

1993

MSTR LOPY

No2

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Lioness



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THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960 – No 206184

Founded in 1919

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PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brigadier A Field, CB

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Colonel C A Marriott

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

Colonel L M Davies CBE

Colonel C E Hammond CBE

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Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames MBE

Mrs A H S Matthews

Front Cover Photograph

Her Majesty The Queen talking to members of the
Association at Worthy Down on 4 June
(Photo Courtesy of Cpl D Harris)

Back Cover Photograph

South West Group Reunion
Royal Citadel, Plymouth 13 June 1993

Contributions for next issue by 14 December 1993

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ADJUTANT GENERALS CORPS

CORPS DAY 1994

Corps Day is to be held on Friday 17 June 1994 at Worthy Down.

The format has yet to be decided but more of the Royal Patrons of the Corps are expected to be present.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1993

With kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, this year's Field will open at 11.30 am on Thursday 11 November, when a short Service will be held.

We understand from Clarence House that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother intends to open the Field, which will then remain open until 4.00 pm on Thursday 18 November.

The WAAC/QMAAC/ATS/WRAC plot will be Number 75 which is on the Abbey side of the path running East-West through the churchyard.

As this will be the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice there will be a service in the Abbey prior to the opening of the Field of Remembrance. Parts of the service will be broadcast to those outside.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend that service, leave by the North door, plant her personal poppy and depart via the North gate. The review of plots will take place after her departure.

TRIBUTES

COLONEL P M LIPSCOMB

Colonel Phoebe Margaret Lipscomb who died on 17 May 1993 was born on 2 December 1914, into a military family.

At the onset of the Second World War in 1938, she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry as a driver and from there joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service. After being commissioned in the ATS she served with Anti-Aircraft Command in the UK and NW Europe.

In 1949 she transferred to the Women's Royal Army Corps. She served in Scottish Command but is probably best known as the Commandant of the School of Instruction at Hindhead where she supervised the move to the WRAC College based in Camberley and established the new training regime there.

She retired as Colonel in 1969 but that did not end her involvement with the Corps as she became Regimental Secretary in 1971 and supervised the move of Corps HQ from the Duke of Yorks HQ to Guildford. She served as Corps Secretary until handing over to Brigadier Norman King in 1975.

She was a very conscientious member of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Fund Grants Committee from 1974 right up until her death.

MAJOR M E MACLAGAN MBE

Major Myrtle MacLagan who died on 11 March 1993 was born on 2 April 1911 in India where her father was serving at the time. She served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service with Anti Aircraft Command during World War II and left on demobilisation at the end of the war.

She returned to the Army in 1951 and served until 1966 rising to the rank of Major.

It was her sporting prowess which won her great fame. She played cricket for the England women's team, captained it twice and scored two centuries against Australia, the first being the first ever by a woman in international cricket. Not surprisingly she was employed in the WRAC in the physical training sphere and won most of the squash, tennis and badminton titles.

LIEUTENANT J M A MAYO (née ARMSTRONG) MBE

Lieutenant Jacqueline Margaret Anne Armstrong who died on 17 May 1993 was born on 29 December 1936 into a military family. She served in the WRAC from 1954 to 1961 when she resigned her commission to marry an Army officer and their son is now serving in the Army.

It was, however, her activities on leaving the Army which brought her to public attention. Known to her friends as Jackie Mayo, it was in her nom de plume using her maiden name of Anne Armstrong that she became a tireless and fearless fighter for just causes. She wrote a column for Soldier Magazine for 17 years; broadcast on Forces Radio and the BBC; and worked for the Federation of Army Wives and the Army Playgroup Association. She attended the meetings of many ex service care organisations such as SSAFA, Forces Help Society, Army Benevolent Fund, Council of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations and Stress (Ex Service Mental Welfare) to further her campaigns for improved care and conditions for service families, past and present.



NOTES FROM BRIGADIER J ROULSTONE ADC, DW(A)

Although the rationale for the post of Director Women(Army) was to provide a Female Focus and monitor integration, which still forms an essential part of the appointment, the emphasis has swung towards the Army's need to address Equal Opportunities issues. The opportunities for women in the Army have never been better and much has been done to promote their wider employment. However the need to catalogue achievements so far and identify future actions has led to the instigation of an Equal Opportunities Review and Action Plan. Work has started in implementing the Plan and on formulating an Equal Opportunities policy for the Army. In the key areas of pay, pensions and alignment of terms and conditions of service, work is almost complete. Future developments will involve many key Ministry of Defence staff branches and will ensure that the impetus for equality is maintained, from recruitment to retirement.

On a more general note new employment opportunities, both at staff and regimental appointments, continue to grow. The number of women serving in the Regular Army continues to increase but there have been some specific firsts;

Lieutenant Colonel Jackie Smith AGS(SPS) has been selected for promotion and appointment to Regimental Paymaster, RPO Glasgow.

Lieutenant Colonel Fiona Walthall INT CORPS is now serving as SO1 DS RMC Shrivenham.

Lieutenant Colonel Jean Dowson AGC(SPS) has been selected to command Birmingham UOTC.

Major Sue Rollo has been selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in the RLC.

Captain Ruth Ashkenazi and Sergeant Alison Jenkins recently qualified as line helicopter pilots with Army Air Corps.

Women are serving with United Nations operations in the former Yugoslavia, in Iraq/Kuwait, and Cyprus. The 50 or so women in Yugoslavia are employed as Public Information Officers, drivers, clerks, chefs, interpreters, signallers, doctors and nurses. They continue to have a vital role to play in these United Nations deployments.

Physical capacity rather than gender will determine entry into the Arms and Services from April 1995. All recruit training is fully integrated at Army Training Regiments, and from September 1993 all recruits will enlist on the same Single Entry engagement. Women complete the same recruit syllabus as their male colleagues (except for boxing) and are part of mixed platoons. At the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst officer training is also integrated in a one year course although there are separate male and female platoons. At the end of the first year it is apparent that the full integration of women into their employing Arms and Services has been less problematical than some originally envisaged and in the main most successful. Within the Army it is clear that there is general support to give women wider experience and treat them as worthwhile members of the Service with the same aspirations as their male contemporaries.

ACTION AND SUPPORT TEAMS (A&ST)

WHAT ARE THEY?

The Teams are based at District/Garrisons as an enhancement to Personnel Branches to manage the Drawdown. They provide a focal point for coordinating resettlement action on behalf of the leaver and for monitoring progress through the resettlement process.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

They work on a regional basis and liaise with all the local resettlement agencies dealing with housing, employment, finance, and welfare. This includes all the Service organisations, the ex-Service organisations and local civilian agencies.

Housing. They liaise with the Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO), SSAFA, Royal British Legion (RBL), and local housing associations.

Employment. They are responsible for spreading the word to local employers on the transferability of service skills through the Access to Excellence package.

Finance. They are aware of the dates of Financial Seminars in the area and encourage the leaver and spouse to attend and seek counselling.

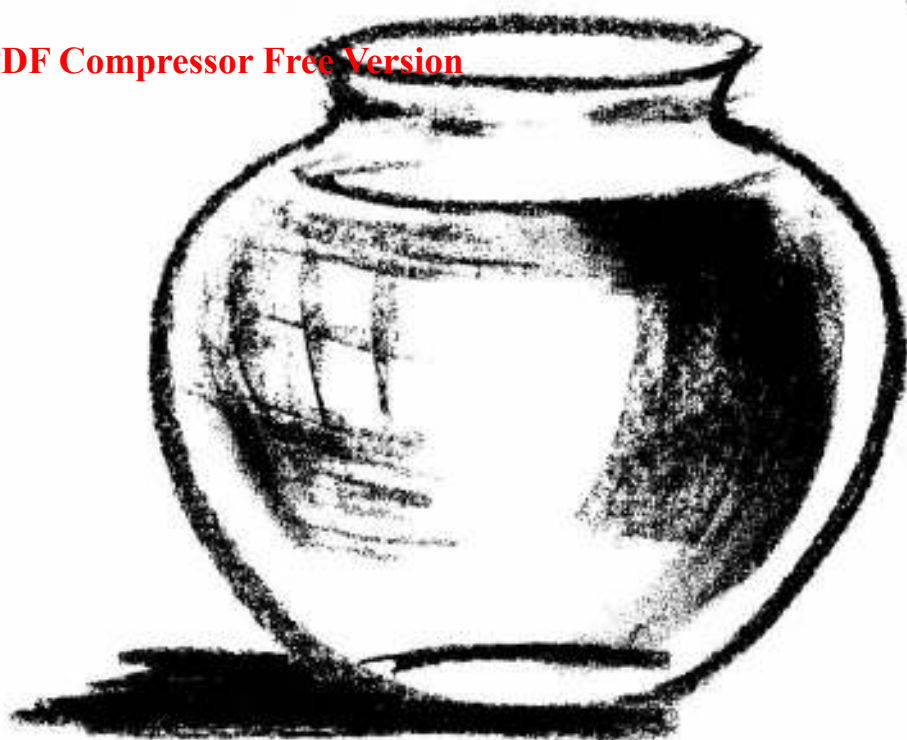
Welfare. They liaise with the many Service, ex-Service, and civilian welfare agencies and can provide information and guidance on where to go for expert advice on any subject. They also work closely with the Regimental Associations.

WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR ME?

The A&ST market your skills to potential employers and offer support and guidance to the leaver and family on any resettlement subject. Most A&STs offer a library facility where you can browse through the store of information in a friendly and relaxed environment; where you can take your time to research any resettlement issue and ask questions.

HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH MY LOCAL A&ST?

Ask your Unit Chief Clerk or your Paymaster/Regimental Administrative Officer. They will have names and telephone numbers so why not telephone now and make personal contact. The A&STs are there to help. **DO IT NOW!**



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 two 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.

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.



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.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion 1994

75th Anniversary of the Formation of the Association

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PROGRAMME – SATURDAY 16 APRIL 1994

The Reunion has been confined to one day to try and reduce the costs to members.

- 09.30 a.m. Trains met at Guildford Station and members assemble at Guildford.
- 10.30 a.m. Service of Thanksgiving in Guildford Cathedral.
- 12.00 noon Secretaries Meeting in Canal Suite, Lakeside Country Club, Frimley, Surrey (other members may remain in Guildford for shopping, lunch and sightseeing).
- 1.00 p.m. Council and Secretaries lunch in Peninsular Lounge of Lakeside International Hotel.
- 2.15 p.m. Coaches depart Guildford for Lakeside Country Club Complex, Frimley.
- 3.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of WRAC Association in Canal Suite of Lakeside Country Club, Frimley.
- 6.30 p.m. Grand Reunion Dinner in Cabaret Suite of Lakeside Country Club, Frimley.
- 10.30 p.m. Disperse.

TRAVEL

Members are responsible for their own travel to Guildford. There will be transport available for those who arrive by train or other public transport to shuttle them between events. Branches/groups who have their own coach or owners of private cars will be expected to transport themselves between venues.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a variety of accommodation available in the Guildford area from a YWCA to four star hotels.

The Lakeside International Hotel (0252 838000) has rooms.

A copy of "Where to Stay in Surrey 1993" may be obtained from:

Guildford Tourist Information Centre
72 High Street
GUILDFORD GU15 1RB
Tel: 0483 444007

Rooms on a bed and breakfast basis have been reserved in the University of Surrey (close to the Cathedral) and Civil Service College at Sunningdale (8 miles from Lakeside) for the nights of Friday 15 April and Saturday 16 April 1994. These are being held for those travelling long distances who will have a dedicated branch/group coach and will need to stay for two nights to take part in the reunion.

Secretaries of branches/groups wishing to avail themselves of this accommodation should contact the General Secretary.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion 1994
75th Anniversary of the Formation of the Association

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APPLICATION FORM

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

Numbers for the Dinner are limited to 1000. Applications will be dealt with in order of receipt.
Priority to Association members.

PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS FORM ARE ACCEPTABLE

APPLICANT

Surname.....

First names

How you wish envelope to be addressed: Miss/Mrs (*delete*)

Other (*please state*)

Address

.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Member YES/NO
 Life/Annual

Association Branch

I wish to apply for tickets for the following events:

SERVICE IN GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL YES/NO

GRAND REUNION DINNER @ £20.00 YES/NO

and enclose a Cheque/Money Order made payable to
"WRAC ASSOCIATION".

I will be travelling by train/public coach/car/branch coach.
(*Please delete as appropriate.*)

1. ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED.
2. TICKETS AND INFORMATION SHEET WILL BE SENT OUT IN EARLY 1994.

Send to:
WRAC ASSOCIATION HQ
PO BOX 212
GUILDFORD
SURREY GU2 6ZD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received

Membership Confirmed

Subs paid for 1993 **YES/NO**

Branch confirmed.....

Branch Official.....

TICKETS SENT

Cathedral.....

Dinner.....

Accommodation
(if applicable)

Secretaries Lunch

INITIALS

Receipt No.....

Date ack sent.....

INITIALS

Can you afford to fall ill?



There's no doubt that protecting your income in case of sickness or accident makes sound financial sense. And there's one scheme specially designed for you – HM Forces Income Protection Plan.

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The HM Forces Income Protection Plan is available exclusively to you from Naafi Financial Services.

Naafi Financial Services is a member of FIMBRA.

Naafi Financial Services, College House, Upper College Street, Nottingham NG1 5EU



HOW TO INVEST YOUR MONEY WISELY

There have been so many ways in which you could invest your money. A quick look through the weekend personal financial pages of the quality press will make that clear, if you have any doubts. While the huge range of choice is to be welcomed, it does make the decision about the right investments all the more difficult.

Unfortunately there is no short cut to investment planning. Investment decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. There is no such thing as an investment which suits everybody. The investments which are right for you need to take account of four main factors which are personal to you:

1. Investment Goals

Why are you investing?

Are you investing for income, capital growth or a combination of the two?

All too often people invest for income when they do not need it. The income the investment produces is ploughed back or, worse still, is paid into the current account and then frittered away. As income is taxed more heavily than capital gains, the result can be that a bigger tax bill than is necessary and thus a lower overall investment return.

2. Timespan

How long is your investment horizon? In answering 1. above, you should have given some thought to the matter of timeframe. Put at its most basic, there is no point in placing your money in a high return 10-year investment if you know you will need funds after 8 years. Unscrambling investments prematurely can be very costly - ask anyone who has been caught out by a 90-day notice building society account!

If you have no specific timeframe in mind, then do not fall into the trap of thinking that everything must be invested for the shortest term. It is all too easy to do this, refusing to forsake the instant access building society or bank account. Why keep all your cash readily available if you will never need it all at once? The answer to the question of an uncertain timespan is to build in flexibility to your investment strategy.

If you are considering shares, unit trusts or other equity-based investments, you ought to have a timescale of at least 5 years in mind. This will give your investments time to grow and should mean that short term market fluctuations have little impact.

3. Tax

What will you get from your investment after the Taxman has had his share? Whether you like it or not - and few of us do - tax cannot be ignored when it comes to making your investment decisions. When comparing the return you receive from different types of investment, it is the after-tax figure you must look at. If you pay tax at 40%, then 6.5% net is better than 10% gross. Alas, it is not always easy to make the comparisons, not least because there is not much consistency in the way returns are quoted. These days building societies quote their interest rates gross, whereas before just over two years ago, they quoted rates net of basic rate tax.

Whatever investment you choose, you should make sure how it will be taxed in your hands before parting with your money.

One rule which is frequently overlooked is that you should never invest for tax reasons alone. With few exceptions, the Government does not provide tax advantages without good reason. Normally tax relief is a form of encouragement to do something that otherwise

you might not want to do - buy a pension or invest in a high risk business start up, for example.

4. Risk

What investment risks are you prepared to take? Risk is a much misunderstood word which frightens investors. It is usually interpreted as the chance that capital values will fall. However, investments where there is a guarantee of no capital loss such as bank deposits, are still at risk because of the effects of inflation. As we have seen in the last few years, there is also the risk that deposit returns will drop, leaving those dependent on the interest with a much reduced income.

There is no denying that shares and other equity-linked investments do carry a higher risk than the likes of building societies. However, the corollary of risk is reward. Over the long term the stockmarket has proved this to be the case, in spite of some sharp short term fluctuations. If you see a higher than normal return that is apparently risk-free, then be suspicious. As in the case of Barlow Clowes, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!

If by this stage you are becoming less certain about your investment decisions, please do not fret. In the final analysis the best approach is always to seek independent investment advice such as NAAFI Financial Services provides.

SHOPPING LIST

Now that the Museum Shop has closed the only item available for sale from the WRAC Association HQ is the Association Badge. These cost £1.95 including package and posting.

If Branches order from 10-20 badges they may deduct 5% from the cost.

For orders over 20 they may deduct 10% from the cost.

All cheques to WRAC Association please and sent to:

WRAC Association HQ

PO Box 212

Guildford GU2 6ZD



WRAC Association Badge

ST DAVID'S HOME

FOR DISABLED SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

Castlebar Hill, Ealing, London W5 2TE

(Telephone: 081-997 5121)

St David's Home is an excellent Nursing Home, set in delightful surroundings in West London. It has 54 beds. The Home is supported financially by the Army Benevolent Fund.

They currently have a very short waiting list - 3 - and they are looking for others to add to their list.

Anyone wishing to register with the Home should either write to the Nursing Manager/Administrator, Mr Tom Connell, at the above address or telephone him on 081-997 5121.

COUNTDOWN TO CLOSURE LAST SIX MONTHS AT THE ARMY WOMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE

On 6 April 1992, the WRAC Centre, home to countless generations of Army women, became the Army Women's Training Centre as a direct consequence of the disbandment of the WRAC. Many servicewomen had changed their cap badges over the preceding six months as they were transferred to their employing Corps. The last to go were those joining the new Adjutant General's Corps (AGC) who rebadged on the 6 April 1992. So Queen Elizabeth Park assumed a new identity for what was to be the last year of its being as the Training Centre and Depot for women throughout the Army, less the Army Medical Services.

The role and history can be summarised. Queen's Camp, Guildford was originally built as a "militia" camp for the Queen's Regiment. In 1941 the hatted camp became No 7 ATS Training Centre and in 1951 became the home of the WRAC Depot and Training Centre, being renamed Queen Elizabeth Camp in 1953. In 1960, plans were made to rebuild the camp and during the process the Depot and Training Centre moved to Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey. On completion of the rebuild, the camp was renamed Queen Elizabeth Barracks and was officially opened on 30 September 1964 by HM The Queen. By 1968, the Depot and Training Centre had become the WRAC Centre and the barracks was renamed as Queen Elizabeth Park. During the 1980s it underwent a major refurbishment programme to put pitched roofs on the buildings and to replace the window frames, giving the whole place a facelift. The final change came in April 1992 with the disbandment of the WRAC and the consequent renaming of the Centre as the Army Women's Training Centre.

The Centre was the Headquarters of the WRAC and as such fulfilled many different roles but was primarily the Depot and basic training centre for all servicewomen enlisted into the WRAC. All female, non-medical services, regular recruit training was undertaken there in accordance with the Common Military Syllabus for Army Recruits. The length of the course varied from time to time but latterly it was the same 10-week course as that attended by male Army recruits. It covered many subjects including Drill, Weapon Training, Fieldcraft, Nuclear Biological and Chemical Defence, Physical Fitness, First Aid and Map Reading. The training was tough, challenging and both mentally and physically demanding. It aimed to give a recruit all the essential knowledge she needed to become an efficient servicewoman and to develop self-discipline and team spirit. After Basic Training recruits moved on to more advanced or technical training elsewhere in accordance with their chosen employment. The vast majority of female TA recruits also completed a 2 weeks basic training course at Guildford. The course covered the main elements of the Regular course, supplemented by what has already been covered within the TA unit, including a 36 hours exercise in the field and culminating in a Passing Out Parade.

Since 1984, servicewomen have returned to the Centre throughout their careers for Regimental upgrading courses run by the Warrant Officer and NCO Wing to gain promotion qualifications. Regimental Duties servicewomen trade training was also carried out by the Centre. Headquarter and Holding Company administered the permanent staff of the Centre and dealt with all servicewomen awaiting trade reallocation, posting or discharge. Amongst its other roles, the Centre was home to the WRAC Staff Band from its formation in 1949.

The WRAC Selection Centre interviewed all potential

servicewomen and allocated them to a specific employment according to their interests, abilities and the needs of the service. In recent years, the Corps Recruiting and Liaison Officer was housed within the Centre and for the last 10 years conducted Pre-RCB briefings for officer cadets. Finally, the Centre was home to the the Corps Headquarters, the WRAC Museum and the Headquarters of the WRAC Association which aims to foster esprit de corps, maintain comradeship amongst all members of the Association and through the Benevolent Fund promote the welfare of members past and present of the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC.

The decision to close the Centre resulted from the recommendations of the study into the restructuring of the Army's training base which concentrated recruit training into five large Army Training Regiments spread throughout the country and incorporated the training of women into that of the male colleagues. Unfortunately, although the closure was a logical result of the changes, certain Ministerial decisions had to be taken and until these were announced closure could not be openly discussed which made the actual process more difficult



Lt Col Flake, last Commandant, with Major Harrison, the last Training Company Commander of Army Women's Training Centre

that it need have been. The 'hidden agenda' was for training to cease on 2 April 1993, with closure of the barracks some three months later on 30 June 1993.

In fact the closure had started quietly several months prior to the renaming with the departure of the Corps Recruiting Liaison Officer as part of the formation of the AGC. By Christmas 1991 her team, which had continued to run pre-RCB briefings at Guildford, moved to Beaconsfield. During that same period the start of things to come arrived with the posting in of several male training instructors and the steady rebadging of permanent staff to their new Corps.

January 1992 saw the end of training for Regimental Duty servicewomen, better known to many as Admin NCOs, while their future within the AGC was decided. Next to close was WONCO Wing which finished its final Corporals' Course in April 1992. Its purpose built block was taken over by the Unit Admin Office.

There followed six months of relative normality after the disbandment events of March 1992, recorded in a previous edition of *Lioness*. Within RHQ planning was going ahead for the inevitable closure as the full extent of what it would involve became more obvious. It was not until the arrival of the last Commandant at the beginning of October 1992 that the rumours of early closure began to circulate and a shadow plan was produced in case these proved correct. After what seemed a long period of waiting, the announcement was made on 11 November that, due to recruit capping, the intake of regular recruits which had arrived on 26 October would be the last one at Guildford. The penultimate Passing Out Parade the following week meant the end of training for half of the Training Company staff and the sharp realisation that things were going to move very fast indeed. At this stage, no decision on closure had been made but thanks to the goodwill and understanding of all agencies involved, including both contractors and civilian staff, much preparation went ahead unofficially to ensure the closure plan stayed on target.

Normal life continued for the recruits and permanent staff until training ceased in mid January 1993. Remembrance Day 1992 was marked as usual with a contingent at the Royal Albert Hall on the Saturday and a parade at the Centre with seven platoons and the AGC Staff Band (formerly of course the WRAC Staff Band) before the traditional yearly Remembrance Service. The civil events followed with a marching contingent and the Band again led the March Past through Guildford to the War Memorial. November also saw the final Study Period to be held here by DW(A), the successor to DWRAC, and the final Dinner Night held in the Officers' Mess for members of the former WRAC HQ Mess, which had held its last meeting in June 1992. Equally significant was the running of the last all-female TA recruit course during the last two weeks of November. The same month also saw the closure of the Selection Centre with female applicants being processed in the same manner as men.

December saw the traditional Christmas events celebrated at the Centre. Due to their imminent move to RMAS the Band were unable to give their usual concert but ensured that the Carol Service went particularly well. Some of the members also provided the musical accompaniment for the Corporals' Carol singing. The messes each held a Christmas Dinner and a series of parties ensured that no one was missed out of the festivities.

Finally, in mid December the official announcement of the closure of the Centre was made, followed by agreement that the 16 April 1993 would be its very last day.

Returning to Guildford in the New Year, everyone was aware of the changed circumstances as the end was very much in sight. For the first fortnight recruit training remained the priority running up to the final Passing Out Parade on the 14 January when DW(A) was the Inspecting Officer for both Training and Headquarter Companies' personnel on Parade, accompanied by the Staff Band of the AGC to mark the significance of the occasion. It had previously been decided that after the very public events in March 1992, the closure of the Centre would be a family affair, attended only by those serving there and their personal guests. Exercise Final Fling II, which was the Centre's own farewell treat and party for itself, took place

the next day and accounts of both these events appear elsewhere in this edition.

Closure started in earnest on January. Checks of accommodation and stores had been taking place for some time to ease the final stock-taking. Both messes had held sales of their property and PRI held an auction sale to dispose of its capital assets. This was followed by a White Elephant sale to move even more items to new homes. Files and documents were prepared for destruction or disposal with every corner and cupboard being turned out before the final reckoning. As each facility ceased to be required it was returned to the QM in the state in which it had been taken over and much effort was expended by many people to ensure that handovers went smoothly. The list seemed endless, the Band Block together with Blocks 11, 15 and 16 was returned before Christmas with the Skill at Arms Wing, the NBC Chamber, Pavilion, Squash Court and Indoor Range followed soon after. As soon as the weapons were backloaded to see service in Bosnia, the Armoury joined the list. Before long the Churches, Gym, Assembly Hall, Drill Shed, Instructional Centre and Blocks 13 and 14 were also in the QM's hands and it was not yet the end of January.

