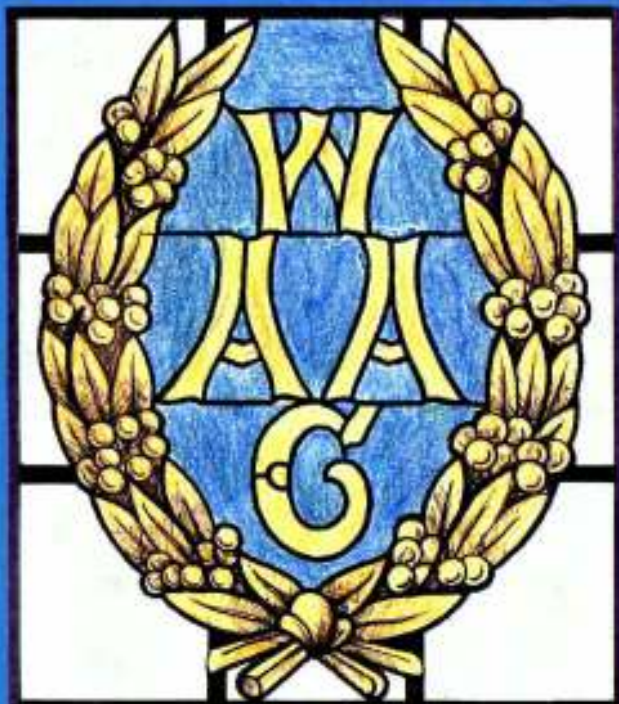


Lioness

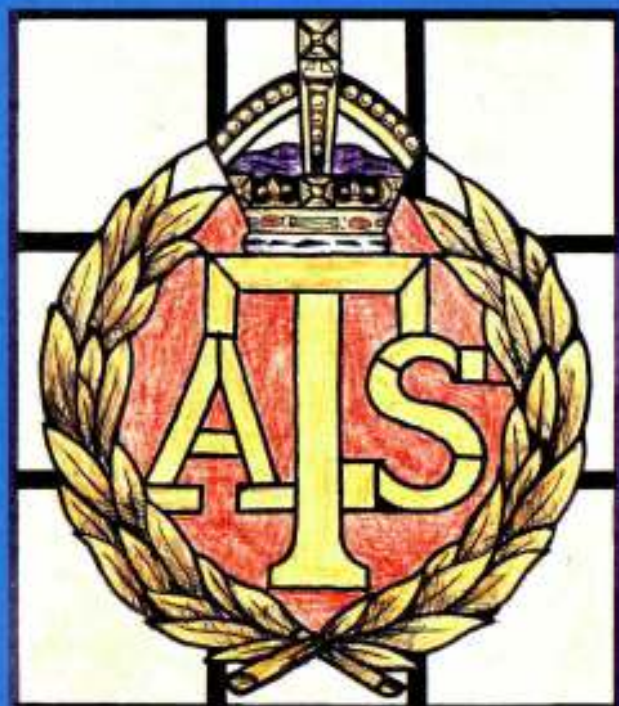
PDF Compressor Free Version



Women's Army Auxilliary Corps
1917-1918



Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps
1918-1921



Auxilliary Territorial Service
1938-1949



Women's Royal Army Corps
1949-1992

Commemorative Window

PDF Compressor Free Version



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

Tel: Operator (0252) 24431 ext 8583

Direct (0252) 355583

ATN 722 8583

Fax (0252) 355533

Fax Mil 722 8533

PATRON

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brigadier A Field, CB

COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

Life Vice-Presidents of Council:

General Secretary:

Honorary Treasurer:

Editor of Association Magazine:

Assistant Editors:

Brigadier A Field, CB

Colonel C A Marriott

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

Colonel L M Davies CBE

Colonel C E Hammond CBE

Colonel V K Stead OBE TD

Miss M M Thomson TD

Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn

Mrs A H S Matthews

Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn

Mr M Mager

ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, PO Box 212, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6ZD

Tel: Direct (0252) 355562

Tel: Operator (0252) 24431 ext 8562

Tel: ATN 722 8562

Chairman of Trustees:

Chairman of Grants Committee:

Case Secretary:

Brigadier A Field CB

Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames MBE

Mrs A H S Matthews

Front Cover Photograph
Commemorative Window

Back Cover Photograph
Commemorative Window



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1994

CONTENTS

Tributes.....	3
Notes from DW(A).....	4
Congratulations.....	4
Officers Branch Meeting.....	5
Articles.....	6
Story of the Association.....	8-10
Memorial Window Appeal.....	9
HRH Princess Margaret Visits.....	11
London Branch - 75 Years.....	12-13
Message from HM The Queen.....	14
Memories.....	15
Book Reviews.....	15
Articles.....	16-20
The Cat.....	18-19
Branch News.....	21-34
Correspondence.....	35-48
Reunions.....	49-51
AGM Notice.....	51
Notices.....	52
Obituaries.....	53
Accounts.....	54-55

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

The Association badge is depicted on page 2 opposite.



Chief Controller J M Knox with Senior Controller Whateley at War Office in 1942



TRIBUTE

The Dowager Lady SWAYTHLING

Jean Marcia Leith-Marshall was born in 1908. Already married to Sqn Leader Knox when she joined the ATS in 1938, she was a Company Commander at the outbreak of the war. Jean Knox later commanded a Group and in early 1941 became Inspector ATS with the rank of Controller (Colonel). On 21 July 1941 at the age of 33 she took over as Director ATS from Chief Controller, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. The ceiling on numbers had been raised from 40,000 to 200,000 and changed the nature of the service and a radical programme was required to cope with these problems. She stayed in the post for two years.

The hours of work and tremendous personal responsibility of the Director through these two years of rapid expansion had been a strain that few women could have stood. The service had reached its peak strength and user branches realised that little extension of the employment of women was likely. It was firmly established and was no longer regarded as strange and different. There were precedents for most situations, and lower formations were able to deal with more and more on their own responsibility. It was perhaps inevitable that the reaction from these hectic months of building up and guiding the policy of the Service should now tell on the health of its leader, and on 31 October 1943, Chief Controller J M Knox resigned on the grounds of ill-health. She was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire on retiring.

During her time as DATS she was Vice President of the Comrades Association and became a Life member on her retirement. In 1945 she married the 3rd Baron Swaythling and they lived in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. On his death she moved to Chichester where she died on 13 December 1993.



Brig J M Roulstone ADC Director Women (Army)

NOTES FROM DW(A)
Brigadier J M Roulstone ADC

The post of Director Women (Army) was established as an interim measure following the dissolution of the WRAC and as such has been the subject of review in 1993. The result of this review is that the Adjutant General is confident the integration process is progressing well and that it is the emphasis on Equal Opportunities (EO) which DW(A) has already identified that should form the focus of work for the future. DW(A) will not therefore be replaced but an Equal Opportunities Branch will be created under the Director of Manning. The Branch will be responsible for both gender and ethnic issues and its creation recognises the importance of these matters in the post Options Army. It will be headed by a Colonel, supported by two Majors and a small clerical staff. The Branch will continue to provide advice on female matters to Arms and Service Directors and the Chaim of Command.

The work of the Equal Opportunities Review and Action Plan continues, as does our monitoring function. In the area of promotion, women continue to acquit themselves particularly well. The Manning and Record Offices are posting women to a wide range of jobs that will provide them with the same experience as their male contemporaries. The main obstacle to some women's progress is their preference for putting their personal interests before career enhancing postings.

1994 will be another busy year in which we hope to see much of the work in hand come to fruition to ensure that women are allowed to play their full part in the tauter establishments of the smaller Army.

CONGRATULATIONS

We send congratulations to:

Mrs Annie Elizabeth Cutler of Burnham, Bucks, who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 19 November 1993. Eight days earlier she was at Westminster Abbey for the special service to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

Brigadier Helen Meechie CBE MA LLD who was Director WRAC from 1982 to 1986 and who has succeeded Brigadier Anne Field CB as Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Adjutant General's Corps.



Brigadier Helen Meechie CBE MA LLD
Deputy Colonel Commandant, Adjutant General's Corps

Everyone needs a PAAL.



PAAL and Sports PAAL with clip

There's nothing like having a PAAL to protect you at all times. This Personal Attack Alarm from Quorum will blast an ear-piercing 103dB (minimum) if you simply pull the pin. And according to police, a loud noise is usually the best deterrent against crime. • Choose either the standard or sports model. Then carry it with you wherever you go. To school, the mall, the park, even for a walk around the block. The PAAL will let out a cry for help whenever you need it. And only Quorum products give you that kind of technology and security.

Quorum
Securing Life

..... Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor

Graham P Chilton
'Horseshoes'
50A Warren Rise
Frimley, CAMBERLEY
Surrey GU16 5SN
Fax & Tel: Camberley (0276) 675742

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 any AFS officer who joined the WRAC HQ Mess.

The meeting will take place in the Officers Mess of the AG Corps Centre at Worthy Down nr Winchester on Saturday 17 September 1994.

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 be 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 am. It will collect others arriving from other destinations before that time.

NB. There is a limit on the numbers that the Worthy Down Mess can hold.

Please apply early and no later than 29 July 1994.

No acknowledgment or receipts will be issued until after the Grand Reunion.

CLOSING DATE 29 JULY 1994

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

From:

.....

.....

I wish to attend the meeting for former WRAC Officers on Saturday 17 September 1994.

I will travel by car/train (delete)

My car details are:

Make Colour Reg No.

I enclose a 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

HAMPSHIRE REMEMBERS

D-DAY

INTERNATIONAL D-DAY PARADE

On Friday 27 May 1994 a major international Parade and Review of Normandy Veterans will take place at the Royal Victoria Country Park, at Netley near Southampton. 10,000 military Veterans of Operation OVERLORD will assemble to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the build-up along the South Coast of the mightiest military force in history to liberate Europe.

Veterans will come from both sides of the Atlantic, bemedalled and with standards, and from many parts of the Commonwealth.

A unique feature is that at least 2,000 Civilian Veterans, drawn from all over the UK to represent the great number of voluntary organisations which supported the military in 1944, will be on parade and Reviewed by VVIP whose identity cannot be revealed until announced by Buckingham Palace. Displays of hitherto TOP SECRET equipment and Services will be on display. There will be a Fly-Past of veteran and modern service aircraft, and in the afternoon a grand Maritime Review of 2,000 craft of all kinds, including warships, will be held in Southampton Water, the Solent and Cowes Roads. Members of the Women's Services will be most welcome, particularly Veterans of 1944.

Applications for tickets should be made (Veterans on parade free) to Hampshire Remembers D-Day, The Town Hall, Lymington SO41 9ZG (Tel: 0703 285698).

CORPS DAY

The Adjutant General's Corps Day will be held on Friday 17 June 1994 at Worthy Down.

The AGC Staff Band and the RMP Display team have been booked. There will be some static display stalls, fast food outlets and bars as well as fairground type stalls. The day will start with a drum head service at noon at which Branch Standards will be paraded and end with a centrally organised tea.

None of the Royal Patrons will be present.

The WRAC Association will have a tent with tables and chairs as a focus for branch picnics and for selling Association items.

PLEASE INFORM GENERAL SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU INTEND TO BE THERE.

NUMBERS BY BRANCHES IS ACCEPTABLE.
Cost will be £2.50 including tea.

MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR ONE

by Winnifred M Deacon (née Goodyear)

Army Service Corps,

Womens Army Auxiliary Corps, Women Legion

Late 1915 there was a talk of Enlisting Women Drivers

I passed my Medical and Driving Test and was sent a railway ticket to report at Folkestone and met four other

drivers. We were taken to the docks and put on a troopship crowded with young soldiers. No other women. Very cold. When we got to Boulogne, no one expected us and we were given a meal. We were then put in a French boat house on the side of the river. An army mattress and two blankets each, and our first encounter with rats. Next day we were given our breakfast at the Depot, put on a French railway goods truck. When we arrived at Abeille, no one knew about us. There were no WAAC only Ambulance Women drivers. We were taken to a large depot, given a hut to sleep as the men did, whilst they found out about us. We came to the conclusion we had been sent 'up the line', main line for the transport ambulance to transfer first dressing to ambulances to take the wounded to Base Hospitals.

We lived as the men, did all kinds of jobs, but not allowed to drive. We had our first contact with air raids, bombing, rats and trying to keep warm, with no heat. We were sent back to Boulogne in a billet for us near the large Depot, Foden lorries, all types of cars. We had to face the resentment of the men, but we proved ourselves by never asking for help and as I was the only one who could drive a Ford because of the difference of the gears. I became attached to General Wilberforce in the 'Pool' car to be ready any time. The Ford was like a small taxi and the men could not use it and I was 4ft 9ins, able to drive and do repairs. We never had any other driver with us. French women did the cooking and cleaning, there was an officer in her room downstairs. Our billet was just a hut with corrugated iron and hessian nailed on wooden struts, rats gnawed holes in it, in search of food.

We were up at 6.30 am to get ready, our car and orders, back for breakfast, but very rarely came back until night time, then just went to bed. We saw no other MT drivers until the WAAC came to Boulogne, and replaced the French help and took over our billet, we saw very little of them but had to enrol. General Kitchener's niece was in charge of the WAAC and no other ASC drivers ever came to join us. We were on our own until demobbed, then the EFC were put into the other part of the billet, their work had nothing to do with us.

I went anywhere and I should think everywhere. Etaples, Calais, Dieppe, Rouen, Ypres, wherever the Officers had to go I had to find a way. We entered a men's world and proved to the men drivers, we required no help.

I went many times to where the flying aces came as a base for repairs etc. Saw many dog fights and always the leader of the German planes would finish with his arm up in a salute and his white scarf flying in the wind. I would find cover whilst the fight went on. I took over a Harvey Frost machine for puncture repairs so that Jonesy (a welshman) could be demobbed.

After the war was over I had a long overdue leave. I was seen by a Doctor who wrote his report, when I returned to France all my friends and drivers had left, and only a note of farewell was left to meet at the Connaught Club in London.

Back in France, the billet had been taken over the Women's Legion drivers and they were having a marvellous time, the billet was full of Officers. A party in full swing, no air raids, no bombing, no WAACs revenge. On the menu, bully feef, mixed with army biscuits, hot water poured on it, and into the oven to bake.

