

1988

No1

Lioness



Certificate of



Commendation

awarded by
The General Officer Commanding
Western District
to

WCSG122 WLOP1 J F Harrison WFA
For distinguished conduct beyond the call
of normal duty

[Signature]

General Officer Commanding

WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH
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Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1988

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SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p
ATS shield	8.50	60p
ATS silver plated brooches	1.50	15p (up to 6)
Biro pens	.25	20p (up to 6)
Bookmarks, leather	.40	20p (up to 6)
Brief Cases	2.00	35p
Clipboards	2.80	70p
Corps Drum Ice Bucket	15.00	2.00
Corps History (hardback)	5.50	65p
Corps History (paperback)	3.00	50p
Corps Shield	8.50	60p
Document Cases	1.00	35p
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	1.10	30p
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank	.30	15p (up to 6)
Card Holder		
Jewel Case (blue velvet)	1.20	25p
Key Cases (to hold 6 keys)	1.10	25p
Key Rings, leather	.50	20p (up to 6)
Pewter Figures:		
Musician with flute	17.50	80p
WRAC Private	17.50	80p
WRAC NCO with RMP	17.50	80p
Prints by Ken Howard:		
Signed (indoor only)	5.00	50p (up to 3)
Unsigned	3.00	50p (up to 3)
Sweatshirts (green, red, black, white and blue)	7.50	55p
T-shirts (white, red and blue)	3.50	40p
WRAC Brooches	1.75	15p (up to 6)
WRAC Association Badges	.60	15p (up to 6)
WRAC Association Brooches	1.75	15p (up to 6)

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

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

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

Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

EDITORIAL

I had no idea in January 1987, whilst living in West Africa, that a year later I would be editing my first Lioness. It is a pleasure to be back from retirement, if bringing up a family can be described thus. There are many visible outward changes but essentially the people and aims are just the same.

Excitement is growing as the time for the 1988 Grand Reunion draws nearer. Not a day has passed, since the last edition, without at least one new application for tickets and membership of the Association. The application form has been reprinted in this issue with a more detailed programme of events.

As part of the build up orders are now being accepted for badged, glass souvenir items to be obtained from Tyrella Company Ltd. There is an order form on page 23.

A new advertiser, page 11 is hoping to make solid silver and brass statuettes of WRAC servicewomen and would welcome suggestions from readers or potential purchasers. Please contact him direct.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

April 15 and 16	Concerts – Civic Hall Guildford (1930 hours)
May 22–27	Concerts – Eastbourne Bandstand (1100–1230 hrs and 1500–1630 hrs daily) Sunday (1945–2115 hrs)
June 4 and 5	HMS Sultan “Summer Show” Gosport (Afternoons)
July 3–9	Concerts – Regent’s Park, London Monday–Saturday (1230–1400 hrs and 1730–1900 hrs) Sunday (1500–1630 hrs and 1800–1930 hrs)
July 17–24	Concerts – Jersey (Daily)

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

LCpl Karen Harrison WRAC holding the Certificate of Commendation presented to her by Brigadier K J Hathaway OBE.

Details in Unit News – WRAC Detachment Army Air Corps Centre.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

LCpl E Guest, 114 Pro Coy RMP who was presented with her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award at the Unit Corporals Mess on 4 June 1987 by Major General M F Hobbs CBE, GOC 4 Armd Div.

LCpl Theresa Caudy of 1st Bty 14 Fd Regt Larkhill won the Wiltshire Area Lady Lorry Driver of the Year Competition! Ably supported by her map and route-card reader, Pte Sonjia Sandberg, LCpl Caudy drove through two manoeuvring exercises and a 20 mile road safety test. Local teams, both civilian and military took part in the competition. Despite tough opposition LCpl Caudy was awarded the overall position of Best Female Driver. She went forward to the National Competition where she was placed 7th.

Sgt L Onslow, MT Sgt, was awarded her LS&GC Medal on 24 September 1987 by Colonel F E Hutley Comd WRAC UKLF.

Major Cherry Lewis-Taylor WRAC, skipper of the first joint women's Services Sailing team to compete in the Cutty Sark Tall ships Race in Australia this year.

Lt Nicci Harold, the first woman to command an all-male passing-out parade in the British Army, at the Royal Corps of Transport HQ, Aldershot.

Major (Retd) E O Coven JP DL on her award of the CBE in the New Years Honours List.

On 17 November 1987, SSgt Pat Davies returned officially to civilian life, having completed a combined total of 27 years service on WRAC Regular and Type R Engagements.

Originally a driver, she served for 10 years as PS Tester and Clerk to the SPSO WRAC at Landsdowne House before moving to St Albans, her home town, as a recruiter in 1977.

A farewell party was held at ACIO, St Albans on 6 October 1987 for her fellow WRAC recruiters to show their appreciation for all the help and encouragement she was always ready to give from her unique blend of selection and recruiting experience. To everyone's delight Brigadier Nield was able to attend, having been SPSO WRAC throughout SSgt Davies' period of service with MOD. Also present were Commander WRAC Eastern District, Lt Col Cornwell and Commander Recruiting and Liaison Staff Eastern District, Lt Col Davies KINGS.

SSgt Davies deservedly made many friends throughout her service. Her warmth, professionalism, loyalty and sense of fun will be greatly missed by her colleagues and there will be many younger Corps members who will remember her with affection as their introduction to service life.



Staff Sergeant Pat Davies' farewell.



Colonel Smith with her award.

A UNIQUE AWARD

On 20 August 1987, Colonel A J Smith passed out from Guildford at the end of a 3 year tour there as Commandant of the WRAC Centre. She saw her last TA Platoon pass out on 31 July 1987 when she inspected her 65th TA Passing Out Parade. After the usual certificates for best Recruit and Most Improved Recruit were awarded, a surprise Proficiency Certificate was brought to the attention of those assembled. The Certificate, for Outstanding Inspecting Officer, was awarded to Colonel Smith for "Dedication to Duty and Excellence in Inspections on TA POPs" which she displayed throughout her 3 years at the WRAC Centre. Colonel Smith is pictured here proudly holding her certificate flanked by some of the hard-working members of 2 Coy's training staff.



Van-Dal

Ladies fashion shoes with that little extra width

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.

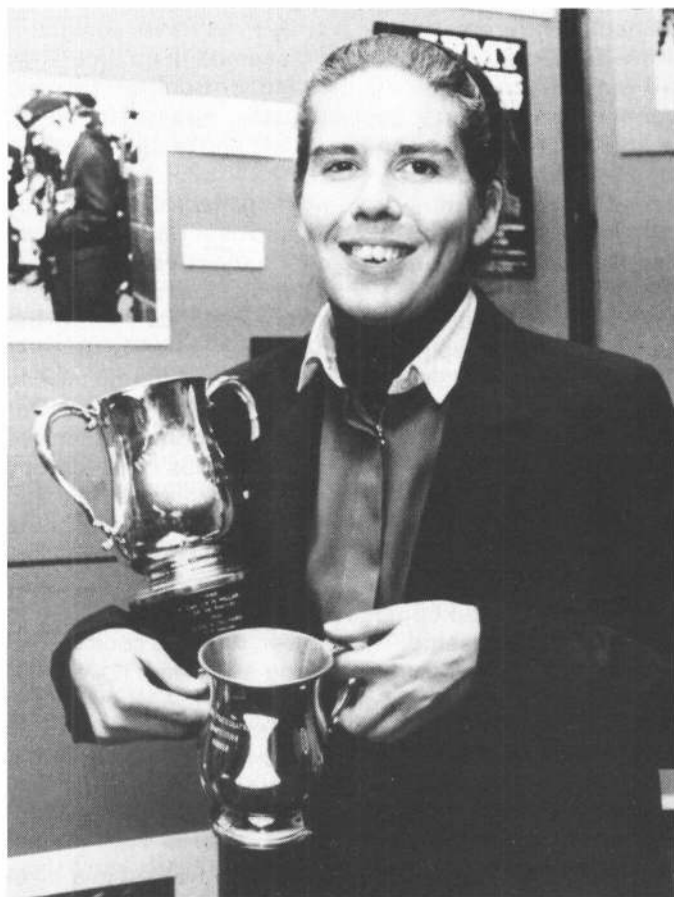
For further information and full colour catalogue write to Van-Dal, Dibden Road, Norwich.

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

In November 1987 the Guildford Borough Council wholeheartedly approved the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The details of the ceremony and dates are not yet available.

Sgt Karen Atkinson, a Clerk with the 3rd Battalion, The Worcestershire & Sherwood Foresters (V) based at Newark, Notts is pictured holding her silver cup and tankard after the awards ceremony for the 1987 Army Photographic competition. Karen's photograph was judged to be the best submitted by a TA photographer and entitled "Sad Memories" showed old soldiers at a Memorial Service remembering their fallen comrades.



Sgt Karen Atkinson the top Territorial Army photographer with her award.

EXERCISE AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE 1988

Lt S M Kingham WRAC and Lt C Frearson WRAC

A leisurely cruise was what we expected when we first applied for Exercise Australian Adventure 1988, a Joint Services Sailing Expedition of two yachts from Gosport to Australia and back again, divided up into thirteen legs with different crews on each leg.

We, after much discussion, decided that the 'cruise' we most fancied was that from Bombay to Singapore, which just happened to fit in perfectly with our change of posting.

After applying, we totally forgot about the expedition until one day in April, when on returning to work after lunch, we found a tourist guide to Singapore sitting on our desks. Not only had we both been successful in gaining places on Exercise Australian Adventure 1988 but we were on the same leg; albeit on different yachts.

What with us both being posted from Germany to Northern Ireland, there was not much time to prepare for our 5½ week cruise until the few days of disembarkation leave we had in September. However, there was some preparation we could not leave until then and that involved several extremely painful injections in various parts of our anatomy and included one fainting spell (we shall not say who!).

The hardship we endured on our shopping trips in various parts of the UK to obtain T-shirts, shorts, swimming costumes, sun-tan lotions etc cannot be adequately described. For some reason shops in England do not cater for hot weather cruises in late September.

Eventually, after much packing and repacking, we managed to squeeze everything into our permitted one holdall. Our parents have never seen us travel so light!

We arrived at Heathrow and it seemed in no time at all we were on our Gulfair flight bound for Bombay. Leaving our families to worry about capsizes, piracy, drowning, sharks etc, we were off on our cruise and at this time their worries were not ours.

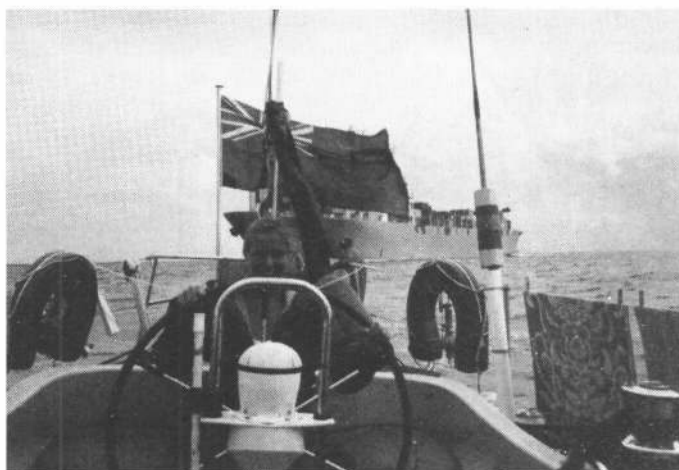
The arrival in Bombay is something that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. As we banked over Bombay city we may as well have been flying over a massive scrap heap, since it took us some time to realise that the rows and rows of rusty corrugated iron sheets were in fact the roofs of the shacks that made up the shanty towns.

Apart from the stifling heat, as we drove through the city to our accommodation, the stench was overwhelming. Our VIP accommodation consisted of two rooms, which we shared with numerous lizards and various other creepy crawlies. The bedroom had two beds with extremely thin straw mattresses and a fan which looked as if it was going to separate from the ceiling at any minute.

The bathroom was something else! The sink had no u-bend and as a result emptied onto the floor; the toilet on occasions did the same! The shower, well this consisted of one large bucket of cold water and a jug and, if we were lucky, a small bucket of warm water.

However, we were looked after extremely well by everyone and were even waited on hand and foot by a Brigadier or, if she was not available, by a Major (slightly different from what we are used to but who knows maybe one day!!).

On our first night in Bombay we were treated to a bit of luxury, when both our crews and the crews we were taking over from, were invited by the British High Commission to a reception at the Taj Mahal Hotel. It was easy to spot which crew was which, we were the pale and anaemic



Caroline at the helm.

looking ones, whilst they could almost have passed for locals.

Originally we had intended to sail from Bombay within a couple of days of our arrival. However there was a fairly violent dockers strike in Bombay and as a result our compo (tinned food) was stuck on a container ship out at sea and there was no way we could get hold of it. A signal was sent to London seeking permission to purchase local food, and some very interesting shopping trips were undertaken – more about Bombay food later.

Our 2 days in Bombay were extended to a week before we eventually sailed. During that time we decided it was an experience not to be repeated, as we were continually pestered, grabbed and chased by beggars and the whole city was dirty and smelly. But it was not all bad, the Indians were all very friendly, especially the yachting fraternity of Bombay who treated us all with great kindness.

Finally we set sail for Galle, Sri Lanka and had the prospect of 6 days at sea ahead of us. There were two Nicolson 55 yachts taking part in the expedition, each with a crew of twelve. Caroline was on HMSTC Adventure and Sue was on HMSTC Sabre. It was at this point, that our thoughts of a "leisurely cruise" rapidly disintegrated. We were working a shift system of 4 hours on, 4 hours off, 7 days a week, except for one day in five reprieve when two of the crew were "Mother Watch", which meant doing all the cooking and cleaning for 24 hours, but it did include a whole nights sleep. The crew of twelve meant that space below was very limited. Although by our standards we had very little luggage, when we saw our lockers, which measured 6" x 6' x 18", it presented a slight logistic problem, only to be solved by putting our holdalls at the end of our bunks. The bunks consisted of long thin gaps with a nice plastic-covered mattress, one needed to be Olga Korbett to get into them.

The heads (sailing talk for the bathroom) were extremely small, there was just enough room to raise an elbow while cleaning our teeth using the one glass of freshwater we were allowed each day. By the end of the trip (note, we no longer call it a cruise) we were dab hands at the pump-action toilet and had great difficulty transferring back to the normal flush type once on land.

The two yachts experienced very different weather conditions during the first stage. Poor old ADVENTURE seemed to attract the storms and out of the 10 days this stage had extended to they had a mere 3 days of sunshine; most of the time was spent in oilskins with Caroline hanging over the side. However, despite the strong winds generated by the storms little progress was made towards

Sri Lanka, as they were always in the wrong direction.

SABRE might as well have been on a different ocean, as she had only 3 days of solid rain and the trip was, on the whole, very calm with no one, not even Sue, suffering from sea-sickness. In fact, it was so calm that to get anywhere she had to motor and, consequently, ran short of diesel. This meant a slight detour into Cochin, in southern India. A quick in and out, turned into an enforced stay of 24 hours and the whole crew only just avoided being arrested en masse for supposed currency offences, when a twelve man customs search team appeared out of nowhere and began to go over the yacht. Fortunately the Skipper appeared just in time and with threats of contacting the British High Commission managed to make the Indians see the error of their ways and SABRE was allowed to proceed to Sri Lanka.

Both yachts occasionally came across local fishermen, sometimes 20 or 30 miles from land with whom we were able to barter. ADVENTURE tried to exchange several packets of Bombay crisps for fresh fish but the locals know better and threw them back on board. Trades were made for fresh fish using compo sugar and cans of beer but the favourite with the fishermen were bars of soap imprinted with E I I R. As for the 500 packets of crisps a burial at sea was all they were good for.

Oh yes the sailing, neither of us had done any sailing worth mentioning when we joined the yachts in Bombay but our inexperience was soon forgotten and by the time we reached Galle we knew all the sailing lingo and how to put sails up, down, and up again in all weather conditions, at all times of the day and night, we could even keep the yacht on approximately the correct course.

The entrance to Galle harbour is surrounded by various rocky outcrops and several wrecks, these combined with the huge swell made entry to it extremely hazardous. So dangerous that when SABRE arrived outside the harbour just dark, the Skipper decided to "Heave-to" and go into Galle at first light. His precaution proved to be well justified, because the large swell that ADVENTURE had experienced on her entrance to the harbour was now even larger and it was like a scene from Hawaii Five O as SABRE literally surfed into Galle.

The waves were enormous and at one point a wave of nearly 20 feet broke over the yacht engulfing the helmsman; there was also a serious risk of running aground. Fortunately, SABRE managed to safely enter the harbour and the crew were soon on dry, stable ground.

The effects of the swell were also felt by ADVENTURE, moored against the jetty wall, during the night, while SABRE were still at sea. Considerable damage was



Sue's watch.

sustained to her port side, and as a result both yachts went out to anchor for the rest of their stay in Galle.

The first port of call ashore was to the infamous Don Windsor, the Arthur Daley of Galle. If you wanted something, anything, Don could either do it for you or had a relative who could oblige or if he could not keep it in the family, there were also his various contacts throughout the island; an extremely nice man.