Other more noticeable changes took place as the Centre started to grow emptier. No longer were squads of recruits to be seen or heard. From mid January onwards the permanent staff started to be posted out as Manning & Record Offices around the country responded to the need to move people onto the new jobs even sooner than originally planned.

The Adjutant and Second in Command moved on to be replaced within RHQ by the OCs of Headquarters and Training Companies as their office block became the QM's responsibility. All personnel then became members of HQ Company and ceased to wear the distinguishing flashes known to all. The beginning of February saw the end of any semblance of normality. Working dress replaced barrack



Mr & Mrs McLeod in Sandes Soldiers Home

dress for most people. The duty system was revamped as the requirements changed and there were fewer people available to fulfil them. However, the need to maintain the security of the barracks and its occupants remained paramount; indeed security was enhanced by the arrival of a 24 hour armed MDP patrol. The medical and dental centres had ceased to function in late January and we became dependant upon Aldershot and Deepcut for our needs. Both the Officers' & WO's & Sgts' Messes closed at the beginning of February as did the Elizabethan Restaurant. The Sergeants' Mess then ran a centralised catering service for all ranks for the next two months.

The NAAFI had ceased trading at the beginning of the month but Sandes continued to provide a much



*Mrs Myda Jones typing Lioness in Association's new HQ offices
(Photo Robert Everard)*



Major Maskens-McIntyre, Quartermaster of Army Women's Training Centre hands over the keys of Queen Elizabeth Park to Mr Mike Cope Accommodation Services Accountant

appreciated service for another couple of months.

The contents of the Museum had been gradually removed by staff from the National Army Museum until the building was empty. Corps HQ, now known as WRAC Association HQ, moved next door to 8 Map & Air Chart Depot in mid March as the few people that were left, about 40 bodies on the ground, began to rattle around the space admiring the crocus and daffodil bulbs which had burst into bloom as if nothing unusual was happening.

Those living-in personnel remaining at the end of March moved to the Duchess of Kent Barracks in Aldershot, and commuted daily so that the Sergeants' Mess could be closed. Those remaining in RHQ dispersed in early April to the Guardroom and many would say it was a fitting end for them. The QM's staff remained until the very end but by Easter they too had to move to meet the deadline of 16 April.

The QM's staff can be assured though that their work has been well done to achieve what they did within the timeframe given, but they would be the first to acknowledge that without the willing cooperation and help of all those within the Centre and the many agencies outside, the closure could not have been achieved at all. For the AWTC it is nearly the end of an era that stretches back to 1941 when the ATS first moved into the barracks. For the barracks itself it is merely a part of the pattern of things. We do not know what its future is; whether another military unit will move in or whether it will be sold for other purposes. We do know, however, that the cherry trees along the square will bloom again in May ready to welcome whoever moves in after we have left.

END OF AN ERA AT THE ARMY WOMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE by WO2 M SIMON – CSM TRAINING COMPANY PASSING OUT PARADE – INTAKE 574

Six o'clock in the morning and there is a clatter of chairs being moved onto the parade square. This is the normal reveille for the foxes and birds in the Army Women's Training Centre on POP mornings.

Thursday 14 January 1993, the final POP at the AWTC. For Intake 574 this was their special day. After 10 gruelling weeks of training they were as excited as all the intakes before them. For the permanent staff of the unit this was a particularly sad day because it was the very last time there would be a Passing Out Parade and consequently, to make the unusual nature of the occasion, Headquarter Company were granted permission to parade with the recruits.

There was no wind, rain or snow - it seemed that were being "blessed" with sunshine in mid-January. For the first and last time, the Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel J A Flake, was to be the Parade Commander and it was only right and fitting that the Director of Women (Army) Brigadier J M Roulstone, should be the Inspecting Officer.

At last the Parade begins. The Band of the Adjutant General's Corps strikes up, being led by the newly appointed Band Sergeant Major Annette Peters, followed by three platoons of recruits and one from Headquarter Company.

Families and friends watching the Parade were full of pride and admiration. Thanks go to NCOs from Training

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Company who did not have platoons on parade and who did sterling work behind the scenes covering the tasks normally completed by Headquarter Company staff.

Almost at the end of a most memorable parade, the band played a piece of music which summed up what Guildford has always stood for – the piece of music? – "Simply the Best".

EXERCISE FINAL FLING II

When we marched off parade on 14 January 1993, that was not quite the end of our activities to mark the end of the era. We still had Exercise Final Fling II to look forward to on the following day. This 'exercise' was like no other Guildford has ever seen. It began with flashing, brightly coloured lights, music of the 90s and screaming voices. No, this was not a dream, this was really the Army Women's Training Centre, Guildford, – and the start of enjoying oneself! A funfair with side attractions on the parade square; the RSM looked bewildered! And who would have thought that the two CSMs, WO2s Simon and Woodcock would be pulling in big audiences around a boxing ring? The only thing was the boxing gloves were "Bingo" enormous! However, the most popular ride was the dodgems, with the waltzers coming a close second.

This was just the start of what was to become a great night. In spite of the rain, nothing was going to dampen anyone's spirits.

The venue then moved to the Assembly Hall and over 150 permanent staff, many with a guest, waited in anticipation for the star attraction. The food provided by NAAFI was superb and the bar prices ensured that no one was going to be drunk! Performers had been on stage and amongst the audience all evening. Cpl Beck and LCpl Wilson were trying to ride the one wheel bicycle during the buffet but they should perhaps have left it to the clowns!

At last the compere asked for no smoking and no cameras to be used during the next act. The curtain rises

and in view is a grand piano, then appears someone famous, a natural comedienne - yes, Victoria Wood! The atmosphere is electric! There followed 45 minutes of the inimitable Victoria. Sadly, all good things must come to an end but the audience are loathe to let her go. So with rapturous applause and cheers of encore, Victoria Wood is enticed to return to the stage for a final time.

At last the evening has come to an end (in the early hours of next morning). And it has ended as everyone would have wished on a high note and with happiness and comradeship.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Our services are free, and we take a long term interest in ex-Regulars so they are available to them throughout their working lives.

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

During the period 1st April 1992–31 March 1993 the Association assisted 12,179 men and women with their resettlement and placed 4,495 in employment. Of those placed 2,358 were men and women from the Army and 38 were from the WRAC.

Planning for the best possible Care

THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY plans to rebuild, in three phases, its St Vincents Retirement Home for ex-servicemen, at Ryde, Isle of Wight, as a Residential Care Home for elderly and disabled ex-service men and women.

Only the best will do for those who served our country so well and now need assistance in looking after themselves. **The best environment, the best facilities, the best staff.** Upwards of £1,312,000 is needed to achieve this.

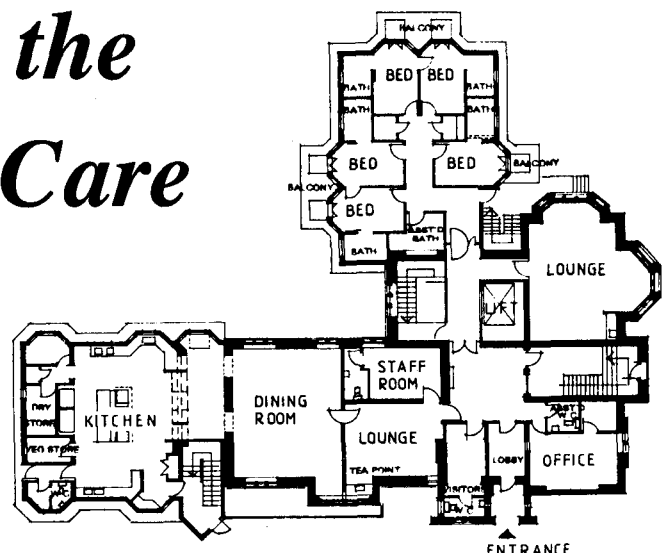
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PRINCESS ROYAL'S MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN

In the early summer of 1965 the Council of the WRAC Association decided to sponsor a Fund in memory of their late Controller Comandant, General, Her Royal Highness, Princess Mary, Princess Royal. The purpose of the Fund was to allow each member the opportunity to show her personal appreciation of Her Royal Highness's service in both the war and the post war years. The money raised was used to provide the Memorial Rose Garden at the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre, Guildford, as well as a Trust Fund. Commercial rose growers also contributed gifts so that the garden was quickly established with some 900 roses. The Trust Fund has been equally successful and to date has paid out £155,330 to 148 annuitants. There are currently 62 annuitants.

On the formation of the Adjutant General's Corps in 1992 and the consequent incorporation of Women's Royal Army Corps members into the newly formed Corps and the closure of the WRAC Centre at Guildford it was decided that the Memorial Rose Garden should be moved to the new Centre at Worthy Down.

14 varieties of roses have been planted in 14 beds surrounding the memorial fountain and pool and the garden has been sited where it can be seen by all who pass along the main road through the Adjutant General Corps Centre at Worthy Down.

The relocated garden was formally opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 4 June 1993 during the Corps Day 1992 when she unveiled a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

Brigadier Anne Field CB Deputy Commandant of the AG Corps and Vice-President of the WRAC Association greeted Her Majesty and presented Brigadier Dame Joanna Kelleher, Brigadier The Honorable Dame Mary Pihl, Brigadier Eileen Nolan CB and Brigadier Gael Ramsey CBE to the Queen.



*Brigadier Field greeting HM The Queen at the Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)*



*Brig Field, her Majesty, Brig Dame Joanna Kelleher, Brig The Hon Dame Mary Pihl, Brig Nolan, Brig Ramsey, Padre Robson
(Photo Dave Harris)*



London Branch members in prime position for ceremony to dedicate the rose garden



*Reverend Bill Robson conducts Service of Dedication at Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo Simon Brooke-Ward)*

Brigadier Field then invited the Chaplain "to dedicate this Memorial Rose Garden to the Glory of God and in memory of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Controller Commandant of the Auxiliary Territorial Services and the Women's Royal Army Corps from 1941 until her death in 1965."

The Chaplain then made the following dedication -

"To the Glory of God and in memory of Thy servant Mary we dedicate this Memorial Rose Garden as a token of our esteem and respect in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Her Majesty then unveiled the plaque. It will be in addition to the one on the memorial fountain which reads:

THE ROSES IN THIS GARDEN
WERE GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF
GENERAL HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCESS ROYAL
CONTROLLER COMMANDANT
AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE
AND
WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS
8 August 1941 to 28 March 1965

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, President of the WRAC Association and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester both spoke to members of the



**New plaque for Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)**



**HRH Duchess of Kent talks with Brigadier Nolan and
Brigadier Ramsey (former Directors WRAC)**



**HRH Duchess of Kent talks with Brigadier Dame
Joanna Kelleher (Brig Henderson when DWRAC)
and Brigadier The Hon Dame Mary Pihl
(Brig Anderson when DWRAC)**



**Chaplain dedicates the memorial
(Photo courtesy of Winchester Gazette)**



**HRH The Duchess of Kent talks to Association members
(Photo Simon Brooke-Webb)**



*HM The Queen talking to Association members
(Photo by Chris Fletcher)*



*Her Majesty meets members of the Association on
AG Corps Day 4 June 1993*

Association who had been given special viewing facilities for the ceremony.

Later in the day Her Majesty was able to meet members

of the Association informally on a walk about and 19 secretaries and 10 council members joined her for tea before the evening ceremonies and displays.

B COMPANY RHEINDAHLEN SUPPORT UNIT

B Coy as always has had a busy last few months. It has been a time of great change within Company HQ with a dramatic change round of personnel. Just before Christmas our Chief Clerk, SSgt Sharon Brookes, left us for the sunnier climes of Blighty! Not too long afterwards, her replacement – the first male Chief the Coy has had, SSgt Kevin Smith, followed her back to UK on redundancy. Hopefully, the new Chief Clerk, SSgt Gary Roddy will stay with us for longer.

The 2IC, Captain Rachel Hadfield, has also left B Company for the delights of the new Regimental Administrative Officer course, so good luck with that one Rach! She has been replaced by the "Irish Dynamo" (Captain Paul Burns), again nice to see a man in the chair.

Sadly we have also said goodbye to Major Jan Brodie-Murphy who left both the Company and the Army on redundancy. Jan served as Private, Chief Clerk and finally OC of 29 Coy WRAC which became B Coy which reflects a major achievement. She has been replaced by globe-trotting Major Imogen Corrigan who has taken over the Company at a point of great change.

Over the last few months B Company have participated in many activities "outside" the office. Notably, demonstrating their sporting prowess. In netball, squash, hockey, volleyball and table tennis, we have progressed to

the Army Inter Unit Championships, and even won the Army Netball Championships! With divisional competitions out of the way, the Athletics and swimming teams have qualified for the BAOR Inter Unit Championships. Many members of B Coy have also been away adventure training, on trips ranging from summer camp to ski training and sailing.

In March, 20 members of three different Army Cadet Forces visited B Company, which proved to be a busy time for both us and the Cadets! We still don't know who was more worn out! The visit went well as they were shown Gunners in Dortmund, drove a train in Monchangeladbach and saw almost everything in Rheindahlen.

Probably the most enjoyable task of the last few months has been the Families of Grapple (FOG). This is a support group set up by B Company for families while their husbands are in Bosnia. FOG became a big happy family which had coffee mornings, evening functions and a big something at weekends. There was the Christmas Cracker making day, Christmas Decoration making session and several games nights including, of course, Bingo, Cheese & Wine evenings and many more. The Company HQ was instrumental in ensuring all went smoothly while in Bosnia life was not so stable. Finally at the end of FOG 1, we had a huge party to say thank you, welcome home and to meet all those unknown husbands. FOG 2 continues looking after those involved in the second phase of deployment.

MEMORIES

(These articles are made up from letters received from members and dealing with personal recollections and longer than those seeking former comrades - Ed)

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SWING ALONG by Gay Clark

I have had a lot of publicity lately - local radio, local paper with photographs. Today I received the Royal British Legion Journal with a "write-up" and photograph, and thought your readers would be interested. I was "called up" to the ATS in October 1942 and posted to Wrexham, N Wales, where I did my basic training. Then posted to a DCRE office as a switchboard operator. All civilians but my CO was a Major Wadge. Then off to Truro in Cornwall. Only had a few weeks there, and was then posted to "Stars in Battledress" being the only female with 18 boys! Had a minder, my CO was Captain Donaldson RA and a civilian producer Gladys Stanely. The show was known as "The Bombshells, a Victorious Raid, on the blues - for the Forces by the Forces". We toured from Lands End, Scilly Isles to John O'Groats 4 times, Belfast, Scottish Command etc - 7 shows a day to millions of servicemen and civilians. Now I have been "tracked down" and have been on Radio BBC, Radio Gloucestershire and have a large photo in the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth in my ATS uniform. So I am sending you the enclosed photograph in case your readers are interested. Captain McGregor gave me a lot of publicity in a back copy of Lioness, and I had letters from former comrades. It was all a wonderful experience.

I now do a lot of work fund raising for the Royal British Legion. Have done so for over 30 years being a member with my husband, Ron, also ex "Stars in Battledress". We are of course fundraising as often as we can - my husband Ron was a comedian, and appeared on "Workers Playtime" several times and many other radio shows. We

have also done TV shows and radio. We give talks at probus and Rotary Clubs about our war time experiences. And of course Royal British Legion entertainment around the country.

I was invited by Joanna Lumley to the Imperial War Museum - 22 February 1993. It was all fabulous - our wedding is pictured there, and we were war-time sweethearts, my husband and I coming up to our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We were the first Victory couple in St Peteroc's Church, Bodmin, Cornwall 23 May 1945. Had a big military wedding with 250 guests, the exiled Prince Chula of Siam being a guest together with his wife, Princess Elizabeth and his cousin's wife Princess Bira Congsi, the latter being a famous racing driver.

We are both 70 now but we thoroughly enjoy what we do! We have an exhibition at the moment at one of our local schools - war time memorabilia. We have done it before and the children love it.

DRIVING AMBITION by Margery Jeanne Olwen Owens

When World War II broke out in September 1939, I was a schoolgirl with one ambition in life - to be an ATS Driver! This didn't please my parents too much as they had spent a fair bit on my education and they had high hopes which didn't include a khaki uniform.

My main worry was the fact I would have to wait four and a quarter years before I could enlist. I was afraid the War would finish before I could achieve what I wanted. Time went by and eventually I found myself on Taunton Station, en route for Queen's Camp, Guildford.

Taunton being a fairly mild part of the country, I was amazed on reaching the Camp to see for the first time in my life about five inches of snow. Taunton was also a quiet town which was of no interest to the Luftwaffe, so I was entranced to see Search lights and hear guns on the first night I had ever spent away from home.

I felt that this was War and I was part of it at last! Trauma came four weeks after, in the shape of the Selection Officer. I could only wonder what on earth I would do if I didn't get to Camberley. This wasn't helped by those Returned to Their Units who told my pal and myself "They don't need drivers!"

However, Heather and I managed to get to Camberley and start on a Drivers Course. We went through more traumas in case we didn't pass. In fact, having gone the wrong side of the policeman on duty in Windsor, I was convinced I'd be off for Ack-Ack training - if not, to be an Orderly! Also I felt that CSM Turner hated the sight of me!

Anyway, pass I did and was posted to 123 Coy (CMT) RASC at Chatham. On the whole I enjoyed my War, being only 17 and stayed on after my demob date.

Then came the WRAC! They took away my dear old peaked cap with the 'strap on top' and gave me a beret. The caps that made drivers feel special had gone forever and I never felt the same again. Alas I cannot find any of my old Chatham pals!

KINE REUNION YORK 1993 by Mrs G K Stapylton

Former Kine Theodolite Operator Muriel Hogan (Rose) was very surprised indeed when she came over from Canada to attend the most recent Kine Reunion. The reason for her amazement was the publication of her wedding photograph on Page 29 of Lioness No 1/93, with a note explaining that it had been found in a rubbish skip.

Muriel did not know the story behind the publication but quickly identified Kay Peterson (Parry) and Irene Klaye (Stanford) among the wedding guests. Both Kay (from Canada) and Irene (from America) were also at the Reunion which was held over two days from Easter Monday at the Viking Inn.

Several others had travelled from North America (indeed, there are preliminary plans afoot for a North American Kine Reunion in the not-too distant future), and even more came from the UK. Altogether we were 77, including several husbands, a few sisters and friends and one son. This was Tony Croft, the son of Rosemary (Geary) and Ron Croft who had also come over from Canada. Tony was an 'independent' guest at the Viking and the inverted commas are because as well as lowering the average age of our party he was a tremendous and welcome help in arranging a private room for us to chatter in and another private room for dinner on Tuesday night. Indeed, he was so much part of the party that like the rest he was properly labelled (although we told him that this was so that no one wondered whose toy boy he was!).

We had all arrived by dinner time and met for a happy meal in the Carvery. The evening was taken up with talking and exchanging photographs and looking at a collection of letters from absent friends. There was also a copy of Daphne Price (Lynch)'s article in Petticoats and Parachutes, the Welsh women's collection of wartime memories, and people were again discussing the books of our other two authors, Elaine Scovell(Tinn) who published 'Live a Little, Die a Little', and Dorothy Kerr (Doffy Brewer) who published 'The Girls Behind the Guns'.

A well-wisher had sent a copy of a manual he used in 1956 when serving with an RA Survey unit when Kine Theodolites were still in use (our own Kine days were back in wartime), and which included several pages of Kine diagrams and calculations, thus enabling several to point out to each other (and to their husbands!) what clever girls Kines were!. Around midnight people started making their way to their rooms and final chats over cups of tea or coffee.

Most people came down to breakfast about 8.30 am on Tuesday and several were still there (talking not eating!) shortly before our tour coaches came for us at 10.30 am. We were soon all aboard, however, and were taken on a trip round the outskirts of York in two coaches with very knowledgeable couriers in charge. We came back an hour or so later knowing much more about York than we did when we arrived. Everyone then walked, talked, shopped or generally idled their time away in the hotel or nearby until we met for dinner in our exclusive dining room, furnished with large, round tables. The talking continued unabated and after another night in our private lounge we were saying good bye to the early leavers after breakfast on Wednesday and looking forward to the next time,



Irene Klaye (née Stanford) Margaret Rogers (née Smith) and Jean Gardner (née Bogle) at Kine Reunion



Muriel Hogan (née Rose) Josephine Barter (née Chadwick) and Judy Dieli (née Garland) at Kine Reunion



*Cairo Victory Parade 1946
Left marker facing her front is Sgt Speller*

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? by J Shelley (née Hardacre)

The only way I am ever going to find anyone out there somewhere, who served with me, is to write to you.

I joined the TA early in 1939, in my home town, Fallsworth - the 3rd East Lancashire Corps attached to the 71st Searchlight Regiment. Like all the TA we were called up about 2 weeks before war was declared. At 19 I was promoted from Chief Volunteer to Sub Section Leader and then Section Leader. Soon after (early 1940) I was posted, with my CO, Miss Sinclair, down to Saltdean, Brighton (The Ocean Hotel), Eastern Command Reception Training Depot. I was a Sergeant training new recruits attached to B Company. (ECRD officers pictured opposite).

The depot then moved to Bournemouth (The Savoy Hotel). I have enclosed a snap of yours truly with three other NCOs during the move - notice the bugle on Cpl Morgan's kit bag. She was our Depot Bugler. I am the JH 12933 character ('Hardi' to my fellow Sgts). From Bournemouth - where, by the way we trained the Free French, myself and another Sergeant "Gibson" visited them when they were posted to the Rothschilds House in London - we were next moved to Droitwich (The Norbury Hotel and the Brine Baths), where I was promoted to WO Class 2 then CSM B Company known as "CEEZUM", the BSM known as "BEEZUM". I stayed there until 1942 when I was posted to 503 MHAA Battery at Shoreham and from there all over the place.



Leaving Brighton 1940 Section Leaders Wallace-Smith, Morgan, Hardicre and Dunn



*ECRD Officers - Droitwich 1942
Back Row Miss Josecelyn, Miss Byford, Miss Scott,
Mrs Winstanley, ?
?, Miss Benny, Miss Townsend, Miss Cleaves
Front Row Padre Fry, Miss Muriel, Mrs Breedon,
Mrs Bailey CO,
Miss Horner, Mrs Place, Capt Clarke MO*

During my service with the 503, I got married and changed my name from Hardicre to Shelley (13.1.43). I left the service late 1943 - at that time attached to the Barracks, Newport, Montgomery.

I hope I have jogged some memories and would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers me.

More recently the Rochdale Group to which I am now attached went down to Guildford to attend the Last Passing Out Parade. Whilst there, I was speaking to member of the Band and handed her a picture of the ATS Band formed at Droitwich. She said she would pass it on to her officer before returning it to me. To date, I have not received this back (my name and address was on the reverse) and would be glad if the lady who has the photo could post it on to me as it obviously has sentimental value.

IS IT REALLY 40 YEARS? by Alison Schofield (née Senior)

On 22 July 1993, the Aldershot Branch of the WRAC Association will be holding a coffee morning; the choice of the date is quite coincidental - when I was told of it it rang a bell, and later I realised that 40 years previously I had left Liphook for the last time as "Lt WRAC, the day after our Passing Out Parade.

But 1993 is of course another anniversary, that of the

Coronation, and for the second time only I shall be able to see the television programme of the procession in which seven other Officer Cadets and I marched all those years ago; if it is not quite as clear as the BBC implies in "As it were Yesterday", at least much of it was, and is unforgettable. I wonder how many of the others will watch the programme and will read this article?

The squad consisted of Norah Dugard, Thea Mitchell, Angela Nicolson, Dorothy Presswell, Alison Senior, Brenda Thompson, Mary Ure and Jane Walker. The reserve, who came with us everywhere, but got none of the fun on the "day", was the ever cheerful and smiling Ursula Castens.

The nine of us selected to train for the event had been chosen many months beforehand, twice a week we marched along the roads of Surrey and Hampshire - to begin with we often got back in the dark and the last in line had to carry a lamp for safety reasons - the A3 on which Huron Camp stood was as dangerous then as it now. We were always accompanied by RSM Hadley and CSM Woolvin, and a lot of the time marched at attention; sometimes, off the beaten track, we marched at ease, and we even sang. We had our own particular song called "The House of the Singing Bamboo", I've never heard it again since that last time when we crowded round the piano in the Cadet Mess the night before our Commissioning Parade, but it was a song we made our own - we had sung it when we returned from the Coronation and it had bound together our disparate little group.

As the Coronation was only six weeks before Passing Out, the order was given that we were to wear our Officer uniforms for the day, suitably adorned with cadet insignia. The command was received with something less than enthusiasm - it didn't take much imagination to think what would happen to them if the weather was bad - and our pessimism was justified. As we finished the march at the bridge in Kensington Gardens, white georgette patches dripping wavy lines down the front of sodden green barathra, we saw the WRNS being dismissed, their faces chalk-white with the pipe-clay which had streamed down from their caps. I wonder how many uniforms were ruined for ever on that day? Despite the efforts of Bernard Wetherill mine (yes, my friends, it still fits!!) still bears the imprints of knees which had stretched to accommodate the male marching pace, longer than our own.

