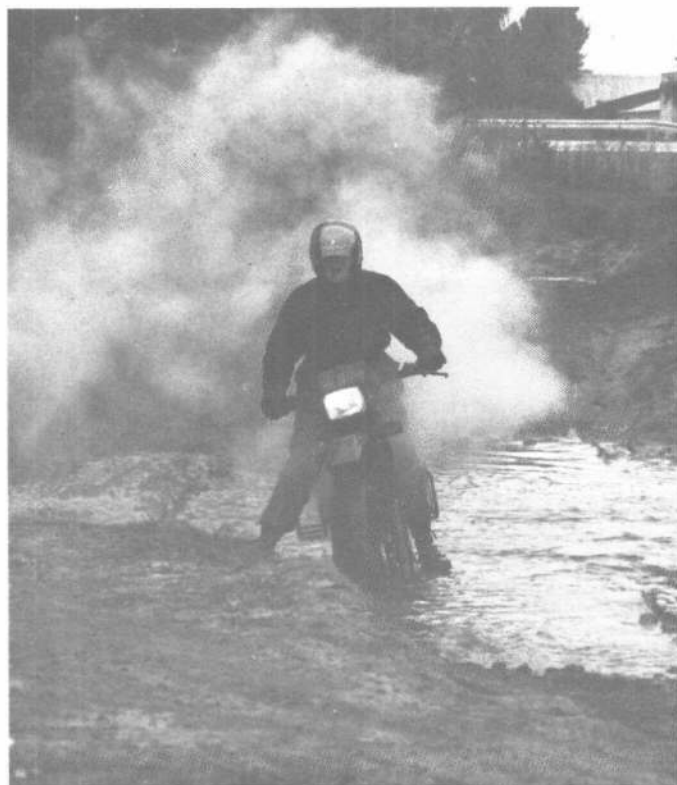
I could go on, but the Altstadt beckons ... suffice it to say that Dusseldorf is a smashing posting, which we all enjoy — but remember our warning about the airport, and if you get posted out to join us, don't forget your ear defenders!

WRAC DESPATCH RIDER

LCpl Jean Storey of 1 Postal and Courier Regiment RE recently became the first WRAC member of the unit to take part in a Regimental Motor Cycle Course. LCpl Storey, who is 21 years old, had some two wheeled experience as a motor scooter owner in her home town of Scunthorpe but she still felt trepidations about handling a 500cc

Armstrong. LCpl Storey also felt she carried extra responsibilities as the first WRAC to tackle the course. If she failed that might mean no more WRAC on the motor cycle courses.

The course instructor, LCpl Booth, found LCpl Storey well up to the standard of the men, not only on roads and autobahns but also on the rough cross country section and, of course, she passed her Motor Cycle Test with flying colours.

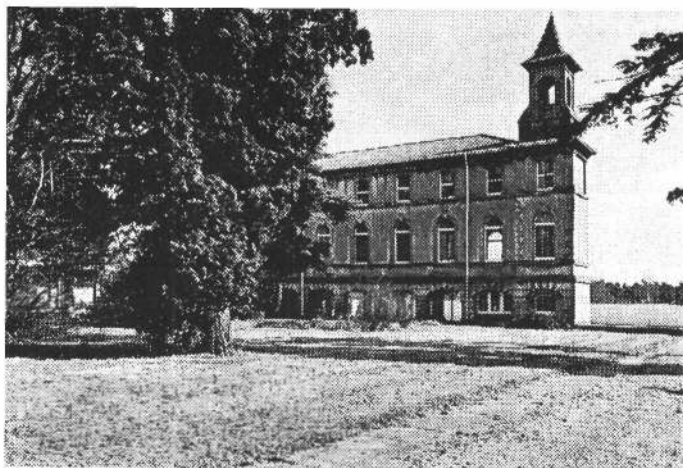


LCpl Storey negotiating a water obstacle on the cross country section.

Deputy Controller Commandants visit to Cyprus — September 1986



Left to right: Sgt Stead, Maj Macauley, Cpl Whitney May, SSgt Smith, LCpl Ingram, Cpl Taylor, WO2 Stockdale, LCpl Hughes, Spl Hylton, LCpl Saunders, Sgt Gillespie, Pte Tombs, Cpl Carling, Sgt Farrier, Cpl Henry, Sgt Wilkinson, Cpl Jenkins, Brig Field, Sgt Cooper, LCpl Hill, Capt Vincent, 2Lt Wilks.



The former WRAC College at Camberley.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR PARK

The former Women's Royal Army Corps College of Camberley has been purchased by Mertonplace Limited.

The property, which the purchasers have renamed "Camberley Park", comprises a 50 acre landscaped and wooded site on the edge of Camberley. The property became available with the decision to move the WRAC College to Sandhurst.

The purchasers intend to renovate the existing buildings on the site and are currently having discussions with a number of commercial organisations who may wish to use the premises for training and related uses.

However the plans received a setback when a fire on Thursday 15 January 1987 completely destroyed the three story Victorian chapel. (Pictured opposite). A listed building it had been part of the Royal Albert Orphanage founded in 1864.

THE WRAC CENTRE AS SEEN FROM DOWN UNDER

Capt Jill Curry, Royal Australian Corps of Transport

A dream had come true. Having clawed my way to the top of the short list, I had been selected to participate in Exercise Long Look 86. Things in Australia have changed since we had a Women's Royal Australian Army School and now our nearest surviving equivalent is the First Recruit Training Battalion. The Battalion is a mixed recruit training unit situated in Wagga Wagga in New South Wales where General Enlistment soldiers both male and female for the Australian Regular Army spend the first 12 weeks of their military careers. (Yes, Wagga Wagga is on the map! North west of Canberra for those of you who are still chortling!).

I was destined to exchange positions for 3½ months with Lt Jane Gregory WRAC. The duties of a Platoon Commander in No 1 Trg Coy awaited me upon my arrival at Guildford on 4 Aug 86. My British contacts had reliably informed me that we colonials were to receive only the best standard of transportation for the long journey from one hemisphere to another! The reality of it all was sitting in an RAF VC 10 for 27 hrs — backwards all the way to RAF Brize Norton. Heaven knows what the RAAF have in store for me on the way back home — it's a long way to RAAF Richmond when you're sitting upside down.

Some 30 hrs after my journey began, I was deposited in a somewhat dishevelled state by the long suffering driver, Pte Whitehouse, at the WRAC Centre Officers' Mess. Access to my room proved to be via 2 staircases and a series of the most extraordinary doors, where the wide section remains permanently closed leaving only the 18" narrow section for regular access. I am now sure that the doors were specifically designed to ensure that a wayward colonial with 2 suitcases, a kit bag, 2 rather large pieces of "cabin" baggage, an overcoat, a camera and an umbrella, had the greatest of difficulty getting in! After a weekend which consisted mainly of shaking off the effects of jet lag, I bounded down to breakfast on Monday morning ready to chat to the "locals". I discovered, however, breakfast in the Officers' Mess is conducted in almost absolute silence, save the rustling of newspapers and the snap, crackle and pop of the rice bubbles. My cheery "Good Morning All" prompted glances of amused tolerance and polite, but understanding comments such as, "Oh, that must be the Australian".

I settled in fairly easily after my initial culture shock and was informed that I would be conducting two TA platoons as a means of introduction to British Army recruit training. My 4 weeks on the TA instruction were extremely enjoyable and I really began to feel quite at home when the same old questions were asked during the inevitable Navigation lessons. I've decided that recruits the world over are basically fairly similar and the role of the Platoon Commander always involves an element of satisfaction March Out Day (I refuse to call it Pass Out Parade — just in case some recruits take it literally!).

My next adventure after surviving the TA intakes, was to participate in Exercise Boot Breaker, the 3 day field training phase of the Regular recruit training course. This exercise is conducted quite differently from our own field training exercises at our Recruit Training Battalion as we were fully tactical for 5 days in a Coy defensive location. However, at this stage, emphasis on field tactics was not particularly strong for WRAC recruits and Boot Breaker was really designed to introduce them to the "pleasant-ries" of living in the field. The recruits thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did their fearless colonial "hanger on" and they returned to Guildford with a much more realistic idea of what life in the field (even if only for 3 days) was really like.

My time at the WRAC Centre is now drawing to a close and looking back, I feel it has been extremely worthwhile and above all, enjoyable. I have quite a few anecdotes which will return home to Australia with me — I can't print them! The Officers, Senior NCOs and others I have worked with or simply met socially have done their best to allow me to "fit in" as well as any Australian could in the British Army! Thanks to all those who have helped me during my exchange — come to Australia some time and I'll show you how we, do things!

P.S. Don't forget to bring shorts and thongs and be prepared to sit on an esky at the footy to eat a meat pie and drink a stubby. G'day.

10 SIGNAL REGIMENT

On Sunday 9 November the members of 10 Signal Regiment at Wilton and serving members of HQ UKLF attended the Remembrance ceremony at Wilton Parish Church.

The Comd WRAC UKLF represented the Commander-in-Chief and laid the wreath at the War Memorial which stands in the church grounds.



Colonel F Hutley with Mayor of Wilton, Town Clerk and CO 10 Signal Regiment on Remembrance Sunday.

GOODBYE TO STANLEY AND HELLO TO MOUNT PLEASANT

Cpl C Quinlan WRAC

Our days in Stanley are finally numbered, with the first two girls from Draft 11 due to leave for Mount Pleasant on 1 December, and the rest of us to follow from the end of December. We can all look back, I am sure, on a really happy time in the town; after all most of us will have spent nearly four months here and have come to treat the town and respect the locals as we would our own home town and locals in the UK.

So what have we been doing for the past three months — both at work and at play? Let us start with work. The Draft consists of the Clerks at HQ BFFI, FIGPU and the FEC, the girls who work in the stores on FIPASS, the COMMEN girls, the Cooks at Lookout Camp and, perhaps most important for boosting our morale, the Posties. In charge of us all there is the OC WRAC, Capt Turner and the Admin Sgt, SSgt Goodeve. For some of us, the work may be hard and the hours long, but as typical representatives of our Corps we keep on smiling and morale and humour has remained very high, even through the "wintry blizzards" that hit us the first week we got here, and at the moment due to the never ending activity of the move to Mount Pleasant.



