

1992

No1

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Lioness



WOMENS ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

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Founded in 1919

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Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1992

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Front Cover Photograph
Uniform designs chosen for
Women in the Army

Back Cover Photograph
Brigadier Bullock, Commander RCZ
at 68 Sqn Rct
with a cross section of vehicles
and various members of the 3 Troops

SHOPPING LIST

	£	p&p	
ATS Spoons	1.95	60p	(up to 6)
ATS Shields	9.50	75p	
ATS Silver plated brooches	2.00	20p	(up to 6)
ATS Post Cards	.15	20p	(up to 6)
Baseball Caps Red, Green, Blue, Yellow	4.00	60p	
Biro pens	.30	20p	(up to 6)
Brief Cases	2.00	35p	
Corps Drum Ice Bucket	16.50	2.00	
Corps History (hardback)	5.50	85p	
Corps History (paperback)	3.00	60p	
Corps Shield	9.50	75p	
Document Cases	1.25	40p	
ID Card/Season Ticket/Bank Card Holder	.70	25p	(up to 6)
Key Rings, leather	.60	20p	(up to 6)
Prints by Ken Howard:			
Unsigned/Indoor	3.00	50p	(up to 3)
Sweatshirts (green, red, black, white and blue)	7.50	75p	
T-shirts (white, red and blue)	3.50	50p	
WRAC Brooches	1.75	20p	(up to 6)
WRAC Association Brooches	1.75	20p	(up to 6)
WRAC Spoons	1.95	50p	(up to 6)
WRAC Desk Memo Pad	1.80	40p	

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 WRAC Association A/C and sent to Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

Rates of postage are for UK only. If ordering items to be sent to BAOR, the Republic of Ireland or any other overseas destinations extra money should be included.

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

Officers bullion wired cap badges £4.50 + 40p p&p
Cheques made payable to HQ Mess.

Now is the time to make sure that you have the souvenirs of your service with the WRAC and/or ATS - "WHILE STOCKS LAST".

WRAC STAFF BAND

Engagements 1992

March 9–13 (Provisional)	Schools Tour-Lincoln.
March 21	Grand Finale Concert, Civic Hall, Guildford
March 24	Civic Ceremony, Guildford
April 15	Playing off 'Sea Princess' – Southampton Docks
May 17	Mayoral Sunday – Aldershot
May 24–29	Concerts Eastbourne Bandstand
June 4	Playing off 'Canberra' Southampton Docks
July 6–25	Royal Tournament – Earls Court, London
August 9–15	Concerts, Pine Walk Bandstand, Bournemouth
August 16	VJ Parade, Guildford
August 28	Playing off 'Canberra' – Southampton Docks

FINAL CURTAIN

The Staff Band of the WRAC past and present members' "Ultimate Finale" on the 21 March 1992 at the Civic Hall, Guildford.

This will be a Grand Concert involving as many ex-playing members of the Band as possible.

Rehearsals will be at the Civic Hall from 1400 hrs onwards, with a "Grand" public performance in the evening at 1930 hrs.

For further information contact the Band Office on (0252) 355568.

All ex-Corps members (musical or not!) are very welcome.

LET'S MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

SIDE HATS

WRAC approved pattern side hats for service-women are available now at a cost of £20 each which includes the badge and packing and postage. Send your order with remittance to:

PRI Shop
WRAC Centre
Queen Elizabeth Park
GUILDFORD GU2 6QH

Bulk orders from units are welcomed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to The Colonel Commandant, Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie on two scores. Congratulations first on his promotion to Lieutenant General and appointment as Commander of 1st British Corps on 2 December 1991. Second congratulations on his appointment as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the New Years Honours List on 1 January 1992.

Our sincere congratulations are offered to the following ladies for having received the Joint commander's Commendations for Op Granby:

Major P M Huggett TD WRAC (V), Warrant Officer 1 C A M Rowatt MBE, Corporals M Farrett, P A Homan, A Le' Mon, Lance Corporals V P Cartwright, N A Witney.



Pictured above, SSgt Cindy Wyllie was presented with her BEM by Lt Gen Sir Richard Swinburn KCB, GOC SEDIST



This photograph shows Sgt Lesley Holt with DWRAC, Brigadier Gael Ramsey who presented Lesley with her LSGC in July last year.



Sgt Maureen Green received her LSGC from Brigadier Gael Ramsey, DWRAC in July last year. Pictured here with them are some members of Maureen's family (front to back): Mother Norah and brothers and sisters Kath, Pauline, Christine, Maurice, James, Alan and Thomas.



LCpl Johanna Wells pictured above who lives in Eastleigh has been awarded the Young Soldier of the Year certificate, presented by the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. Johanna, who works with the Eastleigh Fire Brigade joined the TA on 9 January 1990, enlisting with RMP. She was promoted on 20 August 1990 and serves with Southampton Detachment 253 Pro Coy RMP (V).

If you are serving and would like to ensure that you continue to receive Lioness, turn to page 25.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE TINA IS AN ARMY FIRST

Joining the Army was a childhood ambition for Tina Williams. Now Private Williams, finds she is unique within the British forces – she's the first ever WRAC trained to use the 'Wavell' computer system.

Eighteen year old Tina, whose family live near Ely, is currently serving with the Royal Signals in Germany. She recently completed a special 'Wavell' course and has now returned to her unit – 22 Signal Regiment based at Lippstadt – where she is operating the information processing equipment.

Keen to avoid office work which she feared might be boring, the former pupil of Witchford College, joined the Army last year and has since served in the UK and Germany, working as a telex operator.

Looking for a new challenge, Tina attended the 'Wavell' training course, and in doing so has joined the ranks of a handful of WRAC who are currently training to fulfil traditionally male roles within the Army.

"At first I wasn't sure whether I would be able to master the computer system," said Tina, "but I have it's great to be mucking in and working alongside the men".



*Pte Tina Williams and her Course Instructor
SSgt Thomas*

FIRST CENTURY FOR WRAC

Mrs May McLean celebrated her 100th Birthday on September 2nd 1991. As Miss May Merry she joined Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps in 1917 and served as a clerk in Rouen, France. She served for 2 years in the statistics office.

Mrs McLean received a bunch of flowers and bottle of sherry from Captain Carol Burnell on behalf of all ranks WRAC.

This remarkable lady had been to lunch with her family which includes 14 great-grandchildren. She spoke to us for three quarters of an hour. She told us how she and her sister with 2 friends volunteered and joined up together. As part of the first 500 they wore officers material uniform but as the Corps expanded the quality of the material dropped and she did not like the drab khaki. She recalled not only many happy times but also the horror of the statistics and records she was keeping.

Hopefully Mrs McLean will continue to enjoy her health and the WRAC can anticipate an annual donation of flowers and sherry for many years to come!!



Mrs May McLean at 100 years young

PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

On 17 December 1991, the High Court decided that the dismissal of Servicewomen on pregnancy was unlawful.

Former servicewomen who were compulsorily retired or discharge on pregnancy between 9 August 1978 and 13 August 1990, and who believe that they may qualify for payments will have their claims considered. Enquirers should write to MOD AG Secretariat 1, Room 814, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. Full service details should be included ie. number, rank and name and maiden name, together with date of retirement or discharge, reason for discharge as recorded in their discharge documentation and date of birth of child.

All enquiries will be acknowledged but because detailed procedures for handling claims have yet to be decided on a tri-service basis, payment may take some time.

ASSISTANT CORPS SECRETARY

Early in November 1991, we bade a sad farewell to Capt (Retd) Kate McGregor who, after four years as Assistant Corps Secretary, Curator of the WRAC Museum, Editor of Lioness and Secretary of HQ Mess, has left to accompany her husband to Abu Dhabi. Many thanks for all your hard work at Corps HQ Kate, and Good Luck for the future.

UNIT NEWS

B Company

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Some might have said that using one company to administer the needs of both men and women was a recipe for disaster, and that April Fools Day was an appropriate day for B Company to be formed, however the Company has proved its critics wrong and is working hard at providing a worthwhile service for the majority of men and women working in Rheindahlen Garrison and Headquarters BAOR.

B Company is nearly 700 strong on paper.

WO2 H Merritt MSM Kings Own Royal Border Regiment, soon established himself as CSM B Company, and having been CSM C Company since January 1986 he provides an invaluable depth of knowledge of all C Company personnel. In September he was presented the Meritorious Service Medal by the Commander-in-Chief BAOR, General Sir Peter Inge KCB ADC GEN, for 30 years of service with the colours.

B Company has continued where 29 Company and C Company left off, dominating many sporting events. In April the Badminton team, Lt Young, WO1 (RSM) Poklekowski, Sgt Harmsworth, and LCpl Kane became Army Champions at the Army Inter Unit Championships in Winchester. In May B Company were overall winners at the Rheindahlen Garrison Athletic Competition, with Cpl Watts receiving a prize for the best female athlete of the day.



B Company, Winners of the Garrison Athletics

In June the team went to Berlin to participate in the BAOR Rounders Competition, and a sponsored swim was organised in Rheindahlen to raise money for living in soldiers accommodation and the British Heart Foundation. The team; QMSI Dorrington, Sgt Harmsworth, Lt Young, Cpl Watts, Sgt Graham, Bdr Harris and Bdr Anderson raised a total of over DM1000.

On the 3 July the Company ran the Rheindahlen Allied Marches for almost 2,000 personnel. The girls enjoyed helping with the medal presentation as they got to kiss as many male marchers as they liked!

During the last two weeks in July the Company also ran the Rheindahlen Junior Tennis, which catered for 220 children aged from 9 to 19. The children enjoyed 5 days coaching followed by a tournament which lasted 3 days, a BBQ was held on the Saturday for 450 people. Both Sgt Graham and Sgt Leitch thoroughly enjoyed the two weeks,

ending up with a nice tan. Sgt Graham also managed to improve her tennis as she joined in the coaching with the other children.

In July the BAOR Women's Inter Unit Tennis Tournament was played. Second place was fiercely fought out between B Company, 68 Sqn RCT and 13 Signal Regt, but unfortunately B Company ended up 4th.

In September a team of 7 participated in EXERCISE CROSSBOW. This very physical week in Dusseldorf involved log runs, driving trains and other vehicles, lifting railway sleepers, practising NBC, First Aid and other military tactics. A full report appears elsewhere in Lioness.

On a lighter note, Cpl Walters organised 'The Stonker' - Red Nose Day 3, a sponsored netball match in fancy dress to focus attention on the amalgamation in March. The event raised DM4000 for Children In Need and was a hilarious experience.

A fancy dress volleyball contest followed suit in June and a car boot sale, organised by B Company, raised DM1000 for Block Improvements. Several members of B Company have had the chance of cruising around the Algarve (Ex Signal Venture I) or participating on an Outward Bounds Course in Scotland. Many more have similar activities organised for next year. In fact as this article is being written, B Company 2IC, Capt R E Hadfield, is leading an expedition in Corsica with a group from B Company.

Therefore despite the upheaval of amalgamating, the Company is settling down in its new role and work is carrying on as normal, whatever that may be.



Cpl Walters presenting a cheque for £1,351.22 to Col I Cameron for Children in Need



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

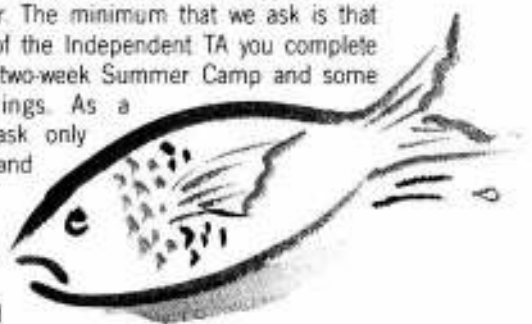
role in our home defence, and in particular is suitable for people with limited spare time.

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.



DW(A) VISIT TO B COMPANY
22 NOV 91

Brigadier G K Ramsey MBE ADC joined the WRAC personnel from B Company employed in Rheindahlen Garrison, and staff of the Company Headquarters for a quick cup of coffee on Friday 22 November 1991. This is the last time that Brigadier Ramsey will visit BAOR in her role as Director of Womens' Royal Army Corps as the AG Corps is to be formed in April 1992. The visit allowed women to ask a number of questions to the Director, expressing their worries about the future, and the Brigadier was able to instill some confidence by informing B Company of the plans being made, and the new challenges and openings the AG Corps will provide for women in the Army.

Towards the end of the very brief visit, recently promoted Sgt King presented Brigadier Ramsey with a framed copy of



Brigadier Ramsey receiving a 29 Company WRAC Commemorative First Day Cover from Sgt King whilst visiting B Company at JHQ

the 1st Day Cover that was produced in memory of the disbandment of 29 Company WRAC in April 1991.

As an example of the adjustments being made in the Army, Brigadier Ramsey spoke at length to LCpl Jeffreys who is due to go on maternity leave on 29 November 1991. LCpl Jeffreys is hoping to return after the birth of her child, thereby taking advantage of the new rulings about statutory maternity pay and the 29 weeks unpaid leave to which she is now entitled.

A "SCREW" IN RHEINDAHLEN
by SSgt (CQMS) J Howat MPSC

1 April 1991 a momentous day, the day C Company ceased to exist and the new B Company rose phoenix-like from the ashes of C Company and 29 Coy WRAC.

This amalgamation, was in fact a recommendation from the 'DAMA' team, (sounds familiar), and was probably logical, as C Company existed to provide admin support for male serving personnel employed mainly in HQ BAOR, and 29 Coy provided similar support for the females. Combine the two they said, and it was done! The result a 'COMPANY' some 700 strong, (on paper), bigger than most battalions.

The actual company itself, is commanded by Maj J E

Brodie-Murphy WRAC, ably assisted by her 2IC Capt R E Hadfield WRAC. Next in line is Lt Young WRAC, the Admin Officer, a slight bias towards the WRAC in the higher echelons. The CSM, WO2 Harry Merritt, Kings Own Border Regt, came over from the old C Company as did my own empire, the CQMS department. The remainder of the Company being made up of a WRAC Chief Clerk, two WRAC Admin Sgts, a WRAC clerk and RAOC (male!) clerk.

Old C Company hands will see that things have changed a great deal from the somewhat sleepy life in the old C Company.

The actual day to day workload has more than doubled! But I suppose that is only to be expected, as the amount of accommodation blocks looked after by the department has increased slightly, from the two male blocks looked after by the old C Coy, we now have an additional 7 female blocks, a large percentage of the entire single accommodation within the Garrison. As well as this increase in living accommodation, we have gradually taken over almost all the G1198 and bedding accounts for most of the smaller sub-units within the Garrison, no wonder I'm hairless on top!!

The transition period was slightly difficult, to say the least! The actual move, due to having to keep C Company functioning right till the last moment, was rather protracted, but helped considerably by the willing work force from the MFO department, kindly loaned to us, when not employed in their legitimate task of moving MFO, by SSgt Stevie Stevenson MPSC, ex of the QM's Department, now "skiving" with the TA for his last six months of service in Peterborough. Eventually though, all was in position, and nothing 'lost' en-route, though admittedly the actual building we are now in as B Company, is only some 1 km distance from the old C Company. The next big problem was getting the girls used to having a male CQMS and Storeman. The first few times we entered the blocks with German workmen in tow there was much giggling and hurried attempts to ensure that there were not items of frilly female type underwear on display and that was in the male blocks!!!

Gradually though, everyone has got used to the idea of a mixed company, and although there are times when the different male and female approach to particular problems can cause some difficulties, usually with some discussion, a solution is arrived at. The saying of B Company's - We do not have problems only solutions.

68 SQN RCT

On the work front, the Sqn has been kept busy - out on the road and also being ready for Comd RCZ, Brigadier R M Bullock's visit, Mon 22 Jul 91. The vehicles were gleaming as the Brigadier was shown around the Sqn as part of his annual inspection and the first Opeval visit to 2 Gp RCT.

The Brigadier was shown a cross section of 68 Sqn's range of vehicles and is shown on the back cover of Lioness with various members of the 3 troops.

Last but no means least are our sporting efforts, the girls of 68 Sqn have just won the Army Inter Unit Rounders Challenge Cup for the fourth year running. Although losing a match to 41 Sqn the overall result was on rounders difference. The future battles with 41 Sqn over the title will be well worth watching... The hockey team have also done remarkably well in achieving fourth place out of forty two teams during the 7 aside Hockey Tournament at Aldershot.

NEWS FROM GIBRALTAR

by Capt L J D Callow BEM R IRISH

LADIES PHOTOCALL



Brigadier Gael Ramsey, Director WRAC meets her Girls on the Rock

The Brigadier was visiting for a few days recently to see for herself what the dozen members of her Corps do here and brief them personally on new developments in the Role of Service Women throughout the Army.

During her visit Brigadier Ramsey toured the Rock and its tunnels, was interviewed by Gibraltar TV and Radio and received a cheque for £355.10 on behalf of the WRAC Benevolent Fund as part of the monies raised by the St Michael's Cave Concert, given by the WRAC Staff Band.

MAN THE GUNS

LCpl Wendy Smith – Recorder



LCpl Wendy Smith – Recorder

The Women's Royal Army Corps have been going Great Guns on Gibraltar, when Lance Corporal Wendy Smith acted as Recorder for Thomson's Battery of the Gibraltar Regiment, when they fired a 21 Gun Salute recently.

Wendy 23 from Belfast is currently on attachment to the 'Rock' Regiment as a Pay Clerk.

ROCK LADYKILLERS

Exercise "ROCK LADYKILLER" was the code name given to the Rock of Gibraltar's first Womens Inter-Service Challenge Day.

Teams of Servicewomen from all three Services and the locally recruited Government Service Police battled all day long on Saturday 1 June to discover which service were the real "LADYKILLERS".

The Challenges included fire fighting, evacuating a casualty under fire and building and sailing your own raft. "The whole thing is a bit like an audition for a Bond Movie" remarked one of the WRENS, competing for the Royal Navy.

The day was organised by Womens Royal Army Corps Captain Jacqui Davidson who said "The aim of the day, was not to have a stab at male chauvinism, but to encourage more interaction between the Services and demonstrate that the girls are just as good as the boys when it comes to fighting fires, crossing shark infested rivers, sailing off into the wild blue yonder or just delivering chocolates".

The girls competed very hard but the Royal Navy's team of WRENS carried the day and after some superb shooting and expert raft building, were declared "ROCK LADYKILLERS 1991". The event was a great success, providing some excellent spectator sport and raising over £800.00 for the Gibraltar Diabetic Association.



The WRAC Team, Paddling to Victory with Sgts Jo Worsdall and Ann Thompson at the helm

Deeds of Covenant

A Deed of Covenant provides a simple and tax-efficient way to transfer income. As you are already aware the charities you support are able to claim back the basic rate of income tax on any covenanted donations. What you may not be aware is that the Inland Revenue deducts any covenanted sums from your total income before calculating your liability to tax. This means that those paying a higher rate of tax will save the difference between the higher and basic rate of tax for any sums covenanted.

However, HM Inspector of Taxes will not automatically apply this benefit and it is up to the individual to advise the inspector of the sums covenanted. The simplest way to do this being to enter the amounts covenanted in the appropriate box on the tax return form. Finally to ensure you continue to receive this benefit you must repeat the process annually.

FRONT LINE GIRLS

In the front line of the Army's drive for female equality are Privates Samantha (Sam) Moger (19), Debbie Acton (17) and Catherine Eden (21). They represent an as yet handful of girls in the 33 Armoured Division to take up jobs which in the past have been considered as mens work.

Samantha, whose family live in Portsmouth, is the first girl to serve with Oscar Troop of the Divisional Signal Regiment's 2 Squadron, which supports the Division's HQ on operations and exercises. For Samantha it means working shoulder to shoulder with other members of the crew, male and in the future female, in the cramped confines of a tracked armoured vehicle parked close to the HQ which in war would be an attractive target to any enemy.

Debbie and Catherine are two out of four girls with 5 Armoured Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers which supports 3 Armoured Division. Debbie, who hails from Brighton, joined the Army just under a year ago. During the recent 33 Armoured Brigade Exercise Taurus Canter, with the experience of her course at Bordon behind her, as a member of the vehicle platoon of 5 Main Repair Group, she was well able to tackle suspensions and transmissions and anything else that is a vehicle mechanics lot.

Catherine, from Wakefield, has been in the Army a little longer than the others. After service with the Postal and Courier service at Mill Hill she heard that opportunity knocked with REME. On Exercise Taurus Canter she found herself as a member of the power pack repair section and as such reconditioning the massive power packs from Main Battle Tanks, which had been backloaded for repair. Catherine's choice of career is perhaps not all that surprising because cars if not tanks are already in her blood as her Dad is an agent for Nissan in Leeds while his daughter is repairing tank engines in Germany.



Pte Catherine Jane Eden (21) describes her work repairing heavy tank power packs as "enjoyable, interesting and dirty!"

Last word goes to Debbie and Catherine's boss, Workshop Commander, Major Tony Anthistle who said, "The girls are excellent, they have fitted in extremely well as very effective members of the team who I am delighted to have in the workshop."



Pte Samantha Moger (19) checks the line to make sure that Divisional message traffic flows uninterrupted during Exercise Taurus Canter



Pte Debbie Action (17) puts the finishing touches to an accident damaged landrover of the Life Guards

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GULF POSTMEN RAISE MONEY FOR GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND



Bulford based Army Postmen and women raised £2,000 for Guide Dogs for the Blind in a charity half marathon during their time in the Gulf. The cheque handover ceremony took place in Bulford at 11.00 am Monday September 9th.

The 17 competitors completed the 21 kilometre course over the desert in a blistering temperature of 104 degrees!

The money is to provide 2 guide dogs for the blind. The dogs are appropriately to be called Granby I and Granby II. Granby I will go to the local Salisbury and District Branch.

The first cheque for £1,000 was handed over to Mr Ken Lovelock, senior member of the local Branch, himself a blind man, by Brigadier Hugh Pye, Commander Bulford Garrison.