A week beforehand, in a weird mixture of uniform, we set off for our 'concentration' area - Richmond Park Camp; we were to work in battledress but wear unpackable things like hats. When we arrived we found every branch of every women's service in the Commonwealth there, because London was unbelievably wonderful at that time. All troops in London for the Coronation had to wear their full dress



Berry ?, Ursula Castens, Alison Senior before Passing Out Parade 1953

uniform whenever they went out and London was full of troops from all over the world – it looked like one enormous musical-comedy set, added to which there was a certain spice of danger in that nobody knew who anybody else was, some regiments sported uniforms specially revved to the occasion and had decorations of braid or chain which effectively hid the wearer's rank so you never knew whom you should be saluting and of course, nobody knew who we were either and we were frequently saluted ourselves, but forbidden strictly to return the courtesy - very difficult, a friendly smile might have been misinterpreted!

Training had now begun in earnest; in the charge of a Guards RSM we drilled seemingly endlessly, marching and wheeling round soap-boxes set up to represent Admiralty Arch and Hyde Park Corner, the most difficult manoeuvre of the operation. By the end of the week we had adapted to the men's pace and over the top with excitement. The night before we were Confined to Barracks, did a final spit and polish of our shoes and then an early night and the great day was upon us.

Reveille, then breakfast (small rations and only half a cup of tea) to the accompaniment of the news announcing the conquest of Everest. Still very early in the morning off to London in a double-decker bus, which deposited us in Eaton Square to wait for our parade marshal, who marched with us, alongside, but unseen by the crowds, for the rest of the day. His task was to see that we kept the correct distance and step and halted in the right places.

Next we were on the march to the front of Buckingham Palace where we were to stand during the actual crowning; disaster nearly overtook us here, in the form of a squad of male officer cadets marching full-tilt towards us - we had no means of halting, there were too many troops behind us – then at the last moment two hundred very surprised young men received an unexpected command and did a perfect about turn on the march and disappeared from view, at last I knew the reason for that particular drill movement! During the crowning itself we were entertained by the comments of the Guards lining the route; practised in passing hilarious comments with wooden faces and still lips, they made it hard for us to keep a straight face.

After the crowning we fell out into St James' Park in the pouring rain. Ursula and CSM Woolvin helped us each into one of the piles of rain-capes stored on the kerbside, then, fortified by a couple of "wads" from the NAAFI tent we were able to stand and watch the head of the procession move off - particularly memorable were the troops from Tonga swinging along in the rain in grass skirts and bare feet, grinning happily and earning enthusiastic clapping from us all. From where we stood we saw all the Commonwealth rulers close at hand, unforgettable being Queen Salote waving and smiling at us, so very encouraging when you were just a soggy individual with a long wet march in front of you.

Then we fell in again and now the most important part of the procession, the culmination of months of training was upon us. Down to Parliament Square and even a watery sun, though not for long. Past the Abbey we could hear the BBC commentator talking about us over the loudspeakers. then into Whitehall, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, the Ritz - standing easy outside, the whole massive procession at a halt awaiting the next stage. Now the rain was pouring down but it didn't seem to matter now, then the final stage, Park Lane, Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Admiralty Arch, the Mall and the Victoria Memorial (that's the second shot in the TV film), Constitution Hill, Hyde Park Corner, ("Up the ATS" called a woman in the crowd), into the park, and dismiss. It was all over. Back in our buses we had a wonderful view from the top deck - the whole park

was a mass of tents and troops - and a sigh of relief.

Back at Kingston, Confined to Barracks again. The one TV set was locked up in the NAAFI, who had the day off, so we never saw the film. We huddled in the drying rooms, beneath a canopy of other people's bras and pants, trying to get dry and warm – no heating of course, it was June wasn't it? Our stay there was fairly short, so many wet bodies negated the heating, so we gave up and went to bed. Soon I fell asleep, a sleep in which I marched on and on

The rest was an anti-climax; the following day we were sent back to Liphook in a 3-tonner, our wrecked uniforms were spirited away to our respective tailors and six weeks later we said good-bye for, in most cases, ever. Norah and I met on a Signals Course in Catterick, Dorothy and I served together in Germany and Jane and I met relatively recently at the farewell dinner at Guildhall. Perhaps the strangest coincidence was that Jane Farrington's son turned up as a dinner guest at the house of my son's godmother in Geneva! But - everybody else who passed out on the 7th Commissioning Parade 40 years ago, where are you now?

I am Chairman of the Aldershot Branch of the Association. We would be delighted to welcome you to any of our meetings, we shall be happy to visit you if you should chance to be in the "Cambridge" here (although, for your sakes we hope you won't be) and it's too late in the day for you to be in the "Louise Margaret"! I could also arrange a course reunion if anybody is interested.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Pilgrimage Department,
Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford,
Kent ME20 7NX

ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGES – 1994

KOHIMA/IMPHAL – CASSINO/ANZIO – NORMANDY –
MONS – ARNHEM

The Royal British Legion's Pilgrimage Department is involved in the planning for several 50th Anniversary Pilgrimages in 1994, to remember many of the milestones of that momentous advance to victory in the critical year of 1944. In addition, the 80th Anniversary of the 'first action' fought by the British Army in World War I falls in August 1994, and we are including a visit to Mons in our programme.

We are pleased to announce that bookings are now open for these Pilgrimages – five in all – but because demand will be keen (remember Alamein 1992!) you are urged to secure your place as soon as possible. If you wish to apply please apply with a small registration deposit of £25, payable to Pilgrimages Worldwide. The subsidy for War Widows travelling under the Government's Grand-in-Aid Scheme will apply.

The travel arrangements will be made by 'Pilgrimages Worldwide' (a trading Company of Sunspot Tours, ABTA No. 71769, ATOL No. 1631). We will send confirmatory details about all the Pilgrimages as soon as these are to hand but your advance registration securing your place will be acknowledged. The Pilgrimage costs include:-

- All travel (departing from London)
- Hotel Accommodation
- Breakfast, Dinner and certain lunches
- Insurance
- Escorts and Medical cover
- Visits to historical sites and War Cemeteries
- Attendance at services/ceremonies

TRAGIC INCIDENTS

Following Mrs Morris's letter in Lioness No 2/92 (page 104) and the article in No 1/93 (page 14) there have been further correspondence about the tragic incident in Belgium on 16 January 1945 when six members of 484 Mixed Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery were killed.

Mrs Ann Radloff of 14 Brooke Court, Parkleys, Ham, Richmond TW10 5LX has sent a picture of the graves in the Heverlee British War Cemetery. In her letter she says:

"I was a Sister in QAIMNS/R (now QARANC) with the 101 British General Hospital working in a convent (built as a school but converted to a hospital) at Heverlee near Louvain in Belgium. Some time during the winter of 1944-45 there was a terrible accident when a troop carrier carrying a company of ATS girls crashed straight into a train on a level crossing south of Louvain. The vehicle went up in flames and I think all the girls were either severely burnt or killed.

I had the great privilege of nursing some of them and have a vivid memory of the terrible sight of burns and injuries and of the tremendous courage and patience of these young women undergoing such dreadful pain and discomfort. I was accustomed to courage, having been through Normandy but this incident stands out vividly in my memory.

I think we only kept them a few days before they were sent home to England - I fear many would have been disfigured. I had not realised until I revisited the Convent in December last year (now reverted to a school) and saw the nearby cemetery at Heverlee that, as you see, at least six



*ATS graves in British Cemetery, Heverlee, Belgium
(by courtesy of Sister Miriam, Institute de Sacre Coeur,
Heverlee)*

are buried there. I met one of the nuns (a teacher) who has sent me this photograph of the cemetery taken in the Spring - she says the local people still put flowers on the graves.

Mrs Lyn Hilliard (née Booth) wrote from 30 Raeburn Road, Kingsley, Northampton NN2 7EU wrote to say:

"I have read the article in the last Lioness of the tragic accident at Veltham, Belgium. I was in a jeep that had come over the level crossing just before the lorry with all the girls in hit the train. It was a nightmare that lived with me for many years. I received a Certificate of Merit from Field Marshal Montgomery also a letter which I have kept from Colonel Cornell thanking me on behalf of the Regiment, but my wish over all these 48 years is to find out what happened to all the girls involved, hoping someone can help".

Mrs Freda Goodman (née Underwood) wrote from 38 Griffin Road, Braybrooke, Market Harborough LE16 8LH to say:

"I was in 484 Battery in Belgium and might easily have been in that convoy of Matadors. We were invited to the Coldstream Guards dance that evening, but went instead to the RAF at Brussels. My friend knew Marie Rose and several of our off duty girls went to the funeral. 518 Battery was disbanded at the end of 1944 to make up numbers for 483/484/485 Batteries to form 139 Regt to go to protect Brussels on 'Flying Bomb Run'.



*484 Battery at Kampenhout, Belgium
(Between Leuven and Mechelen)*



*Office Staff 200 RA Practice Camp, Villa Jeanne
Middlekerke, Belgium 1945*

The second tragic incident was the bombing raid on Great Yarmouth when 26 members of the ATS were killed. Mrs Joan Awbery of the Norfolk and Suffolk branch wrote the following account of the event and the creation of a memorial:

BOMBING RAID ON GREAT YARMOUTH

By Mrs Joan Awbery (née Stittle)

In November last year as Chairman of the Norfolk & Suffolk Branch, I received a letter from Mr Val Grimble of Gorleston-on-Sea giving details of a bombing raid at Great Yarmouth on 11 May 1943 when 26 ATS girls lost their lives in the destruction of their hostel on the sea-front. He had a wealth of information but asked us for help in trying to trace anyone who was there at the time, or could recall the raid. I read his account with shock and much interest, but did not then foresee how greatly our members would become involved.

Mr Grimble has dedicated much time and effort to researching this incident. This is his graphic description of that terrible day.

On the morning of Tuesday 11 May 1943, a fine sunny day, the townspeople of Great Yarmouth were up and going about their business; children were heading for schools throughout the town. On the sea-front a happy band of ATS girls were marching towards their hostel

returning from a PT session on a nearby recreation ground. They dismissed outside and entered their billet. Situated in the Gorleston cliffs the members of a Royal Observer Post were on duty maintaining a constant vigil, as ever. Just prior to 0845 hours, in a north-easterly direction from the coast, a low flying aircraft could be heard, but a low sun and sea haze obscured visibility. Then, within seconds of landfall, a force of enemy aircraft heading towards the coast was identified. The fighter-bombers flew in very low, below the effective coastal radar detection. Only in the final few seconds was the enemy strike forces' approach realised by sound and visual means by the ROC post. In a few seconds the Focke-Wulfs of Luftwaffe Unit SKG/10, operating from an advance airfield in Holland, swept in from the east in loose staggered line abreast formation. Three bombs, released just over the shoreline, impacted into three large buildings along the North Drive sea-front. In seconds the ATS hostel was reduced to rubble, only a stump of a few feet remaining standing.

When the initial shock of the raid had passed Army personnel nearby and others rushed to the scene of destruction and aided by local Rescue Squads, ARP units and the Police, commenced to search the debris in an effort to find any survivors. It soon became clear that casualties were going to be high considering the number of girls known to have been in the building. The number of fatalities rose as bodies came to light. Sadly, floors and walls had toppled down and brought their inmates with them. It appeared from the appalling destruction that death had come about almost instantaneously. The rescue squads had one success, they found one victim who was happily dug out alive. She was Private Doreen Chappel of Cinderford, in Gloucestershire, aged 22. She was to be the only survivor.

The twenty-six girls attached to the 103 AA Brigade, who so sadly lost their young lives were:

Sgt Viola Wells of Hunslet Carr, Leeds
Cpl Margaret Ferguson, Galbraith of New Mills, Derbyshire
Cpl Enid Line of Crouch End, Middlesex
LCpl Molly Carter of Sheffield
LCpl Eileen Hunt of Beshthorpe, Nottinghamshire
LCpl Anna McLeod of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis
Pte Bernadette Bell of Manchester
Pte Jean Copley of Aston, Yorkshire
Pte Louisa Farnes of Stockton-on-Tees
Pte Dorothy Fawkes of Hexham, Northumberland
Pte Kathleen Gaunt of Bingley, Yorkshire
Pte Lilian Grimmer of Great Yarmouth
Pte Nora James of Rolleston, Staffordshire
Pte May Johnson of Louth, Lincolnshire
Pte Jessica Lewis of Boscombe, Bournemouth
Pte Jane McCauley of Germiston, Glasgow
Pte Elizabeth MacKay of Rarichie, Ross & Cromarty
Pte Vera Mann of Beeston Hill, Leeds
Pte Louisa Maxwell of Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Pte Ivy Moore of Grimsby, Lincolnshire
Pte Roma Pearson of Grimsby, Lincolnshire
Pte Jean Scougall of Edinburgh
Pte Jessie Sharpe of Hesse, Yorkshire
Pte Marjorie Sutton of Fulstow, Lincolnshire
Pte Doris Travers of Northampton
Pte Doris Wimbush of Doncaster

Six of the girls were interred at Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery.



Grave of six ATS and two soldiers in Great Yarmouth

Sgt Viola Wells, Cpl Margaret Galbraith, Pte Lilian Grimmer, Pte May Johnson, Pte Marjorie Sutton and Pte Doris Wimbush.

Two are buried in the Great Yarmouth Roman Catholic Cemetery Pte Jane MacCauley and Pte Doris Travers

The ATS officer in charge, Subaltern Anne Green, aged 23 of New Barnet, Herts, was commended by the Commander-in-Chief of AA Command, Sir Frederick Pile for her fine example of calmness and devotion to duty. The citation adds that she worked incessantly and calmly organised and encouraged those around her and rendered invaluable aid in clearing the rubble and set a magnificent example to all ranks.

Five other ranks, employed as Signals Operators, were also commended for maintaining communications through the whole day and night and dealing faultlessly with the heavy signals traffic.

They were: Sgt I D Johnson of Cambridge
Cpl E A Bennett of Middlesbrough
Pte G N Bates of Scunthorpe
Pte E C Luke of South Shields
Pte E M Norcup of Brewood, Staffs
Pte E Corless of Bentley, Doncaster

As a result of publicity in the last edition of *Lioness*, four former ATS members wrote to me with their recollections of the raid. These were exceedingly helpful in aiding Mr Grimbly to pinpoint the actual site of the bombed hostel and gave many personal details. At first it was thought the difficulty of trying to trace relatives would be insurmountable, but fortunately we have been in touch with brothers or sisters or friends of some of the girls and were able to tell them that, on Tuesday 11 May 1993, the 50th anniversary, the members of the Norfolk & Suffolk Branch were holding a memorial service at the gravesides of those six girls interred in the Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery and the two in the Great Yarmouth Roman Catholic Cemetery and that, in doing so, all twenty-six girls would be remembered.

The service took place on a mild and sunny Spring day such as it was on that day, Tuesday 11 May 1943, 50 years ago. Standards of the Royal Signals Association, the British Legion and the Yarmouth Branch of the Women's Royal Air Force Association were paraded. The siren sounded throughout Caister and Yarmouth at two o'clock and was the signal for the start of the service, conducted by the Deaconess of Yarmouth, Miss Mair Kingham. The names of all twenty-six girls were called out and six members of the Norfolk & Suffolk Branch laid a spray of chrysanthemums and carnations on the graves of the six girls

interred there. The British Legion contributed a wreath of poppies, and a cross with poppies was laid by the Royal Corps of Signals. Two soldiers who lost their lives in the same building lie alongside the girls and flowers were placed on their graves. It was a very moving occasion. Afterwards we proceeded to the main church cemetery where flowers were placed on the two graves there and a service conducted by Father Reid from Great Yarmouth. Many relatives of Private Doris Travers had come from Northampton, and brought with them mementoes, letters and photographs of Doris.

Personal recollections of the girls, and of the time, have come from the ladies who replied to the request in the Lioness and from the relatives we have been able to contact.

Mrs Chadwick was a sergeant in the Gun Operations room at Gorleston. She told us of the dreadful shock they all experienced and that the three days and nights following the raid were spent in gathering replacements, who were arriving at all times of the day and night. "I don't think Subaltern Milne or I saw our beds very much during that time". The few girls who survived the raid because they were on duty at the time were sent on leave immediately.

Mrs Ancombe was a radar operator with 517 (M) HAA Bty and remembered the day with clarity.

Mrs Ewart was with 447 (M) HAA Bty on a gun-site at Gorleston-on-Sea. She recalled that the planes flew in so low that their 3.7 guns were unable to fire. She sent us a paragraph from a local newspaper reporting "Fifteen Nazis bombed East Anglian town" going on to state that an ATS Hostel had been razed with many girls killed. Soldiers and civilians also lost their lives in the hit-and-run raid.

Mrs Sampson was also with 447 (M) HAA Bty. She recalled the heavy mist of the early morning, and how a plane could be heard overhead but not seen; it came in under cover of the mist and went out the same way. A young officer rushed in to say that their headquarters had been hit and that men had been killed and he thought 20 ATS girls had been lost in their bombed hostel. "We were told to say nothing to anyone, on site or off, it had not to be mentioned because of lowering morale". Months later she wrote home to tell her mother about the incident which had been preying on her mind all that time, but her letter was censored and the account of the raid erased.

Miss Ann Allan was a medical orderly, living in the same billet. She had requested leave to cover the date of her twenty-first birthday, 11 May 1943. She was told all leave for that period had already been allotted, but if she could find someone who would exchange with her, she could go. Private Lilian Grimmer, whose home was in Yarmouth, offered to change leave dates with her. Lilian Grimmer lost her life on 11 May 1943.

Four brothers of Roma Joan Pearson had been in dangerous areas of war; in convoys to Russia, in tanks in the desert war, in Burma. They returned safely; their young sister was to be the only one of the family who lost her life.

Ten members of the family of Doris Travers were at the graveside for the memorial service. They brought with them a letter Doris had written home on 18 March 1943. It was her twenty-first birthday. She gave her new address, 39th AA Brigade, North Drive, Great Yarmouth and said ".....it is not a very safe area, we are on the coast but we have to take the bad with the good. My nerves are getting a bit shaky. I should like to tell you a lot but I can't. I shall be coming home in six weeks' time....". After that leave, in her usual conscientious effort to return early to duty she caught the overnight train on 10 May 1943 and was thus so sadly a victim of the raid.

Fortunately, we have recently been able to trace



*Service at graves of Great Yarmouth (Caister) Cemetery
May 1993*

Corporal Bennett (now Mrs Simmonds) and Private Norcup (now Mrs Hunt) who were two of the ATS girls commended for their devotion to duty on that terrible day. Mrs Hunt was the Brigadier's driver; on the morning of the raid she was cleaning his car when an orderly shouted from a window "Lie down - they are coming"; it was not long before I had a call to take the Brigadier to Yarmouth Hospital". Mrs Hunt also sent a cutting from a newspaper, with a photograph of Subaltern Anne Green, whom, unfortunately we have so far been unable to trace.

So many small details have built up a graphic picture of events on that terrible day, and we are grateful to all who have written with their memories. On 11th May 1994 we intend to erect a plaque, naming all the girls who lost their lives, on the site of the bombed hostel on the North Drive at Great Yarmouth and we hope that we shall be able to contact many more relatives, friends and those with knowledge of the disaster, so that they may join this Branch in remembering and paying respect to our war-time comrades.

ATTENTION POETS

Owings Mills, Maryland (USA) - The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is March 31, 1994. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-ZR, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 1994.

A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND
by Mrs Mary Gregory (née Knowles)

In January this year, my sister and I went to New Zealand to visit our younger sister – she lives in Papakura, South Auckland. I had been given a photograph of the ATS Victory Parade in London 1945 by the ATS Dinner Club to take over to the WRAC Auckland Branch. I had this framed and with the help of my youngest sister in Papakura, arranged to meet some members of the Branch, in the Returned Servicemen's Association Club in Papakura, for lunch on Saturday 16 January 1993. What a welcome they



Mrs Gregory (right) handing over picture of ATS Victory Parade to Mrs Iris Boyler



Group of WRNZAC Association at the Returned Services Association Club in Papakura South Auckland

gave me – and my sisters!. About 15 or 16 ladies turned out to meet us – all travelling from around Auckland South area. We had pre-lunch drinks, and I handed over the photograph and some greetings cards, and exchanged endless stories and chatter which continued over lunch, and well into the afternoon. What a lovely, friendly group of ladies.

It was really a wonderful day. I know that some of you will, I hope, be reading this in the *Lioness* – so may I say a big "Thank You" on behalf of myself and Frankie (my middle sister – an ex-WREN) and Margie my youngest sister (who was too young to be in any service) and who negotiated with Iris Boytor and Sadie Lewis, to make this day possible – sorry ladies I left most of the best pictures with you in Auckland – so I'm sending what I have. Hoping one will be suitable to go into the *Lioness* with this report. Names of ladies present are Iris Boytor, Joyce Taylor, Sarah Lewis, Jean Harrison, Clare Beach, Anna Temple, Jean Wirk, Muriel Leggatt, Commie Williams, Audrey Holland, Doris Nicholson, plus two or three others whose names I didn't get – but to all of you many thanks for the happy memory of that day and "We'll Meet Again – Don't Know Where, Don't Know When – But I know We'll Meet Again". Good luck to you all.

A VARIED CAREER
by Mrs Joyce Booker (née Kelly)

I joined the WRAC on 12 May 1949 and trained at Guildford 2 Platoon 3 Company as Private Joyce M Kelly 354351. I would like to hear from anyone who was there at the same time.

My posting after training was Bulford Barracks, I was there just one night and sent on to Tidworth Army College and much later to Aldershot Army College as a librarian. When the college eventually closed down, I was posted to Wilton, as Office Orderly where a request came through for a volunteer to help out for one month at the residence of General Roberts "Clive House", Tidworth. I volunteered.

I was asked to stay on as a waitress and was with General Roberts for two years until his posting to War Office as Quartermaster General. During those two years, General Roberts was knighted and became General Sir Ouvry Roberts and his residence moved to Bulford Manor.

The staff there included Phyllis, Dorothy and Irene and a couple more whose names I cannot remember, any of which I would love to hear from. I believe Phyllis came from Burnley in the north west. We went on manoeuvres in Southern Command together.

After Bulford Manor, my next and last posting was back to Wilton Signals Division as Office Orderly and I was demobbed in 1953, by then married and took the name of Private Joyce M Booker 354351. The Officer in our Signals Office was Major Fisher, she was a great help to me and a lovely person.

I have lived in South Australia for the past 23 years and enjoy receiving *Lioness* and reading all the stories people write in mostly about their War service, which I unfortunately missed out on, as I was still at school but even at that early age I was ready to join a resistance group should we be invaded, to cover the Lancashire Moors and Pennine Ranges which I knew so well. I wanted to get into the action but all I could do was sell Saving Stamps and War Bonds!!

EX ARMY GIRL IS MARCHING IN TUNE
(reproduced from the *Highland Press & Journal*)

A former Army musician has struck the right chord with a business venture she has started up in her home town of Thurso.

Since her return to civvy street, Katrina Geddes, has been passing on her skills by offering tuition to aspiring local instrumentalists. The 22-year old had a short but distinguished, stint as a principal trombonist with the staff band of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

She was the only Scot among a crack band of musicians with whom she travelled extensively performing in Germany, Gibraltar and Cyprus. Katrina's band had a number of royal appearances, including a concert in front of the Queen in London's Guildhall.

During her three-and-half years in the WRAC she picked up a medal for being the most accomplished band player – the youngest ever to do so.

Now with the help of the Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise and the Prince's Trust, she has struck out on her own. Her Music Machine business is based in a former cafe in Swanson Street which has been converted into a music room by her grandfather, Bill Brass.

She used the outside financial help to buy a stock of instruments, including a piano, clarinet, saxophone and trombone. She is in popular demand with 70 pupils, one as young as five, presently receiving tuition.

Katrina said "It was a wonderful experience to play in the Army band but I'm delighted to be able to be back in Caithness and still carry on with my music".

Annamarie Monteforte, an investment manager with CASE, said the enterprise company was delighted to be able to help Katrina get her band started. She received £1,400 towards the cost of the instruments, as well as receiving a revenue support for her first six months of operation.

Mrs Monteforte said "Katrina is young, enthusiastic and talented and is willing to work day and night.

She's also started up a business which nobody was previously doing on a full-time basis".

FVPE LONGCROSS HALT **by Mrs Hylda Flowers (née Harris)**

What memories the article and photograph in Lioness No 2 1992 brought to me. I was stationed at FVPE and billeted at Elm Lodge from 1942 until the beginning of 1945 and recognise several of the 'girls', whether the names are correct after all these years I am not sure, but I can see Audrey Chapman, Jessie Ryarch, Betty Warriner, Sybil Posner, Berry Moscovitch, Kitty ?, Rhoda Barribal and Mary who did the cooking at Elm Lodge. Remember the cockroaches? How ghostly Elm Lodge could be late at night when doing Orderly Corporal duty - remember the rats?

I shared a room at first with Cpl Vera Fisher from Temple Ewell who I have kept in touch with but, later with Cpl Molly Woods, who married Richard Grills of the Fleet Air Arm in 1943 at Surbiton. I went to her wedding, and the following year she lent me her wedding dress to marry my husband Ken Flowers. I remember Junior Commander Sheila Dunlop trying to talk me out of it but we are still together 48 years later,

I would very much like to hear from anyone who remembers me, especially Molly Grills (née Woods). I still have the large rolling pin which was part of my wedding present.

