

1993

No1

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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

Headquarters, WRAC Association, PO Box 212, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6ZD

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Front Cover Photograph
Ex Corporal Anne Peskey
see Congratulations on page 2

Back Cover Photograph
Colchester Branch
see article on page 17

Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1993

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

NEW ADDRESS

By the time that you receive this magazine we may well be on the move from the offices which we have occupied for 18 years.

To cover unspecified contingencies the Post Office have given us a Box in Guildford for our mail.

From 1 March 1993 please address all letters to:

General Secretary

WRAC Association HQ

PO Box 212

Guildford

GU2 6ZD

ROYAL VISIT

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Colonel in Chief of the Adjutant General's Corps is due to visit the AG Corps Centre at Worthy Down near Winchester to celebrate Corps Day on Friday 4th June 1993.

Tickets for the visit will be limited and are to be allocated through Associations.

If you are interested in attending please notify your Branch Secretary who will keep a list.

The General Secretary will notify branches of their allocation and the criteria to be applied in choosing representatives.

Please note that it may be necessary for the AG Corps Association to ask for payment for meals.

WRAC ASSOCIATION

It is proposed to form a non-geographical branch of the WRAC Association to be called "Band Branch".

It is hoped that the meetings which it is able to hold will be musical ones.

To join either write to Association HQ at Guildford or complete the application form on page 6 and clearly mark it Band Branch.

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VIDEO

Classic Pictures, an independent producer, have made a video entitled "Memoirs of Women Who Went to War".

Some Association members took part in the programme which is narrated by Sir John Mills.

Copies are available at major booksellers at a cost of £9.95 each.

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 December 31, 1993. 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 December 31, 1993.

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer congratulations to:

Mrs Anne Pesky (née Taylor) for her tremendous achievements at the 12th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dayton, Ohio, USA.

She won a silver medal in the open division in bowling, another silver medal in the open division for the billiards competition and a gold in the table tennis. She also coached the junior table tennis team who, under her leadership, won two gold, two silver and one bronze medals.

The photograph of Anne Pesky on the cover of LIONESS was taken in the grounds of the British Embassy Washington where she was a guest of the British Ambassador.

Long Service and Good Conduct medals were awarded to WO2 L M Horton, WO2 M Simon, WO2 A Wilson; SSgts C Miller, R E Murphy, J Robertson; Sgts S L Shaw, D Y Wilson and Cpls H E Rhina, S G Smith.

Mrs Frances Parker aged 71 of the Leeds Branch for personally raising more than £1000 to buy six video machines for use by patients at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey. She also delivered a library of videos which she had collected free of charge from kind hearted local video shops.



Mrs Parker (née Harsley) was attached to Depot, Airborne Forces at Hardwick Hall, Chesterfield as a medical orderly 1941-44.

Mrs Lucy Bowyer of Shropshire who carried the Association Standard in the Royal Albert Hall on 7 November 1992 at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance.

Staff Sergeant A M Forsyth, already a holder of the British Empire Medal, on gaining her Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. It was presented by Brigadier J M Roulstone on 15 January 1993.



Mr and Mrs Owens (parents), Brig Roulstone, S Sgt Forsyth, Mr and Mrs Smith (sister and brother-in-law).

Lieutenant Colonel S E Reynolds OBE on becoming an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Years Honours List 1993.

A FEMALE FOCUS FOR WOMEN IN THE ARMY

Following the disbandment of the Corps on 5 April 1992, the Director Women (Army), Brigadier Joan Roulstone, is now well established as the Female Focus for women in the Army, with responsibility for monitoring and advising on their integration into employing Arms and Services. She heads a small MOD Directorate, and is assisted by dedicated posts at both HQ UKLF and HQ BAOR. Additional support is provided through the dual roling of certain female officers at District and Formation levels.

The Adjutant General's Directive to DW(A) has been amended recently to include responsibility for advice on the execution of policy and on the management of all women in the Army.

Initial Impressions are that the integration of women into their employing corps is proving most successful due largely to the enthusiasm of Arms and Service Directors, who, in discussions with DW(A), have expressed the will to make it work. As a result, the career opportunities for women in the Army have never been better.

DW(A)'s main aim for 1993 is to continue to develop equal opportunities policies in close consultation with the relevant MOD Directorates.



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.

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

EXERCISE LUCKY DIAMOND BORNEO 1992 by Lt Rosie Fannin

Headquarters of 4th Light Regiment arrived in Kuching, Western Sarawak in 1965. The Borneo confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia had started in December 1962 and by 1965 the security forces formed five Divisions based on 22 infantry battalions, including Malaysian, Australian and New Zealand forces.

4th Light Regiment took over from 45 Light Regiment, 29 Light Battery, 88 Light Battery and 176 Light Battery were located in Sarawak as Artillery support for West Brigade. Exercise Lucky Diamond's aim was to retrace the route taken by 88 Light Battery in August 1965. On this date it was redeployed from the village of Tebedu to a small Kampong called Kujang Sain located only a couple of kilometres from the Indonesian border. Three 105mm Pack Howitzers remained there until 13 September before moving back to Tebedu.

To achieve this aim the expedition was split into 3 phases:

PHASE 1. Basic jungle survival training. The team spent 6 days in Brunei with the Training Team Brunei (TTB) learning basic jungle survival skills.

PHASE 2. Main trek in Sarawak, from Tebedu to Kujang Sain, through secondary jungle.

PHASE 3. Ascent of Mt Kinabalu. The team finished the expedition by climbing Mt Kinabalu in the province of Sabah. At a height of 4,100 meters this is the highest peak in South East Asia.

On Friday 22 May the team flew to Bander Seri Begawan stopping at Manila and Kota Kinabalu on the way. The overcast skies of Hong Kong gave way to intense sunshine in Brunei as the team began a three day course in jungle survival.

The first day was spent in the lecture theatre learning the theory of survival from members of the SAS and experienced instructors. Then we were given the chance to put it all into practice spending two days and a night in the jungle under instruction.

Lesson number one was how to build a secure 'A' frame, very important if you wanted a comfortable night's sleep.

Kuching was a shock to the system. We arrived in the dead of night to discover that the hotel we had booked was already occupied by an assortment of mutant insects and illegal immigrants. We quickly rectified the situation and settled into the more upmarket Metropole Hotel (at least it was one person per bed).

On inspection in daylight the town itself was full of life and starting to show the effects of tourism, sporting a Hilton Hotel dominating the skyline and even a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. However, it still maintained some of the far eastern atmosphere of Rajah Brooke's era.

The local market was a riot of smells and colours with live ducks and chickens for sale. This backed on to the Sarawak River, a wide fast moving river that dominates the town. Small wooden boats ferried people from the main shopping area across to their homes against a backdrop of the old fort and Rajah Brooke's residence, still in pristine condition.

It took two days to sort out all the administration for the trek before the team set off on local transport for the village of Tebedu. To avoid the heat of the day we set off early the next morning on the trail to Kampong Sain. The combination of terrain, humidity and the weight of our rucksacks made the journey more arduous than expected. Initially the track passed through pepper plantations that provided

no overhead cover and as the sun's intensity increased so the pace suffered. Once under the jungle canopy, conditions improved slightly but the loss of body fluids through sweating still remained a problem. The narrow trail was intermittently replaced by makeshift bamboo bridges.

After four hours trekking through thick secondary jungle we reached Kampong Tesu. This is a large, dispersed settlement and we were amazed to see brick buildings with tin roofs so far into the jungle. The Government, using the income gained from logging, has provided the majority of tribes with modern amenities. Even the remotest Kampongs now have at least an electricity generator.

The next stop was lunch at Pang Amo. The sight of a shallow pool in the river was too much, and pausing only long enough to remove our packs, we all dived straight in. Reluctantly the trek continued and by late afternoon we arrived at Kampong Tembawang tired and much the worse for wear. After numerous river crossings we arrived at the small kampong to be greeted enthusiastically once more.



Lt Rosie Fannin talks to one of the locals who remembers guns being lifted to the village by helicopter.

Initial celebrations completed, the Tuah Rumah (headman) finally led us past the old soldiers' billets to the gun position on the hill. He remembered the confrontation very well and was able to point out the original gun pits, the command pit and the barbed wire fences. Everything was overgrown by jungle but still distinguishable at ground level. This discovery was far beyond our expectations and everyone helped to clear one of the pits.

Back down in the kampong we were shown a stock of ammunition boxes and cartridge cases left by 4th Light Regiment. The Tuah Rumah kindly presented us with a cartridge case to bring home to Osnabruck. We left Kampong Sain with much regret having spent two memorable days in the company of these wonderful people.



Lt Rosie Fannin ready to start training.

The return to Tebedu involved a short trek to Terbat and minibus from Terbat via Serian. The expedition team presented a Regimental plaque to the Police Sergeant before climbing onto the local bus for Serian.

On Monday 8 June the team flew from Kuching to Kota Kinabalu for phase three of the expedition, the ascent of Mt Kinabalu. Heavy rain fell throughout the night and it looked as though the climb might have to be called off. As day broke the skies cleared and we set off with our guide in bright sunshine. The climb up to Laban Rata hostel was hard despite the tourist hype. We were ready for a good meal and an early night after fighting for some floor space to make our beds. To make it to the summit for sunrise the team was ready to go at 0300 hours.

Walking in the dark on the bare rock surface required a certain amount of nerve but when Marius, the guide, mentioned ropes the QMS nearly collapsed on the spot.

Most of the team was suffering from altitude sickness but they all made it to the top by daybreak. The view from the top was breathtaking. Between the clouds the view reached to Kota Kinabalu in the south west and Kalimantan in the east. However the severe drop in temperature did not encourage us to linger too long and we arrived back in Park Headquarters for elevenses.

Exercise Lucky Diamond was a resounding success and the cartridge brought back with us remains as a tribute to those who fought during the Borneo Confrontation in 1965.

OVERPAYMENTS

The WRAC HQ Mess account with Lloyds Bank (Cox and Kings) has been closed. Officers were asked to cancel their bankers orders.

102 former members of the WRAC HQ Mess failed to cancel their bankers order for £1 payable on 1 January.

A further 93 officers who paid a combined bankers order for £2 or £3 for the WRAC Association and HQ Mess on 1 December also failed to cancel their orders.

As well as costing the individual money for which they receive no benefit it does cause administrative difficulties at the bank and the Association.

Please check your bank statements for payments made in your name on either 1 December or 1 January to Lloyds Cox and Kings for WRAC and cancel them.

DO NOT cancel orders to NatWest Bank Guildford for the WRAC Association for 1 January.

DO NOT cancel bankers orders to Coutts and Co. for WRAC Benevolent Fund.

SSLC MY SHORT SERVICE LIMITED COMMISSION IN CYPRUS

by 2lt Gemma Hamlin AG Corps (SPS)

I arrived at RMA Sandhurst on October 9 1991, a day I remember vividly, feelings of uncertainty, expectation and excitement all intermingled.

I can still picture the grand steps of Old College main entrance, my first experience of the British Army and all that it stands for.

As a Short Service Limited Commission, I was only required to complete 3½ weeks at Sandhurst alongside the doctors, padres, dentists, vets and lawyers. I can say that it was probably the longest 3½ weeks of my life, pushing myself to my physical and emotional limits and being one of 3 females in the platoon, we did not have it easy.

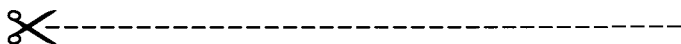
On 1 November, proud parents, family and friends watched 52 of us parade on our passing out. It was a fabulous feeling to march with the band in uniform alongside those who had survived the course too. I was trying to conceal my excitement at the news that I was posted back to Cyprus for 10 months with the 3rd Battalion the Queen's Regiment in Episkopi and had 5 days to pack and prepare.

The "Gateway House" experience overcome, I was flying to Cyprus, a numb feeling of anticipation inside: would someone be there to meet me?; Were there any other females?; What job was I going to do?; What was Mess life like?; Would the Commanding Officer eat me for breakfast? All was to be revealed within the first few days of my arrival, a subaltern met me at RAF Akrotiri; the paymaster was the only other female in the Battalion; I was given the title of Assistant Adjutant and shown to my desk and phone; Mess life was extremely civilised with my own room, meals cooked for us, beds made and rooms cleaned and Lt Col Anthony Beattie, the Commanding Officer was charming and even smiled at me!

(continued on page 7)

WHERE IS MY LIONESS?

Now that servicewomen and officers of the former WRAC have rebadged and now subscribe to their new corps funds they are no longer automatically members of the WRAC Association. If you know of a serving friend who would like to receive LIONESS ask her to join using the form below.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the General Secretary
THE WRAC ASSOCIATION HQ
PO BOX 212
GUILDFORD
GU2 6ZD

I wish to join the WRAC Association as a

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

and enclose £.....

(Cheques made payable to WRAC Association).

Date Signature

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

Surname.....

Christian Names

Address for Correspondence

Permanent Address (if different)

Married or Single

Surname when Serving

Army Number

Last Rank

(present rank if still serving)

Date of Enrolment Date of Release

Decorations

FORCES SWEETHEARTS

**Wartime Romance from the First World War to the Gulf
An Imperial War Museum Exhibition
in Association with Royal Mail International.
Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ**

12 February–15 October 1993

Announcing a major exhibition, sponsored by Royal Mail International, opening for Valentine's Day.

Exhibition adviser and author of the book *Forces Sweethearts*, published by Bloomsbury, Joanna Lumley.

FEATURING

True Life Love Stories

The meetings, the partings, the reunions and the heartbreaking stories of the men who didn't come home. Rings, lockets, poems, sweetheart brooches, pressed flowers and love letters including the *Guinness Book of Records* correspondence: 6,000 letters exchanged by a padre and his fiancée.

Wartime Weddings

GI brides, wedding presents, telegrams, photographs, honeymoon hotel bills and orange blossom. Gowns made from silk, satin, crushed velvet, and lace. And 'Make do and Mend' frocks concocted from curtains and parachute silk.

The Dream Girls

The pin-ups, the film stars, the singers and *The Forces Sweetheart* – Vera Lynn. *Esquire's* glamorous Varga girls; aircraft 'nose art'; dresses worn by Marilyn Monroe in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Some Like it Hot*; Rita Hayworth's cigarette case and compact; and 'Jane's' lucky scarf and fan mail.

APPEAL

Dig out your attics and drawers for your own memories of a wartime romance – the Museum still welcomes suitable material for the display.

For further information ring Christopher Dowling on 071-416 5310.

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE

Brigadier A Field CB, Vice-President represented the WRAC Association at the Festival of Remembrance held in the Royal Albert Hall on 7 November 1992 and organised by The Royal British Legion.

Mrs L Bowyer carried the Association Standard in the Muster of Standards.

NEW ADDRESS

By the time that you receive this magazine we may well be on the move from the offices which we have occupied for 18 years.

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From 1 March 1993 please address all letters to:

General Secretary
WRAC Association HQ
PO Box 212
Guildford
GU2 6ZD

continued from page 5

He explained to me that I was to expect a steep learning curve. I would be more inclined to describe it as vertical! There was so much to take in, so many names, three-letter abbreviations and rules to remember.

The other ~~PDF Compressor Free Version~~ messengers were superb and looked after me very well guiding and advising me. There was a company serving an emergency, 4 month tour in the Falkland Islands so numbers were limited which was no bad thing. I found my feet, settled in and came to terms with life in sunny Cyprus.

My job as Assistant Adjutant has, throughout the year encompassed an enormous variety of different experiences. My hat also was a Unit Press Officer so I soon discovered the whereabouts of the local newspaper offices and the Public Relations Department who were very helpful with advice and guidance in this new field.

