

1991

No1

Lioness

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WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

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REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

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Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1991

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Cover photograph

**Mrs K E Laurence-Smith MBE former Case Secretary
of the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds.**

**Colonel Nan Robertson leaving the WRAC Centre in
style. Back page picture.**



Brigadier G K Ramsey MBE ADC.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

You will all be aware of the fairly recent but momentous changes that have occurred in Europe and the peace initiatives that have followed. As a result, the British Defence Forces are to be reduced in size. In meeting this demand from the Government every aspect of the Army is currently under review. One decision which has had the greatest impact on the WRAC is the announcement by the Minister for the Armed Forces on 18 December 1990, that an Adjutant General (AG) Corps is to be formed.

The AG Corps is to provide the administrative support to the Army of the future and will be formed from the RAPC, those members of the WRAC who do not elect under the wider employment policy to transfer to another arm or service, all arms clerks and RAOC staff clerks. Implicit therefore in this decision is that the RAPC and WRAC will, at some point in the future, amalgamate and cease to exist as separate Corps.

I deeply regret the forthcoming loss of our capbadge and Corps identity. The very success of the WRAC and its forebears has led us to this point. Because of our achievements and proud history of employing very high quality women, the Army has seen fit to integrate women with the male Army.

You will wish to know however that the AG Corps will provide the platform to evolve the continued wider employment of women and I will, from within the AG Corps, continue to advise the Army Board on all matters as they affect women for the foreseeable future. Work has already begun with the Implementation Team, which formed in January 1991, to determine the structure of the new Corps and the timescale for its introduction.

The decision has been taken. My aim now is to achieve the best I can for all members of the Corps, both past and present. I intend that our traditions and high standards come with us and that our history is never forgotten.

SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p	
ATS Spoons	1.60	50p	(up to 6)
ATS Shield	9.50	75p	
ATS Silver plated brooches	1.50	20p	(up to 6)
ATS Post Cards	.15	20p	(up to 6)
Biro pens	.25	20p	(up to 6)
Bookmarks, leather	.60	20p	(up to 6)
Brief Cases	2.00	35p	
Clipboards	2.90	70p	
Corps Drum Ice Bucket	15.00	2.00	
Corps History (hardback)	5.50	65p	
Corps History (paperback)	3.00	50p	
Corps Shield	9.50	75p	
Document Cases	1.25	35p	
Glass Ash/Pin Tray	1.10	30p	
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank Card Holder	.50	25p	(up to 6)
Key Rings, leather	.60	20p	(up to 6)
Pewter Figures:			
Musician with flute	17.50	80p	
WRAC Private	22.50	80p	
Prints by Ken Howard:			
Unsigned/Indoor	3.00	50p	(up to 3)
Sweatshirts (green, red, black, white and blue)	7.50	65p	
T-shirts (white, red and blue)	3.50	40p	
WRAC Brooches	1.75	20p	(up to 6)
WRAC Association Brooches	1.75	20p	(up to 6)
WRAC Spoons	1.60	50p	(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	£1.80 + 25p p&p
Lt/Lt Col	£1.80 + 25p p&p
Capt	£2.10 + 25p p&p
Col/Brig	£2.50 + 25p p&p

Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

Most Regimental and Corps Headquarters are heeding advice from MOD to show no rank on outgoing mail. Members are requested to return the appropriate section of their Lioness envelope with details of how they wish to be addressed if any change is to be made.

Members should notify all changes of address promptly via their Branch Secretary or direct to Corps Headquarters.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to:

Major Helen Haynes, 2IC Support Unit HQ UKLF, who received the MBE from HM The Queen at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace on 30 October 1990.

WO2 J Hughes WRAC who was presented with the British Empire Medal on Wednesday 17 October 1990 by Sir Christopher Mallaby, the British Ambassador in his



residence in Bonn. WO2 Hughes was awarded the BEM for her support during staff turbulence whilst serving as the Chief Clerk of the Army Staff College in Camberley. She is presently serving as the Chief Clerk G4 Quartering, HQ BAOR.

WO1 Rochelle 29 Coy WRAC who has been awarded her Long Service and Good Conduct medal.

Sgt K Roberts who has been awarded her Long Service and Good Conduct medal. Sgt Roberts is currently serving with 16 Bn RAOC Bicester.

Army welfare assistants Sgt Jacqui Murphy and Jean Butler who have been awarded Long Service and Good Conduct medals. The medals were presented by Colonel



L to R. Sgt Jean Butler, Col Joan Roulstone, and SSgt Jacqui Murphy.

J M Roulstone Commander WRAC UKLF at a special ceremony in Preston.

Cpl Whitney-May WRAC who successfully attended a Driving and Maintenance Instructors course on the new Artillery ammunition delivery vehicle. Cpl Whitney-May is the first member of the WRAC to attend the three week course held at the Artillery Wing of the Driving & Maintenance School, RAC Centre at Bovington.



Cpl Whitney-May instructing her fellow students on the engine details of the RA's new Class 2 Heavy goods vehicle, and ammunition carrier.



LCpl Sharon Millen. Photograph by kind permission of Peter Griffiths, Llanwddyn, Powys.

LCpl Sharon Millen, 10 Coy WRAC, who at the Inter Services Long Distance Swimming Championships held in Wales in July became the Women's Champion. The 5km long race was won by LCpl Millen in the excellent time of 1 hour 28 minutes and 23 seconds, in spite of cool, windy conditions which caused the lake to be choppy with a water temperature of 49 degrees. A very cold swim! In the 1000m competition 2Lt Bernadette Hawkins WRAC, won the Women's Breast Stroke.

In September LCpl Millen achieved her ambition to become the first servicewoman to swim the Channel. Leaving Shakespeare Bay, Dover at 0330 hours she arrived at Cap Griz Nez 12 hours and 51 minutes later. After a short five minute stop on the beach she returned on the support boat to Dover.

LCpl Millen took up swimming seriously after a severe ankle injury, which prevented her becoming a PTI. She achieved her ambition through hard work and dedication and consequently has raised considerable sums for the ABF and NSPCC. Well done.

Pte Z J Goldring of 14 Fd Regt RA who was awarded an A grading on the Combat Medical Technician Class 3 Course held between 20 August-21 September 1990.

CHARITY TANDEM RIDE JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END

By LCpl Greig - WRAC Staff Band

The idea to ride from John o'Groats to Land's End by tandem came from WO1 Rosewell's usual co-rider Sgt Henniker, then a member of the WRAC Band. Unfortunately Sgt Henniker was unable to ride due to injury, so I was invited to take her place. They knew I was a keen cyclist, but I had never ridden a tandem nor cycled more than 56 miles (London to Brighton) in one day before. WO1 Rosewell was based in Germany at that time so we only had time for two practice rides to Aldershot and back before starting our journey in September.

The aim of the ride was to raise money for the Royal British Legion Women's Section and they provided the back up team, sponsors and evening activities. In fact, they co-ordinated the whole event so that our job was just to ride the miles each day and be celebrities for three weeks.

We set off from John o'Groats on 3 September 1989 and reached Land's End on 23 September after cycling 1,037

miles through sun, rain and sometimes very strong wind. Our longest journey was on the first day when we rode 93 miles to Granton-on-Spey. After conquering several massive hills, both up and down, and reaching speeds of over 50 mph, I quickly mastered tandem riding and managed to cope with 18 gears and two brake systems – after some expert coaching by Miss Rosewell, who was a great backseat driver!

The route through Scotland was neither the easiest nor most straightforward that we could have taken because it included an exciting detour to meet the Queen Mother at Birkhall. This was the highlight of the trip and well worth the extra miles to meet such a wonderful person. It seemed unreal to be sitting around a tea table in the front room, chatting to the Queen Mother and playing with her two corgies, especially dressed in our cycling T-shirts and shorts! After tea she invited us to take photos at the front door and as we fetched our cameras she was somehow left alone holding the tandem. Luckily, she was laughing and was heard to say "Am I holding this right?" as we rushed back to help! It was a great privilege to meet the Queen Mother and it was a visit I shall never forget.

There are too many stories to tell from our 21 day ride, but basically we spent the days cycling, eating chocolates, visiting RBL Clubs, giving local radio interviews and meeting countless mayors and other dignitaries in the towns that we passed through. The evening activities usually consisted of a visit to the local RBL Clubs who organised dances, bowls nights, raffles and bingo to raise

competitor: Novices; Regular, for experienced athletes and Master for those aged over 40. The Centre is self-contained, with excellent accommodation in its own "Olympic Village" and ample facilities for socialising. The Games will be opened with full ceremony and closed with a banquet for all involved, followed by entertainment. In addition there will be opportunities to visit some of the nearby places of interest.

It is important to remember that any disability need not have been incurred while in the Services, nor do members necessarily have to compete in sport, although they are strongly encouraged to do so. The Legion would be delighted to welcome them as members and anyone interested should write to:

The General Secretary
The Royal British Legion
48 Pall Mall
LONDON SW1Y 5JY

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

In April 1990 Pte Hannaford was one of 32 volunteers who travelled to Lourdes to help members of the Handicapped Childrens Pilgrimage Trust. Helpers had to be strong as very often three people were needed to coax a wheelchair across uneven ground. Pte Hannaford found the experience a rewarding one and hopes that in the future more members of the Army will volunteer to join this worthwhile project.



Brigadier Field congratulates LCpl Greig on the tandem team's achievement and receives the £2,000 cheque as Chairman of Museum Trustees.



money for us. This was all good entertainment, even though we were sometimes tired, and we often ended up covered in lipstick!

The weather at Land's End was fantastic and there was a crowd of about 500 people there to meet us. The local Penzance brass band was playing and as Sgt Henniker and I just happened to have our mouthpieces with us, we borrowed a couple of trombones and joined in still dressed in our cycling gear.

It was a brilliant way to spend my leave and very worthwhile as we helped to raise £18,600.06 for the RBLWS. They then donated £2,000 to the WRAC Museum Fund.

LEGION SEEKS WHEELCHAIR ATHLETES

In association with its British Ex-Service Wheelchair Sports Association (BEWSA) Branch, The Royal British Legion will be hosting the First International Ex-Service Wheelchair Games from 24 to 30 August 1991 at Stoke Mandeville.

Great emphasis will be placed on friendly competition and camaraderie. There will be three classes of

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| March 13 | Massed Bands Concert, Northampton. |
| April 13/14 | WRAC Grand Reunion Weekend, Glasgow. |
| April 19 | Combined Concert with Guildford Opera Company.
Civic Hall Guildford – 1930 hours. |
| May 18 | Lincoln Tattoo – Massed Bands.
Held at Lincoln Castle.
(Performance times not yet known). |
| May 26–31 | Concerts – Grand Parade Bandstand Eastbourne.
Daily at 1100–1230 hours and 1500–1630 hours.
Plus on Sunday Evening 1945–2115 hours. |
| June 19 | Guest Band – Open Air Concert.
Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, 2000 hours. |
| July 6/7 | Derby Tattoo – Massed Bands.
(Performance times not yet known). |
| July 28 | National Federation Cup Tennis Festival.
Closing Ceremony, Nottingham. |

UNIT NEWS

WRAC CENTRE

SO LONG, FAREWELL COLONEL 'NAN'

After months of hushed planning and whispers, 24 August 1990 finally arrived and the WRAC Centre prepared to say farewell to the Commandant, Colonel N R Robertson. Colonel Nan was not just leaving the WRAC Centre but also leaving the Army after 35 years, the last three of which had been spent as Commandant.

Our intelligence resources revealed that Colonel Nan had one ambition left which was to fly in a hot air balloon... so by kind permission of the Royal Engineers and Mother Nature looking favourably upon the weather over Guildford, the Centre paraded at 0630 hours on the hockey pitches to say goodbye for the last time. The recruits of training company dressed in green tracksters and white PT shirts were strategically placed so that on bending forward the words "So long, farewell" were legible from high above. Champagne flowed and the band played as Colonel Nan disappeared off into the morning mist.

All the best Ma'am.

NAAFI'S EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Three platoons of WRAC recruits at the WRAC Centre battled over a weekend of raft building, orienteering, walking, and rock climbing in temperatures over 100°F, to be first to clinch the new Naafi External Leadership Cup.

Three platoon were victorious and received the



magnificent cup from Naafi's Managing Director James Rucker.

Thank you Naafi.

THE RED DEVILS OF THE WRAC CENTRE

By Pte Martin WRAC

The thought of jumping from a perfectly safe, serviceable aircraft into the air, with only a sheet of canvas slowing my fall seemed pretty nerve-racking and ridiculous, but a challenge I nervously accepted.

The jump was to raise money for the Soldier in Need Appeal and the Amenity Research Fund. It was a two day course which civilians and military could attend to enable them to make their first parachute descent. This course taught us about the use and wearing of protective clothing, the Parachute and Reserve Pack, the four ways of landing in the PLF position, safety regulations for entering and leaving the aircraft, emergency procedures whilst in the aircraft, and finally what to do if you land somewhere you are not supposed to eg in trees, on a road, or even in a stream!



Smiling on the DZ.

The course was physically hard but it was good fun and thoroughly enjoyable.

My personal feelings worried me a lot as the time drew near to actually jumping. At first I was anxious and wanted to get it over and done with, but when I entered the aircraft the adrenalin started to flow and I began to feel pretty scared. I took my position as the second person to jump. The door was shut, the engines began to roar and off we went. At 2000 ft the instructor opened the door and threw a wind indicator out. From where I sat I could see the ground below which looked pretty hazy; my heart was in my mouth. LCpl Danks amazed everyone by her eagerness to jump – then it was my turn! I sat on the edge in the doorway, my legs dragging in the slip stream, the instructor shouted "GO", signalled, and off I went. Counting my canopy check, I looked up and saw only the wing of the plane pulling away from me. At last my parachute opened and I felt it was pulling me back up at some speed. Hanging in the air at over 2000 ft, gazing around at the scenery, I once again felt calm and at ease. A man down below told me which toggle to pull to direct myself. Within seconds I got into the PLF position and before I knew it I hit the ground again. I then realised was PLF meant – Posterior Landing First!

If I had the chance to jump again I would definitely say "Yes". It was an experience I will never forget, and we raised £178 for the Soldier in Need Appeal.

REUNION – WRAC JUNIOR LEADERS II

Were you one of 21 WRAC Junior Leaders who started their training at Guildford on 1 March 1976, or do you know someone who was? If so please contact Carol Toon (née Twinn) on 0923 777842 after 6 pm.

POTTED WATER SPORTS AT SANDHURST

By Cpl L J Pettelafar WRAC

When Lt Henderson nominated me to find six keen, willing girls to participate in the WRAC Swimming Gala at Sandhurst, I smiled and said "No problem, Ma'am...".

On Monday 19 November 1990 the "team" assembled outside the Guardroom wearing our "smart, civilian tracksuits" (we somehow mistook this to mean Ron Hills and a sweatshirt). I explained to Lt Henderson that although none of us could actually swim, Pte Waugh would be tall enough to walk on the floor at the deep end! After three coffee stops on the way, we pulled into the car park at Sandhurst to see 10 Coy WRAC in their company matching tracksuits. Ptes Ray and Blunt tried to make a quick getaway but by this time it was too late to back out!

We made our way to the changing rooms where all the teams were attempting to change in very cramped



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circumstances. Luckily we came prepared and we fought our way to the pool towels in hand. After sniggering at one another's swimming costumes, a hush settled over the ... seven teams (Windsor Coy 1 Pl, Windsor Coy 2 Pl, 10 Coy WRAC, 251 Sig Sqn, WRAC Centre, RMA Sandhurst, 1/3 Trg Regt RE), and the activities involved in the gala were explained to us. Pte Butlin promptly attempted to pass out but came round at the mention of extras. Each team started on the "Reset the table at the other side of the pool" game - obviously a vindictive Officer Cadet enjoyed figuring this horror out. One piece of crockery across at a time, all team members in the pool



except one setting the table. Well, that was a breeze, but then we moved on to the Raft Race ... unfortunately, they were out of rafts, so we had to make do with rubber "inner tubes" instead.

The other games were equally as inventive - egg and spoon race, underwater hockey, and a rather peculiar activity involving a blindfold and a hose pipe. Finally, the relay race otherwise known as "see how many gallons of water you can swallow from one side of the pool to the other", followed closely by "get your arms and legs ripped out by your team members as they strip you of all the

DON'T SAY GOODBYE SAY HELLO.

If you're about to leave the Services the prospect of Civvy Street could be as daunting as it is exciting. After all, you've got to resettle, make new friends and generally take on a new life.

Why not say hello to The Royal British Legion. We can be a great help by providing a link with the past and a friendly social environment with sporting and recreational facilities for people with similar backgrounds to your own.

And, of course, your membership will ensure that we're always there to help ex-servicemen and women in need.

For details of membership or more information about the work of The Royal British Legion please send off the coupon.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Please send me details on

Becoming a member of The Royal British Legion ☐

The benevolent work of The Royal British Legion ☐

Send to: The General Secretary Headquarters, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1 5JY.

Name

Address

Postcode

clothes you'd never wear to swim in" (lightweights, sweatshirt, life jacket, plastic helmet).

Wearily, the teams filtered to the side stands, and

collapsed into various heaps!! At last the event we had all been waiting for – the RESULTS of the competition. Not last, not sixth, not fifth, not even fourth but third. It was all we could do to prevent Pte Haslehurst from swimming five times around the pool in her excitement. Pte Sadowski suggested a “warm down” of a five mile jog around camp, but settled for a plate of sandwiches and a cup of tea.

However, Lt Henderson still hasn't fully recovered from the experience of “How to make an impression on returning to RMA Sandhurst” but all in all, a fun evening which was enjoyed by all the members of all the teams.

Thank you Windsor Company.

251 SIG SQN ALDERSHOT

Where has 1990 gone – they do say the busier you are, the faster time passes and looking back over the year that saying is certainly well justified.

The Squadron currently consists of 128 military personnel; of those 48 are Royal Signals and the remaining 80 are members of the Women's Royal Army Corps . . . a ratio of almost 1:2 male to female!

Lt Kay Lillystone, who took over from Lt Claire Minshall in June has been posted to Munster, Germany as Battery Captain, Headquarter Battery 2nd Field Regiment for a colocated tour with her husband. WO2 (SSM) Sandy Barclay, who took over from WO2 Ann Clark in October 1989 has been promoted and become RSM of 10 Company WRAC. Both hand over to their respective successors during the same week so before Christmas the Squadron will be welcoming Lt Sally Mason WRAC and WO2 Kate Woodcock WRAC. 1989/90 model out . . . 1990/91 model in . . . let's hope that they last longer!

This year alone, 57 personnel have been posted out and 39 posted in. That is a lot of farewell/welcome parties for one year. No wonder the past year has been “one big headache!”

Although busy, this year has been an exciting one. The Squadron has hosted a steady flow of important visitors, culminating in the visit of HRH, the Duchess of Kent. Military training was completed at a three week training camp at Browdown Camp, Gosport. Members of the Squadron have taken advantage of the many adventure training courses available to military personnel, from rock climbing to gliding, and four members of the WRAC have participated in Northern Ireland training. In September one member of the Squadron, SSgt Steve CROOT R SIGNALS together with three other army colleagues raised £1600.00 for four charities – by cycling over 243 miles from Aldershot to Hull.

During the year we have entered a total of 21 individual and team/league sporting events – winning two of them. What we lack in ability we certainly make up for in enthusiasm! SSgt Shirley Clark and Cpl Karen Marritt were runners up in the Women's Inter-Unit Badminton Doubles Championships. We also won the South East District Inter-Unit Volleyball League earlier in the year.

The Squadron is well known for its culinary skills, particularly its speciality – Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers and Hot Dogs a la Barbecue. Each year during the weekend of the Army (Women's) seven a-side Hockey Championships a team of workers from the Squadron help to set up and run a refreshment stall on the sidelines for hockey players and spectators alike.

This year was no different – whilst the team prepared to “do battle” . . . SSgt Rena McGregor “Chief Chef” donned her apron and prepared “to feed an army!”

There is not a single day in December on which a “festive activity” has not been organised – Christmas Cake Competitions, lunch time drinks, evening drinks,



SSgt Rena McGregor prepares a cheeseburger.

Christmas Lunches, Christmas parties . . . any excuse! No wonder we are three stones heavier and exhausted by the start of the New Year!

UNEXPECTED PRESENTATIONS

There have been a series of presentations made to various members of the Squadron during 1990.

The two most recent occasions have involved a surprise visit by the OC Maj Bob Drake R SIGNALS to a Sqn Remembrance Service Parade rehearsal.

Maj Drake presented certificates to seven members of the Sqn for various courses passed. He also handed an



envelope to Pte Whalen and Pte Ray each containing a single stripe. A delighted LCpl Whalen and LCpl Ray then “fell back” into squad and the rehearsal continued.

The second occasion involved a surprise visit by Maj Drake to the Communications Centre (COMMCEN) during working hours.



Three members of the COMMCEN were under the impression that they had failed to clear a signal in the correct manner. They waited for the wrath of Maj Drake to descend upon them. He handed each an envelope which they believed contained the “offending” signal, only to find that Pte Lye had become LCpl Lye, LCpl Marritt had become Cpl Marritt and Cpl Devenney had become Sgt Devenney and much to their relief the “offending” signal had never existed. Celebrations followed.

"I DO..."

They say it takes a minimum of six months to plan and organise a wedding. Pte Marie KAYE, from 251 SIG SQN, and LCpl Paul IRVINE from 10 Coy proved that it could be arranged within four days. Pte KAYE and LCpl IRVINE had planned to marry on 9 February 1991. However on 16 November 1990, LCpl IRVINE was informed by his unit that he would be flying out to the Gulf in early December.

By 22 November and after much consultation the couple decided to "tie the knot" earlier than expected. Four days later, witnessed by a small group of family members and friends, Pte KAYE and LCpl IRVINE were married by the Rev M ROBERTSON RACHD CF in St Andrews Church, Aldershot.

Three members of the squadron attended the ceremony and are pictured below with the happy couple.



From L to R. Pte Julie Robertson, Cpl Ruth Turner, Pte Marie Kaye, LCpl Paul Irvine, Pte Julia Chapple.

MARRIED SERVICEWOMEN

Now is the time to decide whether to belong to the new Soldiers' Widows and Widowers Fund (SWF) or Military Assurance Trust (MAT) or both.

Membership of the SWF has been open to married Servicewomen since 1 January 1990 and all those who have applied during 1990 or who were members of the Single Soldiers' Dependents Fund (SSDF) and married during 1990 will automatically be enrolled as members from 1 January 1991.

For all others decide now whether to:

JOIN SWF whilst remaining a member of MAT or

JOIN SWF and cancel membership of MAT

by completing AF N 9284 (and, hopefully, the Covenant AF N 9284C)

The subscription etc comparison is:

SWF subs £1.80 per year Grant £3,750

MAT subs £2.40 per year Grant £2,000

although MAT rates are expected to rise in 1991 to £6.00 and £3,000.

10 COMPANY WRAC

The latter half of the year has seen a diversity of activities for the Company.

SPORT

On the sporting front, 10 Coy thrashed the girls from 12 RSME, Chatham to triumph at the District Volleyball finals for the second year in a row. Capt Carol O'Nians was placed third in the Army Individual Orienteering Championships and WO1 Pat Rosewell won the veteran event. 10 Coy won all the District league two competitions for the winter season, involving hockey, badminton, netball and squash.

The summer season kicked off to a flying start with 10 Coy winning the first two league games at rounders beating 251 Sig Sqn and SEME Bordon eventually going on to win the SEDIST rounders league 1990. The volleyball team were runners up in the District Volleyball league 1990. The Coy won the inter-unit basketball for 1990 thus qualifying for the Army finals next February. Also in October the Coy won the inter-unit squash and Cpl "Kerni" Kernaghan took the individual award.

In September we came third in the Army hockey sevens and in November were triumphant runners up in the Army Cross Country Relay championships.

SUMMER CAMP

Our annual military training camp with 251 Sig Sqn took place over three weeks from 8-29 June in Browdown Camp near sunny Gosport. Each week was a complete camp in itself and all our employing units in the Garrison were encouraged to allow their servicewomen to attend. The camp included a wide spectrum of subjects covering most of the training directives for the year.



ADVENTUROUS TRAINING - RIPON

In October a group of 10 Coy girls (plus one man - Cpl Anderson ACC!) set off for the School of Adventurous Training at Ripon in Yorkshire. Various activities were attempted by everyone including abseiling, canoeing, caving, top roping and hill walking.

SAILING

We are thinking of renaming the Coy 10 (Seaborne) Coy WRAC because in all 11 members of the Coy have managed to take part in various sailing exercises including Ex CARRIBEAN SEA (six girls) and Ex WINTERS TALE (five girls) as well as many minor weekend sailing exercises in the Solent.

VISIT OF HRH THE DUCHESS OF KENT

On 11 July 1990, 10 Coy was visited by HRH The Duchess of Kent, Controller Commandant, WRAC, who spent the day touring the barracks and meeting the Coy.

HRH was greeted on arrival by two mounted policewomen from 160 Provost Coy who escorted her car to the Guardroom. After meeting OC 10 Coy Major Pru Chown and the RSM WO1 Marie Dennis, HRH met servicewomen who work as RP staff, in the cookhouse/



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A delighted Capt (now Maj) Jan Brodie-Murphy is presented to the Controller Commandant.

main kitchen, in the Coy Orderly Room, and in the Aldershot Garrison Admin Office, before having morning coffee and a Coy briefing with the officers and senior ranks from the Barracks. After lunch the whole Coy gathered together with HRH for a group photograph. Thereafter, she watched a PT display performed by PTI trainees from the ASPT Aldershot. In the afternoon, she formally opened the newly refurbished NAAFI "Cats Whiskers" where she had tea with junior ranks from 10 Coy and 251 Sig Sqn. For her farewell from the barracks – a guard of honour was formed by the girls ending a splendid day's visit.



HRH has tea with the junior ranks.

17 TRG REGT RA AND DEPOT

LCpl Hockey WRAC a Staff Clerk by trade, is seen here having fired the 105 mm Light Gun. She had the good fortune to join the Assistant Adjutant and Paymaster on a



day trip to Larkhill, to visit recruits from the Depot for the live-firing phase of their final exercise.

When Brigadier H B de Fonblanque, the Regimental Brigadier took leave of the Regiment he chose Pte Watson



WRAC (56 Sqn RCT) to be his driver. Throughout his tour he had been driven by LCpl Wilkinson WRAC, now serving in Northern Ireland, and felt the honour should go to the WRAC.

22 SQN RCT IN THE HIGHLANDS

In November, 22 Sqn RCT had a Scottish air as seven members set off for the Isle of Skye on an adventurous training expedition. The aim was to hill walk, climb and camp-out in one of the most unspoilt and picturesque regions of the UK. The trip included a two day back packing expedition along the famous Glen Sligachan to Loch Coruisk Walk, with its fabulous views and tough terrain. Fortunately the team was blessed with mild weather so camping was not difficult but still challenging. During their stay they also walked the Broadford Coast, enjoying a mixture of forest and coastal views.

The highlight of the trip was the successful ascent of Ben Nevis. The weather was perfect so after a few preparations the group set off for a gruelling five-hour climb to the summit at 4,412 feet for that "on top of the world" feeling. The only bad moment the team remembered was when they realised that they were sharing the accommodation with a Scottish mouse.

Now the Squadron is looking forward to next year's trek to the Highlands.



**The team before the ascent of Ben Nevis.
L to R. SSgt Easter, Pte Baldwin, Pte Phipps,
Pte Chambers, LCpl Cobb and Wellbelove.**

68 SQN RCT

Once again 68 Sqn RCT have been keeping themselves busy, especially on the sporting front.

The Rounders team had an active season and kept their previous high record. Captained by SSgt Madge Smith they were runners up in the BAOR and Berlin Inter-Unit Championships – losing by half a rounder in the final. However, honour was restored when they clinched the



Back Row L to R. Pte Harper, LCpl Ford, Pte Boardman, LCpl Keenan, Pte Remzi, Sgt Humphrey.

Front Row L to R. Cpl Ramsey, Pte Crabtree, SSgt Smith, Pte Amess, LCpl Travers.

Army Championships and became the title holders for the third successive year.

We have also been victorious in the racket sports. LCpl Julie Horobin sailed through the BAOR Women's Services Individuals Squash Championships winning the cup, seemingly without even breaking into a sweat. Pte Wendy Amess also succeeded in becoming the Runner Up for the Plate. Pte Jo Boardman and LCpl Ross Stanners kept the Tennis team going representing the Sqn in the Women's Services Tennis with Pte Jo Boardman walking off with the Plate.

More recently the Hockey team started the new season with a vengeance. They won the BAOR Inter-Unit Hockey Championships with the whole team playing very well, however, the praise must surely go to SSgt McCabe for organising the team, and to LCpl Andy Ford and newly arrived Pte Naomi Burdon.

Pte Burdon did some excellent goal saving for which she gained the "Best Goalkeeper" Award. LCpl Ford came up trumps and scored the winning goal, justifiably earning himself the title of best player.

All in all a good season for 68 Sqn RCT!

29 COY WRAC

THE BAOR REGIMENTAL CORPORALS COURSE

23 OCT – 1 NOV 90

In addition to the normal workload, the Company Headquarters staff put on the guise of administrators and Directing Staff in readiness for the BAOR WRAC Regimental Corporals Course sponsored by Comd WRAC BAOR and Berlin.

On the 23 Oct 90, 24 hopefuls from units throughout Germany arrived at 29 Coy WRAC to undergo 10 gruelling days of mental and physical tasks under the constant watch of the DS.

The course is designed so that the bulk of the first week is spent learning and the final few days being tested.

At the end of a busy and arduous programme the



How low can you go?

candidates left tired but cheerful, albeit with a couple of minor injuries to return to their units to await the results. Probably the hardest part of the whole course.

COMMANDER WRAC BAOR VISITS OSNABRUCK GARRISON

It is seldom that the WRAC girls, scattered throughout a garrison as large as Osnabruck, ever get the chance to meet up. The visit by Comd WRAC BAOR, Col Sue Wing, recently put that to rights. All of the girls were able to get together with Col Wing to air their views and discuss the problems facing them in their diverse roles.

Col Wing also visited each of the Commanding Officers and WRAC Officers in the Garrison before ending the visit with a discussion with the WRAC JNCOs of 115 Provost Company RMP.

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Garrison assets.

L to R. Sgt Thomas (Chief Clerk 23 Engr Regt),
Pte Atherton (Pay Office 1 RGJ), LCpl Nayler (COMMCEN),
Col M S Wing, Cpl Kelly (Staff Clerk 52 Int & Sy Sect),
LCpl Lowen (Cook 23 Engr Regt).

1 SQUADRON 16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

VISIT OF DIRECTOR WRAC

On 5 September 1990 Brigadier G K Ramsey MBE ADC visited the Squadron and talked to the girls at length about the many changes that are imminent in the WRAC.



DWRAC meeting Pte Golanitz and Pte Arnold (SWBD OPS).

VISIT OF COLONEL M S WING COMMANDER WRAC BAOR By WO2 (SSM) D Davies WRAC



L to R. F S Weetch, Maj Harris, Pte Strachan,
WO2 Davies and Col Wing.

Colonel M S Wing Comd WRAC BAOR visited 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt on Monday 19 November 1990. Part of her visit included meeting the WRAC working as Switchboard Operators in Telephone House.

Here Col Wing is seen talking to Pte Strachan, who has just returned from Catterick where she successfully completed her B1 training.

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 1990

By Sgt M Beattie RNZAMC

My stylish uniform sets me apart, you may ask "Who is this person that speaks the Queen's English!"

To give you a clue my country's national emblem is the Fern Leaf and not the Kangaroo contrary to popular belief. It is said that rugby, racing and beer drinking are our national pastimes, but I can assure you, that if you saw my uniform you would say that fashion would be the front runner.

I am attached to 1 Sqn 16 Sig Regt for a period of four months from the Royal New Zealand Army. Being a responsible SNCO I corresponded prior to my departure from NZ to my British counterpart, Sgt Liz Williams (who by the way is Scottish). She replied with assurances that the weather would be mild, which I interpreted to mean freezing.

Hence, as a typically prepared Kiwi, I stepped off the plane at Dusseldorf Airport in winter skirt, blouse and woollen jumper (NZ wool of course) to be greeted with 32 degree celcius heat. Consequently, I stuck to the tarmac in a melted heap. The moral of that story, is to be wary of "Jocks" conveying weather forecasts. I arrived slightly jaded (to say the least) at my accommodation in Rheindahlen Garrison, to find it completely surrounded by concertina barbed wire. You can imagine the crazed thoughts that ran through my mind, but I have since learnt wire is for security and the inhabitants of the WRAC Sgts' Mess are a very hospitable and friendly lot, even though they don't speak the Queen's English kiwi style.

Introductions followed all around at 1 Sqn, and once everyone was back from Summer leave it was into the full swing of things and the gentle advice of "We don't actually do it that way in the British Army".

Sailing - "Did you say sailing Sir?" I said to Maj Harris, the OC (not that I was eavesdropping you understand) I'd love to go sailing, well you know what I mean the old motto "GIVE IT A GO MATE". So off I trotted, with all the warm gear that I could scrounge, and poor unsuspecting Pte Debs Evans to participate in the Inter Divisional sailing competition at Kiel, as part of the three Div sailing team.

Next day it was on to Berlin for a Liaison visit (if you know what I mean) for a week, which unfortunately



Maj Harris presents a Unit plaque to Sgt Beattie RNZAMC.

coincided with the Unification celebrations. Say no more!

Guildford followed Berlin, with two weeks attached to a TA Basic Training Course at the WRAC Training Centre and another friendly and hospitable Mess. Four of us made an excellent video of a train and underground pass. Just imagine putting your video on fast forward with the picture rushing across the screen. Well that was what we intrepid travellers were like, Piccadilly, Soho, West End, Tower of London, Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Cabinet War Rooms just to mention a few of the sights graced by us and my constant companion (camera).

Before I sign off, I cannot leave without mentioning to you the WRAC codeword. If you haven't guessed, it's BLESS. The great convenience of this word is that it can be adapted to any situation when your happy, sad, peeved off or just generally haven't got a word to fit the situation and on that note I'll say Au Revoir to the British Army BAOR and Bless you all!

EXERCISE TOUBKAL EXPRESS

By Captain D J Fox RAEC

During May 90 nine apprentices from the Army Apprentices College ACC undertook an adventurous training expedition to Morocco in order to climb Jebel Toubkal (4167m) the highest mountain in Northern Africa, led by Capt Debra Fox RAEC, formerly WRAC/RAEC. The expedition had looked vulnerable on arrival in Gibraltar as political clearance had still not been received from Morocco and all sorts of stories were being told of military groups being sent back. However it eventually arrived and the party travelled to Morocco by catamaran.

Passport control was the first and only problem point. Capt Fox, not surprisingly, was allowed through, the rest were detained and questioned. The magic piece of paper giving clearance was produced but far from leading to entry it led Capt Fox and Sgt Stubbs (medic) to the police station, where they sat for four hours while several frantic telephone calls were made. Eventually it was agreed that the expedition should be allowed to proceed. Two other military parties who only had a letter from the Defence Attache in Rabat were sent back!

The plan was to catch the Marrakesh Express (of song fame) that evening, so the day was spent wandering around Tangiers. Several attempts were made by Moroccans to become our guide but these were resisted. Eventually one was employed at the princely sum of 10dh (70p). It paid off as he took us to the Kasbah, Medina and Museum, where he gave a guided tour.

The expedition reached Imelil the following day where it appeared that there was a reception party. The landrovers were surrounded by berbers (local Moroccans) all eager to help us and then get paid! We were fortunate in that we had been well briefed beforehand and announced loudly the names of people we wished to deal with. Even those not in the square quickly arrived as others had gone off to fetch them.

The party swiftly moved into the refuge hut and the locals departed. The afternoon was spent with a local guide called Maurice making final route decisions and agreeing prices. It had been decided that the first two days were to be spent walking without packs so that everyone could acclimatise to the altitude without being weighed down.

The first day was spent walking to the Nether Refuge Hut just below the summit. It took six hours and for some the effects of altitude were felt almost immediately making breathing quite difficult. On day two the party set off at 0630



Capt Debra Fox and a spectacular back drop.

hours to tackle the summit. It was necessary to leave that early to avoid the heat later on. Crampons and ice axes were used for the initial climb before reaching the notorious scree slopes of Morocco. It was a slow and arduous climb with the altitude felt by all. Some members complained of headaches but not bad enough to turn back. A party of walkers who had also been staying at the refuge hut had to turn back at 12000 ft owing to altitude problems. The entire expedition reached the summit by 1130 hours. It was well worth the effort with views of snow capped mountains on one side and the edge of the Sahara on the other. Little time was spent on the summit and the descent soon started, it was still hard work going down the scree slopes.

On day three with packs on the expedition set off for another four days in the mountains. The route was to take us over other lower peaks, areas totally remote from civilisation, and also through irrigated valleys with tiny terraced villages on either side. The villagers were very friendly and at one house our party was entertained with berber bread and mint tea. One night was spent camping beside a flacial lake on very rocky terminal moraine. It did not matter how much the area was cleared you could guarantee a stone would remain just where you placed your sleeping bag! The expedition also spent a night camped at 8000 ft, where one group about to pitch their tent, spotted a scorpion. A herd of goats happened to appear and fresh rations were purchased. Capt Fox declared that she was about to become a vegetarian but then tucked in to a goat kebab!

The return to Moroccan "civilisation" was by local transport – an open pick up truck.

Everyone was cramped in the back and driven along a very bumpy, hole ridden track. Fortunately everybody arrived at the other end in one piece and luxurious landrovers were then hired to take the party to Agadir where a well deserved two days R and R were taken on the beach. A hotel was even booked – but at £2.50 a head it could hardly be refused.

The expedition was a great success, the summit had been climbed, there were no injuries and the time in Morocco was enjoyed by all. For over half of the apprentices it was their first time abroad and quite an eye-opener as to other ways of life and standards of living.

PARACHUTE COURSE

Early in the Summer months Pte Anne Marie Nettle and LCpl Lesley Ennis from 29 Coy WRAC, were given places on a three week parachute course at the Joint Services Parachute Centre in Sennelager.

Arriving at the training area, we were quite surprised to see that out of 45 students only six were girls. After a short brief from the training staff we were split into groups and taken away for the ground training to begin. The different parts of the canopy and its packing were explained, then we proceeded with our landing drills. Three days were spent rolling around on the floor, but finally D Day arrived and with it our nerves. We lined up in groups of eight and moving to the pick-up-point we found it very hard to walk as the straps were quite uncomfortable and towards the end we felt and looked like John Wayne just getting off his horse!!

It wasn't long before we were at the correct height to jump and then we heard the jump master shout "feet out" and before we knew it the first person had gone, and we began to realise that it was our turn soon...

It all seemed to be over in seconds, from sitting in the doorway to actually looking up and seeing a perfect canopy. The sensation that is felt from the exit to the landing is really hard to explain as it is a mixture of blind fear and excitement, and once stable you can relax and enjoy the view, as you can see for miles.

The part that was most feared by everyone was landing, and possible broken bones, but with care and remembering our ground training, out of our course only one toe was broken.

Now came the worst part – packing the parachute ready to go again. It took quite a long time, with four different



L to R. Pte Taylor, LCpl Kilmurray, LCpl Lawson and WO1 Vincent.

hours to catch the boat to Corsica. After spending the night in the port town of Bonifacio, we bussed and trained our way to Vissavona, a small village in the south of Corsica, the starting point of our little adventure.

The GR20 Mountain Range runs the length of Corsica, and reaches a maximum height of 2134 metres. The next six days consisted of walking over the mountains, starting very early in the morning, to enable us to avoid the strong afternoon heat. We stayed in the refuge shelters which are found en route and they afforded us much welcomed cool shade and water. These shelters are used by all comers and once we found ourselves sharing a minute space with half the French nation.

Our adventure ended with two days in Bonifacio on R&R. Here we swam, went on boat trips, windsurfed, went sight-seeing, ate strange food and drank strange plonk. It was like paradise but it ended too quickly, and all too soon we were on the ferry over the Mediterranean, back to Sardinia and that gruelling drive back down to the villa.

There is another trip planned for next year, hope I'm still here to go with them...

DIRECTOR WRAC VISITS DORTMUND

On 6 September 1990 Brigadier G K Ramsey MBE ADC paid her first visit to Dortmund Garrison as DWRAC where she met WRAC servicewomen and officers serving with the units stationed there.



From L to R. Capt Helen Emms WRAC/RAPC, Lt Wendy Smart, Lt Maggie Hall, Lt Tina Gower WRAC/RAEC, DWRAC, 2Lt Rebecca Reid, Lt Celia Richards, Lt Philippa Williams, Lt Debbie Green and Lt Alison Munro.



Packing our 'chutes.

procedures to go through and an instructor checking at each stage. Between us we completed 26 jumps and without a doubt the first jump was by far the best, opening up a completely new world of sensations!

After spending three weeks at the centre, we can honestly say that we really enjoyed it and if we ever had the chance to go again we would without any doubts or fears as it is a totally enjoyable sport and after having jumped once you never look back.

ORDNANCE SERVICES VIERSEN

EXERCISE DECI GREEN

By LCpl Kilmurray WRAC

On a sunny Tuesday morning, a party of four servicemen and four servicewomen escaped from the clutches of Ordnance Services Viersen to start an expedition which would entail walking part of the GR20 Mountain Range in the heart of Corsica.

We arrived in Sardinia from RAF Wildenrath and spent the night at the British Expeditionary Base Villa near Decimomanu. The next morning we drive for six long

1990 – A VINTAGE YEAR FOR 13 SIGNAL REGIMENT (RADIO)

1990 has been an excellent year for the WRAC of 13 Sig Regt. We have won the trophy cabinets with our sporting successes, but have also been conspicuous by our absences from work! However, our small corner of Germany is now definitely on the map and we hope that it will continue that way.

The year started with the Inter-Unit Netball Competition in Berlin. As most BAOR based sportswomen know, our bi-annual trips to Berlin were a highlight of the sporting calendar. Although a 12 hour train journey from the RCZ, one would meet old and new acquaintances en route, so that the time passed quickly; the "old hands" know exactly where the good pizza stand is situated at Hannover Hauptbahnhof and where to get the banana splits at Braunschweig. The last leg of the journey was on the Berlin Military Train, a military version of the "Orient Express", where we were wined and dined in full view of the former East Germans and the Russian Military. Regrettably the train is shortly to cease and we will have to slum it on the Deutsches Bundesbahn in future – the days of the Raj seem sadly to be setting!

Back to the Netball, our regimental team won the BAOR (WS) Inter-Unit competition and then went on to take the Army title in the UK. Sgt BLACK was also selected for the BAOR team, who were narrowly defeated by RAF(G) in the Inter-Services. Following this success, our Volleyball team emerged as worthy winners in the BAOR competition held in Rheindahlen and again returned from the UK as Army champions. This year's BAOR team included five regimental players – SSgt Robinson, Sgt Black, Sgt Shannon, Cpl Evans and LCpl Bishop. The Inter-Services were hosted here on 6 July and for the first time in four seasons we took the trophy by three sets to 0 against the RAF. In the meantime, the hockey team had been in action throughout the season and on a wintery March day were runners-up to 29 Coy WRAC in the Inter-Unit Competition.

Orienteering is a popular sport for both the men and women of this unit, with a wide number of runners entering the local RCZ league. This year's team of Capt O'Nians from 227 Sig Sqn at AFCENT, SSgt Bastow and Sgt Rouse were unbeatable, winning both the BAOR and Army competitions, 29 Coy WRAC as runners-up in both events. Regrettably though they have all since been posted!

The Summer then arrived, our outdoor pool was filled with water and the swimming team got into serious training for the Army Championships following their BAOR title. LCpl Daniels from neighbouring 21 Sig Regt (AS) was a welcome addition to our team, but unfortunately even she was not quite enough for the team to defeat a very strong QARANC team from Woolwich. Also training with the swimmers was Pte Brotherton who was persuaded, gently, by our QMS! Donkin to take up the triathlon this year. As a total novice, who was scarcely able to change gear on her bicycle, she took the BAOR title in her first competition, and the Army title in her second. Her mechanical skills have improved and we hope that she will go on to even further successes next year.

VISIT TO 32 HEAVY REGIMENT RA

OCdt Christine Burton Leeds UOTC

By Lieutenant P J Williams WRAC

On a bright morning at the beginning of September, 32 Heavy Regiment became the host to a lively (or is it likely?) lass from Leeds University Officer Training Corps. OCdt Christine Burton arrived at Dusseldorf Airport laden with kit for a two week sojourn with an Artillery Regiment.

During the first week she was seen darting around the garages "cadging" lifts and even managing to persuade some commanders to let her drive! Bdr Beever (74 Bty) returned from the drive with a little extra grey hair, but wishing that some of his drivers were as attractive!

Christine then spent some time with 27 Fd Regt RA who kindly let her do the same with an Abbott and also to hear about the differing role of a Field Regiment. Next she dashed off to Napier Barracks and the RAGTE team there. Sgt Dave Lavender took her under his wing and instructed



OCdt Burton and LBdr Beever on the fastest
M107 in Dortmund.

her in the complexities of the "Dome" – a rapier simulator, which she enjoyed immensely, managing to achieve a 'hit' in her last five minutes!

After a rather hectic weekend in the Officers' Mess, Christine and AAdjt, Lt Philippa Williams, went adventure training to Sonthofen, Bavaria, with members of 74 Bty (The Battle Axe Company). During their stay both OCdt Burton and AAdjt took part in as many of the activities as possible – Christine proving to be a very adept rock climber and disco dancer! A visit to the Castle of Chitty Bang Bang fame (Schloss Neuschwanstein) was a highlight to the trip, as was getting the AAdjt to climb the Grunten, some 1750 m high!

All in all both OCdt Burton and 32 Heavy Regiment enjoyed the visit and look forward to a possible repeat performance next year!

WRAC SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Back row L to R.

Cpl Jackson, LCpl Hill, Pte Lomax, Maj McMahon.

Front row L to R.

Capt Haan, Cpl Beazley, SSgt Adams, Pte Bunyan.

ATHLETICS In the BAOR Athletics Championships 29 Coy

were a close second to Bielefeld Garrison; even though 29 Coy only won one event, they were constantly 2nd, 3rd or 4th and throughout the day only a few points separated the two teams.

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ROUNDERS The BAOR Rounders Championships were played in the magnificent Mafeld Stadium, Berlin on two very hot days in June. At the end of two hard days play 29 Coy were placed in 4th position out of the 15 teams taking part.

HOCKEY 29 Coy's most recent success has been in the BAOR Inter-Unit Hockey Championships. On a very wet Friday afternoon 29 Coy played their old adversaries 68 Sqn RCT in the final. The match could not have been closer or more nail biting. After extra time the score was 0-0 so the result was decided on penalties. Even after the best of five the score was locked 2-2 and only an excellent goal from 68 Sqn gave them victory and relegated 29 Coy to 2nd place.

INTER-SERVICES HEPTATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

26 and 27 JULY 1990

The Inter-Services Heptathlon Championships took place at Aldershot 26/27 July 1990.

Unfortunately, the WRENS didn't manage to field a team, but the Championship was still fiercely fought between the WRAF and the WRAC. The individual crown was an extremely close run competition with the lead narrowly held by Cpl Jackie GILCHRIST (RMP Centre) over LACW DONALDSON (WRAF) throughout the two days. After having had an excellent first day competing in the 100m hurdles, high jump, shot and 200m, Jackie unfortunately lost out on the final event, the 800m, after the long jump and javelin where she just missed first place. Jackie should be forgiven, however, as her mind was on even greater things than the Inter-Services title. She was due to be presented with the Inter-Services Sportswoman of the Year award by Her Majesty The Queen approximately four hours after completing the competition!

As well as the individual title, there was also the team title to be contested. With an "international" in each team, there was going to be no guaranteed victory for either team. However, with consistently good performances from the WRAC, and personal bests falling like nine pins, the

12 MOD(A) PL WRAC SPORTS

By LCpl Reeve WRAC

Whenever I've thought of 12 MOD(A) PL WRAC in a sporting sense I've always associated it with PCD RE, Mill Hill. This is the case no longer as at last 12 MOD has its own identity. With a 170 strong unit we are starting to make our mark in the sporting field.

Since I arrived in the Platoon in October we have taken an active part in most sporting fixtures. Monday 15 October saw the London District Inter-Unit Badminton Championships run over two days at Mill Hill. 12 MOD did well to come 4th in a good field of players. Sgt Layzell was runner up in the Individual Championships and Sgt Halliday runner up in the Plate Competition.

Next came the ever popular London District Inter-Unit Hockey Championships held on Tuesday 7 November at Burtons Court. It was a chilly day but nevertheless spirits were high and we shocked a few people by giving PCD RE, Mill Hill a run for their money by actually scoring a goal against them. We finished a very respectable third place. (We had our best games when WO1 Stockdale was watching – maybe she could be our mascot).

On Saturday 10 November in a very hilly, wet, muddy Rushmoor myself, Pte White and LCpl Gillespie took part in the Army Inter-Unit Cross-Country Relay Championships. What can I say, none of us are runners. We came 17th. (Maybe it had something to do with the trip to Burger King half an hour before).

The last Inter-Unit Competition was the Squash held at the South Bank Squash Club on Monday 3 December. I'm sure that the excellent facilities in the club (or was it the bar just down the stairs) encouraged the team to play well. We came equal 4th with PCD RE.

Individual achievements have come from Pte Stubbs who was successful in gaining a place in the Army Hockey Squad and has proved a great asset to the team. Sgt Underhay gained a place in the Army Netball Team after doing well at the team selection trials. Cpl Pinchbeck has proved herself to be a useful Squash player after doing well in the Army Individual Championships.

All in all 12 MOD(A) PL WRAC has made a good start and has high hopes for 1991.

DESPATCHES FROM THE FAR EAST EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

THE ARRIVAL

"Ladies and Gentlemen – We will shortly be landing at Kai Tak International Airport – Please return to your seats, fasten your belts and extinguish all cigarettes. For your information, the temperature in Hong Kong is currently 26°C, humidity is 94% and showers are forecast for later this evening." I gazed out the window into the darkness – it had been a hectic few months since the morning that I had been called into the Squadron Office to be told that I was posted to 247 Gurkha Signal Squadron in Hong Kong – Mum had found all sorts of guidebooks for me and Dad had made me a video of "Wickers World from Hong Kong" so I felt that I was fairly well prepared. Suddenly, flickering lights appeared several thousand feet below us – "those are ships lying in the outer anchorages" said Jenny a Military Policewoman, who was returning to Hong Kong from a course at Chichester. During the 14 hour flight from Gatwick she had told me all about Kowloon and living in Osborn Barracks in a converted Nissen Hut directly under the flight path. Suddenly, great mountains loomed up, silhouetted against the night sky, then the darkness was



Presentation of medals and trophy.

L to R. 2Lt Liz Bennett, Lt Col Mary Harwood, Cpl Jackie Gilchrist, Cpl Liz Churchley, Pte Sarah Grant.

Army girls came out tops with 2nd place to Cpl Jackie GILCHRIST RMP Centre; 3rd Cpl Liz CHURCHLEY 176 Pro Coy RMP; 4th 2Lt Liz BENNETT 22 Engr Regt, and 7th Pte Sarah GRANT WRAC Centre, scoring out of nine competitors.

Lt Col Mary HARWOOD WRAC, Chairman of Army Women's Athletics, presented the trophy and medals.

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shattered by the lights from great tower blocks in which every window was lit. They clearly don't practice fuel economy here I thought. The buildings drew even closer and one could see the occupants in their crowded one room apartments – "This is Hong Kong, one of the most densely populated square miles on earth" said Jenny. We were now below the level of some of the tower blocks – a sudden roar of jet engines and we were back on the ground. Entering the airport I was confronted by a sea of oriental faces and walls covered in neon lit advertisements – none of which I could read. At least the passenger information signs were in English as well as Cantonese. The Arrivals Hall was a bit like Waterloo Station in the rush hour but it was a strange realisation that at five foot five inches I was taller than the average Chinese. I've since learnt that due to the increased availability of dairy products coupled with western fast food outlets (MacDonalds abound in Hong Kong and provide extremely cheap meals) there is a significant increase in the height of each generation.

Just as I was wondering what to do next, someone said "You must be Pte STANLEY welcome to Hong Kong." As I bade farewell to Jenny she said, "you must come over to Osborn to meet the girls at the Command Pay Office, 24 Postal and Courier Squadron and of course RMP Hong Kong – Here's my phone number give me a ring sometime" – Before I could reply she had disappeared. A familiar white Army bus waited outside, the only thing that distinguished it from those I'd last seen in BAOR was the Chinese driver who wore RCT uniform (I've since learnt all about Locally Employed Personnel (LEPs) who are Chinese members of the British Army). "The journey to Tamar should take us about 40 minutes if we are lucky with the traffic" I was told. Once we had left the airport I understood the meaning of this statement as the roads were crammed with red and white taxis driven by Kamikaze drivers who seemed to switch lanes more frequently than they changed gear, red and yellow double decker buses, green and white mini buses and yes Wickers World was right, everywhere I look there were Mercedes, swish sports cars and there was the first Rolls Royce I'd seen in the City which boasts the most Rolls per square mile anywhere else in the world. The traffic jam eased as we entered the Cross Harbour Tunnel and shortly afterwards arrived on Hong Kong Island.

The bus slowed as it entered the large iron gates at the entrance to HMS Tamar (yes it's a shore establishment on the waterfront of Hong Kong Island) and shortly afterward stopped alongside the steps of a tower block. "Welcome to the Prince of Wales Building, and the land of being a "Vertical Commuter" were the 27 storeys of the building contain everything we need."

Stepping off the bus I was struck by the humidity and warmth – it was a bit like walking into a steam filled bathroom. As we struggled to get my luggage into a lift my host explained the layout of the building; "COMCEN in the Basement, Floors 1 and 2 Car Parking, 3/4 Gym and Squadron Office, 5 a Church, 6 Tennis Courts, 10-14 Offices, 16 the NAAFI, 17 the Galley and 20 the WRAC Accommodation". Of course it's a Naval establishment and I was soon to learn "the lingo", although I still haven't mastered the ranks other than Junior Ratings (Cpls and below) wear navy socks. Senior Rates and Officers wear white socks. The lift stopped several times during our ascent but we eventually arrived at the 20th Floor. "Leave your luggage here for the moment while I fetch your cabin key". The floor seemed to be a hive of activity – Just my luck I'd arrived on an "In Night". As I waited for my host to reappear I scanned the notice board to be greeted by a copy of Part One Orders – WRAC PT – a run tomorrow

night, CAPIC's Rounds (the RN Captain in Charges' quarterly inspection) at 1000 hrs, Military Training and a Warning Order for an Exercise. The notices made more interesting reading – Tours of a Mexican Training Ship, a disco in the NAAFI at Stanley Fort and volunteers for an Adventure Training Camp on the island of Ping Chau. On an adjoining board there was a selection of photographs many of which had clearly been taken at various social functions but then there were others – The WRAC/WRNS



The WRAC/WRNS Dragon Boat. May 90.

Dragon Boat Racing Team 1990 – the caption read. Above was a photograph of a long boat with a dragon's head on the bow, 20 damsels paddling in unison to the beat of a huge drum – the drummer looked familiar, my heart sank slightly it was none other than Cpl MENHENICK the WRAC PTI who had been our platoon mentor through the endurance runs in basic training. A rather dog eared poster advertised a "Pool Party" to raise money to send the Hockey Team to the Army Seven Aside Tournament in Aldershot – alongside a photo of American Sailors clearly enjoying the Party, the caption stated: "The US Fleet helped us get there!" Another photo showed a group of



247 Gurkha Sig Sqn's JNCOs Cadre.

Servicewomen in combat kit manoeuvring a stretcher across an obstacle – "247 Gurkha Signal Squadron's JNCOs Cadre Course" the caption read – so there is hope of gaining promotion here I thought.

My escort reappeared with key in hand – "Come on, lets get your kit into your cabin and then we will go down to the COMCEN and meet your shift. We work four way shifts here, and your shift are on their last night tonight so at least they will be able to show you round a bit over the next four days. They are on the ranges one day and on an organised hike on Thursday, but at least it will give you a bit of a feel for Hong Kong before you start work. Having negotiated three sets of Fire Doors, one of the hazards of living in a tower block, we arrived at room 2025. "You are lucky" Sue said "Your four man room has a harbour view" She was right, we must have a million dollar view across Victoria Harbour to Kowloon and the hills beyond – those same hills as had loomed in the darkness as we

approached Kai Tak. However, the view was now rather different – the multicoloured neon signs – Philips, Carlsberg, Yashica but then there was another in 40ft high Cantonese characters. Some 300ft below a variety of commercial buildings were the famous "Star Ferries" crossing between the Island and Kowloon carrying 1½ million passengers a week.

Climbing back into the lift we returned to ground level, through the security grill and then the traditional descent into an air conditioned artificially lit COMCEN. I began to feel more at home with the sight of familiar equipment – but then amongst the faces of the WRAC members of "my shift" there were also Gurkhas and Chinese technicians. I've never been good at names and I was introduced to everyone in such a hurry – could all the Gurkhas really be called "Gurung" and the Chinese "Wong" – still they all seemed all very friendly and cheerful. At least there were a couple of girls I recognised from Guildford and I'm sure I will get to know the others very quickly. After our coffee we were off again on what I was informed was a "Run Ashore" – the best way to prevent jet lag! After a quick shower and change we were off – a group of six of us – first port of call I was told was "The Poor Man's Night Club" – a night market and street restaurant where the locals go for a cheap night out. What an education it proved to be – the restaurants comprised Al Fresco Style facilities with a "pick your own" system be it plates of shell fish or crustacea still very much alive, fish swimming in glass tanks, live frogs in wire cages, snake or all sorts of other strange parts of animals they consume as delicacies – smoked pig's intestine, chickens feet, and lining of large fishes' stomachs. I now understand why the group hastened past the food stalls and on into the market. I was beginning to learn about the aromas of the Far East. On to the market proper where the stall holders selling clothing, handbags, ornaments, pens and "copy watches" – famous named look alikes. The others all seemed to be skilled at bartering and quickly established the fact that they weren't tourists and therefore were not prepared to be ripped off. Our purchase made, we climbed aboard a tram which trundled towards the night club district of the Wanchai, passing the strangely shaped Prince of Wales Building in HMS Tamar on our way. The "Wanch" a blaze with colour – we entered the smoke laden, ill lit atmosphere of a disco. A round of drinks appeared, I remember asking the price and doing a quick conversion to decide it was very expensive – I didn't last much longer – fatigue caught up with me and one of the group offered to take me back to Tamar – That was the start to my tour in Hong Kong – it certainly wasn't quite as I had first imagined it – "sun drenched beaches – palm trees and brilliant blue skies and seas" – in fact the air hostess was right – it was raining!

THE DEPARTURE

As Pte STANLEY headed for her first nights sleep in Hong Kong back at the Airport, Cpl SMITH was about to board the flight to Gatwick and a subsequent posting to Northern Ireland. She had completed a full two year tour as a member of the Far East Expeditionary Force – soon it would all be just memories good and bad. It certainly hadn't been what she had expected – the distance from home and the high cost of phone calls had at times induced a terrible feeling of isolation. (The 65p a day Overseas Allowance didn't pay for many phone calls). She had been back to the UK, three months ago with the Hockey Team who raised sufficient funds to fly back by British Airways standby seats at £180 one way. Some people use this means to get home to the UK on leave if they fail to be lucky

and obtain one of the ever more elusive indulgence seats. During a leave period Cpl SMITH had been able to visit Thailand and Malaysia for two weeks, aided by the Hong Kong Special Leave Scheme. At least the Tee Shirts will remind her of that holiday along with the one from a local street market with the caption "I survived Hong Kong" what has such a survival meant? – There had been the boredom of 12 hour night shifts whilst waiting for some traffic, whilst other days frenzied activity resulted either from the computer "going down", the CO or Bde Comd calling an exercise or simply because the Squadron had been reduced to two way shifts to allow personnel to be on standby to assist with the influx of Vietnamese Boat People, to prepare for a typhoon or to take part in a local defence exercise in Tamar, or to allow the maximum number of people to go to Battle Camp or Adventure Training on Ping Chau. The lucky few get further afield to Brunei or Nepal. Then there had been the highlights such as Exercise TRAILWALKER, the annual sponsored walk with a difference – 62 mile route across the Colony from East to West visiting most of the Summits within a 48 hour period. Twelve members of the WRAC took part this year, with nine completing the Course in under 35 hours. For those who didn't wish to accept the challenge of competing in this endurance event, many of them still saw parts of the Colony that other visitors don't reach as the Gurkha Signal Regiment provided the admin support for the exercise and members of the WRAC were deployed on the checkpoints.

Whilst thinking of the New Territories, I mustn't forget the forward scouts of the "Expeditionary Force" who work in Sek Kong in the New Territories and share their accommodation with the WRAF. It really is a Tri-Service experience in Hong Kong, at Tamar we live alongside the Royal Navy and quickly become accustomed to hosting visiting ships.

It's also been an experience living in the international environment of Hong Kong; not only working with the Gurkha and Chinese soldiers, but also hordes of tourists of every nationality who crowd the streets and the chatter of the Philippino domestic helpers (nicknamed the Starlings) as they gather in the public areas each Sunday. Then of course there has been the language barrier with the Chinese. Cantonese is a difficult language to master and the Chinese are quite understandably increasingly reticent in using English, I'm sure I will feel the same the next time I encounter foreigners asking for help in the UK. It is their country and we are but transient visitors.

I've seen the varying facades to this vibrant oriental Colony; the traditional street markets with stalls selling everything from fruit to live fish and 100 year old eggs, the Factory Shops which yield the most wonderful bargains diverted from their journey to the department stores of Europe or North America, the beggars and street dwellers living amongst the luxury of the 21st-Century Shopping Malls, the vibrant city which is never still, the crowds who clog the precincts simply as they have nowhere else to spend their free time. That is Hong Kong in 1990.

I'm sad to leave and it's been a long round of farewells, during my two years the place has certainly changed with the old colonial buildings disappearing under the demolition crews, for new skyscrapers to rise from the rubble.

"Ladies and Gentlemen please fasten your seat belts ready for take off". As we hurtle down the runway I can't help but think – Well it's not what I expected – there are Palm Trees lining the new pedestrian precinct by the Cultural Centre – There are sandy beaches but one has to travel to the Outlying Islands and then the pollution levels and rubbish discourage swimming. However, as the thrust of the jet engines lift us off the Kai Tak runway, the window

gives me a last glimpse of the lights of Hong Kong – "I'm certainly pleased to have seen it but I'm glad to be returning to the green fields of England and the comparative absolute silence of Central London – However, for Hong Kong time is running out and it may all change in 1997."

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY

4th Battalion The King's Own Royal Border Regiment

Caroline has an interesting hobby

Cpl Caroline McDowell WRAC(V) is a member of the Sigs Pl 4 KINGS OWN BORDER. She is an expert on VHF and HF radio communications.

During the annual camp held at Stanford, she directed the Battalion radio network and took part in an airlift by Chinook Helicopter. She has been in the TA for 7½ years.



Caroline supervising the levelling of the antenna during the setting up of the Command Post.

Pamela is top soldier

Twenty-four recruits have just completed a testing 15 day training course in Norfolk, which included live firing of small arms and platoon weapons, fieldcraft and tactics. In the second week they took part in a 42 Infantry Brigade exercise which included an airlift by Chinook helicopter.

At the end of the exercise recruits, both male and female, paraded for the presentation of prizes by the Brigade Commander. Outright winner of the Best Recruit prize was Pte Pamela Stirling of Carlisle. No concessions



Pamela receives her prize from Brigadier Ian McLeod OBE MC.

were made to the girls who underwent exactly the same training as the men. Pamela is a lab technician at Nestle.

The CO Lt Col Simon Strickland said "The men and women normally attend separate courses but this time they went with the rest of the Battalion to annual training and the combined course worked very well. Pte Stirling thoroughly deserved her prize and can be proud of her success".

Student to Soldier

Pte Kerrie Davies WRAC recently attended a 15 day recruit training course at Army Training Area in Norfolk.

The recruits both male and female underwent a separate training course from the rest of the Battalion and learned skill at arms with rifle and sub machine gun which they fired. Also included in the course was first aid, tactics and nuclear and chemical defence training during which the recruits went through the gas chamber. In the second week they joined the rest of the Battalion as part of a 42 Inf Bde Force which took on an exercise enemy force from the RMA Sandhurst and the Parachute Regiment. The recruits were lifted by Chinook Helicopter to attack the enemy position and the exercise ended with a dawn attack on a bridge which was demolished by the enemy before it could be taken.

Kerrie, wet and tired was asked if she had enjoyed the training. Her answer was emphatic "I love it". Her sister LCpl Vikki Davies would agree. Vikki is a member of the Battalion's Regimental Police section.

6th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

A First for the Fusiliers

"It won't work – you can't take girls to Germany with the Fusiliers".

"They won't survive the fortnight".

The above quotes are typical of the reactions I had from a number of people in 6 RRF when we started recruiting WRAC for the first time.

Having arrived in Northumberland with the Fusiliers, who as a NATO role battalion had been given authority to recruit women, I was tasked with forming the WRAC Platoon.

We took six WRAC recruits to Vogelsang to complete their recruit cadre alongside the Fusiliers. Sgt Rosemary Stone very kindly came from six LI to assist the RRTT and advise where necessary on WRAC matters. The girls all worked hard and passed the cadre with flying colours, undeterred by being singled out by television crews, journalists and VIP visitors.

Pte Christine Dowling and her husband joined the TA together in August and both completed the recruit cadre.



The first batch of WRAC recruits at clothing stores during their selection weekend.



How do you feel about leaving the Army?

As you're well aware, serving in the Forces isn't just a job. It's a way of life. So, it's no surprise, that after leaving, many people feel as though they're high and dry, like a fish out of water.

But there's no need for you to feel this way. It's perfectly possible for you to keep up with old friends, make use of the unique skills you've acquired, and make a vital contribution to the nation's defence into the bargain.

How? Simply by becoming a member of the Volunteer Forces, which make up a third of our Army and represent a significant part of our commitment to NATO.

There are three options open to you.

Firstly, you can join one of the Territorial Army Independent Units based in the TAVRA region in which you have decided to settle. An ideal route for those leaving Infantry or Cavalry regiments.

Secondly, if you are leaving a Corps, you could retain your capbadge and become a member of either an Independent Unit or a TA Specialist Unit. In either, you can maintain and extend the special skills that you have learned.

Thirdly, you could join the HSF, which fulfils a vital

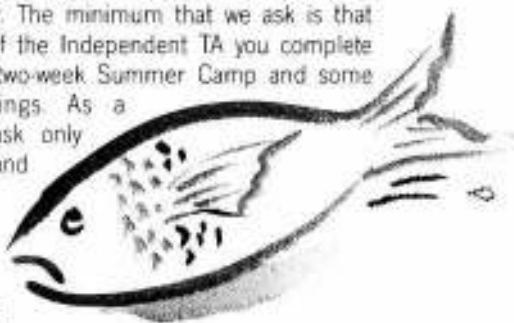
role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that as a member of the Independent TA you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.

And, as a member of the HSF, 6 to 10 days training and one evening per month. In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below, giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

The Territorial Army, Freepost, 4335 (Ref: 9000), Bristol BS1 3YX.



The time they spent posing for photos was probably the most they managed to snatch together that day! Although they would not recommend a TA camp as a second honeymoon, they both felt a sense of achievement in completing the course.

The six girls are now training with HQ Coy as drivers, Regimental Policewomen and Storewomen. We have recruited more girls now who are keen to work as intelligence clerks. The Fusiliers are becoming more used to seeing us around and beginning to respect the WRAC for the commitment they show. I am confident that once the girls know their trades and fill more roles within the Battalion the men will wonder how they ever managed without us.

EX HOT ROCKERS

By Lt M C SEAR WRAC

Exercise HOT ROCKERS was an adventure training exercise for 12 WRAC personnel from B and HQ Coy's, 16 Battalion RAOC. It took place in Gibraltar, otherwise known as the Rock.

I started planning Ex HOT ROCKERS in March having just returned from a posting in Gibraltar. The dreams of sun, sea and surf kept us all going until we left Luton for the Rock on 9 August. We were to be based at the Gibraltar Adventure Training Centre, a purpose built centre, run and staffed by members of the resident battalion 3 RGJ. The aim of the exercise was to develop adventure training skills, promote team spirit and broaden the experience of young WRAC servicewomen.

We were met on arrival at RAF Gibraltar by incredible heat and a bus to transport us to our accommodation; mobile homes situated at the far end of the Rock at Europa Point. What they lacked in home comforts was made up for by the incredible view over the Straits to Morocco.

Once we had got security briefs and the compulsory Rock tour (with Apes!) out of the way we got down to the business of adventure training. We split into groups for the different activities and started off by doing one day on each. The activities were rock-climbing, caving, dinghy sailing, off-shore sailing, windsurfing and canoeing. We then repeated certain activities in order to gain some level of expertise. We all had a go at everything at least once and were therefore tested in some way whether it be due to a fear of heights, enclosed spaces or good old sea-sickness! The days were long and tiring, especially with the heat and humidity to contend with, but thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Having travelled all the way to Gibraltar it would have been a waste not to have discovered some of the local history. We managed to explore some of the 36 miles of roads and tunnels inside the Rock built during World War II and were amazed to see the conditions that the soldiers had to live in during the war. They made the mobile homes seem quite palatial!

The exercise was not all work and no play. Gibraltar boasts some 360 pubs and restaurants (not all visited on one night!) and Main Street is full of interesting shops of all nationalities mainly aimed at the tourist. There are only a couple of beaches in Gibraltar which are crowded but the services have the Nuffield swimming pool which we were able to use. We were also able to try waterskiing, some more successfully than others and if there is ever a WRAC water-skiing team formed they need look no further!

The "Hot Rockers" were Lt Melissa SEAR, Sgt Gail SCOTT, LCpl's Kim CHAMBERS, Tracey HAWSE and Tanya McKIBBE, Pte's Donna LINDSAY, Jackie MALONEY, Jake MANN and Alison RICE. Special mention should go to



LCpl Chambers during EX LONG DROP, a 640ft abseil.

LCpl's CHAMBERS and HAWSE who took part in Ex LONG DROP which involved them abseiling a mere 640 ft off the Rock!

Therefore with our aims achieved and suntans acquired (and with a little bit of help from the RAF) we left Gibraltar for Luton on the 23 August. We had all enjoyed a thoroughly good exercise and had gained not only adventure training skills but also some first hand experience of life on the Rock of Gibraltar.



L to R. Pte Hampson and Sgt Scott enjoying offshore sailing.

EXERCISE NUTSHELL QUADRANT

By SSgt M McCabe WRAC

Any one interested in the above exercise contact... Why not I thought. One week away sailing around the Med. Lounging on a yacht, sipping cocktails. Yes I can handle that.

Wednesday 10 October dawned with the weather bright and breezy, and our destination Muidan (SE of Amsterdam). With me there was Cpl Ann Bailey, Pte "Alex" Alexander, Pte Hayley Walker and Dvr Paul Dean, and our home for seven days a 33 ft yacht named Christopher II.

