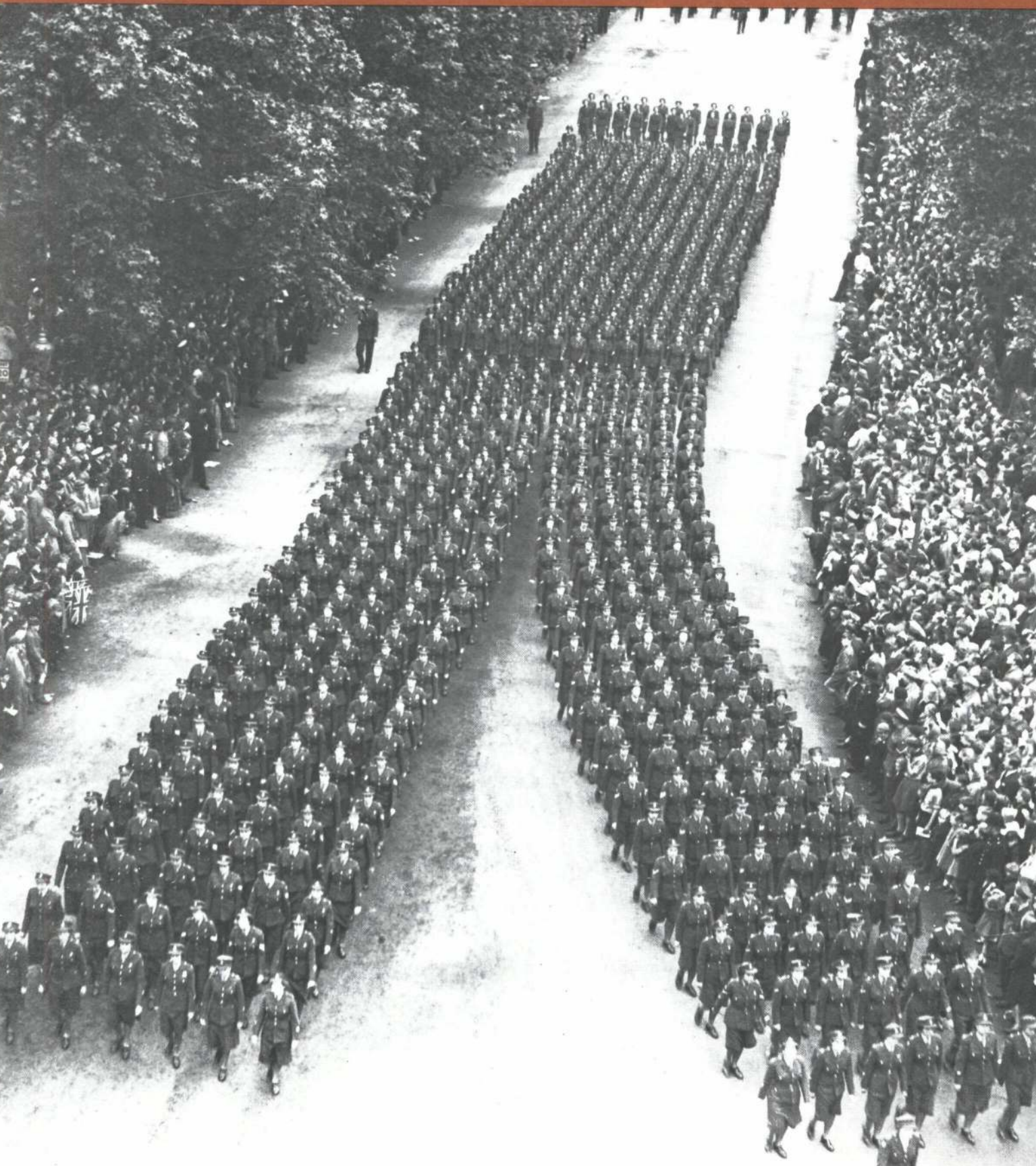


1988

No2

Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH
Tel: Aldershot (0252) 24431 Ext. Guildford 8583

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SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p
ATS shield	8.50	60p
ATS silver plated brooches	1.50	15p (up to 6)
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Bookmarks, leather	.40	20p (up to 6)
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WRAC Association Brooches	1.75	15p (up to 6)

Most items are in green with the Corps crest in gold. Please state size – small, medium, large, ex large and second colour choice for sweatshirts and T-shirts.

Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to CORPS HQ A/C and sent to Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

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

2Lt/Maj	£1.50 + 15p p&p
Lt/Lt Col	£1.80 + 15p p&p
Capt	£2.10 + 15p p&p
Col/Brig	£2.50 + 15p p&p

Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

EDITORIAL

As September fast approaches, bringing the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS, our thoughts and greetings go to the members of that body of women whose dedicated service and achievements during World War 2 directly led to the decision to form the Women's Royal Army Corps in 1949. As a tribute to all former members of the ATS we publish again the photograph of the ATS contingent in the Victory Parade on 8 June 1946.

The WRAC proudly paraded through Guildford on 22 June 1988 following the granting of the Honorary Freedom by the Borough of Guildford. There is a full report in the centre pages.

It is regretted that there are no more seats available in St Paul's Cathedral for the Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 7 October and that some late applicants may be disappointed. Still we learn that many women who served during the last war, and were demobilised at the end of it, have no idea that the Association exists. Let us hope that the news spreads this year to all who would like to renew old friendships, and share memories with former comrades.

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

August 6–13	Concerts – Bournemouth (1100–1230 and 1500–1600 hrs daily 13th 1500–1630 hrs only)
August 17	Carnival – Weymouth (Procession starts 1800 hrs)
August 21	Concerts – Tunbridge Wells (1430–1600 and 1730–1900 hrs)
August 25	Concerts – St Paul's Steps (1200–1400 hrs)
August 27–29	Westminster Horse Show
October 1	Concert RBL Liphook (1930–2130 hrs)
October 7–8	ATS Grand Reunion
November 12	Lord Mayor's Show
December 13	Concert – Civic Hall, Wolverhampton (1930 hrs)
December 16	Concert – Fairfield Hall, Croydon (1930 hrs)
December 18	Concert – Guildhall, Preston (1930 hrs)

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

ATS at Victory Parade 8 June 1946.

Copies of the WRAC Staff Band record "Resolute" will be available at all the above locations or from the band President WRAC Centre. The cost of the record and cassette has risen to £5.50 & P&P but is still excellent value for money. Postage and packing for UK and BAOR is 1 copy £1, 2–4 copies £2, 5 or more copies £3.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Mrs. E M Raymond (née Nation) who was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List. Mrs Raymond served with the ATS from 1939-46 finishing as OC 3 Mediterranean Group ATS in Caserta, Italy.

She met her husband in Naples and they have had four children.

Currently Mrs Raymond is the National Chairman of the Royal British Legion Women's Section.



WO2 K Blake WRAC, who was presented with her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Brigadier C A Kinvig MA Commandant RAEC Centre.



WO2 Karen Blake receiving the LS&GC medal from Brig C A Kinvig MA, Commandant RAEC Centre.

Capt K E Platts WRAC, who won the Army(W) Individual Fencing Championship at Aldershot.

Pte S Whatmough, currently serving with 15 Bn RAOC Donnington who has received the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.



Pte Samantha Whatmough, with her parents after being congratulated by the CO Lt Col A P Haden RAOC.

LCpl Sharon Golder and Pte Kate Doolan of 68 Sqn RCT who each received Commander Rhine Troops Commendations, and were presented with their awards in January 1988 for their work at Zeebrugge.

The squadron established a cell at Zeebrugge after the ferry disaster in March 1987 and the girls spent 2 months driving members of bereaved families.

SSgt Aine Tindall who was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List. Her proud parents flew out to Hong Kong to see her receive the medal from the Governor of the Province.



HE the Governor of Hong Kong presents the BEM



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

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

YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME TRAINEE OF THE YEAR

Pte Claire Newton, who finished her basic training at the WRAC Centre in March has recently been awarded the YTS North West area trainee of the year award.

Claire is now aged 18. She comes from Ewood in Blackburn and left Darwin Moorland High School 3 years ago.

After leaving school, she spent a year at Accrington and Rossendale College where she studied for a Sports Foundation Diploma.

Claire then joined the government sponsored Youth Training Scheme. She spent a year on the scheme and gained a City and Guilds qualification in Sport and Recreation. During the year, she spent time working in various sports industries, health clubs and sports centres. She also attended Runshaw College, Leyland on a day release scheme.

Claire speaks very highly of the YTS. It enabled her to gain a great deal of experience in the sports industry and she was accepted for full-time employment in a Health Club at the end of her training.

Claire's ambition has always been to join the Women's Royal Army Corps. She loves all types of sports and is looking forward to her Army Career with great enthusiasm. She will begin training as a supply specialist when she leaves the WRAC Centre at the end of March.



Pte Claire Newton receiving her award.

EXCHANGE AU PAIR SWEDEN

2 Lt T B A Taylor WRAC

It was very interesting standing in for the Second-in-Command of the Signal Squadron last summer. I actually got to see everything that came into the Squadron Orderly Room whereas usually relevant information only was passed to me! This was how I first heard of the Exchange Au Pair Scheme whereby Officers can take part in a 2 week exchange attachment to the Army of a number of different countries.

After reams and reams of application forms and a lot of waiting I finally heard that I had been accepted on a 2 week exchange in the Swedish Army.

On 7 February 1988 I flew to Stockholm where I was met by 2Lt Marie Wangdahl who escorted me throughout (and then came to the UK for 2 weeks). We drove one hour North East to the Signal Regiment in Enköping, where I soon discovered that the Swedish Army is very different from our own. They have no regular soldiers as such, only conscripts, who train for between 7½–15 months depending on their trade. Sweden is a neutral country, so only ever intends to 'Fight on its own soil' consequently I never saw any signs of resentment towards this "National Service", and patriotism in Sweden was overwhelming.

The idea of women in the Army is very new in Sweden. There are only 19 female Officers and no servicewomen at all. Marie was, in fact, the first female Officer in the Swedish Army and has served for almost 5 years. The female Officers are employed in exactly the same way as their male counterparts, training and instructing the conscripts in a wide range of subjects from Map Reading, NBC and basic infantry tactics to the more specialised trade skills. There are no girls at the moment employed with the Infantry or Cavalry.



2Lt Wangdahl and 2Lt Taylor WRAC.

During my visit I had a very full programme organised for me and as the first female British Officer to visit Sweden I was treated rather specially.

One day was spent on a Battalion Communication exercise with the conscripts. I had to stop myself from grinning when 2 male conscripts walked past me in combat clothing and cam cream but with waist length blond hair!! (Not tied in a bun either). I gave them both a bun net as a present on my departure!

I also had a chance for some sightseeing. Stockholm is one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen and has many historic buildings and sites of interest. We flew North to within a stones throw of the Arctic Circle and spent 2 days visiting some of the other female Officers who were employed with an Air Defence Regiment. The scenery was beautiful but it was extremely cold.

That night I was guest of honour at a dinner where the specialities of the North were served – horse and reindeer!

It was marvellous to have the opportunity to see such a different culture and army. Throughout the exchange the hospitality was magnificent. The Swedish people are charming and generous. It was a most enjoyable visit and a wonderful experience.

DAY 1 AS ASSISTANT ADJUTANT WITH 29 COMMANDO REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

Lt N G H Vickers WRAC

It was with a certain amount of apprehension that I followed my 'vice' Lt Mandy Kier to Regimental Headquarters on my first day as 'Assistant Adjutant'. I had only just got used to being with hundreds of WRAC at 29 Coy WRAC, and now to be surrounded by hundreds of men, commandos at that, was quite an awesome thought.

I was, therefore, relieved when I met the Adjt. He appeared to be a cheery little chap who immediately said that we had the office to ourselves for a while as he was off to play a spot of squash. At 8.00 am on a Monday morning? I had barely sat down when I was told the Commanding Officer was ready to see me. Dressed in my No. '2's I walked into his office. I was surprised at how young he looked, and at his aggressiveness. He sat me down, fired questions at me, gave me no time at all to answer and then told me I could leave and leave I did, at quite a speed – only to go back into his office with Mandy for a "handover of AAdjts" photograph.

It is always difficult to remember names on arrival at a new place. I find it a particular problem. However, I didn't think I was *that* bad. When it came to coffee break, I was surprised to hear everyone call the Adjt 'Tim', when I was sure his name was 'Paul', and indeed, the staff list confirmed this! I was even more surprised when the Assistant Chief Clerk came into the Officers' Mess for coffee, and as the CO came in, no one took much notice, and when they did, they called him Tom! I was slow to realise they'd been winding me up. In fact, the Assistant Chief Clerk was the Adjt, the Adjt a Battery Captain, and the CO another Battery Captain. The real CO was away for the week! Needless to say, it took quite a while to relearn everyone's names!

Fun and games over, that afternoon we got 'stuck-in' with the handover. At about mid-afternoon, one of the Bty Sgt Majs burst into the office – "Sir! Gnr Hills has just been picked up by the Police outside a girls school – he's in the guardroom – please can you go and see him!"

RAVC CENTRE – MELTON MOWBRAY

Capt S Deasy WRAC



The handover with the "CO".

The Adjt (the real one) peered over his pile of files at Mandy and myself, and asked us to sort it out. We walked over to the guardroom, but on the way, someone screamed at Mandy saying there was an important phone call for her. I was on my own!

I walked into the Guardroom and was escorted by a Bombardier to see Gnr Hills. "I better stay with you – Gnr Hills has a reputation for being violent" warned the Bdr!

Gnr Hills was an ageing, balding man, who was a sorry sight. Dressed in nothing but a pair of old shorts and DMS boots he claimed he could not recall a thing about his behaviour over the last few days, and had only 'come to' when the Police picked him up outside the Girls School, with a 'mac' on flashing! I swallowed hard and questioned him further; what a fool I am!

Horried at the extent of his problems, I rushed back to the Adjt to tell all. His response was a 'humph' and he carried on writing. I kept quiet and wondered what on earth would happen, perhaps this was the norm.

On tour of the Citadel later, we visited the Regimental Training Wing. There I met the Unit Training Officer. I was startled by his resemblance to Gnr Hills and was just about to mention the fact, when everyone burst out laughing! I'd been had again! Gnr Hills was in fact Capt Hills, who obviously enjoys dressing up in virtually nothing. Never have I felt so gullible!

My tour with the Regiment has continued to be as amusing and unpredictable as Day One.

A WARNING TO ALL FUTURE AADJTS – BEWARE REGIMENTAL PRACTICAL JOKERS!



Kennelmaids Melton Mowbray 1 Oct 87.

Greetings from the heart of the Leicestershire countryside where 42 Kennelmaids/Ridergrooms work in all elements for the love of man's best friend.

Our alarm is the barking chorus of approximately 160 dogs eager for their daily consumption of Pedigree Chum and approximately 160 horses who will love you to death for a polo mint.

Each Kennelmaid has a minimum of 8 dogs under her wing. A close relationship is cemented between the Kennelmaid and her dogs. A daily routine of grooming, exercising, feeding and cleaning kennels in all weathers is a Kennelmaid's way of life.

Some Kennelmaid's such as Pte's Dickey and Walton have enjoyed the privilege of being allocated a dog with a view to training it to become a demonstration dog. Job satisfaction is at its maximum when your dog performs impeccably at a demonstration in the art of obedience, agility and the occasional trick.



**Anniversary of Freedom of Melton Mowbray 1 Oct 87.
(Courtesy of Jim Harrison)**

Meanwhile our Ridergrooms show an equal amount of affection for their horses. Each Ridergroom has a minimum of 3 horses to look after. Their daily routine is similar to that of a Kennelmaid except that you get to see Melton Mowbray countryside on horseback. It's a full time job rewarded by occasional personal successes at horse shows and appearances at The Royal Tournament.

1987 saw successes for Pte Gaut, who won the Services Novice Class at Camberley Horse Show 1987, and L/Cpl Thornton and Cpl Maxwell who came 1st and 3rd respectively in the Scurry Class of the Honourable Artillery Company in 1987.

More recently both Kennelmaids and Ridergrooms had a chance to show off their animals through the streets of Melton on the Anniversary of the Freedom of Melton, watched by several onlookers.

When time allows we participate in most sporting events such as netball, hockey, and orienteering. Our success lies in Sgt Thornton WRAC who is a member of the RAVC Centre Orienteering Team. In 1987 the Centre came 3rd in the UK Championships thus qualifying for entry to BAOR Championships which resulted in 5th place.

This then is life at Melton Mowbray. All the Kennelmaids/Ridergrooms show an incredible amount of dedication toward their animals. If this does not entice you to Melton Mowbray then don't forget our infamous pork pies, Stilton cheese, and last but not least Pedigree Chum!!

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Shag Cove

Pte Katherine Port

Against my better judgement I was coaxed into spending my four day R and R (rest and recuperation) at Shag Cove, an adventure training settlement situated in West Falklands. There is a small house where the instructors live and four portakabins housing the twelve students on each course.

Rock climbing was our first activity. It could be rather hair-raising at times but I persevered not wishing as the solitary female on the course, to let down either the WRAC or my sex. However, when the men decided to camp out for the night I decided to leave them to it and headed back to the house and my warm, cosy bed.

The canoeing was great fun, but exhausting. The freezing water temperature made me determined not to capsize but it was amusing to watch those who did. When we could all canoe in a straight line we set off on a trip to "The Bahamas" which earned its nickname from its beautiful, white, sandy beach. On the way we learned that shag was the name of a large, raven-like bird which lives in rocks by the sea. Stopping for lunch we were mesmerized by the seals and sea lions that were leaping and playing in the water in front of us. It was a sight that I'll never forget, seeing these creatures in their natural environment.

Before I knew it the four days were up and it was time to catch the helicopter back to MPA. The hospitality, food and fun that we had at Shag Cove was excellent and thoroughly to be recommended.



RAF MOUNT PLEASANT, FALKLAND ISLANDS, APRIL 1988

WRAC at RAF Mount Pleasant Falkland Islands April 1988.

BEST FOOT FORWARD (OR A FULL PACE OF 23 INCHES.)

Captain S Reed WRAC

Nobody explained to me when I was posted to 35th (South Midland) Signal Regiment (V) in the Midlands that I would be required to take two Parades as Parade Adjutant in 6 months. However that proved to be the case.



The WRAC contingent march past the Lord Mayor of Birmingham Cllr Fred Grattidge.

Remembrance Day Parade was the first with 2000 on parade and this was followed on the 26 March by a Regimental Parade through Birmingham to mark the Freedom of the City of Birmingham and the Regiments 21st Birthday.

The Regiment had 5 Squadrons on parade and a full squad of girls, 32 in the ranks and 3 Officers with Captain Helen James WRAC (V) in Command, capably assisted by 2Lt Cherry Wilkins WRAC (V) and 2Lt Beverley Hassall WRAC (V). In fact not all of the girls could be on parade, firstly because of a lack of No 2 dress and secondly because the men could not match the numbers in the WRAC Squad! A subject on which the RSM WO1 George Hedge was heard to lament at length. In fact all the WRAC who were not in the parade squad were gainfully employed as Route Markers round the 3km circuit and as drivers of the Regiment's Motorcade. The Motorcade was a particularly impressive sight and the MT WO1 Ian McSherry was heard to query just which Regiment these sparkling vehicles belonged to!

After the rehearsal the week before where most people got a good soaking, the WRAC contingent were well prepared and seen disappearing into the Council House with spare everything including stockings for those ladders that "just happen" to appear at the wrong moment.