The second cheque for £1,000 was handed over to the Mill Hill London Branch in early October 1991 for Granby II.

Major Lyons says he is now raising funds for a Granby III Dog and all donations for that purpose will be gratefully received by him at 21 PC Sqn RE, Ward Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9BN.

A CHANGING ARMY – A SERVING MUM

3 Base Ammunition Depot, BFPO 40
by W/Sgt S E Edwards BEM

Private Chris Smedley (née Curry) joined the Army in November 1986 and is married to LCpl Terry Smedley RAOC, a driver at 3 BAD. She is believed to be the first mum to serve on, having had a baby in February 1991 and returned to duty.

After passing out from Guildford, Chris went to Blackdown to complete her trade training as a Supply Specialist, and from there was posted to COD Donnington. In February 1989 Chris was posted to 3 BAD where she has been employed in ASD. Operation Granby saw Chris sent to the Gulf in October 1990 where she worked in the CQMS Dept, 51 Ord Coy.

In January 1991, Chris was casevacated back to the UK, when it was discovered that she was pregnant. Early tests showed that Chris was 4 months pregnant, later tests in fact proved her to be 7 months pregnant, so there was very nearly a Gulf baby. Their baby, Darryl Lee, bounced into the world on 9 February 1991.

Chris came back to work on 22 May 1991, after being passed fit for duty by the doctor. The next day Chris attempted a BFT and much to her relief had no problems

passing and has never looked back since. Chris is keen on Orienteering and is soon to take part in the Army Championships. Chris has also volunteered to do the PT13 course. If she gets selected this will be for 6 weeks, which will mean plenty of extra baby sitting for Dad.

Serving on after having a baby is not accepted by everyone. Men seem to disapprove more than women, as many believe a woman should stay at home until the child is at least school age. Chris has found work no different, as she is being treated much the same. But she says that you must be prepared to get on with your work as normal and do the same amount of duties as everyone else and not use the baby as an excuse to get off things.

Q. Do duties cause a problem?

A. No, the unit ensures that we don't end up on duty together.

Q. Who has Darryl during the day?

A. We have an extremely reliable childminder which is essential. We feel it is important for Darryl to be happy and he is settled with the childminder, so we can get on at work without having to worry about him.

Q. What about at night, if Darryl has a sleepless night?

A. We are very lucky that he is a contented baby and sleeps through the nights. On the odd occasions that we have been up, we take it in turns, so that only one of us goes to work a bit blurry eyed.

This write up is just to acknowledge, that the Army is changing face in more ways than one. It is not recommended that you become a serving mum without giving it some deep thought. Obviously it will not work out for everyone.



Baby Darryl with his Mum, Chris Smedley

Drumhead Service Programmes

On 17 Mar 91 a Drumhead Service was held for the disbandment of 29 Coy WRAC. There are a limited number of programmes still available. If anyone would like a copy free of charge please contact in writing to:

B Coy
Rheinlahlen Garrison
BFPO 40

ENTRANCE INTO THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

by Lt R Harris WRAC

(The following article has been written by Lt Rachel Harris in response to a request received from Mrs M P Harrison, who served in the ATS and WRAC, with regard to the recruitment of both servicewomen and officers into the Corps).

To become either an officer or servicewoman in the WRAC, hopeful personnel go through a vigorous selection and screening process, which begins in both cases at the WRAC Centre in Guildford. Today's servicewoman is sent from the Army Careers Information Office to the Personnel Selection Office at Guildford for 24 hours, where she attempts the Entrance Fitness Test, and is then interviewed by a Personnel Selection Officer. It is the Selection Officer who makes the final decision as to the candidates suitability for a career in the Army. On being successful, the applicant is offered a trade: very few trades are barred to women, but females cannot join the Infantry or Armoured Corps. The successful applicant is also given a date to start Phase 1 of her Basic Training at Guildford.

The first phase of Military Training consists of an intensive 10 week course that follows the Common Military Syllabus (Recruits) common to all men and women who join the Army. It covers First Aid, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Warfare, Map Reading, Security, Health and Hygiene, Drill, Weapon Handling and Education. To bring recruit training at Guildford into line with the rest of the Army, servicewomen now fire and are tested on the SA80, and participate in two overnight exercises in the field. At the end of the 10 weeks, those who successfully complete the course pass out from Basic Training to pursue their chosen career via Phase Two of training, which is their Trade Training Course.

Officer selection also begins at Guildford where the Pre-Regular Commissions Board is held in order to determine whether the candidates have officer potential, however undeveloped it may be at this stage. On passing this initial low-level selection, the next phase is the Regular Commissions Board (RCB) at Westbury. Applicants undergo intelligence tests, write essays, discuss social issues, solve practical problems, and cross the obstacle and assault courses. The RCB Directing Staff make their assessment and decide whether to send the candidate straight to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, to defer them for a year or so, to send them to Beaconsfield on a pre-Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Course, or to fail them outright. An alternative route is via Welbeck College, which has recently opened its doors to women. Potential WRAC officers who are not ready for immediate entrance to RMA can now also undergo a character development and pre-RMA training course alongside their male counterparts in Rowallan Company. This course is also held at Sandhurst, and lasts 12 weeks.

At the end of the Regular course, newly commissioned subalterns are posted to a working unit. Depending on which Corps the officers are joining, the respective posting branches inform Sandhurst of available positions, and officers are selected to fill the appropriate posts. Female officers can be commissioned into all Corps bar Armoured or Infantry, but they can be attached to these from the WRAC (which in future will be part of the Adjutant General's Corps) in the capacity of Assistant Adjutant, Training Officer, or even OC Headquarter Company.

Subsequent promotion depends firstly on whether the officer is a graduate, as this affects their seniority ante-

date. Graduates from a three year degree course at University are promoted to full Lieutenant a year after leaving Sandhurst, and to Captain two years after that.

Before receiving the rank of substantive Captain, officers are required to complete a short course in Military Law (at Sandhurst), serve in a unit for 18 months, pass the practical Junior Officers Training and Education Scheme exam (JOTES), and be recommended for promotion on a confidential report by their Commanding Officer. An officer can be promoted to acting Captain before their substantive promotion date, if they have passed JOTES, and there is a post available. All Captains must serve in that rank for a minimum of six years before they are eligible to go for promotion to Major.

WRAC TRAINING CENTRE AND CORPS HQ

By April 1992, all females will be capbadged to their employing Corps. The WRAC will be disbanded and those who have not been taken into another Corps will join with the Royal Army Pay Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps staff clerks to form the Adjutant General's Corps (AG's Corps). Females of all Corps will eventually be trained in one of the four Army Training Organisations that are to be established in the near future. Until then, female personnel will continue to be trained at the WRAC Centre in Guildford (to become the Womens' Army Training Centre) until at least April 1993. In 1992 when the WRAC disbands, the Corps HQ will also merge to form the Adjutant General's Corps HQ and move to Worthy Down where the new AG Corps will make it's home.

It is likely that the WRAC Staff Band will be taken into the Adjutant General's Corps, but that it will be open to both males and females.

COLONEL COMMANDANT

The WRAC is entitled to two Colonels Commandant. One position is held by Brigadier A Field CB, as Deputy Controller Commandant and her responsibilities are internal matters of the WRAC, such as Regimental affairs, the Museum, Benevolent Fund and the Corps Association. The second position is that of Colonel Commandant, held by Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy MacKenzie KCB OBE. His responsibilities are matters effecting the Corps as part of the Regular Army, and to give the WRAC a higher profile at Army Board level, and in the corridors of power at Whitehall.

On 28 Aug 91 at a dress rehearsal for a Passing Out Parade the Inspecting Officer stopped at a recruit who was wearing a support bandage on her knee. The inspecting officer meaning the injury said "And what have we done to you?" The instant reply was "You have made me a better person Ma'am".

Now is the time to make sure that you have the souvenirs of your service with the WRAC and/or ATS - "WHILE STOCKS LAST"

SPORT

BAOR WS TRIATHLON

The 1991 Triathlon season in BAOR has been rather limited due to the cancellation of all Divisional Triathlon Championships and direct entry for all participants into the BAOR Triathlon Championships at Herford on 22 May 91.

Five females entered the event which involved a 1000m swim in the Grosser Weserbogensee at a temperature of 8°C, a 40km bike ride in very windy conditions and a 10km run.

The event, sponsored by Rover Group Ltd, was well organised and well attended with 121 competitors finishing the race. All five females who started finished the event with the following results:

Name	Unit	Time	Position	Overall Position
Cpl Jonas	RAF Wegberg	2:21.07	(Guest)	64
2Lt Reid WRAC	50 Msl Regt RA/ Dortmund Garrison	2:32.10	(1st)	96
Pte Brotherton WRAC	13 Sig Regt	2:40.52	(2nd)	114
Capt Roberts REME	32 Hy Regt RA/ Dortmund Garrison	2:51.47	(3rd)	119
Lt Williams WRAC	32 Hy Regt RA/ Dortmund Garrison	3:04.04	(4th)	

Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie KCB OBE, Commander 1 (BR) Corps, presented the trophies to all prize winners. Cpl Jonas WRAF of RAF Wegberg was the first lady to finish and received a trophy for the first female guest. 2Lt Reid WRAC received the Army Individual Women's trophy and Pte Brotherton WRAC of 13 Sig Regt was runner up. The Women's Service Team Trophies went to Capt Roberts REME, Lt Williams WRAC and 2Lt Reid WRAC of Dortmund Garrison/Menden Station.



2Lt R K Reid WRAC Winner of Army Ladies Individual Trophy Receiving the cup from Lt Gen Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Commander 1 (BR) Corps and Colonel Commandant WRAC

As a warm up for the BAOR's, Capt Roberts REME, Lt Williams WRAC and 2Lt Reid WRAC competed in a mini triathlon held for 50 Missile Regiment Royal Artillery at the Mohnesee Sailing Club on 15 May 91. The event was held in very bad weather conditions with gale force winds driving rain and hail. 2Lt Reids rear tyre punctured twice and she could not finish the race, Capt Roberts REME was positioned 20th and Lt Williams came 23rd out of a total of 30 competitors.

1 SQN 8 SIG REGT WOMENS HOCKEY 7 ASIDE TOURNAMENT ALDERSHOT SEPTEMBER 1991 by Cpl Best

The Team:

Cpl Dena Best, Cpl Dixie James, Cpl "Kernie" Kernaghan (who doubled as our intrepid minibus driver), Cpl Annette Wakeline LCpl Michelle MacIntosh, LCpl Robin Smart, Pte Emma Trowell, Pte Tracy Stubbs, O/Cdt Terry Southern.

After an eventful journey from Catterick we gathered at the hockey pitches at 0845 hrs Saturday (my mother warned me there would be early weekends like this!) We scoured the programme for the days play and calculated we had enough time for meeting up with old friends for a quick chat of "Where are you now?" and "What are you doing?" "Haven't seen you for ages" and of course "Your not still seeing him"!

Our first match, a gentle warm up game with no score, took us to our second match and first win 3-0 against the Army Welfare Assistants, OCdt Southern netting the first goal and Cpl Kernaghan the next two.

The "Golden Oldies" were not quite as easy. Cpl Kernaghan again found the net (in a rather unorthodox manner admittedly!) but the "Golden Oldies" pulled back two goals from us, one of which came from a surprising penalty flick.

Undeterred by our defeat, Cpl Kernaghan kept the score sheet going for our next game versus Pegasus with a 3-0 victory. Excellent play by both goal keepers kept the score to a no score draw against the UDR and took us to our final match of the day. With tiredness creeping in we tried to keep our game together by pushing forward to our opposition's goal. Finally however, our luck ran out and 20 Squadron RCT stole a goal from us, leaving us looking towards the table for our next days play.

Sunday was hot... real hot! After warnings to take in plenty of fluids, we were off again. Our first match versus Lisburn Station was 0-0, but in our second Cpl Kernaghan reliably again opened our score sheet and took us to a 1-0 victory over McCall Hampshires.

Unfortunately, we lost our match against Dusseldorf 1-0, but undaunted we had a blinding game against the AAC Centre and beat them 3-0, once again Cpl Kernaghan got her name on the score sheet with OCdt Southern and Cpl Best.

After consulting the score table we knew we couldn't win our league so decided to have a major team shuffle. Pte Stubbs came out of goal to be a forward and OCdt Southern was padded up, given a crash course in goal keeping and shown the direction of the nets. Within 30 seconds of the game starting, SEME were beating down on our goal, "unseen" by our brave new goalie who was heard to remark "Was that a goal then"? Play continued fast and furious, SEME were once again on our goal. A scuffle in the circle - a strike at goal - a save...! A whistle blast. The umpire was indicating, our naive goalie looked across, "What does that mean then"? The team let out a groan, a penalty flick had been awarded. OCdt Southern in full protective kit, mask, gloves and stock faced the ball... the ball was flicked... the goalie leaped away from the ball - "Well, I didn't want to get hurt"! A good and a very well humoured 2-0 defeat!

So ended another year at the 7's tournament. A good time was proverbially had by all and the team would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of the event for their hard work. No doubt we'll see you all again next year and perhaps the Training Major will let OC 2 Squadron and OC B Troop out to play too!

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10 INT & SY COY

A Cap Badging Parade was held at 10 Int & Sy Coy on 1 October when six WRAC ladies left the Corps and became members of the Intelligence Corps.

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L to R: Sgt Kendall, Sgt Carter, LCpl Crawford, Cpl Norris, LCpl Moir, LCpl Lawlor

BRONZE STATUETTE



It has been suggested that smaller copies of this statuette be produced for sale from Corps Headquarters. These bronze copies would stand about 6 inches high and cost about £50 each. If you are interested - no obligation to purchase - please contact the General Secretary at Corps HQ WRAC, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

16 Signal Regiment 14 Internationale Militärwettkampe

The Bischofzell Patrol Competition is an annual event organised by the Swiss NCO's Association of Bischofzell, a town in the north east of Switzerland near St Gallen. The Competition is for teams of three and 16 Signal Regiment entered two teams, a male and a female team. The women's team members were, 2Lt Roo Pennell WRAC, Cpl Jayne Marsden, LCpl Gail Armstrong, and the men's team were Cpl Max Hurd, Cpl Craig Silk and LCpl "Tucks" Tucker all from 16 Signal Regiment.

Our journey started at a very unsociable hour of the morning (5 am!) when a very roadworthy minibus and six alert people set off from the guardroom, luckily the journey only took 8 hours, giving us ample time to see the local town and 'checkout' the night spots!

On the Saturday morning we got up again at 5 am, off to breakfast and then to start the competition at 0728 hrs and 0738 hrs. The first obstacle was an assault course, this proved fun and entertaining for both us and the crowd. From here we set off to the next checkpoint, here we had a slight disagreement about the map reading but still made good timing to the grenade throwing, from here, we set off again this time finding a Traditional Swiss Event - Stone throwing, which involved throwing, lifting and hauling of 'stones'. The longest part of the course was yet to come and we sped across country following a flagged route to the shooting. It was here we realised that we were the only female team to carry rifles around the course. They were Swiss Military rifles and LCpl Armstrong and 2Lt Pennell had a fun time trying to shoot with them! All other female teams at this point, did a biology test and had to differentiate between different kinds of flowers - adding credence to the WRAC flower arranging theory! On from the shooting, and the next stand was orienteering! Three miles and seven checkpoints later we moved to the next stand for a spot of rowing - amusing it certainly was - and it gave our feet a brief rest. There was a choice between rowing or cycling around on Swiss military bicycles - I am not sure we chose the easiest one! The next stand was Aircraft recognition and despite knowing about tanks and helicopters we actually did quite well. Finally we reached that last checkpoint - a First Aid Stand and LCpl Armstrong had a lie down while we scored extremely well by saving her life! Then off with a spring in our step to the finish - all downhill.

The day finished with a large prizegiving - (The men came 11th out of 140 and we came 4th out of 6) and an even larger party where we made our biggest hit!

STOP PRESS

"Buy land", said Will Rogers, "They're not making any more of it". The same could be said for WRAC badged items. The full list of items available appears on page 1, but your attention is drawn to 2 new items:- coloured Baseball Caps (£4 each) and green note pad holders with pad (£1.80 each - refills available at .50 pence) P & P extra. Also, for serving members, the PRI at Guildford hold limited stock of WRAC Sidehats (£20, with badge, including P & P).

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For over 90 years Princess Christian Homes, Knaphill, Surrey have been home to many who might otherwise have spent their declining years in loneliness and difficulty.

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THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY & LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS

CARE IN OLD AGE FOR EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

In this issue the Forces Help Society is appealing for funds to meet the cost of the new wing it is building at its Princess Christian Homes, Knaphill, Surrey, to provide residential care for ex-service personnel when they become too frail to fend for themselves. The new wing is scheduled to open early in 1993, and applications will be welcomed from late 1992, from both ex-service men and ex-service women.

A happy group of present residents illustrates the appeal, and those who know Princess Christian Homes may be a little surprised to see that there is already a woman resident, looking very much at home among "the lads". It is true that for many years the Homes have admitted only men as residents. However, some older members of the Association may remember Craigston, part of the extensive Homes complex, which after World War II provided comfortable hostel accommodation for a number of women between leaving the Services and establishing themselves in civilian life. As the years passed, the need for such accommodation grew less, and Craigston was converted to "grace and favour" flats for a few men and women who needed somewhere to retire after long service to the Society. One of these was Miss Gertie White, who was an ATS driver and after her discharge was employed by the Society as driver for Dame Marion Acton, one of the Society's most outstanding Comptrollers. Now 86 years old, Miss White has been very happy to accept a place in the Homes as a regular resident.

When completed, the new Lord Roberts Wing will be a self-contained care unit with 17 single rooms each with wash basin, built-in wardrobe and individual bay window, and with associated bathrooms, its own dining room and sitting room and a separate entrance. Fully trained staff will give personal assistance as needed.

For each resident admitted to the care unit, the Society will need to receive the DSS grant or an equivalent payment, but no more than that will be asked, which will relieve the anxieties of elderly residents and their families.

Although construction is well in hand, the Society is still fund-raising to meet the considerable cost of even such a modest contribution to the well-being of the frail elderly members of the service and ex-service family.

EXERCISES

EXERCISE DECI BAY

Two teams from Rheindahlen set out to enjoy Corsica in 1991 – one from B Coy and one from 68 Sqn RCT. Both accounts give graphic details of the dangers of driving on the island, but show that any venture is what you make of it:-

B COY

by Capt R E Hadfield WRAC

On Tuesday 5 November 1991, nine intrepid hillwalkers departed from the chilly climes of Rheindahlen for supposedly sunnier Corsica. The minibus loaded to the gunnels was waved off by the OC of B Company. The team included four WRAC, three of whom were B Company Rheindahlen Garrison, Captain Rachel Hadfield; Sergeant Sue Leitch and Private Vicky Colliar, and one from 1 Sqn 16 Sigs, Private Lynne Cunningham. The men came from



L to R: Capt Hadfield, Sgt Leitch, Pte Cunningham, Pte Colliar

equally varying backgrounds: 2 were ACC, 2 were RPC and the fifth a Gunner. So we were a mixed bunch!

The aim of the expedition was to walk a section of the GR20, the high level walking route in Corsica.

We drove down in the Company minibus through Germany and France to Marseille. After some seventeen hours driving we finally reached the South Coast of France and caught the evening ferry to Ajaccio.

The Adventures started even before we reached the start of the walking expedition. At Ajaccio we were driven to the walking start point at Col de Bavella, some few thousand feet up in the mountains. The drive to this point was hair raising to say the least and it did not take us long to realise that the locals seemed to have a death wish. The only way to survive was to drive as they did – white lines and their meaning became irrelevant! Our confidence did not improve when it became apparent that the dirt track we were following was actually the main road on the map! However we made it to Col de Bavella in time to book into the local hostel for the night.

The next day dawned crisp and clear and as the happy band set off on their trek; the minibus crew, Sergeant Brian Owens and Gunner Ian Hodgkinson were seen happily driving downhill to meet us, on the other side of the Col.

The day was long and exhausting as we climbed the highest mountain of the expedition, Monte Incudine; some 7000 ft up with snow on the top. That night we met up with the minibus and camped at a refuge at about 5000 ft. The

temperature had dropped and a freezing fog had come in making conditions decidedly unpleasant.

In consultation with another expedition (RAF) who had just come off the route we were due to follow, it was decided that due to snow, the GR20 would be too dangerous to continue and the next day the team retired to a campsite near the coast (the only one open in the winter season).

The remainder of the expedition was spent doing long distance walks at comparatively low levels into the foothills and along coastal routes. The weather varied from the odd lovely sunny day to torrential rain (mainly at night) and howling gales.

The last two days we did some site seeing, visiting the local towns of Bastia and Bonifacio. Bonifacio is a particularly beautiful fortress town on the southern tip of the island.

The whole expedition was really enjoyable and brought forth a few immortal sayings such as: On the journey through France, "It will get warmer as we get further south" to which there was disbelief all round as it was extremely cold. And "It's not a problem", even when the road was narrower than the minibus and the sheer drop at the side of the road was a good few hundred metres down.

The return journey back to Rheindahlen was slightly more eventful than the outward leg, in that the nine hour ferry crossing was less than smooth as Private "Howie Howson" RPC will admit.

A heartfelt thank you needs to go to the bravest member of the team, Sergeant Owens, who did the majority of the driving on the island and many times saved the expedition members from sudden death.

68 SQN RCT

8 members of 68 Sqn RCT who had been manning the base at JHQ, decided it was their turn to get a suntan once their Gulf counterparts returned, and therefore decided to head for the sun, sea and sand.