WRAC Draft 11 with the Lady Elizabeth and Stanley in the background
Cpl Harrison, Pte Knight, Cpl Quinlan, LCpl Dixon, Cpl Whittington, Cpl McDonald, Pte Gibson
Pte Sellers, Pte Edwards, SSgt Goodeve, Capt Turner, Sgt Rowntree, Pte Barnes, LCpl Allison
Pte McGuire, Cpl Forrest, LCpl Hunter, Pte Lackmaker, Pte Charlton, Pte Wood, Pte Mather.

Turning to the recreational side of life down here there are quite a few sporting facilities available including squash courts, badminton courts, a swimming pool, fishing, multi gym etc. Other ways we have kept ourselves occupied include Battlefield Tours, rides in a helicopter, shopping in Stanley, evening classes and educational courses. There is no excuse for being bored in the Falklands!

I think the most important aspect of our move to Mount Pleasant as far as the girls are concerned will be the better accommodation. The present five to six girls in one portakabin does make life fairly cramped and claustrophobic. Bliss of all blisses though will be the thought of our own continental quilt which will be provided, indoor showers and toilets!! Instead of all working in different locations as in Stanley we will all be working in one large complex where there is bound to be a good and happy working atmosphere. Sporting facilities will also be excellent with a wide variety of choices. A brand new Tri-Service unit will be born.

So although we shall miss Stanley and its townfolk, future Drafts can rest assured they have lots to look forward to at Mount Pleasant.

A TOUR ON CRISTEBE ISLAND

Pte Anne Agram WRAC

It was with bated breath that we stepped from the canoe into the tropical rain forest in the area that is called Carnott. It was a late evening in 1956 when myself and Pte A Skitt were posted to Cristebe, a volcanic island in a far flung corner of the Empire. The heat and humidity were but minor problems compared to the terrors of the jungle, such as the Civil Servant Wallah, and Admin Wallah.

We quickly built a hut of palm fronds which did us quite adequately, until the monsoon season started and then we had to move into the purpose-built, female accommodation, complete with sauna, showers and sitting rooms.

It was in 1961 before an aircraft dropped a canister containing our job descriptions which vaguely said something about measuring rainfall and amending extremely complicated computer programs. The programs were easy but every time we went to measure the rainfall our ruler was washed away and it was "back to the drawing board".

In 1980 our dreams were realised and a canoe arrived in the midst of a typhoon with two posting orders, we spent the whole night in celebration, eating our pet pig who had been with us since our arrival (he was a bit tough actually) and drinking our complete supply of home brew (coconut and mango lager). It wasn't until the following morning that we realised that the postings were from Carnott to the area of Vangre Hill another area of Cristebe.

From this area the occasional glimpse of Cristebe Depot can be seen, between the mangrove swamp and the A41 to Aylesbury.

In August of this year a Royal Navy submarine arrived to deliver two posting preference proformas and a supply of rulers, and to exchange our battledress for the NEW issue WRAC uniforms (minus woolly pully).

Our posting proformas duly filled in, we are awaiting the arrival of the Xmas resupply flight to submit them. If there are any volunteers for this worthwhile and demanding job please apply to: DSCS CRISTEBE, VANGRE HILL, CRISTEBE OX6 0JU.

If no volunteers are forthcoming by January 1987, more details of this idyllic paradise will follow.

PS (Could the Easter resupply flight please drop off two woolly pullys and a tab shirt?).

NIJMEGEN MARCHES 1986

2Lt N G H Vickers WRAC
(formerly OC 3 PI 29 Coy WRAC)

For those who have never heard of the Nijmegen Marches, they consist of four days marching, covering 40 kms (25 miles) a day in and around the City of Nijmegen in Holland. Anyone can enter, military or civilian and indeed this year there seemed to be every nationality there!

Since 1986 was the 70th Anniversary, Nijmegen saw the largest ever amount of people entering, approximately 30,000. In amongst this enormous crowd was a small team of WRAC marchers, made up from a mixture of 29 Company WRAC and London/Eastern District. Initially we entered as two teams of 11 and 13 people, but after discussion and realising the advantages of marching as a large group we decided to join forces and march together.

We were given a couple of days to settle in and get used to our accommodation — a bunk bed in a gymnasium



29 Coy WRAC Nijmegen Marchers.

packed with 600 other girls! We also took part in a flag parade around the football stadium which confirmed the huge number of people taking part and involved in the Marches.

On 15 July at 0500 hours the marching began. It turned out to be a very hot day but morale was high and the team was fresh and keen. The marching was made easier by the mass of other military teams and spectators lining the route. Singing began at the 20km point which carried us through to the final checkpoint — The Beer Tent — which we reached at 1400 hours. We were all weary and stiff after the day's marching, and we clambered thankfully onto our bunk beds to rest and recuperate for the next day.

Day 2 began at 0430 hours and it turned out to be a very tough day for several reasons. Firstly, the excessive heat was a problem, the temperature reached 30°C and some

members of the team collapsed with exhaustion. This was where the Bike Orderlies came into their own, constantly supplying the team with cold drinks and refreshments as we marched along.

Each day we marched a different route around Nijmegen, always finishing off at the beer tent. Day 3 was the day of hills. Don't believe Holland is flat — we conquered what the Dutch must consider mountains! Singing began that day when the marching began at 0500 hours, and we didn't stop all day. Morale amongst most of the teams seemed to hit rock bottom and as a result, our team received many compliments from the male teams; it seemed that as we marched by, singing at the top of our voices, we raised everyone's spirits. This in turn helped us, since we had to maintain our impressive image!

Day 4 — The Last Day. We had a very early start, 0330 hours in order to finish in time for the March Past through Nijmegen itself. Since it was the last day, morale was now soaring, though for some it didn't make the blisters any less painful. The atmosphere was alive and it was a proud and elated team of WRAC marchers who sang (though by now it was more croaking!) their way into the final, *final* checkpoint at 1230 that afternoon.

I need say no more except that the evening was spent celebrating!

To some people, 100 miles marching in 4 days may sound easy. It is not. It requires considerable training and a lot of determination. We marched in squad throughout the 4 days and the performance by certain members who were in obvious pain, was admirable.

Having said that, it is not all pain. Nijmegen Marches are a worthwhile experience and the sense of achievement felt at the end is immense. A special bond is created between team members and it is most definitely a team effort. At the end of the 4 days, most people swear 'Never Again' but after a few more days the feeling comes back which makes one say 'I'll do Nijmegen again next year — I won't let it beat ME!'.



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MUSEUM APPEAL

A MESSAGE FROM

BRIGADIER ANNE FIELD CB

**DEPUTY CONTROLLER
COMMANDANT**

I thought you would like to know how the Museum Appeal is going.

So far £26,000 has been raised or promised by Deed of Covenant. The names of the benefactors together with a summary by groups are to be found on pages 36 and 37.

To all of those who have helped I offer the thanks of the Trustees for such a marvellous response.

I must add however that we are still £14,000 short of our target of £40,000 and I would ask anyone who has not subscribed so far to take this opportunity of helping the Corps.

Details of the ways that you can contribute to the appeal are shown on the opposite page.

I shall be reporting to the AGM of the Association of 11 April 1987 on the progress of the Appeal and it would be nice to be able to announce at that time that our target has been reached.

Anne Field —

Brigadier

WRAC Museum Redevelopment Appeal

CORPS HEADQUARTERS W.R.A.C.
QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK,
GUILDFORD,
SURREY. GU2 6QH.

What can you do help?

You can help the redevelopment of the new WRAC Museum by

- Making a one time donation using Form A
- Making a donation by Deed of Covenant over four years. The Museum can claim back Income Tax at basic rate so every £1 which you donate becomes £1.41. (Use Form B).
- Giving items for use in the Museum displays.

Form A

I enclose a donation of £ p towards the WRAC Museum Appeal

Name

Address

..... Post Code..... Date.....

Form B

To your Bank..... Branch

Address..... Post Code.....

Account Title & Number

BANKERS ORDER

Please pay to the Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association) Account no 60633646, National Westminster Bank PLC, 4 Worplesdon Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH now the sum of £ p (in words) and thereafter a similar sum annually for the subsequent three years commencing on the first day of May 1987 being my annual subscription to the WRAC Museum Fund.

Signed

Name & Address.....

..... Post Code.....

DEED OF COVENANT — WRAC MUSEUM FUND

I (Rank/Title)
(Full name in capital letters)

of
(Full address in capital letters)

undertake to pay The Women's Royal Army Corps Association for a period of four years or during my lifetime whichever period is shorter, commencing on the day of (month) 1987 a sum as will, after deduction of Income Tax at the basic rate, amount to £
(the actual amount you want to pay).

Signature Date.....

In the presence of (Signature of Witness).....

Address of Witness

†This date must NOT be earlier than the date of signature.

PLEASE RETURN WHOLE FORM TO CORPS HQ, NOT YOUR BANK

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING — 13 SIGNAL REGIMENT EXERCISE UPHILL BACKSTOP — MOUNT BLANC

by Lt N P Moffat WRAC

'To boldly go where no PRI Minibus has gone before'.

It is 0600 hrs Friday 29 August 1986 and all is quiet. The residents of Wassenberg lie sleeping, unaware that a monumental moment is occurring in the history of a band of intrepid young women and a minibus. 13 Signal Regiment WRAC are on the move.

The intrepid band of fair maidens read like a navigational nightmare. Lt 'It's slightly uphill, then contouring all the way' Moffat is Boss 1, Sgt 'It's only up, along and back down again' Cranwell-Child is Boss 2, Sgt 'Mumsy' Wilson provides the admin back-up. The band of merry women are Staff 'It's definitely this way' McDougall, Sgt 'Sherpa' Vollentine, Cpl 'Zola' Budden, Cpl MASH Griffiths, Cpl Marina Neighbour, LCpl Karen Prentice and LCpl Clare Arnold.

0630 hrs. Horrified glances rebound around the minibus and a sickening feeling grips the pit of the stomach. The Boss glances casually out of the window and peers anxiously up at the roof rack. The sight is worse than expected. The contraption is precariously working up to an imitation of the soft shoe shuffle along the grooves which it purports to be welded onto. Visions of an horrendous

accident and mountains of paperwork in her in-tray (thereby preventing her from getting out and playing sport) convince the expedition leader in an instant, that the roof rack must go.

Sgt 'U turn' Wilson is hastily instructed back to camp for a make safe (unload followed by a load) as all the kit is hauled off the roof rack and piled up into the back of the van.

It is 0730 hrs and all is quiet.