We had images of Sri Lanka of hot, sunny weather with palm tree strewn sandy beaches. The beaches did not disappoint us but the weather, far from being hot and sunny, was torrential rain for our whole stay.

The Skippers were kind enough to let us stay in the Closenbergh Hotel while in Galle. For £3.50 a night we were provided with a proper bed and a lovely bathroom, all set in an old colonial style hotel, pure luxury after 10 days at sea.

During our 2 day stay we visited several jewellery and batik factories where our flexible friends became far less flexible after purchases of sapphires, lace and batik. It was on the way back from Mrs Da Silva's Batik Factory that we caught the local bus; a 12 seater minibus. By the time we got off there were 28 people in or on it with still more trying to squeeze on (we don't think they were going for a world record!).

ADVENTURE left Galle harbour for Malaysia at dawn exactly 48 hours after arriving, whilst SABRE was due to leave later the same day, but was delayed by the need to purchase large quantities of soft drinks!

The next stage was to Lumut in southern Malaysia, which was the part of the whole trip that we were most worried about. Rumours of pirates and bad seas were flying around both yachts. The Malacca Straits are renowned for pirates and nightmares of ships with skull and crossbones flying coming alongside and dragging us off onto a deserted island, or even worse selling us as slaves, interrupted our sleep. The fact that the pirates apparently use speed boats these days was of little comfort.

The weather on these 10 days was far better even the winds were in the right direction, enabling us to put up the spinnaker (a very big, colourful sail) and reach speeds of up to 10 knots. In fact it was almost too hot and any rain storms that did appear were most welcome, in some cases we even steered into them deliberately. The drill in case of rain was, all hands on deck armed with shampoo and soap for a fresh water shower. Problems did arise when the rain suddenly stopped, we, the only ones with long hair, were often left hanging over the side with soap suds still in our hair, waiting for the next storm. If we were very lucky, we had time to put a reef in the main sail and this acted as a bath for everyone, the little luxuries of life.

On this stage we saw fewer dolphins and sea snakes than on the previous one, however the odd whale was spotted and the schools of tuna were greatly increased. There were hundreds of flying fish and occasionally they would land on deck, one nearly landed on Sabre's Skipper while he was asleep.

After 10 days of sailing we reached Lumut and anchored off the Royal Malayan Naval Yacht Club. Those who wanted to were given the option of travelling overland to Singapore, surprisingly enough only 3 from ADVENTURE and 5 from SABRE wanted to take up this offer, needless to say we were both amongst the 8, deciding this was an opportunity not to be missed.

We waved goodbye as SABRE and ADVENTURE sailed over the horizon and started on our 5 day "expedition" in Malaysia. After some initial problems with immigration, we headed off in two taxis to Penang, a mere 130 miles to

the north. The whole trip to Penang including three different taxis and a ferry cost us the grand sum of £5.00 each. We arrived at Batu Ferringi beach and booked into the Palm Beach Hotel for a couple of nights.

During our stay in Penang we did a quick tour of the island, taking in the Reclining Buddha, the Monkey Gardens, a Batik Factory and the Snake Temple where we were both persuaded, against our better judgement, to hold vipers while having our photographs taken, Sue was even brave (stupid) enough to have one around her neck.

The Skipper of Adventure recommended that we should see Fraser's Hill – just north of Kuala Lumpur, but our car failed and we arrived in Kuala Lumpur late. The following day we felt awful, having survived the rigours of Bombay and 3 weeks at sea we ended up getting food poisoning from an inter-continental hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

From there we went via Malacca to Desaru, a very expensive place to stay. We went to the "breathtakingly beautiful" Kota Tinghi waterfalls – which were disappointing; only 20' high.

At last we were on our way to Singapore, the place we had been aiming for, for the past 5 weeks. After crossing the causeway we headed straight for the famous Raffles Hotel. As we settled down for the first original Singapore sling we met by chance the rest of the crew who had sailed into Singapore the day before.

We had to meet everyone else at the Fernleaf Centre that evening. This was a guest house run by the Royal New Zealand Navy and was extremely comfortable. The only duty remaining was to hand over the yacht, so the next morning Sue, with several members of each crew handed over the two yachts to the next crew, who were sailing to Freemantle in Australia. At last it was us who could pass for locals and the new crews who looked so pale and anaemic . . . a bit of a change from Bombay.

It was at this point that we decided, if possible we would like to stay a couple of extra days in Singapore. It was so simple Singapore Airlines happily obliged by changing our air-tickets and the Royal Naval Liaison Officer very kindly booked us rooms, at vastly reduced rates in the Oberoi Imperial Hotel.

Looking back at the trip it is easy to remember only the good times but there were occasions while at sea for days on end, under the extremely cramped conditions, that we did wonder what on earth we were doing there, especially when suffering from sea-sickness or else starting a 4 hour watch at midnight in torrential rain. Despite all the hardships there was never on either yacht a time when there was any ill feeling between the crew members, everyone worked extremely well together and on the whole we all enjoyed it. It certainly proved to be a trip to remember, we learnt a tremendous amount about sailing and it was worth every penny of the £350 we paid towards the expedition funds.

PS If anyone who is going on Exercise Australian Adventure 1988 would like any tips, we have plenty!!!

EXCHANGE AU PAIR – TURKEY

Lt P J Dickens WRAC

It seemed too good to be true! My application to take part in a 2 week exchange in Turkey had been accepted and the details started to arrive. On 30 May 1987, I flew to Ankara where I was met by one of the 25 female officers in the Turkish Army. I stayed in Ankara for just 3 days before flying to Istanbul for the remainder of the visit. Lt Tuba Canli escorted me throughout and then came over to UK for 2 weeks.



Lt Dickens presenting a WRAC plaque at the end of her visit.

Having female officers in the Turkish Army is a new idea and they are still very limited in the trades open to them. Women can work as teachers, pharmacists, nurses or guidance counsellors. Their basic training is exactly the same as the mens and they are totally integrated. The women can remain in the Army when they have children and will continue to do their work until they are 8½ months pregnant!

There is National service in Turkey for all fit men at the age of 20. They will do 18 months unpaid service in any of a number of varied trades including hairdressing and gardening! I never saw, however, any signs of resentment towards this service and the loyalty and patriotism in Turkey was overwhelming.

During my visit I had a full programme, organised to enable me to see the Forces as a whole rather than just the Army or just one unit. Tuba and I visited all three Military Academies, Military High Schools and Military Museums. At each we were greeted by the General or Admiral in command and given detailed information on the organisation of the unit. We were taken on a guided tour which at one point involved me taking an English lesson! Cadets must all study science subjects in English as part of Turkey's NATO role. The whole scale of the Armed Forces in Turkey was much larger than in Britain and the facilities were excellent.

I also had a chance to do some siteseeing while I was there which had been carefully fitted into the programme. Ankara is a modern city which has few historical buildings or sites of interest but in Istanbul I visited the mosques, Sultans palaces and the bazaars. The Navy also arranged a trip down the Bosphoros in the President's boat.

It was marvellous to have the opportunity to see such a different culture and I found it all fascinating. Throughout the exchange, the hospitality was magnificent. Everyone I met seemed to go out of their way to ensure I was being looked after and that I saw as much as possible during my stay. The Turks were charming, generous and kindhearted and I was spoilt terribly. It was a most enjoyable visit and a wonderful experience.

ARMED SERVICES WHEELCHAIR MARATHON 1987

Captain C A Caddick WRAC

It was 0630 and I was rudely awoken by the dawn chorus and radio one. I fell gracefully out of bed into my tracksuit and training shoes. This was my first day of training in what seemed like months of run up to the North West British Sports Association for the Disabled Armed Services Wheelchair Marathon.

Just to prove that WSLO's and ACIO Staff are not completely idle when it comes to physical exercise, the Army Ladies North West District managed to raise a magnificent team of 3 to compete in the Wheelchair Marathon held on Sunday 4 October 1987 at RAF Sealand (near Chester).

The day did not start well, as we arrived to be greeted by torrential rain and over 144 disabled people in their "go faster" wheelchairs.

The Army Ladies North West Team consisted of SSgt 'Mo' Sibert, SSgt Sue Linton and Capt Carolyn Caddick. Medical cover and moral support was well provided by Capt Dee Grant QARANC and SSgt Ann Butcher WRAC. The team was allocated 10 year old Denis Murphy from Huyton in Liverpool, as our driver. Denis was to prove very encouraging throughout the race screaming "Go faster . . . Go faster" at every available opportunity.

The event started at 1130 hrs with SSgt 'Mo' Sibert taking the first "three and a half" mile leg! The very slock changeover took place when little Mo staggered to a halt and I took over for the second and more sensible two and a half mile leg. The third leg ("two and a half miles") was run by SSgt 'Sue' Linton and then the whole process was repeated four teimes. Those teams with only one disabled driver were allowed a 10 minute Loo stop, otherwise lunch, and drinks for Denis had to be consumed on the move! Any pit stops for flat tyres mechanical breakdowns etc were added on to the final marathon time.

The Army Ladies team achieved a very creditable second in the ladies competition, being pipped to the post by a local ladies athletics team. The course was completed in 4 hrs 18 minutes and raised over £550 for the North West Disabled Sports Association.

All in all the day although extremely exhausting and rather wet, was enjoyed by all.



Denis the driver and his "pushers".

THE PULL OF THE MOON

(or Its a Women's Services Liaison Officer's Life)

Captain M R Roberts WRAC

I must say right from the start, that the life of a WSLO is a very varied one, and highly recommended for any young officer who relishes the prospect of independence, meeting people and travel – after all, isn't that what most of us joined the Army for? Being biased, I believe that the WSLO's job in Plymouth must surely be the best one of all. Driving the length and breadth of Devon, Cornwall and Dorset, interspersed with trips to the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands (company car supplied) can't be bad.

"But what does a WSLO do?" you may ask. Well, in-between lectures and presentations in schools, attendance at careers conventions and County Shows, and interviewing potential WRAC officers and assessing candidates at Pre-RCB, I personally advocate frequent sampling of the local Cream Teas.

Naturally the job can have its drawbacks. A diet of coffee, polo mints and school dinners does strain the seams of the No.2 Dress! And on the road, the danger comes in the form of Grockles (tourists, for the uninitiated) who insist on driving round the countryside extremely slowly, blissfully unaware that some of us have work to do. Still, the Traffic Wardens in these parts are generally friendly.

There does seem to be some confusion over the recognition of a WRAC uniform by the general public, and I have been asked which organisation I represent, on several occasions. However on parking the car one day, I saw the faces of three small children eyeing me through the window of the car next-door. They regarded me with great curiosity until one of them had some inspiration, "Look, look" he yelled, "its a Lollipop Lady . . ."

In schools, life is not all roses, and sometimes classes become quite lively, particularly if the pupils are conscripts rather than volunteers. Nothing, of course, that some sound military-style discipline will not put right. However, after one particularly unfortunate occasion the teacher apologised to me. "You see" he explained, "the reason that the children behaved badly today was because of the full moon – it always makes them uncontrollable". (Is this a reflection of current trends in our education system?).

Therefore my final word, is WSLOs beware – when arranging your lectures in future, check your Almanac before your diary.

4 COMPANY WRAC SINGAPORE

ALL RANKS GRAND REUNION

This reunion is to be held on Saturday 19 March 1988 and not on 18 March 1988 as stated in the last edition. All details are available from WO1 D McFall WRAC, WRAC Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH – please write enclosing your name, address, telephone number and stating numbers plus accommodation required.

EXERCISE JUNGLE MAIDEN III

Pte Elaine Musgrave WRAC

After the usual group photo-taking sessions and lots of comments from the onlookers of "Oh, aren't they the Jungle Bunnies?" Exercise Jungle Maiden III got under way. Our party of 17 was headed by Capt Jeannette Cox, 2IC ASE and consisted of 12 WRAC, 2 QARANCs and 2 WRENS. And so it was on the 10 June that we set off from HMS Tamar, Hong Kong for Brunei.

Jungle Maiden really started months before with what seemed endless training to prepare us for the jungle. This included lots of fitness training sessions in the gym courtesy of Cpl Michelle (Killer) Jenkins and hill walks every weekend. By the time we arrived in Brunei we all thought ourselves pretty fit.

Our home in Brunei for the 2 weeks was Brunei Garrison in Seria and we were sponsored by TTB (Training Team Brunei). The camp was a good 1½ hours bus-ride from the airport and so we were able to see Brunei at first hand and experience the hot and sticky climate early on. The ventilation in the bus was non-existent but the bullet holes in the back window did help! Arriving at Seria we were greeted by the Asst Adjt to 7GR, 2Lt Amie Wheeler, one of only three servicewomen in Brunei and she seemed delighted to see a few more friendly, albeit tired, female faces. We were shown to our accommodation and it soon became apparent as to why we had field conditions. Living with a few bugs in our 'bathroom' was one of our main worries especially a certain flying insect which we named 'buzz bomb'. Many a scantily clad maiden would be seen clutching a towel, screaming and running in the opposite direction from the showers!

The next day we soon found out about the heat and 100% humidity. Dressed in our combats it wasn't long before they hung limply about our shrivelled bodies. Our day was spent with lectures on Brunei which explained why there was a military presence in the country and health and hygiene in the jungle. The lectures all proved to be useful and interesting. We learnt why it was important to drink plenty of water, how to prevent dehydration and heat exhaustion, how to obtain and store water and what is and isn't safe in the jungle. Next we had our kit issued to us which included bergens, hammocks, mosquito nets and rather cumbersome machetes. Brave men to trust women with machetes especially WRAC! That afternoon we had a casevac demonstration by C Flight 660 Sqn AAC, who also gave us a short trip in their Scouts. The scouts would later be used to airlift us out of the jungle at the end of the exercise.

After the activity of the day we all went for a swim in the garrison pool and the highlight of the day was provided by LCpl Lynn Goodall who proved it was possible to do a belly flop before leaving the board Despite all she composed herself and left the pool covering the newly acquired hole in her costume. She still managed to score 5.9 from the Italian judge!

Before we went into the jungle we spent a day learning survival techniques at the jungle school. We were given instruction on fire, shelter, water and traps. Back at the ranch we then had a demonstration on how to make your

chicken supreme, courtesy of our Galloping Gourmet, complete with cook's hat, Capt Rayson Pritchard RM. He insisted we sample his efforts and luckily we lived to tell the tale but was a close run thing.

After all this preparation we were finally despatched in to the jungle. Our start position was the Old Chinaman's Shop on the Labi Road, a good 1½ hours from Seria. Everyone was a bit subdued not quite knowing what to expect. Our bergens weighed about 35 lbs and we were seating just trying to put them on. Even with just walking into the undergrowth we found ourselves dripping with sweat and found it quite hard going. We stopped at regular intervals for water and refilled our fast emptying waterbottles at a nearby waterfall. A few of the girls were already showing signs of heat exhaustion but this was quickly spotted by our instructors, Sgt Andy Knight and Sgt Rob Farley. Apart from losing a bit of weight they recovered and continued the exercise. By the time we reached our camp site for the first night we were all feeling the worse for wear and were ever grateful to our Iban guides and Gurkha demo team for helping us with our A frames. We did try very hard to do it our way much to the amusement of our expert onlookers but in the end they gave us a 'little' help. Once we were safely pitched up we descended on the river for a wash and a swim. On leaving the water, Louio, our Iban guide told us that he had caught a 12' python in the same stretch of the river a couple of months earlier!

Darkness comes early in the tropics and by 1830 it was pitch black. Beside our camp fires torchlight was our only means of getting about without falling foul of our surroundings. At night everything comes alive, the constant shrill sound of beetles no bigger than your thumb nail (so we were reliably told), the rustling of the tall trees and other alien noises seem to pervade the darkness. Imagination can run riot as it did with a few of the girls. Rather than toasting Biscuits AB over the fire Pte Trisha Lampon took to toasting some of her wet clothes and subsequently lost her underwear as the flames lapped up around them! The entertainment did not stop there as the night progressed most of us were getting off to sleep but it wasn't long before there was a loud splintering noise as LCpl Lynn Goodall (of diving fame) found herself at 45° to the ground. What was more amusing was how all our heroines rushed to her aid there was not a flicker



Beans around the Camp Fire.

L-R: Pte Brockwell, Capt Cox, LCpl Lynn Goodall, Pte Elaine Musgrave.



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of response from anyone! Eventually the OC and Pte Ali Brockwell felt a pang of conscience and helped her out.

Our second day began early at 0600 and the majority of us got up from a restless night, put on our damp clothes (ugh) and collapsed our A frames, then it was breakfast, a combination of rolled oats and apple flakes usually. Having a wash didn't come into it, we did our washing at night after we set up camp so by the second day everyone was beginning to 'hum' a little. Still, when you're all in the same boat you don't notice. . . in fact it was those who did wash that you noticed.