At the moment I belong to the Canterbury Branch of the Association. It is always very interesting to read the Lioness trying hard to recognise at least one name from the past, so you can imagine my delight when I saw Cpl Hookings' article and photograph. I do hope someone will contact me.

COMMANDER ROYAL ENGINEERS **DERBYSHIRE STAFF 1942-1944** **by Leslie M Lockley** **(former surveyor of Works in Derbyshire)**

I am making one last effort, now that I am less busy than formerly, to try and meet up at least once more with those members of the CRE Derbyshire staff who have managed to survive until now.

About two years ago, I spent some hours in Milford but met nobody who remembered us although I am pleased to say that the "Strutt Arms" has been completely rebuilt internally and could now accommodate us, if we can meet again, it is now quite attractive. Fred's place has gone as had the big mill on that side of the street. The general store and Post Office, just over the bridge and on the way to Belper had new owners when I called in, they had been there less than a year and had never heard of us. Our old offices are now a retirement home for the elderly and the engineering firm which used to occupy the ground floor of Milford House is now housed in huts in the grounds. I called on the Matron who was very interested to know

about us and who showed me around the home. I did however find it somewhat difficult to make out where our various offices had been as many partitions had been removed.

I eventually gave up trying to get a reunion going in 1952, when I set up in practice on my own account and was too busy getting established to find time for keeping in touch with you all. I still have the old addresses but doubt if any of them are of use now. I have however found that, in addition to Colonel Bennett who died comparatively soon after the war, that Lieutenant Frank and our Corporal Evelyn Sudbury, Raymond Tustin and Mr Campbell have also died. I was able to get an insertion in the "Lost Trails" section of the Legion magazine a couple of months ago, Captain Fink saw it and we are now in touch again, he now lives near Bath. I have the addresses of Lts Hogg and Wolstenholme and shall be writing to them and am hoping to get a note in "The Sapper" magazine. I did try to get a mention on "Surprise Surprise" with Cilla Black but have not yet been lucky.

Arising out of the mention in the "Legion" I have received a letter from the Vice-Chairman of the Milford Branch of the Royal British Legion. He is a Royal Engineer in the TA and his father was an engineer during the war. He was delighted to find out that there had been an Engineer Office in Milford during the war and has promised to ask around the village to find out whether or not any former landladies have any present day addresses of our members. I have also sent leaflets to the Post Office asking them to give them out to the locals in case anyone can come up with information.

ATS personnel in the CRE Derbyshire Staff Summer 1942–Autumn 1944

Name	Rank	Occupation
Elizabeth Margaret ANTROBUS	Private	Typist
Hilda ASHTON (probably now married)	"	Clerk
Joan BEAMISH née ATKINSON	"	Surveyors Clerk
– DALE née McGARRY	L/Corporal	Driver
Joan GREEN (now married I believe)	"	Clerk
Edith HILL (now married I believe)	Private	Draughtswoman
Monica JOHNSON née HOUSTON	Corporal	Construction A/C Clerk
Violet HUGHES	Private	Clerk
Jessie (may be Jessica & married)	"	Draughtswoman
Edna ROYSTONE née DAVIS	"	Telephonist
Sylvia SOUTH	Corporal	Surveyors Clerk
M TURNER	Private	Draughtswoman
C WEST	"	Draughtswoman
Shirley WHITTAKER (now married)	Sergeant	Construction A/C Clerk
Joan WILLIAMS	Private	Draughtswoman

Ex ATS officer, widow, arthritic seeks companion/ carer to live in comfortable home on edge of village 6 miles from Colchester. Light housework only. Use of car. Write c/o WRAC Association, PO Box 212, Guildford GU2 6ZD.



Frances Huppert Nunally in Torquay 1944

**A REFUGEE FROM HITLER INTO THE ATS
by Frances Nunnally (née Huppert)**

I was delighted to receive my first copy of the *Lioness* after so many years. Just looking at the pictures of former ATS girls and reading about them swept away half of a century and took me back to the dark days of World War II. Europe had fallen to the Nazis, and England stood alone. Only the choppy waters of the English Channel stood between freedom and surrender.

But the English people were wonderful. They carried on, sleeping on subway station floors, dodging bombs and lugging heavy gasmasks to the factories, shops and schools.

In this topsy-turvy world I found myself in a sort of twilight zone. I was born in Vienna, Austria and was barely sixteen when Hitler's troops goose-stepped into my town. My family was Jewish and the persecutions began almost immediately. England generously took in hundreds, perhaps thousands of children and teenagers, thereby saving them from ultimate death in the gas chambers and crematoriums. I was one of those teens, saying good-bye to my parents at a Vienna train station in May 1939. I never saw them again. They eventually perished in the Death Camps of Europe.

In November 1941, I joined the ATS and after training in the North was posted to Bury-St-Edmunds, a lovely little market town among Suffolk fields. We were quartered in Gibraltar Barracks, a huge grim edifice, the home of the Suffolk Regiment.

Discipline for us ATS girls was strict. Hair well done above the collar, no jewelry of any kind, thick lisle stockings and sturdy brown brogues. Check-in time at

night was 10.45 pm and being even one minute late resulted in being confined to Barracks for several days.

We had "drill" three times a week. Our drill sergeant was a smart dainty lad with a voice that boomed across the huge parade ground like the thunder of cannons. We took great care to keep in step.

I was put in a special platoon for mainly foreign-born ATS members. Although most of us were refugees from Nazi oppression, we still, technically came from enemy territory, such as Austria, Germany etc. We were not allowed to work on AA guns, in offices, or even warehouses, but were assigned to serving meals in the Officers' Mess (considered a cushy job) but most of us manned the huge mess hall where hundreds, maybe thousands, of troops were fed each day. Our talents and useful energies went into keeping those wooden mess tables scrubbed a snowy white, and floors the size of a



*Free French girls learning how to salute with RSM
Mayers*

football field swilled squeaky clean. We lugged big iron pots of food that weighed almost as much as we did. And we took turns in washing huge mountains of dishes after each meal. An enormous prehistoric dishwasher groaned through the chore of "doing the plates". But once a week these also had to be washed by hand in hot soapy water. The skin came off our fingers in strips and we girls had a time at night explaining to our dates the poor condition of our hands. Most of us came from middle class or professional families who had employed at least part-time maids to do the heavy housework. Many of us had been pampered and spoiled by doting parents. We would rather have died than admitted to our dates the nature of our work. We wanted to operate Anti-Aircraft guns, drive Generals and decode secret messages in hush-hush offices and were often ashamed of what we had to do.

But now, 50 years later (and wiser), I realize that we did indeed do our part for the War effort. We kept the troops fed three times a day and filled their mugs with hot cocoa for "elevenses". Our work was humble, but as essential as driving a General or filing information for a forthcoming attack.

Toughest of all were the winters of World War II. Outside, the Parade Ground was covered with snow, but our icy barrack rooms were unheated. We slept with greatcoats, sweaters or anything that we could find, piled on top of our Army issue blankets. Coal was very scarce, but there was a small ATS sitting room with a fire burning in the grate. We went there to read, write letters, or just to chat before returning to our freezing rooms.

But all of that was forgotten in the spring of 1945, when victory came to Europe. Fires were lit on hillsides, church

bells tolled and lights blazed in the streets for the first time in six years. But for many of us girls victory and peace meant the beginning of a new challenge – to find what was left of our families on the continent.

Through the years I learned that my family had perished in the Death camps of Europe. I am married, with sons, a daughter, and grandchildren. But some evenings when the house is quiet and there is time to dream, I am a young ATS girl, working, having fun, and doing my bit for that epoch in history that was World War II.

Haig Homes

Housing ex-Service families

Family sized unfurnished houses and flats to let to ex-Servicemen and women in housing need on secure tenancies. Rents range from £40 to £70 per week. Houses in 44 locations throughout the UK.

APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from parents with young families and the disabled for the tenancy waiting list in the following areas:-

Cardiff, Carlisle, Chalfont St Peter (RE),
Edinburgh (RE), Harrow, Jersey (Residentially Qualified),
Manchester (RA), Norwich (RE), Sunderland
and Swansea.

Gunners and Sappers have priority for some houses in the areas shown.

EMERGENCIES

If you are being invalidated out or are a statutorily homeless family or subject to eviction from your married quarter under a Court Order, the waiting lists are also open at:-

Ashted, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Dartford,
Glasgow, Grimsby, Gloucester, Isle of Wight, Hull,
Leeds, Liverpool, Leicester, Morden, Penzance,
Portsmouth, Romford, Ruislip, Salisbury, Sheffield,
Warrington, Wimborne.

AVAILABLE NOW

Bristol, Swansea, Norwich (RE).

Details from John Holt, General Secretary
Alban Dobson House,
Green Lane, Morden
Surrey SM4 5NS

Tel: 081-648 0335 Fax: 081-646 6247

ENIGMA

Three books have been published on the activities of the War Office Y Group of code and cipher breakers.

These are:-

Spies of the Airwaves	(£14.95)
Knowledge Strengthens the Arm	(£19.95)
ENIGMA and its Achilles Heel	(£15.95)

These are available from:-

Major (Retd) Hugh Skillen
Ard Choille
56 St Thomas Drive
Pinner
Middlesex HA5 4SS

who also arranges Y Group reunions.

PALESTINE 1944–1948 RETURN – OCTOBER 1993

14–22 OCTOBER 1993

24 FEBRUARY–4 MARCH 1994

Ladies,

We recall with admiration your service in those long years ago in Palestine during the British Mandate. Especially we remember the bravery of those who manned the switchboard at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and those who were in constant danger in other parts of the country.

A number of our Policemen met and married members of the ATS who today attend our social functions and have visited the Holy Land. If you would like to see the sun rise over Tiberias or Carmel and it set over Jerusalem, or smell the honeysuckle and arid earth with maybe a tour in Acre or Haifa.

I am organising a nine day tour for October 1993 and February 1994. Of course husbands and families are welcome.

The half board cost will be £664.00 plus tips, first class hotels, air conditioned coaches and great comradeship and an ex-Palestine Policeman to lead the group.

For details write to:

The Palestine Police Tour Organiser
Terry Shand
47 Southfields
Hendon
London NW4 4LX
Tel: 081-203 1057

The Leeds First World War International Commemoration Week 5–11 September and Conference 8–11 September 1994

In September 1994 (next year), the University of Leeds, the City of Leeds and the Business Community in West Yorkshire are co-operating in the holding of an international week of 1914–18 commemorative events in and around Leeds. The central purpose of this week is that while the 20th century is still with us and in the presence of some who lived through the First World War, we can look again at life during the War with an attempt at reaching an appreciation of the values opinions attitudes of a period now removed from us by as much as eighty years. It is, after all, our heritage which we re-examine.

During the week there will be tours of Yorkshire Regimental Museums, to Scarborough, Whitby, Hull and York, scenes of enemy action during the war and to the rich architectural evidence of early 20th century Leeds. There will also be veteran military and civil vehicle parades and a militaria fair for books, modellers and war gaming.

Any and every organisation can take part and its work will be featured in the promotion of the week. Offers of help, involvement, contributions in whatever form would be welcomed. They are needed. Please contact Peter Liddle, Keeper of the Liddle Collection, The Library, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT Tel. (0532) 335566, and Fax. (0532) 335539.

BRANCH NEWS

ACCRINGTON The branch have had a reasonably active period both on the civic and pleasure fronts. Since our last report some of our members visited the Pebble Mill Studios in Birmingham. We participated as the audience for one of the Pebble Mill at One programmes and Alan Titchmarsh spoke with some of our members after the recording. There is a mystery trip planned to take place shortly but for the benefit of everybody we are going to visit the Treacle Mines in Sabden. By the time this is printed the visit will have taken place.

On the civic front we have attended no less than 3 parades including the dedication of the East Lancashire Royal Marine Standard and the Mayor's Civic Parade.

Preparations are well in hand for a fund raising event at the Padiham Festival which is due to take place in August. The branch members have been busy making various items which will be sold.

Some of the Branch members went to the 1st Anniversary Service of the 11th East Lancashire Battalion (Accrington Pals). We were invited to the Dedication of the Chapel last year. The photo shows some of our Branch members in the Chapel. On a happier note the Branch wish to extend their very best wishes and congratulations to Brenda and Arthur Smith on the occasion of their marriage.

We do hope that they have many happy years together.



Mrs J Orton, Mrs M Lund, Mrs S Whitehead, Mrs J Hamilton of Accrington Branch at dedication ceremony of memorial to Accrington Lads Battalion of East Lancashire Regiment in First World War

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH With favourable weather we have been able to maintain our monthly meetings throughout the winter and have now established a friendly and mutually supportive atmosphere.

A growing bank balance is being aimed in order that we may look after any member who is ill. We are looking forward to arranging a meeting with some of the Leicester Branch at one of our summer meetings.

AYLESBURY The day of our 1992 Christmas Luncheon was also the day our Vice-Chairman, Anna Maria Clark, gave birth to a son, Ashley weighing 6lb 8oz. He has since attended his first Branch meeting amidst much fuss and cuddles!

Eight members names were forwarded to Classic Pictures for the John Mills video "Women who Went to War" but, unfortunately no instant film stars were discovered amongst them.

If we acquire much more regalia we shall soon be requiring a QM to take charge of it. It was agreed we purchase one of the WRAC music stand banners and now this has been mounted on a mahogany pedestal it looks most impressive. A gavel and base has been presented by Olga Harding for the Chairman's use; a framed WRAC badge has been drawn and painted by Madge Evans and finally our new Secretary, Sophia Hooper, has worked a tablecloth complete with ATS and WRAC badges.

Business is concluded as quickly as possible to enable us to chat and reminisce which is most enjoyable. We are fortunate that the lounge of the Ex-Service Club is made available to us where we can partake of a coffee or something stronger, if preferred.

We are hoping that some of our serving members will be able to attend meetings in the near future and we assure them of a warm welcome from those of us who served almost half a century ago - there is plenty of life in the old ones yet!

We have had two interesting speakers during the first half of the year. One was from a local travel company when requests were made for a short break holiday covering the 1994 D-Day celebrations and this was to be looked into. The other was an illustrated talk on "Talking Newspapers for the Blind" given by Freddie Weatherly, one of our members.

To conclude, eight members spent a most enjoyable time at the AG Corps Day. There should have been nine of us but poor Beryl Pepper missed joining up with the group owing to a British Rail fiasco. As she explained to British Rail in her claim - "I was going to see the Queen and you spoilt it!"



Vice-Chairman of Aylesbury Branch (Mrs Anna Clark) with new recruit Ashley



Aylesbury Branch members



Aylesbury Branch marker

BOLTON This report is somewhat shorter than usual as our activities have been restricted due to illness amongst several members.

A visit to Chester in April had to be cancelled but it is hoped to take place in the near future, also our Car Boot Sale was cancelled. It is hoped that the situation will improve in the second half of the year.

Several visits have been planned and we will be attending the Reunion at Wrexham. In July a coffee morning will be held and the video of the farewell ceremony will be shown, this promises to be a great success and the proceeds will be donated to the funds of the new North West Area.

Our sick members have been visited as well as cards and flowers sent.

It is regrettable that I have to report the death of our member, Mrs Eva Heyes, who died on April 6th. Eva had not attended recent meetings but she will be sadly missed.

BRADFORD On 1 May we had our annual reunion for the North East Group in the Anstey Suite of York Racecourse (not a horse in sight). Pleasant surroundings with a very

good buffet lunch and good company left us hoping for the same venue next year. Many thanks to Colonel Cook who did the spade work and to all who helped make it a huge success. Brigadiers Field and Ramsey attended and we were given a talk by Brigadier Ramsey, an update on what is happening in the Corps since the integration into the Army. This was very enlightening and interesting.

14 May was the date of the Combined Services Annual Weekend at Bridlington, which has been attended by several members of our Branch for quite a few years. Always well attended and very enjoyable.

This year I had the misfortune to rick my ankle so spent the whole weekend (in between rehearsals and parades) having cold water bandages and the magic PR spray applied by my friends. Ten days later I was privileged to attend the unveiling of a statue of Viscount Alanbrooke by Her Majesty the Queen. This was a never to be forgotten occasion and even with my "gammy" ankle I was determined not to miss it. This was the one time when I wished I could have been in two places at once not only to take part but also to be on the side lines to watch 160 Standards which included Mrs E Francis of Crewe carrying the Association Standard, and four Branch Standards. It must have been a grand sight.



Mrs Lucy Bower (Shropshire) and Mrs Helen Thomas (Birmingham) at unveiling of Statue to Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke

Whilst standing on Horse Guards during a short break, we were suddenly called to attention - it was Princess Margaret passing in a car smiling and waving to us. The Parade Marshal complimented the ladies as we marched out into Whitehall, "Very well done, ladies" he said - how could he have doubted us?

This was a first time parade in London for me and I cannot explain how I felt, I can only say how proud I was to be a part of it and although I had only fleeting glimpses of the Royal party, the mere fact of being there was enough and I'm sure my fellow Standard Bearers felt the same.

I was accompanied on the trip by our Branch President

Peggy Kenny who was such a tower of strength and support. I couldn't have done it my own - she nursed and encouraged me through it (we had enormous fun with some support tights) 'nuff said, that's another story, and at the rehearsal she kept popping up with that same PR spray to douse my hair.

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I left my case keys at home and the porter at the Victory Club had to break the locks. Luckily Woolworth's wasn't too far away so I was able to purchase a ball of string to fasten it up for the journey home - oh calamity, calamity! It's a good job we could laugh about it - a most enjoyable time.

I am holding a coffee morning and Bring & Buy Sale at my home this month and Ivey Wheelhouse will have one in July, these are always good fun. We are now saving like mad for the 1994 Reunion.

Best wishes to all other Branches.

CANTERBURY Sadly we have to report the death of two of our long standing members, Kath Ewer and Elsie Tilley both of whom passed away after long illnesses. Our Branch was represented at both funerals.

Since our last report in Lioness we have had some enjoyable outings during the summer months. Because it is difficult to fill a coach, we invite other Associations to join us. We visited the Sistine Chapel, Goring-by-Sea in Sussex and our usual trip to the Royal Tournament with Thanet Burma Star Association. This is popular as the coach has several pick up points between Ramsgate and Canterbury enabling more members to do the trip.

Deal Branch invited us to their Garden Party in August and it was a fine day - as usual. It will probably be the last time we join Deal as the Branch very sadly folded up at the end of the year. We extend a very warm welcome to the members who have joined the Canterbury Branch and hope we can arrange something in your area in our future programme.



Canterbury Branch members at Warners Holiday Camp

In October, six of our members joined the Normandy Veterans Association on a 5-day holiday to Warners Holiday Camp on Hayling Island and had a marvellous time. We took our Standard as there were one or two parades scheduled to be held whilst we were there. After the final parade we relayed a message over the microphone for any ex-members of the ATS to join us in Reception where we all posed for photographs. Some of the ladies have now joined the Association.

Our Standard has also been taken to several local parades as we are in contact with many service associations in the area and have lots of invitations to join in their events. Our thanks to May Bennett and Phyl Owens, our Joint Standard Bearers.

Also in October, the Dover Branch of the Royal Artillery



Canterbury Branch members at Dover Castle following Standard dedication service for Royal Artillery Association

Association invited us to a service to dedicate their new Branch Standard. The service was held in the Church of St Mary-in-the-Castle at Dover Castle. Following the service a buffet lunch was served in the Sergeants' Mess, Connaught Barracks. We met some of the Deal Branch members there and had a photograph taken.

Again in October, we held an Annual Sale followed by our AGM, and in December we met at the Westgate Hall Canterbury for an Xmas Lunch. We were very pleased to welcome two of our members who live in the suburbs of London and travelled down to be with us.

Our fund-raising activities have been very successful again this year, enabling us to be generous to our charities. Thanks members for all your hard work at the Coffee Mornings etc and for your generosity with the monthly Bring & Buy Sales and raffles. Last but not least, thanks to our members who are not able to attend the meetings but send donations. Keep up the good work!

Last year we reached our highest total to date in spite of the recession.

We now have quite a few sick members this year and our best wishes to all of them for a speedy recovery and to all members of the Association.

CARDIFF & NEWPORT We now hold our monthly meetings in the United Services Club in the afternoons because the TA Centre in Park Street has now been demolished to make way for a more modern one.



Mrs Crook of Cardiff receiving an Aynsley china vase from Mrs Francis on behalf of Wales & the West Group following the successful Reunion in Cardiff

We spent a most memorable evening at St Davids Hall in February listening to the new Glen Miller Orchestra. We all had a lot of happy memories that evening.

A few of us went to the ATS Dinner Club tea in the Victory Club which was very enjoyable and also attended the Association AGM in Chester.

We are now looking forward to a day with the Swansea Branch at the beginning of July. Some of us are looking forward to a Scottish tour in August which includes tickets for the Edinburgh Tattoo.

CHELTHENHAM The Branch still numbers about 80 and it meets 5 or 6 times a year for social and fund-raising activities. Members who can't get to Cheltenham are kept in touch with local news by newsletter. Two of our members, Marjorie Blofield and Lesley Stuart Taylor were presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the London AGM this year. The Branch was also represented at the very interesting Reunion at Middle Wallop hosted by Salisbury Branch, and at the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down – another entertaining event and a privilege to be present when Her Majesty The Queen rededicated the Princess Royal's Memorial Garden to which many members have contributed over the years.

We have had a successful Wine & Cheese party and a produce stall and look forward to a summer party at Uley in August. Our highlight is the Autumn self-catering party at the end of October. Our members are so scattered that we do not meet in the winter months when the weather makes it difficult to travel.

Sadly, we lost some of our older ATS members, among them Mary Penfold a one-time Secretary who, with Jean Thom, was responsible for many years for the success and entertainment of the members. We miss their friendship greatly.



Cheltenham Ladies

*L-R Back Row Lesley Stuart Taylor, Beryl Bunting, Diana Hailing-Keep, Jane Goshen, Visitor, Lt Col Elaine Anton, Monica Allen, Eileen Illingworth
Middle Row L-R Kitty Cobham, Aileen Roberts, Helen Cleaver, Oriana Rosie
Front Row L-R Patricia Rankin, Marjorie Blofield, Lt Col Betty Michell, Paddy Bury, Margaret Hickling, Lt Col Gerry Fahy*

CHESTER It has been a busy year since our last report. Our meetings have been very good and changing to afternoons seems to suit our members much better.

Our Standard Bearer, Mrs P Bowlder, proudly carried our Standard on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of El-Alamain held in Wrexham. Our Secretary/Treasurer was proud to be asked to lay a wreath at the Memorial Cross for ex-ATS. Every one joined in the

celebrations after meeting old comrades from the war years, an excellent buffet was laid on plus entertainment. Our dance was held at the Masonic Hall at Chester, as always well supported by Rhyl Branch, and our friends from the WRNS Association, Dunkirk Veterans, Royal Military Police, Normandy Veterans. We are now looking forward to support from the branches of North West Group.

Congratulations to the Liverpool members for the excellent buffet provided at the Secretary's meeting at Royal British Legion, Rodney Street.

November was a busy month. The AGM was well attended, donations were sent to HQ and Royal British Legion, also gave a donation for the use of the room where we hold our meetings, flowers were sent to sick members and visits made.

Fourteen members attended the parade in London for Remembrance Sunday. We still find it as moving as ever. Mrs H Phillips laid the wreath at Chester. Another highlight of November was the celebration of the Golden Wedding of our Secretary and her husband, all members invited and had a good evening with their family and friends at the Labour Club, Ellesmere Port. Christmas Dinner was held at the Euro-Mill Hotel, Chester.

Some members attended a hot-pot supper at the invitation of the Royal Military Police - we had good luck with raffle prizes, we also had a good evening at the WRENS Social Evening, it is good to meet old comrades. Fifteen of us are looking forward to a tea dance arranged by Rhyl Branch, hope the sunshines.

We have three parades in the next couple of months, Normandy Veterans, Royal British Legion and a special one in Ellesmere Port. Hope Pam and members are fit. Highlight of the year is our first ever Dinner Dance to be held Friday 19 November 1993. Details from our Branch Secretary.

CLEVELAND Once more I am very pleased to report our progress over the last few months. We have to change our meeting venue twice in the last year, hoping our last move will be successful, and we don't have to move again. We had a very good Xmas Lunch at our local Country Club followed by an Afternoon Dance. We attended a Church Parade for the Anniversary of our Standard Dedication in March. We enjoyed a lovely service and had our Standard blessed by the Reverend E Wheat who has kindly agreed to be our Branch Padre.

We paraded again in March with Stockton Branch of the Royal Navy Association on a very sad occasion, the laying up of the Middlesbrough Branch Royal Naval Standard. The members of Stockton Branch made us all very



Cleveland Branch contingent on Horse Guards prior to the Remembrance Day Parade

welcome at their Club after the parade, serving refreshments to all. All Standard Bearers were given a tot of rum, Ann Mahoney, our Standard Bearer, declined but I am quite sure someone else drank our health in true Naval fashion!

Our Branch were given the Middlesbrough Branch party in March and had a very enjoyable afternoon when we met up with old friends from Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sunderland. In April a number of the members attended the Mayor of Middlesbrough's Parlour for afternoon tea and some had the thrill of trying on the robes and hats. On May 1st 1993 a party coached to York for the Northern Area Reunion. All enjoyed the day out.