Sgt Karen Ingle marched the WRAC Squad on to the Parade which was reviewed by the Master of Signals Maj Gen J M W Badcock CB MBE DL. The whole Regiment then marched past the Council House led by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col David Dobson Royal Signals. The Salute was taken by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Fred Grattidge and the Master of Signals. Other guests included the Lord Lieutenants of the local Counties and the Signal Officer in Chief. Lt Col Mary Harwood WRAC attended the Parade as Commander WRAC SW/WDISTs and many of the WRAC girls had the opportunity to meet her at the Council House Reception. She was particularly fascinated by the range of employments that the WRAC girls did in civilian life, but that must be one of the most amazing things about the Territorial Army, complete flexibility and an ability to be a ward sister or hairdresser on Friday and a drill Sergeant on Saturday!

There is Camp in BAOR to look forward to next and there is no shortage of volunteers wishing to cross the Channel for Ex CALM FENCE 88 and then "not again" gasps the Adj, yet another Parade, Remembrance Day Parade 1988.

AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE – LEG 7

"The All Girl Crew" **Major C D Lewis-Taylor WRAC**

Who would have believed, even a year ago that a Nicholson 55 could have been crewed entirely by women; certainly not the Joint Services Sail Training Centre! Yet there we were en route for Australia for the biggest adventure of our lives. For we had not only the challenge of being the first all girl crew on a Service Nicholson 55 but also we were to take part in the Tall Ship's Race and Australia's bi-centennial celebrations.

THE CREW

I had only sailed before with my mate 2nd Officer Mary Jane Pearson WRNS, and our medic and purser Major Diana Quarington-Wilson QARANC. Except for WO2 Sharon Hope, whose experience in sailing big boats proved invaluable, the remainder of the crew were an unknown quantity.

There was excitement in the air as Tall Ships arrived in Melbourne from places as far afield as Poland, Russia and Canada, and the New Year was toasted and celebrated with a magnificent fireworks display. In the limited time available we had to prepare the yacht for sea, as well as coping with the public interest which this "yacht full of Sheilas" engendered.

MELBOURNE TO HOBART

Finally the day of departure arrived. Our journey would take us south into the Bass Strait along the coast of Tasmania and through Storm Bay to Hobart. On its successful completion we should hopefully be a well trained and disciplined crew ready for the rigours of the Tall Ship's Race to follow.



The "all girl" crew.

The aim of Tallship's Races is to enable young people from many nations to face together in friendship and competition the challenge presented by racing at sea under sail. The race was also designed to arrive in Sydney just before Australia Day 26 January 1988 to commemorate the first settlement exactly 200 years ago.

HOBART TO SYDNEY

The Tall Ship's Race was to prove to be 4 days of exhilarating sailing with continually changing conditions. We would experience everything from calm to gale force winds as well as fog and a good deal of weather more usually associated with the English Channel—surely it was not supposed to be like this "down under"!

The start was chaotic with nearly 200 vessels from 27 to 300 feet in length, thronging about the start line; not to mention the odd thousand spectator craft. We had been organised into various start times dependent on class, supposedly to ease congestion on the line. In the event, however, the lack of wind meant that we were still very bunched up and it was a major task just avoiding a collision. Fortunately we picked up an early wind shift and managed to break away from most of the fleet. As it transpired this early lead gave us an advantage over many other vessels in our class, since even craft a few miles astern were caught in a different and less favourable weather system.

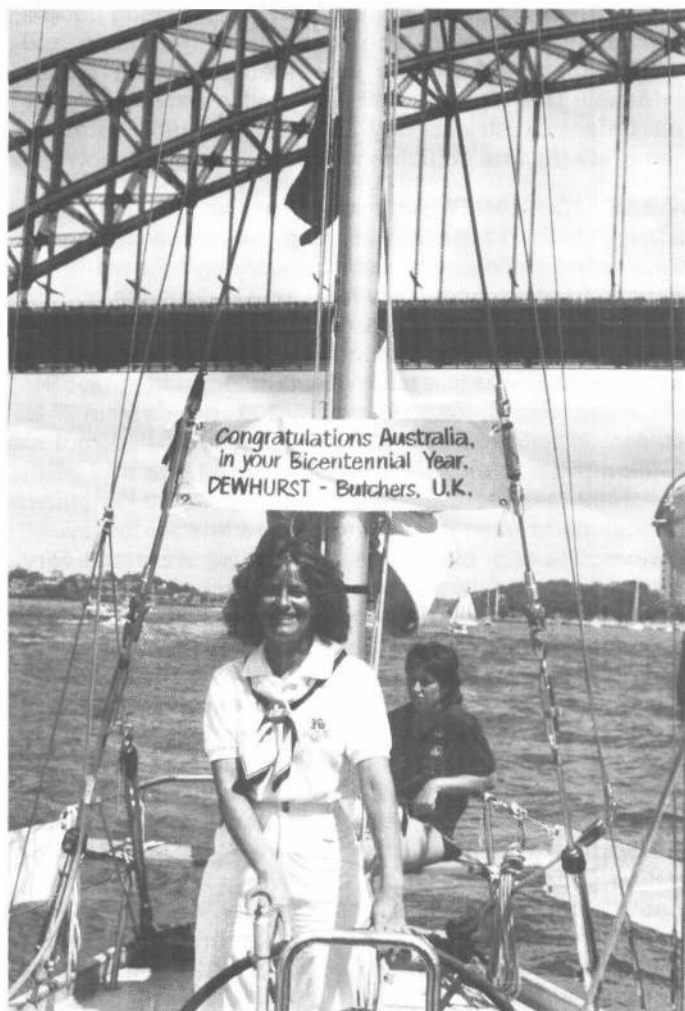
We sailed close-hauled for the first couple of days with winds averaging 30 knots—perfect Nicholson 55 weather. It was hard work steering in the heavy seas but still we were making good speed. Twice daily we radioed the safety boat with our position and for news of the rest of the fleet. Imagine the excitement when on Day 2, we heard we were 4th in class and 13th overall! The yacht just erupted. It was a great morale boost and made all the effort seem worthwhile. As we approached the coast of Australia the wind backed and we experienced a most exhilarating days sail. Speeds in excess of 10 knots were recorded as we surfed down the waves on a broad reach. With the sun beating down on us and a magnificent coast line to admire it was certainly a day to remember. Then, that night, disaster struck - we were becalmed!

So Near – Yet So Far

It had been the most frustrating night imaginable. We had been wallowing for 14 hours, with the glow of Sydney on the horizon and just 50 miles to go. Since we had hoped to finish hours earlier, combined with the news that our position had dropped to 8th, morale was at a low ebb. But dawn was breaking and with it the start of a new day. Suddenly, out of the early morning mist came another yacht named Cabaret. She was under motor (having had to retire from the race with a broken forestay) and approached to bid us "good morning". As she did so, a trumpet was sounded and her crew performed a rousing rendition of the song Cabaret. It was exactly what we needed. All our crew rushed on deck joining in the song loudly our spirits raised. As she left, as if by magic, the wind increased and we started to move.

Those Last 50 Miles

Those last 50 miles were to prove the most taxing and exciting moments of the voyage. As the wind picked up suddenly to 25 knots we changed sail. By now though we were a well oiled racing machine and the sail change from No 1 Light Genoa to No 2 Genoa was completed in 3 minutes 25 seconds – not bad for a 'bunch of Sheila's'. Typically the wind was on the nose, which meant short tacking up the coast. However, we were in the company of several other yachts which urged us on and as we passed



The Skipper, Maj Cherry Lewis-Taylor at the wheel with a thoughtful LCpl Berni Thomas behind.

such famous landmarks as Botany Bay and Bondi Beach the finish line drew nearer.

To ensure that participants arrived in Sydney for Australia Day a time limit had been placed on the race of 1815 that night. Placings for yachts not crossing the finish line were worked out from their position at that time. As we were now so close to the finish we were determined to get there within the time limit. But the unfavourable winds were not helping our cause and with only an hour left we still had 5 miles to go. It was a nail biting last hour with strong winds and a very confused sea. I tacked for the line pinching madly to avoid the dangerous cliffs. As the vital seconds ticked by, excitement grew – "We've finished" cried the mate from below – it was 1814 hours and 45 seconds.

Only 27 yachts completed the race within the time limit. The crew were all magnificent and particular thanks must go to my mate and the skipper of Adventure, both of whom were a tower of strength. There was however, an added bonus which made every ounce of effort exerted in those last few hours worthwhile – for our final position was 3rd in class on corrected time and 32nd overall. Needless to say we felt justifiably proud!

Being the skipper of the first Joint Servicewomen crew on a Nicholson 55 had been a daunting prospect. However, we had proved it could be done and that no task was insurmountable. Our total mileage was 1,350 nautical miles. We had sailed in waters which few sailors from this hemisphere will ever have the opportunity to experience. We had participated in part of Australia's history. Lastly we had sailed safely and successfully a Nicholson 55 from Melbourne via Hobart to Sydney. It had been an experience of a life time and undoubtedly given us all memories that will be treasured for a very long time.

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MESS DRESS (EVENING GOWNS)

UNIFORMS

BEIGE LINEN (OVERSEAS DRESSES)

242 ("INTASUN") SIGNAL SQUADRON WESTERN MED TOUR 1988

Capt Hindmarsh, Cpl Oldham, Cpl Carthy, Cpl Young, LCpl Crossley, LCpl Carthy, Pte Hurst.

What do you get if you cross a TA infantry battalion, 2 RAF Hercules and 7 Scottish signallers in search of some fun? The answer is a 2 week adventure training trip to sunny Gibraltar and Southern Spain.

It was so simple really: 2/52 Lowland were sending out a composite company on Ex MARBLE TOR K and had a few spare places going: the Gibraltar Adventure Training Centre (GATC) was lying idle every morning because of exercise commitments. Two phone calls later we were heading off to the sun as adopted "Jocks" on Ex MARBLE TOR.

Well nearly.

In true RAF tradition our reporting time in Edinburgh was at least 7 hours before we were due to fly and our newly acquired TA friends seemed to have a great penchant for muster parades, briefings and more muster parades. The once willing volunteers were beginning to lack enthusiasm for anything much by the time they reached Glasgow airport at 0630 on Saturday 12 March and spied the two Hercules sitting on the tarmac in the wet, grey dawn. The real torture was yet to begin as the great grey beasts lurched into the sky and we began 5 gruelling hours of bone-shaking vibration, bottom-numbing seats and crossed legs.

But it was all worth it. In the early afternoon we landed in Gibraltar and stumbled out into the warm, humid Mediterranean spring, feeling somewhat overdressed in combat suits and jumpers. We were accommodated with our Lowland friends; Cpls Ged Carthy and Willie Young in South Barracks and the girls in Buena Vista Barracks, home of the Gibraltar Regiment. The food was excellent and though the accommodation was a bit basic and crowded we were not complaining!

The first 2 days were spent acclimatising and finding our way around, over, under, inside and outside the Rock before being given the run of the GATC every morning from Tuesday onwards. Of the many activities on offer windsurfing and rock-climbing proved to be the most popular and we became quite proficient in the 2 weeks as well as getting a good sun tan (and jelly fish stings) into the bargain. We also had a go at caving and off-shore sailing but drew the line at canoeing because of the state of the water in the harbour where capsizing drills were carried out.



Pte Amanda Hurst trying to stand up straight.
(Courtesy of Jim Harrison)

Our afternoons were kept busy with a range of visits and tours. We explored the endless tunnels hewn out of the rock over the centuries and were amazed to find actual barracks, hospitals and even reservoirs built inside the rock itself. A visit to the Lower St Michael's caves revealed a fascinating world of limestone formations, huge natural caverns and an underground lake in which LCpl Caroline Crossley took an unexpected swim!

An interesting afternoon was spent on board HMS Challenger, a sea-bed operations vessel where we decided that, having seen the conditions in which divers work, deep-sea diving was not going to feature on our programme. Unfortunately, the trip in a Lynx helicopter which was to have been one of the highlights of our visit had to be cancelled when the Lynx developed gearbox problems and made an emergency landing just as we were being briefed for our flight.

In need of a rest after our first week of hectic training and hard walking up and down the rock (transport was always by Shanks' pony) we hired an amenity vehicle from Fortress HQ and set off to explore the Atlantic coast of Spain for the weekend, keeping well away from the dubious attractions of Torremolinos and the Costa del Sol. We stayed in a small friendly hotel in a coastal resort at the exorbitant price of £7 per head bed and breakfast and had great fun trying out our few words of Spanish and totally confusing the local population. We visited the old town of Cadiz and spent some considerable time in the prone position observing the effects of sunlight on the human skin and studying the wildlife surrounding a beach towel. All this and LOA!

Returning to Gibraltar we continued our adventure training in the mornings and on the Tuesday night took part in 2/52 Lowland's night exercise. "Exercise?" I hear you cry. Well we had to prove to the TA just how versatile we regulars can be. For one night Capt Hindmarsh became Her Excellency the Governor of Manana, kidnapped by a group of belligerent terrorists with such unlikely names as Mad Dog Manuel (Cpl Young), Maria Constatini (LCpl Carthy) and Big Loll (Cpl Oldham). It was a really tough exercise. We were encamped in a squatters village complete with bar and campfire and told to make as much noise as possible: the idea being that the Jocks would set up OPs to watch us and eventually come in to rescue the Governor. It must be said that some of the group made very convincing terrorists!

The highlight of the 2 weeks came on the final Thursday when we abandoned GATC to try our skills at horse riding in Zahara, again on the Atlantic coast of Spain. There we discovered the delights of Spanish saddles, padded with sheepskin for extra comfort, and cowboy's horses which lower themselves like camels to enable the rider to mount easily. Once used to the rather unpredictable behaviour and independent nature of our not-so-trusty steeds we rode off across the plains, over the hills and galloped along deserted, golden beaches. Following Capt Hindmarsh's excellent example almost everyone fell off at some stage, thankfully without serious injury other than to personal pride. In the early evening we returned saddle-sore, bruised, sun-burned but proclaiming that it had been the most adventurous of our adventure training and an experience not to be missed. We were treated to a scrumptious Spanish meal in a local restaurant and finally returned to Gibraltar in a state of total exhaustion just before midnight. Even windsurfing was painful the next day.

At last it was time to prepare for the dreaded return flight, buying duty frees and adding the final touches to the sun tan. Although by now everyone was looking forward to

home comforts and a decent cup of tea we were sad to leave Gibraltar and all our friends at GATC. We owe a lot of people a big thank-you, both in Gibraltar and particularly in 2/52 Lowland for really making us feel a part of the company. We all enjoyed the trip and learned some new skills which will hopefully be of benefit to the rest of the squadron.

EXERCISE ANNAPURNA PITSTOP

LCpl Calabrese WRAC

Exercise ANNAPURNA PITSTOP was a Joint Services expedition to Nepal which took place between 13 February – 2 March 1988. The aim of the exercise was to trek around the Himalayan Mountains and to reach Annapurna Base Camp which is over 13,500 feet. It was also our aim to learn the culture and traditions of the Nepalese people since some of the team worked alongside Gurkhas in Hong Kong.

Obviously an expedition such as this one attracted many applicants but unfortunately there were only 10 places available with priority going to the WRAC. The team comprised: Capt Jeannette Cox WRAC, SSgt Liz Fearon WRAC, Cpl Judith Sherman WRAC, LCpl Cozzy Calabrese WRAC, 200r Trish Cunnison WRNS, Ldg WREN Paula Drouet WRNS, QPte Karen Hughes QARANC, WO George Croser RN, Sgt Ian Harris PARA and Pte Mandy Hewitt WRAC.

Pre-exped. training comprised weekend treks around various peaks in Hong Kong and lots of gruelling sessions in the gymnasium. At the time we found and thought them hard but when we got to Nepal they seemed like pimples!

The first 2 days were spent sight-seeing in and around Kathmandu and Capt Cox had to report to the British Embassy for a Casevac briefing. The party line was that the only way you could get a helicopter out to rescue you would be if you were dead or dying!! Kathmandu was extremely interesting and it can only be described as going back in time. You can buy anything from carpets to drugs and even goats heads, all on the open market. Public transport consisted of a rickshaw (bicycle powered) or a three wheeled moped with a top that looked like a tent thrown over.

After this culture shock we went to Pokhara by chartered bus with our guide Dendy, and some of our porters. The journey lasted a long, dusty and hot 8 hours but, finally, late in the afternoon we stopped in a field on the outskirts of Pokhara and Dendy hired the rest of the cookies and porters. They didn't seem dressed for the part in PT shorts, jeans and worst of all flip flops!

The sights taken in whilst walking through various villages were interesting to say the least, seeing women oil their new born babies so that they would grow up strong; children asking for school pens as they had no writing materials, and seeing how farmers worked their fields with machinery that was centuries out of date. It made us realise how lucky we were.

As we continued our ascent to the Base Camp we became aware of how much colder it was getting and at higher altitude the air became thinner requiring us to make greater efforts. We were struck by the breathtaking views around us, but for the villagers it was primitive with no running water and a 2 or 3 day trek to buy essential commodities.

At Doan (10,000 feet) we were all very cold, dirty and tired. However, morale was still high especially as we were now sleeping in lodges and not under canvas. A lodge is not as comfortable as it might sound. Throughout the trek they varied in standard but basically they are just

wooden and sometimes bamboo shacks which have little cubby holes into which you put your mattress and sleeping bag. For 20 pence a night what more do you expect? The following morning was a nice surprise for me . . . I got promoted . . . not in the field but in the mountains! Capt Cox reckoned it was the highest I would ever get . . . I didn't ask her whether she was referring to the altitude or my future prospects!



Promotion at 11,000 feet!

Captain Cox presents LCpl Calabrese with her first stripe.

From Doan we moved on up to a place called Deurali which is about 3 hours from the Base Camp and over 11,500 feet. It was a hard and long trek. Firstly, the weather was getting progressively worse and secondly there was the danger of avalanches. In fact we had to cross over one avalanche field to get to the lodge at Deurali. The highlight of the day was getting to the middle of the avalanche field to find our fearless cookies preparing our lunch. The lodge was dark, cramped but reasonably comfortable and we all huddled together for warmth. Throughout the night we could hear what we thought was thunder and lightning . . . in fact the noises were from avalanches.

The following day with the weather still bad and the risk of avalanches high the decision was made not to go on. Although disappointed we felt relieved especially when we saw an avalanche above us as we started our rapid descent. Although we did not reach our objective it was an experience of a life time and we returned with a greater understanding of the Nepalese way of life and a firm appreciation of our own good fortune.



The team from left to right Sgt Ian Harris, WO (PT) George Croser, QPte Karen Hughes, Capt Jeannette Cox, SSgt Liz Fearon, LWren Paula Drouet, Pte Mandy Hewitt, LCpl Cozzy Calabrese, Cpl Judith Sherman.

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EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1987

NEW ZEALAND

Sgt J Morris WRAC

On Saturday 8 August 1987, I left the bonny banks of Scotland, for far away shores in the shape of New Zealand.

I couldn't believe my luck actually to be offered Ex LONG LOOK (for which everyone and their granny would like to be selected). Thanks to Major Palmer RCT who was originally going; and to everyone else who, when asked if I could take his place, said "yes". I was finally on my way, though being a "doubting Thomas" I kept expecting someone to tell me there had been a mistake, right up until the time I reached New Zealand.