The intrepid team of 5 WRAC drivers and 3 RCT departed BAOR in late June for the dry heat and the sun of Corsica. We flew into RAF Decimomannu, Sardinia, we were met by the OC of the British Expedition Base from where the Adventure Training Exercises are co-ordinated. After an overnight stop at the base, the team was driven to St Theresa where we were to catch the ferry to Bonifacio, Corsica. Advice to future expeditions; if you too combine the on-it's-last-wheels 4 x 4 with an experienced signals driver for 5 hours, don't bother with breakfast.

Having reached Corsica on day two, day three was taken up by travelling to the north of the island where we would start to walk.

The scenery was spectacular, this being particularly so the further north we travelled.

Day four and we finally began. The weather was extremely hot, well into the 30°C range and very dry. We began the trek aiming to walk approximately 15 kms per day, reaching water by the end of the day was an absolute necessity though. As a result, the first two days of walking totalled 50 kms. The water sources had all dried up apart from the major rivers. The bliss when we did actually reach these was indescribable! Inevitably though, the unexpected distances took their toll and serious blisters were sustained by some members of the group. On day five we walked a further 16 kms and decided to cut short the trek by two days. The walk had been tough but certainly worthwhile and the injuries unfortunate.

We journeyed to Ajaccio using ol' public transport, surprisingly pretty plush. At Ajaccio we concentrated on rock climbing and abseiling. The granite face jutting out of the mountainside above the town was ideal giving the impression that you were climbing far higher than you were, with the fantastic sea view giving way to agoraphobia.

A days R & R was spent in Bonifacio shopping, sun bathing and relaxing after a somewhat strenuous fortnight. The group then made that awesome return journey through Sardinia, this time courtesy of BEB's 4 tonne Bedford, before flying back to drizzly Wildenrath. A successful Adventure Training Expedition and definitely recommended. Many thanks to all concerned who helped get the monster off the ground.

Expedition members: 2Lt 'Beastmaster' Parr, Sgt 'Sammy' Samm, Cpl 'P-Z' Powazynski, LCpl 'Soo' Thomas, Ptes 'Jock' Wilson, 'Big Bird' Metcalfe, 'Fish' Fisher and 'Strumpy' Amess.

EXERCISE SUMMER SUN 15-19 July 1991

An assorted gathering was assembled when RAPC Training Centre opened its arms and invited members of other units to join them on their Adventure Training week - 15-19 July 1991.

Out of the woodwork climbed eager members of the WRAC desperate for a break on the sunny SW Coast! Unfortunately it was not Costa Brava but Costa Del Barnstable in Devon and it rained as well.

ASCT sent all three of it's WRAC (ever had the feeling you are not wanted) - Sgt Caz Alford, LCpl Sarah Hole and Pte Emma Childe. 41 Sqn RCT donated Pte Wendy DeBruin - after experiencing her driving we can all understand why. Cpl Vicky Preece and LCpl Ali McGennity - CVHQ had no option but to attend bringing with them their current TA Recruit Course. Pte Nicky James came from CPO and Cpl Mandy Butler escaped from D & HQ (we know this because she still had the ball and chain around her foot).

The coach journey down was a very quiet event - despite the fact we were two coach loads in number nobody thought to bring the beer. The evening was spent by most making up for lost time experiencing the delights of the local public house The Fox and Hounds.

During the week we took part in a variety of activities, ranging from rock-climbing, sailing, canoeing to windsurfing and walking - but the highlight of the week was definitely the Military Skills Day Trying to make a 2 man kayak travel in a straight line without getting wet caused great problems - we won't mention LCpl McGennity here



"Oops! Spoke too soon!"

because she may get embarrassed about her escapades at the water's edge but she definitely will not be representing us in the Olympics. LCpl Hole and Cpl Preece showed Lt Col Head a thing or two about sailing - unfortunately they capsized the boat doing so - but then they could blame it on the rest of the male crew!!

Pte (I hate water) Childe went rock climbing at every opportunity so as not to get wet - as it rained most days she would probably have been better off canoeing.

All in all it was a great week and our thanks go to the RAPC Training Centre for the invitation - only perhaps next year they could select somewhere dry and sunny with at least lukewarm water, and maybe room service!



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**CANADA 1991
EXERCISE MAPLE FINN**

Twelve military attended the 1991 15 Signal Regiment adventure training expedition to Canada. There were eight male and four female soldiers as follows:

IC Expedition	WO1 Chris Pugh
JSMEL	Capt Sandy Jones (SEDIST)
UEL/CANOE	Cpl Colin Greer (5 UDR)
INSTR	Sgt Jimmy Millar
STORES	WCpl Anthea Jeffries
DRIVER	WCpl Sharon Llewellyn
RATIONS	Cpl Paul Crawley
	LCpl Dave Scragg
	LCpl Nige Wardle
	Sig (now LCpl) Matt Rose
	Sig Woody Wood
	WPte Mandi McHugh

The aim of the expedition was to introduce young soldiers to living and surviving in a wilderness situation and to enhance leadership qualities under arduous conditions.

The expedition took place in the Wells Gray National Park in the Cariboo Mountains, 69 kms north of Clearwater town British Columbia and culminated in 5 days R&R in Vancouver.

On 22 July 1991 we took off from RAF Aldergrove bound for RAF Gutersloh. A bus journey to Hannover, an over-night stop and soon we were aboard a jumbo flying to Calgary. The expedition had at last begun. We stayed overnight in Calgary, our last night of comfort for a fair while, then it was a long 12 hour journey crammed into a hot stuffy mini-bus until we reached our destination, Clearwater, British Columbia.

During correspondence with the park rangers it had been agreed that the first 5 days of the expedition would be spent blazing trails and making camp sites along the remote lakes. Apart from putting something back into the area this gave us the opportunity of moulding an exceptionally good relationship with the local authorities and consequently their support and help during our time in the park made for a more successful expedition.

The first few days were an introduction to most in living rough and relying on everyone in each working group to work as a team. Our group (Capt Sandy Jones, WCpl Anthea Jeffries, WCpl Sharon Llewellyn and WPte Mandi McHugh) got the job of building the new camp site. We were ferried to the site by a park ranger who showed us 3 vague clearings which were to be cleared of undergrowth and levelled, trails were to be cut from all 3 sites to the only evidence of civilisation for miles, a toilet deep in the bush. It was a very basic toilet but we weren't about to complain. Deep sighs of relief all round as we realized we wouldn't be disappearing with shovel. Trails were also to be cut from the lakeside to each site. 12 foot logs and barrel loads of sand were to be hauled into the cleared areas for the building of tent-pads, on which people would eventually sleep comfortably thanks to our hard work.

So much work and not much time. We did not think we'd complete the task. However, camp set up, we got stuck in. The next few days were taken up with digging, shovelling, raking, snipping away tree roots, hauling sand and logs. It was hard work but we could see our camp sites and trails taking shape. At the end of each day it was a very quick dip in the ice cold lake to clean up, then it was food, drink and jokes around the camp fire. There was always the possibility of a bear wandering into the camp, but we all slept soundly with the knowledge that should anything

approach camp we'd all be alerted by Mandi (Pte McHugh) who refused to go to bed without her "Bear Scarer"... (a very loud whistle). Much to our amazement and the delight of the park rangers, we actually completed our tasks with one day still remaining. The boat (our lifeline with the outside world) turned up early to collect us (much to our delight), so we broke camp in superfast time and were soon heading back to Clearwater and a lovely hot shower. It was a physically demanding start to the expedition, but we all agreed it was great to do something to help the park authorities, work that would be appreciated by all those who used the site.

The next phase of the expedition was 4 days of trekking and climbing. For some it was the first time carrying heavy packs over any distance, so it took some getting used to. Our trek started at the base of Trophy Mountain. Our aim was to reach the summit that day. The terrain varied



*WCpl Sharon Llewellyn, Capt Sandy Jones and
WCpl Anthea Jeffries on the Trophy Mountain*

considerably on the mountain, starting out with well worn trails through meadows, eventually turning to scree slopes, boulders, even snow. In places it was so steep we thought we'd never make the top, but we persevered and with sheer determination we all made it. What a sight greeted us at 8455 feet. All feelings of exhaustion and hunger deserted us as we took in the spectacular view. Snow-capped mountains all round us, lakes and green meadow far below us. It was beautiful. It made our hard slog worth every minute. We camped by a lake below the summit of Trophy Mountain and the next couple of days were spent climbing and exploring along the surrounding ridges. Anthea (Cpl Jeffries) soon began to get paranoid about dying. Firstly she narrowly escaped being knocked off a cliff by a flying rucksack that was being jettisoned by Capt Jones. Then, whilst traversing a snow slope she slipped and found herself heading for a small lake and several boulders. She managed to stop her descent after about 25 ft only to see Sharon's (Cpl Llewellyn) booted foot coming for her head. Fortunately Sharon managed to stop before impact. As they were both trying to compose themselves and get to their feet after their "brush with imminent death" Capt Jones (our intrepid leader) came out with the immortal line "Quick Mandi pass me my camera" so much for being rescued. After a days climbing it was back to the camp. Mosquitos and horse-flies were rife in this area, so although it was blazing hot in the mountains, once in camp we dressed from head to toes in waterproofs. It was the only way to stop being bitten. Very early nights were had as inside the tents was the best place to be. Despite this though, an enjoyable and rewarding 4 days was had.

Canadian canoeing down 50 kms of azure and clear-water lakes in 4 days was the next phase. The whole team of 12 was together for the first time. After the physical activity of the last week and a half, this was done at a fairly leisurely pace (which did not stop aching arms and shoulders) taking in the scenery and even some fishing to subsidise the boring dehydrated rations. Everyone started to "mellow out". Unfortunately the weather deteriorated drastically and the lakes became choppy. One canoe had significantly less water clearance than the rest and very vigorous bailing on behalf of the crew involved prevented a potential admin problem. Very wet nights were spent under leaking shelters telling "bear stories" and toasting marshmallows by candle. The bad weather didn't get us down however, morale was high and we arrived safely at the end of our journey wet, filthy, aching but in high spirits.

After 7 hours in the saddle everyone agreed that the one day horse riding, cowboy style was an enjoyable, if somewhat painful, experience. The horses crossed some pretty dodgy terrain, getting a bit too close to cliff edges for comfort. One wrong step and there was nothing to stop you but the rock far below.

White water rafting was what we'd all been looking forward to, some more apprehensively than others.



Before the Rapids – hence the confident smiles from Pte Mandi McHugh and LCpl Nige Wardle

Brilliant, breathtaking, frightening were all terms used to describe it. The water was cold, clear and fast flowing, as we found out whilst holding onto a safety rope and riding some grade 2 rapids. The serious rapids were however negotiated whilst hanging on for dear life in the raft. Cpls Jeffries and Llewellyn admitted to missing the first set of big rapids due to having their eyes shut and screaming hysterically. Halfway down the Clearwater river we stopped for a short hike and visit to the very spectacular Spahats Falls. Dressed in our wetsuits and waterproofs we managed to get behind the falls where we could really experience the power and spray. Back on the raft our guide gave us a history lesson during the calmer moments, this coupled with an excellent lunch and liberal helpings of fast water made a day never to be forgotten.

The next day, our last in the area before driving to Vancouver for R&R, saw some of the team try their hand at water skiing. For some a wetter experience than for others.

All too soon however we were flying home, leaving behind one of the most beautiful countries we've seen. We all thoroughly enjoyed the expedition and got a lot out of it. There isn't one of us who wouldn't want to repeat the experience. For now though we'll just have to relive it through the video, the thousands of photographs and of course everyone's "when I stories".

EXERCISE CROSSBOW 1991

Crossbow From Two Sides of the Butt

LCpl Lomax – B Coy

Monday 23 September 1991, Day 1. Kitbags and fully assembled webbing formed a small drift beside the walls of B Coy, Rheindahlen Garrison. A huddle of seven people stood a few feet away, dressed in combats laughing nervously among themselves as each wondered what they had volunteered for. What was it this foreboding event, this journey into the unknown? A serious conflict? A suicide mission? No much worse, it was the start of Exercise CROSSBOW 1991.

Yes seven of us during a lapse of sanity had volunteered making up the team as follows:

Team Leader: Capt Hadfield

2IC: SSgt Jennings

Others: Cpl Ennis, LCpl Roberts, LCpl Loma, Pte Fadzillah and Pte Colliar.

After a quick 'pep' talk from OC B Coy, Major J E Brodie-Murphy, we set off for Roy Bks in Ratingen, where we would be based for the rest of the week, one of 24 teams housed in our little tent village.

Quote of the day: "At least today's events don't look too bad, its only a Battle Run first".

"It's only a Battle Run" turned out to be a nice little Log Run for which our shoulders never forgave us. Nevertheless, we finished within the time amidst plenty of shouting and encouragement from within the team.

The week passed in a blur, with us getting very wet, muddy and tired, yet still enjoying it. To give an idea of



The Team: L to R: Capt Hadfield, SSgt Jennings, LCpl Lomax, A/Cpl Ennis, Pte Colliar, Pte Fadzillah

what we did, I'll explain a few of the events that took place.

Tuesday 24 September, Day 2. Stand 3, Foreign Weapons and TOETs. After completing this stand we should have all been eligible for the Krypton Factor. Two foreign weapons were stripped down and the parts intermingled, our task was to reassemble them. There is nothing more frustrating than thinking you've completed it and then finding one small piece left over, much to the amusement of the DS.

Stand 4, Tactics. This involved playing in attack and then in defence, with paintball guns. The attack was to become a replay of an historic event namely "Fadzillah's last stand". The rest of the team had been wiped out, unbeknown to Pte Fadzillah, who continued to fight on her own.

Wednesday 25 September, Day 3. The highlight of the day had to be stands 9 and 10 run by the Engineers, Gap

Crossing and Watermanship, the first of which involved building a raft, getting to the other side, without sinking, collecting a bomb and bringing it back via a pulley system. The look on Capt Hadfield's face when we ran out of time and she was left suspended in mid air, halfway back to land!

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Watermanship proved even more hilarious involving scenes that should have been put to the Hawaii Five O music were enacted as we rowed across the river to capture the enemy and his equipment. As for the enemy himself, he probably wished he had never volunteered as Capt Hadfield demonstrated her control and restraint techniques.

Thursday 26 September, Day 4. CQBR was one of the most enjoyed events of the day. Situation: two enemy in a bunker, one in a three storey building, aim, eliminate the enemy. No sooner said than done, everybody put tremendous effort into it, giving covering fire while others threw grenades and dived for cover, the adrenalin really got going. The two in the bunker proved quite stubborn but a grenade thrown by Cpl Ennis, which should have got her a place on the England Cricket Team, soon sorted that out.

Friday 27 September, Day 5, 0500hrs; until this point I had never realised there was more than one 5 o'clock in a day. The start of the Route March. Morale was still high, with the Team putting on a good finishing spurt accompanied by a few rousing choruses of "Yellow Bird" led by Staff Jennings. This was swiftly followed by an Assault Boat Crossing and then to round off the competition a Steeple Chase at Carnarvon Bks.

It is not often that an opportunity arises to do something different and unfortunately I can only give a small glimpse of Exercise CROSSBOW, but it is an event I would recommend to everyone. Yes it is hard work, but it is also a lot of fun. It taught us a great deal about ourselves and the other Team Members. More importantly it taught us how to work together as a team, building up our confidence and stamina. We enjoyed it, so why not try it for yourself.

...and...

EXERCISE CROSSBOW 1991

by Capt J L Strong WRAC

EX CROSSBOW is an RCZ annual military skills competition which takes place in the early Autumn. If the title of 'Military Skills' lulls one into thinking of basic NBC, First Aid and Weapon Handling Stands, then the reality proved to be more akin to COMBAT 90.

Twenty four teams from the RCZ took part in what proved to be a gruelling week of physical and mental challenge in the Dusseldorf/Duisburg area. Male, female and mixed teams competed equally for the CROSSBOW prize and a separate WRAC trophy. This is an account of the exercise from the viewpoint of the winning WRAC team, and one I hope to be an accurate reflection on the experiences of all the WRAC teams that took part.

Completing EX CROSSBOW was in itself an achievement as it was a demanding week and one which tested not only our military skills and knowledge, but our physical endurance, strength, navigational skills, patience and sense of humour.

Roy Barracks in Ratingen was transformed into a refugee camp of tents, landrovers and trailers; our 12' by 12' being our albeit moth eaten base for five days. We were given maps, grids, stand 'titles' and proceeded to cover the miles from 0700 hrs - Midnight each day to present ourselves to 24 stands, and to "expect the unexpected" at

each one. The first stand was a 3 mile cross country battle run with a log, and that was just a warm up. The exercise coordinator kindly informed us there had been a complaint last year that CROSSBOW had not been physical enough, so we shrugged our broad shoulders and prepared ourselves for the forthcoming effort.

The days merged into nights as we moved from one wooded location to another from NBC Casevac tasks to initiative and command tasks, fieldcraft and tactics. LCpl Wagstaff's driving skills helped us earn a good score on the 'initiative' task - towing a bar mine layer at speed over rough terrain, a task that was achieved with panache.

Every stand had a 'strength' element to it. Team work was of paramount importance and it seemed as if the team were unstoppable as nothing proved to be beyond them. Whether dragging the bar mine layer, lifting railway sleepers, carrying the casualty (myself) down a booby



"This might work"

trapped wooded slope, or paddling recce boats, I was impressed more and more by the teams cohesion. Sgt Lowres, who ruefully admitted prior to CROSSBOW that she was not sure if this was going to be 'her thing', and was she *really* a volunteer, became a lynchpin of the 'power pack' element within the team. The assault course was enjoyable as by then the team were so used to working together that carrying the metal stretcher seemed incidental to the task. With LCpls Turner & Stobo "encouraging" us on and throwing us all over the walls during this rainy afternoon, another good result was achieved.

Every stand brought out our different hidden qualities and talents, the CSM and Pte Ennis shooting down enemy aircraft on the Javelin simulator, Pte "Casey Jones" Newton driving a locomotive, and LCpls Stobo and Turner setting and maintaining a good brisk pace on the 28 km route march. Again LCpl Wagstaff's nerve and skill helped secure a good result when driving and reversing the landrover on and off the train flats. Pte Newton again was inexhaustible - she undertook the "advance" recce of routes during the march when we were faced with a forked path and the question "which way now"? For my part I endeavoured to dispel the myth that one officer plus one map leads to getting lost. The final day was, and make no bones about it, a killer. A 28 km route march commenced at 0530 hrs and required a brisk pace and plenty of fluids to finish within the allotted time. Despite atrocious blisters the CSM kept us singing, and Pte Ennis chose to 'trot' her way around (she said she found it more comfortable that way... strange) Our muscles were screaming by the time we had finished and we then leapt into assault boats and paddled across one of the Duisburg lakes, as you do.

Finally, feeling on a high we proceeded to complete a 1 1/2 mile steeplechase around Caernarvon Barracks, includ-



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"We've won a shield"

*Back Row L to R: Sgt Lowres, LCpl Wagstaff,
LCpl Turner, LCpl Stobo*

*Front Row L to R: Pte Ennis, Pte Newton, Capt Strong,
WO2 Smith*

ing the assault course and finally horror of horrors, swimming a length of the unheated pool, in full uniform and in front of an amused audience. Why did we choose to run the steeplechase in boots? Probably because we could not feel our feet anyway after the march, but when filled with water its no easy matter keeping afloat, let alone propelling ones body forward.

EX CROSSBOW was thereby over for another year. I hope I speak for all participants by saying we were completely and utterly exhausted. We are all glad we took part, proud to have completed the exercise, and it remains to be seen whether Sgt Lowres will volunteer to take part next year...

EXERCISE NOMADIC NORSKE 14 APR-22 APR 91

"I'm just going outside, I may be some time". The well known phrase springs to mind to describe the first days in Norway on Exercise NOMADIC NORSKE – complete white out – blizzard conditions, and frost bite was a possibility. The expedition had left Sandhurst on 14 Apr 91 (two days after the passing out parade!) and flown to Oslo, after a 4 hours train ride we arrived at Finse – Norways highest railway station where we remained virtually hut bound for two days before splitting into three groups and setting off. Two groups were to go south on the Macho Route (apparently!) and one was to go north to the mountains and better snow, as a consequence the majority of boys decided that distance was better than scenery and set off south to cross the Hardangevidda plateau.

The northern group consisted of:

Mr Tony Birley – Instructor
Maj Anton Forbes – SG
Capt Fiona Grundy – WRAC
2Lt Susie Holmes – RAEC
2Lt Roo Pennell – WRAC
2Lt Andy Teskey – REME
Ocdt Richard Crow
Ocdt "Dino" Deans

On 17 Apr 91 we all set off, slightly apprehensive about the weather, the distance and our ability to negotiate the slopes with a backpack. The first day we set off for Geiterygghytta, a manned hut 22 kms to our north east, we were pleased to be moving and also that the temperature had risen to minus 10C! We were discovering some of the

beauties of Norway, even in the snow covered mountains there was a route for us to follow, routes between huts are marked with sticks and the huts are designed to cater for the ski tourist needs – good healthy food and a bed!

The next days journey was 26 kms to Uungsdalhytta (Goats back hut) we spent the morning climbing up hill, hard work, but in the afternoon all down hill – not really much respite for the knees! I spent much of the day perfecting the art of falling on my head and displaying my prowess to the rest of the group. Captain Grundy on one of her few falls grazed her forehead and had quite a ferocious war wound to show for it. Despite the temperature being about minus 12C we still had tans due to the tremendous snow glare though no one yet dared to ski in shorts!

Day three 19 Apr 91, we set off in superb conditions, temperature about minus 16C, sunny and clear, starting the day with green wax and moving onto blue again climbing north up the Mjølga River to two small frozen lakes, Rijolgey and Joravo. The whole place is so empty with just miles of snow and crags, with cornices waiting to fall and not a soul in sight, we stopped for a break at Bjordalsbu – an unmanned hut with bunk beds for at least 12! The next part of the journey was the Stordla River Valley otherwise known as the Gun Barrel, I spent more of the time falling over, and this time even "seeing stars" on occasion, while the rest of the group showed "death – defying ability".