We had the pleasure of Mrs A Peskey (the lady on the front cover of The Lioness Feb Edition) at our February meeting as our Speaker. She has in fact joined our Branch since then. Anne, an ex-WRAC PTI Instructor is a delightful person and seems to disregard her disabilities, living a very active life. She is very involved with Challenge 93, an ex-service Games meeting to take place at Stoke Mandeville 10 - 16 July 1993, the first International Ex-Service Wheelchair Games. We have lots of things planned for the coming months so will report at a later date. Our best wishes to branches everywhere.

CREWE We started the New Year off as usual with a party at the home of our Chairman Betty Patton which is always an enjoyable occasion particularly so this year because our new Group Chairman Mrs Maggie Purkis and Vice-Chairman, Mrs Terri Goff were able to join us.

We decided to try something different this year to boost our fund raising so in March we held a Grand Bingo Night in neighbouring Nantwich. It is a lot of hard work, we have to provide all the prizes but it was very rewarding, we had a very successful evening. Then following that a party of us had a night out at the theatre to see Dora Bryan in a very amusing play.

In April we attended a Military Ball in Crewe, our Branch sold the raffle tickets for them making a record £384. The Ball raised nearly £800. Crewe Branch Royal British Legion were given £500 plus for local welfare. The balance of £280 was sent to SSAFA HQ London. Because we had worked so well we were given free tickets for another services dance in May.

Our Secretary, Edith Francis, held a Tupperware Party at her home which also helped to swell our funds. Edith is also our Standard Bearer and she carried the Association Standard in London for the unveiling of the statue of Field Marshall Viscount Alanbrooke by HM Queen Elizabeth at Raleigh Green in Whitehall in May.

We had our first coffee morning this year, also in May. We have given ourselves a very busy fund raising programme this year with a view to doubling our usual £200 donation. We shall be attending the usual civic and service parades and we have some social outing lines up during summer. In September we shall be attending the Area Reunion in Wrexham and looking forward to meeting all our friends.

NAME BADGES

One branch has suggested that as an aid to identification at events at Group and Association level members should wear name tags.

As a minimum they should identify the branch but it would be a greater help too if the wearer also had their name and maiden name on the tag.

A variety of name tags for conferences etc. are available from W.H. Smith, Ryman's etc.

GREATER LONDON We have had another successful season and our members enjoyed a belated Christmas Party in early February when the Chairman, Pat Gibson, decided that we should have a quiz and so tested our memories which caused quite a lot of consternation and amusement but was enjoyed by all.

Several members attended the Annual General Meeting at the Victory Services Club in April and four of our long serving members received their Certificate of Appreciation from Brigadier Anne Field. Miss Joan Ahrens, our efficient Treasurer was the first of the four, Miss Laura Biegler who always runs the Bring & Buy Stall was next, Mrs Bessie Bulbrook who has always helped with the raffle and getting the hall ready and then Mrs Vera Dawson who for many years had organised lots of very successful outings - we were proud of all four.

Our Vice-Chairman, Eileen Carter, has taken on the position of London Area Chairman and it is hoped that we will hold some successful gatherings in the future with our colleagues in the London, Wimbledon, Ilford and Aylesbury Branches.



Miss Biegler, Miss Ahrens and Mrs Bulbrook who received Certificates of Appreciation at the AGM. They all belong to Greater London Branch

GRIMSBY We continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month and I am pleased to report that our Branch continues to flourish and remains active. Our meetings are always opened with the reading by one of our members of a special prayer composed for us by our Chaplain, the Reverend Wendy Isam, whose active support is very much appreciated.

In December we held our Annual Christmas Fayre in the Royal British Legion Rooms. This proved to be very successful and proceeds swelled our Branch funds. Our Treasurer looked like the cat who had enjoyed a bowl of fresh cream. For our December meeting we shared an excellent buffet, all the "goodies" brought by our fellow members, even down to a very attractive iced Christmas cake - good food, good company - and a real good time.

In January we held our annual Supper Dance at Memorial Hall, Cleethorpes.

230 guests and our caterers provided an excellent buffet. It was a huge success. In February our Standard bearer was married and we all wish her well.

May was a busy month for us. On the 1st some of our members attended the Reunion of the North East Group held in York. On the 9th our Standard and some of our members attended a service and parade for dedication of the Standard of Royal Naval Patrol Service Association. On 12 May, our meeting opened with a short service in memory of four ATS killed in 1942 and 1943, buried in a

Grimsby cemetery. We had bible reading, hymns – The Old Rugged Cross, Abide With Me and a short address and prayers. The service was conducted by our Chaplain.

On 16 May our Standard and some of our members attended a Civic Service for Great Grimsby's Mayor's Parade and service followed by a Buffet in the Town Hall. On 19 May a day out together on a coach trip to Derbyshire. We lunched at Portland Hotel in Chesterfield and went on to Buxton and Matlock. Glorious weather and a great day out.

During the year we have made donations to the Benevolent Funds and local appeals, and are now working towards our Summer Fayre to be held on 10 June to raise more funds.

We are disappointed that our friends from Hull will not be crossing the Humber Bridge to share one of our Meetings. We hope to meet up during the next year.

We enjoy the comradeship and fellowship and a good old natter at our meetings and extend greetings to all your readers.

HEREFORD Hereford Branch now have 43 members and thankfully about half of these are ex-WRAC which means the Branch has an excellent chance of continuing for a long time. I hasten to add that the ex-ATS are in excellent health and dominate most of the meetings and functions, though we welcome children of the younger members to all events with their mothers.

We still meet in the Royal British Legion Hall every month but our May meeting was at the home of Mrs Mary Davis in Ross on Wye. We are looking forward to our July meeting at the home of Mrs Dorothy Brooke also in Ross on Wye on 28 July. Since January this year we have elected Mrs Mary Nicholls as our Vice-Chairman so that the workload is shared with Mrs Celia Davies who has been our Chairman since we began in 1989.

Miss Joyce Nicholls, our Treasurer, reports we have a healthy balance at the Building Society as well as contributing to the Royal British Legion Poppy Fund, ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund, SSAFA and BLESMA so far this year, more donations will be made before the end of next year.

We hope to welcome members of Cardiff Branch to our Pub Picnic on 30 June. Mrs M Purkis (Wales & West Chairman and Mrs Edith Francis Wales & West Secretary have also accepted an invitation to attend. We look forward to a most enjoyable time. On 7 July we are meeting at the Royal British Legion Hall to enable a new member from Worcestershire, Mrs Vera Denning, to attend. 27 July we have our annual stall of bric-a-brac in the Butter Market and 28 July we meet in Ross on Wye. We have already booked the date, 7 December, for our Christmas meal but not yet the venue.

Hopefully, our AGM will be in September and I am shortly sending for 12 or 14 tickets to attend the Wales & West Reunion at Wrexham. The mini-bus is already booked for 25 September. About ten members will be present at the AGM in April 1994 and transport is booked for the event. We look forward to our reunions as they are always such happy occasions. Hereford Branch sends good wishes to Mrs Margaret Crook of Cardiff Branch on her retirement and the new Secretary of Cardiff Branch, Mrs Edna Thomas.

A late addition to this newsletter brings the news that Mrs T Goff will also be attending our Pub Picnic which is welcome news indeed.

During the war (1942-1943 in particular) Mrs Jo Ancombe was a Radar Operator in 517 (M) HAA Bty and stationed in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth. The article in No 1 1993 Lioness from Mrs Joan Awbery about the tragic

loss of 24 ATS girls in the fateful air raid has brought back many memories. A letter from Mrs Awbery to me, Jo Ancombe, will be treasured always and I thank her publicly. I have met just one other ex-ATS from 517 Bty since the war and that was through Lioness in 1985. Mrs June Robinson also a "G L Wallah" is a member of Bath Branch. Are there any more?

LONDON Since last year, we have changed the venue of our monthly meetings from the Union Jack Club. We were sorry to move but the numbers attending meetings have increased so that the room used there was not large enough and from January, courtesy of the Chairman of Southwark Branch of the Royal British Legion, we now meet at their Club in Kennington. This has proved to be a very successful move.

During the year we have heard speakers from the ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, UNICEF and a most interesting afternoon on occupied France with Mrs E Jaulmes whose English father was able to get to England to join the Army, whilst she and her French mother had to stay and endure the German occupation. Her mother was at first sent to a concentration camp but released after some months and later they were able to help in the escape of some British servicemen. We also had a welcome return visit from Terry Chapman of the Imperial War Museum who brought more war-time songs for us to enjoy.

We have two coach trips, to Penshurst Place and to the Historic Dockyard at Chatham, the latter covering such a large area that in a day one can only explore a fraction of



*London Branch at the Historic Dockyard Chatham
J Foster, E Dove, E Burrows, B Barker, C Lawrence,
M Eyre, D Farr, D Chaplin, J Stables*

what is on offer. We also had an interesting afternoon at the Bank of England Museum hoping for some free samples but alas the gold bars on view are all replicas!

The highlight of this year has undoubtedly been the right Royal occasion of the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down. **PDF Compressor Free Version** had a splendid day and we would like to record our thanks to the Colonel Commandant and all ranks of the Corps. First, we attended the ceremony to dedicate the Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden which has been moved from Guildford to Worthy Down. The original plaque is on a bird bath pedestal and after the dedication and service conducted by the Chaplain, HM The Queen unveiled a new plaque. Before the ceremony their Royal Highnesses, The Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent spoke to many of us as we assembled around the Association Standard. After tea, there was music from the Staff Band of the Adjutant General's Corps which was formed from the disbanded WRAC Staff Band. This was followed by a Free Fall Parachute Team and a Royal Mounted Police Musical Ride where the five horses were accompanied by five motor cycles in a perfectly executed display. We were pleased to notice that both teams included women.

The Bring & Buy afternoons each year are generously supported and have enabled us this year to make donations to the WRAC Benevolent Fund, Combat Stress, UNICEF and the Royal British Legion.

VIDEO

CORPS DAY - 4 JUNE 1993 - WORTHY DOWN

A video of events during the Corps Day of the Adjutant General's Corps on 4 June 1993 at Worthy Down in the presence of HM The Queen, HRH The Duchess of Kent and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester has been produced by the Royal Military Police Video Team.

Costs: £7.00 including postage from:

Mrs Janet Ellis
RHQ AGC
Worthy Down
WINCHESTER SO21 2RG

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "RHQ AGC" PLEASE



Members of Manchester Branch at Eden Camp, Malton

From left to right: Irene Booth, Alice Stallard, Joan Horsfall & Hilda Stringer



Alice on sentry duty at Eden Camp, Malton

MANCHESTER After our search for a new home, we are now happy to have accepted the kindness of the Royal British Legion to use one of their rooms. They made us so very welcome.

We all went to Manchester Free Trade Hall to see a concert for the WARING FORTIES (did we ever look like that?).

We are making plans to go to Wrexham in September, our new Group, so are looking forward to seeing some old and new faces we hope. We still have our plans on ice so to speak regarding Guildford.

Some of us went to Eden Camp again (you will recall previously I said it depicts a true Army camp back in the good old days). Once again some good laughs. Enclosed some snaps taken on the day. Alice (on guard) makes me wonder why should England tremble?

Some of our Branch are off again for a holiday with the Monte Casino Veterans Association. They appear to have created a genuine friendship together.

We have just had our annual dinner where we met up with friends from around Manchester. Good time was had by all.

I passed on my copy of *Lioness* to an ex-ATS, this has caused quite a stir, one of the articles printed was from ex-ATS in Australia, seems they were long lost friends - so all excitement. The friend from Australia was very interested in the *Lioness* and hopes to get to Manchester next year to renew the friendship. So our fame travels wide.

We are proud to think we may have one of the longest members of the ATS Association. She commenced the ATS Comrades Association in April 1948. She holds one of the Regulation books issued at that time. As Esther Rantzen would say - "This is a record, unless of course you know otherwise".

NEWCASTLE Our membership has increased and we have good attendance at our monthly meetings.

In January we had an excellent meal at the Rainbow Rooms, Newcastle paid for out of our fund raising efforts. Members attended the North Eastern Reunion at York and had an enjoyable day.

We are hoping that 20 members will be going to the Grand Reunion in 1994, going for the weekend. We enjoy the companionship and hope to see ex-service friends. Three of our members served together in the same anti-aircraft battery.

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NORFOLK & SUFFOLK We continue to increase our membership and we can usually expect between 25 and 30 members at our lively monthly meetings. However, with many members living in Suffolk and unable to get to Norwich for meetings, and outlying villages in Norfolk having inconveniently-timed or no public transport at all to Norwich, it is unfortunately very difficult to include everyone in our activities and we are afraid that many members feel rather left out. If any members of this Branch, reading this report, would like to receive a Newsletter from time to time, do please write to our Secretary, Mrs Kathleen Berwick at 101 Buckingham Road, Norwich sending a stamped addressed envelope and we will keep them up to date with our activities.

Since our last report we have sadly lost one of our longest-enrolled members, Mrs Olive Groom. Olive was so much fun, always happy and cheerful that we miss her presence very much. She attended her last meeting in December.

We were most warmly welcomed to St Andrew's Church in the city for a service of dedication of our two kneelers. Four Standards were paraded with several members of the Combined Services Associations present. The collection made at the service was sent to The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshops.

As a result of publicity in the last edition of Lioness, the Chairman received four letters from former ATS members who were nearby at the time of the bombing raid on Great Yarmouth in 1943 which has been recently researched by a Mr Val Grimble of Gorleston-on-Sea and in which 26 ATS girls were killed Mr Grimble has been exceedingly helpful in passing on all the information about this raid that he has discovered and the Branch has been very much involved with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary. Elsewhere in this magazine (page 63) an article appears giving greater involvement of this Branch in the commemoration. One of our members, Mrs Meg Watson, wrote to Secretaries of the Branches covering the areas in which the girls lived, hoping to be able to trace relatives and friends who might be able to attend the unveiling of a plaque this Branch hopes to erect on 11th May 1994. We would like to thank those secretaries of Branches who have co-operated by putting out publicity in their local newspapers. Already this has brought us much information and enabled us to make contact with relative.

Our summer outing this year is to Bury St Edmunds, where we expect to be able to spend some time in the

Abbey Gardens which are always beautiful whatever the time of year, then going on to Felixstowe. We are hoping that it may be possible to meet some of our Suffolk members and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat with them.

Our April meeting was a social event to introduce new members and a very jolly time was had by all. We provided tea, sandwiches and cakes and all enjoyed it so much we plan to repeat it before too long.

Last month Mr Martin Oakes brought his guide dog Pilot along to talk to us about the RNIB and his own experiences. Mr Oakes was very entertaining and delighted his audience but Pilot was the one who stole the show.

We had another very lively June meeting; several friends from the Cambridge branch came along to spend the day in Norwich and join our afternoon meeting. Our speaker was one of our own members, Mrs Elsie Nash, who for 3 years was the National Chairman of the Women's Section of the British Legion. Her experiences conversations with the great and famous, visits to royal palaces, attendance at royal functions, public meetings and a wide variety of work involved with the Legion kept us entertained, and full of admiration for her own work and that the British Legion. After the meeting we entertained our Cambridge visitors to a tea-party in the garden of one of our members.

Even more jumpers are knitted for Oxfam, 14 were produced at the May meeting. Strips for blankets, too, are produced regularly.

We have made a contribution to BLESMA each year since 1981, the year this Branch came into being.

The Secretary and Chairman regularly attend the quarterly meetings of the Combined Services Association and keep up to date with relevant matters discussed there. At the present time, we are involved with the maintenance and improvement of the city's War Memorial and gardens.

One of our more intrepid members, Mrs Marjorie Spears, no bigger than sixpenn'orth of coppers and scared of heights, abseiled down the front of the local hospital building, all 120 ft of it. In doing so, she raised £127 for the Spastic Society's appeal for children with cerebral palsy. The very thought frightens the life out of us more timid and sturdier ladies and we all congratulate Marjorie on her bravery.

This month we had a letter from an ex-member of our Branch who now lives in Australia, and who is so pleased to receive her copy of the LIONESS and thus hear news of this Branch, that we are sure world-wide there is great appreciation of all the work involved in producing Lioness twice-yearly - long may it continue to keep us in close contact however many miles separate us.

PLYMOUTH Several new members have joined our Branch this year. Our meetings continue to be well attended. We are fortunate to have as our venue the Royal Fleet Club in Devonport, a pleasant meeting place.

Our Christmas Party was held in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, inside the Royal Citadel, permission kindly given by RSM Roberts. The event was most enjoyable, specially so, because many members and friends from the Exeter Branch came, who had previously entertained us quite royally at their celebration lunch at Exminster. A small band and a comedienne set the pace with the first class act and lively music. A nice surprise. Dancing, a raffle and an excellent buffet were provided. It is safe to say that we all slept well that night.

We had a successful Bring & Buy Sale, boosting Funds by £45. Members knitted, sewed, baked and brought many attractive saleable items all of which were sold in a very short time. Due to its success, we plan to repeat our efforts

VOLUNTEER REQUIRED!

The Oxfordshire Appeal Committee of The Army Benevolent Fund are seeking a former WRAC Officer to join their Committee. The Committee meets about five times a year and organises two or three luncheons in Officers' Messes in the County and an occasional band concert.

Any volunteers should contact:

Major (Retd) Lionel Schuster-Bruce
Begbroke Mount
Sandy Lane
Yarnton
Kiddlington OX5 1PA

from time to time.

Our main news is that we have been asked by Mrs Hill, Chairman of the newly-formed South West Group, to host a Reunion of all the South West Branches on 14 June. We are delighted to arrange this and the occasion took place at the Royal Citadel by kind permission of Colonel Romberg. We greatly appreciate this facility. The Citadel is such a lovely venue, steeped in history among beautiful surroundings on Plymouth Hoe. I cannot stress too greatly how fortunate we are to have a good liaison with 29 Commando Regiment, which is based there. Branches from Exeter, Wincanton and Somerset attended the reunion so the whole Group was there. A group photograph was taken, and is on the back cover. Plymouth Branch members send their very best wishes for happiness to all Branches.



South West Group March Past at their Reunion at Royal Citadel, Plymouth. Garrison Church Garrison Church of St Katherine's-upon-the-Hoe in the background

RHYL The first Monday in the month finds our faithful members at our lunchtime meeting at the Rhyll & Abergele RAF Club. We are most fortunate in being able to use this room as it is pleasant, warm in winter and very centrally placed in Rhyll. Usually about 25 members attend, we discuss current issues and have time to chat socially.

Armistice Day saw us on parade and Phyllis Standing, our Social Secretary, (who must be well known to many ex-ATS members) looked very smart as she laid our wreath. We also had a day out in Blackpool to attend the last "They Shall Not Grow Old" show at the Opera House and as it was a lovely day, we enjoyed a walk down the prom and on the pier.

Christmas was a busy time for us. Our Christmas dinner



*Members of Rhyll Branch at dinner in Moreville Hotel
Back Row (standing) Dorothy Medcalf,
Dorothy Smithson, Barbara Williams,
Joan Salisbury-Jones, Yvonne Sampson, Ruth Laing,
Phyllis Standing, Eileen Evans, Eileen Copeland,
Olwen Landin (seated), Alice Williams, Edith Snelson
Front Row Olive Clark, Ivy Ruffey*

at a local hotel was well attended, with quite a number of brave husbands accompanying their wives. We also held a Christmas Dance in our recently renovated Town Hall which is now a most impressive building. Refreshments were provided by the "girls" and we spent an enjoyable and successful evening.

Mid month, we usually have an informal get together at one of the local pubs for a pub-lunch and this makes a nice break for those who are able to attend.

Jumble Sales and Coffee Mornings also help us to raise funds and we were able to send donations to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and to our local Hospital Welfare Fund for the old people's ward - we may soon be joining them!

SALISBURY Lunch time meetings continue to be popular and our numbers above average. The members enjoyed a cold January meeting visiting (with slides) Western Australia with our Vice-President, Mrs S Gordon. A journey which took us from Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef down to Sydney and on to Hobart. Still with the sunshine, February was devoted to Nigeria - a colourful and interesting talk with costumes. March was fund raising with a very successful silent auction and a sumptuous faith lunch. We spent our April meeting with the police (by kind invitation of course) and had an interesting tour of many of the departments, including the cells!!!

Our South Group Reunion in May was held at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop on a lovely sunny day. Salisbury Branch were hosts this year and welcomed some 80 guests from various branches. Members enjoyed lunch in the restaurant or picnicked outside and then visited the large and interesting museum. All then assembled for an excellent meal provided by the Army Air Corps Centre Catering Department. The Chairman of the Salisbury Branch, Mrs C Edwards, welcomed members and introduced the guest of honour, Brigadier Anne Field, Deputy Colonel Commandant Adjutant General's Corps, who gave us an update on the Association and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to our Treasurer, Mrs Veronica Dodkins, for her many years work for our Branch.

Other guests were Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) David Dunn, General Secretary WRAC Association and Mrs Dunn and Colonel F M Wawn, Commandant Army Air Corps Centre. The vote of thanks was given by the Chairman of the WRAC Association South Lieutenant Colonel D J Freeland, for all the help and kindness of the Centre and to Salisbury Branch for arranging the reunion and for the excellent raffle.

On yet another beautiful day a party of members attended the Adjutant General's Corps Day 1993 at Worthy Down. Several members were very lucky to speak to Her Majesty the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent.

TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY

A TV producer who is making a documentary on the social life in the British Empire.

He is looking for eyewitnesses who served with British Regiments in India or were dependants of such individuals.

If you qualify please contact:

David Wilson
Roger Bolton Productions
13 Charlotte Mews
London W1P 1LN
Tel: 071-631 4330

We now look forward to our summer programme which we know will be busy, happy and great fun.



Mrs Veronica Dodkins receiving her Certificate of Appreciation from Brigadier Anne Field at Middle Wallop Reunion for Southern Group

SCARBOROUGH In November 1992 we were entertained by York at one of their shopping lunches. We also attended a Festival of Remembrance 1-8 November 1992 with a Garden of Remembrance on 1 November 1992 and the Planting of Crosses at a Service of Remembrance on 8 November 1992 at Olivers Mount. A spray of poppies was placed on the War Memorial. Many thanks to the Royal British Legion for their help and guidance in this Festival.

Christmas Lunch at a hotel in December was followed by a video of Guildford closing down ceremonies. In January we organised a Table Top Sale at the YMCA - each table keeping its own profits.

Members attended the North East Grand Reunion in York and Combined Services Reunion, Bridlington members attending. In June we had a stall at the Scarborough Chamber of Trade Craft Fair as we have in previous years.



Mrs B Roberts and Mrs J Rudd at Olivers Mount, Scarborough on Remembrance Sunday

SHEFFIELD We were sorry to lose one of our more colourful members when Ethel Grace Keys-Wells MBE FHCi died on 25 May 1993 aged 83 years. Her parents came from Malvern but she was born in New Zealand in 1907 and stayed there until 1933 when she returned to England. She enlisted the day that war was declared and joined the 1st City of London Company ATS. She attended an OCTU at

Sandhurst and after commissioning was attached to the Army Catering Corps as one of the first members and certainly the first female officer with the Corps. In 1990 she attended the ACC Jubilee celebrations, she was the oldest survivor of the original founders. She received the MBE in 1946. She remained in the Hotel and Catering business on leaving the services and became a Fellow of the Hotel and Catering Institute.



The late Ethel Keys-Wells MBE

SOMERSET Our first get-together in 1993 was a pub lunch in March, this was very well attended. As we are a scattered branch, it is becoming increasingly difficult each year for many of our members to make the journey to our various meetings and events.

We met for an evening in April at the British Legion Club in Taunton. In May we held a skittles evening - another pub! Later in the month, we took a stall at a Somerset Village Fayre which proved both enjoyable and profitable.

There is quite a contingent from Somerset attending the first Reunion of our new South West Group at the Citadel



Somerset Branch Members

on the Hoe at Plymouth, this should be a great day and we are looking forward to it immensely.

We hope for more get-togethers during the year culminating in our Annual Dinner in October.

SOUTHAMPTON The year started off very smoothly and quite light hearted initially, the programme including a Bring & Buy, Bingo, "Open Forum" evening for general discussion, and more seriously a talk on Caring for the Disabled and their Carers, with our usual annual dinner in April when 36 attended.

Several of us attended the AGM in London, and we were very happy to see two of our long standing members being presented with their Certificates of Appreciation by Brigadier Field - Mrs Audrey Pickett, Founder Member and Miss Beryl Blampied.



Mrs Audrey Pickett and Miss Beryl Blampied of Southampton Branch displaying their Certificates of Appreciation

May saw ten of us off for the day to the Isle of Wight when we were once again invited to their birthday luncheon. Always an enjoyable day and meal, with a lovely welcome and weatherwise we can never put a foot wrong. Eight of us recently attended and thoroughly enjoyed the South Group Reunion at Middle Wallop on a perfect summer's day, ambling through picturesque countryside stopping en route for coffee, and found the Army Air Corps Centre had much to offer. Very interesting and relaxing with an excellent tea uniquely set within the Museum itself. Many thanks Salisbury Branch.

