

1989

No1

Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH
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Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1989

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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 Card Holder	.30	15p (up to 6)
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	19.50	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)

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.

EDITORIAL

1 February 1989 is the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Army Corps. It is hoped that the August edition of Lioness will be full of articles on the Corps and the events celebrating the last forty years.

This edition is devoted mainly to reports of the 1988 Grand Reunion and Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, plus extended branch news.

Many members wrote of their pleasure in meeting both Regular and TA servicewomen at the Reunion and wish to have their thanks conveyed to them for all their help and support. The present day servicewomen were equally impressed with the former ATS ladies and one Private who was selling souvenirs was heard to express the opinion that with ladies as energetic and courageous as these the enemy in World War 2 stood no chance!

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

February 13–24	Cyprus Tour
March 5	Horse Rangers London
March 18	Ladies Hockey Wembley
April 2	Army Benevolent Fund Mickleham Charities Redhill
April 8	Concert RBL Gillingham
April 15–16	WRAC Association AGM London
April 21–22	Concert Civic Hall Guildford
May 1–19	BAOR Tour
May 28–June 2	Eastbourne Concert
June 3–4	Summer Show HMS Sultan
June 17	Regatta Marlow
July 2–8	Royal Parks (TBC)

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.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

(Courtesy of The Daily Telegraph)

From Left to right: Cpl Sarah Jones (WRAC uniform), Cpl Helen Kennerley (ATS Uniform), Pte Caroline Burns (QMAAC uniform).

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Miss Georgina Baxter QMAAC on her 90th Birthday.



Miss Georgina Baxter.

LCpl Caroline Wallace WRAC who at the Army Parachute Championships held at Netheravon (21 Aug-1 Sep 88) achieved the following placings:

Style (BAOR Men and Women)	1st Place
Style (British Military Men and Women)	3rd Place
Style Open Women	1st Place
Accuracy Open Women	2nd Place
Style Accuracy Overall Women's Champion.	—

LCpl D O'Connell WRAC who was injured in the British Midland Air crash on Sunday 8 January 1989, is making good progress in hospital. Our best wishes go to her for a speedy recovery.

Colonel G K Ramsey MBE who, it has recently been announced, will succeed Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA as Director WRAC in November 1989.

Lieutenants E A Dunn and D J Wheatley-Price who were second and fifth respectively in the Junior Officers Prize Essay Competition 1987/88 (Current Affairs).

PRESENTATIONS

LSGC

During her visit to Hong Kong the Director presented SSgt Z Widajewska, currently employed as Section Co-ordinator Gurkha and HKMSC Pay and Pensions Section, with her Medal for Long Service and Good Conduct.



Brigadier Nield presenting SSgt Z Widajewska with her medal.

We offer our congratulations to:

Sgt Carole Hoban who received her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal from the Director WRAC during her recent visit to Hong Kong.

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.

Congratulations WRAC on your 40th anniversary



We are pleased to introduce
our latest handmade
statuette of a WRAC
Corporal in No.2 Dress.

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ALDERSHOT GARRISON FUN RUN – 30 NOVEMBER 1988

LCpl "Bev" Cantle, 10 Coy WRAC, received a cheque for £50 from Steve Cram after winning the Aldershot Garrison "Fun Run" in her class. Pte Maria Farmer, also from 10 Coy WRAC, was second. Well done to you both. There were over 4,000 competitors running in the six mile event which is held every year for charity. 10 Col WRAC had a good turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves, especially when the RSM was there at the two mile point with glasses of Gluwein for us all!!



LCpl "Bev" Cantle receiving her cheque from Steve Cram after winning her class in the Aldershot Garrison "Fun Run".

12th JULY 1988

PRESENTATION OF THE MEDALS OF DAME LESLIE WHATELEY TO THE WRAC MUSEUM



From left to right: Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, Brigadier Nield, Miss Thesiger and Brigadier Field with the medals of Dame Leslie Whateley.

when the time comes for them to move on and not enough with the courage to volunteer! How about it?

Skill at Arms Training was introduced into the WRAC Regular Recruit syllabus in July 1988. The recruits now learn how to handle and fire the Sub Machine Gun and do

UNIT NEWS

WRAC CENTRE

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Let us set the scene. Do you remember when you arrived at the gates of Guildford and became a private instead of a Miss? Was the transition so painful? What did you think of the Training NCOs. Were you one of those people who said "I want to come back and be a Training NCO" and as yet you still haven't done it? Well it is never too late! Guildford is still very much alive today with the recruits who need training. The job is here for the taking.

So let us tell you about the changes that have taken place, what the job entails and what there is to be gained. There have been a number of changes over the past few years. Whilst the throughput of recruits is approximately 1100 Regular and 1000 TA recruits per year there is now only one Training Company. It is commanded by a major and currently has the capacity to staff six platoons. With effect from April 1989 the Regular Recruit Course will be 7 weeks 4 days with an Intake Break between courses. Fieldcraft, Weapon Training and Signals have all been incorporated into the syllabus. The WRAC Centre has also undergone a facelift with major renovations. So not only are the working conditions very good, the job is varied and exciting and there is time to get away on regular breaks.

Now what does the job entail? Well you will work in a close knit team of 4-5, staffing a platoon of 40-50 recruits. you will be responsible for every aspect of their training from turnout, drill, welfare, fitness, discipline, to their practical and academic performance. You will be required to assess the recruits and finally to pass them off the Square at the end of their Basic Training. You will have a hectic schedule and be in constant demand for advice and guidance. To equip you to cope with the job you will attend training courses. It is undoubtedly the best place to gain confidence, the ability to teach and to lead, to improve your knowledge of military subjects and to develop your management skills. If you are strong, determined and dynamic it is the job for you.

To conclude, the gains from volunteering to be a Training NCO are the satisfaction of transforming a civilian into a trained and highly motivated servicewoman; the chance to qualify as a military instructor; the chance to develop your self confidence and to enhance your promotion prospects; to enjoy the comradeship of working in a team of 'switched on' enthusiastic people with an endless capacity for humour; regular breaks to get away and do your thing. Finally the experience and friends you will gain will stand you in good stead in whatever you wish to do in the future.

If you are interested and feel that you could meet the challenge you should apply through your unit. You will then be called forward to Guildford for a series of interviews and to see for yourself whether training really is for you.

There are few who regret it, a great many who miss it



The Training Company currently has 23 Weapons Instructors and six qualified Range Managers.

not go on their Trade Training until they have passed Weapon Training Tests and their Annual Personal Weapons Test with a 70% pass mark.

The extra 45 periods required to teach weapon training were fitted into the existing course. The Instructors and Range Managers are all WRAC who were trained earlier in the year by the Small Arms School Corps.

The training enables the WRAC to be more credible in their role and able to take their place alongside their male counterparts on local protection tasks. Hopefully it should open up more opportunities to the Corps.

Weapon Training was greeted with some trepidation by some new recruits. There were remarks such as:

"Do we use real bullets?"

"Does it matter if I hit someone?"

However, come POP Day the answer to the question "What have you enjoyed most on the course?" is invariably "Weapon Training". Indeed the recruits and the instructors can be congratulated as the pass rate on all but the trial course has been 100% to date. It would appear that weapon training is here to stay. A note to anyone thinking of volunteering to join Training Company; it has added a whole new dimension to the job and is tremendously rewarding.

Pte Monkhouse, one of the 'New Look' Recruits, receiving her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award at St James' Place. She is the sort of WRAC Recruit we need. Recruiting has been buoyant for a long time now, but the 'demographic trends' are with us and young women are at a premium. We want to maintain our excellent standards



Pte Monkhouse with her certificate.

so please look out for young women with the right qualities for today's soldiering and direct them please to the nearest Recruiting Office.



WRAC STAFF BAND.

Our Band, too, has excelled all year but is constantly under threat and needs to be well recruited. The standards are high but the rewards are great and the musicians have an excellent career and life style. A familiarisation visit to see the Band at work can be arranged. anyone interested in becoming a member of the WRAC Staff Band should write to the Director of Music at the WRAC Centre.

31 Signal Regiment (V)

In the life of the TA there is never an easy training year and somehow every year becomes more demanding. although we hear about closed weekends they never really happen and the Friday night start seems to become more frequent! Having said that there is never any shortage of willing WRAC volunteers always ready to take on the extra activities of Cross Country Championships and we were pleased to have two teams in the top three in the London District TA Championships. The girls also did well in the Courage Trophy and various other Half Marathons around the London area. "Exercise Welsh Wanderer" was a huge success and some girls attempted the Chichester Marches as another test of their extra devotion to duty. Capt Vicki Hutchinson and Capt Kendal Withers always seem able to coax the girls to run and be energetic.

The WRAC weekend in July went well and the girls who attended learned more about radio techniques and enjoyed sports and a Treasure Hunt in the Aldershot area. Since then Jan White has become SSM of 41 Squadron at Coulsdon so scoring a first since the integration of the regiment took place some many years ago – we do congratulate her on that promotion so very well deserved.

At the Grand Reunion in October 11 girls volunteered to help at the Barbican and so showed the flag for the present day Corps. They enjoyed it immensely and it fostered good relationships all round. Cpl Kay Maxwell and Pte Angela Bishop presented bouquets to the lady artists at the Concert and the young girls enjoyed the Reunion as much as the older ones amongst us and some have joined the Association as a result. Pte Dawn Boothby had the honour of being the only TA soldier at St Paul's Cathedral and she was presented to HRH The Duchess of Kent.

Unfortunately the regiment is to lose four captains in the New Year – Capt Viki Hutchinson is off to see the world, Capt Penny Rose and Capt Susan Pearce (née Fenney) have pressing work commitments and Capt Eileen Carter has to retire. Those who are left are well indoctrinated to make sure the men in the regiment realise the girls have their own Corps allegiance.

THE JUNIOR INFANTRY BATTALION (SCOTTISH AND KING'S DIVISIONS)

Now that the WRAC contingent of JIB Ouston has reached the dizzy heights of four I think it about time others got to know of our plight. As the male bastions of Infantry Battalions precludes entry of WRAC in all but a few cases, an establishment with four is surely worthy of note! We are Capt Bridget Haines, 2Lt Jules Allen, 2Lt Monica Jones and 2Lt Jenny Wright – all WRAC/RAEC Instructors.

Due to a lack of accommodation, no servicewomen are employed within the barracks but the presence of four female instructors serves well to introduce the Juniors to the idea of females in uniform. Apart from seeing us in the classroom we are often to be sighted at Adventurous Training Weeks or sporting activities.

The Junior Infantry Battalion (Scottish and King's Divisions) was established three years ago after JIB Shorncliffe was divided. The mix of 'Jocks' and 'Joes' works well and the Battalion now has many training and sporting achievements to its name. Apart from being Junior Boxing, Downhill Skiing and Rifle Shooting

champions the latest wastage rate from one of the most recent platoons to pass out was a mere 8 per cent.

The establishment of the training depot was acknowledged recently by a visit by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was a short stay but he managed to see a good selection of the Battalion's activities. Capt Bridget Haines ran a first aid stand and, after a combat curtsey(!), escorted the Duke around a group of casualties and first aiders. The colourful casualty simulation provided good pictures for the press!

Other activities of the WRAC contingent here include: 2Lt Jules Allen, Nijmegen Marches, July 88, Capt Bridget Haines JSME(S) Norway, Aug 88. All Instructors are encouraged to participate in Battalion activities and usually end up getting ample practice in their organisational skills running teams and other events.

For those of you who think of Ouston as 'the bleak outpost', think again; the involvement the WRAC has with all Battalion activities, keeps us far too busy to dwell on the weather!



Capt Bridget Haines talking to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh about First Aid Training at JIB.

10 COMPANY WRAC

THE FESTIVE SEASON

Christmas at 10 Coy WRAC started in traditional manner with the stirring of the ingredients for the Christmas pudding. This heralded the start of many festive events not least of which was the 10 Coy Christmas Cake Competition in which professional cake decorators (ACC personnel) and very "green" beginners spent many happy hours in the barracks kitchen pounding, cutting and piping icing to produce some 25 entries including cakes to be donated to charity.



STIRRERS! – Pte Strickland, Cpl Lawton, SSgt Swift and Capt Scott give the OC Maj Chown a little vocal support.

EX AUTUMN DOUBLE

10 COY WRAC AND 251 SIG SQN

Ex AUTUMN DOUBLE was held at the Royal Engineers Training Centre in Weymouth from 1–24 Oct 88. The Exercise was divided up into weekly groups with members of 10 Coy WRAC and 251 Sig Sqn.

The week started off with various military skills including map reading, first aid, NBC and weapon training. the UDR also helped us with security and vehicle search demonstrations, and practicals!

Map reading included a night navigation exercise which gained Officer Cadet Hicks "map reader of the exercise



Cpl Kate McCann and Cpl Julie Wilson on Ex AUTUMN DOUBLE.

award". As we were on our way to the exercise, she misplaced the training area on the map giving everybody a guided tour of Bovington at night. Well done ma'am!!

Each day started off with PT and involved aerobics which gained extra duties for Cpl Helen Moseley as the music was too loud on the morning of the RSM's lie-in, Ooops!!!

To finish off the week we went for an eight mile "jaunt" along the Dorset Coastal walk. Everybody also had the chance to do adventure training of their choice consisting of rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, diving, windsurfing and speedboating.

All three weeks were full of hard work and good fun which made it very successful.

16 BATTALION RAOC

Great changes have occurred within 16 Bn RAOC during the last months. D Company has been disbanded and all the WRAC have been dispersed to different Companies. The OC, Maj Julia Dixon, now commands C Company which comprises the drivers and members of Traffic Branch, whilst the Admin Officer, Lt Heather Watterson, moved across to B Company to look after personnel of 2 Sub Depot. The new CSM, WO2 Kate Woodcock, found herself in HQ Company as did the latest subaltern, 2Lt Celia Richards. The disbandment of the Company was marked by a very successful all ranks regimental dinner on 7 July 88, and the guest of honour was Lt Col Bishop of SEDIST who had recently commanded the Company. We also took the opportunity of saying farewell and thank you to WO2 Thelma Milton who had gone to spend her last few months of service in York Garrison.

Despite the changes, WRAC sport goes ahead with encouragement and gentle bullying from the PTI, Sgt Karen McGrath. All competitions have been entered with some success. 16 Bn were pleased to win the BARI Bowl



The winners of the Bari Bowl (RAOC Inter-Unit Tournament).

Hockey (RAOC Inter-Unit competition) this year and were equally delighted to be the first winners of the new Army Women's Inter-Unit Squash competition. Within the unit, each Inter-Company competition, whether it be tug of war, assault course or whatever, has to have a minimal WRAC participation ensuring that a fair number of girls become involved in at least one activity for their Company.

For the future we look forward to military training at Swynnerton, adventurous training at Penhale and for those with the time, money and energy, to skiing on the RAOC's Ex KNEES BEND in Scotland. More immediately, the WRAC in Bicester are planning to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the WRAC with another all ranks regimental dinner on 7 Feb 89 when the WRAC Staff Band have kindly agreed to come and play for us.

BAOR

29 COY WRAC NIJMEGAN PTE GARNER

On the morning of July 17th, eleven members of 29 Coy WRAC boarded a coach and set off for Holland. This was to be the culmination of several weeks of hard and continuous training – participation in the 72nd International Four Day Marches at Nijmegen.

As our coach slithered to a halt in the Dutch training

area of Heumensoord Camp we could see through the Sunday morning rain, endless rows of army tents and off in the distance the welcoming sight of a Union Jack. Flags from every nationality imaginable flew from tent poles and tent strings wherever we looked. We were soon to learn that if you stood still at Nijmegen someone would try to hang, pin or stick a flag on you! Even the drizzle which had turned the ground into a swamp could not dampen the enthusiasm and excitement of the team. Having registered at the British Reception Tent we were escorted to the female accommodation at Goffertal Gymnasium, several kilometres further on. With much sympathy for our water logged male colleagues we were relieved to find that Goffertal was clean, dry and without a tent peg in sight. On arrival we were immediately taken under the wing of the British Military Contingent.

The remainder of the day passed swiftly with the unpacking of kit and the meeting of our new neighbours. With the Americans behind us and the Dutch to our left we found Swedes, Germans, Norwegians and French scattered all around in the bunkbeds, that stretched back to back along the length of Goffertal. In total we were to spend six nights asleep in a room with seven hundred and ten other people!

The opening ceremony took place at Goffert stadium the following day with Sgt Maitland our bicycle orderly representing 29 Coy WRAC in the opening march. The ceremony began with numerous military bands followed by a gymnastic display, hot air balloons, and finally the Parade. Representatives of 43 different nationalities including for the first time the Soviet Union, proudly entered the stadium, the noise of the cheering was deafening with much of it coming from 29 Coy WRAC!