We were met at Muidan by Cpl Dennis Thompson who was to be our skipper. After showing us the "ropes" we were kitted out with wet weather gear (not designer made) and away we sailed. The aim of the exercise was to sail around the IJsselmeer, North Sea and Waddenzee. Our first port of call was Hoorn a distance of 21 nautical miles. From Hoorn we sailed to Lemmer which was the other side of the IJsselmeer, and still the sun was shining. We sailed 31 nm that day. By now we were getting to know the nautical terms and we were able to negotiate the "Swinging Cooker", that is, all except Cpl Ann Bailey who decided that food tasted nicer off the floor after it had been cooked.

From Lemmer we sailed to Den Helder. This was our first experience of night sailing, which was in total contrast to day sailing. Den Helder to the Northern Dutch Island of Terschelling was a total of 36 nms and after a rather early start and an early finish we were able to enjoy the "Land Life".

Day five was another bright sunny day, so calm in fact we could not reach our destination so we docked early in readiness for an extra long sail to Amsterdam. After 18 hours during which we covered 90 nms, we were ready for a rest. The weather was getting colder now but still no rain. After a night's sleep we spent a few hours R&R in Amsterdam, a very beautiful city but due to lack of time we could not visit everything. Our first port of call was MacDonalds!

On day six we headed back to Muiden where the boat was "Last Paraded".

A most enjoyable trip with a great crew.



L to R. Pte Walker, Pte Alexander, Cpl Bailey and Dvr Dean.

OPERATION RALEIGH

Fourteen young people on Operation Raleigh were forging a route up the Batoka Gorge in Zimbabwe when suddenly it became impassable. Captain Sue Kingham was the project leader in charge of the trek and led her team up the side of the gorge and on to flatter land over the rim.

After a while Patrick, their Zimbabwe National Army Scout, announced that they were now all in the middle of a minefield, a relic of the Independence War. It had been wired off but local people had stolen the wire.

WRAC officers do not always have to make life and death decisions but this was one such time. Should they retrace their steps to the gorge with their diminishing supplies of water? Or was it no more dangerous to go on and find a way to the upper part of the gorge where there was said to be some water? Sue Kingham decided they should go on.

They found a way to the edge where a cache of



Captain Kingham inspecting the plough share mine before it was blown up.

ploughshare mines were found, and with evident relief they climbed back down. It was a poor camp site and as Sue was organising things there was a sudden fall of cooling rocks from the gorge walls. Sue was struck on her chin and arm by the avalanche and dared not risk the lives of her charges in such a place. So they climbed out of the gorge again and spent the night bivouacked actually in the minefield, there being nowhere else to go.

For Sue this was the most exciting and, in retrospect, enjoyable part of her 10 weeks as leader of a project in the Chizarira National Park in late 1989. For most of the time she was running a base camp and keeping in daily touch with several groups of three to four Venturers who went out on transects to count black rhino and other wild life. It was dry country and every now and then she drove out to drop them supplies of water.

She had seen an advertisement for Operation Raleigh staff in DCIs and after an interview at CHQ in London had been accepted. "It offered all the challenges you can't easily find elsewhere," Sue told me, and recommended Operational Raleigh as having great potential as training for leadership and as a help towards future promotion prospects. She is presently OC 12 MOD Platoon and looking after 175 Clerks.

Young people between 17 and 25 can apply as Venturers and the over 26s as members of staff. COs are generally very supportive. There is plenty of scope for challenge, fun and achievement and as Sue added, "If you don't ask, you don't get".

WRAC members who apply now as Venturers would be called for a selection weekend in two or three months time and if chosen would have to raise their money (currently £2,600 for a 10 week expedition, all found). They would continue to draw their pay and receive cash in lieu of rations and an adventure training grant. Staff have to find £6 per day for food and insurance and buy their return air fares. Expeditions are planned to start in October 1991 in Chile, Guyana, Malaysia and Zimbabwe. Why not follow Captain Kingham?

EXPEDITION TRAPANANDA

By Pte S J Gliddon WRAC
53 PC SQN RE (V)

Several months have now passed since my return from Chile and I have only just started to get "my feet back on the ground". The expedition was a wonderful experience and, although I shall try, it will be hard to report my adventures adequately.

The flight out, at the beginning of January 1990, lasted 28 hours, followed by a coach which finally brought us to our destination - Field Headquarters Coyhaique. After a couple of days to catch up on lost sleep we moved to Lago (Lake) Elizaldi.

It was here that we spent a week acclimatising and learning various skills to help us with our forthcoming projects. We did abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, bivvying and camp cooking. We also learnt basic techniques for handling outboard inflatables, survival skills and how to cross rivers without being swept away! During this time we were also placed in our teams so that we could really get to know the people we would be spending the next three months with. Inevitably we had comments like "I wish he/she wasn't in our group" and "just my luck to get him/her, he/she gets on my nerves". This was the first challenge - learning to get on with different people all from different backgrounds and each with a very singular personality.

In no time at all we were on our way to our first project site. We flew from Balmaceda airport to Punta Arenas - the



Pte Gliddon – wet, cold and heavily laden.

southernmost city in the world. A 12 hour coach journey from Punta Arenas airport, took us to Torres del Paine (Towers of Pine), one of Chile's famous National Parks. Over the next few days we gradually made our way to Raleigh South FHQ, across Lago Grey to the edge of a glacier called Glacier Grey, where our project began transporting food, tents, tools and bodies to our top base camp. Once settled the aim of the project was to clear debris from and re-mark the mountain pass along which we travelled. This was a very strenuous community project as the path was blocked with numerous fallen trees.

The only way to clear it was to chainsaw through the lot. Several sections required log paths to be laid and drainage channels had to be dug as well. I made a mental note at this stage, not to tell my mother what I had been doing, just in case she roped me in for a load of gardening on my return! We worked on the path for three weeks until it was complete. With a few days in hand we filled our time with abseiling, ice-climbing and a little mountaineering before returning to our base in Coyhaique to replenish energy, food and equipment, ready for our second project.

One of the biggest concerns of most groups was food. We seemed to be always hungry! I think that being in the fresh air all day was the main cause of our "tummy rumbles". How could we be hungry when each day started with a mess tin full of Quaker porridge?!

The equipment for our next project consisted of six two man canoes, three weeks worth of food and personal rucksacks (no tents). WE had to carry this for 21 km to locate a river and lake system, somewhere in the depths of Central Chile. It took us 11 days to reach the first lake – Lago Presidente Roosevelt. This was 11 days of bangs, bruises, tears, cursing, mud, rain and leeches! What a relief when we reached the lake – no more bamboo bashing and slipping into leech infested mud. These days of portering saw some spectacular falls. We all discovered muscles we never realised we had and we also appreciated our food *even more!*

I often think back to those beautiful days on the canoes. We saw some fantastic desert island-type beaches, kingfishers, humming-birds and dragonflies. We saw moonlit skies and fiery sunsets. Diet was supplemented by 12 inch salmon trout cooked in the embers of our evening fires. It was perfect, relaxing, idyllic – words cannot express how we all felt during those sun-drenched days.

... We moved from Lago Presidente Roosevelt to Rio Picacho to Lago Copa and then on to Laguna Escondida and reached our destination Puerto Cisnes after one week. Those days on the canoes were not all spent at a slow pace, because at intervals we had to master sections of white-water rapids. Some equipment became wet and we all had a good soaking in some exhilarating capsizes. I remember Puerto Cisnes as a small fishing town full of inquisitive Chilean children. We spent three nights here relaxing and getting to know the locals and waiting for a cattle lorry to come and collect us to take us to Coyhaique.

The final few days at FHQ were the saddest of them all. We had to part from the people we had learnt to respect. Gone were the days of, "I wish he/she wasn't in our group". The challenge of mixing and coping with people in extreme circumstances had bonded our group together in a tight ball of friendship. The most successful part of the whole expedition "Trapananda" (the place which lies beyond which is further out) was the understanding of our fellow companions.

With this our expedition ended and some of us returned to the humdrum lives we were leading before, taking with us some wonderful memories and the hope of an eventual return to South America.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst

Edinburgh Company

"SHOOTING STARS"

The WRAC Officers commissioned from the Royal Military Academy on 10 August 1990 were the first to undergo their complete weapon training with the SA 80 Rifle.

All weapon training culminated in a Skill at Arms day on the last weekend of the course with all the senior intakes from the male companies competing as well. After a certain amount of chauvinistic comment the girls' accurate and steady performance on the knockout falling plate competition proved a recipe for success with the finale resulting in Edinburgh A Company versus B. An all female final – Well done.

"A WEEKEND IN BERLIN"

When the Adjutant of 1st Battalion Irish Guards telephoned me and asked, "So how do we get one of those female assistant adjutants then?" He had not realised what a long and involved process this might be. Two weeks later and a bit of staff clearance here and there, 24 air tickets to Berlin arrived through the post with a full itinerary for a long weekend.

The weekend in fact provided members of Edinburgh Company with a marvellous opportunity to witness history in the making, as Check Point Charlie was completely opened up and monetary reunification took place that Saturday night. It also provided a somewhat privileged insight into life within a unit, the first that some of the students had experienced and it certainly was – as we were greeted with a champagne reception on arrival to Wavell Barracks at midnight.

Tours of both East and West were arranged seeing the sights, followed by a full demonstration by HQ Sqn explaining their role, albeit rapidly changing, within Berlin today.

A thoroughly worthwhile weekend with a successful slope shoulders to PB 17c on the question of an Assistant Adjutant for the Irish Guards!!



2Lt Nickell taking command of an Irish Guards APC.

Ref. Agenda Item 9(b) for the AGM on Saturday 13 April 1991. These are the rules proposed by Council for adoption at the AGM. Retain these pages as your personal copy of the Rules.

PDF Compressor Free Version RULES

The Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association)

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "The Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association)".

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be:

- (a) To foster *esprit de corps* and to maintain comradeship among members of the Association.
- (b) To promote the welfare of the Corps, of its personnel, past and present, and of all who served in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC) and/or in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS).
- (c) To help members to obtain assistance in need.
- (d) To encourage preparedness to give Service to the Country in peace and war.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) **ORDINARY MEMBERS** – All officers and service-women of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC), the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), and the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), including members and ex-members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Army (WRAC TA) and of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve (TAVR) shall be eligible for membership. If an ex-servicewoman has served for less than three months, or if her retirement or discharge from the service is due to misconduct, she shall not be admitted to, or retained in membership without the authority of the Council. Adequate proof of service must be given. Past and present officers and servicewomen of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, the Canadian Women's Corps and the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps and the female medical officers who have served with QMAAC are eligible for membership.
- (b) **AFFILIATED MEMBERS** – Past and present members of the Women's Royal Naval Service, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, Women's Royal Air Force and the Expeditionary Forces Institutes part of the Navy Army Air Force Institutes are eligible for membership and shall pay the normal subscription. They shall have no voting rights nor representation on Council.
- (c) **HONORARY MEMBERS** – Those whom the Association wishes to compliment by reasons of their good work for the Association may be recommended for election by Council as Honorary Members. Branches may invite local dignitaries and those who have helped their branch to become honorary members of that Branch. Honorary members are not required to pay a subscription. They have no voting rights and cannot hold executive office.
- (d) **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP** – The membership of any member, affiliated member or honorary member may be terminated by the Council on a vote of three-fourths majority of those present and voting. Before such a vote is taken, the members concerned shall be informed, shall have an opportunity of stating

their case to Council and shall be told that the decision of Council is subject to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association. Notice of the intention to appeal must be given within four weeks of the decision of Council being communicated to the member.

- (e) **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** – At the discretion of Council a Certificate of Appreciation may be awarded to any member of the Association (or someone who could have been a member under existing rules) for outstanding service to the Association.

4. INSIGNIA

- (a) **BADGE** – The badge of the Association shall be a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown; within the wreath, a Lioness rampant; underneath the wreath a scroll bearing the initials QMAAC WRAC ATS.
- (b) **STANDARD** – The Standard of the Association shall be the Association badge on a background of beech brown and bottle green divided horizontally and with the Association designation in black letters on gold. Full specification is at Annex B.
- (c) **UNIFORM** – Dress for the Association Standard Bearers is detailed at Annex C.

5. OFFICERS

- (a) The Officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice-President, who shall be the Deputy Controller Commandant and who will act as Chairman of Council, the Director WRAC, the Vice-Chairman of Council, the Honorary Treasurer (who shall be an ex-service member), Chairman of the Managing Trustees of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, the Chairman of the Grants Committee of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds and the General Secretary.
- (b) The Vice-Chairman shall be appointed for a term of three years and will take office following her election by Council.
- (c) The Honorary Treasurer shall be appointed by Council and will take office following her confirmation by Council. The post will be reviewed annually at the Council meeting which approves the audited accounts.
- (d) Other Officers may be appointed by Council.

6. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF COUNCIL

- (a) Life Vice-Presidents of Council may be appointed by Council.
- (b) Two Council Vice-Presidents shall be elected each year by the Annual General Meeting, but shall not be eligible for appointment for more than four years.

7. COUNCIL

- (a) Council is empowered to manage the affairs of the Association and to deal with all monies and investments. It shall invest or use such monies at its discretion for the benefit of the Association. Members of Council shall not be held liable, either individually or collectively, for any losses incurred, provided that they have acted with reasonable care and, to the best of their belief, in the interest of the Association. Council has power to make such

regulations and to appoint such committees as it considers necessary. Subject to any directions received from a General Meeting of the Association, Council may invite the attendance at any meeting of members of the Association or of other persons whom they consider would be helpful in their deliberations. Such members, or other persons, shall leave the Meeting when the business for which they have been invited is concluded.

(b) The Members of the Council shall be:

The President
 The Vice-President who shall be Chairman of Council
 The Life Vice-Presidents of Council
 The two Council Vice-Presidents elected by the Annual General Meeting
 The Vice-Chairman of Council elected by Council
 The Honorary Treasurer elected by Council
 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Areas
 The Chairman of Sub Areas
 The Chairman of Headquarter Branch
 The Director WRAC who may authorise her Deputy to take her place
 Commander WRAC UKLF
 Commandant WRAC Centre
 The Senior WRAC Officer Medical and Women's Services Manning and Record Office
 The former Director for three years after relinquishment of appointment
 Two Servicewomen serving on a regular engagement and nominated by the Director WRAC
 A representative of the QMAAC whenever possible
 The Chairman of the Managing Trustees ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds
 The Chairman of the Grants Committee ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund
 Not more than three members may be co-opted by the Council and will normally serve for a period of three years

(c) Six members of Council other than the General Secretary and the Treasurer shall form a quorum.

(d) Council shall meet at least twice a year and shall appoint an executive Committee at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year.

(e) Members shall receive ten days notice in writing of a Meeting of Council.

(f) In circulating the agenda for the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the General Secretary shall call for nominations for the offices of Vice-Chairman (when a vacancy occurs) and Honorary Treasurer to be sent in writing not less than ten days before the date of the first meeting. Should more than one person be nominated for either office a ballot shall be taken. The Candidate having most votes shall be declared elected and shall take office from the date of her election.

(g) The Vice-President of the Association, the Vice-Chairman of Council and the Treasurer are ex-officio members of all committees and sub-committees.

(h) The General Secretary and the Editor of the Corps Journal shall be in attendance at all meetings of Council.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) The members of the Executive Committee shall be:
 The Vice-Chairman of Council, who shall act as Chairman

The Treasurer of the Association

Two ex-Service Members of Council appointed by the Council

Three Serving Members of Council appointed by the Council

(b) The Executive Committee shall meet as directed by Council or as the work of the Association makes necessary, and shall report to the Council and shall have power to take action in all matters delegated to it by the Council.

(c) The full Council in session may also establish sub-committees for a specific purpose with terms of reference and membership determined by Council.

(d) Vice-President, Treasurer and the General Secretary are ex-officio members of any sub-committees.

9. CORPS JOURNAL

The Journal of the Association (LIONESS) will normally be published twice a year. It is included in the subscriptions of all members of the Association.

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) The life subscription to the Association shall be £20.

(b) All WRAC officers and servicewomen serving with the colours who subscribe to the Association quarterly through the Paymaster shall be deemed to be annual members of the Association for so long as they are subscribing.

(c) The annual subscription of all other members shall be £2.00 payable on the 1st January of each year and shall include the Journal.

(d) If membership is terminated under rule 3(d) no part of the subscription will be returned.

(e) Only life members and members who have paid the current annual subscription (or whose subscription has been waived) have the right to vote at meetings of the Association or its branches.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held on any Saturday during March or April. The issuing of the Minutes of an Annual General Meeting and precis of the Minutes in the Corps Journal Lioness shall constitute the notice for the next meeting. Branch secretaries may submit any resolutions for consideration not less than six weeks before any General Meeting. Standing Orders for General Meeting are at Annex A.

(b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by Council on its own motion, and shall be called on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than one hundred and fifty members and deposited with the General Secretary. The requisition shall state the object or objects for which the meeting is called, and no other business shall be considered. A requisition may consist of several documents signed by one or more members provided that the same object or objects are stated in each. At least fourteen days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given, and shall be accompanied by a statement setting out the business of the meeting. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Council.

- (c) Publication in the Lioness shall constitute sufficient notice of any General Meeting. No General Meeting, Branch Meeting or Meeting of Council shall be invalidated by the fact that any members have failed to receive a notice of the meeting.

- (d) Voting at General Meetings of the Association shall be by show of hands. Each Branch shall have one vote only to be cast by their appointed representative.

12. AREAS AND SUB-AREAS

- (a) The United Kingdom shall be divided into areas, which will normally comply with the United Kingdom Military Structure, with sub-areas as approved by Council. In this context BAOR shall constitute an area. HQ UKLF shall represent all out-of-area branches.
- (b) The WRAC Head of Service will in each area be Area Chairman, and a member of Council. These areas shall elect a Vice-Chairman, who shall wherever possible, be an ex-Service Member who will be a member of Council.
- (c) Where sub-areas are formed each one will elect a Chairman, who will be a member of Council, and a Vice-Chairman, one of whom will, wherever possible, be a serving member of the Corps. Each will also appoint a Secretary.
- (d) Sub-areas will select a convenient centre as their headquarters, and the location of this headquarters will determine the Military District in which they are situated, even though some of the branches may be in another military district.
- (e) Area or Sub-Area Committees may organise area or sub-area functions as required and undertake such other duties for the good of the branches as a whole, as the majority of the Branches in that area or sub-area shall agree to delegate to them.
- (f) A sum of up to £20 to cover postage may be issued annually to each area or sub-area by the Treasurer of the Association.

13. BRANCHES

- (a) A branch may be formed in any locality with the approval of Council.
- (b) The members of each branch shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer from among their number and shall forward the names of those appointed to Council for approval. If Council does not approve, the members of the branch shall make a fresh nomination. A branch of less than fifty members may appoint one member to fill both offices.
- (c) In addition to branches formed by groups of members whether serving or ex-Service, branches consisting of serving members of the Corps may be formed in Garrisons, Stations or locations in the UK or overseas under the Chairmanship of a serving officer or warrant officer assisted by four other members. Ex-Service members may join such branches. The formation of such branches shall be reported to Council with the names of the Secretary and Treasurer for approval as above.
- (d) Each branch of less than 51 members may appoint one representative to serve on the Area/Sub-Area Committee of the Area/Sub-Area in which the branch is located, and each branch of more than 50 members may so appoint two representatives.

- (e) Each branch shall hold a meeting before the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and the Secretary of the Branch shall forward to the General Secretary any items to be placed on the agenda of that meeting.

- (f) It is the duty of the Branch Secretary to keep in touch with the members of her branch, to collect subscriptions, to inform members of the branch of all branch reunions and meetings and of the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and generally to carry out the instructions of Council in respect of the branch.

- (g) It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep the accounts of the branch, to forward to the Treasurer of the Association £2 for each annual member of the Branch, other than those under Rule 3c, and 10b, and, at the end of the financial year (October 31st), to forward to the Treasurer of the Association a balance sheet showing the financial state of the branch.

- (h) A newly formed branch or one that is reformed after a lapse of more than three years may apply for an initial grant of up to £20.

- (i) All monies and investments held by the branch are distinct from those held by the Association, and a branch shall be liable for its own commitments. In no way shall the Association, the Council or the Area/Sub-Area Committee be held liable for debts contracted by a branch.

- (k) Should a branch cease to exist, the balance of funds, if any, will be sent to the Treasurer of the Association and included in the general funds of the Association. If, however, a branch is reformed in the same locality within three years, the Treasurer of the Association shall forward a like sum to the Treasurer of the reconstituted branch.

- (l) HEADQUARTER BRANCH – In addition there shall be a Headquarter Branch which shall include members overseas or otherwise unattached, who do not wish to retain their membership of a geographical Area/Sub-Area. The Chairman shall be a member of Council.

14. FINANCE

- (a) It is the duty of the Treasurer to have the custody of the funds of the Association.
- (b) All cheques drawn on the funds of the Association require two signatures which will be those of two of the following: the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and a nominated member of the Council.
- (c) The Treasurer shall make a report of the Association's finances to the Council at each meeting, and shall submit for audit a yearly account to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st day of October.
- (e) Alteration of investments of the Association may be authorised by the Executive Committee in cases of urgency and will be reported to a properly constituted Meeting of Council at the earliest opportunity. The Executive Committee will refer the proposal to alter investments to the Council if in their opinion no urgency exists.

STANDING ORDERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

Annex A

1. Agenda

- (a) The Agenda, together with the time and place of the meeting shall be circulated to all members through the Journal of the Association. Whenever practicable a preliminary agenda should be similarly published at an earlier date.
- (b) Publication in the Lioness shall constitute sufficient notice of any General Meeting. A General Meeting shall not be invalidated by the failure of any member to receive notice of the Meeting.

2. Order of Business

The order of business at an Annual General Meeting shall be:

- Item 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
- Item 2. Apologies for Absence
- Item 3. Confirmation of Minutes
- Item 4. Business Arising from the Minutes
- Item 5. Report of the Council
- Item 6. Financial Report
- Item 7. Report of the Editor of Corps Journal Lioness
- Item 8. Reports of Committees
- Item 9. Resolutions:
 - (a) Motions of urgency
 - (b) Council resolutions
 - (c) Branch resolutions
 - (d) Elections
- Item 10. Any Other Business
- Item 11. Date of Next Meeting

3. Resolutions

Branch Secretaries may submit any resolutions for consideration not less than six weeks before any General Meeting.

4. Amendments

- (a) An amendment to a resolution shall be to insert or add one or more words, to delete one or more words, or both to delete and insert or add.
- (b) An amendment shall neither constitute a direct negative nor introduce a new proposal.
- (c) Only one amendment shall be considered at a time.

5. Motion of Urgency

A resolution of amendment received too late for the final agenda may, at the discretion of the Chairman of Council, be accepted for consideration as a Motion of Urgency. The Chairman will take the decision of the meeting as to whether the motion may be considered.

6. Quorum

Fifty members shall constitute a quorum.

7. Addressing the Chair

Members shall address the chair and shall confine their remarks to the matter under discussion.

8. Voting

Each branch shall have one vote and that may only be exercised by the Secretary or Treasurer on behalf of the branch. Should a branch wish another member to exercise that vote, the name of its nominee must be submitted to the General Secretary in its writing before the Annual General Meeting.

9. Chairman's Vote

The Chairman shall be entitled to vote on any resolution or amendment. In case of equality of votes she shall have a second or casting vote.

10. Length of Speeches

The Chairman shall have power to limit the length of speeches and shall give notice in her opening remarks of the time limit approved.

11. Members to Speak Once

Except with the consent of the Chair, a member shall not speak more than once on any resolution or amendment except that the proposer of a resolution, but not an amendment, shall have the right to sum up before the resolution is put to the meeting.

12. Withdrawal of Resolution

Once a resolution or amendment has appeared on the agenda, it shall not be withdrawn except in writing on behalf of the proposers.

13. Points of Order

No member shall interrupt another except, with the leave of the Chair, to raise a point of order or to make a personal explanation.

14. Closure

On the conclusion of a speech, a member who has not taken part in the discussion may move the adjournment of the meeting, the postponement of the question under discussion, that the question be now put or that the meeting do proceed to the next business. If a report is under consideration she may move the reference of the report, or any of its recommendations back to the Committee. The Chairman shall put such a motion at once without discussion. A member who has moved the closure shall not do so again for at least half an hour.

ASSOCIATION STANDARD

Annex B

3'9" x 3' Double nylon/wool.

Beech brown (BCC Shade 69) and Bottle Green (BCC Shade 25) horizontal divide with Beech Brown uppermost.

At centre Corps badge (with horizontal colour divide in line with that of Standard) together with designatory unit:

QMAAC WRAC ATS

contained in a single scroll in gold with black lettering all similar to Association brooch.

Above the badge in an arc:

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

Below the arc but in a straight line:

ASSOCIATION

Both to be rolls of gold with black lettering.

Space below badge to be left for later inclusion of branch name. The name of the branch and the word BRANCH to be in a straight line on roll of gold with black lettering.

Fitted with gold worsted fringe and gold cord and tassle to match.

Beech brown sleeve with leather securing tab.

Standards may be purchased from:

Messrs George Potter & Co Ltd, Potters
Corner, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU11 3DP
Tel: (STD) 0252 23226 (three lines)

The cost of any standard is to be borne by branches who should obtain a quotation before ordering.

Insurance under a central policy is available to branches for their standard and public liability when parading standards. Details are available from Corps HQ. Insurance for personal injury to a standard bearer is NOT covered by the central policy and should be arranged by individuals.

STANDARD BEARERS' UNIFORM

Annex C

A green beret with Association badge, 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).

ARMY POST OFFICE ASSOCIATION

A Grand Reunion to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Army Post Office in Nottingham is to be held at Nottingham UMS by 1991.

An ex-postal workers wishing to join the APO and attend the Reunion, please contact:

Mrs D Burke (Ex SGT Felton), 293 Sackup Lane, Darton, Nr Barnsley, S Yorkshire S75 5BG.

NOTICE

ATS Pendants and Bar brooches are available from:

Mrs Hazel Williamson
37 Norley Drive
SALE MOOR
Cheshire
MC33 2JE

ATS CHURCH KNEELERS

It has been found that a number of Garrison Churches would like to have ATS badged kneelers and a list of those interested is being compiled.

Mrs Daphne Hill ex ATS/WRAC is co-ordinating this project and would welcome support from **branches** or **individuals**. The need is for money to buy the kits and individuals to work them.

Kneeler kits cost £32.70 with ATS Badge
or £24.70 with WRAC Badge.

If you can help please write to:

Mrs D. G. Hill
4 Springwood Road
Heathfield
East Sussex TN21 8JY

THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

**250TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION
TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 1991**

As part of the celebration to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Military Academy, it is proposed to hold a reunion of former Officer and Gentlemen Cadets of Sandhurst, Mons and Woolwich. The reunion will take place at Sandhurst on Tuesday 6 August 1991.

For further details please contact:

Captain Sally Morris WRAC
Academy Headquarters
RMAS
Camberley
Surrey GU15 4PQ

BOOK REVIEWS

One of many stories sent to Eric Taylor for his book, "Forces Sweethearts - Service Romances in World War 2" was the amazing story of Jean Kingdon who married a Czech soldier after a whirlwind, wartime romance. With air raids and bombs dropping indiscriminately the future seemed uncertain and many young women rushed into marriage. Jean met John at a Sergeants' Mess Dance and within six months they were married. Jean a WO ATS



Jean Kingdon in 1939.

immediately ceased to be a British citizen which caused her no problems until she became pregnant and learned that as a civilian she could not have her baby in a British hospital. The Czech Army paid for her to go into a nursing home where her daughter was born in May 1945.

John returned from the war and late in 1945 took his wife and baby daughter to Moravia to make a new home. The political situation grew tense under Communist control and John urged Jean to return to Britain where he would join her. In the event, he never did. For three years Jean lived in hope, but this hope was cruelly dashed by a letter from him asking for a divorce: he could not leave Communist Czechoslovakia.

This story has a happy ending for after 21 years bringing up her child alone, Jean married Ewan Kingdon, a man she had been friends with for several years. It was a huge step for Jean who had never been dependent on another, but Ewan was a wonderfully kind man and it worked. It was Ewan who proposed the holiday in Czechoslovakia that resulted in the meeting with John and his new family. For Jean junior it meant a first meeting with her father and a look at the country which could have become her home.

Jean Kingdon JP is a long standing and much respected member of the Southampton Branch of the WRAC Association. The choices she faced as a young wife and mother were horrendous but she is confident that, all things considered, everything worked out for the best.

Forces Sweethearts - Service Romances in World War 2
by Eric Taylor. Published by Hale, £15.95.

THE HUMAN FACTOR

By Joan I Smith

Members writing to Australia for copies of the book should note that the quoted prices *include* postage and packing.

\$Aus 14.95 to any address in Australia or New Zealand

£8.00 to the UK (sea mail)

£9.00 to the UK (air mail)

Copies are available from F G Smith, 36 Vincent Street, Nedlands 6009, Western Australia.

REUNIONS

GRAND REUNION

The information sheets for the Grand Reunion and tickets for the Dinner and trips to Loch Lomondside or the Burrell Collection have been posted and should have been received by now. Please let Association HQ know of any problems.

Tickets for the Dinner have all been taken up and it will be necessary to have a ticket to gain access to that part of the Albany Hotel where the dinner is to be held. Tickets will be inspected and collected at the hotel.

Tickets for the Grand Draw are still available and may be had on request to:

Captain P M Stevenson
ACIO

Charlotte House
78 Queen Street
GLASGOW
G1 3DN

Prizes include a gift from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, a £400 travel voucher and many other prizes: Tickets are 20p each or £1.00 per book of five. Please indicate how many books you wish to receive. DO NOT send cash until books are sold and you return the stubs to enter the draw.

ATS DINNER CLUB NEWS

Annual Luncheon 1990

The ATS Dinner Club luncheon was held on Saturday 13 October 1990 at Wellington Barracks attended by 400 members. It was a most successful and happy occasion and our thanks go to Brigadier Peter Stewart-Richardson MBE for suggesting the venue, and the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards for looking after us so well, particularly Major Yorke.

We were fortunate to have the WRAC Staff Band playing throughout, with their Director of Music Major Ena Forster. Our Chairman, Mrs Audrey Juby announced that Loyal Greetings had been sent to Her Majesty The Queen, and that the following reply had been received:

"I send my warm thanks to all members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service Dinner Club for their kind message of Loyal Greetings, sent on the occasion of their Annual Luncheon. I was delighted to receive this message and send my best wishes to all concerned for a happy and successful occasion."

Elizabeth R.

We thank the London Branch of the WRAC Association for organising the raffle which raised £462, and to all who donated prizes.

Members will be sad to learn that Brigadier Dame Mary Tyrwhitt DBE TD has felt obliged to resign from the presidency of the Dinner Club for health reasons. We all send her love and best wishes for a long and happy retirement. Dame Mary was the first Chairman of the Dinner Club, and has been President since 1980. Mary, Lady Crofton has been appointed President, and the Lady Strathspey is Vice President.

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Kathleen Salter, a former member of the Dinner Club Committee.



L to R. Mary Gregory, Mary Beeston,
Chairman Mrs Audrey Juby and Lt Col E E Michell.

The 1991 Luncheon will be held at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London on 5 October 1991. Space for 600. Cost approximately £19.

Change of Address:

Mrs E D L Jagger, 9 Balfour Manor Broadway, Sidmouth,
Devon, EX10 8XW.

NORTHERN AREA REUNION

Members from many Northern Area Branches congregated in Harrogate on Saturday 15 September for yet another successful Reunion.

Our new Chairman, Lt Col R E Cornwell WRAC, extended a warm welcome to everyone and pointed out that our gathering coincided with the anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which was perhaps appropriate since many of those present must have contributed indirectly in their service jobs to the successful outcome.

Our Guest Speaker was Brigadier A Field CB Deputy Controller Commandant, who brought us up to date with a wide range of news concerning the changes in the Corps today, the Benevolent Funds, progress at the Museum and past and future events. It was particularly gratifying to learn that Mrs Laurence-Smith, former Treasurer of the Association and Case Secretary of the Benevolent Funds, had been awarded the MBE in recognition of her service. The Chairman thanked Brigadier Field for her interesting and informative talk and everyone then settled down to an excellent buffet tea which was accompanied by much chatter!

Following identification of the lucky prize winners in the Raffle, members then departed on their homeward journeys with the next get-together in Glasgow very much in mind.

HASTINGS BRANCH

INVITATION

Members of Hastings Branch – with their Grandchildren – will be holding a Children's Party on Saturday 20 April 1991 between 4.00 and 8.00 pm. They invite Ex-WRAC living in East Sussex/West Kent – and their Children – to join them. For details, please telephone Sue on Hastings 436391 or Margery on Hastings 220368.

REUNION AT BRAMLEY HANTS

Gwen Green née Jones, Florrie Butler née Usen, Betty Kilby née Andsenatha, Gladys Roberts née Shelton, Amy Renyard née Rowland met at 74 Beech Way, Basingstoke, Hants, the home of Dusty Hughes née Goodbody.

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

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

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

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

PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE



Give to those who gave — please

Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee, BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

After lunch they spent the afternoon at Bramley Camp, by courtesy of the Commandant. They spent the afternoon travelling around the camp reviving old memories, and were photographed outside the former Officers' Mess.



They would like to hear from former colleagues who care to write to the above address.

REUNION AFTER 44 YEARS

Mrs Dorothy Marwood (née Prestidge) left, and Mrs Lilian Newell (née Quinn) have met after 44 years. They last met at Mrs Newell's wedding which took place at "Luneberg Garrison Church" Germany on July 27th 1946, when they were both serving with 302 TSBO Section (Signals). They have kept in touch with letters, and

Christmas cards. Mrs Marwood lives in Chandlers Ford Hants, and Mrs Newell in Sheerness Kent and they met again in Chandlers Ford in July 1990.



L to R. Dorothy Marwood and Mrs Lilian Newell.



IN YOUR MESS NOW



THE GOLDEN GIRLS

THE CHICHESTER MARCH 1990

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L to R. Maj Maskens-McIntyre, Capt Cooper,
Col Robertson and Lt Col Cornwell.

Okay, so who suggested that a group of somewhat senior members of the Corps should enter a team in the 1990 Chichester March to raise money for the Soldier in Need Appeal? It must just have been a sign of collective (ir) responsibility that saw Colonel Nan Robertson, Lieutenant Colonel Rosemary Cornwell, Major Ann Maskens-McIntyre and Captain (Retd) Pat Cooper assemble on a sunny Sunday morning at Chichester.

We arrived there by various routes and had achieved, as we thought, fitness by differing means. Colonel Nan had spent many hours at Guildford under the beady eyes of the PT staff. Mesdames Cooper and Cornwell had trained in a more leisurely manner exploring the delights of the North York Moors and had made sure that their routes had suitable facilities for the odd libation. As for Major M², one can only assume that she followed her leader!

Those of you who have undertaken the Chichester March, know that it is a "good thing" to have a Standard. The Golden Girls were not going to miss out on this vital element and Captain Cooper persuaded TA Major Tony Gardner of Ernest Perrett Ltd, to donate a Standard. This was duly handed over at a ceremony at the WRAC Centre on Thursday 19 July 1990. I can assure you dear reader that we were all very proud of that Standard and carried it with us throughout the day, passing over the Finish Line with the flag held jubilantly aloft.

I digress... back to the Chichester Weekend. We started off in style as we were honoured to be invited to the RMP Training Centre Cocktail Party and Beating Retreat. Following this excellent event it is not an untruth to say that we took full advantage of the adage that calories are needed before undertaking arduous exercise.

The Saturday of the Cocktail Party, 4 August, had been one of the hottest days on record. Fortunately for everyone the day of the March was slightly cooler as there was a refreshing breeze which made life more tolerable; even so it was still very hot. However, we all made it round the course within the set time, so that our sponsors had to pay up when we returned with our medals.

We took a number of photographs along the route, but I regret to say they are censored, however this pictures the Team at the end of the 25km March. The total sum raised was approx £500. Would we do it again, well we need a replacement for Colonel Robertson, any takers!

ATS MEMORIES WANTED!

Come on girls, pens at the ready! Your wartime memories and experiences are required for inclusion in a forthcoming book all about life in the ATS!

Tell all. What it was like joining up, your training, duty life, laughter, tears, jankers, in fact anything at all to do with your Army life.

WRITE TODAY!

Send to:

Mr. D. MARSH
5 West Close, Carleton
PONTEFRAC
West Yorkshire
WF8 3NR
☎ 0977 704572

REUNION HQ SACSEA/HQ ALFSEA

The second Reunion of *all* former personnel who served at Headquarters, Supreme Allied Command and Allied Land Forces Sout East Asia, 1944-6 is to be held at Coventry at 12 noon on Friday 31 May next.

Send cheque/PO for £1.20 plus SAE (large) to Don Lafferty, 2 Stirling Way, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5RP, for list of names of participants.

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

REUNION 5/6/7 JULY 1991

Anyone who worked at the College, ATS Records Office is welcome to attend the annual reunion for all or part of the events.

Fri 5 July 91	11 am Meet at Winchester Station 1 pm Lunch
Sat 6 July 91	Annual Luncheon at King Alfred's College
Sun 7 July 91	Annual Chapel Service Winton Club Lunch Cost approx £4.50 plus £1.50 Club membership

Applications to or further information from:

Miss C I Ellis, "Whitehaven", Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, Nr Winchester, Hants SO21 2HP.

Newcomers are most welcome and accommodation can be arranged.

Assured of Care – for the rest of their lives

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STILL-IN-STEP

By Mrs M D Gale (née Sutherland) ex ATS

Three visits to Guildford Training Centre:

First – PRE-OCTU May – July 47, even RSMs had to complete PRE-OCTU and OCTU. I was in good company – quite a few climbed the ladder – P Ruston, M Campbell, R Deane, A Fisher, M Brown, P Trott and M Thomas.



Second – Grand Reunion 40 years on – 26 May 79, the Queen attended. THE SQUARE hadn't moved nor the wet weather shed, but gone were the Nissen Huts and other old buildings, I was lost!

Third Time (lucky) – Colonel N R Robertson MBE invited

members of the Glasgow Branch of the WRAC Association to be guests at her last Passing Out Parade on 14 June 1990 before her retirement. An added bonus was that she was the Inspecting Officer. Eighteen members accepted. It was two days never to be forgotten and another happy item for the Scrap Book.

From reporting to the Guardroom on Wednesday evening until departure on Friday morning, we were met with friendly, smiling young girls who even volunteered to carry our cases. Had they been bribed? Our two minders were Capt Scott and CSM Campbell. Had they been detailed because of their names or had they committed a crime? When questioned about their reaction to this detail CSM Campbell said that she was worried in case of a language problem, but I think she was being polite!

The visit was full of surprises. The billets were single rooms with carpets, whb, wardrobes, drawers and night lights. The only sad sign of the times was that we had to memorise the code to open the door.

On Wednesday evening Colonel Nan (with affection, not disrespect) had invited us for dinner in Farnham, after a moonlight run along the Hog's Back (I walked it in 1947), a wonderful meal and hilarious evening followed. We were the last to leave, the bus trip back to Camp reminded us of other times and of course the songs we sang – so we did. Thursday morning came too early and the rather sleepy eyed guests not used to late nights made their way to breakfast. However the eyes soon opened – still self-service – but male ACC cooks behind the hatches. We had to be shown how to use the pop-up toaster, the tea/coffee and milk machines, however, no complaints about the rations.

Now to explore the Camp, and the air of excitement an event like a POP brings was evident. After weeks of training this was the big day in front of parents, and

relatives; many of the men wearing their medals. Turning a corner we were amazed to see tartan clad bandmen alighting from a bus. They were the RHF, (not to make us feel at home) but as a special tribute to Colonel Robertson who had had close connections with them during her service.

Reporting to the Square we too were caught up in the excitement. The Inspecting Officer arrived in a Vintage Car, the Parade came alive, but our ex-Drill Sgts are still trying to figure out the new "About Turn". The two bands complemented each other, and "Auld Lang Syne" brought a lump to many a throat. Church Service, Special Address, Presentation of Awards, and Lunch followed. We were invited to the Sgts' Mess, our Officer and WO IC decided that as our numbers exceeded five, a Squad would have to be formed to march there. Despite handbags they weren't ashamed of us. We marched in step and halted together –



Marching to the Sergeants' Mess.

not a scuffle. Just before dismiss the Inspecting Officer arrived and decided to inspect this unruly Squad and dismiss was perfectly executed. We wouldn't have dared make a mistake with the Commandant watching. It was amazing that as we started marching it all came back. However, no Drill Sgt would have tolerated the "GRINS", and it would have been twice round the Square at the double.

Returning to our accommodation we met so many of the "new servicewomen" no longer recruits. The excitement had turned to happiness and we were shown a Birthday Cake, invited to a Disco and when told we had had a prior invitation to the Sgts' Mess they thought we would have better fun with them. Not so, we had a Ball; introduced to Dances and Songs we had never heard of and not allowed to sit it out. No idea what time our President decided we should retire and leave it to the young ones to continue, after thanking the PMC and members for their hospitality we sang "We're nae awa tae bide awa, we'll aye come back and sae ya". The sounds of music and singing were still coming from all over Camp as we staggered back to base.

Morning brought a dramatic change to the scene, girls dressed in all kinds of civilian clothing, making their way to the Guardroom, lugging kit, cases and even ironing boards which were loaded on lorries whilst they went by bus. I suppose it all got sorted out at the Station. Tears had taken the place of smiles and farewells were said with promises to keep in touch and hopes of meeting up, as off they went to join their Units.

A must before we too departed was a visit to the Museum. We were lucky to have "Colonel Nan" to tell us its history (she had already been for a morning run) then a few purchases and we too were off. We left feeling that

after our visit we knew that the Service, we had helped to lay the foundations of was in good hands and the young girls we met would carry on.

All agreed it was a wonderful occasion with thanks to Colonel Robertson for the invitation, ex-Sgt A Banford who made all the arrangements, to the two stalwarts IC Party and not forgetting young Service girls we met.

"We did BARRACK THE BEDDING".

ONE SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE . . .

By Norman Ricketts Ex LI

Since the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS in 1988 there has been a succession of reunions and anniversaries of the Second World War. Many books have been written and former ATS members have been exhorted to write their personal stories for publication.

My wife wrote to a local newspaper in answer to such a request but unfortunately they did not print her story. There were accounts from ACK ACK and Signals girls, rightly so, for they did a first class job, but to exclude clerks, drivers and mess orderlies, to name but a few, was to my mind very wrong on the part of the newspaper concerned.

I feel sad when I hear my wife say, "I was only a mess orderly", and how many more ex ATS ladies belittle their own fine contribution to the war effort. On behalf of thousands of "old soldiers" who knew you as young girls I say that we loved you all for the care you gave us, for your good humour, even though you were doing a thankless job and for your scoldings when we played pranks on you in the mess hall, which I realise now must have added even more to your work.

Make no mistake ladies, even now after all these years, the ATS Mess Orderlies and Cooks are very high on the list of people we hold in *very high esteem*, so if you were one of those girls, say it with *pride*. You made life a lot happier for young soldiers in training and with your essential work played a vital part in the ultimate success.

Yes, I am biased, as I married a lovely ATS girl who was a Mess Orderly and later a Cook Assistant, and I'm as proud of her now for the part that she played as I was then.

. . . to the ATS.

My Story

by Mrs Dorothy Ricketts (née Abell)

On the 12 December 1941 accompanied by my brother Les, I made my way on a dark and dreary morning to the railway station at Birmingham en route to Pontefract Yorkshire. This was my first step to becoming W/109766 Pte Dorothy Abell ATS and was to last until July 1945.

At the station an ATS Sergeant, whom we had to report to, became very angry when a group of us stood talking excitedly about the adventure we were setting out on, and not hearing her instructions. She bellowed at the top of her voice "Get a move on you're in the Army now". My brother who was waiting to see me on to the train, said, pulling my arm, "Come on our kid, come back home with me". A short time after he himself volunteered for the Army and saw action in Europe with the Parachute Regiment.

On arrival at Pontefract Barracks we were kitted out and allotted a bunk bed in a very large barrack room, which seemed immense to me after my own small bedroom back home. We then started six weeks basic training, with a very stern male drill sergeant as our instructor. He found fault with everything we did no matter how hard we tried, and regularly assured us that one way or another, although we were quite useless in his eyes, he would make us the best platoon he had ever instructed. (I wonder how many

recruits he said that to in his career?)

After basic training I was posted to Reservoir Camp, Gloucester, where the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset Light Infantry Regiments did their basic training. Although I was a batwoman to an ATS Officer, a job which I hated. At my request I was moved to the Mens' Mess, which was not a glamorous job, and was very hard work, but to my mind was a more worthwhile job than the one I had first been allotted.

We were regularly called out in the early hours of the morning to prepare the tables etc for men going on draft. The harrowing part of this particular job was watching these men board the transport after their meal, and wondering how many of these fine young lads would survive the war and return to their loved ones. At the latter end of 1942 I was posted to 15 ITC Hyderabad Barracks



Sgts' Mess Staff, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester.
Front row: 2nd from left is Mrs Dot Ricketts.

Colchester, where I again served in the Mens' Mess, the pattern following very much the same as at my previous camp, with the same thoughts filling my head whenever I watched draft after draft leave for their new postings. After a time I was transferred to the Sergeants' Mess and became a cook assistant, a job I did for the rest of the war. I worked in the Officers' Mess in the same capacity.

During all this time our nights, like those of civilians living in those areas, were regularly spent in air raid shelters. At Colchester, where the air raid warnings were more frequent, we would huddle in the shelters, steel helmeted, with greatcoat, trousers and gas masks trying to sleep as best we could on benches (there were no bunk beds), while bombers, or V1/V2 rockets flew overhead.

Shortly after arriving at Colchester I met the man I eventually married. One evening I was in the local amusement arcade, when I overheard a soldier talking in good old Black Country dialect. After talking to him for a while I found that he lived just a few streets away from me back home, although I had never seen him before. He had just arrived from Northern Ireland as part of a "Demo" platoon from the Ox & Bucks Light Infantry, and was on "loan" to the ITC for a short time. He had to return to his battalion after about a month, and we actually saw very little of each other after that and our courtship was carried on by mail, especially after he volunteered to go to the Middle East late in 1943.

At about the time my fiancé went abroad, I was chosen together with several other girls, to appear at the garrison theatre in the chorus line of the pantomime "Mother Goose", put on by the army for the entertainment of local service personnel.

To train us we had Captain Bernie and his wife who were both theatrical people before the war. The training which was very hard, was done during our spare time

when we were not required for duty. Our reward, apart from the enjoyment of what we were doing, was a slap up feed afterwards. When the great night arrived for us to perform in front of a live audience, I was extremely nervous to say the least. The band of the Gloucestershire Regiment began playing and we danced on to the stage to the strains of Ivor Novello's music, dressed in beautiful Hungarian costumes.

Later, as I began my small ballet routine, a roar of laughter came from the troops in the audience. As I moved around the stage, I noticed in the wings a very angry Captain Bernie pointing frantically first to his own mouth and then to me. In the front row of the audience I had noticed my friend LCpl Betty Ash, she also was making signs to me and suddenly I realised what was wrong. I had been scared of going wrong in my routine, and so engrossed in what I was doing, that I hadn't realised that I was chewing like mad on a piece of chewing gum. My dancing may not have been up to "Prima Donna" standards, but my chewing gum certainly gave the audience a really good laugh that night.

On the 3 June 1945, the soldier I met in Colchester came home on leave from Lübeck in Germany. He was now in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, and we were married at St John's Church West Bromwich on the 6 June 1945 the first anniversary of D Day.

Like thousands of other ex service people, we found it very difficult to settle down to civilian life again, but we overcame this and reared our family of two daughters and a son. Now that the family is married and we are on our own again we have joined ex service associations, and found again the comradeship and that special friendship that existed during the war. Through these associations we have been lucky enough to find an old comrade each from the war years, mine unfortunately died last year, but my husband is in regular touch with his friend. We consider ourselves very rich indeed in the number of friends we now have in the various associations, who like ourselves, cherish the closeness and that warm friendship that those days of hardship and danger brought to the fore.

Note: If anyone reading this article remembers the Pantomime "Mother Goose" produced at the Garrison Theatre Colchester in December 1943 or 1944 and can help Mrs Ricketts find a photograph of the event, please contact her at: 94 Andrew Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 3QG.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1991

The AGM of the WRAC Association will be held in the City Chambers Glasgow at 2.30 pm on Saturday 13 April 1991.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening remarks.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held in Victory Club London on 21 April 1990.
4. Business arising from Minutes.
5. Report of Council.
6. Financial Report.
7. Report of Editor of Corps Journal Lioness.
8. Reports of Committees.
9. Resolutions.
10. Any other business.
11. Date of next AGM. (11 April 1992 in London).

Admittance to the AGM will be by membership card.

BRANCH NEWS

BIRMINGHAM The branch is thriving, but we were saddened when in August, our secretary, Gwen Finney, had to resign due to ill health. Gwen had worked hard to get the branch on its feet when it was re-formed in 1988, and it is to her credit that we have a very active membership and good attendance record. We all wish her good health in the future, and are now supporting our new secretary, Helen Thomas, who I know will serve us well.

We have a very energetic entertainment secretary in Pat Bentley who, throughout the year, has organised many visits to places of interest, including Walsall Leather Centre, Birmingham Fire Station, Airport, Central Library, Law Courts and outings to Webbs' Garden Centre and the city's jewellery quarter. I wonder what she's got up her sleeve for 1991? Doreen Whitworth, our other entertainment secretary, arranges our speakers, and these have included talks on homeopathy, hot air ballooning, Cats' Protection League, Salvation Army and the activities of a well-known 'man of the cloth', Rev David Collyer.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Christmas lunch on 5 December, and then on to 1991, when we will have the pleasure of hosting the Western Area Reunion in September.

May we wish members of all branches a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

BOLTON The branch has had a rather busy Summer. We have attended several social functions at the invitation of other Ex Service Organisations. On a very sunny Sunday in August several members attended the Burma Star Association Annual Parade and Service at Morecambe. A visit to the Yorkshire village of Hebden was arranged but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to bad weather, one of the very few bad days we had in August. One of our members, Mrs Worthington, held a garden party at her home and raised over £100 for the Heart Beat Fund. Well done Vera. We received an invitation from the Western Area to attend their Reunion in September and seven members attended and were made most welcome.

In October there were two events. Firstly we visited a restaurant for a hot pot supper followed by a tour of the Blackpool Illuminations, and later in the month we held our Annual Dinner which is always a popular event. In November four members attended the Remembrance Parade in London, and the ATS Poppy Wreath from the Branch was laid on the Bolton War Memorial by Mrs Eva Lowe. Our AGM was held in November and it was followed by a Bring and Buy sale which raised £45. Donations were made to four local charities. We are now looking forward to the Glasgow Reunion, and with all the arrangements we are hoping for fine weather.

BRADFORD We have had a very good year with excellent attendances at meetings. January started with a buffet tea provided by the members, and during the following months we had one or two speakers.

At the end of May eight members travelled with the Bradford branch of the Dunkirk Veterans Association to Belgium and France to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Dunkirk. Our Standard was paraded by Mrs Norah Kendall at La Panne in Belgium and at Dunkirk. We were very proud of her and we caused quite a sensation when we turned out in blazers with the ATS badge on the pockets. We were joined there by our Canadian member Mrs Edna McFarlane and her husband. They also accompanied us in July when we travelled to Aldershot on the hottest day of



Bradford Branch members in Jean Bart Square, Dunkirk May 1990.

the summer to the Dunkirk Veterans 50th Anniversary Parade in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It was a truly great occasion and some of our ladies spoke to the Queen and the Duke during the day.

Our Standard has been on parade at Festivals of Remembrance at Blackpool, Oldham, and Bradford as well as the Remembrance Parade and the Battle of Britain Parade.

We hosted the ninth lunch for the 1914-18 Veterans during November; sadly the numbers had fallen to sixteen all over 91 with two very fit 97 year olds! Jointly with the DVA we made a presentation to Mr Bill Berry to mark his retirement from the local newspaper where he wrote the weekly ex Service Notes.

Three members attended the AGM in London and several went to Bridlington for the Combined Ex Services weekend. We have been to the Garden Festival at Gateshead with the Combined Ex Services Association and five of us attended the ATS Dinner Club Lunch at Wellington Barracks. We are now looking forward to our trip to Glasgow in April 1991. We have a full coach going and we will be joined by some ladies from Sheffield branch.

CHELMSFORD In the 1989 Spring edition of Lioness there was an article headed WRAC/ATS Association - Why don't you form your own Branch? That was the moment a seed was sown for us!

At the time our secretary and treasurer belonged to the Colchester branch and were really enjoying the meetings and the companionship but - as the article suggested - the distance to travel was a little wearing particularly through the winter months when darkness falls rather quickly.

After discussing the matter with the Colchester branch secretary it was decided - with her blessing - to go into action.

Two local newspapers agreed to help us find our old comrades and we were delighted to discover there were quite a number who would like to 'join up' again. This included members who had helped to form the original Chelmsford branch way back in 1947 but which unfortunately disbanded in 1961. How fortunate for us the secretary of that era had kept all the correspondence and minutes of meetings, which incidentally have now been collated into a hard-backed book. This is being loaned to present members and has proved to be interesting and amusing reading!

Our first group of 14 met in July 1989 over a cup of tea and a bun, to see whether they thought it worth going ahead. It was quite unanimous that we should and everyone enthusiastically agreed to recruit as many new members as possible. The WRAC Centre kindly agreed to allow our monthly meetings to be held there. Our present strength is now 62, and enquiries are still being received so who knows what another year will hold for us!

To celebrate our 1st Anniversary in August 1990 a grand party was held – with a delicious spread all provided by the members themselves plus two large cakes especially decorated for the occasion. The afternoon concluded with a rousing sing-song of old favourites.

1990 will now hold three very particular memories for us – our first anniversary – the Queen Mother's very special birthday – and the highlight was our visit on 6 September to the WRAC Centre at Guildford to see a Passing Out Parade – a truly nostalgic occasion and happy day for us all.

CHELTHENHAM Although our members, mostly ex ATS, are scattered geographically over several counties adjoining Gloucestershire, and many of them cannot get to meetings in Cheltenham, we do keep in regular touch with newsletters. A welcome new Branch set up in Hereford has meant a loss of some 15 of our members, but we are still managing to recruit slowly!

Our Branch meetings are mostly very social and fund-raising. Generous donations from outlying members enable us to sustain reasonable contributions to the various HQ funds.

Our much loved President Miss Sheward died in 1989, and we now have Miss Stanley-Clarke in her place. She is an original Secretary and still very involved in our activities.

We hibernate between November and March each year, but we look forward to 1991 and hope that a few of us will make the Grand Reunion in April.



Cheltenham Branch Summer tea party.

CREWE Our fund raising events, four so far this year, have kept us very busy. We attended the Western Area Reunion on 29 September which was very successful and enjoyed by all.

We are always invited to local Ex Service Parades, and have paraded the Association Standard on a number of occasions. We even led one parade.

Our AGM was held in November when our charitable donations were decided which included gifts to the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund. We hope to plan a visit to the Museum in the future, and a group from Crewe are looking forward to the Grand Reunion in Glasgow next April.

EASTBOURNE During the year we have held coffee mornings, a wine and cheese lunch and a sale to raise funds. We have invited and been invited by the WRNS and WAAFs to meetings, and have visited the WRAC Museum at Guildford, and listened to the WRAC Band when it played at Eastbourne.

Other activities have been varied and include a member swimming 70 miles – the equivalent of crossing the Channel each way! Some members attended reunions including the Dunkirk Veterans 50th Anniversary, and the ATS Dinner Club luncheon when four raffle prizes were won.

Our main achievement was to obtain our own Standard. The Eastbourne Combined Ex Services Association kindly donated £100, and a member of the Hastings RA Association made the pole. The flag came from the Colour Loft at Chatham's Historic Dockyard which we visited. The Standard was dedicated on 28 October at St Mary's Parish Church, Old Town, followed by a superb tea, during which a greetings telegram from HM The Queen was read.

EXETER Mrs H M Hiscox resigned recently as Branch Chairman, a position she had held since June 1988, during which time the Branch has made great progress. It is now well established, and the recruitment of new members is encouraging.

The new Chairman is Mrs E D L Jagger whom several will remember as a previous member and Chairman of the Exeter Branch as Mrs Betty Buckley.

Throughout the twelve months a number of luncheon dates have been recorded, these being held in the homes and gardens of members whose efforts in entertaining have been much appreciated. Again there is a luncheon at the Lord Nelson Inn, Topsham in October, this having become an annual event.

Members are also afforded an opportunity of attending the Festival of Remembrance each November in Great Hall, Exeter University.

Mrs E L Green who has held the dual roles of Secretary and Treasurer for over two years has tendered her resignation, but is carrying on temporarily pending new appointments being made.

GLASGOW We had a very enjoyable and varied programme during 1990. Our speakers included Miss Roberta Doyle from the Citizens Theatre, Councillor Robert Gray (former Lord Provost of Glasgow) and Major Mrs Smith of the Salvation Army.

We held an Easter Parade in April, and among the "Bonnets" were some wonderful creations. This made judging a difficult task, however, there were no losers as everyone received an Easter Egg. During May, we enjoyed a sail down the river Clyde aboard HMS Garrioch Head, and were joined by our friends from the WRNS Association. June was a special month when 17 of our members journeyed to Guildford as guests of Colonel Nan Robertson to attend the 552nd Passing Out Parade. We were most impressed by the smart turn out, also the marching of the recruits, and wish them well with their future careers. After a splendid lunch we marched to the Sgts' Mess where we enjoyed super hospitality. Many thanks to everyone concerned and all good wishes to Colonel Robertson for a happy retirement.

We were on the move again in October when we travelled to Perth for the Scottish Area AGM. The meeting was chaired by Major Carolyn Fenn who now leaves us to take up a new appointment. We will miss her and hope she will keep in touch. Now we look forward to meeting her replacement Major Jo Dunn. We joined the Lanarkshire Ex

Service Association at their Festival of Remembrance in Hamilton Town Hall on the 4 November 1990, and were warmly welcomed being the first WRAC Association members to take part. We paraded to George Square for the Service of Remembrance Sunday, and our Vice-President laid the branch wreath.

Now to April 1991 and the Grand Reunion. We trust everyone will have a happy and enjoyable weekend in our city, and we are sure your journey will be worthwhile. Our Cellidh on the 12 April 1991 is a sell out, and should get us off to a good start.

See you in April – CEUD MILE FAILTE (a hundred thousand welcomes).

GRIMSBY Here at Grimsby, we've had another very successful year. We celebrate our 4th Birthday in December, with a membership of 84. We meet the second Wednesday of each month and the attendance is excellent.

We began 1990 with our Buffet Dance at Cleethorpes Memorial Hall, a sell out as usual, as our Dances are very popular with the other Service Associations in the area. We are now working hard raising money for our next Dance in January 1991, with Jumble sales, Raffles and Bric-a-Brac stalls.

The Branch has decided to Rededicate our Standard every April on the Anniversary of our first dedication at St Andrews Church Grimsby. Our Padre The Rev Wendy Isam composed a special prayer for us at the rededication, and we always start our Branch meetings with it. Perhaps other Branches would like it to say, we think it is what we ex ATS and WRAC have in our hearts:

We ask God to inspire us as members of the ATS/WRAC Association to carry out with singleness of heart and mind and with devoted purpose; the high aims for which, and by which we are joined in fellowship and may our Standard be a sign of duty towards our Queen and Country in the sight of God.

Now isn't that nice. We hope you will use it.

We visited our WRAC Association friends in Hull in May, and as usual they welcomed us warmly and provided an excellent Buffet. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and await a return visit in 1991.

In May we paraded with our Standard at Grimsby for The Mayor's Sunday, when at least 29 members turned out in their green outfits and medals all looking very smart and proud. In June at Bridlington, for the Combined Services Weekend, our Standard was carried by Mrs Grace Talbutt and some of our members also marched. We also paraded for the 50th Anniversary Memorial Service for the Dunkirk Veterans at St James Church in Grimsby.

This summer we had our first bereavement in the Branch since we began, when our friend Doris Welbourn died suddenly. A wreath was laid and members attended the funeral in their green outfits, to pay their last respects to a well liked member, who will not be forgotten.

July arrived and the ladies paid a visit to Boston Market, calling at Lincoln on the way home, we do like to get about! In September we had a wonderful day out to Chatsworth House, well worth a visit to see the House with its many treasures and the gardens with the famous Water Cascades.

The Area Reunion at Harrogate, was attended by 20 of our members, a very pleasant day, three of our members won raffle prizes.

The Branch has sent donations to service charities including the WRAC Benevolent Fund and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund, as well as fruit and flowers to sick members.



Grimsby Branch Standard.

HASTINGS This year we celebrated our tenth birthday and we were delighted to welcome so many friends at our Anniversary Lunch at the Royal Victoria Hotel. Of the eight ladies who attended our inaugural meeting in 1980 six attended the lunch.

We tried to make the year a little different with several visits. The Mayor invited us to tea and a tour of our Town Hall, followed by a visit to the Hastings Embroidery which consists of 27 panels depicting 81 events in British History following after the Bayeux Tapestry, and finishing with the Coronation of our Queen.

An unusual project followed when one of our members read an account of a local lad aged seventeen who had won the VC in India and was said to be buried in Hastings. We did not succeed in tracing the grave but a DVA colleague found it in extremely poor condition and hidden among bushes. The local Army Cadets undertook the hard work of clearing the area, cleaning the gravestone, and turfing the area. On 9 September, the Cadet Units, Ex Service Associations with Standards, and a Firing Party from the TA, assembled at the graveside. Wreaths were laid by our Mayor, great-grandchildren of George Monger VC, a representative from his School, and other dignitaries. One of our members took photographs as the Cadets did their work and these, together with newspaper cuttings were appreciated by the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum in Caernarfon Castle. The photograph shows Mary Bilton standing beside the grave.

At our local Festival of Remembrance at the White Rock Theatre we were delighted to have our Standard escorted by two young ladies recently released from the WRAC. They both attend regularly and give us a lot of support but we would so like to see more of our younger colleagues joining us. With this in view we are making 1991 a year



when we make a special effort to recruit and welcome them.

In addition to our monthly meeting, we have a Luncheon Club which meets at the Harrow Inn, St Leonards, on the last Thursday of each month from 12 noon. If any members are spending a holiday in the district and would care to join us, they will be made most welcome – just enter the Inn, turn to the left and follow the sound of chat!

We send greetings to all Branches; may 1991 be a most successful and contented one for you all.

LEICESTER It is a considerable time since we sent news of activities from our flourishing branch, which has an average attendance of 30–35 members at monthly meetings. Some members travel quite a considerable distance to attend and we appreciate their efforts.

In January we held our first afternoon meeting which was a great success, followed mid February by an informal meeting, when we played Housey-Housey (shades of the NAAFI in our service days). In March we had an interesting illustrated talk by one of our members Miss Barbara Hewitt on the National Trust for which she is the Leicester Branch Secretary.

We held our Annual Dinner in April at "The Royal Hotel" and 40 members attended. Mrs Maureen Peters whose article "Antwerp 1989" appeared in "Lioness" gave us a first hand resumé of that most interesting occasion.

During the May meeting the handicrafts made by members for a "Busy Hands" stall to be held in June at the British Legion Rally, were assembled. The quantity, quality and range of goods had to be seen to be believed.

Two members from Northampton Joan Ford and Beryl Deacon, made a most beautiful decorated fruit cake, with a posy of roses and carnations in cream and pale orange, and round the edge were five iced badges of the Corps from the Great War up-to-date and including the Association Badge. On a lovely day in July we had our outing travelling through the beautiful countryside to Staunton Harold (now a Sue Ryder Home) where we stopped for coffee, then on to Stamford for lunch, before proceeding to historic Burghley House.

After a short time we made our way to Nene Valley Country Park for afternoon tea before making our way home to Leicester passing through some lovely villages. A

Bring and Buy sale in September raised £80 for Branch funds. In October a Beetle Drive caused much laughter and chatter amongst members. Also in October some members attended the "ATS Dinner Club" Luncheon which was held at Wellington Barracks.

November was a very busy month, five of our members paraded at the Leicester British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the De-Montfort Hall, and the following week through the kindness of our British Legion friends and members we obtained tickets for the Albert Hall, Festival of Remembrance. This was a most moving and memorable experience and members were full of praise for the courtesy, and kindness shown by serving members of the Services.

Our AGM also in November gave us an opportunity to thank all of those who had arranged and contributed to our interesting programme. From money raised we have been able to make donations to the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and other worthy causes. We have been pleased to welcome Captain Doreen Mapley MBE to our meetings and hope she will join us again in 1991.

LIVERPOOL Our meetings are held monthly except in January and August and our attendance averages 25 members. We endeavour to have as varied a programme as possible but one regular event is the Bring and Buy Sale which is our main money making effort. The proceeds from this sale enable us to keep the Branch functioning and to make some charitable donations. During the course of this year we have had an Easter Bonnet parade, a plant sale, games night, and a display of arts and crafts. We were very impressed by the versatility of our members and the high quality of the work produced. We had a return visit from an ex-serviceman whose hobby is collecting service badges, buttons and divisional signs, which he has mounted for display. On the first occasion he brought part of his collection relating to the women's services, and a couple of our members were able to supply him with items from their own wartime mementoes.

In October 15 members attended the Western Area Reunion at Crewe and had a very enjoyable afternoon renewing contacts and exchanging news with friends we have known for years.

On Friday 9 November, members attended the Service of Dedication of the Garden of Remembrance in Liverpool and on Remembrance Sunday one of our members laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. Two of our members attended the Service in Whitehall and took part in the March Past the Cenotaph.

For the second time four of our members spent Remembrance weekend in Belgium, on a pilgrimage organised by the British Torch of Remembrance. They met at Westminster Abbey where the torch was lit and carried to the Belgian Embassy. The following day it was taken by the British Torch Party by ferry from Dover to Calais and on to Ostend. The main party also travelled by this route and were in Brussels on Sunday 11 November, for the Remembrance Day Service and our four members also marched in the parade. During their time in Belgium they visited the only concentration camp which was sited in that country and was situated on the outskirts of Antwerp; a most moving experience. They also visited Hill 60 at Ypres. The visit was very well organised and the hospitality was overwhelming.

We have to end on a sad note by reporting the death of our treasurer, Mrs Emmeline Lloyd. During most of her wartime service in the ATS Emmeline was employed as a medical secretary with the RAMC. On demobilisation in 1946 she joined the Liverpool Branch of the Association

and became treasurer in 1948, which position she held until her death at the end of July 1990. She will be sadly missed by all members of the Branch and the members of other Ex-Service Organisations with whom we are in contact.

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LONDON I am happy to report that members from London and other branches made a very fine show on Sunday 11 November when we at last managed to form a column of our own at the rear of Column E. There were about eighty of us on parade from as far afield as Aberdeen and France and we demonstrated that we have not forgotten how to march in step! We were saddened to hear that Kathleen Salter, who regularly marched with us had died the day before. She will be greatly missed in the branch and in the ATS Dinner Club.

We had a full programme of activities this year with two enjoyable coach trips to Stratfield Saye and Hatfield House as well as speakers from Wood Green Animal Shelters, John Grooms Association for the Disabled, The Royal British Legion and St Dunstan's. Two excellent Bring and Buy sales boosted our income. Members attended the WRAC Band Concert in Regent's Park in August and the Service at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey on 8 November.

The London and Eastern Area Reunion scheduled for May had to be postponed and will now take place on 21 September 1991 at Chelsea Barracks. As this is a Saturday we hope to meet many of the younger members of the branch who cannot attend our afternoon meetings. Please make a special note in your diary – we want it to be a great success!

MANCHESTER I was welcomed into the branch only this year, so was pleased to be invited to write our report.

We had a busy September, as some of us went to Crewe for the Reunion and later in the month attended the 50th Anniversary at the Free Trade Hall in Birmingham.

October brought a change of venue, when we visited the Holiday Inn (late Midland Hotel) in Manchester and stayed for afternoon tea. November was our busy month. We made our annual trip to Blackpool Opera House to see the Remembrance Show "They Shall Not Grow Old". Before we left by coach we assembled at a member's house for a super lunch. Our friend had organised caterers for the occasion and we all chipped in to cover expenses. Our host ordered us to take "one of each" to ensure the meal went round as we expected late comers. She told us so many times, I think she was an ex CSM, that we have now christened her "one of each". The show was great and we were proud to see the ATS Standard flying high with all the others. We all grew two inches taller. We caught the coach

home and surprise – surprise our hostess invited us to her home again to finish off the "one of each". What a lovely day!

On Remembrance Day we paraded at the Manchester Cenotaph to lay our wreath, and we kept up very well with the rest of the military. Afterwards we were invited into the Town Hall for hot pot lunch. Later in the month we held our Bring and Buy Sale when we raised £32 which we donated to the ATS Benevolent Fund. The December meeting was our Christmas Party, loads of food and good wishes all round.

We are now busy saving our 5p pieces (what else can you do with them) for our trip to the Glasgow Reunion in April, and so looking forward to meeting old friends.

Sadly two of our oldest friends won't be with us. Mrs Souter who reached 91 years of age, having served in both World Wars, and Miss J Hemingway ATS, who resided in Shipley, Yorks, but continued to visit our meetings when in Manchester. We will remember them!

MEDWAY Since we changed our meeting time from evenings to afternoons our membership has steadily increased. Sadly through a tragic road accident one of our members, Blanche Bellchambers, died in August. She was a happy person, Austrian by birth, who worked hard for local charities. We have contributed to several of these during the year.

Some members were fortunate to attend the Parade on Horse Guards in celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 90th Birthday. Others went to Arnhem in September accompanying the Medway Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association. We visited the Imperial War Museum, a Royal Marines Band Concert, and have followed our own band when they were playing at Kent resorts.

It was heartening to see such a large contingent of WRAC Association members at the Cenotaph and their time-keeping in the March Past was excellent. Several members have booked, and are looking forward to the Grand Reunion in Glasgow in April.

SALISBURY I open my first report from the Branch by thanking Mrs Betty Mitchell for so ably reporting our activities over a long period. Betty has moved to Plymouth to be with her family and we have news that she has settled happily and is looking forward to Glasgow.

Summer meetings and outings have been well attended, and as usual, great fun. The June visit to the Richmond Poppy Factory, collecting members of the Andover Branch on the way, saw us having lunch at Runnymede and visiting the RAF Memorial. An excellent guide took us on our tour of the factory and we were amazed at the skills shown by the disabled workers. It was a pleasure and a privilege to meet and talk with such courageous and happy people. Later in the month members drove to the village of Chilmark and had an excellent lunch at the Black Dog Hotel, then on to Mere for a tour of the Church followed by a talk on the history of the town. Members enjoyed the opportunity to see a collection of wonderful old photographs, and account books and ledgers from our speaker's long established business. A welcome cup of tea was followed by a guided tour of the town and a walk around the outskirts. A lovely day thanks to the hard work of our member from Mere, Mrs Gladys Pope.

In July we collected our Andover friends, and headed for Guildford on one of the hottest days of the Summer. We were lucky to have front row seats for the Passing Out Parade, but noses suffered a little!! How we enjoyed it all –



Manchester Branch members.

the excellent band, the immaculate uniforms and marching – we were so proud to be part of such an exciting day and send everyone our congratulations. A visit to the Museum added to our enjoyment, all made possible by the kindness and hospitality of the staff.

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September and AGM time again with reports of another happy and successful year and with a stable bank balance. Plans were discussed for 1991 with the programme to follow. In October we were taken to France through slides and a most interesting and amusing talk by a member's husband, Mr Bloom. This was not tourist France but the seldom seen places, beautiful small chateaux and lots of wine tasting!!

Members attended the Remembrance Day Parade to the Cenotaph and later to St Thomas's Church. The Standard was carried by Mrs T Sillick escorted by Mrs E Brown and Mrs M Robertson and the Branch wreath was laid by Mrs P Churchill. This month saw the start of our lunchtime winter meetings and a very successful Bring and Buy stall. Still to come, our Christmas luncheon at the Playhouse Theatre with a Grand Raffle. Best wishes to everyone for a happy 1991.

SHIPLEY Our membership continues to grow and we now have 45 members and usually average 28 at our monthly meetings in Shipley Library. We have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme ie slide shows, mock auctions, jumble sales, bingo etc all of which helped to raise funds.

Our latest venture was a trip to Normandy with a party of 28 including some husbands and friends. We left Dover on 4 June and stayed in a motel near Rouen. Our first day was spent visiting the 'D' Day landing beaches, war cemeteries, then to Bayeux where we saw the famous tapestry and to Arramanches to see the remains of the Mulberry harbour.

The next day we had a tour of Caen where we saw the Abbeys and other fine buildings, and visited the Peace Museum and the cafe at Pegasus Bridge. We had a hectic day trip to Paris and everyone enjoyed the entire holiday which was very well organised by our chairman and treasurer.

At Christmas we hope to repeat our effort of last year and have the committee prepare, cook and serve Christmas Dinner for all our members. We have an excellent feeling of fellowship and friendship at our branch of which we are very proud and look forward with pleasurable anticipation to the Reunion in Glasgow in 1991.

SHROPSHIRE Our Branch has made several visits during the year and we have marched behind our Standard at



Shropshire Branch members and friends at Donnington.

Powys Castle after a most moving Sunset Ceremony and Drumhead Service.

Visits have been made to Light Infantry functions at Shrewsbury, Carnock and Telford and the dedication of the Light Infantry Standard of the Coventry Branch. We returned hospitality with a social on 19 October when we also welcomed our area secretary Mrs Edith Francis.

On Armistice Sunday twelve members attended the Parade at Donnington Garrison Church with our Standard. Two members travelled to London to march in Whitehall. At the Birmingham Tattoo in November our Standard was the only WRAC Association representative out of 165 in all. It was a wonderful sight and we were so proud of Lucy Bowyer our Standard bearer.

Sadly we report the death of Mrs May Bothwell, a great worker for our branch, who will be missed by all.

SOUTHPORT On 7 February four of our members, Nancy Pugh née Bargh, Vicky Duncalf née Ripley, Maud Ward née Darlington, and Irene Hardman née Tranter visited the Norwood School in Southport. The children of the top junior class were engaged in a project about "Peoples' Survival Through The Years of World War 2". Our four ladies were invited to recount their experiences from wartime, as well as specific details of the jobs carried out by members of the ATS.

Each lady was allocated ten children and answered questions which flowed like rivers from the children eager to learn all they could. A tape was made of each group, which was later played back to the whole school. To add extra interest our ladies took with them items of memorabilia such as pay books, ration books and badges. Irene also took items from the Golden Jubilee celebrations. All of these were eagerly studied. The children later wrote to each of the ladies with thanks for the visit.



From L to R. Maud, Vicky, Nancy and Irene.

STAFFORD We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club and at present have 42 members.

We have had a variety of speakers including one who brought hand painted glass slides dating back to 1900 which had been adapted for a modern projector, an Ambulance Driver who took us through his duties, a talk and slides of Stafford before modernisation, a speaker who reminded us of our childhood with toys, games, clothing etc. belonging to pre-war days and a local magistrate who showed us his collection of Army cap badges and his other hobby of oil painting. We were also entertained by a recent Mayor of Stafford who for many years had served in the Army and had many amusing stories to tell.

As the Branch has been in existence for 25 years, we celebrated with a lunch in April and had a beautiful cake, bearing the ATS badge, donated by one of our members.



Stafford Branch members at their 25th Anniversary Lunch.

To mark the occasion we also presented a local church with a kneeler depicting the ATS badge and embroidered in the ATS colours by another of our members.

We were represented at the Remembrance Sunday Parade in November, at which we laid a wreath and three of our members attended the Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. We also attended the Battle of Britain Service in September.

The year was rounded off by the attendance of some of our Branch at the Western Area Reunion hosted by Crewe Branch which was most enjoyable.

STIRLING It was decided during 1989 that there were sufficient Association members in Central Region to form a separate branch in Stirling and official authorisation was granted in January 1990. Members were transferred from Fife & Tayside, Glasgow and Edinburgh branches and at present we have 47 members, and regular visitors from other branches.

Meetings are held on the last Saturday afternoon in each month. This appears to be a very suitable arrangement and a variety of speakers and activities have been arranged. An ex QUAINS Sister gave a most interesting account of her experiences in captivity as a prisoner of war of the Japanese in Malaya. She was a delightful person who held no bitterness towards her captors. A former Secretary of Soroptomist International gave a most interesting talk on the meaning and function of Soroptomism. The Promotions Manager from the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals from Glasgow showed a video and gave an insight into the methods of collecting funds to enable care and attention to be provided for sick and distressed animals.

For the last meeting before the summer break, 30 members of the Glasgow Branch joined 30 of our own members for an afternoon of musical entertainment provided by our very talented ladies. This was professionally presented and was enjoyed by everyone. A sumptuous tea followed and a raffle supplemented our Branch funds.

Our first AGM will be held in November and it is hoped that deserving charities will benefit from our funds. The Branch is giving support to the fund-raising for next year's Grand Reunion where we will be well represented.

The Stirling Branch is grateful for all the support we have received from surrounding Branches and we are happy to be part of the Scottish Area, WRAC Association.

SWANSEA The Swansea Branch of the ATS and WRAC Association is still going strong, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at the Swansea Guildhall by

courtesy of the City Council.

Our members participate in and enjoy varied activities arranged throughout the year.

We were thrilled to attend the Passing Out Parade at the WRAC Centre Guildford in July.

After an early 6.30 am start which was reminiscent of our service days, we travelled from Swansea to join up with our Cardiff and Newport colleagues before continuing our journey to Guildford where we received a warm welcome. The Parade and March Past brought back many memories of our own days in the service. We revelled in the opportunity to renew acquaintance with our ex-service friends and exchange anecdotes with present service members.

We were back in Cardiff on October 9th meeting our old friends at the Drill Hall where we were pleased to meet Major Walters once again. We were given the very best of welcomes and treated to an excellent tea. It all combined to make a memorable day.

During August, our President, Mrs Veronica Barrington, held a garden party at her home. We were fortunate in having glorious weather to enjoy our tea and conversation with the panoramic view of Swansea Bay as our background.

Our meetings are well attended and we continue to grow in numbers with several new members joining this year. We look forward to our Annual Christmas Dinner at the West Cross Hotel in December and a bright and busy new year ahead. The Swansea Branch send our very best wishes to all our colleagues and friends of the ATS and WRAC past and present.

ULSTER Our meetings this year have been well attended and much enjoyed. Our Annual Luncheon in February, with 54 members, was preceded by a very successful Bring and Buy Sale.

In June we visited one of our National Trust stately homes – Castle Coole outside Enniskillen in Co. Tyrone, followed by a meal at The Inn on the Park, and in September, 29 of the Ulster Branch members joined the Omagh Branch members for lunch in Co. Fermanagh.

At our AGM in November we were delighted again to welcome OC WRAC NI, Major Bridget Richardson who, apart from kindly conducting the elections, gave us a most interesting and enlightening talk on the "Wider Employment of Women in the Army" – which made most of us wish we could roll back the years and re-enlist!



Ulster Branch.

Correspondence

Mrs Margaret Bannon (née William) of 53 Wilson Street, Seaforth, Ontario, Canada NOK IWO wishes to hear from anyone who was in 505 Bty 148 Regt RA in Nursing, Southampton and in particular Peggy Kelleher.



"L" Coy ATS Reunion 2 May 90.

Mrs Mary Benson of 1 Hawkview, Fairmile Park Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2PG has sent a photograph of the "L" Coy ATS War Office reunion held at the Victory Services Club on 2 May 1990. Their next reunion is on 17 April 1991 and anyone who served with "L" Coy and would like to attend the next reunion should contact Mrs Benson.

Doreen Woolcock (née Paddy Mahoney) of The Cottage Helen Lane, Weymouth, DT4 8AY would like to hear from anyone from PADLIMEYSCOT hut, especially Vi Logie (Forres), Margaret Graham (Aberdeen), May & Roy Simpson, lads from the gun park or personnel from D2 COD Bicester.

Mrs Maisie Holland (née Swan) of 7 Berridge Green, Edgware, Middx HA8 6EQ served in the ATS between 1942-46 as a Special Wireless Op WOYG. After training at Douglas IOM (41 Sqn) she was posted to Woodhouse Eaves, Leics (A Watch). She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Lilian Archer, Daphne Baldwin, Dorothy Burdett, Olive Burn, Ursula Dodd, Gwen Prett, Eve Smith and Joyce Wallace former members of 435 (M) HAA Bty, would like to hear from any other who served with them in that battery.

Please contact Mrs K Anderson (née Karney) 17 St John's Close, Ryhall, Stamford, Lincs PE9 4HS.

Mrs W Boak née Barnes has written from 48 Prestbury Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, wishing to make contact with former colleagues who served in 14 TTC at Arborfield. Mrs Boak also served at Ladysmith Bks Ashton under Lyne and would like to trace Mary Seddon, Wynne Selfton, Gilda Levy, Joan Cornish and Eileen Hughes.

Mr David Pitman of 52 Clifton Hill, London NW8 0QG has written to ask for help from our members. His father, Sir James Pitman KBE died, and as his executor, Mr Pitman has in his possession cine film taken by his aunt – the late Honor Isabel Pitman. Miss Pitman was killed in a flying accident on 19 April 1943 when working as a ferry pilot for the Air Transport Auxiliary. Miss Pitman served in the ATS between 5 June 1939 and 14 Feb 1941 when she transferred to the ATA. The film shows sequences of driving lorries and motor-cycles, drill, hockey, fire drills and practices. Also in part of the film there is a large sign over a depot proclaiming "Hants & Dorset Bus Co".

If anyone has any memories of Miss Pitman please

contact Mr Pitman who says that his aunt married after her transfer to the ATA and became Mrs Salmon.

A gentleman wrote in to say that he had been an orphan aged 10 years old in Droitwich in 1943 or 1944 when a young woman in the ATS called to take someone out for the day and chose him. He says in his letter "She took me to Worcester for the day, including a meal in one of the communal restaurants that were around during the war and on returning me to the orphanage she gave me 2/6 (12½p), that seemed a fortune at the time.

It wasn't until years later that I really appreciated what she had done. A young ATS woman spending a day of her precious leave, not to mention pay, to take out an unknown boy. This while there was a war on. I don't remember her name but I recall the meal she bought me, Welsh Rarebit, an exotic dish to an orphanage boy and I certainly remember the 2/6 she gave me. I never saw her again, but I have often wondered why she came to the orphanage to take one of us out for the day.

Does anyone out there recall this incident?

Mrs Alma Jennings née Taylor of 33 Station Road, Hephthorne Lane, Nr Chesterfield S42 5HZ would like to contact former comrades who served in the ATS Provost in Belfast. They lived at 66 Somerton Road and in Victoria Barracks. A reunion is being arranged but so far contact has not been made with Joan Manswell, Hetty Barber, Bibs Devlin, Gwen Ordish and Dorothy Bayless.

Miss Joan F J Catt has written from 2 Strone Court, Wallance Avenue, Worthing BN11 5RD. After the loss of the young man (Lt RNVR) I hoped to marry in January 1942, I decided to join the ATS and did so in July 1942. I spent my basic training in Honiton, Devon and was subsequently posted with two other members of my "contingent" to the ATS Clerks' School, Strathpeffer, Ross & Cromarty.

This was a wonderful experience for two reasons – the knowledge we gained prepared us for duties in various "Districts" and also for the joy of living in such a beautiful place and with such wonderfully kind people. The training was intense and led finally to my being posted to the Clerks' School when we moved down to Hampstead, London. In civilian life I had been able to carry out secretarial work for two ordained ministers and loved the life and work of the Church. I was selected to become confidential clerk to the Deputy Assistant Chaplain to HQ London District. This post was two-fold – the Chaplain to the Brigade of Guards (now The Household Division) and the work was wonderfully satisfying and I served with four successive "Padres". The most responsible aspect of the work was connected with the Guards' Chapel in Wellington Barracks. As most knew, the Chapel was destroyed by a V



Honiton ATS Trg Camp July 1942.

Bomb on Sunday morning, 18th June 1944 when 121 people lost their lives, one being the newly appointed Chaplain – his 3rd Sunday in office. By a miracle I was not in the congregation but from then on the work increased and I worked with the 4th Chaplain soon appointed after the terrible disaster. It may be of special interest to many to know that the Altar and Apse were not touched – and the flowers I had arranged on the Saturday were still unmoved by the blast. The first commitment was to erect a temporary chapel – this was begun by the late Revd John W J Steel CBE, and the first service was held in the presence of the late King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the two princesses, which was a unique occasion. Soon we were able to start work on plans for the new Chapel to be built incorporating the remains from the destruction. A Committee was formed with the approval of all the soldiers of the 5 Regiments of Foot Guards, Life Guards and Blues & Royals. A secret meeting was held in HQ Leconfield House, Curzon Street, and HRH the Princess Elizabeth presided as Colonel in Chief together with the Brigade Major and all the other Colonels and the Architect. I attended to take Minutes of this historic meeting and had the honour of being presented to Princess Elizabeth. My ATS days (until 1946) were the most outstanding of my life and in 1946 my name appeared in the New Year's Lists being awarded a Certificate of Good Service and Devotion to Duty.

My career came to an abrupt end in 1972 when my health forced me to be registered disabled and here I would like readers to know that it was the local Branch of the British Legion (which I joined immediately on demobilisation) whose staff at local and HQ level helped in every practical sense, with financial aid and above all with care and consideration. The then President of Worthing's Branch was a regular visitor and a friend until his recent death. No one could have had more help and support in such a traumatic experience as I was fortunate to have at the time and over the years.

Ruby Virtue née Dresser and Mary Buckingham née Plewes would like to contact any member of 555M HAA Bty RA who may remember them. They served from May 1942 to March 1946. They hope to attend the Grand Reunion in Glasgow and they can be contacted at 34 Draycott Avenue Hornsea HU18 1EX.

Mrs G W Henry (I S Henry née Kerr) has written from Australia c/o Post Office, Currumbin Beach Queensland 4223 in an effort to find a close friend who served with her in the ATS, War Office Signals. She was Phyllis Ramsden from Yorkshire who became Mrs P Baxter last heard of in 1952 still living in Yorkshire, Phyllis was bridesmaid to her and Henry at her wedding on VE Day. Mrs Henry is visiting the UK in March/April 1991 and would love to hear from her friend. Contact Editor, Corps HQ.

Phyllis Ramsden ATS (later Baxter). Please contact Sqn Ldr Tom Maggs 49 Wavell Road Maldenhead Berks (Tel 0682 35525) for news of Isobel Henry (once Isobel Kerr ATS). Phyllis was a bridesmaid at Isobel's wedding in 1945 to an Australian pilot. Contact between Isobel and Phyllis was lost around 1953. Isobel will be visiting UK in 1991 and would love to see Phyllis again.

Mrs Mary Cruickshank (née Urquhart) of 3 Cullerie Gardens, Ballock, Inverness IV1 2JP would like to hear from anyone who served with her in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1942 especially Ray Wood, Ivy Westwood, Lottie Rennie, Jean McKinley.

Mrs Beryl Kealey née Goodfellow writing from 147 Barnham Road, Little Common, Bexhill on Sea, E Sussex TN39 4QL especially enjoys reading letters from those with wartime memories seeking former comrades. She would like to hear from anyone who served with her in 546 (M) HAA Bty RA.

Mrs Iris Boytor née Addinall of 449 Parnell Road, Auckland 1, New Zealand has sent a photograph of X Coy RAOC, Hut 1, Pimley Manor, Uffington, Shrewsbury 1945. If anyone remembers those days please contact Mrs Boytor at the above address.



X Coy RAOC Hut 1 1945.

Mrs Eileen Ingleby née Chambers has written from 8 St Johns Way, St Johns Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire DG7 3UQ, hoping to trace a former ATS comrade Jean Cormack who was stationed with 534 (M) HAA Bty at Fillangley and Bedworth. "She came from Wick in Caithness and both I and my friend Pat Oaks née Mottershead would love to get in touch again".

Mrs Kathy Young née Sturgess of 224 Seven Sisters Road Lower Willingdon E Sussex BN22 0PF has written to say that the article "Taxi to Tanglin" brought back many happy memories of her time in Singapore during 1956-57, and some scars too! The Sergeants' Mess dog tried to have her upper arm for a meal which resulted in the need for 19 stitches. Mrs Young is still in touch with Doreen Ferris (née Fisher), Gladys Pope (née James) and Edna Gibb (née Hope) and has promised to pass on any letter received from readers who remember them. She would like to know the recipe for "Jungle Juice" made in the kitchens of the leave centre at Penang?

Mrs Edna M Simson (née Darkie Dearlove) of 28 Maple Ave Klemzig 5087 S Australia has sent a poem entitled "Why wear a Poppy?" which we will try to include in the August edition of Lioness. Although poems are rarely printed it is exceptional and as Mrs Simpson says it may jog someone into dipping a hand into a pocket to give for a poppy.

Mrs Simson writes that the Field of Remembrance in Adelaide is quite delightfully laid out near the War Memorial and members of various Ex Service Associations and Returned Services League members man the field from 7.30 am till 5.30 pm each day for a week selling poppies and planting wooden crosses into the grass at the request of the public. All wooden crosses with a red poppy in the centre, are knocked into the grass in

perfectly straight rows and many schools send whole classes with their teachers to see the Field of Remembrance.

After the service on 11 Nov at the War Memorial, all crosses are repaired by the Unit clubs and are fully restored until next year. Unfortunately, we sometimes get hooligans who come at night and seem to get pleasure out of knocking the crosses down – but the Old Diggers whose mates were among those who paid the supreme sacrifice, turn up the next day and patiently replant the crosses. Most people who take the time to walk down North Terrace Adelaide, find the Field of Remembrance very beautiful and thousands stroll by in the early summer evenings.

I am ex ATS, President of the British Ex-Service Womens' Assn and am proud to be one of those who help to man the field during the week of display. I love receiving my copy of Lioness and drool over letters from the different sections of ex ATS members.

I would particularly like to say "Hello and G'day" to the Glasgow branch girls, who sat next to me at the Barbican Centre in 1988 at the 50th Reunion. They looked so smart in their kilts and jumpers and were very friendly to the ex ATS expatriates from South Australia.

Mr David Marsh of 5 West Close, Carleton, Pontefract W Yorks WF8 3NR is working on a book based on the experience of women who served in the ATS during World War II. He requires personal accounts from as many women who served as possible. Of particular interest would be the thoughts and emotions experienced by the women upon entering the service, their parents' reaction to their joining, training, spit and polish, life on duty, in fact everything that was life in the ATS. So pens out Ladies!

Mr Michael Howards' photograph sent for the last issue which mysteriously failed to appear – is back. His aunt Miss Dora Evelyn Howard is 6th along the second row from



the back. If anyone knows who, what, where or when please write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

Mrs Mary P Almond née Tildesley of 6 Roman Close, Metheringham Nr Lincoln LN4 3HS writes that she served in the ATS from 1941–47 and is anxious to trace an old friend with whom she served at GHQ 2nd Echelon BAOR-Hamburg. Her name was Grace Easter and she came from Edmonton, London.

Major DS Evans TD (V) OC HQ Coy Liverpool University OTC has written to say how delighted they were to read of the success of one of their "old girls" Lt Tana McQuoid, a member of the British Army Women's Services Ski Team in 1989/90. Major Evans kindly enclosed a cheque to help towards the Museum's purchase of the unique George

Medal awarded to LCpl Richards ATS. Thank you Major Evans and Liverpool UOTC.

Lt Col (Retd) C A Kiernan MBE has written from Nottingham to say that after years of urging his wife to apply for her war medals she finally did and although the wait was lengthy they are now on their way. Lt Col Kiernan also discovered that ATS Emergency Commission Documents were only issued **on request** after October 1939.

The address for both ATS Officers' Commissions and warrant parchments for wartime WO's is:

Ministry of Defence MS8 (Parchments)
London Road
STANMORE
Middlesex
HA7 4PZ

giving full service details.

Requests for medals should be directed to:

Army Medal Office
Ministry of Defence
Government Office Buildings
DROITWICH
Worcs
WR9 8AU

Mrs Alice E Patrick of 9 Bushell Court, Shrewsbury Road, Birkenhead, Merseyside has written to say how interesting she found the article by Mrs P M Jefferis (Lioness 2/90) "Triggered Memories". Mrs Patrick served in the ATS for 3½ years and has maintained contact with some friends from those days including Cath Powell (Lofty) whom she met at the last reunion.

Mrs Audrey Thistleton (née Jones) writing from 10 Cotswold Crescent, Milton, Stoke on Trent Staffs ST2 7EJ is hoping to find former comrades who served with her at the Army Post Office in Nottingham. They were attached to the Royal Engineers, working morning, noon and night but kept the mail flowing. She would like to contact Marjorie Kirley, Gladys Thornton, "Ches" Taylor, Audrey King, Sgt Grace Rumbler, Sgt George Fallows and Cpl Jimmy Buck. If anyone is able to help Mrs Thistleton, please contact her at the above address.

Miss M Beckett JP has written from her new flat at 25 George Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7EY to say that she attended a Reunion for survivors of a wartime incident – the sinking of the liner Lancastria, following the second evacuation of France from St Nazaire.

In June 1940 Miss Beckett was stationed in Luton when one morning the Catering Officer came to her friend, CSM A Mitchell, to say that in 15 mins 300 men would be arriving who hadn't eaten a decent meal for a week. "Where had they come from?" At that time the Conference Hall was full of men having breakfast – but not for long – there were

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Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

dishes to wash, food to prepare and cutlery to borrow. The men arrived clean, in a variety of clothing and the day was spent kitting them up and giving them rail warrants. The ATS worked like trojans and we from Whitehaven were looking for Border Regt men who may or may not have got away from Dunkirk. It was much later that the PM allowed the news of the Lancastria's sinking to be known. Then we knew where the men had come from.

This year – the 50th – was held rather later on 1 July – as a party had been to France for the actual date 15 June. I was the only ATS at the reunion but I soon made friends and am so glad that I went. That morning, 50 years ago, in Luton is as clear to me as if it happened yesterday.

Mrs Beryl J Dyer writing from 197 Bath Road, Keynsham, Nr Bristol BS18 1TD has sent a most amusing poem about her posting to Lisburn, Northern Ireland in 1943. There is not space to print 15 verses but Mrs Dyer, who will be remembered as Milligan or Pollard thinks that there were 10 ATS in the draft. They left London at 5 pm one evening and travelled to Scotland before crossing the Irish sea to Belfast, and finally arriving at their Camp on the following evening. If anyone remembers this event please write to Mrs Dyer at the above address.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PERSONAL COLUMN CHARGES: Four lines £6.00. Additional lines 90p each. Non-members 50% extra. Those leaving the service may advertise items of uniform for sale free, as there is a great demand for such items especially from TA officers. Write to the Editor at Corps HQ.

FOR SALE Officers Mess Dress (slim hips). Size 12. Height 5'6" £50. Tel: 0908 605991.

FOR SALE Officers No.2 Dress Jacket (two available) £30 each. Officers Greatcoat. Height 5'0" £50. Officers Mess Dress. Height 5'1" £35. All items to fit Size 10/12. Tel: 0276 600691 or 0249 659298.