The journey down to Chamonix is uneventful although a second curious knocking sound occurring over the back wheels about 20 miles from the final destination, is a cause for further concern. Ten fair maidens apply their vast mechanical experience to the problem and decisively conclude that it is either the steering, the differential, or the springs. For the second time, visions of the expedition being doomed to failure flash across the Bosses' mind, but thankfully the problem does not seem to be too serious.

The first day's walking commences in warm sunshine. This turns out to be the standard weather for the expedition for which we are most thankful. The expedition leader and 2IC are meanwhile having a few differences of opinion over the track they are on, which results in the old cry of 'the map's wrong!' Looks of disbelief dart between the party members, however, on closer inspection it is revealed that the map is a few years out of date and that a few improvements have been made on the ground — like whole new roads! Back to square one and the Silva compass. With a momentous effort the group leaders come to a decision and jointly agree on their whereabouts. 'We think we might be here', and even more convincingly 'we're either here or there!!'

And so we trek on, up over the many kilometres of rough concealed rockface which lie between what we think is the top of the mountain, and what actually is. Cpl Griffiths our

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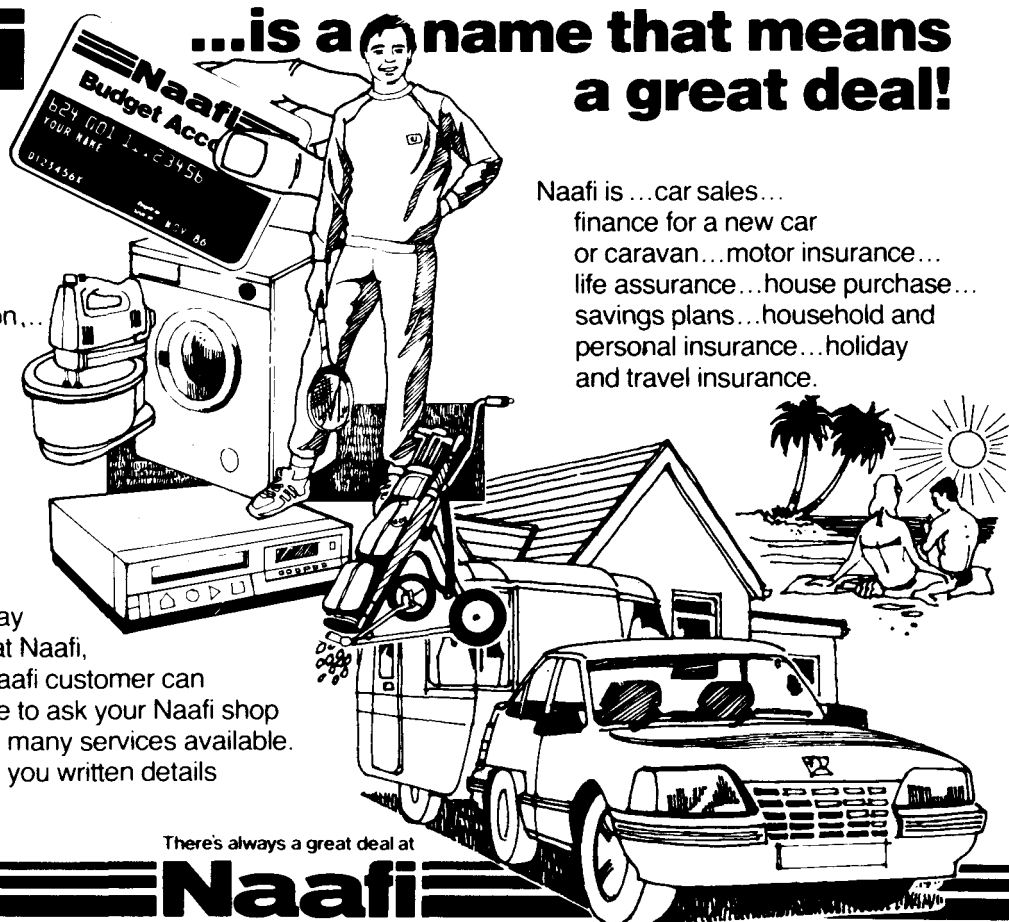
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medic is faced with the unedifying task of treating sore blistered feet. In fact, she takes a somewhat sadistic delight in administering large syringes of iodine to suffering feet. Sgt Cranwell-Child is rumoured to have noted her down for several extra BFT's after one such painful session.

One day, confronted by a monumental range of mountains, the group's curiosity is awakened — "Which one's Mont Blanc then?" asks Cpl 'MASH' Griffiths. The intrepid leaders had not been expecting that. Depending on where one stood it was difficult to identify which mountain was the highest! After a hasty consultation with the map it is decided that none of them were Mont Blanc and that its white peak is still obscured behind other mountains.

Sgt Wilson meanwhile, is stunned to momentary silence as she casts her gaze over the assembled peaks "It's not like Calais or Boulogne" she murmurs, "but it's still France isn't it?!"

After a week or so, and having gained their mountain legs the group are still peering expectantly over mountain peaks hoping to cast their gaze upon Mont Blanc. Sgt Cranwell-Child, after much consultation with the map, bravely announces to the assembled masses that Mont Blanc is the rounded peak which can be seen in the far distance.



Lt Moffat, Sgt Sally Cranwell-Child, Staff Sergeant McDougall, Sgt Steph Vollentine, Cpl Terry Griffiths, LCpl Karen Prentice, Cpl Marina Neighbour, Cpl Hazel Budden.

The minibus got us there and back, and all the way around as well, and all came back with a healthy tan, a wealth of experience and a firm conviction that wherever we'd been on the map we'd actually been *there* on the ground.



Cpl Terry Griffiths, Staff Sergeant Nancy McDougall, LCpl Karen Prentice, Lt Moffat, Sgt Sally Cranwell-Child, Sgt Donan Wilson.

GRAND REUNION 1988 (ATS GOLDEN JUBILEE)

Arrangements for the 1988 Grand Reunion which will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938 are as follows:

Fri 7 Oct 88 – 2 or 3 pm

Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral

Sat 8 Oct 88 –

Grand Reunion in the Barbican Centre London

Outline programme:

Morning – Secretaries Meeting followed by Council and Secretaries' Lunch

Afternoon – The Annual General Meeting postponed from April

Evening – Buffet Supper followed by speeches and entertainment

The public area of the Barbican Centre will be open from 8.30 am. Members can meet their friends, make purchases of souvenirs and have something to eat before the AGM.

Members will be expected to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements although lists of accommodation will be provided. The cost per member exclusive of travel and accommodation is expected to be between £15 and £20.

Application forms for tickets for all events will be published in the August 1987 edition of *Lioness* and be repeated in the February 1988 edition. Only applications using the official form (or photocopies) will be acceptable. Applications will be dealt with in order of receipt within a system of priorities to be laid down by the Council of the Association for allocation. Although branches may send in individual applications in bulk, block bookings or multiple applications will not be acceptable.

THE FRIENDS OF THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

The Museum is the National Museum of the history of twentieth century war. Its vast collection comprises hundreds of thousands of objects from aircraft to postage stamps.

Among its many aims the Friends will give support to the Museum, publicise its work, offer voluntary help as required and – when possible – make grants to or for the benefit of the Museum.

Categories of Membership	Annual Subscription
Friend	Minimum £10
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Senior Citizen	Minimum £5
Young Friend (18-25)	Minimum £5
Life membership	Minimum donation £150
Benefactor	Minimum donation £500
Additional privileges –	
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Privileges of Membership

Free entry to the Museum and its out-stations with the exception of the Cabinet War Rooms and special events at Duxford.

Private views of special exhibitions.

Concessionary discount on Exhibition catalogues and certain items purchased in the Museum shops.

Opportunity to attend films and lectures.

Visits to places and exhibitions.

A periodic magazine.



**3 PCDRE — EX CROSSBOW — ON PATROL: Capt Maltman, Pte Thornton, LCpl Melville, LCpl Hall.
Eat your heart out RAMBO.**

EXERCISE CROSSBOW — WRAC HIT THE TARGET!

Capt G A Maltman WRAC — 3 PCD RE

The first lesson most people learn in the Army is never to volunteer for anything. Well of course that is all very well if you are given the choice of whether or not to volunteer ... and so it was that 3 Postal & Courier Depot RE sent an intrepid team of "volunteers" to compete in Ex Crossbow in September 1986.

Ex Crossbow is an annual competition run in the Rear Combat Zone of BAOR involving all the units in that area. Last year, for the first time ever, female participation was encouraged and thus, accompanied by only one other female team (29 Company WRAC), and 8 male teams, we arrived at the central camp location at Bracht early one Sunday afternoon, loaded down with SMGs, webbing, bergens, helmets and, of course, the inevitable NAAFI carrier bag!

First came a BFT Competition, where we were so horrified at the speed with which 64 men shot past us at the start, that we seemed to forget our pain to such an extent that half of us turned in our best times ever!! A good note on which to end the day and an excellent excuse to have a celebratory drink or two in the NAAFI before returning back to our palatial tent for the night.

Even to us shift-work hardened posties, the 0600 hrs reveille came as a nasty shock, as did the continuing torrents of water falling from the sky. We all thought of our respective places of work with unaccustomed fondness and shrugged on as many layers of combat kit as would fit, before wading through the mud to breakfast. A good hot meal always cheers you up and soon we were raring to go. Unfortunately the same could not be said for our trusty chariot, the Landrover, which set the pattern for the rest of the week that morning by hiccuping around the field for about 20 minutes before consenting to take us out to the training area.

When eventually we did get there we had fun building bashas, orienteering and first-aiding, all in the pouring rain. In the afternoon we were on the ranges and, perversely the dreadful weather seemed to help us as we ended up with the highest score of the week. Morale high, we returned "home" — to discover our sleeping bags and personal kit floating on a knee-deep lake inside the tent.

— Tuesday dawned, if not bright and cheerful, at least less wet, and this encouraged us to perform extra well on the NBC stand where we were complimented both on our excellent knowledge of NBC matters and our appealing habit of carrying our weapons "like handbags" during the stretcher race. Glowing from the compliments we remained on a high all day, charging aggressively through the Close Quarter Battle Range (much to the amusement of the DS), then storming on to a wiring and mining exercise where we even impressed Brigadier Palmer who came to visit us.