All too soon it was 0400 hours on Tuesday morning and we were stepping out on the first leg of the four day event. The novelty of marching with 31,000 people made the time pass rapidly. Our bicycle orderly, loaded with drinks bandages, sticky tape and safety pins peddled gamely after us, as we marched our way along, the first of four 40 kilometre routes. It was a great surprise to see Dutch citizens sitting outside their homes at three and four o'clock in the morning applauding the marchers.

Sgt 'The Voice' Neville kept everyone's morale high with her distinctive version of 'Captain Jack'. By the fifteenth rendition of 'Yellow Bird' we were on our final leg into Heumensoord, seven hours after we had begun. With our control cards stamped and the first day over, we marched into the International Tent to a welcome glass of cold "lemonade" and an International rendition of "When the Brits Go Marching In".

Throughout the next three days there was never a moment when the singing of marchers, or applause of spectators could not be heard.

Each night 'Lights Out' became progressively earlier as our feet grew consistently larger! On return most of the team would hobble into the Dutch medical post, where we received on request a massage or taping of the feet.

Then again each morning we would squeeze our aching feet into boots and set off as if immune to the slight pain. Ptes "No Heels" Garner, "Hop-a-Long" Kerr, "No Legs" Archer and LCpl 'Bad Back' Broad marched bravely through the pain barrier and kept on singing.

Day four began with signs of relief and ended in tears of joy. This was the last leg (literally) and everyone was determined to finish marches. Three short rest breaks and 40 kilometres later we pushed out the pace, and marched smartly into the final resting station (although not without a song). Dashing over to the female tent, boots and bandages were unconsciously discarded and replaced

with highly polished parade shoes. Happy and refreshed we joined the never ending line of teams forming up for the final parade through Nijmegen, to the sound of the bands.

The British Military Contingent of the 72nd International Four Day Marches limped off through the heart of Nijmegen, passing on our way hoards of people who had lined the route to witness this auspicious occasion. At the closing stages of the parade, came the March Past of the various dignitaries and then the final collapse around the corner, for most of the teams.

After showering and changing you find yourself dragged out, regardless of the pain to the 'Blister Ball' as it is so aptly called until the early hours of the morning. Nijmegen is then over until next year, or forever some people say. But without the assistance and support of the many people during the four days, combined with the team spirit most of us would not have made it to the end.

SPOTLIGHT ON 3 POSTAL AND COURIER DEPOT RE

The past couple of months have been very busy for 'The Posties' of 3 PCD RE with two VIP visits to the unit.

The first was by the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Brian Kenny KCB CBE, who officially opened the new Command Mail Distribution Office. It was some 10 years ago that the original building was damaged by a terrorist bomb explosion, however, the Depot has now been totally refurbished and offers some of the best facilities, if not the best, within the Postal Corps.

The second visit was by The Chief Royal Engineer, General Sir George Cooper GCB MC. General Cooper spent a brief hour touring and talking to Postal staff and also congratulated them for maintaining a very valuable and often thankless task.

FRAN BACKSTOP 1988

On a blustery Sunday morning on July 24th, a group of 10 eager participants gathered at 28 (BR) Signal Regiment MT to board the transport which was to be the first leg of our journey to Calgary, Canada. We were going there on an expedition involving climbing in the Canadian Rockies with a variety of other events included. The team consisted of 8 male and 2 female contenders – Cpl Jane Little and Pte Anne Pocklington.

We flew in and could feel the excitement mounting as the plane finally drew to a halt in Calgary airport. The team were in high spirits and morale was excellent as we stepped onto Canadian soil and felt the warmth of that Calgary sun. Our first day was spent acquiring transport and purchasing the hardware necessary for the month to follow. We set up camp just outside Calgary, the first of many, and so the expedition began . . .

Our first climb was Mount Laurie, a ridge walk, tethered together on ridges no more than 2ft wide with a 2000ft drop on the other side. It was hard to hide the fact that in places one faulty step would have led to our downfall. As we scrambled across the scree just below the summit it was a case of one step forward and twenty back.

We drove up to Lake Louise for our next ascent, Victoria Glacier. We were going to stay at Abbotts Pass Hut which stands at 9558ft and where the temperature rarely rises above 5°C. The ascent began with a walk up to the Coffee House which lasted 2½–3 hours, but the best was yet to come. We had a battle with yet another scree slope to get on to the glacier itself. We had our first experience of crampons and the correct use of ice axes, remembering

clearly the warning about keeping your hand over the lethal spike which crowned the ice axe. When we did some practice ice-breaking it proved hard to concentrate on this, sliding down the slope at a great rate of knots. We began the ascent and at 9 pm were still climbing. We thought our legs would barely carry us much further when that little hut came into view. What luxury to get inside and just bask in the warmth of the fire and hospitality of the keeper of the hut. After an early night, we had a breakfast of bangers and beans prepared by the duty cooks. The following morning we attempted Mount Victoria. Although we reached the top plateau the summit evaded us due to a heavy fog rolling in and we were forced to make our descent again. After another night in the hut we went back down to Lake Louise.

On Friday 5th August the expedition moved to Bow Lake. The weather was fine and the going somewhat "tamer" than before so that we reached Bow Hut by 5.50 pm. The



Pte Pocklington and Cpl Little approaching Abbot's Pass Hut after ascending Deathtrap Glacier.



The team crosses a natural rock bridge above Bow Lake.

next day we were forced to stay indoors as snow blew horizontally across the windows.

We climbed St Nicholas Peak on 7th August, the mid point of our expedition and then we came down in the world to Saskatchewan River where we went for 27km by Kayak canoe. The following two days we travelled on horse back – it was like a scene from a western film. The only thing missing was the Indians.

Mount Assiniboine was to be our last climb, nicknamed "The Matterhorn of the Rockies". We walked through pine forests around lakes, watching the wildlife and taking in the sun. Later we had to traverse across the mountain which looked totally impossible . . . the higher we got the more our pulses raced. The ledges seemed to disappear into a smooth wall, or was that pure imagination?

A fierce hailstorm and lack of time contributed to our decision to sit out the final climb. However the men too were beaten back by the weather.

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your limits, you do things you never thought you could possible do. You can happily look at mountains now and think "Yes, I could climb that!"

THE DIRECTOR VISITS THE FAR EAST

In November 1988 DWRAC, Brigadier S P Nield ADC BA visited Brunei and Hong Kong, not only seeing WRAC but also members of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment who were patrolling the border, and the women officers who have trained with the Corps in UK. Brigadier Nield went on to Australia where she met the Minister of Defence for Science and Personnel and had discussions with her and visited training and research units of the Australian Army.

BRUNEI



Brigadier Nield takes the salute. With her is Major Jan Ransom WRAC the Loan Service Officer serving with the Women's Company.



Members of the Women's Company march past.

HONG KONG



Brigadier Nield preparing to fire the Noon Day Gun. With her is a representative of Jardine & Co, the owners of the Gun.

SOJOURN ACROSS THE PENNINES

On 24 August 1988 nine hardy and determined walkers set out from ASMT Leconfield to walk a distance of 60 miles over the Pennine Way in three days.

The Team included:

Capt Niki Vickers
WO2 Denise Stockdale
Cpl Jill Goodman

Cpl Deborah Lloyd

LCpl Celia Duffield

LCpl Gale Hepburn

Backup: Sgt Babs Mason WRAC

SSgt Brian Lauder RCT

Sgt Tony Mapp RCT

DVR Mark Partridge RCT

We called ourselves the "Von Wracs" as we "climbed every mountain"!!



Parts of the route were well marked



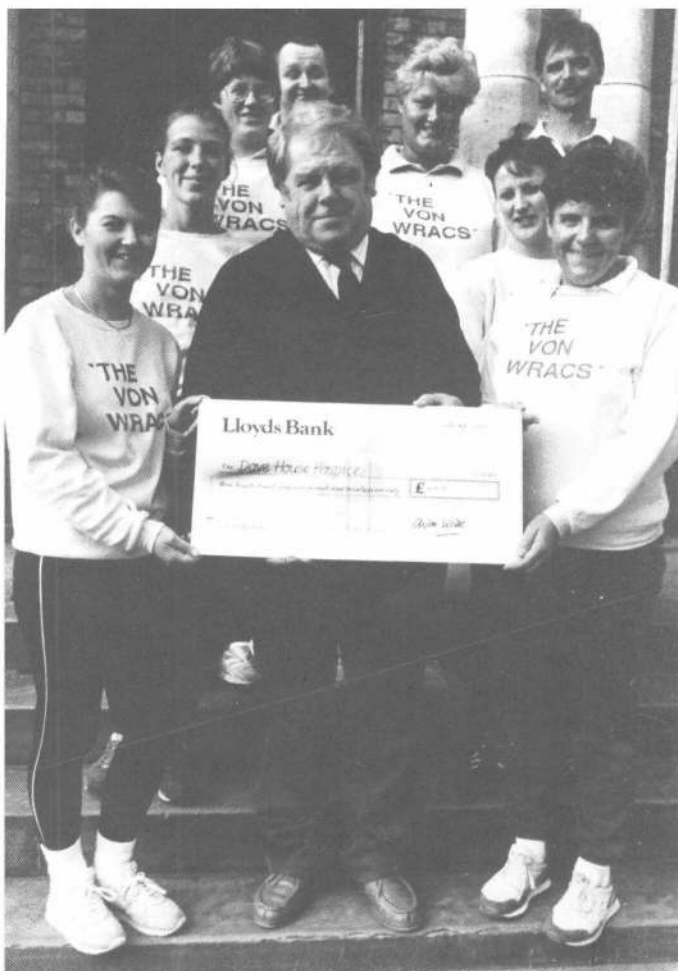
and divides



Other parts were confusing



We cross rivers



and finally after a tough and demanding three days presented a cheque for £369.90 to the DOVEHOUSE HOSPICE in Hull.

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.

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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

ROYAL TOURNAMENT 1988

by Captain C M Wilson WRAC

The WRAC were out in force at this year's Royal Tournament. Forty servicewomen covered the two week event at Earls Court, involved in security, sales and escort duties.

With Royalty attending most of the twice daily performances the pace was hectic. Nevertheless it was a proud moment for Pte Weston (PCD RE Mill Hill) when she was presented to Her Majesty The Queen.



Pte Weston presenting a posy to HM The Queen at the Royal Tournament.

COMMISSIONING SCROLLS

We have received at Corps HQ a number of unclaimed Commissioning Scrolls, but sadly there are too many to list in Lioness.

If you, or anyone you know who was commissioned between 1949 and 1951 failed to receive their scroll please write giving details of your full name (including maiden name where appropriate) and we will gladly send them on.

Mr Eric Taylor, the author of the very successful book, "Women who went to War" is researching another and is asking for further help from our readers. The subject is once more service women in war time but with the emphasis on personal relationships, happy and sad emotional encounters. Please write to Mr Taylor at 21, High Oaks, York YO3 0LB or telephone 0904 425029. All requests for confidentiality will be honoured.

WRAC ASSOCIATION GRAND REUNION 1988

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS, the WRAC Association held a Grand Reunion in London on 7 and 8 October 1988. Over 2,000 members attended a memorable Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 7 October and 2,000 met in the Barbican Centre for the Grand Reunion on Saturday 8 October. Some had travelled from as far afield as Australia and Canada and many met old friends whom they had not seen for years.

For many the reunion began as hundreds gathered on the steps outside St Paul's Cathedral. The warmth and comradeship inside the Cathedral generated a most moving atmosphere throughout the service, which was attended by the Controller Commandant and President of the Association, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent. Guests included the Lord Mayor of London, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, the President of the Army Benevolent Fund and 20 Colonels and Colonels Commandant of Corps and Regiments with whom the ATS served. The Service was conducted by the Dean of St Paul's and the sermon was given by the Rt Reverend Ronald Gordon, the Bishop of Lambeth and Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces. The Chaplain General, The Reverend J Harkness led the Act of Remembrance and Rededication which was made all the more poignant by the Last Post and Reveille played so brilliantly by SSgt Peters of the WRAC Staff Band. She was congratulated afterwards by the Lord Bishop of London who closed the Service with the blessing.

The following day, on Saturday 8 October, the reunion was set in full swing in the Barbican Centre. Some arrived



Part of the queue outside St Paul's.

as early as 8.30 am, quite determined not to miss a moment of the great event. The Barbican staff and serving members of the WRAC coped admirably with assisting in the organisation and the morning was particularly

dominated by a very busy public address system which made constant announcements on behalf of members trying to find old friends who they probably had not seen since leaving the ATS on "demob". The souvenir stall was particularly popular and very busy, with momentos selling like hot cakes. The helpers on the stall were absolutely exhausted at the end. The raffle, organised by the Greater London Branch of the WRAC Association, was also a great success with many splendid prizes to be won. The Association AGM was held in the Barbican Hall at 2.30 pm and at 6 pm a Buffet Supper was served before the evenings final proceedings and concert took place to a packed audience. Some music was played by the WRAC Staff Band before Brigadier Field, the Deputy Controller Commandant and Vice-President of the Association, opened the proceedings and introduced Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, the last Director of the ATS and the first Director WRAC, who gave a short address. Brigadier Nield, DWRAC replied. The Chairman of the Council,



HRH The Duchess of Kent arriving at St Paul's Cathedral accompanied by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Greville Spratt.

Colonel Bowles read messages from the Adjutant General, the Quartermaster General and the Master Gunner. Brigadier Nolan, the Chairman of the Reunion Organising Committee read messages from the Allied Armies and Overseas Associations, which were invariably received with a cheer from the relevant contingents who had travelled so far to be there. Finally, the General Secretary, Lieutenant Colonel Dunn, read a list of those Corps and Regiments who had sent messages. Then followed the concert organised by Brigadier Gerald Landy, National Enterprises Organiser of the Army Benevolent Fund who also performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies in a most professional and amusing manner. The entertainment included John

Boulter and Anna Dawson, Don Maclean, Lorna Dallas, Ronnie Cass and top of the bill, Sir Harry Secombe, who sang some popular tunes and ended by leading the rest of the cast and the audience in singing "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Auld Lang Syne". It was well after 10 pm when a most exhausting but memorable day finished. Members dispersed, many to London hotels where they were staying and where, no doubt, their own private reunions continued well into the night.

The abiding memory of those two days in London has to be the tremendous esprit de corps which was so evident and is so vital in service life and which is fostered particularly in difficult and dangerous times. Serving members of the Corps have every reason to be proud of and grateful for the most marvellous work done by their predecessors and the path that they paved in the establishment of a permanent Corps of women in the Army today.



Major Simmonds buying her souvenirs.



The Okon sisters and Pte Bishop selling souvenir programmes.

GRAND REUNION RAFFLE

The value of prizes donated was over £1,600 (including the £400 from WRAC Association).

Winners were:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. £400 Thomas Cook Gift Vouchers (WRAC Association) | J Kenyon – Barnsley |
| 2. £450 Couture Garment (Hilliers) | G G Taylor – Leicester |
| 3. £100 Cheque (Royal Bank of Scotland) | M Wolff – Leicester |



Members of the Greater London Branch who organised the raffle.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 4. £100 Cheque (National Westminster) | M Mitchell – Weymouth |
| 5. £100 Cheque (Greater London Branch) | A Carn – Norfolk |
| 6. £100 Gift Vouchers (Marks & Spencer) | J Kenyon – Barnsley |
| 7. Original Print (CCA Galleries) | M Hawley – Greater London |
| 8. £50 Cheque (Tambrands Ltd) | F J Parker – Leeds |
| 9. £50 SAGA Holiday Gift Voucher (Saga) | F Green – Salisbury |
| 10. Radio/Cassette Player (SSVC) | M Mackie – London |
| 11. £25 Cheque (Lloyds Bank) | Mrs Holmes – Sheffield |
| 12. £25 Gift Voucher (Moss Bros) | F Boham – Aberdeen |
| 13. Man's Sweater (Courtaulds) | M Charles – Leicester |
| 14. Man's Sweater (Courtaulds) | M Caldwell – Glasgow |
| 15. Overnight bag, towel, scarf (British Airways) | M2 Services |
| 16. Overnight bag (Britannia Airways) | Mrs Thorne – Portsmouth |
| 17. £10 Gift Voucher (W H Smith) | V McKay – Aberdeen |
| 18. £5 Gift Voucher (Sainsbury) | E Harrison – Bournemouth |
| 19. 1½ litre of Wine (Saccone & Speed) | J Cormack – Norwich |
| 20. WRAC Crest Collage (Mrs Newlyn) | I Tinker – Colchester |
| 21. Surprise Package of gifts donated on the day | D M Riley – Grimsby |

Sermon Preached by the Right Reverend Ronald Gordon,

Bishop to Her Majesty's Forces, in St Paul's
Cathedral on Friday 7 October 1988 at 2.30 pm on
the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the
Formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service

"Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them" 2 Kings 6.16.

The Auxiliary Territorial Service was brought into existence on 9 September 1938 by Warrant of King George VIth.

"George R.I. Whereas we deem it expedient to provide an organisation whereby certain non-combatant duties in connection with our military and air forces may from time to time be performed by women; Our will and pleasure is that there should be formed an organisation to be designated the Auxiliary Territorial Service".

Under the name the Corps lasted for just over 10 years. Its success, and its major contribution to the war effort, ensured that after the Second World War – unlike after the First, when Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps was disbanded – women's services were permanently retained, and as part of the Regular and Territorial Armies. So, on 1 February 1949, the ATS became the Women's Royal Army Corps.

The ATS had had some magnificent achievements. That over a few years it rose from nothing to a strength of 200,000, the size of a peace-time army, was itself remarkable.

It owed much in its early years to leaders who with great determination and intelligence, aided by a deft use of social contacts, overcame formidable administrative difficulties, widespread public prejudice against women in uniform, and often a hostile and mischievous press. It owed much too to the Patronage and support of the Royal Family.

Gradually the ATS proved itself well able to undertake a huge range of duties – with, among others, the Ordnance Corps, the Pay Corps, the Signals, and not least with Anti-Aircraft Command, in which more women served than men. They undertook also all kinds of unexpected tasks, such as come the way of armies, from finding food for starving troops from the Norway Campaign unexpectedly put ashore at Thurso, to looking after more than a thousand typhus-bearing refugees escaping from Turkey to Syria.

Any task within their physical capacity the women performed as well as the men. And, in the judgement of one historian at any rate, "where patience... was required" – as it often is in war – "where conscientiousness... and attention to detail" were required, they performed even better than their brothers.

The supreme example was surely the ATS contribution to the D-Day landings. There seems a general agreement that, without the women's taskforce, the operation could not have been accomplished. It was fitting that it was a Lance Corporal of the ATS who, on the morning of 6 June 1944, received the message that was to be broadcast to the world announcing the landing of Allied armies on the northern coasts of France.

These are the kind of things we remember as we gather today in St Paul's Cathedral – whose own survival as a symbol of light in a world where much is dark seems something of a miracle.

"I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord". Glad because we are all of us enriched as we allow the Christian truths and symbols, presented through the great tradition of Christian worship, to play upon our lives and experiences. Glad as we encounter the invitations to praise and thanksgiving, to honesty about the past, to trust in the mercies of God for the future, to contemplation of the Christian virtues of lowliness, peaceableness, and generous love, with which this Service presents us.

Here in St Paul's we are challenged to offer *praise* to God made known in Jesus Christ. This is a lesson that self-centred, earth-bound creatures do not easily learn. Yet to have learned to praise God is the beginning of wisdom, not least because if we don't praise God we may well end up praising ourselves. And that's the surest route to the madhouse. Here in St Paul's we are challenged to offer *thanks* for all our experience to help and enlightenment. No-one likes an ungrateful child.

Here we are challenged to be honest about the past, setting value upon what has been good, and of God, without being foolishly boastful or confident that there has never been wrong on our side. The inquest following the recent killings in Gibraltar was, I believe, an example of just such honesty in practice. Here we are challenged to rededicate ourselves to future service, trusting only in the mercy and grace of God.

"Fear not", said the prophet; "for those who are with us are more than those who are with them".

I am one of those who believe unashamedly that the cause for which our nation went to war in 1939 was a righteous one. Which is not to say that nothing wrong was ever done on our side, but that many, whether civilians in air-raid shelters or soldiers coming home from Dunkirk, were able to draw comfort from words such as I have quoted: "those who are with us are more than those who are with them".

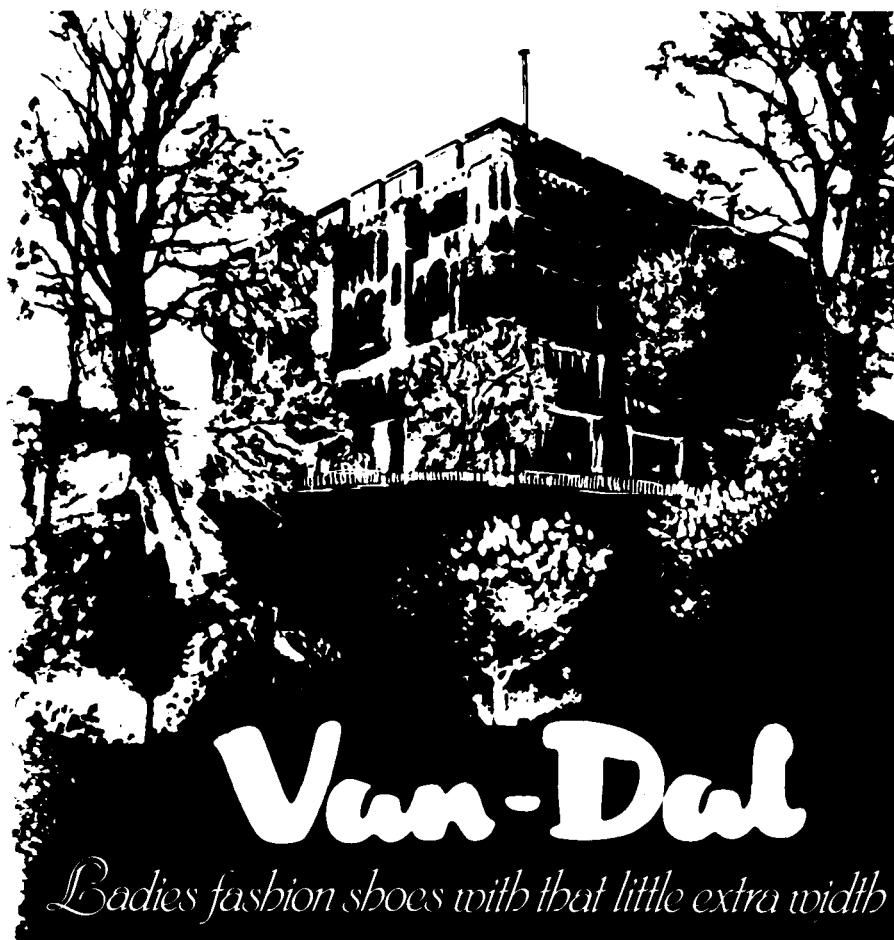
At this point the poet Edmund Blunden has a question to put to us:

"I have been young, and now am not too old;
And I have seen the righteous forsaken,
His health, his honour and his quality taken.
This is not what we were formally told."

It is right that the poet should probe our convictions. Yet the prophet's words, and the assurance they offer, have surely a deeper meaning as the poet himself later acknowledges. Even if we had been outwardly, and for a while *defeated* by Hitler the words of the prophet would have remained true. For they speak not of invincibility for the righteous in earthly combat but of a spiritual combat between cosmic forces, of right and of evil. A combat that Christians believe has already been won for righteousness, though much labour is still required before the full benefits of this victory will be seen on earth.

And it is in the confidence of that victory, won once by Jesus Christ, that the Church invites us now to rededicate ourselves, to "present our bodies as a living sacrifice".

It is in that confidence that the members of the Women's Royal Army Corps today renew their own commitment to a most honourable and necessary, if sometimes desperately difficult, task of keeping the peace.



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MESSAGES OF COMRADESHIP AND SUPPORT FROM OTHER REGIMENTS AND CORPS

MAJOR GENERAL, THE HOUSEHOLD DIVISION

"Since the inception of the ATS 50 years ago throughout their magnificent service in the Second World War generations of Guardsmen have had great admiration and indeed have been most grateful for your dedication and invaluable military contribution."

ROYAL ARMoured CORPS

"Greetings and congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS and we wish you success with your celebrations".

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

"Over 6,000 members of the ATS served with Sapper units during the last war. It gives me pleasure as Chief Royal Engineer to send the warmest greetings and congratulations".

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

"On behalf of all members of the Royal Corps of Signals I send you greetings and very best wishes. . . . The very high standards set by the ATS are today being maintained and the bonds between our two Corps are as strong as ever".

DIRECTOR OF INFANTRY

"During the Second World War over 4,500 members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service served with the Infantry helping in key posts. I send you warm greetings from The Infantry".

ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT

"I offer the congratulations of all ranks of the Royal Corps of Transport on reaching your half century".

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

"Over the fifty years of your history, there has always been a very close association between our two Corps and the support we have received from you over those years has earned and is deserving of the very highest recognition".

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

"In the dark days of 1943 the established strength of the ATS attached to RAOC was 22,000 and over the years many thousands more have served with us. In peace and war, indoors and out, in all weathers and for long hours, you ladies have worked uncomplainingly".

CORPS OF ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

As representative Colonel Commandant of REME, I am delighted to represent the REME at your celebrations and send good wishes to those at the reunion.

CORPS OF ROYAL MILITARY POLICE

"I do hope the occasion is a successful and enjoyable one".

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS

The past and present members of the Royal Army Pay Corps join me in wishing you all a grand reunion. Any ATS members from the Army Pay Office Manchester in 1946/47 – I promise not to tell!

ROYAL ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

"I am aware of the very significant contribution made in World War 2 by the ATS".

INTELLIGENCE CORPS

Delighted to be associated with your celebrations and send good wishes.

ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS

I hope that the occasion is a successful and enjoyable one.

ARMY CATERING CORPS

We are grateful for the long and successful relationship that we have enjoyed and look forward with confidence to the years that lie ahead.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S ROYAL ARMY NURSING CORPS

"Our best wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service".

WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE

Our good wishes and congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. We are honoured to have been associated with you.

WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE

"Greetings and good wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS".

ROYAL ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS

Women have long played a significant part in education. In 1938 there were 335 Queen's Army Schoolmistresses. It was not surprising that after the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service it was little more than three years before the first female education staff officer was appointed to it. By 1942 there was a part-time education officer in every ATS company.

ROYAL ARMY DENTAL CORPS

Colonel Commandant on behalf of All Ranks RADC extends our best wishes on the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the ATS.

ROYAL PIONEER CORPS

"Congratulations and best wishes for your future from a Corps who are 49 years old to you who are 50 years young".

MESSAGES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH

SOUTH AFRICA

"On behalf of the South Coast Sub-Committee of the Ex-Servicewomen's League of Southern Africa I wish to convey to you our heartiest congratulations on this happy occasion. May your deliberations go well, and the next 50 years be peaceful and fruitful ones".

(The Chairman and Secretary of the Branch Joan Du Plooy and Gwen Forshaw are with us tonight).

ZIMBABWE

"Greetings and best wishes to all assembled at the Grand Reunion. We value the strong ties between our two armies and are proud of the part women are playing in the defence of freedom and liberty".

USA – The Women's Army Corps Foundation

I attended their 46th Anniversary Reunion in Alabama in May. It was a wonderful warmhearted and happy occasion. I was asked to bring back the framed resolution they presented.

Part of it reads:

"We are resolved that this unanimous vote of congratulations and praise be presented at your Reunion. The exemplary courage and determination of the ATS helped to achieve victory and we recognise and applaud the dedication of those who served or who are now serving in the WRAC".

And a special message from the Fort McClellan Alabama Branch who contributed the flowers on the table today:

"It is most fitting we share this celebration with the women who blazed the trails for those of us who would follow in service to our Nations. You are to be commended on the contributions you have made to History".

AUSTRALIA – The Blue Mountain Ex-Servicewomen's Association

"Congratulations and best wishes for a very happy 50th Anniversary".

And from the **WRAAC Reserve Association (Victoria)**

"Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee. Greetings and best wishes to all for a wonderful Reunion".

CANADA – ARMED FORCES

"Best wishes on your 50th Anniversary. As you gather from near and far to celebrate this significant milestone you can be justifiably proud of your achievements. You are our role models".

And a special message from **Chapter 47 of the Canadian Women's Army Corps Association.**

"A special bond was formed between us and indelible memories created. We will be thinking of you".

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE HQ

"Sincere congratulations and best wishes for a truly successful and enjoyable Grand Reunion. We remember with fondness the close ties we have enjoyed".

(The NZ WRAC Association had their Reunion two weeks ago and raised their glasses to us for ours. For a very happy and successful Golden Jubilee.)

JAMAICA

"Warm greetings on your Grand Reunion. Your members can take pride in your history and reputation of being a truly dedicated and professional Corps – we salute you".

GHANA

"The women of the Ghanaian Forces send greetings, good wishes and warm congratulations on your 50th Anniversary".

NATO SERVICEWOMEN'S DINNER

On 27 May 1989 the NATO Servicewomen of HQ AFCENT, Brunssum, the Netherlands will sponsor a Dinner Dance in honour of servicewomen from the USA, UK, Holland, Belgium, Canada, West Germany and France. The guest speaker will be Brigadier General Sheila Hellstrom, Canadian Forces, Chairman of the NATO Committee on Women in NATO Forces.

All ranks are welcome to attend the dinner, at the AFCENT Officers Club, both serving and retired. Cost will be approximately 30 DG. For information please write to:

Maj Dianne Smith, Int Div,
HQ AFCENT, BFPO 28



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..... Postcode:

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WRAC/1



Staff Sergeant Peters.

VACANCY FOR AN ARMY CAREERS OFFICER ON THE ARMY RECRUITING STAFF

The appointment of the Army Careers Officer-in-Charge at the Army Careers Information Office, Palace Barracks, Belfast, N Ireland is due to become vacant on 17 December 1989. The successful applicant will be required to report for duty two weeks prior to assumption of the appointment, to commence takeover of the duties. The post is in the grade of ACO2, equating to RO2. Conditions of service are laid down in AGAI Issue No 62 Volume 2, Chapter 41. MOD (DAR2c) will supply more details if required.

Applications for the above appointments are invited from Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and Majors (including Women's Services) and should be submitted on ANNEX c to the above AGAI direct to the Ministry of Defence (DAR 2c), Room 112, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR to arrive not later than 17 April 1989.

Applicants should satisfy the conditions in paragraph 41.008a of the AGAI. The successful applicant, if not already retired, will be required to retire on taking up the appointment. Records of service are required and applicants should give previous appointments held, qualifications, local connections or experience which would be of value in connection with the appointment.

A LETTER HOME

W/295761 Pte Chittenden B
No 3 Platoon
'C' Company
No 7 ATS Training Centre
Queen's Camp
GUILDFORD
Surrey

29th February 1944

Dear Eileen and Daphne,

It really was awfully sweet of you all to think of me on Friday! We have all been terribly busy since we were bundled into lorries on Guildford station and brought here.

Guildford T.C. has the reputation of being one of the best training centres, and I can quite believe it. I've not yet ceased to wonder at all I see. Our kit was very extensive, and took a long time to mark! We spent all Saturday and Sunday doing that while we were recovering from inoculation and vaccination.

Since then we have had various lectures on P.D.A. (Passive Air Defence) and A.B.C.A. (Army Bureau Current Affairs). When to salute and who to salute, and marching and saluting practice. We have PT every day and wear tiny brown shorts and pink blouses, and the instructress skips here and there, looking very dainty and agile, while we all puff and pant. The worst part is all the dressing and undressing, although you need every article you wear! I think you'd both have a fit if you wore all this lot. Bra and suspender belt, a very long vest and under pants, khaki knickers (no! they don't come right down over your knees, but fit quite well!). Shirt, collar and tie, pullover, skirt, jacket, and greatcoat – nobody would know if you fainted, the coat would just walk along with you inside it! I'm longing for my first leave so I can take my skirt up, and press everything. The shoes are very nice and we are issued with two warm pairs of pyjamas, which we need very much.

One funny thing happened on Saturday morning. The corporal had asked us to get up at 6.30 am (ugh!!) if we were awake and someone shouted "6.30 girls". I jumped out of bed, put up my blackout and went along to the ablutions to wash! I hadn't really recovered from the shock of finding myself first, when the corporal came in and asked me if I knew what the time was! I said about 6.30! She grinned and said 2.10 am!! Back in the barrack room everyone was roaring with laughter. Ever been had?

There are about 1,000 ATS here, and there are 25 'men' in each barrack room. There is a very large NAAFI, with piano, radio and buffet bar, also a shop where you can buy practically everything. There are two Gyms and a Sally Anne (Salvation Army) where you can have snacks and hear the radio.

There is a radio in every barrack hut, and there are reading rooms and games rooms. Lovely deep armchairs and hundreds of kittens to sit on your lap Daph!

March 2nd

We have just been in to see the Selection Officer – I have passed all my tests, *but* apparently, as I have a credit in English Language and Literature, and a good clerical background (a thousand curses on Cambridge School Cert and Barclays Bank) they want me to pass for a clerk!!!!X!??

However I kept on about being keen to drive, hate indoor work, and have a driver friend in the ATS etc, etc, that the



Pte Chittenden B.

officer said that she would put driving down as my first choice but even if I pass my mechanical test and the MO I could still go as a clerk !!!!X!?? (all these dashes mean words best left unsaid!).

The awful part is, that my friend has sent me a delightfully encouraging letter about driving that it has made me keener than ever!!

It really is a glorious day, its good to be alive! The food is very good – eggs and bacon Sunday breakfast; ham yesterday – delicious doughnuts, chocolate eclairs or some kind of bun with tea!! We are always hungry, but I must say I was very pleasantly surprised with the food!

Two girls I have met come from New York. Manhattan actually, and know the college that my American penfriend is at. Another girl comes from Buenos Aires, only arrived two days before she came here, and speaks very broken English. Jolly attractive too.

It will soon be Pay Parade Practice, – all this palaver for both pennies!! I see shiny buttons in my sleep, and glossy shoes, but its a very different thing when you wake up. "why did I wake from my dreams?"

Well cheerio for now, please give my love to your mother and father.

Kind regards to Jackie.

All my love,

Betty

POSTSCRIPT by Mrs Sue Hatton née Stewart.

My mother did become a driver, then a sergeant cook instructor before being commissioned and becoming an Education Officer. She married my father Major Freddie Stewart R SIGS in 1949.

I joined the WRAC in 1969 and spent most of my commissioned life at the WRAC Centre as Catering Officer. Sadly my mother died five years ago, but I'm sure if she had been alive we would have both attended the Grand Reunion in London last October.

SOUVENIR PACKAGE

For the benefit of those members of the Association who were not able to be present at the Grand Reunion on 8 October 1988, we have put together a souvenir package of:

- 1 Souvenir Plate (8" diameter and wording below in gold lettering)
- 1 Souvenir Brochure
- 1 Postcard of HM The Queen in ATS uniform
- 1 Postcard of ATS uniforms
- 1 Picture of Victory Parade

Inclusive Price £8.00



ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ Souvenir Packages
(@ £8.00 each including packing and postage).

I enclose my Cheque/PO for £ _____ payable
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Signed _____

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Please complete next panel carefully as it will become
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_____ Post Code _____

FRAGILE

ASSOCIATION NEWS AND BRANCH NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1989

The AGM will be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 15 April 1989.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on Saturday 8 October 1988.
4. Business Arising from Minutes.
5. Report of Council.
6. Report of Honorary Treasurer.
7. Report of Editor of Lioness.
8. Report of Committee:
(a) ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds.
9. Resolutions:
(a) Amendments to Rules:
Rule 11(g) Line 3:
Delete "80p" Substitute "£1.00".
Rule 11(h):
Delete all detail.
(b) Rule 11(m) Line 6:
Delete "£8.00" and Substitute "£20.00".
(c) Branch Resolutions:
That dress for WRAC Association Standard Bearers be included 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.
White gloves or gauntlets (at direction of parade organiser).
10. Reunion 1991.
11. Any Other Business.
12. Date and Place of Next Meeting.

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

There is to be a meeting of Branch representatives in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club at 11.30 am. Council invite Branch representatives to lunch with them following the meeting. Details for both events will be sent to Secretaries.

NEW LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

The Council of the Association invited Brigadier E J Nolan CB to become a Life Vice-President of Council at its meeting on 18 January 1989. She joins the existing Life Vice-Presidents – Brigadier Dame Mary Railton DBE, Colonel L M Davies CBE, Colonel C E Hammond CBE and Colonel V K Stead OBE TD JP DL.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1988

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Barbican Centre, London EC2Y 8DS on Saturday 8 October 1988 at 2.30 pm.

The chair was taken by Brigadier A Field CB, Vice-President of the Association who welcomed 900 members to the meeting. She introduced Captain K R McGregor the Assistant Corps Secretary.

The Vice-President expressed thanks to the 1988

Reunion Committee and all those involved in the arrangements for the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication at St Paul's which had been such a success. She mentioned particularly Staff Sergeant Peters for her beautiful playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

The Vice President also thanked the Greater London Branch for the work in organising the Raffle.

The Vice President reported that the GOC London District had replied to her request that the WRAC Staff Band should participate in the Remembrance Day parade by stating, that he was responsible to the Home Office for the arrangements and that no precedent existed for including an extra band.

The Chairman of Council, Colonel E J Bowles said that Council had met three times since her last report. Council had voted that a sum of £7,000 be set aside to subsidise the reunion activities in addition to the Special Fund of £11,000 which had been built up over the years in anticipation of making 1988 a special Grand Reunion year. Council had also voted to donate the £400 travel voucher as the principal prize in the Raffle.

The number of branches had risen to 70 with new branches at Birmingham, Colchester, Eastbourne, Fife & Tayside and Shipley.

The strength of the Association had risen from 8,030 at the end of 1984 to 9,345.

In 1987, 180 new Life members joined and so far in 1988 a further 284 new Life members had signed up. An average increase of 10 new members per branch would give the Association a membership of over 10,000 which the Chairman believed to be a realistic target.

The Western area of the Association had decided to establish two Sub Areas. One would cover the Welsh Branches and the other would embrace Birmingham, Crewe, Shropshire, Stafford and Wolverhampton.

Twenty-five members had received tickets to attend the Royal review at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea on 9 June, and 25 Association members had the great honour of being invited to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party on Thursday 28 July.

Members of branches within a 100 mile radius had been invited to be present at the Ceremonies when the Corps received the Freedom of Guildford in June, and for the presentation of medals and decorations of the late Dame Leslie Whateley to the Museum on 12 July.

The Vice-President thanked the Chairman of Council for her report and for the three years work which she had done culminating in the Grand Reunion for 1988.

Mrs E Laurence-Smith, the Honorary Treasurer reported that the accounts covered the year ending 31 October 1987, and had been approved by Council in January 1988 and had been printed in the August 1988 edition of Lioness.

The accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of £11,299 for the year and the accumulated funds stood at £133,111 which was a healthy state of affairs, but in the 11 months since these accounts had been audited there had been considerable expenditure on the Museum refurbishment and in preparation for the reunion.

In the year under review the costs of publishing and posting Lioness had been £9,778 which was £2,402 more than the Association received by way of subscriptions from its members. For the moment the deficit had been covered by the income which the association received from its investments. Last year that had been £7,930 but postage rates had risen since the last edition was posted and printing costs always rose and it would be necessary to keep the situation under review.

Captain K R McGregor reported that 8,000 copies of

each edition of *Lioness* had been printed because of the greatly increased membership of the Association. Deadlines in December and June are *last* dates after which it is extremely difficult to include material.

After some 30 years Major Coven had decided to resign as the advertising representative of *Lioness*. On behalf of the Association and the editors with whom she had worked Captain McGregor wished to thank her for her splendid work over the years.

The Vice-President added her thanks to Major Coven for her 30 years work as the advertising representative.

The Chairman of the Trustees of ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, Brigadier A Field, reported that the Trustees had met twice during the year.

She wished to thank all those who had contributed a total of £93,000 to the Funds, of this sum £88,000 (including tax recovered) had come from serving members of the Corps.

The Chairman also wished to thank Lieutenant Colonel Soames, members of the Grants Committee and Mrs Laurence-Smith the Case Secretary.

In addition, there was The Army Benevolent Fund who offered support in so many ways. Thanks should also go to the Voluntary workers of SSAFA/FHS, Secretaries of our own Association Branches, The Royal British Legion and Social workers of the DSS who submit cases for consideration.

A total of 865 cases were considered during the year, 634 of these were ex-ATS, 230 were ex-WRAC and one was an ex-QMAAC applicant, aged 88. Grants during the year amounted to £136,000. The 1978 figure was £18,000.

The Chairman reported that there were 56 beneficiaries of the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, receiving a payment of £52 every quarter, plus a Christmas present of £40. The ages of the annuitants ranged from 92 to 50 years.

The Chairman urged branches to continue their fund raising activities.

The Chairman of Trustees of the WRAC Museum, Brigadier A Field, reported that since the last AGM great strides had been made with the refurbishment of the Museum. The Trustees had planned the construction of the new Museum in three phases.

First was the Shop which had been opened in 1987. Phase 2 was to be the implementation of Richard Dayne's design for the main exhibition room.

The first time that Phase 2 had been seen was on the 12 July 1988 when the medals and decorations of the late Dame Leslie Whateley were presented to the Museum by Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, President of the ATS Dinner Club. The Club, with some help from the V & A Grants Fund and the Army Museums' Ogilby Trust, but mainly by subscriptions from their members had raised the purchase price and presented the military medals to the Museum. The Trustees were most grateful for their generosity.

Phase 3 was in the planning stage the proposed construction of a Royal Room to highlight the Royal connections of the Corps and to provide a climate controlled environment to house the uniforms of HM The Queen and HRH Princess Mary, Princess Royal.

The cost for all three phases would be in the region of £97,000. Half of this sum has been raised so far and the Trustees are hopeful that HQ South East District will help with the provision of showcases. They have also made an appeal to the Wolfson Foundation.

The Chairman urged that fund raising activities should continue.

Andover Branch proposed and Salisbury Branch seconded that in the specification of the Association

Standard the words "Kenya Red (BCC 237) and Rifle Green (BCC 27)" be deleted and "Beech Brown (BCC Shade 69) and Bottle Green (BCC Shade 25)" substituted.

Ulster Branch proposed and Crewe Branch seconded that the initial grant made under Rule 11(j) be raised from £5 to £20.

Colonel E J Bowles would complete her term as Chairman in November 1988.

Exeter Branch proposed and Plymouth Branch seconded that Major E O Coven currently Vice-Chairman be elected as Chairman.

Council had proposed that Brigadier E J Nolan, Major D R M Parker and Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames be re-elected as Council Vice-Presidents and that Miss M Bradley be elected as Council Vice-President in an existing vacancy.

Fife and Tayside Branch seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

The Vice-President invited Areas and Branches who wished to host the Grand Reunion and AGM in 1991 to submit proposals in writing to the General Secretary by 23 December 1988, so that they could be considered by Council in January 1989.

Wolverhampton Branch proposed a vote of thanks from the AGM to the Council of the Association for all its work on behalf of members. This was carried by acclamation.

The 1989 AGM would be held on Saturday 15 April 1989 at the Victory Services Club. The Governor of the Royal Hospital had agreed that Association members could attend Matins at the Chapel on Sunday 16 April 1989.

CHURCH SERVICE AT ROYAL HOSPITAL

The Governor of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea has invited all members of the Association in London for the AGM to attend the Matins Service in the chapel of the Royal Hospital at 11.00 am.

WHY NOT START A BRANCH

Many members have mentioned that they do not attend branch meetings because of distance or lack of suitable transport or fear of being out alone after dark. These worries are quite understandable but there is one possible solution and that is to form a new branch nearer home!

The only requirement is to find two members who are willing to act as Secretary and Treasurer of the branch and apply to Council for recognition. Association HQ will advise on routines, publicity and provide stationery as well as a small starting up fund.

The branch would have to negotiate its own meeting place such as a Village Hall, a TA Centre, a Royal British Legion Club, a school hall or even someone's house.

Once formed a branch has autonomy in its own affairs but will be assigned to an area for control and reunion purposes and details of the branch are published in *Lioness*.

If you would like more details and a helping hand write to the Association General Secretary at Corps HQ, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford GU2 6QH.

WRAC MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT APPEAL BENEFACTORS

List No 5

This list is in addition to lists 1–4 published in Lioness 1987–88. Names here are of those who have subscribed since the previous lists or whose details require amendment.

Association Branches

Bournemouth Cheltenham Cleveland Crewe
Newcastle Southport Wimbledon Wolverhampton

Units and Other Organisations

Allied Ex Servicewomen's Association of Melbourne
Australia
Corps of Royal Engineers
Wolfson Foundation
NCC Entertainment

Individuals

Miss A E Allen	Capt D Mapley MBE
Miss J Brewin	Mrs J L Mullen
LCpl K M Byrne	Capt B E Richardson
Mrs M Cannon	Mrs B P Sarsons
Col E R Denne MBE	Miss P Voites
Mrs Halliday	

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

SEASIDE ENTERTAINMENT APPRECIATION SOCIETY WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1989

The Seaside Entertainment Appreciation Society are holding a Reunion and Show on the theme of "There'll Always be an England" in the Empress Ballroom at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool on Wednesday 27 September 1989. It includes a Standard Bearers Competition.

Tickets are £2.95 each.

Party bookings for more than eight are:

Now to 1 Apr 89 – £1.25 per person
1 Apr 89 to 1 May 89 – £1.50 per person
1 May 89 to 1 Jun 89 – £2.00 per person
1 Jun 89 to 27 Sep 89 – £2.95 per person

Tickets and details from:

David Wagstaff
"Heavens Above"
45 Gateside Drive
LAYTON
Blackpool FY3 7PN

ARMY POST OFFICE 1940–48

**Were you a member of the ATS
serving in the Army Post Office at either
Nottingham or Packington Park between 1940 and
1948?**

Many ATS personnel served in the APO and were stationed at various camps and billets in and around

Nottingham and later at Packington Park. They performed a variety of duties ranging from cooking to sorting the Forces mail, in the many offices used by the APO.

Many of these women have been reunited in recent years and are in regular contact with each other. A Reunion is held annually in April at Nottingham when up to 100 ex ATS meet to reminisce and enjoy themselves.

For more information please contact Mrs Dorothy Burke, 11 Oakfield Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 6HU.

BRANCH NEWS

ALDERSHOT Hello – Aldershot Branch calling. We've had a super year – thoroughly enjoyed ourselves – as we hope you all have.

We started off with a talk on Wildlife in the Falklands, which also included information regarding conservation on MOD lands, very interesting and surprising too. Then we had a conducted tour round our local main Post Office. Do you know that one person sorts between 2,700 and 3,000 letters an hour – by hand? That's on a normal posting, Christmas is a different story of course.

Next we had a talk by a Guide Dog owner who was accompanied by her beautiful labrador Aden. The following month we went for an instructive tour of the Surrey Police Headquarters – and no we DIDN'T leave anyone behind. Our next gathering was At Home when we each brought something for the Refreshment Table and proceeded to eat, but quite a lot of chat went on during the evening.

Our talk by a Sainsbury's Economist was postponed, and replaced by a speaker about the Basingstoke Canal. October of course brought the Grand Reunion/ATS Jubilee when I was thrilled to meet two people who had served with me in the Band, who I never expected to see at all. Oh it was a great feeling. This was followed by a very successful Annual Buffet Dinner. We had really transformed the Church Hall where we meet, with subdued lighting from member's standard lamps, flower arrangements in the entrance, hall, and on the tables which picked out the colours from the checkered cloths we used and of course the buffet table itself was a delight to see. In previous years we had held our Dinner in various restaurants or clubs, but this time we decided to try our meeting hall, with a caterer responsible for the food only. An experiment which will be repeated next year.

Our AGM was very well attended and brought forth many interesting ideas for meetings next year, including a couple of afternoon meetings to see if we can involve the members who live too far away to travel in the evenings. I'll let you know how we get on. I know from talking to other Secretaries both at the Reunion, and before the Cenotaph Service at Whitehall (what a shame we weren't able to be altogether in a column of our own) that many other branches meet only in the afternoons, so we'll see what response there is. Best Wishes to you all.

BRADFORD We have had a memorable year, one of the highlights being when two members, Mrs Ethel Skerratt, Minutes Secretary, and Mrs Nora Houldsworth, Treasurer, were invited to attend the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace in July. Certainly a day to remember. The second highlight was the Grand Reunion in London. Our party included Bradford and Keighley members and we were pleased to have with us Edna McFarlane and her husband Albert from Kingston, Ontario and Nessie

Johnson from Victoria, Australia. We all had a very enjoyable weekend and look forward to the next reunion.

Four members attended the Ex Service weekend in June at Bridlington when our Standard was paraded. In November we attended Festivals of Remembrance at Oldham and Bradford and we were on parade with the Royal British Legion with our Standard in the capable hands of Mrs Norah Kendall.

We are hosting, for the seventh time, a lunch for the 1914-18 Veterans. The lunches started in 1982 with over eighty Veterans but this year the number is down to thirty-two. Most of the gentlemen are over ninety but they all enjoy themselves.

We were very pleased to have a carpet bed showing the



**Bradford Branch at Northcliffe Park, Shipley.
(Courtsey of The Bradford Telegraph & Argus).**

ATS badge in one of our parks; a photograph in the local paper raised considerable interest.

We have had coffee mornings and made donations to different charities including the museum fund. We feel we have had a very busy and profitable year.



West Park, Wolverhampton.

BOLTON The Branch continues to flourish although some members live a good distance away from Bolton making attendance at meetings rather difficult. Matters have greatly improved since we changed to day time meetings.

In a busy year we have made visits to the Greater Manchester Fire Services Museum, Albert Dock Complex in Liverpool, Wigan Pier and to the Granada TV Studios. Twenty-three members attended the Grand Reunion in London which was greatly enjoyed by all and left us with

everlasting memories. Three members also attended the Service of Remembrance and Parade in London. An ATS wreath was laid at the Bolton War Memorial by Mrs Kathleen Toppin.

Our Annual Dinner was held in November but sadly, Mrs Betty Hamer, one of our founder members was unable to attend but she presented a beautiful birthday cake, iced in the design of an ATS cap badge.

On 1 December five of our members formed part of a Guard of Honour when HM The Queen and HRH Prince Philip visited Bolton. Imagine our amazement and delight when Her Majesty spoke to us, another fantastic memory of 1988 to cherish.

CLEVELAND Our membership grows from strength to strength, and we have started our second year with an anniversary party, to which Sunderland and Newcastle Branches were invited. A good time was had by all. We had our Christmas Dinner in early December which most of our members attended. We have subscribed to several charities during the year including:

The Cleveland Hospice, The British Legion, WRAC Association Benevolent Fund and the WRAC Museum Fund.

At one meeting our members brought toys, warm clothing, soap, chocolates, oranges etc and collected £38.00 for the Polish Appeal. Mr Bernard Connolly spoke of the hardship which the Polish people have to endure in this day and age.

Our biggest highlight was the 50th Anniversary of the ATS celebration, which 46 of our members attended. Forty of us stayed at the Duchess of Kent Barracks Aldershot where we were given a very warm reception. That was a happy eye opener for us all 40 years on and going there brought all our memories flooding back, I must say the army girls of today live a lot better than we did!

I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that a good time was had by all. The Service at St Paul's was very good and the WRAC Band was excellent. The highlight of the Service was the arrival of the Duchess of Kent. She is so very beautiful and serene.

The Barbican Centre left a lot to be desired; not a very good place for the over 60's, but everyone made the best of it. The food didn't please everyone but the show was magnificent. It made up for everything.

We finish our 1988 year with our second Anniversary Party and Christmas Dinner. We all look forward to 1989 and what it might entail.

May I and the Cleveland Branch wish you all the very best for 1989.

CREWE The Crewe Branch have once again had a successful year.

A coffee morning was held in our neighbouring town of Nantwich in January in spite of the bad weather.

On April 23 a large party from the Branch went to the Western Area Reunion at Birmingham, we congratulate the Wolverhampton Branch for a splendid afternoon.

In May we had a meat and potato pie supper followed by bingo. This was enjoyed by all who came.

One of our members offered to hold a coffee morning at her home in June and the proceeds went to our funds. We also had a Jumble Stall on Crewe Market and were favoured with a fine day.

In July two of our ladies went to the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace where they met two members from Medway Branch and had an enjoyable day together. They

were fortunate enough to be presented to the Duchess of Kent.

Our floral ATS cap badge was on display in our Park and was much admired.

August saw the branch represented at the Battle of Britain Parade in Crewe and in September four ladies



Crewe Branch July 1988.

went to Stoke-on-Trent for an Ex-Serviceman's Parade, for which we had a warm welcome.

In October we had a Coffee Morning in the Local Library and did rather well. We also went to the 50th Anniversary Reunion in London. One of our members carried the ATS Association Standard in St Paul's, this was a great honour for our branch and we were all very proud of her. We congratulate HQ on the organisation of the Grand Reunion; it was a memorable weekend.

Once again November came along and with it our yearly visit to the Cenotaph will not be forgotten.

Our Christmas dinner is to be held on the 1 December bringing our activities to a close this year.

May we wish Corps HQ and all Branches a Happy and Successful 1989.

DEAL On behalf of the members of the Branch who were fortunate enough to attend the memorable Service in St Paul's Cathedral on the 7 October and the Barbican on the 8th, may I take this opportunity of thanking you and the Staff at HQ for the well organised, smooth running of this 50th Anniversary Grand Reunion. The meeting and greeting of many old friends gave us such pleasure, and our friends from overseas expressed their appreciation of the fantastic planning and hard work that must have been implemented on our behalf to have made the whole weekend so successful.

The AGM was delayed until the November Meeting due to many of the members being away on holiday, the confirmation of the officers now stands as follows: President Mrs Betty Powell, Chairman Mrs Ethel Wager, Vice-Chairman Mrs Ruby Quinn, Treasurer Mrs Marjorie Gillate and Secretary Mrs Joy Drew.

A most enjoyable day at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst for twenty-nine members from Deal and Canterbury Branches took place in June, preceded by an excellent lunch at Aldershot kindly arranged by Major (Jackie) Lindsay, and very greatly appreciated by all after a somewhat tedious journey.

The Annual Garden Party in August was very well attended with guests from The RAFA Sandwich Branch, and the RNAA Deal Branch.

The Branch has lost a great friend in the sudden and sad death of our Treasurer Miss Joan Groser, her many friends from Dover, Folkestone and Canterbury expressed their deepest sympathy to her Mother and family, as did all her close comrades in Deal.

DUMFRIESSHIRE The Dumfriesshire Branch has always been most successful, with a very enthusiastic membership and associated members. This has been mainly due to four sisters: Miss Annabella and Miss Grace Gibson, and Miss Lilian Hodgson and the late Miss Muriel Hodgson, all under the leadership of Miss Annabella Gibson who has been the Secretary for over 40 years. Certainly all the members of the Scottish Association know Annabella to be a most popular, competent, enthusiastic and amusing lady. Now 80 years old, and in spite of ill health following a bad fall, she still takes part in many of the social activities of Dumfriesshire. She has most regretfully decided that she must resign as Secretary. So we now have a committee of seven (including Miss Grace Gibson and Miss Lilian Hodgson) to try to take her place. We know that she will always be ready with advice from her great store of experience.

There was a very successful and enjoyable lunch party on 5 December 1988 attended by 37 members, and we showed our appreciation to Miss Gibson by presenting her with a basket of flowers, an ATS plate and a cheque. The annual Beetle Drive was held on 3 November, and as well as being enjoyed by all made an extremely good profit. The proceeds were divided between the Erskine Hospital and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

GLASGOW We started our 1988/89 session with our Area AGM which was held in Dumfries, 39 members attended; lunch being provided by the Dumfriesshire Branch followed by the Meeting.

September 13th was our first branch meeting when we held a Bring and Buy Sale which raised the amount of £93.60 going to Erskine Hospital.

On the 19 September, 60 members attended a Service in the Church of the Glasgow Garden Festival to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the ATS. The Service was conducted



Captain Andrew Jolly conducting the Service at the Garden Festival.

by Captain Andrew Jolly, Chaplain to HM Forces Glen Corse Barracks, Captain Jolly's Service was very interesting and well suited for the occasion. He wished the WRAC Association every good wish for our Reunion in London, and hoped that the Association would go on for many more years.

Thirty-eight members attended the Grand Reunion in

London and thought the Service in St Paul's a most moving one.

We are now looking forward to the New Year.

EASTBOURNE We held our first meeting in March 1988 in a room kindly lent to us by the Royal British Legion Club. We now have 21 members.

Our May meeting was held in the Grand Parade Bandstand, listening to the WRAC Staff Band, the guest conductor announcing that there was now a WRACA Branch in Eastbourne and that we were present. Our Publicity Officer has seen to it that we are in the local papers and on Sussex Radio.

In June, we had a successful coffee morning in a member's house, and in August the Seaford members of the Branch gave a Wine and Cheese Luncheon which was also successful. Members gave a talk on attending a Royal Garden Party, and a demonstration of how to make nylon flowers. Handicrafts were on display, all of a high standard.

Members attended Aldershot and Sandhurst for lunch and tea in May, both enjoyed and very interesting. Pay has greatly increased!

The members also attended in July the presentation by the ATS Dinner Club of the medals of Dame Leslie Whateley DBE TD at HQ Guildford, also the 50th Anniversary celebrations in October.

We marched in the Eastbourne Remembrance Sunday Service and a member also took part in the November 11th parades at the American and Belgian War Memorials in Oudenaarde and also in the 8 pm Menen Gate Parade after visiting War Cemeteries.

Sadly we lost Retd Sgt Marjorie Briant who had served in the ATS and WRAC for 25 years.

Invitations have been accepted from other Ex Services and contact has been made with the newly formed WRNSA and the WAAFA. We look forward to a busy and interesting 1989.

EXETER At the end of June 1988 Mrs H Hiscox and Mrs L Green took over from Mrs J Balmain and Mrs M Treadaway as Chairman and Secretary respectively.

On the 28th June the Chairman handed to the Mayor of Exeter a plaque to commemorate the Golden Jubilee for the ATS floral tribute garden in Princesshay. The ceremony was recorded for TV by the BBC and shown on the Spotlight programme that evening.

During the Spring and early Summer we held several very successful buffet lunches at member's homes, and one social programme culminated with a Jubilee party on the 20 July at the home of Mrs Janet Boase attended by members and husbands. Mrs Balmain made and presented a Golden Jubilee Birthday Cake with the ATS badge in icing as decoration.

Fourteen members attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations in London on the 7/8 October 1988. The Royal Garden Party on the 28 July was attended by two of our members.

On the 25 October a Branch Golden Jubilee celebration luncheon was held at The Lord Nelson Inn, Topsham when members and husbands were present. A celebration cake was cut by Miss E M Supple.

GRIMSBY Hello friends, we have arrived at last with our very first news letter. Since we began on 17 December 1986 with 21 members we have grown in number to a thriving 75, giving us a good attendance every month at the TA Barracks.

The last 20 months have been packed with various interests. Talks by prominent people, visits to industrial

factories, social evenings with male associates.

We visited the Hull branch in May, travelling over the Humber bridge and were made very welcome.

The branch laid our first Association wreaths on the Remembrance Parades at Grimsby and Cleethorpes, members marched proudly in both.

Our members, by running name card raffles, bingo, and jumble sales also coffee mornings, have raised enough money to buy our own standard, plus training two bearers.

1987 ended with a Christmas dinner at the Yarborough Hotel, we also held a party at Westwood Ho Barracks, donated and supplied by our hard working activities committee.

This year 1988 we have been very busy, we paraded with the Dunkirk Veterans, some of our members attended the Standard Raising at Bridlington making it an enjoyable weekend.

Our own branch provided a free coach for a day out at Sandringham for all our members, it turned out to be a day to remember.

We also have ladies to visit the sick comrades living in the district. The committee found out that we had four ATS girls killed during the war, buried in the war graves at Grimsby cemetery. So to mark the Golden Jubilee year on 3 September the Mayor of Grimsby Mrs Sarah Woodliff attended a memorial service at the cemetery for our comrades. The Mayor's Chaplain the Rev Wendy Isam read a very moving service, crosses of remembrance were laid by all concerned. The dead girls' relatives were traced (not all) and they, with grateful thanks, attended the service. Thanks to Madam Mayor we were given coverage in the local paper.

In the evening we were invited to the Town Hall for a social evening, wine and a buffet. What a night! The Mayor made us more than welcome; we sang for her and made her laugh with memories of our service days. She is very interested in our Association. We have been recognised at last.

We, like you, are now waiting for the reunion, hoping to meet old friends, relive happy times of our youth and what glorious memories they are.

This has been a lengthy news letter, we have done lots and had two years to prosper and grow, we hope to continue to enrol ex ATS and more younger WRAC members too.

We hope to be parading with our Standard in 1989. Happy New Year, God Bless You All.

HARROGATE The Branch has completed another happy, if somewhat hectic, year during which four new members have joined us. Sadly one of our ex-WRAC members, Julia Hamill, died suddenly on 30 September after a long period of ill health. Flowers in the Corps colours were sent to the funeral at which the Branch was represented. Our multiple sclerosis protegee at the Yorkshire Home, Iris Marsden, also passed away on 5 March after a brief final illness. On a happier note we were delighted to congratulate our chairman on her marriage on 4 June and a number of members attended the service. Our WAAC member, Dorothy Roberts celebrated her 90th Birthday in October and the Chairman was once again invited to attend the Mayoress of Harrogate's annual Reception.

Concerning the year's activities, the AGM in October was followed by a spectacular musical slide show entitled "My Way With Colour" by Mr Limon in November and the Christmas Party in December. 1988 commenced with two afternoon get-togethers – a Beetle Drive in January and "Puzzle Corner" in February. In early March a party visited the Royal Hall to see the musical "Hans Andersen"

which was greatly enjoyed by all, and at the end of March our Annual Dinner was held at Sheridan's Restaurant. In mid-April most members attended the Northern Area Reunion in the Lounge Hall and at the end of the month we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Mr Beer on "The Story of Starbeck" which produced some additional local history from the audience to add to his collection! Mr Beer has published a book on the history of Starbeck, now a suburb of Harrogate but originally a self-contained village in the "good old days" of the Spa era.

On the May Day Bank Holiday we operated our usual tombola at Bilton Gala and in spite of monsoon conditions managed to raise the splendid sum of £135. Our May meeting took the form of the ever-popular Valley Gardens safari followed by a fish 'n chips supper and in June we joined a coach tour to the Lake District which included a tour of the Cumbria Crystal factory. At the end of June several members attended a Garden Party and official opening of Lister House, the new British Legion residential home in Ripon where one of our new members was the first lady to move in.

In July, we were off on our travels again, this time a tour of the Northumberland coast culminating with a visit to Holy Island. The Clerk of the Weather smiled on our outings this Summer as in spite of the generally dismal conditions we managed to choose a sunny day each time!

We started the Autumn session with a Pot Luck Supper and some preliminary planning for the 1989 programme, and in September Mr Bevers showed us some beautiful slides accompanied by an interesting commentary on the National Trust in Scotland.

Finally, a party of members attended the Grand Reunion and ATS Golden Jubilee in London on 7/8 October, which proved to be such an action-packed weekend that we all felt in need of a rest and recuperation period afterwards!

HULL We have had an interesting year and have been represented on several Parades in the town when SSgt M Booker has carried our Standard.

The Ex-Service weekend in Bridlington is becoming quite an event and is attended by ex-service people from all over the country. Bridlington is only a small seaside town but they run this very ambitious project comprising a Civic Ball and Parade of Standards on the Saturday and a Service in the town's Priory Church on the Sunday followed by a Parade through the town. We were happy and grateful to the WRAC Association member of Bradford branch who so efficiently carried our branch Standard.

At Poppy time in November the Royal British Legion of Bridlington put on a very good Festival of Remembrance. This year our branch managed quite a good attendance and were well rewarded by the evening's entertainment which was on the lines of the big one at the Albert Hall.

We were sad to lose two of our active members this Summer, Mrs Kathleen Piercy and Mrs Amanda Barnes. I think lots of the Northern members would know Amanda. She had just had her 81st birthday, and had the happy knack of being able to talk to absolutely anyone and it could be guaranteed that within half an hour of first meeting a person she would have told them her life story and be well on the way to knowing their's too.

Miss E Williamson, who lived in Hornsea, had in years gone by done a lot for Hull branch and was Secretary in the early years. We had not seen her for some time but she kept her membership and interest in the branch until she died in February 1988.

In April 1988 our area lost another character. Miss A P V Hildyard, known as Paddy. Although not a member of the Association I think she was well known at Guildford.

We continue to meet on the premises of the Royal British

Legion, Beverley Road, Hull, on the first Friday of each month. Afternoons during the Winter months and evenings in the Summer. In July we broke with tradition and went off to the Wolds village of Sledmere for a "pub" supper. This outing was very successful and may be tried again next July but to a different venue.

HASTINGS Our Branch has tried to make 1988 a very special year as by far the majority of our members served in the ATS.

The Branch was well represented at the Jubilee Service and Reunion in London on 7/8 October – a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable two days for which we say a sincere 'Thank You' to the organisers.

Locally, we held a Service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Christ Church, Blacklands, on 23rd October and we were delighted that so many friends from branches in the South East were able to be with us. We also welcomed visitors from Headquarters SE District and Civic and Military representatives from the Borough and surrounding areas. We hope they enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did and the collection in aid of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds raised £162.

In this special year we have tried to raise extra money for the Benevolent Funds and have held collections, coffee mornings, film shows, wool sales, etc. A special event was the preparation of a Cloth of Friendship by our Chairman, Cora Woolley. All members were asked to sign the Cloth



The Mayor of Hastings Cllr Sandie Barr and the Chairman of Hastings Branch holding the Cloth of Friendship.

and when doing so donate a small amount to the Funds. This raised £25 and our Mayor made the sum up to £30 for us. We now have a permanent reminder of branch members.

We again had a stall at the Hastings Charity Fair and for the first time we raised over £100. To this we had the added delight of hearing that one of our members had won the first prize in the raffle – a cheque for £100.

The visit to Aldershot and the Royal Military Academy was a huge success and we are most grateful to Lt Col Bishop, Chairman, SE Area, for the arrangements which she made.

Although not enthusiastic about marching, we do participate in such events as the Festival of Remembrance at the White Rock Theatre and the Armistice Service at the War Memorial, and occasionally such events as the Anniversary Parade of the Dunkirk Veterans Association. So we decided that if we were to march we would march properly! A CSgt from The Queen's Regiment agreed to give us a refresher course so to the Local TA Centre we went for instruction – what memories! We were all over 60 but our instructor's comments were complimentary. The Branch was then honoured to be invited to provide Escort

to the Queen's Colour at all local Armistice functions this year. Ivy Stewart and Eileen Kent were selected and were superb.

The marching drill benefitted some of our ladies (together with some from Eastbourne Branch) who paraded at Belgian War Memorials in the vicinity of Oudenaarde on the 11 November. An American Colonel commented that the British Army ladies were some of the smartest on parade and Win Wakelin carried the Standard for two hours dipping it a total of seven times.

Mrs Marjorie Grindley QMAAC married her Royal Navy husband at Aldershot in 1918 and had a military Guard of Honour provided by representatives from both Services. Therefore in September they celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. We send congratulations to them. On the very special day they were visited by the Mayor and members of the Branch and they received greetings from



Mr & Mrs Grindley on their 70th Wedding Anniversary.
(Courtesy of The Bexhill-on-Sea Observer)

HM The Queen, HRH The Duchess of Kent, Col Dunn, their MP, with many other official and personal messages.

We have had our Christmas Lunch so the only function outstanding in 1988 is the planting of a Copper Beech Tree in Alexandra Park to commemorate the ATS Golden Jubilee and to help replace the many lovely trees lost in the gale of October 1987.

We have been extremely fortunate this year in receiving many gifts. At Evensong on 24 July our new Standard was dedicated at Christ Church, Blacklands, and at the Service our Chairman wore her Jewel for the first time – both the Standard and the Jewel were gifts to the Branch. We have also been presented with a self-inking ATS stamp and a new pair of gauntlets (for the Service in St Paul's). We have been given a typewriter and a duplicating machine. All we need now are some WRAC members to guarantee the future of the branch.

Since our last letter to Lioness two of our members went forth to start a Branch in Eastbourne. We send to Margaret Rogers and Lily Cowshall our very best wishes for a successful and happy Branch. We hear their numbers are increasing – Congratulations.

May 1989 be a wonderful year for all members of the Association.

INVERNESS It is about two years since the Inverness Branch was formed and we now have a membership of over 80.

During this time we have had many varied and interesting speakers, one being Mrs Deaves who gave us a talk on the setting up of a Hospice for the Highlands. As this was most interesting we invited her to return in August 1988, to give us an update on progress.

Some of us attended the Armistice Parade in Inverness and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch.

Our Christmas lunch was well attended with one member travelling from the Isle of Skye, and she presented Mrs Cruickshank, our President, with a bouquet of flowers as a "Thank You" for all her hard work.

We had arranged with Inverness District Council to have a Floral Display to commemorate the ATS 50th Anniversary but unfortunately it was not possible. We are all very disappointed.

Four members are looking forward to attending the AGM in Dumfries, with 16 going to London in October.

LONDON In July Joyce Wakely, a member of Ilford Branch shared with us her reminiscences of life in Cyprus as a Chaplain's Assistant which in spite of the danger from civil unrest at the time had its lighter side.

The branch celebrated the ATS Jubilee on 1 September with a luncheon at the Union Jack Club. 87 members and guests were present including Miss A Smurthwaite and Miss A Cole all the way from Australia!

On 3 October three members attended the launch of the book 'Women in Khaki' by Roy Terry at the Imperial War Museum where we surprised some of the young journalists, who had neither heard of the ATS nor the QMAAC, with our stories and the fact that in spite of being 'part of history' we can still enjoy life.

Many members were present at the very moving service at St Paul's and the following day at the Barbican. On the Sunday several branch members supported Mary Beeston, of Wolverhampton when she laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in memory of all the ATS killed in the War.

On 12 November, ten members, together with nine from Greater London Branch, took part in The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. After members of the WRAC had presented "Two Hundred Thousand Women, The Story of the ATS", we safely negotiated those formidable steps and marched into the arena. We have to thank both the WRAC RSM and the Guards RSM who were so helpful in awakening almost forgotten memories of Left, Right, Left!

We have had many new members but sadly have to report twelve deaths including Miss Mabel King a regular at all our meetings over many years who died suddenly just a week before the Jubilee.

MANCHESTER The highlight of 1988 was of course, the Grand Reunion. Most of us travelled to London on the Thursday, and enjoyed visits to the theatres. Follies, The Mousetrap and South Pacific, were the various choices.

The service in St Paul's will be a lasting memory, very moving.

We were delighted to see our oldest member 88 years old Mrs Betty Souter, ex QMAAC who now lives in Edinburgh, and is confined to a wheelchair. Her grandson and his wife brought her by plane, just to attend the Service, and returned to Scotland the same evening. A long day for her, but she said it was worth every minute, and she would not have missed it.

Regrettably, very few of us met people we had served with, when we gathered at the Barbican, and we are all getting a bit long in the tooth to be sitting on stairs juggling with plates and wine glasses on our knees, or eating in telephone boxes, but we all enjoyed the first class show, in the lovely theatre, which was a real treat.

We joined the parade on Armistice Sunday, and laid a wreath in Manchester, followed by refreshments in the Town Hall.

Several members attended the parade in London.

We had a successful Bring and Buy Sale at our November meeting, the first Wednesday in the month, and enjoyed our Christmas party in December, when we all provided the eats.

A gourmet group of ten are having a Carvery dinner at the Grand Hotel, as a rehearsal for the festive binge.

We have sent contributions to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and to Broughton House, home for disabled ex-service men.

We meet again in March 1989.

LIVERPOOL We continue to meet on the third Wednesday each month (except January and August) and our membership has increased. Our evenings have included a Dutch Auction, Book Sale, Quiz, Bake and Taste and a Fancy Hat parade. On a more serious note, we had a lecture on First Aid and also a talk on the work of the local Ambulance Service. During the Summer a number of our members visited the Coastguard Station at Formby, Lancs and this proved to be most interesting and informative. In July several members attended a Garden Party held in the grounds of the Royal Naval Association in Liverpool. The guest of honour was HRH The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester. This celebration was to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Merseyside Council of ex-Service and Regimental Associations (CESRA) and we have been represented on this body since its inception. There was a parade of Standards an inspection by the Princess and some of our members took part in the March Past which followed. CESRA have recently acquired a Standard which was made by a Polish lady who escaped from her country during the war and later served in the WAAF. Also in July, two of our members attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and this was an exciting and memorable experience for them. Unfortunately, our October meeting was a "wash-out" owing to a violent thunderstorm and torrential rain. Only a few members managed to get to the meeting as many roads were flooded.

Of course, the highlight of the year was the ATS Golden Jubilee celebrations in London. More than thirty of our members attended and all agreed that the Service in St Paul's Cathedral was most impressive with beautiful music by the choir and the WRAC Band. One of our members met up with an ex-ATS who had been her bridesmaid in Germany 43 years ago. Another member met two friends whom she had not seen since they all served together during the War. The speeches and concert in the Barbican Hall were a fitting end to a memorable weekend.

On Friday, 11 November, a number of us attended a Service of Dedication at the Garden of Remembrance in Liverpool and on Remembrance Sunday we took part in the Service at the Cenotaph and laid a wreath on behalf on the Association.

We will be holding our annual Bring and Buy Sale in December. This is our main fund raising event and enables us to make donations to various charities.

It has been a very busy and eventful year for us and as a result of the 50th Anniversary celebrations the Branch has gained several new members. We sincerely hope they will attend our future meeting and enjoy the comradeship of the Association.

MEDWAY The Mayor of Rochester and his Councillors gave a Civic Reception for former members of the ATS in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of their formation. He wished to thank the ATS for their service to the Medway towns during the war. Kent, was of course, in the firing line of enemy bombers on their way to London. The girls in Ack Ack were kept really busy as I know because at the time I was delivering to the gunsites.

Both Chatham and Gravesend Parks Division planted commemorative flower beds which was greatly

appreciated as it brought us new members. One member from Northern Ireland has been in regular correspondence ever since.

Two of our members attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace. Locally the British Legion put on a great "Remember, Remember, Show" - a sort of miniature Albert Hall show. Members also attended a first class day at Hastings when the branch there excelled themselves putting on a special 50th Anniversary day.

The Medway Branch members have really enjoyed this wonderful year. What are we going to do in 1989 - it could be a bit flat!



Medway Branch members at the Civic Reception given by the Mayor of Rochester.

PORTSMOUTH The branch has had another busy and interesting year and have gained a few more new members. Sadly during the year two members Mrs P Longland and Mrs I Olden have died. Our dinner in December 1987 went well at our new venue and we have arranged another at the same place this year. In May we attended the Area Reunion at Bournemouth which was very enjoyable and our thanks to Bournemouth Branch for arranging this. In July we held our AGM and all officers were re-elected.

During the year we have had Coffee Mornings and a Cheese and Wine Party, as well as being very nice social gatherings these boosted our funds quite a bit. This enabled us to make donations to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, the Royal Star and Garter and the Poppy Appeal. We were also able to purchase a new uniform for our new Standard bearer Mrs P Price.

On the 22 June a party of members went to Guildford to see the WRAC Parade when the Corps was given the Freedom of Guildford. In July we again went to Guildford to the museum to the presentation of a seat from the ATS Dinner Club to the Centre to mark the 50th Anniversary of the ATS, and the presentation to the museum of the late Dame Leslie Whateley's medals.

Portsmouth Branch were lucky in the draw for tickets to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party in July. Two members Mrs E Metherell and Mrs V Fewing had the honour of representing the Branch and the Association. They both enjoyed the afternoon in spite of the dull weather, and thought the gardens and the part of the Palace they saw very interesting.

Our September meeting was a social evening which proved to be a great surprise to our Secretary Miss I Bray who usually knows everything that is going on. To mark her long years of being Branch Secretary the branch members presented her with an engraved ATS Goblet and a plant in a pot. The evening was made more enjoyable by the presence of our President Mrs P Williams and our Australian member Mrs R Thompson who was over here for the reunion. A number of snaps were taken to record this very happy evening.

The Portsmouth City Council Parks Department have planted the ATS Anniversary flower bed on the seafront and it looks very nice indeed, we have taken photos of this to remind us of 1988. The highlight of the year was of course the Grand Reunion in London. Eighteen members stayed in London for the weekend and had an enjoyable time especially the very moving Service at St Paul's. The day of the Barbican was very nice but a bit hard on the feet. We all enjoyed the evening show especially the WRAC Band. It was a weekend we shall long remember and very hard to realise it was 50 years ago when it all started for most of us.

The branch would like to record our thanks to the General Secretary, Colonel D Dunn and all members of the



Presentation to the Secretary of the Portsmouth Branch, Miss I Bray.

Reunion Committee for all the hard work they must have done to make the weekend possible.

At our October meeting we had a Canadian member Mrs W Rice who we met at the reunion and found she was visiting her mother in Portsmouth. We shall be keeping in touch with her and hope she will visit us again on her next trip to the UK.

This year instead of attending the local Remembrance Parade a party of us went to London to the Service at the Cenotaph. It was a lovely day and we all felt very proud to take part in this very moving service and parade. It was worth starting off at 6.30 am to be there.

SALISBURY It came at last, the Golden Jubilee weekend. As we stood on Salisbury station waiting for the 8.37 am



**Salisbury Branch on their way on 7 October 1988.
(Courtesy of The Salisbury Journal).**

train, even the rain could not dampen our enthusiasm. Who would have thought when we joined up all those years ago, that we would become part of the tradition of "Women in Khaki", now honoured by the celebrations in St Paul's Cathedral, and at the Barbican Centre.

Here are some individual impressions from Salisbury members which help to convey our enjoyment of the Reunion. The London cabbies who treated us like Royalty as we piled into their cabs; the sight of a London hotel

taken over by women of a certain age, 60 plus; the sound of the WRAC trumpeter's "Last Post", never played better at any service; the 1940s songs at the Barbican Concert; the gales of laughter sweeping around the theatre on Saturday evening; and our delight that our wheelchair member won a £50 Saga holiday voucher in the raffle.

Perhaps our deeper feelings of warmth and comradeship can best be expressed in this short poem by one of our members, Mrs Dulcie Chalcraft:

We gather together from far and wide to
give thanks for our survival;
We remembered with tears dear friends
who had gone before;
We gave thanks for all the comradeship,
that time had not dimmed;
How proud we felt of our followers – who
carry the flag – still free.
Our hearts were full – old friends we met –
grey heads amongst us all;
But how proud we felt – oh, how proud we
felt – as we stood so very tall.

Our branch seems strengthened and revitalised by London 1988. Increased membership has meant well attended meetings. In September we had a Recipe evening, in October, a Silent Auction, and in November 25 members attended a Golden Jubilee Tea-party at the Red Lion Hotel where the beautifully decorated cake was cut by two of our members who joined in 1938, Mrs Ethel Ford and Mrs Phyllis Compton. The Standard was paraded twice for Remembrance Services, at the City Hall on the 11 November, and at the War Memorial and St Thomas's Church on 13 November.

At our AGM on 24 November, at the British Legion Club, meetings and outings were planned for 1989, so we go forward into the New Year with such happy memories of 1988.

SOMERSET Since our AGM last October numbers have fluctuated and we now have 65 members.

Our programme started in November with a Nosh and Nostalgia evening in Taunton. Although the attendance was small, those who came along had a very happy time.

In January, 25 members went to the Brewhouse Theatre to see "Hobson's Choice", and in February our Annual Dinner was held at the Falcon Hotel, Henlade. In March we had a lunchtime get together at the Wheelwrights Arms and in April the ladies of the Wings Club Taunton challenged us to a skittles match.

The Sub-Area Reunion in Bournemouth was attended by members and their husbands in May. Our party did well winning five raffle prizes. Tiverton was our next venue, for a horse drawn trip on the Great Western Canal. It was a lovely day and a most enjoyable trip.

In August we had a Barbecue, followed, on the Bank Holiday, by our Car Boot Day. Thanks to the kind donations of members it proved to be very profitable.

Ten of our members attended the Grand Reunion in London marking the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS. We all had a wonderful time.

Sadly two members died this year, Sylvia Hodsdon from Tiverton, and Win Alway of Wellington who were both strong supporters of the Branch and will be greatly missed.

SHROPSHIRE On Sunday 6 November the Shropshire Branch had their new Standard dedicated by Padre Norman Smith in the Donnington Garrison Church. Our Standard Bearer, Mrs Lucy Bowyer, together with her escorts Mrs Beryl Lane and Mrs Beryl Podd, did not put a foot wrong and made us all feel extremely proud to belong to the WRAC Association. The collection was taken by Mrs

Terri Goff and Mrs Chris Grigg, our Chairman and Secretary.

We were joined in church by our Area Chairman, Lt Col Mary Harwood, and the Area Secretary, Mrs Joan Bleasdale, whose husband kindly videoed the proceedings for us. The regular Corps was represented by Maj Dee Halliday of 15 Bn RAOC and 14 extremely smart servicewomen from the units in Donnington Garrison thus linking both old and new members of the Association on a memorable day for us all. We even had an overseas representative in the person of Mrs Iris White from New Zealand, who was visiting our Chairman, having served in the NZWAC. After the Service the branch members were entertained to lunch by Lt Col Elizabeth Robinson at her home in Newport.

The Standard was paraded formally for the first time on Remembrance Sunday before the Donnington Garrison



Mrs Lucy Bowyer – Standard Bearer of the Shropshire Branch.

Commander, Brig M F John, and again later the same day at the Royal British Legion Ceremony of Light in Oakengates Town Hall.

Our branch is flourishing, and we look forward to another successful year in 1989.

SOUTHPORT Thought we'd better let everyone know we're still around and doing quite well. We've increased our membership to 44, but unfortunately because we cover a very large area we don't get a chance to meet all our members.

1988 has been a fairly busy year for us with a Garden Party (on the wettest day of the year), a Social, and various coffee evenings and other get-togethers to raise money for the Benevolent Funds, as well as our normal monthly meetings. Our picture shows some of our members after the 1987 Garden Party when we had gorgeous sunshine.

A group of us made it to London for the Grand Reunion, which certainly was an event not to be missed. Our thanks to everyone who made it possible.

If anyone visits Southport we would be more than glad to welcome them to our meetings.

STAFFORD During the past 12 months we have had seven new members, and have lost one Life member to the Birmingham Branch, bringing our membership to 35.

It has been a good year and we have had many interesting meetings. In November several members attended the Remembrance Day Parade and wreath laying ceremony in Stafford and three of our members

attended the Cenotaph Service in Whitehall. Our speaker this month was a rock and stone expert who showed us many interesting slides.

We were entertained by the local handbell ringers in December who got us into the Christmas spirit with the rendering of Carols. A Christmas dinner followed a week later.

The January meeting was spent discussing our plans for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and in February our mouths were watering after a demonstration on how to make various savouries, cakes and sweets.

Our AGM in March brought no changes and our "birthday" (23 years) was celebrated with a meal once again – we do enjoy our food!

In May we were entertained with slides of Old Stafford and in June were shown how to arrange hanging baskets. Also in June a magnificent floral bed was arranged in our Park depicting the ATS badge and suitable inscription and caused considerable interest in the town.

July was a busy month with a Coffee Evening at the Secretary's home and a 'White Elephant' Stall at our Hospital's Garden Fete.

Once again our President entertained us to a Supper and get-together at her home in August and in September we didn't have a speaker as we met at the Royal British Legion club for the first time having had to leave the Royal Naval Association Club due to demolition. In October we had a free-lance Cartoonist to amuse us with his stories and sketches.