On 20 Apr 91 we set off to Sulebu a small, unmanned hut on the edge of a lake, after another uphill struggle all morning our hard work paid off, as we skied over the edge of the world into a giant bowl of virgin snow. Arriving at the hut we put on the stove, chopped wood, battled with the waterhole (until Andy Teskey was soaking wet) and cooked a wonderful meal from the tinned rations available. The next day we set off on a day trip to practice our navigation techniques, scattering the herd of reindeer that had gathered round the hut during the night. We climbed to the peak of Storeknippa (1648 metres) and had a fantastic downhill run from the top, seeing a little of the Norwegian Wildlife – Reindeers and pairs of Ptarmigan in winter plumage. We spent the afternoon digging a snow hole just



to show we could and returned to Sulibu for hot tea, food and bed.

On 22 Apr 91 we set off to return to Briedstolen and finished the expedition. We took a different route back, through poor visibility and snow but after lunch the weather changed and some of the braver members of the group, needless to say not myself! wore shorts for the final run downhill to Briedstolen. We had tea with waffles and cream and had a Dinner Night to celebrate the completion of the week. On the Tuesday we travelled back to Oslo via taxi, bus and train and went out on the town. The following morning we spent our last remaining Krona and flew back to UK tired but satisfied with a good tan.

Our thanks go to the leaders of the expedition, Maj Forbes, Capt Grundy and of course, all the Instructors.

REMEMBRANCE 1991

I am Pte Michelle Hill. I joined the WRAC on the 13th May 1991, so I am relatively new to the Army way of life. I am 17 years old and joined up at the earliest opportunity. I am based in London and live with the other members of 12 MOD(A) Pl in Chelsea Barracks.

On 7th November 1991 I took part in the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother opened the ceremony and toured the plots. I was at the front of the ATS/WRAC plot representing the WRAC and was most fortunate to meet the Queen Mother.

It was a bit of a coincidence actually being chosen to be a representative, because on the same day in 1945 my great uncle had been killed. His name was Guardsman David Drane and he was in the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. His last letter home said "Get the piano in for Christmas Mum". His mother did get the piano in but sadly he never came home to play it. He is now buried in Italy where he was killed at the mere age of 21.

I also have a brother in the Army - his name is also David. He is 19 years old, is a Signaller based in Germany. He recently went to war, to the Gulf and was one of the first to go into Kuwait. Luckily he came back alive.

OPERATION RALEIGH

By Victoria Hope-Smith

Here is the letter that you have been waiting for - confirmation that I have actually arrived in Guyana. I spent the first two weeks in the Guyanese Defence Forces Jungle Training Camp learning how to survive in the jungle which has been extremely interesting, and informative but very hard work.

The hundred or so people that have joined the expedition have been split into groups of about ten. My group have been assigned to achieve two major projects. The first is to help a remote Amerindian village deep in the Savanna region of Guyana in the south. Here we are building a community hall and a school adventure playground as well as having to construct our own self sufficient living accommodation. From here we are undertaking a long and arduous trek through the western highlands on the border of Brazil and Venezuela - the Palianmas, passing through Kaiteur falls - the longest single drop falls in the world.

Our second project is based along the banks of the Masaruni river in the north, carrying out a medical survey and vaccination project of local Amerindian communities. Each project last approximately three weeks with the trek north taking about 14-21 days.

On my return you will receive a full report of the expedition and what exactly I did do. Operation Raleigh tends to specialise in change without warning, but that is part of the challenge! Thank you once again for the donation which enable me to get here. Until my return...?

OPERATION RALEIGH ZIMBABWE

by Lt A Young WRAC/Adjt 45 Fd Regt RA

"What I need is a little excitement in my life" I thought to myself as I gazed into my coffee cup and watched the brown muddy liquid float around and around. It seemed the frustrations of the Gulf War, Options announcements and general uncertainty had finally crept up on me and I decided

it was high time to fight the melancholy and do something completely different...

I applied to join Operation Raleigh as a project leader after reading their 'ad' in the local paper here in Paderborn: "Young leaders Required for Adventurous Expedition". The expedition was in Zimbabwe and involved taking part in a series of five community, conservation and adventurous projects in all corners of the country. My team consisted of eleven young and so far unchallenged venturers and for 12 weeks each team would rotate around each project site and complete the tasks set.

COMMUNITY Our first challenge was to build a school classroom in a remote village called Jambesi - the community project. Seven hundred children attend the



Lt Young teaching English at Jambesi School

school and most are taught outside due to the lack of classroom space. With a local builder to guide us, we soon became enthusiastic 'brickies' and although our handy-work was not the neatest, the building took shape fast. The most challenging part of all was making the bricks!

CONSERVATION The conservation project was tough but rewarding. Working in conjunction with the World Wildlife Fund, the team walked on transect lines through thick bush (a distance of 480 km in total) carrying out flora and fauna surveys every 2 km and observing game. The results of the survey, which is being run over a 5 year period, will determine the number of rhino to be translocated to that area in the future, as part of Operation Stronghold, the Zimbabwean anti-poaching programme. The incredibly hot sun, lack of water, thorny bush (known as 'Jesse') and difficult terrain left us looking like a band of weary vagabonds, scratched, stung, bitten and totally exhausted, but in the knowledge that we may well have saved many rhino lives.

ADVENTURE The adventurous projects were truly challenging - 5 days white water rafting on the Zambesi followed by 14 days to canoe the length of Lake Kariba, a total of 250 km. Despite falling foul to the germs and microbes of the Zambesi water, the white water rafting was spectacular and enjoyed thoroughly by all. The volume and power of the water at each rapid was incredible and once overboard, one learns what it is really like to be a 'sock in a

washing machine! The canoe safari became the ultimate adventure, as the weather turned against us and it seemed that the animal kingdom had taken a severe disliking to Op Raleigh venturers! Canoeing during the day became impossible due to the strong and constant head winds. The team picked up navigating Op Raleigh's canoe very quickly as the trek began, dodging hippos, crocodiles and tropical thunderstorms as we went along. After a brief interlude with a pride of lions and a rather unfortunate sable antelope, the team learned quickly the art of escape and fast paddling and we came off lightly with only one casualty – a paw scratch to the arm. A close shave!

COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION At Mana Pools our task was to build a vehicle workshop for Save the Rhino. Walking into the location became the navigators nightmare, as one thorny bush looks very much like another. The 75 km trek soon became a rather tiring affair as we slowly ran out of water and at every stop were savaged by tsetse flies and biting ants. Now reasonably experienced in brick laying however, the task was achieved in no time at all, our only difficulty was the wild life roaming freely around our camp in silent hours: elephants, lions, hyena, baboons and blister beetles to mention but a few.

Back in Paderborn now I gaze into my coffee cup and feel truly satisfied that I have had more than my fair share of excitement for the time being – but Op Raleigh are always interested in recruiting any other budding adventurers!

TERRITORIAL ARMY

**Fusillettes in Thetford
by WPte Ludden**

6th Bn Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (V)

The time was 8 am; the destination Thetford; the reason a TA Recruit Cadre. Dressed in Army green skin, 8 girls from the North East planned to spend two weeks with the 6th Battalion. Their goal, to receive the red and white hackle and be acknowledged as trained soldiers.

We had come from all different walks of life. Some had been in the TA for almost a year, whilst others for only 2 weeks. The departments we wanted to join varied from storewomen to RP.

Our days began with Sgt Ward waking us for our early morning jog. Lt Haughie our OC with help from 2 Lt Simpson or WO2 Fyfe would see to it that any cobwebs or hangovers would soon be brushed away.

Through the first 5 days our minds were crammed with NBC, Weapon Craft, First Aid, Map Reading, WRAC History, Drill and most importantly how to salute. WO2 Ward our instructor gained a few more grey hairs on the drill square but was quite impressed with our APWT. We were even given a chance to try out the SA80. Surprisingly the guys didn't sulk – much.

We were given the chance to attack the assault course guided by WO2 Fyfe. Our main problems were the heights and rain. Nearer to the end of the course however Lt Colonel Small had us all jumping over walls, yelling EATS (Enthusiasm, Achievement, Team Spirit) the camp motto. The course showed us that as a team we could achieve anything.

With this in mind we all passed our BFT then set off for Great Yarmouth to terrorize the locals. WPte Liddell and myself had been given the task of organising fancy dress for Sunday's 'It's a Knockout'. After conferring the girls came up with the idea of Gothic punks. So WPte Liddell,

WPte Robson and myself spent a couple of hours collecting the gear. Then joined everyone else in a pub. The socialising began.

Sunday morning dawned, the Drumhead Service helped ease a few sore heads although some of the singing probably caused a few headaches. Surprisingly the sun shone! After the Regimental photos everyone dashed off to get organised for the afternoons activities. Dressed in army boots, long johns, black plastic bags with chains attached to them and our faces painted white we looked quite horrific. We attacked unsuspecting Fusiliers and to any senior ranks gave a variety of joke sweets which caused flatulation and red or blue mouths. With a little help and following our motto of "If we can't win, cheat" we won.

The second week was spent sitting our first aid and map reading tests. NBC was fun. When asked for a name, rank and number one of the WPtes gave her name, rank and phone number! On Wednesday we set out on our field exercise. Sgt Ward, WO2 Ward, Drum Major Warmington and Sgt Grant showed us how to erect bashers, dig trenches, toilets, camouflage our area and cook our 24 hour ration packs. We were raided at around 1 o'clock most of us were unsure if we were supposed to ask "Who goes there" before shooting, but as we couldn't see who



Ptes Arthur, Liddell and Molloy

went where it made little difference. Thanks to WPte Molloy and WPte Arthur there was at least some retaliation all in all three shots were fired. Our exercise ended with an orienteering test. Needless to say we all got back – eventually.

Friday morning arrived much too quickly. The two weeks had flown by. We all stood to attention whilst receiving our hackles. All 8 of us passed. Full of pride and joy we said our farewells and boarded the transport home. Calling to mind a conversation overheard at a bar – a gentleman asked one of the girls if she was truly a soldier. She replied "I'm a soldier through the day but a lady at night". Could this translate:- "Sauviter in Modo Fortiter in Re"?

4th Battalion

**The King's Own Royal Border Regiment
Kings Own Border Taste Cold Steel**

4 KINGS OWN BORDER went walk-about for their annual training which included the 42 (North West) Brigade exercise "Cold Steel" the test of the Brigade's Home Defence units.

Starting on the Sennybridge Training Area the Bn was housed in barns and byres scattered around the training area. The Companies set up their command posts, field kitchens and accommodation areas having first "mucked out", and settled down to a week of range work, field firing, patrolling and anti-ambush drills by day and night. The Sergeants Mess dined in WO1 Johnson the Bn's new RSM.

A little unusual this with DPM table covers and tin foil creations replacing white linen and silver, all set in a barn. Great fun!

On Monday 2 September Colonel Jean Blackwood visited the Battalion and spent the day touring the Company locations and speaking to the women who were employed in all areas and thoroughly enjoying the training. The Battalion now has it's first WRAC rifle platoon commander, 2Lt Catherine Halstead, who was commissioned early this year. She joins Cathy Birtwistle, a former Regular Officer who is to take over Command of HQ Company later this year and Lt Di Shepherd who is the Battalion's Signals Officer.

On to Chrickhowell for a twenty four hour break before moving yet again to Nesscliff Camp in Shropshire for the first phase of the exercise.

Companies again scattered and housed, for the first Phase of "Cold Steel" under canvas and in disused ammunition bunkers on the Nesscliff training area. Here Key Points (KPs) were established and defended against mounting pressure from the exercise enemy of 1 CHE-SHIRE and the command post was set-up in the camp. The Brigade Commander, Brigadier Ewan Morrison visited, flying in to the camp and then being taken round the KP's by road. The final phase saw the Bn moving by helicopter and road to TA Centres in the Chester area to support the emergency services in Cheshire, culminating in three Company level operations, two helicopter borne the third in Saighton Camp involving the fire brigade and ambulance service. The exercise ended and the Bn concentrated in Saighton Camp, bivouaced and enjoyed a superb barbecue and concert party. The Bn had been thoroughly tested, particularly the administration which



"Getting Through". LCpl Nicola Ford of Endmoor and LCpl Lynn Blenkinsop of Kendal

deserves great credit for coping with the constant changes.

Bn 2IC Major John Weighman said "It is the best annual camp I've been to for years, it was different, interesting and of course the weather helped".

Friday morning in Saighton was clean up time then back to home TA Centres for more cleaning, unpacking and sorting out before dispersing to home and family. It was agreed, "One of the best for years".

37 SIG REGT (V), HORFIELD, BRISTOL Pte Rebekah Rowlands - All at Sea!



On her annual camp this year with 37 Signal Regt (V), CO's driver Rebekah Rowlands found herself driving something entirely different to her usual Montego staff car.

She was visiting one of the Regimental units on the Channel Isle of Jersey and had joined a party of troops using the OTC Fast Patrol Boat 'Blazer' as a mode of transport. In mid channel the boat's skipper Lt Comdr Chris Howker invited her to 'take the wheel' to test her skills. She found it most different to a car and holding a steady course in erratic swells took all her co-ordination and concentration. Though initially the boat's wake gave new meaning to the term 'wavy navy' she soon impressed everyone with how quickly she mastered the art.

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.

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Capt Mary Rogers – A High Flyer!

37 Signal Regt HQ Squadron 2IC Capt Mary Rogers found herself riding high on her annual camp. For the medical officer Maj Celia Grummit, had invited her to experience casualty evacuation by helicopter. Sitting in the cockpit of one of 667 Squadron's Gazelles they zoomed to simulated incidents arranged around Middle Wallop. Then, at several hundred feet the engine cut out! After what seemed like a heart stopping age it was with no small relief he realised it was merely a drill! The pilot skillfully guided the machine to earth by feathering the rotors. Said Mary, 'The ground never felt so welcome! But it was a great experience.....'

FAREWELL CEREMONIES 25 MAR 92

The Ceremonies planned for Guildford on Wednesday 25 March 1992 consist of three Phases:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Phase I | A Service of Farewell and Thanksgiving in Guildford Cathedral at 11.25 am. |
| Phase II | A Review and Parade on the square at the WRAC Centre at 2.45 pm. |
| Phase III | Beating Retreat and Firework Display on the square at the WRAC Centre at 6.30 pm |

Applications for tickets for all three Phases have been solicited through Branches and Units and the lists are now closed.

Tickets and administrative instructions will be issued through Units and Branches of the Association. It is regretted that seats for Phase I (the Cathedral Service) are heavily oversubscribed and there will be many disappointed.

It will not be possible to provide a lunch at the WRAC Centre and those attending Phase II must either have lunch before arrival or bring their own packed lunch. Soup, tea or coffee will be available in the WRAC Centre for those attending Phase I and/or Phase II and bringing their own packed lunch.

Before Phase III ie between 5 pm and 6.30 pm a one course supper of barbequed items and a beverage will be served.

All vehicles will have to be parked outside the WRAC Centre at designated vehicle parks and buses will convey those attending to their venues.

FREEDOM OF GUILDFORD – 24 MAR 92

The Corps will exercise its rights as Freemen of Guildford with a March along the High Street during the morning of Tuesday 24 March 1992.

Spectators are most welcome and should be in position along the route by 11.00 am.

It is regretted that there will be no facilities for spectators at the WRAC Centre on that day.

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

LIONESS magazine is published by the WRAC Association as a service to its members as part of their subscription. At present there are over 11,000 members. Roughly half are former members of the QMAAC, ATS or WRAC and the other half are the serving members of the Corps who pay their subscription through the Regimental Paymaster under the Days Pay Scheme.

When those who are currently serving in the WRAC rebadge to other Corps their automatic subscriptions to the WRAC Association will cease and they will no longer be eligible to receive LIONESS.

If you wish to continue to receive the magazine you should join the WRAC Association as an individual member.

An application form is printed below.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the General Secretary
THE WRAC ASSOCIATION
CORPS HQ WRAC
QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK
GUILDFORD SURREY

I wish to join the WRAC Association as a

Life Member (£20) OR Annual Member (£2)

and enclose £.....
(Cheques made payable to WRAC Association).

Date Signature

Subscriptions include "LIONESS"
(Please Complete in BLOCK LETTERS)

Surname

Christian Names

Address for Correspondence

.....

.....

Permanent Address (if different)

.....

.....

Married or Single

Army Number

Present Rank

Date of Enrolment

Decorations



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BRANCH NEWS

ACCRINGTON We are now approaching our 2nd Anniversary of the formation of the Branch and our membership now stands at 23.

We raised a total of £141.50 in our sponsored knit and this was divided between Toc H and the "PALS" Chapel at St John's Church. The Dedication Ceremony to the Accrington Pals was seen on Songs of Praise on Remembrance Sunday. A talk on this and the Battle of the Somme was given by the Co-Ordinator of the Appeal Mr Collinson.

The Branch also had a Wreath laid at the Serre Memorial which was attended by many local dignitaries and our local MP Mr Ken Hargreaves.

The next meeting is our Christmas Dinner to be held in a local restaurant.

In February we join with a local ladies group for a talk by the Librarian of Gawthorpe Hall.

We look forward to a prosperous New Year for our Branch and hope that we may recruit more new members to our Association.

BATH Bath Branch now has 77 members, the majority living outside the city area, so planning social activities to attract all members does prove difficult. However in 1991 we were able to hold several events.



L to R: His Worship the Mayor, Mrs "Jo" Morris (née Crank - ex ATS) Chairman Bath Branch Mrs Sylvia Musgrove (née Say - ex ATS) Secretary Bath Branch and (seated) The Lady Mayoress

We had the honour of being invited to the Mayor's Parlour, when our Chairman Mrs 'Jo' Morris (Joyce Crank ATS) presented His Worship with a cheque for the city's "Tree Line Appeal". This was launched to replace trees blown down in the gales of 1990. We also planted our own tree in Alice Park, an Oak, and this stands on the approach road into the city, the A46.

Outings have taken place through the year, and amongst the places visited were Salisbury, Cirencester and Painswick viewing the Roccoco Gardens of Lord Dickenson, Lynton and Lynmouth meeting up with two of our members who live now in that area, Jo Clever (S/Sgt ATS and WRAC) and 'Pip' Beuzeval (Sgt ATS and WRAC). This was a very pleasant reunion for us.

Thirteen members travelled to Guildford for the opening of the Museum by HM The Queen Mother. Most of our

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members had the great honour of speaking to her, and this wonderful day will stay in our memories.

Some of our members were able to attend the HTV studios in Bristol for the show "Keynotes", and we will be attending one of the "Time - The Place" programmes.

We were also invited to send delegates to a meeting arranged by Avon County Council to set up a group representing many organisations to look into the problems of Transport in the 1990s and beyond.

Our twice monthly meetings are attended by approximately 20 members, the Christmas Lunch attracts about 35 members, and we keep our funds solvent by small sales of work, raffles and in the summer by a small garden party at a member's home when we raised £129.

The area reunion held at Cheltenham was much enjoyed by all who attended. Members were very sad to hear all the news given to us by our Director concerning the end of the WRAC. Naturally we are very proud to think that the foundations we laid in the ATS now mean the girls have achieved equality with the men, but we are very anxious that our Association, and our Lioness still continues in one form or another. Ex-service comrades mean very much to us as we approach our "third age" especially when so many now live on their own.

BIRMINGHAM This Branch has a membership of 104. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month with an average of 70 members in attendance.

During Sep 90 Branch members attended the reunion at Crewe which they thoroughly enjoyed, 16 members had a very interesting guided walk around Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

In Oct 90 it was decided that this Branch would purchase our own Standard and various ideas were discussed with Branch members with reference to fund raising activities which led to a coffee morning and a draw. We also welcomed Rose Evans, an overseas member from Canada and Capt and Mrs Monk from the Salvation Army gave a talk on the history of the work of the Salvation Army.

In Nov 90 trips were organised to the Fiesta Glass Company and Sandwell Farm and Park.

We held our Christmas Dinner in December; Pat Cooper from Shrewsbury was our guest of honour and over 50 Branch members attended. Our meeting in January 1991 began with prayers for all Service Personnel in the Gulf followed by a talk and slides on China. A donation was made to St Mary's Hospice.

We were able to go ahead and order our new Standard by February from Perriots at 1990 prices! The Chairman thanked Mrs Foiley for her help whilst the Secretary was hospitalised. Mrs Edith Fromes visited the Branch to discuss the September reunion.

Our new Branch Standard was blessed on 24 March 1991 in time for it to be taken to the reunion in Glasgow. Also during this month several members went to 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry at Cannock for their parade. Thirty Branch members attended the Grand Reunion in Glasgow in April. A great time was had by all and the weekend will be long remembered. During May we made our plans for our dedication service in June.

June 1991 was a very busy month for the Branch. We had visits to the Royal Worcester Procelain factory and to the Oratory and Cardinal Newman's Room. We held a Bring and Buy Sale and made £150 towards the Dedication Service. The highlight of this month was the Dedication of the Branch Standard. We thank Lieutenant Colonel Flake and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robinson for taking part in the service, the 20 Standard Bearers and all other Association Members who made this such a memorable day.



Our Branch Standard

In July we attended the opening of the Corps Museum by HM The Queen Mother and our thanks go to all at Guildford for giving us such a good time. Mrs Edith Francis paid the Branch another visit to see how preparations for the Reunion were going and we made £50 with a Tombola.

We had a visit in August to the Police Traffic Control Centre at Bittam and we thank Pat Bentley, our entertainments officer for arranging so many interesting outings for the Branch.

Sadly 3 branch members died in December and our eldest member, Mrs Dawson who was 91 and had served in both World Wars died in April last year.