Just to stop anyone from relaxing for a moment, the assault course competition was slotted in at dawn on Wednesday, which meant an early rise for Comd WRAC, Col Robertson, who nobly came out to support our inspired efforts, and gave us words of encouragement for what was to come on the exercise.

Thursday — bright, warm and sunny — was spent pleasurably, our time divided between attacking the enemy and sunbathing — oops, I mean defending our position.

Finally that night the magic word — ENDEX! I should imagine few readers can have seen a patrol base dismantled and packed up so quickly! Due to a hockey engagement in UK that weekend our team was unable to stay to compete in the March and Shoot the following day, and were therefore now finished. Having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on Ex Crossbow from start to finish, we decided to finish in style, and treated ourselves to fish suppers all round, before returning, exhausted and filthy, to our respective bases at Rheindahlen and Dusseldorf, to recover from the rigours of the week.

Correspondence



ATS Coy Berlin during Blockade and Airlift 1948. Corporal Hart is 4th from right in third row.

Mrs Jean Eastham (nee Hart) provided the picture of the ATS Company of British Troops in Berlin during the blockade and Airlift in 1948. Anyone who was there at the time is asked to contact her at 11 North Houses Lane, St Annes, Lancs.



Mrs Jean Eastham (nee Hart)



Jean Hart Berlin 1948

Mrs M M Ward (nee Luck) writes from 69 Park Avenue, Papatoetoe, New Zealand to ask if anyone remembers the "Workhouse" at Royston 1942-45. She would love to hear from them.

Ex ATS/WRAC living in the Republic of Ireland who would be interested in a Reunion with their ex Army friends in the Ulster Branch please contact: Pat Earls, 92 Whitechurch Road, Ballywalter, Co Down BT22 2JY, N Ireland. Tel: Ballywalter 58354.

Edna Dawes (nee Street) and Susan Smyth (nee Wood) would like to get in touch with Elizabeth Roper who was on WRAC Commissioning Course No 3 at Hindhead in 1951. Please write via Corps HQ.

Eric Taylor has been commissioned by the publishers, Robert Hale to write a new study of the contribution made to the war effort by the women who were directly involved — whether as members of the womens services (WRNS, ATS, FANY, nursing organisations and so forth) or less conventionally through Special Operations. Any readers who would like to help by supplying accounts of their own experiences are invited to write to him at 21 High Oaks, York YO3 0LB or to telephone (0904) 425029. He is interested not just in the exciting accounts but also the humdrum, the amusing and realistic accounts of life as it really was in those days so that a composite picture for posterity can be made.

Mrs C E Cundy-Cooper of Rugby Cottage, Lodge Lane, Tendring, Essex CO16 0BS would like to hear from any members of the Middle East Officers (ATS) Association as she misses the reunion which they used to have.

Miss Margaret Beckett JP of 23 George Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7EY would like to hear from anyone from the 14th East Lancashire Group especially service-women named Scholfield, Finnegan, Watkins and Williams who appear in a picture taken at Blackmoor Park, Malvern in July 1939.

Mrs P Longland (nee Baxter) of 157c Park Avenue, Purbrook, Portsmouth PO7 5EY is still trying to find ex-members of 93 Searchlight Regiment RA.

Mrs Hay of 3 Angus Avenue, Prestwick, Ayrshire would like to hear from anyone who served 1942-1946 with her sister-in-law Mrs Edith (Lampon) May at B Coy LAA, RAPC, Newark Buildings, Leicester.

Mr L L Tarr husband of Mrs Connie Tarr (nee Poole) writes to say that they have made contact with Pat Peacock, LCpl Maloney in Frome and that Audrey Hollis (nee Mallett) is moving from New Milton to Oxford. The Tarr's live at 136 Gerrards Green, Beaminster in Dorset and would like to hear from anyone living in the area.

Mr Joe (Paddy) Robinson of 24 Ashcroft Court, Kings Sledges, Nr Asbury, Cambridge CB4 2SW who served in GHQ Oze Maddeloni, near Caserta in Italy reads the Lioness and would like to hear from anyone who was in the GHQ. He especially remembers Ann Patterson, Peggy Rimmer, Elsie and Betty Smith, Margaret Foster and Alice Walker.

Mrs Nancy Robinson (nee Mornin) of 24 Ashcroft Court, Kings Sledges, Nr Asbury, Cambridge CB4 2SW seeks friends who knew her at CAW Camp Londonderry in April, May and June 1944 and West Kirby near Liverpool.

Mrs V Dunwoody of 12 Grove Gardens, 116 Southbourne Road, Bournemouth BH6 3QJ was asking on behalf of a friend in Canada for any information concerning Miss Alfreda (Freda) Bishop who served in the Aldershot area during the Second World War.

Miss Betsy Grieve would like to hear any news of the other seventeen members of her ~~WRAF~~ draft to France in 1917. Their names and numbers were: G D Wood (930), Madge Walker from Dunfermline (827), Joan Chandler from Bristol (708), Millie Smallwood from London (910), Betty D Robb from Scotland (762), Effie Sinclair from Canada (814), Gwendolene Criddle (858), A D Mackie from Glasgow (796), Dorothy A Winks from London (647), Helena F Fisher (868), G E Scott (907), A Hood from Scotland 786, Nan Foulds from Scotland (771), E Davison (Goodie) (860), D Bower from Liverpool (848).

Miss Grieve was in the Guard of Honour when HRH Queen Mary visited the troops in France and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. In 1919 Forewoman Betsy Grieve was Mentioned in Despatches "in recognition of the work she had done at GHQ".



Sgt Margaret Young now Mrs M Elsby.

Mrs Margaret Elsby of "Rathmore", 87 Ellworth Road, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 9HN sent the photographs of life in 137 (Mixed) Heavy AA Regiment.



Sgt Young's Hairdressing Salon!



CREWE BRANCH STANDARD



**RHQ 137 (Mixed) HAA Regt Hampstead.
Corporal Young is at left hand and second row.**



Mary Churchill with FM Montgomery during inspection of 181 Bty at 137 (M) HAA Regt.

Mrs M A Treadway of Flat 2, 20 Morton Crescent, Exmouth EX8 1BG who was Junior Commander Elliott would like to hear from any members who served in Nos 1, 2 and 3 Continental Groups in 21 Army Group in NW Europe.

Mrs Ann Owens (nee Tinsley) of 15 Connaught Road, Sittingbourne, Kent would like to hear from ex-ATS drivers of Y Wing, Signals. She remembers Ellen Sweetman, Hilda Hallam, Winnie and Isobel.

Mrs Rita Lamb (nee Collins) of 19 Moani Street, WANGI WANGI 2267, Australia says that a second branch of the British Ex Servicewomen's Association has been formed in New South Wales. They would welcome visits by any Association members visiting the area.

Ex Sgt Jay Miller of 42 Stapleford Close, Great Woodley, Romsey, Hants SO51 7HU who served at WRAC School of Instruction 1949-52, WRAC Staff College 1952-53, 2 Coy Donnington 1953-54, HQ MELF Fayid 1954-55 and Episkopi 1955-56 would like to hear from anyone who might remember her.

Mr John Taylor of 1 St Brides Close, Erith, Kent DA18 4DT would like to make contact with Sadie Buchan from Oban and Junior Commanders Clark and Mary Miller who served with his mother who was then Patricia Margaret Davidson and who after training in Kings Lines at Dalkeith was posted to Donnington and St Helens.

Mrs Lou L'Oiseau (nee Coles) of 6 Burton Close, Wool, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6ET would like to hear from Vera Skilton, Gladys Marshall or Irene Cohen who were with her at Guildford, Nottingham, Bovington and Bicester.



3rd Western Platoon at 299 Coastal Defence Battery.
Mary Hallworth (nee Duffy) on the left and second row.

Mrs Mary Hallworth (nee Duffy) sent the photo of herself with the 3rd Western Platoon ATS attached to the 299 Coastal Defence Battery at Fort Walnery, Barrow-in-Furness between 1940 and 1943. She would like to hear from anyone who was there at the same time.



65 HAA Regt RA 1940.

Mrs Dorothy Ginman (nee Lee) of "Dorbil", 73 Eastchurch Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 3HX would like to hear from anyone who served with her in Manchester 1st East Lancs Coy attached to 65th HAA Regiment RA (1939/40) she was a Pte/LCpl at that particular period. Also, in Normandy and Germany 1944 to end of War with No 3 Continental Group ATS attached firstly to 12 L of C Area and lastly with 8 Corps (Plon, Germany). She was serving as CSM in Normandy to Germany with B Coy, No 3 Continental Group ATS.



65 HAA Regt.
Mrs Ginman (nee Lee) is third from left in front row.

NOTICE

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REST HOMES

The RBL Rest Homes at Bridlington and Weymouth are open to wives and widows of ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are recovering from illness or need a rest. The Homes cannot take those who need nursing care.

Charges are £25 per week in first year and £35 per week in subsequent years.

Applications should be made through a Branch of the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion.

WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH
Meetings 1987

Meetings at the Maltings Day Centre, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton 7.30 - 9.30 pm on Mondays 23 March, 27 April, 18 May, 22 June, 27 July, 28 September and 26 October.

Meetings at the Voluntary Sector Council Offices, Bell Street, Wolverhampton 2 pm on Thursdays 22 January and 19 February.

Any serving members on leave, or ex-Service visiting are welcome to our meetings. Contact Secretary 0902-56086.

REUNION NOTICES

NORTHERN AREA REUNION — 1987

A Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Lounge Hall, Parliament Street, Harrogate, on Saturday 16 May 1987 from 2 to 6 pm.

Tickets £3.00 (including tea) obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9BY (Tel: 0423 507023) not later than Saturday 9 May. Please send SAE with remittance made payable to "WRAC Association — Northern Area".

Tickets may also be booked through Northern Area Branch Secretaries by applying to them before Saturday 2 May. No tickets will be on sale at the door.

There will be a fund raising "Bring and Buy" stall at the Reunion and it is hoped that everyone who attends will endeavour to support this by bringing at least one item and buying one.

REUNIONS

ATS DINNER CLUB

The annual Luncheon held on Saturday 4th October 1986 at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London was attended by 392 members and guests. It was a happy and successful occasion. The President, Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, attended and Miss Patience Thesiger was in the Chair. Lady Victoria Scott, the principal guest, spoke briefly about the work of the Royal British Legion among ex-Service men and women, and aroused considerable interest. The raffle raised £254.00.