Our Chairman, Jean Doe, will also remember the Reunion at Middle Wallop with gratitude - during talk at tea time it was overheard that one of the members trained and bred dogs. On making enquiries it was learned that the type of dog Jean was looking for - a Cairn - was actually available. She is now the proud owner of this dog!

At our June meeting we had our usual American Supper/Film Show to which members from the WRENS and WAAF Associations were invited. On this evening Mrs Jean Doe was very happy to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs Louise Longhurst, another longstanding member.

What a memorable day Corps Day at Worthy Down turned out to be, this time in perfect weather conditions, appreciated all the more after the continuous rain of last year's event. It really was an excellent day in the company of 3 Royals with whom many of our members were fortunate enough to speak. Even the Secretary achieved a life long ambition in actually telling Her Majesty The Queen that their birthdays fell on the same date (the official birthday)! With this her day was made!

Jumping ahead to our September meeting - we will be celebrating the 45th Anniversary of our branch. This will be in the form of a Bring & Buy (as on the first meeting 45 years ago), plus, I am sure, a little drop of the hard stuff! It is therefore very fitting that 3 of our longstanding members

should be awarded their Certificates of Appreciation during 1993.

SOUTHPORT Our small group of lively ladies continue to meet each month in the British Legion Club, Southport. During the winter months we changed our meeting times to afternoons and this enabled a few more members to meet with us; however due to parking problems and summer activities we have returned to evening meetings until September.

Apart from our business meetings, we meet in each other's homes for a light lunch and natter, each member paying £1 which goes into our funds and enables us to make donations to charities.

During the year we paid a visit to Sellafield which was most interesting. Our Secretary and Chairman attended the North West Group meeting, and several members are looking forward to the Rhyl Branch tea-dance in June.

We were represented at the parade and service in Widnes, also the Remembrance Service in Whitehall, as well as the Southport Remembrance Parade where we laid a WRAC Association wreath.

We are raising some funds to help restore the Garden for the Blind in Hesketh Park, Southport and during the year we have sent a donation to the WRAC Benevolent Fund.

STAFFORD Since our last report in February's issue of Lioness we have continued to meet each month. In November we had two Assistants from the local Body Shop to give us a make-up demonstration and advise on the use of cosmetics and we have a flower arranging talk and demonstration in May given by one of our Branch members.

In January and February we decided not to have speakers as so often in past years, we have been forced to cancel owing to bad weather conditions. As it happened this year the weather was quite reasonable on our meeting evenings so we resorted to Bingo or a Quiz.

We had our usual Christmas Social and in April celebrated our 28th Anniversary by having a meal at a local public house. At our June meeting we were delighted to welcome the Wales & West Secretary, Mrs Edith Francis and spent a very pleasant evening in her company.

STOCKPORT We are a thriving Branch, meeting once a month. Regular Bring & Buys are held, profits going to the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund and other worthwhile charities.

Outings are in the capable hands of Emily Reavy, our Secretary. On 27 May 24 members travelled to Liverpool by coach for the 50th Anniversary of the "Battle of the Atlantic". We saw the Royal Yacht Britannia as well as the minesweepers and destroyers. The weather was appalling until lunch time but, despite the cold and rain, everyone enjoyed their day out.

An invitation has been received from the Rhyl Branch to attend their Tea Dance on 9 June. A party of about 20 are going and looking forward to meeting our colleagues from across the border. Another outing on the 22 June is to Donnington. After a tour around the base, we have been invited to stay for tea.

Next April will see several members once again in Guildford for the 75th celebrations, our hotel is booked.

Helen Gardiner, one of our members, has embroidered a replica of the ATS Cap Badge. It is a beautiful piece of work and, after framing, has pride of place in the lounge at Stockport Barracks.

A newsletter was started last year, mainly for those unable to attend meetings. We feel this helps them keep in



*Swansea branch members at Town Hall
Mrs Veronica Barrington is showing the Mayor of
Swansea her Certificate of Appreciation*

touch and it is appreciated.

Most of us are ex-ATS and any ex-WRAC would be made most welcome.

SWANSEA This year seems to be flying by, because our Christmas Dinner was cancelled and we finally had it in February. It proved very popular. It was something to look forward to after the excitement of Christmas, we may even do it again this year.

Attended by 25 members our 10th AGM in January returned the Committee unopposed. It was remarked that the subscriptions had stayed the same for 10 years which cannot be said for many things these days.

Our Branch was represented at the London AGM by our President Veronica Barrington, who received a Certificate of Appreciation for starting the Swansea Branch and her sterling work since.

We had a talk on gardening and how cheaply you could propagate plants yourself. Members are going to Worthy Down in June and also to Wrexham in September.

We have invited our new Area Secretary and Chairman, Mrs E Francis and Mrs M Purkis to a meeting in July and they are hoping to meet as many members as possible. We are hoping Cardiff and Newport Branch will also join us for tea. In May we had an interesting talk from our Lord Mayor, who told us about his years in office, the interesting people that he had met. He also gave us tea which was much appreciated. A group photograph was taken at Swansea Guildhall. Our attendance stays steady at an average number of 25 at our meetings.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND It is now nine months since we moved to our new meeting room at the Royal British Legion HQ and although the room is smaller than the one we had use of in the Barracks, we found that is comfortably warm in the winter, and we have a kitchen next door where coffee or tea can be made. Our meetings are twice monthly at 7.15 pm and the average attendance is 26 members.

It is now possible to have more speakers at meetings. A speaker from the Dorset Health Commission talked on

"Planned Approach to Community Health", an ex-RAF pilot shared with us his experiences when flying Wellington Bombers, and an RAMC Major (female) has given us two very interesting talks, supported by slides, the first on the Gulf War and the next was of a visit of a medical team to Bangladesh. Business is discussed at "domestic" evenings, and our regular Bring & Buy sales continue to be very popular – everyone loves a bargain!

We attend all civic events to which we are invited. This year our Mayor is a Portlander, so we felt it was only right that two Portland members should be present at the Mayor Choosing ceremony, and the Mayor's Reception. Our Chairman, Mrs Trent, and Mrs Sharp represented us on this occasion and other members attended the Civic Service at Easton Methodist Church, Portland, the following Sunday.

Mrs Joan Wratten who is in a Nursing Home is visited regularly and we keep in touch by correspondence with another member (sadly, the second in our Branch) who has Motor Neurone Disease.

Our Secretary attended the Association AGM in London on 3 April and has given an account of this meeting to members.

The highlight for 21 members (and 4 husbands!) was the visit on 4 June to the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down. This was enjoyed by all, there was so much of interest to see. Our Secretary was thrilled to be invited to tea in the Royal Marquee and to be presented to our Association President, HRH The Duchess of Kent. A memorable occasion too for Miss Mary Polley who joined the ATS on the 4 June - 53 years ago!! We announced this bit of news during the journey home, and Mary got a good clap from us all. Well done Mary!

A donation has been sent to the Princes Royal's Memorial Fund and we were able to sell quite a number of raffle tickets in aid of the Royal Star & Garter Home.

We have gained one new member so now have 36 Annual Members and 20 Life Members to whom programmes of Branch events are circulated twice a year.

WIMBLEDON Of the 96 members of the Wimbledon Branch about a quarter attend meetings regularly at the Community Centre converging on Wimbledon from outer London and various parts of Surrey. Last year we welcomed three new members and one so far this year.

1992 ended with a lively Christmas Party everyone contributing to the seasonal menu. We do not hold a meeting in January but in February we enjoyed a lecture with slides on London's architecture and customs given by one of our members - Joan Everitt - an accomplished speaker.

In March we had a fun afternoon called "Getting to Know You" when members bought photographs of themselves in uniform and many tales were told of wartime experiences. Due to the rail and bus strike the April meeting, which is a Bring & Buy and fund raising occasion could not be well supported so it is proposed to hold another Bring & Buy immediately before the June tea party.

At the WRAC Association AGM on 3 April 1993, our President and past Chairman Captain Barbara Young TD was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

In May we had an extremely informative talk by a fund raiser from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund who left us in no doubt about the wonderful work carried out by its scientists. A collection was made and a cheque presented to the speaker.

We send greetings and good wishes to all those members who cannot attend meetings through ill health and those who live far away.

WINCANTON In December 1992 we held our Christmas Lunch at Holbrook House Hotel outside Wincanton, which proved to be a popular venue.

With no weather problems, the meetings in January, February and March were well attended with talks by a bee-keeper, and a 92 year old lady who started travelling the world when she was over 60, and gave us the second instalment of a journey in an old land-rover from England to Australia!

In April the Secretary went to the AGM at The Victory Services Club which, once again, she enjoyed very much, meeting friends from other Branches.

Later in the month we held our annual Coffee Morning at the Memorial Hall in Wincanton. Nearly all the Members came and everyone worked very hard to make it a success. The takings were substantially more than last year and we shall be sending donations to the WRAC Benevolent Fund and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.

We were very pleased to welcome Mrs Hill, the new South West Group Chairman and her husband, also several members from the Somerset Branch.

In May a coachload of members, relatives and friends went on an outing to Hampshire, having a picnic lunch at Lepe Country Park on the Solent and spending the afternoon at Exbury Gardens. We were lucky to have about the only fine, sunny day during a week of wet weather.

On 4 June twelve of us went to the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down and, once again, the weather was good and we all enjoyed it immensely and thought the organisation was marvellous. It was such an honour to have her Majesty the Queen talking to us so informally and we were pleased to see her looking happy and relaxed. We also enjoyed talking to the Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent. There is something special about any event when ex-servicewomen get together!

We are planning to celebrate our 4th Birthday with a Garden Party which this year will be held at Buckhorn



Wincanton Branch members at Worthy Down on 4 June 93 Eileen Spearpoint, Peggy Hobbs, Pat Larsen, Diana Clay

Weston in July.

We have 35 members at present, and usually average 27 or 28 at our monthly meetings.

WOLVERHAMPTON It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of one of our members, Iris Ricketts, in the Isle of Man on 8 May 1993. Iris served in the ATS from 1939-1945 and was a very popular member of the Wolverhampton Branch. She and her husband, Jack, retired to the Isle of Man where one of her daughters lived.

Mary Beeston attended Worthy Down on 4 June when Her Majesty the Queen was present.

We were invited to join Birmingham Branch on 5 May for their 4th Birthday Party and a member of our Branch who last year moved into a British Legion flat at Wellington, Shropshire has invited us to visit her in July - we look forward to this visit.

Our annual outing will be Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds in June when we pray for a nice day weatherwise. A mini-bus has been booked to attend the Area Reunion at Wrexham on 25 September and at the time of going to press 15 of us will be attending.

WREXHAM We are very busy preparing for Wales & West Reunion in September although we have just lost our Treasurer, Mrs Gladys James, who died on 10 May 1992.

We have our meetings once a month on the first Wednesday and still find new members. We held our Christmas party locally and it was nice to see some of our disabled members at this.

The Secretary was at the AGM in London in April and some hope to go to Guildford next year for the Grand Reunion.

Hoping to see as many as possible of Wales & West Branches at Wrexham.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

HOUSING 21

(ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HOUSING ASSOCIATION) CURRENT ACCOMMODATION OPPORTUNITIES

Retirement Accommodation

Housing 21 has accommodation across England mainly for single people and couples of retirement age.

Our housing registers are always open and priority is given to those in the greatest housing need and is not determined by the length of time someone has been on the register.

Demand does however vary in different areas of the country and for those applicants who can be flexible as to where they live we should be able to find a speedy solution to their housing problems. It is generally much easier to help with accommodation in the North of England and the Midlands, than it is in the South.

Although applicants should be of retirement age, consideration can be given in exceptional circumstances to those under 60 years who are retired from full time employment. This could include people who are physically disabled or who have learning difficulties but are capable of independent living with minimum support.

Family Accommodation

Housing 21 has very little family type accommodation available for rent. However as managing agents for other organisations we do have some 2, 3 and 4 bedroom properties for rent in the following areas:

Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, London,
Kent, Avon, Devon, Wiltshire, Hampshire

If you would like more details about the schemes we have available please contact the appropriate regional office indicated below. Those counties marked * have developments where there are vacancies currently in our retirement accommodation.

Regional Office	Counties
North West Regional Office Unit 9 Chorley West Business Park Ack- hurst Road CHORLEY Lancashire PR7 1NL Tel: (0257) 261009	Cumbria* Lancashire* Cheshire* Merseyside* Greater Manchester
North East Regional Office 50 Edward Turner Close Low Moor BRADFORD West Yorkshire BD12 0AS Tel: (0274) 601239	Yorkshire Humberside Tyne & Wear* Cleveland* Durham* Northumberland
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Love Lane Industrial Estate
CIRENCESTER
Gloucestershire
GL7 1YG
Tel: (0285) 659928

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Gloucestershire
Dorset
Hampshire
Wiltshire
Berkshire
Oxfordshire
Isle of Wight

South East Regional Office
The Royal British Legion Village
AYLESFORD
Kent
ME20 7NY
Tel: (0622) 718876

Surrey
Sussex
Bedfordshire
Bucks
Kent
London
Herts
Essex

There are also housing opportunities in Wales and Scotland and for further details in these areas you should contact:

Gwerin (Cymru) HA
Nidra House
13 Nevill Street
ABERGAVENNY
Gwent NP7 5AA
Tel: (0873) 857531

Cairn HA
7 Warriston Road
EDINBURGH
Scotland
EH7 4HJ
Tel: (031) 556 4415/9010

EX-SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

OBJECT

The Fellowship exists to relieve distress among unemployed, homeless and needy ex-service women of the Army and their dependants, by the provision of:-

- Permanent residential accommodation in homes for a number of suitably qualified ladies, ex-service themselves.
- Food and temporary accommodation at the expense of the Fellowship; the issue of clothing and footwear and financial aid including travel warrants.
- Eighteen flats for letting at fair rents to ex-Service families.

THE FELLOWSHIP TODAY

HQ and London Relief Centre. These are at 8 Lower Grosvenor Place in London. They consist only of the Administrator and Deputy Administrator and a part-time clothing storeman. The Relief Centre is open every week-day for interviews with applicants for help. The basement contains the clothing store.

Homes. EFC's two homes are:

Hollenden House, Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex.

This home, within a short walk of the sea, can take up to 44 residents. The main building was bought in 1946, a small wing was added in 1957 and a major extension completed in 1968. The home was completely refurbished in 1992 when facilities were also provided for residential care for the disabled.

New Belvedere House, Whitehorse Road, Stepney, E1.

This purpose-built home opened in 1973. It can take up to 30 residents.

OTHER PROPERTIES

Whitworth House, Buckhurst Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, is a block of 18 flats, 4 with 2 bedrooms, 10 with 1 bedroom and 4 bed-sitters, opened in 1976.

PDF Compressor Free Version



*The mass of ATS at Dinner
(courtesy of Sport & General Press agency
and the censor!)*

CORRESPONDENCE

We had recognition difficulties at the bottom right hand corner of page 35 of Lioness No 1/93. Mrs Isabel Stark of 899 King George's Road, South Hurstville NSW now tells me that no one would recognise the name as she served under her maiden name of Coates and the Isabel was shortened to Bella giving rise to the inevitable pun of Bella Donna (Deadly Nightshade). Now with her true identity revealed and a picture for recognition, plus another of 501 (Mixed) HAA Battery in 1943, we can start again. Mrs Bella Stark (née Coates) would like to hear from anyone who served in 501 Battery 1943-45. In fact one ex-comrade did come forward from the note in Lioness No 1/93. She was Winnie Richardson (née Potter) of Walthamstow so the system does work.



*Rosa (Dickie) Richardson (Mrs Gordon) and Bella Coates (Mrs Stark)
New Years Day 1945*



At the old HQ in Cairo (Babel Wadid Bhs) 1946 Waiting to be inspected by Provost Marshal

CSM Hine SIB
LCpl Hakari, LCpl Daniels, ?, ?, ?
LCpl Thornley, LCpl Kent, LCpl Theodoussiou,
Cpl Grunspan, ?
Sgt Smith, LCpl Price, LCpl Pisarski, LCpl Nissim,
LCpl Shiel, Cpl Tachaver
Sub Normandale
J.Cdr Phillips



*501 HAA Battery 1943
 GL (Radar) girls - Grangetown, Middlesbrough
 "Dickie" Richardson, Winnie Potter
 Pat Parkin, Mary Bishop, Daphne Harrison-Smith
 Doreen Waite with "Scruffy"*

501 (Mixed) Battery again! This time Mrs E Ormsby (née McAll) would like to hear from anyone in the battery from 1942 to the end of the war. She mentions in particular D Chandler, Daisy Taylor, Jane Hutchinson, ? Evans, Cpl M A Gray, Sara Waddell, E Hepworth, Edie Raven and Winnie Richardson who appeared earlier in this column. Mrs Ormsby lives at 112 Alexandra Road, North Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE29 9AP Tel 091 2581872.

Mrs Marjorie Gregory (who wrote the article on page 66) sent in the photograph opposite from war time public relations entitled "The mass of ATS at dinner" and dated February 1940. Mrs Gregory (née Knowles), who served from 1939-1944 and rose to be an RSM wondered if anyone remembers the place and can recognise themselves.

Mrs Gladys Slack (née Watson) and Mrs Phyl Wood (née Derbyshire) would like to contact Mrs Joyce Richardson (née Curling) and Miss Joan Lawson. Joyce was last heard of living in Horsham and Joan in Lewisham. We all served on radar with 626 HAA Battery and started the Battery at Bolton-on-Dearne Nr Rotherham. If anyone knows of their whereabouts would they please get in touch as we would like to arrange a reunion. We served in 1942-46. Contact

Mrs G Slack of 21 Howard Walk, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 1QQ.



Gladys Slack (née Watson) and Phyl Wood (née Derbyshire)



ARBORFIELD 1942
Doris Palmer, Pat Munro, Babs Watson
Mavis Fry, ?, ?

Some feed back on a query raised in No 1/93 Lioness comes from Mrs M Rose (née Hickford) of 21 Simpsons Court, Baldock, Herts SG7 6DH. In reply to Subaltern Shorney (née Simmonds) request on page 35 she says that 1st City of London General Duties Company ATS were at the White City with 53 HAA Regiment, when they left and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force the Company were taken over by 99 (London Welsh) HAA Regiment RA. A photograph of some of 1st City of London Company Felixstowe is printed below but sadly does not contain Sergeant Simmonds. Or does it? Queenie Patridge (née Catamoule) of 14 Westbeach Road, Pattingham, Wolverhampton Telephone (0902) 700477 also replied to Mr Storey's letter and confirmed Mrs Rose's account. She also sent a copy of the same photo!



Back Row L-R Rosemary Drake, Barbara Heath, ?, ?, ?
Middle Row L-R Patterson, Devlin, (standing)
Seated LCpl ?, Cpl Jameison, Sgt Robinson, Cpl ?, ?,
Violet Broughton
Front Row Margaret Hickford, Queenie Catamoule,
Margaret Glass, Pte ?



Scottish Command Area in Albert Hall 1948

Miss Helen W G Thomson of 66 Lyon Close, Clacton-on-Sea Essex CO15 6EX sent in the above photograph taken in the Scottish Command Area of the Albert Hall in 1948.

Mr W Court of March Acres, High Lane, Sloothby-Ashford, Lincolnshire LN13 9NR has sent a picture of his late wife at Arborfield in 1942. Mavis Court (née Fry) is in the front row with the dog and was only sixteen years five months old. Mr Court wonders if she was the youngest member of the ATS having lied about her age.

Mrs F M Ward (née Chadwick) was interested in the pictures of Northfield Hospital Birmingham in the last Lioness and sent in her own photograph and two more taken at the hospital. She is a member of the Birmingham Branch and lives at 27 Stoke Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1EH.



Pte Chadwick (Mrs Ward)



*Hollymoor, Northfields Hospital, Birmingham 1943
Jessie Timmins, Kay Ford, Jean Togneri*

Mrs Ellen Ralph (née Danny Potter) and Mrs Ella Pritchard (née Potts) would like to hear from the following who served at the Royal Military College, Shrivenham, Wilts between 1951 and 1953 - Jean and Mary Williams from Wales, Marion Vaughan from Cardiff, Jean Finch from Swindon, Pat Kerslake from Norwich, Jean Jeffries from West Ham, East London, Jessie Harrison from Ireland, plus Edna Vickery, Sgt Malone, Sgt Leeworthy, Cpl Evelyn Leonard, LCpl Grace Smith, June and Evelyn from London, Sheila Hermitage, Ginger who came from Dagenham, married then lived in Swindon or anyone else who remembers us. Please contact Mrs E Ralph of 77 Sherwood Way, Southend SS3 4SS or Mrs E Pritchard of 24 Chapuz Lane, Barwick-in-Elmet, Nr Leeds LS15 4EJ.

Miss Queenie Mallet of 26 Half Year Close, East Runton, Cromer NR27 9PT, a new member of the Norfolk & Suffolk Branch, would like to hear from Mary Hughes, a great friend of hers at Shoeburyness. After her marriage to Peter Symonds, Mary lived either at Thorpe Bay or at Cambridge Town, Shoeburyness. Miss Mallet was a driver and remembers her friends Molly Randle, Winnie Lock, Lillian Burdett, Frankie Page and Vera Townsend and hopes to get news of them.

Miss Kate Todd (Sgt Todd - Toddie to all) a new member of the Norfolk & Suffolk Branch, would love to hear from any of her girls from Gorleston, Yarmouth and Spurn Point days. Miss Todd lives at 18 Muriel Road, Norwich.

Mrs Marjorie Croll of Whitstable who appears in the Golden Wedding lists would like to trace Junior Commander Dinks Hancock (née Hinckley) and anyone else who served on the Civil Affairs Staff at Wimbledon.



*NAAFI time at Hollymoor 1943
Dorothy Souter, Ada Gardner, Marjorie Holton, Evelyn
Bye Jean Togneri, Sadie Baris*



Pte Booth is on right

Mrs Lyn Hilliard (née Booth) of 30 Raeburn Road, Kingsley, Northampton NN2 7EU has sent a "then and now" set of photos and one where is she the right hand person under the sign post. Where are the others she asks.



Mrs L. Hilliard (née Booth)



Mrs Hilliard 1993

Mrs Rita Curtis (née Marks) who lives at 2A King Edwards Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7AW would like to hear from anyone who shared her nissen hut at Mercies Road, Uxbridge or in the French Barracks at Versailles September 1944 to May 1945 with No 1 SHAEF Company ATS.

Joyce Clark (known inevitably as Nobby) was in the Officers Mess at Shoeburyness, Essex from 1945 to 1947 and has sent a photograph for recognition. She is now Mrs J M Lovegrove and lives at 1 Broomhill Close, Broomfield, Chelmsford CM1 5HD and would like to hear from old comrades.



Pte Joyce "Nobby" Clark (Mrs Lovegrove)

Are Joan Pickles, Audrey Witts, Babs Leach, Gladys Woodcock or Doreen Redman out there? Or anyone from 445 (Mixed) HAA Battery as Mrs Eileen Scullard (née Kane) of 12 Higher Holcombe Close, Teignmouth, Devon would like to hear from you.



560 Battery Totton - 1944
Back Row Mary Stewart, Mary Phillips,
Marjorie Maddock, Audrey Harrison,
Liverpool, Cannock Chase, Chester, Hesse Hill,
Millie Helsby, Daphne Price, Mary Win,
Joyce McKenzie, Manchester, Devon, Scotland
Front Row Ethel, Cpl Ruth, Sgt Barbara Crossly,
Liverpool, Bramshall Cheshire,
Sgt Nulliss (Nulley), Dorothy Towey, Una Searls,
Manchester, Blackpool

Mrs Sylvia (Sue) Crook (née Woolston ex 606 Bty) is running a "Battery Linking" project and would like to hear from anyone who was in a Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Artillery Battery. As much detail as possible please but as a minimum Christian name, maiden name and Battery number. Mrs Crook tells me that since Lioness No 1/93 when she had 30 Batteries on her file, she now has 118 and has correspondence with 300 ex-members. The address to write to is:

14 The Larches
 Horsell Vale
 Woking GU21 4RE

Mrs Crook will be interested in the moves of 560 Battery who were stationed at Emsworth near Havant and were disbanded to rejoin 473 Battery at Hamsdown Camp in Totton, near Southampton from whence they had come. Mrs Nellie Davies (née Helsby) who sent in the photograph of 560 Battery lives at "Cressingham", 16 Homestead Avenue, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire and would be pleased to hear from any former colleagues.

Another success story. Mrs Helen Dodd (née Hill formerly Stringwell) Secretary of the Medway Branch identified her cousin, Dot Brooks (who now lives in Canada) in the group photo of 1 Platoon C Company at No 7 Training Centre in 1945 sent in by Mrs Budd (née Cann) of Bristol and printed on page 31 of Lioness No 1/93.

Mrs Eve P Mills of 13 Orchard Way, Cheddar, Somerset BA27 3LA who received Maundy money from HM The Queen in April, would like to hear from anyone who served in the War Office Teleprinter Room in 1942. Apparently she played the piano a lot but is not the Mrs Mills.