My Officer had gone home and I was very pleased when I went to Etaples to come back. There was a Guard of Honour along the side of the ships and my very dear General Wilberforce saw me at the salute, took me with him up the gangway and told the Captain to give me a cabin – "We are going home together Tiny" (my nickname).

I received money towards civilian clothes and an unemployment card and a railway ticket to get home. I later married one of the Intelligence Officers whom I had driven about in France.

THE ARMY OF TODAY **by Lisa Pawsey, Royal Logistic Corps**

After working at a hotel for nearly 4 years, I decided I needed a change. Something adventurous, challenging.

My Grandad and Dad who had both been in the Army themselves had often spoken about their days gone by and Army life, but I had never considered it, thinking it wasn't really a career for a women until I went into the Army Careers Office at Barnstaple.

After doing all the necessary tests and going away for the Selection Board, I was accepted into the Army as a Movement Controller in the Royal Corps of Transport (now the Royal Logistic Corps). Basic training began on the 3rd August 1993 (my 20th Birthday) at the Army Women's Training Centre, Guildford. Apart from the Selection Board this was my first time away from home.

It was to last a total of 10 weeks (which at times felt longer than 10 years).

At the end of basic training, we had the passing out parade where we could invite our families to come and watch which was to me was the best day of my career to date.

From basic training, it was off to AGC Centre for a 4-week course as part of my trade training to do a Clerks Course and learn basic office skills, the final part of my trade training was to be 6 months (hands on) job training. Little did I know that was to take place in Germany, so after just 14 weeks in the Army over I went to my new unit (25 Transport and Movement Regiment in Bielefeld) followed by a return to the UK to do a Class 3 Movement Controller Course at Aldershot.

So here I was, my first unit it was so different from basic training. A whole room to myself, so many new and friendly faces. NCOs talking to not at me, it was such a pleasant difference.

At work I had to learn about loading vehicles onto trains and ships, how to operate Movement Control Check Points, the carriage of dangerous goods and dangerous air cargo, movement of ammunition and working the troop flights at an airport. There was more manuals, forms and pamphlets to learn than I've ever seen in my life, but there was still weekends free to explore the sights of Germany and even a trip to Austria.

Now having been in the Army for just over a year, I have seen a lot of Germany and quite a lot of Europe. I have passed my Class 3 Movement Controllers Course and have now been posted to Hohne in another part of Germany. I have done many things I would never have done before. I have been selected to go sailing on the RLC yacht, I have driven a Warrior and a Spartan (both armoured fighting vehicles) and I have also been given the task of the project officer on Exercise Hartz Hile. The aim of the exercise is to test members of troop (B Troop) in map reading and leadership skills during the period 16-18 October 1993..

I have learnt many new skills and have many new friends along the way but most of all enjoyed myself very much doing it. Yes, the Army is a very disciplined way of life but I get the challenge that I wanted and no day is ever the same.

I am looking forward to an exciting and varied career the like of which I could only have dreamed of if I had remained in employment within my village. Joining was the best decision I could have made.



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.

THE STORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

In 1916, the third year of the war of 1914-18, the man-power situation was serious, every possible man was needed for the fighting line, men were withdrawn from industry, from all forms of civil life, and, at last, from the services of the Army itself. Then the Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France was asked whether he would accept women to replace fit men for duties on the lines of communication, and he agreed. The women for such duties had to be uniformed and disciplined so in February 1917, the Army Council formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and, before the year was out, 10,000 women were serving overseas as cooks, clerks, signal personnel, postal sorters, drivers, bakers, storewomen. They did most of the jobs, in fact, which auxiliaries do to-day, except those like the duties on gun sites, which are the result of recent technical development. There were differences, of course, tele-graphists, for instance, instead of teleprinter operators. By the summer of 1917 the authorities decided that the experiment was a success, and the Corps was extended to home service. Some 57,000 women passed through the ranks.

In October, 1917, the Italians, who were then fighting as our Allies, were badly defeated by the Austrians and Germans, and help had to be sent to them. In November, the Russians who had also been our Allies, made peace, for they were in the throes of a political crisis. As a result, considerable German forces were liberated for use on the already depleted Western front. In March, 1918, they attacked there in greatly superior numbers, and only the magnificent courage and staying power of our men prevented them from breaking through and separating us from the French. In the background, members of the WAAC were also doing their best, and the Queen, as a mark of her appreciation "of the good service rendered by the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, both at home and abroad, since its inauguration, and especially of the distinction which it has earned in France" assumed office as Commandant-in-Chief, and gave the Corps her name. That is how it became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.

The Armistice was signed on November 11th 1918 but it was not till September 17th 1921, that the Corps was completely disbanded and ceased to exist, though by the end of 1919 only a few remained.

In December of that year the Old Comrades' Association was formed, and branches soon came into existence in all the larger towns. Each branch arranged regular reunions, at which members could meet, and developed all sorts of friendly activities. More than one had a hut or cottage outside the town at which week-ends or holidays, could be spent. London Branch - the biggest - even had a couple of boats on the Thames at its camp near Datchet due largely to a donation from the British colony at Shanghai. In the winter there were dances, whist drives, sing-songs. A newcomer to a town or district could be sure of a friendly welcome from comrades whose service experiences were like her own. Sometimes an enterprising branch planned an enter-

tainment for soldiers in hospitals or for the children of ex-Service parents.

These social activities culminated in the annual dinner, which was held in London and attended by 500 or 600 members arriving in big parties from all ends of the country. It was one of the biggest ex-Service dinners to be held; indeed, it was rumoured to be outnumbered only by that of the RA. The guest of honour was always a distinguished soldier, who gave us news of the Army with which we had served. Lord Gort, Lord Ironside, and Lt General A F A N Thorne were among many who have replied to our toast of "His Majesty's Forces."

The Gazette was founded in July, 1920, and has been published regularly ever since. It brings news of ex-Service women from every part of the world, tells of the doings of branches and is a link between our widely scattered members. Its arrival is looked forward to in Australia, Africa and America as well as at home.

The Association has never been rich. It was started when the Corps was almost at an end; it could not give financial help to members who were ill or needed training and could only occasionally afford a few pounds for very special cases. The best that could be done was to place those in need of assistance in touch with the funds set aside for ex-Service personnel. Of these, the ex-Service women had their full share in proportion to their numbers, both the the United Services Fund and from the British Legion. There is reason to think that funds may not be so plentiful after the present war; that is why the Association initiated the ATS Benevolent Fund, for the Council of the Association realise how often quite a little money, spent in the right way at the right time, may restore a worker's health, save a business from disaster, or provide the tools or the training by which a living can be earned.

The Association has had its share of great occasions. Its members have marched with the British Legion procession to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day; they have been present at all sorts of functions. Two of these especially stand out. On May 11th 1935, the Association had the honour of lining part of the route along which King George V and Queen Mary drove during the celebration of the Silver Jubilee. Every ex-Service organisation was there, and we dipped our standards as the King went by. In 1937 the Association was allotted places, both sitting (for the old and the invalids) and standing, to watch the Coronation procession. Those who stood were on the steps of the Victoria Memorial and had a specially magnificent view. On June 27th of that year the Association was well represented among the 80,000 ex-Service men and women assembles in Hyde Park to greet a King who had himself served, and who addressed us as Old Comrades.

In the following year (1938) the Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed on a Territorial basis; with the declaration of war on September 3rd 1939, it entered on full-time service. At the next Annual General Meeting of the Association membership was opened to ex-members of the ATS - it was still an Old Comrades' Association, But that did not last. At the



*Brigadier Anne Field CB
Vice-President*

Annual General Meeting of February 1941, membership was extended to serving personnel, while in February 1942, the words "and Auxiliary Territorial Service" were added to the name and the word "Old" was dropped.

This gradual development indicated no lack of interest. In the autumn of 1940 the Council of the Association had inaugurated the ATS Benevolent Fund, which, though it is under the auspices of the Association, is managed by a special committee of ex-members of the ATS and is for the benefit of ATS personnel alone. The idea is that now, while officers and auxiliaries are earning regular pay, they can afford to put something aside towards solving the problems of those - themselves or others - who meet with difficulties and can be set on their feet by a little well-timed help.

Some day the war will be won and peace will come again - peace and demobilisation. At first, perhaps, many auxiliaries will be glad to get out of harness but as time passes you will want, as your predecessors did in 1919 and 1920, to hear of old friends and to discuss old adventures. Then you will be glad that a Comrades Association is waiting to welcome you. Meanwhile, if you join and attend branch meetings, you will have share in determining the policy of the future. We hope that many will do so. Any branch with 20 members can nominate a representative to serve on the Council of the Association.

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The cover of this edition depicts the memorial window which it is proposed to install in Guildford Cathedral and which we hope will be unveiled by the President of the Association, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, on the 16th April 1994 during the Grand Reunion.

These windows and the explanatory words engraved below them will be the only national memorial to all those who served in these womens' Corps between 1917 and 1992. I am sure that you will agree that such a memorial is essential as a tribute to those who served and I hope that you will be able to support this project. As you can imagine this is a project not without expense and I am putting this message in *Lioness* in the hope of persuading you to contribute to the costs of this memorial.

Twenty six Branches have already made a donation and I hope that other Branches will join in too but that will only meet part of the costs. If you feel able to support this unique memorial, please send your donation to me using the form below and in anticipation I send you my thanks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Anne Field". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brigadier A Field CB
Vice President
WRAC Association

To: Brigadier A Field CB

HQ WRAC Association
PO Box 212
GUILDFORD
GU2 6ZD

From:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

I enclose a donation of £ to the WRAC Association
to support the memorial window in Guildford Cathedral.

Signed

The foregoing account of the history of the Association was taken from the Comrades Association Gazette of June 1942. Mrs Johnston was the General Secretary at this time and worked from offices in Lancaster Gate in London. Mrs Johnston handed over to Miss Lazarus-Barlow in 1946 shortly after the Association offices had moved into the Duke of Yorks HQ. In 1947 Mrs Pakenham became General Secretary and in 1949 Mrs Lloyd-Jones held the reins for a short time before Phyllis Greenwell took over first as Acting General Secretary being confirmed in 1950.

The writer clearly expected the ATS to be disbanded at the end of the War as the QMAAC had been and that the Association would resume its role of catering for former comrades without the participation of serving servicewomen. As we all know that was not the case and in 1949 the ATS were made part of the Regular Army and renamed the Women's Royal Army Corps. At that time there were 74 branches of the Association in the UK, 2 in Australia, 1 in Ireland, 1 in South Africa and 4 in overseas commands. A ruling by the Charity Commissioners that the ATS Benevolent Fund could not be used for the newly formed WRAC caused a WRAC Benevolent Fund to be established in July 1950. It was given a much broader remit to enable it to help WAAC, QMAAC and ATS as well as the WRAC. Also in 1950 the QMAAC and ATS Gazette was renamed Lioness and a Museum was started at Guildford. A new cover for Lioness depicting the three badges of QMAAC, ATS and WRAC on a brown background was inaugurated in 1951 and was used for all editions up to November 1962.

In 1953 Mrs A R Johnstone took over from Phyllis Greenwell as General Secretary staying until 1956 when Mrs A J Lumsden filled the post. By 1954 the number of UK branches had fallen to 63 but there were now 41 unit branches throughout the world. It is interesting to note that in Glasgow a separate QMAAC only branch of the Association lasted until 1956!

A properly established Corps HQ was set up in 1961 at the Duke of Yorks HQ and Lt Col M S F Millington OBE TD became the Corps Secretary, General Secretary of the Association and Editor of Lioness. "Millie" was replaced as General Secretary in 1963 by Major E B Dixon although Millie retained the Editorship of Lioness.

Lioness changed its cover design in 1963 to depict a servicewoman in the new No 1 Dress Hat and the shrinking of the Association continued with 50 UK branches, 1 overseas and 29 unit branches.

The training centre at Guildford which (apart from a short break as a demobilisation centre) had been at Guildford since 1941 was visited by Her Majesty The Queen and renamed as Queen Elizabeth Barracks in the October of 1964.

By 1965 the majority of the funds coming into the Benevolent Funds was from the WRAC whereas the majority of the cases requiring help were former ATS. A scheme was put to the Charity Commissioners to amalgamate the funds from an administrative point of view under a single set of Trustees with a re-defined Trust Deed.

Following the death of Her Royal Highness,

Princess Mary Princess Royal, in 1965 after 26 years as Controller Commandant her place as President of the Association was taken by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent in 1967.

The changes in the Order of Battle of the reserve army as a result of the Defence Review of 1966 meant that all WRAC TA units were disbanded.

The picture of a servicewoman which had graced the cover of Lioness since 1963 was changed in 1969 to a line drawing of the WRAC Cap badge and that was changed itself to a cover photograph in black and white with a different colour head band in 1974.

Major Dixon remained as General Secretary for eight years until December 1971 when after 26 years the offices of the Association moved from the Duke of Yorks HQ to new premises in Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford, and Colonel Phoebe Lipscomb became General Secretary. In 1972 a scheme whereby all officers and servicewomen should donate one Days Pay each year to the Association was introduced. A small percentage of the total was their subscription to the Association in order to receive Lioness but the majority of the money donated went to the Association Benevolent Fund. In 1975 Brigadier Norman King took over as General Secretary from Colonel Phoebe Lipscomb. Her Majesty the Queen visited Guildford for a second time in 1979 and the Centre was renamed as Queen Elizabeth Park. Her visit commemorated the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Association. Brigadier Norman King retired as General Secretary and was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel David Dunn in 1985. The names of Branches ceased to be listed in Lioness in 1979 and by the time that the idea was revived in 1985 the number of branches had fallen to 57. A Grand Reunion (now on a 3 yearly cycle) was held in Plymouth in 1982. In 1985 the page size of Lioness was increased to A4 and at the AGM that year the present badge of the Association and a new style Association Standard were adopted. A Grand Reunion was held in Harrogate.

1988 was the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS and a Grand Reunion was held in the Barbican Centre in London with a service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral attended by the President of the Association. The number of branches showed an increase to 66.

Lioness magazine sported its first colour cover in 1990 which allowed for a colour picture on the back cover too. The Grand Reunion for 1991 was held in Glasgow.

1992 saw the disbandment of the WRAC and the formation of an Adjutant General Corps. The training Centre at Guildford closed in 1993 and the offices of the Association were moved to 8 Map and Air Chart Depot – still in Guildford but under sentence to move to Worthy Down in 1995. By 1993 the Association Branches had increased yet again to 84.