One of the tasks I was asked to do was to help instruct TF (Territorial Force) on a familiarization course for the Unimog 1300/1300 (UK equivalent of the Bedford TM) and U8 Land Rover. This I found amusing as the British Army has neither vehicle! Never allowing a minor detail such as this to get me down, I did a crash course, familiarised myself with all aspects of the vehicle, or thought I had! A young soldier asked, "excuse me Sarge, what are these two pipes leading from the battery box for" (always get one, don't you). Good question I thought, well presented, so I took an educated guess, (pretty hard in my case), and knowing the faint hearted get nowhere I told him to undo the battery box to trace the pipes back to their beginning and, "I think you'll find they are for ventilation purposes", hoping that I sounded convincing. Thank goodness it turned out that my assumption was correct, as I think my whole credibility as an instructor hinged on this one question and as I managed to give him the correct answer, I was accepted and the rest was simple in comparison. Driving instruction and examining are the same in any country or vehicle. You teach the same way and look for the same bad habits.

These courses served two purposes. They allowed me to see a lot of the countryside while I was actually earning my money, as I didn't want them to think I was a complete Bludger who thought I was there for a 4 month holiday.

Another amusing moment I had while teaching, (much to the disgust of Cpl Ritchie RNZCT who was the other female instructor on the course), was having just been introduced to the course by name only, they mistook me for the "KIWI" and thought that Cpl Ritchie was the "POM" (for some reason, they think all English are pale skinned, which was not so in our case. They seemed to have overlooked that fact that I was wearing a different beret, belt etc). Cpl Ritchie didn't seem to find it as amusing as I did when they asked me which part of England she came from, but it was amusing to see the look on their faces when I replied and they realised their mistake.

During my 4 months out in New Zealand, I was lucky enough to be attached to 9 Composite Sqn, which is situated in the South Island. Although I was sent there on Exercise THREE TIER it gave me the opportunity to see more of New Zealand, though I must confess to a moments doubt when issued with full battle order for a field exercise complete with 'Y' fronted long johns (I know I have broad shoulders, but that's ridiculous!). I had visions of building a bivvi, having to cook my own compositions etc, which were encouraged by the SSM 9 Comp Sqn and Lt Jones RCT from Ex LONG LOOK who was to accompany me on the same exercise. They obviously enjoyed winding me up and of course I swallowed the bait. After 2 hours' journey to Ashford Forest where the exercise was taking place, I had "psyched" myself up ready to have a go at anything and was slightly disappointed to realise we were to stay in a hut with beds, kitchen and shower. I must admit though



Dvr Trg Ex NORTH ISLAND Sep 87.

that as the week wore on New Zealand had the worst snow fall they had had in 25 years and I was glad of these home comforts.

The weather provided the main difficulties we were to encounter during the exercise and these were incurred on the Cross Country Phase, when driving down steep fire breaks in Ashford Forest. The snow came in very fast and heavy and without warning, which resulted in all eight vehicles getting bogged down. I learnt some valuable lessons here. Firstly, when the initial three vehicles became bogged, the remaining five should have been moved back to hard standing, instead of trying to dig the first three out, which took 5 hours, during which time the snow had made it impossible to get the other five up such a steep incline. Secondly, snow chains should have been carried by at least the recovery vehicle. Five vehicles were recovered the next day when snow chains had been fitted.

Another exercise I took part in, was Ex PADDLE POWER, which was run by 9 Composite Sqn RNZCT, an exercise run for LSV (Limited Service Volunteer), which is a scheme for unemployed youngsters to join the army for a 4 month period to gain some military experience and hopefully a skill. Ex PADDLE POWER was an adventurous training weekend, where the LSV's were taught white water rafting on the Hurinui River and navigation exercise in the Balmoral State Forest, with locations being in South Island.

My participation in the exercise was that of adventure training. By now SSM Gruebner, after being on exercise with 9 Comp for a week, thought that I was either game for anything or had a very high life insurance. I never did find out which, but I found white water rafting, for my part, both demanding and enjoyable. It gave me the opportunity to see New Zealand from a different view, ie by river instead of road.

Ex LONG LOOK is definitely beneficial to the British and host armies concerned, for the exchange of ideas and experiences that take place. From a personal point of view the exchange was excellent value and I benefitted a great deal from the experience, not to mention the social scene.

I hope that next year another WRAC servicewoman, will be lucky enough to be selected, as I was this year; and to everyone who made this possible, thank you.

GLOSSARY OF NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIAN SLANG/TERMINOLOGY

BLUDGER -	Someone who wants something for nothing ie NZRAF flights all over New Zealand.
KIWI -	New Zealander.
POM -	Their term for British.
UNIMOG -	New Mercedes truck bought from Germany.

THE DIRECTOR VISITS CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

9-17 June 1988

The Director, Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA visited Ottawa as the UK delegate to the NATO Women's Conference, followed by visits in the USA to West Point, then to the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Savannah, Georgia; the US Army Signal Centre and School, Fort Gordon, Augusta Georgia and the Military Police School, US Chemical Corps Centre and to a large Recruit Basic Training Centre at Fort McLellan, Anniston, Alabama.

The aim of Brigadier Nield's visit was to see as many women from the US Army as possible either during training or on exercises.



DWRAC at Fort Stewart with the female Commander of a Combat Maint Coy of the 24 Inf Div US Army.



Formal luncheon given by COS Fort Gordon for DWRAC accompanied by Lt Col Bolland WRAC.

FOCUS ON THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS

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

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

The Benevolent Fund office is within Corps HQ and is staffed by the Case Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Laurence-Smith who has been with the Funds for 13 years and deals with all the cases sent to the funds by agencies such as SSAFA, Forces Help Society, DHSS, Royal British Legion, Association Branches and other organisations. Once investigated the cases are taken to the Grants Committee for decision.

Lt Col M W Soames has been Chairman of the Grants Committee for 14½ years and as well as its permanent members who are retired officers approved by the Trustees of the Benevolent Funds, the Grants Committee also has a different serving officer and warrant officer as members at each of its meetings. This is to ensure that as wide a range of opinions and experience as possible can be used to make decisions. Once a grant has been approved by the committee it is sent to the agency which investigated the case for them to disburse the money according to the decision of the committee. Money is not given directly to the individual.

In 1987 the Grants Committee met every fortnight throughout the year and a total of 865 cases were considered. 634 of these were ex-ATS, 230 were ex-WRAC and one was an ex-QMAAC applicant.

The amount spent on grants was £136,154 as against £130,377 in 1985/86.

We are very grateful to all those who make donations to the Funds but in particular we must thank the serving members of the Corps, who subscribe under the Day's Pay Scheme for without their help we would never be in a position to cope with such a large number of cases and such considerable expenditure. We are pleased to record that 82% per cent of servicewomen now covenant their donations.

The amount recovered from the Inland Revenue from these covenanted donations amounted this year to £20,501.

The Trustees approved a donation of £7,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund and once again would like to record their gratitude to the Executive Staff who are always so helpful and respond so generously to all major cases submitted to them. As well as helping in individual cases where our own Funds have been unable to meet the full amount of financial aid requested, the Army Benevolent Fund provide Annual Supplementary Allowances to five ex-servicewomen who are suffering particular hardship. In the case of an ex-member of the QMAAC, aged 87, the Army Benevolent Fund approved an annual grant to help the family with her Nursing Home expenses.

The Trustees approved a donation of £150 to The Victory (Ex-Services) Benevolent Trust Fund for the purchase of a special bed for the new Disabled Suite at The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London.

We are providing 124 Television sets under our Television Rental Scheme with Thorn EMI Business Communications – a cost to the Funds of £7,600 for the year. In addition, we are paying for 102 television licences. We offer this service to selected elderly women who are to some degree housebound, who live alone and are dependent on their television for company and of course are having to manage on a very basic income. The letters of thanks we receive confirm what a worthwhile undertaking this is.

We are grateful to those who very kindly knit for us so that we are able to send parcels to families who are glad of extra woollies for their children. We would particularly like to thank the branches who have again supplied us with some lovely knitwear. Special thanks must go to Major Joan Evans, a member of the Grants Committee and Mrs Drew of Canterbury Branch for their individual contributions to our "knitwear department".

Analysis of cases dealt with by the Grants Committee:

	ATS	WRAC & QMAAC
General distress due to ill health, debts etc	107	56
Clothing	92	21
Beds and Bedding	23	3
Light and Fuel	99	30
Furniture and Furnishings	98	39
Funeral Expenses	10	—
Removal and Storage Charges	10	6
Railway, Bus fares etc	2	2
Holidays, Convalescence	26	4
Maintenance, Nursing Home Fees etc	10	8
House Repairs, Decoration	21	2
Rent, Rates and Mortgage	30	18
Telephone Installation and Accounts ..	30	2
Medical Expenses, Wheelchairs, Spectacles etc	30	8
School fees, Education grants	1	4
No grants made	45	28
	<u>634</u>	<u>231</u>

TOTAL: 865
(includes 1 ex-QMAAC)

ARMY WELFARE ASSISTANTS — A WELL KEPT SECRET

AWAs are a small and relatively unknown CEG comprising approximately forty WRAC SNCOs. They work within the Families Housing and Welfare Service (FHWS) providing friendly support and welfare advice to Army families in need of assistance. They also assume a preventative welfare role by encouraging community initiatives and organising group activities.

Although AWAs are directly responsible to the local Commandant FHWS and are integral members of the FHWS team, their daily work takes them out and about visiting families and liaising with civilian welfare agencies like the DHSS, NSPCC, CAB etc. This independence, coupled with the fact that they invariably wear civilian clothes and live in their own accommodation means that AWAs have to have high levels of self-motivation and self-discipline.

Nearly all the AWAs are deployed within UK, however, there are three posts in NI and one in Cyprus. Tour lengths are necessarily longer than usual (on average 3–5 years) to allow AWAs time to establish the appropriate contacts within their patches. Promotion prospects are good and there is the usual scope for commissioning into WRAC Mainstream.

The Selection Board which interviews potential AWAs comprises the Controller FHWS, the Assistant Director SSAFA Social Work UK, a representative from MWS Records Office, the SO3 FHWS and a serving WO1 AWA.



Sgt Gail Gallichan an AWA helping at the creche.

The Board normally sits once a year in June at HQ UKLF, however, a special Board may be held in October to interview additional candidates. Applicants are expected to be over 23 years old, in the rank of Substantive Cpl or above and be fully qualified for promotion to Sgt. A driving licence and good communication skills are also required.

If you would like to find out more about the possibilities of re-allocating to AWA please contact Capt A R Winchester WRAC on Salisbury Mil Ext 8226 or FHWS, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6BN, who will be happy to answer your questions and arrange a familiarisation visit to a nearby AWA.

VACANCY FOR AN ARMY CAREERS OFFICER ON THE ARMY RECRUITING STAFF

The appointment of the Army Careers Officer-in-Charge at the ACIO Nottingham is due to become vacant on 1 July 1989. The post is in the grade of AC02, equating to R02.

Applications for the appointment are invited from Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and Majors (including Women's Services) and should be submitted on Annex A to AGAI Issue No 62, Vol 2, Chapt 41 direct to the MOD (DAR 2c), Room 1112, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR to arrive not later than 4 November 1988.

WOMENS COMPANY

ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES (RBAF)

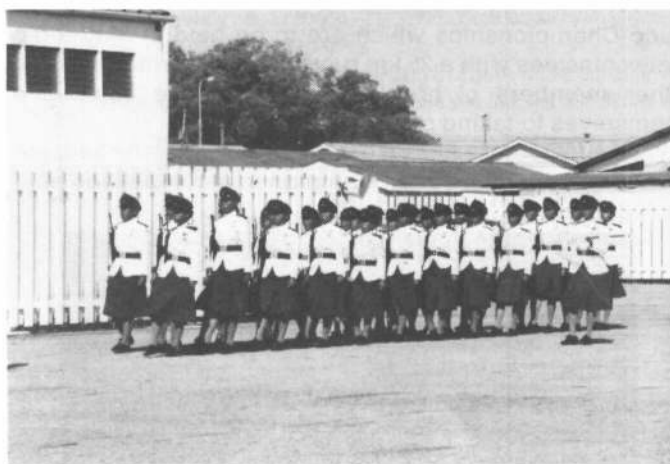
WO2 S Barclay WRAC

For those of you who don't know who and where we are, and what we do, let me explain. Womens Company is a minor independent unit of the RBAF. It was formed in 1981 by a tri service team of British servicewomen. Brunei Darussalam (Abode of Peace) is a small Islamic monarchy on the northern coast of the island of Borneo, the third largest island in the world; ruled by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang DiPertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam. The Company is run very much on the usual lines and does everything except employ the girls. Trades are similar to those of the WRAC but in addition we have Dental Nurses and Technicians and a Parachute Rigger. There are however some quaint differences. Uniform includes a

religious dress and our girls remain in the Service with children. All our officers do recruit training, and all Company personnel are fully trained in weapons drill and slow marching; toting on M16 Rifle around like Annie Oakley! When you consider that the average height of a Bruneian woman is about 5ft this is no mean feat.

From the first intake of 22 recruits and 5 potential officers in 1981 the Company has grown to over 250 strong; and we now have 13 NCOs and 12 Officers with 2 OCds at present undergoing training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The Company takes a full and active part in all RBAF events including National and Armed Forces Day Parades, combined Recruit Passing Out Parades and Hari Raya visits to the Royal family.

In April a party of servicewomen left Brunei to climb Mount Kinabalu. This is the highest mountain in SE Asia, half the height of Mt Everest. Despite both cold and altitude, the trip proved very successful and all the 20 girls



Recruit POP in slow time.

reached the summit to watch the sun rise. Servicewomen regularly go on Outward Bound courses in Singapore and the scope for this is widening. There are two loan service personnel serving with the Company, Major L M Ganter, the OC and myself as the CSM. Major Ganter leaves in June after serving almost 3 years in Brunei. We wish her a fond farewell and best wishes for the future.

In the 7 years since the Company was formed it has progressed in leaps and bounds. The girls are a happy group with many different and interesting personalities, all of whom seem to be enjoying and living life to the full. Many are of high quality by any standards and the Company has a very promising future.

SPORT

ARMY SWIMMING

Cpl F Murray WRAC

The Army swimming championships this year will be held at Minley, home of the Royal Engineers. If last year was anything to go by I'm hoping to get on the team again this year.

Following last years championships, a squad of approximately 20 girls from WRAC and QARANC spent 3 wonderful weeks training at sunny Aldershot in preparation for the Inter Services competition being

hosted by the Army at HMS Collinwood. Confused? So were we. With training early morning and late afternoon, Aldershot town centre was left to our mercy during the day, after a morning siesta of course! The cake shops had never been so busy.

During training, I was volunteered as the team Captain. Rumours that it was because I can shout louder than the others, were totally unfounded HONESTLY!! Sgt Denise McNought proved that anyway, then again she was Team Captain the previous year.

The inter-services is a 2½ day competition, waterpolo on the first day and a half, swimming the next day. After a fantastic polo section which the Army won in a highly exciting final against the RAF, we were all raring to go in the swimming. However, the WRAF had other ideas and managed to annihilate us even though we beat the WRNS. Oh well, there's always this year.

The real reason we all trained so hard was the promise of a tour to Gibraltar, 3 days later. At one point there weren't enough of us able to go but Capt Perks WRAC, managed to sweet talk enough OCs into giving more people time off – well done ma'am!

And so the day arrived, we all piled aboard a Britannia Airways flight at Luton airport, closely followed by the Mens Army volleyball team. A little too closely in some cases!

Our hosts for the stay were the Royal Anglians. We managed to hi-jack a Landrover ably piloted by Lt Willis WRAC, who managed to get us to the beach every day. Oops, did I say beach, I meant pool to train!

The tour ended with a very unfair competition against the ANGLIANS, yet again we lost – will we get another chance this year I ask myself? We had a terrific week, ended by the near loss of QPte Shipton in Spain but that's another story!

SHOOTING

Cpl F Murray WRAC

'Thank God' I thought, I've done my swimming write up for Lioness, quick put it on the boss's desk and get out before she sees you! All clear, great. "Cpl Murray." "Yes Sarge?" Oh no, seen again. "You won the shooting didn't you? You'd better do me a write up for tomorrow." "Yes Sarge." Here we go again.

The competition was held on 2nd and 3rd of June, practice, notice that's in the singular form, went terribly. Nobody would believe it was the pistol that kept missing the target or the SMG that was doing a great job of 'knee capping' it. Still the day came, the 3 members of our team totally unimpressed, the sun had gone, so we couldn't even get a sun tan while we showed ourselves up!

It was the SMG first, the practices came and went and it was time to 'check targets'. Much to my delight my weapon had decided to fire where I'd aimed it!! It was a close result between the 3 team members which meant we came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the individual competition and also won the team event.

Then came the pistol! The weapon we're actually allowed out on the street with. Once again the three of us came 1st, 2nd and 3rd and seeing as we were the only team, we won that too!

"Is that it Sarge?"

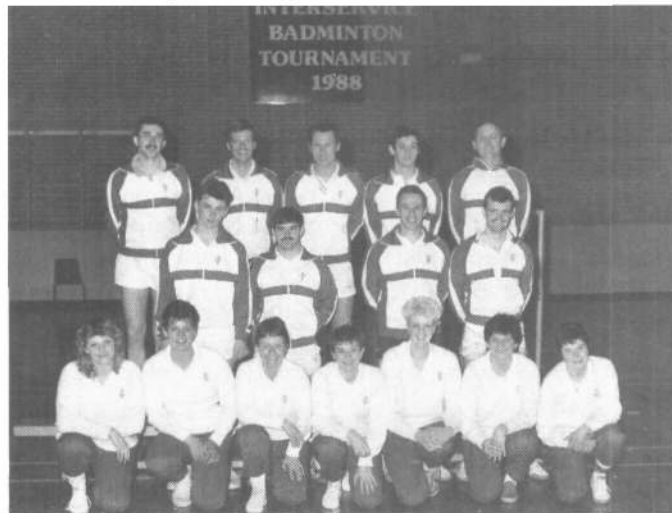
"I'll let you know"

ARMY WOMENS BADMINTON (UPDATE)

The Womens Interzone Badminton Tournament was held this year on 20/21 February at the RAPC Centre, Worthy Down. The turn out for the event was excellent with some 30 players in all each producing play of a very high standard.

The winners, yet again, were BAOR with 10 points followed closely by SEDIST with 8 points. Joint third were LONDIST, EDIST and NEDIST and the NWDIST and SCOTLAND. SWDIST and WALES came fourth and NI fifth.

Immediately following the Interzone Tournament, team



Ladies Team L-R: QPte Siddall, Pte Shearer, WO1 N Rochelle, Cpl Prentice, Pte Townsend, Sgt Southern, Pte Foreman.

members found themselves competing against one another for the Army Championships. Amongst fierce competition the results were:

Ladies Singles

Cpl Haynes 68 Sqn RCT	bt	Pte Sheaver RARDE
	(11-8, 8-11, 11-5)	

Ladies Doubles

Cpl Haynes/ LCpl Rawley 29 Coy WRAC	bt	Pte Sheaver/ Cpl Prentice 11 Sig Regt
	(15-3, 15-10)	

Mixed Doubles

Sgt Quinney/ 5 ACAT Pte Sheaver	bt	Pte Black/ 28 Fd Sqn RE Cpl Haynes
	(18-12, 9-15, 15-12)	

Team members were then selected from those players who had participated in each of the previous championships to represent the Army at the Inter Service Tournament and Combined Service Championships.

This year the Inter Service was hosted by the RAF with the venue at RAF Halton. The Ladies team was coached by WO1 N Rochelle, the Team Manager, and an intensive training weekend was held at RAPC Worthy Down prior to the Tournament at RAF Halton, 16-20 Mar 88.