Mrs Eve Mills of Cheddar who is in Somerset Branch
showing bags of Maundy money received from
HM The Queen at Wells Cathedral

Mrs D R Strivens (née Tranter) of 233 Pilgrims Way, Andover, Hants SP10 5HU Tel (0264) 366174 would like to hear from anyone attached to 505 (Mixed) HAA Battery formed at Weybourne in 1942 and on sites at Nursling, Southampton; Birkenhead; Romney Marsh; Crayford and Abbey Woods. Daisy Tranter was in the ATS 1943-1946.

Mrs Amelia Ford (née Taffy Pope) of 4 Rhyf Close, Roseworth, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS19 9EP Tel (0642) 671945 would like to hear from Sheila Roome of Derby, Glynis Davis of Nelson, Wales who were with her in Guildford 1955-58. She would also like to hear from Maggie Feaney (née Banks) and Maggie Turner (who married a Welshman) who were with her at Larkhill 1959-60.

Mrs Alma Stride (née Finning) who founded the Aylesbury Branch sent in two photos along with her branch report. One shows her (on the left) with a colleague from Ireland. She remembers sharing her nissen hut at Eishaw Hall, Lincolnshire in 1943 with:

Peggy Pulham
Dorothy Lewis
June Norman Emmie (Tish?)
Lily Bingham
Agnes McAlister
M J McDonald (Cpl)

The other unrelated picture is of a fancy dress party at Pontefract Barracks in 1943. If you were there please let Mrs Stride know.



Mary Pauline Marshall (née French)

Mrs M P Marshall (née French) of 1 Manor Park Avenue, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 9AU sent an intriguing picture of herself. It was sent by her to her brother, then a prisoner of war in M Stammlager VIIIB in Germany, and has on the back what appears to be a censors pass stamp.

(pictured opposite)



Alma Stride (née Finning) on left and Irish friend

Mrs Sue Chivers of 15 Kings Fee, Monmouth, Gwent NP3 5BW Tel (0600) 4738 is keen to trace Edith Marnay Munday later Sears who came from Chiswick and was stationed in Hereford in 1944.

An overseas query has come from Mr Don Finighan of 195 Hoon Hay Road, Christchurch 2, New Zealand who is trying to trace Diane Marchant or Diane Wall who was a switchboard operator at Cheltenham (CN Dub) and came from Southend on Sea.

Another antipodean request comes from Moreen Gloria Gleeson of PO Box 98, Edgehill, Cairns, Queensland, Australia 4870, who wishes to contact anyone from No 1 MTTC in Camberley who was there in November 1944 especially Kerry from Edinburgh.



ATS Fancy Dress Dance Pontefract Barracks 1943



Reverse of photo of Pte French

Mrs Evelyn Hughes (née Plumb) having scanned the Colchester Group photo on the back page of the last Lioness in vain is looking for Ann Nunn who came from Colchester and was a Lance Corporal with 3 and 5 Corps Signals at Weymouth in 1943 and 1944 with Lance Corporal Plumb.

Angus Baxter who married Junior Commander Nan Pearson and emigrated to Canada in 1953 writes from 5 Katherine Street, PO Box 655, Lakefield, Ontario K0L 2H0 (Canadian postcodes are different) and wonders if anyone who served with his wife in Essex, Lancaster, Durham, Hampshire, Surrey and Hipswell Lodge, Catterick Camp – during her service 1939 to 1946 would like to make a contact.

Not such a memory bender this time. Mrs Dorothy Archibald (née Johnson) is only going back to the 1950s. She served in Beckett Hall at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, Swindon with 6 Independent Company WRAC and at Bad Oeynhausen with 14 Battalion WRAC. She would like to make contact with her bridesmaids Alma Melvin and Irene Cosgrove as well as Susan Dodd, Jean Jacobol, Edna Laister, Audrey

Dickinson and Rose Green. Mrs Archibald lives at 9 St Helens Road, Northwich, Cheshire.

Mrs E H Mosley (née Nicholls) has written in an attempt to trace Corporal Irene Cardigan who was with 488 (Mixed) HAA from 1942-46. Mrs Mosley's address is 12 Sheridan Road, Peterborough PE1 3LQ.

Mrs Stella Keough (née Peterson) of 3 Woodcroft Avenue, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3PT send in the picture below taken outside the billet at Strathpeffer in summer of 1943 during training as a Wireless Operator (OWLS).



OWLS at Strathpeffer – 1943

Mrs Grace James is our second RSM to write to this edition. She was WO1 Grace Spence and was stationed with No 7 Command Signals at SE Command HQ. She would love to hear from anyone who served with her. The reason that she wrote was to say that she had placed an ATS kneeler in St Andrews Church Earlsfield in SW London.

Mrs A Stevenson (née Lord) was another victim of the Robert Peel book saga and has lost her mementoes. She lives at 40 Langdale Avenue, Chichester PO19 2JQ and wants to hear from anyone who was with 1st Airborne Division at Fulbeck, Lincolnshire 143-1945.

Mr K J Mitchell, 8 Bents Lane, Cronfield, Sheffield S18 6EW is anxious to try and learn about his mother who in the ATS was Corporal Vera Florence Smith and served between 1941-46 at No 1 MTTC at Camberley. She came from the Ladywood district of Birmingham. In 1946 she was in her 20s and was discharged on pregnancy from the Westone Croft Maternity Hospital in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Mr J Plume of 7 Unwin Place, Mill Road, Stock, Essex CM4 9LE is doing research into searchlight sites in mid Essex during the Second World War. His particular interest is in Stock, near Ingatestone six miles south of Chelmsford. Apparently 309 and 312 Companies of the 28th Battalion of the 1st Anti Aircraft Division (TA) who were Royal Engineers were in the area. Subsequently, the Royal Artillery took over the task and 93 Searchlight Regiment ATS may well have been located there.



RHQ 17 Anti Aircraft Mixed Regiment Leeds

Mrs Joan Cartwright (née Beck) 57 Bideford Gardens, Whitley Bay, Northumberland NE26 1QP and Mrs Nora Hope (née Payne) would like to contact anyone who served at RHQ 17th AA Area (M) Regt Carlton Barracks, Leeds from 1942-1945. The group photograph may jog a few memories.



Private Ena Ashwell (married name Andrews)

Mrs L Butler of 31 Billingsley Road, Yardley, Birmingham B26 2ED is desperate to trace anyone who knew her sister Ena Ashwell, who married Dennis Andrews. She was in Anti Aircraft Command serving at Walton-on-the-Naze and on Clapham Common. Mrs Butler wants to know the battery number if anyone remembers.



Mrs E Marsh (née Clough) York 1944

Mrs E Marsh (née Clough) of 120 The Brooks, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RP Tel 0914 108165, would like to hear from Ginnina Williamson from Forfar and "Flash" Cath from London, and another Geordie called Jenny who were all at Dovercourt, Essex. Mrs Marsh also hopes to contact any ATS from 128 Light AA Regiment in 1945 at Biddich Hall, Co Durham. She enclosed a happy snap taken in 1944.

The Longcross saga has produced more photographs. Mrs B M Pepper (née Bailey) of Berry Cottage, Chorleywood Bottom, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 5JD sent the photograph of herself with a

reporter and two drivers in a prototype for a jungle vehicle (looks very like the modern sit-on lawnmower). The second photo is of Mrs Pepper as bridesmaid to Audrey Chapman at Longcross in 1946.

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Cpl Bailey with experimental vehicle at FVPE



Best man, Cpl Bailey, Lt Smith, Audrey Chapman, Bridesmaid

Mr I S Worth of 68 Roman Pavement, Tower Estate, Lindon LN2 5RD is making inquiries to try and trace Joyce Vagus and Terry Saughton who were stationed at St Georges Barracks, Graven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire with 8 Independent Company WRAC between 1958 and 1964.

Mr Albert Rutherford of Northern Ireland is anxious to trace Margaret Bain who was stationed with the ATS in Londonderry.

Margaret Bain of 27 Heron Court, Kelmscott, Western Australia 6111 has written via Ken Flint of the White Cliffs Veterans to seek news of Emily New and Mary Rushton who were at Colwyn Bay with her and Elsie Ramshaw who was at Longmoor Camp in Hampshire (could this be the Margaret Bain whom Mr Rutherford is seeking – see above?). (No it is not. Ed.)

Mrs Anne Connelly of 39 Bede Road, Barnard Castle wishes to trace her mother-in-law Agnes Connolly who lived in Ballock, Dumbartonshire and was in the ATS from January 1945 to November 1946.

Mrs Dot Nixon (née Vernon) says that she scans the pages of Lioness to find someone who served with British Troops in Berlin 1946-1947. She sent a copy of the photograph of the Company taken while she was on leave but hoping that it might jog some memories. She is especially keen to hear from Mrs Hardy (née Cpl Elsie Wilkinson) and Cpl Dot Fenton, their PTI.



British Troops Berlin 1946

In June 1992, eight former members of B Company attached to 633 (Mixed) HAA Battery from 1942 to 1945 met for a short holiday in Plymouth to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of being stationed in Saltash. By chance the week that they chose coincided with civic celebrations and they made themselves known to the Royal Artillery display team and are pictured at the stand.



*633 (Mixed) Battery Reunion
Front Row L-R Ann Thorne (née Walker), Kath Rafferty (née McGinn), Kath Gibson (née Murphy), Lillian Atkinson (née Edmunds), Ivy Ray (née Lane), and Irene Smith (née Higgins)
Back Row Christine Mullard (née Higgins) and Doreen Banks (née Aldridge)*



Her Majesty The Queen at Wilton April 1941

Sent in by Mrs Betty Mitchell, formerly Sgt Mitchell (Ellis), now living at 50 Revell Park Road, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 4EL writes to ask how many members of the 6th Glos Clerical Coy, stationed at Wilton and Salisbury during the war, can still recall the rainy day in April 1941, when the Queen Mother, then Queen Elizabeth, inspected them when they were paraded in the forecourt of Wilton House. The photograph was taken when she stopped opposite me (I am the tallest girl) and she was accompanied by General Alexander, later Earl Alexander of Tunis, and Senior Commander Nancy Britton. Despite being very wet, we still looked very smart, and she seemed impressed with our turnout. She was wearing a grey Persian lamb coat, with pink accessories, and gave us her famous smile. Our serious expressions may have been due to the honour of her visit, or they may have been because we were very WET!

Another cry from the 1950s and New Zealand, Mrs Elizabeth O'Connell (née Meo) who was at Beconsfield 1953-1956 with Capt Jean Simmonds wants to hear from - Cpl Peggy Labaziewicz, LCpl Margaret Quinn (now Lee), LCpl Ethel Henry (Camp), Pte Jeanette Nicholl, Charmaine Coleman nickname Bimbo, Anne Faulkner (Southern Ireland), Joyce Gosnell, Shirley De La Haye Channel Islands (married name Sutcliffe), Peggy Mooring married name not known, June Wilson married name not known, as well as her training NCOs at Guildford, Cpl Betty Mason, LCpl Rae Allen and Pte Elizabeth McBride. Mrs O'Connell lives at 3 Cumbrae Place, Wangannui, North Island, New Zealand.



The mysterious "Joy"

**PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR
ADVERTISERS**

A Miss Marples is required for this one. Who is the Joy whose photograph was taken in Bristol and turned up in the effects of the mother of a gentleman in Basingstoke?

D-DAY 1994 EVENTS IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND AND NORMANDY

Hundreds of special events are being organised throughout Southern England and Normandy to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of D-Day. Below is the latest information on these events.

SOUTHERN ENGLAND

May 14th-15th 1994

D-Day Air Display and Show, Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop

May 25th 1994

50th Anniversary of review of Fleet, Portland Harbour

May 27th-28th 1994

"Hampshire Remembers D-Day", Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, Nr Southampton

May 28th-31st 1994

D-Day Pageant, Swanage

May 28th-30th 1994

Major Military Vehicle Rally - Southsea Common, Portsmouth

May 28th-June 9th 1994

Anniversary Parade with representatives from the Allied Nations and Gun Salute

March Past with Military Bands, Civil representatives and the Armed Forces

Anniversary Fly-Pasts by the Royal Air Force with WW2 Fighters and Bombers

Memorial Service at the USA War Memorial, Weymouth Seafront

Operation Overlord Anniversary Concert and Dance

International Firework Display

Search Light Display

June 2nd 1994

Jive Night, Swanage

June 4th 1994

Big Band 40's Dance, Guildhall, Winchester

June 4th-5th 1994

Military Vehicle Rally - Bovington Tank Museum, Dorset

June 4th-5th 1994

Major Air Display and Show organised by International Air Tattoo at Boscombe Down

June 5th 1994

Band Concert, Swanage

June 5th 1994

Memorial Service, Portsmouth Cathedral

June 6th 1994

D-Day Dance, Pavilion, Bournemouth

June 10th-11th 1994

Variety Show, Swanage

June 12th 1994

Swanage Railway - Station in Wartime theme with Troop and Evacuee Trains

June 25th 1994

Pageant of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London

June 25th 1994

War-time Concert, Guildhall, Winchester

August 7th 1994

Drumhead Service, Southsea Common, Portsmouth

August 1994 - Weymouth

The start of the **Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race** with over 100 ships leaving Weymouth

... continued on page 102

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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



BLESMA
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EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

REUNIONS

WRAC ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST GROUP

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A reunion for members of branches of Wales and the West Group will be held in Wrexham Memorial Hall on Saturday 25 September 1993.

For more details contact Mrs P Rzeszewska at 125 Bryn Offa, Ruthin Road, Wrexham. Clwyd LL13 7UE

ATS DINNER CLUB - ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club will be held at

The Bloomsbury Crest Hotel
Coram Street, London WC1N 1HT
on Saturday 2nd October 1993

All ex-members of the ATS are welcome to join the Luncheon Club and details may be obtained from:

Membership Secretary
Mrs Marguerite Fellows
20 Mount Nod Way
Coventry CV5 7GX

Don't forget S A E please!

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH WEST GROUP - WARNING ORDER

Following the successful first reunion of the group at Plymouth, the 1994 reunion is planned for Wednesday 21st September 1994 at Wincanton.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS VETERANS

The 35th Annual reunion (Unit No 47 of the Canadian Women's Army Corps Association) will be held in Toronto, Canada on 24th and 25th September 1993.

For reunion brochure write to

Mrs S W Heesaker,
201 Niagara Street,
Toronto,
Canada M5V 1C9.

NOTICE

WRAC ASSOCIATION, SCOTLAND AGM AND REUNION OCTOBER 1993

The Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the WRAC Association, Scotland is being hosted by Stirling Branch at the Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling on Saturday 2 October 1993 at 11.30 pm.

The AGM will be followed by a three-course meal and coffee with Major C King AGC - Female Focus, Scotland speaking.

A raffle, prior to a cup of tea, will conclude the gathering.

Tickets, price £7.50 may be obtained from Secretaries of Scottish Branches or direct from Area Secretary, Captain P M Stevenson (Retd), ACIO Glasgow, 78 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3DN. (Cheques payable to Scottish Area).

Visitors wishing to stay in the beautiful town of Stirling may also stay in the Hotel for special rate of £25 per person. Enquiries direct to Hotel Tel 0786 475351.

NORTH EAST GROUP REUNION 1993

The horses had apparently taken fright at York Racecourse on 1 May since none were in evidence when members of the North East Branches gathered for their Reunion in the York and Ainsty Suite. It was a very successful event in an elegant setting, and as all 16 North East Branches were represented, the large area was packed to capacity.

Following an initial get-together, a substantial buffet lunch was enjoyed amidst much chatter from all corners of the arena.

The North East Chairman, Colonel Cook, then welcomed everyone to York, especially our two guests, Brigadiers Field and Ramsey (the latter having arrived with some difficulty having been stuck in a traffic jam en route).

Brigadier Field said she was delighted to be with us and gave an update of Association news with particular reference to the changes which had taken place following the demise of the WRAC last year. It appeared that the reorganisation of our affairs had been accomplished and that the now independent Association and its Branches continued to thrive.

Brigadier Ramsey thanked everyone for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to her and complemented Brigadier Field's information with news of the serving Army on a three-point basis - the new role of the women in the Army, what is going on by way of restructuring in the Army today, and lastly a description of her own new job. This "inside story" was of great interest to all the "old girls" who had felt somewhat out of touch since their own Corps was disbanded.

In due course the lucky winners of the 26 raffle prizes were revealed and Cleveland Branch were thanked for organising the raffle and selling so many tickets.

In all a very happy afternoon, and we hope to have another bumper gathering next year.



*Mrs Doreen Hill Chairman of SW Group and
Mrs Veronica Barrington of Swansea Branch with her
Certificate of Appreciation*

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

MALAYAN EMERGENCY MEDAL

The Malaysian Ministry of Defence are seriously considering a request that the Malaysian Government should award a medal or citation for military service in Malaysia, and Singapore, during World War II, the Malay Emergency and the Borneo/Indonesian Confrontation.

If you served in any of these campaigns please complete the proforma below and send to:

Peter Dawson Esq
9 Park Avenue East
Keyworth

Nottingham NG12 5JZ

(include four first class stamps with your response)

PERSONAL DETAILS

Block Capitals Please

SURNAME _____

FORENAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. NO. (inc. code) _____

SERVICE DETAILS

Block Capitals Please

RANK _____

NUMBER _____

REGT/CORPS _____

SHIP/SQN/ETC _____

WHEN SERVED _____

WHERE SERVED _____

PLEASE INCLUDE PROOF OF SERVICE – COPY ONLY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1992

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Victory Services Club 63/79 Seymour Street London W2 2HF at 2.30 pm on Saturday 3 April 1993.

The Chair was taken by Brigadier A Field CB, Vice-President.

She welcomed 280 members to the meeting. She called on the meeting to stand as a mark of respect for the late Brigadier Mary Railton, a former Director WRAC, Deputy Controller Commandant and Vice-President of the Association. The Chairman thanked the Victory Services Club for the use of their facilities and commended them on the excellent lunch provided for the Secretaries. Brigadier Field thanked Major Warne, Chairman of WRAC Association East and her branches at Colchester and Chelmsford for organising the fund raising activities.

The Vice-President informed the meeting that the Association offices had been required to move with the closure of Queen Elizabeth Park but as there was still insufficient space at Worthy Down with the AG Corps, the staff had moved into offices in 8 Map & Air Chart Depot at Guildford.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 April 1992 having been circulated to Branches were taken as read and signed.

Brigadier A Field, Vice-President and Chairman of Council reported that the Council, on behalf of the Association, had sent messages to the US Army Women's Army Corps Foundation to commemorate their 50th Anniversary and to the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps Association for their 50th Anniversary. A new branch had been formed in Ashby de la Zouch but sadly the branch at Deal had closed.

Council had met twice since the last AGM, in July 1992 and January 1993. The two meetings of Council highlighted the changes which had occurred in the organisation of the Association. In July 1992 serving officers who had been Commanders WRAC at District HQs attended the Council as Area Chairman. By January 1993 they had given up their appointments and the post of Chairman of Areas had devolved to retired officers. The reorganisation of the Army Districts in UK meant that they were too large for branches to follow that organisation so Areas were abolished and branches had been invited to form themselves into groups of the Association, for example:

WRAC Association Scotland

WRAC Association Wales and the West

Ten such groups had been formed.

The Chairman said that she was grateful to those who had taken up appointments but that there was a shortage of volunteers to be Group Vice-Chairmen and Secretaries.

Council on behalf of the Association had sent a cheque for £250 to the appeal for a statue in memory of Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke. The statue was due to be unveiled in Raleigh Gardens London, by HM The Queen on 25 May 93 and some WRAC Association standards would be on parade. Miss Muriel Thomson TD, a long serving member of the Association and a member of Council for many years had been elected by Council as a Life Vice-President. Council had also made Mrs Joyce Russell, who had tended the Princess Royal's Rose Garden for many years as well as doing the flower arranging in the Centre, an Honorary Life Member.

The Chairman said that 400 tickets had been issued for members to attend the Remembrance Day Parade and Service and the Colchester Branch Branch had placed the Association wreath at the Cenotaph.

The Vice-President reported that membership of the Association stood at 6000 following the loss of WRAC members who received automatic membership through the Days Pay Scheme. 204 new Life Members had joined last year compared with the 120 the year before and a further 77 had joined since 1 November 1992. She asked members to encourage anyone that they met who had been in the ATS or WRAC and who had not joined to do so.

Finally the Chairman reported to the meeting that Colonel C A Marriott had been elected by Council as the Vice-Chairman to replace Colonel B M Lavarack. The Chairman thanked Colonel Lavarack for her service as Vice-Chairman and for taking the chair at the 1992 AGM.

Mrs A H S Matthews, the Honorary Treasurer, said that the accounts were a little complicated for this period as the WRAC Museum account which used to be in the Corps HQ account transferred to the Association. The Museum account would transfer out in the current financial year.

In the year ending 31 October 1992 this Association had received subscriptions from officers and servicewomen under the Days Pay Scheme up to the 6 April 1992. This year there would be no income from this source.

The Association had investments which cost £67,021 and were valued at £96,135. These produced £901 in interest. At the end of the year the Association had £107,800 on Deposit with the Charities Investment Fund. The income from money on deposit was £8,734.

The Association had an excess of Expenditure over Income in the year ending 31 October 1992 of £6,273.

The Hon Treasurer drew attention to the provisions of the Charities Act 1992. The WRAC Association was a charity and its branches operated under the umbrella of the Association. In consequence all printed notices, advertisements or documents intended to persuade the reader to give money or property to the Association as well as all cheques, paying-in books, invoices, receipts, bills and orders for goods and provisory notes, letters of credit and money orders must have the words "Registered as a Charity" on them. They can be handwritten but must be legible and a rubber stamp would be more efficient. Banks should be asked to include the words on the overprinting of cheques and paying-in books. Mrs Matthews recommended that in order to be safe "PUT THE WORDS ON EVERYTHING".



General Secretary, Vice-President, Chairman of Grants Committee, Honorary Treasurer. AGM - 3 April 1993

Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn, General Secretary, reported that he had edited two editions of *Lioness* since Captain Purkis departed. The first edition this year had been the usual 40 pages and readers would have noticed a drop in the number of articles from regulars engaged in adventure training and unit news. This would be the trend for the future.

Members would have noticed an increase in the Correspondence column and nostalgic items. He asked that members should keep nostalgic items coming in especially with photographs and to let the Editor know if a letter had achieved a response.

He requested a Branch report every six months so that news was up to date and again asked Branches to enclose a photograph of activities with a full caption.

Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames, Chairman of the Grants Committee reported on behalf of the Benevolent Fund Trustees. She said that the Benevolent Fund had moved to the Map Depot as part of the Association HQ. This had given the much needed opportunity to sort out the 37,000 case files.

Last year the total number of cases handled was 1118. Of these 723 had been new cases representing 65%. Three quarters of the cases had been ATS (833) and only a quarter WRAC (283). There had been two ex-QMAAC. The total amount spent on grants had been £160,700 compared with £171,150 in 1990/91 - a drop of £10,500 made necessary because of the fall in income and not a fall in the demand for assistance.

The television scheme continued for the 160 existing recipients, but any new candidates were referred to the Not-Forgotten-Association. This would result in an annual saving of over £20,000 but it would take some time.

The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund currently had 62 elderly annuitants who received quarterly grants of £65 (£5 per week) as well as a Christmas gift of £55.

The Fund had arranged for 29 one-parent families to have a free one-week holiday through the ABF/Pontins scheme. Where there were young children involved the Fund tried also to send the family a parcel of woollens which some members had very kindly knitted.

Finally she reported that the Army Women's Training Centre (formerly the No 7 ATS Training Centre and the WRAC Centre) had presented the Benevolent Funds with £66,000 on the closure of Queen Elizabeth Park.

Brigadier A Field, Chairman of the Trustees of the WRAC Museum reported that the closure of the Museum at Guildford and its removal to the National Army Museum in London had been accomplished. She said that it was hoped that the display in the National Army Museum would be open again in the Autumn of 1993.

The Chairman of the Trustees reported that £12,000 of the money loaned to the Museum by the Association for the redevelopment had now been returned to the Association. The Museum would transfer approximately £10,000 to the National Army Museum. Of this £6500 would be in cash and £3500 in stock. These monies would be held to the benefit of the Corps Collection.

Brigadier Field reported that she had informed the private offices of HM The Queen and HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother of the move of the Museum and her letters had been acknowledged.

Accrington Branch seconded a motion from Council that Lady Kembell and Mrs A L C Massey be elected as Vice-Presidents of Council.

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Miss Bradley and Mrs Fuller for their four years of service as Vice-Presidents of Council.

The Chairman confirmed the visit of HM The Queen as Colonel-in-Chief of the AG Corps to Worthy Down on 4 June 1993 and that she would dedicate the Princess Royal's Memorial Garden which had been moved from Guildford.

The Chairman announced that the AG Corps Band had survived the cut in Army bands and would continue as a mixed band.

Brigadier Field then presented Certificates of Appreciation to:

Miss J F M AHRENS	Gt London
Mrs V P BARRINGTON	Swansea
Miss L BIEGLER	Gt London
Miss B BLAMPIED	Southampton
Mrs L BOWYER	Shropshire
Mrs B BULBROOK	Gt London
Miss V C COLE	Colchester
Mrs T DAVIS	Aldershot
Mrs V C DAWSON	Gt London
Miss C I LAWRENCE	London
Mrs A PICKETT	Southampton
Mrs P RZESZEWSKA	Wrexham
Miss L E STUART-TAYLOR	Cheltenham
Capt B YOUNG TD (Retd)	Wimbledon

Certificates were awarded to Mrs M Biofield of Cheltenham, Miss D Dixon of Hastings, Mrs V Dodkins of Salisbury, Mrs L Longhurst of Southampton and Mrs J M McGavin of Glasgow were to be presented locally.

The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Saturday 16 April 1994 at Canal Suite Lakeside Country Club, Frimley, Surrey.

RULES

These rules are for consideration and approval at AGM 1994.

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If you have any comments please pass them to your Branch Secretary for her to put to Council for its January 1994 meeting.

Keep these rules, as once promulgated, this will be your personal copy.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association)

1. NAME

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

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be:

- (a) To promote the efficiency of the Army by;
 - (1) Maintaining contact between former members of the former Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC), the former Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), former Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), former members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Army (WRACTA), the WRAC Territorial and Volunteer Reserve (WRAC TAVR) and serving female and former female members of the Adjutant General's Corps, Staff and Personnel Support Branch (AGC SPS) fostering mutual friendship between them and providing for social gatherings for them; and
 - (2) Fostering esprit de corps, comradeship, welfare and preserving the traditions of the QMAAC, the ATS, the WRAC, WRACTA, WRAC TAVR and the AGC SPS.
- (b) In furtherance of the foregoing Objects the Association through its Council shall have the following powers:
 - (1) To take all necessary action for publicising and disseminating information concerning the histories, deeds and traditions of the QMAAC, the ATS, the WRACTA and the WRAC TAVR, the AGC (SPS Branch) and for the encouragement of recruiting;
 - (2) To execute and administer exclusively charitable trusts;
 - (3) To receive, take and accept any gifts of property whether subject to any special trusts or not;
 - (4) To receive and accept contributions by way of subscriptions, donations and otherwise and to raise funds for the said Objects provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable Objects;
 - (5) Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law to purchase, take lease or exchange any property required for the purposes of the Association and lease exchange or otherwise dispose of the same;
 - (6) Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law, to borrow to raise money for the purposes of the Association on such terms and such security as may be thought fit;
 - (7) To invest funds of the Association in such investments as may from time to time be authorised by law;
 - (8) To accumulate funds of the Association for such period as may from time to time be authorised by law;
 - (9) To do all such other things as shall further the said Objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) ORDINARY MEMBERS – Former members of the QMAAC, the ATS and the WRAC and former members of the WRAC TA and of the WRAC TAVR and serving and former female members of the AGC (SPS) Branch shall be eligible for membership. If an ex-servicewoman has served for less than three months, or if her retirement or discharge from the service is due to misconduct, she shall not be admitted to or retained in membership without the authority of the Council. Adequate proof of service must be given. Former members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, the Canadian Women's Army Corps and the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps and the female medical officers who have served with QMAAC are eligible for membership.
- (b) AFFILIATED MEMBERS – Former and serving members of the Women's Royal Naval Service, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, Women's Royal Air Force and the Expeditionary Forces Institutes part of the Navy Army Air Force Institutes are eligible for affiliated membership and shall pay the normal subscription. They shall have no voting rights nor representation on Council.
- (c) HONORARY MEMBERS – Those whom the Association wishes to compliment by reasons of their good work for the Association may be recommended for election by Council as Honorary Members. Branches may invite local dignitaries and those who have helped their branch to become Honorary Members of that Branch. Honorary Members are not required to pay a subscription. They have no voting rights and cannot hold executive office.
- (d) TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP – The membership of any Member, Affiliated Member or Honorary Member may be terminated by the Council on a vote of three-fourths majority of those present and voting. Before such a vote is taken, the members concerned shall be informed, shall have an opportunity of stating their case to Council and shall be told the decision of Council is subject to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association. Notice of the intention to appeal must be given within four weeks of the decision of Council being communicated to the member.
- (e) CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – At the discretion of Council a Certificate of Appreciation may be awarded to any member of the Association (or someone who could have been a member under existing rules) for outstanding service to the Association.

4. INSIGNIA

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

5. OFFICERS

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

6. VICE-PRESIDENTS OF COUNCIL

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

7. COUNCIL

- (a) Council is empowered to manage the affairs of the Association and to deal with all monies and investments. It shall invest or use such monies at its discretion for the benefit of the Association. Members of Council shall not be held liable, either individually or collectively, for any losses incurred, provided that they have acted with reasonable care and, to the best of their belief, in the interest of the Association. Council has power to make such regulations and to appoint such committees as it considers necessary. Subject to any directions received from a General Meeting of the Association, Council may invite the attendance at any meeting of members of the Association or of other persons who they consider would be helpful in their deliberations. Such members, or other persons, shall leave the Meeting when the business for which they have been invited is concluded.
- (b) The Members of the Council shall be:
The President
The Vice-President who shall be Chairman of Council
The Life Vice-Presidents of Council
The two Council Vice-Presidents elected by the Annual General Meeting
The Vice-Chairman of Council elected by Council
The Honorary Treasurer elected by Council
The Chairman of Groups (Vice-Chairmen where appointed may represent)
The Chairman of Headquarter Branch
The Director Women (Army)
Colonel Female Focus UKLF
The former Director for three years after relinquishment of appointment
Two Servicewomen serving on a regular engagement and nominated by the Director SPS Branch AG Corps
A representative of the QMAAC whenever possible
A representative of the ATS whenever possible
The Chairman of the Managing Trustees ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds
Not more than three additional members may be co-opted by the Council and will normally serve for a period of three years.
- (c) Six members of Council other than the General Secretary and the Treasurer shall form a quorum.
- (d) Council shall meet at least twice a year and shall appoint an executive Committee at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting each year.
- (e) Members shall receive ten days notice in writing of a meeting of Council.

- (f) In circulating the agenda for the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the General Secretary shall call for nominations for the offices of Vice-Chairman (when a vacancy occurs) and Honorary Treasurer to be sent in writing not less than ten days before the date of the first meeting. Should more than one person be nominated for either office a ballot shall be taken. The Candidate having most votes shall be declared elected and shall take office from the date of her election.
- (g) The Vice-President of the Association, the Vice-Chairman of Council and the Treasurer are ex-officio members of all committees and sub-committees.
- (h) The General Secretary and the Editor of the Journal of the Association shall be in attendance at all meetings of Council.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The members of the Executive Committee shall be:
The Vice-Chairman of Council, who shall act as Chairman
The Treasurer of the Association
Two ex-Service Members of Council appointed by the Council
Three Serving Members of Council appointed by the Council
- (b) The Executive Committee shall meet as directed by Council or as the work of the Association makes necessary, and shall report to the Council and shall have power to take action in all matters delegated to it by the Council.
- (c) The full Council in session may also establish sub-committees for a specific purpose with terms of reference and membership determined by Council.
- (d) Vice-President, Treasurer and the General Secretary are ex-officio members of any sub-committees.

9. JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION

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

10. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) The life subscription to the Association shall be £20.
- (b) The annual subscription of all members shall be £2.00 payable on the 1st January each year and shall include the Journal.
- (c) If membership is terminated under rule 3(d) no part of the subscription will be returned.
- (d) Only life members and members who have paid the current annual subscription (or whose subscription has been waived) have the right to vote at meetings of the Association or its branches.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held on any Saturday during March or April. The issuing of the Minutes of an Annual General Meeting and precis of the Minutes in the Association Journal LIONESS shall constitute the notice for the next meeting. Branch secretaries may submit any resolutions for consideration not less than six weeks before any General Meeting. Standing Orders for General Meetings are at Annex A.
- (b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by Council on its own motion, and shall be called on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than one hundred and fifty members and deposited with the General Secretary. The requisition shall state the object or objects for which the meeting is called, and no other business shall be considered. A requisition may consist of several documents signed by one or more members provided that the same object or objects are stated in each. At least fourteen days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given, and shall be accompanied by a statement setting out the business of the meeting. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Council.
- (c) Publication in the Journal of the Association shall constitute sufficient notice of any General Meeting. No General

Meeting, Branch Meeting or Meeting of Council shall be invalidated by the fact that any members have failed to receive a notice of the meeting.

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

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12. BRANCH GROUPINGS

- (a) The United Kingdom shall be divided into regions, as approved by Council. In this context BAOR shall constitute a region.
- (b) Where branches have agreed to group themselves within regions, each one may elect a Chairman, who will be a member of Council. Each should also appoint a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary.
- (c) Groups may organise functions as required and undertake such other duties for the good of the branches as a whole, as the majority of the Branches in that Group shall agree to delegate to them.
- (d) A sum of up to £20 to cover postage may be issued annually to each group by the Treasurer of the Association.

13. BRANCHES

- (a) A Branch may be formed in any locality with the approval of Council.
- (b) The members of each branch shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer from among their number and shall forward the names of those appointed to Council for approval. If Council does not approve, the members of the branch shall make a fresh nomination. A Branch of less than fifty members may appoint one member to fill both offices.
- (c) Each Branch shall hold a meeting before the Annual General Meeting of the Association, and the Secretary of the Branch shall forward to the General Secretary any items to be placed on the agenda of that meeting. (See para 11(a)).
- (d) It is the duty of the Branch Secretary to keep in touch with the members of her Branch, to collect subscriptions, to inform members of the Branch of all Branch reunions and meetings, and generally to carry out the instructions of Council in respect of the Branch.
- (e) It is the duty of the Treasurer to keep the accounts of the Branch, to forward to the Treasurer of the Association £2 for each annual member of the Branch, other than those under Rule 3(c). At the end of the financial year (October 31st) the Treasurer is to forward to the Treasurer of the Association a balance sheet showing the financial state of the Branch.
- (f) A newly formed Branch or one that is reformed after a lapse of more than three years may apply for an initial grant of up to £20.
- (g) All monies and investments held by the Branch are distinct from those held by the Association and a Branch shall be liable for its own commitments. In no way shall the Association, the Council or the Group be held liable for debts contracted by a Branch.
- (h) Should a Branch cease to exist the balance of funds, if any, will be sent to the Treasurer of the Association and included in the general funds of the Association. However, if a branch is reformed in the same locality within three years the Treasurer of the Association shall forward a like sum to the Treasurer of the reconstituted Branch.
- (j) HEADQUARTER BRANCH – in addition there shall be a Headquarter Branch which shall include members overseas or otherwise unattached, who do not wish to retain their membership of a geographical Branch. The Chairman shall be a member of Council.

14. FINANCE

- (a) It is the duty of the Treasurer to have the custody of the Funds of the Association.
- (b) All cheques drawn on the funds of the Association require two signatures which will be those of two of the following: the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and a nominated member of the Council.

- (c) The Treasurer shall make a report of the Association's finances to the Council at each meeting and shall submit for audit a yearly account to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st day of October.
- (e) Alteration of investments of the Association may be authorised by the Executive Committee in cases of urgency and will be reported to a properly constituted Meeting of Council at the earliest opportunity. The Executive Committee will refer the proposal to alter investments to the Council if in their opinion no urgency exists.

15. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Alteration to these Rules shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Association at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration shall be made to Rule 2, Rule 16 or this Rule, shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity in law.

16. DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the Objects of the Association as the Association may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

STANDING ORDERS FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

Annex A

1. Agenda

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

2. Order of Business

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

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

3. Resolutions

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

4. Amendments

- PDF Compressor Free Version
- An amendment to a resolution shall be to insert or add one or more words, to delete one or more words, or both to delete and insert or add.
 - An amendment shall neither constitute a direct negative nor introduce a new proposal.
 - Only one amendment shall be considered at a time.

5. Motion of Urgency

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

6. Quorum

Fifty members shall constitute a quorum.

7. Addressing the Chair

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

8. Voting

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

9. Chairman's Vote

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

10. Length of Speeches

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

11. Members to Speak Once

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

12. Withdrawal of Resolution

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

13. Points of Order

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

14. Closure

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

ASSOCIATION STANDARD

Annex B

53'9" x 3' Double nylon/wool
Beech Brown (BCC Shade 69) and Bottle Green (BCC Shade 25)
horizontal divide with Beech Brown uppermost.
At centre former WRAC badge (with horizontal colour divide in line with that of Standard) together with designatory unit:

QMAAC

WRAC

ATS

contained in a single scroll in gold with black lettering all similar to Association brooch. Above the badge in an arc:

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

Below the arc but in a straight line:

ASSOCIATION

Both to be rolls of gold with black lettering.
Space below badge to be left for later inclusion of branch name.
The name of the branch and the word **BRANCH** to be in a straight line on roll of gold with black lettering.
Fitted with gold worsted fringe and gold cord and tassel to match.
Beech Brown sleeve with leather securing tab.
Standards may be purchased from:

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

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

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

STANDARD BEARERS' UNIFORM

Annex C

A green beret with Association badge, matching skirt and jacket (not pullover) of dark green colour, white shirt and green tie, black shoes, white gloves or gauntlets (at direction of parade organiser).

D DAY 1994 EVENTS (continued from page 95)

Year Long 1994

Photographic exhibition at The American Military Hospitals in Blandford Camp, Dorset will show the US 22nd, 119th, 131st and 140th General Hospitals in Blandford, 1944 to 1945

Photographic exhibition at The Royal Signals on D-Day, will depict all aspects of the work of the Royal Corps of Signals in the Preparation for D-Day, on D-Day itself

NB: All these events are still in the planning stage and have yet to be finalised. Dates and venues may vary. This information is supplied as a general guide only.

NORMANDY

The official programme of events which will take place on the 5th and 6th June on the site of the D-Day landings and battle of Normandy is currently being planned.

In addition a range of special D-Day ceremonies, exhibitions and local events will take place in many towns across Normandy during the spring, summer and autumn of 1994. The first programme will be available at the end of May. For a copy contact:

Comité Régional de Tourisme de Normandie
14 rue Charles Corbeau
2700 Evreux FRANCE

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

CROLL - REES. On 26 June 1943. Raymond Croll, Royal Air Force to Madeleine Rees, Auxiliary Territorial Service at St Mary's Church, Norwood Green, Southall. Present address 8 Woodville Avenue, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3NJ.

EFFORD - FIRMIN. On 6 February 1943. Fred Efford, Royal Air Force to Joan Firmin, Auxiliary Territorial Service at St Mary's Church, Westerham, Kent. Present address 1 The Roystones, East Preston, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

FAIRCLOUGH - KILBY. On 25 September 1943. Sapper James Fairclough, Royal Engineers to Lance Corporal Doris Kilby, Auxiliary Territorial Service at Attercliffe Church, Sheffield. (Mrs Fairclough has sent a picture of her unit friends at Tonfanu, Towy, North Wales in 1943). They now live at 2 Aries Close, Chell, Stoke-on Trent ST6 6NL.

HOLD - COXON. On 4 September 1943, Signaller Ted Hold, Royal Signals (6 Airborne Division) to Lance Corporal Ena Coxon, Auxiliary Territorial Service at St Paul's Church, Sunderland. Present address 18 Gillside Grove, Roker, Sunderland SR6 9PQ.

WHELPTON - WATSON. On 28 August 1943. Corporal Kenneth Whelpton, Royal Army Service Corps to Private Margaret Watson, Auxiliary Territorial Service. They now live at 47 Melrose Avenue, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2JG.

WHITER - PARTRIDGE. On April 10th 1943, Tony Whiter, Royal Air Force to Phyl Partridge, Auxiliary Territorial Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Tulse Hill, London SE27. Present address 13 St Therese Close, Callington, Cornwall PL17 7QF.

WRIGHT - SANTY. On 30 January 1943. Reginald Charles Frank Wright, London Fire Service to Dorothy Florence Emblin Santy, Auxiliary Territorial Service at St Augustine's Church, Tooting. Present address 23 Derwent Road, Basingstoke, Hants.

BIRTHS

HARPER. Captain (Retired) Annette Harper. On 16 April 1993 to Annette and Mark Harper, a daughter, Nadia Elizabeth.



Mrs Fairclough (née Kilby) is third from right on next to top row



Ted Hold and Ena Hold (née Coxon) 50 years on.

BARROWMORE VILLAGE SETTLEMENT Great Barrow, Chester CH3 7JA

The Settlement gives employment in a sheltered environment to individuals who are classified as Section 2 disabled under the Act. We have accommodation "settlers" and their families. In common with the other parts of the Settlement the Nursing Home also gives preference (of admission) to persons who have served in the armed forces of the Crown.

The Nursing Home is particularly suited for disabled ex-servicemen and women having achieved adult registration with the Chester Health Authority, the only home in Cheshire to achieve this registration. This means that we are able to admit disabled adults from the age of 18 and thus have a broad cross section of ages of our residents.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM THE SECRETARY

"FRONTLINE BRITAIN '94" 50th Anniversary of the End of Frontline Britain

Celebrations will be throughout the week of 25th September-1st October 1994. The 50th Anniversary of the capture of the German Cross Channel guns by the 2nd Canadian Army. There will be a special commemorative medal for those who served in East Kent in World War II will be on sale.

The main parade on Monday 26 September 1994 will be on Dover Sea Front to unveil a Memorial to all those who served in 'Frontline Britain, 1939-45'. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh will unveil the memorial and many service VIP's will also be attending to represent their Regiments, Corps and Services. After the parade all participants will be taken by bus to another site for lunch and an afternoon of entertainment.

Details from:-

Alex Summers,
Chairman, Frontline Britain '94,
107 Mongeham Road,
Deal,
Kent. CT14 9LJ

OBITUARY

ARTHUR. Mrs Margaret Arthur (née Greenhow) of Stockton, Cleveland on 27 January 1993. QMAAC

ASHE. Major E Ashe of Cardiff, on 15 February 1993. ATS/WRAC.

BELL. Miss N Bell of Dundee on 3 December 1992. ATS.

BENTLEY. Mrs Violet Mary Bentley (née Fisher) of York in January 1993. ATS

BERRESFORD-CHARLTON. Mrs S C Berresford-Charlton of Cleveland in December 1992. ATS

BRADY. Miss Olive L Brady of Northern Ireland in August 1992. ATS

BRETHOUR. Mrs M L Brethour (née Trantor) of Wiarton, Ontario, Canada on 20 May 1992. ATS.

BRINTON. Mrs Barbara K Brinton (née Lyall) of Petersfield on 14 January 1993. ATS

BROOM. Mrs Edith May Broom (née Artinstall) of Saltash, Cornwall in February 1993. ATS.

CARMICHAEL. Mrs B M Carmichael (née Smith) of Crawley, Sussex in November 1992. ATS

CASELY. Miss V Casely of Haslemere on 11 November 1992. QMAAC

CHADWICK. Mrs Barbara M Chadwick (née Riches) of Aylesbury on 16 February 1993. WRAC

CHAMPKEN. Miss M S Champken of Rochdale in October 1992. WRAC

CONNOR. Miss Marion Connor of Oldham on 23 April 1993. ATS

COOK. Mrs Anita Cook (née Quantrill) of Manchester in June 1993. ATS.

DYER. Mrs M P Dyer of Chelmsford on 17 January 1992. Affiliated Nurse.

EWER. Mrs K H Ewer of Ramsgate on 27 January 1993. QARANC/WRAC.

FAIRWEATHER. Mrs K E S Fairweather (née Southwell) of Bicester on 21 June 1993. QMAAC.

FOSTER. Mrs M Foster (née Cropper) of Rochdale in September 1992. ATS

GADSON. Mrs Brenda Gadson of Bridport on 25 June 1993. ATS

GILL. Mrs Eleanor Gill of Eltisley, Cambridgeshire in June 1993. ATS

GREENE. Mrs P M Greene (née Butler) of Breadstone, Glos on 22 February 1993. FANY/ATS/TA

GROOM. Mrs Olive Groom (née Platt) of Norwich on 10 April 1993. ATS

HARKNESS. Mrs M E Harkness (née Johnson) of South Shields on 23 April 1993. ATS

HARPER. Miss I C Harper of Paisley on 23 April 1993. ATS.

HERBERT. Miss L Herbert of Coventry on 14 April 1992. ATS/WRAC

HEYES. Mrs Eva Heyes of Bolton on 6 April 1993. ATS

HOLMAN. Mrs B H Holman (née Lewis) of Witham, Essex in April 1993. ATS

HORAN. Mrs E W Horan of Basildon in June 1993. ATS

JAMES. Mrs Gwladys James (née Parry) of Wrexham on 10 May 1993. ATS

KEYS-WELLS. Mrs E G Keys-Wells MBE FHC of Sheffield on 25 May 1993. ATS

KIRBY. Mrs Joan Kirby (née Solomon) of Scarborough on 11 October 1992. ATS/WRAC

LAMB. Mrs Connie Lamb of Shrewsbury on 21 May 1993. ATS

LEVER. Miss Stella V M Lever of Bournemouth on 16 April 1993. ATS

LIPSCOMB. Colonel P M Lipscomb of Farnham on 16 May 1993. FANY/ATS/WRAC

MAGLAGAN. Major M E Maclagan MBE of Camberley on 11 March 1993. ATS/WRAC

MATHIAS. Miss L Mathias of Wilmslow in May 1993. ATS

MAYO. Mrs E J Mayo MBE (née Armstrong) of Camberley on 17 May 1993. WRAC

MULLARKEY. Mrs Mary Jane Louisa Mullarkey of Swadlingcote, Derbyshire on 27 May 1993. ATS

PHILLIPS. Mrs Marjorie Phillips (née Appleby) of Watford in April 1993. ATS

POWELL. Mrs M L Powell of Solihull on 23 April 1993. ATS

RICHARDS. Mrs P M Richards (née Hope) of Coventry on 14 March 1993. WRAC

RICKETTS. Mrs Iris Ricketts (née Littleboy) of Isle of Man on 8 May 1993. ATS

RIVERS. Mrs M I Rivers (née Forsyth) of Willaston in Wirral on 2 April 1993. ATS/WRAC

RUSH. Mrs Maureen Rush (née Evans) of Doncaster in 1992. WRAC

RYDER. Mrs M E Ryder (née Spencer) of Keighley on 10 December 1992. WAAF

SLADER. Mrs Constance Slader (née Bradley) of Windsor in May 1993. ATS

SMITH. Mrs Nancy Smith (née McDougall/Walker) of Cleveland on 1 January 1993. ATS

SMITH. Miss C A M Smith of High Ercall, Shropshire in 1992. ATS/WRAC

SPENCER. Miss J E Spencer of Huntley, Gloucestershire on 22 February 1993. WRAC

STEVENS. Miss Mary Stevens of Bath on 28 March 1993. ATS/WRAC

TAYLOR. Mrs Audrey Lever Taylor (née Myles) of Saltley, Birmingham in January 1993. ATS

TAYLOR-SMITH. Mrs D E Taylor-Smith of Hastings on 28 April 1993. ATS

WARDROPPER. Mrs M Wardropper (née Crawford) of Sunderland on 5 January 1993. ATS

WILLIAMS. Major E M Williams of Warrington on 31 March 1993. ATS/WRAC

HOUSING OFFICERS' FAMILIES

Alban Dobson House · Green Lane · Morden · Surrey SM4 5NS

Unfurnished houses, maisonettes and flats are available on secure tenancies to ex-Officers of the three Services, their families and widows who are of limited means and in housing need.

APPLICATIONS

The tenancy waiting lists are open to retired Officers or widows and those about to leave the Services. Divorced or separated spouses of Officers must have the dependent children of the marriage living with them. Priority is given to the disabled, young families, statutorily homeless or those subject to Notice to Quit or eviction under a Court Order.

PROPERTY WAITING LISTS

Ashted, Surrey	10 houses with gardens
Cheltenham	20 small flats
London NW11, Hampstead	12 maisonettes and 12 flats
Morden, Surrey	48 houses and 36 flats
Southend	12 flats for single ladies

Rents are from £40.00 per week for flats up to £70.00 per week for 4 bedroomed houses and maisonettes.

WRAC ASSOCIATION

The grouping of branches for administrative purposes is given below:-

WRAC ASSOCIATION

NORTH EAST

Chairman: Miss E F Thompson
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches in Groups

Omagh
Ulster

WRAC ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

Chairman: Lt Col J L Lawson MBE
Vice-Chairman: Maj I M Gordon TD
Secretary: Capt P M Stevenson

Branches in Group

Aberdeen
Ayrshire
Berwick
Dumfriesshire
Edinburgh
Fife & Tayside
Glasgow
Inverness
Stirling

WRAC ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST

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Vice-Chairman: Mrs T Goff
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Birmingham
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Coventry
Crewe
Hereford
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Shropshire
Stafford
Swansea
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Chairman: Major R G Warne MBE
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Secretary:

Branches Group

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Chelmsford
Colchester
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Westcliff

WRAC ASSOCIATION LONDON

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Vice-Chairman:
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Branches in Group

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Ilford
London
Wimbledon

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Vice-Chairman: Mrs P Ward
Secretary: Miss M D Bradley

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Chester
Liverpool
Manchester
Rochdale
Rhyl
Southport
Stockport

UNAFFILIATED

HQ & BAOR
Kendal
Penrith
Band

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH

Chairman: Lt Col D J Freeland
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary: Mrs J Ford

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Bath
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Cheltenham
Guernsey
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Salisbury
Southampton
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Branches in Group

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Eastbourne
Hastings
Medway

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH WEST

Chairman: Mrs D M Hill
Vice-Chairman: Mrs M Cranmer
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