Loyal greetings were sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and the gracious reply received expressed much appreciation and hoped that the occasion was a great success. Dame Leslie Whateley, the Club's Patron, was unable to attend but sent her love and best wishes for a happy meeting, as well as expressing her thanks for the flowers sent on behalf of the Club, as a token of our regard and affection.

Membership of the Club, which is open to all ex-members of the ATS, is rising steadily thanks to a publicity campaign. Enquiries regarding membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Miss Elizabeth Wade, 2 Chestnut Court, 65 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 6LR.

The next Luncheon will be held on Saturday 3rd October 1987.

D Troop 301 Battery of 93 Searchlight Regiment hold an Annual Reunion in London each October. Details from Mrs P Longland of 157c Park Avenue, Purbrook, Portsmouth PO7 5EY.

WOMEN IN WAR

Shelley Saywell

Women have always been involved in wars although not always as actual combatants. Shelley Saywell's interest in women and warfare was sparked by a chance meeting with a World War II concentration camp survivor and she became fascinated with the idea of seeing war through women's eyes.

Starting with World War II we meet a British pilot; fight with the Resistance in France, Italy and Poland; and go into combat with the Russian marines. Then to Palestine with an Israeli commando and to Indochina with a French reporter caught at Dien Bien Phu, while American army nurses remember the horror of Vietnam. Finally we meet a war artist with the British Task Force to the Falklands and refugees from El Salvador who fought for the revolutionary forces there.

The twenty five women whose stories are told did not consider themselves particularly patriotic or courageous despite the fact that they often operated on their own or as the only woman in a group of men. They felt they had a duty and fulfilled it as best they could. Their extraordinary stories prove the old adage that war is hell — whether you are a man or a woman.

324 pages

25 black and white photos

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To obtain your copy, please send your cheque for £16.50 (£15.95 + .55 p & p) made payable to Costello at 43 High Street Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1XL

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AND

BRANCH NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1986

The AGM will be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 11 April 1987 at 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Chairman's opening remarks.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on 12 April 1986.
4. Report of Council.
5. Report of Honorary Treasurer.
6. Report of Editor Lioness.
7. Report of Committees:
 - a. ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
 - b. Museum Trustees.
8. Resolutions.

BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING

The Secretaries Meeting will be held on 11 April 1987 at 11.30 am in the Carisbrooke Hall at The Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch).

Members of Council invite Branch Secretaries to join them for lunch as their guests following the meeting.

Application forms for tickets for the lunch will be circulated in March.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There will be a fund raising raffle and items from the Museum will be on sale from 11.00 am onwards on 11 April 1987.

There will however be no Band Concert following the AGM and as Sunday 12 April is Palm Sunday the Chapel at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea is unable to accommodate us for the usual Matins Service.

AYRSHIRE Although it is some time since news of the Branch has been reported in the "Lioness" we still meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month September to May.

Numbers do get smaller but with a varied programme, interest is still maintained.

We began this session with a "High Tea" and then we were pleased to host the Scottish Area AGM in October 1986. We had an excellent turnout and after luncheon, a most successful meeting. We were sorry that Major S J Westlake, Commander WRAC Scotland had received a posting, as she was well known to us all now, but with a Scot, Major A Ewan to take over, felt she too would be one of us.

As the Branch was formed 40 years ago and with Mrs J Neilson, our President, celebrating her 92nd Birthday, we certainly can say we have had loyal support from members.

Our main fund-raising effort is an annual Scottish Country Dance from which the Erskine Hospital always benefits, along with other charities.

Best wishes for 1987 to all our friends in the Association.



AYRSHIRE BRANCH

Back Row: Mrs Cozzo, Mrs Forsyth, Mrs Wyllie, Mrs Mowbray, Mrs Blacklock, Miss McQuaker, Mrs Mackie, Miss Semple, Miss Howie, Miss Craig.

Front Row: Mrs Richardson, Mrs Farmington, Miss Thomson, Mrs McMillan, Mrs Neilson, Miss Basnett, Mrs Hay, Miss Hannah.

BRADFORD We have had a very good year with an average attendance of thirty-five. We were saddened by two deaths in February of regular attenders, Mary Duckworth and Mollie Atkinson, a guard of honour was formed at both funerals and the Standard was paraded.

The highlight of our year was the visit in July to Guildford by twenty-seven members and six husbands. After staying overnight at the University we joined parents and friends to watch a passing out parade of WRAC recruits and very smart they were too. We enjoyed the church service and we were treated as VIPs. After an excellent lunch, a visit to the Museum and the Sergeants' Mess we reluctantly had to board our coach for the journey home.

We had a successful Spring Fair in April and a number of us went to the reunion at Harrogate in May. We have attended Festivals of Remembrance at Bradford and Oldham and Standard dedications at Rochdale and South-

port, our Standard Bearer, Mrs Norah Kendall looking very smart in her new uniform.

As usual the lunch we gave for the 1914–1918 Veterans went with a swing, forty-four veterans were here this year, every year the numbers diminish.

We are now looking forward to April 5th 1987 when our new Standard will be dedicated in Bradford Cathedral.

If any members would like to attend and haven't been contacted, would they please get in touch with the Secretary, Miss Ivy Weston, 24 Woodcot Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6AN. Telephone 0274 597595.

CREWE The Crewe branch have had another successful year, everyone working hard to raise funds. We have attended several functions including the Dedication of the Chester Branch Standard, and on two occasions were proud to parade the WRAC National Standard, when our Standard Bearer and Escorts wore the new uniforms we have had made (photo enclosed) and were greeted with much applause.

A number of members attended the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph, staying at the Victory Services Club where we enjoy renewing old acquaintances. We are now looking forward to social outings — Christmas Dinner for branch members, Social evening with the Grenadier Guards Association in Newcastle and then a whole New Year for us to plan.

DOVER AND FOLKESTONE The Branch has had an active year with monthly meetings. At the April one we had the pleasure of a visit from our two American members which was very enjoyable.

In the summer members and friends made a trip to London to visit the Royal Mews which they found very interesting, and one of our Folkestone members organised a Barn Dance which was a great success.

Once again, the main event of our year was the Remembrance Service at St Mary in the Castle on the 19 October which was conducted by the Garrison Chaplain. Among the guests were the Mayors and Mayoresses of Dover, Folkestone and Deal, and Lt Col (Retd) A Bray, the Vice-Chairman of the South East Area.

Two Association Standards were paraded, from Canterbury and Hastings, together with Standards from various other local organisations. Many members of the Association from other Branches in Kent and elsewhere also attended.

EXETER Our numbers are still increasing. At our last meeting on 16 September, Mrs Jean Bancroft took over as Treasurer, and Mrs Meg Treadaway as Secretary.

Three of our members took part in the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph in London.

We held our Birthday lunch on October 28th, a very pleasant gathering attended by 21 members.

Our meetings are held monthly in the RBL hall in Exeter.

HARROGATE We have had quite a busy year in Harrogate with splendid support from all our locally-based members. Quite a large proportion of our membership is prevented from attending meetings due to distance from Harrogate and consequent transport problems, but they manage to catch up with us occasionally when the opportunity arises.

The Annual Dinner had to be postponed until April. However we had a superb Dinner at the Hospitality Inn and everyone agreed it had been worth waiting for! In March a party went to the Royal Hall to see "Summer Song" and in May we operated our usual Tombola at Bilton Gala and in spite of monsoon conditions necessitating the use of 'wellies' and waterproof covers, managed to raise nearly £90 from the intrepid populace! Other events included a Quiz, a Games Evening and Pot Luck Supper, and an evening when we indulged in Mementoes and Nostalgia (when some very interesting souvenirs were given an airing!). In June a party of members accepted the invitation from York Branch to join them at their social evening and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. In May we repeated the popular tour of the Valley Gardens and Pinewoods, finishing the evening with a fish and chips supper, and in July we arranged an outing to Sion Hill Hall to inspect the fabulous collection of antiques therein.

During the year we also had three visiting speakers — an illuminating talk on the Royal Observer Corps, the Administrator of Harrogate Theatre who, so to speak, raised the curtain and showed us behind the scenes, and a hilarious and sometimes touching talk by a former Head Teacher entitled "Tales Out of School".

KEIGHLEY We are now three years old with a membership of 37. Membership continues to increase slightly each year and average attendance at our monthly meetings is approximately 20. We continue to meet in the local TA Drill Hall, in a room complete with Bar should we require it, but tea seems to be the favourite tippie of our members. We have had a very full year with a visit to a local Hotel for dinner, various kinds of parties of the Birthday and cheese variety, plus one or two fund raising events, which enables us to make various donations to charities selected by members.

One of our members was a guest at a local Indian wedding and she very kindly described the event for us, we found it very interesting indeed.

Some of our members attended the local Remembrance parade and laid a wreath on behalf of our Branch.

One of our outings this time to York Branch was rather spoilt for us by the (professional) driver of our hired mini-bus taking us on a cross country shake-about. This experience prompted one of our members to take the test necessary to enable her to "Hire and Drive" next time we require transport. Muriel first double-declutched about 1941 at Bradbury lines, which prompts the question whether any one knows how many ATS drivers were trained here during the 1939–45 affair?

Mrs Edna Wilson was one of them and having "passed out" was awaiting posting, for reasons known only to Top Brass. We new drivers were sent to the local Hop fields to help bring in the harvest. Most of them were Townies and the nearest they had been to hops of this variety were served in a glass at the local pub. It may not have made them better drivers but it certainly boosted local sales of Calamine Lotion.

KINGSTON UPON HULL We continue to hold our meetings on the premises of the Royal British Legion, 44 Beverley Road, Hull, on the first Friday of each month. This year we have experimented by holding our winter month meetings in the afternoon at 2 pm. Summer month meetings will revert to evenings at 7.30 pm.

Our new standard was paraded at the ex-Service weekend in Bridlington in June. Our Chairman, Mrs Evison, known

as Paddy, suddenly and unexpectedly found herself bearing the Standard, not only into the Priory Church, but in the March from the Church to the Spa Hall, which is over a mile. She did an admirable job and we were all very proud.

Sgt Marjorie Booker from the Hull Careers Office valiantly offered to be our Standard Bearer and the Standard was paraded on Battle of Britain Sunday and on the occasion of the dedication of the Parachute Regiment Association Standard. Sgt Booker was in Germany on Remembrance Sunday so we were without a Standard Bearer.

We do not have a member able to carry our Standard and we are looking for a young and strong WRAC, serving or demobbed, living in the area. Sgt Booker has her Army duties and cannot always be with us. Any volunteers? Please!

This year we held our annual dinner at the Minerva Masonic Lodge in Hull, this was such a success it is to be repeated this year on the 20 March 1987. Visitors welcome. Our third Summer Special was also held at the Masonic Lodge and again was a success. The staff at the Lodge treat all the ex-service associations of Hull with extreme kindness and our members attend many events held there.

The vicar of St John's Church, Newlands, Hull, the Church where the Hull Branch Standard was dedicated, has kindly consented to be Branch Chaplain and a Corps Sunday is to be held next year on the 14 June 1987.

It will be the morning Service at 10.30 am. Hull Branch would welcome any member from the Yorkshire branches who would like to join us.

LONDON Branch membership has again increased thanks to the advertising campaign mounted by local members in local libraries and newspapers.

September brought one of the few fine days of our so-called summer and our second coach trip of the year to Leeds Castle in Kent. It was a most enjoyable trip and because these have been a success two more are planned for 1987.

Following the appeal for the Museum Redevelopment it was decided that the proceeds of our October Bring and Buy should be devoted to this. Everyone made a special effort and we were pleased to be able to send off a cheque for £100.

In June we had a visit from a member of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association who brought along her own guide dog to meet us, and a collection enabled the branch to make a contribution of £40 to their funds.

MANCHESTER We average 15 members at our monthly meetings, and are pleased to receive renewal subscriptions from as far away as Burnham on Sea, Rotherham and Fylde coast.

We have sent donations totalling £100, to three charities i.e. Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, Cancer Research and Broughton House, home for disabled ex-service men.

Our Secretary organised a trip to the Stoke Flower Festival in July.

Several members were fortunate in obtaining tickets for

the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall and also attended the Armistice Parade in Whitehall.

A number of members have been out for an evening in town, and Christmas dinner.

We had our usual 'Bring and Buy Sale' and party to bring our 1986 meetings to an end, and don't meet now until March 3rd.

PLYMOUTH The highlight of the year was a visit by the Branch to the WRAC Centre at Guildford to witness the Passing Out Parade taken by Brigadier Meechie.

We travelled by car and minibus and were entertained by RSM D McFall and the members of the Sergeants' Mess at Queen Elizabeth Park.

In addition to fund raising activities such as jumble sales and social events, we have entertained the WRNS to a Skittle evening.

SOMERSET Although we met only four times this year as a branch, our events have proved popular with members and guests.

In our last year we have had an increase of 9 new members, which has taken us to a total of 53 members.

Last February we held our Annual Dinner and 21 members enjoyed the get-together.

We were invited to attend the Weymouth and Portland Branch Dedication of Standard Service, in April at Weymouth. Two of our members represented our branch and were impressed by their hospitality. Also in April our Chairman and Secretary attended the AGM in London. To finish April off, 43 members and guests enjoyed a Skittle and Supper evening.

Our Branch was represented at the Sub Area Reunion at Bath in May, where the two members from our branch enjoyed a very well thought out day.

The last get-together before our AGM was our Barbecue at the home of one of our members, Mrs Hardinge-Francis, which proved popular with the 47 members and guests who tucked into a plate of delicious food. There was also a bar. We were very pleased that our oldest member Mrs F Stark (who is 90) came and joined in the evenings fun.

21 members attended our AGM in October, at the British Legion Club, Taunton. It was decided to meet more often, and to keep a better eye on the welfare of our older members. Donations were given to the Star and Garter Homes, WRAC Benevolent Fund and to the Museum Appeal.

SOUTHAMPTON Since our last report our membership has increased considerably from 46 to 67 of which 51 are Annual members and 16 Life members.

For the second year running we have manned a stand at the Southampton Annual Show and a visit to this show is certainly recommended. We received several enquiries as a result of our attendance there.

An unexpected highlight for us in September was our participation in the Vera Lynn concert at the Guildhall for the GI Brides, who were enjoying a four day reunion in the city and Dame Vera herself read our letter of welcome to them. There were quite a few ex-ATS members amongst the GI Brides.

Ten of our members attended and greatly enjoyed once again the annual luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club in London in October.

Several of us recently attended the local Festival of

Remembrance in the Guildhall, and seeing so many varied uniforms made us feel very proud to belong.

Among our various talented members we have one — Mrs Eileen Kisby — who not only writes poetry but recently wrote and had published a book titled "The Rocking Horse". She was to be found at the Eastleigh Wise Owl bookshop autographing copies in November at which several of our members went along to give their support.

As this report is being compiled we are still recalling with pleasure our Christmas party at which we always have a hat competition, this year the theme being "ASCOT", some very ingenious and colourful hats they were too. The very next evening some of us were entertained by the Wrens Association to their Christmas party, again very much enjoyed.

In 1988 it is not only the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS but also our branch's 40th Anniversary, and to this end 1987 will find us actively engaged in fund raising, to help us in our celebrations of both events.

STAFFORD We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Royal Naval Association Club in Stafford and have had a very successful year having gained 6 new members and 3 Association members. One of the new members is an original member who has rejoined after an absence of 14 years.

We have had a varied and interesting programme this year with talks on flower arranging, the preparation of cold dishes by a cookery expert and one of the editors of our local Talking Newspaper for the Blind came along with a blind recipient to explain what goes into the making of these tapes and what a difference it has made to the lives of blind persons. We also enjoyed a nature walk through four seasons with the help of some excellent slides and a good speaker.

Looking back over the year it would seem that emphasis has been put on the social side of our meetings as we had our usual Christmas Party, a social evening after the AGM, our 'Birthday' dinner in April to celebrate 21 years, a 'pub' meal in July and August and a buffet supper at the home of our President in September. We also held two fund raising events — a Barbecue in June and a Coffee Morning in October — both at the home of the Secretary.

For the many friends and colleagues of ex-RSM Dilly Norcott, I would like to add that she is making quite good progress after her stroke but is still unable to go out without transport. Although on the waiting list for a Warden controlled flat, she is at present at the same address.

SWANSEA AND DISTRICT Our first meeting was 12 January 1983 with about 30 members, at Swansea Guildhall since then we have continued to meet the first of the month, courtesy of the City Council. We have visited other branches, Cardiff, Telford and some of us went to the Grand Reunion at Harrogate.

On Saturday 11 October, we were hosts to the Secretaries of Western Area WRAC Association. The Secretaries were given lunch at the Mansion House with the Lord Mayor of Swansea, Councillor Lilian Hopkin. Included were Lt Col J L Lawson, Chairman of Western Area, Mrs Irene Tack, Swansea branch and Secretaries from Stafford, Crewe and Cardiff. The weather was kind to us, the sun was shining and other members and guests were taken to the Mumbles to admire the coast, and the lovely views. Later a tour of the Guildhall, and a nice tea ended our day, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We would be delighted to hear from other branches and are looking forward to the Grand Reunion in 1988.

Saturday 8 November, a few of us attended the Armistice Service at the Guildhall, where we were very proud to see our Standard paraded. A wreath was laid at a Service at St Mary's Church on November 11th.

ULSTER In 1986 we held three social evenings instead of one. In March we held our Annual Luncheon, with the help of regular WRAC serving in Northern Ireland and guests, number attending this luncheon was 59. In June, 42 members were present for an evening outing to the north down coastal town of Donaghadee, there we were not only given a conducted tour of the new lifeboat but also a short trip out onto the Irish sea, this was not only enjoyable but most informative. After the trip a buffet supper was served in the local Sailing Club. Our third event was in September, 32 members attended a social evening at the TA Centre, Firmount, another enjoyable event.

Our AGM was held in November, we were very pleased to welcome Major Allison Isaacs who has taken over from Major Wendy le Gassick as WRAC Commander Northern Ireland and Chairman of Northern Ireland Area WRAC Association. Major Isaacs chaired this meeting for the election of officers and committee, which with the exception of one committee member, remains the same.

Though we are not a fund raising organisation, through the efforts of our hardworking committee and regular attenders who contributed prizes for raffles held during our social events, enough money was realised to contribute £100 each to the Museum Appeal and the RNLI Donaghadee.

Once again may I appeal to all members, especially ex-ATS to try and make every effort to support us in our effort to keep this branch in Northern Ireland alive — at the moment only a third of the membership attends meetings etc.

WOLVERHAMPTON Our Branch with approx 80 members, means, although our meetings are still held once a month, we have made arrangements for afternoon meetings, this enables those unable to attend evening meetings, to come along in an afternoon and join in the discussions, or events, we have a good turn out at either session.

In March members enjoyed a visit to the new GPO Sorting Office. At the branch meeting, weather was atrocious, but 19 members battled the elements to give support when a speaker from our local paper, The Express and Star gave a talk.



Wolverhampton Branch members with Book of Remembrance.

During April the branch held an interesting display of Patchwork.

May saw our Chairman, Miss Mary Davies carrying our Standard when members attended a dedication of the British Korean Veterans Association standard, there were 500 ex-Service people in the Parade.

In July once again one of our members, Doris Ricketts showed us how to make fancy pin-cushions.

On 6th September the Branch celebrated its 40th Birthday. At the meeting Betty Green, well recovered from an illness, showed slides of her tour of duty in Singapore.

During October members were grateful to Yeoman Warden and Mrs Carpenter, for their hospitality, when they visited the Tower of London to witness the Ceremony of the Keys, next day they went to the ATS Luncheon. At the branch meeting we held a Bring and Buy sale to help funds.

November was a very busy time for this Branch, members wore their medals, when invited to spend a day on guard by the Wolverhampton 1st World War Book of Remembrance, at the Town Art Gallery. Our Chairman again carried the Standard at The Wolverhampton Festival of Remembrance. All members felt it a great honour for the Branch, to be chosen to carry the Association Poppy Wreath at the Cenotaph in London, on Remembrance Sunday, nine of our members attended and were seen on TV in the March Past. At our AGM Mary Davies, Mary Beeston and Betty Nutt, were re-elected on the committee, as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

In response to the notice in the 2nd Issue of the Lioness, we were pleased to receive copies of some songs and music from Kaye Ruch of California USA.

Donations from the Branch this year were sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund (£50), and Charlie Hawkins, Royal Star & Garter (£10).