Long may the Comrades Association continue to its Centenary in 2019!

HRH THE PRINCESS MARGARET AT PRINCESS CHRISTIAN HOMES

11 May 1993 was a day residents and staff at Princess Christian Homes will long remember. HRH The Princess Margaret came to perform the official opening ceremony of Lord Roberts Wing built by the Forces Help Society so that the Homes could provide full residential care for the elderly and disabled ex-service men and women.

The Princess toured the Homes and chatted with residents both in the spacious new lounge and in their own rooms, which were planned so that they could become real "homes from home".

For the Society, her visit was a celebration of a project which had succeeded even beyond what had been originally foreseen. The good planning not only of Lord Roberts Wing, but also of the East Wing, completed in 1988, allowed the registration of the Homes to be increased from the 17 places in Lord Roberts Wing to 35 residential care places in all. At the time of the official opening there were already 30 residents in the Care Category, with more possible residents being assessed.

Now, as the Society's advertisement shows, planning and fund raising is proceeding to provide similar residential care for both men and women at St Vincents, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Vacancies occur from time to time at Princess Christian Homes. Weekly contributions by residents are maintained at the Income Support rate and require no "top-up". Application forms for permanent residence can be obtained from The Homes and Welfare Officer, The Forces Help Society, 122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE or the Administrator, Princess Christian Homes, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2SJ.

SSAFA CONCERT

There is to be a concert by a military band to include Beating Retreat at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxfordshire on Friday 17 June 1994 sponsored by the Army Benevolent Fund and Soldiers', Sailors and Airmen's Families Association

Tickets priced £10 are available from
Major L A C Schuster-Bruce
Begbrooke Mount
Sandy Lane
Yarnton
Kiddlington
Oxon OX5 1PA



PRINCESS CHRISTIAN HOMES - WOKING
HRH Princess Margaret talking to resident

Planning for the best possible Care

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

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

**Please help us as generously as you can
by donations, covenants and legacies.**

THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY & LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS
122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE Tel: 071-589 3243 Registered Charity No. 209753



LONDON BRANCH – THE FIRST 75 YEARS

by Miss Eva Ellison

Last week I read of an old lady who said "Do not forget that if history takes place forwards, we are always seeing it backwards". So much I want to take you

1919 was a memorable year. The Poppy Appeal was started, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps inaugurated, The Old Comrades Association, London Branch was formed and almost to the day when the country was observing two minutes silence, I was born, to become many years later a member of the same London Branch of the WRAC Association, as the Old Comrades Association had become. Since our formation, we have 'soldiered' on thanks to generations of devoted members.

Branch membership has varied immensely. In the year that we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the ATS, I thought that our membership of 340 was rather good until I discovered that in 1937, it had been 533, in 1941 it was 429, which included 46 serving ATS members. In 1947 numbers reached a peak of 1,110 which sadly has not been maintained. We have just elected our sixth President and have some very dedicated Officers and committee members who have served for long periods. We have at least one member, still active, who joined in 1946. We have one surviving QMAAC member and one of our members, Mrs Olive Whelan, is a link with the early days because her mother and aunt served in the QMAAC and were members of the Old Comrades Association. (See picture).

In 1965 the committee decided that minutes held up to 1935 could be destroyed and so of the very earliest activities I have not much information, but thanks to some copies of the Old Comrades Gazette, as Lioness was then called, for the years 1941-1945 I have been able to piece together something of the early days. When the first branches of the Old Comrades Association were formed in all of the large towns many had a hut or a cottage as their base and London Branch had two boats moored on the Thames near Datchet. A reference in early minutes to Shanghai camp puzzled me until I discovered that it was named in honour of the British Colony in Shanghai who made a donation which made the purchase of the boats possible. I regret that I have not been able to find out what happened to them. In the pre-war days there were dances, whist drives and various other activities including the Association's Annual Dinner in London. This attracted 500-600 members and was one of the biggest ex-Service dinners to be held. The guest of honour was always a distinguished soldier (male) since the QMAAC had been completely disbanded in 1921. Mrs Whelan lent me the menu cards of the seventh Dinner at Harrods in 1926 and the seventeenth at the Derry Restaurant in 1937.

In 1938 when war seemed imminent a letter was sent from the Branch to Council saying that we were in touch with many members who could be called upon in an emergency. Whether any were ever called on I do not know but by 1939 several members had joined the ATS or other services. In 1940 our President was sent to South Africa for the duration in charge of a large contingent of children. After a very brief pause our meetings continued and the Branch adopted the 10th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment and started knitting. The target was 1,000 garments and by May 1944 they had sent 734 pairs of socks, 25 pullovers, 150 pairs mitts, 31 pairs gloves, 49 scarves, 20 helmets (balaclavas?) and what are described as 'our now famous, knee caps! I wonder if any member married a soldier who was kitted out with these? They went on to supply a further 240 garments to the Merchant Navy.

Meetings continued throughout the war and from 1941 ATS members were often present. Entertainments inclu-



*Laura & Gladys Bosonworthy in 1919
London Branch Members*

ded Whist and Beetle drives and a visit from the Anglo-American Brains Trust. At the end of 1945 we had 30 ex-ATS members and two were elected to the committee and one as Assistant Secretary. We met twice a month at the Servicewomen's Club with lively talks on many subjects from Australia to Spiritualism. The Acton Male Voice choir were regular visitors and members' holiday slides were shown.

Over the years we have had speakers from many of the Service welfare organisations like BLESMA and the Gurkha Welfare Trust and have been able to make a contribution to their funds. The Servicewomen's Club closed and after a few years at the Duke of York's Headquarters we moved to the Union Jack Club. Meetings were held once a month and in 1982 it became obvious that many of us, getting older did not care to travel to evening meetings so we changed to afternoon meetings. This has proved to be a great success with many more members attending.

The Branch has participated in all the Association events over the years and in 1988 ten of our members, together with ten from Greater London Branch, were privileged to represent the ATS when the WRAC gave a display at the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall. We enjoyed being drilled by RSM "Perry" Mason from HQ London District and down those famous stairs we marched with no mishaps. Every year we have mustered a good turn-out at the Field of Remembrance and on the march to the Cenotaph.

In recent years we have enjoyed two coach trips each



*London Branch at the Royal Albert Hall 1988
Mavis Clark-Skinner, Charlotte Lawrence, Eva Ellison,
Dorothy Foster, Betty Brown, Evelyn Parks,
Evelyn Lucas, Alice Lofty, Emily Richards,
Elsie Sycamore*



*London Branch Dinner 1948
In front: ? Emily Richards, Elsie Sycamore, B Wright*

year to stately homes and other places of interest. Thanks to the generous support of members at our bi-annual Bring & Buy sales we have always raised sufficient funds to cover our expenses and to make donations to the Benevolent Funds. We have maintained thrifty ways which were engendered by the branch investment of £25 War Savings Certificates in 1941. We still have a nest-egg of National Savings Certificates.

In 1943 when the Old Comrades Association became the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association, there was a little resentment voiced by members at the loss of the original name as there was later in 1949 when the ATS were sad to see their name merged into the WRAC Association. Now when I look around at our meetings and see a thriving Branch, I remember with gratitude the members of the WAAC and the QMAAC who started the Branch and kept it going and the ATS who carried on the tradition. I now hope that there are many ex-WRAC members who will not forget that we are anxious to pass this great tradition on to younger hands.

When I am waiting for a telegram from the Queen, London Branch and the WRAC Association will be celebrating its first century – I hope that I will be there for both events!

ROLE REVERSAL

by Mrs Margaret Cranmer (née Favell)

I had always understood that it was a gentleman's privilege to 'give away' the bride at the wedding service. However, during my service with 461 Battery at Newhaven in 1943/4 I was given this honour at the marriage of a dear



friend, Pte Rita Forster.

Her parents were lost at sea when being evacuated from Ceylon and her husband-to-be had no male relatives in the country so she asked me if I would do the honours. She walked down the aisle with her arm in mine, she in a borrowed gown, me in my uniform. She then became Pte Garner.

We remained firm friends for over 45 years when she sadly died. In the photograph is another special person – once Corporal Barbara Hubbard. She too died last year after a wonderful friendship of 50 years.

Does anyone recognise 'Scottie', the other service member in the photograph – or are there any other of our 461 Battery chums out there? I should so like to hear from them. Perhaps someone else gave away a wartime service bride. Do tell.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today with my two Deputy Colonels-in-Chief. We are delighted to be with you, just fifteen months after the formation of the Adjutant General's Corps, and to see so many old comrades of the former constituent Corps here as well. On your formation, I took particular pride in becoming your Colonel-in-Chief and, from all I have seen today, I can already tell that that pride was not misplaced.

This morning I unveiled a plaque on The Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden, which was previously at the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre at Guildford. This symbolises to me, and I hope to you - all of you, past and present, families and friends - that Worthy Down has become the true home of the Corps. I hope that the qualities of this unique body will flourish here among these splendid surroundings.

This is a time of tremendous change in the Army and I know that a sense of sadness and loss are always part of change. Many of you are sad at leaving behind the Corps that you have served devotedly for years, and which had become part of your lives. I am confident that this feeling of loss will be overcome by the determination, typical of the Serviceman and woman, to deliver to the Army the support it needs in its changed world. It is a hard challenge for you, but I know that you will vindicate the confidence that others have in your ability to meet it.

I have been greatly impressed today by the range of activities of the Corps and the enthusiasm of all those to whom I have spoken for what they are doing. Many clearly recognise that there are now opportunities for them which simply did not exist before, and if at the same time the service to the Army improves, then this must surely be for the better.

I was especially interested to find today that one third of the Corps is female - a statistic in which I hope are included your Colonel-in-Chief and my two Deputies. An even more striking fact is that 11% of the Corps are presently involved in operations.

It is clear to me that the Corps, in its new form, has drawn upon the best of all that went before. The Corps' motto - With Resolution and Fidelity - reflects a proud tradition and confidence in the future.

Thank you, Colonel Commandant, for the drawing - I shall treasure it as a reminder of a most happy day. I wish each and every one of you, including your comrades who could not be here today, every success in the future.

4th June, 1993.

**MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY AT CORPS DAY -
4 JUNE 1993**

MEMORIES

by Rae Zurovcik formerly Wessel (née Brewer)

Reading the Lioness brings back so many memories. Like many others, I was too young to join the ATS in 1939. Having had a father who died when I was a baby (from being a POW for 4 years in the First World War) older brothers called in 1938 (RA) and a step-father who was called back after 19 years in the Welsh Guards, I too was anxious to do my bit. Oh how young and full of hope we were then. So I entered the first part of 1942.

I remember so clearly leaving London for Edinburgh, Scotland and then on to the Royal Scots Training camp in Glencourse. After the 8 weeks basic (some of my fondest memories - even the huts, marches through the hills, and the ever shouted words "Everybody Out" - so many girls from different places and backgrounds) our first day pass into Edinburgh. A visit to the Castle and Princes Park. So many children had been sent out of London. It was a beautiful sight to see young children there.

Training over, on to Derby to learn about spare parts with the RAOC, only to have that interrupted to be sent to Chelmsford, Essex. On arriving, I found I was one of 12 girls sent to the Chelmsford Technical College. We were to be the first women to take a course in acetylene welding and cutting. I can laugh now - remembering the backfires and what rod and pressure to use on what metal. Most of us went on to the BOC on the North Circular Road, North London for the final three weeks. My mum was living hear by in Neasden, since we were bombed out from Highgate. It was wonderful to be able to spend a couple of weekends with her.

After our course was over, we were posted to different newly formed REME workshops, my first one being Bassingbourne. Chester, at the end of 1942, Mansfield, Nottingham, where I met my future husband, a GI, from the 30th General Hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield. We married January 4th 1944, the first ATS and GI to marry in the Mansfield Methodist Church. I do hope some of my old friends of those days at 21 Layton Road billet happen to read this. Sgt Helen Hamilton (Scotland), my bridesmaid Eileen Lynch (Liverpool), who I understood married a GI after I was transferred and Mike Pausey (Bishop Stortford).

I was Rae Wessel née Brewer. Then shortly after the wedding I was transferred South, then to Chilwell, Nottingham, where I stayed until the end of the war. Some of my fondest memories are of my stay there. It was such a hectic time of the war. While there I bought a book written by an ATS officer stationed there entitled "No Time for Tears" about the personnel at the camp. Sorry to say, I loaned it out and has happens so often, it was never returned. If anyone remembers this book and knows if and where I could find a copy. I would be grateful. If anyone from W Coy REME Hut 3, Crusade Camp reads this and knows the whereabouts of Flo Butters (Birmingham) Vici Curle who's sister-in-law lived at 229 Stamford Road, Dagenham, Essex and Audry Taylor 106 Second Ave, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham - I know it has been many years, these are 1945-1946 addresses - I would love to hear from them. I did find one old Chilwell friend, Joan McGrath, from Ireland, living outside Boston USA.

I can still remember the faces trying to hold back the tears as the buses left with the first ones being demobbed. So many memories, so many years. God Bless.

BOOK REVIEWS

Changing Step by Jill Beatty

Published by Christian Focus Publications Price £2.95

I taught Corps History to WO & NCO courses in the "old days" of the WRAC College in Camberley 1978-80. Part of the course material was a film which (apart from giving the instructor a much needed breather!) made me proud to be a member of a Corps with such a courageous and positive heritage. But it is experience and spirit of individuals which really makes history live.

This book by Jill Beatty (ATS/WRAC 1941-52) does just that. Part of her story was given in the Lioness in 1988. This is the whole story to date - and what a story! It was intensely personal, very honest and gives fascinating insights into several "sorts" of lives. Anyone who has served in the ATS/WRAC in the past, present (?) or women in the Services in the future will find it an excellent read. But the ingredients are universally interesting, including as they do - love, laughter, war, death, fear, more love, pain, grief and a Christian faith that works. Yes this book is overtly Christian, but not threateningly so. It is a "warts & all" book which touches the whole of life and also brings a challenge to think on what real life is about. I thoroughly recommend it to all who want a meander down Memory Lane and also to any who are suffering stress, pain or grief. This book will point you to an unfailing source of strength, hope and comfort.