BOLTON Our summer months were taken up mainly by raising funds towards our Tenth Anniversary Dinner Dance and much hard work contributed to the huge success of the occasion. Seventy five people sat down to dinner in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton and Captain Valerie Goode of the QARANC



Reserve. We were very pleased to welcome friends and husbands and a special welcome to the members from Manchester and Rochdale Branches, we thank them for their support. Joan Nadin and Betty Hamer, the founder Secretary and Treasurer received gifts as a token of appreciation for their work over the years. Betty Hamer was unable to attend owing to illness, but she was very much in our thoughts.

The photograph shows the Branch members with the Tenth Anniversary Cake. During August and September, we attended a coffee morning given at the home of Rita Turner and a luncheon given by Sybil Yates, both events were well attended and very much enjoyed. On 15 August several members attended a Remembrance Parade for VJ Day and flowers were laid on the War Memorial. Four members travelled down to London for the Remembrance Parade in Whitehall, the numbers of ladies on Parade get bigger every year. We had a very enjoyable Christmas Dinner on 5 December, a bit early but none the less a happy evening for all who attended. Our next event after that was our Christmas luncheon on 17 December, and now the festive season is over we will be making our preparations for the Ceremony in Guildford in March. Well 1991 was a very busy year for the Branch and we look forward to a more relaxed 1992. The Branch members send Christmas Greetings and wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

BRADFORD have had an excellent year with many activities. The first highlight was attending the Grand Reunion in Glasgow where our Secretary, Miss Ivy Weston BEM and our Treasurer Mrs Nora Houldsworth received Certificates of Appreciation from Brigadier A Field. Our Standard Bearer Mrs Norah Kendall was chosen to carry the old ATS Standard at the church service and march past, our Branch Standard being carried by our Deputy Mrs Mary Wormwell. We all had a very enjoyable weekend.

On Tuesday 4 June fifteen members travelled by mini coach to see HM the Queen Mother reopen the Corps Museum at Guildford. We had a splendid day and some of us were lucky to be able to shake her by the hand.

On Wednesday 28 August we again travelled to Guildford and stayed overnight at the University. The next day we attended a Passing Out Parade of WRAC recruits and very smart they were. Again we had a memorable visit.

Our Standard has been paraded numerous times. In October at the 8th Army El Alamein Parade on Blackpool Promenade and at Festivals of Remembrance at Blackpool, Oldham and Bradford. On the last Sunday in November we were invited by Wakefield RA Association to the Saint Barbara's Day Parade, St Barbara being the Patron Saint of the Artillery.

Again we have hosted a lunch for the 1914-18 veterans. This was our tenth but sadly the numbers were down. We could only muster ten veterans. The oldest was 98 and the others well over 90. They are looking forward to next year. We have had two coffee mornings to make money for the funds. We made donations to the Princess Royal's Fund and to a little boy from Bradford who was waiting for an ear implant. This has been successful.

We are now arranging a trip to Guildford in March and a visit to Cleethorpes in May for the Northern Area Reunion.

Our finances are in a very healthy state and all officers were returned at our AGM in November.

CARDIFF AND NEWPORT This Branch has 29 Annual Members and 12 Life Members. The meetings are held monthly in the Officers' Mess at the TA Centre, Park Street, Cardiff, thanks to the OC, Maj Widgery. Attendance at these meetings averages 20.

Last November 8 Branch Members attended the Centenary Parade at Whitehall.

Maj Walters was invited to attend our Christmas meal which was held at the Sandringham Hotel. The meal was very well attended and we had a very enjoyable evening.

In April 4 of us attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Grand Reunion at Glasgow.

On 8 May 17 members of this Branch, along with members from Swansea, Rhyl and Wrexham Branches, totalling 60 in all, enjoyed an overnight stay at Sennybridge organised by Maj Walters. Maj Walters is to be congratulated along with members of staff at Sennybridge who worked so hard to ensure everyone had an exciting and memorable visit.

During June 9 Branch Members went to Guildford for the opening of the WRAC Museum by HM The Queen Mother. Five of us also attended the Gulf thanksgiving service at Llandaff Cathedral.

On 30 July the Branch had a visit from Brig Ramsey which was well attended and included members from Swansea, Rhyl and Wrexham. Brig Ramsey gave a talk on the future plans of the WRAC and the new AG Corps. Maj Walters provided an iced cake for the occasion.

Fifteen Branch Members attended the Area Reunion at Birmingham and brought with them a visitor from Edmonton Canada who was happy and excited to be able to attend a reunion whilst on holiday.

The Branch has presented a plaque to Maj Widgery for the TA Officers' Mess in appreciation for all the help that he has given the Branch in the past.

CHELMSFORD The Chelmsford Branch continues to grow and to thrive on the many activities throughout the year.

The Area Reunion at Chelsea Barracks was a tremendous success mainly due to the great efforts of Lt Col Trout and her helpers and of course the 'girls' who looked after everyone so well. Not forgetting the Coldstream Guards who put on such an excellent lunch!

This occasion made us all realise how very much comradeship means – in fact just as we were years ago when we were 'all pals together' and what a joy it was to hear about the young girls who served out in the Gulf.

The Branch Secretaries accounts of their year's activities was very interesting and our own Secretary, Daphne Attridge, very cleverly put our events into rhyme – which sums it all up as follows:-

'A Year with the Chelmsford Branch'

JANUARY	Trivia quiz – Left some members in a tizz.
FEBRUARY	Mixed craft meeting Plus theatre outing – super seating.
MARCH	Parade of Easter Bonnets Inspiration for Shakespeare sonnets. We made a trip to London too – saw 42nd Street – What Ho!
APRIL	Remand Home life portrayed – Play reading too – great progress made.
MAY	A film of Hump Back Whales and stall at May Fair – many sales!
JUNE	We had a Beetle Drive – Old Barn tea and a mystery ride Guildford too – Queen Mum to see – Museum opened – we clapped with glee.
JULY	Our second birthday treat Strawberry tea – with lots to eat. A play performed which proved a riot Thankfully no need for quiet!
AUGUST	Bingo kept us happy – for this game one must be snappy.
SEPTEMBER	Docklands outing planned – Dedham too – the church is grand. Reunion Chelsea will give pleasure Reviving memories we treasure.

OCTOBER Captain Hill is due –
Our snaps of yesteryear to view
Grand five days at Gunton Hall –
Hopefully we'll have a ball.

NOVEMBER Sees our Church Parade – to honour those
whose lives they gave.

DECEMBER Carol Concert booked –
We're told the singing has one hooked.
And a Christmas treat in store –
Party games – and much much more!

CLEVELAND We have had a very interesting year, the members have been very busy in so many ways. In January we wrote to servicemen and women serving in the Gulf and received some grand letters in reply. In February, 30 of our members had afternoon tea with the Mayor of Middlesbrough, everyone enjoyed the visit. Twenty two of our members attended the Glasgow reunion which in our opinion was fantastic - we enjoyed every minute. We decided to embroider a church kneeler and arranged to hand it over to Catterick Garrison Church. On 6 November 50 of our members attended and we were joined by 12 members from Harrogate and 6 from Richmond branches. We had lunch in the Sgts Mess and a dedication service in the Garrison Church which is beautiful, again a very enjoyable day out. The CO, QM, RSM and other members of staff joined us and really looked after us "old dears". Twenty four of our members paraded in Whitehall for the armistice parade, when we got home we found we were TV celebrities as lots of our friends saw us on TV. Everyone who had not previously attended the London parade was quite overcome with emotion, and we were all proud to march with our fellow ex-service comrades. We also had a good number of new members this year. We managed to get a Public Service Announcement at our local TV station inviting new members to join us. This year we decided to purchase a Standard. It's been hard work getting the cash together, so now it's ordered and paid for, we're just waiting to arrange a dedication service so we can take it to Guildford. Don't you agree we've had an interesting, active and busy year?

COVENTRY Our second birthday will be in November and membership of this Branch is now 38.

This year's outings have been visits to Westminster Abbey and Windsor.

Two members of the Branch have been selected to be our welfare ladies. This involves visiting members who are in hospital and taking flowers, sending out get well cards and sending each member a birthday card. They also contact the Secretary if anyone has missed 2 or 3 meetings in order that she can write to the member concerned to enquire if everything is alright.

CREWE Membership of Crewe Branch and attendances at monthly meetings remain much the same as before.

It was decided not to have a Christmas Dinner last year but to have a theatre outing in the Spring instead. However, this was postponed due to the Grand Reunion in Glasgow which was voted a resounding success by all who attended. It was decided that the visit to Guildford for the opening of the Corps Museum by HM The Queen Mother would become the Branch Social outing.

The usual fund raising efforts have been held and donations for 1990 totalled £200. We have attended the usual local Civic and Service parades including a short ceremony preceding the unveiling of a Memorial Plaque to the Gulf War.

We all enjoyed the Area Reunion in Birmingham and especially enjoyed seeing old friends.

We have had a theatre outing in October, another booked for December, which was our Xmas Social event.

Our usual party attended the Cenotaph Service and

Parade in London, where once again we met old friends and made new ones.

This brought us to the end of the year, we look forward to 1992 with our usual optimism.

EASTBOURNE We have had a busy year, but members were very sad at the announcement in the February 1991 "Lioness" that the WRAC was to be disbanded. The Honorary Secretary attended the Grand Reunion in Glasgow and was very impressed, thank you Glasgow.

Members attended the opening of our Museum by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and several had the honour of being spoken to by Her Majesty, a very enjoyable and eventful day.

Members also attended ceremonies at Dunkirk and Robecq, France.

We listened to the WRAC Staff Band when it played here. Throughout the year we have had various lectures and demonstrations from the RSPB to one on icing cakes given by a member.

Our Rededication Service was held at which a member was a bugler. We also attended the Remembrance Day Parade and evening Concert.

Through the year one of our members has arranged rambles round the beautiful countryside.

A very enjoyable and successful year.

GREAT GRIMSBY An invitation to the Battle of Britain Day on 15 September was eagerly accepted by our ladies. This was held in the grounds of the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire - home to the famous Dambusters during the last war. What an exciting day it proved to be. A Military and Veteran show in aid of LIVES, a medical emergency service was a huge success. After a Thanksgiving service and then accompanied by the Steadfast Brass band, a parade of all invited veterans took place. The parade area was surrounded by the members of the Lincolnshire Military Preservation and Re-enactment Society all sporting WW2 uniforms. American Generals, Colonels, Nazi officers, British Generals and other ranks, even a 'Monty' look-a-like. We were very envious of the young ladies in original ATS uniforms and would have loved to swop them for our outfits but unfortunately our figures like our ages had increased so we could only gaze in envy. A re-enactment battle by the Society was first class, covering every aspect of ground warfare, and a parade of WW2 military vehicles, evoked many happy memories, particularly the Jeeps. A fly-past by a Lancaster bomber accompanied by a single Spitfire caused a wave of emotion, much cheering and a few men were seen to shed a few tears as well as the ladies. We ended the day in the best of spirits - nostalgic events never fail to invoke the sweetest of memories. On Remembrance Sunday, wreaths were laid at the local Cenotaphs of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, and our ladies were well represented. Our correspondent had the privilege of taking Grimsby's Association wreath to the Whitehall Remembrance Parade. Taking part in the March Past with her were two ATS friends from her service days in 1941 and whom she had not seen since then. The Women's section was heartily applauded by the spectators and an added bonus was the Salute taken of the March Past on Horse Guard's parade by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. When we saw who it was shoulders went back that extra inch and the eye's right was quite something. Later wooden crosses were placed in the Garden of Remembrance at St Margaret's in the grounds of Westminster Abbey in memory of four Grimsby ATS killed in action. It was a sobering thought to see just how many members of the ATS gave their lives. After an eventful year, in which we still attracted new members, we finalised our year, with a very successful Christmas Fayre. It is from such events our social funds are boosted and enables us to subsidise outings - sick visits and give donations to needy causes. Our final meeting for 1991 also incorporated the Christmas party and an excellent buffet with wine and dancing sent us home ready to celebrate the

party season. We look forward to hosting the Northern area's AGM in May 1992 so until we meet - Great Grimsby's branch sends its warmest greetings to all Association members and wishes everyone a very happy healthy and peaceful New Year.

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HASTINGS Hasting Branch at its inaugural meeting agreed that those running the Branch should hold office for limited periods only and as our Chairman, Dorothy Dixon, has now completed two years in that position, the Branch at its AGM elected Mrs Joan Lovell to the Chair. Joan has been an enthusiastic and hard working member since she attended the first Branch Meeting in April 1980. We wish her well and trust her tour of duty will be enjoyable for her and beneficial for our Branch.

1991 was a year when we endeavoured to recruit more young members and with this in view we held our first Children's Party.

This was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, their grandmas, and a few mothers, but was not entirely



successful as a recruiting drive! However, we did make contact with several younger people who have joined the Branch but are not able to attend our afternoon meetings. We have therefore agreed that each year the Branch will hold a special function at a time when our working colleagues can join us. Perhaps this idea will be more successful - we do hope so!

We have had a busy year with meetings and outings, and we again joined the Armistice Parade in Alexandra Park and participated in the Festival of Remembrance at



Our Members waiting for the Queen's Colour to be Marched Off following the morning service

the White Rock Theatre. Each year at the Festival, the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hastings appeals for funds for the ex-Service Benevolent Funds and 1991 had the highest collection ever and the WRAC/ATS Benevolent Fund received a cheque to the value of £32 - this in addition to our annual contribution.

Our congratulations go to Mrs Betty Marshall, an ex ATS Corporal, who has been presented with a Certificate which states that "Honorary Membership granted to Mrs Betty Marshall for Services on behalf of the International

Prisoners of War Association". This Certificate is dated 24 October 1991 and signed by the National President, Chairman and Secretary. Well done Betty - we know you work very hard as Secretary to the local ex-Prisoners of War Branch.

Our local Hospice has a ceremony at which the lights on a large Christmas tree are switched on. This tree is in the Hospice grounds and people are invited to sponsor a light in memory of a relative or friend. Our Branch sponsored a light in memory of the 12 members who have died since the Branch was formed.

As we write this another year is nearing its end and we know that, due to military changes, next year will be a sad one for so many of us. However, these changes result from work well done in the past, so may 1992 be the beginning of a new chapter with comradeship, health and contentment for you all.

HEREFORD This Branch has 28 members. Meetings are held monthly at the Royal British Legion Hall with an average attendance of 9. Two of our meetings have also been held at Ross-on-Wye at the houses of Branch Members.

Last November we attended the parade and wreath laying ceremony at the city's war memorial and the chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the WRAC Association.

We welcomed an ex member of the WRAC now living in Australia to our meeting and Christmas meal in December. Unfortunately our Secretary had to cancel the trip to Glasgow owing to a hospital appointment but after selling 70 raffle books, we won 2 of the smaller prizes. The highlight of our year was undoubtedly the day in June when 4 members met HM The Queen Mother at Guildford on the occasion of the opening of the ATS/WRAC Museum and we thank Lt Col Dunn and all who made it such a memorable occasion.

On 10 October the ladies from Cheltenham Branch joined us for a coffee morning. Our long awaited trip to the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), the oldest Regiment in the British Army took place in September. Col Tuggey and his staff welcomed us to the Castle and Regimental Museum. During refreshments afterwards in the Militia Bar we met at least 8 future members of the Branch - many ex-members of the WRAC are now serving in the TA there.

We have joined in letter writing and sending gifts to our troops during the Gulf War.

So far this year this Branch has donated £30 to the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund, £10 to the Museum Fund and £25 each to BLESMA and SSAFA. We made £86 profit at last October's jumble sale. We also have a sponsored knit operating and the squares will be crocheted together and blankets donated to the local Salvation Army and Red Cross.

Sadly Miss Sheppard died recently aged 83. Miss Sheppard always got enormous pleasure from her Lioness which she read over and over again. Mrs Price, our treasurer for 2 years and a founder member of the Branch had to resign owing to her husband's illness, therefore Miss Nicholls, an ex-member of the WRAC took over in January.

HULL Hull Branch still meets on the premises of the Royal British Legion on the first Friday of each month at 2 pm. We are few but we have had a very busy year with our trip to Glasgow when everyone had a wonderful time and Glasgow people cannot be thanked enough - they even arranged good weather. In June we were off again to Guildford and were thrilled to meet HM the Queen Mother and be told 'Good stuff comes from Yorkshire'. Later in June we had a guided tour of our Holy Trinity Church here in Hull. Mrs Vera Parkinson was our guide and proudly (justly so) showed us the many Banners which hang in the Church which she herself had designed and made. Holy Trinity is the largest of all English Parish Churches and has a long history. Our annual trip this year was to Hawes in

Wensleydale in the heart of Herriot country. The weather was good and the day very much enjoyed. We now look forward to next May when Grimsby (across the Humber) together with Northern Area, will be hosting the Northern Area Reunion in Cleethorpes. We hope to see many of you then.

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INVERNESS The Inverness Branch were hosts to the Scottish Area Association AGM in October 1991. The Meeting was well attended, with all nine branches being represented. Some members from as far away as Berwick in the South, Aberdeen in the East and Branches in between. A most enjoyable meal was pleasantly served in the Cummings Hotel, followed by Branch reports read by the respective Secretaries, Maj Jo Dunn, Commander WRAC Scotland, chaired the meeting and gave us some news, sadly about the disbanding of the WRAC as a unit. After any other business, a cup of tea and biscuits was enjoyed by all. We ran a raffle on behalf of a very worthy cause, The Highland Hospice, when the sum of £120 was raised and at a later meeting, was presented to Mrs Ann Morrison, their fund raising organiser, by the Branch President, Mrs Mary Cruickshank. Thanks must go to all who attended and contributed to the raffle, also Inverness Branch Committee members who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success.

LONDON This has been an eventful year, beginning with a march at the Grand Reunion in Glasgow and ending with another when 350 members of the Association were on Parade at the Cenotaph on 10 November. The London and Eastern Area Reunion at Chelsea Barracks in September was another notable success with about 200 members from all over the area enjoying a comradesly day for which our thanks go to Lieutenant Colonel V E Trout and the WRAC who organised it. We hope that, in spite of all the changes imminent, it can be repeated next year. It seems more important than ever for us to keep in touch with those still serving.

We have enjoyed talks from Mrs Connie Mark about Caribbean women in the British Armed Forces and from Ian A Lashbrooke on the work of The Royal Star & Garter Home, who this year have been celebrating 75 years of care for the disabled. A cheque was sent to them and also to the Gulf Fund. A 'Speak for Yourself' meeting brought out some hidden talents among members which we will call on again in the future. Our two coach trips to the WRAC Museum/Clandon Park and to Arundel Castle were very popular and two sunny days were enjoyed. A party also attended the Garter Procession at Windsor Castle in June. We were disappointed when we gathered in Regents Park in June to find that the WRAC Staff Band had been sent to Gibraltar (would that we could have joined them!) but we enjoyed the concert by the Royal Corps of Transport Band and the Bandmaster kindly played our Regimental March for us.



Mrs Madeline Curtis, London Branch receives her Certificate of Appreciation from Brigadier A Field

Many changes are no doubt ahead of us but we are confident that the Association will not fail. We send our good wishes to members of the WRAC in whatever branch of the Army they are called upon to serve.

LEICESTER Our meetings this year have been varied and well attended.

A number of us were fortunate enough to be able to attend the re-opening of the Corps Museum at Guildford, and a further Red Letter day was our visit to Windsor to watch the Pageantry of the Garter Parade in the Castle Grounds.

In October, 7 ladies went to Whittington Barracks, Litchfield, Depot of the Prince of Wales Division, to take an ATS kneeler, purchased by the branch and worked by one of our members. They were welcomed by the Padre, the Rev Jim Symonds and Jean White, the Verger, and whilst enjoying a cup of tea, were joined by the CO of the Depot. After a look at the church and hearing some of its history, the Padre took the kneeler to the Altar, and a few short prayers of dedication were said. After this very short but impressive service, further refreshments were served, and naturally the talk was of service memories recalled and all too quickly it was time to leave the friendly hospitality shown to us.

Very sadly we have to report that Miss Dorothy Palmer, our Branch Secretary, for the past 12 years, died on 24 October after a short illness. Miss Palmer joined the ATS in 1942 and served for 25 years, with two breaks of service due to compassionate grounds. She made and kept many friends during her service life and her great joy was to attend both Corps Reunions and the ATS Dinner Club.

Her funeral was well attended by members of this Branch and we shall remember and miss her for a very long time.

MANCHESTER After the Glasgow Reunion we settled down again to a less hectic time during the summer. However in May we were invited to Chester by the Monte Casino Veterans for their reunion weekend. They gave us a great welcome indeed. The Chester Branch ATS was also present but unfortunately failed to recognize us. Charlie Chester was entertainer. The following day we were taken to Chester races where one of our ATS backed the winner, more by luck than good management I should say. A good time was had by all.

November was soon upon us which we always find our busiest time of the year. As in previous years we made our pilgrimage to see the show "They Shall Not Grow Old" at the Opera House in Blackpool. After the great show we returned to our friends to finish off the eats. As usual we began to remember the funny side of life in the ATS during the war. It was a happy evening and we laughed until our sides ached; will we ever forget those times I wonder?

Armistice Day found us all mustering for the service at the Cenotaph. It was bitterly cold, so we were pleased once again to be invited into the Town Hall for hot pot lunch, apple pie and cream and a glass of wine. We were proud to march past the Cenotaph then onto the saluting base, all in step and heads held high. We feel lucky to have a friend in a WRAC Sergeant who ensures we keep the tradition of the ATS flying. We even managed to raise applause from the spectators. Back to business the following week, we held our annual Bring and Buy sale. Proceeds when settled will of course go to the Benevolent Fund. The next meeting was our Christmas Party, all bringing our own supply of goodies and drinks. Great fun, our meeting arrangements were discussed about our visit to Guildford in March, so we have plenty to look forward to after our winter break. Before then however we will be saying our "compliments of the season" to each other at a dinner we have arranged at a salubrious restaurant and finish 1991 with hope for the New Year in the friendship of all Association branches wherever they may be in 1992.