Capt John Dryer was my Adjutant and he ensured that I was kept busy, sorting out photographs, staff lists, historical records to name but a few projects. I also spent a week on an audit board for Headquarters British Forces Cyprus and three weeks undergoing a 100% stock check on a board of officers for the Quartermaster of Episkopi Garrison.

When the Battalion embarked upon EXERCISE PINK FLAMINGO in February 1992, myself, Chief Clerk, the Docs Clerk and PRI Cpl formed a press team, kitted out with cameras and video (recorders to record the last 3 QUEENS Battalion Exercise).

The cookhouse bacon sandwiches kept us fuelled in what turned out to be the worst week of weather Cyprus can remember. Snow was seen where snow had never been seen before and my faith in those who assured me that the sun shone in Cyprus faded rapidly.

Being part of the British Army over the past year has been a very interesting phase in its history. With "Options for Change" and the amalgamation of the Queen's Regiment with the Royal Hampshire's to form the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, I have experienced a major change generating much emotion and loyalty amongst those involved. Seeing this happening first hand has been a fabulous but sad experience and much more interesting than reading newspaper reports on it.

Another major change within the structure of the Army during my time in Cyprus has been the disbandment of the Women's Royal Army Corps and the formation of the Adjutant General's Corps on 7 April 1992. In Cyprus the event was marked by a WRAC weekend for all female serving on the island with potted sports, barbecue, Church service and curry lunch in the company of Brig Anne Field, Deputy Colonel of the AG Corps.

One of the most interesting weeks I've had must have been my attachment to the 15th/19th Hussars serving a six month tour in Nicosia as part of the United Nations. I spent a week shadowing a press team sent out from UKLF and producing local boy stories and television coverage from the Newcastle based Regiment. I saw the United Nations at work, drove along the buffer zone, saw Greek and Turkish soldiers facing each other across the Green Line which divides Cyprus into two distinct halves. This experience helped me to understand the "Cyprus Problem" and the politics surrounding it. I also gained experience of the workings of the tabloid press and media methods.

I've also taken full advantage of the adventurous training available in Cyprus. I gained my bronze skiing quals on the Trodos Mountains in January, much to everyone at home's disbelief as they didn't appreciate that Cyprus saw snow at any time of the year. I've spent two weeks gaining my RYA competent crew quals and spent

two weeks sailing a 38 ft yacht from Rhodes, around the Greek Isles. A sea canoeing proficiency course and novice sub-aqua course has completed my introduction to the watersports which are so good in Cyprus.

The Army and 3 QUEENS have especially welcomed me exceptionally well and the patience I've experienced from the people has at times been overwhelming. Living in a Regimental Mess and being an integral part of a Battalion has provided me with experience of great comradeship and bonding between people. I've been guided along and learnt so much from those around me that an invaluable lesson has been learnt not only about the Army, but about other people and myself too.

I would recommend the SSLC scheme to anyone willing to take up a challenge and work at making their time special as mine has been. It hasn't always been easy to fit into something new and strange but perseverance has left me with some tremendous memories, and left me a much more rounded person. For someone with no military background this year has provided me with an insight into the service life, one which I will very much miss when I leave.

In my spare time I've spent much time improving my waterskiing, windsurfing and tennis as well as touring the Island, north and south, east and west. Cyprus offers so much that time does not allow one to complete everything.

My final weeks on the island saw 3 QUEENS disbanded to various posts in Colchester, and Canterbury, leaving me in Cyprus to spend a fortnight as a canoe instructor with the Summer Youth Camp, provided for the Service children during their break from school. I have also spent a superb fortnight in the Garrison Medical Centre and hospital gaining experience as a prospective medical student about to embark upon my studies at university. I've inspected the local slaughter house, seen kidney stone operations, cleaned the teeth of the guard dogs, attended an antenatal clinic and seen the mosquito problems facing Cyprus, to mention just a few.

My SSLC has given me the time of my life and provided me with the opportunity to live and work alongside professional people of all levels. My self confidence has improved and I've gained a large amount of independence living away from home for the first time.

OFFICERS MESS SILVER

The WRAC HQ Mess is trying to trace Cpt S C A Wilson who presented a whisky quaich in November 1972. Please contact (0252) 355583.

MY EXPEDITION
by Victoria Hope-Smith

OPERATION RALEIGH

Operation Raleigh runs many expeditions all over the world for people from all over the world. It aims to provide a unique opportunity for men and women aged 17 to 25 to face and overcome challenges whilst developing skills, self confidence and leadership ability.

The members of an expedition, known as Venturers, join together to work on conservation and research projects and community tasks. Each expedition is approximately 10 weeks in duration. The Prince of Wales said at the launch of Operation Raleigh: "Such an experience will provide young people with the sort of confidence and awareness which will help them to accept responsibility in a difficult world." Operation Raleigh began as a 4 year project for 400 Venturers, in which time the Raleigh flagship 'Sir Walter Raleigh' circum-navigated the world stopping at various countries to carry out projects. It has been so successful it is carrying on indefinitely. Operation Raleigh is a series of 4 challenges; getting selected, raising the funds to go, the expedition itself and finally putting something back into the community after returning home.

Venturers are selected from all over the world; more than 30 countries regularly send young people on expeditions. An effort is also made to select Venturers from the country hosting an expedition. Once selected, each Venturer is asked to raise a sum of money to contribute towards the cost of the expedition. Fund raising demands time and commitment to generate ideas and events for sponsorship and to approach commerce and industry.

Operation Raleigh is committed to taking up to 20% of its participants from designated areas of deprivation and around 2% are physically handicapped. Venturers then choose which part of the world they would like to visit. Expeditions are designed to test and stretch Venturers facing them with challenge and adventure during their demanding work.

100 Venturers from all over Great Britain flew out from Heathrow Airport for the start of Expedition Kuru Kuru in Guyana.

We were met by Tony Walton, the expedition leader late that evening. Immediately we were appointed to a project group which was made up of 9 Venturers, a medic and a project leader. The other Venturers and the group medic were to be our sole companions for the following 12 weeks.

We were then driven out to Seweyo Camp: The Guyanese Militia Training Camp which was to be our homebase for the next 10 days. This period was used for essential acclimatisation and jungle training.

After the initial 10 days, 6 out of the 10 groups set off as part of the "Elephant Trail", 4 army trucks moved off along an extremely poor road through the jungle to the south. The going was extremely hard, and in many places trees obscured the route and had to be moved manually, and for some miles the ruts (some over 4 feet deep) made it impossible for the trucks to move so we learnt how to winch from tree to tree very quickly.



Jungle home.

GUYANA

Guyana, an independent republic since 1966 is on the northeast coast of the South American continent. It is bordered by Venezuela to the northwest, Brazil to the south and south west, Surinam to the east and the Atlantic along its 270 mile northern coast.

Guyana, meaning land of waters, has an abundance of rivers many of which have watershed in the southwest, where the Amazon and Orinoco also have their sources. All of these rivers eventually swing north and flow into the Atlantic.

The country which is nearly the size of Britain is divided geographically into 4 regions. The coastal plain which is at, and in places below sea level, such as Georgetown, is the most densely populated. The hilly and sandy clay belt borders the coastal plain. The highlands are to the west and south and the savannahs as well as thick rain forest are in the interior.

Guyana's climate is in a state of flux. During the rains temperatures vary between 75 and 90 degrees fahrenheit, with extremely high levels of humidity. The heat however, is greatly tempered by cooling breezes from the sea.

Within 36 hours of arrival at Karupakari, we were across the river. The next 100 miles, because of there being a flat road, were covered in 4 hours. There was a marked change of scenery the further south, we travelled from dense lush tropical rainforest to open savannah which was both bare and barren. Half way to Lethem the trucks suddenly stopped and The Greenies were dumped with all their kit and equipment in what seemed to be the middle of nowhere. We were in fact at Gilleps site. We were now confronted with our first major problem how were we to move ourselves, our racksacks, and all the equipment which included 8 full 40 litres water cannisters, tool bags, life-jackets, as well as 4 full 40 litre fuel cannisters? We sent 3 of the group to Karanambo to borrow a boat.

Karanambo is the home of the conservationist Diane McTurk most famous for her devoted work for the native Giant Otter.

After two and a half weeks in Guyana the Greenies arrived in Massara. A few hours were lost while we brought all the equipment up the half mile up from the river, but at last we could start the project. Our project leader was a civil engineer and our task was to build a community centre and shop in two weeks from scratch. We surveyed the area we were to build the centre on. The villagers must have chosen the bumpiest piece of land possible which seemed to be the grazing area for the

village cattle. But we were not deterred. We started work the following day with a vengeance determined to complete the centre in the allocated time.

Firstly we levelled the ground for the foundations. We bricked up for two levels before we could put in the rest of the framework, rafters and burnings. We also trekked 14 miles to cut the 1500 leaves for the roof thatching and finally cemented the floors. While we were there, we tried to integrate into the village as much as possible. The villages taught us how to make cassava bread, their staple diet, and to make bows and arrows and to fish with them.

In the last week we held a disco for the children who had never heard western music before and a party with games. In the evenings we joined in with the locals playing cricket and volleyball.

After leaving Massara we began phase two of the expedition. We began trekking from Lethem, Guyana's third largest town on the Brazilian border. We had to carry all our possessions that we required for the next seven weeks as well as rations for ten days, about 65 lbs.

After twelve days trekking we reached our destination: Kaieteur Falls the worlds longest single drop falls which were totally spectacular. From Kaieteur Falls, the group had to make its way up to the Mazaruni, the northern bush area. After three and a half weeks travelling by foot, truck and boat and having pushed both boats and trucks for miles we arrived at our second project site: Our second project was to vaccinate those Amerindians in designated villages along the Mazaruni River that required the vaccines that we had. We learned how to inject using bread rolls and oranges. We also had to survey all Amerindian women aged 15 to 44 years and children aged 0 to 5 years for medical research conducted for the Guyanese Health Organisation.

We lived and worked as a tight knit family, but as a family does we also had our ups and downs.

Apart from learning about myself and others from the same country, I also learnt a lot about Guyana and her people. We had to learn to gain their trust, to benefit from living in their country and to learn customs, traditions and native pastimes. We built up a very special relationship with the people of Massara, in particular with the children who we became very attached and protective towards. I hope that us living there and showing them a life elsewhere will give them memories for years to come of those strange English people who danced funny and couldn't even fill a bucket of water from the well, as I have certainly been given memories to last me a lifetime.



Elephant trail.



A friendly native butterfly with Victoria Hope-Smith.

My patience and understanding of people was tested to the full. I had to learn to become compatible to everyone around me very quickly and to spot when an individual had reached their limits and could do no more. There was no room for privacy. Everything including yourself was forever on show and at times this was extremely tiring but with a sense of humour and the groups high morale this was easily overcome.

CONCLUDING . . .

Whilst on Operation Raleigh I was given the opportunity to reflect on my relatively short life and my attitudes away from normal every day existence. I greatly benefitted from living and working in a small group for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for 12 weeks.

CALLING ALL OFFICERS

There is to be a social meeting for all officers who wore the WRAC cap badge at some stage in their career plus a presentation of the new WRAC Mess.

The meeting will take place in the Officers Mess of the AG Corps Centre at Worthy Down nr Winchester on Saturday 25 September 1993.

The meeting will assemble mid-morning for coffee. This will be followed by a briefing on matters of interest and an opportunity to ask questions.

Pre-lunch drinks will consist of an initial drink included in the overall price. After that a cash bar will operate.

Lunch will be a hot buffet in the Dining Room of the Officers Mess. Wine will be served with the meal.

Inclusive price for morning coffee, lunch with wine will be £10.

Please send your cheque for £10 made out to WRAC Association with the application form below and an sae for return of your ticket and programme.

A mini bus will meet the train from London arriving at Winchester Station at 10.00 a.m. It will collect others arriving from other destinations before that time.

N.B. There is a limit on the numbers that the Worthy Down Mess can hold. Please apply early and no later than 4 June 1993.

CLOSING DATE 4 JUNE 1993

To: WRAC Association HQ, PO Box 212, Guildford GU2 6ZD

From:

.....

.....

I wish to attend the meeting for former WRAC Officers on Saturday 25 September 1993.

I will travel by car/train (delete).

My car details are:

Make Colour Reg. No.

I enclose cheque for £10 for the lunch.

I enclose cheque for £12 for the lunch and transport from and to Winchester Station.

I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for my receipt, programme and ticket.

CHEQUES TO WRAC ASSOCIATION PLEASE.

Date Signed

Eucharistic vessels presented to Sandhurst Memorial Chapel by WRAC HQ Mess members.



Oak panel commemorating the presentation of the eucharistic vessels to Memorial Chapel RMA Sandhurst.

IT PAYS TO JOIN

A former officer in the Isle of Man decided to rejoin the Association. In the first edition of LIONESS which she received she discovered that she was being sought for the return of a gift which she had made to the Officers Mess.

She and her silver are now happily reunited.

**\$t ...for
convenience.**

...on camp

...on ships

...on active duty.

**Always there
when you need us.**

Naafi

UNIT NEWS

B COY, RHEINDAHLEN GARRISON NEWS

Well, B Coy have had a very busy few months, but it has been a fun and happy time.

At the beginning of September the OC, Maj Jan Brodie Murphy, took an intrepid few on a camping trip to Saarburg. Some of their stories are unrepeatable, but I must just mention the lighting which included a red light?

Following the deployment of NORTHAG to the former Yugoslavia, on Op GRAPPLE or "FOG". We have spent a very busy two months running events for the families, including Christmas cracker making, Christmas decoration making and the inevitable Christmas Party and much, much more. It is wonderful all the support we have been given from Rheindahlen Garrison and the media.

On the sporting front congratulations must go to the B Coy Hockey and Squash teams who came First in the BAOR Championships, and the Table Tennis team who came second; a very successful start to the Sports year.

On Remembrance Sunday, 78 very smart members of B Coy paraded and were marched to Church by WO2 (CSM) Harry Merritt. Following the service everyone went their separate way to curry lunches, not least of all those members of FOG who had a families lunch.

Recently the 2IC Capt Rachel Hadfield took a daring team on an adventure training exercise to Sardinia. Luckily the weather was good, the walking fun but the maps left a little to be desired! So now B Coy are looking forward to a well earned Christmas break, to start again in the New Year as part of Rheindahlen Support Unit (Army) in preparation for the arrival of ARRC.

NOSTALGIA

by Mary P Beeston

I am sure there are many members of the WRAC Association especially those of long standing, who at this time of change look back with nostalgia and affection, at the many people who have been in office and worked for the benefit of all members, from those who started the Association in 1919, to those who continued in the Second World War when money was urgently needed for those leaving the service on compassionate grounds or invalided out.

Although at times we were small in number, the support, hardwork and guidance of the stalwarts through the years have made the Association what it is today. All members of the Council and the Benevolent fund, a few names come to mind; Brigs Nolan and Field Maj Dixon, Col Lipscomb, Lt Col Millington, Maj Coven, Maj Coverdale, Mrs Laurence-Smith, not forgetting the men in our lives Gen Secretaries; Brig NC King and Lt Col Dunn. ASA member of Western Area, our Chairman, before the Area changes Maj Learmouth, Vice-Chairman Mrs Moorcroft, Area Secretary Mrs Marjory Bolton, there are still many more names to add to this list, to them all a big Thank You, the Association will always be a tribute to you.

When writing this letter I heard the sad news of the death of Jean Bleasdale, former Western Area Secretary, a friend to many, never one to interfere in Branch affairs, but always there to help when asked, she will be sadly missed by us all.

MEMORIES

by Daphne Languish (née Charles)

On the 4 Sept 1939, having received our mobilisation papers the day before, we met at the drill hall.

With upper lips becoming stiffer as the moments passed we to be driven into the unknown Westbourne the HQ of the S/L company complete with duckboards which would soon be floating in the mud! I think there were 10 or 12 of us, not quite sure it's a long time ago and, as my grandson would say "that's another marble gone Grandma"!

Two of my girls to a cottage, two to the attics of the Manor House and the rest of us to "Deepsprings" (remember the Scout hut which was our rec room?) and I had a bedroom to myself part of the perks which went with 3 stripes! But this is not really what I am writing about.

In my section was a certain volunteer E Beck. I underline the word volunteer because that is what she was. Becky died in June of this year. She had married Bill Bailey after I was posted to another unit and eventually, having left the ATS became the mother of 3 children. It was after the War that Bill was killed whilst on holiday on the Isle of Wight, whilst attempting to return a seagull, to the rocks, which had been injured and which they had nursed back to life. Becky brought up her children on her own and then became a police matron. I remember Becky for her wry sense of humour and her gallantry in adversity.

AN "OPEN" LETTER TO THE CORPS STAFF BAND

by Ex Sgt D Hill WRAC PROVOST

Dear Sergeant

No you don't know me. We have never met and yet we have travelled along a similar road, only the years separate us.

Looking at the band on the stage, The Staff Band with its members past and present, the juxtaposition of youth and age, I saw you carrying aloft the spirit of the Corps.

You obviously enjoyed your music, the enthusiasm showed through in the looks and gestures you made, so full of joy, laughter and good humour. There was self-confidence, self-assurance, glancing to either side to encourage your older companions with a smile, the rhythm and vigour of youth in full bloom.

How did I get your name? It came from the programme resting on my knee, there for all to see. I simply had to stretch out my hand. It was then I noticed my hands; not those of a musician or an artist, chubby and short and much older than I had noticed. Was it you in your uniform all we ladies in the audience saw or was it ourselves 20 years or more ago when we too were young, enthusiastic, good humoured and self-confident members of the WRAC.

We join with you in celebration and with each other in our memories. We look middle aged to you and somewhat alarmingly now, to each other. We see ourselves in you. I wonder what you see in your audience. For us it has been a confrontation with growing older, for you perhaps an experience of serving in the WRAC and for both of us another treasured memory. Thank you for that.

PLEASE SUPPORT
YOUR ADVERTISERS



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

A PRAYER ANSWERED
by Janet Morris (née Summers)

On the 11th November 1992 (Remembrance Day), I was given some back copies of the "Lioness" by a friend. We are both members of the British Empire Women's Association, Adelaide, South Australia.

Browsing through these old copies over a cuppa, I was absolutely amazed to come across a letter written by a Mrs P M Jefferies (née Jolley) "Triggered memories" issue No 2, 1990. Also a photograph of several of the girls, which sadly escape my memory, a reference to a previous issue No 1, 1990, referring to 476 battery 137 regiment and in particular to an obituary "to an ATS girl" 1941 to 1945 (Doris Fellowes), also two ladies who now reside in Auckland, New Zealand, a Betty Nevin and Maureen Browne, fortunately I was able to trace the copy.

To me this just seemed incredible, it was an answer to a prayer going back 47 years, which is more like a small miracle. Going back to 1940/41. After initial training at Wrexham then to Oswestry, for further training, from hence the 476 battery was inaugurated with quite a few Scotsmen who had the good fortune to return from Dunkirk, from there to Elsmere Port then London where we spent the majority of the war, then came, possibly the greatest opportunity of our lives, all secret and very hush hush, but a very strong rumour we were going overseas, but where and when a bigger secret. I still recall the excitement, even awe, and the packing and at last on our way, then for transit I assume to Stanstead, I still remember houses and sleeping on the floor surrounded by kit bags and luggage, then on the eleventh hour with one or two other girls myself included were pulled out and given alternative orders. I can still recall the desolation we felt, having to go our own individual ways, our opportunities faded with the dawn.

It was not for many years, I found out the reason for this action, I believe, if other members of the family was serving overseas, it was no no. I still regret that opportunity that evaded me, was on the strength of my two brothers already overseas, I don't think I ever forgave them.

For many years, I tried to gain information, of what happened and were the regiments eventual destination, but to no avail, it was like a closed book, but back then, we accepted the secrecy that it was in the interest of the country and never questioned the why's and wherefore's, and only now after all these many years have I had a glimpse into the past of what actually did happen, for which I will be eternally grateful.

My one great sorrow and regret was the fact I had lost so many friends, we had shared so much, fun, laughter, not forgetting the hard and frightening times, like one big family, especially those on the same G. L. team as myself. From memory I can only recall one or two names not even surnames, but our No.1, Teddy Smith: Stev. (Stephenie Swan) Miar Jone's from Scarborough Wales, my apologies to the remainder of the team, also Jessie Walker, who taught me my first steps of the tango, and Joan of Dagenham, but first and foremost my dear friend, Doris Fellowes who was a particularly good friend of mine, we were together from the beginning both coming from Birmingham. I wondered for a long time how she came to meet her death, I was aware of the fact she had died, I still don't recall how I came by this information, but am now aware of the full facts.

I would like to express my appreciation to all concerned with the "Lioness" for making it all possible, my many thanks to Mrs P M Jefferies (no address given) but would love to contact her, also to Mrs Smyth for attending the



Janet Morris (née Summers) 476 Battery 137 Regiment.

grave of a dear friend, and for photo of the headstone, and last but not least to the person who had "The obituary to an ATS girl" I would like to contact her, and the two ladies in Auckland, sorry it did not come sooner, I was in Auckland in 1987, and have just returned from England after a 6 month's holiday, had I had been aware of this then, I would have made a pilgrimage to "Ghent".

I would love to hear from any of my old colleagues and any further information would be appreciated.

NEW ADDRESS

By the time that you receive this magazine we may well be on the move from the offices which we have occupied for 18 years.

To cover unspecified contingencies the Post Office have given us a Box in Guildford for our mail.

From 1 March 1993 please address all letters to:

General Secretary
WRAC Association HQ
PO Box 212
Guildford
GU2 6ZD

TRAGIC ACCIDENT 483(M) HAA BTY

Several letters have been received following the letter sent by Mrs Margaret Morris concerning six ATS graves in Haverlee War Cemetery in Belgium.

Mrs Patricia Rogers (née Mahoney) of 10 North Gardens, Barking, IG11 9BA wrote to say that she was in 483 (Mixed) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery Bty stationed in Veltum Beeson in Belgium. They were the first mixed battery to be sent abroad in December 1944.

Mrs Ruth Jewell of Little Mill Cottage, South Place Marlow, Bucks, SL7 1PY remembers that on 6 January 1945 a group from the Battery were invited to a party given by the Coldstream Guards at Leuven. The party went well and a second invitation was issued for 13 January 1945. Junior Commander Jewell said that she allowed Subaltern Joan Liddell to accompany the party as she had been on the previous outing and knew the way.

Miss DM Dennett of 141 Queen's Road, Hastings had served with Lance Corporal Marie Rose in 518 Bty of 139 Regt but they lost touch when Marie Rose went to 483 Bty. The tragedy occurred when the group were returning from the dance. The truck that was carrying them was hit by a steam train on an unmarked and unguarded level crossing. Four of them were killed outright, two died three days later and the 18 who were injured were treated in hospital.

Those who wrote all wanted to put the tragedy behind them and are thus to meet comrades from 483 (Mixed) Bty. Mrs Rogers has even sent a photograph of herself taken at the time as an aid to recognition.



Mrs Patricia N Rogers (née Mahoney).

BRANCH NEWS

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH This is to be a year of consolidation for us. We had our first AGM in November and collected our first subscriptions.

We enjoyed a Christmas Lunch together and are taking great pleasure in getting to know each other.

A rough programme has been drafted and January sees us looking forward to a talk by an ex-policeman. We are especially fortunate in our venue because one of our members owns a private hotel in Ashby so we meet in very pleasant surroundings.

AYLESBURY We are pleased to report that the Aylesbury Branch is going from strength to strength and 45 members are on our nominal roll. Earlier this year each member was provided with a recruiting poster to display in her own area. One member, at her own expense, placed a notice concerning the Association in the SAGA Magazine and another contacted CEEFAX ITV and was allocated viewing time.

Our Birthday Luncheon, held at the Aylesbury Ex Service Club, was a great success and the Steward's wife, one of our members, was responsible for the menu and the catering. In gratitude for allowing our monthly meeting to be held at the club without charge the Chairman and his wife were invited to be our guests of honour at the luncheon.

The Chairman/Secretary on behalf of the Association laid a wreath at the Aylesbury Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November. This is the first time we have participated.

Nancy Pearce has been appointed Welfare Officer and we feel great emphasis should be placed on caring for each other.

Grace Bonham, Dorothy Atley and Jean Stopford have been appointed to arrange entertainment and social activities.

A visit to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea had to be cancelled earlier this year due to transport difficulties.

The Chairman/Secretary would like to hear from two volunteers to act as Secretary and Vice-Chairman to assist in the running of the ever expanding Branch. I wish members would forget the old army maxim "Don't volunteer for anything".

We are all looking forward to a happy and successful year in 1993.



Aylesbury Branch at their Christmas luncheon.

BIRMINGHAM It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Joan Bleasdale at her home in Spain on 9th November 1992.

Joan joined the WRAC Association at Wolverhampton in 1980 and soon became a very enthusiastic member of the Branch, serving as Branch Welfare Officer. In 1988 the Birmingham Branch was reformed and Joan was a founder member of the Branch, again taking on the role of Welfare Officer. By that time she was also serving as the Western Area Secretary, and I know all Branches in Western Area were visited by Joan and many firm friendships were made. At all the parties and reunions she attended Joan was always the "life and soul of the party", enjoying every single minute until the very end.

At the end of 1990, Joan announced that she was moving to live in Spain. She had already handed over the Western Area Secretary's duties to Edith Francis, but she still remained a member of the Birmingham Branch and, when on a visit to this country, she made an effort to attend our meetings and also came to the Western Area Reunion, which was held in Birmingham in September 1991.

It is hard to imagine that Joan is no longer with us, as she was such a lively, bubbly character, who enjoyed the comradeship of the Association. All the members of Birmingham Branch will miss her.



Birmingham Branch Christmas Party.



Birmingham Branch members "knees up" at their 3rd Birthday Party.



The late Joan Bleasdale pictured in 1988.

EX SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres runs two residential care homes for ex-service men and women, ex-merchant seamen and their widows/widowers. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, for 29 male residents and Hollenden House, in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, for 44 male or female residents including 10 disabled. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they so wish.

These houses are not nursing homes and residents must, on admission, be capable of looking after themselves though help can be given where necessary eg with bathing.

Fees are maintained within the limits set by DSS-Local Authorities. Those interested should write to:

The Administrator
Ex-Service Fellowship Centres
8 Lower Grosvenor Place
London SW1W 0EP
Telephone: 071-828 2468

BOLTON The Branch would appear to have had a busy second half of the year. We started off with a day out to Fleetwood, the weather was very kind to us and we enjoyed strolling round the resort in bright sunshine, we also took a great delight in browsing round the market which has recently been refurbished and is full of stalls offering good bargains.

In June Vision Aid, a charity which helps blind and partially sighted children, held a flag Day which raised in excess of £1000, six of our members turned out to help to sell flags for this very worthy cause and the photograph shows four ladies, two of whom are wearing the Vision Aid white tabards with the logo on, with their collecting boxes.

We made a second visit to the Mayor's Parlour when an ATS Plaque inscribed with WRAC Association, Bolton Branch was presented to the Mayor, this was to mark the 'Standing Down' of the WRAC. The Mayor was very pleased to accept the plaque and it now stands in the showcase outside the Mayor's Parlour along with other regimental plaques which have associations with Bolton.

August came round again with the anniversary of VJ Day, members attended a service at the Cenotaph and wreaths were laid.

October was a busy month with a visit to Blackpool Illuminations, Wigan Pier and Hebden Bridge also members attended the 8th Army El Alamein 50th Anniversary Service and of course there was our Annual Dinner which was much enjoyed by all who attended.

WHITE CLIFF VETERANS

A Hellfire Corner Medal is planned as a private venture together with a series of events in September 1994.

It is open to all those ATS members of Mixed Heavy Ack Ack batteries in the Hellfire Corner Sector of operations especially during the doodlebug campaign.

Details from:

Ken Flint
77 Lydia Road
Walmer
Deal
Kent CT14 9JY

The Branch Chairman and Secretary attended the meeting in Liverpool when the plans for the formation of the new North West Group were outlined.

On 5th November we held a Toy Fair and Home Produce Sale which raised the sum of £73.

Five members travelled to London for the Remembrance Day Parade and the Branch ATS wreath was laid on the cenotaph in Bolton by Mrs Lucy Ainsworth.

BRADFORD We are an active Branch of 61 members, including 16 life members and average 30 to 35 at our monthly meetings.

The Farewell Ceremonies at Guildford in March must rank as the most important and moving event of the year. We had a full coach which included several husbands who spent the day in London while we were in Guildford, we had a puncture on the M1, which delayed us for an hour but did not dampen our spirits. Standard Bearer Norah Kendall was honoured to carry the QMAAC Standard at the service in Guildford Cathedral and the Branch Standard was proudly carried by Mary Wormwell our Deputy.

The afternoon parade was wonderful with us 'oldies' having our own parade after the serving members of the WRAC (very smart), and how we enjoyed it being back on a parade ground, just like old times albeit a few creaking bones all forgotten for the moment.

After a great tea (full marks to the Chefs), it was time for Beating the Retreat and Fireworks Display. Even the torrential rain did not spoil what had been a wonderful, sad and happy day.

We paid a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea (previously arranged), the following day before returning home. If visiting London the hospital is well worth a visit and you are made very welcome, we enjoyed it very much.

The Northern Area Reunion at Cleethorpes was a great success with a delicious lunch thanks to all concerned.

In April we were invited to a 'Pie and Peas' supper by the Association of WRNS and we enjoyed this very much.

Our Standard was paraded at York and Leeds with the Dunkirk Veteran Association in May, and in Bridlington at the Combined Services weekend reunion.

A visit to Wigan at the invitation of the D Day and Normandy Veteran Association for a fun day bowls match was a great success and good fun, most of us had never held a bowl before never mind played the game.

Three of our members celebrated their Golden Weddings; May and Fred Coe, Ada and Ernest Owen and Edna and Gilbert McFarlane. Our Good wishes to all. Edna and Trac visit us often from Canada and join in our activities, they were with us at Leeds, York and Cleethorpe, and are always very welcome.



Bolton Branch members collecting for Vision Aid.

Ivy Wheelhouse hosted a pie and peas lunch, bring and buy sale and raffle at Undercliffe Cricket Club and a profit of over £100 was made.

Norah Kendall had two coffee mornings to show the Guildford video, everyone agreed this was very good.

Once again I have been involved in the 1914-18 war. Sadly, we are down to four now, so rather than letting the lunch go, we decided to invite the Dunkirk Veterans to join us, this they did and we provided a lunch for 60 which everyone enjoyed.

We attended the Remembrance Day Service in Bradford and our own Festival Sunday evening, two of our members attended the Albert Hall Festival and paraded on Sunday morning.

Ten members have been given framed certificates by the Royal British Legion in appreciation for selling poppies for ten years. Nora Holdsworth and Ivy Wheelhouse were awarded special merit badges for 25 years selling poppies, a buffet was provided by the BL, a very nice evening.

A party went to Blackpool Opera House for the show 'They Shall Grow Not Old!' Norah Kendall had a spot on the stage with a 92 year old veteran of the QMAAC, she had joined up in 1916. A very emotional moment.

Others parades attended were the Battle of Britain in September and the El Alamein in October.

CHELMSFORD It has again been a wonderful year for us with membership increasing, whoever envisaged that retirement brought a quiet, peaceful time, as far as we are concerned, must be living in 'cuckooland'!

Both Daphne Attridge, the Secretary and Joyce Wright, the Treasurer can vouch for life becoming one long round of telephone calls, letter writing, finding speakers, organising outings and holidays, arranging barbecues, carol concerts, Christmas parties. You name it and they'll do it! Sometimes with nailbiting, occasionally with panics but always with good humour and a great deal of fun.

Our Branch has blossomed over the last 3½ years with good friendship and with everyone willing to help and lend a hand when needed. May the Branch continue to thrive for many years to come **WELL DONE GIRLS!**

CLEVELAND We have had quite a busy year and having read all the contributions from the Branches published in the Lioness it seems everyone has had some wonderful outings and done fantastic fund raising activities. Keep up the good work, we intend to.

One of our trips out in the summer has turned out to be one we will not forget. We are reminded of it every day. Tyne Tees Television use it on their news round up slot. It is a shot of one of our members, Mrs Brenda Horness ex ATS Despatch Rider, standing top of pyramid of the Royal Corps of Signals Display Team at their Veterans day display at Catterick Camp. The White Helmets, as the team is called presented Brenda with a lovely plaque which she is very proud of. We were very proud of her too on the day, I must say my heart was in my mouth as we watched, however the crowd gave a resounding applause which I am sure Brenda could hear above the roar of the bikes. We certainly will not forget our day at Catterick.

In August a party of thirty went on a trip to Edinburgh Tattoo everyone enjoyed the show, the next day we had a visit to a distillery, also Edinburgh Crystal factory, we only had samples in the distillery, no one complained.

In November a party of twenty members paraded in Whitehall at the Remembrance Service. It was a lovely morning and although I always feel sad on these occasions I am sure more people seem to join us each year to "Remember". While in London a party of us visited the War Museum. Only sorry we couldn't spend more time there, it has quite interesting and unusual displays. many of us attended the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at the Albert Hall, always an excellent production.

This week we have had a very successful coffee morning for fund raising and recruiting new members. We are having our Xmas Lunch December 16th and an Afternoon Dance. Hope to enjoy a break over the holidays, come January we will be back to plan our next years activities. It is a good feeling to have such a great bunch of happy members.



Mrs Brenda Horness with White Helmet Display Team.

COLCHESTER We have now been in existence for just over 4 years and our membership stands at 124, our latest member being Mary Stearn who was the tuba player in the WRAC Band.

Outings, meetings, ploughman's lunches and river trips are all part of our activities during the year and we celebrate the Christmas festivities with a good lunch at the Clacton Golf Club and a party at our December meeting.

The photo on the back cover gives you a good idea of how happy we are and the two ladies in the centre of the front row are the Secretary, Mrs Beryl Wolfe, and the lady in the yellow jumper is the Treasurer, Miss Vera Cole. Kneeling in the front of these two hard workers is Mrs Chris Osman, ex WRAC RMP who was responsible for getting the Colchester Branch off the ground.

CREWE We have had quite a lively year fund raising and once again I am pleased to say have totalled £200 for donations.

We are now having a rest from coffee mornings and jumble sales. In the New Year we will start planning our fund raising activities for 1993. It is getting harder to raise money these days but we shall do our best to maintain our standard.

Our last social outing this year was to Cardiff for the Area Reunion. It was a lovely day and the trip there was very pleasant. We received a very warm welcome from the Cardiff Branch which made our visit very enjoyable and it is always a pleasure to meet old friends again. So thank you Cardiff for making October 17 one of our happy memories this year.

We have a lovely theatre in Crewe, a party of us went to an El Alamein 50 years Celebration there on Oct 24. We are also planning another visit in the New Year.

We have attended the usual Civic and Service Parades and several of us travelled down to London for the Cenotaph Service and Parade, which we always attend with pride and pleasure at meeting old friends and keeping the spirit of the Association going.



Crewe Branch members in Whitehall for Remembrance Day Edith Francis, Jean Webster, Mabel Lightfoot, Betty Patton.

EDINBURGH (Ina) Baxter, the last of our founder members, died on 11 November 1992.

In 1919, during the First World War, at the age of 19 she joined Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, serving until August 1919.

She was a founder member in 1920 of the Edinburgh Branch and remained an active member for many years. As a young woman she was a keen cyclist, cycling all over Scotland. She had a wonderful memory especially for Scottish poems which she loved and could recite with astonishing accuracy to the very end of her life.

After the war she began work in a large firm of solicitors as Accounts Clerk and for many years she acted as Auditor for our Branch. She was a true Christian supporting her Church with the same loyalty and energy which she brought to our Association.

We remember her as a lady who had a smile for everyone and while we grieve at her death we rejoice in her memory.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

A member of the Aylesbury Branch used the Old Comrades Section of the SAGA Magazine to recruit members and received 16 replies.

GREAT GRIMSBY H.M. The Queen sadly comments on her "annus horribilis" but we in Grimsby can report an "annus terrificus".

In January 1992 an over subscribed ATS dinner dance was a huge success and we in turn were royally entertained by the Para's Korean and Normandy Veterans.

Our visit to Guildford in March for the Farewell to the Womens Royal Army Corps in the presence of HM The Queen Mother is an unforgettable memory.

In May we participated in the town's Mayoral Sunday Parade and then hosted the Northern Appeal AGM, this was voted to be a happy choice of venue by all who attended.

Jumble sales and an auction helped to swell our treasure chest of funds and enabled us to have a great but very wet day out on the Yorkshire Steam Railway.

Our hardworking Chairman Olive Grainger after a lengthy stint at the helm handed over her office, at the AGM to Florence Beedie who is proving to be a worthy successor. Olive was presented with a lovely arrangement of silk flowers for all her hard and often unappreciated work.

Our ladies worked very hard for the Poppy Appeal on door to door selling and manning the stalls in supermarket outlets and a coach party went to London for the Remembrance ceremony. It was a super weekend taking in some pre-Christmas shopping and two shows 'Me and My Girl' and 'Phantom of the Opera'.

One member was privileged to attend the Royal Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall and the undoubted star of the show was the 111 year old Canadian Mr George Ives the last survivor of the Boer War and the only man alive entitled to wear the Queen Victoria South Africa Medal. He was cheered and cheered to the rafters and it equalled the last night of the proms, he was also on parade next morning in Whitehall confirming that "Old Soldiers Never Die". Prior to the parade we visited the Garden of Remembrance in St Margaret's in Westminster and placed crosses in memory of four Grimsby ATS killed in action and marvelled at the overall display of poppies, particularly on the El Alamein 50th anniversary plot.

On to Horse Guards Parade to form up with the ever increasing women's section and to renew old acquaintances and to wonder at the many infirm and really elderly men who take part. After the sombre ceremony a little light relief was caused by our 'little Audrey' having to ask a policeman to direct her to the nearest loo. After giving her a look as much to say 'why didn't you go before you started' he escorted her to the fortunately close police station. On her return she said it was the first time she had to have a security check before she could go and on her return, again under escort, and she confirmed that London policemen really are wonderful and before the parade moved off she received some cheeky but friendly banter from the Coastal Flotilla men lined up alongside of us.

Everyone enjoyed the march past and the response from the public clapping and cheering us on, this stiffened our resolve to make it back to Horse Guards Parade and the icing on the cake which was the Salute taken by Prince Andrew, the Duke of York.

We were then clapped in by the Coastal Florida men for having made it. After a stroll along the Embankment we returned by coach to Grimsby and all agreed it to be one of our best ever weekends.

Our Christmas Fayre and party put a joyful stamp on a great years activities. Even more joyful was the news of our indefatigable standard bearer, known to other Association bearers, Grace Talbuts who's forthcoming marriage is in February 1993. All our good wishes go to her and her fiance Fred. Her matron of honour is to be yes guess who 'little Audrey' of Whitehall fame, let us hope she does go before that ceremony gets under way.

LEICESTER AND NOTTINGHAM For the past year we have had a new meeting place more central and well lit for members who use public transport. We now meet at Age Concern, Clarence House, Humberstone Gate. The 2nd Tuesday in the month at 7.00 pm, but we can usually go in at 6.30 pm. Unfortunately, we could not have a room for afternoon meetings and so that arrangement which had been very popular in the winter months had to be overruled.

We send good wishes to our friends at the newly formed Ashby-De-La-Zouch Branch, they had supported us well for many years often in bad weather and we hope to have combined meetings or outings from time to time.

We have again had an interesting and varied year. Members have talked and shown slides of both Israel and Australia and they were very interesting. We joined the many other Association Members at Guildford in March for the farewell ceremonies. Those of us who attended the Cathedral Service were very proud and sad, as were those whom we joined for the rest of the days programme. Certainly many memories were relived and those who marched in the parade were very thrilled and proud to do so.

In June we attended the 2nd rehearsal of the Trooping of the Colour now known as the Colonels' Review. After a week we were very lucky to have a fine day not too warm and it was a wonderful spectacle enjoyed by everyone.

Our highlight of this year has been the dedication of our Branch Standard. Although we are a long established branch, it was not until newer members voiced the desire to have a standard that we seriously considered it. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange a suitable date in Leicester and we wanted to have the dedication as soon as possible to enable us to carry our Standard at the Battle of Britain Parade in September, and the Leicester Festival of Remembrance in November.

Sunday 2nd August, a sunny warm day, saw us at Melton Mowbray for our parade. The Rector of St. Mary's Parish Church, the Rev D. H. Thorpe is Padre to the RAVC and so he was in tune with our request and conducted a most impressive service. We are indebted to all who contributed to make it such a memorable occasion. The parade was led by the Syston Branch band of the Royal British Legion and the Association of the RN, RAVC, RAF, WRAF and members of Melton Mowbray Royal British Legion joined us to make a very good parade.



Leicester Branch standard.

HARROGATE The Branch has had a happy and busy year and everyone seems to have enjoyed the varied programme of activities with a good attendance at all the meetings and functions.

Sadly we lost a longstanding member, Mrs Ann McCaw, who died on 21 October after a lengthy period of ill health.

A party of members went to Guildford on 25 March to participate in the farewell ceremonies, a memorable and nostalgic day even if it did culminate in "heavenly tears" for the beating of the Retreat and fireworks! At the end of March we had a very successful and enjoyable lunch at the Green Park Hotel, preceded in early March by a visit to the Royal Hall to see Harrogate Operatic Society's production of "Can Can".

The May Day Bank Holiday brought our annual Tombola stall at Bilton gala in aid of Benevolent and Branch funds, and on Saturday 16 May we travelled to Cleethorpes for the Northern Area Reunion, which was a huge success and included an excellent lunch instead of the usual afternoon tea.

Summer outings in June and July took the form of a coach trip to Skipton market and Embsay Moors, and a visit to Yorkshire Television Studios in Leeds to see a new game show recorded, the latter proving quite an eye-opening experience!

Back at Base we had some interesting meetings, including a fascinating talk on Hospital Radio with recordings of interviews with a number of celebrities visiting Harrogate, followed by an instructive talk on Chiropody and our feet.

There was a demonstration of Candles by the owner of an aptly-named local shop, "Flickers", and a talk by the Editor of the Harrogate Advertiser and Herald who provided an insight into the world of the press, as well as giving members the opportunity to offload a few criticisms in the process! We also had a talk on the local Victim Support Organisation, plus a successful local authoress describing her progress and experiences as a novelist.

Needless to say our AGM took place in October and we finished the year with the annual Christmas Party in December, where the inevitable mountain of delicious food appeared.

The 1993 programme is being prepared at the time of writing, and as this will bring the 25th year of the Branch's existence some Silver Jubilee celebrations will no doubt be included.

WRAC Association Grand Reunion 1994

75th Anniversary of the Formation of the Association

PDF Compressor Free Version

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

PDF Compressor Free Version 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.....

Association Branch.....

I wish to apply for tickets for the following events:

SERVICE IN GUILDFORD CATHEDRALYES/NO

GRAND REUNION DINNER @ £20.00YES/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

MemberYES/NO

Life/Annual

Length of membership

Subs paid for 1993YES/NO

Branch confirmed.....

Branch Official.....

TICKETS SENT

Cathedral.....

Dinner.....

Accommodation
(if applicable)

Secretaries Lunch

INITIALS

Receipt No.....

Date ack sent.....

INITIALS

The standard was carried by Mrs Vi Rawlings, the escorts were Mrs Lilian Hollis and Mrs Luois Coltman. The Lesson was read by our chairman, Miss F D White TD. It was a very moving experience as the Standard was unfurled, blessed and laid upon the altar for the rest of the service. The other Associations approached the front and at the close of the service they joined our Standard and together were dipped for the National Anthem. With our Standard flying, our Association detachment led the parade back to the Royal British Legion, where the Mens Section had given us the use of their social room and the Ladies Section provided a splendid tea for us all. An Officer and detachment of girls, soldiers from the RAVC joined us at the reception and we hope they will join the Association and come along to at least some of our meetings, it would be nice to have some younger members.

To our friends who were unable to join us because of distance, holidays or short notice of the date, we assure you that we thought of you all, for without your generosity along with those of us able to attend the service, there would not have been a Standard.

For our September meeting we held an enjoyable Beetle Drive, it does get people moving around and mixing rather more than usual.

We had a Bring and Buy sale in October and members of the other womens services associations were invited and an enjoyable evening raised £60.00 for our funds.

MANCHESTER Sadly we have to report the death of a dear member, Elsie Halliday, passed away after a long illness, she will be sadly missed.

Some of our members were invited on holiday with a Branch of the Monte Cassino Veterans. They went to Clythowille in Kent. Whilst there they went over to Belgium. They laid a wreath on the war memorial, then visited the war graves at Dunkirk. Whilst there they met up with ATS from Ramsgate. All our party remarked how smart they looked as they marched past.

In October our Secretary attended a meeting for the Secretary of our new area held at Liverpool. She explained how welcome they were made, we hope to reach out to them in the near future.

We also had a Bring and Buy as usual at this time of the year, proceeds of course for the Benevolent fund.

We were busy once again as November came around. As usual we attended the Blackpool show 'They shall not grow old'. This year the theme of the show was about the transfer and intermingling of segments. We were very proud to see the ATS standard on parade on stage. Praise indeed by the compere for the Association explaining the start as QMAAC during the Great War then on to ATS 2nd War then renamed WRAC afterwards. At this point a member of the QMAAC was called on stage. She made it with pride as helped on the stage her being very much over 90 years of age. I understand she was a member of London Branch, she was given a great ovation by the audience. All our party stood up and waved our flags enthusiastically. This will be the last show given as the conductor has to retire through ill health. We will always remember this last show in particular and the salute that was given to us.

A good party turned up for parade on Armistice Sunday. We laid our wreath and marched proudly passed the saluting base, giving a smart "eyes right". Afterwards into the Town Hall, where we feasted on hot pot, apple pie and cream and a glass of wine topped up with warm coffee.

MIDDLESBROUGH We have had a good year. We have not increased our membership numbers.

We meet as usual on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We have a Bring and Buy and a raffle etc to try to increase funds. This year has been exceptional as we have been entertaining at old peoples homes and Darby & Joan Club.

We have made a bit of money for various charities. We have just finished a Grand Charity Show called "A Walk Down Memory Lane". Some of our members performed. We managed to raise over £200 for the Cleveland Mental Health Support Group on the 20 November 1992. We have also had days out in the summer to the seaside and visited several places of interest.