May I make the plea that the new women in the Army do not forget the Army of Women who paved the way and set the standard. May the history you make be as courageous and positive as that of your "ancestors".

MISS MARGARET KING (Major Retired WRAC).

Copies from 34 Cook Drive, Milton of Culcabock, Inverness IV2 3DA

Arms and the Women by Kate Muir

Published by Coronet Books price £5.99

ISBN 0-340-57100-4

The author is a journalist on the Times. Her style is easy to read and I would recommend this thought-provoking book to anyone interested in the way ahead for women in the armed services.

The current situation in all three services is described and comparisons made with the forces of other countries. For those social occasions when we have to listen to anti-servicewoman talk there are useful facts. Next time I am told that "the Gulf War showed that women are useless - they got pregnant to bottle out", I shall be able to reply that only two in one thousand did - nothing to compare with the football injuries sustained by men.

Here was Lt Wendy Smart (whose brave service featured in the 1991 No 2 Lioness) saying that when she was watch keeping men would ignore her and ask to speak to someone, meaning a man. I found this funny because I remember having the same trouble twenty five years ago and my mother telling me that it happened to her and she was an officer fifty years ago.

The chapter on mothers going to war will be of interest to serving women. Personally I am appalled by the idea but it is interesting to read about the US experience. Did you know that the poor performance of the US Field Post Office was a major cause of morale problems to mothers and children. In contrast our BFPO was brilliant - well done the WRAC posties!

Personally, I hope Brig Gael Ramsey will write a book. Meanwhile, this one has been widely bought by public libraries.

MEMORIES REKINDLED by Gerda Cavanagh (née Ungar)

(The article by Frances Huppert "A refugee from Hitler" in Lioness No 2/93 brought this response from another Association member)

PDF Compressor Free Version



Mrs Gerda Cavanagh (née Ungar) with another girl from Austria – Mrs Cavanagh is standing.

I too was a refugee from Hitler, I came over to England in 1938. I joined the ATS in June 1941, and was discharged after two years - for family reason, this is why I receive the Lioness. In the Lioness No 2/93 I found an article "A refugee from Hitler" - this is what I was. I loved the Army life and the kindness of all the people. Reading this article written by Frances Nunally (née Huppert) took me back to my life.

I also was born in Vienna (Austria), Jewish and 17 years old when I got away from the Nazis, I also was very lucky to have been given the chance of a new life, home and country. I never saw my mother again, I wrote to the Red Cross Searching Dept, hoping to be able to get some news of my mother. They kept on letting me know they were still looking. In November 1942 I had been notified she was taken to Auschwitz and died in the gas chamber.

In May 1941 I joined the ATS and had my training in Rippley, from there I was posted to Cowley (outside Oxford). My experiences were exactly the same as Frances Nunally, I too would have loved to be at the frontline but I understood it was not possible. I was glad to be able to repay England in a small way for what England had done for me. I would like to say no matter who I met I found kindness and hospitality. I am happily married, have one grandson, but I still miss my best friend - my mother.



OLDEST ATS

With the notices of the youngest member of the ATS appearing in the correspondence column it might interest members to hear about the oldest member. The Daily Mirror of 12 March 1945 carried a story about Private Evelyn Wybergh BEM, a one time hockey international for Wales, she was apparently secretive about her age. "Age?" asked the record officer when she made her second attempt at enlisting "Fifty-five" she said and dared him to say "Aye and more".

She had apparently worked in the First World War in a munitions factory at Ruabon, a four mile horse ride from her home at Overton in Flintshire.

In the second World War she changed from horse to bicycle as her mode of transport. Mrs Muriel Egerton Smith (née Chater) writes "Pte Wybergh was in my Company at Chester, and I can testify to her utter devotion to duty and obedience to orders - even to the exasperation of the other auxiliaries. They did not always appreciate her precise timing of their return from day passes etc. and I was sometimes called upon to mediate on their behalf. She was exemplary in her duties and seemed to relish the meanest of tasks

She rode her bicycle fearlessly often in the dark, but with a candle in the light holder, which of course was often going out, and which landed her in heated arguments with the wardens. She was also a member of my Speech and Drama classes in the Company and distinguished herself in a concert we gave before the brass nobs of Western Command; during her performance, the improvised curtain fell upon her shoulders, thus draped she continued to the end not faltering once and stifling firmly any hysterical response from her fellows in the audience.

Pte Wybergh, as you gather, was quite a model to compete with and managed also to keep me on my toes at times.

We never did know her age and no one dared to question it!"

News Review, a US magazine which had lifted the Daily Mirror story, went as far in its edition of 29 March 1945 to suggest that Miss Wybergh - a wood carver by profession between the wars - was "about 70."

MAP MAKERS OR MAP MARKERS REQUIRED by Rita Gambrill

Four ex-ATS members who were stationed at Winchester are having problems at the moment trying to ascertain what buildings were where on the enclosed Ordnance map of Bushfield Camp, just outside Winchester. All four were at King Alfred's College, Winchester and were at various times billeted in Christchurch Road, The Huts, Penn Road, Sleepers Hill etc before being transferred with the whole of ATS records to Bushfield in 1946. We are wondering if there are any other ex-Bushfield Campers who can clarify the matter for us please.

Every year there is a King Alfred's College re-union and about 20 people turn up and have a very good time, going over old places, talking about old faces etc. As there must have been about 400 girls there at one time, we are always surprised that more do not attend the reunions, which are advertised in the Lioness every year. (see page 50)

This year Joy (nee Rolfe) and Rita (nee White) attended the reunion and spent a few happy hours at the deserted Bushfield - we even found the barrack square amongst all the overgrown grass - and did a few practice marches and salutes too!!

Some of the friendships made in 1945/46 are still going strong today and we keep in touch by letter - we always say

Welcome to Naafi Financial Services

- All major financial & insurance products available
- Committed to meeting your needs worldwide

Call into your local
Naafi Financial Centre
or call us on 0602 354133 (UK)
or 02161 9500 (Germany)



YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU
DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER
LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Written quotations available on request.

Naafi Financial Services is a member
of FIMBRA.

Savings Plans, Investments, Pensions &
Life Assurance are regulated by FIMBRA.
All other products are not.

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

SAVINGS PLANS

BANKING

mortgages

INSURANCE

Motor • Kit • Travel • Winter Sports

budget & charge cards

Financial INVESTMENTS LIFE ASSURANCE PENSIONS WILLS planning

PIC

Personal Injury Cover

Car Sales

Personal Loans

this is sure proof that we MUST have enjoyed each other's company all those years ago or we would not still be in touch!!

I would be most grateful if you could print the map of Bushfield for us in the hopes that someone will be able to solve our problem for us. Anyone who can solve the problem please write to Mrs Gambrell, 113 North Street, Coventry, CV2 3FQ and NOT to Lioness!

PDF Compressor Free Version

THE CAT

They say our youthful memories grow sharper with age. They say we only remember the good times. My most vivid memory was not really one of those good times, but it is so vivid that when I start "remembering" as we older people do, the years melt away and I'm twenty-five again - until I look in a mirror and the elderly lady reminds me that it all happened over 50 years ago.

In September 1943, early one Saturday morning, half a dozen ATS girls were suddenly discharged from Netley Hospital. Apparently, the ward was needed urgently for some badly burned and wounded servicemen who were expected that same morning. (It was a large ward with ten beds and easily room for twice that number). We knew that their need was far greater than ours. "Get your things together and be prepared to leave within the hour" said the nurse. We were the "nerve casualties" of the war as one of the doctors put it. Each of us was suffering from a nervous breakdown. What individual circumstances brought us together to that unhappy ward I don't know and, normally happy-go-lucky, how I became a "run down" in a matter of a few weeks was a mystery. We hadn't talked much - maybe it would have helped if we had.

I was the eldest, married ten weeks previously (my husband was overseas) and was regarded as a veteran by the younger girls, having enlisted at the Coventry Drill Hall early in 1939 and called up immediately the war started.

Other patients had come and gone but we six seemed to be stuck in limbo for three long weeks, and would have been there for several more but for the urgent need for beds. During that time various treatments had been tried by various doctors and psychiatrists. We didn't improve, in fact I was in a far worse state than when admitted to hospital - a bad skin condition had developed and many readers well know the misery that that can bring, especially when it occurs in strange places!! Mine, would you believe, was on my head. From the crown to the nape of my neck was a large angry red patch, that wept continually. Bandaging was impossible and wasteful said the nurse, so I was obliged to wear a great thick, padded dressing, strapped around the back of my head with a yard of bandage and tied up in a bow on my forehead! This had to be changed twice daily. If my companions had found the sight amusing, I could have forgiven them. But I'm glad they didn't - my morale was low enough. Nothing would have raised a laugh in that ward! The idea of returning to my unit in such a state horrified me.

We cleared breakfast away, dressed and packed our kit-bags. I secured my "dressing" and placed my hat flat on my head, peak over nose (what else could I do with it?). The dreary little group went to find the nurse's office. Discharge papers completed, we finally arrived at the hospital gates where our transport was waiting - an army lorry complete with cockney driver leaning against the tail-board. I remember talking to this character on the first day there. Quite a cheerful character was Stan - he had a smile for everyone. (Every time I see WALKER, the black-marketing private in "Dad's Army" I can see Stan!). His face broke into a wide grin when he saw his "load" of

miserable forlorn females and I'm sure it grew even wider when he spotted me cowering at the back. I must have looked a right comedian, I could see what he was thinking - "Blimey what a war effort!". We climbed aboard. His instructions were to drop off each one at a point reasonably near to our units. He knew I was stationed at Salisbury so assumed, I suppose, that my "nearest point" was the centre of town. Feeling so wretched, I hadn't the courage to tell him Dormford was five miles outside! With a merry quip and a wave he sailed away to deliver the rest of his "happy warriors". I had been at Dormford for about 12 months - it was an old manor house, set far back from the road in its own grounds surrounded by trees, shrubs and flower beds. It really was a beautiful place. Stripped bare of its contents and handed over to the military, it must have been very sad for its owners.

So, lugging my kit bag, head down, hat sliding further down my nose, my peculiar dressing displayed to the world, I started my long journey, ignoring the curious stares from passers by. They probably thought I was the result of enemy action! When I got onto the main road, it seemed very quiet for a sunny Saturday afternoon, and strangely, during the whole of that journey I saw not a living soul, no buses, no vehicles of any kind, so no chance of a lift, so peaceful it was hard to realise that there was a war on - people being killed and maimed, cities bombed and homes ruined. I thought of the November raid on Coventry, - the frantic journey next morning hitch-hiking from Shrivenham to find out what had happened to our



"That Dress"

folks. The horror looking down my avenue and seeing a gap and a pile of rubble where my home should be. Thank heaven for the little air raid shelter that saved my parents' lives. The irony of it - I had joined up to serve in the forces, while they at home were really in the "front-line"! It must have been very bad for her - she had to live with her asthma - she had suffered attacks almost every night and day for as long as I could remember. A particularly bad attack had prevented her getting to our wedding.

Trudging along with just my thoughts for company, I remember as a teenager dreaming of a fabulous white wedding. Didn't we all at that age? At 25 the dream was still there. Ridiculous really as there was no way I could buy or borrow a white wedding dress. So full of enthusiasm I decided to make one. Yards and yards of cheesecloth or butter muslin as I preferred to call it was bought from a Salisbury store (no coupons), fine white curtain net (begged from an aunt) made an overskirt. This was decorated with narrow blue velvet ribboned lovers-knots and scattered with tiny silk pink rosebuds (heaven know where they came from). I stitched away in my off-duty hours. It created a great deal of interest in Dormford, and there were many journeys up to the top floor to find out the progress of "that dress". Finally, it was finished and provided no one examined it too closely and the whole thing held together, it did actually look like a bridal gown.

The little church in the Wiltshire village where my fiancé lived, looked very pretty on the outside but even in June was dark and cold inside - the lovely stained glass windows were covered. A few relatives were there, people didn't travel much in the war years. No flowers in the church, no photographer, the silent walk up the aisle on my father's arm, no wedding music - we couldn't afford the five pounds! (the organist had been called up anyway). My Staff-Sergeant bridegroom looked extremely handsome in his uniform. Very smart. He would be of course - he had already served ten years in the army. It all fell far short of that "dream" but it was a white wedding - sort of. My husband was posted overseas to North Africa a fortnight after that.

And so my thoughts went on, the road, like the war seemed never-ending. A wave of sheer desolation swept over me. Exhausted and near to collapse I came to the last bend in the road - just a mile to go, when I saw something white in the middle of the road. It was a cat. I've always been fond of all animals, cats especially. Can't remember a time when there wasn't one in our household, but this one was no ordinary moggie. This was a Persian and would have taken a prize in any Cat Show. Thick long silky white fur, a gorgeous long bushy tail with a curve at the end. It had a large head, pink lined ears with little fluffy tips, and a bright pink nose. The beautiful golden eyes seems to look up at me with a haughty surprised expression. He must have known he was an "Aristo-cat"! It was quite dead - without a mark on it to show how it has died.

I couldn't leave it there. Looking around, I could see no house, no one to ask regarding ownership. But I just couldn't leave it there in the middle of the road. A gate to a cornfield was just a few yards to my right - my kit-bag was slung inside and I went back for the cat. I carried the stiff little body into the field and kneeling, laid it gently down in the shade of a leafy hedge. Kneeling there, gazing down at it - such a lovely animal, I thought. Someone should grieve for it. And the tears started pouring down my face. They went on and on. I cried and cried, wracked with sobs I couldn't control, I wept as if my heart was breaking. I don't remember coming out of that field or much of the last mile, but it was seven o'clock when I finally dragged myself and kit bag up the endless drive, up three flights of stairs and into the bedroom I shared with another Corporal.

There were thirty of us stationed in that old house and I didn't see or hear a sound of anyone. They must have all been away on week-end passes. There was my bed, just as I had left it weeks ago with the blankets folded regulation style at the foot. The bed was made in a fashion and undressing, I fell into it. It was seven o'clock the next day when I woke. A wonderful sunny Sunday morning. Looking out of the window I decided not to waste it. I felt fit and so glad to be alive. It would be lovely to walk round the gardens. My head felt light and a great weight gone from my shoulders. Something was different, everything looked different. My head felt comfortable - the dressing was lying amongst the bedclothes. With the help of a hand-mirror and the dressing-table mirror, I examined the back of my head. There was no ugly red mark and the scalp was quite clear. Even my hair felt cleaner instead of the unkept matted mess it had been for the last fortnight. I couldn't believe it. Admittedly my hair badly needed a shampoo but it could wait for an hour. I had to get outside in the fresh air and lovely sunshine.