MIDDLESBROUGH We now have a nice happy group who enjoy our meetings every first Wednesday in the month, when we have our usual bring and buy sales, raffles etc trying to boost funds as we have only existed for 20 months.

We started our year in October with the AGM. The following month, November we attended the Remembrance parade in Middlesbrough. We have had a number of days out at the seaside. We were invited to Sunderland Branch anniversary party. In December we had a lovely Christmas dinner at a local hotel.

In April we had that marvellous weekend in Glasgow, our 3 year reunion. The arrangements for the weekend were organised by the Glasgow Branch and were excellent. The reunion went without a hitch. The meal was very enjoyable, so was the show. The bagpipes just finished off the evening. The hospitality of the Glasgow people was tremendous, after all it is not very often that 700 ladies, a lot over 70 descend upon their town!

The invite from the assistant Provost to the Civic Chambers was a day to remember. One of our ladies, Marjorie Barker who was Mayor of Middlesbrough from May 1990 to May 1991 gave me a plaque from the Middlesbrough council which I presented to the assistant Provost on the Sunday afternoon.

The March just finished off the weekend. We were all very proud as we marched through the town.

June was the highlight of the year. Fourteen of our members were invited to Guildford for the opening of the WRAC Museum by HM The Queen Mother. Some of our members were lucky enough to shake hands and speak to The Queen Mother, myself included. The WRAC girls were very smart and helped us tremendously. They were very kind to us old ladies. They are a great bunch of girls.

Some of our members attended the ATS Dinner Club Lunch on 6 October 1991. It is usually very enjoyable as some ex ATS members meet old comrades and friends. I was glad to see we had our usual Hotel.

In November the Remembrance Parade in London was attended by 6 of our members.

Over the year we have visited members who were ill, either in hospital or in their homes. Cards and flowers have also been sent.

On the whole we have had an enjoyable year and look forward to many more to come.

PLYMOUTH On July 9 1991 we enjoyed an evening's entertainment at the home of Anne Warne.

Our Anniversary Service, unfortunately, had to be cancelled, as RSM Gillet and 29 CDO, were sent to the Middle East, to commence duties in aid of the Kurds. Happily all have returned safely.

In August we took a trip into Cornwall, visiting Flambards, an Amusement Centre near Helston. Then on September 2 we were paid a visit by Colonel J Roulstone WRAC, SW Area, who attended our Monthly Meeting, when we told her of our activities and coming events, not least, of our change of time and venue, before our next Branch Meeting. Also in September we held our Jumble Sale.

On November 8 we attended our Festival of Remembrance Service, held this year at the Pavilions, a recently built theatre and Conference Centre.

On December 18th we held our Christmas Social at the Sgts Mess, Lambhay Hill, by kind permission of WO Gillet. Once again the Committee performed a surprise 'turn' together with other entertainment. This event is always well attended.

Sometime in June 1992 we will hold our Anniversary Service in St Katherines Church followed by luncheon in the Sergeants' Mess.

We have a great feeling of comradeship within our Branch, resulting in long-standing friendships.

We send our Good Wishes for the coming year to all.

RHYL This Branch has a membership of 36 and approximately 22 members attend the meetings which are held

every month at the Rhyl and Abergele Branch of the Royal Air Force Association. During the past year we have arranged various outings and have enjoyed coffee mornings with Bring and Buy Stalls, Strawberry Teas, Cheese and Wine Parties, Jumble Sales and Lunch get togethers.

The highlight of this year was our visit to Sennybridge organised by Maj Walters. Five members went to Glasgow for the Grand Reunion and enjoyed a wonderful welcome from the Glasgow members. Another wonderful day was enjoyed at Guildford in June at the occasion of the re-opening of the ATS/WRAC Museum. In August we met with Wrexham and Swansea at Cardiff to have tea with Brig Ramsay and enjoyed Maj Walters' surprise of a beautiful cake decorated with a Dragon. Our AGM was held on Mon 14 Oct when we allocated our various cheques to our chosen charities. The Branch was also present at the wreath laying ceremony in Rhyl Garden of Remembrance in November

SALISBURY The last six months have flown and all have enjoyed the warm summer. The barge trip on the canal at Wootton Rivers, near Marlborough was a great day, lots of locks, birds and flowers along the banks and a Ploughman's Lunch on board. July found us having lunch at the Green Dragon in Alderbury, with coffee in the Alderbury Guide Hut, and later in the month a party of us attended a garden meeting with the Wincanton Branch. The hospitality was lavish and the views from the garden superb. Our AGM was well attended and plans made for 1992. One of our members, Mrs S Gordon, gave us a talk with slides, on the Bayeux Tapestry; we remembered our history and all have a great desire to see it for ourselves. We ended our year with Christmas lunch at the Playhouse Theatre and send good wishes to all our friends for 1992.

SHROPSHIRE This Branch has had an interesting year with an average of 20 people attending each meeting. We have several new members. The Branch does not meet in January or February and for August and September's meetings it was necessary to move away from Hadley because of civil disturbances. A successful AGM was held in May and the Committee were all returned to Office "en bloc".

We had our Christmas Party at the home of Terri Gaff and our Christmas Dinner was held at "The Swan" in Wellington. Both occasions were a great success and very much enjoyed.

During June we held our Birthday Party and a trip was made to Guildford for the opening of the WRAC Museum by HM The Queen Mother. In July a Barbecue was held at Terri Gaff's home and we were shown a video of the Child Hospice "Acorns". A similar project is proposed in Shropshire and we have made that our 1991/92 Charity. In August we met in the Town Park, went for a walk and then had a meal in a local restaurant.

In September we met at Lt Col Elizabeth Robinson's home where Ina Davies, a Branch Member, gave an interesting display of her collage crafts.

In November there was a trip to the Area Reunion at Birmingham. Our Standard Bearer, Lucy Bower, has paraded the Standard at most local and not so local parades. We have had stalls to raise funds for Charity and our liaison continues with the Light Infantry Association.

SOMERSET An American supper, tea party, slide show and our AGM finished off our year.

A new Committee was elected with the aim of trying to attract new members.

A full year of events has been arranged such as: Christmas hat competition, quiz, skittles, karioki and debate evenings.

A new home base has been found for us at the local TA Centre.

Sadly a member Phylis Willcocks has passed away. Phylis helped with the Bring and Buy and raffle, she will be sadly missed.

We now have 31 Life Members and 50 Annual Members.

SOUTHAMPTON So far this year we have had five new members which is very heartening in these very unsettled conditions regarding the Army and WRAC as a whole.

The second half of 1991 saw us in Portsmouth having been invited by that branch to attend the laying up of their old Standard and Rededication of their new one at the lovely old Church of St Mary's in Fratton. A very moving service and an enlightening occasion for us as our aim is to be the owners of our very own Standard, and as I write this I am very happy to report that with two stalls, an invitation to the Chairman's home for eats and to a member's home for a coffee morning, sufficient money was raised so the order has just gone in and we are looking forward to receiving our Standard early next year.

On 9 November several members were thrilled to see and hear the WRAC Band play off the Canberra in Southampton Docks. The sea was like a mill pond, a lovely crisp clear evening, which happily ended for us with the Conductor of the WRAC Band coming over and speaking to each and everyone of us.

Following on from here, some of our members will be going along to the Guildhall in Portsmouth to hear the WRAC Band in concert in December.

The Festival of Remembrance at Southampton Guildhall is always a must for us, and four of our members were very proud to join other Associations, etc on stage. Those in charge of the event forgot to give the order to descend from the stage, but you are assured they all arrived safely home!

SOUTHPORT Although a small group we hold our monthly meetings in the Royal British Legion Club, Southport, where after the business has been dealt with we have a drink and natter or play a game of bingo. We also meet on Thursdays in each other's homes for a light lunch and usually a raffle - this helps us to raise some funds for our Branch, and is a very convivial afternoon.

Some of our members attended the Reunion in Glasgow in April and gave us a glowing account of the wonderful weekend they had there.

Six of our members attended the Trooping of the Colour Ceremony (2nd Rehearsal) in June and had a terrific day out. We went by mini-bus which picked us each up at our own homes from 5am onwards. We arrived at Marble Arch at about 9.15 and caught the tube into Whitehall where we joined the queue and were soon in our seats. We watched the ceremony with great pleasure, then had a few hours to spend in London before catching our mini-bus at Marble Arch for the return journey. We all arrived back home by about 10pm and felt that it had been a day to remember. This photo shows the group who went, standing near Marble Arch.



L to R: Jean, Peggy, Maud, Irene, Margaret, Dorothy

We then had our outing to Gibbons Bridge Hotel Chipping for a Christmas Lunch to look forward to.

STAFFORD We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club and now have 30 Annual members, 7 Life and 1 Associate member. Regrettably one of our founder members, Val Farrell, died at the end of September. As several of our members live in the Potteries and Burton-on-Trent and are unable to attend meetings, our average attendance each month is 15. A "Newsletter" is sent out to those unable to attend so that we keep in touch.

The highlight of the year was the Grand Reunion in April when 11 from this Branch travelled to Glasgow and enjoyed every minute of our stay. The organisers and members of Glasgow Branch are to be congratulated on a truly memorable weekend.

Owing to renovations and extensions being made at our meeting place we have been allocated a smaller room so we have been limited with our speakers. We have, however, managed to have some who did not need power points for films etc and these include a talk on Army Badges, oil painting, wild birds and jewel boxes made from Christmas cards.

Our Chairman attended the celebrations in Crete to mark the 50th Anniversary of the invasion of the island and gave us a most interesting talk including the part her husband played during and after the invasion. Another member told us about the Rudolf Steiner Schools for the handicapped near Aberdeen and Bethel, Bielefeld Germany and how her daughter became involved with them.

In May we visited the local Ambulance Station and in August we had a stall at a Car Boot sale - a new experience for us.

In November 4 of our Branch attended the Service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall while 4 others attended the Stafford service where a wreath was laid.

Once again an enjoyable year.

STIRLING The Stirling Branch have almost completed their second year as a separate Branch in Central Region and have a membership of 55 Annual Members, 1 Life Member and several regular visiting members from surrounding Branches. Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month except in June, July and August and are usually attended by about 30 Members.

At the end of our very successful first year a cheque for £100 was sent to the ATS Benevolent Fund who suitably acknowledged our generous contribution. In 1991 all our efforts were put into raising funds for the Grand Reunion in Glasgow in April. Many generous donations of money and material gifts were received and suitably acknowledged by the Reunion Committee.

In January the Reverend Jack Lamb gave a most interesting talk on the Whitburn Trust in South West Scotland. The talk was illustrated by a video recording and was enjoyed by all. In February Mrs Rhona Campbell gave a talk on Herbalism and Alternative Medicine and she gave surprising answers to questions put to her regarding natural remedies for everyday ailments. In March we had the services of Constable McFarlane of Central Scotland Police who gave a talk and showed a video on Home Security. Everyone was very impressed with Constable McFarlane's talk and the manner of his presentation. He was delighted to receive an Easter Egg for giving up a day of his holidays to frighten the life out of us. The April meeting consisted of a big discussion on the very wonderful Grand Reunion in Glasgow. It must go on record as being the best ever and 14 of our members joined in the events of the weekend. One of our members showed her video recording of the March Past on the Sunday and our only disappointment was that due to the Gulf Crisis the WRAC Band could not be there. We were very proud to march behind the superb bands who substituted. In May, for our last meeting before the summer break, we had a talk by Mr Ross Stuart from the Burma Star Association. Mr Stuart gave a most enlightening talk on the Burma Campaign. This was followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by all the ladies present. The sales table did

very well that day with the huge amount of "doggie bags". Only the Branch Secretary applied for a ticket to attend the official opening of the Corps Museum at Guildford on 4 June. To her surprise as well as being granted a ticket she was invited to represent all the "Ack Ack Girls" who had served during WW2. She was invited to the site and to be presented to HRH Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. This was a memorable experience and a great delight to meet and talk to this most charming lady. After the official opening she walked among and chatted to the 800 ex-service women waiting in the sunshine in the lovely grounds of Queen Elizabeth Park. This was truly a day to remember.

Falkirk District Council invited 4 of our members to take part in the Festival of Remembrance with the Royal British Legion on 9 November and 15 members hoped to attend the church of the Holy Rude on 10 November for the Remembrance Service followed by a parade to the Cenotaph in Stirling.

The Stirling Branch wish to record their appreciation to the Editor and staff of the Lioness for the pleasure they get from the magazine twice a year. Through the correspondence columns many old friendships have been renewed. It is enlightening to hear of the activities of other branches, and one feels envious to read of the activities of the present day servicewomen.

SWANSEA Our Branch still is very active with new members joining from time to time. August saw us spending a lovely afternoon at the home of our President Mrs Veronica Barrington, whose home looks out to the sea. We have had various speakers through the months, one was a lady who gave us a talk about taking care of our eyes. It was very interesting and we learnt quite a lot. We are sorry to report the resignation of our secretary Mrs Irene Tack after years of dedicated service. She organised our social activities and attended all AGMs on our behalf. Although sorry to see her go, we wish her health and happiness in the future. She has now moved to Bristol to join her family.

ULSTER We in the Ulster Branch have had our usual active year. In February 54 members attended the Annual Luncheon/Bring and Buy sale in the Members' Rooms of the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society.

Early June saw 39 of us 'bussing it' up North to Portrush via Castledawson, Coleraine and Portstewart, with a meal and (of course!) liquid refreshment in Broughshane. The weather was kind to us and scenery lovely.

As we have done for years, the Ulster Branch members joined those of Omagh Branch in Omagh for lunch, which was most enjoyable.



The Ladies of the Omagh Branch who attended the Annual Lunch 1991

The highlight of the year, for the 19 UB Members who attended, was the meeting in Glasgow. It's just as well it was not necessary to go through customs on returning to

NI or there might have been excess charges on the whisky purchased at the distillery!!!

We were delighted to welcome, to our AGM in November, Major Carrie Stuart, CO WRAC NI who filled us in with info re the new AG Corps - how we all wished...

WOLVERHAMPTON Wolverhampton Branch continues to flourish and we have enjoyed a very full and varied programme. We have 53 members at present and continue to meet every 4th Wednesday afternoon of the month except August above the offices of the Voluntary Sector Council, Wolverhampton with an average of 25 to 30 members. We have been shown how to do simple dress-making and alterations. We have had a tour of Beatties Store Wolverhampton which proved very enjoyable and because of its popularity we had another outing this year to Turners Entertainments where we were presented with a certificate and cup for the best 'Sing along' group present. The Branch lost two of its members early in the year and recently we have had the tragic murder of one of our members, Sarah Bowdler, which has cast a black cloud over our meetings at present. We have rounded off the year this past week with our Christmas Lunch which we held at Beatties Restaurant and now look forward to 1992 with trepidation.

WREXHAM The Branch meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Wrexham Memorial Hall. This has been a very busy year for the Branch, there have been visits to Sennybridge Camp, to Cardiff Branch for the visit of Brig Ramsey and we attended the opening of the WRAC Museum at Guildford during which 2 members spoke to HM The Queen Mother. The Branch also attended the Armistice Parade and laid a wreath. A visit was made to the Mayor's parlour where we presented the ATS Plaque.

PLUS CA CHANGE

The following is an extract of a letter received from someone who had served in the ATS 1940-1945:

"These few words are to say a big 'Thank you' for the almost five years I spent in the ATS, joining in 1940. I owe so many so much and dread to think what my life would have been but for the gradual wearing away from a very repressed early childhood. To me the ATS was like being let out of prison. Each posting a new experience culminating in my taking the Signals exam and staying with the R C of Signals until the end of my career. I'm sure because of the discipline and all the help I received have stood me well over the years. Now I am 'swotting for my finals' with a difficult inoperable condition and felt I would just like to say I owe the ATS a great deal for the seeds that were sown, and the courage I now have. God Bless you all, may the movement go from strength to strength as I know it will, and thank you for all the memories".

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.

REUNIONS

Miss C I Ellis has written with details of the 1992 ATS Reunion in Winchester. Any ex ATS Records Clerks who served in King Alfreds College, Winchester during '39 to '46 are most welcome to attend this years celebrations on 10 and 11 July. For further details and information, please contact Miss Ellis at "Whitehaven", Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, Nr Winchester, Hants SO21 2HP.

Miss A I Purton OBE, of 42 Christchurch Crescent, West Meads, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5SL, has written to Lioness inviting ex or serving military policewomen to contact her with reference to attending a reunion to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ATS/WRAC Provost. The reunion is to be held at the Royal Military Police Training Centre, Chichester, Sussex on Saturday 8 August 1992. All those who have already stated an interest will receive details in due course.

OLD COMRADES

Enigma Reunion 2 - 5 October 1992

Mrs Marie Bennet (née Le Blond Jones) who is ex ATS Intelligence BP (1941-45) is organising a reunion at the Bedford Swan Hotel in Bedford from 2 to 5 October 1992. Hotel accommodation and detailed booking arrangements are being co-ordinated by Saga; and participants are free to decide how long to stay. The proposed programme includes a visit to 'the Park', a chance to help preserve this monument, and the opportunity to get together with old comrades over dinner on Saturday 3rd. For further information, please contact Mrs Bennet at "Fresnoy", Lower Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berks RG11 6DB.

S O S

Mrs Gertrude Mitchell (née Smith) 321 Elizabeth House, Chapel Street, Hemel Hempstead writes to say, I was trained at Rhyll, (Kinnel Park) in 1942 and was a member of a Searchlight site at Seer Green, Chalfont St Peters. Over the years we have all kept in touch and had reunions every 5 years. 1992 is our 50th year of friendship and we only have one girl still missing. Olive Tanner came from Stockport, Cheshire, and wore a Canadian flash on her shoulder. She shared many trials and tribulations with us and we would love news of her. Our next get together is our Golden one in May 1992, and as she came from Stockport, maybe someone will recognize the family name of Tanner. (There were a couple of brothers who may still live in the area). If we could trace her, our original site would be complete.

EASTERN AND LONDON WRAC ASSOCIATION REUNION 21 SEPTEMBER 1991

Volunteers from 12 MOD (A) Pl and 56 Sqn RCT awaited the arrival of the Association Members at Chelsea Barracks NAAFI on the morning of 21 September 1991. A bus load from Colchester, Chelmsford and Braintree Branch arrived first full of smiling faces with the members obviously looking forward to the days events. Members from London and Greater London arrived by foot, followed by Wimbledon, Ilford and Cambridge members. After a welcomed cup of tea the days event began.

The Chairman Lieutenant Colonel V E Trout WRAC welcomed everyone and introduced the Vice-Chairman Major (Retd) R Warne MBE who also said a few kind words.

Each Branch Secretary or Chairman gave a presentation on their respective Branch activities for the year, this was of great interest. The WRAC servicewomen helping out were amazed at what the Association Members managed to cover, everything from outings to charity events (where do they get the energy from)!!



*Mrs Beryl Wolfe, Colchester Branch and
Brigadier A Field who presented Mrs Wolfe's Certificate
of Appreciation*

After the hearty lunch, Brigadier Field, Chairman of the Association, presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mrs Madeleine Curtis (90 years young) of London Branch and Mrs Beryl Wolfe of Colchester Branch, who after giving us all more than a little concern after her recent illness, looked better than ever.

Each Branch brought a small gift towards the Raffle draw which took place after the excellent lunch and which raised £225 for the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Fund. The servicewomen joined with the Branch Members during the raffle for a chat. One of the members from Greater London Branch later said "We really felt we "belonged" and were amongst friends".

After more tea and biscuits, Brigadier Ramsey Director WRAC gave a presentation on the Wider Employment of Women in the Army and the Way Ahead after the demise of the WRAC in April 1992. Brigadier Field gave an overview on Association matters.

This was followed by a most interesting presentation from SSgt Jan Rees (Top Cat) a Gulf Veteran serving with 56 Sqn RCT. She spoke of her appointment in the Gulf and described the employment of girls under her command. Some interesting slides showing their living conditions and work experiences were shown, to which many of the Association members could relate. Later she displayed a notice board with photographs of the girls in action. Needless to say some Branch members also had photographs of their own to show which the younger servicewomen enjoyed seeing.

The 'boys' who helped with this Reunion deserve a mention, for without their assistance the event, and that's what it was, would not have happened. The chefs from 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards who provided a first class buffet lunch and a regular supply of tea and coffee and CSM Pears and CQMS O'Neil who provided the "muscle power" to move the furniture.

The Association Members had a super day judging by the many "thank you" letters received, as did the WRAC servicewomen who had given up their Saturday to attend. Contrary to popular belief, the young and old can mix, particularly when they have a common interest such as the WRAC.

**Now is the time to make sure that you have the
souvenirs of your service with the WRAC and/or
ATS - "WHILE STOCKS LAST"**



435 (Mixed) HAA BATTERY RA REUNION

We have met at the Victory Club in London for the last 3 years and each year find a few more old comrades come and join us. If anyone recognises themselves or anyone else in the photograph, please write to: Mrs Joyce M Wright, 43 Violet Close, North Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5XG, for details of the 1992 Reunion. Also welcome to attend the Reunion are members of 450, 457 or 469 (Mixed) HAA Batteries RA.



SAXONS HOCKEY CLUB CYPRUS

Easter 1993 heralds the 21st Anniversary of the founding of Saxons Hockey Club. To commemorate this memorable occasion the Club is hoping that as many ex-Saxons as possible will return to Cyprus for a reunion Festival to be held during the period 17 to 19 April.

We would like as many ex-Saxons as possible to celebrate this auspicious occasion with us. If you are interested in taking part or would like more details of the event please contact the anniversary committee through:

Rob Cowin
Chairman Saxons Hockey Club
St John's School
BFPO 53 E

Make your 1993 holiday one to remember, start saving now!