WESTERN AREA CONCERT

With regard to the notice in the last edition of Lioness regarding a concert to be held in Wolverhampton in November 1987, we have to surmount certain problems. Firstly, the venue chosen, The Wulfrum Hall, will not now be available as it is to be closed down. Secondly, offers to participate in the concert have been practically non-existent. I have had an offer of help from a member in Chester and Mary Beeston had an offer of wartime tunes etc from a member in California, which are now in Mrs Beeston's possession. If we cannot get more offers from interested members very soon, we must scrap the whole idea. Should it be necessary to cancel, we propose to collate songs from the "War Days" and prepare a general Song Sheet to cover most occasions. These we would then put on sale to raise funds.

So any words and music would be gratefully received please — either to Mary Beeston, Wolverhampton Branch, 77 Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton or Chris Grigg, Shropshire Branch, 9 Concorde, Dawley Bank, Telford TF4 2QB.

WESTERN AREA The Western Area Reunion and Secretaries Meeting was held at Swansea on 11th October 1986 and was organised by the Swansea Branch of the Association.

Lt Col Janet Lawson the Area Chairman and the branch secretaries, were entertained for lunch by the Lady Mayoress of Swansea in the Manor House and invited to tour the Guildhall with its beautiful decor of blue and gold. The Mayoress showed a great interest in the history and work of the Association.

SPORT

WRAC FENCING

The Ladies Foil Championships took place at the APT School at Aldershot (as one of a number of competitions in the week-long Army Fencing Championships).

The first competition for the girls was the Chairman's Cup. This is a competition designed to encourage Novice fencers, since no fencer who has been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in a previous Chairman's Cup, or who has been picked to represent the Army is allowed to compete. A total of 16 girls fenced in this competition, and the standard of fencing was high, which augurs well for women's fencing in the future but it is only when there is a broad base of fencers enjoying the sport that the Army team will flourish and come into its own. The six best fencers got into the final pool and fenced for the cup and a place in the Championship.

The final result was: 1st Capt Boilean, 2nd Pte Archer, 3rd LCpl Clearman, and 4th Lt Dunne.

Then, after a brief respite, came the Foil Championships. This is open to the first 4 from the Chairman's Cup and to members of the Army team. After a very close competition and a final barrage (bout) the final places were: 1st Lt J K Hurford-Dawson, 2nd Lt K Platts, 3rd Capt Boilean, and 4th Pte Archer.

These 4 formed the Army team who contested the Inter-Services match where they improved on last year's performance, finishing second, to a very strong RAF team. This result, being mainly due to Lt Platt's "no-nonsense" fencing, as she carried the team through after a shaky start.

The final event of the Women's fencing calendar, the Ladies Inter-Service Foil Championships, took place at the Royal Tournament. Anyone who has been to the Tournament will know just how exciting it can be, with an electrifying atmosphere. Certainly, the girls this year enjoyed the fencing, and the show in the evening.

Lt K Platts and Lt J Hurford-Dawson, both qualified for the finals, finishing 4th and 6th respectively. Special congratulations go to Lt Platts for being selected for the second year running for the Inter-Service match against the England team.



Col Bralsby presenting Chairman's Cup to Lt K J Hurford-Dawson.

ARMY LADIES SKIING

This year was the most successful season to date for Army Ladies Skiing. For the first time the Alpine Team competed alongside the men at both the Army Meeting in Fulpmes and the Inter-Services Meeting at Cormayeur. At the Army Meeting the results were as follows: 1st Capt C Caddick CRLS Preston, 2nd LCpl A Burns 68 Sqn RCT and 3rd Lt L Dougherty 43 ARC.

At the Inter-Service Meeting the Team won the Ladies Competition. It was a particularly successful competition for Capt C Caddick who won both the slalom and giant slalom to become Combined Services Ladies Champion for the fifth year running.

This was the first year that a Nordic Team was formed and competed. A team from SEME Bordon trained under the supervision of Capt J Brodie-Murphy and then competed at the British National/Army and BAOR Championships at Zwiesel. Overall placings were: 1st LCpl Jeffrey AMTC Silburhutte, 2nd LCpl Edwards SEME Bordon and 3rd LCpl Banks SEME Bordon.

There were also opportunities for novices to learn Alpine and Nordic skiing. The Women Services were given 30 places on Ex Winter Warrior, the UKLF equivalent of Ex Snow Queen and 7 places on the Joint Services Ski Course in Scotland for beginners. These courses were both heavily oversubscribed with over 200 applications.

WRAC GOLFING SOCIETY

The Autumn Meeting of the Society was held at the Army Golf Club, Aldershot on 7 November 1986. The 18 hole medal competition was won by Warrant Officer P J Swales with Major J F M Whitehead second and Captain K Bettinson third.

The afternoon competition for pairs over 9 holes under the Stableford system was won by Captain Phillips and Corporal Sleightholm.

The Spring Meeting is due to be held at Aldershot on Monday 30 March 1987.

BOOK REVIEW

AND IN THE MORNING

By Elizabeth Darrell

Published by Century Hutchinson

Price £11.95

If you read and enjoyed Elizabeth Darrell's earlier novel "At the Going Down of the Sun" you will have followed the fortunes of the Sheridan family of Tarrant Royal, Dorset through the Great War. In this sequel you will be able to discover how the next generation came through the Second World War.

A young member of the family joins the ATS, later becoming a war artist, and we follow her to the Middle East and on to Italy where she embarks on a complicated and passionate relationship. Her RAF brother is a Spitfire pilot who takes part in the Battle of Britain and later sees service in the Far East.

Elizabeth Darrell is a pen-name for Edna Dawes (nee Street) who served in the WRAC from 1951 and was a platoon officer at Guildford. Although she is too young to have served in the last war she has researched the period with detailed accuracy and has conjured up with her vivid descriptions the heady, often unreal, atmosphere of a country under aerial bombardment whose people were facing an uncertain future. This is a very compelling story, and it would not be difficult to identify one's wartime comrades with the characters in these pages.

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS

BEM

Sergeant C Campbell, Sergeant M Couser (V), Staff Sergeant D Parkin

Service Awards in Ulster

MBE

Major P J Samson

Mention in Despatches

Captain S T Aungiers, Captain S A Mawby

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Majors: V M Brighton, P J Gold, A J Isaacs, J L Ransom, P J Samson, E M Walters, G A White

Captains: I J B A Corrigan, J A Coates, C S Buckley

Lieutenants: A K Edwards

2 Lieutenants: C E L Brown, E A H James

Special Regular Commissions

Captains: S E Bates

Short Service Commissions

Captains: J A Walton, H V White, E R Williams, C R V Bailey, T J Phipps, G A Maltman, C M Briggs, S F Currie, A Ford, K J Martin, S May, M S Pratley

Lieutenants: D D Davis, C A Gow, A D Hall, D J Ogden, J C Palmer, J R Cooke, D J Taylor, L A Wilmhurst-Smith, C M Wilson, S L Harris, A M Davis, R C Griffiths, B A McIntosh, V C E Barraud, T E Bowden, N J Brown, V S Collins, H A Froud, J A Henry, A A W Hudson, R R Littlejohns, V C MacMaster, J K McKee, L J Richardson, H F Scott, W A Smith, G C R Wright, A K J Donaldson, R C Lodge, C C Mohan, A Evanson

2 Lieutenants: S M Bagguley, S P Byrne, M M Eccles, K M Halford, L K Joyce, D P Peak, I Rose, T A B Taylor, L M Tucker, C J Willis

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonel J E Johnstone MBE

Major J M Ball

Major (QM) T M Carroll MBE

Captains: S J Stevens, S L Holden, J A Coates, P M Johnson, S E Cooper

Short Service Commissions

Captains: B O McMahon, E C Hogg, J C Turpin, M C Fisher, A C Merry, A J Shiel

OBITUARY

Adkins. Mrs L S Adkins of Hastings on 10 November 1986.
Anderson. Mrs G Anderson (nee Buff) of Cumnock, Dumfries on 24 December 1986.
Arthurs. Miss Letty (Tish) Arthurs of Omagh in July 1986. ATS.
Bills. Mrs D Bills (nee Gallop) of Dover on 8 December 1986. ATS.
Bishenden. Mrs Winnie Bishenden (nee Salter) on 30 July 1986. ATS (1938-45).
Blythen. Mrs E M Blythen (nee Jones) of Wrexham on 28 September 1986. ATS.
Bradshaw. Lt Col H A (Rita) Bradshaw (nee Gildea) of Largs, Scotland on 30 November 1986.
Clark. Miss Joyce Clark of Trumpington, Cambridge on 28 May 1986. ATS.
Cornwell. Miss Christina May Cornwell of Shoreham-by-Sea on 17 September 1986. WO2 ATS/WRAC.
Edmunds. Mrs Clara Edmunds of Langport, Somerset on 12 December 1986. ATC and WRAC.
Elbourne. Miss E M Elbourne of St Leonards-on-Sea on 20 October 1986. ATS.
Funk. Mrs Patricia Mary Funk (nee Green) of Putney in October 1986. WRAC.
Hine. Major E Ann Hine of Surbiton on 7 October 1986. ATS and WRAC.
Ineson. Major Pat Ineson of Newport, Shropshire on 10 October 1986. WRAC.
Jones. Miss Daisy Jones of Trimadog, Gwynedd, on 18 September 1986. ATS.
MacKay. Mrs G T MacKay (nee Frome) of Bristol on 15 June 1986. Junior Commander ATS.
O'Riordan. Miss Sylvia O'Riordan of Surbiton on 2 September 1986. ATS and WRAC TA.
Paget-Clarke. Major Betty Paget-Clarke MBE of Cerne Abbas on 20 November 1986. ATS and WRAC.
Rankin. Colonel Jane Rankin of Milford-on-Sea on 12 November 1986. ATS and WRAC.
Sampson. Miss Alice Sampson of Gwersyllt, Wrexham in July 1986.
Shelley. Miss Rosemary Shelley of Chalfont St Giles on 19 October 1986.

100 NOT OUT



Miss Mildred Mary (Molly) Sivewright ATS celebrates her 100th Birthday on 30 June 1986 with Mrs S Smith, Secretary of Sunderland Branch and Sgt Pat Manson on the sofa and members of the Sunderland Branch.
 Photo Courtesy - The Mail Hartlepool

Spencer. Mrs Helen Spencer of Australia in November 1986. ATS.
Turnbull. Mrs F Turnbull of Peterborough on 15 August 1986. QMAAC.
Verity. Miss Margaret E Verity of Pudsey on 5 May 1986. ATS.
Woodcock. Mrs G K Woodcock (nee Mead) of Hull in November 1986. ATS.

TRIBUTE

Colonel J L Rankin

Colonel Jane Rankin who died on 12 November served in the Corps for 33 years having joined the ATS in 1940. She was in Italy during the War, in Berlin during the difficult days of the Berlin Airlift, and commanded the Company in Gibraltar from 1961 to 1963. She will be remembered in more recent years as ADWRAC London District, DDWRAC Southern Command and Commandant of the WRAC Centre. A generous, forthright and highly intelligent officer, she gave a great deal to the Corps throughout her service.

During her mercifully short, but very traumatic illness, Jane retained her great dignity and strong sense of humour, and will be remembered by many as a very brave woman.
 EJN

Colonel Jane Rankin, who died on 12 November 1986, was a great family friend. She served as one, of the only two ATS Officers in Berlin during the 'Blockade' with my mother, Edna Chester (now Quinlan), and many years later when I was thinking of joining the WRAC she strongly encouraged my application. Although she only returned to the Corps once after her retirement, she was to me and I think to other young Officers, a great source of support. Colonel Jane had such a vibrant personality and she was always great fun. She will be very much missed.

Brigid Simmonds

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN CHARGES — 4 lines £4.00. Additional lines 60p each. Non-members 50% extra. Write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

FOR SALE No 1 Dress uniform in very good condition. Size 10/12 height 5' 7". £60 ono. Tel: Guildford 810166.

BED AND BREAKFAST. Shaftesbury, Dorset. Double room with bathroom en-suite. Childrens room. £8 single. £15 double. Open all year. Tel: 0747-4752.

WANTED by TA Officer: No 2 Dress, Mess Dress and Greatcoat. Size 16 (approx) height 5' 6". Tel: 06284 (Marlow) 75288. Can collect within reasonable distance.

FOR SALE Size 14 height 5' 10". Mess Dress with silk sash £25. Greatcoat £40. Forage cap with badge — size 7½ £20. Beret with badge £5. Tel: Camberley 681708. Evenings or weekends.

RUBY WEDDING

ROBINSON — STIRK On 26th April 1947, Trooper Arthur (Yorky) Robinson of the Glider Pilot Regiment to Private Elsie L Stirk ATS attached to Royal Signals Bulford. Now at 39 Jesmond Road, Harrogate HG1 4SA.

WRAC Museum Redevelopment Appeal

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5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards	The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot)
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The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own)	The Royal Hampshire Regiment
13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)	The Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's)
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Grenadier Guards	The Royal Green Jackets
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Irish Guards	Royal Army Ordnance Corps
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The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment)	Corps of Royal Military Police
The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)	Royal Army Pay Corps
The King's Own Scottish Borderers	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)	Royal Army Educational Corps
The Gordon Highlanders	Intelligence Corps
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's)	Army Physical Training Corps
The Royal Anglian Regiment	Army Legal Corps
The King's Own Royal Border Regiment	Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps
	The Ulster Defence Regiment

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16 Field Ambulance RAMC	Army Museums Ogilby Trust
37 Sqn RCT	Area Museums Service for South East England
Training Battalion and Depot RAOC	WRAC at Regimental Pay Office Taunton
Regimental Pay Office Taunton	Cpls Mess 176 Pro Coy RMP
WRAC at RAEC Centre	WRAC at The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry
WRAC at 252 Pro Coy RMP	WRAC London District Pro Coy RMP
PRI 14 Field Regiment RA	The fourteen Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations.

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WEYMOUTH/ PORTLAND	Miss R M Stanbridge, 3A Edwardsville, Rodwell Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8SQ

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Chairman	Major A J Isaacs WRAC HQ Northern Ireland, BFPO 825
Vice Chairman	Miss E F Thompson, 7 Mooretown Terrace, Killarn, Newtownards, Co Down, N Ireland
Secretary	Vacant

BRANCH SECRETARIES

OMAGH	Mrs V Muldoon, 21 O'Kane Park, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT18 5AA
ULSTER	Mrs A G Warnock, 3 Erinvale Park, Belfast 10

NORTHERN AREA

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

BRANCH SECRETARIES

BARNSELEY	Mrs I Whitehead, 5 Cayton Close, Newlodge Estate, Barnsley S71 1RQ
BRADFORD	Miss I Weston, 24 Woodcott Avenue, Baildon, Shipley, W Yorkshire BD17 6AN
BOLTON	Mrs M P Turner, 188 Newby Road, Broughton, Bolton, Lancs BL2 5JH
CHESTER	Mrs K Jones, 436 Sutton Way, Great Sutton, South Wirral L66 4RJ
CLEVELAND	Mrs B Tondziel, 24 Exeter Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS6 9PD
GRIMSBY	Mrs D A Springer, 4 Toynon Place, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN33 1PX
HARROGATE	Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG2 9BY
HULL	Mrs P Ward, 374 James Reckitt Avenue, Hull HU8 0JA
KEIGHLEY	Mrs E Wilson, 17 Shann Avenue, West Lane, Keighley BD21 2TL
KENDAL	Mrs A Denny, 9 Gawith Place, Kendal, Cumbria
LEEDS	Captain M Conley, TD, 24 Alexandra Road, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4HD
LEICESTER	Miss D Palmer, 40 Greenhill Road, Leicester LE2 3DJ
LIVERPOOL	Mrs M J Barton, 3 Fairfield Avenue, Huyton with Roby, Merseyside L36 4JE
MANCHESTER	Mrs J Jurgens, 429 Norris Road, Sale, Cheshire M33
NEWCASTLE	Mrs M A M White, 12 Dene View, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne 3
PENRITH	Mrs I Bridges-Walker, School Bank Cottage, Askham, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2PF
RICHMONDSHIRE	Mrs F E Davies, 4 River View, St Martins, Richmond DL10 4RD
ROCHDALE	Mrs M Schofield, 2 Rothwell Street, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 9BL
SHEFFIELD	Miss F Bell, 60 Fairburn Drive, Stannington, Sheffield S6 5QL
SOUTHPORT	Mrs B Alexander, "SATU", 24 Hornby Road, Southport, Merseyside PR9 9XN
STOCKPORT	Mrs M Berry, 5 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 5HE
SUNDERLAND	Mrs S Smith, 1 Poplar Drive, Whitburn, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SN6 7AS
YORK	Mrs P Linsdell, 44 Windmill Way, Haxby, York YO3 8NJ

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

BALANCE SHEET — 31st OCTOBER 1986

	£	1986	£	£	1985	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1st November 1985			69,526			62,116
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure			7,297			7,410
			76,823			69,526
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	4,159			3,719		
Lioness Life Subscription	6,143			5,460		
			10,302			9,179
MUSEUM APPEAL FUND			8,763			—
			£95,888			£78,705
REPRESENTED BY:						
FIXED ASSETS						
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less						
Depreciation			2			2
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule						
(Market Value (£85,158))			65,188			64,175
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of Badges	564			235		
Association Standard	199			199		
Sundry Debtors	197			460		
Cash at Bank — Current Account	7,506			2,828		
— Deposit Account	12,135			3,415		
— Investment Account	9,576			7,703		
Cash in Hand	1,095			38		
	31,272			14,878		
Less: Sundry Creditors	574			350		
			30,698			14,528
			95,888			78,705

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1986

1985 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1986 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund — 5,564 Units	10,247	22,351
2,912	London County Stock 5½% 1985/87 — £4,359.53	2,912	4,229
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. — £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8¾% Treasury Loan — 1997 — £6,718.09	5,311	7,549
2,433	8% Treasury Loan — 2002/06 — £3,336.04	2,433	2,673
3,679	7¾% Treasury Loan — 2012/15 — £6,548.12	3,679	5,086
3,046	8½% Treasury Loan — 1987/90 — £3,490.98	3,046	3,251
8,793	11½% Treasury Stock — 1989 — £9,927.62	8,793	9,977
5,765	12¾% Treasury Loan — 1995 — £5,991.31	5,765	6,538
4,978	14% Exchequer Stock — 1986 — £5,101.54	—	—
3,974	12¾% Treasury Loan — 1992 — £4,331.65	3,974	4,597
3,475	10½% Exchequer Stock — 1988 — £3,477.36	3,475	3,447
1,568	8½% Treasury Stock — 1984/86 — £1,536.99	—	—
1,981	City of Bristol 11½% Redeemable Stock — 2008 — £2,006.26	1,981	2,066
981	10% Treasury Stock — 1992 — £2,001.19	1,981	1,911
3,982	11¾% Treasury Stock — 1991 — £9,840.26	9,953	10,000
—	9% Treasury Stock — 1994 — £1,588.04	1,588	1,433
		£65,188	£85,158
64,175			

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1986

	£	1986	£	£	1985	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual.....	3,625			3,167		
Proportion of Life Subscription.....	315			281		
	3,940		3,448			
THE LIONESSE PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions.....	5,737			5,857		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions.....	449			401		
Advertisement Revenue.....	427			504		
	6,762					6,613
Less: Cost of Publication	8,493			7,099		
	(1,880)		(337)			
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments.....	8,007			7,237		
Deposit Account Interest	1,093			789		
Sale of Badges.....	92			49		
Gain on Investment Redemption.....	93			—		
			9,285			8,075
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD			<u>£11,345</u>			<u>£11,186</u>
 EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees.....	477			561		
Grants	—			174		
			477			735
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. and Reunion Expenses.....	1,291			1,291		
Printing and Stationery.....	1,044			576		
Postages	407			271		
Subscriptions and Donations	114			270		
Share Purchase Expenses	43			—		
Travel Expenses.....	189			202		
Audit and Accountancy Fee.....	385			350		
Depreciation	—			41		
Sundry Expenses.....	98			40		
			3,571			3,041
			<u>£4,048</u>			<u>£3,776</u>
 EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£7,297</u>			<u>£7,410</u>

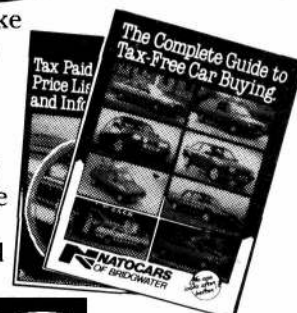
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