My uniform had a good brush, and fully dressed with hat at a correct angle I sallied forth, skipping down the stairs and out onto the beautifully kept lawn. Feeling on top of the world I wandered around, admiring the shrubs and flowerbeds still in full bloom, marvelling how neat and fresh everything was considering there was only one elderly gardener for all the work. Surely the place to be on such a morning would be the rose garden. Just then round the corner came the CO. She was a smart little lady, slightly overweight but always looking immaculate in her uniform. She had a curious bouncy kind of walk. She pulled up sharply when she reached me and looked surprised. We both saluted. She said "Oh hello Corporal - I didn't know they'd let you out". (It sounded as if I had been in prison - I suppose I had in a way.) "Got back yesterday ma'am" I said. She looked me up and down and asked me how I felt, I told her I felt fine - "Well you certainly look it" she said "I'm so glad we decided to get you into NETLEY - splendid chaps, those specialists, I knew they would get you right again, Well done Corporal". We saluted and off she bounced!

I suddenly realised I was ravenously hungry - I hadn't eaten for twenty four hours. Back to the house in search of some breakfast. Life was worth living after all.

The elderly lady in the mirror stroked her white cat and went on dreaming of long ago. So many years, so many memories.



Display at US Army Women Army Corps Museum to greet Brigadier E J Nolan CB on a visit to Fort McClellan Alabama in December 1993

BOMBING RAID ON GREAT YARMOUTH

by Joan Awbery

It is good to be able to report that, since the article in the last edition of Lioness, relatives of 23 of the twenty-six ATS girls who were killed on 11 May 1943, have been found, all of whom thought the whole episode long forgotten and the loss of their sisters' lives totally ignored. All are thankful that at last some recognition is to be made of the fact that they met their deaths while in the service of the country. Few families had ever been in touch with others who had suffered the same grief. Memories, in spite of the lapse of fifty years, are still very clear and brothers and sisters have written with great emotion.

We are still hopeful of finding relatives of Private Jean Scougall of Edinburgh, Private Jane McCauley of Glasgow and Corporal Enid Line of Crouch End, Middlesex. It would be good too to find Subaltern Anne Green of New Barnet and Private Corless of Bentley, near Doncaster, both of whom were commended for their devotion to duty. Sadly we have only recently heard that another of those commended, Private Gwendoline Bates, died some three or four years ago.

Considerable support for our plans to erect the memorial plaque on 11 May 1994 year has come, not only from families and friends, but from many Branches of our Association and men's ex-service Associations, both with generous donations and requests to be represented at the commemoration parading their Standards.

Final plans for the commemoration cannot be finalised until February, but the Secretaries of all Branches will be given full information as soon as possible and if anyone who wishes to be present will kindly write to me, Mrs Joan Awbery at 66 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3RF, I will send full details at the earliest opportunity.

OVERSEAS POSTING

by Mrs M D Evans (née Grundy)

I joined the WRAC in October 1950 and after basic and trade training, was posted to HQ Eastern Command in Hounslow, some 30 odd miles from my home in Luton. After about 10 months in Intelligence Branch, I volunteered for overseas, putting British Troops in Austria, as my first choice. My mother's comment when I told her my posting had come through for Singapore was "I suppose you put Australia, and they're sending you to the nearest place".

So on a cold January day in 1952, I embarked on the Kaisers yacht, now the Empire Windrush, with troops bound for Malaya and Korea, families and some 20 assorted servicewomen, WRAC, QAs and WRAF. We set off down the Solent, past Southsea pier, covered with snow and out into the Channel. I don't know how far we should have travelled that night, but next morning we went on deck to see land off the starboard bow. One of the lads asked a crewman if it was Gibraltar "No. Jersey" he said "We broke down during the night". We trundled on, across the Bay of Biscay, as calm as a millpond and rounded Gibraltar in the middle of the night. The Mediterranean was NOT calm. The Windrush tipped side to side, up and down and the numbers at meals grew less every time. We should have gone into Algiers to take on fresh water, but the heavy seas prevented it, so our first port of call was Port Said, 'Bum Boats' and all. It was at anchor here that I was sick for the first and only time during the six-week voyage. I maintain it was combination of duck for dinner and the god-awful pong. We joined the convoy and set off through the Suez Canal - another breakdown! This time we held up the naval and merchant ships, and were not popular. Next stop Aden, our first shore leave and the last

time I was to spend sterling for nearly 2 years. We had about 4 hours ashore, in Aden town, and were forbidden to go elsewhere. One WRAF girl decided that would not do, her father's grave was in the Military Cemetery atop the hill and she was determined to visit it.

We were just about to up anchor and steam on, when the Flight Sergeant in charge of the WRAF draft caused a real to-do reporting this girl adrift. The whole place suddenly buzzed with activity - MPs jumped into jeeps on the quayside, one steaming off up the hill, passing on its way a horse-drawn carriage, with a passenger in air force blue. We were finally under way again, two more breakdowns on the passage between Aden and Columbo, and a sad event. At about 6am one February morning, the news came over the ships loudspeaker that His Majesty King George VI had died. My cabin mate stirred sleepily and asked me what had been said. I told her the King had died, whereupon she jumped out of her berth, stood to attention and saluted - clad in pale blue tropical issue pyjamas - dear Johnnie.

We all had little jobs to do on board, the QA girls ran a creche for the families and I, being the only clerk on our draft, found a 'cushy little number' in the ships office. It was the day for Pay Parade. The WRAF Flight Sgt mustered all the servicewomen in the gangway outside and called the roll - all present and correct with the exception of Pte Grundy - me (who was busy checking the names on the Acquittance Roll). Of course, she flapped again - I can't think where she thought I'd gone - we were in the middle of the Indian Ocean and the only transport around was a few friendly dolphins in our wake! One of the girls told her where I was and pay parade continued, the male element finding it very amusing. They laughed even louder when, having seen all the others paid, I went round the table to get my own, and as I saluted, hit my hand on a pencil sharpener fixed to the office wall. The first time anyone signed the Acquittance Roll in blood! With money in our pockets we sent ashore in Colombo, a beautiful place. Johnnie and I bought souvenirs, and gorged ourselves on fresh pineapple. Then on again, without any more engine trouble, to our destination Singapore and 4 Independent Company WRAC at Tanglin & Nee Soon.

We walked into the Company office, the Corporal Clerk looked up and said "Which one of your lot comes from Luton"? So began my stay on a beautiful, mystical island, where I made many friends and met my darling husband. Hopefully, next Spring I'm going back to Singapore, en

LORD KITCHENER MEMORIAL HOLIDAY CENTRE

1994 will be the 75th Anniversary of the Centre with its aim of providing a bracing holiday for ex-service men and women.

The Centre has recently had a complete refurbishment.

Cost is £50 per week which includes full board three meals per day, tea and coffee making facilities are also available in the evening.

Write for more details and booking form to
Peter Hoult
Warden

Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre
10 Kirkley Cliff
LOWESTOFT
Suffolk NR33 0BY

route to visit one of those friends, now living in Australia. Sadly my husband won't be with me as he died earlier this year, but I know he will be with me in spirit. I left the WRAC when we married in 1952 but he soldiered on for another 20 years, so I never really left the Army – but that's another story.

PDF Compressor Free Version

BRANCH NEWS

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH. We have now come to the end of our first year as a branch of the WRAC Association. Although we are small in number our membership is slowly creeping up. Sadly one member died in May but our number returned to 16 with a transfer. In October we had another new member and in November yet another transfer.

Our meetings have been varied, the most popular being the pub lunches. In January our speaker was a retired policeman who spoke of his experiences in the Force, both amusing and sad but he ended on a jolly note making us all sing "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One."

In March six of us went on a coach trip to Chester, a most enjoyable day which included a visit to a candle factory. In June we had a tour of T G Green's Pottery who make kitchenware for Marks & Spencer etc and are part of Cloverleaf. It was interesting to see how the pots are made.

Our Area Secretary, Mrs Francis, together with the Chairman of Crewe Branch visited us in July when we were joined by some members of Leicester Branch. Two members went to Wrexham for the Area Reunion in September.

On Remembrance Sunday, six of us paraded with other local groups and after the church service laid a wreath at the War Memorial.

AYLESBURY. It gives me great pleasure to say our report could consist of two words – Continued Success.

But I must of course qualify that sweeping statement, so to begin.

Meetings continue, in the Ex-Service Club, Aylesbury, to be well attended and enjoyed by members. They must be, because they keep coming in ever increasing numbers. We welcome with open arms our first time served member - Josie Meade who has completed 22 years service. It is to these younger women that we must hand on the Association Banner for the years to come.

Since our last report a Garden Party was held at the Chairman's home, which was enjoyed by all attending. Activities included the best decorated hat competition, and a visit to a beautiful old village church, plus much chattering and drinking of tea.



AYLESBURY BRANCH FOUNDING MEMBERS
L to R Back Row D M Chilton, L Roberts, A G Stride, D Harding
Front Row E D Bedford, E Wheeler, M Langston, N Pearce

Our Group Chairman is organising a Reunion 1994 which will take place at Wellington Barracks. A preliminary meeting has been attended by our Chairman and Secretary. We are all looking forward to this event. Who would not, with all those lovely tall and handsome Guardsmen about the place!

Each year the Buckinghamshire County Royal British Legion holds a Festival of Remembrance in the Civic Centre. This year, as in the past, the Association was represented by two members, Alma Stride and Joan Shrimpton, at the Muster Parade. On Remembrance Sunday Madge Evans, our Treasurer, laid a Poppy Wreath on behalf of us all at Aylesbury War Memorial.

During a Gala Evening at the Ex-Service Club, the presentation of a WRAC Shield was made to the Club Chairman and Committee as a token of our appreciation for their hospitality and help ever since the Branch was formed. Not forgetting the Steward, Joe Sale and his wife Jane, one of our members. Our Chairman will also present an ATS Shield as a personal gift to keep the WRAC one company.

December's meeting included a Buffet lunch provided by Jane, to celebrate Christmas and the second Anniversary of our Foundation.



AYLESBURY BRANCH MEMBERS
May 1993 Garden Party

BERWICK. Edinburgh Branch members were invited down to Berwick, and as the enclosed photo shows it was a great success. Since then, there has been a return visit by Berwick members and it was an afternoon we will remember for a long time. We were engrossed by the speaker who told us about Edinburgh's gruesome tales of murder and mystery, of haunted houses etc. Even the building we were in had its ghost. Fortunately, we had to leave to catch our train before it got dark – well that was our excuse!!! We may be a small branch but we are a happy one.



BATH. On 23rd October at her home in North Devon, the Bath Branch lost one of its most colourful and distinguished members when Phyllis Beuzeval died. She was known affectionately to all her friends as 'Pip'.

PDF Compressor Free Version



Pip Beuzeval receives her BEM from Viscount Montgomery

She joined the ATS in 1941 and continued into the WRAC in 1949. She was a clerk by training and her most distinguished posting was for four years 1963-67 at the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot as Chief Clerk of the Training Section. It was her dedication to this job that earned her a British Empire Medal and she was proud to have received it from Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery during a Passing Out Parade at Mons.

BIRMINGHAM. We have 100 members now. Sadly we lost three this year.

We have had a very good year altogether, with our bring and buys, and we had a very good coffee morning at the Secretary's house.

We had a very good speaker who told us of her experiences when a POW in German hands. It was very good that she could see the funny side of some of the things.

Our Standard was on Parade in London for the unveiling of Lord Alanbrooke. It was a hard day but worth it, also it

was at ANZAC Day at Cannock, Staffordshire and will also be at the Birmingham Tattoo at the International Indoor Arena.

Our fifth birthday went off very well. Wolverhampton and Coventry ladies came and Maggie Purkis did the honours and cut the cake so a good time was had by all, that ended up in a good knees up. 36 of the members went to Wrexham and many thanks to Wrexham Branch for a wonderful time.

We are looking forward to 1994 when some of us will be going to Guildford.

We also have a few speakers lined up including a talk and demonstration tasing of cheese. Then of course we have the reunion at Shropshire in October besides a few outings we have got lined up, so all in all I think we have another busy year in front of us.

BOLTON. In spite of various illnesses and accidents amongst our members, we managed to pack quite a lot into the second half of the year. We started off by helping with the Annual Street collection in aid of blind and partially sighted children, this was followed by a visit to the Training Centre where we saw some of the wonderful toys and equipment which are used to train the children. We spent two hours at the Centre and saw and heard only a fraction of the work carried out by this very caring organisation.

In July we paid our annual visit to the Mayor's Parlour to pay our respects to the newly installed Mayor and Mayoress, we were made very welcome and the Mayor expressed his delight in meeting the members, apparently his daughter was a former member of the WRAC.

The Branch Secretary held a Coffee Morning at her home when the video of the Farewell Ceremony at Guildford was shown. This was greeted with much oohing and aahing and everyone expressed the opinion that the parade was a credit to all who took part. The event raised the sum of £25 and this was donated to the coffers of the North West Area to help with the day to day expenses. Several members attended the annual VJ Day service at the Cenotaph in Bolton where wreaths were laid.

Fifteen members boarded the mini-bus on the road to the the Reunion at Wrexham, this was thoroughly enjoyed especially the lovely buffet meal, it was great to meet up with old friends and also make some new ones. In November, the Bolton Combined Ex-Servicemen and Women's Association again staged the annual Concert of Remembrance in the Town Hall and, as in the past, it was a complete sell out and within days of the tickets going on sale the whole 700 tickets had gone. Our contribution to the



*Bolton Branch members in Mayor's Parlour
Hilda Connolly, Blanche Bushell, Rita Turner, Aldwyn
McFadden, The Mayor, Betty Crompton, The Mayoress,
Joan Nadin
In front: Vera Worthington and Dorothy Schofield*

concert included two members (Betty and Aldwyn) taking part in the parade of Standards and in spite of us not having a Standard they took part in the parade, and at the close of the concert just prior to the Service of Remembrance conducted by Canon Croston Sybil, recited the poem "For the Fallen". We had acquired an ATS uniform (borrowed a bit here and a bit there) and a shop window model duly kitted out complete with medals was in prominence on the stage along with another model wearing the scarlet and grey uniform of the QAIMNS, again this was borrowed. The ATS tunic was lent to us by one of our members, this is very precious to her as it was her wedding dress in 1943.

We attended the Remembrance Parade and Service in Bolton, in a bitterly cold wind (our blood must be running thinner) and Lucy placed the ATS wreath on the Memorial.

We held our Annual Dinner in October much enjoyed by everyone and our Christmas Dinner was held on 9th December, again much enjoyed.

BRADFORD. Greetings to all members. As I write these words the year is drawing to its close and by the time the Lioness starts popping into letter boxes all over the country and abroad, 1994 will be well on its way. Let us hope for better things to come.

We have had a few hospital casualties among our members with various operations being performed but now all are back home and recovering well - we wish them continued good health. This has been a busy year with various activities and parades.

In November we held our Festival of Remembrance, this was a great success with many associations taking part and attended by the Lord Mayor of Bradford.

As usual in November we hosted a lunch for the veterans of the 1914-18 War. This was started in 1982 with 92 veterans - sadly we are now down to four - with ages ranging from 96 to 98 - such grand old men who are so pleased to come and be remembered. The Dunkirk Veterans Association were also invited being next in age group so we had a complement of around 60 and this was also attended by the Lord Mayor.

Two new members - ex ATS - have joined us - we are pleased to welcome them.

Now we are looking forward to our Reunion in April and everyone is saving like mad for it. Quite a few of our ladies turned out to sell poppies again - we seem to sell more each year which is good.

CARDIFF & NEWPORT. We had a very enjoyable weekend in Wrexham, we were made very welcome by the ladies of the Branch, they worked very hard at making the Reunion such a success. Thank you again ladies.

Eight of us travelled to London for the Cenotaph Service and Parade. We stayed in the Victory Club where we met many old friends and also made new ones.

We are now busy organising events for 1994.

CHELMSFORD. We have just celebrated our 4th anniversary with a tea of peaches and cream - in the absence of strawberries - scones, fruit cake plus a beautiful iced cake made by a member's daughter. Four years may not seem so great to branches who have been meeting since the year dot, possibly since the end of World War II. In fact Chelmsford's original branch started up then, and we have the minutes taken to prove it but it was disbanded due to diminishing numbers about 1959/60 - which makes the present group of members (some of whom are founder members) all the more proud to have achieved so much to date. Our annual holiday last October took 48 of us to Warner's Holiday Village 'Sinah Warren' in Hayling Island

where we found fame but not fortune, by making up practically the whole of the fancy dress parade. This year we travel abroad to Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

Other outstanding events have been a grand Christmas Party, a visit to Peggy Cole's garden at Akenfield, Suffolk - a fascinating experience with a fabulous lunch and tea included. A visit to the Forces Sweethearts Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum - very successful and enjoyable social held in August to which our Colchester Branch friends were invited.

Being privileged to help run the Grand Raffle and man the memorabilia table at the AGM in April together with the Colchester Branch made us feel we at least made a small mark for ourselves and our members, despite the hard work, really enjoyed it.

We have made further progress as Chelmsford now has a large new TA Centre and our meetings will, in future, be held there in lovely surroundings. We are most grateful to the 'management' for agreeing to it.

So here's to another great year ahead and an even more expanding membership. A million thanks to all our wonderful members for their untiring efforts and support, their friendship and bubbling enthusiasm. Age has no bounds!!

We are looking forward to next year's programme which will include the Grand 75th Anniversary Reunion and AGM at which we hope to meet up with many other friends and your good selves.

COVENTRY. We have a total of 35 members and although we have had to change our venue and time, we usually average 20 members attending.

We have had a visiting speaker and one Bring & Buy sale to raise funds. We hope to have more sales in 1994. We have had several coach outings, including a day out at the Imperial War Museum which we found very interesting but I'm afraid we ran out of time.

We welcomed members of the Birmingham Branch to



for all your
LGV, PCV, FLT, CPC,
CRANE AND CAR TRAINING.



WE TRAIN THE PROFESSIONALS

WESTON-SUPER-MARE 0934 632008
BRISTOL 0272 254223

Weston Transport Training Services Ltd W.T.T.S. Driver Training (Bristol) Ltd

WE TRAIN THE PROFESSIONALS

our birthday party and we joined them for their anniversary. We will be having our Christmas Party at the Royal Court. This year we had a good turn out for the VE Day Commemoration Parade and service held in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. Some of our members attended the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and about 12 of our members, will attend the Remembrance Parade at Bedworth which is the only town in the country still holding the parade on November 11th. We look forward to our 5th Birthday Party in November, and we hope to continue giving support and social contact to all our members.

CREWE. This year we decided we would try to double our usual £200 donations. We have a very good team, we work well together and I am pleased to say we have more than achieved our aim. It has made us very happy to be able to donate a grand total of £500 this time.

In July the local Lions Club held an open air fund raising event in neighbouring Nantwich and they allowed us to have one of their stalls and although it was a terribly wet day, we did very well and you can see some of our members joining in the spirit of the event.



CREWE BRANCH

L to R: Edith Francis, Joan Berry, Blanche Hope, Mabel Redfern, Betty Patton, Queenie Moores, Elsie Walton

In between our fund raising events, we have managed quite a few social outings. We have had several visits to the theatre. A party of us were taken on a tour of the Crewe Postal Sorting Office which was very interesting. We had a day out to Stratford on Avon which we all enjoyed. Our Area reunion this year was at Wrexham. We all arrived in good time to receive a very warm welcome. So thank you Wrexham for giving us such an enjoyable day to remember. We have attended the usual civic and service parades locally, the most recent being the RAF Battle of Britain Parade. Our last fund raising event this year is a coffee morning. After that we have to prepare for our trip to London for the Cenotaph Service and Parade, we are also hoping to see the Lord Mayor's Show as well this year. Then we are having a welcome break until after the Christmas period with a Christmas outing to the theatre to see the pantomime.

EDINBURGH. The branch lost two of its distinguished members in 1993, Miss ME (Peg) Cruickshank who died on 16 December and Major ME (Betty) Crawford who died on 18 December 1993.

On her release from the WRAC Betty Crawford settled in Edinburgh and immediately took a full part in many and

varied activities. She was a member of the Scottish Branch of the Officers' Association and was active on the Sub-Committee dealing with the disbursement of funds. She was also on the Council of the Earl Haig Fund (Scotland). During the 1970s and early 80s she was Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch of the WRAC Association. The Cathedral Church of St Mary played a great part in Betty's life and for some years she served on the Vestry.

Betty had charm and courtesy. Her unexpected death has greatly saddened her many friends both in England and Scotland and she will be greatly missed by them all.

'Peg' Cruickshank was one of the earliest volunteers to join the ATS. After the war she came back to live and work in Edinburgh and became a member of the Edinburgh Branch of the WRAC Association in due course, along with her sister Jean. Together they carried on the secretarial work of the Branch for some years. More recently she had been unable to attend meetings because of ill-health. Her sister, Jean, is still an active member of the Branch and to her we offer our deepest sympathy.

EXETER. The Exeter Branch are pleased to report that our numbers have increased during the past year. We are fortunate to have the backing of The Royal British Legion where at the moment we meet bi-monthly. Such is the enthusiasm of the ladies that we hope to change this to a monthly meeting in the future. For us the reorganisation has ensured that we meet our sister groups more frequently. It was suggested that we contribute to the expenses of our Regional Chairman and this we readily agreed to do.

During the year we have had speakers from the YWCA, the National Children's Homes and the City Guides, and have enjoyed luncheon and tea parties at members homes and gardens. Our Birthday lunch at an hotel overlooking the River Teign was very well attended and it was here that I sat opposite a brand new member. Very soon we were astounded to find that not only were we GL Ops in the same Battery but also shared the same nissen hut. However, we confessed that neither would have no recognised each other as the young Corporals we once were. We scarcely remembered what we ate at the luncheon, we were so much immersed in reminiscences. Fifty years ago seemed as yesterday ... I am sure all of us aspire to meeting up with wartime comrades, when it actually happens the reality exceeds the expectations. It is unbelievable how much one remembers in fine detail.

As always, three Exeter ladies kept well in step as they marched to represent us at the Remembrance Service and Concert in The Great Hall of the University, and recently we have been 'found' by members of the WRENS Association here, and invited to their Christmas function.

Our Plymouth Branch ladies are fast becoming personal friends. Surely this is what the Association is all about? In spite of many of us in Exeter nearing (or passing) our three-score-years-and-ten, we intend to remain young in heart for many more years to come and we send cheerful greetings from Devon to our ex-Army friends everywhere.

FIFE & TAYSIDE BRANCH. On 4 December, 41 members and guests gathered for Christmas lunch in the Civil Service Club, Perth. Welcoming the company, the Branch Chairman, Col The Lady Martha Bruce OBE TD, said how encouraging it was to see such a good attendance and also to have Lt Col (Retd) Janet Lawson MBE, Chairman WRAC Association, Scotland, as our guest.

After an excellent meal, Mr George Watson provided his welcome variety of music for dancing, which was enthusiastic if not entirely artistic! Acting as Santa, Col Bruce distributed gifts to everyone. This was a most enjoyable



day with lots of reminiscences and good company.

It is hoped to have lunch prior to the Branch AGM on 7 May 1994, the intention being to combine the AGM with a reunion for women from Fife, Perth, Dundee and Angus who served in the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC. New members will be made most welcome. Inquiries please to the Branch Secretary whose name, address and telephone number may be obtained from your own Branch Secretary or the General Secretary.

The Branch continues to raise funds slowly but steadily, resulting in £200 being donated in 1993 to the Association Benevolent Fund. Letters of thanks have been received from Brigadier Field and the General Secretary.

GLASGOW. We hold our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in the Garnethill Community Centre. We started the season with a Bring & Buy Sale and raised the sum of £110 for Erskine Hospital.

On Oct 2nd 50 members attended the AGM in Stirling, the meeting was chaired by Lt Col J L Lawson, it was a very good meeting. Stirling Branch were the hosts, we had a lovely lunch in the Golden Lion Hotel, The Glasgow Branch Treasurer, Mrs M McGavin, received her Certificate of Appreciation.

We were joined by the Association of WRNS also WAAF Association, our speaker for that evening was taken ill a few hours before the meeting but our night was saved by the Rev Ada Younger, a lady minister, a woman with a lively sense of humour, who we always welcome.

On Sunday Nov 7 members attended Festival of Remembrance in Hamilton Town Hall. On Sunday 14th November the Branch members were on parade for the Remembrance Service in George Square, the Branch wreath was laid, the Branch was invited to a Buffet lunch given by Lord Provost in the City Chambers. On Friday July 30th members attended Edinburgh Castle to see Major General M I E Scott CBE DSO, GOC Army HQ Scotland installed as Governor.

GLASGOW BRANCH

*L to R: Jean Parker, Nancy Grimmond, Margaret Rattray, Cathie Lindsay, May McGavin, May Nicholson, Freida Calderwood
Middle Row Rose Watt, May Beglin, Renee Weir, Agnes Banford
Front Row Cathie Russell, Effie Wavich, May Ash, Jane Taylor*



Mrs May McGavin, Treasurer of Glasgow Branch, receives her Certificate of Appreciation from Miss Muriel Thomson, Life Vice-President of the Association

The members of the Glasgow Branch were thrilled and proud to hear that Miss Muriel Thomson had been appointed a Life Vice President of Council, she has worked hard and has given loyal support to the Association for almost 50 years and as Vice President for 40 years. The honour is richly deserved.

Our membership is 153, we lost 5 members, one of whom Mrs Jean Somerville was Branch Treasurer from 1976 to 1982. She will be sadly missed.

The Branch gave a donation of £500 to Erskine Hospital, £50 to the ATS Benevolent Fund and £20 to The British Legion.

PDF Compressor Free Version

GRIMSBY. On the second Wednesday of each month, we meet in our local TA HQ and our numbers remain fairly stable. We were sorry to bid farewell to one of our long-standing members who has moved to Hemel Hempstead. We hope she has been able to join a group in that area. We have also welcomed a new member to our Branch. Our comrades from Brigg and Scunthorpe area, still manage to travel the 30 miles to join us despite the vagaries of British Rail.

We held our Summer Fayre on June 10th and Christmas Fayre on November 20th to raise funds which enabled us to send generous donations to The Princess Mary appeal, ATS/WRAC Association Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and towards the plaque to be unveiled in Great Yarmouth, in memory of 26 ATS girls who were killed in bombing raid on 11 May 1943. Four of the victims are buried in our local cemetery.

We enjoyed a coach trip to Lincoln in August and a boat trip on the River Withern from from Brayford Pool Wharf to Saxilby - returning to Brayford Pool after a leisurely cruise. What was lacking in scenery was compensated by high spirits and general "esprit de corps". Also in August a team from our members took part in a quiz and were only 5 points behind the winning team. Our second attempt in November brought even better results as our team were the winners. Great guns girls - well done.

Remembrance Sunday was well attended by members in Grimsby at St James Parish Church and War Memorial and Cleethorpes in St Peters Church. Wreaths were laid at both locations.

Despite heavy rain we also attended with our Standard a service in our Chaplain's Church in the afternoon and Salvation Army Service in the evening.

We were proud to hear of award of Certificate and poppy brooch to Ruth Jenner, one of our founder members, for devotion to service over 40 years organising and selling poppies. Her daughter, who has followed her excellent example, was also awarded a Certificate for over 15 years dedicated service to the Royal British Legion.

HASTINGS. We have enjoyed a good year with many new members. Our project for the last year was to raise money for Mals House - a British Legion Home recently extended. We presented them with a cheque and a ATS/WRAC plaque. We now plan to help other ex-Service organisations.

In June our summer outing to Runnymede and Windsor, planned by our capable social secretary Nell Wood, was most enjoyable and despite the rain, we did not let it spoil our day.

Several of us attended the AGM in London.

We had a very successful 55th Anniversary celebration on 26 September at Blacklands Church, Hastings, several civic dignitaries from Rye and Bexhill, last Mayor of Hastings, our Member of Parliament Jacqui Tait, Standards and Standard bearers with members from Canterbury, Eastbourne and Wimbledon Branches. Our Treasurer Margery Lucas sang a solo "I'll Walk with God" and also read the lesson. During the service Dorothy Dixon was presented with her Certificate of Appreciation and our guest, Brigadier Anne Field, kindly made the presentation.

Guests were invited to take tea with us and our Chairman, Joan Lovell, read a message from the Queen Mother before cutting our cake decorated with an ATS



Miss Dorothy Dixon receives her Certificate of Appreciation from Brigadier Anne Field, Vice President

badge, this was all backed up by sterling work from the back room girls.

We are now into the Armistice and Festival of Remembrance services and parade.



Joan Lovell, Chairman of Hastings Branch, cuts cake.

HARROGATE. We have had yet another busy programme with all activities being well supported, though sadly the Grim Reaper has claimed two of our members (Shirley Lever in June and Elsie Robinson in October) and illness has beset several others.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly our 25th birthday celebration on 15 September when we enjoyed a superb dinner at the Ascot House Hotel at which we were pleased to welcome the North East Chairman and Vice Chairman. We had toasts and 'bubbly' and a few days later there was even a photograph of the cake-cutting ceremony in the local paper, accompanied by a write-up of the Branch.

Meetings have included some interesting talks on Aromatherapy, Old Phonographs (when a local enthusiast brought along his collection of ancient music players), a Know-Your-Yorkshire pictorial slide quiz, World of Music and a fascinating illustrated talk on Old Houses of Nidderdale.

We had two interesting outings. One was a visit to Marks & Spencer for a look behind the scenes, where we were royally entertained and emerged with familiar green bag of free goodies! The other was a tour of the local newspaper headquarters, where we were taken through the various processes and at the end of the evening had a grandstand view of the following day's edition being printed - a fascinating and ear-pounding experience!

For social get-togethers we had a Beetle Drive, a Fish & Chip supper, the Annual Lunch at the Green Park Hotel and, of course, the annual Christmas Party with the usual gourmet spread on the groaning table. A party attended the North East Reunion in York and we raised a satisfactory sum for Benevolent and Branch funds at two local town galas in the summer.

The premises in which our meetings have been held for a number of years have now been sold for development but we have been fortunate in being offered an attractive alternative in the town centre. So we shall be moving house as from January 1994 and look forward to a more comfortable venue and another happy year ahead.

HEREFORD. We still meet on the last Wednesday of each month except December, when we have our Christmas meal. There are 44 members in the Branch now and our esteemed oldest lady served in both World Wars. Unfortunately she has recently had a very serious operation, but with her fighting spirit and courage, she is thankfully home again and well on the way to recovery. She has moved to a new address and further away from the City Centre but we are hoping she will once more get to our Christmas lunch on December 7th and we wish her well.

This year we have again had two separate trips to the homes of members who live in Ross-on-Wye. In May we went to Mrs Mary Davis's home and had a lovely tea and afterwards a game of bingo, with many neighbours joining it. We then went to Mrs Dorothy Brooks's home in July for tea and her speciality is gorgeous – real cream sponges. Definitely yummy!

We had Mrs Maggie Purkis and Mrs Edith Francis, our Group Chairman and Secretary along with several Cardiff members to a pub lunch on a lovely day in June and most enjoyable it was too. July saw us manning the bric-a-brac stall in the Butter Market, an annual event.

In September we had a Jumble Sale to raise funds for a mini-bus to Wrexham reunion. The following week, a car boot sale was successful too. Fourteen of us are here in Wrexham, and later on in the month it will be our AGM when we will again donate to the Benevolent Fund a further £50. BLESMA, SSAFA and the Poppy Appeal funds, as well as the ATS Benevolent Fund have all benefited this year so far.

In November we shall again be represented at the War Memorial in St Peters Square for the Royal British Legion Remembrance Day parade and service when a poppy wreath will be laid on behalf of the Association.

HULL. After quite a long time, Hull is happy to report they have at last got a Standard bearer, Mrs D Muffin not long retired and recently married - before that she was Mrs Huntley. Her first time on Parade was Remembrance Sunday and what a christening she had. The wind blew and the rain came down in tropical torrents just at 11 o'clock. Nevertheless she came through unscathed and the few members who braved the elements were proud to see her and the WRAC Association Standard.

We do not get around a lot, Hull seems to be a difficult place from which to find suitable transport. This Branch is always well represented at the Bridlington Ex-Service weekend in Springtime and this year we had an enjoyable visit to Skipton and Darley Mill, nr Patley Bridge. The weather was good and we were able to enjoy the magnificent views of the Yorkshire Dales.

Three or four of us will be attending the Reunion in Frimley and we look forward to seeing old friends.

LIVERPOOL. We still meet on the third Wednesday of the month but have recently changed to afternoon meetings at

1.30 pm instead of the evenings. June found us attending the Tea Dance at Rhyl where we were made very welcome by members of the branch. We were fortunate that it was a beautiful summer afternoon, but our return journey found us caught in torrential rain. In August instead of a meeting, a party of our members had a very interesting guided tour of the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral followed by afternoon tea. Two of our members attended the Wales & West Reunion in Wrexham in September. Again it was a beautiful afternoon as far as weather was concerned and a most enjoyable reunion.

As usual members attended the Dedication at the Garden of Remembrance on Friday 12 December, and the service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, when our Branch wreath was laid.

The rest of the year was taken up with our regular monthly meetings at which we have our usual activities such as Bring & Buy sales, talks, quiz, book and plant sales etc.

LONDON. Sadly we have to report the death, at the age of 96, of our President Mrs Madeline Curtis. Mrs Curtis served in the QMAAC at Rouen and was Secretary of Ilford Branch until becoming Chairman and Vice-President of London Branch in 1968. She became President in 1989. Mrs Barbara Alexander has succeeded her as President and Miss Betty Brown becomes Vice-President. Miss Brown resigned as Treasurer after 32 years of devoted service in November, but happily she will remain active on the committee. We welcome Mrs Gladys Stewart as her successor. Also retiring from the committee is Miss Mary Slocombe who has served on the committee for 46 years as well as being Treasurer for 2 years and Secretary for 21 years - an impressive record of service for which we extend our thanks. We also welcome a new member to the committee, Miss Joyce Edward. Membership of the Branch is currently 322 and we have had 17 new and transferred members during the year.

In July Miss Mary Santer went to Canada and while there was in touch with the Canadian Women's Army Corps Unit in Toronto and was warmly welcomed at one of their meetings. They sent greetings to London Branch and later Mrs Doris Madill, the Secretary, sent us a souvenir brochure of the 35th Annual CANADA-WIDE reunion which took place on 24/25 September 1993. It is full of interest and includes an account of the unveiling of a plaque at St Leonards on Sea, to the memory of the late Reverend John Weir Foot VC who took part in the Dieppe Raid and the ceremony was organised with the help of the Hastings Branch. Mrs Madill, an ex ATS from Camberley, has come to many of the Association Reunions over the years but says that "age is a factor now with distant travel" so she will not be with us next year.

We had an interesting coach trip in September to Hammerwood Park, East Grinstead which, after years of neglect is being lovingly restored by David Pinnegar. During the war, the house became home to 200 soldiers who left their mark on it – under the floorboards were found army scarves, boots and Canadian cigarette packets. Tanks were hidden in the woods and later aircraft. The RAF used the house for SOE operations to France flying Lysanders from a temporary runway to the north of the Park.

During our "Speak For Yourself" meeting we heard from Bettie Conrad about her visit to the Battle of the Atlantic 93 celebrations which took place in Liverpool and a fascinating account of the Great Fire of Tooley Street 1861, from Dorrin Phillipson. We also had an amusing account from Mrs M Taylor of her ten years driving a white Rolls Royce to weddings and other functions. On 11 November a number of members were in Westminster

Abbey for the 75th Anniversary Service and others heard it broadcast to the Field of Remembrance. We are now looking forward to the 1994 Reunion and the branch celebrations of 75 years which we will have together with a Reunion of WRAG Association London next September.

PDF Compressor Free Version

(Sadly Betty Brown died soon after these notes were written).

MANCHESTER. After summer holidays and activities we arrived at our date to visit Wrexham, our Group HQ, to meet up with our new friends of the Group. They greeted us with enthusiasm and we were very pleased to be made so welcome. We settled down to a lovely meal, viewed the Bring & Buy stalls and met old friends for a chat. We were all by now at the mellow stage when called to attention by our hosts and the sound of a military band and drums marching into the hall. With great excitement we stood and cheered when the Regimental Goat 'Billy' was led in by a Sergeant of the 3rd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers TA Battalion ahead of the Band who played for our entertainment. After we had all quietened down we had chance to speak to Lord & Lady Mayors and look at the lovely hall and surroundings. After a truly wonderful day we made our way to the railway station to catch our train to Manchester. It was one hour late of course but that's another story.

During the dark winter evening we held a meeting once again earlier at the Midland Hotel for afternoon tea no less. Well, you would wouldn't you? Amazing the amount of work you can do over a cup of tea, so much better don't you agree? November dawned once more bitterly cold, as usual we took our places at the cenotaph in Manchester. We had quite a good turn out considering the weather. This however did not alter our feelings of pride as we marched past and gave our salute to past comrades.

In December our Treasurer arranged a Shopping Luncheon, which finished as a great get-together with many of our friends from local branches mustering 52 in number. This turned out to be a great success as one of our friends was celebrating her 90th birthday. She insisted on buying wine for all with the inevitable dinner mints. We all toasted Mary Harvey with our best wishes. I am sure she had something to remember as we presented her with a basket of flowers and a huge card with 52 signatures. I am sure it will stand out in her memories for years to come. To finish the lunch we held a raffle with prizes donated by the members. We raised the amount of £85 so will be pleased to make a donation to the Benevolent Fund. A happy break up of the party in the early afternoon.

MEDWAY. Over the past year we have had enjoyable meetings with other branches - really great fun. Canterbury Branch made us most welcome - that was before we won a good percentage of their raffle prizes which caused a lot of hilarity. Hastings Branch also made us welcome - again we took the prizes - we must be lucky!

Early on in the year we accompanied the local branch of Dunkirk Veterans for a day out to see the memorial and visit the military cemetery. Well, we arrived OK on the Dunkirk beaches and enclose a photo of some of the girls at the memorial. The cemetery was a different matter - we had a "Cooks" tour to find it. I think we visited all the cemetery areas in and around Dunkirk. After following a French car driver who offered to help, we found ourselves once again at the wrong place. We had a padre on board the coach, so we asked him to ask for some assistance from a "high authority" but as we all know padres know two directions only - up or down - so he wasn't much help.

However we eventually saw a group of Gendarmes - so asked them and lo and behold we were at the spot in two minutes. A really lovely day - warm and sunny - added to the service the padre gave there and a Scottish piper completed the service.



Medway Branch members at Dunkirk

Some of us had a day at Aldershot on the Airborne Forces day. Three girls went to Arnhem with the local ex-Para Organisation - a very moving experience. We joined with the Chatham British Legion in a parade. They made us very welcome. Recently we held a small stall in a local market to boost on our funds.

Sadly, we attended the funeral of Nancy Waters. Although a Canterbury member, Nancy was greatly loved by the Medway members.

Our monthly meetings are still attended by our faithful few. We are spread out somewhat around the Medway towns and it's not too easy to get in from some of the villages. However, we press on. Several of us are going to the April Reunion at Frimley, and are busy "saving our pennies".

NEWCASTLE. Our Branch continues to make progress. In September we had a coach trip to Morecambe which we all enjoyed and then in October members went to Whitley Bay to have lunch together. We are organising a coach for the week-end at Guildford for the Grand Reunion.

Members attend parades in Newcastle and in December we are going to the British Legion Carol Service.

MIDDLESBROUGH. Our small group of lively ladies continues to meet each month in the RAF Association Club, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.00 until 4.00 pm. We have our monthly tea parties and a good natter. We have a raffle and bring & buy table trying to boost our funds.

In March I attended the Northern Area Secretary's meeting in York to discuss our yearly Northern Reunion which was held at York Racecourse on May 1st. It was very enjoyable, the buffet was first rate. Our guests were Brigadier Ramsey and Brig Anne Field. Brig Ramsey gave a very interesting talk on Women in the Army today.

On June 4th some of our ladies went to Worthy Down Winchester for the Adjutant General's Corps Day. HM Queen Elizabeth, who graciously attended, unveiled the plaque for the relocated Rose Garden. Also as guests were HRH The Duchess of Kent and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester. I was very honoured to be presented to Queen Elizabeth. It is a day I shall never forget.

On August 15th our members attended VJ Day Parade in Middlesbrough. We will also be parading on November 14th

Remembrance Day. We had our annual Christmas Lunch on December 8th at the Blue Bell Hotel in Middlesbrough and all the organisations that meet at the RAF Club in Middlesbrough are to have a combined Christmas Party on December 22nd.

Over the year we have had several days out and hope to



Middlesbrough Branch

**Betty Tondziel, Lily Beach, Mr Tondziel, Conny Smith
Olive Searle, Cath Cuckfield, Mary Barker, Ivy Fisher**

have a night out the local pantomime. We sent cards and flowers and visited our ladies that were sick or in hospital. We hope to carry on for a few years, God willing.

Mrs White, our Treasurer, is sending a cheque for £20 for the Benevolent Fund and Norfolk Branch has asked for donations towards a Memorial Plaque in memory of the 26 ATS girls that were killed by a direct bomb on their HQ in Great Yarmouth in 1943. This will be on May 11 1994 and we are sending them a donation of £10 - we would have liked to send more but we are only a small branch.

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK. Our Branch has, for the past six months, had the investigation into the Great Yarmouth incident of 1943 uppermost in their minds and look forward to the commemoration in May next year as the culmination of all their commitment.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank secretaries and members of all Branches who have helped in many ways by giving publicity which has brought us much information; in some cases being responsible for actually finding relatives; for the supporting letters received and, not least, for their generous donations in memory of our dead comrades, towards the plaque to be erected on 11 May 1994.

It is unfortunate that we cannot at present give precise details of the commemoration ceremony but if Branch Secretaries will kindly write to Mrs Joan Awbery or to Mrs Meg Watson giving estimated numbers of members attending, we will write and give full information separately to those Branches as early as possible. The Great Yarmouth Tourist Board have been helpful in despatching copies of the town guide advertising accommodation.