Although the greater distance had been covered on the first day, the actual walking became tougher on the second and third day as we went into thicker jungle. Obstacles got bigger and the track became less definable. There was a lot of scrambling up muddy banks and many an ungainly hand was given from behind on a number of occasions by smiling Gurkhas. Our second night was spent in hammocks which were surprisingly comfortable although rather difficult to get into. Luckily there was no rain and we managed to keep our kit dry but it did strike home that we would be so much more miserable had it been torrential rain.

That night Pte Anita Spink proved that although miles away from anywhere she could still make herself heard in the jungle. Due to the lack of suitable trees she and Capt Cox got separated from the rest of the group and had to string up their hammocks in what definitely was the 'Ooloo'. All night long you could hear them shouting to each other for consolation. . . to make things worse Pte

Spink began to hallucinate insisting there were men in the bushes!! It would have been exciting if we had seen something because throughout our time in the jungle we only managed to see a red monkey and some giant honey ants. . . no giant spiders, no scorpions and no snakes.

By day three we all seemed to become more organised and efficient in what we were doing. Our whole attitude towards our environment also improved. I wouldn't say we were comfortable or complacent but we certainly felt better equipped and more confident.

On day four we were airlifted out of the jungle in true Vietnam style. It took 3 minutes to cover the ground which had taken us 3 days by foot. It was an incredible sight from the air, it all looked just like broccoli and it left you wondering just how difficult it would be to navigate your way out if you were ever stranded. Despite feeling very tired and very dirty everyone felt a great sense of achievement. On our return the OC and SSgt Liz Fearon had to go to an office to vet our course photograph. After doing the necessities they were asked to leave by the SMI. I wonder why?

Endless thanks go to our instructors who were first class and maintained a great sense of humour throughout. Without them we would have achieved very little and certainly I would not be here to write this article. I would recommend the opportunity to go into the jungle to anyone who can bear the basics of life and is properly briefed and equipped. It is not for the faint-hearted but if you want an interesting and sobering experience Jungle Maiden may be for you. . . .

THE INTERNATIONAL MÖNCHENGLADBACH MILITARY COMPETITION

2 Lt E A H James WRAC

The International Monchengladbach Military Competition (IMM) took place on Saturday 10 October 1987, in and around the areas of Rheindahlen Village, Wickrath and Rheydt. The whole event is organised and co-ordinated by the German equivalent of our Territorial Army. The preparation for the event begins almost a year beforehand, and all the hard work pays dividends when on the day everything goes according to plan.

The Competition is designed to test as many military skills as possible. These range from watersmanship to map symbol recognition; and from aircraft to vehicle recognition. It would be ridiculous to attempt the competition without some intensive training beforehand. The 29 Company WRAC Team joined forces with the various teams from NORTHAG to prepare. The training was co-ordinated by the NORTHAG Training Team, under the expert eye of the RSM, WO1 Hardman. At the beginning of the week it felt as if the differences between a 'Flogger' and a 'Foxbat' would never become clear, let alone the difference between a 'Leopard I' and a 'Leopard II', however with a lot of hard work and above all patience on the side of the training staff the vehicles and aircraft recognition of the NATO and WARSAW PACT countries began slowly to fall into place.

Our initial idea was to enter an all female Officers' team, but as with most plans there was a change, and 2 days before the Competition 2Lt Catriona Glasgow went down with flu and so had to drop out. Fortunately thanks to an extremely kind employing officer we were able to steal Pte Tracey Crilley at an hour's notice. Pte Crilley was only able to undertake a day and a half's training, however she impressed everyone with her enthusiasm and determination to catch up as much as possible.

The day of the competition began early, as everybody had been given their instructions to eat a 'hearty' breakfast. We were then taken by landrover to an underground bunker in Rheindahlen where we were to complete the first stage of the competition; aircraft, vehicle, insignia and uniform recognition, along with First Aid and a memory scenario test. As soon as we had finished these, we were whisked away to Wickrath.

The organisers had designed a route, approximately 15 kilometres in length, which took the teams from Wickrath to Rheydt along the length of the river. The route was divided into different sections and in each section there was a task to complete. In the first stage there was a stretcher race, and a boating race. After we had completed these two events we were given a rather badly reproduced map and instructed to make our way as quickly as possible to the next check point. En route we had to negotiate a twin rope river crossing, which did not pose too many problems for us. Nearly every stage of the route was timed and speed was essential. At the end of the first stage we were tested on a number of scenes which we had been shown previously – our attention to detail had to be extremely high as we needed the points.

The second stage began as soon as we had regained our breath. It was to be a very long stretch and the heat was not making it any easier. The next stand was 'judging

distances', which is quite a difficult skill to master. Our next challenge was the single rope river crossing which was timed. Luckily we had practiced this a number of times beforehand – fortunately nobody got wet which was a bonus! The team then had the opportunity to relax, before we had to undertake the map symbol recognition test.

The final stage was again timed, and our legs were beginning to wonder if the day would ever end. We finally arrived at the rifle ranges. At the ranges we had the grenade throwing, assault course and the shooting. The grenade throwing demonstrated everyone's skill at 'bowling' as we tried to avoid picking up too many penalty points. The assault course then loomed 'dangerously' before us, having a fear of heights was not going to make this challenge any easier. The ground was almost knee deep in mud which meant that whatever else happened we were all going to get extremely dirty. The course was exhausting and trying to shoot straight afterwards was practically impossible. We had to fire three types of weapons, SLR, .22 Rifle and the German Military Pistol.

The shooting stage marked the end of the competition and all that was left for us to do was to wash, wait and wonder. All our fingers were crossed hoping that we had won. The prize giving took place that evening and the suspense was terrible. The wait was worthwhile however because 29 Coy WRAC won the Womens Section. A really excellent day was had by everyone who took part and a tremendous spirit existed between the teams, of all nationalities. This coupled with the first class organisation made the day one to remember for all those who took part.



From L-R:

2Lt B J Bowen, Gen H Hoster COS HQ NORTHAG, 2Lt E A H James Team Captain, Lt G A Potts, Pte T Crilley

(VIRTUALLY) UNBIASED IMPRESSIONS OF 1 LI

or

The WRAC Officer Guide to Survival with 1 LI
Lt Sue Davison WRAC

"Weeton is somewhere near Preston or Blackpool anyway I am sure 1 LI won't be too bad. Don't forget you are the first woman to serve with them so things may take a little time to settle down. There may be some resistance at first from the slightly stuffier officers!" These words of wisdom from Sandhurst kept coming back to me as I headed north (and still further north!) towards Weeton in April 1986. What sort of Battalion would the Army stick out of the way in Lancashire I thought to myself!

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For some reason I had had a premonition of a flat, windswept camp constructed out of Nissan huts! (A premonition that all but came true, the move to the new camp having just taken place). I did wonder what heinous crime I had committed at Sandhurst to be sent to Blackpool for my first posting while fellow officers were off to Berlin, BAOR or Southern England! My first thoughts were directed to what 1 LI would be like, I had received very little prior information, but in their favour what I had heard was very complimentary.

First impressions obviously become blurred with time rather like the first day at a new school. Having said that, certain memories always stick. After initial introductions Adjutant Capt Charles Lynch-Staunton faced up to a previously unknown adjutantal problem (not on the syllabus at JDSC) – how to deal with this strange species standing in front of him known as a WRAC officer! Where does one accommodate the only woman in the mess? In a very apologetic and concerned manner he explained that I would have to share "bathroom facilities" with two male officers . . . shock, horror! There followed a rapid assurance about their respective characters; gallant, polite, quiet, charming etc, etc. (Judgement on the accuracy of this comment is left to those who know Maj John Badgery and Capt David Wood!) Having given assurances that a brand new field officers suite really was quite adequate! – it was on to the job of settling in.

Initially within the mess everybody was incredibly polite to the point of being quite embarrassing. Leaping to their feet every time I walked into the room and keeping conversation topics very much along the straight and narrow. It was all most impressive but it really was politeness to the point of sublimity! Needless to say 16 months later it has all changed, a statement that I feel is self explanatory!

As far as individuals go it was rather a blur of faces and names. (Except for the officer with the exceptionally long hair!). From the soldiers there was I think total disbelief that the male bastion of 1 LI had fallen after 303 years! Their main problem was "how does one address a female officer?" As I leave 1 LI "Sir" is still the most common form of address used! A problem that I know most WRAC officers in Infantry Battalions suffer from.

One week after arrival the Battalion moved to Altcar, near Southport for the annual Skill at Arms Meeting. This gave a chance to see the Battalion at work and meet as many people as possible. The CO also decided it would be a good chance to expose my skill (or lack of it) with a rifle and take part in his team for the Falling Plate competition. It certainly kept the watching battalion amused! June 1986 brought a frenzy of activity as the Battalion moved to Canada for EX POND JUMP WEST 2. I was very grateful to go with the Battalion and not be left behind on the Weeton rear party. The job of R and R officer landed on my desk and with it all the usual jokes about the R and R officer being on one long holiday! In my defence I now reckon to be a qualified travel agent/tour operator.

With Canada also came the first cries of "Ah yes, Sue can do this one, it needs a woman's touch". This sounded ominous indeed! It came to light that the task was to act as a rape victim pursued by a terrorist! (Otherwise known as a member of the Close Observation Platoon in disguise . . . any excuse to dress up!). The whole "performance" was stage managed by OC A Coy, Maj Richard Floyer-Acland as part of a casualty simulation/terrorist incident. Amazing what one gets up to all in the line of duty! Not all my work with 1 LI has been as unusual as this or perhaps as interesting . . . well, someone had to stay behind in Weeton with the job of Unit Freight Officer whilst the Battalion went away on N Ireland

training! A cry emitted from the Adjutant's office, "Ah yes, Sue can do this one" – yet again!

The chance to move to N Ireland with 1 LI provided much more variety and interest into the job of Assistant Adjutant. Visits and visit programmes seem to have taken up considerable time. N Ireland acts as a magnet to visitors both military and civilian from within the Province and all corners of Great Britain. I now feel qualified to write visit programmes in my sleep! Wait. yes another cry of "Ah yes, Sue can do that" as the running of the Saddle Club came my way. I certainly was not given the opportunity to get bored!

Serving with an Infantry battalion in N Ireland has obviously been very interesting. An experience that so far only a relatively limited number of my contemporaries have shared. The chance to get out and visit the various border locations, see the Battalion on ops duties and do my share of watchkeeping stags provided valuable experience. It also brought all the office work, particularly the planning of visits programmes into perspective.

What of the job itself? Certainly it is one that is defined in different ways by different people and varies in content from one Battalion or Regiment to another. As a first posting it obviously poses problems. There is a certain amount of the chicken and egg situation, this no doubt applied to all jobs but is particularly relevant in this situation. In order for the Adjutant to lay down areas of responsibility and pass on a significant amount of work his assistant must have a good working knowledge of the battalion and experience of the army in general. The Assistant Adjutant straight out of Sandhurst needs the work to gain the experience. The "over-worked" Adjutant cannot pass on much work until his assistant knows what is going on! The chicken and egg situation mentioned earlier. Purely an observation gained by discussion with several Assistant Adjutants and not in any way a reflection on 1 LI. I certainly have had no complaints and consider myself very lucky to have served with such an excellent Battalion as 1 LI for my first posting.

So much for First Impressions of 1 LI, what about Last Impressions?

Rest assured any 1 LI who may read this, the word

according to 1 LI will be spread far and wide "OK Adjt, take the gun away from my head. I have finished now!"



All in a day's work!

Colonel Rosemary Denne, a retired WRAC Officer currently serving as the SO2 G4 (Accm) in HQ BAOR, is pictured here during a recent BAOR exercise.

Colonel Denne says "As an OAP I can commend retirement, and a quiet life as a civil servant in Germany!"

DEEDS OF COVENANT

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"SATISFIED SOLIDER"

Pte L Clift WRAC

I stared into the window of the Darlington Army Careers Office, before stepping inside and introducing myself as Pte Clift.

My thoughts drifted back to my first visit to the Careers Office in 1985. Nothing had changed, glossy brochures, and attention attracting posters were everywhere. I immediately picked up the leaflet on the WRAC of which I am now a member, serving in Rheindahlen, West Germany with 68 Squadron RCT.

It was my job as a "Satisfied Soldier", for the next week, to encourage, and explain to young ladies the range of employments offered and the Army life style of a WRAC

servicewoman. My working partners were WO1 Blackburn and a Sgt detached from their units for this scheme.

I was handed a programme of events, which included, work in the office, a trip to the Avenue Comprehensive School in Newton Aycliffe, where I was a former pupil and visits to various job centres around the area.

My first task was the school, where my confidence was at first, very shaky, as I stood out in front of the familiar classroom. Giggles at my flat black WRAC shoes didn't help! They admired my forage cap and belt though and were soon eager to listen to what I had to say. "How do I join?", "How much pay will I get?", "Do you like it?", "How fit will I have to be?" etc etc.

They all seemed very keen and I told them about the many opportunities for adventurous training and other courses available through the Army.

Finally, feeling very proud and satisfied, I handed each individual a leaflet before saying goodbye. My next move was a visit to the teachers' staff room, where I was welcomed back with tea and biscuits and remembered by all.

The remaining days were spent in the office, and Job Centres around the area; they were both equally enjoyable and fun.

WO1 Blackburn and the Sgt were very kind and made my week one of the best I've experienced.

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The War Widows Association of Great Britain exists to provide a meeting point for War Widows and a pressure

group to achieve better pensions for its members. Members are allocated to Branches throughout the country and as the PRO Helen Rosbottom said, "Meeting members is the life blood of our Association".

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WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Lt C Knipe WRAC

September 1984 – The daughter of an Army officer serving in BAOR reported to the WRAC Directorate in Rheindahlen, for an initial interview with Commander WRAC BAOR and Berlin – Colonel Nan Robertson MBE

November 1918 – Having been recommended to attend the two selection courses (Pre RCB and RCB), the potential officer was flown back to UK for two consecutive weeks in November 1984. The final results were received via a phone call to Westbury from the departure lounge at Luton airport! The news was good – a recommendation to attend officer training at Sandhurst.

January – August 1985 – At the beginning of the WRAC 851 Commissioning course, because of her degree qualification, the officer cadet immediately became a Second Lieutenant "on probation", pending the outcome of the course. At the end of 6 months officer training at Sandhurst this commission was confirmed and a new Second Lieutenant joined the WRAC

August 1985 – May 1987 – The new officer's first posting was to the Logistic Support Battalion AMF(L), in the appointment of Assistant Adjutant. This was an excellent introduction to the Army and especially the world of logistics. As part of a multinational 'mobile' force, the Battalion exercised regularly on the vulnerable Northern and Southern flanks of NATO. The Assistant Adjutant took part in two arctic training exercises in Norway and one command post exercise in Italy

May 1987 to date – Having successfully completed a first tour, the officer (now a Lieutenant) was posted to Germany to 28 (British) Signal Regiment (Northern Army Group) at Krefeld. The appointment was Assistant Adjutant and Officer Commanding WRAC in the Regiment, (approximately 70 servicewomen). This was again a slightly unusual Regiment, being the British element of the multinational NORTHAG Signal Support Group (NSSG) (comprising German, Belgian and Dutch Signals units) and tasked directly by NATO

At the start of the tour an initial interview with Commander WRAC BAOR and Berlin was arranged. As

the only potential officer to have been recommended by the Commander, and then to have returned to serve in BAOR, Colonel Robertson MBE was delighted to welcome Lt Christine Knipe WRAC, when she reported for interview to that very same office where it had all begun

WELCOME TO VICTOR TROOP

WO1 June Skelton WRAC

It has been some time since Victor Troop has had a mention in the Lioness, so I thought I must rectify the matter by giving you a brief update. For those who don't know who we are and what we do, let me enlighten you.

Victor Troop is part of 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (NORTHAG) based in West Germany. The Regiment itself can be found in St Tonis, but Victor Troop is in the Joint Headquarters Rheindahlen Garrison. We have our own Admin Office located at one end of the Garrison while the rest of us can be found in the basement of the JHQ. We are employed in the Joint NORTHAG/2 ATAF Communications Centre and our primary role is to provide static communications for both of these Headquarters. We also provide a shift to go out on major exercises with the Regiment.

There are 67 of us in total, our leader is a Captain Traffic Officer, followed by myself as 2IC, 8 SNCOs, 34 JNCOs and 23 PTE/SIGs. However the Troop is predominately WRAC, there being 46 WRAC and 21 Royal Signals.

Our Trades vary from Data Telegraphists, Switchboard Operators, Technicians, Cypher Operators, Clerk, Admin Assistant and Medical Assistant.

It is a happy little Troop, we have so many different and interesting personalities who all seem to enjoy life to the fullest. We participate in all sporting events and for these we combine with 1 Sqn 16 Signal Regiment. We have had two recent sporting successes, firstly we won the BAOR Inter Unit Lawn Tennis Championships and secondly by winning the BAOR Inter Unit Squash Championships. Another sporting event in which we did well was coming runners up in the Inter Zone Squash Championships held in UK. We also have some good Hockey, Netball, Volleyball, Rounders and Badminton players in our midst.