**SEE PAGE 25 FOR DETAILS OF
WRAC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Elizabeth Ryan (formerly Lillie Smith of North Crumlin, Dublin) now at 124 Blackditch Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin is trying to trace Edna McCabe of Dundee or Margaret (Peggy) McClean of Southampton who trained with her in Leicestershire and were demobbed with the RAOC in Bicester.

ATS ARTILLERY PLOTTERS DOVER CASTLE Please contact Joan Faulkner c/o White Cliffs Veterans, 77 Lydia Road, Walmer CT14 9TY.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW? Katherine Payton was one of the last members of the ATS to be evacuated from France in June 1940 according to some of our family, and shortly thereafter she was admitted to the Isle of Wight Sanatorium suffering from TB. Still during the War Years she was invalided out of the Army due to TB and sometime later took up employment as the manageress of the children's section of the Bumpass Book Store in London. She resided in Nottingham Gate, London, during this period and later with her best friend from the ATS days, Mickey Anslee, she opened a cafe in Portobello Road, Nottingham Gate End. Of interest is that its opening times were weekends and market days only. Can any of you remember either Kitty or Mickey as colleagues or friends and what became of them? Due to the fact that as far as we know Kitty never married, our family has only stories from relatives now no longer with us. Any information would be so gratefully received by us all. Please reply P L I Armstrong, c/o Mrs M B S Purkis, WRAC Museum, Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6QH.

Mrs June Bennett (née Nowell) of 8 Canberra Grove, Beaumaris, Victoria 3193 Australia would like to hear from anyone who was with 164 OCTU stationed in North Wales. She was there as a PT Instructor.

Mrs Vera Fitzgerald (née Ballard) would be very interested to hear from anybody who served with 'Y' Group, R Signals who may have developed Multiple Sclerosis. She has been in contact with ex Cpl M Bushell and learned that several of the 'Barrow Crowd' have developed MS. Mrs Fitzgerald has had MS herself since 1959 and is now Secretary of the Wirral Branch of the MS Society.

Mrs Peggy Norin (née Wride) of 52 Birrabreen Avenue, Pitalba 4655, Queensland, Australia would like to hear from anyone who was in 4 Indep Brigade Berlin (Olympic Stadium) 1957-58 and in particular Dot Brown, Sgt Holland and Peggy Westly.

The Cheltenham and Stroud Branch of the Royal Artillery Association are anxious to get in touch with any former ATS volunteer, or their relatives, who served in the Cheltenham Company ATS, attached to 98th HAA Regiment TA from 1939-1942. Please contact the Secretary, 16 Vittoria Walk, Cheltenham, Glos GL50 1TW.

**PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR ADVERTISERS**

 Member of the Association of Service Newspapers



Mrs Jean Clayton (née Sinnock) has sent in this photograph of a group of ATS ladies taken at a Motor Fitters School in Aldershot in June 1944. She remembers that summer as being particularly hot and going to the river to cool off. This of course resulted in being bitten unmercifully by mosquitoes. In those days the only relief from the bites was to be daubed with calomine lotion, but having to march wearing dungarees, over battledress, over calomined mosquito bites was apparently agony. Anybody recognise themselves from the photo? Mrs Clayton (now Treasurer of the Birmingham Branch of the WRAC Association) would love to hear from you; contact her at 68 Ebrington Avenue, Solihull, West Midlands B92 8HX.

Mrs Jenni Pizzuto (formerly W/432981 Cpl Jenni Luxon) has written from 49 Chapel Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex CO6 3HZ in sadness at having learnt of the passing of 29 Coy WRAC.

"I remember it so very well, from Nov '68 until Feb '72. I worked in the Post Room, HQ BAOR and lived in Block 20, then moved to Block 28 when 29 Coy took it over from C Coy, where it was used as the transit block. We often found visiting soldiers wandering around the block looking completely bemused.

Who remembers the Cafe Coch, Black Max's, Pop's for chicken and chips and the Shack on a Sunday afternoon? How many of us "jumped the window" – to check in at bed-check and go back out again.

In '68 it was live entertainment in the Marlborough Club, but a DJ on Thursday as it was "Scruff's Night". By '72 it was all DJ's.

A few names from then: Pauline Coombs, Pauline Bastow and Andrea Morrow.

Mrs Sylvia Crook (née Cpl Woolston) of 'Kent Corner', 14 The Larches, Horsell Vale, Woking, Surrey GU21 4RE would like to hear from any ex members of 606 MHAA Bty RA any rank – male or female – who served with the Battery from 1942–1945.

She and her husband, then Lt Bill Crook, also 606, had already made contact with several members. Sadly Bill died in August 1990 after 46 years happy marriage. His wish was that the search should continue. Sylvia issued a newsletter in October 1991 to fifteen ex members and is hoping to put others in touch. So Please 'Take Action' once again and write to her. All letters will be answered and photos returned.

A Mme. Marielle Willems of Ave. des A Lezans, 4, B1150, BRUSSELS, Belgium met Meta Murdoch when the latter was serving with 11th HQ Expeditionary Forces Institute, British Liberation Army (later BAOR), working at a Chateau Wanequez near Brussels. Mme. Willems would be delighted to hear from Meta.

Mrs Thelma Snyder, of "Whispering Pines", RT 1, Box 319, Morganton, GA 30560, USA with a view to a reunion:

Attention ATS Signals "Y" girls 1942–45, Isle of Man 92 Squad, and Queen Ethelburgers School, Harrogate. Interested in a reunion? Please write to Mrs Thelma Snyder (née Clarke-Bowler) at the above address.



Mrs D Lean (née Shepherd) pictured here on the right of the back row would like to hear from anyone who worked with her as a typist in Voucher Prep in S Company in Chilwell during the war. This photograph was taken in Arnhem where she and those other ladies from the Association joined ex-paratroopers for their "Silent March".

Miss Dorothy Morris has written in the hope of being able to contact Mary Larkin who served with her in the ATS in 1939 at Shrivenham. Happily fifteen ex-comrades from that date keep in touch and would love to have news of their friend; please contact her at: 39 Morris Drive, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2RQ.

Has anybody from ATS days got any photographs of or including Christine Forster? Mrs A J Sambrood, a great friend of hers, of 122 Hastings Road, Perry Common, Birmingham B23 5AJ has written on her behalf, as sadly her own photographs were destroyed in a fire about 12 years ago. Christine was a cook with the Essex Regiment in Colchester Barracks in the mid forties, a cheerful 5ft 6in dark haired "Geordie".

Mrs Christina Rainey (née McGuire 334444) of 66 St Josephs Terrace, Sligo in the Republic of Ireland is trying to trace Jean Hague of Scunthorpe, Bertha Marshall of Leicester and Beatrice Williams of Canterbury or anyone at Glen Parva Barracks, Wigston, Leicester for 1945 to 1947 who may remember her.

Readers might be interested to know the latest news of Rita Fishwick (nee Stubbs), who served in the Corps from March 1960 to July 1961.

After a short spell of TA service, Rita joined the Regular Army WRAC. After initial training at Guildford she was posted to Drivers and Clerks Training Wing WRAC in

Yeovil, Somerset, and was then put on the permanent staff there at the end of her training course. She worked as a clerk in the Wing HQ Orderly Room, which she enjoyed.

In July 1961 she married husband Don, an RASC Corporal, and subsequently in 1963 was posted with him to Catterick, and moved to her home in Darlington where they still live, Don having left the Army in 1964.

Rita decided in 1976 to combine having a young family and a job with local politics, and in May 1976 was elected onto Darlington Borough Council, and has been a Councillor ever since. She claims that her Army and Orderly Room background was excellent training experience for the tough hurly-burly of Council life.

In May 1991, Rita had the honour of being installed as Mayor of Darlington and is extremely busy with her civic



In present "Uniform" of Mayoral robes, chains and tricorn hat, a little more impressive than the khaki battledress she remembers wearing with such pride

duties. She has amongst other things met the Queen three times since May, and has attended Passing Out Parades and Beatings of Retreat at Catterick Garrison, and is a volunteer caseworker for SSAFA Darlington, she doesn't like to lose her Army connections.

Rita is keen to start a Darlington Branch of the WRAC Association, as there are many ex WRAC and ATS in that area.

If anyone remembers Rita Stubbs from her WRAC days she would dearly love to hear from you. She can be contacted at 4 Huntershaw Way, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 0SE

Mr R C Matthews of 14 Pentathlon Way Cheltenham, Glos GL50 4SE wishes to make contact with Sylvia Madge who lived in Kings Road, Kingston-on-Thames and served in Regents Park Depot.

Mrs E B Holder (nee Betty Lewis - aka Betty Low) has written from 10 Dale Road, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6YG, enclosing three photographs, two of 514 (M) HAA Battery, 151 Regt RA taken during the war...



D Section, 514 (M) HAA Bty - Beverley - 1942



A Section, 514 (M) HAA Bty - Norwich - 1944

.... and one taken only last June.



L to R: Facing camera (Maiden Names): Dorothy Waldron, Betty Paddock, Olive Faulkner, Betty Lewis, Joyce (Jock) Beetham, Elsie (Terry) Fishwick, Anne Bulpitt

This photograph was taken at a reunion party of some ex-members of the Battery who have kept in touch over the years. Largely at the instigation of Joyce Dixon (nee "Jock" Beetham) the reunion took place at last, even though Joyce was, by then, desperately ill. Tragically, very shortly after the reunion, Joyce Dixon lost her three year battle against cancer.

Mrs Holder is keen to try to keep the group together (partly in memory of Mrs Dixon) but she is also hoping to swell the numbers. Anybody recognise themselves from the first two photos? Do please, write to Mrs Holder, she hopes to hold another Battery Reunion in Bridlington on 19, 20 and 21 June 1992.

Mrs J V Bleasdale, of Avendida, De La Costa Blanca, Ciudad Quesada, 03170 Rojales, Alicante, Spain, has written with the following message:-

May I just say a few words in memory of Joyce Dixon who died 1 July 1991. Many of us have heard of her death but I know that there are many who have not heard and who knew her may not have heard the sad news.

Next to her family the second love in her life was the WRAC Association and it's members.

I know that Joyce used to send letters all over the world to where her friends had ventured, and she'd look for snippets of interest in the newspapers to send, always appertaining to THE ARMY and whether she knew them or not she had a wealth of love to give to anyone that wrote to her.

How many of us were receipients of these snippets and how many of us will miss Joyce and indeed her lovely letters?

Our generation, which was enrobed in love and comradeship - born during the days of working together with one common end - are silently leaving the fold, each being sadly missed.

So Joyce, we all say GOODBYE, we all loved you dearly as we have loved all our friends who have gone before.

God Bless You.

Further to my letter in the July 1991 Lioness, would Johnny Froggatt who contacted me by phone, please ring again or send the resume of her life and photographs as promised. I am anxious in case the shock of hearing from me caused some damage to her - as she did say in her call that the excitement of hearing of me she had danced around the room and kicked the settee cushions all over the place. I hope it didn't cause irreparable injury. Seriously though I would like to hear from her. Desiree Volley, 59 Beverley Crescent, Great Grimsby DN32 9TD.

Mrs P M Boyd of 98 Lady Kirk Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE4 8AJ wishes to contact Rose Collis or Collins who served in Rowfort House, Nr Crawley, in 1943/44.



This picture was sent in by Mrs Mary Wilson (née Curry) of the Middlesborough Branch and was taken at the Sunderland Reunion. Mrs Wilson met up with her friend Mrs Isabelle Svenson (née Marren) at the Harrogate Reunion in 1990, and would love to hear from more of their friends, especially LCpl Askew, Mary Woodward, Cathy O'Neil, Taffy and any others from the same hut. Do get in touch with Mrs Wilson at 19 Lewes Way, Low Grange, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 3LT.

Mrs M Falconer (née Todd) would love to hear from anyone who remembers her from her WRAC days. She was then known as "Scotty" Todd, serving from 1953 to '56 in Hugglestone Camp, Wilton, Ladysmith Camp, Fayid, Moascar and Navy House, Port Said.

Mrs J N H Kick BEM has written from "Alltheway", 24 Vernon Avenue, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8PL, and sends greetings to her old colleagues from her ATS and WRAC days. Mrs Kick has moved to the Eastbourne Branch from the Brighton Branch which sadly had to close.

Mr T Carney has written from 21 Kelvington Road, Peckham Rye, London SE15 3EQ to ask if any Lioness reader can help him obtain a copy of a photograph showing the Combined Operations Badge being worn by ATS personnel. ATS personnel employed at Dundonald were given permission to wear the badge on 8 February 1943 by the Chief of Combined Operations (Lord Louis Mountbatten). The ATS at Castletoward hearing this also put up the badge as well as ATS serving with Special Service Brigade.

Mrs Ena Gigner (née Bentley) has written from Windrush Sarah Gate, Quadring, Spalding, Lincs PE11 4QE. Mrs Gigner served from 1942-1948, starting as a telephonist and plotter at a Searchlight Battery at 93/342 Bty in Watford, and then with the Medical Corps abroad until her demob in 1948. She is very keen to contact Elizabeth Parsons from Cambridge, who served with her at Watford. If anybody is in contact, please let her know that Mrs Gigner would love to hear from her, and if you're reading this Elizabeth, please drop her a line.

Mrs Babs Rogers of 205 Nevill Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7NG has written to say that she together with Mrs Emily Senior (née Tommy) and Mrs Betty Dock (née Gibson) would love to hear from any ex ATS who were

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stationed on The Ridge, Hastings and Marine Court, St Leonards during the years 1942 to '45 with "B" Coy Sussex Group (formerly Canadian Corps).

Mrs Enid Cox has written from 34 Waveney Close, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk to express her sadness at the forthcoming closure of the WRAC Centre ("The Depot" to so many ex-servicewomen). She enclosed the following article referring to a ceremony which took place at the Victory Club last year:

Ex ATS members of the Victory Service Club London, friends of Cathleen SALTER (ex ATS) who died on 10 Nov 90 met at the Victory Club after the Remembrance Parade and presented an ATS Plaque to the manager, Mr Graham TAYLOR. Kathleen was a life member of the club and was always there to help old comrades who gathered there on occasions like the WRAC Association AGM, ATS Luncheon and Remembrance Parade. She was a mine of information about Tubes, Buses and places of interest.

During the war she served in London District and with the Royal Engineers in Longmoor.



Her friends would like to thank Mr Taylor for his interest and help in obtaining the plaque which was suitably inscribed, and for organising its presentation at the Remembrance Luncheon when so many of her friends were present at the 1st anniversary of her death. She will always be remembered with affection.

Reading the August '91 edition of Lioness has nudged the memory of Mrs Mary Beaston, and prompted her to write from 77 Campion House, Heath Town Wolverhampton

Reading 'Notes to Needles' Op Granby, in the 2nd issue of the Lioness 1991 brought memories of the 25th British General Hospital, Lille, France 1945. On arrival we were given a pep talk by the Officer IC, and told to forget whatever trade we were in back home, what they wanted out there were Nursing Orderlies, we went to the wards designated, it was a new hospital, very modern, the Germans had been the former patients. British and Allied wounded were brought in, my job like other members was to clean the furniture, tidy the rooms etc, when any of the patients were repatriated home we pressed their uniforms. One day a male nurse said he would show me how to make a bed with the patient in it!! My embarrassment showed as each cover was taken off, I could feel my face going a deeper shade of red, to spare further blushes, the male nurse sent me to do other jobs. It wasn't long after, that the 25th were sent to Norway, the ATS were transferred to the 23rd Scottish General Hospital, that's another story . . .

Mrs Beryl Morton also read an article in the last Lioness which jogged her memory:

. . . I was in the second draft of ATS to arrive in Cairo in August 1942. We joined No 1 ATS Signal Coy and worked long hours in a cellar under GHQ Cairo. I remember the early days when we lived in Kasr El Nil Barracks and later moved into other accommodation – the Greek Embassy at Dokki. I progressed from TPO to High Grade Cyphers and remained in Cairo until VE Day when under the "Demob" arrangements married women and old men were given priority and I returned to UK.

The recent Gulf War brought back memories of the Desert Rats and I wondered if the young soldiers we saw on the television were the grandsons of the men I had served with for three years.

Mrs M Fox, of 23 Bartlett Drive, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7JT, has written to take issue with "On Target" by Vee Robinson, one of the books reviewed in Lioness 2/91. On page 95 Vee Robinson states GL girls did not do fatigues. Mrs Fox, then Pte Price styles herself as an expert cookhouse cleaner of pots and pans, spud basher in chief, ablution queen and guard duty expert. She remembers almost living in denims to maintain radar equipment as well.

Mrs Ruth Montagu (née Mann) of 71 Bedwardine Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3AY has written in response to an article in the previous edition of Lioness; 'A' fiftieth Anniversary – ATS Recruiting in the Middle East:-

– "I spent 3 years in the Middle East, and served under Junior Commander Thomson at Quassasin. I also sailed in the Nieuw Amsterdam from Dunbar, I spent Christmas and New Year 1942/43 on board. On arrival at Suez I was posted to Quassasin in tented accommodation where the girls were working in the military hospital. What a job I had pronouncing their names when I first arrived. The nationalities were German, Austrian, Polish, French, Russian, Greek and Arab. There was the occasional argument in view of the various nationalities but generally they were a grand bunch of girls and really worked very hard in their various jobs at the hospital.



Life had its ups and downs – happy times and sad times, but on the whole I enjoyed my 3 years service and was able to travel to Beirut, Lebanon, Syria and Cairo on my various leaves. It was a very interesting experience as I had to "hitch" by army transport to get anywhere, even into Cairo and across the Sinai desert to Palestine etc.



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Delivery subject to availability.

LB01

Mrs Beryl Pepper (née Bailey) has written enclosing a photograph taken by a local Exeter news photographer.

PDF Compressor Free Version



This photo shows B Troop O's FC of 492 (M) HAA Battery. The photo was taken in June 1944 when the Battery was under canvas at the time and Mrs Pepper remembers the cheerful expressions on the faces of the Troop were caused by the hope that the nearby stack of latrine buckets would not show on the photograph. The photo clearly shows three different forms of dress, the three girls in the front row were on cookhouse duty, the one in battledress were on guard, and the three in the middle (including Mrs Pepper – second from the right) were ready to go out. Mrs Pepper would love to hear from anyone who recognises herself from the photograph, especially May from Birmingham (pictured next to Mrs Pepper – outside right). Please write to her at: Berry Cottage, Chorleywood Bottom, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5JD.

Mrs Eileen Smith, who served in the ATS has written from Canada in the hope that ex-comrades from LAA, B Company in Leicester, especially those billeted in either Joseph Johnson's or Adderley's hostels would get in touch with her. Also, perhaps some of the seven girls who, having no clothing coupons, borrowed her wedding dress would contact her. She is hoping to come over to UK in April and looks forward to visiting old haunts in Leicester and Exeter, and would love to be able to get together with friends from her ATS days. Please contact her at: 910 Sluggett Road, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada.

HRH PRINCESS OF WALES

VISIT TO THE ROYAL STAR AND GARTER HOME

The Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond has accepted lady residents for some two years now. Ex-servicewomen can apply, and every case is treated on its own merits. On 9 September 1991 HRH The Princess of Wales visited and spent some time with the five ladies resident at that time.



*HRH Princess of Wales talking to the lady residents of The Royal Star and Garter Home
L to R: Miss Betty Humphries, Miss Dorothy Tennant, Miss Diana Law MBE and Miss Dorothy Dixon (all ex ATS) and Mrs Veronica Tennant (ex WRAF)*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

During the last six months, Corps Headquarter has received letters from several ladies expressing their sadness at the passing of our Corps as an independent part of the British Army, for example:-

Mrs E J White, of Apr 453 Northbridge, 45 Akoranga Drive, Northcote, Auckland 9 New Zealand wrote:

"The ATS and WRAC history - little over half a century - has been of short duration compared to so many British Army Regiments, yet we can take comfort from the fact that our Corps served so well during those 50 years, that the new AG Corps is to open wide its doors to accept a seemingly endless stream of women in a wide range of activities into the very heart of the British Army.

From this distant land I send best wishes to all who are involved in the historic change, that their endeavours will continue to enhance the name of 'our Corps'.

Change of Address

Dame Mary Tyrwhitt, former Director of ATS and WRAC has moved from Pewsey to 12A Tiddington Court, Tiddington, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7BP.

Church Kneelers at Dover Castle

On a bright and breezy Sunday last November, a number of members of the Canterbury branch with their Standard paraded with members of the Deal branch at the ancient church of St Mary in the Castle. The occasion was the dedication of four Regimental kneelers associated with the garrison, including those of the Women's Royal Army Corps and the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Both our kneelers had been worked and presented by Major Daphne Lance who had started her service driving ambulances in and out of the Castle in 1938 – quite a tricky operation, even today. The service was attended by the Constable of Dover Castle, Brigadier J C Holman CBE, and by a large congregation.

During the service the four kneelers were dedicated by the Chaplain in memory of those who had served in Dover Garrison.

ATS DINNER CLUB

Over 300 members attended the luncheon and business meeting of the ATS Dinner Club, on Saturday 5 October 1991, at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London. The meeting was presided over by Mrs A Juby, Chairman. A message of loyal greetings was sent to HM The Queen, the following reply was received... 'I send my sincere thanks to you and all members of the Auxiliary Territorial Dinner Club for your kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of your Dinner at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel. I received this message with much pleasure and send my best wishes to you all for a happy and successful evening. ELIZABETH R'. Also loyal greetings were sent to HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the following reply was received... 'I was delighted to receive your kind message, for which I send my very warm thanks. To all of you who are present at the Dinner this evening I offer my greetings and my best wishes for a most enjoyable occasion. ELIZABETH R. Queen Mother. A framed photograph of the ATS in the Victory Parade (1946), was presented to Major Yorke, of the Goldstream Guards, at Wellington Barracks, as a token of our appreciation for their inviting the Dinner Club to hold the 1990 luncheon at the Barracks, his response was... 'that the girls marching in straight lines could teach his lads a thing or two'. Members of the ATS Dinner Club had not forgotten their training when they paraded alongside WRAC Association members on Remembrance Sunday, 10 November, there was warm applause from the public and ex service personnel, which brought a glow on a cold winters day to approximately 300 ex servicewomen, some had travelled from Aberdeen, Manchester etc; to pay homage, HRH Prince Phillip gave the Salute at Horse Guards Parade. The 1992 luncheon will be held at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 3 October, further information in the January Newsletter. If you served in the ATS come and join us, meet up with former friends, membership is now over 1100. Apply Membership Secretary:-

Mrs B Jagger, 9 Balfour Manor, Broadway, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8XW.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1992

The AGM of the WRAC Association will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF at 2.30 pm on Saturday 11 April 1992.