FOR SALE Officers Mess Dress £50. Officers No.2 Dress uniforms (two available) £50 each. One barrack skirt £20. Two tropical linen dresses (offers considered). All items to fit size 12/14. Height 5'4". Contact: Capt C M Wilson, Aldershot Mil 24431 Ext 8516.

WANTED Officers Mess Dress. Size 12. Height 5'6" in good condition. Contact: Ruth Robinson on 0602 480091 evenings only.

WANTED Officers Mess Dress. Size 14. Height 5'5". Contact: Captain Elaine Ferrand on 0734 875239.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the WRAC Association which run from 1 January–31 December, were raised in 1990 to:

£2.00 (Annual)
£20.00 (Life)

The February edition of Lioness will not be sent to those members who have not paid their subscriptions.

LONDON GAZETTE

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Colonels: C A Marriott, J M Roulstone.
Lieutenant Colonels: S Burwell, G R Harvey, V E Trout.
Majors: J E Brodie-Murphy, E P Forster, C E Ford.
Captains: H C Bacon, S P Whatmough, A A Kirby-Harris.
Second Lieutenants: S Erskine-Tulloch, S E Empson, M J C Ebling, J K E Tvedt, E J Holding, K J Pope.

Short Service Commission

Captains: S M McLean, K E Stack, A Harper, P A Owens, J C Palmer, D J Payne, J R Stocks, K B Boxell, K E R Collet, D D Davis, J M Foster, S M Gibbins, C A Nicholson, M P Nisbet, S C Hill, V M Bracken, A C Griffith, J C Moore, F A Forster, C M Wilson, L C Periam, G M A Rogers, I Pates.
Lieutenants: M L Woollard, S H Scarff, M A C Payne, M F Lothian, M A Thomas, A Young, C A Robertson, L D Allen.
Late Entry: Lieutenant K M Kerr.
Second Lieutenants: K J Turner, C M J Thomas, J E Corkin, R A Harris, R MacDougall, P A Moorhouse, R J Cox, W A S Allen, C Holdsworth, P L R Knight, N K Leverington, S M A Braine, K J Breen, N J Brown, C A Burns, J C Dixon, A H Falcon, L M Horner, F M Mitchell, A M Rowson, M F Staples, H J D Vickers, D M Spiros, S J Hale, K R Moorehouse, V M Roberts, F M Gordon, C S Pearson, N J Collins, R K Reid, K A Muggleton, J H Lunn, A L Hughes, A C Herbert, K A Gibney, R A Fannin, R L Cane, K P Nickell, K A Crozier, A J Seal, H Hodgson, S C Goodwin, N Freeman, J Clark, A V Maynard, E J Raymond-Cox, K-A Robins, A Sharman, S C S Thomas, E J Welch.

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Lieutenants: L M Chadwick, M Swinney.
Second Lieutenant: B A Forster.

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Regular Army

Colonel N R Robertson MBE.
Major G M Connolly.
Captains: V Gough, A M Chaloner.

Short Service Commissions

Captains: K J Bettison, J Trainor, A C Davis, S Madsen, S May, T J Bowers, F J Gibson.
Lieutenants: C J Colby, A R M Black.
Second Lieutenants: T J Grandy.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to:

WO2 R I Grant, WO2 D Kerridge, WO2 P M Wilkinson, SSgt C M Aland, SSgt M H Smith, SSgt M I Zycinski, Sgt M J Brynes, Sgt J Butler, Sgt A Fisher, Sgt B M McNamara, Sgt K M McPhie, Sgt K Roberts, Sgt C H Wilson, Sgt L P Wilson, ASgt C M Button, LCpl E D Dickinson, Pte K Fogwill.

GOLDEN WEDDING

HUXTABLE-GILL. On 30th November 1940. Captain Leslie Huxtable RASC to Section Leader Jill Gill ATS at Rushyford, County Durham. Now at 71 Jerrymoor Hill, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 4UG.

WEDDING

FAIRWEATHER-BOXELL. On 29 September 1990 at Holy Trinity Church, Darlington between Captain (Retd) Graham Fairweather RE and Captain (Retd) Jane Boxell.

Brigadier S A E Heaney CB MBE TD

*Sadly we announce the death of
Brigadier S A E Heaney CB MBE TD
on 1 February 1991 in Edinburgh*

*Brigadier Heaney joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)
in 1939 and was granted
a regular commission in 1949 when the
Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) was formed.*

*Brigadier Heaney served as Director WRAC
from 1970-1973.*

*A full tribute will be published in the
next edition of Lioness.*

OBITUARY

ASHMORE. Mrs F C Ashmore of Kingstanding, Birmingham on 8 December 1990. ATS.

BARNETT. Mrs J M Barnett of Bovington, Herts on 17 July 1990.

BELL. Mrs E Bell (née Fenton) of Lanark in November 1990.

BELLCHAMBERS. Mrs Blanche Bellchambers of Strood, Kent in August 1990. ATS.

BISHOP. Lt Col S M Bishop MBE of Framlingham, Suffolk on 3 December 1990. WRAC.

BLACKWOOD. Mrs B Blackwood (née Liverardge) of Middlesbrough on 16 August 1990. Cpl ATS.

BOTHWELL. Mrs M E Bothwell (née Harries) of Shrewsbury, Shropshire in September 1990. ATS.

BREAR. Mrs R H Brear (née Reed) of Freshwater, IOW on 3 July 1990. ATS.

CARTER. Miss Muriel Audrey Carter MBE of Sutton, Surrey on 29 August 1990. ATS.

CHEER. Mrs E M Cheer (née Knott). ATS.

CHRISTMAS. Mrs Josephine Christmas (née Hart) of London on 6 May 1990. ATS.

COTTEY. Mrs M Cottey (née Humphries) of Sheffield on 7 July 1990. LCpl ATS and WRAC.

DUFF. Miss Alice Duff of Glasgow in August 1990. ATS.

ELLIS. Mrs I T (Terri) Ellis (née Champion) in New Zealand on 19 November 1989. ATS.

FINN. Mrs V Finn (née Kipling-Owens) of Cleveland in 1990. Cpl ATS.

GOODRUM. Mrs Olwyn Goodrum (née Brown) of Middlesbrough on 20 December 1990. ATS.

GOURLAY. Miss Mary (Molly) P Gourlay OBE of Camberley on 1 October 1990.

HARDWICKE. Mrs Barbara Hardwicke (née Twitty) in September 1990. ATS and WRAC.

HIDDERLEY. Mrs D L A Hidderley (née Herboldt) of Cheltenham on 4 July 1990. Captain ATS.

HITCH. Mrs Eva M Hitch (née Simcox) of Great Barr, Birmingham on 21 December 1990. ATS.

HOBKIRK. Colonel Elspeth I W Hobkirk CBE of Edinburgh on 21 August 1990. ATS and WRAC.

HOLMES A COURT. Miss B M Holmes a Court OBE of Dorset on 23 February 1990.

HOOPER. Captain (QM) B Hooper on 23 March 1990. WRAC.

KELLY. Mrs Winifred Ellen Kelly of Stroud, Glos on 28 October 1990. WRAC.

LANE. Miss Elsie Lane of London in August 1990. WRAC(TA).

LLOYD. Mrs Emmeline Lloyd (née Lucas) of Liverpool on 28 July 1990. Cpl ATS.

LUMLEY. Mrs Constance Lucy Lumley (née Smith) of Great Yarmouth on 24 December 1990. LCpl ATS and WRAC.

MAPP. Mrs M (Peggy) A Mapp (née Heard) on 27 February 1990. Senior Commander ATS.

MASSEY. Mrs A M Massey (née Dobson) of Edinburgh in 1990. 2nd Sub ATS.

MCDONALD. Mrs Georgina McDonald (née Johnson) of Wolverhampton in May 1990. ATS.

MCRROBERT. Miss V M McRobert of Newcastle in 1990. ATS.

MENZIES. Mrs Mary Menzies (née Ross) of Dingwell, Rosshire on 20 December 1990. Junior Commander ATS.

MITCHEL. Mrs N A Mitchel (née Page) of Portland, Dorset on 12 November 1990. ATS.

NEWTON. Mrs Marjorie N Newton (née Stevenson) of Seaford, Sussex on 31 August 1990. WAAC.

OMARINI. Miss Elide Omarini of Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset on 8 September 1990. ATS.

PALMER. Miss D V Palmer of Rustington, Sussex on 10 September 1990. Captain WRAC.

LE PAGE. Miss Nancy Le Page of Guernsey on 8 September 1990. ATS.

PEARKS. Miss Mary of Banstead, Surrey on 29 December 1990. ATS.

POSFORD. Miss Joshephine Posford of Trimley, St Mary, Suffolk in 1990. Junior Commander ATS.

ROBINSON. Mrs Nancy Robinson (née Mornin) of North Arbury, Cambridge on 25 December 1990. ATS.

ROULSTON. Mrs Margaret (Peg) Roulston of Co Tyrone in 1990. ATS.

SALTER. Miss K R F Salter of Leeds on 10 November 1990. ATS.

STEWARD. Miss Florence Seward of Street, Somerset on 24 July 1990. Cpl ATS.

SHEARER. Mrs F P H Shearer (née Williamson) of Inverness on 4 August 1990. Sgt ATS.

SHERIDAN. Mrs Maud M Sheridan (née Winkfield) of Rugby in 1990. QMAAC.

SMITH. Mrs Mary Smith of Skelmersdale on 9 August 1990. QMAAC.

SOUTER. Mrs Elizabeth H S Souter (née Davidson) of Edinburgh on 30 June 1990. QMAAC.

THOMPSON. Miss Elsie May Thompson of Hornsea on 14 November 1990. QMAAC.

WATSON. Mrs Florence Watson (née Shepherd) of Leeds in December 1990. ATS.

WELBOURN. Mrs D Welbourn (née Jennings) of Grimsby in 1990. ATS.

WIGHTMAN. Miss Elizabeth Wightman of Carlisle in 1990. ATS.

WILLIAMS. Mrs (Sue) Violet Williams of Eastleigh, Hants in September 1990. ATS.

WINTER. Mrs Betty Winter (née Alton) of Middlesbrough on 24 December 1990. ATS.

TRIBUTES

Colonel E I W Hobkirk CBE TD

Colonel E I W Hobkirk the daughter of a senior Army officer, started her military career with the FANY S and on the formation of 6th Western MT Coy, became a Section Leader in the ATS and later, a Company Assistant which she was when war broke out. She remained a Regimental officer, chiefly with MT units, until February 1944 when she became DADATS, Western Command. June 1945 saw her appointment as ADATS Mid West District and exactly a year later DDATS at the War Office, where she completed her three year tour and earned the CBE.

After two years at Eastern Command and a total of six years as a Colonel she decided to turn her talents to civilian life and seek new challenges. Her charm and sympathy, combined with a wide cultural outlook and deep interest in all human problems, were qualities she freely gave as a Regimental officer in all her appointments and not least as Deputy at the War Office, where she was during the most important policy-forming years of the Women's Royal Army Corps. She always did what she thought to be right and once she had decided upon a course of action she was totally inflexible.

She retired from the Army in 1952 and was appointed to the post of head warden of Bristol Royal Hospital followed in 1954 by an appointment as prison governor at Duke Street Glasgow. Her calibre was quickly realised and in 1956 she became woman adviser to the Scottish Home & Health Department on conditions of detention of women and girls in Scotland. Her developing interest in social affairs was employed on many panels and boards during the next few years which absorbed her immense energy.

Sadly she died on 21 August 1990 aged 87 years after a life distinguished by an immense capacity for service and a deep understanding of her fellow beings.

Lieutenant Colonel S M Bishop MBE WRAC

Lt Col S M Bishop was born on 29 May 1944 and spent her childhood in the West Midlands. She trained as a secondary school teacher and taught at a number of schools before joining the Army in 1972.

As a mature entrant to the WRAC she attended the short course at the WRAC College and on commissioning was posted to COD Donnington as a platoon commander. Quickly promoted to Captain she next became OC WRAC at the National Defence College Latimer. Her introduction to Staff work came as Staff Captain WRAC at HQ SEDIST followed by Staff Captain at AG16 in Stanmore.

After a tour at CAD Kinton she was promoted to Major in September 1980 and posted as DAA/QMG to the WRAC Directorate. Returning to regimental duty she commanded 12 Coy WRAC at Mill Hill where she faced the difficult task of balancing the diverse needs of her servicewomen, half of whom were employed as clerks in the MOD, whilst the remainder worked as postal and courier operators.

A posting to HQ BAOR as SO2 G1 Personal Services provided another challenge. During her first year she helped to develop the Youth Training Scheme and laid the foundation for the British Forces Germany YTS scheme as well as preparing the ground for the BFG Teletext. Her second year was marked by an increased emphasis in the Welfare field and as a result of her excellent achievements she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1987.

Before being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June 1987, she had a short tour at 16 Bn RAOC as OC D Coy. Then she moved to HQ SEDIST to take up her appointment

as SO1 G1/G4 and Comd WRAC. She quickly mastered the contractorisation system, to the benefit of all units in the District. At the same time she took a lead in fostering the co-located museum project. Her heavy workload by virtue of her staff appointment did not deter her from regularly visiting units where WRAC were employed, holding study days for WRAC officers and carrying out her duties as Chairman of the Army Women's Hockey Association. Hockey players will remember her familiar figure on the sideline giving much verbal encouragement whatever the weather and whatever the day of the week. During her chairmanship the Army team won the Inter Services Championship twice and through her encouragement raised sufficient money for a tour of Hong Kong in September 1990.

To some Lt Col Bishop appeared to be a formidable figure but on closer acquaintance was found to be a woman of integrity; determined, reliable, enthusiastic, diligent and devoted to duty. She showed great loyalty to her Corps and unit but above all was her care and concern for others.

Her untimely death on 3 December 1990 was a tragedy and she will be greatly missed by all members of the Corps and Association as well as a large part of the Army.

Those who have visited the WRAC Museum and particularly the Royal room will see a permanent memorial to Sally Bishop's dogged determination. Through her successful efforts to obtain the financial backing required for the Royal room we now have splendid surroundings for our Royal uniforms.

Major D J Adams



Diana Adams who died on 27 June 1990, joined the ATS in 1940 and after commissioning in 1942, served with the RAPC at home and in the Middle East until 1952. Her regular army career included service at the WRAC Depot, at Richmond Park Camp, in Malaysia and Singapore, and finally as a War Office Staff Officer. This latter post enabled her to live in London for eight years where she indulged her love of theatre and love of people, her flat providing accommodation, entertainment and a social setting for a constant stream of relatives, friends, colleagues and overseas visitors. For many years she was beset by persistent ill-health, but despite this she visited most countries of the world and became an expert on foreign travel. She was an authority on Bucks Point lacemaking, a craft which she practised and taught, writing on the subject with the aim of promoting its revival. Her book, "Elsie Turnham, Lace Collector", was published in 1984 by the Kylin Press.

The fact that she led such a full and active life vigorously pursuing her many interests whilst fighting against debilitating physical handicap is a tribute to the indomitable spirit which characterised her whole life.

Miss D V Palmer



Capt D V Palmer. 1965.

Sadly Miss Valerie Palmer, who served as a Captain WRAC between 1955 and 1965 died on 10 September 1990. Her friends remember her as a delightful person with a great zest and enthusiasm for life. Early in her career she was selected to be the first WRAC ADC – to Lt Gen Sir William Turner KBE CB DSO, and this resulted in a lifelong

friendship with him and his wife. Later she served in Germany and Malta where her energetic approach to work and play, and her sense of fun, endeared her to many. Gradually, in her late twenties, she developed multiple sclerosis, and tragically lost her speech at the beginning of the illness, making communication during the next 25 years extremely difficult. She is remembered with much affection by myself, and Fiona Burley (née Macdonald), and Jacqueline Mayo (née Armstrong), and many others.

R C-D

WRAC MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT APPEAL BENEFACTORS

List No 9

This list is in addition to lists 1–8 published in previous editions of *Lioness*.

Names here are of those who have subscribed since previous lists were published.

Royal British Legion Women's Section
Cleveland Branch
Liverpool University OTC
Captain K J Blackburn
Major V M Brighton
Miss J A Jones OBE
Alyn T Lloyd Esq
Captain S McLean
Captain S M Russell
Captain B J Taylor
Captain C M Wilson

WRAC ASSOCIATION APPOINTMENTS

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

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

South-East Area

ALDERSHOT
BRIGHTON
CANTERBURY
DEAL
EASTBOURNE
HASTINGS
MEDWAY

Western Area

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

London and Eastern Area

BRAINTREE
CAMBRIDGE
CHELMSFORD
COLCHESTER
GREATER LONDON
ILFORD
LONDON

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK
WIMBLEDON

Scottish Area

ABERDEEN
AYRSHIRE
BERWICK
DUMFRIESSHIRE
EDINBURGH
FIFE AND TAYSIDE
GLASGOW
INVERNESS
STIRLING

Northern Ireland Area

OMAGH
ULSTER

South-West Area

ANDOVER
BATH
BOURNEMOUTH
CHELTENHAM
EXETER
GUERNSEY
ISLE OF WIGHT
PLYMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH
SALISBURY
SOMERSET
SOUTHAMPTON

SWINDON
WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND
WINCANTON

Northern Area

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

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

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BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1990

	£	1990	£	£	1989	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1st November 1989			115,863			68,967
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure			15,802			35,555
Less: Transfers from Reunion Fund			-			16,787
			<u>131,665</u>			<u>121,309</u>
Less Transfers to other funds			(19,553)			(5,446)
			<u>112,112</u>			<u>115,863</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	7,677			7,032		
Lioness Life Subscription	<u>11,494</u>			<u>10,510</u>		
			19,171			17,542
MUSEUM APPEAL FUND			6,414			(10,198)
REUNION FUND			18,201			-
			<u>£155,898</u>			<u>£123,207</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
FIXED ASSETS						
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less						
Depreciation			2			2
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule						
(Market Value £85,496)			66,633			36,656
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock of Badges				123		
Association Standard			199	199		
Sundry Debtors			152	1,878		
Cash at Bank – Current Account			3,801	397		
– Deposit Accounts			85,592	79,563		
– Investment Account			-	5,000		
Cash in Hand			261	222		
			<u>90,005</u>	<u>87,382</u>		
Less: Sundry Creditors			742	833		
			<u>89,263</u>			86,549
			<u>£155,898</u>			<u>£123,207</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1990

1989 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1990 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund – 5,564 Units	10,247	27,049
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
5,311	8.75% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £10,000.00	8,324	8,962
4,520	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £5,711.94	4,520	4,423
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	4,968
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	6,305
1,981	10% Treasury Stock – 1992 – £2,001.19	-	-
1,588	9% Treasury Stock – 1994 – £10,000.00	9,392	9,245
3,515	8% Treasury Loan – 1992 – £3,564.75	3,515	3,416
	9.75% Exchequer Stock – 1998 – £11,115.00	10,571	10,538
	12.25% Exchequer Stock – 1999 – £10,030.00	10,570	10,540
<u>£36,656</u>		<u>£66,633</u>	<u>£85,496</u>

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

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1990

	£	1990	£	£	1989	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual.....	3,471			4,648		
Proportion of Life Subscription	567			509		
			4,038			5,157
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions	14,083			7,182		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	834			746		
Advertisement Revenue	1,053			1,151		
	15,970			9,079		
Less: Cost of Publication	19,419			12,697		
			(3,449)			(3,618)
OTHER INCOME						
Legacies	—			25,601		
Income from Investments	5,253			6,246		
Deposit Account Interest	14,566			5,836		
Sale of Badges	16			63		
Gain on Investment Sales and Investment Redemptions	(21)			1,799		
			19,814			39,545
TOTAL INCOME			<u>£20,403</u>			<u>£41,084</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees	137			745		
Grants	—			—		
			137			745
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. Expenses	1,909			1,469		
Printing and Stationery	847			1,762		
Postages	384			517		
Subscriptions and Donations	119			226		
Travel Expenses	117			144		
Audit and Accountancy Fee	753			641		
Sundry Expenses	303			25		
Bank Charges	32			—		
			4,464			4,784
			<u>£4,601</u>			<u>£5,529</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£15,802</u>			<u>£35,555</u>

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

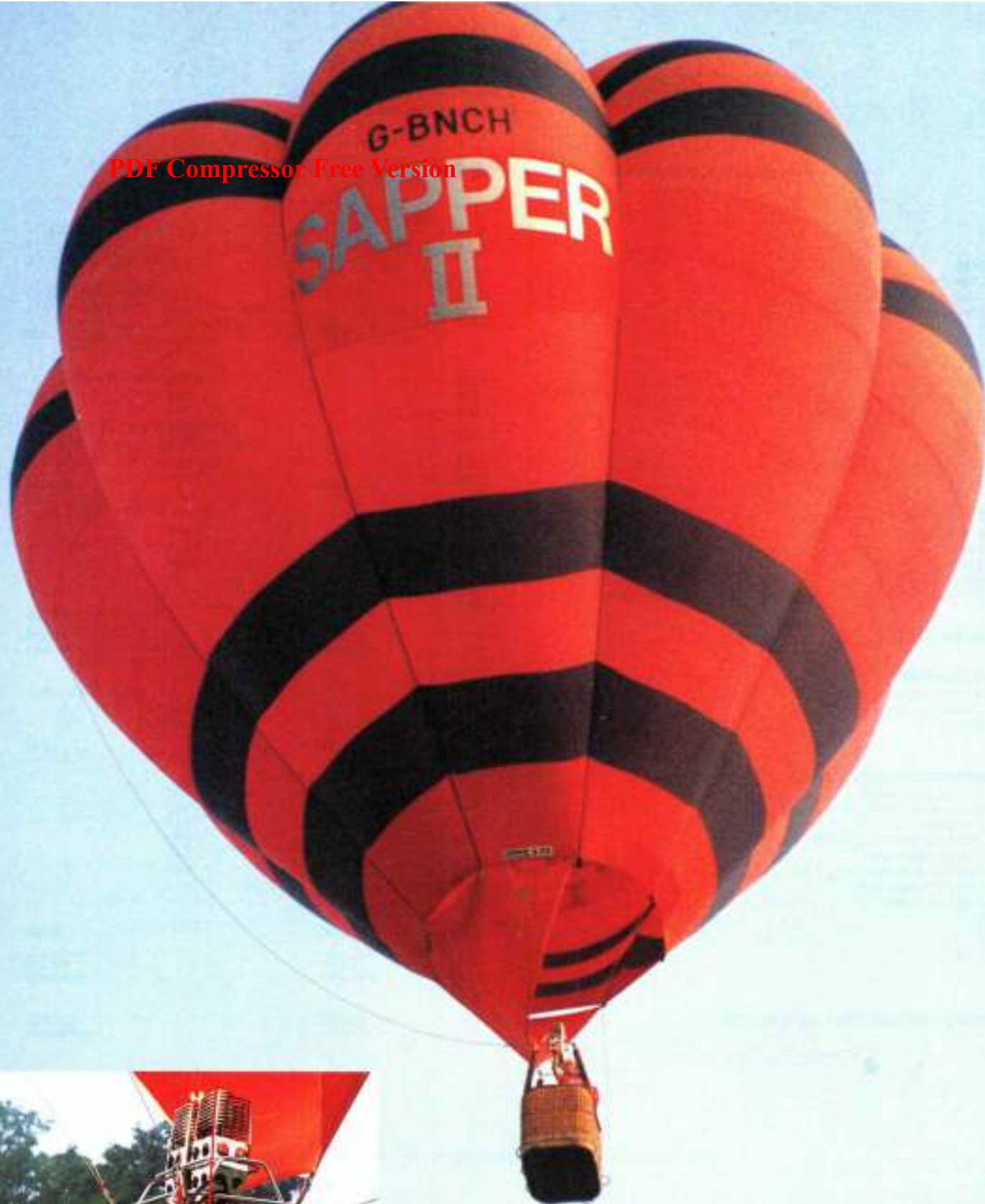
We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and in our opinion they give a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31 October 1990 and of its Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

17 December 1990

The Clock House,
140 London Road,
GUILDFORD
Surrey GU1 1UW

BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants

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"So long,
farewell . . ."