The RAF were superb hosts and all team players enjoyed both the business and the leisure side of all events! The Army for the second year running came second, with the RAF clinching the trophy but each player gave their best and the majority of matches were extremely exciting to watch and, in some cases, very close.

The standard of sportsmanship displayed by the team, both in and off court, was excellent. The support of the

Director WRAC at the Inter Services Competition was very much appreciated.

Several of the Army team remained to play as individuals and compete in the combined services Championships. Unfortunately, the RAF fielded an exceptionally strong team and won most events.

It is anticipated that later on in the year a Ladies Team will tour Gibraltar – watch this space!

New players are always welcome; if interested contact WO1 N Rochelle on Bulford Military ext 2948.

TRACEY THROWS THE OPPOSITION

Lance Corporal Mapledoram, is a judo Black Belt, and recently she won the International Dutch Open Championship. LCpl Mapledoram was highly commended by the judges for what one of them described as the 'best throw' he had ever seen, during the women's event held in the town of Enschede.

Only one thing now stops her going on to the European Judo Championships which are to be held in May – the date coincides with a 25 km run in Berlin in which she and other members of her RMP platoon have committed themselves to taking part!

Just a few weeks before her latest success, she became the Army's Women Judo Champion in a competition held in Aldershot.



LCpl Mapledoram.

WELSH 1000M WINNERS

Lt T K Collier Jackson WRAC

1988 was the first year in which a full complement of womens teams took part in the Welsh 1000m, and included Naval and WRAC teams.

The Welsh 1000m is a mountain marathon which begins at Aber on the Welsh coast and ascends and unfortunately descends only to ascend and descend again over a total of 9 peaks before finishing at the summit of Snowdon.

The WRAC team consisted of two grockles, one half grockle and one masochist. The two new members to the team Lt L Bailey and Lt M Jones unfortunately had to concede defeat over the Welsh hills. However, Lt L Tucker and Lt T K Collier Jackson continued through the thick fog over Tryfan and up to the summit of Snowdon to be the 2nd and 4th individuals, thereby winning the team trophy.

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THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

SHORT AND SWEET A SHORT SERVICE LIMITED COMMISSION (SSLC)

2Lt G Sutherland WRAC

In November 1987 male tradition was again broken by members of the WRAC when 3 Officer Cadets became the first girls to pass out of RMAS as SSLC officers. As many members of the Corps will already have found out it is not always easy being the first women in any male environment. But despite it being just 10 days before we passed out that we were issued with Barrack Dress, all went smoothly.

The SSLC is designed to employ an 18 year old school leaver for a year between leaving school and going on to further education. Its purpose is to introduce the Army to school leavers so that they can either become Army Officers or go into civilian life with a good knowledge of the Army. I was posted to Aldershot but before I arrived there I joined the North of England crew for the Tall Ships Australian Bicentennial Event.

TALL SHIPS After 3 days traumatic travelling (in which our luggage was lost!) we eventually arrived in Perth, Western Australia. The aim of the voyage was to sail our ship 'Romance' along the coastline of Southern Australia, stopping off at various coastal towns, and then to join the Commemorative Tall Ships Race at Hobart in Tasmania to finish finally in Sydney. 'Romance' however appeared to

jinxed and by the time we left one month later we had only travelled a fraction of the planned distance. My role on board ship was as crew member for the first few days during which I served as 'Galley Rat' for much of the time – I was then promoted to assistant cook spending most of my time in the galley preparing food for 23 tired and seasick people. I suspect that about 95% of the food eaten went overboard – whether it was seasickness or my cooking, I shall never know!

We were offered Christmas dinner by the Wesleyan Church, with the poor and lonely people of the area! On Boxing Day we left our ship for the last time, due to engine problems and continued our journey by bus.

We travelled over a thousand miles across the Nullaboi Plain, with not a tree in sight, and the only change in scenery being a dead wombat by the side of the road. In Melbourne I left the crew and flew back to sunny England...

ALDERSHOT! One week later I found myself in my new unit, 10 Coy WRAC, in Aldershot. Initially the hustle and bustle of each day was fairly disconcerting; I can but think myself lucky to be under the wing of someone so capable as Lt Vida Gough, despite the sympathetic looks I received after one of my slight 'mishaps' had been dealt with.

The whirl of the first 3 weeks passed and I again found myself facing another new situation – an adventurous training exercise with the Royal Engineers, skiing in France. With only 4 members of the WRAC in a group of 12, I faced the prospect of the 2 weeks with slight apprehension. After the first couple of days however we started to form a routine and everything ran very smoothly.

Finding myself back in 10 Coy, I immediately had one platoon handed over to me for a week. Despite any outward appearances, it was during this time that I really started to find my feet; whether they will ever feel firm ground in the complex administration of 10 Coy is another matter! Everything ran smoothly and at the end of the week I reluctantly handed it back.

The end of March brought me more adventurous training, as I was given the kind permission of my OC, Maj Lindsay WRAC, to join my old school CCF camp, where I was to chaperone the female contingent. Climbing Munroes (mountains over 3000 ft) was the 'high' point of the week, and a couple of days were spent at lower levels abseiling, and canoeing in white water.

A hasty return to Aldershot enabled me to attend a regimental dinner night at my mess and gave me a "taste" of the formalities of Army life.

The following Tuesday was my "big day" as I organised a group of servicewomen from the Duchess of Kent Barracks to go to RAF Odiham in the afternoon to be taken for a flight in a Chinook helicopter. After an hour and a half wait, whilst we were assured that a 'loose bolt' was nothing to worry about, we eventually took off. We were airborne for about 45 minutes, during which time we were shown numerous different landings and flight beneath electric cables. It was a new experience for us all and despite our relieved expressions when it was over, I believe it was definitely worthwhile.

Taking this into consideration the many "Ups and Downs" of day to day life in the WRAC, I look back on the last few months, not only with relief, but also a sense of achievement. With many events to look forward to in the coming months, I can quite categorically say: "Variety is the Spice of Life".

10 COMPANY WRAC

POPMOBILITY EXTRAVAGANZA

Pop music resounded from the Duchess of Kent Barracks gymnasium throughout the night of the 25 March 1988, as Sgt Jan Thompson, 10 Coy WRAC PTI, and her colleagues took it in turns to put volunteers, from around Aldershot, through their paces over a 24 hours period popmobility. With an attendance fee of 50p a person and any donations gratefully accepted, the organisers collected £425.02p.

The money raised went to Sgt Choco Earle APTC who had broken his neck in a vaulting accident.

A lot of effort was put into the event by all who attended; as Sgt Thompson so rightly said: "Some of the lads and even some of the girls might think that popmobility is airy fairy – until they try it. It is quite exhausting!"

THE HEADQUARTER MESS

Due to the major maintenance work being carried out at the WRAC Centre the Officers' Mess is closing during June 1988. Accommodation and normal facilities will not be available to Mess members until further notice.

10 COMPANY WRAC

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST?

"Glamour girls", "Beauty on Parade" and "Army falls in line with fashion", were all newspaper headlines in October 1987, and all of them referred to Sgt Maggie Graham, of 10 Coy WRAC. In response to claims that it was impossible for women to look feminine in army uniform Sgt Graham gladly informed the 'press' of her beauty salon, known as the "Torture Chamber", which she set up in the Duchess of Kent barracks after she qualified as a beautician a couple of years ago.

Sgt Graham is a driver by trade, but twice a week she opens her parlour, in her own time, to advise girls on make-up and skin care, and to give facials, manicures and pedicures, or to produce make-up for the girls' special occasions, such as parties or weddings. The beauty parlour has the full support of the OC Maj J A Lindsay WRAC who says "Anything that enhances the girls looking feminine is good".

Not only has the establishment of the beauty salon given Sgt Graham a lot of satisfaction but it has also been of great value to hundreds of girls.



Cpl (now Sgt) Maggie Graham the 10 Coy beautician.

FIRST COMBINED RE/WRAC HERMANNSLAUF

24 APRIL 1988

When it was discovered that Harry (ex RE) and Ailsa (ex ATS) Jackson were both in need of assistance, advice was sought from the RE/WRAC Association and SSAFA. It was decided that a team of runners would be organised and a suitable event be chosen for sponsorship.

The Hermannslauf, a 35 km mountain race was selected and the training began in January. This often meant very early training sessions with a minimum of 5 km (hill run) in addition to a series of warm up/down exercises.

This team completed the run in a time of 4 hours 21 minutes, running over the finish line at Sparrenburgh castle in Bielefeld in true soldierly style. It is intended to make this the annual RE/WRAC event for charity. A total of DM 3,270 has been promised to the team.

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1 POSTAL AND COURIER REGT RE

Christine Fellowes is an ex-member of the WRAC who suffers with multiple sclerosis. When the WRAC element of 1 PC Regt RE heard of her situation, they decided to do something to raise some money to help Christine.

Over a period of 10 days a team of ten girls ran in relays linking all the Forces Post Offices in the Regiment, a distance of 900 km.

Sponsorship raised £5,302. A deputation from the Regiment visited Christine at her home in Hull and presented her with an initial payment. A second cheque was presented to Christine at Rheindahlen when she visited with the Across Trust.

Christine has purchased an electrically powered wheelchair and also had some much needed alterations carried out at her home.

WRAC CENTRE

1988 will be remembered by the WRAC Centre for two major events. The introduction of weapon training and the Freedom of the Borough for the Corps.

Preparations for the introduction of weapon training into the recruit training syllabus have been well underway for some time. Intake 533 commencing 4 July will be the pilot course, and a slightly extended course will take effect from Intake 534. Recruits will report to the Centre on the Sunday and POPs move to the Friday. The Training Company Instructors have worked hard to develop their SMG skills. Nine are now qualified SMG Instructors, 4 of whom are also Range Management Qualified.

1988 also saw the change in Training Company when 1 and 2 Companies combined under the leadership of Maj D F Davies MBE, with Capt J E Grafton as the Company Second in Command. WO2 Davies joined the unit from RMAS as the Training Company CSM. The new system is working well and the training programmes reorganised in order to utilise staff resources more efficiently.

Passing Out Parades continue to bring a steady stream of distinguished visitors into the unit and we have been fortunate to have with us as Inspecting Officers Maj Gen C J Airy CBE GOC LONDIST, Maj Gen S C Cooper Comdt RMAS, Maj Gen P G Brooking CB MBE GOC Berlin and Councillor Andrew Hodges, The Mayor of Guildford, to name but a few. In addition, the WRAC Centre has hosted Lt Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, GOC SEDIST on taking up his new appointment and Brig M C Owen as the new Comd Deepcut Station.

Despite the rigours of training and the steady stream of VIP visitors, members of the unit have successfully participated in all SEDIST sporting events, often winning a place into the Army Championships. In the domestic



From L-R: 2Lt A Leask, Maj Gen P G Brooking CB MBE talking to Pte Williams a potential supply specialist.



Col N R Robertson presents a Corps plaque to Lt S Rebreyand, at the end of her two week attachment.

league the Centre won the Badminton, Squash and Netball and were runners-up in the Hockey. The unit will go forward from the District competitions to participate in the Army Inter Unit Tennis, Athletics and Volleyball. The Centre won the Army Orienteering for the first time thanks to the expertise of Maj Davies and Cpl Wilson who took an enthusiastic team to victory. The arrival of WO2 McIntyre as WOPT saw the start of Nijmegen training and a team from the Centre will join a LONDIST team for this July event.

The unit pulled itself out of the gloom of winter by mounting a 3 month charity appeal. It all started with the call for donations to the Olympic Appeal Fund, so, basing efforts on fitness and health the Centre went fund raising – slims, smoking, swimming and half marathons to name only a few, to say nothing of Red Noses on National Laughter Day. Fun was had by all and almost £2,000 were raised. £1,000 went to the Olympic Appeal Fund, £500 to the Museum Fund (making the Centre contribution an overall total of £1,577.95) and the remaining funds will be presented to the Wishing Well Appeal.

Meanwhile the major maintenance programme goes on ... and ... on.

**HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE
BOROUGH OF GUILDFORD TO THE
WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS**



**WO2 Babs Davies leading the Junior and Senior intakes of
the Training Company. Out of picture are the platoon
officers, Lt Jenny Ogden and 2Lt Antoinette Leask, and the
Adjt Capt Bridget Richardson.
*Courtesy of Soldier Magazine.***

Wednesday 22 June 1988 dawned warm and beautifully sunny. Everyone at the WRAC Centre was so pleased and full of expectation because today was "Freedom Day", we had practised for so long beforehand and a lovely mid-summer day would set the seal on this most historic occasion. The Women's Royal Army Corps was to receive the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford. All at the WRAC Centre, permanent staff and recruits alike, were conscious of the responsibility they bore – their marching, turnout and bearing would be the standard by which all WRAC would be judged. There was much excitement and understandably a little apprehension because despite all the early morning rehearsals on camp, nobody had actually marched uphill in squad on cobbles!

At midday, at a Special Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Guildford, held in the Guildhall, Guildford, the WRAC was ceremonially granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough, an honour never bestowed upon the Corps since its formation in 1949. The Special Meeting was held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, an impressive building in the middle of Guildford's shopping centre in the High Street and which was formerly a courtroom in past centuries. Many kind words were said about the Corps by the Councillors proposing the motion to confer upon the WRAC the Freedom of the Borough and by the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Cobbett. Towards the end of the



Director WRAC, Brig S P Nield ADC BA receives the scroll declaring the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford from the Mayor, Cllr Elizabeth Cobbett.
Courtesy of the Surrey Advertiser.

Special Meeting, which was attended by past and present members of the Corps, DWRAC was presented with a silver casket containing a beautiful scroll upon which is written that the Borough had "resolved to confer upon the

Women's Royal Army Corps the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford the most honourable distinction which it is the privilege of the Council to bestow in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the Borough by the Corps". The casket and scroll will be put in a place of honour in the redesigned Corps Museum at Guildford where past and present members of the Corps will be able to see the great honour bestowed upon them.

Shortly after the Special Meeting, members of the WRAC Centre marched up the cobbled High Street past the



63 members of HQ & H Coy led by Lt Julie Cooke (out of picture) and WO2 Mary Smith (second from the left).
Courtesy of Soldier Magazine.

Guildhall, where the Mayor took the salute, to the Civic Hall where a magnificent lunch was given to all those involved in the ceremonies. The march through Guildford, led by the WRAC Staff Band, was particularly memorable, and even the oldest and boldest admitted that they had a lump in their throat and were swelled with great pride as the band led over 130 members of the WRAC Centre through the streets, where they were greeted by spontaneous applause from the people of Guildford who had filled the streets. It was a clear indication of the fond and close relations between the people of Guildford and the members of the Corps.

As everyone relaxed in the warm and friendly atmosphere of the Civic Hall reflecting on the march past, the crowds, the music, the excitement, somehow the meaning of it all became clear. Guildford had been our home for over 40 years, now we felt that we were part of the family and hoped that our association would continue for decades to come.

This remarkable day ended with dinner at the Guildhall and amongst the guests invited were the Deputy Controller Commandant and DWRAC. It was a beautiful setting in a wood panelled dining room and everyone who attended really felt they were dining amongst friends, so strongly have the bonds been set between the Borough and the Corps.



The WRAC Staff Band led the Parade WO2 (BSM) Fran Tull and the Director of Music Capt Ena Forster salute the Mayor on the March Past, followed by Parade Commander Maj Val Batchelor and the RSM WO1 Dorothy McFall. *Courtesy of Soldier Magazine.*

RAEC CENTRE – BEACONSFIELD

The last 6 months have been especially busy for the WRAC at Beaconsfield. The date 30 March 88 was of great significance in that it marked the departure of all ACC and WRAC personnel from the Centre as a result of contractorisation. ACC cooks and WRAC stewardesses have been providing the catering services of all 3 Messes at Wilton Park since the RAEC first moved to Beaconsfield in 1950. They have provided an excellent service over the years. Needless to say there were several farewell parties for them, the most notable of which was a 24 hour charity disco in the JRC in aid of the Wishing Well Appeal (Great Ormond Street Hospital). This was a huge success and raised a staggering £1,700. In one fell swoop the WRAC detachment was almost halved in strength and it was a sad occasion to see them all go their separate ways.

Meanwhile, LCpls Sarah Lister and Juliet Murgatroyd, both staff clerks, broke new territory by becoming the first WRAC to attend the All Arms Potential Officer Development Course (PODC), run not a million miles away from them, at Beaconsfield. Both have found the course extremely valuable and interesting and they thoroughly enjoyed their gruelling 10 weeks. They now await RCB with some trepidation and we wish them well.

Not noted for our sporting achievements, Beaconsfield continues to enter the District sporting competitions and anything but last place is considered a bonus! Our one claim to fame is third place in the Fleet Half Marathon Ladies team event and our sporting representative, Sgt



RAEC Centre Stewardesses pose for a farewell shot. Front Row: with Comdt (Brig Kinvig) and Adjt (Capt Cunningham).

Vivienne Lee represented the Army at the Inter-Services hockey in this her 9th season. We are looking forward to the summer sporting events where the old and bold have been encouraged out of the woodwork to play due to our reduced numbers! Windsurfing has now taken off and various members of the detachment have managed low level adventurous training exercises with the various course run here.

W1 – AND HER DAUGHTER W258922

by Anne Carter (née Garrad)

Was there ever a W1? The answer is yes, indeed there was – my mother!

It all started with a telegram one day in the first week of September 1938... the text was short and to the point – 'Will you by my Senior Leader?' The recipient was Mrs Marjory Garrad, wife of the Rev C E Garrad of the Vicarage, Barrow Gurney, Somerset; the sender was her friend and neighbour, Mrs Blanche Gibbs, wife of the local landowner, Lieutenant Colonel W O Gibbs, of Barrow Court, Barrow Gurney. The answer 'yes' was wired back without hesitation.

For some time past, behind closed doors, the recruitment of women volunteers into the Army had been discussed, in case of war. Mrs Gibbs had already been 'sounded out' to see if she would agree to become a Senior Commander (Major), in order to start the first Somerset units. In her turn, she had urged Mrs Garrad to consent to be her right-hand woman, her Sergeant-Major.

Now that the official decision had been taken to set up the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the telegram could be sent from London, and a whirl of activity was to follow. After inauguration day, on 9 September 1938, the first block of ATS numbers was allocated, by chance, to the County of Somerset.

A short time later, the new recruit signed on for local service. Imagine her surprise and delight when she emerged, complete with armband, (the only uniform then), as W1 GARRAD Marjory, ATS, Volunteer – clerk.

Within a few days W1 left her office chair and table, and her own battered old portable typewriter, (it is my impression that it was some time before such vital equipment was issued by the Army), having been summoned to a large London Barrack Square to learn the elements of drill. Here she was mercilessly about-turned, right and left-turned, as she was marched, halted and stood at ease by no less than a Sergeant-Major of the Guards. A picture appeared in the national morning papers next day, showing a large, erect, moustached male figure, resplendent in uniform, somewhat grey about the gills, but gallant to the last, 'drilling' a motley array of ladies, most unsuitably attired. Many wore high heeled shoes and dresses, or coats and skirts with the obligatory twin-set and pearls, my mother among them. It seems doubtful if such an exercise was ever to be repeated...

Meanwhile recruitment went on in earnest, and with magnificent results. Numbers of girls joined up, uniforms were soon issued, proper training started, and everything set up on a most businesslike footing.

W1 Garrad threw herself into the job with enthusiasm, being a person of great energy, with excellent speaking ability and a wonderful sense of humour. Only 5 foot 2½ inches tall, she looked one straight in the eye, and knew how to work well with others. She was the mother of three children, had served in the Red Cross in World War I, and had worked as a missionary teacher in schools in Burma.

Having lost her only brother in the first World War, killed on the Somme, she was determined that if there had to be

another conflict, Britain should be as prepared as it was possible to be. Her husband backed her fully in all she did.

By 1939 she had a fully staffed office in Bristol, and was working all hours. It was a tough schedule, but there were lighter moments too. Early in 1940 the staff was convinced that there was a spy over the road. Each afternoon, at the same time, someone seemed to be flashing messages in morse. Eventually the police were called in; they discovered an old lady, much surprised at their interest in her green parrot, which she placed near the window at 2.30 each day, so that he could play with his mirror in the better light...

In the late 1940s Mrs Gibbs' home was turned into an Army Convalescent Centre, to be staffed by the Red Cross. Barrow Court was a magnificent house, founded about 1200 AD as a Benedictine Nunnery, closed at the Reformation, and later much beautified in the Elizabethan period. With its lovely rooms and gardens it had space and to spare for men recuperating from the wounds of war. The team leaders of Mesdames Gibbs and Garrad had completed their task of getting ATS recruitment in the West Country on to a solid footing, and now turned their considerable talents to running the Red Cross home. They continued this work until after the war, Mrs Gibbs as Commandant, Mrs Garrad as Secretary.

W1 was discharged from the ATS on 21 October 1940, 'for further work of National Importance.' Lady Apsley, Senior Commandant ATS, described her military conduct as 'Excellent. Would be Exemplary if 3 years service completed. Recommended for any position of trust.'

FOLLOWING IN MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Once I became 18 years of age, I fulfilled my ambition of following my mother into the ATS. It was the 22 April 1943, and more than a quarter of a million girls had enlisted by then. I was W258922, and joined up for full service. The Bristol papers carried an illustrated story headed 'W1's Daughter Joins Up'. War-work conscription for 19-year-old girls had been in action for some time, and the number of volunteers for the ATS had by now turned from a stream to a straggle.



Anne Garrad signs on while her mother (far right) looks on.

I was sent to No 12 ATS Training Centre, Hermitage Camp, Wrexham, North Wales. By chance, a letter home survives from this time, and may revive a few memories. 'Arrived by train, walked 1½ miles to barracks, having dumped suitcase, later brought up by lorry. Marched to a hut where we were issued with linen-bag containing gas-cape, towel, cup, comb, knife, fork, spoon. Given cup of luke-warm tea and good, solid sticky bun. Shepherd next door to exchange civilian ration card for paybook, AB 64. Marched off to have head inspected (clean!) and march on to MO. Undressed and examined. Dressed and marched to equipment stores. Waited ¾ hour before being issued with all kit except respirator and tin hat. Good quality, but some far too large. Had to carry bags over half a mile. Arms nearly pulled out of sockets, a terrific weight, wearing heavy army shoes with metal studs and enormous great coat. Arrived at hut where we are to sleep – 14 double-decker wooden bunk beds around a central stove. dumped kit and marched ¼ mile to fetch suitcase, waited about, marched back with it. Marched to supper at last, good but stodgy. No one slept much because the beds were hard and shaky. If I moved, the person below me groaned, and vice-versa. A whole day of tests followed, (to decide our future arms of service), and a hefty series of inoculations next day!

A month later I found myself on a fortnight's Cadre for junior NCOs, and presently returned to No 4 Coy, at the same TC, with a stripe up, to assist in recruit training and to carry out guard and police duties. The friendliness of the Corporals' Mess is something I have never forgotten, the work interesting and an eye-opener for someone from a country background. Most of each intake consisted of delightful girls from the East End of London, conscripts, older than me, many with nits in their hair and almost all with boyfriends very much on their minds. . . .

By September that year there was talk of TCs being closed, anyway I needed a change and applied for a posting. I was sent to North Highland District, Inverness, as a clerk, to work in the prestigious Palace Hotel on the banks of the River Ness. Having passed trade tests in shorthand-typing I found the job absorbing, working by day and night for high-ranking officers planning some major 'exercise'. This was, of course, no less than the overall planning for D-Day. I loved Scotland, and on my limited time off, was able to explore Black Isle, the Loch and Dingwall, by bike, carrying an alarm clock aboard, to remind me when to return to base.

The time soon came when overseas volunteers were asked for in my particular trade, and for this parental permission had to be given, as I was under age. Once formalities had been completed, there was no means of knowing where we were going, as we had been issued with both tropical and Arctic kit, just to be sure!

We sailed one midnight from Glasgow, on the SS Queen of Bermuda. It was obvious after a couple of days on board that our destination must be Italy, as the ship contained a contingent of Lovat Scouts, who had just completed training in ski-warfare. Space was so crowded that five girls had to share a cabin meant for two, and my lot fell on the floor. We zig-zagged our way through the Mediterranean to avoid German U-boats, and ended up a fortnight later in Naples harbour, breathtakingly beautiful in the morning light of that summer's day of 1944.

Our destination was Caserta, an even larger palace, this time of 1,200 rooms, built by the Kings of Naples to rival the Palace of Versailles.

Our job was to provide the greater part of the clerical support needed by the British Section of Allied Force Headquarters, the centre of operations for the US, UK and

French Armies, Central Mediterranean Forces. My window looked out over an inner courtyard, where a little later on, Field Marshal Alexander's Staff Car was always at the ready.

During that first month, we found many of our erstwhile male shipmates in hospital, wounded, and visited them when we could. To complicate matters there was sometimes a shortage of water, hard for us, but even worse for them. All 200 of the ATS draft slept in one large ward of a requisitioned hospital near the palace, in double-decker bunks with mosquito nets.

The whole Italian campaign was bedevilled by epidemics of hepatitis (jaundice), and AFHQ did not escape. On our odd days off some of us would get tickets to sit high up in 'the gods' at the Naples Opera House where the singing was superb. One evening 'Tosca' was being performed, I was leaning over the balcony to get a better look, when I realised I was going to be ill. The diagnosis was inevitable, but what a dilemma! Where were sick ATS to be nursed with the military hospitals already full of war casualties? A house was commandeered, beds brought in, rats eliminated, and we nursed each other through the worst of this particularly horrid disease, with a resident Italian orderly, and daily visits from a British MO and Nursing Sister. A convalescent home was set up at Trani near Bari, on the Adriatic coast, partially run by a White Russian woman, who would come over daily to visit us, appearing through the vineyards riding the most glorious grey mare. Gradually we recovered, and returned to duty.

Sanitary conditions in the cellars of Caserta palace where the ATS messed were inevitably far from good, and this was one among many reasons why it was decided to try to commission a handful of those who had experienced 'the rigours of the campaign', if only to deal with hygiene and general living conditions.

A WOSB was set up in Naples, about twenty girls were put through a three day marathon, six of us being picked as potential officer candidates, being packed off to OCTU in the Middle East.

We were flown to Cairo, but again there was no accommodation. The Kasr-el-Nil Barracks had been condemned for male occupation, but nothing had been said about females, so we were installed there for a week for two . . .

Eventually we entrained for Palestine, and ended up in the OCTU Wing of 515 Coy ATS MEF at Sarafand, today the training centre for the Israeli Army. It was April and the Biblical landscape was ablaze with flowers of every colour and scent. After our first pay-parade we visited nearby Tel Aviv, with its shops full of wonderful consumer goods, and



ATS OCTU MEF Course No 9 April–June 1945.



Second Subaltern Anne Garrad – September 1945.

bought properly fitting bras, which did much for our morale as well as for our physique. Being right-marker on the drill square was never quite the same again after that. . . .

The two months OCTU was really stimulating. There were some 20 Cadets, several of them highly intelligent, young Jewesses, who certainly kept us up to the mark. Visits to Bethlehem and Jerusalem were unforgettable, as were many of the challenging training sessions, which helped us in future decision making. We were commissioned on 9 June 1945, a month after VE Day, and I was posted back to Naples.

That September, many of the first draft of ATS at AFHG were sent back to UK on a month's leave. Thirty of us flew in the converted bomb-rack of a Liberator, seated on two makeshift planks of wood, back to back. We were recalled early, but due to home circumstances I asked for and obtained the full 28 days, eventually returning in a Lancaster, sitting on the floor, the transport in general use for male personnel only. Sadly, in Naples, the news was broken to me that 'our Liberator' on its return trip had been lost in a storm over the Mediterranean, and all my friends were presumed drowned. Only two of us had asked for prolongation of leave, and had escaped. It was a devastating blow, and a terrible waste of life.

I went to the ATS Transit & Assembly Centre in Naples as 2IC, moved with it to Milan, on to Monza, and then finally to Warmbad, Villach, Austria, where six months later I was promoted T/Junior Commander (Captain), IC a 200 bed centre. We handled the movement of members of all the women's services in and out of CMF, as well as foreign-born wives of British servicemen going home, and the first relays of Quaker Service Teams attempting to liberate the Internment Camps, and Control Commission Staff of the United Nations.

I was released in November 1946, and felt that the wheel had gone full circle. Eight years earlier W1 Garrad had seen some of the first ATS into uniform, and now her daughter had seen some of the last ATS back to civilian life. Later I joined the WRAC to serve in the TA, where I married a fellow officer, but that is another story . . . W1 died in 1981, after a life packed full of service to all about her.

STOP PRESS

**On Saturday 12th November 1988 at
The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance
in the Royal Albert Hall there is to be an item to
commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the
ATS in 1938, and its continuance as the WRAC since 1949.**

**There is an urgent requirement for items of ATS uniform
including such items as PT Kit, Cook's Whites, leather
jerkens, gaiters and dispatch rider's kit as well as jackets,
skirts, hats etc.**

**Please send to Corps Headquarters WRAC,
Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.**

Postage will be refunded.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR DAME LESLIE WHATELEY DBE TD

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dame Leslie Whateley DBE TD was held at Hampstead Parish Church, London on 24 March 1988. The Service was arranged by the World Bureau of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Dame Leslie Whateley was their Director for 13 years. HM The Queen was represented at the Service by Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA, Director Women's Royal Army Corps. The address was given by Mrs Helvi Sipila Member, World Committee and adviser for associate membership WAGGGS 1957-1966 and Assistant Secretary General, UN, 1972-80.

Dame Leslie was Director of the ATS from 1943-46 during which time, Her Majesty The Queen as Second Subaltern Windsor did her training at the ATS Mechanical Transport Training Centre Camberley.

A lesson was read by Dame Mary Tyrwhitt DBE TD, Director ATS 1946-49, Dame Leslie's immediate successor and subsequently the first Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

Dame Leslie Whateley's medals were acquired by the ATS Dinner Club at auction last year. At a ceremony after the Service the medals appertaining to Dame Leslie's service with WAGGGS were presented to them by Dame Mary Tyrwhitt on behalf of the ATS Dinner Club.

Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt is to present Dame Leslie Whateley's military medals and decorations at a ceremony at Guildford on 12 July 1988. Brigadier A Field CB, Chairman of the Museum Trustees will receive them on behalf of the Museum.



Mrs Helvi Sipila receives Dame Leslie Whateley's medals on behalf of WAGGS from Brig Dame Mary Tyrwhitt. Also pictured are Miss Thesiger, Mrs Juby and Miss Hill.

WRAC MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT APPEAL BENEFACTORS

List No 4

(This list is in addition to those published in No 1, No 2 and No 3 editions of Lioness for 1987-88. Names here are of those who have subscribed since the previous lists or whose details require amendment).

Association Branches

Bradford Cheltenham Leicester Cleveland

Units and Other Organisations

Vehicle Squadron Army School of Mechanical Transport
WRAC Catterick Garrison
HQ Int & Sy Gp BAOR
WRAC Centre Guildford
Richmond Wing RMA Sandhurst
Borough of Surrey Heath
City of London
Collett, Dickenson, Pearce & Partners Ltd
ATS Dinner Club

Individuals

Mr J Branthwaite	Mrs A L Lambert
Pte M Clark	Mrs D M Morris
Mrs G M C Culley	Sir Jeremy Morse
Mrs E K Daw	Maj O M Patch TD
Mrs A L Fletcher	Mr H Pridmore
Mrs H P Gyselynck	Mr A D Pollard
Capt C Haigh	Maj J Stephens
Mrs G Isaac	Mrs J M Scully
Mrs E R C Jones	Col D H I Wilson OBE
Lt C S Knipe	Miss J F M Ahrens

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Golden Jubilee Dinner will be held on Friday 7 October 1988 at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8. This year it will take the form of a buffet meal from 6.30 pm to 10.00 pm, and the evening will incorporate a very short Triennial Business meeting.

We hope as many members as possible will attend so that we can celebrate together the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS. Our membership now exceeds 1,100 but we shall be happy to hear from any ex-member of the ATS who wishes to join, and enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Audrey Juby, Cobbs View, Marlingford, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5AG.

SCOTS GUARDS CLUB, 2 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh 2 extends a welcome to members of the Association and their husbands/boyfriends visiting the City.

The opening times are:

7 pm - 12 (weekdays except Tuesday)

12 pm - 5 pm

7 pm - 12 (Saturday and Sunday)

George Robinson Liaison Officer.

BRIEF EXPERIENCES WITH THE "BOMBSHELLS" 1942-1947

Gay Clark (née Mills) ATS

I was conscripted into the ATS on 9 October 1947 and did my basic training at Wrexham, No 12 ATS TC, attached to The Royal Welsh Fusiliers. After training I was posted to Truro in Cornwall, working in the DCRE on a switchboard.

Before the war I had been a singer in Bodmin and had met Charlie Chester, who was now running "Stars in Battledress" shows. Suddenly I found myself sent to Plymouth where auditions were taking place, and I was selected to be engaged in a show to entertain troops all over the war zones of Europe. The show I was drafted into was an all male show with Captain Stuart Donaldson RA as the OC and Miss Gladys Stanley, a famous revue star, as the producer. We were known as "The Bombshells – a victorious raid on the blues". We played every single theatre from Lands End to John O'Groats, as well as the Outer Hebrides and the Scillies. We even played aboard aircraft carriers and to secret underground units.

I, being the only girl, had a "minder" and all the men were gentlemen at all times and treated me with the



Cornwall 1943. J Mitchell and Harry Lanson with rabbits "Socrates" and "St Francis" in window. L-R: Cpl Arthur Scott, Cpl Bill O'Keefe, Pte Stanley Coleman, Pte Gay Mills, Pte Ray Ansell, Bdr Bobby Rose. Front Maj Eric Brand, Miss Gwladys Stanley MBE, Capt S Donaldson.

greatest respect. During touring I met and fell in love with my husband Ron Clark. He was in the RA, touring with another famous "Stars in Battledress" show with Freddie Frinton and many other well known stars.

Fortunately the War Office were able to transfer my husband into "The Bombshells" and we were married on 23 May 1945 in Bodmin. We went on touring until our 'demob'.

Our experiences were many and varied, happy and sad. Once we did a show in a large nissen hut, which had canvas tents on the side as dressing rooms. I always had a "confined space" to make up, but my father had had a set of lights and a small pastry board made for my cosmetics etc. It was a very dark wintry cold night, and I'd put out my things as usual, and sat on an old folding NAAFI chair that kept tilting! Suddenly there was a huge "plop" of blood right in my make-up box – then another, and another. I sat for a second transfixed convinced that in the inky darkness above my head there must be a corpse. I daren't look up, but managed to pull myself together and go over to the men's tent. They were all on stage rehearsing a last

minute sketch. In the stage door I saw an MP and said what I dreaded – he fetched the Entertainments Officer and we all crept back to my dressing tent. By then my powder bowl was full of blood and great "splodges" all over everything. The mystery was soon cleared up, and everyone laughing (except me!). It appeared the battalion meat had been delivered that day and I was allocated the messing tent where all the meat was hoisted on high hooks, but my lights had started a thaw. We all had a good laugh in the NAAFI afterwards.

Now over 40 years later we are still singing, both members of the Royal British Legion, and trying to do what we can to help others. Perhaps some readers will remember us.

SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENT APPRECIATION SOCIETY

proudly present another autumn bonanza

BLACKPOOL NIGHT TO REMEMBER 1988

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with 207 (Manchester) General Hospital RAMC(V)

the Capricorn Singers and other

Choral and Harmony Groups

NEW PAVILION THEATRE SUITE

BLACKPOOL WINTER GARDENS

WEDNESDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 1988

Theatre Doors open 7.45 pm

TICKET (in advance) £2.75

(Admission at Door £3.50)

REUNION IN BLACKPOOL 1988

More than 50 ex-ATS gathered in Blackpool in April for what was described as an emotional reunion almost 50 years after the formation of their service.

All these women had given help to Mr Robert A Peel, the author of a forthcoming book 'The History of the ATS (1938-49)', with stories and anecdotes about their service days. The Elgin Hotel on the Promenade became the HQ for their



From l to r: Pte Doreen Garnham (Sigs), Pte Alma Stride and Pte Daphne Attridge (Searchlights), Pte Ethel Sanderson (Clerical), Sgt Doris Hall (Sigs), Pte Jean Eastham (Clerical), Pte Betty Collins (Clerical), Pte Lilian Wright (RAMC), Pte Connie Dearsley (Dvr), Pte Edna Lawes (Ack-Ack), Pte Miriam Hartley (Plotter), Pte Brenda Horness, Sgt Evelyn Shepherd (Clerical), Pte Dorothy Pilkington (Ack-Ack), Author PARA, LCpl Edith Thirkell (RAMC), JComd Gwen Jowett (Sigs), Sgt Elsie Plummer (Drill Instr), CSM Miss Carney (ATS & WRAC).



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3 day get-together. The highlight of the reunion was a visit to the 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry stationed at Weeton.

The visiting group was met by 2IC Major Charles Ottowell, who conducted them round the camp to gasps of incredulity and delight at the fittings and furnishings to be seen everywhere. Private soldiers accommodated in rooms for 4 with fitted white furniture, carpets, curtains and no "barracking of the beds!" The kitchens were greeted with similar reactions; spacious, well lit and full of gleaming stainless steel. After a delicious lunch the visitors posed for group photographs and sadly it was time to leave.



"Serving the Soldiers", Edith Thirkell, Lillian Wright, Brenda Horness.

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

PATRON HM THE QUEEN

The Officers' Association provides services which are available to ex-officers of the Royal Navy (including Royal Marines), the Army and the Royal Air Force, and their widows and dependants, including those who held Commissions in the Women's Services.

Services include:

Employment – an efficient Employment Department to assist ex-officers of all ages and ranks to find suitable employment, both those just leaving the Services and those who have lost their civilian jobs. Many hundreds of ex-officers are found jobs every year over a wide salary range.

Financial Help – assistance is given in a number of ways such as: cash grants to those in financial distress, continuing allowances to those with very small incomes, help towards Homes fees to those who through age or infirmity can no longer run their own homes and can find no suitable home within their means.

Homes Advice – advice on Homes for the elderly.

A Country Home – running "Huntly" a delightful country home at Bishopsteignton, South Devon, which affords comfort and security for lonely ex-officers at or over the age of 65, both male and female, who do not need special nursing care. Selection is made with due regard to need and service record. Personal contributions are assessed according to individual's means.

Bungalows – running a 12-bungalow estate at Leavesden, Herts, for disabled ex-officers and their families.

The Association has offices in London and Dublin and the Scottish Branch has offices in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

All enquiries should be made to the General Secretary, The Officers' Association, 43 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY. (Tel: 01-930 0125).

BRANCH NEWS

AYRSHIRE Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September to May.

After over 40 years our numbers have decreased but those who remain give loyal support.

This year three founder members died Miss C Simple, Mrs H Lunn and Mrs J O MacAndrew. Chris and Helen served the Branch as President and Secretary and Mrs MacAndrew was the excellent Chairman when the Reunion was held in Ayr in 1971.

All showed courage through their illnesses and will be greatly missed.

Our programme as usual is varied but now we find lunch meetings very successful as it saves the cost of accommodation, gives those who live alone a treat, with a meal out, and an early meeting is easier for transport.

We have had the pleasure of Major A E Ewan's company and members of the Association of WRENS joined us for the Annual Dinner.

Our Scottish Country Dance is the main fund raising effort. Erskine Hospital benefits from the Raffle proceeds, Linburn for the War Blinded plus other charities benefit from ticket sales.

With Mrs J Neilson our President still a regular attender, now in her 94th year, we get great encouragement and a number of us look forward to meeting old friends when we attend the ATS Golden Jubilee in October.

BATH The start of the Branch's 41st year was on a sad note as one of its founder members, Miss Betty Mould MBE (QMAAC) aged 93 years died in March. She was a regular member at all the meetings throughout the 40 years, and fittingly her last appearance was at the 40th anniversary celebrations, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath attended together with our Sub Area Vice Chairman Colonel (Retd) D J Freeland. She was active up to her death and her great concern was for the welfare of others, especially in bad weather. She would often be seen shopping for "the elderly", and would scorn the idea she had joined those ranks herself.

Sadly her death was followed by that of Miss Olive Rutter MVO MBE – who must be known to many members of the Association as she was on the secretariat of the late Princess Royal. Her previous appointment was on the staff of General Templer in Malaya. She was loved by all members of the Bath Branch and her knowledge of the Corps which was always valued will mean a sad loss at discussions. She retired from the WRAC in 1966 after joining ATS in 191.

BIRMINGHAM We are happy to announce the re-forming of the Birmingham Branch. Greetings everyone!! What better way to celebrate our 50th Anniversary?

The enthusiasm has been splendid and most rewarding. Our first meeting was held on 4 May 1988, and our numbers are continuing to increase.

At the present time we are busy organising ourselves, but shortly plan to become involved in wider interests.

We are so grateful to our friends at the Birmingham United Services Club for granting us accommodation, and the Birmingham Evening Post and Mail for advertising. Everyone has been most co-operative. Our age groups are so wide, from our senior lady, Mrs Dawson (ex QMACC) just celebrating her 90th birthday, to our youngest WRAC member.

We are looking forward to a happy future, and the pleasure of meeting many of you.

CANTERBURY To celebrate our 40th Anniversary in October, we had a Dinner attended by 32 members. We had photos taken by the Press, who also gave us a good write-up in the local paper.

One of our members presented us with a cake made and decorated by her daughter-in-law, with the WRAC Association badge emblem. The dinner was followed by the showing of two films one ATS the other WRAC, kindly lent to us by the Imperial War Museum and operated for us by a Sergeant from the Army Careers Office.

We have had a very busy year again with membership totalling 85 and have had numerous outings, 'get-togethers' and fund raising events. Looking forward to seeing you all in London in October.



President Lt Col (Retd) Angela Cobb MBE cutting the cake at our 40th Anniversary Dinner.

CHESTER We continue to meet on the second Monday of each month. Our Annual Dinner was held in December at the Belgrave Hotel, and was enjoyed by all.

In November we sent a card to Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her 40th Wedding Anniversary and received a charming reply from Buckingham Palace. We accepted an invitation from the RMP Association to a 'Hot Pot Supper', which was a jolly night out. In May we attended a 'Beating Retreat' ceremony at Chester Castle followed by a buffet at Chester Police Station.

Our Standard is always proudly paraded on Remembrance Day, and at the Royal British Legion County Parade and it will also be paraded at the Normandy Veterans Association Tree Service in June.

As a result of our fund raising we were able to send £70.00 to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and £30.00 to the Museum Fund.

Now we are looking forward to the Grand Reunion, hoping to meet some of our long lost wartime comrades.

DEAL We finished our 1987 year with a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch and a bouquet was presented to Miss Elizabeth de Bourbel our retiring President as a token of our appreciation for the wonderful support she has given the Branch.

We were delighted to give a welcome via Air Mail letters, to three new members from Gales Ferry, Connecticut USA. Mrs Annette Rands, Mrs Grace Culley and Mrs Mimi Abrams; it is hoped that we might all meet up at the Barbican in October.

Ten members had a very enjoyable and interesting visit to the National Army Museum, Chelsea on the 17 May.

Twenty-six members from Deal and Canterbury Branches arrived somewhat late (due to heavy traffic) for an excellent lunch at Aldershot Barracks followed by a most interesting tour of Sandhurst.

A very successful Coffee Morning on 2 June to raise funds for the Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal was due to Branch members and their friends from the Burma Star Association, RAF Association, RNVA giving their full support.

We are now looking forward to the Annual Garden Party on 20 August and hope the sun will shine.

GLASGOW We have had a most interesting year, with visits from the staff at the Glasgow Garden Festival, and the RNLi when we were joined by the Association of WRNS. A film was shown about Pearl Fishing in the River Tay, as few people realised that our own river held such riches.

The AGM in Aberdeen was attended by 28 members.

A letter was sent to a national newspaper about the Glasgow Branch and the Grand Reunion in October 1988. The response to this letter was overwhelming, bringing letters from all over the United Kingdom, and we have tried to put people in touch with their nearest branch.

Our membership is now over 140, with an average of 50 attending meetings. To raise money we have coffee evenings, raffles and a book stall and were able to send off £250.00 to help our Erskine Hospital Fund as well as make donations to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, The Earl Haig Fund and the new Branch of the WRAC Association in Inverness.

LIVERPOOL The Liverpool Branch still meet on the third Wednesday of each month (except August and January) at The Royal British Legion, 34 Rodney Street, Liverpool at 7.45 pm and we would like to take this opportunity of inviting all past and new members to our meetings, when they will be welcomed by our present members.

We are represented on the Merseyside Council of Ex-Service and Regimental Association and as a result have more contact with other associations, and attend their parades and functions. This Council is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year having held its inaugural meeting on the 12 January 1948. A representative of this branch has always attended meetings of the Council. To mark the 40th anniversary a Garden Party is to be held in July, and a number of our members will be attending.

Our members regularly attend the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph, a different member laying the wreath each year on behalf of the branch. On the Saturday immediately before Remembrance Sunday, a Poppy Day depot is organised and run by the Branch. The Collectors are from senior classes of the local schools, and a few of our members also brave the November weather.

We are of course looking forward to the ATS 50th Anniversary celebration in October.

We have this year been saddened by the sudden death of our member Miss S M Learmouth MBE. Miss Learmouth had been an active and popular member of the branch since her retirement from the regular army, having served in both the ATS and WRAC. Her presence at our meetings will be greatly missed.

LONDON In March several members of the Branch were able to attend the Service of Thanksgiving for Dame Leslie Whateley in the lovely Parish Church of St John at Hampstead.

In January our meeting was enlivened by a visit from Alan W Cooper the RAF Historian who is now researching for his forthcoming book on the role of Women in the Second World War. Members were able to furnish him with much information and we are looking forward to reading the book when it is published.

Many of us have reason to be grateful for the work of the WVS and in February, Mrs Ava Christophersen, a branch member who is also the present Chairman of the WRVS Association gave us an interesting talk on their past and present work. The WRVS are also celebrating their Jubilee this year.

In March, Miss Mary Curtis entertained us with her beautiful colour slides of Scotland and in April John W Griffiths opened our eyes to the complex task performed by the RNIB Talking Book Service. Thanks to the generosity of members we were able to make a donation to this valuable service.

Our spring coach trip was to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn and everyone agreed that it was the most interesting visit we have made so far.

MANCHESTER We do not meet in January or February, and everyone was pleased to see one another again in March.

Some members went out for a meal in January, and several attended the Northern Area reunion in April.

We had our annual dinner in May, when thirty-two of us had a most enjoyable evening. The proceeds from the raffle went to the renal unit at the Manchester Royal Infirmary, which is desperate for funds.

Unfortunately, our very good friend Betty Hamer was unable to attend, and was sadly missed, but we all signed a get well card for her, and hope that she will be well enough to attend the Grand Reunion in October, an event to which we are all looking forward.

MEDWAY After being in existence for several years this is our first report to Lioness. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Royal British Legion Club in Gillingham. An average of 18 members attend each meeting although we have 40 registered members and we are always seeking new members from the North West Kent area.

Activities during the past year have included a trip with the Canterbury branch to the Queen's Gallery Royal Mews and the Cabinet War Rooms and ending with dinner at the Victory Services Club. Three members went to Normandy for the Annual D Day Celebrations visiting various cemeteries, memorials and museums.

Our main fund raising event was in September when we had stalls at the RE Open Day at Brompton Barracks which was both a financial success and a most enjoyable day out. One of our members who took part in a sponsored Fun Run was able to send £80.00 to the WRAC Museum. Well done Joan!

In November we attended the 'Remember, Remember Show' in Chatham Town Hall in aid of the Poppy Appeal Fund, and Remembrance Sunday saw many of us on Horse Guards Parade before marching up Whitehall to the Cenotaph. There seem to be more of us every year and a mini reunion takes place at the Victory Club on the Saturday where many old friends from other branches meet. Six of our members were present recently, at the

unveiling of the memorial, to the Royal Engineers at the Garrison Church, Chatham, who fell in Korea.

We are looking forward to visiting Aldershot and the RMA Sandhurst in May and of course the Grand Reunion in October.

PLYMOUTH Hello once again from Plymouth. What an exciting year we have had. We are at present fund raising to pay for our new standard (what a price!) but nevertheless enjoying our efforts. Its Drake 400, the anniversary of the Armada and the City is looking lovely, beautiful plants, a new sundial and of course the controversial fountain.

HM the Queen the Prince Philip will be visiting the City in July.

We had a very special birthday party for our oldest member Miss Ann Bounty 90 years old and still going strong. We held it in the new "Age Concern" building, newly built near the Barbican, for those who know Plymouth.

We have several trips and functions arranged including a coach trip into Cornwall to visit one of our members.

Of course the main topic at the moment is the London Reunion we hope to see all our old friends and hope to make a few new ones too.

See you in October.

SALISBURY Our branch continues to grow, with a membership of forty-eight, and an average attendance at meetings of thirty. All our members were saddened by the news of our President, Mrs B Taunton's car accident. We extend our sympathy to her on her husband's death, but we are pleased to know that she is recovering from her injuries. A memorial service for Mr Taunton, held in April at Nunton, near Salisbury, was attended by several members.

We were all shocked by the sudden death of Mrs Susan Soffe (née Greenslade) who was intending to rejoin us after a period in Germany, where her husband is serving. Our condolences go to her husband and children.

March saw the last of our daytime meetings at the British Legion HQ. A splendid Faith Lunch was put on, with all members bringing their favourite lunchtime recipe. In April, one of our new members, Mrs. Eve Cherry, demonstrated the unusual and fascinating craft of linen sculpture. She showed how the delicate and imaginative figurines are made from wire, paper, cotton wool and pieces of cloth.

Twenty-two members enjoyed the Area Reunion at Bournemouth, with glorious weather, a tour of Bournemouth, and a splendid tea at Pontin's of Christchurch. In June, we are having a pub lunch at the Grey Fisher, at Harnham, and at the end of the month, we are walking old Salisbury, with a guided commentary. Our Shaftesbury members are returning the compliment in July, taking us on an historical tour of their town, with, we hope, a finale in one of Shaftesbury's old inns!

The autumn programme begins on 22 September, with a "Recipes and Wine" evening – Salisbury branch certainly know how to appreciate good food and drink. We look forward to seeing other branches at the Grand Reunion in London in October. We shall be based at the New Barbican Hotel. See you there!

SHROPSHIRE The Branch meets on the 2nd Tuesday of

each month at the British Legion Club, Donnington, Telford at 7.30 pm.

SOUTHAMPTON Regrettably it has been over a year since we went to print, but we are happy to report that our monthly meetings with varied speakers and events are still very well attended and membership has again risen to 79.

We have enjoyed two branch Dinners and two Sub Area Reunions, last year it was at Larkhill – very chilly outside but a warm welcome inside, and this year at Bournemouth. We were able to tour the beauty spots of Poole and Bournemouth before returning for tea in a restaurant alongside the river Stour in Christchurch. Our thanks go to Larkhill and Bournemouth for all the obvious hard work which goes into these reunions.

With the advent of celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS, and the 40th Anniversary of our branch in 1988, emphasis is on fund raising. It is not only for these occasions, and our usual donation to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, and the Museum Appeal but also for an outside charity still to be confirmed.

A flower bed showing the ATS badge has been planted in Andrews Park, Southampton, and we are told that it will be looking its best at the end of June.

Also to commemorate our own 40th Anniversary and to help those lost in the 1987 hurricane, we have had planted a young maple tree in Southampton West Park in the close vicinity of the Cenotaph.

We still have much to do and look forward to in 1988, especially the Grand Reunion.



Chairman Mrs Sheila Clement and Founder Member Mrs Audrey Pickett.

STOCKPORT Greetings from Stockport where our membership now totals 47.

First of all we would like to thank those special friends we have made, who have bought our ATS cards. They come from as far apart as Devon and Scotland and we even have a contact in Canada. It is quite amazing that one of our girls who has lived in Ontario for 39 years can be reading the 'Lioness' and enjoying it as we all do. Good for you Hetty!

Since we last wrote to you we have continued our usual hilarious monthly meetings and various outings of course. The outstanding happening was our trip to the Royal Tournament in July and many thanks are due to our Social Secretary for the excellent arrangements she made for us, and to Helen who provided the packed lunch.

Another trip we made was to the Northern meeting at Harrogate. This was a rather awkward journey as it necessitates two changes of trains. When we arrived at Leeds we found that our connection had departed two minutes before we arrived which was very comforting. When the train eventually arrived one of the members of our group whilst helping a young girl to get a trolley off the train, dropped her umbrella down a four inch gap between the platform and the train. Great excitement watching the porter fish the umbrella off the line. When this was accomplished the errant member (me!) was severely reprimanded and threatened with being banned from other trips unless she behaved herself.

Our next great event of course will be our trip to the Grand Reunion at the Barbican Centre, and when I think of the great catastrophic events that could happen with our group – well – 'nuff said.

I thought I would finish our greetings to you with a little story that happened to me this week whilst shopping in a large carpet store (only looking). I had my ATS badge in my lapel. Whilst talking to two salesmen one of them asked me what my badge was and I said the ATS. First salesman said "What is the ATS", second salesman said, "That stands for Athletics Training School". As I am of course a pensioner and riddled with Arthritis I thought this was very amusing. I then gave them a five minute lecture on just who we were and what we did during the war. I must say after looking at their faces I walked out of the door twelve feet tall.

SWANSEA We continue to meet on the first Wednesday each month, at the Guildhall, courtesy of Swansea City

Council. The attendance has been good and about 16–20 members turn up regularly. Unfortunately illness has kept others away, including our oldest member, Mrs Florence Stoneham who was 90 this year.

We have been discussing the 1988 Grand Reunion, making arrangements about travelling, hotels etc and getting thrilled about seeing people and friends of long ago.

Our activities this year, have included talks by local speakers and an informal meeting at "The West Cross Hotel" where an excellent lunch was enjoyed by all. In May we are going to visit the WRAF Club and we have also been invited to a Reunion at Maindy Barracks, Cardiff.

Our President Veronica Barrington and Bill are away on holiday in New Zealand. We will be pleased to see them return to tell us about their travels.

WOLVERHAMPTON In October 1987 members again stood guard when the Book of Remembrance (1914–18 War) was on display in the Civic Hall. The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Mrs. D. Seiboth (ex ATS) came to inspect it.

In December, we had a demonstration of cake decoration and sweet making, but sadly Dot Ricketts fell when leaving the building and was taken to hospital, but fortunately she is on the mend now.

Forty-five members gathered at Owen Owens for Christmas lunch.

On a bitterly cold day in March we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS with a tree planting ceremony in the West Park. The Mayor Cllr Mrs D Seiboth and the Mayoress Mrs Machin attended and we were delighted that the recruiting sergeants from Wolverhampton and Birmingham were also present.

In April our Chairman, Eileen Salter and members went to Birmingham to support the re-formation of that Branch. We send our very best wishes to them for the future.

At the branch meeting members brought along decorated hard boiled eggs, first prize was won by Betty Clyne who had made an ATS jacket and cap, out of a khaki handkerchief, to decorate her egg.

In May we welcomed ex WRAC Carol Richardson, with friends who came to show us how they keep fit. Many of us were exhausted just watching!

ON PARADE FOR THEIR MEDALS

By James Hanning

Although World War II ended 43 years ago, around 700 requests for medals are received every month from ex army men and women.

Many simply forgot to collect their entitlement at the end of the war, but had their memories jogged by coverage of successive 40th anniversaries. Particular high points were 40 years on from D-Day and VE-Day. Far from declining, there has been a steady flow of applications since 1985.

Children and grand-children of deceased serving

officers can apply as long as they are legal beneficiaries.

The most recent peak was around Remembrance Sunday last November when 1,200 applications were received in the month.

Despite the endeavours of the 20 employees at the Medal Office, it takes ten months before medals can be issued. A great deal of patient detective work on a soldier's record has to be completed first. And their work load is unlikely to decline. Next year sees the 50th anniversary of the start of the war.

To claim a medal write to: Army Medal Office, Ministry of Defence, Government Office Buildings, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8AU.

Courtesy of the Daily Mail

WESTERN AREA REUNION AND ATS ANNIVERSARY

St George's Day, 23 April 1988, and the Wolverhampton Branch went to the Nautical Club Birmingham, where the celebrations were to be held. We were made most welcome and presented with a Nautical Club plaque. Over a hundred members were present, many wearing a rose. chairman Eileen Salter gave a warm welcome to all and read out letters received from HM The Queen, HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and our President HRH The Duchess of Kent.

An ATS recruiting film was shown after which Lt Colonel Mary Harwood, the Western Area Chairman, gave a talk about life in the WRAC today. Our President Mary Davies presented Lt Colonel Harwood with a trinket dish to remind her of her visit to the Western area reunion.

There was a splendid Buffet and a beautiful cake decorated with the ATS badge. Carol Richardson donated Ration Books, copies of those issued to the public during World War II. Joyce Dixon (Hull) and Mary Beeston (Wolverhampton) were proud to wear the ATS uniform and performed a skit on stage which was much appreciated. Tragically one of our members collapsed and died. We thank those members with first aid knowledge who gave assistance, and also to those who kindly sent letters of sympathy.



Eileen Salter with the anniversary cake.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION 1988

April 16 produced a very happy gathering at the Lounge Hall in Harrogate for the annual Northern Area Reunion. Members from 17 of the northern Branches turned up in force together with a number of individual members, thus providing a record attendance in our Golden Jubilee year, and we were pleased to welcome Brigadier S P Nield, Director WRAC, as chief guest.

Colonel F M Cook, Vice-Chairman of Northern Area,

opened the proceedings by introducing the new Chairman, Lt Colonel J Roulstone, and welcoming her to the Area. Lt Colonel Roulstone responded by saying she was no stranger to our part of the world and was looking forward to meeting everyone later in the afternoon. It was particularly pleasing to see such a large and representative crowd of members present.

Brigadier Nield then gave a fascinating talk combining reminiscences of her own 33 years of service with up-to-date information of what was happening in the Corps today. The modern chronicle of events left most of us quite breathless and wishing we could start all over again, but we all had to agree that the Corps had come a very long way over the 50 years since the ATS was formed.

A surprise presentation was then made to Colonel V K Stead who had recently 'retired' after decades of service as Vice-Chairman of Northern Area and had played an active part in all aspects of the Association. This took the form of a silver paper knife, suitably engraved on the blade and bearing the ATS and Association crests on the handle, and a basket of flowers. Grateful thanks are due to Colonel Stead for all her efforts over the years and although her place as Vice-Chairman has now been taken over by Colonel Cook she will always be very much part of the Northern Area scene.

During the afternoon a video of the Museum was given a number of showings and together with the Raffle and Bring and Buy stall the hall became quite a hive of activity both before and after the excellent tea provided by Harrogate Council.

However, all good things come to an end and eventually everyone departed on homeward journeys to prepare for the next meeting at the Golden Jubilee celebrations in London.

WORLD WAR II CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS VETERANS 30th ANNUAL REUNION 1988

We still haven't located all our CWAC friends of those great days of World War II.

Here is our schedule in brief:

Friday evening from 7 pm – 23 Sept.

Photo viewing, Wreath-Laying Ceremony, Social time, Dancing and Fun.

Saturday, 12 noon to closing – 24 Sept.

Reunion Luncheon, Dinner, Dancing and Fun for all.

For complete Reunion Brochure write to: CWAC Veterans Reunion Chairman, Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker, 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1C9. Tel: 781-2872, 781-3821.

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND BRANCH NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988

The AGM will be held at the Barbican Centre on Saturday 8 October 1988 at 2.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on Saturday 7 April 1987.
4. Business arising from Minutes.
5. Report of Council.
6. Report of Honorary Treasurer.
7. Report of Editor of Lioness
8. Report of Committee:
 - a. ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
 - b. Museum Trustees.
 - c. 1988 Reunion Committee.
9. Resolutions:
 - a. Council Resolutions – Amendments to Rules:
 - (1) Association Standard:
Delete "Kenya Red (BCC 237) and Rifle Green (BCC 27)" and substitute "Beech Brown (BCC Shade 69) and Bottle Green (BCC Shade 25)" respectively.
 - (2) Amend Rule 11(j):
Delete "£5" and substitute "£20".
 - b. Election of Chairman of Council.
 - c. Election of Council Vice-President.
10. Reunion 1991.
11. Any Other Business.
12. Date and Place of Next Meeting.

BRANCH SECRETARIES MEETING

The Secretaries' Meeting will be held on 8 October 1988 in the Conference Room (level 9) at the Barbican Centre.

Members of Council have invited one of the officers from each branch to join them for lunch as their guests following the meeting.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

The Association, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Manpower Services Commission, is part of the Forces Resettlement Service. Our task is to assist all non-commissioned men and women who served with good character for a minimum of 3 years, or less if discharged on medical grounds, to find civil employment at the end of their engagements.

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close

contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the period 1 April 1987–31 March 1988 the Association assisted 10,269 men and women with their resettlement and placed 5,017 in employment. Of those placed, 2,321 were men and women from the Army and 30 were from the Women's Royal Army Corps.

BOOK REVIEW

FROM STORE TO WAR

By Linda McCullough-Thew

Published by Pluto Press

Price £12.95*

In her first book 'Pit Village and the Store' Linda McCullough-Thew tells of her work in the Ashington Village Store. In 1942 conscription for women was introduced in Britain, and as soon as she was old enough, in the October of that year Linda McCullough-Thew left the village store to join the ATS. "From Store to War" continues her story, and the events of the next few years are described with affection and humour as the author recaptures some of the situations and events of those dark years.

The war must have seemed very remote on occasions, and the more immediate realities of square-bashing, spud-bashing, rules and regulations became paramount. We follow the author through her initial training, to her first employment on anti-aircraft radar. There were austerities and difficulties to endure although the daily frustrations of the civilian housewife, stretching her meagre ration, were spared them.

Community living brings an abundance of laughter and companionship but the miseries and difficulties that were encountered are sensitively and honestly revealed.

An enjoyable 'read' and no doubt the type of book which will stir memories for many former members of the ATS and others who remember those war years.

*Copies are available to members of the Association at 25% discount (£9.70) cash with order payable to Pluto Press, c/o Drake Marketing Services, Market House, Deddington, Oxford OX5 4SW.

THE WAAC STORY

The story of the New Zealand Women's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Compiled by Iris Latham.

"WAAC STORY" is a very readable mixture of history, research, personal diaries and memories of the women who served in the New Zealand Army during the years of World War 2, at home and overseas.

The beginnings of the New Zealand Women's Army Auxiliary Corps were in the various women's voluntary organisations which came into being with the outbreak of war and the Corps (formed in 1942) served in the Middle East, Italy, London and the Pacific, and in the hospital ships, in many capacities.

At home in New Zealand the young women applied their talents to all sorts of work – in signal units, on mess kitchen duties, driving heavy trucks (44 varieties!), training recruits, on the gunsites and in the Quartermaster stores.

Available from Mrs Latham, PO Box 30-222, Lower Hutt, New Zealand for twenty NZ Dollars.

THE ROYAL STAR AND GARTER HOME

The view from the terrace of the Royal Star and Garter Home on top of Richmond Hill in Surrey is said to be one of the finest in London. This magnificent building, set on the boundaries of Richmond Park and Petersham Common, is home to some 200 severely disabled ex-servicemen with numbers from each Service in approximately the same ratio as the manpower in each branch of the Armed Forces.

The Home caters for any ex-serviceman (or woman), irrespective of rank, who has suffered disability or incapacitation in wartime or in peace, either during their time in the armed forces or after their return to civilian life.

Many are permanent residents; others are able to return to their own homes after a period of intensive rehabilitation, whilst a few are admitted for brief periods so that those who usually carry the heavy burden of caring for them at home may have a holiday.

It's a true home in every sense of the word for everyone of the long-stay residents. But it is a very special home, with facilities to provide the care and specialised attention that is needed to cater for residents whose afflictions cover a wide range.

Each of the seven wards is managed by trained nursing staff who supervise the work of care assistants. The vast majority of the residents undergo regular treatment sessions in the physiotherapy department; others require only occasional treatment. The department has a superb hydrotherapy pool, which provides ideal conditions for the

physically handicapped to exercise under "weightless" conditions.

The residents' problems are not confined to difficulties with mobility. About half have severe communication problems, sometimes combined with or brought about by other physical problems. For them, the speech and occupational therapy departments provide a real opportunity for improvement.

Many voluntary workers play a vital role in the life of the Home, as do those individuals and organisations who provide entertainment for the residents.

Residents contribute towards the cost of their care and treatment if they are able, but many fall below the DHSS minimum figure of capital, and are given some assistance through the benefits system. However, the true cost of providing proper care and treatment, coupled with the cost of maintaining the fabric of the building and its equipment, far exceeds the income that the Home is able to recover in this way.

Grants provided by the three service charities together with generous donations made by Trusts and Corporations provide the backbone of the Home's remaining income – money which is vital to the continued existence of the Home. Legacies and donations from a growing number of individuals and groups provide the balance.

Every day for more than 70 years, The Royal Star and Garter Home has provided for the needs of ex-servicemen and women. The need for help will grow in the future and it needs the help of those of us who are more fortunate to ensure that it continues for the next 70 years and beyond.

Who cares? – the Royal Star & Garter

Since 1916 The Royal Star and Garter has been a true Home for disabled ex-Servicemen of all ranks. Initially residents were all war casualties, but today those with acute or chronic disabilities sustained in Service, or since returning to civilian life can be admitted. We are now able to accept disabled ex-

Servicewomen as well. Admissions can also be short term in the excellent rehabilitation unit.

We depend on your charity so...
Will you help us? With a donation
(preferably by covenant) or you might
like to remember us
with a legacy.

We care for them!
Will you care for us?



The Royal
STAR & GARTER

*Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen.
Richmond, Surrey TW10 6RR. Tel: 01-940 3314*

Registered Charity No. 210119

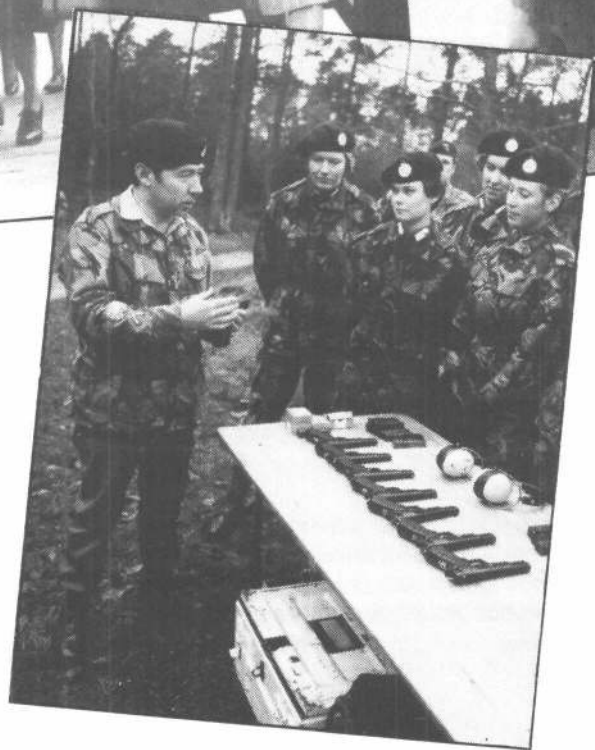




WOMEN IN KHAKI

THE STORY OF THE BRITISH WOMAN SOLDIER

Roy Terry



Published with the full co-operation of the WRAC to coincide with their Golden Jubilee celebrations, *Women in Khaki* is a shining tribute to all members of the women's armed forces, both past and present.

The result of years of extensive in-depth interviews, the book draws directly on the personal experiences of all those 'gentle warriors' who, flying in the face of convention, fought for recognition in the British Army.

The first (1917) contingent was armed with little more than pots and pans; today, the WRAC instructs its members in the use of sophisticated and deadly weapons. This unique record, richly illustrated throughout with black and white photographs, depicts both the struggles and achievements of those courageous women who have served the nation proudly for so many years.

£14.95 hb ISBN 0 86287 321 5



COLUMBUS
BOOKS

Available from bookshops or, in case of difficulty,
The Sales Department
Columbus Books
19-23 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7PD

Correspondence

Colonel E W Gibson ATS/WRAC (Retd) writes:

What a wonderful item Jill Beatty (née Gillett) contributed to the recent edition "Palestine 1945-1948", I am sure many readers found it fascinating.

I was particularly interested in her mention of the SS "Georgic" on which she sailed from Liverpool in 1945. This ship had previously been sunk in the Suez Canal and later salvaged to be fitted out as a troopship. As a Senior Commander I sailed with 5,000 others in her maiden voyage, as a troopship, in January/February 1945. We went in convoy from the Clyde in the early hours of a foggy morning. In our small cabin were eighteen officers, or those of officer status, sleeping in bunks of three tiers. I remember waiting my turn to climb down to use the small space between the bunks in which one donned uniform and life jacket. The latter proved invaluable as a cushion on which to sit during the voyage, seating being very scarce indeed. Boat-drill was frequent, not only because of the threat of enemy action, but to get the personnel out of the way while the decks were cleaned.

As Jill said we proceeded we knew not where, but I was thrilled to eventually disembark at Naples. Like Jill I had Palestinian/ATS within my ATS Group (2nd Mediterranean). Again, like Jill, I loved the Army and especially enjoyed my three years in Italy and Austria. But unlike her I didn't have the "wonderful reward of marrying an officer of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders", 'though I did have a boyfriend in that Regiment at one time! Thank you Jill (I should say Captain Beatty - as I do not think we ever met) for stirring my rapidly diminishing memory through your wonderful story.

Mrs Marjore Cole (née "Ginger" Hulme) sent this photograph from 19 Sinclair Road, Bayswater 3153, Melbourne Australia. It was taken at Lake Como, Italy 1946 and Mrs Cole is hoping to meet some of the other ex-ATS at the Reunion.



Lake Como, Italy 1946. Ginger is third from left.

Nigel Dunne is writing the Biography of Gunner Arthur King who fought in the battle of Tebourba, Tunisia, 1942, was captured and subsequently escaped from an Italian POW camp. He was attached to the ATS at Gresford, North Wales in January 1945 until February 1946 when he was discharged. Mr King remembers two names from those days Miss Dunlop from Reading, who may have been a subaltern and Sgt Nimmo who came from Scotland. If you can help please write to Mr King, c/o The Poplars, 7 Woodlands Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6EY.

Mrs G A White (ex Sgt Stevie White) of 1 Low Road, Easton, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 5EP would like to hear from anyone who served with her in the 3rd Surrey Coy or the 8th SE Group at Blackdown, Hants between 1939-45. Hoping to meet at the 1988 Grand Reunion.

Miss Doreen Pledge writes that she is trying to trace members of the ATS who were involved in the 'Z' Rocket Units around Southampton, in particular the Marchwood Site of the 'Z' (Rocket) Anti-Aircraft Unit, then known as the 114(M) 'Z' AA Battery of the Royal Artillery, during 1942-43. Please write to Miss Pledge at 47 Blenheim Avenue, Highfield, Southampton, Hants SO2 1DQ.

Mrs Jean Hall (née Hawker) of 160 West Bay Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 6PE has sent a photograph taken at Botley Militia Camp in 1942. Both she, and her sister Doris would like to hear from anyone on the photograph.



L-R: Beryl McCreadie, Nora Burge, Cpl Dorothy Combeer, Jo Roberts, Jean Hawker.

Front: Doris Hawker, Cpl Kay Bernard.

Captain (Retd) Alan A Milliken late Royal Ulster Rifles at 2 Elwyn Court, 19 Cranford Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2HT would like to hear from anyone who served in the ATS unit in Bodmin 1942-43.

Mrs Joan L Lappin née Beckett (Becky) served in Mixed Ack Ack 481 Battery in Hyde Park, Hastings, Belgium and Germany 1942-46. If anyone remembers her please write to 7 St Marks Road, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 1LN.

Mrs Irene M Jezek (née Travil) writing from 18 Prairie Drive, Beaconsfield, Quebec, H9W 5K6 Canada, would like to hear from anyone who served as a staff driver at HQ AA Command at Stanmore, Middlesex (Glenthorn) 902 Coy RASC. She remembers Joan Goldsmith, Myrtle Folkand, Dot Crispin, Margaret Burnell, Olivia Janeway, Phyllis Greenleas Pollok, Diana Savage and Joan Woodford. They were billeted at the White House, Priory Drive, Stanmore.

Mrs M J Hobbs of 11 Stainers Mead, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9QF would like to know if any ex-O's FC of 490 H(M) AA Battery 141 Regt RA will be attending the Grand Reunion in October.

Mrs Gwen Forshaw will be travelling from South Africa for the Grand Reunion in October. She will be staying at the Elizabeth Hotel, Victoria from 5 October for six nights and would be happy to meet any ex-ATS/Army colleagues who served with her in 550 or 511 HAA Batteries and remember her.

Mrs Morag Hood (née Duncan) writing from 23 Limeylands Crescent, Ormiston, E Lothian says that she was at Queen Elizabeth Barracks in July 1969 for basic training and would dearly love to get in touch with some of the other girls who were there at the same time. Some names are, Jane Anderson, Gyn Murray, Kathy Mellows, Jennifer Brazzer, Helen Dinger, Anne Nicholson, Jackie David, Jackie McKeown, Marty Talbot, Viv Stevenson and Patricia Phipps.

Colonel C V Whiting RWF (Retd) would like to contact Mrs Betty Benigma Hanson (née Wall) subaltern ATS who was GSO 3, ORG 3 HQ BNAF 1944. Please write to Colonel Whiting at 9 Yadley Close, Winscombe, Avon BS25 1AU.

Mrs Katie Dufort (née Kitty Kwintner) writes from 141 The High, Streatham High Road, London SW16 1HD. She would like to trace former members of the ATS who were stationed at Mons Barracks, Aldershot in 1942. They were attached to the OCTU RASC, and the officers were Miss Tufnell and Mrs Maddon. Mrs Dufort trained at the Ocean Hotel, Saltdean.

Dorothy Morris writing from 39 Morris Drive, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2RQ has sent a photograph of seven of the original 3rd Warwickshire ATS behind a Rose Tree called Loving Memory, planted in memory of their first officer, Senior Commander M E Smallwood who died last year.

"We planted it in front of Marton Church, Nr Rugby, where she was an organist for many years."



L-R: Olive Monkman née Sharpe, Winnie Rushton née Archer, Vera Wilkes née Bund, Mona Allum née Sutton, Irene Vagues, Vicky Holman.

Mrs Nan Ovenden (ex Cpl Nan Craig) of 12 Bells Lane, Hoo St Werburgh, Rochester, Kent ME3 9HT would like to hear from anyone who knew her at J Coy, Leicester S/D Group Stoneygate, between 1942-46.

Mrs E M Hitch (née Simcox) of 11 Ambury Way, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 5JH has sent a photograph and would like to contact CSM Carpenter (pictured on the left) the PSI with 904 Coy RASC (TA) at West Bromwich in the early 1950's Mrs. Hitch also remembers Sgt Thelma McDonald from Northumberland who also served at West Bromwich.



CSM Carpenter.

Dorothy Clements of 1 High Street, Cymmer Hill, Porth, South Wales has written asking for help in contacting former comrades from ATS days. She remembers a driver called Violet Cordoray who came from Canvey Island. When in Newport, S Wales she met two other drivers Alma Gledhill and Betty Williams.

Mrs C L Bould (née Harrison) writes c/o Sgt N Bould, SP Coy, 1 GREN GDS, Oxford Barracks, BFPO 17 hoping to contact former WRAC friends. She left the service in July 1980 but, with frequent changes of address, has lost contact. Three who also joined the Army with her in Intake 403 October 1977 were Sonia Perry, Susan Taylor and Janet Bennion (née Williamson).

Mrs Madge Blain (née Milliken) would like to hear from ATS girls who were stationed in Ripon, N Yorkshire. Please write to her at Box 851, Bonnyville, Alberta, Canada T0A 0LO.

Mrs Dulcie M Chalcraft writes from 76 Wellington Way, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 9BX, hoping to contact former comrades. Ida Young last heard of from the Secretariat Nairobi, Kath Smith who was her bridesmaid when Mrs Chalcraft married at St Georges Church, Moasca, Ismailia, Egypt, 8 October 1945, and any other friends from the Provost.

Nessie Johnston (née Porteous) writing from 11 Olympic Avenue, Cheltenham, Victoria 3192, Australia is one of the very intrepid band of ladies who will be making the journey to London in October for the Grand Reunion. Having met former comrades from 555 Battery after a 43 year gap at the Harrogate Reunion she is hoping to meet more Ack Ack girls this time.

Mrs Mary Hodgson (née de Vall) sent this photograph from Western Australia where she met another ex-member of the ATS, Betty Simpson, and they marched together on ANZAC Day 25 April 1988.



L-R: Mary Hodgson and Betty Simpson 25 April 1988.

Mrs Dorothy Leadbeater (née Male) who was an ATS cook, remembers a group photograph taken at Larkhill outside the Officers' Mess dining room 1945-1946. If anyone remembers Mrs Leadbeater or the photograph please write to her at "Charlton", 55A Eastcombe Avenue, London SE7 7JD.

Mr T A Nightingale would like to contact Sen Comd Thelma Oxnevad who served with GHQ 2nd Echelon in Battaglia - N Italy until disbandment in November 1947. Recently 30 former members of the unit attended a 40 year reunion and are now anxious to trace others before the 1988 reunion. Please write c/o Sports & Social Club, CIS Ltd, Miller Street, Manchester M60 0AL.

Mrs Necia Wolfe (née Rodger) writing from 106 Coventry Road, Market Harborough Leics LE16 9AB says that while on holiday in New Zealand recently she contacted the local WRAC Association members. A group from New Zealand will be attending the Reunion in October and hope that former friends seeing this photograph will contact them. Mrs Wolfe was based at Hobart House 1945/46 before joining the ATS Provost Southern Command for the rest of her service until 1948.



Back row L-R: Iris Boynter (née Addinsal), Joyce Taylor (née Pritchard), Terri Ellis (née Champion), Clare Beach (née Flynn).

Front row L-R: Muriel Leggatt (née Dent), Anna Temple (née Smith), Jean Kirk (née Saunders), Jean Harrison (née Fisher), Necia Wolfe (née Rodger), Sadie Lewis (née Simpson).



**10th Derbys ATS 1939.
Sent by Enid M Cox**

LONDON GAZETTE

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

BEM

Staff Sergeants S A Alderson, H J Jaeger
Sergeant L K Richards

Service Awards in Ulster

MBE

Major D F Davies

Mention in Despatches

Acting Staff Sergeant D S Young
Sergeant D P Bendy

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Major E A H Dunn
Captains: C A Hewitt, F J Grundy, D A Hathaway

Special Regular Commissions

Captain C S Wells

Short Service Commission

Captains: J L Cox, C J Howling, S R Robins, K A Ogden-Swift, L C Eastham, S A Hickinbottom, N J Marshall, L M Searight, L J Scott-Fox, C Haigh, K M Munnoch, A J Bradley, A K Forster-Knight, N P Moffat, G M Bushell, M S King, J H E McCausland, A E Glasse, A P Mann, D J Gray, S M Hobbs, S M Gilbert.
Lieutenants: M A Rowe, S E Burncombe, D Johnson

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Captain A E Richards

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonels: J L Lawson MBE, E A Robinson
Major S I F Johncey

Short Service Commissions

Captains: J A Law, H Wildman, C D Bacon, L J Lodge, M M Cox, J Abbott, S Butler, M F Davison, M L Tait, A Fullerton

BIRTHS

JENNINGS On 6 February 1988 at Chester to Major and Mrs P F A Jennings (née Captain Judith Coates) a daughter Rebecca Jane.

MARRIAGE

On 9 April 1988 at St Oswalds Parish Church, Oswestry, Lieutenant Paul Vingoe R SIGNALS to Lieutenant Ennis Morgan WRAC.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN CHARGES: 4 lines £6.00. Additional lines 90p each. Non-members 50% extra. Write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

FOR SALE WRAC Mess Dress, Tropical Dress, No 2 Dress, Skirt, Forage Cap, Stable Belt and slides. Telephone 01-622-1070 or Main Building 7736 for prices.

WANTED Clothwoven titles "Provost" and any other insignia worn by ATS and WRAC personnel who served with either the CMP or RMP. Telephone Farnborough, Hampshire 514829 evening or weekends.

ATS Officers uniform required by ex ATS Officer. Genuine reason. Size 18, hip 42/44, bust 38/40, height 5'6", cap size 7-7½. Details to: Mrs A Stanton, Tamworth 0827-50364.

OBITUARY

ALLEN. Miss Alice Edith Allen OBE TD of Boreham Wood on 18 May 1988. ATS.

ALWAY. Mrs Winifred May née Webber of Wellington, Somerset on 17 June 1988. ATS.

BOLAND. Miss Bridget Boland of Liphook in January 1988. Senior Commander ATS.

NAGLE-BASKET. Mrs N Nagle-Basket (née Taylor) of Kent in January 1988. WRAC.

BULLEN. Mrs B M G Bullen (née Duck) of Long Ditton, Surrey in June 1987. ATS.

BELL. Miss Muriel Bell of Darlington on 27 March 1988. ATS and WRAC.

BROWN. Miss Ivy Elizabeth Brown of Manor Park on 16 April 1988. ATS.

CUNNINGHAM. Mrs B M Cunningham of Bishops Stortford on 8 December 1987. WRNS and ATS.

CASHMORE. Mrs Joan Cashmore (née Bridgwater) of Northfield, Birmingham on 23 April 1988. ATS.

DAVIES. Mrs Maisie Davies of Penylan, Cardiff on 23 October 1987. ATS.

DRURY. Mrs H S Drury (née Gill) of Scarborough on 25 May 1988. WRAC.

EDWARDS. Mrs E A Edwards (née Smith) of Co Down on 18 February 1988. WRAC.

FEAST. Mrs E R Feast (née Long) of Bexhill-on-Sea on 9 January 1988. ATS.

FORTEY. Harriett Frances Fortey of Chelmsford on 25 February 1988. ATS.

GOODWIN. Mrs W Goodwin (née Henderson) of Malmesbury, Wiltshire in December 1987. ATS.

GOODWIN. Mrs M Goodwin (née Baish) of Stoke on Trent in 1988. ATS.

HINDMARCH. Mrs J Hindmarch (née Clear) of Wombourne on 6 March 1988. ATS.

HEALEY. Miss Sally Healey of Marnhull on 30 March 1988. CSM ATS.

HARWOOD. Mrs Margaret Harwood (née Adamson) of Burnham, Buckinghamshire in June 1988. ATS.

HANNAH. Miss Jane Bone Hannah of Ayr on 13 June 1988. ATS.

KERR. Miss N Kerr (née Bailey) of Crewe in 1988. ATS.

LONG. Miss Jessie Long of Cannonbury, London on 11 December 1987. QMAAC.

LEE. Miss Frieda Lee of Derby on 8 March 1988. ATS.

LUNN. Mrs Helen Lunn (née Milne) of Craigie, Ayr on 29 March 1988. ATS.

LEARMOUTH. Miss S M Learmouth MBE of Liverpool on 4 June 1988. ATS and WRAC.

LOWSLEY-WILLIAMS. Miss Catherine Lowsley-Williams of Tetbury, Gloucestershire on 23 June 1988. ATS.

MULFORD. Miss Ada Mulford of Halsey House on 7 January 1988. ATS.

MACLEAN. Catriona of Ardgour of Appin, Argyll in March 1988. Senior Commander ATS.

MOULD. Miss Bessie Mould MBE of Bath on 28 March 1988. QMAAC.

MUIR. Mrs E Muir of Burton Joyce on 29 March 1988. QMAAC.

MACARTHUR. Mrs M B T MacArthur (née Coutts) of Callander on 28 April 1988. ATS and WRAC.

PIKE. Mrs G L Pike (née Young) of Weymouth on 10 February 1988. ATS.

REYNOLDS. Miss B P Reynolds of Berkhamstead on 12 November 1987. ATS.

RICHARDS. Miss B L Richards of Sutton, Surrey on 8 February 1988. ATS.

RAYSON. Miss Hester Rayson of St Peter Port on 2 February 1988. WRAC.

RUTTER. Miss Olive Rutter MVO OBE of Bath on 29 May 1988. WO1 ATS and WRAC.

SPENCELEY. Miss R M Spenceley of Forest Hill in January 1988. WRAC.

SINGLETON. Mrs J V G Singleton (née Osborne) of Montrosa, Angus on 15 January 1988. FANY and ATS.

SEMPLE. Miss Christina Semple of Ayr on 11 June 1988. ATS.

SAUNDERS. Mrs Allyson Saunders on 7 April 1988. Captain WRAC.

SOFFE. Mrs Susan Patricia Soffe (née Greenslade) on 20 April 1988. WRAC.

SHORTLE. Mrs L M Shortle of Acomb, York on 19 March 1988. ATS.

TURNER. Miss Dorothy Turner of Sheffield on 7 April 1988. ATS.

SMITH Mrs Barbara Smith née Ward of Stoke-on-Trent on 24 June 1988. ATS.

WRAC ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS

HQ BRANCH: Chairman: Colonel (Retd) E J Bowles, 12 Chantry Court, Church Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5AB

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

Secretary/General Secretary: Lt Colonel (Retd) D Dunn

SOUTH EAST AREA

Chairman Lt Colonel S M Bishop MBE WRAC
HQ South East District, Steele's Road,
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DP

Vice-Chairman Lt Col (Retd) A Bray
& No 1 Sub Area Burgh Hill Place, Bramshott, Liphook,
Hants GU30 7RQ

NO 2 SUB AREA

Chairman Mrs J J Wells, "Jewells", Faussett Hill,
Street End, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7AJ

BRANCH SECRETARIES

ALDERSHOT Mrs D Davis, 3 Drake Avenue,
Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey GU16
6AN

BRIGHTON Mrs V M Bradford, 30 Bodiam
Avenue, Brighton BN2 4LB

CANTERBURY Mrs D Dennis, 27 Oakwood Road,
Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0LU

DEAL Mrs J Drew, 109 Beach Street, Deal
CT14 6JQ

EASTBOURNE Mrs M D Rogers, 103 Lion House
Park, Mill Road, Hailsham, E Sussex
BN27 2SE

HASTINGS Miss D Dixon, High Ockenden, 39
Pine Avenue, Hastings, E Sussex

ISLE OF WIGHT Mrs F Medland, "Tanglewood", 8
Golden Ridge, Freshwater, Isle of
Wight PO40 9LE

MEDWAY Mrs H M Dodd, 26 Forge Lane,
Midhigham, Nr Rochester, Kent ME3
7AS

LONDON AND EASTERN AREA

Chairman Lt Col R E Cornwell WRAC
HQ London District, Horse Guards,
Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX

Vice-Chairman Lt Col (Retd) M S F Millington OBE
TD, Flat 3, 88 Greencroft Gardens,
London NW6 3JG

BRANCH SECRETARIES

CAMBRIDGE Miss D A Brook, MBE,
3 Pippin Walk, The Limes, Hardwick,
Cambridge CB3 7QD

COLCHESTER Mrs B Wolfe, 9 Willow Tree Court,
Hawthorne Avenue, Colchester, Essex
CO4 3LW

GREATER LONDON Mrs P Carpenter, 23 The Casemates,
HM Tower of London, London EC3N
4AB

ILFORD Miss E Holmes, 40 Shepherds Hill,
Harold Wood, Romford, Essex RM3
0ND

LONDON Miss E Ellison, 26 Blackstone House,
Churchill Gardens, London SW1V 3DT

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK Mrs K Berwick, 101 Buckingham
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WIMBLEDON Miss B E Wright, 58 Rokeby House,
Lochinvar Street, Balham, London
SW12 8PX.

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South West District, Beacon Barracks,
Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4
9NY

Vice-Chairman Lt Colonel (Retd) E A Robinson, 35
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Shropshire TF10 7NX

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Aldridge, W Midlands WS9 8LR

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Fairwater,
Cardiff CF5 3RQ

NEWPORT Mrs E Francis, 22 Stallbridge Road,
Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7LP

CREWE Mrs C Grigg, 9 Concorde, Dawley
Bank, Telford, Shropshire TF4 2QB

SHROPSHIRE Mrs D Jervis TD, 45 Barn Bank Lane,
Moss Pit, Stafford ST17 9HB

STAFFORD Mrs I Tack, 486 Carmarthen Road,
Cwmdu, Swansea, Glamorgan SA5
8LL

SWANSEA Mrs M Beeston, 77 Champion House,
Heath Town, Wolverhampton, Staffs
WV10 0PX

WOLVERHAMPTON Mrs P Rzeszewska, 125 Bryn Offa,
Ruthin Road, Wrexham, Clwyd LL13
7VE

WREXHAM

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2YX

Vice-Chairman Miss M M Thomson TD, 8 Cairns
Drive, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 8AJ

Secretary Mrs M Gale, 15 Caldwell Road, West
Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9LF

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ABERDEEN Mrs M Ross, 132 Birkhall Parade,
Maestrick, Aberdeen AB2 5QX

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DUMFRIESSHIRE Miss A Gibson, 14 Eastfield Road,
Dumfries DG1 2EQ

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Paddockholm, Corstorphine,
Edinburgh EH12 7XP

FIFE AND TAYSIDE Mrs D E Sinclair ERD, 1 Fitzroy
Terrace, Perth PH2 7HZ

GLASGOW Miss E Alexander, 91 Dinart Street,
Reddrie, Glasgow G33 2DW

INVERNESS Miss M W Ross, 7 Moy Terrace,
Inverness IV2 4EL

BAOR AREA

Chairman Colonel A A Kelly,
HQ BAOR, BFPO 140

Secretary Vacant

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Chairman	Colonel F E Hutley, Comd WRAC UKLF, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6BN
Vice-Chairman	Lt Colonel (Retd) D J Freeland, Overstream House, Heytesbury, Wiltshire BA12 0EE
Secretary	Miss J Beresford 6 Heath Farm, Barford St Martin, Nr Salisbury, Wiltshire

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ANDOVER	Mrs D E Connolly, 20 Biddesden Lane, Faberstown, Andover SP11 9PJ
BATH	Mrs S Musgrave, 7 Horseshoe Walk, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6DE
BOURNEMOUTH	Mrs V Lovell, 29 Norwich Mansions, Norwich Avenue West, Bournemouth BH2 6AL
CHELTENHAM	Miss L Stuart-Taylor, 17 Cambray Court, Cambray Place, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1JU
EXETER	Mrs E Green, 23 St Johns Close, Bishopsteignton, Devon TQ14 9RT
GUERNSEY	Mrs L Hamilton, Le Puits, Havelet, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands
PLYMOUTH	Mrs C King, 22 Springhill, Pennycross, Plymouth, Devon PL2 3QZ
PORTSMOUTH	Miss I Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 5JD
SALISBURY	Mrs J Morgan, 21 Hedley Davis Court, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7UE
SOMERSET	Mrs C Sloley, 44 Whitmore Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 6OZ
SOUTHAMPTON	Miss D Pledge, Flat 4, 47 Blenheim Avenue, Highfield, Southampton SO2 1DQ.
SWINDON	Mrs J Turner, 59 Saffron Close, Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7JB
WEYMOUTH/ PORTLAND	Miss R M Stanbridge, 3A Edwardsville, Rodwell Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8SL

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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, 148 Cannondale, Omagh, Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland BT78 1JL
ULSTER	Mrs A G Warnock, 3 Erinvale Park, Belfast BT10 0FR

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Vice-Chairman	Colonel (Retd) F M Cook, 20 Hall Rise, Haxby, York YO3 8LP
Secretary	Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, N Yorkshire HG2 9BY

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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
BIRMINGHAM	Mrs G L Finney, 15 Woodgreen Croft, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 0DG
BOLTON	Mrs J M Nadin, 28 Birtenshaw Crescent, Bromley Cross, Bolton, Lancs BL7 9LU
CHESTER	Mrs K Jones, 436 Sutton Way, Great Sutton, South Wirral L66 4RJ
CLEVELAND	Mrs B Tondziel, 18 Moorcock Close, Eston, Middlesborough TS6 0TR
GRIMSBY	Mrs I Mager, 106 Fairview Avenue, Cleethorpes, S Humberside DN35 8DQ
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 M M Salmon, Burnside Reeth, Richmond, N Yorkshire DL11 6SG
ROCHDALE	Mrs M Schofield, 2 Rothwell Street, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 8BL
SHEFFIELD	Miss F Bell, 60 Fairbarn Drive, Stannington, Sheffield S6 5QL
SHIPLEY	Miss E Slater, 57 Prospect Street, Windhill, Shipley, W. Yorks BD18 2ET
SOUTHPORT	Mrs L C Warner, 32 Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk, Lancs L39 3PL
STOCKPORT	Mrs M Berry, 5 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 5HG
SUNDERLAND	Mrs S Smith, 1 Poplar Drive, Whitburn, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SN6 7AS
YORK	Mrs P Linsdell, 57 Cromer Street, Burton, Stone Lane, York YO3 6DL

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

BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1987

	1987		1986
	£	£	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
GENERAL FUND			
Balance at 1st November 1986	76,823		69,526
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	11,299		7,297
	<u>88,122</u>		<u>76,823</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND			
Membership Life Subscription	4,875		4,159
Lioness Life Subscription	7,238		6,143
	<u>12,113</u>		<u>10,302</u>
MUSEUM APPEAL FUND	15,641		8,763
REUNION FUND	17,235		—
	<u>£133,111</u>		<u>£95,888</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
FIXED ASSETS			
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less			
Depreciation	2		2
INVESTMENTS			
At Cost per Schedule			
(Market Value £86,508)	62,382		65,188
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock of Badges	130		564
Association Standard	199		199
Sundry Debtors	855		197
Cash at Bank – Current Account	552		7,506
– Deposit Account	57,795		12,135
– Investment Account	10,592		9,576
Cash in Hand	1,007		1,095
	<u>71,130</u>		<u>31,272</u>
Less: Sundry Creditors	403		574
	<u>70,727</u>		<u>30,698</u>
	<u>£133,111</u>		<u>£95,888</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1987

1986 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1987 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund – 5,564 Units	10,247	26,142
2,912	London County Stock 5.50% 1985/87 –£4,359.53	—	—
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8.75% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £6,718.09	5,311	6,449
2,433	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £5,711.94	4,520	5,084
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	5,680
3,046	8.25% Treasury Loan – 1987/90 – £3,490.98	3,046	3,426
8,793	11.50% Treasury Stock – 1989 –£9,927.62	8,793	10,201
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	7,040
3,974	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1992 – £4,331.65	3,974	4,841
3,475	10.50% Exchequer Stock – 1988– £3,477.36	3,475	3,503
1,981	City of Bristol 11.50% Redeemable Stock – 2008 – £2,006.26	—	—
1,981	10% Treasury Stock – 1992 – £2,001.19	1,981	2,036
9,953	11.75% Treasury Stock – 1991 – £9,840.26	9,953	10,480
1,588	9% Treasury Stock – 1994 – £1,588.04	1,588	1,576
<u>£65,188</u>		<u>£62,382</u>	<u>£86,508</u>

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1987

	£	1987	£	£	1986	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual	4,002			3,625		
Proportion of Life Subscription	363			315		
			4,365			3,940
THE LIONESSE PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions	6,266			5,737		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	524			449		
Advertisement Revenue	596			427		
	7,386			6,613		
Less: Cost of Publication	9,788			8,493		
			(2,402)			(1,880)
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments	7,930			8,007		
Deposit Account Interest	3,475			1,093		
Sale of Badges	104			92		
Gain on Investment Sales and Investment Redemptions	1,591			93		
Funds received from Disbanded Branch	27			—		
			13,127			9,285
INCOME CARRIED FORWARD			<u>£15,090</u>			<u>£11,345</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees	558			477		
Grants	—			—		
			558			477
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. and Reunion Expenses	1,054			1,291		
Printing and Stationery	1,181			1,044		
Postages	256			407		
Subscriptions and Donations	208			114		
Investment Expenses	38			43		
Travel Expenses	73			189		
Audit and Accountancy Fee	420			385		
Depreciation	—			—		
Sundry Expenses	3			98		
			3,233			3,571
			<u>£3,791</u>			<u>£4,048</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£11,299</u>			<u>£7,297</u>

**REPORT OF THE AUDITORS' TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATING QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS AND
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE COMRADES ASSOCIATION)**

We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts and in our opinion they give a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31 October 1987 and of its Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

4 December 1987

HOWARD TILLY
Chartered Accountant

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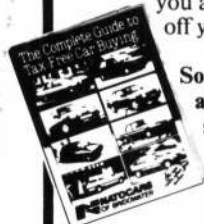
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