(Admission to the AGM will be by Membership Card).

AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening remarks.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held in Glasgow City Chambers on 13 April 1991.
4. Business arising from the minutes.
5. Report of Council.
6. Financial Report.
7. Report of the Editor of Lioness.
8. Reports of Committees
 - (a) ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund
 - (b) Executive Committee
9. Resolutions
 - (a) Motions of Urgency
 - (b) Council Resolutions
 - (1) Amendments to Rules
10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of next meeting (3rd Apr 1993 in London).

RULE CHANGES - ITEM 9 (b) (1)

It has become necessary to make extensive changes to the rules of Association (the charter to operate as a charity in law). The reasons are the demise of the WRAC as a separate Corps of the active Army, the changes in the military structure of the military command structure and the need to open the Association to members of the Adjutant Generals Corps. Once the rules changes to the rules have been agreed by Council to bring to the AGM as a resolution copies will be circulated to Branch Secretaries for discussion within branches.

Any individual who would like to see a copy of the proposed changes should contact the general Secretary.

SECRETARIES MEETING

There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries (or another nominated Committee Member) in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club at 11.45 on Sa 11 Apr 92.

Members of Council invite those attending the meeting to join them as guests for lunch prior to the AGM.

Application forms for tickets for the lunch will be circulated in Feb 92.

THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE



BOOK REVIEWS

GENERAL REFLECTIONS

by Michael Gow

Published by Souvenir Press Ltd Price £15.95

The author enlisted as a Guardsman in the Scots Guards in 1942 and has spent his life in the Army, retiring in 1986 as Senior General in the British Army. He is now President of the Royal British Legion, Scotland. His distinguished career has included Head of Intelligence and Counter Intelligence in Germany, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine, Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies. He has taken part in many State occasions and has been Aide de Camp to HM The Queen. His previous books include TROOPING THE COLOUR: A History of the Sovereign's Birthday Parade, which reached No 2 on the bestseller lists, and JOTTINGS IN A GENERAL'S NOTEBOOK, a lighthearted book of memoirs.

GENERAL REFLECTIONS is a further selection of memoirs and anecdotes, mostly lighthearted, recalling the author's career and family life. From his early schooldays to his life in retirement, he has always had an eye for the funny side, and his book is a refreshing, often hilarious look at army life and the mishaps that occur on ceremonial occasions. Illustrated with personal photographs and cartoons, the book is dedicated by gracious permission to HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, a Royal lady who herself is noted for her keen sense of humour.

Sir Michael Gow's book is unique among writings by retired generals in that it concentrates on the funny side of army life and frequently the author is laughing at himself!!

EL ALAMEIN

ULTRA and the THREE BATTLES

by Alexander McKee

Published by Souvenir Press Ltd Price £15.99

(1992 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein. As Time magazine writing on the recent Gulf War remarked, "Desert battles have marked critical turning points through the ages with perhaps none so dramatic or crucial as El Alamein").

This new account of one of the most famous campaigns of World War II, the Desert War, is probably one of the first to give full credit to the vital role played by air and submarine forces in contributing to the success of the eventual land victory. It also highlights the importance of Ultra, the British code-breaking and decyphering operation, in providing advance information about Rommel's supply ships and troop movements.

Contributions from veterans of the campaign form a major feature of the book - the eye-witness accounts of pilots, submarine commanders, army officers and men, who carried out the sorties and, in the desert, came face to face with the men of the opposing side. British, German, Italian, Australian, New Zealand and South African ex-servicemen tell their stories, creating a rounded picture of the events and vividly heightening the drama of the action.

A wealth of photographs from personal albums, many previously unpublished, gives the book a telling immediacy, and the specially drawn endpaper maps clarify the key elements of the hard-won campaign.

It is believed that El Alamein cost the Germans 32,000 men, the Allies 13,500. Fifty years on, El Alamein is now recognised as an Allied victory which could so easily have gone the other way. This book, with its fresh perspective, adds a new dimension to our understanding of what actually happened.

LONDON GAZETTE

New Years Honours

KCB

Lt Gen Jeremy John George Mackenzie OBE late Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), Col Comm WRAC.

OBE

Lt Col Valerie Batchelor

MBE

Maj Jane Elizabeth Grafton.
Maj Jacqueline Ann Lindsay.
Maj Marian Florence Lauder.

BEM

Staff Sergeant Sylvia Gray.
Sergeant Helen Young.
Corporal Eileen Elizabeth Fawcett.
Corporal Marianne Caroline Henderson.

The Northern Ireland List

Lieutenant S E Ball

BEM

Corporal W J Blacklock

PROMOTIONS

Regular Army

Lieutenant Colonel S E Reynolds.
Majors: E E Cunningham, W V Morrison.
Captain C E L Harlow.

Short Service Commissions

Captains: J A Cave, C E Armstrong, S J Duffett, AVF Harvey, H L Wright, R E Hadfield, A J Wheeler, H E Rose, H Moorish, V A Fifield, F C Thompson, C H Richards, S E Basford-Ward.
Lieutenants: E A Bennett, K M Broomfield, E C Child, J M England, S A Mason, H G Moon, S J Morley, C M Pridgeon, L A B Stephens, S M Poklekowski, B Davies.
Second Lieutenants: J Mounser, M Eggers, T L Price-Jones, B L Forsythe, C L Halligan.

RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Short Service Volunteer Commissions

Second Lieutenants: S L E L Lack, C F Spong, C L Hull.

Short Service Commissions

Captains: J Parkin, T Simpson, K L Blackburn, L N R Mellor.
Lieutenant D M Holdom.

Transfer

Lieutenant G A Cutler from UDR to WRAC.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medals have been awarded to:

Warrant Officer Class 1 S Barclay.
Warrant Officers Class 2 L V Cummins, B Rotherham.
Staff Sergeants: D R Bawden, S C Heppenstall.
Sergeants: C Z Bradbury, K M M McKay, M M Roberts, L E Wharton.
Corporals: L A Thompson, J C Towse.

BIRTHS

BRIGHTON Major. On 22 December 1991 to Vivien and Charles a daughter, Emily.

RIMMER Capt (Retd). On 16 January 1992 to Jill and Paul a son, James Edward Vernon.

MARRIAGE

COLLINS - COXEN. The marriage of Lt Natasha Collins WRAC and Lt Patrick Coxen RE took place on 28 September 1991 in Newnham, Kent.

GOLDEN WEDDING

JONES-GRAY. On 28 August 1942, Peter Jones, RAF Air Sea Rescue Marine Division, to Joan Gray ATS. Present address:
PO Box 21, Tuakau, South Auckland, NZ.

SAPPHIRE WEDDING

ROBINSON-STIRK. On 26 April 1947 Arthur Robinson (Yorky) Parachute Regiment to Elsie Stirk ATS, Signals, Bulford. Present address: 39 Jesmond Road, Harrogate, N. Yorkshire.

FORTHCOMING RETIREMENT

Captain G H Jones TD, of School House, Senghenydd, Nr Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan is retiring from WRAC (V) at the end of March after 35 years service, Regular and TA - Is this a record? If so, many congratulations. We wish you the very best of luck, health and happiness in your retirement, from all at Lioness.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Payment of WRAC Association subscriptions entitles members to a copy of each Lioness published yearly, one in February and one in August. The Subscription year is the calendar year. Anyone who has not yet paid subscriptions for 1992 will forfeit Volume II of Lioness this year.

Payment is made by members to Branch Secretaries by 31st December for the following year.

If you know of anyone who has not received their copy of Lioness, it is possible that their Annual Subscription has not yet been received.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to ensure that you receive Lioness promptly, please inform WRAC Corps Headquarters of all changes of address.

ADVERTISEMENTS

PHILATELIC COMMEMORATIVE COVERS DISBANDMENT OF 29 COMPANY WRAC

Anyone who would like to buy one of the Commemorative Covers that were printed in memory of 29 Company WRAC disbandment on 31 Mar 91, should contact:

**Mrs Janet Marsden
PRI**

**Rheindahlen Garrison
BFPO 40**

**Tel: JHQ Mil Ext 2832
Civil: 01049 2161 47 2832**

The Covers cost DM3.00 (or £1.50 Sterling). Cheques made payable to "Garrison Amenities Fund".

They are signed Covers and contain a brief history of the Company.

THE ARMED FORCES ART SOCIETY

The Armed Forces Art Society exists to help people in the Services who draw and paint, make sculpture or engrave glass by holding an exhibition in London each year at the National Army Museum in Chelsea at which about 400 works go on show.

Many of the exhibitors are professional artists who have served in the Forces thus ensuring a high standard of work. This also provides a great opportunity for the less experienced to see their work in a major exhibition and to benefit from professional advice.

The Prince of Wales, a distinguished water-colourist, is the Society's Patron.

Further details can be obtained by sending a sae to:

**The Assistant Secretary
Captain Bill Blake
Duke of Yorks HQ
London SW3 4SE**

OBITUARY

ALLIES. Miss Kathleen Peggy Allies of Bath on 10 November 1991. ATS

ARCHER. Mrs A H Archer (née Eyres) of Brentford on 3 October 1991. Cpl ATS.

AUSTIN. Miss E V Austin of Emsworth, Hants on 21 December 1991. ATS.

BARKER. Mrs R Barker (née Braithwaite) of Dringhouse, York on 14 October 1991. Cpl ATS.

BOWDLER. Mrs S B Bowdler of Pleck, Walsall on 15 September 1991. ATS.

BREARLEY. Miss A M Brearley of St Peter Port, Guernsey on 20 September 1991. ATS/WRAC.

CARNEY. Miss Kathleen Carney of Balckpool on 9 August 1991. WO2.

CLARK-SKINNER. Miss M A Clark-Skinner of Harrow on 30 July 1991. ATS.

CLEAVER. Mrs Lindsey Cleaver (née Barnett) of Kenilworth on 7 July 1991. Pte WRAC (intake 463 3 Feb 83).

COOK. Mrs Joan Cook of Lincoln on 24 August 1991. ATS.

CROWCROFT. Capt E Crowcroft (Director of Music) WRAC 1963-1969 on 6 November 1991

DAY. Mrs Eva R Day of Macclesfield. ATS

DIXON. Mrs J Dixon of Bransholme, Hull on 1 July 1991. ATS

EVERETT. Mrs S Everett (née Bowker) of London on 5 March 1991. ATS.

FARRELL. Mrs V Farrell (née McFarlane) of Stafford on 28 September 1991. ATS.

FORBES. Mrs Annabel Forbes of Inverness on 30 September 1991. ATS.

FRAYLING. Mrs Kathleen G Frayling (née Prudden) of Bedford on 23 August 1990, WRAC

FULLER. Mrs Margot Fuller (née Young) of Hoxne, Suffolk on 10 July 1991. Chief Commander FANY/ATS

HOPKINS. Mrs M Hopkins (née Holme) of St Leonards-on-Sea on 9 November 1991. QMAAC.

HORSEY. Mrs Gwen Horsey of Guildford on 12 October 1991. Sgt ATS.

HUNTER-COWEN. Maj Betty Hunter-Cowen of Edinburgh on 27 December 1991. ATS/WRAC.

JOYNT. Major (Retd) Evelyn G Joynt MBE of Alresford on 6 November 1991. WRAC.

LAWRIE. Miss W E L Lawrie MBE of Cheltenham on 10 October 1991. ATS.

LINDE. Mrs I J Linde (née Dean) of Sutton, on 10 September 1991. ATS.

MACMILLAN. Mrs Nancy MacMillan in February 1991. ATS.

MARTIN. Mrs E B Martin of Yorkley, Glos in 1991. ATS

MCDONALD. Miss Vera McDonald of Barnard Castle in January 1991.

McGEAGH. Miss Cecilia McGeagh of Belfast in June 1991. ATS.

OSBURN. Mrs Elizabeth Osburn of Bury St Edmunds in February 1991. ATS

PAICE. Mrs Millicent Paice (née Harvey) of Wrexham on 31 March 1991. ATS.

PALMER. Miss D Palmer (Secretary Leicester Branch) on 24 October 1991. ATS/WRAC.

PARRY. Mrs M V Parry (née Dekins) of Ross on Wye in October 1991. ATS.

PEARCE. Mrs Madge Pearce of Gillingham, Dorset in November 1991. ATS/WRAC.

POOK. Miss Joan Pook (née Wakefield) of Southampton on 19 February 1991. ATS.

POULSON. Miss B D Poulson of Kingston Vale on 8 January 1991. Sgt.

PRYER. Miss Agnes Pryer of Thetford, Norfolk on 29 December 1991, ATS/WRAC.

RAY. Miss Irene Gweneth Ray of Salisbury in April 1991. ATS.

REID. Mrs Margaret Reid of Guildford on 26 November 1991. WRAC.

ROSE. Mrs Rosalie Jeanette Rose (née Arrand) on 31 August 1991 (original member WRAC Staff Band).

RYLANDS. Mrs W A Rylands of Richmond on 3 June 1991. WOI ATS.

SCOTT. Miss Constance I Scott of Bangor in October 1991. WRAC TA.

SEWARD. Miss Florence Seward of Street, Somerset on 24 July 1990. WO2 ATS/WRAC.

SHEPPARD. Miss Adelaide Mary Sheppard of Hereford in September 1991. SSgt ATS.

SIVEWRIGHT. Miss Mildred Mary Sivewright on 12 March 1991. ATS.

SIMONITE. Mrs F E M Simonite of Cheltenham on 30 September 1991. ATS.

SINCLAIR-LOCKHART. Lady Winifred Sinclair-Lockhart formerly Graham (née Cavaghan) of Streatley Oxfordshire on 25 September 1991. ATS.

SNOWDEN. Mrs Catherine F (Sylvia) Snowden (née Collins) on 25 May 1991. ATS.

SPARES. Mrs Henrietta Mary Spares (née Moseley) of Worcester on 15 May 1991.

STANNARD. Mrs Mary Stannard of Croydon in May 1991. ATS.

STARK. Mrs Frances (Wait) Stark of Taunton on 19 May 1991. WRAF/ATS.

STARR. Miss Heather D G Starr of Slaithaite on 26 March 1991. ATS/WRAC.

STEPTOE. Mrs E Steptoe of Hucclescote, Glos in 1991. ATS.

STODDART. Mrs Vera Stoddart of Carlisle on 3 October 1991. ATS.

TOMLINSON. Mrs Margaret Tomlinson on 1 September 1991. ATS.

TOON. Mrs A I H Toon (née Campbell) of Argyll on 27 April 1991. ATS/WRAC.

WALKER. Miss Doris Walker of Scunthorpe on 4 May 1991. WOI ATS/WRAC.

WALKER. Mrs Gladys Walker of Portsmouth on 6 Oct 91. Maj ATS/WRAC TA.

WALSH. Mrs K I Walsh (née Moor) of Keswick on 9 December 1990. ATS.

WATSON. Mrs G Watson (née Christie) of Sittingbourne on 17 January 1991. Sgt ATS/WRAC.

WESTWOOD. Mrs Edna Westwood of NSW Australia on 18 August 1991. ATS.

WILLCOCKS. Mrs Phyllis Willcocks (née Tottle) of Wellington in December 1991. ATS

WILLIAMS. Mrs Dorothy May Williams of Lowestoft in February 1991. Pte ATS.

WILLIS. Mrs Sheila M Willis (née Mason) of Bideford in December 1990. WRAC.

WING. Mrs Audrey Wing (née Bentley) of Hastings on 25 August 1991. Capt ATS/WRAC.

WRENN. Mrs I Wrenn (née Williams) of Harlow. on 31 October 1991. ATS.

WYLIE. Mrs M Wylie (née Tanner) of Ayr on 23 February 1991. ATS.

**WHEN MAKING A WILL
PLEASE REMEMBER THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS.**

TRIBUTE

COLONEL D P CLARK (née CHANDLER) MBE 1929–1991

Daphne Clark was born in Enfield and was educated at Letchworth and Birkenhead before attending the universities of Liverpool and Paris. She graduated in 1952 with a BA Hons degree in French and a teaching diploma.

She enlisted into the WRAC in 1952 having been in the Liverpool UOTC. After attending the WRAC School of Instruction, she was commissioned in 1953. Her first posting was to 68 Indep AA (M) Signal Squadron based at Currie in Midlothian. For the next twelve years her postings were with Royal Signals. In 1965 she became DADWRAC at HQ Northern Command and in 1966 she went to Ghana as WRAC Adviser to the British Joint Services Training team.

Her postings from 1967 included OC 12 Coy WRAC, DAAG (O) AG16, ADWRAC BAOR and DDWRAC HQ UKLF. In 1978 she was promoted to Colonel and became Commandant of the WRAC College.

Col Clark was awarded the MBE in 1969. In 1970 she married a retired Royal Signals Major, James Clark. On her retirement they first lived in Rickmansworth and then in North Walsham where she died on 4 June 1991.

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 WRAC Forage Cap Size 56 £40 ONO. Willing to post anywhere in UK. Tel: 0749 345804 or write Lt Mawson, Wells Cathedral School, The Liberty, Wells, Somerset.

FOR SALE Officers No2 Dress, Size 12, Height 5'3" £50. Contact Penny Knight Tel: 0299 716667.

WANTED 1 Barrack Dress Skirt Size 14 5'7". Forage Cap Sizew 56. Contact Capt Tina Thornber, Lisburn Mil 42755.

WANTED Skirt Size 10/12 Height 5'2". Contact 2Lt Fauguel Tel: Daytime 061 946 0598.

WANTED Barrack Dress Skirt Size 14 Height 5'7". Contact Capt J Myers, Tel: Camberley Mil 2318.

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. For those outside the UK, please contact Corps HQ.

South-East Area

ALDERSHOT
AYLESBURY
DEAL
EASTBOURNE
HASTINGS
MEDWAY

Western Area

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

London and Easter Area

BRAINTREE
CAMBRIDGE
CHELMSFORD
COLCHESTER
GREATER LONDON
ILFORD
LONDON
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK
WESTCLIFF

WIMBLEDON

Scottish Area

ABERDEEN
AYRSHIRE
BERWICK
DUMFRIESHIRE
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
BARNSELY
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

Canada

ONTARIO

**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 1991

	£	1991	£	£	1990	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1st November 1990			112,112			115,863
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure			17,450			15,802
Transfers from Other Funds			6,414			-
			<u>135,976</u>			<u>131,665</u>
Less Transfers to Other Funds			(3,181)			(19,553)
			<u>132,795</u>			<u>112,112</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	8,026			7,677		
Lioness Life Subscription	<u>12,032</u>			<u>11,494</u>		
			20,058			19,171
MUSEUM APPEAL FUND			-			6,414
MUSEUM FUND			20,615			-
REUNION FUND			6,132			18,201
			<u>£179,600</u>			<u>£155,898</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
FIXED ASSETS						
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less						
Depreciation			-			2
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule						
(Market Value £93,241)			66,662			66,633
CURRENT ASSETS						
Museum Stock	4,553			-		
Association Standard	199			199		
Sundry Debtors	3,672			152		
Cash at Bank – Current Account	4,303			3,801		
– Deposit Accounts	100,859			85,592		
– Investment Account	-			-		
Cash in Hand	245			261		
	<u>113,831</u>			<u>90,005</u>		
Less: Sundry Creditors	893			742		
			<u>112,938</u>			<u>89,263</u>
			<u>£179,600</u>			<u>£155,898</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1991

1990 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1991 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund – 5,564 Units	10,247	30,808
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
8,324	8.75% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £10,000.00	8,324	9,600
4,520	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £5,711.94	4,520	4,976
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	5,484
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	6,568
9,392	9% Treasury Stock – 1994 – £10,000.00	9,392	9,800
3,515	8% Treasury Loan – 1992 – £3,564.75	-	-
10,571	9.75% Exchequer Stock – 1998 – £11,115.00	10,571	11,115
10,570	12.25% Exchequer Stock – 1999 – £10,030.00	10,570	11,296
	14% Treasury Stock – 1996 – £3,123.05	3,544	3,544
<u>£66,633</u>		<u>£66,662</u>	<u>£93,241</u>

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1991

	£	1991	£	£	1990	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual.....	3,943			3,471		
Proportion of Life Subscription	610			567		
			4,553			4,038
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions	16,221			14,083		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	902			834		
Advertisement Revenue	1,013			1,053		
	18,136			15,970		
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments	7,919			5,253		
Deposit Account Interest	10,980			14,566		
Sale of Badges	—			16		
Surplus of Investment Sales	29			(21)		
Loan Repayment – London Area	242			—		
Museum Profits.....	3,181			—		
			22,351			19,814
TOTAL INCOME			<u>£45,040</u>			<u>£39,822</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees	(80)			137		
Grants	—			—		
			(80)			137
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Cost of Publication			21,303			19,419
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. Expenses	1,153			1,909		
Printing and Stationery	2,306			847		
Postages	887			384		
Subscriptions and Donations	767			119		
Travel Expenses	229			117		
Audit and Accountancy Fee	960			753		
Sundry Expenses	10			303		
Bank Charges	53			32		
Depreciation	2			—		
			6,367			4,464
			<u>£27,590</u>			<u>£24,020</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£17,450</u>			<u>£15,802</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 1991 and of its Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

18 December 1991

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

BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants

