

1989

No2

Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

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

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO
Controller Commandant

Vice-President

Brigadier A Field, CB
Deputy Controller Commandant

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

General Secretary:

Hon. Treasurer:

Major (Retd) E O Coven, CBE, JP, DL
Colonel B M Laverack, MBE
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) D Dunn
Mrs J Laurence-Smith

Editor:

Typist:

Captain (Retd) K R McGregor
Mrs C A Scott

ATS & WRAC Benevolent Funds:

Chairman of Managing Trustees:

Chairman of Grants Committee:

Case Secretary:

Brigadier (Retd) A Field, CB
Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) M W Soames, MBE
Mrs J Laurence-Smith

Contributions for next issue by 14 December 1989

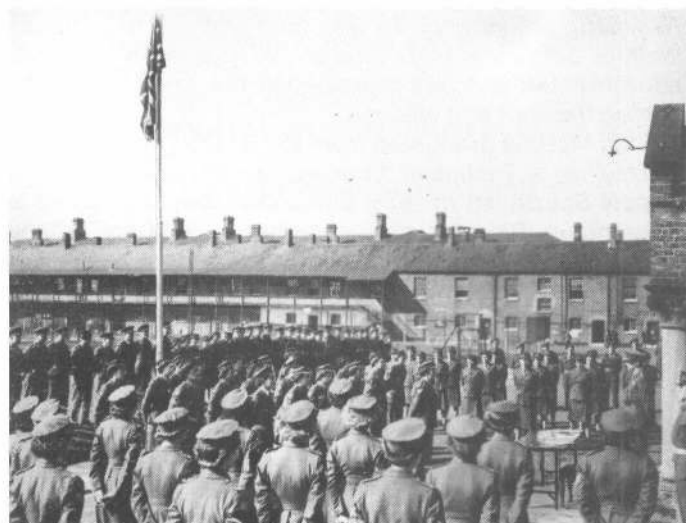
CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>		<i>page</i>
Shopping List	45	Op RALEIGH USA	66
Staff Band	45	Op RALEIGH KENYA	67
Congratulations	46	Assistant Adjutant with The Blues and Royals	68
WRAC Centre	48	Reunions	69
RARDE Chertsey	50	Memories of a WAAC	70
Lowland Brigade Military Skills Competition	52	Memories of an ATS 'Volunteer'	70
Ex NORTHERN LIGHTS	52	Grand Reunion Message – Master Gunner	73
14 Fd Regt RA	53	Association News/Branch News	74
BAOR Ex LONG LOOK 1988	54	Correspondence	80
Ex CROSSBOW	55	Personal Column	83
Sport	56	London Gazette	83
Ex WILD LYNX	61	Obituary	84
Ex BOLD MERMAID	62	Tribute	84
40th Anniversary Dinner Guildhall	64	WRAC Association Appointments	85

EDITORIAL

On the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAC, 1 February 1989, members of Headquarters Mess, serving and retired, were fortunate to be able to celebrate the event with a splendid dinner at the Guildhall, City of London, in the presence of our Controller Commandant HRH The Duchess of Kent. Letters of thanks from invited guests and members heaped praise on the servicewomen who were on duty and who did so much to make the occasion such a success. So far, in this anniversary year the major maintenance programme at the WRAC Centre has prevented the planning of a day when officers, NCOs and servicewomen could all join together in celebration of this landmark in our Corps History, but some units at home and abroad held their own functions.

For some time the addressograph machine used for Lioness envelopes has been unsatisfactory, and Corps HQ now has an electronic addressing machine. It will take some time for everyone's name and address to be placed on micro diskettes but when Lioness arrives please check your details carefully and notify any errors or omissions, and if you have not done so already, tell us your post code please.



The first girls in Eastern Command to become "Regular Soldiers" in March 1949.

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

- October 3** RAFA Concert. Carnegie Room, Guildhall, Thetford. 8pm.
- October 14** Concert. Library Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. 7.30 pm.
- November 11** Lord Mayor's Show.

Copies of the WRAC Staff Band record "Resolute" will be available at all the above locations or from the Band President WRAC Centre. £5.50 & p&p for UK and BAOR 1 copy £1.00, 2-4 copies £2.00, 5 or more copies £3.00. Cheques made payable to the WRAC Central Bank.

Copies of the record "VISIONS" are available from the Band President at 50p each. Association Branch

Secretaries may wish to sell the record at Branch functions. Arrangements for delivery/collection to be made with the Band President.

SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p
ATS shield	9.00	60p
ATS silver plated brooches	1.50	15p (up to 6)
Biro pens	.25	20p (up to 6)
Bookmarks, leather	.50	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	9.00	60p
Document Cases	1.25	35p
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	1.10	30p
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank	.50	15p (up to 6)
Card Holder		
Jewel Case (blue velvet)	1.20	25p
Key Rings, leather	.50	20p (up to 6)
Pewter Figures:		
Musician with flute	17.50	80p
WRAC Private	20.00	90p
Prints by Ken Howard:		
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 Brooches	1.75	15p (up to 6)
Post Cards	0.15	15p (up to 6)

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

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

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

2Lt/Maj	£1.70 + 15p p&p
Lt/Lt Col	£1.80 + 15p p&p
Capt	£2.10 + 15p p&p
Col/Brig	£2.50 + 15p p&p

Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

**The Prime Minister with
Lt Pippa Owens WRAC/R SIGNALS
during Mrs Thatcher's visit to the
UN peacekeeping force in Namibia on 1 April 1989**

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On 29 June, in the year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Queen will open the first stage of the Museum's major redevelopment programme.

The new Museum will offer four floors of exciting displays, a spectacular large exhibit hall, a major historical exhibition on the Second World War and a Blitz experience, the latest interactive audio-visual stations and a suite of art galleries. It will also provide a licensed cafe, a large shop and full access for the disabled.

Further information from Christopher Dowing 01-735-8922 ext 310.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA who was awarded the CBE in the Birthday Honours List.

Miss Doris Madill (formerly Sgt D Plourde ATS) who was presented with the Outstanding Service Award from the Canadian Women's Army Corps Unit # 47 Canadian Corps Association 1988 upon completion of 20 years as General Secretary and 12 years as Publicity Chairman.

Major D Davies MBE who came first in her class in the Army Orienteering Championships.



2Lt P J Ward WRAC with her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

PRESENTATIONS

LS&GC

How do you put Luton on the map? Simple – get a LS&GC. Sergeant Jenny Flanagan, Office Manager at ACIO Luton is being presented with her LS&GC by Colonel Nan Robertson MBE, Commandant, WRAC Centre (see following photograph).

WO2 B E Bowers and SSgt S McHale received their medals for Long Service and Good Conduct from Colonel

N R Robertson MBE, at the Central Ammunition Depot Kineton last October.

Colonel Robertson kindly accepted the invitation to make the presentation which made a particularly



memorable occasion as both WO2 Bowers and SSgt McHale had previously served under her command in BAOR.

WO2 Bowers spent 15 years serving with WRAC provost after which she trained to become an Army Welfare Assistant. She now works with the Families Housing and Welfare Service at CAD Kineton. WO2 Bowers is a keen sportswoman and has represented the Army at netball, putting the shot and discus.

SSgt McHale graduated from the RAOC Trade Training Centre as a Technical Storewoman (now known as a Supply Specialist) in 1973. Since then she has served at Donnington, Bicester, as a searcher in Northern Ireland and in Viersen, Bracht and Kineton. She is a keen skier and was part of the WRAC team from Kineton who won the RAOC Ladies' Downhill Cup. She is now serving at HQ RAOC TA Blackdown.

WELLINGTON SCHOOL COMBINED CADET FORCE

ANNUAL INSPECTION

On Wednesday 8 March 1989, Lt Col Mary Harwood, Comd WRAC SW/W/NW Districts had the honour of being



Lt Col Harwood inspects the Guard of Honour escorted by Cdt Coxswain Foxton.

the first female officer to carry out the Annual Inspection of Wellington School CCF.

On arrival at the School, Lt Col Harwood inspected the 183 cadets on parade, under the command of Cadet Coxswain Rachael Foxton. Before the March Past she presented Swords of Honour to Cadet Coxswain Foxton and to Cadet CSM James Austin and the Cadet Force Medal to Major David Lungley, OC Army Section.

After lunch the cadets gave a wide ranging display of training and the day was rounded off by an excellent Beating of the Retreat by the Corps of Drums under Cadet Drum Major Marcus Vallance.

LADY GROVER'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR OFFICERS' FAMILIES

The purpose of the fund is to help officers, serving or retired (including the Women's Services) to meet, for a very low annual subscription, the often heavy and unexpected costs of the illness of a dependent member of their family arising on account of the following:

- (a) Private nursing treatment in hospital or nursing home.
- (b) Temporary employment at home of a qualified nurse.
- (c) Convalescence away from home.
- (d) Temporary employment of a home help.

Further details may be obtained from Corps HQ.

Invest in your future

**Are you considering a
university degree?**

If you are a woman aged 25 or more or already a graduate, write for further information to:

The Secretary
Lucy Cavendish College
University of Cambridge
CB3 0BU



The College for mature women.

COMBAT STRESS

**'Perhaps the bravest man
I ever knew...'**



**and now, he cannot bear
to turn a corner**

Six-foot-four Sergeant 'Tiny' G*t*r*e, DCM, was perhaps the bravest man his Colonel ever knew.

But now, after seeing service in Aden, after being booby-trapped and ambushed in Northern Ireland, Sergeant 'Tiny' cannot bear to turn a corner. For fear of what is on the other side.

It is the bravest men and women from the Services that suffer most from mental breakdown. For they have tried, each one of them, to give more, much more, than they could in the service of our Country.

We look after these brave men and women. We help them at home, and in hospital. We run our own Convalescent Homes and, for the old, there is our Veterans' Home where they can see out their days in peace.

These men and women have given their minds to their Country. If we are to help them, we must have funds. Do please help us with a donation, and with a legacy too, perhaps. The debt is owed by all of us.

**"They've given more than they could -
please give as much as you can."**



To protect those concerned, this is an amalgam of several such case histories of Patients in our care.

EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY
BROADWAY HOUSE, THE BROADWAY, WIMBLEDON SW19 1RL. TEL: 01-543 6333

- ☐ Please find enclosed my donation for £50/£20/£10/£5/£
- ☐ Please send me details of Payroll Giving

Name/Rank/Number

Regiment or Corps

Address LS

WRAC CENTRE

31 MARCH 1989

REGULAR RECRUITS PASSING-OUT PARADE 540 MAYOR OF GUILDFORD INSPECTING OFFICER

Recently the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Mrs E M Cobbett was the Inspecting Officer at the Regular Recruits Passing-Out Parade at Guildford. The parade was an apt sequel to the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford which was granted to the Women's Royal Army Corps last June. The WRAC Staff Band played for the occasion, and Headquarter and Holding Company were



**The Mayor of Guildford inspecting Headquarter and Holding Company.
(Courtesy of the Forces Weekly Echo).**

also on parade. The Mayor, accompanied by the Commandant, Colonel N R Robertson MBE reviewed "her troops" with great pride. The Officer Commanding the parade was Major D F Davies MBE and the Regimental Sergeant Major was Warrant Officer Class 1 (RSM) K B Kay.

The Commandant of the WRAC Centre, Colonel N R Robertson MBE presented Sergeant O'Pray of the Centre



with a certificate after she had successfully completed six months of training in the theory and practice of remedial and recreational therapy. The qualification is awarded by the Joint Services Medical Board. As well as being a PTI Sergeant O'Pray spends a great deal of her leisure time developing her interests in remedial physical training. The photograph shows Sergeant O'Pray proudly receiving her certificate from the Commandant.

The 1988/89 Squash Tournament held at the WRAC Centre was won by Sergeant Southern and the Unit

Runner Up was Lance Corporal Greig, (our sportswoman of 1988). The match was closely fought. The photograph



shows the Commandant, Colonel N R Robertson MBE presenting LCpl Greig with her trophy.

MEMBERS OF THE ORIENTEERING AND ATHLETICS TEAMS

Our orienteering team sailed through the United Kingdom Championships and were delighted to challenge BAOR in the finals. They came an honourable second and Major D F Davies, OC Training Company, brought home the "veterans" trophy!

The athletics team distinguished themselves this year by becoming South East District Champions. The team, as usual, had some last minute changes with Cpl Purves becoming an instant "hurdler" and taking 3rd place and Captain V Gough holding off strong opposition by being 2nd in the discus. We wish the team well as they go into the finals on the 19 July.



**Back Row L-R. Sgt Gash, Major Davies, Capt Gough,
2Lt Thompson.**

Front Row L-R. Cpl White, Sgt O'Pray, Cpl Bushby.

Colonel Mitchel R Sharpe USAR Ret'd is seeking information on the part played by several members of the ATS in Project Backfire which involved the firing of three V2 missiles at Cuxhaven in October 1945. Please contact Colonel Sharpe at 7302 Chadwell Road SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35802, USA with personal memoirs and photographs. Everything will be returned.

NEWS FROM A REGULAR RECRUIT PRIVATE WARNER WRAC

Before joining the WRAC I spent eight years of my free time in the Nautical Training Corps at Portsmouth as a member of the Band. This is a voluntary organisation made up of boys and girls aged seven to 18.

The Band of the Nautical Training Corps was formed in 1981 and since then has taken part in many prestigious engagements, including: Playing at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, The Royal Star and Garter Home Richmond, Longleat House, and at Pirbright Barracks in 1987 where we performed alongside the Grenadier Guards Band.

In the Cadets my rank was that of "Petty Officer" and I was the Drum Major of the Band. This presented me with many responsibilities, but was very enjoyable and proved to be a great help in my basic training in the WRAC.

VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT, 26 MARCH 1989

On 26 March 1989 it was arranged for the Band to play at Hampton Court. I was asked by the Bandmaster if I would like to take part as a guest.

After seeking permission I was granted leave and allowed to take part wearing Number Two Dress.

We departed on the 26th at 0830 hours from my home town, Porchester. We arrived at Hampton Court at lunchtime.

After a short lunch we had a tour of the Palace, before the performance at 1400 hours.

We then changed into uniform and began the rehearsal of the Programme.

The Band consists of drums, bugles, cymbals, and xylophones. I was asked to play the bugle as that was my specialist instrument before I took over as Drum Major.

The performance consisted of a selection of bugle



The bugle section sounding "Sunset".

medleys and familiar medleys played by the xylophones all arranged by Mr J Longhurst, the Bandmaster, and ex Grenadier Guard.

The performance lasted about an hour and a half, after which a presentation was made by the new Drum Major to the Estate Manager, Mr Cook.

Overall, I had a very enjoyable day and was very proud and grateful for being permitted to wear my uniform and take part.

**PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR
ADVERTISERS**

Private Wootten became an old soldier at 18

DISABLED FOR LIFE

Shot in the head in 1971 whilst serving with the 3rd Battalion The Queens Regiment, Colin Wootten has been left needing constant care and attention. Almost totally paralysed and unable to properly communicate, every day for him is a battle. You can ease the years of pain and suffering by making a contribution for the continued care of Colin and other disabled ex-servicemen.



Donations, covenants and legacies gratefully appreciated.



THE ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME
For Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen,
Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6RR. Tel: 01-940 3314.

Please find enclosed my donation £ _____
Please send me details of your Covenant Scheme ☐

Name _____

Address _____

Registered Charity No. 210119 & 286781

NEWS FROM A TA RECRUIT

By Private Lorraine Gwinnett

When most people leave work for two weeks they usually head for the sun, sea and sand, but I was off to spend a fortnight on a recruit's training course with the Territorial Army.

The Women's Royal Army Corps Centre in Guildford is the first port-of-call of new regular and part-time recruits. Here, they learn basic military training which includes drill, first-aid, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare tactics, map reading and weapon training.

On first inspection, the Centre, ablaze with daffodils and cherry blossom, looked more like a holiday camp than an army barracks, but the illusion was soon shattered.

Forty female members of the Territorial Army – whose civilian occupations ranged from sales assistant to businesswoman – were thrown together in a block consisting of comfortable, four-berth rooms and from that moment the battle was on.

There was a constant scramble to use the washing machine, tumble drier, irons, vacuum cleaners, mops and buckets, so the recruits – and their rooms – were always up to standard for inspection from sharp-eyed corporals who could spot dust on a shelf or fluff on a beret from 100 yards.

The part-time volunteers of the TA have just two weeks to absorb the training given to "regular" recruits in seven weeks so the days were busy and free time was infrequent and precious.

We were up at 6 am every day and cleaned our rooms and the block before marching to breakfast at 7. Then we were off to our first lesson or standing by our beds for inspection.

By the end of day two, we were all obsessed with creases – there were creases in our bedspreads, sheets, trousers, shirts, even our jumpers, and those with a habit of putting creases where they shouldn't were inspected time after time until they got it right.

Lights were out by 10.30 pm, by which time those who had finished preparing for the following day were sound asleep and those who hadn't were wondering how they were going to finish their ironing in the dark.

Lessons were usually followed by tests – just to keep everyone on their toes – and there was always a chance to put bookwork into practice.

The most entertaining of these was a mock first-aid exercise during which one recruit slapped a corporal, supposedly suffering from shock, with rather more gusto than was really necessary.

But the highlight of the fortnight was a night spent out in a field, learning how to navigate in the dark, put up "bashas" (tents) and camouflage techniques.

After a week on an all-woman camp, most of us were delighted to be told we would be sent to spy on a bunch of marauding paratroopers. The night consisted of either sentry duties or patrols, in any attempt to spot the location of the "enemy". We were disappointed to return without any scalps but were later reassured that there really had been nothing out there but bushes. Everyone discovered personal strengths and weaknesses during the fortnight and nowhere were these more evident than on the parade square. Two platoon corporals and a sergeant were faced with the daunting task of transforming a group of civilians into a platoon of women who looked as if they could be some use to the army.

The parade square was treated with the deepest reverence. This was serious business, and, where there

had been time for a laugh and a joke in the classroom, there was no room for flippancy on the square.

"If I see you move once more I'll throw you in jail!" was the most common threat. During a particularly long parade, one of our number passed out. She was the lucky one – the rest of us had stood in the same spot for so long that, when we marched away, we walked like a group of veterans from the Woodentops.

But we got there in the end and when family and friends came to the camp for the passing-out parade, most recruits felt a sense of pride and achievement.

There has been much discussion about the role of women in the Armed Forces. At the moment their job, along with many male soldiers, is to support the men who fight on the front line, but that could change.

Due to the "demographic trough" the services could soon face the possibility of staff shortages. The Royal Air Force is apparently already considering allowing women to fly transport aircraft and the army – even though men shudder at the thought – may have to think about using women on the front line.

But they need have no worries because the young ladies who graduate from Guildford have proved they are capable of working alongside their male counterparts. They don't mind getting their feet wet or their hands dirty – and most wouldn't even dream of taking their handbags into battle.

Article published courtesy of the Ilkeston Advertiser (Derby).

UNIT NEWS

ROYAL ARMAMENT RESEARCH AND DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT (CHERTSEY) (ARMY ELEMENT)

The Royal Armament Research and Defence Establishment is probably known to some of you as RARDE (Ch) (AE), to others as MVEE and to the rest of you as "WHERE?".

To put RARDE on the map, we, on the administrative side of RARDE are situated at Longcross Barracks near Chertsey, Surrey. We have two, what could now be classed as "natural" boundaries – Chobham Common and the M3 motorway! We are also only about 3½ miles away from Junction 11 of the M25, notorious for its frequent hold-ups. Members of RARDE that do not work in Longcross Barracks or Barrowhills Officers' Mess work "over the other side" of the M3. Fortunately we have our own military underpass and bridge.

Longcross Barracks houses the Sergeants' Mess, Junior Ranks Accommodation, Junior Ranks Mess, QMs Department, NAAFI and Admin Block – each within a minutes walking distance from the other.

The Admin Block staff consists of the Camp Commandant, the OC WRAC, the RSM, the Chief Clerk and a UAO which is completely WRAC "wo-manned". Before being posted to RARDE, most male personnel have never worked with women before, but especially in the cases of the Camp Commandant and RSM they soon realize that we are usually more efficient, broad-minded and less "green" than they'd originally believed, and admit that they enjoyed the experience. Between us, we administer some 250 officers and soldiers on five different UINs in five different locations. The biggest unit we administer which is

HILLIERS COUTURE Ltd.

27 CORK STREET, LONDON W1X 1PB

Telephone: 01-437 1421/2

**FOR
PRIVATE CLIENTS
AND
OUT OF UNIFORM
OCCASIONS**

Suits

Dresses

Wedding Dresses

All enquiries welcome

Appointed Dressmakers to:

**THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY
NURSING CORPS**

**THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE
THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS**

**MESS DRESS (EVENING GOWNS)
UNIFORMS**

BEIGE LINEN (OVERSEAS DRESSES)

co-located with our RARDE personnel "over the other side" is Vehicle and Weapons Branch REME.

RARDE has an establishment for 34 WRAC servicewomen, commanded by a Captain WRAC. Most of the servicewomen are stewardesses who work either in the Sergeants' Mess in Longcross Barracks, or in the Officers' Mess approximately one mile away.

Barrowhills Officers' Mess is a large mansion in its own grounds, surrounded by a golf course, boasting its own swimming pool (outdoor), squash courts, tennis courts, cricket pitch, croquet lawn, oriental garden, fish pond and ballroom. On first seeing the Officers' Mess, most stewardesses and cooks were overwhelmed by its size and grandeur in comparison with the more usual modern messes they had previously seen or worked in. Anyone that has worked there would probably be able to tell you about the old attic room which permanently smells of chocolate and which is said to be haunted. Bumps, thuds and footsteps have often been heard coming from it – even by our new OC WRAC Capt Mitchell who has heard footsteps in the attic above her room when the rest of the mess has been deserted.

Apart from the stewardesses, the WRAC Element of RARDE consists of a further 16 servicewomen. Clerks employed as Military Accountants, Cooks, an Admin Assistant and a Medical Assistant. It is due to these small numbers that we have to amalgamate with Blackdown Units in order to take part in Sporting Leagues and Competitions – and we also have to share their PTI.

On 20 February 1989, Longcross Barracks was visited by the Director WRAC, Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA who presented Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to our Chief Clerk WO2 Elaine Smith and Sgt Eric Proctor 9/12L from "over the other side". The presentation took place in the Sergeants' Mess and was followed by a buffet lunch. After lunch the Director and our Commander WRAC SEDIST, Lt Col S M Bishop MBE visited the servicewomen in their accommodation and chatted to them over coffee.



From L-R. Brigadier S P Nield, Sgt E Proctor and WO2 Smith.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Thursday 9th November 1989

There are to be three changes to the ceremony of the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey of which Association members should be aware.

First, the ceremony is due to start at 11.30 am and not at noon as has been the custom.

Second, the QMAAC, ATS, WRAC plot will be changed to No. 111 in the centre of the field.

Third, the Deputy Controller Commandant will plant the Association cross at 11.10 am before the arrival of HM The Queen Mother and the service which opens the official ceremony.

LOWLAND BRIGADE MILITARY SKILLS COMPETITION

Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC

6 am, 1 April 1989. Ten figures crawl out of bed, removing their curlers, beauty and anti-ageing cream. Five minutes later they were outside, dressed in green, webbing on their backs and rifle in hand. "April Fool", you may say to yourselves, but no; it is the Glasgow and Strathclyde Officer Training Corps female team ready for anything, or in this case the Lowland Brigade Military Skills Competition.

The idea started some months back when the girls, fed up with the boys telling them about this competition which "determined the men from the boys", decided to form a female team. The idea originally caused some laughter, even amongst ourselves, but with hard training and the fact that we had female brains and were not just "all brawn and no brains", we felt our chances increasing.

On the competition day we did create a small stir with the general attitude being; "here come the tea ladies or the cheer leaders", instead of fellow rival competitors. Our first event was in an environment NBC where we coped relatively well and we then moved on to show that "women drivers" do deserve to be on the road. For our driver, her biggest problem was the numerous backseat drivers accompanying her. The course itself was completed but not without many shouts and well-bitten fingers.

The next event (when we voted on getting the No 9 bus home) was the march and shoot. Rule number one – planning and preparation, so out came the blusher to cover the pale, scared faces and the perfume to gain the sympathy of any passer by able to give us a life. We set off on the march, to the friendly shout from a team (male) at the start line: "don't worry, we'll smile when we pass you by". To this we gritted our teeth, forced our legs to move and completed the march twenty seconds outside the bogey time. Our last even of the day was signals where we were able to shine, coming second out of all the teams and we moved into Sunday in 12th place.

Sunday's event was the assault course, and here I think we were ready to laugh at ourselves more than anyone else was. The 53 lb ammunition box was more like a Bedford to us than the small burden, that it was called. However, by no means did we humiliate ourselves, although thanks should be given to the audience who encouraged us and to one man especially who nearly jumped in and helped us push one of our members over the 12 ft wall.

All in all the competition for us was a great success. We ended up coming fourteenth out of thirty-four teams, surprising many as well as ourselves. In summing up the weekend, it is true to say that determination and enthusiasm can often make up for a lack of muscles. However, the last words must go to our male team who, although can no longer boast about this competition for THE MEN, did give us encouragement and showed confidence in our abilities. Congratulations must also go to them for taking first place in the competition in which we all thoroughly enjoyed competing.



Glasgow & Strathclyde UOTC Drill Team.



EXERCISE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt UOTC

Exercise NORTHERN LIGHTS, sponsored by Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt Universities Officer Training Corps, was held in Inverness on 6 and 7 May 1989.

This competition originated after World War 2 as a Pipes and Drums event between Scottish UOTCs. In 1965 shooting was introduced to give the competition a wider scope and the University Rifle Challenge Trophy was competed for. In 1970 Queen's UOTC entered the competition for the first time and in 1971 the competition was named "Exercise NORTHERN LIGHTS".

Currently the events include Military Skills (such as drill, leadership tasks, obstacle course, marching and shooting), piping and drumming, for individuals and full bands, sports and Scottish country dancing.

Taking part in this year's competition were Aberdeen UOTC, Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt UOTC, Glasgow and Strathclyde UOTC, Tayforth UOTC and Queen's UOTC.

The lovely weather and the enthusiasm of all participants ensured that the weekend was a great success. Prizes were evenly distributed, with Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt UOTC as the overall winners.

Colonel F E Hutley, Commander WRAC United Kingdom Land Forces and Major J C Jenkins, Commander WRAC Scotland attended the weekend. Lieutenant General Sir John MacMillan KCB CBE, General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland, attended both days and presented the prizes.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

We come from two World Wars, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Aden, Cyprus, Ulster, The Falklands and all those areas of turmoil where peace must be restored.

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

BLESMA looks after the limbless from all the Services. It helps to overcome the shock of losing arms, or legs or an eye. And, for the severely handicapped, it provides Residential Homes where they can live in peace and dignity.

Help the disabled by helping BLESMA with a donation now or a legacy in the future. We promise you that not one penny will be wasted.

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE



Give to those who gave—please
Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee,
BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee



OCdt Jane Willson-Smith being given encouragement in the Tug of War by her team coach.

14 FD REGT RA LARKHILL

It has been quite some months since the WRAC element in 14 Fd Regt at Larkhill have written to confirm their existence so without further delay here is our news:

We have had quite a hectic period during the last eight months. Although we were lacking in match practice due to many work commitments, below are some of the sporting events in which we have participated:

Hockey – In the SW and W Dist Championships we came 3rd, instead of the wooden-spoon position held last year!

Netball – In the SW and W Dist Championships we came 2nd, which was a very good result as our team had never played together before.

Cross-Country – Pte Kerry Ruane, one of our cooks, achieved 2nd place in the SW Dist Ladies Cross-Country League and she also received her Regimental Colours

Orienteering – Cpl Anne Daldorph, another of our cooks, has continued to excel in this sport. Not only has she just won the prize for Best Time in our regimental competition but she returned with the West Area Women's Orienteering Championships Trophy. Cpl Daldorph and her team did exceptionally well and secured a magnificent silver trophy. Congratulations to the team and best of luck for the fast approaching UKLF Championships.

When we are not involved with sport there are many other commitments. At various times we are called upon to provide personnel to act as Civ Pop at different locations in England and Wales. We have also sent a few girls to be escorts for school children travelling home from boarding

school. The children are escorted from Luton Airport by a WRAC to their final destination – a job that our girls enjoyed enormously. Last year we provided drivers and clerks for Exercise DRAKES DRUM. On reporting back to the unit the girls said they had had a good time and that their accommodation had been excellent. They had been staying in the County Hall at Trowbridge!

Congratulations go to LCpl Lorraine Averill, Medical Assistant for obtaining a Grade A on her B1 and to Pte Ruane, Cook B2, for achieving 2nd place in the SW Dist Cook and Serve Competition.

Our two officers, Maj Lucas and Lt Fifield with the SNCOs and JNCOs celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the WRAC on 2 February 1989 by holding a dinner night in a local restaurant in Amesbury.

UNIT NEWS

BAOR

BICENTENNIAL EXERCISE "LONG LOOK 1988"

By Lieutenant Donna Peak WRAC
29 COY WRAC

For most of us the term Australia conjures up pictures of sunshine, white beaches and bronzed surfers. A place we have all heard of, want to visit, but due to the distance and cost involved, never actually manage to get there. Well, that's exactly how I felt six months ago when I "volunteered" for Exercise "LONG LOOK", a four month exchange tour in Australia in this their Bicentennial year. So you can imagine my surprise when the 2IC 29 Coy WRAC, Captain Jo Dunn WRAC informed me that I had been nominated for this year's exchange.

After the initial euphoria of being accepted had died down the slow cogs of administration gradually began to turn. I eventually found out I was posted as a Platoon Commander to 1 Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB) the Australians only training centre for both sexes in the Army.

1 RTB consists of four companies each with six platoons and supporting units. On arrival I was informed that I would have two weeks to prepare before raising 31 Platoon of Delta Coy, one of only three female Platoons. Under my command I had a male Sergeant, Corporal and three female Corporals to assist me. As you can see man management Australian style is certainly different.

I should point out at this stage that in 1985 Australian women were totally integrated into the Army, when their Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) was disbanded. Hence all aspects of training in 1 RTB are exactly the same for males and females with the exception that the females do not carry large packs neither do they attempt the Bayonet Assault Course. A minor concession I would suggest!

The training itself is divided into three phases over 11 weeks. I was responsible for the first and last phases, having been granted time off in between, to visit other units all over Australia.

Apart from becoming well practised in interviewing and assessing I had to instruct on navigation, personnel administration and such diverse subjects as traditions and customs of the Australian Army – certainly not something I had an in-depth knowledge of on my arrival.

The other main facet of training was of course the physical aspect. Training to run in boots and webbing,

carrying an SLR was certainly interesting and definitely a challenge! The course culminated in the recruits' ultimate physical challenge a 15 km forced march including a section attack, stretcher carry, obstacle course, dam



The Dam Crossing.

crossing, bear pit and finally a falling plate range shoot with the SLR. Not an easy task but one that is essential to the recruits to complete the course successfully. All successful recruits then finish their time in 1 RTB with a March Out Parade in their final week.

Of course life "Down Under" was not all work and no play. As I have said I was given time off to visit our units literally all over Australia covering every state except Tasmania. I am pleased to report that my initial impressions of sunshine, surfers and white beaches were not wrong! Among the many highlights of my touring, too numerous to mention individually, was canoeing up crocodile infested waters in the Northern Territories, snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland and picnicking by the lush tropical rainforest waterfalls.

In conclusion, Exercise LONG LOOK 88 was for me, an unforgettable experience in which I managed to see more of Australia than the average Australian. I experienced a completely different form of "female" management and learnt a great deal from it. The hardest part is yet to come – putting it all into practice! The Australians hosted me very well indeed and I would like to leave you with the thought, that next time you come across an Australian "Long Looker" please look after them. You never know, you may be next to go – if it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone!

Happy Birthday Australia!

TEDDY BEAR AUCTION – 19 NOVEMBER 1988

By Corporal C A Marsden WRAC
29 COY WRAC

With the tones of "If you go down to the woods today", a Teddy Bears Auction was held in the Sports and Social Club Rheindahlen, on Saturday 19 November 1988 with all proceeds to go to the ACROSS TRUST Charity.

It all started when three members of 29 Coy WRAC in BAOR were given an extra mural management task of raising money for charity. The three fortunate ladies were Cpl Lynne Smith, Cpl Sheila Lewis and myself.

Debating over a few bottles of wine one evening the idea of something out of the ordinary was thrashed upon, with

the final idea of a "Teddy Bears Auction" coming to fruition.

Early in the planning stages we were having doubts as to the success of the evening as tickets sales didn't appear to be going well, but with a never-say-die attitude we persevered and on the night it was a great success. Teddies were donated from various sources who were all mentioned on the night as their donated "lot" came before the auctioneer's gavel.

A total of DM 1339.00 was raised for the Across Trust and an enjoyable time was had by all.

28 (BR) SIGNAL REGIMENT

EXERCISE CROSSBOW 1989

Exercise Crossbow is an annual Rear Combat Zone (RCZ) competition, involving 21 male and five WRAC teams. It basically consisted this year of three days and nights of various stands and tasks.

On 22 May, it was with some trepidation that the eight "volunteers" of the WRAC 28 (BR) Signal Regiment team wheel-wobbled their way to the Dutch border for the competition. Our worst fears were confirmed when we had to compete in a two mile cross country race that afternoon, a race which was very similar to running across some desert in the heat and dust.

The more memorable moments of the competition were the assault course, with LCpl Mandy Precious throwing herself into the pit below the rope swing and coming back for more; LCpl Anne Smith's gallantry in mopping up a stomach wound with her combat jacket; and Pte Tracy Williams' desperate attempts to prevent disaster by clinging onto the end of a pole in mid-air, on the command task.

The night activities including routine in defence and Ops, which involved being eaten alive by my mosquitos and watching the DS rush around in Soviet uniforms, flashing lights. Other happenings during the night included Pte Val Bocker's discovery of a newly dug, unmarked, cesspit next to her basher; and a continued listening watch over Pte Lindsay Joyce, who at times threatened to give the position away with her snoring.

By the end of the three days 28 (BR) Signal Regiment were in the joint lead with 16 Signal Regiment, so that the march and shoot became the deciding factor. After a gruelling eight mile march the team came in with the fastest WRAC time of one hour 46 minutes, and after some good shooting securing first place. An excellent effort by everyone in the team.

WRAC RCZ MARCH AND SHOOT

Sqn Comd to *Tp Comd* "What are you doing on Friday 28 April?"

Tp Comd frantically scans diary only to discover an empty page; failing inspiration the reply comes back "Nothing planned Sir."

Sqn Comd "Good, you are to organise the WRAC march and shoot team for the RCZ competition."

Tp Comd "Thank you, Sir" and rapidly makes an exit before the next lemon lands.

Sqn Comd "Oh, by the way . . . we won it last year and we must retain the trophy!"

After quick consultation with the gym staff and training.

wing a ruthless programme is planned. Week one sees all the WRAC running round the woods at a very early hour in the morning, afternoon and any other time in the day which is in danger of remaining unfilled. Week two leaves a squad of 12 (eight plus four reserves) doing some more strenuous training under the beasting eye of LCpl "Marie" Woods, our resident AIPT and OIC stopwatch. Injuries, convenient and otherwise, bring the numbers down slowly. Week three starts with shooting practice, and some expert tuition from WO2 (SSM) "BP" Parkhill and Sgt Bob Hope ensures that standards are improved across the board.

Competition day arrives and despite a nearly forgotten ID Card, some definitely forgotten packed lunches (who mentioned the packed lunches?) and the minibus losing the sump plug and running out of oil, the team arrived at the start point on time.

The level of fitness in the team was high and the eight miles up hill, down dale, along the straight and round the bend was covered by the team in well under the boey time, thus gaining maximum points for the march. However, on completion of the march phase, one other team had also gained maximum points and so the shoot would decide the competition.

28 (BR) Signal Regiment then achieved the highest score for the shoot and won the competition overall, retaining the non-existent trophy for the second year running.

"A 'VOLUNTEER' FOR THE RAAT"

By Pte Pettifar WRAC

When my SSgt kindly decided to "volunteer" me to become part of the Civpop for Exercise TERRA-FIRMA, at Longmoor Intermediate Training Area, there was little else for me to do but anticipate disaster, and go.

Ten WRAC, four university students, and three training WRAC officers, totalled the female population, but the company of marines made up the rest of the "village". The object of the exercise was for the Civpop to act as an Irish Community in Britain who resent the presence of the British Security Forces in their village. We all had to assume false identities, I and those of us who were married had a total of three husbands by the end of the week, owing to the fact that the same events and incidents happened three times over.

In order to avoid taking the part of an hysterical mother, whose baby is killed, I had to volunteer to go to an abandoned quarry at 2 am, with an RAF Flt Lt. We were supposed to be a courting couple, but were actually decoy for the group, of terrorists who were to follow us, and be ambushed by the SF waiting in the bushes. But unfortunately we hadn't even sat down when a thousand blank rounds were fired from the undergrowth. By the time I eventually got back to bed it was almost time to get up again for the mock funeral, followed by the main potato throwing riot.

After the week's experiences of rioting, terrorism, murders, pub and house raids and hold-ups I was glad to get back to Marchwood to relax and forget – until the 2IC decided that she wanted me to do a write up for the Lioness . . .

SPORT

ARMY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 1988-1989

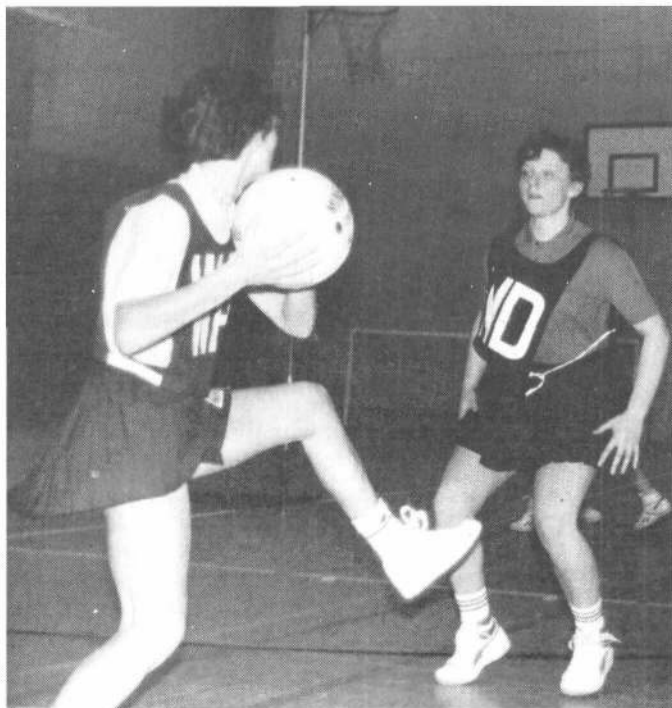
This is the second year that the Army Women's Basketball Association has been running as a co-opted, representative sport. The season has been an enormous success culminating with the Squad convincingly beating the WRAF for the second year running and being presented with the "Lightning Rosebowl" trophy, kindly donated by the RAF Basketball Association as the Interservice Cup. This is now displayed at the WRAC Centre.

Training weekends are held at Marchwood Station with our coach Cpl Harrod. Considering the short time that we have been operating the standard is high and has drawn much praise and comment from spectators. We are, however, still keen to recruit new talent.

The UKLF Tournament hosted at Aldershot was combined with the men's and had five teams playing from the following districts: SE District (2), London District (1) and SW District (2). The winners 16 Bn RAOC were nominated to play 13 Sig Regt in March in BAOR with a resounding success for the UK girls.



BAOR NETBALL



The RAF on the attack, and Pte Julie Adams (WD) preparing to jump and block.

BAOR NETBALL

Lieutenant H A Carmichael

The 1989 BAOR Inter-Services Netball Championship was held at Windsor School Rheindahlen on Saturday 22 April 1989.

This year A and B Squad Matches were played, with the A Squad Match to count for the Championship. In addition to training weekends, the squad trained for four days prior to the tournament with Coach Mrs Eileen Carlin, whose Shouts of "Hold your space!" and "Move Lofty!" invaded even sleeping hours.

While the QA's ran themselves ragged, greater understanding of other people's jobs was forged.

"So what do you do Ma'am?"

"Well, er, I'm still trying to memorise six different brands of coffee, and er wax the Barbour . . . er yah . . . OK?"

The final score? Well, the B Squad trounced the RAF 29-19 but the A Squad, after tremendous battle, lost 43-49.

Watch out next year RAF(G) we'll be back with a vengeance!

GOLF

The Spring Meeting of the WRAC Golfing Society was held at Aldershot on 20 March 1989.

The Johncey Trophy

Winner: Maj S I F Johncey

Runner-up: Maj D Ryder

St Andrews Greensome Stableford

Winners: Maj (Retd) J F M Whitehead

Capt (Retd) M A S Phillips

The Corps Golf Championship was held at the Army Golf Club Aldershot on 12 June 1989 and attracted a record entry of 26 competitors.

The results were as follows:

Meechie Shield - Serving Members' Scratch

Winner: Capt K J Bettison WRAC Centre - 91 gross

Runner-up: Sgt S J Stoner 8 Sig Regt - 92 gross

Clements Cup - Serving Members' Handicap

Winner Lt Col M A Harwood HQ SWDIST - 71 net

Runner-up: SSgt M Higgins 8 Sig Regt - 72 net

Odell Salver - Retired Members' Scratch

Winner: Maj S I F Johncey Army Golf Club - 89 gross

Runner-up: Maj J F M Whitehead - 90 gross

Torksey Golf Club

Bowles Trophy - Retired Members' Handicap

Winner: Miss A M Kitchen Army Golf Club - 67 net

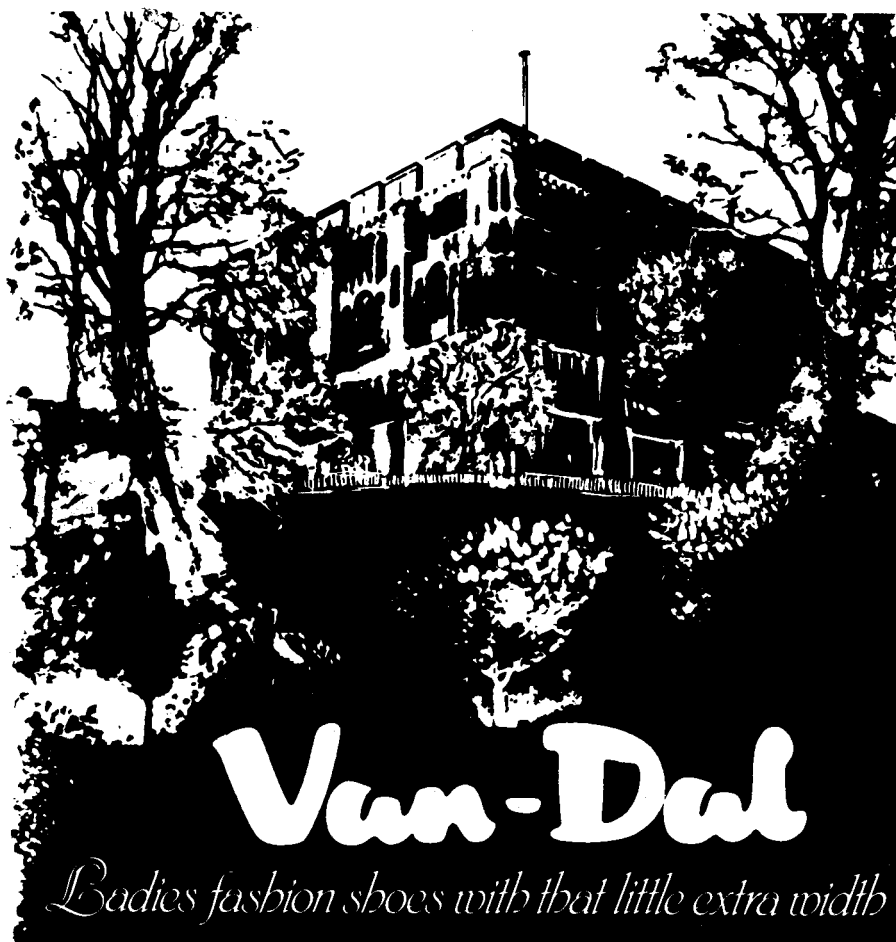
Runner up: Maj A M Harle Brockenhurst Golf Club - 73 net

The Autumn Meeting will be held at the Army Golf Club Aldershot on Monday 11 September 1989.

CROSS COUNTRY

1 SQUADRON - 16TH SIGNAL REGIMENT

The 1988/89 Cross Country season finished with 1 Squadron, 16th Signal Regiment team, well supported by



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.

personnel from 28th Signal Regiment, achieving some notable results.

The RCZ/RAFG Cross Country League took place throughout the season, on Wednesday afternoons, at various barracks within the RCZ area. With 11 teams competing in the Ladies Event there were some close fought battles at each of the 15 races. The eventual team placings, taken from the highest 10 results of each team, saw the top three teams being separated by a mere four points. The 16/28 Sig Regt team finished a creditable 3rd, behind RAF Laarbruch Ladies 2nd with JHQ Wegberg Ladies in 1st place.

Some good individual results were also achieved with Lt Mandy Tindall winning the individual league title, and Lt Jackie Foster finished in the first 10. LCpl Judith Chapple won the title of "most league races" by running more times than any other team member. The support from 1 Sqn and 28 Sig Regt personnel was excellent throughout the season with the girls turning up to run even on the cold, wet wintery days that were all too common. Congratulations go to everyone for a very successful season and Good Luck for the 1989/90 league, starting in October.

16/28 SIGNAL REGIMENT

Another notable success this season was in the Women's Army Half Marathon Championships, held at Rushmoor Arena on Sunday 19 March 1989. The 1 Sqn team finished 2nd behind RMA Sandhurst, and were the 1st BAOR team to finish.

All the girls finished in under two hours, which for some was their first attempt at this distance.

The final event of the season was the Bruggen "10" held at RAF Bruggen on Saturday 8 April. With over 1500 RAF and Army runners entered some high class competition

was expected. The Squadron entered seven girls and again all finished in very reasonable times. The women's team event was dominated by the WRAF but we held our own against the WRAC teams. Lt Mandy Tindall was our top runner, finishing 5th overall in a time of 65 minutes.

We are concentrating on Athletics in the coming months but will be back in force for the start of the 1989/90 Cross Country season later in the year. Thank you to all team members for your hard work and continued support, throughout the season.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that the AGM of the Association will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF (near Marble Arch) on Saturday 21 April 1990 at 2.30 pm.

BRITISH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Women's Services Alpine Ski Team returned from the Alps after a tremendous victory at the British Services International Ski Championships.

The squad departed for Austria on 2 December 1988 for five weeks intensive training on the Hintertuz glacier, after which they competed amongst the men at The 3rd Armoured Division Championships. Competition was tough but the Women's Services team held their own in all three disciplines – Slalom, Giant Slalom and The Downhill races. The squad's results were all extremely close, however, noticeable achievements came from Capt Alison Bradley who came first in both the Slalom and the

Combined (Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill) events and Capt Niki Vickers who was first in the Giant Slalom.



Capt Niki Vickers competing in the Giant Slalom.

The squad then moved on to the Army Championships in Les Menuires, France. Yet again the team raced well and the results were very close. However LCpl Karen Greer, a newcomer to the squad, wiped the board coming first in every event and walking away with both the Robinson Cup and McVie Cup.

A team of six was selected to race at the final competition, The British Services International Ski Championship in Megeve, France. The Italian Alpine, French Forces, Bundeswehr US Air Force Europe (Mens and Ladies), Australian Defence Forces (Mens and Ladies) Teams also competed at the Championships. Both the Army Ladies and Mens teams beat the other two British services, the Royal Air Force and the Navy. The girls also beat the two guest teams. It was a spectacular win for the Army. The Patron of Combined Services Skiing, HRH The Duchess of York, was present during the



From L-R. Lt Gail Tilford, Capt Alison Bradley, LCpl Karen Greer, HRH The Duchess of York, Capt Sally Holt, Capt Vanessa Raine and Capt Niki Vickers.

Championships and we were honoured when she presented The Wilkinson Sword to our team.

An enormous thanks must go to all our sponsors for making it possible for us to train for the extended period of five weeks which proved to be essential. They are: the Daily Mail, Peugeot and Talbot, Ellis Brighams Ski Shops, Sealink, AA, SKS. Thanks also to CEBE, Tyrollia Bindings, Kneissl Skis, Spyder Ski Clothing, for their kind contributions with ski equipment.

We now look forward to summer training which will begin in May.

LIFE IN THE FAST LANE WOMEN'S ARMY LUGE

Lieutenant P E Jump WRAC

A new women's army team was formed this year for an up-and-coming winter sport called Luge. Luge is an exhilarating, dangerous, technical sport, involving sliding down a convoluted corridor of ice feet-first on a specially designed sled in the fastest possible time.

The team was selected from two novice weeks and went on to compete in the Army Championships in December at Winterberg which was sponsored by Austin Rover.

Further training took place at Igls, Austria in preparation for the British Luge Championships held on 3 February 1989. After each woman had successfully completed the three required runs, the result showed that the army women's squad had taken 2nd-7th places. This excellent performance resulted in all six women being selected for the Great Britain 'B' squad.

The team moved on to Imst, Austria for their first taste of a natural track. This was carved into the mountainside and passed through people's back gardens, under roads and bridges and alongside washing lines! Rising temperatures became a problem when the track began to melt in places as, unlike the previous man-made refrigerated tracks, our



L-R. Capt Lomas QARANC, Capt McGowan WRAC and Capt Jump WRAC.

training was now totally dependent on freezing temperatures.

Gym training will continue throughout the summer months under the guidance of QMSI Evans of 2 Fd Regt RA, to prepare the team for the ultimate goal of selection for the 1992 Olympic Games.

Novice weeks will take place from October 1989 for anyone interested in sampling life in the fast lane. Contact Lt Jump, at 41 AEC, BFPO 16 or QMSI Evans for more details.

NORDIC SKIING REPORT APRIL 1988-APRIL 1989

Major R D Patrick WRAC

During last Summer four roller-skiing weekends were held at JLR RCT/RAOC Colerne to introduce WRAC to the sport of Nordic Skiing.

On 3 December 1988 the team travelled to Sweden for three weeks training under the excellent, if tough, guidance of SSgt Oliver (RCT), Britain's most successful



From WRAC To PMIC

In the challenging and growing world of Financial Services, Associates with lioness qualities are required.

Pioneer Mutual Insurance Co.Ltd. has a long association with the services, and indeed many members of the Company are ex-service personnel.

If you are due to leave the Corps in the next two years and you would like to know more about a career in insurance, please complete the form below and return it to us - it won't even cost you a stamp.

Full name: Rank:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Tel No: Age: Run out date:

Forward to: Services Liaison Manager, Pioneer Mutual Insurance Company Limited,
FREEPOST Pioneer House Wroxham Road, Coltishall, Norwich NR12 7BR

WRAC/1

biathlete. The girls shared accommodation with the lads from 1 ADTR, whose expertise in the art of waxing was appreciated rather more than their achievements in the culinary field!

Christmas and New Year are spent in Bad Aussee, near Salzburg in Austria. On Christmas Day the training relaxed slightly as the team joined the "hand baggers" on the down hill slopes (The "in" terminology for down hill skiers was "hand baggers" and the more derogatory term, "mellies", referred to nordic skiers!) The team was accommodated for this period with the British Development Squad, managed by Major (Retd) Reaney (father of one of the team members, Army cadet Tracey Reaney) and coached by the extraordinary Sgt Carr (KOSB). Sgt Carr added a new dimension to training by

introducing massage techniques (a great way to meet people!) and sport psychology.

From Bad Aussee the team travelled to Fulpmes, near Innsbruck, where they met up with the Ladies Down Hill team and competed in the 3rd Armd Div Ski Meeting. This was the first time an Army Ladies Nordic team had competed in the Divisional meeting and they were given a great welcome. There were no specific races for ladies so they competed against the men in both the cross country and biathlon (skiing and shooting) events. The



2Lt Mather in action during a biathlon race at Fulpmes.

atmosphere was tremendous and everyone was anxious to help the girls as much as they could. It was difficult to curb the socialising but with the inter-services at Zwiesel only a fortnight away and the climax of the season still to come, early nights and limited gluwien were the order of the day.

From Fulpmes the team travelled to Zwiesel on the German/Czechoslovak border to take part in the British



Capt Joanne McCausland, Lt Kathie Knell, Cpl Bertina Clowes and LCpl Karin Cowie.

National and Army Nordic Championships, the competition to which we had been training the previous six months. It had been three years since an Army Ladies team had competed at Zwiesel and the girls were again given a tremendous welcome. Easily identifiable in their pink and white ski suits and white head bands, they were cheered and photographed constantly.

In the inter-services the WRAC was sadly defeated by the more experienced WRAF. The Air Force girls, under the leadership of Flt Lt Sheila Jackson, were very encouraging and the Army team look forward to taking them on again next year. Three of the team were awarded their Army Colours, Capt Jo McCausland, 2Lt Kathy Knell and Cpl Tina Howes, and all gained prizes of some description.

The highlight of the championships was taking part in the Military Patrol Race. The team, consisting of Capt McCausland, Lt Knell, Cpl Howes and LCpl Karen Cowie, skied 15 km carrying packs and SLRs. They were one of only six teams (out of 31) to shoot clear on the range (to their amazement as much as everyone else's!) and the WRAC rose in the esteem of many male officers that day!

Plans are now underway for training for the 1989/90 season. It is hoped to raise three teams this year, one from NI, one from England and one from BAOR, to take part in the championships. Anyone wishing further details should contact the Secretary on Sunnyside Mil Ext 43824.

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST RICHMOND WING – VICTORY COLLEGE

1 PLATOON WINDSOR COMPANY TAKE TO THE SKIES

By 2Lt K S O'Brien WRAC

You know the old saying, "How many boy scouts can you fit into an Austin Mini", well 1 Platoon, Windsor Coy (RMAS) set out to see how many student Officers and officer cadets they could fit into a Britt Norman Turbine Islander – that is a plane – for the uninitiated in aviation enthusiasm.

The jump was organised by the Platoon Staff Sergeant, SSgt J Robertson, who somehow managed to persuade everyone that throwing themselves into thin air at 2,000 feet was a good idea.

The Platoon was given thorough ground training by LCpl Heaton WRAC, Pte Cummins and Sgt Whittick of the Red Devils Parachute Team, in the weeks preceding the jump. Sports afternoons took on a new dimension as the girls came back successively more bruised after each session.

Finally the day of the "jump" arrived and anxious faces peered out of the window to see a beautiful sunny day and a cloudless, windless day. 'Oh no! The jump is on', was the cry along the platoon lines. There was plenty of nervous laughter as each member of the platoon was loaded with more and more kit – parachute, reserve and helmet with radio. Nervously each "stick" prepared for take-off. The worst moment came when the door opened at 800 feet to give the girls some idea of what the ground would look like when they needed to prepare for landing.

Most of the drills "went out of the window" as the girls found themselves in space, the aeroplane flying off into the sunset and no hope of it returning to pick them up.

The platoon provided plenty of entertainment for onlookers who repeatedly saw desperate attempts to get

back into the aeroplane or to run away, in mid air! The landings were somehow not quite as skillfully and professionally executed as they had been during the training and there were several crash landings. However, many smiling and much relieved faces emerged from layers of multi-coloured parachute silk, and disbelieving they were actually still in one piece. Luckily, Capt Paxton, the platoon commander, realised that many of the members of the platoon would be in shock after their ordeal and had the foresight to bring a bottle of Cherry Brandy with her, which members of the platoon felt it their duty to consume. It was a happy platoon that left Aldershot that day.

All the students found it an exciting and exhilarating experience. However, strange as it may seem, some felt they could probably just about manage to live the rest of their lives without seeing a parachute again! £717 was raised for Cancer Research and the British Heart Foundation.



Red Devils??

TABLE TENNIS

Four members of HQ UKLF have battled their way against teams from every Army District in the country to become the winners of their year's Army Women's Inter-

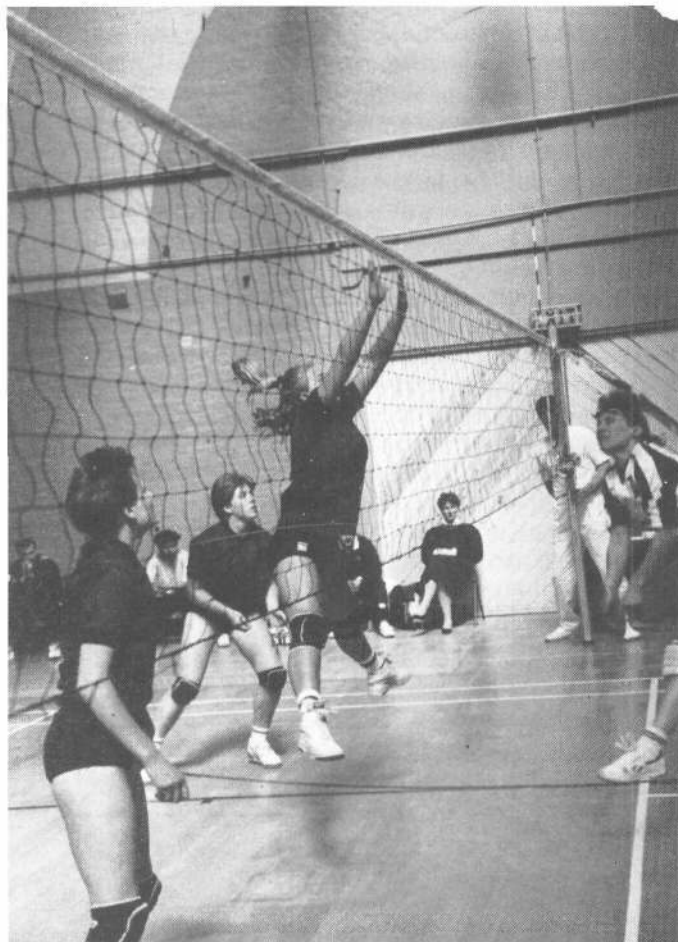


From L-R. LCpl Gillian Drake, Cpl Pat Cox,
LCpl Ronna Garrod and Pte Donna Grigor.

unit table tennis Championships. The finals were held in Aldershot on 2 March 1989 and the team after a tough battle succeeded. The girls – Cpl Cox, LCpl Drake and Pte Grigor are members of 22 Sqn RCT and LCpl Garrod is a medical assistant at HQ UKLF. All four are based at Wilton near Salisbury.

VOLLEYBALL

It has been a very successful season for the Army Women's Volleyball Association team culminating this year with a number of notable wins against the WRNS,



Pte Geeson and Cpl Raffety standby as Pte Rowe goes for the "block".

WRAF, the Prison Service and Fleet Ladies. The team's sights are now firmly set on winning the Inter Service Competition which is to be hosted by the Army next year.

ROYAL ENGINEERS PARACHUTE TEAM

Sgt Sharon Maybury WRAC

Ever since I was very young parachuting had been one of my many dreams of what I wanted to do when I grew up. Luckily for me most of my dreams have come true including parachuting.

Talked into doing it by an old friend, whilst in Cyprus, I steadily progressed up the system. Encouraged and given expert advice as I went along I managed to complete 98 jumps in a year before leaving Cyprus for Germany.

I continued parachuting at Bad Lippspringe, and whilst out there I was introduced to the RE Parachute Team who since then kept an eye on me and encouraged me to get onto their team, as my trade, which is Postal & Courier RE, gave me a chance to join the RE team.

Since meeting them and now a member of the RE team I have completed over 200 jumps, and we now aim to concentrate on team training for competitions and Demos around the UK.

The RE Display Team is only the second to have a member of the WRAC in the team. I think that it would be

nice to see more WRAC take up parachuting and with encouragement and commitment get onto one of the many display teams that are around. Come on ladies it's a great sport, so get out there and have a go.



From L-R. Cpl Annette Heaton, Sgt Sharon Maybury, Pte Debbie Ingle.

EXERCISE PINK FLAMINGO

**Cpl Annette Heaton WRAC
Pte Debbie Ingle WRAC**

Many of the parachuting fraternity make the annual pilgrimage to America at Christmas, to take advantage of the good weather conditions and increase their experience of jumping in large formations.

Last year Exercise PINK FLAMINGO was conceived to enable parachutists from the Regular Army, Territorial Army and Royal Air Force, with the minimum qualification of British Parachute Association, category 10, to take advantage of the facilities offered by one of the leading jump centres in the world. This jump centre which is the mecca for parachutists from all over the World is Zephyrhills Parachute Centre, Florida. The Christmas "Boogie" here attracts several hundreds of jumpers from countries such as Iceland, South Africa, Germany and of course a large number of "Brits".

EXERCISE WILD LYNX

**By LCpl J Voak WRAC
602 Signal Troop (Special Communications)**

Ex WILD LYNX was an adventure training exercise conducted by 602 Sig Tp (SC) during the period 3-10 February 1989. All the exercise activities were based on the areas in and around the Cairngorm and Monadhliath Mountains, Scotland. Foru WRAC members from the Tp, LCpls Deena Purcell, Sharon Stirman, Jan Voak, Pte Trish Hill and one WRAC attached from 96 Int Sy Sect, as ski instructor, Sgt Katrina Grierson and 15 male soldiers from the Tp took part.

Friday 3 February saw a disappointed party arriving at the Newtonmore Adv Trg Hut grumbling at the lack of snow. However our leader for the exercise, WO2 (YofS) Keith Bell, assured us that conditions were ideal for mountain trekking and with the forecast for the week showing no snow we prepared to trek. Salvation came

from Sgt Katrina Grierson who having previous experience of the Aviemore area decided to play a hunch and seek out a dry ski slope belonging to the Scottish Sports Council. This was booked for four evenings with three hour sessions for each evening, and spirits raised, we retired to the local hostelry. Activities started on Sat 4 February and each day saw a full programme of mountain and pony trekking, mountain bike riding and an evening on the dry ski slope to finish us off, literally.

We were self-catering due to the non-availability of an ACC cook. This saw all kinds of culinary delights being produced from the kitchen at meal times, the kitchen duties being shared equally between male and female members of the party.

Only one of the Tp girls on the exercise had skied before and she requested that she also start lessons again from basics. Katrina Grierson soon had them skiing safely down the dry slope and by the end of the week all were



A "stroll" in the Cairngorms.

L-R. LCpl Hogan, Sig Plant, Sig Aitken, WO2 Bell, Sgt Kelly, LCpl Stirman and LCpl Voak.

showing a great improvement. By the end of the last days training on the 9 February legs were beginning to feel the strain. The end of exercise dinner followed by a visit to a local disco soon saw the leg pains disappear. The exercise finished on Friday 10 February with a very early breakfast followed by a clean up, handover of the hut and the long journey back to Bicester. In summary, an adventure training exercise enjoyed by all and we are all looking forward to next years, OC and YofS please note.

EXERCISE BOLD MERMAID

By LCpl Tanja Cooper – 53 Port Sp Sqn RCT

As we stepped off the plane after a long delay at Luton and an overnight flight, off came the coats and jumpers and on came the shades! We had actually arrived, and the Mermaids were raring to go! We were accommodated by 3 RHA in Dhekelia, who were most hospitable. We soon settled in and unpacked the underwater make-up and a holiday fever set in. This was short lived. . . .

Our first complete day began in the diving equipment stores. We were all amazed at the amount of kit we would each require. Back in Dhekelia, we were instructed to "suit up" and sort out our equipment. Well, it was like the changing rooms at Dorothy Perkins, apart from the 40 lb of lead weights, cylinders and knives with which we were issued.

Our first introduction to Mediterranean waters was off

Dhekelia Jetty. Snorkelling was the order of the day, and we took to it like "ducks to water" or should I say "mermaids". Our first experience with an aqualung however, was not so smooth. The water was far from ideal as it was really rough. We were all thrown around on the surface and managed to drink a few mouthfuls of sea water. (Our instructors tried to persuade us to go underwater – a most unnatural thing when you feel as though you are drowning, even at the surface). However one by one we went down. Once under, all became calm and we regained control to experience our first fully fledged dive. The following few days were filled with lectures and underwater skills training. We were all progressing well and discovering a new concept to adventure training.

The evenings were as adventurous as the days. We visited various restaurants in the area and sampled the local delicacies, Mezzes and Halloumi, washed down with the traditional headache water. Calamari (squid) was most popular as opposed to uncooked garden snails which definitely got the thumbs down. However exam time was looming near, and it was time to remember the lectures. I think our instructors deserve a medal for patience, perseverance and bravery! I recall Sgt Seggie remarking that it was like having six wives but probably worse! Naturally all the mermaids passed with flying colours, so we were permitted to explore the oceans.

One of the most memorable dives for me was at a site known as Tunnels and Caves. Here, was a totally



"Bold Mermaids" survey the under water landscape on the way to "Tunnel and Caves".

alternative means of entry into the water. Sorry, no forward or backward rolls, jumps or twists, but a slither through a small hole in the floor of the rock. (Otherwise known as blow holes). We all thought it was some kind of joke at first. However, after people kept disappearing into it we began to get the general idea.

We had to enter the hole head first, which made it all the more uninviting as water was continuously gushing out of it. Once in, daylight vanished and although the tunnel inside was only a few metres long, the feeling of isolation swept over me. Just as I came out of the tunnel feeling relieved, into a water-filled cave, my mask began to rapidly fill with water. That was more unnerving than the hole itself, but I remembered my drills, tilted my head back and blew hard through my nose to dispel the water. Once I had cleared the mask and adjusted myself, it was a journey into huge caves and through a maze of tunnels. Captain Burrows seemed to attract octopi and those diving

with her were guaranteed a sighting although the Calamari was less forthcoming but sponges and sea slugs were more common. We also had the chance to dive on a couple of wrecks. Two of us dived on a roll-on-roll-off ferry called Zenobia, which sank in 1980. All the trucks were still on board and you could swim through the duty free shop which remained open to all!

We sailed out to sea in a small boat from Larnaca harbour and stopped directly above the wreck. It was our first deep dive (to 33 m) and we were feeling slightly apprehensive waiting to go. We dived for 17 minutes, which felt more like five at the time, and it was brilliant. Cars, lorries and furnishings are still aboard. The wreck was lying on its side, so there was plenty of detail to see. We thoroughly enjoyed it!

Three of the remaining mermaids dived on HMS Cricket the following day. This was a World War 1 river gun boat, and was equally interesting and enjoyable. Back at the jetty we were becoming expert underwater break-dancers! Our confidence in the water was shining through.

We found we were never short of people offering us assistance. A number of divers from 3 RHA assisted regularly on our dives. One was fortunately their Master Chef which was handy, as we managed to persuade him to combine a night dive with a post dive barbecue.

The night dive was another unforgettable experience. We dived from the jetty, and with torches off you are sitting in total darkness – that is until you stir the water around you where upon it shimmers with phosphorescence.

Cpl Irene Laverick managed to tie herself and instructor Captain Burrows into a complete muddle with torches, rope, surface marker buoys not to mention the rest of the equipment. Each bubble that came to the surface must have surely contained some expletive.

Whilst on the island we managed to see a few sights, including Limassol, Paphos and Aija Napa. We managed to get lost a few times, and generally enjoyed the island.

Our time in Cyprus gave us our first step on the ladder to the world of sub-aqua diving. We all learnt a great deal, experienced many things, most of which we had thought impossible and had a chance to try out a sport that is both challenging and rewarding. Hopefully through this exercise, a first for WRAC, the sport will become more widespread amongst us. From six happy mermaids, we thoroughly recommend it!

Capt Burrows – Aside

A thoroughly successful expedition with five of the six servicewomen reaching the required standard and progressing beyond. Aside from the sport itself, the adventure training element was high, with the girls pushed to their limits. Leadership, stamina, responsibility and mental agility were very much tested and developed.

FOUND

GRAND REUNION 1988

Ladies gold-plated Tissot Quartz wrist watch.

Apply: Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, GUILDFORD GU2 6QH

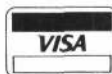
Mon Chéri
Lingerie & Leisure
Tasteful Quality
Lingerie & Nightwear
for every occasion.
Exclusive ranges of
silk, satin and cotton,
can be made to order
for larger sizes at little extra cost.

For free colour catalogue
of Summer/Autumn Ranges at
very reasonable prices, send now
to

'Mon Chéri'
Lingerie & Nightwear
181 London Rd, North End,
Portsmouth PO2 9AE

or

Telephone 0705 695711
10-6pm daily



40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER WRAC HEADQUARTER MESS

GUILDHALL – 1 FEBRUARY 1989

The WRAC Headquarter Mess held a Regimental Dinner at Guildhall on 1 February 1989 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps. The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant, Women's Royal Army Corps, accompanied by the Duke of Kent, was present at the dinner, together with many distinguished civilian and military guests and over 300 members of Headquarter Mess. Brigadier A Field, Deputy Controller Commandant, proposed the toast to the guests, to which the Rt Hon George Younger MP, Secretary of State for Defence replied.

A message was sent to our Commandant-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother:

"The Officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps send loyal greetings to their Commandant-in-Chief on the occasion of a Regimental Dinner in the Guildhall, City of London on the 1 February 1989, in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Corps".

Reply from Clarence House to Director Women's Royal Army Corps:

"I am most grateful for your kind message which I received with much pleasure.

I send my warm greetings to the Officers of the Women's Royal Army Corps, and to all those present at this evening's 40th Anniversary Regimental Dinner. I offer my best wishes for a very happy and successful occasion."

ELIZABETH R
Commandant-in-Chief

The following messages were also received:

From GOC 4 Armd Div GOC and all male ranks 4 Armd Div to DWRAC and all ranks WRAC. Congratulations and celebrations on 40 years of WRAC. Warmest thanks. May there be many more. On on on on.



HRH The Duchess of Kent. 2Lt Joanne Bate.



Major (Retd) P Grundy and HRH The Duke of Kent.



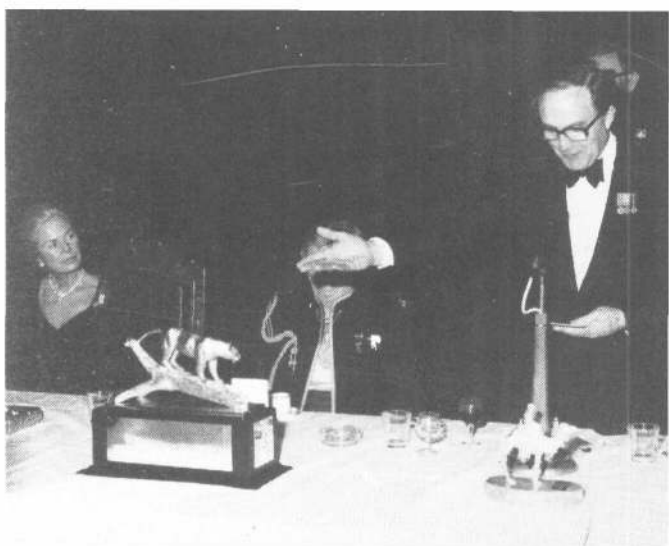
From L-R. Brigadier S P Nield, the Rt Hon George Younger, HRH The Duchess of Kent and Brigadier H G Meechie.

From BAE Hong Kong WRAC Officers and Servicewomen Hong Kong send congratulations and very best wishes on this happy day. We will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Corps throughout the day with members of the WRNS who are also marking a similar milestone in their history. I am delighted to say that the NOONDAY GUN in Hong Kong will today be fired in honour of the occasion. We send every good wish for the celebrations in London.

From DRA to DWRAC Grateful all ranks, yourself and Deputy Controller Commandant accept the Royal



Brigadier A Field, proposing the Toast to the guests.



Rt Hon George Younger who replied on behalf of the guests.



HRH The Duchess of Kent and the Director share a joke as they leave the Guildhall.

Regiment's most heartfelt greetings on 1 February – the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Our two Corps have worked

together in tremendous harmony over this period – long may our close relationship continue.

From DPCS Mill Hill Director and all ranks RE PCS to Director and all ranks WRAC. We offer our sincere congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Women's Royal Army Corps, having been closely associated with WRAC since your formation and prior to that with ATS. We sincerely hope that the Association will continue for many years.

From The Royal Monmouthshire RE Commanding Officer, officers and all other ranks of Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) send congratulations to Women's Royal Army Corps on their 40th Anniversary.

40 YEARS – CELEBRATION IN BICESTER

The WRAC in Bicester celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Corps with a Regimental Dinner on the 7 February 1989. The WRAC Staff Band kindly played the night before they flew to Cyprus and the dinner was enjoyed by nearly 80 servicewomen. The only guests were the Garrison Commander, Brig Bewley, CO 16 Bn RAOC, Lt Col Hawthorne and RSM 16 Bn RAOC, WO1 Gilfoyle.

The picture shows the guests with a few of the girls. The



evening was a tremendous success but the organising committee, under WO2 (CSM) Woodcock resisted pressure to organise a similar event on a monthly basis!

OPERATION RALEIGH

The aim of Op Raleigh is to develop a young person's self-confidence and leadership experience by giving them "the challenges of war in peacetime". To achieve this expeditions are organised in various countries involving young people from different cultures to give them a better understanding of life. Expeditions are organised working on various scientific, adventurous and community projects throughout the world.

Expedition Staff are all volunteers and selected upon merit from both military and civilian employments. Expedition members are called venturers and are all young people aged between 17 and 25 from all the varied walks of life. To be selected as a venturer you must pass a selection test, be able to speak English and raise £2,000 approx in sponsorship money.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPEDITION

2Lt S R Abraham WRAC

As a staff member on the expedition my job was group leader to one of the five sites in America. My group visited five different locations, travelling from site to site by Op Raleigh transport and mountain bikes. As group leader my job was to determine our tasks, liaise with the various government agencies and then to get my group carrying out the task. Initially I organised the group in order to achieve the tasks, however as time went on my job became easier and it was satisfying to watch everyone's leadership and self confidence grow. I found my job demanding both physically and mentally – but rewarding. Staff members worked in pairs and my companion was a native American Indian from Rosebud Indian reservation called Calvin Leadercharge.

Our first project was to complete 12 miles of trail construction on the Continental Divide trail. We were given our camp location at Blue Lake by the Forest Service and our project for the next 2½ weeks. Off we walked into the wilderness, mostly uphill for the next 18 miles to our camp located at Blue Lake. An idyllic picturesque remote site infested with mosquitoes! For most of us it was our first experience of being totally isolated, our only contact with civilisation being a visit from the occasional passing cowboy. Day to day living in the wilderness was tough, all



Barbed wire fencing.



Timber!!

our water had to be boiled for at least five minutes to kill bacteria, and we only had wood burning stoves so it was a constant battle to chop enough wood.

Freak hail and snow storms were a constant threat, and part of our daily routine was snow clearing to prevent the tents from falling down under the weight of the snow. The trail construction went well and we completed our task. We climbed several peaks, Conejous Peak being the highest in the area at 13,172 ft.

The aim of project two was to ride on mountain bikes from Platoro over the Rocky mountains to Mese Verde National Park – a distance of approx 260 miles.

With the advantage of a support vehicle we set off over the mountains on our adventurous trip. All was going well and we had ridden several miles across rough terrain when disaster struck. Half way down one of the mountains one of the venturers fell and injured his head and shoulder badly. Help was sent for and arrived hours later. The remainder of the bike ride was cancelled due to this and we were all transported by bus to Mese Verde National Park.

For project three we were based at Mese Verde National Park, located 450 miles south west of Denver, near the border of Arizona. It is an ancient historical site where the Pueblo Indians lived about 900 years ago. There are around 3000 ancient cave dwellings dotted across the park. The aim of this project was to assist the park service with trail construction and the collection of soil and seed samples.

Project four at Dinosaur National Monument located 360 miles NW of Denver, where dinosaur fossils bone deposits can be found in the sands of the two rivers. The aim of this project was to conduct maintenance work on the banks of the river and to carry out boundary fence surveys. From base camp we embarked on a week long raft trip down the Green River Canyon – an adventure not to be forgotten.

The purpose of the trip was to spend three days doing maintenance work to prevent erosion of a trail.

Project five was to cycle by mountain bike 300 miles across the Rocky Mountains – a great success in spite of another accident in the mountains.

The aim of our final project was to assist the forest service in trail maintenance work. We cleared the trail of fallen and dangerously positioned trees using axes and saws. At the end of the expedition, snow was deep on the ground, the leaves of the aspen trees were a beautiful shade of autumn gold and were silhouetted against the bright blue winter sky. Everyone was tired but had many happy memories to take home with them.

KENYA

Captain V S Bright WRAC

“Karibu! Welcome to Operation Raleigh and your expedition to Kenya” – that was when I really knew I was going! I arrived in Nairobi on 22 June along with 99 other venturers from all over the world. I was sent to the Central Highlands and Tsavo, spending a month in each, working on three projects for 10 days each.

Project one was on Mt Kenya where we had the task of building a new mountain hut at 14,000 ft. The present Mintos Hut sits on the edge of a tarn, but tourists and their discarded rubbish had led to water pollution. We set up camp near the hut, and started at the foundations – digging holes and laying cement. The altitude caused us most



Making cement.

problems with breathlessness but as part of adventurous training the group climbed Point Lenana 16,400 ft.

Project two. Our second project was in the Aberdare National park building a dam and installing a water pump – hopefully to provide running water for the Park. We built up the dam started by the previous group and began cementing a permanent dam. Our progress was slowed by heavy rain which flooded the dam! As an extra project we dug a permanent path down to the river.

From here we moved to start a new project, camping in the middle of a forest with an armed ranger to protect us against the ravages of wild beasts! It really felt like “Out of Africa”.

From the Central Highlands I moved south to Tsavo where the weather had improved dramatically and the scenery was amazing. The area HQ, based in the middle of the Tsavo National Park was surrounded by vast open

plains rich with wildlife and tourists! Our projects varied between working at a Rhino sanctuary assisting with refencing, and at an elephant orphanage. We worked on a waterhole damaged by tourists, and in Bora, a small village which needed help with the installation of a water supply. There was a scientific project concerning the growth of plants on coral landscape and an agricultural school for under-privileged boys.

The Kenyan people are friendly and appreciate all the help given to them, and without a doubt Kenya is one of the most beautiful countries in the world.