The year was brought to a close with our trip to London to take part in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and we would like to take this opportunity of congratulating and thanking all those responsible for organising this enjoyable weekend.

SWANSEA Our branch continues to meet at the Guildhall by courtesy of Swansea City Council. The past year has been a mixture of sadness and joy. We regret to announce the death of our dear friend and oldest member Mrs Florence Stonham from Port Talbot. Florence had seen service in France 1914–18 and during her 90 glorious years was a fine example to all of her fellow members by whom she will be sadly missed.

This being our Jubilee year our activities have been directed towards celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of our formation. In July we were the guests of The Lord Mayor of Swansea Councillor Howard Morgan and Lady Mayoress Mrs Morgan at The Mansion House, where we were entertained for the afternoon and treated to a scrumptious tea. The honour was bestowed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the ATS.

Our President Mrs Veronica Barrington and her husband, Bill, were our hosts in August when they gave an interesting slide show and related their adventures during their recent trip around the world.

It was our turn to be hospitable in September when we invited ex-members of the WAAF to an evening of entertainment in the Mumbles, where many tales of service life during the war years were emotionally recalled.

The highlight of the year was the Grand Reunion in London. Twelve of our members were privileged to be among the 2,000 ATS/WRAC members in the congregation for the Thanksgiving and Rededication Service which was extremely moving and there was not a dry eye to be seen. The reunion at the Barbican where we were pleased to meet our friends from Cardiff, Newport, Telford and Stoke-on-Strent will never be forgotten. We are pleased that our own Swansea boy Sir Harry Secombe was among the artists who provided the evening entertainment which was

musically and emotionally nostalgic.

The Armistice Service was held on 12 November at the Guildhall Swansea and the Remembrance Parade and service was on Sunday 13 November at St Mary's Church Swansea and both of these were attended by the majority of our able bodied members.

ULSTER This year, as in previous years, we have had three or four meetings.

In February 34 members attended our annual lunch. Our Summer outing in July was a trip around the Ards Peninsular stopping at one of Ulster's National Trust Houses "Mountstewart", to visit the lovely gardens, and on to a small seaside village called Millisle for supper.

In October our piece de resistance for the year was the Grand Reunion in London celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS. Twenty members attended of whom 12 were ATS and 8 WRAC/TA. The WRAC although too young to meet and greet friends of 45 years ago, as one member did, enjoyed the entertainment, meeting new people and having a long weekend in London. Two members also attended the ATS Dinner Club supper at the Commonwealth Institute on the Friday evening.

In November our AGM was preceded by lunch which gave the members time to chat and exchange photographs; before the meeting. The outgoing committee was re-elected for 1989. Membership stands at 75 but only half the members attend meetings. Maybe this will improve in 1989.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND We have had a memorable year.

Two members, Mrs Muriel Pearce and Mrs Kathleen Williams, had the honour to attend HM The Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 28 July – a day never to be forgotten, especially as the Duke of Edinburgh chatted to them.

Twenty-three members had a "package deal" to the golden Jubilee Celebrations, and several others travelled independently. This was indeed a wonderful occasion, and we were proud to see our Standard on parade in St Paul's Cathedral, carried by our Standard Bearer, Mrs Anne Scott. We were all touched by the superb and sensitive playing of the Last Post and Reveille, by SSgt Peters of the WRAC Band. The festivities in the Barbican Centre were much enjoyed and one of our members won a prize in the Giant Raffle – very well deserved, as she works so hard for her local mentally handicapped branch. At the end of the entertainment Sir Harry Secombe announced that our 84 year old member Mrs Una Buyce, who joined the ATS 50 years ago on 8 October, was present with us. She had travelled from USA. Great applause! The local Press have printed a superb article together with a photograph of several Branch members.

The Area Reunion hosted by Bournemouth Branch was a very happy and enjoyable occasion. We are the Host Branch for 1989, and are making plans to ensure that our guests have an enjoyable time.

We were present as usual at the annual Battle of Britain service, and at the Weymouth and Portland Cenotaphs for the Remembrance Sunday services, also the Royal British Legion service in Holy Trinity Church in the evening.

Our twice monthly meetings are well attended, averaging 25–26 members, and we try to arrange a programme to suit all tastes. We have a Summer outing – this year a trip on the River Thames; a Christmas shopping trip; a Ladies Dinner Night at a local hotel, and a pre-Christmas party.

We have gained more members as a result of the

Golden Jubilee Celebrations, and we now have 58 members.

WIMBLEDON The Branch meets on the second Friday of the month between 2 and 4 pm at the Community Centre, St George's Road, Wimbledon with the exception of January and August. We have recently changed from evening meetings so improving attendance which now averages 25 to 27.

In October we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our formation with a party which included a super cake



40th Birthday party.

provided by a founder member, Mrs Olive Eddolls who is now house-bound.

Twenty-one of our members attended the St Paul's Cathedral 50th Anniversary Service of the ATS which they thoroughly enjoyed and in particular the superb rendering of the Last Post and Reveille by Sgt Peters of the WRAC Band.

Hastings Branch invited us to join them in their celebrations and 18 of us attended a super lunch, a service at Christ Church followed by a tea. We are grateful for their kind hospitality.

Some members of the Branch served with Major Joan Horne TD WRAC/TA who sadly died in August. Major



From left to right: SSgt Mayard, Captain J Horne, LCpl Burke, LCpl Dangerfield.

Horne joined the 3rd County of London Clerical Coy in 1939, and rose to the rank of Sergeant before being commissioned in 1943. She retired as a Junior Commander ATS in 1946 and then did much to rebuild the Territorials in Kingston on Thames from 1947 onwards. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

WOMEN IN KHAKI

The story of the British Woman Soldier by Roy Terry

It is very right, proper and to be expected that a book about the ATS, its predecessors and successors should be published at the time of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS. *Women in Khaki* is such a book. It is beautifully produced, with over 50 illustrations and with good clear print which will be appreciated by the older reader.

The author has carried out detailed research and his empathy for his subject is obvious. He brings out the difficulties originally encountered in the formation of the WAAC and the ATS and demonstrates their similarities. He also points to the poor impression that some people had of both Corps at certain times during World Wars 1 and 2. Mr Terry recognises the stature of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan and the part she played in the early days of the QMAAC and ATS. As a journalist he has yielded to the temptation to discuss the retirement of Dame Helen in 1941 and the appointment and subsequent retirement of Chief Controller Knox.

The changing social attitudes of and towards women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are traced up to the days of Equal Opportunities and Equal Pay. In the story of the WRAC it is shown that the British Army moves at a slower pace. Readers may like to know that the book does not cover the Medical and Nursing Services or the Greenfinches of the UDR. It does include the early days of the FANY. The changing role of women in armies generally since World War 2 is gone into in some detail.

This is a very enjoyable book, easy to read and no dry military history. Written by a journalist it is anecdotal and the use of Christian names with our surname or rank (a practice eschewed by military historians) is at times a bit confusing.

It will be interesting to see whether the predictions for the future contained in the last chapter are realised or whether they are overtaken by the demographic changes of the next two decades. It comes as no surprise that Mr Terry concludes this interesting and lively book with Dame Helen's words - 'The same as the men. . . . The same as the men'.

REUNION 7, 8 JULY 1989

**Ex ATS personnel, 1942-1946
King Alfred's College, Winchester
(ATS Records Office)**

Anyone interested in joining us on both or one of the days will be most welcome. **ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE ON 7th and 8th.** Application Forms available. College Winton Club Reunion with Luncheon and Chapel Service 10 am on Saturday 8th, and a smaller reunion of old friends in Winchester on the Friday. 11 am at the Railway Station, followed by coffee and lunch and a good old chat! Ends 6.30 pm. (Winton Club Membership approx £1.50 - Luncheon £4.50).

If interested please contact Miss C I Ellis, Whatehaven, Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester SO21 2HP (Tel: 0703-254024). Application Forms will be sent as soon as obtained from the College, in the Spring 1989.

Correspondence

Cathie Lindsay (née McCallum) 66 Wester Road, Glasgow G32 9JS (041-778-3075) would like to hear from anyone who remembers her and was in Ack Ack Signals at Inverness with 13 (F) Group RAF, also Edinburgh, Paignton, New Romney and Saxmundham, St Neots, Stockton and Command Signals Glasgow.

Mrs Rona Munday (née Andrews) would like to hear from anyone who served with her in the WRAC between March 1972 and May 1975. From No 2 Trg Coy with NCOs Sgt Linegan and Cpl Fenton she was posted to 8 Sig Regt at Catterick for Telephonist trade training from where she went to 16 Sign Regt in Germany.

O M Bushell of 6 The Grove, Pott Row, Grimston, King's Lynn PE32 1DG would like to hear from any of 'Y' Group members who were stationed at Barrow on Soar, Y Group signals (teleprinter ops) between 1941 and 1945.

Captain (Retd) Alan A Milliken, late Royal Ulster Rifles, of 2 Elwyn Court, 19 Cranford Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2HT thanks those who replied to the note in *Lioness* 2/1988. He would be very glad to hear from anyone with information about J/Comd Jo Tolhurst subsequent to her posting in 1942 from Bodmin to Truro.

Notice from Mrs Helen Lane, 3 Boxted Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2QH. Helen Lane (née Harding) would welcome news of ex-members of (Bournemouth ATS 'A' Company) especially those from 'Suncliffe'.

Mrs D K Calvert writing from 6 Scott Cottages, Beach Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk NR30 5EZ has not had much luck recognising photographs of other readers and has sent us some of hers to see who remembers her.



Devizes, training for radar.



First Camp at Northampton, Pte Dorothy Woolston.

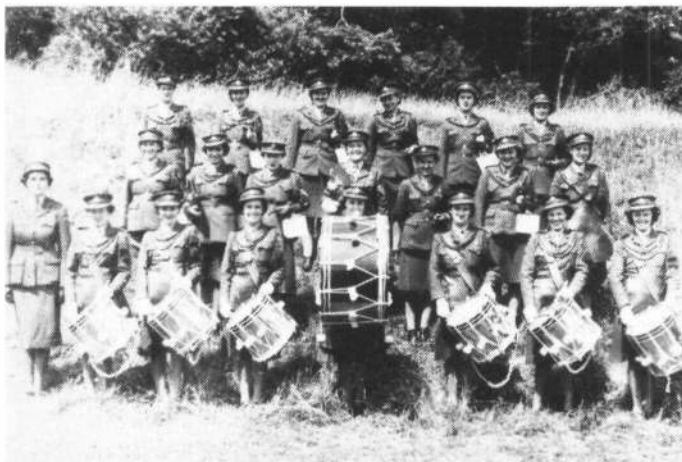
Mrs Phyllis Smith (née Pratt) writing from 81a Gladstone Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2AX recalls the "Bombshells" and Gay Clark (née Mills) Lioness 2/1988.

I remember the concert party very well, for a short time my sister and I and some of my colleagues were a part of it. Extras were required for a show to be staged at the Garrison Theatre, Aldershot, and somehow word got around that we had our own talent group at Parsons Barracks, hence our appearance with the "Bombshell".

I recall being dressed as a man, and with others sang "Comrades", with audience participation, and also recall my sister and I assisting a magician with the rabbits seen in the photograph. Vividly I can still picture Gay Mills (as I knew her) sitting cross-legged on a large stool singing 'Poor Butterfly', she had a truly magnificent voice, it reached every corner of that theatre. I also remember Miss Gwladys Stanley MBE, Capt S Donaldson, H Lanson and Bdr Bobby Rose pianist, the rest are vague memories. I was pleased to see the photograph, it brought back lovely memories.

Just for the record, should you wish to know, my sister and I trained at Guildford in 1942, were duly posted to Aldershot, and eventually became drummers in the ATS band.

We were taught by a Sgt Jack O Malley of the Kneller Hall School of Music. We were attached to the 27 Bn RAOC Field Stores Group, Parsons Barracks, Aldershot 1942-1946. Our main function was church parades and playing for visiting Brass Hats etc. On one occasion the band was



ATS Band 1943 Arundel Castle.

invited to Arundel Castle to play for the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, a truly memorable time. The enclosed photograph was taken in the grounds of Arundel Castle in 1943, I am the drummer extreme right, my sister was not on this photo.

Miss Dorothy S N Sheppard (Sen Comd ATS) has written from Aynhoe Park, Aynho, Nr Banbury, Oxon OX17 3BQ. Miss Sheppard wonders if any of our readers remember her. She joined the ATS in November 1938 with the 2nd London Clerical Company. In 1940 she was commissioned and went to Newport and then Llandrindod Wells, Burton on Trent and Longtown COD from where she moved to Italy, 2 District HQ Milan 1945-46. Miss Sheppard finished her service at Severn Counties HQ at Hereford 1946-47. Miss Sheppard would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Miss C I Ellis writing from "Whitehaven" Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester, Hants SO21 2HP would like to hear from any ex ATS who worked in the Discharge Wing at the Huts, Chilboton Avenue, Romsey Road, Winchester 1943-46. Sonny Steele was one person she remembers.

If anyone remembers an Eve or Eveline Porter, stationed in the Tidworth/Salisbury area 1942-46, a private in the Officers' Mess - please let her know.

Mrs Mary Beeston retiring Secretary of Wolverhampton Branch wishes to thank all members of the branch who contributed to her leaving present, and to the members and friends who sent kind letters.

Mrs Evelyn Payne has written from Canada where she went as a war bride in 1945. She is interested in contacting ATS personnel who served with her in the 20th Sussex Regiment, 441st Searchlight Battery stationed at Canvey Island, Essex 1943-45. Mrs Payne was a plotter, and is interested in receiving any information about the camp - number of searchlights and how they were powered. Please write to her at PO Box 374, Coleman, Alberta, TOK OMO, Canada.

Mrs John-Ann Smith writing from 2 Northumberland Road, Linford, Nr Stanford Le Hope, Essex SS17 0PT says that she (ex Pte J A Parker) wishes to thank the many members who showed interest and consideration during her "impossible" search for Mrs Muriel Muldoon, (ex Capt Clarke) during the day of the Anniversary Reunion at the Barbican on 8 October 1988. The search may be remembered by the many members whom my husband, one of the very few males in the reception area during the day, and I spoke to.

After making five unsuccessful calls for 'Mrs Muriel Muldoon' over the public address system the reception desk WRAC staff continued to smile and, more importantly, gave me encouragement not to give up my search. To those serving members, a very special thanks.

Members of Branches from my native country of Scotland were also particularly sympathetic and helpful, but after many hours there was still no trace of the person I so desperately wanted to meet after 40 years.

The breakthrough came in the form of Ex Junior Commander Elizabeth Wade. I had served under her command in Barton Stacey during 1947/48. After my interrogation of her; she charmingly informed me that Muriel was indeed at the Reunion. She had spoken to her in the Barbican earlier that day.

We, my husband and I, found Muriel within one hour of that meeting.

It means so much to me to have re-established contact with someone to whom I feel even yet, I owe so much.

Mrs Rane Thompson (née Strachan) sent this photograph of herself and LCpl Peggy Hobbs at Craighentinny Golf Course Edinburgh. If anyone remembers them or was with 448 (M) HAA "Z" Bty RRA, 3rd AAZ Regt, please contact her at 9 Rosen Street, South Blackburn, Victoria, Australia 3130.



LCpl Peggy Hobbs and Cpl Rane Strachan at Craighentinny Golf Course Edinburgh.

Denis Herbstein, 8 Bisham Gardens, London N6 6DD is writing a book on the murder of Eileen (Gay) Gibson, victim of the "Porthole Murder", who died in 1947 when a passenger on the Durban Castle. She joined the ATS in Liverpool, in 1944, spent time in Hampstead, trained for the Int Corps, but ended up acting with "Stars in Battledress", touring in "The man with a load of mischief" in Britain and Western Europe. She was only 21 when she died. Mr Herbstein would be glad to hear from anyone who remembers her or who knew her.

Does anyone remember Pte Norah Flynn No W/209997?

Norah joined the ATS in October 1942 and trained in Isle of Magees, Northern Ireland. She served in HAA Regt RA, in 602 and 309 Battery in Hayling Island and Belgium and went to Belgium on 16 December 1944.

Norah now lives in Australia and would love to hear from any of her old comrades. Her address is: Mrs Norah McKenzie, 11 Richmond Street, E Geelong 3219, Victoria, Australia.

Miss H W G Thomson of Aldershot. Ex WO2 Helen Thomson ATS/WRAC, who has been searching for many years for the three sisters and two brothers she had never seen, has found them at last and had a Grand Reunion in Edinburgh.

Mrs Peggy Binns (née Bell) has written from 22 Denbeigh Place, Benton, Newcastle on Tyne, in the hope that she will find news of her former friend 'Pte Jessie' Watson. They were stationed at Aldershot between 1941 and 1943 with HQ A Coy and billeted in MQs in MacAdom Square. Jessie's last known address was 4 Newton House, Union Road, London SW8. Mrs Binns would like to hear from Jessie or any ex ATS who knew the area.

Mrs Elsie L Robinson (née Stirk) writing from 39 Jesmond Road, Harrogate, says that: It was March 1946 and I was in the ATS Signals. Our course as teleprinter operators had just been successfully completed by the squad of about twelve girls near Newton Abbot in Devon.

It was time for us to be posted to our different units and we were asked to say if we had any preferences in the matter, although of course, it was not promised that these could be met. I wanted to serve in the South of England if possible because I lived in the North and wanted to get to know the South. Two of the girls wanted to be together and they were lucky because there was a double posting available.

When most people had been fixed up there were two postings left, both in the South. One at Cowley, near Oxford and one at a place nobody had heard of, called Bulford in Wiltshire. There was myself and a girl whose surname was Piggott, I think she came from Lancashire. Our only



Elsie L Stirk 1946.

anxiety at that time was if we would be able to cope with 'live' signals messages, because so far we'd only had 'dummy' messages and exercises.

We decided to toss a coin for it. I went to Bulford and I little thought, on the Easter Sunday night at midnight when I arrived there, that I would meet the man (then a paratrooper) who became my husband in April 1947. Forty-one years and five children later I often wonder what happened to Piggott at Cowley and I wish I could remember her christian name.

Orville Martin of 2510 Hayward Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40242, USA is trying to locate a Private Porter ATS whom he met when he was at Tidworth Garrison with the 5th Infantry Division in 1943. Private Eve Porter was stationed near Salisbury, where she worked in the Officers Mess, possibly at Ferguson Barracks. He writes that a "group of his buddies and ATS girls met frequently at the Whitehorse Hotel Lounge and Bar in off duty hours". Two of the girls were called Gladys and Phyllis.

Mrs Betty Kilby of 10 Idris Davies Place, Rhymney, Gwent NP2 5PS has asked that the person who put out the message at the Barbican Centre for ex ATS who served at Bramley, Basingstoke from 1939 – please get in touch with her. Both Mrs Kilby (née Andrewartha) and Dusty Hughes (née Goodbody) put out the same message. Like many others Mrs Kilby enjoyed the weekend enormously and wrote to say so.

Mr F C Aldrich has written from 26 The Hollies, Brackla, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF3 2PP. He met his wife Susan (ex LCpl Susan Frances Carey) when she was serving with 4 Coy WRAC – GHQ FARELF Singapore and they were married at St Georges Church GHQ on 14 August 1965. Mr



From left to right: Barbara Stembridge, Susan Carey and Vivalan Seaborne.

and Mrs Aldrich are trying hard to contact ex LCpls Barbara Stembridge and Vivian Seaborne WRAC who were their bridesmaids. If anyone can help Mr and Mrs Aldrich please write to them as soon as possible.

Miss Lucy M Reader writing from 3 Gresswell Close, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4AP served with RAOC Feltham and Bicester. Anyone remembering Miss Reader please write to her. Miss Reader was one of many who wrote of their appreciation of "the great care and courtesy shown to the ex ATS by the WRAC at St Paul's and the Barbican in October".

Mrs R E Kent (née Boswell) wrote to Lioness with her feet in a bowl of water after walking for miles during the Grand Reunion weekend! Mrs Kent would like to contact Maise Newberry who was her SQMS at Chilwell 1945 – please write to Mrs Kent at 12 Tower Road, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex. Tel: 0424-443905.

Miss Pamela Froom of Croft Corner, West End Road, Mortimer, Berkshire RG7 3TE is seeking information about Aldermaston Court from any ex ATS who served there. Any item, such as the impressions of recruits would be of interest, but of even greater help would be contact with members of the permanent staff who were at Aldermaston at the very beginning or at the time when it closed.

Mrs R M Tucker of Failte, Rue de la Corderie, Vale, Guernsey, CI writes, "What a wonderful experience it was to attend the Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral in October and the Grand Reunion in the Barbican on the following day". Mrs Tucker would also like to thank the members of the Hastings Branch for including her in their group, and showing her the sort of comradeship which she thought had died out at the end of the War. Mrs Tucker (née Richardson) wonders if anyone from 508 (M) HAA Battery RA remembers her; she has happy memories of Iris Morrell, Muriel Harris, Jean Matthewson, all from the Neath area, and also Doreen (Blondie) Simpson, Ruth (Lefty) Darlington, Marion Priestley, Daphne Randall, "Maxie" Pritchard, Betty O'Neill, Bessie Abel, Jennie Cohen, Betty Mason and finally Meg Law with whom she has kept in touch.

LONDON GAZETTE

NEW YEAR HONOURS

MBE

Captain E Carter (V),
WO1 E Farrand

BEM

Pte (A/SSGT) Y E Balment
SSGT C Muir
Pte (A/SSGT) M Silbert

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Majors: C Woodcock, F E Canham, P S Carey, L E Davies, A E Ewan, L C Gurney, C J Jenkins, C D Lewis-Taylor, L W I McGregor, C H Merrington-Rust, C Suart, A Maskens-McIntyre.
Lieutenant: E A H James

Short Service Commission

Captains: C A Bevan, A J Perks, B J Haines, S H Watson, S Maine, A E Rance, A R Winchester, C Frearson, J A Cooper, E C Barton, L K Joyce, A M Birkett, E J Dullam, R C Griffiths, C S Knipe, B A Maloney, A J Parsons, J C Wollacott, V K Williams, J J Dunlop, D E Yates, L S Horton, S D Wilkerson, Y Anderson.
Lieutenants: S M Bagguley, K M Halford, D P Peak, I Rose, T B A Taylor, C J Willis, M M Eccles, S P Byrne, H M Watterson.
Second Lieutenants: L M A Bailey, P Chatwin, J A Davey, C M Day, L J Fraser, A L Green, L J Maclean, C L Mather, L A McAteer, M-A C Payne, A L Pelling, F L Richens, M C Sear, J K Wilson

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Second Lieutenants: J P Willis, J W Heywood

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Major R E R Macaulay

Short Service Commissions

Captains: N J Ewing, D H Miller, C J Vye, S E Loudoun, J A Hutton, F M Jackson.
Lieutenant: V J Brown

TRIBUTE

Dame Mary Colvin DBE TD who died on 23 September 1988 was Director of the WRAC from 1957 to 1961 and had a remarkably wide experience of the Corps in all its activities.

Dame Mary joined the FANY in 1938, was commissioned in the ATS in 1939 and for the next four years served with MT Companies. In 1943 a short period commanding the ATS Group at COD Weedon preceded a tour in Anti Aircraft Command.

In 1945, after attending a Civil Affairs Course she embarked for BAOR, one month after the cessation of hostilities, and served for two years in a first grade appointment on the staff of the Military Government Hamburg. For her outstanding work in this most demanding post she was awarded the OBE.

On her return to UK in 1947 and after a short spell in Northern Ireland, Dame Mary was appointed to command the ATS OCTU at Windsor just in time to move the unit to Hindhead where the ATS NCO's School was added to her Command. Two more courses for ATS Officer Cadets were completed before the formation of the WRAC as a regular Corps in the British Army. This heralded changes in the length and substance of Officer training. Under Dame Mary's guidance the courses were expanded and the syllabus broadened to be more in line with male Officer Cadet training, and thereby she was responsible for laying the foundations of the present Officer Cadet training now taking place at the RMA Sandhurst.

After completing this task she moved North to Scottish Command as ADWRAC for three years before being appointed Inspector of Recruiting in 1954. This was a time when recruiting was at a low ebb. She worked tirelessly and successfully in making the Corps better known as an attractive and worthwhile career for a young woman.

By now Dame Mary had amassed a great deal of knowledge and experience of the problems of all ranks, and a complete picture of the UK organisation, both Regular and TA, which made her a familiar and respected figure throughout the British Army.

Her appointment as Director in 1959 was universally welcomed. Under her influence the Corps continued to flourish, recruitment improved and the quality of the Corps was widely recognised. In 1959 she was appointed a Dame of the British Empire, an honour which gave a feeling of pride and pleasure to all those who were associated with her.

During her tour as director she introduced the Officers Mess Kit, which was an instant success with all officers and much admired wherever it was seen. In 1961 she led the British contingent at the first conference of Directors of the Women's Services of the NATO countries held in Copenhagen. By common consent she was elected spokesman for all, and her advice was sought by several countries.

In 1961 Dame Mary retired from the WRAC after 23 years service the last four years as Director. Shortly after her retirement she became Lady in Waiting to the late Princess Royal who was Controller Commandant of the WRAC.

Dame Mary's return to the civilian world enabled her to devote her energies to her life long interest in horses, particularly hunting and dressage. She hunted herself until recently, but it was her approachability, wide experience, and organising ability which again came to the fore, much to the benefit of the British Horse Society which covers the whole spectrum of horsemanship. In the next 25 years she became a senior dressage judge,



Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin DBE.

member of several committees, Chairman of the Dressage Group, and finally President of the Society.

Mary Colvin was a formidable figure with a forceful personality which belied her generosity of spirit, keen sense of humour (she was great fun!) and her innate kindness and thought for others. Although not suffering fools gladly she gave wholeheartedly to anyone who really needed help and encouragement. She will be remembered with affection and admiration by all who served with her.

THE NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Normandy Veterans Association have commissioned a memorial tablet to be placed in Canterbury Cathedral in commemoration of the Allied Forces who fell in the Normandy Campaign.

The tablet is to be unveiled at a ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral on 14 July 1989 with a Grand Social to be held in the Winter Gardens in the evening.

Branches are invited to attend and to parade their standard.

Please notify your intention to attend and obtain further details from:

Mr W J Swabey
44 St Augustines Park
RAMSGATE
Kent CT11 0DF

Accommodation will be a branch or individual responsibility.

MARRIAGES

CASTLEMAINE-GURNEY. On 1 August 1988 in Salisbury, Lieutenant Colonel the Lord Castlemaine MBE AAC to Captain Lynne Gurney WRAC. A Service of Blessing will take place at St Peter's Church, Winterbourne Stoke, Salisbury on 8 July 1989.

FORD-BERESFORD. On 21 January 1989 in Salisbury, Wiltshire, Mr Harold Ford to Miss Joan Beresford.

NISBET-HAINES. On 17 December 1988 in Cuckfield, West Sussex, Captain Ian Nisbet BW to Captain Bridget Haines WRAC.

CONNOLLY-PERKS. On 19 August 1988 in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Lieutenant Christopher Connolly RN to Captain Gillian Perks WRAC/RAEC.

HARPER-GALL. On 15 October 1988 in Reeth, N Yorkshire. Lieutenant Mark J Harper RE to Lieutenant Annette Gall WRAC.

BIRTHS

MACAULAY. On 17 November 1988 to Ruth (née Henderson) and Neil, a daughter Katie Louise Rowan.

ENGAGEMENTS

GREENFIELD-le GASSICK. The engagement is announced between Major Anthony Greenfield and Major Wendy le Gassick.

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 Mess Dress with sash, as new. Size 12. For details telephone 01-602-6646.

FOR SALE No 2 Dress Uniform, Mess Dress, Summer blouses, Sweaters etc. Size 14. Telephone: Mrs Wilson 0428-4011 extension 65 (work) or 0932 244993 (home).

WANTED Officers Mess Dress. Size 18/20. Height 5'10". Telephone: 0234 215618 during working hours.

FOR SALE Sgts Mess Dress complete with sash. Size 16. Height 5'7" £50 ono. Contact: WO2 Peters – Guildford Mil extension 8513.

OBITUARY

BALL. Mrs V M Ball (née Harper-Manse) of Plymouth in January 1988. ATS/TA.

BARNES. Mrs Amanda Barnes of Hull in August 1988. ATS.

BATES. Mrs N Bates (née Gill) of Pickering, N Yorks on 7 December 1988. ATS.

BIRKETT. Miss Lucy M Birkett of Kilburn on 30 September 1988. ATS.

BOND. Mrs H J Bond (née Howell) of Wolverhampton on 21 July 1988. ATS.

BRIANT. Miss M V Briant MBE of Eastbourne on 21 September 1988. ATS/WRAC.

CAFFERY. Mrs Ivy Caffery of King's Heath, Birmingham on 10 November 1988. ATS.

COLVIN. Brigadier Dame Mary Colvin DBE TD of Leicester on 23 September 1988. FANY/ATS/WRAC.

COX. Mrs Kathleen G Cox of Westgate on Sea. ATS.

FENN. Miss A L Fenn of Perry Barr, Birmingham on 12 July 1988. ATS/TA.

GALTREY. Miss Elsie Galtrey MBE of Hatch End, Middlesex on 20 November 1988. ATS.

GARDINER. Mrs O M Gardiner (née McKim) of Twickenham. ATS.

GAUSSEN. Miss E C Gausson of Stewartstown, Co Tyrone on 25 August 1988. ATS.

GINMAN. Mrs D Ginman of Cliftonville. CSM ATS.

GROSER. Miss Joan Groser of Deal on 18 August 1988. ATS.

HAMILL. Mrs Julia Hamill (née Weddell) of Harrogate on 30 September 1988. WRAC.

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

HILDRETH. Lady Mary Hildreth MBE of Emsworth, Hants on 8 September 1988. Sen Comd ATS.

HILDYARD. Miss Alys P (Paddy) Hildyard MBE of Withersea in April 1988. ATS/WRAC/TA.

HITCHMAN. Miss Margaret Ellen Hitchman of Perth on 2 August 1988. ATS.

HODGSON. Miss G Hodgson of Merseyside on 18 October 1988. ATS.

HORNE. Miss J M Horne TD of Goring by Sea on 10 August 1988. ATS/WRAC.

JACKSON. Mrs E Mary Jackson (née Odd) of Queensland, Australia on 18 July 1988. ATS.

KING. Miss Mabel King of London on 1 October 198. ATS.

LYLE. Mrs M E Lyle BEM (née Fee) of Banbridge, Co Down in July 1988. ATS.

MAKIN. Mrs Mary Makin of Yeovil on 22 November 1988. ATS.

MAXTED. Miss Kathleen Maxted of Canterbury in November 1988. ATS.

NEWMAN. Miss Kathleen Newman of Hackney on 9 August 1988.

NYE. Mrs S Nye MBE of Harrogate on 9 August 1988.

OLDEN. Mrs I Olden (née Harbron) of Portsmouth on 27 June 1988. ATS.

PEARCE. Miss B Pearce of St Leonards on Sea on 22 November 1988. ATS.

PIERCY. Mrs I K Piercy (née Lindsay) of Hull on 26 July 1988. ATS.

RITTNER. Miss Molly Rittner MBE of Radlett, Herts on 10 August 1988. Chief Comd ATS.

SIMONS. Mrs J M N Simons (née Edwards) of Potters Bar on 19 June 1988. Sen Comd ATS.

SPENCER. Mrs M Spencer of Salisbury on 9 November 1988. ATS.

STONHAM. Mrs Florence Stonham of Port Talbot on 21 September 1988. QMAAC.

WILLIAMSON. Miss E G "Willie" Williamson of Hornsea, E Yorks on 8 February 1988. WRAC/TA.

DEWSBURY. Miss Leonie Cecilia Dewsbury on 1 January 1989. ATS.

CRIMMINS. Miss D Crimmins on 16 November 1988. ATS.

JOHNSON. Mrs C Johnson on 30 November 1988. ATS.

Sadly we announce the death of LCpl J A Pattison WRAC as a result of the British Midland plane crash on Sunday 8 January 1989. Our condolences go to her relatives and friends at this unhappy time.

WRAC ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS

HQ BRANCH: Chairman: Colonel (Retd) E J Bowles, 12 Chantry Court, Church Road, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5AB
Representative of QMAAC: Mrs M V Curtis, 293 Mawneys Road, Romford, Essex RM7 8DR
Secretary/General Secretary: Lt Colonel (Retd) D Dunn

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Vice-Chairman Mrs H M Fuller
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Hants, GU14 6RN

NO 2 SUB AREA

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Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0LU
DEAL Mrs J Drew, 109 Beach Street, Deal
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MEDWAY Mrs H M Dodd, 26 Forge Lane,
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7AS

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Cwmdu, Swansea, Glamorgan SA5
8LL
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HAMPTON Road, Patteringham, Wolverhampton
WV6 7AQ
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Ruthin Road, Wrexham, Clwyd LL13
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ML11 7LZ
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Inverness IV2 4EL

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Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands

PLYMOUTH Mrs Margaret Ellison, Flat 67A King
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PORTSMOUTH Miss I Bray, 153 Clive Road, Fratton,
Portsmouth, Hants PO1 5JD

SALISBURY Mrs J Morgan, 21 Hedley Davis Court,
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Wiltshire SP2 7UE

SOMERSET Mrs C Sloley, 44 Whitmore Road,
Taunton, Somerset TA2 6OZ

SOUTHAMPTON Miss D Pledge, Flat 4, 47 Blenheim
Avenue, Highfield, Southampton SO2
1DQ.

SWINDON Mrs J Turner, 59 Saffron Close,
Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7JB

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PORTLAND Miss R M Stanbridge, 3A Edwardsville,
Rodwell Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset
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