On Wednesday 21 October 1987, we were delighted to be visited by Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA, Director WRAC. On arrival she was met by the Troop Commander Captain Andy Harkins and myself. After receiving a brief on the Troop employment DWRAC toured the Joint NORTHAG/2 ATAF Communications Centre. The first port of call was the COMMCEN where she met Sgt Val Murray, Cpl Sally Oldridge, Ptes Michelle Bainbridge, Melanie Bird, Debbie Corbett and Sig Brian Woodfine. Next came the Technicians Workshop and a brief from our two resident WRAC Technicians Cpls Jill Boddie and Sharon O'Neill. She then went to the Telephone Exchange and met Sgt Joy Phipps, Cpl Kim Robertson, LCpls Karen Freeman, Claire Mutter, Pte Lorraine Charnock plus 2 newly posted in Ptes who were only with the Troop for a short training period prior to being employed in the Regiment. The final destination was to the COMMCEN Restroom where the oncoming night shift were waiting to meet her. There was also a pleasant surprise in store for everyone present when the DWRAC promoted LCpl Jill Mackay to Cpl.



**Colonel N R Robertson MBE former Commander WRAC
BAOR and Berlin with Lt Christine Knipe WRAC.**

WRAC PLATOON HQ LISBURN GARRISON NORTHERN IRELAND

UNIT NEWS

WRAC DETACHMENT – ARMY AIR CORPS CENTRE

It has been quite an eventful few months in the Army Air Corps Centre WRAC Detachment recently, covering topics ceremonial, medieval and honourable!

First the ceremonial. The AAC Centre was given the Freedom of Test Valley earlier this year and this occasion was marked by a parade in Andover on Friday 25 September 1987. Although the WRAC Detachment was not actually marching on parade, several members were involved on the day as markers, ushers and our own OC was the PR officer dealing with journalists and local TV reporters. One member of the Detachment, LCpl Julie Brown, as a passenger in the leading Gazelle helicopter which formed part of the fly-past – a spectacular display which accompanies almost every AAC Centre occasion!

Second the Medieval Night! This was arranged by LCpl 'Spike' Smith, to take place the night before the AAC Centre Remembrance Sunday parade. (However, all members of the Detachment were on parade bright-eyed and immaculate as expected).

On the night of Saturday 7 November 1987 all members of the WRAC Detachment Army Air Corps Centre descended upon The Baytree Restaurant in Salisbury to take part in a Medieval Night. Suitably attired as Queens, peasants, ladies, jesters, page boys and even a Medieval cow we arrived to be greeted by a 20th century clad gentleman who propelled us all upstairs where we had our photos taken (a little memento to remember the evening by). Afterwards we were given a drink called 'Welcome Cup' similar in taste to Gluhwein, thrust upon us to our delight. Unfortunately one 'Welcome Cup' was all we were allowed. Once the rest of the medieval revellers had arrived, into our midst sprang Master Codpiece our host for the evening. We were then escorted upstairs to the banquet room and shown to our table, whereupon the feast began. In between each course we were entertained by Master Codpiece, his wench and an assorted variety of medieval singers and musicians. The food, wine and real ale flowed plentifully throughout the night, only to be eagerly consumed by our party. When we could eat and drink no more we retired downstairs for coffee only to be dragged upstairs again half an hour later to take part in the dancing which was taught and led by our host Master Codpiece. At midnight we were dutifully thrown out to wait for our transport back to Middle Wallop. Judging by the tired faces and full stomachs, the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It was certainly a night to remember.

Lastly, but definitely not least, LCpl Karen 'H' Harrison our PTI, was awarded the GOC's Certificate of Commendation for her quick action in helping to save a casualty's life. Whilst LCpl Harrison was out with friends at McDonalds in Aldershot, a fight broke out. A civilian was knocked unconscious and had stopped breathing. LCpl Harrison immediately applied first aid and the injured man regained his breathing as the ambulance crew arrived. LCpl Harrison was presented with her Certificate of Commendation by Brig K J Hathaway OBE, Comd Avn HQ UKLF.

INTER-SERVICES SLALOM CANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

LCpl Bevan WRAC

The Inter-Services Slalom Canoe Championships took place on 7/8 September 1987 at Holme-Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Holme-Pierrepont is an artificial slalom course just outside Nottingham on the River Trent. The water is controlled by sluice gates, therefore competitions for novice to world championship standard can be held there.

The top slalom canoeists from the three services took part in what proved to be a very exciting competition. LCpl Bevan at present serving in LPO, HQ Northern Ireland achieved 2nd place in the Ladies K1 event.

The final competition results were as follows: RAF 1st, Army 2nd, Navy 3rd.



LCpl Bevan competing in the Inter-Services Slalom Canoe Championships.

RAPC COMPUTER CENTRE

Lt Y Riley WRAC

Very few people are aware of the existence of the RAPC Computer Centre at Worthy Down, even fewer know that employed behind the "wire" are a handful of highly trained WRAC/RAPC. Seven in total, 3 Officers and 4 SNCOs.

So what do we all get up to? The majority are involved directly with the computer, as programmers, system analysts and operators. The work could never be described as mundane and requires a high degree of technical expertise. All WRAC employed within the Computer Centre have passed the ADP Aptitude Test (normally with flying colours). Most WRAC are a little weary of coming to work in the Computer Centre, and let's face it a huge white box surrounded by miles of security

wire isn't the most welcoming of sights, but there are several added bonuses. Firstly a new Computer Centre costing £5,000,000 is to be opened in July 1988 and perhaps more importantly all who successfully complete the necessary training courses are upgraded to a higher pay band.

When we're not working we manage to get up to a variety of activities. We have a champion shot in our midst in the form of WO2 Hermi Emary, who's also a whiz at knocking up huge stuffed toys for a variety of fund raising events. Then there's SSgt Irene Jones, who brought home an armful of trophies from the SEDIST Badminton Championships and is renowned for getting the men in the Computer Centre to dress up and take on the might of the WRAC in a fancy dress rounders competition (in December)!!

Then there's Maj Bellingham-Smith who we're hoping will make the Army Alpine Ski Team.

All of which goes to show that life carries on after coming to work at the RAPC Computer Centre, contrary to popular belief.



Sgt. Goodwin, Pte Law and the Computer Centre.

10 COMPANY WRAC

EXERCISE MERRY MAIDEN

10 Coy held its Annual Summer Camp in June at Chickerrall Camp Weymouth, with the help of the Royal Navy and the Royal Engineers. The events consisted of military and adventure training which were much enjoyed by all who took part.

ABSEILING WITH 3 PARA

Cpl Whelpdale WRAC

During Summer Camp in Weymouth we were invited by 3 PARA, with whom we shared the camp, to try abseiling. A group of us decided to try goaded into action after hearing some of the soldiers say that we would never do it.

After a short half hour briefing, and many assurances from our instructor, a group of nervous but determined women made their way to the helicopter pick up point.

The helicopter took the first two people to a height of 80' and as we watched a pair of feet appeared at each door, reaching for the skids. When the instructor considered them ready they descended without a hitch. I went with LCpl Eldridge who unfortunately slipped as she started and found herself hanging by her knees over the skids. The instructor had to lean out and unhook her.

The feeling, as we abseiled down the rope, was marvellous, and everyone went back for a second attempt. It was a great experience.



Abseiling from a helicopter – a one way trip.

EXERCISE SUMMER DIP

Lt C M Wilson WRAC

It was one of those drizzly, miserable mornings when the OC had another one of her bright ideas. The latest brainwave was "Staff, let's enter a team for the Services

DIRECTOR VISITS CYPRUS



Raft Race at RN Portland". Staff Haynes wearily nodded with a sympathetic gesture and the wheel of organisation was set in motion.

Cpl Willoughby, our faithful PTI, held a meeting and within a few days the noble team of WRAC gentlewomen was selected. The next major tasking was the intrepid raft building. With much eye fluttering, buttering up and general sweet talking, the QM Tech finally gave way to our feminine charms. Ropes and oil drums miraculously appeared as if by magic.

The night before the race we held our first and last rehearsal. Raft bouyancy (despite the featherweights of our 8 girl team) could prove to be a problem. But, by the following day, in cheery mood, we moved to Portland ready for the great onslaught to begin. Local Press were having a field day, and as the only female team ever (no other fools had been so insane before) we were hot news!!

With sailing craft of all shapes and sizes and representatives from the army, Navy and the Marines, we launched our invincible craft and paddled our way out to the start. With a cry of the siren and coloured smoke blowing from every direction, we were off. It was hell, it was tough, it was grim – it was also a giggle and we were in high spirits as we finally crossed the finishing line.

To say we won would not be entirely accurate and yet we were certainly not last either. Furthermore, our intrepid craft did not suffer the same fate as others which went gurgling to the bottom of Portland Harbour and a good day was certainly had by all.



The team from left to right:

Pte B Cowan, Pte D Jackson, LCpl K A G Willoughby, LCpl A R Prout, LCpl R M Middleton, Pte J R Leadbetter, LCpl D M Wilcock, Pte J M Ramsey.

THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Cpl Kaye WRAC

Any first time experience is always one you remember; well, I will certainly never forget the first time I flew in a

plane. It was recently when I was posted to WRAC Platoon in Northern Ireland.

My boyfriend had kindly taken me to the airport, checked my luggage in and brought me a drink to calm my nerves. I had an hour to wait before my journey, so two (or was it three?) drinks later I found myself being pushed through to the departure lounge, waving goodbye to my boyfriend and promising to ring as soon as I arrived.

I did not have to wait long before I was boarding the plane. I was extremely surprised to find myself being seated in first class – not that I minded, it made me feel quite important, especially as the air hostesses insisted on calling me madam. The only thing that did concern me was the fact that all the other passengers in first class were businessmen – not one of them looked like a squaddie.

We all fastened our seat belts, a steward appeared, asking the passengers, first class ones, that is, what newspaper we would like. I asked for The Times, somehow the Sun did not seem fitting. So there I was, comfortably looking out of the window, looking forward to the flight and not the slightest bit nervous. The only thing that did make me a little restless was the foreign gentleman sitting next to me. He was continually asking me questions including "Did I know of any good hotels", "Why was I going over", and telling me that we would probably have problems with the language. I just smiled politely and agreed. Well you do, don't you?

The plane was beginning to go down the runway. Safety instructions were being shown and I was feeling quite excited. That is, until a voice came over the tannoy saying that the flight would take 2 hours and 20 minutes. I went all hot and sticky. I had a sick feeling inside. I turned to the gentleman next to me and asked; "Where exactly are you flying to?" Answer: "Portugal of course". My face must have been one of sheer horror as the gentleman caught hold of my hand and asked me if I was feeling OK. With tears in my eyes I said to him, "I'm on the wrong plane". My voice must have been extremely loud as the steward came running to my side saying "What's wrong, madam?", with which I answered, "Stop the plane, I've got to get off – it's Lisburn, Northern Ireland I want, not Lisbon Portugal".

After a close inspection of my flight tickets they assured me that I was on the correct plane, so as fast as the words could come out of my mouth, (bearing in mind that the plane was still going up the runway) I explained to them that I must have been given the wrong tickets and that they would have to let me get off.

My tears must have caused concern as within 2 minutes the plane was turning round and returning to the airport. After a lot of funny looks and questions, my baggage was taken off and I found myself being pushed through customs and being asked if I had anything to declare. A very nice supervisor found the whole situation extremely funny (as they all did, well – that is except for the pilot of the plane who was rather annoyed – in fact, if I had not met him before we took off, I would swear that he had been under a sun lamp, his face was very red).

Needless to say, I live to tell the tale and I am sure that the pilot will see the funny side eventually. I know I did.

raise £3,000 towards a new Dinamap Heart Monitor for the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The Bed Race takes place in June every year in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire and raises vast sums of money for charities both local and national. Teams of six members of one sex push a bed carrying a member of the opposite sex over a gruelling two mile course, up steep winding streets, down narrow cobbled lanes and ending with a swim in the muddy waters of the River Nidd.

Our team consisted of 6 WRAC: Lt Sara Hindmarsh, LCpl Julia Nesbitt, LCpl Caroline Crossley, Pte Cheryl Smith, Pte Carol Marshall and Pte "Charlie" Drake, and one very brave LCpl Ged Carthy on the bed who shouted encouragement and abuse at us all the way round and regrettably remained dry as the bed floated across the river! One of 64 teams to complete the course the 'A-Z Team', as we called ourselves (the OC's name is Anthonisz), had travelled the furthest distance in the UK to fly the flag for Scotland and were warmly welcomed by the Knaresborough Round Table. We ran the course in a creditable 23 mins 52 secs, making us the 3rd fastest ladies team and 3rd fastest new team in the competition.

The team were pleased to find that they had raised £400 in total for the Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children. This comprised generous donations from BP (£200), Ferranti (£50), Edinburgh Airport (£10) and individual sponsorship obtained by members of the team.

We are now looking forward to winning the race next year!



A sprinting finish for the A-Z team.



**Relaxing at the finish: L-R: Pte Marshall, LCpl Crossley
Lt Hindmarsh, Pte Smith,
Pte Drake, LCpl Nesbitt.**

242 SIGNAL SQUADRON – A-Z TEAM KNARESBOROUGH ROUND TABLE BED RACE 1987

242 Signal Squadron decided in April this year to enter a team in the Knaresborough Bed Race in order to help

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31 SIGNAL REGIMENT (V)

The year has been busy as always with the 'powers that be' really believing there must be 54 weekends in a regimental year!! The WRAC have been the constant back up to the regiment and there is a never ending stream of girls wishing to join as recruits, sadly some have to be turned away to keep our percentage levels correct for the establishment.

As always our girls had excellent results in the Courage Trophy ably led by 2Lt Carolyn Oxlee. Lt Kendal Withers is always happy to enter teams for the Cross Country Championships and she took a mixed party to enjoy the delights of 'Exercise PEAKS CHALLENGE' in August so there is always plenty of physical activity in addition to the gruelling BFT. A few years ago the BFT seemed a great effort all round but now it all seems so easy.!

Annual camp was held in Scarborough and we were pleased to be visited by Colonel F Hutley, Commander WRAC UKLF and Lt Colonel R Cornwell, Commander WRAC London District who at that stage was on almost her first day in the post. Our visitors were subjected to hearing about 'Life inside the Ping Pong Ball' a very good and amusing description given by Cpl Victoria Everitt on her Detachment Commander's Course. The girls on the Cadre and Detachment Commander's Course all did very well and achieved good results. The regiment has been pleased to have a succession of girls make the best student on the Recruit Course at Guildford. Also Cpl Kim Burt was top student on the WRAC Detachment Commander's Course in April. As the photograph shows it does happen that the WRAC show the men all they need to know on how to handle a weapon.

The number of girls within the regiment is now reflected

in the increasing numbers of seniors within the Regimental Sergeant's and Officer's Messes. It is pleasing to note that many mess members wear the official mess dress which reflects our allegiance to the Corps of which we are very proud.

Lt Vicki Hutchinson was present at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on 5 November and was honoured to have been chosen to represent the TA within London District. Each Squadron paraded through their Local Boroughs in the London area on Remembrance Day so that the public saw a glimpse of the activities – the sad thing is they did not realise all the hours spent by ordinary girls of the Territorial Army in giving their time, energy and devotion to duty in a year long service of dedication.



LCpl Sandy Giles (V) advising during the Squadron Commander's Exercise.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion ATS Golden Jubilee

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER 1988

1.10 pm	West Doors of Cathedral open for congregation
2.10 pm	Congregation to be seated. No further admittance.
2.15 pm	Procession of Standards to Altar
2.25 pm	Arrival of principal guests.
2.30 pm	WRAC Association Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Preacher – Rt Rev Ronald Gordon, Bishop to the Forces.
3.20 pm	Service ends.

Before and after the Service Voluntaries will be played by the Staff Band of WRAC.

Wheelchairs should enter at street level on South side and use lift to Nave.

Tickets will be colour coded to indicate area of seating but individual seats will not be allocated.

**NO COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE SERVICE
NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED WITHIN CATHEDRAL
TICKETS ARE AT NO COST TO INDIVIDUALS**

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER 1988

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

COSTS

Tickets for the Grand Reunion in the Barbican on 8 October 1988 are at an all-inclusive price of £15. This includes entry to the Barbican all day, the Buffet Supper, and the evening entertainment. Separate tickets will be issued for the entertainment and the supper for control purposes but as the Association is subsidising both events they cannot be separated in the costings.

Entry to the AGM will be by display of Association membership card which should be obtained from your Branch Secretary.

Members are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Some accommodation for groups with their own transport may be available at military units. Details will be sent to Branch Secretaries.

British Rail are offering concession fares and hotel rates for rail travellers and special rates in their hotels for Association members travelling by other means. For details write to Golden Rail Holidays, PO Box 12, YORK YO1 1YX.

SAGA Holidays are considering organising a special offer. If you are a member of SAGA, you should write to them for details.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion ATS Golden Jubilee

APPLICATION FORM

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

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

WRAC SOUTH WEST AREA ASSOCIATION REUNION 1987

For 1988 only, the AGM of the Association has been moved from its usual April date until 8 October during the Grand Reunion.

As a result the Agenda for the AGM and the Association accounts for the year ended 31 October 1987, will not be published until the August 1988 edition of *Lioness*.

Any branch wishing to have a copy of the audited accounts may apply to the General Secretary.

The WRAC South West Association Reunion was held at Larkhill Garrison on Sunday 10 May 1987. Some 190 ex-ATS/WRAC gathered for an afternoon's visit, which included an equipment display at 76 (Maude's) Bty Gun Park, a photograph of each group, a walk around the WRAC Accommodation Block, a WRAC recruitment film and ended with a High Tea with the servicewomen. Members came from all over the South West: Andover, Bath, Bournemouth, Cheltenham, Exeter, Portsmouth, Salisbury, Somerset, Southampton, Swindon, Weymouth and Portland. The visit was a great success and closed with a raffle in which the star prize was a large "WRAC Association 1987" cake made by several WRAC/ACC servicewomen from Larkhill. A total of £63.98 was raised which was donated to the WRAC Centre Museum Appeal.

WESTERN AREA REUNION – 1988

The Wolverhampton Branch of the WRAC Association is to host the Western Area Reunion and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS at The Nautical Club, Bishopgate Street, Birmingham on Saturday 23 April 1988, 2 pm to 5 pm, Tickets £2.50. The Club will be open at 12 noon for early arrivals.

SAE please for tickets and further information to: Miss M Davies, 4 Carol Crescent, Lyndale Park, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 3JF, before 29 March 1988.

To Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Mrs Doreen Seiboth (ex ATS) will officiate at a Tree Planting ceremony on 2 March 1988, at 3 pm, in The West Park, Wolverhampton.

Later this year (1988) The Wolverhampton Council are to plant a floral display depicting the ATS badge.

LONDON BRANCH REUNION

To celebrate the ATS Jubilee, London Branch will hold a Luncheon in the Gascoigne Rooms, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo on Thursday 1 September 1988. We hope many members of the Branch who are not normally able to attend our meetings may be able to come on this special occasion.

Tickets £10.00 from Mrs E Ellison, 26 Blackstone House, Churchill Gardens, London SW1V 3DT or Miss B Brown, 10 Elmbank Avenue, Barnet, Herts EN5 3DS.

NOTICES

MEDALS

If you believe that you have an entitlement to medals and have not received them, you should write to:

OIC
Army Medal Office
Government Buildings
DROITWICH
Worcs WR9 8AU

You should tell the Medal Office of as many important points of your service as you can remember (eg dates and places of enlistment and discharge) and most important of all your Army number.

Please be patient as they have many calls on their services.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION – 1988

The 1988 Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday 16 April from 2 to 5.30 pm.

Tickets £3.25 (including Tea) obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, N Yorks HG9 9BY. (Tel: 0423-507023) not later than Saturday 9 April. Please send stamped addressed envelope with cheque/postal orders made payable to "WRAC Association – Northern Area".

Tickets may also be booked through Northern Area Branch Secretaries by applying to them before 1 April. No tickets will be available for sale at the door.

There will be a fund-raising "Bring and Buy" stall at the Reunion and it is hoped that everyone who attends will support this by bringing goods for sale and buying those contributed by other members.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAME LESLIE WHATELEY DBE TD

A Memorial Service for Chief Controller Dame Leslie Whateley DBE TD organised by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will be held at Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, Hampstead at 11.30 am on Thursday 24 March 1988. The church is not far from Hampstead Underground Station.

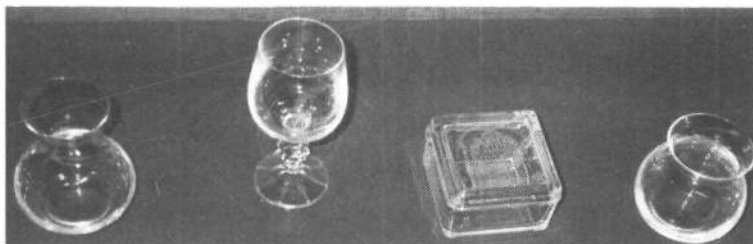
Tickets are not required to attend the Service.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion ATS Golden Jubilee

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(delete one not _____	Posy Bowl @ £9.50	_____
wanted)		
	Second Badges	_____
Cheque/PO enclosed	TOTAL	_____

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

A vacancy for an Army Careers Officer (Women's Services) is due to arise on 12 September 1988, and is at present based at the Army Careers Information Office, Horsham, Sussex. Its future location may either be in Horsham or at the main ACIO in Brighton.

The present starting salary is £8,267 rising to £9,854 after 2 years.

Applications are invited from majors and below of WRAC or QARANC and should be submitted direct to DAR 2c, Room 1112, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR immediately.

THE MONTE CASSINO VETERANS ASSOCIATION

(The Impossible Victory)

There is to be a World and Commonwealth gathering in Cassino in May 1989 to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Battles of Monte Cassino. It is expected that this event will take place between 13 May and 20 May.

Our Association has undertaken to locate and register all those who are part of the Cassino story, who would like to join us on this momentous trip.

If you are interested please send all your details plus a SAE to: Honorary Secretary, J Clarke, 41 Aldermany Road, Manchester M21 2QW. Tel: 061-881-4594.

THE EX-SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres own two residential care homes for ex-servicemen (or women), ex-merchant seamen and their widows. New Belvedere House in Stepney, east London, can take 29 residents. Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex can take 50. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they wish. They are not nursing homes and residents on admission must be capable of looking after themselves though help (for example with bathing) can be given.

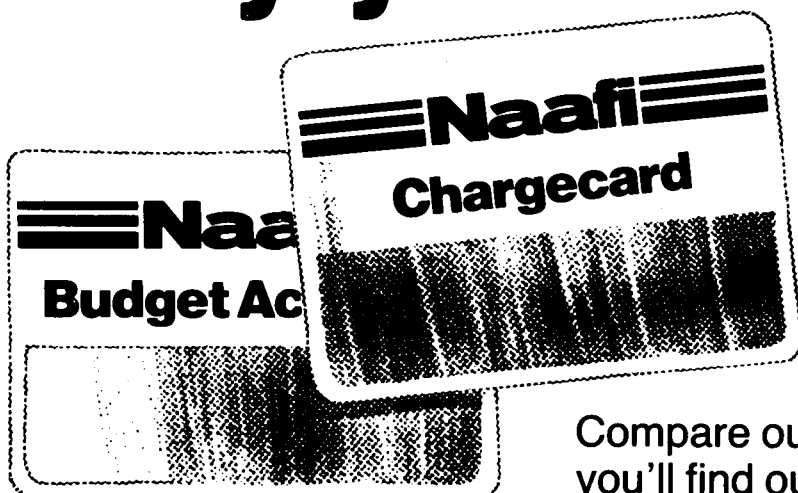
Those interested should apply to:

The Administrator
Ex-Service Fellowship Centres
8 Lower Grosvenor Place
LONDON SW1W 0EP

Cambridgeshire ACF are looking for one or more Instructors between the ages of 21 and 50 who live in or near Peterborough. Appointments in the ACF are made as Sergeant Instructor (unless the applicant held the rank of SSgt or above in which case higher rank can be authorised). There is also the opportunity of being granted an ACF commission. Successful applicants would be attached to a detachment and the commitment would be one evening a week and up to 28 days paid training days. ACF cadets are lively and well motivated and if anybody is interested please contact:

Major D R Haslam
Cadet Executive Officer
Tel: Cambridge 862949

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Correspondence

"The prompt answering of correspondence is the secret of a happy life". H F Ellis.

If you receive any replies in response to letters published in this Column would you please acknowledge them promptly to maintain the contact made. Thank you.

Mrs Irene Brindley-Mayn (nee Miller) who lives at 4 Church Walk, Prestatyn, Clwyd has sent a photograph taken at Newark in 1941 at the end of training. Anyone recognising themselves should write to her please.



1st S/L ATS NEWARK April – October 1941.

Our apologies to Mrs Betty Wilshaw (nee Tyson) who writes from 19 Claremont Road, Eccleshall, Stafford ST21 6DT for printing both her name and address incorrectly. She was a Cpl in 497 (M) HAA Battery, 144 Regt RA and wishes to contact anyone who served with her between 1941/45 mostly in the Derby and Grimsby areas.

Mrs P M Pledger of 24 Nutbrook Avenue, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 9LD writes that she would very much like to contact her old friend Patricia Ward. They were together in Royal Signals at the telephone exchange Koyli Bks Minden from May 1946. At Christmas they were transferred to Bad Oeynhausen and stayed there until demob in 1947. Pat used to live in a village outside Norwich.

W/888 Volunteer "Sally" Healey would like to hear from Volunteers (1938/39) who were attached to the 15th Coy of London – Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea Bks. Duties were secretarial and work in the bar which was carried out in the evenings and at weekends.

Later they went to Pirbright Camp, living in tents and working as Orderlies in the cookhouse, attached to the Coldstream Guards. After becoming ATS in 1939 they were posted to Blackdown Bks attached to the 24th Artillery. Where are those girls now?

Mr John Hammond writes from 28 Glen Road, Fleet, Aldershot, Hants GU13 9QR that he is trying to trace the whereabouts of Subaltern Angela Folkes ATS with whom he served in 21 Army Group in 1945 in Belgium.

Mrs Mary Hallworth (nee Duffy) would like to hear from anyone who served with her in 3rd Western Platoon ATS attached to the 299 Coastal Defence Battery at Fort Walnery, Barrow in Furness between 1940 and 1943. Her

address is 35 Nutter Road, Accrington, Lancs BB5 6BB.

Joyce Taylor (nee Prichard) writes from 3 Wairau Road, Takapuna, Auckland 10, New Zealand that she would like to trace Doreen Simpson with whom she trained in Catterick in 1951 and later served with in Bad Oeynhausen.

Mrs Daisy Rose Strivens (nee Tranter) would like to hear from anyone who served with her in ATS BATT (M) HAA RRA. She remembers 'Bubbles' Win Condliffe, Peggy Rochester, Hazel Sweetland, Ann Kennet, Kay Wilson, Sgt Graham, Irene England and Mary Clapham to name a few. Mrs Strivens hopes to meet lots of old friends and comrades at the 1988 Grand Reunion.

On 30 June 1987, four ex-service women from the 14th Sussex ATS, met together for the first time since the Second World War. Mrs Jean Madge had written to the Hastings Branch WRAC Association enquiring about next year's 50th Anniversary celebrations, and Mrs Bexhall and Mrs Wright (now Mrs Steele) thought that they remembered her name. Letters were exchanged and sporting a red rose Mrs Bexhall went to the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, to await the arrival of Mrs Made, Mrs Wright and Mrs Jones.

Over coffee the four very quickly brought out old photographs and memories.

"Do you remember?" and "I wonder what happened to so and so?" flowed quick and fast.

Time went all too quickly and the four parted with a promise to meet again soon – next time with a camera to record a happy event.

Now we are wondering if there are any more of the 14th Sussex ATS around? If so, we would love to arrange a meeting. Please contact: Mrs Norah Bexhall (nee Syrett), 61 Winchelsea Lane, Hastings, Sussex TN35 4LG.

Mrs Joan F T Robertson-Power of 2 Sandon Court, Beachfield Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight has sent a photograph of herself and on the left an ATS girl called Maureen Short, who lived at 1 The Steyne, Worthing, Sussex. Mrs Robertson-Power would like to contact her.



L-R: Maureen Short – Joan Robertson.

Mrs S M Hirst (nee Pte Sue Waind) of 19 Golden View Drive, Thwaites Brow, Keighley, West Yorkshire writes: Congratulations to 251 Sig Sqn at Aldershot on their 'Independence'.

I served with 251 WRAC Sig Sqn in 1964 when they were

part of HQ Southern Command based at Salisbury. I was posted to Aldershot for 'just a couple of weeks' and ended up staying there almost 2 years until I was posted to 235 Sig Sqn (COMCAN) in Malta.

I am probably one of the few who can boast that they were 'happy in Aldershot', but I was. The thing that stands out most in my mind was the comradeship of the COMMEN and telephone exchange girls. I trained as a COMMEN op, but also did a stint on Aldershot Military Telephone exchange, which was upstairs from the COMMEN. We were based along with 10 Coy WRAC in Mandora Hutments on Hope Grants Road. We never had a posh club like the "Cats Whiskers" – the only NAAFI we had was the RAMC McGregor NAAFI just across the road aptly nicknamed 'The Gunge' and the NAAFI Club in Aldershot itself. I'm sure I jog a few memories there!

I often wonder if the shift system has changed. We worked 'mornings and nights' and a day off, an evening shift, then an afternoon shift. There used to be 12 of us in a room, and the night before I left for Malta I came in after a farewell night out with the girls, to find my bed had completely disappeared (taken to bits and put in the boiler house) and I had to spend the night on a mattress on the floor!

I can remember excited females dashing around in their best gear and going down town to play 'Spot the Para Whose Just Back from Bahrain'!! You could always spot these lads, as they were the only ones sporting a film-star tan and wearing desert boots. There were no sun bed parlours in those days, but desert boots are still on sale in shops!

We didn't have many VIPs like Princesses visiting, but we felt we were doing an important and worthwhile job.

The OC WRAC for the first part of my posting was Major Ross, and later came Captain Toby. I also remember 2Lt Younge and 2Lt Bunyan, but I doubt very much if they will remember me. Our Sgts were a lovely Fijian called Betty Foster then Staff Sgt Eileen Johnson. Sgt Maggie Catchpole was in charge of the telephone exchange. I would be over the moon if I could just hear from one or two of the girls who were there the same time as I was. Namely, Maxine Turner, Gloria Jones, Pat McCartney, Barbara Blyde, Carole Boyle, Eddie Creed, Aggie Baird, Mo Jolley, Di Gilmour, Pauline Fahey, 'Gidget' Craggs, Lila Marshall, Joan Westbrook, Pam Eardley, and Sue Rixon.

On posting to Malta I didn't need to play 'Spot the Para' anymore, for I met my husband.

I had some great times there too, but when I look back over the happy time I spent in the WRAC, my mind goes back to those salad days of mine in Aldershot, and the smashing mates I had there in good old 251!!

Mrs E Pearson wrote from "Homestead", 28 Park Road, Teddington, Middlesex after her 90th Birthday which she enjoyed. Mrs Pearson served in France in the WAAC and remembers Millie Smallwood, Joan Chandler and Nan Foulds who came from Scotland.

Dr Hilary Gaskin is preparing a book on the Nuremberg Trials, and would like to contact any members of the ATS who were present. Her address is 9 Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH.

Ex Sgt R Joy Miller has sent in two photographs and would like to hear from anyone who remembers her or recognises themselves. She served at the WRAC School of Instruction, Hindhead, WRAC Staff College Frimley, 2 Indep Coy Donnington and HQ MELF Egypt and Cyprus as



WOs & Sgts Mess FAYID EGYPT JULY 1955.



WRAC Tennis Team Egypt 1955.

well as representing the Corps at tennis in 1955 versus the WRAF.

Joy Miller lives at 42 Stappleford Close, Great Woodley, Romsey, Hants SO51 7HU.

Mrs Jean Atton writing from 115 Central Ave, Wigston, Leics would like to contact any ATS from 10th Warwickshires who on the first day of war were posted to Chilwell, also the Worcesters of Derbyshire or anyone from 21 Army Group stationed at Bad Oeynhausen. Mrs Atton reads Lioness and would like to see more about the ATS so pens and pencils out ladies.

Miss Dorothy White from 21 Church Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4EL, together with four ex ATS members, would love to hear from anyone who was

attached to 20 AA Wksp Coy REME, especially those once stationed at Willand Devon.

Mrs Barbara Jones (nee Williams) writes from 28 Mornington Crescent, Derby DE3 4BD hoping to contact members of the ATS who were in Honiton 1945-46, Leicester and lastly Guildford 1946-47 when the training centre was started.

Mrs Primrose Calvert would like to get in touch with Joan Bethel (nee Bushby) who used to live in Henley. They were subalterns together in Fayid 1947-49. Mrs Calvert lives at Hellings House, Main Street, Escrick, York YO4 6LQ.

Mr George W Foster, 20 Ashenden Road, Clapton, London E5 0DP 01-985-5677 is writing a book about The Motorcycle at War 1914-1918. He would like information, documents or photographs sent to him however small or apparently insignificant.

Mr D Preston writing from "Penmon", 3 Leopold Road, Blackburn, Lancs BB2 6EH, is hoping to contact a friend he knew in 1950/52. He was stationed at Bordon, Hants, and his friend Joan Stewart who came from Cornwall was in the regimental police. She had relatives living near Blackburn and they travelled together and later met in Guildford a few times.

Mrs Patricia Harvey (nee Chiddy) would like to hear from anyone who was with her in 202 OCTU RASC in Bristol, Southend or Aldershot between 1942 and 1948. She was a member of the ATS section of the Guard of Honour at the wedding of Her Majesty The Queen and would like to hear from any of the 7 other WOs who took part on that occasion. Mrs Harvey lives at 15 Charles Street, Basingstoke, Hants RG22 6PR.

Mr J B (Bryn) Esau has written from The Poplars, Newcastle Emlyn, Dyfed SA38 9BS. In 1942 he was stationed at Ilfracombe with the RAF at the Marine base in the harbour. One of the friends he remembers and would like to contact was Joan Berry a member of the ATS who lived outside Plymouth.



Montgomery Club – Brussels 1945.

Mrs KM Matthews (nee Sgt Jones) sent a photograph taken at the Montgomery Club in Brussels 1945 – of the 21st BAOR Royal Signals. Anyone recognising

themselves should contact here at 4 Malvern Court, Ridgeway Road, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 9AE.

Mrs Phil Johnson and Mrs 'Pop' Herr, who have recently been re-united after 40 years would like to find their other friends who served with them in Egypt just after the war. Megan Ellis, Doreen Dodgson, Gwen Gabrield and Joan Lomas – where are you now? Replies to Mrs P Johnson, Room G14 Building 11a., RA Bks, Repository Road, London SE18 4BB.

Joan Tanton (nee Randell) writing from "Sunnyside", Sandbeck Park, Maltby, Yorks S66 8PB would like to trace former ATS members who served with her at No.17 PTC Ballykinlar, N Ireland or AFHQ, CMF with a view to meeting former friends at the 1988 Reunion.

Mrs V Miller (nee Beck) of 208 Latimer Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7JF would like to contact Sybil Jones from Pontypool. Together they were the first two ATS members to join HQ 154(M) Heavy Ack Ack Regt in April 1942. The camp was at Dilton near Widnes. Mrs Miller enjoys reading Lioness and is amazed at the varied activities of the present day 'girl soldiers'. In four years service she didn't meet anyone who went abroad!

Mrs Freda Blogg writing from 52/3 Agg St, Thornbury Victoria 3071, Australia would like to hear from anyone who was with her in MHAA Bty last stationed at Beckenham Kent 1945. Mrs Blogg is coming home for the Grand Reunion in 1988 and hopes to meet old friends.

The photograph was taken in 1943 when stationed at Gosport.



Mrs Freda Blogg. Portsmouth 2 March 1943.

Mrs Muriel Foulsham (nee Stephens) would like to contact anyone who served in the ATS Band with Commander Angela Stebbings. Please contact her at: 3 Greenway Avenue, Rumney, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF3 8HQ.

Joan Rowley from 20 Stubbing Road, Grangewood, Chesterfield S40 2HP, would like to contact Mangery Powney from Manchester who was one of the first to join the ATS and who became a CSM at York in about 1941, and married a Canadian officer. Also Kathleen Hawke from Salford who was stationed at Donnington as a clerk in 1945 and later discharged from Bicester.

PALESTINE 1945–1948

Jill Beatty (nee Gillett)
Junior Commander ATS/Captain WRAC

My thoughts go back just over 40 years when, as a Captain, I boarded the SS Georgic at Liverpool. Together with 5,000 other troops we proceeded we knew not where! Life-jackets were the order of the day because the seas were mined, especially through the Straits of Messina. We zig-zagged on stopping at Naples, Pireus, Salonica and Malta. At Salonica hundreds of very "happy" New Zealanders joined us. They were so overjoyed at the victory and the visions of joining their families again that they played rugger with most of the furniture on board making life very hazardous!

After 16 days at sea, boat drill and uncomfortable heat we landed at Port Said, then on to Cairo and the inevitable visit to Sheppards. There followed a visit to HQ in Cairo and instructions that I was to be posted as Company Commander to Sarafand, a large army garrison approximately 4 miles from Tel-Aviv. There I spent the next 2 years with a company of 200 Palestinian ATS. As time passed only one British Lieutenant and two Palestinian Officers were left with me. It would be unwise to write fully about a number of experiences.

One of my Palestinian officers was a lovely, clever person. She was educated at Roedean, spoke 8 languages and, prior to coming into the British Army, was a senior person on the staff of the "Palestinian Post". We lived in the same bungalow. I had every respect for her. Each weekend she requested a pass to Jerusalem (approximately 16 miles from Sarafand), and on almost every occasion bombings and fighting would take place. I was greatly puzzled and wondered about her activities. Eventually all Palestinian personnel serving with the British Army were withdrawn.

As time proceeded and the tension between the British Army, the Jew and the Arab grew, service life also suffered. One day the Jews, dressed in stolen Paratroopers' uniforms, drove into the camp and shot up a number of serving personnel and civilians. On another occasion they drove in one of our own trucks with a bomb underneath, parked it outside the OC troops' office, and it blew up all surrounding buildings.

Before it became too dangerous to travel far outside the garrison, we had opportunities of amazing and wonderful travels to Aqaba (in the southernmost part of Jordan) where we camped on the shore, speared fish at night by lantern light, had Arab meals with the Mutah (head of the village) sitting on the floor and being offered the sheep's eye to eat! We rode on mules to Petra, the rose-coloured city, seeing the ancient historical carvings. On part of the journey we slept outside in the desert with scorpions under the bed!!

During this time I had a friend, an officer in the Transjordan Frontier Force, stationed at Metulla. He had been accused of killing a Jew who was attempting to cross the frontier. He was 'black-listed' and told that if he came back again into Palestine he would be shot. He did cross the border and, whilst riding his Arab horse in the orange groves on his way to visit me, he was ambushed and killed. Those were difficult and dangerous days.

As the intensity of conflict and ambushes progressed the British Government ordered the withdrawal of all civilians, including wives and children. All families of serving personnel in Palestine were evacuated, first of all to Cairo and then back to the UK. I was given the most unhappy task of organising the withdrawal of the wives and children and was responsible for their settlement in Cairo.

After this I was posted as Staff Captain 'A' to HQ Jerusalem. Headquarters was then the remains of the bombed King David Hotel. There were very few ATS officers and men with us. If we travelled by road the vehicles travelled in pairs. Many roads were mined and great care was taken, vehicles moving very slowly and watching for hidden wires across the roads.

Amongst many other experiences I most remember travelling in uniform from Cairo to Jerusalem by road, with the Army in convoy riding in armoured trucks. At Beersheba we were stopped and searched, and great arguments took place. The Arabs tried to take me, calling me a spy, but the Palestine Police at Beersheba rescued me and I spent the night in their Police Station. The following day I was given transport by another convoy and the hair-raising journey continued.

Our office hours were from early morning until lunch time and again from 5.00 pm until sometimes late into the evening. Frequently gun battles would rage between the British and the Jews and from the windows of the King David we could witness the battles, at times having to retreat under our desks to avoid bullets and the shattered glass caused by the firing. My A1, a Major in the Lancers, was quite often missing and when he re-appeared I learned that he had joined the food lorries, a daily attempt to enter the Old City, and which was a very dangerous feat.

In May 1948, the Mandate was handed over and all British troops withdrew from Palestine. By this time only two ATS officers were left, one lovingly called T.J. and the other myself.

We left Jerusalem in convoy, the GOC and Senior Officers in bullet-proof cars, others in half tracks. Under fire we travelled to the nearest airport and on to Haifa away from beautiful, unhappy, divided Jerusalem. We stayed in Haifa until being flown to Egypt.

Throughout these 4 years the Army suffered but, as always officers were devoted to duty and the care of their troops. I was greatly honoured by receiving a 'Mentioned in Despatches' which I in no way deserved.

On returning to the UK I attended the Regular Commissions Board and was amongst the earliest officers to become a regular. I loved the Army – its discipline, efficiency, justice and at all times its concern for officers and all ranks.

I had the wonderful reward of marrying an Officer of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and altogether we had fifteen unforgettable years in the Army.

My one regret regarding the years I served in Palestine was that I was not then a committed Christian. I was aware of the fact that the Lord Jesus was born, loved, died and rose again in that beautiful land, and I visited everywhere. If I were ever to visit Israel again I would look upon it with spiritually-opened eyes and love it even more.

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BRANCH NEWS

ABERDEEN This branch reformed some 4 years ago, continues to prosper and the members enjoy the meetings held in the British Legion Headquarters on the second Tuesday of each month, except of course, for July and August when we all hope to be enjoying summer weather 'over the hills and far away'! Unfortunately this year, as in most other parts of the country, there has been very little summer weather and our meetings have been less adventurous in an outdoor sense and we have been content to explore local matters of concern to our service and ex-service colleagues from the shelter of the Granite City.

The highlight of our year was, undoubtedly, the 17 October when we hosted the Scottish Area Annual General Meeting in Aberdeen. We were delighted to welcome so many branch members from across Scotland, to meet old friends and to return, in some measure, the friendly hospitality we have enjoyed so often when visiting other locations. The weather was, for once, co-operative and we enjoyed the occasion immensely as, we believe, did our visitors.

We have planned an interesting winter programme of visits and discussion as well as a visit to the theatre as a Christmas treat for us all.

We are quite sure that, despite all our efforts there are many former ATS/WRAC members whom we have somehow failed to contact when reforming the Aberdeen Branch. We hope that, with the help of the Lioness this may be put right and that ex-service friends in and around Aberdeen will please get in touch with our Branch secretary Mrs Meg Ross, 132 Birkhall Parade, Mastrick, Aberdeen AB2 5ZX, so that we may put right our omission and strengthen the band of Old Comrades here.

ALDRESHOT – 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

To mark this point in our history we decided to have two projects to celebrate; a Summer Fair to raise money for the Museum Fund and a Birthday Dinner.

Our Summer Fair was held on our usual June meeting evening. The doors of the hall opened at 10 am to enable stall holders and helpers to organise themselves, working throughout the day in shifts. We toiled to a background of quiet 'taped' music, with endless cups of coffee thoughtfully supplied courtesy of Maisie's husband Ron.

The MPs had put up 'Tac' signs to show the way – unfortunately they had also removed them before the 6.30 pm opening, (misunderstanding!). Fortunately, we had erected our own signposts and bunting.

There were many stalls including White Elephant, Produce, Thimble Game, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Bottle, Books, Bric-a-Brac, and Refreshments. Customers started arriving before 6 pm and it was decided to open early. Many people who came were friends, family etc but at least half had seen handbills displayed in shops and libraries or the signs at the side of the road. (Well worth the embarrassment when hammering in the posts!). We advertised in the press and our local radio station also made an announcement.

As the first welcome lull occurred Colonel Bowles took the opportunity to speak to those present, explaining the concept of the new Museum and expressing appreciation for the work that had gone into the evening's events. Dione Parker had displayed a plan of the Museum to show the

projected refurbishment for which so much money was needed.

Finally, the Raffle was drawn, the weight of the Cake disclosed and the mammoth packing up job began. It was a group of very tired people who finally went home after a great day and highly successful evening. PS. Heather and Phoebe took the 'left over' books and bric-a-brac to a Car Boot Sale the following Saturday and made a further £67.53.



L-R: Mrs Kelly, Mary Dewar, Brig Nield, Kay Edwards, P Richards at the 25th Anniversary Dinner.

Our second special event was the Annual Dinner for which we are particularly indebted to Major Jackie Lindsay OC 10 Coy WRAC for her suggestion that it be held in the Dining Hall at the Duchess of Kent Barracks.

The tables were beautifully decorated by Joy and Joyce who made 18 green and red table arrangements and a large pedestal display. How Heather found the candles in the aftermath of the power cuts is not known. Mrs Newlyn made an applied badge picture which was on display with Tewy's special birthday cake.

As more people arrived it became increasingly difficult to circulate as the raffle ticket sellers found but it did not prevent the general enjoyment of meeting and chatting with old friends.

Our official guests were Brig S P Nield ADC BA DWRAC, Col F E Hutley BSc Commander WRAC UKLF, Lt Col S Bishop MBE Commander WRAC SEDIST and Lt Col P Rich ChF. We were also delighted to welcome 4 Founder members, two of whom, Kay Edwards and Mary Dewar, are still in the Branch and Mrs W Kelly who travelled from Stroud, Gloucestershire and Mrs P Richards from Farnham.

The meal began, and the WRAC Staff Band began to play – yes the Band – it really was a celebration. Our menu was savoury profiteroles, fish, chicken and mint souffles with chocolate sauce all served expertly by the members of a steward/stewardesses course – while the Band played on. Appreciation of their performance was shown by enthusiastic applause.

After the Loyal Toast, Heather Fuller, our Chairman, welcomed the guests, and thanked all who were involved with the arrangements for the evening. Her special thanks went to Staff Swift for suggesting and organising the menu, and to the members for attending.

Brigadier Nield replied on behalf of the Guests, praising the courage of Staff Swift who served 107 souffles on her menu! The Director gave an 'up date' on the WRAC in the Services today which was of great interest to all.

The meal finished with the Birthday cake, cut by Kay one

of our founder members, as the Band played 'Happy Birthday'. The cake was served with coffee and marked the end of a delicious meal, memorable occasion and an extremely successful 25th Anniversary Year.

ANDOVER The branch held its first meeting at our founders home in Faberstown, Andover, with nine old comrades attending.

Such was the enthusiasm, that we have now grown to a total of thirty-three mostly ex-ATS, but pleased to report that we now have some ex WRAC members.

At least eighteen members attend our monthly meetings held in the Andover Branch, Royal British Legion, who have helped us in all ways possible. Our thanks to them, and to the Burma Star, Andover Branch for their generous donation, to help us on our way.

Seven members attended the annual reunion at Larkhill, and all agreed that they had a most enjoyable day.

The branch is finding it very difficult to get any sort of social activity started. Have had quite a few suggestions put forward, but nothing has yet to come from them. We are all so inexperienced, but very determined that our branch will be successful. The Andover Branch Burma Star has invited us to their annual Christmas Party, and five of our members have elected to attend, so we are all in step and heading in the right direction.

I am now very pleased to report that I have just received a letter from the Test Valley Council stating that they are going to pay a floral tribute to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS in our town of Andover.

Summary of our first year "Good", perhaps very good. We have every right to be pleased with our achievements.

BATH We continue to meet on the first and third Monday afternoon of every month and find this arrangement acceptable to the majority. Numbers attending fluctuate between 16 to 22 at a time.

We made donations to the Ex Service Mental Welfare, Cheshire Home, Timsbury, The Dorothy House Foundation and The Museum Development Fund, Guildford. In addition, we were able to give financial assistance to four of our members during illness.

On the social side we held two Coffee mornings and a Barbecue. All were well worth the effort and quite profitable too. It was with regret that we had to cancel our trip to Larkhill for the Reunion. One of our Bristol ladies was able to get there and by all accounts had a very enjoyable afternoon.

We had only one excursion this year and chose to visit Ilfracombe, the weather was perfect and we were able to meet two of our members who had retired to South Molton.

Having recharged our batteries with Devon sunshine we were fast approaching our 40th Anniversary celebrations. The usual panics were experienced in the days running up to the big event but all went well on the night. We were delighted that Lt Col Freeland was able to be with us, also Lt Col Brown WRAC from Erskine Barracks, and two very smart girls in uniform from Larkhill 1 Cpl and 1 Pte. The King Edwards School Army Cadets directed the motorists to the car parks and acted as escort to the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath before disappearing into the kitchen for a free supper. The day before the event we were very concerned that our pride and joy "Little Betty", a 92 year

old ex QMAAC would not be able to attend, but we must have forgotten what determination there is in that frail frame because, to our delight she made it. The profit from the raffle will be shared between the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and Mayor of Bath Age Concern.

In the immediate future we have the Halloween Fair on 30 October, a special Service of Thanksgiving on 9 November and a Christmas Dinner in December, then all will be quiet until the AGM in March 1988 (I hope, but very much doubt!).

BRADFORD The branch have had a very good year, the highlight of which was the dedication of the new Standard on Sunday 28 June. This had to be postponed from April as work on the Cathedral had not been completed. Our old Standard was bought in 1948 and was getting a bit threadbare. It was a most moving Service for which we thank Canon Kenneth Cook, Precentor of Bradford Cathedral. About five hundred people attended the Service including members of the Northern Area branches and other Ex-Service Associations of Bradford. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs L Coughlin Colonel (Retd) V K Stead and Lt Colonel C A Marriott took the salute at the March Past. Afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments at the RAFA Club.

Our Standard bearer's daughter took a very good video of the Service and March Past. We are having coffee mornings to raise money for the branch and we are hoping to welcome some members from Rochdale to the next one.

In November we welcomed Lena Albrecht, nee Robinson, sister of member Mary Wormwell who was visiting from New Zealand. Lena had served in the ATS and Mary in the WRAC, all ten brothers and sisters served in the forces. She was happy to march with us on the Remembrance Parade and on her last day was invited for coffee with the Lord Mayor.

We have hosted our sixth annual lunch for the 1914-18 Veterans, 37 attended and they all enjoyed themselves. The community singing was lead by the Lord Mayor. The oldest gentleman was 95.

We are now looking forward to London in October 1988 and busy saving the pennies. We hope to meet old friends there.

Four members attended the ATS Dinner Club lunch in October and enjoyed their day out.



The Bradford Branch parading their new Standard.
(Courtesy of the Bradford Telegraph and Argus.)

CHELTHENHAM We have managed to hold our regular meetings in Cheltenham although almost more of our members are resident either in other parts of Gloucestershire or adjoining counties. This year we have been allocated more and more members outside Gloucestershire as ex-ATS ladies become aware of the need to join the WRAC Association if they are to take part in the Jubilee Celebrations in October 1988. We can keep in touch by newsletter but it is becoming a struggle to cope with the flood of new members. I hope they will stick to us after 1988, and take part in Braudi activities – we shall see. Meanwhile, the same faithful long serving members continue to support the Branch magnificently either by coming to Cheltenham or sending donations so that we can keep up our fund raising contributions to the various Benevolent Funds.

Some of us got to the London AGM and also to the excellent day at Larkhill which we greatly enjoyed and were slightly embarrassed that two out of five of us won a raffle prize! We had a pleasant tea-party with Mrs Cobham at ULEY – one of the few afternoons when we were able to sit in the garden for a while. We have just had a successful Bring and Buy and now look forward to our Autumn party before hibernating for the Winter. Members find they are too busy in the run-up to Christmas to fit in a meeting and after in the New Year we have abandoned even trying to meet in January and February because of the weather.

We have sadly lost two faithful members Lt Col Pooley and Mrs Heasman both of whom we miss very much, not forgetting of course, Dame Leslie Whateley who was one of our members. Our President, Miss Steward, has had another spell in hospital but happily is back at her new home near Tewkesbury. Miss Penfold is home again but she's still very disabled and in a great deal of pain from her leg. She and Miss Thorn however, have lost no enthusiasm for the Branch and enjoy being visited.

COLCHESTER We now have 28 names on our books, with more to come. Whilst I appreciate that places such as Raine, Clacton etc are all far flung from Colchester we do hope that we will see members from those places at one of our functions in the Spring.

Those who attended the Greater London meeting on 24 October were very pleased with their trip and greatly appreciated the warm welcome they were given.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Dinner on Thursday 3 December and on the 17 December six of us have been invited to a Christmas get-together with the WRNS Association. The New Year will be celebrated with a "Cheese and Wine" evening, 12 January 1988.

CREWE The Branch has once again had a successful year. In December we accepted an invitation to a Guards Association Buffet and Social at Stoke on Trent where a convivial evening was held by all. Also in December we held our own Christmas Dinner which was well attended.

We had a meat and potato pie Supper in May also a Coffee morning, which was quite successful. June saw us once again having a Market Stall in aid of our funds. Two members attended Western Area Reunion at Telford in September and a party went to a Combined Services Gala Evening at Stoke on Trent in October. In November came the weekend in London for six members attending the Cenotaph Service and Parade.

The Crewe Branch looks forward to the coming year and the Grand Reunion in London.

EXETER We have just completed our second year, very happily we think, and our membership now stands at 16 life members and 34 Annual members, most of whom have served with the ATS.

There were 5 new members during 1987, but sadly we lost Mrs Nesta Burton who died in August.

We held a very pleasant Birthday lunch in Topsham on 28 October.

At our monthly meeting on 24 November, our Chairman Mrs Elizabeth Buckley presented an ATS shield to the Chairman of The British Legion Club in Exeter, where our meetings are held; this was followed by a Buffet lunch.

This was Mrs Buckley's last duty as Chairman as she is leaving to be married, and will be living in London. We shall miss her greatly and wish her well.

Mrs Joy Balmain succeeds her, very aptly, as it was she who founded our Branch in 1985.

HASTINGS Wyn Wakelin and Joan Lovell attended Founder's Day 1987 Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

On Thursday, 4 June, we joined the commuter rush hour for our journey to Chelsea and arrived at the Hospital in time to witness the preparations. We collected our commemorative oak leaves from the large boxes and settled down to watch the arrival of the Trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, who took up position on a parapet about half way up the building.

The In-Pensioners paraded at 10.45 am. Those able to march were formed in four Companies under their respective Captains of Invalids, whilst the remainder occupied seats on the Parade Ground.

Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of York (who was the Reviewing Officer) arrived at eleven o'clock and was received with a Royal Salute after which she inspected the Parade. The In-Pensioners then marched past and reformed opposite the saluting base to hear the address given by Her Royal Highness. The Governor responded and then called for three cheers for King Charles II, their 'Pious Founder' followed by three cheers for HM The Queen and HRH The Duchess of York. After the National Anthem – played by the Band of the Coldstream Guards – HRH went into the building and we took up positions to watch her departure and take photographs. During the Parade and Inspection, Regimental Marches were played including our own quick march.

We were invited to look round the premises and visited the Dining Hall, Sleeping Quarters (though not the individual cubicles) and the Chapel. Here we were particularly interested in the hassocks presented by various Corps and Regiments of the British Army. Naturally we looked for any that had been presented by the ATS or WRAC and eventually found one that had been worked by one of our RSMs.

We were in need of refreshment and found an original "Stop me and buy one" trike. I asked for penny snow fruits but had to settle for modern tubs! We ended a memorable day with a substantial meal before making our way back to the suburbs.

As two ex-Londoners, we were very proud to have witnessed this historic ceremony. We were, of course, wearing our Association badges.

HULL At the AGM in London we were amused when the member for Wolverhampton complained about marching with War Widows and getting the back of her shoe stepped upon three times. Last Summer we had occasion to march with the Women's Section of the Royal British Legion and realised exactly what she meant. We registered a strong complaint with the ex Service Association in Hull that in future, please could we be placed with ex-service people!

We very much enjoyed our visit to Bradford and the Dedication of the Standard Service in their newly refurbished Cathedral. On that Sunday afternoon Bradford was looking at its best. There are some very fine, recently cleaned buildings. Our Northern towns do look different with light coloured clean buildings. Our Northern towns do look different with light coloured clean buildings instead of the soot blackened ones we used to know. (Although I write as Secretary of the Hull branch, I come from the West Riding and always enjoy a visit to that area). We were very grateful to have one of the Bradford members, (Mary) carry our Standard.

For the Remembrance Day Parade in Hull, we were proud to see our Standard carried by Sgt Lynne Chivers, who is stationed at Leconfield. Our branch members were thin on the ground because six of our hale and hearty ones had gone to represent the Association on the London Parade.

At the beginning of 1987 we were saddened to lose three members, all died very suddenly and are missed. Mrs D Sutton, Mrs H Spencer and Mrs G Woodcock.

We have also been sorry that our Chairman, Mrs Paddy Evison has been on the sick list all the year and after many years of service to the branch as Secretary and more recently Chairman, she has found it necessary to resign. We wish her well for the future.

PORTSMOUTH The branch has had a very busy and interesting year and gained a few new members due no doubt to the 1988 reunion.

We attended the Remembrance Parade in November and laid a wreath on the War Memorial. Our Christmas Dinner went well and we are arranging another for this year. A party of members attended the AGM in London a day out we all enjoy.

In May we attended the Reunion at Larkhill. This was a very interesting afternoon in spite of the wind and our thanks to Larkhill for arranging this.

In July we held our AGM, all the officers were re-elected and Mrs Metherell is now our Chairman. Our previous Chairman Mrs P Williams who was a founder member of the branch nearly 40 years ago has been in ill-health for some years and has only been able to support us with advice and donations. But in view of all the work that she has done in the past and all the support we hope for in the future she was unanimously elected as Life President, the first the branch has had.

We have attended a number of parades during the year with our Standard, the RCT, RA, 8th Army and the RE Associations. Our Standard Bearer Mrs C Haughey has carried our Standard very well and received much praise from male associations for her smartness. We regret to say she is moving to the Manchester area so our loss will be that area's gain as she is a very loyal hard working member.

We have helped with Flag Days and Poppy selling during the year. In September we had a very successful Coffee Morning and a Cheese and Wine party which

boosted the funds. This enabled us to send donations to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and the Royal Star and Garter Home. We also hold raffles at our monthly meetings which cover branch expenses.

Our October meeting was a special social occasion when about 18 members came and our Standard and Standard bearer were present. Our Life President was able to come and we presented her with a specially designed clock for the blind and a bouquet of flowers to mark her election as President and to thank her for the hard work she had done for the branch. We also gave our Standard bearer a gift to remember us by when she moves north. Afterwards we toasted our President and had a buffet provided by the members.

It was a very enjoyable evening which will be long remembered as quite a few photos were taken by the husbands of two members.

We have heard from the Portsmouth City Council Parks Dept that they will be planting a flower bed on the sea front next year showing the ATS Badge and years 1938-1988 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary. We are all looking forward to the 1988 reunion and most members have already received letters from HQ regarding tickets.

RICHMONDSHIRE The Richmondshire Branch though still small in numbers is alive and well and meeting every month in Catterick Garrison. Meetings are well attended by our members and we are also pleased to welcome members of the Catterick Garrison Branch, from whom we get great support. Our activities include talks by local speakers and in the summer visits and trips to places of interest. In June at the invitation of Colonel Helen Wilson we visited her delightful home near York, where she entertained us royally. The photograph taken during that enjoyable evening shows Richmondshire Branch members and Colonel Wilson's 'Biscuit'!



Richmondshire Branch members with "Biscuit".

SALISBURY "Didn't we have a lovely time, the day we went to Bournemouth and the band played on". Members certainly did have a lovely time listening to the WRAC band, conducted by Captain Ena Forster,

playing in the Pinewalk bandstand last August. Their excellent and varied programme showed the wide repertoire of the band, and the high standard of playing. Thank you girls.

Our winter programme began in September with a cheese and wine party, when two new members were welcomed. A silent Auction in October was a financial and social success, and 1987 has seen a great money-raising effort by all members to put the branch funds back in a healthy state.

At the Annual General Meeting in November, the Chairman Miss D Stevens thanked everyone for their efforts. This meeting was well attended by twenty-five members, three of whom were new members. The branch has grown steadily over the past few years, and they take an active part in Remembrance Parades, with the Standard being paraded twice last year, at the POW service, and the British Legion service of Remembrance in November.

The committee has been re-elected en bloc, and meetings and outings planned for 1988. Several members are looking forward to the "big one" on October 7th and 8th, 1988, for the ATS Jubilee celebrations. The Christmas Lunch was held on December 2nd, at the Pheasant Inn, in Salisbury, when fifteen members attended.

The New Year will see a slight change in our meeting times. We find that the winter months are difficult ones for our older members, and those people who live outside Salisbury, so for January February we shall be having a lunch time meeting, the first one on 13 January, 12.30 pm at the British Legion Headquarters. If it's not too late, we wish all branches a happy and successful 1988.

SHROPSHIRE This branch continues to meet at Oakengates (Telford) Community Centre on second Tuesday in each month from 7.30 pm–9.30 pm, about 18 to 20 members attending.

The Christmas Dinner will be held on 12 December at a local Country Club.

The main fund raising aim 1987/88 is to purchase a Standard in 1988 and a bed for the East Shropshire Hospital to be opened in Telford in 1988.

Any enquiries please telephone Chris Grigg, Honorary Secretary. Telford (0952) 505992. New members always welcome.

SOMERSET Since my report to you here at Salisbury last year, our Branch has blossomed. We now have 67 members and meet more often than ever before.

After our AGM last October, we finished our year with a Bingo evening, this netted us £30 for our funds.

Our Annual Dinner was held in February at Taunton. Twenty-four members enjoyed what was to be a very substantial meal.

The Royal British Legion Club at Taunton, was the next meeting place. Nineteen members came along for our first ever "Snap and Supper" evening. Some came with just one snapshot others with a boxful. What an evening, there were some very happy memories as well as some very sad ones. Some members even recognised ATS/WRAC girls that they had served with at other postings. The evening ended with supper.

In April, I attended the AGM in London with our Vice Chairman. We also had our Skittles night when 36 members and husbands enjoyed playing the game and afterwards supper. Although I am still not sure who won!!

Nine of our members went to the WRAC Association Reunion at Larkhill. What a smashing day, lots to do and see, and a bonus in having our photo taken to remember it by.

July came and saw lots of our members helping to organise the Barbeque, which is held every year at the home of one of our members. The weather was kind to us, so with the excellent food it was a very successful evening.

We were invited by the Royal Air Force Association to attend their Battle of Britain Service. Six of our members represented our Branch, but alas no Standard. This is something that we must aim for, a Standard of our own.

Sadly since being here last year, we lost a very dear member, Clara Edmonds, she was always cheerful and had a good word for everyone in the Branch. Clara has been sadly missed.

SWINDON We continue to meet once a month, usually in a room at the Swindon Arts Centre, but in June, July and August, weather permitting we meet at members houses, hoping to be able to relax in the garden, and chat over a cupper and cakes.

We still hold a raffle and small 'Bring and buy' sale at each of our meetings, to pay for our room at the Arts Centre, and to enable us to send donations. Our Cheese and Wine Party last December was enjoyed by members and husbands, and we will be holding one again in December this year.

The Sub-Area Reunion at Larkhill in May was attended by 7 of our members, plus 3 husbands, and enjoyed by all.

Two members attended the International League of Europe festivities in Luchfield on 5 and 6 September, it was a very successful occasion, despite the very wet day on the Sunday.

Two members attended the ATS Dinner Club Luncheon in London on 3 October.

Four of our members have successfully applied for tickets for the Golden Jubilee next year.

As several of our members live up to 25 miles out of Swindon, we will not be meeting in January or February.

LONDON The year has seen two 90th Birthday celebrations in the Branch. On 20 June members of both Ilford and London Branches were present at the home of Mrs M V Curtis, our Vice-President, in Romford where her daughter Mary had prepared a lovely Buffet lunch for us all. As it was one of the summer's few fine days we were able to enjoy this in the garden.

In July six committee members travelled to Plymouth and on the 27th gave Mrs N I Giles, our President a pleasant surprise. Her son and daughter-in-law had kept our visit a secret from her and it was as she said, 'a truly wonderful present' when we formed a guard of honour as she arrived for the splendid lunch prepared by her daughter-in-law.

Mrs Giles and Mrs Curtis are founder members of London Branch having both served in the QMAAC and Mrs Giles also served in the ATS. Our thanks go to Miss Curtis and to Mr and Mrs Giles for making these celebrations



**Back row: Miss E Sycamore, Miss M Slacombe,
Mrs E Parks, Miss E Ellison.
Front row: Mrs E Richards, Mrs N I Giles, Miss B Brown.**

such a success.

In September members enjoyed a coach trip to Loseley Park Farm which we combined with a visit to Guildford Cathedral.

In October we were all saddened to hear of the death of Mrs V L Marshall after a long illness. Vi Marshall (nee Willcox) was attached to the 3 Bn Scots Guards in Surrey for 3 years and then helped to form 620 Mixed HAA Battery and toured West Country gun sites as a relief CSM until 1944 when she became RQMS at Greenford Ordnance Depot. Four members of the Branch attended the service at the Woking Crematorium. The Branch was able to muster a good turnout at the Field of Remembrance and the Cenotaph Parade in November while two members who have reluctantly had to give up the march were able to attend the Remembrance Service in Westminster Abbey.

ROCHDALE For the first time in the history of the town a member of the Women's Services took the salute at the Remembrance Day Parade. Lt Col Mary Rook WRAC, Deputy OIC Medical and Women's Services Manning and Record Office Chester, came on a very cold, but fortunately dry day. The public turned out in large numbers as we had publicised the event in the local press. Unfortunately few of our members met Col Rook who was whisked away with the Mayoral party, but we were assured that she enjoyed her visit and we were very glad to have had her with us.

STAFFORD Another year has gone by since the last report. How time flies. The Stafford Branch continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month and during the year we have gained two new members, one of whom, an Associate member, is the daughter of one of our original members. These bring our membership total to 38 members and 8 Associate members.

This year has been both interesting and enjoyable with talks on the countryside and its birds, Handicapped children who attend a local Day Nursery, an archaeologist who is in charge of 'digs' at Stafford Castle where an

ancient town has been discovered and a tour of Egypt on slides which was enjoyed particularly by two of our members who served in Cairo in 1945.

On the social side we celebrated our 22nd Birthday in April with a meal at a local Inn, a barbecue at the Secretary's home in August for Supper and a chat. When we were without a speaker we resorted to Bingo or Beetle Drives. Our year was rounded off with a visit from the local hand bell ringers who played Carols for us followed by a Buffet Supper and since then we have been to a local hotel for a Christmas Dinner.

Since the last report I can now tell the friends of ex-RSM Dilly Norcott that she moved into a Warden controlled flat in June and has settled in reasonably well. She is still unable to go out and about unless transport is provided. Her address is 23 Owen Walk, Highfields, Stafford ST17 9YY.

ULSTER 1987 has been a gastronomic year for the Branch. In February our Annual Luncheon was attended by 30 members and we were joined by some Regular WRAC serving in Ulster.

Major Alison Isaacs Comd WRAC invited Branch officials to a reception at HQ to meet DWRAC, Brigadier S P Nield, whom many of us knew when she was Commander WRAC Northern Ireland in the late 1970's. Our thanks to Major Isaacs for this and also for arranging transport to the Omagh Branch Lunch in October.

Our AGM in November was preceded by Lunch at the Royal British Legion Hall, Bangor, attended by 41 members. Major Isaacs chaired the meeting for the election of the 1988 committee (unchanged) and also gave us an update on events in the WRAC today. A further sum of £100 was given to the Museum Appeal.

As I write, 20 members have applied for tickets to the 1988 Reunion, needless to say we are looking forward to meeting our ex-ATS friends who live on the mainland, and also WRAC friends we've made when they served in Ulster.

HARROGATE We have had another very successful year with good attendance at most meetings, and have been pleased to welcome a number of new members, some of whom live locally and are therefore able to come along and join the happy throng. Sadly, several members have suffered family bereavement during the year and we hope that 1988 will be a happier one for them.

1987 started with an hilarious afternoon Beetle Drive, and as the anticipated bad weather did not materialise one or two of our out-of-town members were able to join us. In February Mr Bevers gave a fascinating slide show based on "An Alphabet of Yorkshire Villages" and in March we went to the Royal Hall to see "Half a Sixpence". At the end of March our Annual Dinner was held at the Hospitality Inn and an enjoyable evening was had by all in spite of the fact that the pre-arranged menu had been altered at the last minute.

In April, the Secretary attended the AGM in London and the speaker booked for the meeting at the end of the month failed to materialise! However everyone had a good old gossip and Tombola prizes for Bilton Gala were sorted out. On the May Day Bank Holiday we operated our stall at

Bilton Gala and made the splendid sum of £104.10 – this year the weather co-operated and we were fully occupied coping with the throng of customers. On 16 May most members attended the Northern Area Reunion in Harrogate and the proposed outing at the end of the month was cancelled since it emerged that a lot of members would be away on holiday.

In June Mrs Hutt gave us an interesting talk on The Brontes and several members also attended the dedication of Bradford's new Standard in Bradford Cathedral, which was most impressive and followed by an excellent tea and get-together. Our Chairman was invited to represent the Branch at the Mayoress's annual Reception for local 'VIPs' and enjoyed her sojourn amongst the Harrogate elite. In July we joined a coach tour all along the Yorkshire coasts, and in spite of a deluge in Bridlington and a sandstorm at Redcar we all had a wonderful day.

August brought a 'pot luck' supper, during the course of which a lengthy list of suggestions for the 1988 programme was produced, and in September our member Miss Kemp gave a talk on the centenary celebrations of the St John Ambulance of which she is a long-serving member.

In October we had our Annual General Meeting and in November Mr Limon and his wife came, with a battery of equipment, to show some superb slides on the subject of "A Way with Colour" accompanied by mood music.

We completed the year with a very enjoyable Christmas Party in our meeting room at which fun, games and (needless to say, food!) predominated.

BOURNEMOUTH Our year started with a good attendance at the Memorial Service.

Our Annual General Meeting, which we had to discuss what we will be doing at the next year's Area Reunion, was also well attended. It was decided to take other members round all the beauty spots. Our members opened their houses to us again this year, but unfortunately we have not had a good response, so our funds suffer somewhat. Also our attendance at meetings has dropped with sometimes only eight members being present.

Myself and Chairman plus two members attended the AGM in London and we are looking forward very much to next year where I think we will have a good representation at the 50th Anniversary. We have had a few new members who have joined in order to attend the Grand Reunion.

We had a very good trip to Larkhill this year, the food was excellent and we all enjoyed our visit to the Quarters etc.

We stopped at Stonehenge for our picnic lunch and although there were bad winds and it was cold we all enjoyed ourselves. We thank Larkhill very much for their hospitality.

Nine of us went to Pontin's for a fish and chip supper again this year and were made very welcome. In fact we were invited to join the holiday makers at their social evening and an open invitation was given for any time to the end of this season.

The Chairman laid a wreath at the Bournemouth Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. We had a very successful and well attended Christmas luncheon in December at a local hotel. This has become an annual event.

WEYMOUTH We have had a good year, though with some sadness in the early months with the deaths of 2 Life members, Miss Beryl Rowe and Mrs Alice Mitchell, and 2 Annual members, Mrs Louise Fellowes and Miss Ailsa Horlock, the latter being quite a recent member.

Our member from America, Mrs Una Buyce was over here for a year, and she attended every Branch meeting and outing and was involved in all our activities – a good record for a young 82 year old. She intends to return in 1988 for the Grand Reunion.

Meetings are still twice a month. We are now having a shorter summer recess, and not meeting in January when the weather is usually bad and the attendance at meetings is lower. We try to have as varied a programme as possible, talks by outside speakers, Bring and Buy Sales, the occasional Beetle Drive, plus a summer outing which was to Exeter Maritime Museum and Bickleigh Castle this year. Also a ladies night, and a Christmas Shopping trip which was to Bath last year, and this year will be Exeter. The AGM will be on 4 November.

Our Secretary attended the AGM in London, and gave a report on this at our next meeting.

We were sorry we had to decline the invitation from Bath Branch to their 40th Anniversary celebration, and we hope they had a very enjoyable time.

The sale of ATS spoons was very successful and donations were sent to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and the WRAC Benevolent Fund. A donation has also been sent to the Museum Appeal.

We now have 33 Annual members and 12 Life members.

ATS DINNER CLUB

The Annual Luncheon held on Saturday 3 October 1987, at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London was attended by 335 members and guests. Miss Patience Thesiger was in the Chair, and the meeting was addressed by the President, Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, followed by Brigadier Anne Field, Deputy Controller Commandant of the WRAC and Vice President of the WRAC Association.

The raffle was organised by the London Branch of the WRAC Association and raised £251.

A collection was taken to raise money to buy Dame Leslie Whateley's medals, in order to save them for the WRAC Museum, as a permanent memorial to a much-loved and respected Director of the ATS. At least £750 is still needed, and cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ATS Dinner Club, and sent to the Treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Wade, 6 Hannah Court, 49 Grove Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2AW.

Loyal Greetings were sent to Her Majesty The Queen, and the gracious reply received expressed her sincere thanks and appreciation, together with her best wishes for a successful and enjoyable occasion.

The next function will be a Dinner to be held on the evening of Friday 7 October 1988.

Membership of the Club, which is open to all ex-members of the ATS, has reached the figure of 1,025. Enquiries regarding membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Audrey Juby, Cobbs View, *Marlingford, Norwich, Norfolk, NR9 5AG. **Editor's Note:** *We apologise for the incorrect spelling in the last issue.

WRAC MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT APPEAL BENEFACTORS

List No 3

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

Association Branches

Aldershot Chester Swansea Ulster

Units and Other Organisations

WRAC Herford Garrison
Ordnance Services Vierson
68 Sqn RCT
28 (BR) Signal Regiment
3 Postal Courier Depot RE
62 Tpt & Mov Regt RCT
3 Base Ammunition Depot
British Ex-Servicewomen's Association Melbourne
Australia
28 (BR) Signal Regiment
WRAC detachment HQ Regiment 1 (BR) Corps

Individuals

Capt Bache	Miss W McBeath
Mrs V P Barrington	Sgt M Miller
2Lt D M Beck	Maj E M Miseroy
Miss E H E Burrows	Mrs A D S Mitchell
Major T M Carroll MBE	Lt J E Myers
Cpl Carter	LCpl Nixon
Pte Chesson	Maj A N Notley TD
Maj J B Collier MBE	Miss M E Pollitt
Lt Col R E Cornwell	LCpl Purvis
Mrs M C Cowley	Mrs J M C Robinson
SSgt Cross	Mrs N Robinson
Lt J H Denning	Capt V Rogers
A K Edwards	Lt Col G E M Saunders-Davies TD
Lt F E Evans	Capt L J Scott-Fox
LCpl Evans	Maj G E Simmonds MBE
Maj L M Ganter	Mrs J A Smith
Maj K M H George	Cpl D M Sparkes
Mrs F J Goodman	Mrs J R Stansfield TD
Lt J A Henry	LCpl Stonely
Mr C M Hill	Miss H W G Thomson
Miss P M Hillier	Cpl Thorn
Mrs M T Hunter	LCpl Tingling
Lt A V F Hyde	Lt K M Toal
Col A A Kelly	Pte Tomkin
Miss A K Kerr	Capt C J Vye
Lt C E Lack	Mrs A R White
Cpl K Mason	



The Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir John Fieldhouse, inspecting Course WRAC 871 at Sovereign's Parade at RMAS on 7 August 1987. (Courtesy of the Daily Telegraph).

M Smith, J L Strong, M Oliver, M L Rowe, B J Bowen,
M R Hall, L C McGahan, J C Short, T J Tong, P J
Williams

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS

MBE

Captain S Pratt

BEM

Staff Sergeant A M Godfrey, Sergeant P M Bates (V),
Sergeant A M Forsyth, Corporal C E McKeon

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Colonel A A Kelly

Lieutenant Colonels: S M Bishop, R E Cornwall, E A
Smith, J A Flake, M A Harwood

Majors: E A McKay, J P R Ridley-Jones, F A Walthall, L
Blake, P A Boram, J R Dixon, J Dowson, D Foster, D
Ryder, C M Staples, V H Jones

Captains: G Harrison, R Archer

Lieutenants: F A Mallam, Y A Riley, S R Whatmough

Special Regular Commissions

Captain J A Walton

Lieutenant C S Wells

Short Service Commissions

Captains: L G Lush, S D Bagshaw, F Bruce, S T Aungiers,
C D King, K E Platts, K M Alderson, J Trainor, K J
Blackburn, J M Dunn, D E Wood, P F Wright, M C
Anderson, J P Gregory, F E Hamilton, C E S Harrill, S
K Short, D M Tognarelli, S L Harris, A J Barton, S
Billson, L C Bretton, S V Hindmarsh, A C Clarke, S E
Morris

Lieutenants: P A Quigley, E E Forcey, F J Rogers, C J
Howling, A C Clarke, S Maine, M F Davison, B J
Haines, D A Olde, L M Brownbridge, K M J Evans, K M
Toal, S A Cutland, N F Harold, E D F Morgan, S J Park,
J Rycroft, B R Woodward, A J Parsons, J M Davidson,
K E Goater, R S Evans, J M Bridle, S M McLean, H A
Carmichael, S E Kemp, G A Ingham, T K Collier
Jackson, S C Steele, A V F Hyde, H L Jones, A J
Wheeler, S Wilkes, T J Bowers, P E Jump, R P Poole,
A E Rance, J L Strong, C A Airey, C E L Bratten, S
Butler, H S Davison, R C Judd, S C McGowan, S H
Milner, M Oliver, N A Skentelbery, A Gordon, K B
Boxell, A M Chaloner, K E R Collet, L C Eastham, A
Gall, S M Gibbins, V J Hill, J M Lawrence, P A Owens,
A C Whittaker

2 Lieutenants: S R Abraham, D M Beck, H L Bishop, J C
Henderson, A F Hinchcliffe, A Leask, D H Mawby, L A

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Captain C F Giannini

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Major C V M Weaver

Captains: P A Hetherington, A M J Howell, C S Bailey

Lieutenant J Donald

Short Service Commissions

Captains: S A Eckersley, P A Pyatt, C R V Bailey, J L
Bedborough, L J Bownass, F A S McL Moore, M R L
Stewart, S L Vincent, A E Beadle, S R Marriott, P A
Oak-Rhind

Lieutenants: N A Collier Jackson, G D Andrews, D A
Carter, L A Wilmshurst-Smith

PERSONAL COLUMN

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

FOR SALE WRAC Offrs No 2 Dress. Forage cap and badge,
offrs beret and badge. WRAC No 2 Dress jacket. Tel: 041-
334-5917 after 6 pm for prices.

FOR SALE Size 14/16, 5' 6". No 2 Uniform with collar dogs.
Good condition £55. Tel: 043-471-2122. Evenings.

FOR SALE Greatcoat £20. No 2 Dress £15. Barrack skirts £5
each. No 2 Dress/Jacket £10. Tropical Dress £10. Shirts,
handbags and beret etc for nominal sum. Size 14/16. Tel:
0734 734421.

FOR SALE Size 12 5'2" Lined Offrs Mess Dress with silk
sash £40. No 2 Dress £50. Both excellent condition. Tel:
Dover 821641 or Old Park Mil ext 34.

FOR SALE Size 14 5'6" Greatcoat £40. Tel: Salisbury Mil
ext 2390 (Day) or Salisbury 22983 (Day or Evenings).

WANTED No 1 Dress. All sizes and conditions. Contact
Admin Offr, Richmond Wing, Old College RMAS
Camberley. Tel: Camberley Mil ext 2451 or 0276-63344.

OBITUARY

BARR. Mrs Gladys Barr (nee Hayton) of Bradford on 7 November 1987. ATS.

BERRIDGE. Miss Joe Berridge of Baldock on 13 May 1987. ATS/WRAC Provost.

BURTON. Mrs N O Burton (nee Perryman) of Chudleigh Knighton on 15 August 1987. ATS/WRAC.

CHERRY. Miss Marjorie Cherry of Sevenoaks on 16 July 1987. ATS.

COBBOLD. Lady Blanche Cobbold JP of Suffolk on 16 October 1987. ATS Senior Commander.

COLMER. Sheila Margaret Colmer of South Molton on 10 December 1987. WRAC/RAOC.

CUTHBERTSON. Miss Isa Cuthbertson of Glasgow in August 1987. ATS.

FARGNOLI. Mrs M Fagnoli of Glasgow on 30 August 1987. ATS.

FILLIS. Mrs D A Fillis (nee Philp) of Melksham on 17 September 1987. QMAAC.

GAUNT. Miss Emmy Gaunt of Sydney Australia on 27 May 1987. WAAC.

GOUGH. Sylvia Gough of Loughbrough on 26 October 1987. WRAC.

HADDOW. Mrs M E Haddow (nee Augur) of Mitcham in August 1987. ATS.

HODSDON. Mrs Sylvia Hodsdon of Tiverton in November 1987. ATS.

HUGHES. Mrs Elizabeth (Bessie) Hughes (nee Metcalf) of Sunderland on 16 August 1987. ATS.

JONES. Mrs Meldia Joyce Jones of Wickhamford on 10 November 1987. ATS.

JORDAN. Mrs R V Jordan (nee Hall) of Rochester on 14 November 1987. ATS.

LEACH. Miss Cecelia Leach of Sheffield on 29 July 1987. ATS.

LOMAX. Mrs M M Lomax of Willoughby Waterleys on 16 May 1987. ATS.

LONGLAND. Mrs P E Longland (nee Baxter) of Portsmouth on 25 July 1987. ATS.

MARSHALL. Mrs Violet Marshall of Sydney Australia on 20 June 1987. ATS.

MARSHALL. Mrs V L Marshall (nee Willcox) of Woking on 18 October 1987. ATS.

PRITCHARD-DAVIES. Miss Esme Pritchard-Davies of Hastings on 24 October 1987. ATS/WRAC.

RICE. Miss E M Rice of Liverpool in July 1987. ATS.

SLACK. Ethel Winifred Slack of Salston on 10 December 1987. ATS/WRAC.

SYMONDS. Mrs Marjorie Symonds (nee Callender) of Cirencester on 10 August 1987. ATS.

TILLIE. Mrs A B K Tillie (nee Townsend) of Cirencester on 1 September 1986. ATS Senior Commander.

VAN DAMM. Sheila Van Damm one time Honorary Colonel of 329 (Warwickshire) Bn WRAC and 48 (South Midlands) Signal Regiment TA in August 1987.

WILSON. Katherine Bridget Wilson of Edgbaston on 27 November 1987. ATS.

YATES. D Yates in June 1986. Ex Senior Commander ATS.

MACANDREW. Mrs Eileen May MacAndrew (nee Butterfield) of Ayr on 20 November 1987. ATS.

ELSTON. Audrey Elston of Church Crookham on 26 November 1987. Captain QM ATS and WRAC.

GRIEVE. Miss Betsie Grieve on 23 November 1987. WAAC/QMAAC.



The late Colonel Sheila Van Damm.

BIRTHS

BATES On 22 September 1987 in Dayton Ohio to Sqn Ldr and Mrs Robert Bates (Captain Sally Bates nee Holt) a son, Benjamin John.

HOWELL On 5 September 1987, to Major and Mrs David Howell (Captain Angi Howell, nee Bolwell) a son, Daniel Francis Vaughan.

PYATT On 12 October to Captain and Mrs Stephen Pyatt (Captain Pam Pyatt, nee Wignall) a son Thomas Philip.

RUBY WEDDING

WENLOCK-HANNA On 1 November 1947, William Stanley Wenlock Royal Navy to Frances Jane Hanna. Small Arms School ATS, Netheravon, Wilts.

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;

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

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

ISLE OF WIGHT Mrs F Medland, Tile House, The
Broadway, Totland, IOW

MEDWAY Mrs H M Dodd, 26 Forge Lane,
Midhigham, 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
(London) TD, Flat 3, 88 Greencroft Gardens,
London NW6 3JG

BRANCH SECRETARIES

CAMBRIDGE Miss D A Brook, MBE,
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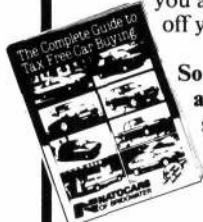
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