Crossing the equator.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

In 1987 I realised that, horrors of horrors, it was 20 years since I had joined the WRAC as an officer cadet. I also realised that I only knew of the whereabouts of one fellow cadet, yet I'd been the longest serving of us all. Needless to say, I started what was to be a year's hunt for the rest of my course. WRAC Directorate were able to forward a couple of letters, other WRAC friends knew of other friends who might know, and even AODO were called in to help. But after 20 years even they no longer held addresses combined with current surnames. One person couldn't be found until a broken night's sleep found me writing to an address I'd dreamed, which turned out to be the previous address of the cadet's parents.

In early 1988, to celebrate 20 years commissioning I persuaded everyone to write a newsletter – we'd been very lucky to contact Clare Hodgson who had been medically discharged from our course and Sandy Charlton Dewar who started with us but was commissioned later; so, our 12 newsletters provided much laughter, pain and interest.

Sue Bowden was on a six month canoeing expedition across Canada with her husband so her newsletter took a wee while to reach her, and Ruth Pearse had become a true Aussie with her family. From her though, the first seeds of a meeting and the 21st Anniversary of our commissioning was held in Ashford Officers' Mess on 8 April 1989, Jan Hole kindly organising it when her husband was suddenly posted to BAOR. Janie Armstrong, Jenny Baker, Rosie Wheelock, Clare, Sandy, Jan and I made it to our reunion: Ruth and Sue on the other side of the world are instructed to start saving now for our 1990 reunion in Bath! Sarah Henderson was at sister Ruth's (ex-Major Ruth Henderson) baby's christening and Fizz Reynolds

was in hospital. At the last moment family commitments kept Di Bull from joining us – next year no excuses!

So readers, don't just sit there wondering what's happened to your fellows – our delight in meeting again is worth any administrative hassle, and the years have just rolled away.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT WITH THE BLUES AND ROYALS

By Second Lieutenant Diane Mawby WRAC

"You are the first WRAC to be posted to the Household Cavalry", these words accompanied my posting order of Asst Adjt RHG/D (The Royal Horse Guards and First Dragoons). My lack of knowledge of the Household Cavalry soon became apparent when I visited Knightsbridge. The Adjt of the Household Cavalry Regiment tried in vain to explain the rank structure, for example a Sergeant is called a Corporal of Horse and a Lance Corporal of Horse (a full Corporal) wears the rank of a Staff Sergeant. As I packed my MFO boxes for the third time in five months I was looking forward to remaining in one place longer than three months, having first been posted straight back to RMAS to work for the Academy Adjt and then as platoon commander at the WRAC centre.

On arrival I could not have been treated better either by the officers or the soldiers, however I can now appreciate what a goldfish must feel like. I "settled in" to the job remarkably quickly but people outside the Regiment found it harder and still do, to accept that the WRAC are attached to The Blues and Royals. On answering the telephone, I am often greeted with the receiver being rapidly replaced or hearing a shocked voice saying "That's not The Blues and Royals is it?"

As a keen horse rider, I was pleased to find that firstly the Regiment ran the Rhine Army (Sennelager) Equitation Centre and secondly that all the black horses unsuitable for Knightsbridge are sent out to Sennelager. Nearly every weekend I have travelled to show jumping competitions, hunter trials and team chases with varying degrees of success.

"Can I go on a tank for a couple of days?" I uttered this request a year ago and ended up watchkeeping for the Brigade Exercise, an experience I would not like to repeat. So in June I plucked up enough courage to repeat my request and it worked but not quite as expected as my two days turned into two weeks. The Adjt said I would be "employed" as the gunner and I was just to say when I had had enough. Unfortunately my pride would not allow me to leave the exercise early and I actually thoroughly enjoyed it. My appearances at orders groups caused many engineers and infantry to look amazed – mixed tank crews in The Blues and Royals? This was not helped by a Subaltern saying in total seriousness that the tank commander gets lonely on exercise and has to bring his wife along!

As the prospect of getting Summer block leave faded, I departed for Exercise Treaty. My task along with Lt Suzie Byrne was to assist with the Visitors Day. As the visitors consisted of a number of Generals from four countries the preparation was quite intense. Everything appeared outwardly to go smoothly but there were a few problems. One being at RAF Gutersloh, when at 0730 hours as I escorted a French General to the helicopter, General Galvin (SACEUR) deemed that no helicopters were to fly in memory of the Ramstein tragedy. Four staff cars were very

swiftly produced and one French General, two American Brigadiers, General Galvin and myself travelled in convoy. Immediately after I went on Exercise Sterling Shield – HQ Squadron exercise at Vogelsang, a training camp near the Belgium border. The first day consisted of firing the SMG and pistol, then we moved on to the Inert Grenade Range which provided to be my downfall. At the end of the course after leopard crawling, leaping into trenches and climbing walls – on being told to get down from the 12 foot wall and thinking about the parachute jump I intended to do in a couple of weeks, I jumped. My ankle, which I had originally sprained in July jumping off a tank on to a tree trunk, went again. Thereafter I managed most things except the very early morning runs!

I have had a very enjoyable year with the Regiment and next year hope to go with them to Canada.

CALLING ALL EX WRAC SWITCHBOARD OPERATORS AND DATA TELEGRAPHISTS

Vacancies exist in many areas for Civilian Telephonists and Telecom Operators working with the Army Fixed Telecommunications System in the UK.

For further information contact:

Tom Winsborough
Civil Manager
HQ 2 Sig Bde & Cotswold Gar
Park Lane
CORSHAM
Wilts SN13 9NR
Tel: 0225-814220

"WE'LL MEET AGAIN"

**AN EVENING FOR VETERANS IN
THE FLORAL HALL (WINTER GARDENS)
EASTBOURNE ON
SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 8 pm–MIDNIGHT**

COMPÈRE: MR CHARLIE CHESTER

DANCING, SINGING TO THE STARS OF TODAY AND
YESTERYEAR. TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, BAR AND
SNACKS.

TICKETS: £2.00 (Limited)

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in

ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

Our Employment Officers are situated in Branches throughout the United Kingdom and they maintain close contact with local employers and Jobcentres. Their addresses and telephone numbers can be obtained from Unit/Ship Resettlement Officers; Jobcentres and local telephone directories.

During the 1 April 1988 – 31 March 1989 the Association assisted 9,918 men and women with their resettlement and placed, 5,117 in employment. Of those placed 2,444 were men and women from the Army and 41 were from the WRAC.

REUNION

94 (NEW ZEALAND) HAA BATTERY RA GIBRALTER (OCTOBER 1952–SEPTEMBER 1955)

A reunion is to be held of all ex-members of 94 (New Zealand) Battery in Colchester on Friday 17 November 1989 to mark RANGIRIRI DAY.

Would any ex-members of the Battery who wish to attend or simply renew contact with other ex-members please get in touch with the Battery Captain at Kirkee Barracks, Colchester, Essex CO2 7UJ.

A list of all contact addresses submitted will be passed to all known ex-members.

31ST CWAC VETERANS REUNION

29 and 30 September 1989

TORONTO – CANADA

For complete Reunion Brochure write to:

Mrs Shirley Wood Heesaker
201 Niagara Street
Toronto
Ontario
Canada M5V 1C9

Telephone: 781-2872, 781-3821

WRAC REUNION

Were you at Gorst Road, Home Postal Depot, Acton – 1956–1959. If so please contact: Mrs Joan Round (née Goldsack), 5 Park Road, Askern, Doncaster DN6 0AT, who is organising a Reunion in October.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION – 1989

The 1989 Northern Area Reunion will be held in the Lounge Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday 9 September from 2 to 5.30 pm.

Tickets £3.75 (including tea) obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9BY (Tel: 0423 507023) not later than Saturday 2 September. Please send stamped addressed envelope with cheque/postal orders made payable to "WRAC Association (Northern Area)". No tickets will be available for sale at the door.

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

ATS DINNER CLUB

(Annual Luncheon)

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club will be held on Saturday 14 October 1989, at The Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London.

Our membership continues to increase, but we would like to hear from many more ex-ATS. Enquiries should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Miss E Lucas, Flat 30, The Grampians, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 7LN.

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER – IN EASTBOURNE

(By kind permission)

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND VETERANS PARADE

Assemble opposite the "Grand Hotel" at 10.00 am.

Tickets for the Concert are available from the Hon Sec: J Clarke, 41 Aldermay Road, Manchester M21 2QW. Cheques should be made payable to the MCVA and crossed. Please include a SAE.

WRAC ASSOCIATION GRAND REUNION 1991 SCOTLAND

The Scottish Area have agreed to host the Association Grand Reunion in Glasgow on Saturday 13 April and Sunday 14 April 1991.

Full details and an application form will appear in the February and August editions of LIONESS in 1990.

The outline programme would be:

Saturday 13 April 1991

10.00 am to 2.00 pm	Outings in the Glasgow Area for members.
11.45 am	Secretarys' Meeting in the City Chambers.
12.30 pm to 2.00 pm	Council and Secretarys' Lunch in the City Chambers.
2.30 pm	Annual General Meeting.
	Tea.
Evening	Possible reception by Civic Authority.
	Dinner in Albany Hotel with WRAC Staff Band and other entertainment.

Sunday 14 April 1991

A Church Service in Glasgow Cathedral followed by a March Past.

As for 1988 – accommodation and travel will be an individual responsibility but as much help as possible will be given to allow branches to make collective arrangements.

SUSSEX HOUSING ASSOCIATION FOR THE AGED

SHAA is a charity providing a range of accommodation for the elderly in Sussex. Vacancies occur from time to time for the post of Resident Warden in one of the schemes.

Details of these positions can be obtained by telephoning or writing for an application form to: SHAA, 5 Albion Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2ND. Tel: Lewes (0273) 471166.

MEMORIES OF A WAAC

**Mrs Daisy Cotterell (nee Williams)
as told to Colonel (Retd) V I Fisher**

When I was in Florida in the Spring I met a "founder" member of the WAAC. This is a very potted version of the



Mrs Daisy Cotterell and Colonel Fisher.

story of her service which she recounted in great detail.

Mrs Cotterell was born Daisy Williams on 26 October 1892 in Newport. She joined the WAAC when it was first formed in 1917 and was sent to Hastings for two weeks training and "shots for everything". Women supplied their own suitcases but were issued with blankets, uniform tunic dress, hat, shoes and stockings. The hat was difficult to wear over braided hair and tended to turn pink and the shoes and stockings were not to her liking so she supplied her own version of these items.

She was sent to Le Havre for a short time before being posted to Rouen to work with Ordnance. This work was mostly clerical but she sometimes served on the counters including one issuing revolvers. Women had one Sunday off each month and on one such day she and a friend met two Canadian Railway Engineer soldiers on a French bus. The ride ended with the soldiers asking to be shown round and subsequently a friendship developed.

Daisy Williams eventually became one of the first victims of Spanish flu and was admitted to Rouen Hospital. Nearing recovery she unexpectedly passed out and remembered nothing for a month – the official diagnosis was pneumonia. She was MEDIVAC, the only woman on the hospital ship, via Plymouth to Endell Street Military Hospital in London. This was crowded with flu patients and conditions so bad that for the only time in her life she lied and said she was just passing through. She met there a woman who had been in the Rouen Hospital with her with a

broken leg and the two of them just left. Crutches were useless for public transport but a passing chauffeur-driven car gave them a lift to the WAAC HQ near Paddington. As the only available beds were on the floor, the car took them on to the station and a train home. On recovery she went to the WAAC HQ at Bristol from where she was eventually demobbed.

In 1919 Daisy Williams sailed to Canada to marry her railway engineer and become Mrs Cotterell. She is now a widow with an adult family. Her Canadian home is in London, Ontario but she spends the winters in Florida. Even after 70 years in Canada she has retained her British accent and it was quite amazing that someone in her 97th year should have such complete recall of events from the first Great War.

MEMORIES OF AN ATS "VOLUNTEER"

Mrs Olive Macrae (née Dunn)

Just after the Munich Crisis in 1938 I joined the newly formed ATS attached to Territorial Regiments, to undertake non-combatant duties – mainly as cooks and clerks. Each member of my family was engaged in serving our country and I was determined not to be left out! I was attached to a Liverpool Infantry Regiment TA for training as a clerk (GD). There were, at that time, only 24 ATS in Liverpool. Therefore we were, when attending our weekly evening training, quite a rarity and at the receiving end of many "wolf whistles" and surprised looks when striding out in our, in my opinion, not very feminine uniforms.

On the 26 August 1939, I received a telephone message at the office where I worked, to report for immediate active service at my Regimental HQ. I just told my employer – left my desk immediately – dashed home – donned my uniform and was the second of my batch to report at 11.30 am. When I returned home later that night my mother had received a visit from my employer to retrieve all the office and safe keys which were in my keeping and which I had brought home with me! He also brought flowers and a parting gift from the firm and the staff. How impetuous one is at 21!

After four or five days helping to get all the call-up papers completed for the Regiment, I, with half a dozen other ATS was posted to the Mersey Defences Brigade HQ on the outskirts of the city. Another TA regiment was actually there undergoing its two weeks' summer training. There my work really began.

We were, within a few days, joined by more "Volunteers" – we were not called Privates at first and there were no NCOs. Indeed it was quite some time before I set eyes on our Commandant ATS. These girls were from other areas and very diverse backgrounds. Some were from the War Office and had elected to carry on their work in the ATS. One of my friends was "Chris" Belle Christie who was the fastest touch-typist I have ever seen and always took her cap off last of all when going to bed, after she had been reprimanded for not saluting an officer when she was going to the ablutions after Reveille! Another friend was the Brigadier's daughter Carole, who had been to Roedean and who was later to marry the Brigade Major; yet another was Adele, a beautifully trained singer and the Colonel's niece. We were a very mixed bunch of 24 – cooks, orderlies, clerks and assistants in the Mersey Defences Ops Room.

On the 3 September 1939, after Church Parade, we were all assembled to hear Winston Churchill's speech broadcast over a loud speaker and were much moved. One of the soldiers took a photograph of my friend Chris and I on top of one of the bales of equipment and we (the



We all need a break!

Mr. A. is a double above-knee amputee confined to a wheelchair, very dependent on his wife's care. The couple live in a FORCES HELP SOCIETY bungalow carefully designed to make life easier for the disabled and those who care for them. Nevertheless, coping with disability is stressful for both of them, and they and many other disabled ex-servicemen and their wives need a holiday that takes account of their special needs.

To help meet the demand for such holidays, the FORCES HELP SOCIETY's newest project is the building of a bungalow-style complex consisting of self-contained units all purpose-built for disabled, in the grounds of its Convalescent and Retirement Home at Ryde, Isle of Wight, which will enable short-stay accommodation to be offered either for married couples together, or for the wife to stay in one of the units while her

disabled husband is cared for elsewhere; for a woman widowed after years of caring for a disabled husband, or for a disabled man or woman who can stay independently provided there are the right facilities and there is someone to call on in an emergency. This project, like the building of more specially designed homes for the disabled, depends on your support through donations, covenants and legacies.

Please help us to help those who served us so well.

THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY & LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS

122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE

Tel: 01-589 3243

Registered Charity No. 209753

girls) were allowed out of barracks for a last Sunday lunch at home, if we could get home. Fortunately for me Chris lived reasonably near and had a brother, with a car, who collected and returned us at the end of a 2-hour break. Strangely enough I remember the lunch as having a celebratory touch to it. That night we returned home for our last night. On the 4 September we were in the Army "for the duration".

The Brigadier and the Camp Commandant were not very sure what to do with us at first but we were soon esconced in three bell tents – away from the men. We were eight to a tent instead of 12 which had its drawbacks, because with eight straw palliasses instead of 12, we kept falling out of "bed" on to the ground-sheet. We made a request and were given four more and settled in, eventually. Fortunately I had done a good bit of camping but some of the girls had never "roughed it".

Meals were taken in the PAD (Passive Air Defence) hut instead of on the field but I shall never forget being handed congealed liver for breakfast from the field kitchen, where we had to line up for our meals. Nor shall I forget having to dip one's mug into a pail of tea "with" or a pail "without" sugar. Up until then I had seldom drunk tea, but milk, Horlicks and cocoa, my favourites, were not available so I learned to dip, without hesitation eventually, into the pail "without".

Ablutions were horrific. It wasn't too bad in September but as the weather became colder the latrines and the ablution sheds were sheer purgatory. Apart from anything else most of us – even erstwhile only Summer campers – had been able to wash in some privacy but there is no privacy in washing immediately after Reveille at about 6.30 am in the Army. At least not in 1939.

We were drilled daily, apart from daily work, just like the men, with kit, helmets and gasmasks and we learned to



3 September 1939.

use a rifle whilst lying flat on the ground and the Camp Commandant and the Sgt Major made sure we had our bodies, including our "skirted" legs, in the correct position. We did not much care for this but had many a giggle at night about it when we relaxed in the NAAFI or in our tents. I cannot say that I became very proficient with a rifle. Most of us had sore arms and bruised shoulders for weeks. However, I managed quite well on parade and eventually became used to the route-marches, fully laden, as well.

I was assigned first as secretary to the Brigade Major, which was quite pleasant as he was a charming young man with a great sense of humour. Once, later on, the camp was strafed and the bullets went in just below our window sill. He grabbed me and dived under the desk and remarked later that he had never hugged a girl quite so closely before. The bullets had penetrated just below our window sill.

In November, when we, previously more or less sheltered females, were going down like flies with colds, coughs and flu we were moved to a big house nearby which had been commandeered. This had been the home of the then Minister of Food, Lord Woolton, but was quite denuded of all furnishings except for our Army beds and lockers but at least we had bathrooms and more importantly "proper" wcs! It was also, although cold, fractionally warmer and not so windblown as our bell tents. We received donations of furniture, curtains, rugs, bedding, china, etc mostly from relations and friends but also some from kindly local people which made it look more homelike. My grandmother died in the December so my father and his family delivered all the contents of her house, lock, stock and barrel, to the "Attery". This made us all feel more cheerful and for those fortunate enough to be the recipients of beds meant we were really comfortable at night. With two double and two single beds from my grandmother's house, I, of course, selfishly commandeered the best of the two singles!

In 1940 I received my LCpl's stripe, and was assigned for duty as Secretary Assistant to the Intelligence Officer Mersey Defences. As part of this job I was once lowered below ground into a bombed building to administer, on a doctor's instructions, a hypodermic syringe into a man's buttock to deaden the pain until he could be extracted. Being very small I was the only person in uniform who could be lowered into the narrow aperture. I was down there for nearly two hours until the man was stretchered out and I was hauled out. It was the longest two hours in my life and to say that I was terrified is an understatement.

In 1941 I was posted as a Cpl to Western Command HQ where I was the Secretary to the Judge Advocate General, Western Command, just outside Preston where I received my second stripe. The work there was very demanding and arduous, starting in the office at 8 am and seldom over before 6 pm with just short breaks for meals and the occasional "cuppa" at my desk. Then after tea we all had kitchen or other camp chores to do before an hour or so in the NAAFI before retiring. Fortunately for me after a few months the JAG noticed my chilblained hands. After finding that they were caused through "spud-bashing" at night, he saw my CO, told her that as I worked for 10 hours, except for short breaks six days a week, I was to be released from these chores and so were all the other non-cookhouse ATS. I worshipped the man!

In 1942, after application, I attended several Gunnery and Radar Courses and after qualifying was put in charge of a group of ATS (HQ Station Hotel, Carnforth) helping to man Gun and SL sites in the Western Ranges of the Pennines from around Mallerstay, Grisedale, Bough Fell, Risehill, Whernside, Langstrothdale, Quernmore and south to Littardale and Hebden Moor and also on the coastal strip from Barrow-in-Furness to south of Heysham. By now I was a Sgt and eligible to frequent the WO's and Sgt's messes where I was often the only female. I was really cosseted although still sleeping in a Nissen hut, albeit in a small cubicle at one end of the hut for which privacy I was duly grateful. However, the work here was physically more arduous. Often the hours of one's sleep were never guaranteed. Time after time one had to put on

one's battledress on top of the army issue pyjamas if one was one of the night's duty drivers, as I was, to "ferry" personnel out to sites at the back of beyond to repair equipment, etc in the middle of the night – without lights if the enemy were overhead. This was after a full day's work six days a week. While on duty at a gun-site I was slightly wounded by shrapnel in my leg and was hospitalised for a week or so followed by a week's sick leave. I hadn't had such a rest in three years! When on one's leave, every three months if one were lucky, the idea was to have as much fun as possible and burn the candle at both ends – at least that is what I did.

It was in this area and in the mess at one of the Battery HQs that I met my husband, Farquhar (always known as Mac, who was a wizard on the piano as a jazz player and who also played the banjo). We were engaged a few months later and three months after that, 2 July 1943, we were married in my Church in Liverpool which had been bombed and had a tarpaulin over most of the roof!

By this time Farquhar was awaiting posting overseas. Not to be outdone I also applied for overseas duties and was accepted and kitted out with tropical gear. I attended my final medical for injections, etc, to be told that they suspected that I was pregnant. A fact I did not dispute!

I was finally discharged from the ATS in January 1944 after 5½ years service, four years and five months of which were on active service. My whole outlook on life was very much broadened.

Post Script

I settled in Glasgow whilst Farquhar was abroad. He was demobbed in 1946 and saw our son when he was turned two years old. I taught as an uncertified teacher for about 10 years in Kircudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire until 1962 when I attended a shortened course for mature students at Jordanhill College of Education. After this I was a primary school teacher in several schools. When Jenny Lee finally managed to get the Open University off the ground I was one of the first to enrol and three years after its inception, while still carrying on as a primary school teacher, I graduated, much to my gratification and surprise. After this I transferred to Secondary Teaching, retiring 4½ years ago.

All my mature, most rewarding and happy life in Dumfries and Galloway is due to the fact that I joined the ATS in 1938. Who can ask for more.

Originally published in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard and Advertiser 1985.

WRAC MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT APPEAL BENEFACTORS

List No 6

This list is in addition to lists 1–5 published in previous editions of Lioness.

Names here are those who have subscribed since the previous lists or whose details require amendment.

Association Branches

Birmingham	Cambridge	Deal	London
Richmondshire	Salisbury.		

Units

WRAC Centre (collections at Passing Out Parades)

Individuals

Miss J F M Ahrens	Lt Col L E Holt
Miss B B Brown	Brig H C Millman OBE
Capt E J Carter MBE TD	Mrs M Scott-Watson
Col A M M Clissitt	Miss M Taylor-Jones
Mrs A H Hodgson	Miss E Norton

GRAND REUNION MESSAGE

Several members have asked that the letter from the Master Gunner which was displayed at the Grand Reunion in the Barbican should be reproduced in full.

We are very happy to accede to this request not only because it was a moving and heartfelt tribute written by the Master Gunner in his own hand, but it is also a tribute to the author General Sir Thomas Morony who died suddenly on 27 May 1989.

He had recently agreed to be a Patron of and a subscriber to the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, a further sign of his general regard for the close association between us.

From General Sir Thomas Morony KCB OBE

Headquarters
Director Royal Artillery
Woolwich
LONDON SE18 7BH

7 October

All those of us who serve or have served in The Royal Regiment of Artillery join in sending our congratulations to The Women's Royal Army Corps Association on the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938.

I hope that we in our Regiment may claim a special relationship with you in yours. For from its very beginning your Corps and our Regiment have worked together and served side by side.

Some of us have served with you in action and on the same gun lines. A great many of us have worked beside you in Regiments, in training establishments or in Headquarters. Certainly all of us – at every level – carry with us now the happiest recollections of our work together over the years.

It is, therefore, with the hope that the respect and affection so firmly established between us over your first 50 years will develop and mature that I send our best wishes to you who have become, in such a real sense, our sister Regiment.

MASTER GUNNER

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND BRANCH NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1989

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on Saturday 15 April 1989 at 2.30 pm.

The Chair was taken by Brigadier A Field CB, Vice-President of the Association who welcomed 250 members to the meeting. She also welcomed Major E O Coven to the platform as Chairman of Council.

She thanked the London Branch and Chairman London and Eastern Area for organising fund raising activities and the Director and officers for allowing the Band to give a concert following the AGM.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 October 1988 having been circulated to Branches were taken as read and signed.

The Chairman of Council, Major E O Coven, paid tribute to her predecessor Colonel Bowles and thanked her for her tour as Chairman of Council which included the memorable year of 1988.

She said in the short period since the 1988 AGM Council had met only once.

Council had agreed that the 1988 Grand Reunion had been a great success and offered its congratulations to the Chairman and members of the Organising Committee. Council had voted for a sum of £18,000 to be available to the Committee as a possible subsidy to the Reunion. In the event less than £2,000 had been needed and Council had voted to close the Special Purpose Fund and release the balance of £16,000 to the General Funds of the Association with the proviso that £5,000 should be earmarked for possible needs at the Grand Reunion in 1991.

Major Coven said that about 500 Annual members failed to renew their subscriptions at the end of 1988. There had been 998 new Annual members in 1988, so it could be called a gain of nearly 500! In addition 295 new life members joined in the financial year.

A total of 487 tickets had been issued for the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph and 16 members of the Association had taken part in the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, at the climax to the item to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS.

The Chairman reported that Council had invited Brigadier Nolan to become a Life Vice-President of the Association. She had accepted the Council's invitation.

Mrs E Laurence-Smith, the Honorary Treasurer reported that the accounts for the year ending 31 October 1988, had been printed in the No. 1 of 1989 edition of *Lioness* following approval by Council in January 1989.

She explained that the accounts for the year under review had been complicated by the two activities for which Special Purpose Funds had been established namely, the 1988 Grand Reunion and Phase II of the Museum Redevelopment.

The 1988 Reunion Fund showed a credit of £16,787 but £18,707 had been put into the Fund by vote of Council as working capital, so the Reunion actually cost the Association £1,920. The remaining balance was to be returned to the Association General Funds with £5,000 being earmarked for Grand Reunion 1991.

The Museum Redevelopment Fund stood at £25,313 in deficit at 31 October 1988.

The operating account had shown an excess of income over expenditure of £8,438.

The loss on the magazine *Lioness* had been £4,392 last year and £9,011 over the past four years.

Investment income had been £7,835 last year compared to £7,930 the previous year, so the turmoil on the Stock Exchange had resulted in a drop of only £95 in monies received by the Association from the portfolio which had been valued at £86,414.

The Accumulated Funds of the Association stood at £75,877 which was healthy and with a relatively quiet year ahead should improve.

The Vice-President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for her report and her work on behalf of the Association.

Captain K R McGregor the Editor of *Lioness* reported that copy for the recent issues of *Lioness* had been plentiful – stimulated by the Grand Reunion in 1988 and general interest brought about by 1989 being the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, and the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

She thanked everyone who had contributed in the past and especially to those who had not been lucky enough to have their articles published. Space was always limited and every effort was made to include a wide range of topics and articles.

Brigadier A Field, Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Trustees, reported that the Trustees had met twice during the year.

She reported that three prominent persons had accepted invitations to become Vice-Patrons of the Funds. They were: The Very Reverend Lord Jacobovits the Chief Rabbi, The Lady Mary Soames and General Sir Thomas Morony.

She expressed the Trustees' thanks to everyone who had contributed to the Funds in one way or another, donations, fund-raising and covenants. This had come to a total of £112,014 of which £101,007 (including tax recovered) had come from serving members of the Corps.

The Chairman also thanked Lieutenant Colonel Soames and members of the Grants Committee and the Army Benevolent Fund who supported the Funds in so many ways, one of the most welcome being the provision of free one-week holidays for one parent families at a Holiday Centre of their choice.

She also thanked the Voluntary Workers of SSAFA/FHS, Secretaries of our own Association Branches, the Royal British Legion particularly the Women's Section, and Social Workers of the DSS who submit cases for consideration to the Grants Committee.

A total of 888 cases had been considered during the year; 645 of these had been ex-ATS; 238 ex-WRAC and five had been ex-QMAAC applicants.

The amount spent on grants was £142,000 as against £136,154 in 1986/87.

The Chairman pointed out that as well as direct financial help the Funds were also paying for the rental of 165 television sets – a cost to the Funds of £8,800 for the year and paying for 102 television licences.

Brigadier A Field, Chairman of the Museum Trustees, reported that at the close of the accounts for audit on 31 October last year, the Museum Redevelopment Fund was £25,000 in debit. Since then the Appeal had received £5,000 from the Wolfson Foundation, £1,000 from the Royal Engineers, £942 from the Charities Deposit Fund and £888 from individual donations. In addition most of those who made donations by deed of covenant had two more payments to make, so the deficit was really nearer £12,000 less than half the figure in the accounts.

The Chairman of Trustees reported that plans were in hand for the creation of a Royal Room to house the

uniforms of HM The Queen and Princess Mary, in a climate controlled display and to highlight the Corps' Royal connections and once that had been done there would be an official opening. However, the Museum was open to the public now.

1989 is Museum Year and the WRAC Museum had joined in the Blue Peter Scheme and other schemes to encourage school children visits.

Somerset Branch proposed and Andover Branch seconded that in Rule 11(g) line three the figure of 80p should be deleted and the figure of £1 substituted and that Rule 11(h) should be deleted *in toto*. The motion was put to the vote and carried with six Branches dissenting.

Somerset Branch proposed and Portsmouth Branch seconded that in Rules 10(f) and 11(m) the sum of £8 should be deleted and the sum of £20 substituted. The motion was put to the vote and was not carried. The rule is to remain unamended.

Wolverhampton Branch proposed and Crewe Branch seconded that the uniform for WRAC Association Standard Bearers should be incorporated in the Rules of the Association and read: "A green beret with Association brooch, matching skirt and jacket (not pullover) of dark green colour, white shirt and green tie, black shoes and white gloves and gauntlets (at direction of parade organiser)." The motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Council had proposed that Major D R M Parker, Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames and Miss M Bradley be re-elected as Council Vice-Presidents and that Mrs H M Fuller be elected as a Council Vice-President in an existing vacancy. Aldershot Branch seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Lieutenant Colonel Lawson stated that Scottish Area were willing to host the 1991 Grand Reunion. She stated that it would probably be held in Glasgow and since Easter Sunday would be 31 March 1991 the Reunion would be held on the first or second weekend in April 1991.

Brigadier Field thanked Scottish Area for their offer to host the 1991 Grand Reunion and said that the proposals would be considered by the Council of the Association on 27 June 1989. Details would be published in No 2 edition of Lioness due out in August 1989 and that an application form would appear in both editions of Lioness in 1990.

The Vice-President pointed out that the Grand Reunion after next would be in 1994 which would be the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Comrades Association in 1919, and which had had continuous existence since.

The General Secretary was instructed to send a message to the WAAF Association to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the WAAF.

BRANCH NEWS

ANDOVER Thinking back to the reunion, I wonder if anyone arrived in stranger transport that we did? The cost of hiring a coach for the day was a bit steep, so our Chairman Jill Ryan arranged to borrow a minibus from a local charity, and her friend Dave, agreed to "cabby" us. Whenever we pulled in for a cuppa, people looked amazed to see seven fit and sprightly females jumping out of a mini ambulance. When we came out of the Barbican after the show, we found a small group of bystanders waiting on the pavement to see who was going to be taken away in the ambulance. We all had a good laugh to see the astonished look on their faces when we hopped in. We had a great day, one to remember.

In spite of posters being displayed and newspaper adverts, we don't seem to be able to get any new members, but we continue to meet monthly. Last time we



Andover Branch members with their "taxi".

had a very hilarious game of "Pictionary" not played as a board game, but we split into four teams and a great deal of laughter ensued as our teams tried to guess what the drawing was. I think we shall have this again as everyone agreed that it was great fun.

At our next meeting we have a member of the TA to tell us of her experiences while belonging to that organisation.

Nine of us attended the Area Reunion at Portland, and a good time was had by all, even the weather was good.

AYRSHIRE We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May, and although our numbers are small we are an active Branch and have had a very successful year.

Lunch meetings have proved popular, speakers at evening meetings have been enjoyed and with the Scottish Area Meeting, Grand Reunion, the Annual Dinner, our Scottish Country Dance and a bus outing we have had variety.

The Area Meeting was again a Scottish get-together and the Dumfries Branch excellent hosts.

The trip to London proved very worthwhile. The Service in St Paul's we thought excellent, as was the concert, but we were disappointed not to meet friends from the war years, though we met plenty of well-known Association chums.

At our Annual Dinner we had the pleasure of welcoming members of the Association of WRENS and as usual we will join them at their evening later.

The Scottish Country Dance apart from giving pleasure, helped us to give donations to Erskine Hospital, Glasgow, the War Blinded at Linburn, and the Malcolm Sargent House in Prestwick as well as the newly opened holiday house for children suffering from Leukaemia. We were invited to view the house before the opening and as it is available to sufferers and their families from all over Britain, any members of the Association who have friends in these sad circumstances should have no fears in applying to holiday there. With excellent staff, everything has been thought of for their convenience and comfort.

Mrs J Neilson, our elderly President was a regular attender at meetings until recently, when unfortunately one stormy day she was blown over and is now recovering from a broken leg. She is in good spirits, but bones (when one is 94 years old) just don't heal so quickly.

We were honoured to receive the invitation to the Garden

Party at Buckingham Palace in July 1988, and Mrs C Mowbray and Miss E Howie thought it a day to remember.

BIRMINGHAM Last August we moved, with the Birmingham United Services Club, to our new venue, in Gough Street, Birmingham. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, at 1.30 pm and extend a welcome to anyone who cares to visit us.

We are still going strong and are a little more organised, membership now 129, – happy to say this includes Rose Evans, Ontario, Canada and Norah McKenzie, Victoria, Australia. On 24 May, we celebrated our First Birthday.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS a visit was made to the Council Chambers, where we presented an ATS plaque and flowers, to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

Donations have been made to the Midland Institute for the Blind, and "City of Birmingham Crime Prevention Panel", West Midlands Police, in appreciation of interesting speakers.

A party of members attended the Anzac Memorial Service, at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, Cannock Chase – a moving and memorable occasion.

The invitation to attend the Matins Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, following the AGM was greatly appreciated, as was the inclusion in the Service, of the WRAC Collect.

It has been a great pleasure to meet so many members during the past 12 months, and look forward to many more happy occasions.

BOLTON The Branch meets on the last Thursday of the month and attendances are quite good. In March we held a successful Bring and Buy Sale, and in June we had a Home Produce Sale which proved to be quite novel and was a huge success. The wide range of goods on sale were home made and included jams, cakes, pickles and preserves, knitted goods and chocolates. This was followed by supper and bingo session.

The highlight of the year is that one of our members – Mrs Marjorie Lund is the new Mayoress of Hyndburn



The Mayoress, Mrs Marjorie Lund with members of the Bolton Branch.

Borough, and four members were invited to the Civic Luncheon on 25 May. The photograph shows the smiling four, with Marjorie, very happily wearing her chain of office. Marjorie and husband Alan, the Mayor, made a very dignified couple and we all wish them a happy and successful year of office.

We are all busy trying to raise funds for our Charities, and some of our members are looking forward to November when they will be taking part in the Remembrance Parade in London.

CANTERBURY The Branch has had another successful year; the highlight being the 50th Anniversary Service in St

Paul's Cathedral and the day at the Barbican. We all enjoyed the Reunion.

We now meet monthly at our new venue – the Oddfellows Hall in Canterbury and the meetings are fairly well attended. We now have 89 members, but unfortunately not many are able to attend the meetings. Of those members unable to come, several are very generous by giving a donation to Branch funds when they send their sub, for which we are very grateful and thank them publicly.

During the past year we have had quite a few outings including three lunches. We joined Deal Branch on a visit to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and in April this year we joined up with them again for a visit to the Museum



Canterbury Branch at Guildford – April 1989.

at Guildford. There we were invited to watch a Passing Out Parade, so we had to make a very early start to be on the Parade Ground by 10.30 am. In spite of having to travel along the dreaded M25 we made it in time. It was a lovely sunny day and we all enjoyed it.

On a visit to the Houses of Parliament we were joined by five members of the Medway Branch. Some of us went on to the Army Museum at Chelsea. This is to be recommended if any of you are in London. Well worth a visit.

We have had a Coffee Morning, a Sale of Work, and we always have a Raffle and Bring and Buy at our monthly meetings. The money raised enabled us to make donations to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

Our Standard has been carried at St Paul's Cathedral and at the 50th Anniversary Service at Hastings. Sadly we lost two of our members during the year and our Standard was ably carried at both of these funeral services. On 14 July, the Normandy Veterans Association have commissioned a memorial tablet to commemorate those who fell in the Normandy Campaign, to be unveiled, hopefully by the Queen Mother in Canterbury Cathedral. Twenty of our members will be parading along with our Standard and there is to be a March Past.

As you see, we are quite an active Branch, and all we need are some ex-WRAC members to ensure the continuity of the Branch for the future. So come on girls – how about joining us!

CHESTER The Branch continues to flourish with an increase in membership. We meet on the second Monday of each month, and our gatherings are informal and friendly.

The Grand Reunion last October was attended by 23

members, and was a most memorable occasion. The Service in St Paul's was very moving, and we all enjoyed the entertainment in the Barbican Centre. We were still singing the wartime songs as we alighted from the train, homeward bound, at Chester. Of course the last song was "We'll meet again". We are now looking forward to the next Reunion in 1991.

We had a most enjoyable Annual Dinner in December followed by a very successful Social/Dance/Buffer in January, when the Chester Regiment kindly allowed us to use their NAAFI for the occasion.

In March, Wrexham Dunkirk Veterans Association invited our members to a St David's Day dance, which we accepted and thoroughly enjoyed. During April we had a very interesting and informative outing to the UK Atomic Energy Authority, Risley, Cheshire, where a lovely lunch was provided with the compliments of the Authority.

We have raffles etc to help swell our funds and this year we were able to send £50 to the ATS Benevolent Fund. Most members will attend Remembrance Day, RBL, and ex-service association parades when our standard is proudly flourished.

FIFE AND TAYSIDE We held our Branch AGM in Dumfermline on Saturday 18 April. A large number of members from Dundee, Perth, Stirling and throughout Fife attended, making a success of the Bring and Buy Sale and two raffles. The membership now numbers more than 100. Members in the Dundee area meet approximately once a month in private houses, although they have now requested that efforts be made to try to obtain the use of TAC premises for them.

The Stirling members also meet once a month in civic premises, while the Fife members, meeting six times a year have the use of a Royal Artillery TAC in Dunfermline.

Our next Branch meeting will be in Dundee on Saturday 23 September and it is hoped there will be a good attendance at the Scottish Area AGM in Edinburgh on Saturday 14 October.

GLASGOW We still meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the RA Club, 38 Elmbank Crescent, and our new session begins on the 12 September 1989.

Since attending the Grand Reunion in October, we have had a very busy and varied programme, including a slides show of Scotland from the Borders to the majestic Highlands; followed in December by our Christmas party at the HQ Officers' Mess, 154 (Lowland) TAT Regt RCT TA. We had a delightful buffet support with an anniversary cake which was cut by our oldest member Miss Kelly who is 93. We had the privilege of the company of Major A E Ewan and Major M Sharp, and we all thoroughly enjoyed our successful evening. We are greatly indebted to Lt Col J A Fraser, for the use of the unit facilities; also PSAO Major E Morley MBE for his much appreciated co-operation. In January we held a "Burns Night" to honour our national bard when we had an amusing informative talk of his life and "love life" - our guest speaker and soloist was Mrs H Kerr, who sang many Scottish songs.

More recently, we had a visit from a Beauty Consultant from "Boots the Chemist" advising us on skin care and make-up. Many useful hints were given, from which we hope to benefit - it is never too late etc etc. We invited our friends from the Association of WRNS to share the evening with us.

We ended our session in May with a social evening, and were delighted to welcome several members of the Stirling Branch, a section of the Fife and Tayside Branch. We were disappointed that our new CWRAC (Scotland)

Major C Jenkins, could not join us owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Our Glasgow Branch continues to grow, with a membership of 148 and an average attendance of 55 each meeting.

We extend a warm welcome to any ex-ATS or WRAC members who may be visiting our city of Glasgow.

LONDON We had a memorable Christmas Party in December when we had such a turn-out of members that it was a very tight squeeze indeed to fit everyone into our usual room. This year we will splash out and have a buffet in the Union Jack Club's Gascoigne Rooms where the capacity is 120 - I wonder if we will manage that number? Our February Bring and Buy Sale raised £125 for the WRAC Museum Fund and in March, we were pleased to welcome again Tim Marshall, Editor, Events at BBC Television, who gave us a fascinating illustrated talk "Visions of Royalty - Television and the Royal Family" and as a little extra a video of our participation in last



The Secretary of London Branch planting crosses at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey in November 1988, watched by Lt Col R E Cornwell WRAC, Mrs B Alexander, Miss C Gibbs, Miss E Crump, Miss C I Lawrence and Lt Col (Retd) D Dunn.

year's FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE at the Royal Albert Hall.

In April we had a talk by Morris Janis who, very enterprisingly, when taken prisoner at Singapore, learnt Japanese and so was able to act as an interpreter and to negotiate and sometimes improve relations with the various Camp Commandants he met. He told us that the bridge on the river Kwai was in fact a great structural achievement by our men and the film, although he enjoyed it, was not much like the reality.

In May we had the first of this year's coach trips, and had a wonderful day at the Whitbread Hop Farm in Kent. The weather was hot and sunny and we enjoyed meeting some of the Whitbread Shire horses who every year are harnessed to the Lord Mayor of London's coach for the show in November. On view are fascinating insights into the days when Eastenders moved down to Kent for the "Hoppings" and even an army connection as the farm housed a regiment in 1939. We can thoroughly recommend a visit if your branch is planning an outing.

Our second Bring and Buy in May raised almost £100 for branch funds and we are now looking forward to celebrating the 70th Anniversary of London Branch with a luncheon on 19 October 1989.

Sadly we have to announce the death of Miss L C (Cissie) Dewsbury on 1 January 1989. Cissie was a very

loyal member of the branch for many years until illness meant that she could no longer attend our meetings.

MANCHESTER Our branch continues to flourish, and thanks to the publicity given to the 1989 Grand Reunion we have gained several new members.

On the day of Emperor Hirohito's funeral, several members attended, together with many other ex-service associations, the Cenotaph in St Peters Square Manchester, and placed a spray of flowers.

The Wigan Branch of the France/Germany Veterans Association invited us to join the Service of Dedication for their new Standard. This was a most moving and pleasant afternoon, with many Standards being paraded and refreshments for all afterwards.

We had our annual dinner on the 22 May, at the Masonic Hall Manchester. The meal was attended by 42 members and friends and we were pleased to welcome several of the newcomers. We had a raffle with many prizes, and sent a donation to the Booth Hall Childrens Hospital, who are trying to raise funds for a scanner.

We still meet on the first Wednesday of the month excluding January and February, and we ask members to support our Bring and Buy Sale in November, and our party in December.

NEWCASTLE We meet on the third Thursday of each month from 12 noon to 3 pm at the Companions Club, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle, when an average of 28 members attend each meeting, all of whom, currently, are ex-ATS.

Due to our city venue we thought it prudent to change to an afternoon meeting as our members travel from all directions to the city centre and in the darker evenings there are the attendant risks! Everyone seems pleased to get together and the three hours go by in a flash.

We've had lots of outings and at present we are planning a day trip to the Borders taking in Jedburgh, Melrose and Kelso, returning by Berwick-on-Tweed. We also have our "Christmas do" in the making, which is usually an afternoon Panto at our lovely Theatre Royal followed by a high tea. Recently, our members were shown around one of our Police Stations with its up-to-date equipment, the functions of which were interestingly explained. All were freed after the tour! We regularly attend the Area meetings in Harrogate. Twenty-two of our members went to the London Reunion and generally endorse the views, both good and bad, expressed in "Lioness" and at the Secretaries' meetings.

In September 1988, in recognition of the "50th" the Lord Mayor of Newcastle kindly hosted a coffee morning at the Mansion House for our Branch. Members and their friends had a thoroughly interesting tour of the house and grounds. For myself as a founder member of the 525(M) HAA Bty 155 Regt, I have been amazed never to have come across anyone either in Harrogate or London from any of the four Batteries or from Regiment. Where are they all? One of our members hopes to have an article published following an unusual Reunion, courtesy of the magazine "Peoples Friend".

Now that we of the Newcastle Branch have at last introduced ourselves in "Lioness", we hope to become regular correspondents. We shall give you some of our more light-hearted "goings on" in the next issue.

PLYMOUTH The Branch has had a year of sines and troughs, but we are weathering through. Our oldest member Miss Annie Bounty enjoyed her 90th birthday last year, a full-bodied party was held in her honour.

Market Stalls, Bingo and "Jumbles" helped us to achieve our standard, which was carried at that great Anniversary Service, held at St Paul's last October – a day, and a Bugle Call to remember. We also had a retirement party, for our outgoing Secretary and Founder Member, "Chris King" in December 1988 and to our great sorrow, Chris died in January 1989.

One of Chris's wishes came about, this month of June, when the Plymouth Branch met up with our Cornish members in Truro. We were treated royally at their Royal British Legion Hall venue – and on Sunday 11 June 1989, we will (through Chris's spadework) hold the Service of Laying up our Old Standard, and dedicating the "new", at the Church of St Katherine's on the Hoe, Royal Citadel, by kind permission of the CO 29 Commando Regt RA.

Our Chairman, and all Members send their best regards, to all Branches of the Association.

SALISBURY Our membership has now increased to 70, but meetings average about 30 in attendance. The rural nature of our area means that many people cannot get to Salisbury for an evening meeting. However, the first three meetings of the year were held at lunch time, and it was gratifying to see so many out-of-town members.

In January a new member, Mrs Nyman entertained us with a lively account of some of her wartime adventures. This inspired other members to hold forth at the February meeting, and the variety of jobs held by the ATS and the WRAC was reflected in anecdotes, and stores. In March we took ourselves out to lunch at the "Grey Fisher" at Harnham.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Mary Butler from Shaftesbury, who had been such a faithful member of the branch. She had not been ill very long, and her death was a great shock. We extend our sympathy to the family of this brave lady.

In April, Mr Reeves, a member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade, talked to us about first aid in the home. He gave us so much information in such an amusing way that we could have kept him talking much longer. In May, once again, we found talent among our own ranks. One of our ATS members, Mrs T Sillick, spoke to us on "Domestic Service in the 1930s". She gave us a vivid account of life as a domestic servant in a small country house. Although humorous in many parts, it showed how hard girls worked, how many skills they had to learn, and why they joined up in 1939 with such a good heart. The Services gave many women a freedom they would never have known in civilian life.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Southern Area Reunion at Portland. Weymouth Branch put on a wonderful day for us – good weather, sightseeing, a super tea, and several raffle prizes to take home!! Thank you very much Weymouth, it was great.

On 1 June the branch had a trip to Corps HQ for the Passing Out Parade, and for a visit to the Museum. We were met by Cpl Helen Kennerley, who escorted us during the day, and made us feel welcome. Three platoons of regular WRAC and one platoon of TA WRAC, made up the company of this the 542nd Passing Out Parade of regular recruits, and the 186th intake of Territorial Army recruits. The parade was taken by Brigadier M I E Scott CBE DSO, accompanied by Colonel N R Robertson MBE. The Pegasus Band of The Parachute Regiment played for the parade, which we thoroughly enjoyed watching. We attended the Service in the Assembly hall, then after our picnic lunch, we looked round the Museum. There was much to interest us here, but try as we might, we could not find an ATS uniform, as worn by other ranks who were not

in battledress!! There must be one lurking about somewhere.

We shall be holding our Annual General Meeting in September in the future, instead of November, when our next year's programme will be arranged. The past year has been an eventful one for us, with increased membership and interesting talks and visits. One new member who joined us in January said, "I felt at home immediately I came into the room. We all have something in common, which gives us the comradeship". Long may it continue.

SHIPLEY Our branch was formed in February 1977 with an informal meeting of 10 ladies, but has now gone from strength to strength and we now have a total of 40 members and average attendance of at least 25 when we meet once a month in a meeting room at Shipley Public Library.

Since our formation we have enjoyed a full and varied programme, with interesting speakers, film shows, musical talks, and raised quite a considerable amount of our funds with sales tables, mock auctions, Spring and Autumn Fayres and Jumble Sales where all members contributed cakes, bric-à-brac and fancy goods etc. All these efforts have helped to raise enough cash to assist those members who wished to attend the London Reunion and to give each member who had been in the Branch for over a year and attended regularly a cash gift, which was very much appreciated.

The highlight of last year has to be the 50th Anniversary celebrations in London. How we had been looking forward to our trip, and we were not disappointed. The Service in St Paul's was very moving, especially the readings and the singing of the choir and the playing by the WRAC band. How we wished there had been a tape recording made of the Service, so we could have had a cassette as a memory we could have played for those members who could not attend the Reunion in person, however, we have our souvenir programmes to show them and some of us had purchased the souvenir plates, spoons etc and the books that were on sale at the Barbican.

Saturday was a very enjoyable day at the Barbican. We particularly enjoyed talking to the WRAC on duty who were interested to hear about our life in the ATS in wartime. Despite the large number of people to be served at the buffet meal, we managed to enjoy the food and got quite expert at juggling with a plate of food and glass of wine, as there were very few chairs and tables about. The speeches in the Theatre afterwards and the concert were first class, we just didn't want the evening to end, and when we boarded our coaches to go back to the Hotel there was a real carnival atmosphere, people all smiling and waving, truly an unforgettable weekend.

We now look forward to the start of another year and have plans for a full and varied programme of events and outings for our members to enjoy the fellowship which existed when we were all in uniform.

SOUTHAMPTON 1989 continues to be varied and interesting for us, in particular a talk at our February meeting by one of our members on the "Presentation of a Medal" as received by a friend at Admiralty House by Paul Channon, Minister of Transport, on behalf of HM The Queen.

Also a cookery demonstration on "Starters" by a husband of one of our members, and a most interesting, enlightening and humorous talk with slides on the parks of Southampton by the person in overall charge of the planting and lay-out of them.

Our 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner in April is always very much enjoyed, even more so this year with Colonel F E Hutley, Chairman WRAC Association, South West Area, being our Guest Speaker.

In May we had two very memorable outings. Now that IOW Branch is in our Area – six of our members spent a lovely day at their 3rd Birthday Annual Luncheon, including an interesting auction and raffle, enjoying sights of the Island plus a smooth boat crossing in both directions in perfect weather conditions. Many thanks Isle of Wight.

Our Area Annual Reunion this year was hosted by Weymouth and Portland Branch, in excellent weather conditions. A coach tour of Weymouth and Portland was enjoyed with many breathtaking views, and on our return we had an excellent tea plus, of course, a raffle. Many thanks Weymouth and Portland.

To celebrate our branch's 40th Anniversary spread over 1988/89, we undertook a two year stint of fund raising activities in aid of three chosen local causes, in addition to our usual contributions to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and Museum Appeal. The largest sum raised from one of the various events in 1988 was £362.83 at our Autumn "Rainbow" Bazaar. We are now nearing the end of this two year stint but not before individual members have, or will be, holding a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy, cream teas afternoon, two luncheons, a musical evening, a Ploughman's Supper, and a picture framing sponsorship, to bring our fund raising to a happy ending, at least for this year. More news on this in the next edition.

SWANSEA This is proving to be an interesting year with plenty of well attended activities. We meet at Swansea Guildhall on the first Wednesday of the month and we have two new members.

In March our Secretary and President travelled to London with a few friends for the AGM.

On Easter Tuesday we attended an evening at the Royal Naval Club where the recently formed "Combined Services Association" held a social evening, and a good time was had by all.

Our July meeting is to be held at the home of our President, Veronica and husband Bill. It is getting to be an annual event, that we all look forward to in the summer. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for forming our branch. Without her we would not have made new friends and met up with old comrades once again.

The Swansea Branch of the Welsh Guards Association has extended an invitation to us to their social evenings. As you can see we are having a busy year, best wishes to all other branches from us at Swansea.

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND This has been a very busy year.

Our Christmas shopping trip to Exeter proved very popular, and our pre-Christmas party was enjoyed by all, with everyone having a present from the lucky dip. Our annual Ladies Night held at a local hotel, in March was also very enjoyable.

To prove that we are not all play and no work, several members helped at the fund raising event for the Army Benevolent Fund, at the Weymouth Pavilion in April, taking the entrance fees, and acting as stewards. There were displays of military memorabilia, as well as an Antiques Roadshow to which members of the public could bring their treasure to be valued, and we found all this very interesting.

One evening we had a speaker from HM Customs and Excise, and he gave us a great insight into the various aspects of his work; so in future, attempting to smuggle

items through Customs will **not** be for us! Another interesting speaker talked on War on Waste, and gave us many useful ideas, such as the saving of waste paper for schools fund raising, and the use of bottle banks and can banks, etc.

As we were the host Branch for the SW Area Reunion this year, much planning had to be done. The sun shone on 14 May, when all assembled at the Portland Heights Hotel, Portland – 10 branches, together with our own members. It gave us great pleasure to have with us, Brigadier Field, our Deputy Controller Commandant, our General Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn and his wife, and our SW Area Officers, Colonel F Hutley, Lieutenant Colonel D J Freeland and Mrs J Ford. Four coaches took members on a tour of Weymouth and Portland, returning for tea at the Portland Heights Hotel at 4.15 pm, when we were delighted to have with us the Mayor and Mayoress of Weymouth and Portland, Councillor Les Ames and Mrs Jean Ames. Our Standard was on display behind the top table, and 222 sat down to tea. The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Borough, and Brigadier Field gave a short, illuminating talk on the present day activities of the WRAC.

The Mayor drew the lucky raffle tickets for prizes donated by our members and an iced and decorated cake was the prize for the lucky tea ticket. 6 pm came all too soon, when we said goodbye to our guests and wished them safe journeys home.

The following weekend we were the guests of the Royal Naval Association at their new Standard Dedication Celebrations. Some of us went to the Friday evening social, while others attended the service for the laying down of the old standard and the dedication of the new one in Holy Trinity Church on the Sunday afternoon. We were proud to see our standard bearer, Mrs Anne Scott, among the 78 standard bearers on parade.

In February we were saddened by the sudden death of Nancy MacDonald, one of our Portland members. Our 84 year old member in Mrs Una Buyce, has had a spell in hospital, but happily, her condition was not as serious as thought at first and she is hoping to make another visit home before long.

The last event before our summer recess will be our summer outing by coach to Plymouth, and then a trip on the River Tamar.

Two members who joined the branch at the time of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations have not renewed their membership, but we have since gained two new annual members and one new life member, so we are still 58 strong.

Correspondence

Mrs Evelyn O'Neill writing from 33 Bede Burn View, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear says that following the serialisation of "Women in Khaki" by Roy Terry in the "Peoples Friend" – readers were asked to submit their memories. Mrs O'Neill sent a letter and photograph of the ATS drum and bugle band which were both published. She served with 484(M) HAA Bty RA, mostly on the east coast of England and then in Brussels. After the war she toured with the band in West Germany and Denmark. Following the publication a former "drummer" friend contacted Mrs O'Neill and they are looking forward to a reunion.

Mrs John-Ann Smith (née Parker) has written to us saying that the 1988 Grand Reunion has re-awakened her interest in searching for those with whom she served in Barton Stacey between 1947 and 1949.

"I would like to hear from Pauline Bromiley who, after leaving Barton Stacey was stationed in Bad Oeynhausen where she met and married Cecil Lyn Roberts of the RAEC in 1951. Are you there Pauline? Muriel Muldoon (ex Capt Clarke) would also like to hear of you.

"Jackie Wright, our Company driver, we were good friends in those days Jackie, we even shared a road accident together (three tons of cement meets girlfriend, so said the local newspaper) we were in your 'TILLY' at the time, remember?

"Kay Lawson, another of those I would be delighted to hear from. Your friend Iris Shaw, has been trying to contact you for 38 years, and has visited your home town of Dundee and even contacted Cilla Black of TV fame, in the hope of hearing of you. If you read this Kay, contact me, and I'll put you in touch with Iris.

"Katherine Anne Austin, another Kay, you and I were belatedly baptised in the Garrison Church, D Camp Barton Stacey on 13 June 1948. Junior Commander Wade stood as your 'Godmother' on that occasion. I had the pleasure of speaking to her at the Reunion in October 1988. Do you still have the prayer book which she gave you? I still have the one which my 'Godmother' gave to me!

"My sincere Best Wishes for the continued success of our Association and its members."

Mrs J A Turner (formerly Pte Jean Gray) has written from 26 Trenance Avenue, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 2HQ to say that she would like to contact any former ATS members who did their basic training in Guildford in November 1946. Some went on to Newton Abbot, Devon, to complete signals training December 1946 – January 1947 where halfway through the course there was an outbreak of diphtheria and some girls were isolated. Mrs Turner went to Colchester, then Aldershot and finally Hounslow, and remembers such names as Georgina Jamieson, Joyce Stockdale, Sally Manley and Edna Oliver.

Mrs B Homer (née Lester) writes that she served as a Medical Orderly at HQ Southern Command at Salisbury, Wilts between 1939–1945 and that she would love to hear



Mrs B Homer née Sgt Lester.

from anyone who served in the same Company. Please write to her at 36 Huntsmans Drive, Kinver, Stourbridge, West Midlands WY7 6BA.

Edie McLaughlin of 19 William Way, Skegness, Lincs PE25 3PL would like to know if there are any GL Wallahs or telephonists out there from 498 HAA Bty RA.

Mrs Muriel Schroter (née Hawkins) of 21 Regina Avenue, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 2BD would like to hear



623 Hy (M) AA Bty (Sec 3).

from any ex member of the spotters and telephonists who served with her in 623 HAA Bty at Swansea and the Mumbles.

Mrs Connie Tarr (née Poole) and Kath Standford, both ex ATS are trying to trace some former comrades who served with them at Winterbourne Gunner, Nr Salisbury, Wilts. They remember Joan Morgan, Bertha Knight (who worked in the cookhouse) and Jock Sandcock, a mess orderly who was friendly with a cockney called "Lottie". If you can help please write to Mrs Tarr at 136 Gerrards Green, Bearminster, Dorset DT8 3EA.

Mrs M Scott-Watson formerly Capt Smith ATS/WRAC 1939-1953, one of the three instructors who opened the first ECTC (cookery school) at Lancaster in May 1940 would like to hear from S/L Jones with whom she worked then or anyone who remembers her on those courses or after her commissioning in 1942. Please write to her at Burnhead, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 8PL.

Mrs Janet T Wiseman (née Riddet) was unable to attend the Grand Reunion in October, but she would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. She first reported for duty on 26 August 1939 and finished her service in SEAC Ceylon, now Sri Lanka. Please write to her at 28 Shillibeer Walk, Chigwell, Essex IG7 6JA.

Miss Mary A A Hogg, ex Cpl Mary Hogg, who retired to Lockerbie in October 1981 when she left the service would like all former friends and colleagues to know that she was unscathed by the tragic air disaster of 21 December 1988. Miss Hogg lives at 21 Hill Court, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire DG11 2QW.

Mrs Audrey Shaxted (née Hill) of 5 Buttercup Walk, Witham, Essex CM8 2AL - Telephone Witham 511882 would like to hear from any of the following who served with her at BUCO HQ Portsmouth: Pte Ellen Fletcher (London), Clare Popham (Surrey), Norma Dyson (Manchester) and Cpl Iris Manning (Enfield). In February 1943 Diana Florence Glandfield married John Blincoe at Ipswich. If anyone knows of her whereabouts or she reads this, please contact the Secretary Colchester Branch WRAC Association. Her former address was 40 Roundwood Road, Ipswich but efforts to contact her there have failed.

Mrs Edna Perry (née LCpl E Chapman) writing from 17 Cheriton Avenue, Boscombe East, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6SD says "Last Christmas I was able to wallow in some wonderful and totally unexpected nostalgia, in the shape of a gift tape recording which included some '78' recordings made by the BBC, of a group of GI's and ATS who had formed a Glee Club of which I was a member in 1944-45. The conductor and leader of this choir was the late Lt T J Kropczynski, known as 'Krop', who was awarded the MBE for his services in raising the morale of troops in Europe. Although I was in his choir I never heard, nor expected to hear that broadcast - made on Christmas Day 1944, and it was only thanks to the perseverance of a gentleman, unknown to me, in the USA who was attempting to trace members of the male voice choir which 'Krop' led in Paris in 1945, that this recording came to light."

Mrs Perry would like to contact any readers who either were members of that Glee Club, and who would like to hear that recording and catch up on the news or were with J Company No 5 London District Group ATS, who later moved to Queens Gardens in Bayswater. Mrs Perry also adds that at the time she was a member of the War Office Microgram Unit from 1943-46, working at Curzon St House and living in Hans Place, Knightsbridge - the GI's were stationed in a house opposite.

Mrs Connie Mark (née Cpl Constance McDonald) writing from 57A Stowe Road, Shepherds Bush, London W12 8BE has written to say that she is an ex ATS/WRAC/ QARANC and served in Jamaica, West Indies. She is planning an exhibition entitled "The Presence of Caribbean Women in the British Armed Forces". Mrs Mark would like to contact any ATS personnel who served in the West Indies, particularly Jamaica. She remembers Sgt Major Moore, Sub Hudson, Col Oakley, and Capt Eileen Nolan. Mrs Mark was stationed at the BMH and attached to the RAMC, and would like to know if any ex ATS would either lend or sell her a uniform, worn at the time to put in the exhibition.

Mr Wilf Gilson is anxious to trace two former ATS members who served with him during part of the war in the Maritime Regt RA based at N Shields. They were Cpl Kathleen Carrier from Blyth, who had a furriers business and moved to Carlisle, and Mrs Betty Sanderson of Newinton-Park-Estate Edinburgh. Mr Gilson has not met or seen the ladies since 1944 when he had the sad task of giving Betty the telegram telling of her husband's death in the North African campaign. If anyone can help please contact Mr Gilson at 75 Cecil Street, Hull HU3 5RA.

Mrs Pat Evans (née Perry) of 26 Musgrove Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5LB would like to contact any ATS personnel who served at Catterick Camp in April 1947, Hooe Lines Hut 16, especially Mary McHale, Pat Rosenberg, Valerie Lowe, Irene Owens, Jane Fairbanks and Dorothy Simmons.

Lorna L Brien (née Petty) kindly wrote and said how much she enjoyed the reunion last October. Like many others Mrs Brien had difficulties in finding former colleagues and asks if anyone was there from the Special "Y" Operators group stationed at Queen Ethelburga's Harrogate and Kedleston Hall, Derby 1942-1945. Mrs Brien lives at 3838 W 15th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V6R 2Z9 Canada.

Miss E M Norton (Shou Shou) is planning to hold a

Reunion for WRAC members who were in Egypt in 1954/55. Anyone interested is asked to contact her at 19 Henry Street, Derby DE1 3BQ or telephone Derby (0332) 381221.

Miss Pamela Froom is continuing her research about Aldermaston Court and the ATS occupancy. The exact date that the Depot opened is proving to be a problem but local people remember girls from the BEF coming into Aldermaston in 1940 – including the Arlott family who have been catering at the Old Mill for several generations. The following girls signed the Visitor's Book on 16 June 1940, writing ATS BEF after their names:

G V Parsons Bridgehampton, Somerset, G F Sawyer Hessele, E Yorks, F I Richardson Middlesbrough, E Siddons Doncaster, H L Bland-Wallasey, Anne Massey Stockport, Babs Hedges Newtown, N Wales, and Franky Adams Wallasey. If anyone can help Miss Froom, please write to her at "Croft Corner", West End Road, Mortimer, Berks RG7 3TE.

Mrs Judy Rudd (née Newton) has sent a photograph taken in Recruit Company, Queen Elizabeth Camp,



Guildford, where she was posted in 1946 as CQMS. Mrs Rudd remembers Tuesday nights particularly when they "took their forks to weedout the dandelions". Mrs Rudd left in 1948 to be married but carried on her service in the Territorial Army. Mrs Rudd is now living at 32 Livingstone Road, Scarborough, N Yorks.

Miss Margaret Beckett JP wrote to the Corps Secretary with news of the Reunion held on 5 April for former members of the 10th Cumberland ATS Coy and their guests. The Coy had been originally formed at Whitehaven in January 1939 by Miss G St G Jackson. A message of Loyal Greetings had been sent to HM The Queen and the reply received was read out by the Deputy Mayor of Copeland BC, Cllr Mrs M Stalker. 2Lt D Shepherd WRAC serving with 4 KINGS OWN BORDER represented the present Corps and Miss Robinson on Penrith represented the QMAAC. Four members each gave a short talk on their service overseas – and it was hard to believe that we were looking back over 50 years.

Major Ford Davis Porter Jr USAF Retd has written from East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon, a thank-you to the ladies who served with Ack Ack.

He writes that returning from a deep penetration reconnaissance of the enemy landmass in Autumn 1944 his radio and navigation equipment "went west". The standard drill was to fly a course that one hoped would bring one over the UK. The pilot would fly a rectangular course and pray to be over land or just off the coast. "I was

lucky for after a while two searchlights came on and swept into the direction I was to fly. The searchlights swept back and forth and were held in the direction I was to fly down beam, which I did. Other searchlights along the flight track took up the work, and then in front of me four candles (searchlights) came on and formed a canopy above the aerodrome. As I approached the runway lights came on and I landed safely and followed the truck to the parking space.

"Yes, the ATS ladies of the Ack Ack Battery responded to my emergency situation at around 0430 am on a cold, damp morning as they did many times throughout the war. So I say to you, wherever you are, you helped this lost Yank to reach seventy-five by your devotion to duty, and on behalf of myself and my crew I thank you."

A new member of the Association Mrs June MacCunn (née Spencer) has written from 3 Davies Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 1JZ. Mrs MacCunn remembers when she was seconded to the Depot for two weeks to be "useful" in preparation for a visit by HRH Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. She writes that she was not on parade and had been asked to take photographs and so took up her position in a corner with the official cameramen. "I had just taken one when I realised that Col Millington and HM were heading our way. So, respectfully inclined at 87° I proceeded (or is it receded) backward. The Colonel and HM continued forward and I was brought up short by one of the men who muttered something to the effect 'Stand still you fool, you're going to be presented', and I had that thrilling and totally unexpected honour. HM was charming and asked me if I enjoyed life in the WRAC; it was just as well I didn't have to prevaricate because my attention, I must admit, was focused on the glorious ruby clasping her pearl necklace.

"I took the camera back to its owner who gratefully used the last of the film taking one of me throwing up the crispest salute ever. Guess which was the only one to come out! She was very good about it.

"It's nice to be back!"

Mrs Eileen Smith of 910 Sluggett Road, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia VOS 1AO, Canada, has sent a photograph of herself with her sister-in-law at the



"STAND UP SUPPER".

Barbican last year. They were sad not to meet any former friends from the Pay Corps, Maritime Section – stationed at Leicester (LAA) and Exeter. Kate Burley (née Hampson) lives at 62 Mayswood Grove, Quinton, Birmingham B32 2RQ, and they would like to hear from anyone who remembers them.

WEDDING

GREENFIELD-le GASSICK. On 29 April 1989 at St Michaels, Aldershot between Major A Greenfield and Major W A le Gassick.



A "Major" Event.

L-R. Major Trish Laing Morton, Major Tony Greenfield, "Mrs Greenfield" – Major Wendy le Gassick and Major Rowena Patrick.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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

FOR SALE Officers lined Mess Dress with silk sash. Size 10/12 £50. No 2 Dress. Size 10/12 £70. No 2 Dress Skirt. Size 10/12 (as new) £30. Beret plus badge and odds and ends £10. Contact Mrs Brown, c/o Lt Brown – Munsterlager Mil ext 287.

FOR SALE Officers Greatcoat good condition. Size 12 £50. Officers Mess Dress good condition. Size 10/12 £50. For details telephone: 0366 388581.

FOR SALE. No 2 Dress Uniform, Mess Dress, Greatcoat and other items. Size 12/14. For details telephone: (German No) Munster 0251 617225.

FOR SALE – WRAC HORSE BRASS A good quality horse brass featuring WRAC Badge, c/w leather martingale strap. Makes an attractive decoration or inexpensive gift at £3.50 inc p&p. Order and cheques to: Army Brass, 211 Duvant Road, Killay, Swansea SA2 7SR. Telephone: 0792 205202.

FOR SALE. Officers Greatcoat with scarlet lining, riding mac, No 2 Dress, No 2 Dress Jacket, Officers Mess Dress with silk sash. All size 12. Height 5'5". Mrs P A Grant. Telephone: 01 326 0469.

WANTED. Officers Mess Dress. Size 14. Height 5'7". Telephone: 0638 664650 (work), 0638 663994 (home).

WANTED. No 2 Dress. Size 14. Height 5'5". Contact: Maj Tighe – York Mil ext 8295.

WANTED. Officers Mess Dress. Size 12/14. Height 5'3". Telephone: Capt Oliver – 01 245 7340 (work).

WANTED. Officers Mess Dress. Size 12. Height 5'1". Contact: WO2 Gemmell, 242 Sig Sqn, HQ Scotland, Edinburgh EH1 2YX.

WANTED. One Barrack Skirt. Size 14. One officer's forage cap. Size 6½. Contact: Major C M Campbell-Hayes, "Crica", 124 Berry Hill Road, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1AT.

LONDON GAZETTE

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

CBE

Brigadier S P Nield ADC

BEM

Sgt L Bradshaw
Pte D F Buley
Sgt L B Grundy
SSgt A Harnden
Sgt S Hickson

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Major E A Newnham
Captain G A Tilford

Short Service Commission

Captains: F E Castle, V Gough, K S Morgan, G M Ward, W L Bayless, P L Smith, J M V Turner, L M Attfield, X R Bamber, J M Bridle, K M J Curzon, S Davison, E A Dunn, F H Gardner, S M Kingham, A Roberts, K M Toal, A C Hart, S M Gilbert, C E Ireland, K E Pulverman, F M E Thomas

Lieutenants: D M McFall, J Pollock, S R Abraham, H L Bishop, J C Henderson, A Leask, D H Mawby, D M Beck, A F Hinchliffe, L A M Smith, A M M Hamilton

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Lieutenants: J W Heywood, T K P Ransom

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Majors: E A McKay, A E Ewan

Short Service Commissions

Captains: L J Findlay, K S Morgan, J A Cooper

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to:

WO 1 D Stockdale, WO2 T M Keys, WO2 H Meen, WO2 D J Newton, WO2 J Pollock, SSgt L Cooper, SSgt A D Morris, SSgt N Wellings, SSgt C E Hoban, Sgt M Woolford, ASgt J J L Flanagan

TRIBUTE

Miss V H C Stirling CBE TD DL of Gargunnoch sadly died on 23 February 1989 aged 81 years. Miss Stirling was born in 1907 and was educated at Queen Ethelburga's School, Harrogate, and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. She was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and seemed destined for an academic career but in 1934 she succeeded her father as 4th Laird of Gargunnoch when she dedicated herself to the running of Gargunnoch, a 2,000 acre estate, purchased in 1835 by her great grandfather.

On the eve of the Second World War, Miss Stirling formed the first Company of the ATS in Stirling. Among the many mourners at her funeral service held in Gargunnoch Parish Church, were two Stirling women, Mrs Castle (née Kenny) and Miss Connell recruited into her Company in August 1939. By the end of the war Miss Stirling had become Deputy Director ATS, the Senior ATS Officer in Scotland, finally retiring in 1948 with the rank of Controller. This achievement was recognised with the award of one of the first military CBE's to a member of the ATS.

After the war Miss Stirling held regular reunions at Gargunnoch House and in 1950 there was a reunion of the ATS Company – the 40th Stirling – in the old Gateway Restaurant. Miss Stirling became the Honorary Colonel of 317 Battalion WRAC (TA).

Miss Stirling scored another first in later years when she became the first woman in Scotland to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in the former Stirling County. She also served for a number of years as a County Councillor.

It was after the Second World War that the first signs of rheumatism and arthritis became apparent, and although she showed immense courage her movements became severely restricted by the crippling nature of her illness. She never relented however in her interest in the estate and the village, the preservation of which owes much to her influence and dedication.

Miss Stirling was a Life member of the Edinburgh Branch of the WRAC Association.

COURAGE REMEMBERED

A History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. T A Edwin Gibson and G Kingsley Ward.

Foreword by Field Marshal the Lord Bramall GCB OBE MC JP. Introduction by Major F A Tilston VC CD LLD. Published by HMSO for the Ministry of Defence June 1989 Hardback £13.95 net.

OBITUARY

ARMSTRONG. Mrs E F Armstrong of London on 13 April 1989. ATS.

ASPEY. Mrs E Aspey of Somerset on 10 January 1989. ATS.

BAND. Mrs A H Band (née Weir) of Newport IOW. Junior Commander ATS.

BIRSE. Miss Clara Lilian Birse (known as Joan) of Southampton in February 1989.

BOLTER. Mrs J E Bolter of Teignmouth, Devon on 16 January 1989. ATS.

BORDER. Miss E Border of Sunderland. ATS.

BOTTOMLEY. Mrs K Bottomley of Shipley in March 1989. QMAAC and ATS.

BOWERS. Mrs D A M Bowers of Harrow, Middlesex in March 1989. QMAAC.

BROOKS. Miss Winifred May Brooks of Bristol on 17 December 1988. Sergeant ATS.

BURDEN. Miss Hilda (Pixie) Burden BEM of Blandford, Dorset in December 1988. Sergeant ATS.

BUTLER. Mrs M F T Butler of Shaftesbury, Wilts in March 1989. ATS and WRAC.

CHILLINGWORTH. Mrs B B Chillingworth of Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex on 8 May 1989. ATS.

CLEMENTS. Miss Muriel Clements. 1988. ATS.

COLLINS. Mrs E S D Collins (née Chasmar) of Oxford on 2 January 1988. Lance Corporal ATS.

CREASEY. Mrs E G Creasey on 31 December 1988. WAAC and QMAAC.

DEWSBURY. Miss Cissie Dewsbury of Walton on Thames on 1 January 1989. ATS.

FINN. Margaret (Peggy) Louise Finn of Hamworthy, Dorset on 29 December 1988. ATS.

HAMSHAW. Miss Ada Hamshaw of Leeds on 21 February 1989. ATS.

HARRAWAY. Miss Sylvia Harraway of Shrewsbury. WO1 ATS and WRAC.

HURST. Mrs Margery Hurst in February 1989. Founded Brook St Bureau 1945. ATS.

HURST. Mrs Mary Elizabeth Hurst of County Tyrone on 18 April 1989. Corporal ATS.

KING. Mrs C King of Plymouth on 17 January 1989.

LEEFE. Mrs Sylvia Leefe of London on 1 May 1989. Senior Commander ATS.

MACDONALD. Mrs A C MacDonald of Portland, Dorset on 20 February 1989. ATS.

MANT. Mrs B J Mant of Bath on 31 March 1989.

MASSEY. Mrs A M Masey TD. ATS and WRAC TA.

NELSON. Mrs H R Nelson of Lewes, E Sussex on 28 March 1989. ATS/WRAC/TAVR.

PEARSON. Miss C M K Pearson of Moray, Scotland in April 1989. Junior Commander ATS.

PEDLAR. Miss Winifred Pedlar of Wickford, Essex. ATS.

PERKINS. Mrs J E Perkins of Leicester on 15 November 1988. ATS.

PILE. Lady Molly Pile on 21 November 1988. Assistant Director ATS.

SILCOCK. Miss E M Silcock of Leicester on 5 January 1989. ATS.

SMITH. Miss Laura Smith of East Cowes IOW in 1989. Senior Commander.

STILGOE. Lt Col (Retd) Elizabeth Stilgoe of Oxford in February 1989. ATS and WRAC.

STIRLING. Miss Viola Henrietta Christian Stirling CBE TD DL of Gargunnoch, Stirlingshire on 23 February 1989. Chief Commander. ATS.

SYMONS. Mrs Daisy Symons of Swindon, Wilts on 25 December 1988. ATS.

TOMLINSON. Mrs Elizabeth Tomlinson of Rochdale, Lancs in 1988.

TURNER. Mrs Lesley Susan Turner (née Hughes) of BAOR on 19 March 1989. WRAC.

VINES. Mrs M L Vines formerly Worker Blount. Age 92 of Barton on Sea on 9 January 1989. QMAAC.

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 ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS

For security reasons and based upon MOD advice, names and addresses of those holding appointments in the WRAC Association will not be published in future editions of Lioness, but will be circulated separately to those concerned.

For the information of members, branches exist in the following places and full details can be supplied to members on request to Association HQ.

South-East Area

ALDERSHOT
BRIGHTON
CANTERBURY
DEAL
EASTBOURNE
HASTINGS
ISLE OF WIGHT
MEDWAY

Western Area

BIRMINGHAM
CARDIFF AND NEWPORT
COVENTRY
CREWE
HEREFORD
RHYL
SHROPSHIRE
STAFFORD
SWANSEA
WOLVERHAMPTON
WREXHAM

London and Eastern Area

CAMBRIDGE
CHELMSFORD
COLCHESTER
GREATER LONDON
ILFORD
LONDON
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK
WIMBLEDON

Scottish Area

ABERDEEN
AYSHIRE
DUMFRIESSHIRE
EDINBURGH
FIFE AND TAYSIDE
GLASGOW
INVERNESS

Northern Ireland Area

OMAGH
ULSTER

South-West Area

ANDOVER
BATH
BOURNEMOUTH
CHELTENHAM
EXETER
GUERNSEY
PLYMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
SALISBURY
SOMERSET
SOUTHAMPTON
SWINDON
WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND

Northern Area

BARNSLEY
BRADFORD
BOLTON
CHESTER
CLEVELAND
GRIMSBY
HARROGATE
HULL
KEIGHLEY
KENDAL
LEEDS
LEICESTER
LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE
PENRITH
RICHMONDSHIRE
ROCHDALE
SHEFFIELD
SHIPLEY
SOUTHPORT
STOCKPORT
SUNDERLAND
YORK

R & H SELF

LADIES BESPOKE TAILORS

by

Appointment to

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

Women's Royal Naval Service

Women's Royal Army Corps

R & H Self are now well established as approved tailors to the WRAC. We continue to offer the highest standards of workmanship and service to the Corps and are proud of being chosen to tailor the new Mess Dress Bolero for which we are the sole supplier.

Services to WRAC Officers include:-

High Quality Bespoke Tailored Uniforms.

Sole Tailors For The New Mess Dress Bolero.

Complete Tailoring Services Including Alterations.

Civilian Suits and Dresses.

Personal Visiting Service.

We have fitting rooms in Portsmouth and London but since our Tailors travel widely we are able to offer a Personal Visiting Service.

Telephone (0705) 511512

The Sanderson Centre, Lees Lane, Gosport, PO12 3UL