Twenty of our members attended the Northern Area Reunion at Cleethorpes. Some of our members attended the ATS Dinner Club Lunch at the Wellington Barracks. We are all very happy to have formed the Northern Area after the demising of the WRAC.

We send all our best wishes to the forming of the Adjutant Generals Corps. It seems to have gone round full circle as we were in khaki now the AGC are in khaki too. I am sure the girls will enjoy their service now that they have the same rights as the men.

We were sorry to lose one of our members, Mrs Betty Davies who died on the 12 July 1992.

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK New members have joined us this year and our monthly meetings in Norwich continue to be well attended. As a demonstration of how this Branch has expanded, some 40 members attended our annual luncheon whereas in 1986 we could muster only 10.

We have learned much from the variety of speakers who have come along during the past year to visit us. A member of the Samaritans gave us an insight into the work of that dedicated group and the following month we were told about the activities involved in producing Chatterbox, the weekly local talking newspaper for the blind. Then we had a most unusual subject entitled "From Nun to Mum" by Mrs Clare Richards, who after many years as a young nun left her vocation, married and with her husband adopted two babies from Colombia. She told us of all the great difficulties they encountered and how finally they were allowed to bring back two pathetic, half-starved little bundles who are growing up into healthy exuberant and bright youngsters. A television programme was made by the BBC when Mr and Mrs Richards took the twins, then aged 9, back to Colombia to visit their home village, and with funds raised by the Richards two schools have been erected there named after the children.

At our meeting in December the librarian of the 2nd American Air Division Memorial Room in Norwich Library gave a graphic description of the return of some one thousand Americans last summer to Norfolk to visit the air bases from which they flew during the war. Norfolk was the home of the 2nd US Air Division and in 1992 many returning Americans were united with the families who had befriended them when they had first arrived in this country.

We have been contacted by a researcher in the Great Yarmouth area who is anxious to commemorate in some way 24 ATS girls who lost their lives in a bombing raid on Great Yarmouth in May 1943, as 1993 will be the 50th anniversary of that sad occasion. Many names are recorded, and in the correspondance pages of this magazine we have asked if anyone who has any knowledge of, or was involved in some way in this incident, to get in touch with us and we will pass on any information to the researchers.



Members of Norfolk and Suffolk Branch at their Annual Luncheon.

In June we had a coach trip to visit Holkham Hall and its beautiful parkland and from there to Wells-next-the-Sea for a breath of ozone. Lovely day, enjoyed to the full by all who were able to take advantage of the day out.

Members continue to knit for Oxfam to distribute.

Shortly we shall be visiting St Andrew's Church for a service of dedication of the ATS and WRAC kneelers we have produced. It is a matter of some concern to the members of this group who meet in Norwich that, because of the distances involved, there is little or no opportunity for those who live in Suffolk and pay their subscriptions via the Secretary of the Branch in Norwich to take part in meetings here. We would therefore like to suggest that a separate Branch be set up in Suffolk, perhaps centrally in Ipswich, where members would find it easier to meet and to form themselves into a group with which they could more readily identify. We are taking this opportunity to ask if any Suffolk member would be prepared to form such a Branch, and if so to contact our Secretary who will most willingly co-operate in any way she can to set up a Suffolk group. Our Secretary, Mrs Kathleen Berwick, can be contacted on Norfolk 563365. Once a Secretary and Treasurer can be found and official permission given for a new Branch, there should be no reason why Suffolk should not be the proud possessor of its own WRAC Association Group and enjoy the advantages of regular meetings, with the friendliness and comradeship they engender.

PORTSMOUTH 1992 has been a very busy and interesting year for the Portsmouth Branch. Started in February when our secretary attended the reception given for the WRAC at Clarence House held by HM The Queen Mother.

Clarence House is beautiful inside and she had a wonderful evening and felt it was a great honour to be invited.

On March 1st a party of members travelled to Guildford to the farewell concert given by the WRAC Band. The concert with about 97 musicians on stage and five different conductors was the best we have ever attended, although in some ways a sad occasion for the band.

The highlight this year was March 25 at Guildford when 25 members attended, including our Standard and Stan-

dard Bearer. Four members and our Standard Bearer with Standard went to the service at Guildford Cathedral. It was an unforgettable day and we felt very proud to march in the parade and had great fun picking out our members from the pictures in The Lioness. The weather was not very kind in the evening and we all thought the WRAC Band were wonderful performing in the pouring rain. The catering arrangements were first class and although again a sad occasion, meaning the end of the WRAC, it was a day we shall always remember.

A few members attended the AGM in London and it was interesting to hear what is going to happen in the future regarding the Association and the new Corps that have been formed.

On April 6 members went to the luncheon given by the Isle of Wight Branch at Ryde, we all enjoyed our day very much thanks to the welcome we received from the Isle of Wight members.

At the beginning of June, 12 members went to Worthy Down for The Adjutant General's Corps Inaugural Garden Party. Rain seems to follow us to our outings, it was a dreadful day raining cold, with mud everywhere. Our secretary had the honour of being in the VIP tent for tea and was presented to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, who is a very charming lady.

On September 7 members went to the Southampton Branch luncheon. That was another enjoyable day thanks to the Southampton Branch members.

September 20th saw us again at Worthy Down no rain this time, four of us attended the service at The Garrison Church for the Presentation and Dedication of kneelers made by members of the ATS Dinner Club. One of the kneelers was made by our treasurer Miss I Clover. It is a lovely little church and we received a wonderful welcome from the Station Chaplain church members and the Sunday School children. The Reverend W Robson who as well as conducting a nice service is also good at making tea and coffee which he did for us when we arrived.

In October we were able to return the Isle-of-Wight and Southampton Branches hospitality by holding the Portsmouth Luncheon at the Salisbury Hotel. It was our first attempt at this and all went well and everyone seemed to enjoy the day. The Secretary put on her peak cap to be in charge of the transport and waited at the harbour station with two mini buses to pick up our guest and members coming from outside the city.

Our draw raised £41.00 which helps with Branch expenses and donations to charity. Our fund raising events were an American tea party at our Standard Bearers home in August which went very well. A coffee given by the secretary in September. In November we had a stall at the Red Cross fair. Our members also helped the Red Cross with teas, collecting money and the Tombola stall. These events enabled us to send donations to WRAC Benevolent Fund, The Princess Royals Memorial Fund and the Royal Star and Garter Home. During the year we have helped with collections for the Red Cross, SSAFA and the Poppy Appeal.

We attended the Civic Remembrance Parade with our Standard and laid a wreath. We have also attended a number of other parades with our male ex service associations and our Standard has been carried very smartly by our standard bearer Mrs P Price: our membership remains the same but sadly we lost two of our long standing members who died this year.

When Brighton Branch closed we gained about five of their members. We are still however looking and hoping that we will gain some more younger ex WRAC members to help carry the Branch on into the future.

SALISBURY Another busy and happy six months seem to have flown by since the last report.

On a lovely day in June we made our way by mini coach to Semley to visit the church. One of the church wardens kindly took us on a most interesting tour, plus the history of the church and we were privileged to see your beautiful window in memory of WPC Yvonne Fletcher who was killed in London, and who had lived in Semley. On to Mere for a faith lunch hosted by one of our members at her house and garden by the river, complete with ducks and large trout! On to Thorngrove Park to visit the Horticultural Centre run for any by the Mentally Handicapped. Our thanks for tours of the greenhouses and a welcome cup of tea.

Our July meeting was held at Hedley Davis Court, a British Legion Housing Centre where several members have flats, a fine buffet supper was much enjoyed and we were happy to have several residents join us. Members were able to visit our flats.

Our AGM in September gave us the opportunity to plan for next year and to thank our hard working committee.

A successful Bring and Buy stall and a faith lunch brought us up to date and we now look forward to our Christmas lunch at Salisbury College.

STAFFORD Our meetings continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club, Stafford at 7.30 pm. We have 27 annual meetings, 7 life members and one Association member.

During the year one of our members moved to North Humberside and, sadly, two of our members died.

Our Branch includes members from the Potteries and Burton-upon-Trent who are unable to attend meetings, they are kept in touch with our activities by a "Newsletter".

We have had a few speakers during the year, one who explained his duties as a Magistrate and a lady, who has been on the Parole Board of our local prison for a number of years, who gave us an insight into prison life.

We have also had quiz nights which are quite popular and Bingo is always a good standby if a speaker is not available.

During the summer months we went out and about and enjoyed meals in local pubs on two occasions. In July we had a "get together" and refreshments at the home of the Secretary and in September our President entertained us at her home.

On Remembrance Sunday 4 of our Branch members attended the Cenotaph Service in Whitehall and 4 others attended the Stafford Service where a wreath was laid at the War Memorial.

STIRLING The Branch which includes all of the Central Region has 56 annual members and one life member. Numbers are increasing and about 30 members attend the meetings on the last Saturday of each month.

At the AGM in October it was decided to send £100 to the ATS Benevolent Fund. This was suitably acknowledged in the annual report issued by Association Headquarters.

A member issued tubes of Smarties to most of the regular attenders who, when they had eaten the sweets, filled the tubes with coins. It is hoped to send a substantial donation from this effort to Erskine Hospital who now provide care and attention to ex-Servicewomen.

Falkirk District Council invited the Branch to send four ex-ATS to take part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance in Falkirk Town Hall in November. Four ladies were proud to take part wearing their green Association jumpers.

Fifteen members also took part in the Service of Remembrance in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling, on Sunday 10 November.

A very successful Christmas lunch was held at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling, and was attended by 40 members. In January a Burns concert was arranged and performed by some of our own members and as a consequence a cheque for £100 was sent to Erskine Hospital.

The local Community Minister the Reverend Jack Lamb gave a talk in February on his work with the profoundly deaf.

In March the Secretary gave a talk on her visit to Guildford to hear the final concert of the WRAC band, the wonderful church service at Guildford Cathedral and the final parade at Queen Elizabeth Park which was honoured by the attendance of HRH Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and HRH The Duchess of Kent. A spectacular day of events.

REUNIONS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

For some, the thought of leaving the forces is a daunting prospect. How will you cope leaving behind old haunts, old routines not to mention old mates? Fortunately, there's a way to keep in touch with the past and look to the future – The Royal British Legion.

With 1000 clubs nationwide you can always find somewhere to reminisce, play sport and enjoy an evening's entertainment with people from similar backgrounds to your own.

As a member you'll also qualify for discount travel, insurance and other benefits. But more importantly, while you're helping yourself, your membership will help other ex-Service people in need.

What's more, you don't have to wait until you leave to join. For more information about us or to join, please send in the coupon below.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Please send me details on: Becoming a member of The Royal British Legion ☐
The benevolent work of The Royal British Legion ☐

Send to: The General Secretary, Headquarters, The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

Name

Address

Postcode

In April Mr Ross Stewart gave another talk on the Burma Campaign in which he was personally involved.

In May the British Legion invited members to join them in a social evening at Grangemouth. This gesture was much appreciated and was enjoyed by everyone. One of our members who lives permanently in Spain visited the Secretary and gave a generous donation to the funds. She looks forward to receiving the Lioness and our reports and passes them to other interested ex-servicewomen.

After the summer break at the September meeting, it was a pleasure to have Mrs Wyatt of the Glasgow Branch, who gave a superb demonstration on how she makes Faberge eggs. Her exhibits are works of art.

Sadly, on 11 October 92 Mrs Liley Ferrie one of our founder members died suddenly in Falkirk. She had been looking forward at taking part in the Falkirk Festival of Remembrance as one of the four ex-ATS members taking part in the Muster.

SWANSEA Once again a busy year. We still meet at the Swansea Guildhall and our meetings are very well attended.

In June we had a make up demonstration by Janin and Pauline from "Yves St Laurent" of "Debenhams". Vi Bates our Treasurer was the model.

In August saw us at Veronicas for our summer Garden Party. The weather was very unkind so we had our tea indoors. We all enjoyed it.

In September we were entertained by Mr Dixie Dean, who gave us an insight into his life in the forces. Among his comrades was Sir Harry Secombe, so we heard some hilarious tales, also some sad ones.

In October we travelled to Cardiff to attend the WRAC Reunion and Social afternoon at the TA Centre. It was hosted by the Cardiff/Newport Branch, Western Area. We met as usual with our friends from other Branches and enjoyed a nice meal, stalls and raffles etc. . . . Thanks to all concerned who made it possible.

In November the Armistic Service was held on Saturday 7th at Swansea Brangwyn Hall. There seemed to be more than usual Service Personnel there this year.

On Sunday 8th, a service was held at St Marys Church, which was well attended by the Public. Representatives from all Branches of the Forces marched along the Kinsway, and this made an impressive parade.

November 11th saw us at the Cenotaph on the Promenade, the weather was atrocious, but quite a crowd braved the elements.



*Members of Swansea Branch on Parade in Guildhall
V Barrington, M Norton, E Lewis, F Huckle, D Stern, E Andrews.*

WIMBLEDON Brigadier Dame Mary Railton DBE was our President for 22 years from 1963-1985. We would like to pay tribute to a truly great lady. Her unfailing kindness and interest in all our members is unforgettable. Each year, on a Sunday afternoon in August after Dame Mary's move to Great Bedwyn, as many of our members who could arrange transport descended on Dame Mary and Col Holt for tea and croquet and had a delightful time. At our Annual General Meeting on November 20th we remembered her in silence.

We now have 94 members and get about 25 attending each meeting at the Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbeldon behind "Ely's" department store. We meet at 2 pm on the second Friday in each month, no meetings in January or August, and the Annual general Meeting is on the third Friday in November. We have a varied programme of speakers, two Bring and Buys from which we make donations to Charity and a summer and Christmas party. Our Chairman Mrs Iris Smith (nee Steed) was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Association's Annual General Meeting in March.

Since our Annual General meeting we have learnt of the death of one of our founder members, Miss Samuda who also did a lot of work for the British Legion. We were represented at her Cremation Service by another founder member and our Branch Secretary.

Edith Brough laid the wreath at Wimbledon War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on our behalf and several members attended the parade at the Cenotaph on November 7th 1992.

ULSTER Activities for the Ulster Branch in 1992 began with our annual luncheon and Bring and Buy sale in February in the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society member room. 64 members enjoyed a nice lunch and good crack!

In June 40 of us went to the historic city of Londonderry, the Maiden City. Our main port of call was the Guildhall where some of us had danced with Americans to the celebrated Squadron Aires Orchestra. The Guildhall has had drastic unwelcome attention from the boys, having been badly bombed in the 70s and repairs only being completed in the 80s. Beautiful stained-glass windows which had originally been commissioned and donated by many of the wealthy and ancient tradesguilds of London hence the prefix 'LONDON' to the old name of DAIRE or DERRY. A 6 feet high 1 ton weight, marble statue of Queen Victoria still has one hand missing.

Some 24 members enjoyed the yearly visit to join our Omagh Branch friends for lunch in September. Our AGM in November due to the kindness of the Royal British Legion Bangor Branch was again held in their premises in Bangor, County Down. We were sad that we had no representative from our female Army friends and now admit to feeling slightly cut off.

Our congratulations to one of our members Mrs Grace Herbert who received an MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours on May 22nd 1993 we hope to 'Do' the Omagh Folk Park.

HISTORICAL ITEMS

On 6 April 1992 the WRAC ceased to exist. At that point all items relating to the WRAC became historical items.

The temptation is to throw things away because they are of recent use but records need to be preserved.

Items such as sign boards, unit flags, headed stationery, rubber stamps, badged crockery, badged silverware, menu and place cards, programmes of events, pictures (with captions and dated) are all needed.

Please direct any such items to:
National Army Museum
Royal Hospital Road
Chelsea
London SW3 4HT



*?, Mrs Hill, ?, Mrs Price, Brig Ramsey, Miss Clover,
Mrs Metherell, Miss Bray.
Taking a breather after presenting ATS Kneelers
20 September 1992.*



*Presentation of ATS Kneelers to AG Corps Chapel.
Mrs Beeston, Brig Ramsey, Major General Grist,
Mrs Juby 20 September 1992.*

REUNIONS

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH REUNION 23 MAY 1993

A reunion for members of the branches in the South Group will be held at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop near Salisbury on Sunday 23 May 1993. For details contact Mrs J Morgan, 21 Hedley Davis Court, Cherry Orchard Lane, Salisbury SP2 7UE (tel. 0722 335896).

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH WEST REUNION 13 JUNE 1993

A reunion for members of the branches in the South West Group is to be held on Sunday 13 June 1993 in the Royal Citadel, Plymouth. For more details contact Mrs L Hannaford, 16 Coronation Place, St Budeaux, Plymouth.

WRAC ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST REUNION 25 SEPTEMBER 1993

A reunion for members of the branches of Wales and the West Group will be held in the Wrexham Memorial Hall on Saturday 25 September 1993. For more details contact Mrs Rzeszewska, 125 Bryn Offa, Ruthin Road, Wrexham, Clwyd LL13 7UE.

WRAC ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST

The North East Reunion will be held in the York and Ainsty Suite at York Racecourse on Saturday 1 May 1993 from 12 noon to 5pm. Our Vice-President, Brigadier Anne Field CB, has kindly agreed to join us on this occasion. There will be a buffet lunch with hot and cold items. Tickets costing £8.00 (including lunch) are obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, N Yorks (tel. 0423 507023) not later than 17 April 1993. Please send SAE with cheque/postal order payable to WRAC ASSOCIATION (NORTHERN AREA). Please note that bookings must be made by 17 April, no tickets will be available after that date or at the door.

WRAC ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST REUNION 17 OCTOBER 1992

On Saturday 17 October 1992, Western held their annual reunion at the TA Centre, Gabalfa Avenue, Cardiff. This years hosts were Cardiff Branch with unstinting help from Major E M Walters AGC, Western Area Chairman. Eight branches of Western Area were present plus representatives from Bath and Cheltenham.

A branch secretaries meeting was held in the morning. Lt Col Dunn (Ass Gen Sec) advised us of a shortfall of £60000 in the Benevolent Fund due to disbandment of the WRAC. He requested that branches should send their donations to the Benevolent Fund.

In the main hall there were several stalls; craft, cakes, tombola and raffles, which were well patronised. Refreshments were provided by the catering staff at the TA Centre with military precision and to a high standard.

Due to the success of the day and the marvellous effort by all, a superb donation of £250 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund. Once again a special thanks to Major Walters and Margaret Crook, the Cardiff secretary, for their tremendous hard work in the organisation of this very successful reunion. WELL DONE CARDIFF.



Mrs Joan Mason in Welsh National costume at Wales and the West Reunion October 17th in Cardiff.



Mrs Margaret Crook organiser of the Wales and West Reunion selling yet more raffle tickets.

576 (CMT) COMPANY RASC/ATS REUNION MAY 1993

A reunion for members of the unit is to be held in May 1993. For details contact Mrs Patricia Peggs (née Fielding), 61 Brian Avenue, Norwich NR1 2PD. They are particularly keen to trace Paddy Cullen.

ATS DINNER CLUB – ANNUAL LUNCHEON 3 OCTOBER 1992

Around 400 members attended the Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 3 October 1992. Outside it was a cold wet day – a stark contrast to the warmth inside. Joining up with friends, in many cases a once-a-year pleasure, and making new acquaintances created the happy atmosphere we have come to expect on these occasions. All the usual features were there, a drink with friends, an excellent luncheon, a spectacular raffle and, in addition, the beautiful chapel and museum to visit. The last opportunity to see these since, sadly, we shall not be meeting again in Wellington Barracks.

Mrs Juby chaired the occasion and brought us up to date on current matters. Loyal Greetings were sent to HM The Queen and HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and we were pleased to hear of the pleasure Their Majesties expressed on receiving them. Brigadier Stuart Richardson charmed us all with his complimentary speech.

The possibility of meeting for a weekend in Buxton in 1994 was announced and further details will be forthcoming.

We now have a membership of over 1100 – come and swell the numbers – a privilege for all who served in the ATS. Contact the Membership Secretary Mrs M Fellows, 20 Mount Nod Way, Coventry CV5 7GY.

"21" AND "2J" COMPANY ATS KING ALFRED'S COLLEGE WINCHESTER REUNION 2/3 JULY 1993

Clarissa Ellis has done a great job co operating with the authorities who allow us membership of the Winton Club. Therefore attendance at the Annual General Meeting and other activities over a weekend in July is being offered, plus accommodation (if required) in the halls of residence at reasonable rates (you may even be in your old room).

During the war 'the girls' were employed on ATS Records. Yes, we did come under the War Office, and wore the War Office badge over the breast pocket. However War Office Records, as far as I know, were located in London while ATS Records were at Winchester. First I Coy, and then, as numbers increased I and J Coys. We worked in offices in the College, the gym, the huts and other extensions of the College. The majority of I Coy personnel lived in College accommodation. J Coy personnel were housed in the surrounding area – Peninsula Road, Christchurch Road, and Radley House. The Officers' Messes were on Sleepers Hill and Sparksford Road. There was other accommodation but those mentioned covered most of the 600 plus personnel.

As stated Clarissa has done really well organising this annual reunion. It would be nice to see a few more, some of the GD Platoons, and more from J Coy. So please do contact her and come along with your photographs. The contact address is Miss C I Ellis, 'Whitehaven', Boyatt Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester SO21 (tel. 0703 254024).

MALAYAN PILGRIMAGE C135

On 12 June 1993 a commemorative service will be held at the Batu Gajah Christian cemetery to pay homage to those who fell in the Second World War during the Malayan Emergency and the Borneo Confrontation. The pilgrimage will start on 6 June 1993 for 21 days. For more details contact Peter Dawson, 9 Park Avenue East, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5J2.

CANADIAN WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS UNIT 47 OF THE CANADIAN CORPS ASSOCIATION

Reunion comments by the President, Vera Morgan.

Hearty thanks are in order to each and everyone who did an admirable job on the preparing and the chores to make this years reunion a success. The great work done by the Canadian Corps Headquarters Ladies Auxiliary in serving at the Reunion Banquet. A special mention and thanks also to the Headquarters Building Stewards and staff for their courtesy and their willingness to help. To our own CWAC Unit 47 members who so admirably performed the many requirements such as Colour Party, preparing and serving Saturday evening lunch, photo display, reunion brochure, registrations, donations and, of course, the ticket sellers. The winner of the Miss Sunnybrook Doll incidentally was Mrs Lalonde of Bowmanville, Ontario. Congratulations. Many thanks also to past President Jean Edgerton and her husband, Howard, for a tremendously entertaining and enjoyable performance of their tap dance routine.

Brigadier-General Beno, our special Canadian Armed Forces representative and guest speaker, a charming person, was very impressed with the alertness of the CWAC Veterans. He said that "they left a tremendous legacy to those serving presently". In his speech, General Beno brought us up to date on the various activities of the Canadian Armed Forces, particularly their role as peace keeping forces in different parts of the world.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Myra Harrison (née Johnson) of 11/57 Clairville Road, Campbelltown 5074, South Australia wishes to contact Miss Ffr. Bayerstock. She was stationed at Strensall Barracks and acted as bridesmaid at Myra and Cliff's wedding in Cheadle, Cheshire in 1945.

Mr W Court of Marsh Acres, High Lane, Sloothby, Alford, Lincolnshire would like to hear from anyone who knew his late wife during the period late 1942 to 1944. Mavis Court (née Fry) joined the ATS in 1942 and was posted to 554(M) HAA Battery. In early 1945 she moved to Castle Donnington with the RAOC. Sadly Mavis died in July 1992, however her husband is very keen to fill in the "missing years" of her service life during which time they met and married.

Mrs E M Morgan (née Kerr) of 36 Hatton Road, Luncarty, Perth wishes to hear from any ex ATS friends she knew between January 1945 and July 1946. Mrs Morgan, known as Lynn Kerr, trained at Newbattle Abbey, Edinburgh and Gresford, North Wales. She was then posted to 354 MT Coy in Park Circus, Glasgow followed by Aldershot and finally Staff College, Camberley in 1946. Unfortunately she was involved in a serious accident in July 1946 and as a consequence of memory loss and paralysis she has lost contact with all her ATS friends. In particular Mrs Morgan is keen to correspond with Iren Kirkhope, Nancy Taylor and Sonia Bowes-Lyon. However she would welcome news from anyone whom she met throughout her time in the ATS.

On the topic of PT... Mrs Selena (Lena) Price (née Whitehouse) who served with 477(M) HAA Battery remembers a gruelling PT course held at the London District School of Physical Training (now Hendon Police College) in March 1945. A photograph in glamorous PT kit was taken to mark the occasion. Anyone who was on that course or who answers to the name; Thelma M, Pat V, Nan D, Yorky-Chick or Ethel, please contact Mrs Price at 28 Sherbourne Crescent, Coventry CV5 8LE.

Mr F McL Cox has written an interesting letter detailing the wearing of soldiers cap badges on the tunics of those ATS personnel attached to training units of Foot Guards Regiments. The Guards Armoured Training Wing at Pirbright issued the Brigade Star to attached personnel during 1942/43. Mr Cox wishes to know if any ex ATS were issued with the star at a Guards Depot, and if so, how and when was it issued? He collects badges but has been unable to obtain one despite numerous enquiries. If you can help please contact Mr Cox at 30 Gransha Road South, Bangor County Down, Northern Ireland.

Mrs Pat Coe (née Drewitt) of 102D Valley Stream Drive, Nepean, Ontario K2H 9E1, Canada wishes to contact some old friends from 498(M) HAA Battery, 144 Regiment stationed in Washington, County Durham in 1946. In particular the girls she trained with at Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester November 1946; Betty Softley, Enid Brayshaw, Edna Royal and Greta Brewerton. Mrs Coe is visiting England this year and would like to have a reunion.

Mr Alan Jackson of 96 Hurstwood Road, High Barnes, Sunderland SR4 7LF, Tyne and Wear is anxious to learn about his mother Mrs Emily Todd Jackson (née Smith) who died on 14 Oct 1992. She served in the WAAF during WW2 at the Bomber Command Station in Northumberland and Errol, Perthshire, Scotland. She looked after aircraft crews of the Polish, Russian and Hungarian air forces.

She recounted stories that may jog someones memory. On guard duty in the early hours a man approached and she challenged him "Who goes there friend or foe?". On receiving no reply she clobbered him. Unfortunately it was an officer from the camp, however she was not charged. She also helped capture a German while once again on night duty at Wimslow near Birmingham. Any information on Emily Smith would be appreciated.



Emily Todd-Jackson (née Smith) pictured in her uniform during World War II.

For sentimental reasons Mrs Segula Pearson (née Vahab) of 189 Coombe Lane, London SW20 0RG (tel. 081 947 1059) would like to contact the ATS Commanding Officer of the ATS Jewish Palestine Contingent, 15 Scottish General Hospital in Cairo 1945.

Mrs Lucy Newberry (née Griffiths) of 13 Norwood House, Pennsylvania Road, Exeter EX4 6TR wishes to contact Edith Dunn who joined on the same day, 20 October 1944, and trained in Pontefract, Yorkshire. Her last known address was Boulder Cottage, Llandudno Junction, N Wales. Also Mrs Newberry wishes to be included in London in 1945 and came from Wellingborough, Northants. Mrs Newberry worked in H Coy, No1 London District, Ibex House in the Records Office and wants to know if anyone remembers the Stage Door Canteen or Queensbury Club.

Mrs Terri Goff (née Holmes) urgently wants to contact anyone who worked with herself, Cpl Margery McKeating and Pte Joyce Parfait on the Rhine Army Telephone Exchange, Bad Oeynhausen from 1946 to 1949. In particular Nancy Colquhoun, Ginger Hadley, Ris Lingley, Olive Wright, Cathie McDiarmid, Marion Blakeman, Monty Gilbert, Anne Bryant or Doreen Cheary. Please contact Terri Goff on 0952 811532 or Margery on 0900 603019.

Mrs Olive Durkin has kindly written requesting us to extend an invitation to anyone travelling to Sydney, Australia to visit the British Ex-Services Club, 44 Market Street of which she is Vice-President . . . And on the same topic Mrs Barbara Jones (née Williams) wrote to say what an excellent reception she and her husband received at the club when they visited Sydney in 1991. They were given honorary membership and met up with some old friends including Olive Durkin and Grace Hansford from Katoomba. Barbara sends her love and thanks to all the club members who made her stay so enjoyable. She recommends the club to anyone passing through Sydney, mentioning in particular the assured "Right Royal Welcome at the Club".

Mrs Isobel Henry (née Pippin Kerr) c/o Post Office, Currumbin Beach, Queensland 4223, Australia, wishes to make contact with Corporal Esme Nosworthy of No.2 Coy, Training Battalion (M), Royal Signals at Putney or anyone from that unit.

Mrs D O Lane (née Howland) of 51 Herne Bay Road, Tankerton, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2LJ, would like to hear from Ellen Cox and Amy Patricia Sims who were with her in Queen Anne's Gate, London while working at the High Speed Wireless Station.



*Wedding Group of Leo & Muriel Hogan in Epsom
April 1944.
Kine AT with 2nd Heavy Regiment.
(Scrapbook found in a ship and returned anonymously.)*

Mrs Sylvia Crook (née Woolston - ex 606 Bty) has written again to say she would be pleased to hear from ex members of ANY Mixed Heavy Ack-Ack Batteries who want to be included in her search. To date she has thirty batteries in her file and has already 'linked' quite a few people. Please include maiden name. The contact address is 14 The Larches, Horsell Vale, Woking GU21 4RE. Sylvia has enclosed a photograph taken at an ATS training camp in Oswestry mid 1943. She is trying to find Peg Cooke (2nd row from bottom, two left of Sgt Ben Ward) who married to become Sub Evans and was posted to a battery in the 'Diver Belt'. Do you know anything about her? Finally Sylvia would like all ex ATS personnel suffering from deafness (especially from gun sites) to know that they can apply for a disability pension. The process can be lengthy but worthwhile. One successful applicant is now £70 per week better off.



*ATS Training Camp, Oswestry, 1943.
Anyone you recognise? The permanent staff located
in the middle of the second row from bottom are from
left to right, Sgt Peg Cooke, Sgt Dea Adamson and
Sgt Ben Ward.*

Janet Burnett (née Preston) wishes to contact a relative known in 1943 as Elsie Maud Preston. Elsie was a bakeress with the ATS. Would Elsie or anyone with helpful information please contact Mrs Burnett c/o Open Home Foundation, PO Box 1710, Palmerston North, New Zealand (tel. 06 35 64 398).



*C Company ATS in "Salute the Soldier" Parade, Clacton
June 1944.*

Mrs Oriana A Rosie (née Waller) of 37 Yarnolds, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 5SJ has sent some nostalgic photographs of Northfield Military Hospital, Birmingham and 1st Gloucester Company ATS.

PDF Compressor Free Version



*Northfield Hospital
Privates Hogan, Hall and Foote.*



*Officers and NCOs of 1st Gloucester Company
Herne Bay 1940.*

Future ranks are shown in caption.

Back Row: Comd Tinker (née Rodgers), J Comd Taylor (née Waller), B. Smart, B F Gale, Sub Thomas, Volunteer Frere

*Front Row: J Comd Taylor-Jones (née Belcher)
J Comd Worsley, Coy Asst Brancker, Lt Col Michell.*



*Staff of Northfield Military Hospital Birmingham
June 1945.*

Pearson Brooks

*Hogan, Lea, Jeffers, Woby, Bye Walters, Hall,
Wrigley, Mackenzie*

*Abbot, White, O'Neil, Ford, Dunstan Davies, Snelling,
Hall, Williams, Houghlan*

*Timms, Emms, Moulds, Peebles, Rudge, Taylor, Heal,
Plumtree, Farrington, Rogers, Holton.*



*1st Gloucester Company ATS arrive Stroud Station
8 September 1939.*

*L to R: Worsley, Steer, Michell, Kibble, Shepherd,
Waller, Hingston, Clements, Knowles, Allway, Kitchen,
Stevens, Hatch, Ash, Rodgers, Bailey and Cox.*

(Photo by courtesy of Gloucestershire Newspapers Ltd.)



ATS Reunion, Albert Hall 1950.

(Photo by United Photographs, Clapham SW9)

Vee Robinson of 4 Broomfield Cottages, Wood End Lane, Fillangley, Coventry CV7 8DF wrote to thank Lioness for increasing the sales of her book ON TARGET (still available at £8.50 including p&p). She asks that anyone interested in a Mixed Ack Ack RA Reunion in September 1993 should contact her.

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Mrs Shona Walker wishes to contact ex Cpl Marie Bass, who was a PTI at the RAEC Centre Beaconsfield between 1976 and 1979. Shona's son is Marie's Godson and he is very keen to meet her. The contact address is 30 Withybrook Close, Lower Bullingham, Hereford HR2 6RD (tel. 0432 275570).

Do you remember Junior Commander Phyllis Cassidy, ATS? She was at the Signal Training School, London before receiving her commission in January 1942. After that she served in both Ireland and Scotland. (In late 1943 she was with No.5 Command Signals at Bridge of Weir). She came from Croydon and returned there after demob to live with her mother. John Halliday, a relative long out of contact with her, is researching his family history and would welcome any information or recollections about her. He is particularly keen to find out where she was posted during 1942 and 1943, and where she moved after Croydon in 1953. If you can help please contact John Halliday, The Old Malsters, Pulham St Mary, Diss, Norfolk IP21 4QT.



Worker A C (Nancy) Rogers QMAAC in 1918.

Mrs Nora M Budd (née Cann) of 28 Carmarthen Grove, Willsbridge, Bristol BS15 6EF sent in a photo of her training group in Guildford in 1945. She also sent a photo of 20058 Worker A C Rogers QMAAC taken in 1918.



1 Platoon of C Company of 7 Training Centre in 1945.

Mrs Jenny Eardley (née Boatwright) of 235 Hampton Street, Winnipeg Man, R3J 1P5 is trying to trace some old friends from C Coy, 560(M) HAA Battery. She would like to hear from Elsie Abel, Margaret Hendry, Rita Ferguson, Margaret Delaney, D Jeffrey or anyone who knows of their whereabouts.

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Mrs Sarah Waterhouse-Brown has sent a photograph of her platoon in Bournemouth in 1945.

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No. 1 Platoon 'B' Company, Bournemouth Group ATS.

Back Row: Fleet, Asker, Gale, Jones, Earthy, Fryer, Fenlon, Wright, Russell, Hite.

Middle Row: Reigall, Hadley, Cobley, Cowey, Snell, Whybrow, Foxworthy, Dunne, Alexander, Dawson, Courtney.

Front Row: Bosley, Anabona, Harvey (?), Brownjohn, McDonald, Waterhouse-Brown, Beauchamp, Booth, Harper, Sylvester, Marshall.

Ground: Winslett, Batchelor, Chapman, Beech, West, Carter, Mancini, Richardson, Rayson.

Miss Norah Elworthy of 3 The Knoll, Little Glemham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0BE would like to hear from anyone who served in HQ South West District in Pyrland Hall, Taunton.



HQ SW District Pyrland Hall Taunton

Miss N A Elworthy is to left of Senior Commander Acland ATS.

Mrs Daphne Hill (née Phillips) sent in this picture of Major General Erskine the Provost Marshal UK inspecting L Cpls Thornley, Kent and Theodossiou. Junior Commander Phillips is accompanying the General.



Provost Marshal inspects ATS Provost Lance Corporals.

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Mrs A Robinson (née Stirk) of 39 Jesmond Road, Harrogate, North Yorks has sent in a photograph taken in 1948 at the Signals School in Denbury, Devon - Elsie Stirk is far left on the front row. She has composed a poem to accompany it as follows:-

PDF Compressor Free Version

"In days of old we were so fond
And all at Signal School.
We had our fun, then had to run,
To postings near and far.
But where are you now?
I'll make a vow,
To write if you let me know".



No. 4 Teleprinter Operator Squad, ATS Signal School, Denbury, Devon in March 1948. Elsie Stirk is on the far left, bottom row.

Mrs E Owens (née Viner) has sent in a couple of photographs and is trying to trace the whereabouts of ex ATS members from 643(M) HAA Battery when they were based in Pembroke, Wales 1942 to 1944. Mrs Owens met Mrs Edith Seal (née Nash) by chance at their husbands' reunion in 1989 and would love to hear from other ex members of 643 Bty. She would also welcome news from those who remember her from 494 Bty, Dean's Farm, Cheltenham, or 524 Bty, Long Lane Camp, Preston, Hull. "The Kids" from Hut 4: Dot Clark, Betty Wilson, Isobel Farrel, Vicky White, Eileen Ryder, Edna Bateman, Madge France, Marion Rowley and Jenny. Contact addresses are Mrs E Owens 1 Smallwoods Mews, Quarry Road East, Heswall, Wirral (tel. 051 342 8857) and Mrs E Seal 7 Buckhurst Mead, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 2AN.



Mrs E Owens and Mrs Edith Seal (nee Nash) - what's fifty-odd years between friends?

Mrs Sheila Shepherd (née Jones) is trying to trace Ella Wade who served with her at the War Dogs Training School in England before marrying Sgt Melville in 1948 and moving to the War Dogs Training School in Sennelager, Germany. A reunion was held last year and a future visit to Sennelager is planned. Therefore if Ella or anyone who was involved with training war dogs is interested please write to either of the following addresses:

Mrs S Shepherd, 1 Phoenix Walk, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS18 4JT (tel. 0642 587959).

Mr E Irvine, 108 Poplar Way, Midhurst, Sussex (tel. 0730 815254).

Mrs Dora Stevenson (née Thompson) has recognised Beryl Nudd from a photograph of 606(M) HAA Battery printed in the last issue of Lioness. Beryl joined up with her on 11 September 1942 and she is keen to resume contact. Please send any information on ex LCpl Nudd to 429 St. John's Road, Kettering, Northants NN15 5HH. Mrs Stevenson also wishes to hear from anyone who was a member of staff stationed at the Signals School, Kenny House, Kingston-on-Thames in 1943.

Miss Pam Barton of 917 Star House, Salisbury Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong would like to contact Meg Osborne who served with 294 Car Coy RASC in Klagenfurt, Austria between 1947 and 1950. The UK contact is Mrs Mary Johnson, 6 Overdale Mount, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorks.



Cpl E Viner ATS.

Iris Wilson, 'Johnnie' Walker, Muriel Mulliner - do these names ring a bell with you? They should according to Mrs Madge Evans (née Grundy) who also was a member of 4 Independent Company WRAC, GHQ FARELF from 1952 to 1953. So far Mrs Evans has made contact with Sherry Bartlett, Eunice Adams and Jeanie but she would love to hear from other former comrades at FARELF and HQ Eastern Command, Hounslow, especially June Woodward. Contact address is 2 Markham Crescent, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4SS (tel. 0582 606470).

Miss Pam Froom of Croft Corner, West End Road, Mortimer, Berks RG7 3TE has traced several BEF girls from the Aldermaston Centre in 1940 during her research into the Centre. Unfortunately there is still no sign of a Katherine Payton. However an ex member of staff, now living in Tasmania, contacted Pam to say that there was an official photograph taken when Gwynne-Vaughan came to inspect the girls returning from France. Has anyone seen a copy or do they own a copy of this photograph?

Mrs Grace Hansford (née Shreeve) from 3 Whinmoor Street, Katoomba, NSW Australia has written a delightful letter to say that she enjoyed watching her copy of the video 'Farewell Ceremonies for the WRAC'. She is sad to see the demise of the Corps since she was part of its formation as a Chief Clerk at HQ Scottish Command in 1949. However Mrs Hansford can relive the comradeship at the Ex Service 'get togethers' including the British Ex Service Womens Association. She wishes all members and staff of the Association a prosperous 1993. Mrs Hansford is the lady Mrs Barbara Jones visited in 1991 - it's a small world isn't it?



*Netley Abbey 1943.
Beth Southwick and Joan Gradden with man's best friend.*

Mr D G Greenshields from Inglefield, Fivehead, Taunton TA3 6PT has sent several excellent photographs of the girls from an HAA Battery stationed near Netley Abbey, Southampton. He worked as a radio mechanic REME in 1943 and wants to know if anyone recognises a face and can remember the number of the battery?



*Netley Abbey 1943. The Golden Girls?
From left, Almanack Moore, Jean Bartholomew and Margaret Hill.*



*Netley Abbey 1943. Some of the faces have names;
Top from left, Sheila Gurd, Betty Cross, Roddy Roddick.
Middle, Eileen Parfitt. Bottom middle, Doreen Dunne.*

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*Almanack Moore, ???, Joan Gradden.
Anyone know the middle one?*



*Netley Abbey 1943.
Top from left, Mac McNish, Joyce Willoughby, Margaret Smith. Bottom from left, Mary Brooks, Muriel Hopps and Doris Chandler.*

Mrs M Tolmie (née Lawes) would like to contact Rita Heliwell who was stationed at Guildford in 1950. Mrs Tolmie's telephone number is 051 531 7094.

Ena L Scott of Tudor House, Shore Street, Drummore, Stranraer DG9 9PU would like to contact Maureen Jelf.

Apologies go to Miss Norah Elworthy of 3 The Knoll, Little Glemham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 OBE whose details were printed incorrectly in the last issue of Lioness. She has sent a photograph of OCTU Craigmillars, Edinburgh from 1943.



*OCTU Craigmillars, Edinburgh 1943.
Back row - Matthews, Giles, Elder, Deane, Patterson, MacFarlane, Mrs Glover, Hickford, Thomson and MacIntosh. Middle row - Graham, Young, Balmane, Ford, Griffiths, Blomfield, Gray, Browne and Birnie. Front row - McRae, Bennett, Jackson, Sanctuary, Elworthy, Tryon.*

Mrs Isabel Stark of 899 King Georges Road, South Hurstville, NSW, Australia has expressed an interest in writing an "Old Comrades" letter for past members of 510(M) HAA Battery. She welcomes news from anyone who served in the Battery.

Mr A Shorney of 16 Sackville Court, Fairfield Road, East Grinstead, has submitted the following request on behalf of his wife Ruby;

"Where are the ATS of 53rd City of London HAA Regt TA from 1938 onwards? In particular Pamela Carrick (née Watson) who trained at White City. Sgt Ruby Simmonds (later Sub R Shorney) who went to Wickham Court and then to 480(M) HAA Battery at Newton Ferris would like to hear from old friends on 0342 322447."

THERE'S NO DRAM LIKE



Mrs V Barrington (née Weekes) of 81 Mumbles Road, West Cross, Swansea has sent in this photograph of the Sep/Oct PTI Course held at a camp between Bristol and Bath in 1943. Do you recognise yourself among these fit, athletic faces? Mrs Barrington sadly did not manage to gain her coveted stripes. Instead she vividly remembers gaining a pair of bandaged legs before she returned to her post in Neath, Scotland. As you can imagine the popularity of PT took a turn for the worse in Neath.



PTI Course Sep/Oct 1943 - somewhere between Bristol and Bath. Do you recognise a face?

Mrs B Tondziel (née Frank) of 34 Guisborough Court, Eston, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS6 9NL is anxious to meet anyone who was with her as a student in Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen, or at Saughton, Chester, Tidworth Hospital and Bulford Camp.

Were you a member of T Squad and billeted in the huts at 'Mulroy', Portsmouth Road, Camberley from January to March 1944 or 122 RASC, (CMT) Coy at Parkfield School, Haywards Heath. If the latter, then do you remember the wedding of Lt W Connor to Dvr Joan Taylor at St Mary's RC Church, Middlesborough? Five or six of us attended under the eagle eye of CSM Wilson. Val Attwood where are you? Also the girls of 1 Platoon, C Coy, No.7 Training Corps, Guildford, Surrey Christmas 1943. I have the autographed photograph of 1 Platoon, and one of Val Attwood which can be copied. Contact me, Miss Mary Santer, 74 Walkern Road, Benington, Herts SG2 7LS.

Finally on a more sombre note Mrs Joan Awbery, Chairman of the Norfolk and Suffolk Branch of the WRAC Association is researching an air raid on Great Yarmouth at 0845 hrs on 11 May 1943. It killed 24 ATS girls resting in their billet. A commemoration to those who died is being planned for the 50th anniversary and Mrs Awbery urgently wants to contact anyone who was present at or who has information on the incident. One survivor, Pte Doreen Chappel, was pulled from the wreckage and several girls were commended for their actions:

Subaltern Anne Green of New Barnett, Herts.

Sgt I D Johnson of Newnham, Cambs.

Cpl E A Bennett of Middlesborough.

Pte G N Bates of Old Crosby, Scunthorpe.

Pte E M Luke of Breewood, Staffs.

Pte E Corless of Bentley near Doncaster

If you have any information please contact Mrs Awbery at 66 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3EF.

Mrs E Graves from "The Warhaven", 25 McLachlan Street, Manunda 4870, Queensland has written to say that after publication of her photograph in LIONESS she now regularly corresponds with two ex ATS clerical staff who served with her in Colchester.

Mr John Leivars of 22 Borrowdale Gardens, Carlisle CA2 5RE would like to hear from any of the three following ladies; Margaret Godhall, Elsie Cullum or Nellie Finney. He clearly remembers the faces if not all the names of the ATS girls who were stationed at Old Dalby near Leicester with the 12th Battalion RAOC. He would like to reminisce with some old friends so if you have any information please contact him at the above address.

Mrs Muriel Cunninghame (née Lang) is trying to contact two friends whom she served with in Dusseldorf, Germany between November 1973 and May 1979. Irene Lockwood was posted from 42 Sy Coy to Larkhill, then Cyprus and MOD Whitehall. They lost contact in 1980. Maureen (Mo) Nicol was posted from Germany to Mill Hill in 1976 and left the Army to marry a fellow ex Postie. They lost contact in 1979. Any information would be much appreciated. Please send correspondence c/o Venture Gulf Avis Rent-a-Car, PO Box 2515, Doha, State of Qatar.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1993

The AGM of the WRAC Association will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF at 2.30 pm on Saturday 3 April 1993.

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

AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening remarks.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held in Victory Club, London, 11 April 1992.
4. Business arising from the minutes.
5. Report of Council.
6. Financial Report.
7. Report of the Editor of Lioness.
8. Reports of Committees
 - (a) ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund
 - (b) Executive Committee
9. Resolutions
 - (a) Motions of Urgency
 - (b) Council Resolutions
 - (1) Amendments to Rules
10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of next meeting (16 April 1994 in Lakeside Country Club, Frimley, Surrey).

SECRETARIES MEETING

There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries (or another nominated Committee Member) in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club at 11.45 on Saturday 3 April 1993.

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

Application forms for tickets for the lunch will be circulated in February 1993.



Brigadier Dame Mary Railton DBE.

DAME MARY RAILTON

Brigadier Dame Mary Railton was born in 1906. She joined the FANY in 1938. She was commissioned in 1940 and served with 9th (Devon), 12th (Oxford), 28th (Somerset) and 4th (Scottish) Motor Transport Companies. After service in the Lothian and Border Group ATS and the East Scotland Group ATS she was posted to the War Office in London in 1945 in AG 16.

She was appointed Vice-President of the Regular Commissions Board in 1949 when the WRAC was formed, and played an important role in selecting officers from the ATS to form the regular cadre of the WRAC. She became in turn Deputy Director WRAC in Eastern/Northern Command in 1950 and moved to be Deputy to the Director WRAC in 1951. She was appointed Assistant Director WRAC at Southern Command in 1952. In 1954 Dame Mary became Director WRAC a post which she held until 1957. She was appointed an honorary ADC to Her Majesty The Queen in November 1954.

She was awarded the CBE in 1953 and created a Dame in 1956. Dame Molly as she was affectionately known became the first Deputy Controller Commandant in 1961 and held the post until 1967. She was a Life Vice-President of the WRAC Association.

THE SSAFA ROYAL HOMES FOR OFFICERS' WIDOWS AND DAUGHTERS QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S COURT WIMBLEDON, SW19 7DE

Queen Alexandra's Court comprises 75 unfurnished flats and flatlets and occupies some four acres in gracious surroundings. A Warden and Nursing Sister reside on the estate. The flats are for widows and unmarried daughters of limited means, of deceased officers of all three Services.

Further particulars, for those between the ages of 50 and 75, can be obtained from: The Warden (Tel: 081-946 5182).



*Princess Mary, Princess Royal, Colonel Vera Stead and Brigadier Dame Mary Railton at Harewood House.
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GOLDEN WEDDINGS

COE - ROE. On 26 September 1942, Fred Coe to Doris May Roe ATS at St Andrews Church, Keighley, West Yorkshire.

PETERS - DAVIES. On 27 June 1942, Alec Peters, Royal Signals, to Doreen Davies ATS. Present address: 17 Pennine Way, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics LE6 5EW.

SMITH - BURLEY. On 26 December 1942, Frank Smith DSM to Eileen Burley ATS at Our Lady and St Hubert, Warley near Birmingham. Present address: 910 Slugget Road, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada VOS 1AO.

SAPPHIRE WEDDING

HOOPER - CARTER. On 24 December 1947, Les Hooper RA to Joan Carter ATS 3rd AA Group. Present address: 32 Ellad Close, Vermont, Victoria, Australia.

OBITUARY

AASEN. Mrs Annie Aasen (née Freak) of Southampton on 18 October 1992. ATS.

ACTON. Mrs I Acton (née Scurr) of Whitehaven, Cumbria on 25 October 1992. ATS

ANDERSON. Miss B E Anderson of Omagh, Northern Ireland on 22 October 1992. ATS.

ARMSTRONG. Miss F Armstrong of Glasgow on 16 December 1992. ATS.

BAILEY. Mrs E Bailey (née Beck) in June 1992. ATS.

BAMBER. Miss H Bamber of Southbourne on 23 July 1992. ATS

BARCHAM. Mrs A M (Nancy) Barcham of Wellington, New Zealand on 11 October 1992. ATS.

BARON. Miss H A Baron of Felixstowe, Suffolk in 1992. QMAAC.

BARRETT. Mrs E Barrett of St Leonards on Sea on 30 July 1992. ATS

BAXTER. Miss Georgina Baxter of Edinburgh on 11 November 1992. QMAAC.

BLEASDALE. Mrs J V Bleasdale (née Muston) of Rojas, Spain on 9 November 1992. ATS.

BOOKER. Mrs A E Booker (née Bootland) of Burnley on 17 September 1992. ATS.

BULLOCK. Mrs K J Bullock OBE of Hereford on 17 August 1992. ATS

CASEY. Miss M Casey of Keswick in July 1992. ATS.

CASELEY. Miss V Caseley of Haslemere on 11 November 1992. ATS.

CAWTHORNE. Mrs MGG Cawthorne (née Musson) of Edgware, Middlesex on 8 December 1992. ATS.

CHAPMAN. Miss Kay Chapman (née Lewis) of Stoke St, Taunton on 26 March 1992. ATS.

CRONIN. Doreen Cronin of Chester in October 1992. ATS.

DANBY. Mrs B E Danby (née Gulliver) of Stafford on 9 February 1992. ATS.

DODWELL. Mrs Edna Dodwell (née Howe) of Doncaster in July 1992. ATS.

EDWARDS. Mrs Irene Edwards of Colby, Isle of Man on 8 September 1992 – ex Captain. WRAC.

ELLIS. Miss E K Ellis of Wilmslow in January 1993. ATS.

FAIRBAIRN. Mrs D Fairbairn of Foxfield, Hampshire on 10 September 1992. ATS.

FERRIE. Mrs Lilly Ferrie (née Gall) of Falkirk, Scotland on 11 October 1992. ATS.

FISHER. Mrs Eileen J Fisher of Andover on 29 August 1992. ATS/WRAC.

FORD. Mrs H C Ford of Bolandro, Nunton, nr Salisbury. on 9 September 1992. ATS.

GIBBS. Mrs L A M Gibbs (née Robbins) of Leamington Spa on 2 November 1992. ATS.

GORDON. Mrs L M Gordon (née Rickner) of London in October 1992. ATS.

GREEVES. Miss M E Greeves of St Leonards in August 1992. ATS and WRAC.

GUTTERIDGE. Miss Joyce Gutteridge of Cambridge on 20 November 1992. ATS.

GWYNNE. P G Gwynne MBE (née Peart) of Penzance on 7 September 1992 – Junior Commander. ATS.

HALL. Dr Majorie Hall of Southbourne in June 1992. WRAC.

HALLIDAY. Mrs E Halliday of Manchester in November 1992. ATS.

HARFORD. Miss Harford MBE of Beaconsfield on 22 November 1992. ATS and WRAC.

HARRISON. Miss J Harrison of Nottingham on 21 August 1992. ATS.

HALSTEAD-SNOW. Miss V F Halstead Snow of Canterbury on 20 July 1992. ATS.

JACK. Mrs M A Jack (née Stewart) of Witney in October 1992. ATS.

JACKSON. Mrs Emily Todd Jackson (née Smith) of Sunderland on 14 October 1992. WAAF.

KELLY. Mrs K Kelly of Harbledon Canterbury in August 1992. ATS.

LEESE. Lieutenant Colonel C H Leese of London on 29 November 1992. ATS and WRAC.

LEWIS. Mrs H Lewis (née McCourty) of Stafford on 6 October 1992. ATS.

LYONS. Mrs N M Lyons (née Aubrey-de-Levenn) of Southsea in September 1992. ATS.

MACK. Major Magdalen Mack on 23 September 1992. WRAC.

MACKINNON. Miss E F MacKinnon of Inverness, Scotland on 20 December 1992. ATS.

MATHESON. Mrs Judy Matheson (née Toyne) of Twickenham on 18 September 1988. ATS.

McCAW. Mrs R A McCaw (née Walmsley) of Harrogate on 21 October 1992. ATS/WRAC.

MUDIE. Miss Martha Mudie of Kingston-Upon-Thames on 1 November 1992. ATS.

MULLIGAN. Mrs E Mulligan of Denny, Shropshire on 1 August 1992. ATS.

NOWACKA. Mrs E Nowacka (née Baker) of Hull in 1992. ATS.

PEACOCK. Miss M Peacock (née Rogerson) of Penrith in July 1992. ATS.

PENFOLD. Miss M A G Penfold of Cheltenham on 6 December 1992. ATS and WRAC.

QUEEN. Miss Annie Queen of Kirkcaldy on 21 September 1992. ATS

RAILTON. Brigadier Dame Mary Railton DBE of Tetbury on 12 November 1992. FANY, ATS & WRAC.

ROGERS. Mrs E Rogers (née Raper) of West Yorkshire on 31 August 1992. ATS.

SAMPSON. Mrs Annie Sampson (née Cullen) of Cheltenham in September 1992. ATS.

SAMUDA. Miss C R E Samuda of Cheam, Surrey in November 1992. ATS.

TAMBLIN. Mrs E Tamblin (née Loasby) on 16 September 1992.

TAYLOR. Mrs E E Taylor of Kingston in October 1992. ATS.

TILLEY. Mrs EC Tilley (Hollands-Heydon) of Margate on 16 December 1992. ATS.

TUSON. Mrs M E Tuson (née Perry) of Burwash, Sussex on 12 October 1992. ATS.

WALLACE. Mrs M Wallace of Scarborough on 29 December 1992. ATS.

WILSON. Miss Annie Wilson (née Brookman) of Stockport on 21 October 1992. ATS.

WRAC ASSOCIATION

The grouping of branches for administrative purposes as agreed by Council on 21 January 1993 is given below:

WRAC ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chairman: Miss E F Thompson
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches in Groups

Omagh
Ulster

WRAC ASSOCIATION LONDON

Chairman: Capt E Carter MBE TD
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches in Group

Aylesbury
Greater London
Ilford
London
Wimbledon

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH

Chairman: Lt Col D J Freeland
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary: Mrs J Ford

Branches in Group

Aldershot
Andover
Bath
Bournemouth
Cheltenham
Guernsey
Isle of Wight
Portsmouth
Salisbury
Southampton
Swindon
Weymouth and Portland

WRAC ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

Chairman: Lt Col J L Lawson MBE
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary: Capt P M Stevenson

Branches in Group

Aberdeen
Ayrshire
Berwick
Dumfriesshire
Edinburgh
Fife & Tayside
Glasgow
Inverness
Stirling

WRAC ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST

Chairman: Col F M Cook
Vice-Chairman: Mrs P Ward
Secretary: Miss M D Bradley

Branches in Group

Barnsley
Bradford
Cleveland
Grimsby
Harrogate
Hull
Keighley
Leeds
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Richmondshire
Scarborough
Sheffield
Shipley
Sunderland
York

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH EAST

Chairman: Mrs J J Wells
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches in Group

Canterbury
Eastbourne
Hastings
Medway

WRAC ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST

Chairman: Mrs M B S Purkis
Vice-Chairman: Mrs T Goff
Secretary: Mrs E Francis

Branches in Group

Ashby de la Zouch
Birmingham
Cardiff and Newport
Coventry
Crewe
Hereford
Shropshire
Stafford
Swansea
Wolverhampton
Wrexham

WRAC ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST

Chairman: Miss L I Walker
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary: Miss A Hayward

Branches in Group

Accrington
Bolton
Chester
Liverpool
Manchester
Rochdale
Rhyl
Southport
Stockport

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH WEST

Chairman: Mrs D Hill
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches in Group

Exeter
Plymouth
Somerset
Wincanton

WRAC ASSOCIATION EAST

Chairman: Major R G Warne MBE
Vice-Chairman:
Secretary:

Branches Group

Braintree
Cambridge
Chelmsford
Colchester
Norfolk and Suffolk
Westcliff

UNAFFILIATED

HQ & BAOR
Kendal
Leicester
Penrith
Band

CASTLE OF MEY HOUSE, SHOTTERMILL, HASLEMERE, SURREY

The RBL Women's Section owns a purpose-built house with 22 unfurnished flatlets in Haslemere.

Each flatlet at Castle of Mey House has its own front door, a small lobby with floor-to-ceiling storage cupboards, a living room with a small partitioned kitchen area and a shower room. There are bathrooms on each floor, plus extra storage facilities. There is a communal lounge and a laundry room and a guest room is available and can be booked through the House Supervisor. The rent includes heating and hot water, the tenant paying for any electricity used by the small cooker and refrigerator provided, which is metered. There is also a telephone point in each room.

Any enquiries for this accommodation should be sent to the National Secretary, The Royal British Legion Women's Section, Haig House, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY.

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

BALANCE SHEET – 31 OCTOBER 1992

	£	1992	£	£	1991	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1 November 1991			132,795			112,112
Add: Excess of Expenditure over Income			(6,273)			17,450
Transfers from Other Funds			—			6,414
			<u>126,522</u>			<u>135,976</u>
Less Transfers to Other Funds			(1,443)			(3,181)
			<u>125,079</u>			<u>132,795</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	8,978			8,026		
Lioness Life Subscription	<u>13,473</u>			<u>12,032</u>		
			22,451			20,058
MUSEUM FUND			22,058			20,615
REUNION FUND			6,137			6,132
			<u>£175,725</u>			<u>£179,600</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
FIXED ASSETS						
Office Furniture and Equipment at Cost less						
Depreciation			—			—
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule						
(Market Value £96,451)			67,021			66,662
CURRENT ASSETS						
Museum Stock	1,345			4,553		
Association Standard	199			199		
Sundry Debtors	113			3,672		
Cash at Bank – Current Account	2,001			4,303		
– Deposit Accounts	<u>107,800</u>			<u>100,859</u>		
Cash in Hand	170			245		
	<u>111,628</u>			<u>113,831</u>		
Less: Sundry Creditors	2,924			893		
			<u>108,704</u>			<u>112,938</u>
			<u>£175,725</u>			<u>£179,600</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31 OCTOBER 1992

1990 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31 October 1992 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund – 5,564 Units	10,247	28,988
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	50	50
8,324	8.75% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £10,000.00	8,324	10,625
4,520	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £5,711.94	4,520	5,476
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	5,918
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	6,912
9,392	9% Treasury Stock – 1994 – £10,000.00	—	—
—	9% Conversion Stock – 2000 £9,573.60	9,751	10,316
10,571	9.75% Exchequer Stock – 1998 – £11,115.00	10,571	12,254
10,570	12.25% Exchequer Stock – 1999 – £10,030.00	10,570	12,199
3,544	14% Treasury Stock – 1996 – £3,123.04	3,544	3,713
<u>£66,662</u>		<u>£67,021</u>	<u>£96,451</u>

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 1992

	£	1992	£	£	1991	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual.....	2,278			3,943		
Proportion of Life Subscription.....	687			610		
			2,965			4,553
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions.....	9,426			16,221		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions.....	1,016			902		
Advertisement Revenue.....	844			1,013		
			11,286			18,136
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments.....	9,061			7,919		
Deposit Account Interest.....	8,734			10,980		
Sale of Badges.....	—			—		
Surplus of Investment Sales.....	360			29		
Loan Repayment – London Area.....	—			242		
Museum Profits.....	1,443			3,181		
			19,598			22,351
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD			<u>£33,849</u>			<u>£45,040</u>
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD.....			<u>33,849</u>			<u>45,040</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees.....	143			(80)		
Grants.....	—			—		
			143			(80)
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Cost of Publication.....			21,383			21,303
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. Expenses.....	2,220			1,153		
Printing and Stationery.....	1,571			2,306		
Postage.....	1,203			887		
Subscriptions and Donations.....	950			767		
Travel Expenses.....	149			229		
Audit and Accountancy Fee.....	1,189			960		
Sundry Expenses.....	22			10		
Bank Charges.....	35			53		
Depreciation.....	—			2		
Farewell Events.....	11,257			—		
			18,596			6,367
			<u>£40,122</u>			<u>£27,590</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME			<u>(£6,273)</u>			<u>£17,450</u>

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

We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account and in our opinion they gave a true and fair view of the Association's affairs at 31 October 1992 and of its Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date.

BAKER TILLY
Chartered Accountants

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

3 December 1992

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