Membership has increased considerably during the last few months and we now number 112. Mrs Meg Watson, living in Gorleston, found many former ATS in Great Yarmouth and surrounding villages unable to get regularly to Branch meetings in Norwich. She therefore set up a group in Yarmouth as part of this Branch and they meet fortnightly and to date have twenty members, continually increasing.

We had a splendid outing to Bury St Edmunds and Felixstowe in lovely summer weather and are now looking forward to our annual luncheon in January. Speakers this season have given us an insight into the running of a local

HAVE YOU A BOOK TO PUBLISH

*a story
to tell?*

Publisher considers all
subjects, autobiographies,
poetry, children's stories.

Write for details to:
NAVIGATOR BOOKS,

**Kingston, RINGWOOD,
Hampshire BH24 3BJ
TEL: 0425 476708
FAX: 0425 480075**

GAVIN ASTOR HOUSE NURSING HOME

We aim to provide nursing and residential care for our clients to the highest standards in a friendly, happy environment whilst respecting the privacy, dignity and independence of the individual.

All our residents are treated as valued individuals and are encouraged to maintain their independence through day-to-day choices about their lifestyle.

WHERE TO FIND US

Gavin Astor House is pleasantly situated in the grounds of Preston Hall which forms part of Royal British Legion Village, and is just 3 miles to the west of Maidstone, the County Town of Kent.

The house whilst enjoying the privacy of a quiet and panoramic location is close to all transport links.

For further information:

Paul Thompson or Jan Murray

Gavin Astor House

Royal British Legion Village

Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NF

Telephone: 0622 791056 Fax 0622 882195

aircraft museum, and we saw slides of commemorative plaques to lost aircraft all over East Anglia in the most suprising and unlikely situations. We now keep our eyes open for others which may be hidden from view. Later a

former WRAF Flight Officer kept us highly entertained with an account of her thirty-five years in the WAAF in widely differing stations in this country and overseas. We hope she will be returning this coming season to tell us more. Then the organisers of the British Legion marching team brought slides demonstrating how professional they are on parade. We were particularly impressed with their turn out at the cemeteries in Belgium and France and at the Menin Gate.

November saw us holding a sale to help raise funds towards the memorial plaque at Great Yarmouth and this month, true to tradition, we had a demonstration of Christmas cake icing and decorating, with most of us rushing home to put into practice what we thought looked so easy, but soon found otherwise.

We do not hold a meeting in January, but look forward to February to having a visit from members of the Norfolk WRENS Association. We feel something of an affinity with them, in March 1943, seven WRENS were killed in a bombing raid at Great Yarmouth. We hope to join the Association in remembering them in 1994.

OMAGH. The Branch had its Annual lunch at the Silver Birch Hotel in October 1993. Nine members attended.



Omagh Branch

Back Row: L Russell, F Morgan, B Hamilton, M K Twist, M Baillie, V Muldoon, Front Row: H Bell, S Irons, M Reid

PLYMOUTH. We were saddened earlier this year to lose two of our most faithful and loyal members, Mrs Gwen Archer, sister of our President Mary Byers and Mrs Megan Tucker. Gwen had been Treasurer of the Branch for many years, and although both members had not enjoyed good health recently, they had always supported the Branch in spirit. Our sympathy goes to their families at this time.

On a happier note, we have welcomed two new members, Mrs Kathleen Gulley and Lt Col Glenys Harvey. Col Harvey is ex-WRAC, so we are pleased that a younger member has joined us, we would be delighted to see more ex-WRAC from our area. The Branch is flourishing with 43 annual members and 28 life members. Our meetings are on the first Monday of the month at the Royal Fleet Club at Devonport and we number between 25 and 30. Many members live too far away from Plymouth to attend, but we do keep in touch with a twice-yearly newsletter. Every month we have a raffle to boost our funds, and a competition. The competitions call for different skills - cooking, flower-arranging, word games, limericks etc. A shield is presented each year, Mrs Joan Gribben is the winner for 1993.

In August the Branch enjoyed a happy day out at St Ives where there is something to interest everyone. We are fortunate to have such lovely venues in our area for our trips. Our standard has been paraded several times in the past six months by our standard bearers, Mrs Doreen Greenaway and Mrs Grace Cox, and their escorts. The Festival of Remembrance at Plymouth Pavilions on November 5th was a great occasion, with more than fifty standards at the muster and the wonderful music of the Royal Marine Band. We are proud to be part of this Act of Remembrance.

Once again we were able to hold our Christmas party in the Sgts' Mess at the Royal Citadel on the Hoe. Braving a force 10 gale blowing across the parade ground, 60 intrepid souls gathered to enjoy the games, dancing and the cabaret act arranged for us by our capable MC, Mrs Lenora Hannaford. We were pleased to see members from the Exeter Branch who had driven through the storm to be with us. Our grateful thanks to the CO and the RSM of 29 Commando RA for allowing us to use the Sgts' Mess and to Bombadier Brown for the excellent buffet he put on.

We look forward to meeting other Branches at the different events planned for the coming year, and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 1994.

RHYL. We are still a very active Branch, we have cheerful meetings each month, an average of 22 members out of our number of 36, the first Monday at our local RAFA Branch.

Our afternoon tea in June was very successful and also a fine weather afternoon. We are planning another one this summer. Our autumn programme was full with trips to Wigan, Manchester, Rochdale. A party of us went to Wrexham Reunion in September, enclosed photograph,



Rhyl Branch

*Back Row: Eileen Evans
Front Row: Dorothy Medcalf, Phyllis Standing, Joan Salisbury-Jones, Yvonne Sampson*

we were awaiting the train. We had a lovely day meeting up with lots of friends from other Branches. Our Treasurer, Yvonne, laid our poppy wreath on a very windy morning, she was very smart. A few of us went to Charlie Chesters 'Monte Casino' Remembrance evening in Llandudno. The girls enjoyed Chester's first Dinner Dance and we were all now looking forward to our Christmas Dinner and celebrations.

The Branch sends good wishes for 1994 to all our friends and hoping to renew friendships at the Grand Reunion in Guildford in April.

RICHMONDSHIRE. Although small in numbers. The Branch continues to flourish. Meetings, at which we usually have a speaker, are held monthly at Catterick Garrison and in the

summer months outings to various places of interest are arranged in lieu of meetings.

In May, six members enjoyed the Northern Area Reunion in York and later that month we augmented our funds by holding a very successful plant and produce sale in Richmond Market.

The year ended with the 90th Birthday of Jessie McKenzie, one of our founder members. Jessie has always been a very active member of the Branch rarely missing a meeting and an outing, so it was extremely disappointing that at the eleventh hour she was unwell - too much excitement - and unable to attend the party we had arranged for her. Nevertheless the members present all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and her presents and the magnificent cake which had been made for her by another member of the Branch, were taken to her home the following day.

Unfortunately, because of the distance and the cost involved, no members of the Branch will be present at the Grand Reunion in April.



Jessie McKenzie BEM of Richmond Branch 90th Birthday Party (courtesy of Darlington & Stockton Times)



Rochdale Branch members at Wrexham Reunion

SHROPSHIRE. We still meet monthly, but because of the area our Branch covers many of our members are unable to attend.

In July we held our Birthday party. In August we had an extremely interesting visit from a member of St John Ambulance who taught us about First Aid, especially resuscitation. We all found it very interesting but hopefully will not have to put our new-found knowledge into practice. Also in August, we visited the home of Terri Goff for our annual BBQ which as always was a great success.

In September our Branch members and friends enjoyed a pleasant two hour trip on the Shropshire Union Canal at Ellesmere, organised by Irene Hall. This included a delicious meal and the whole trip was enjoyed by all. At our monthly meeting we welcomed two ladies who spoke about Torquay Pottery.

We attended the splendid area Reunion at Wrexham on 25 September 1993. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and were entertained by the Fifes and Drums from the Band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. A wonderful surprise arranged by the Secretary of the Wrexham Branch.

Lucy Bowyer, our Standard Bearer, has attended several Royal British Legion parades, and at the time of writing has accepted an invitation to parade the Branch Standard at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham during the International Tattoo. This will be the fourth she has attended.

We, in Shropshire, are hosting the 1994 Wales & The West Reunion on 8th October in Telford. Please keep this date free and come along and join us, we hope to have one or two surprises for you all.

SOMERSET. Once again, we have a new Secretary.

Regrettably, we were unable to have an Annual Dinner in October as we had no suitable venue. However, we are now fortunate in having a new "home" - the British Legion Club, Mary St. Taunton - for your monthly meetings (except August and January) and we hope to have a good regular attendance in view of this. Time of the meeting is 10.30 am.

A visit to Hestercombe Gardens at Cheddon Fitzpaine near Taunton, has been arranged for Thursday 9 June 1994. Admission for us "Golden Oldies" is only £1.50.

During the summer, we hope that have a stall at North Curry Fayre and a Car Boot Sale. Other suggestions have been a visit to Police Headquarters and Hinckley Point Power Station.

SOUTHAMPTON. The last half of 1993 has seen our meeting at our new venue, the YWCA in Southampton which seems to have encouraged new members to attend.

In July we again enjoyed a supper and wine evening at the Scout Headquarters in the New Forest, a lovely setting. This popular event was arranged by one of our members, Louise Longhurst.

We celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the formation of our Branch at the September meeting. We were proud to have one Standard paraded at the Royal British Legion Rally and Fete at Broadlands, Romsey on 29th August, and again on 3rd September at a farewell concert by the Royal Hampshires at Winchester Guildhall.

5th September saw us on another coach trip in perfect weather conditions to Bath for a lunch at the home of Betty Keating, an ex-Southampton member, transferred to Bath Branch, plus a tour of the City. A really great day - thank you so much Betty. (Note: if booking a 15 seater mini, do not fill with 15 members, one seat is for the driver!!).

We held our 3rd Annual Lunch on 22nd September at which 90 attended. Three of us went along and very much the enjoyed the luncheon held by the Portsmouth Branch on 12 October. Our November meeting saw members

enjoying a slide show of Southampton, past and present, and again we were proud to see our Standard on parade at the Festival of Remembrance at Southampton Guildhall.



*Southampton Branch
Louise Longhurst presented with her Certificate of
Appreciation by Jean Doe, Branch Chairman*

STIRLING. The branch with covers Central Region has one life member and fifty-nine annual members and meets on the last Saturday of each month except June, July and August.

At the AGM in October 1992 it was agreed that £50 should be sent to the Benevolent Fund. £114 collected in Smartie tubes was sent to Erskine Hospital. Falkirk District Council invited the branch to send four ex-ATS to take part in the British Legion Festival of Remembrance in November. Four volunteers attended wearing their green Association jumpers. Some members also attended the Remembrance Service in the Church of the Holy Rude.

Forty members attended a Christmas lunch at the Terraces Hotel and this event was voted a great success. In January a slide show and talk was given by Nettie Strong on her visit to Australia in the summer of 1992. In April a demonstration was given on holistic massage. This had the magical effect of creating total silence for several minutes - a great achievement! In May we were fortunate to have a visit from Colonel Steele and his wife who gave a talk on his work at Erskine Hospital. A film was shown, narrated by Jimmy Logan on the work of rehabilitation and on the medical services available for the sick and disabled. Association members are encouraged to make arrangements to visit the hospital.

Some of our members had the good fortune to attend the first reunion of ATS who had served in Anti-Aircraft Batteries during war time. Two hundred women and some men attended this very successful weekend at York and it is hoped it is the first of many more such occasions.

The branch has been very busy making arrangements for the Scottish Area AGM to be held in Stirling this year and thanks are offered to everyone who contributed prizes for the raffle to be held on the day.

SWANSEA. It has been a good year for the Swansea Branch as our Secretary, Lillian Clark and Treasurer, Vi Bates, can testify. Our numbers have been maintained, and a good 20 attend our monthly meetings. As we are so scattered in the area we think this is a good omen and shows the commitment of our members.

In between the usual run of speakers we have had a lunch out, also invited the Area Officers to tea to meet all the members. It also helped us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Branch. We had tea with the Lord Mayor who also told us about his year in office which was very interesting.

We were invited to the Garrison Church of Swansea for a service commemorating the landing at Normandy, a plaque was unveiled to the veterans.

Donations have been made to the Princess Royal's Benevolent Fund and towards the window in Guildford Cathedral where members will be attending the Service and Reunion at Frimley in April.

During November, Myra Norton proudly carried our Standard at the Branwyn Hall, a wreath was placed on the Cenotaph on 11 November and on the 14th November we paraded and marched to a Service at St Mary's Church joining all the other Branches of the Services.

As there is so much going on around Christmas, we decided to hold our Christmas Dinner in February giving us something to look forward to in the New Year.

ULSTER. In the spring our annual lunch and Bring & Buy Sale was attended by 55 members and as usual lunch was much enjoyed.

June took us to Omagh, Co Tyrone, where we visited the very interesting Ulster-American Folk Park, an outdoor museum telling the story of emigration in the 18th and 19th centuries. Old farm houses - with baking on open fires - an old street and then houses from the New World - the USA. Well worth a visit.

On October 20 of us paraded through Millisle, Co Down for the commemoration of a new War Memorial on the sea-front. Attended by local Council dignitaries, the Royal British Legion and the parade lead by an Army Band.

WESTCLIFF. At present we have 13 members, 5 who are staunch supporters. Due to the fact that we were not making enough to pay the rent on the premises we were using, and the Secretary's recent illness, we now meet at the Secretary's home.

We have held 3 successful table sales and made a profit of £32.96. Three of our members will be attending the Reunion in April. We welcomed a new member in August who served with the Secretary in 1951, it was a delight to see each other again after 42 years.

We have been invited by the local Royal British Legion to have a contingent in the local Remembrance Parade which we gratefully accepted, and all members have been informed. Only 3 of the Branch members attended the Remembrance Parade. The Secretary is still housebound and apologies were given from Shirley Knight.



*Westcliffe-on-Sea Branch Secretary
Mrs E Ralph at Remembrance Parade
(copies of photo are available to those in front and
pushing)*

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BRANCH. Our meetings have been well attended, averaging 20-26 members per meeting. We are able once again to have speakers interspersed with domestic nights when business is discussed, and our Bring & Buy nights which help our funds.

A member from Aylesbury Branch has been transferred to our Branch and we have also gained two new members living at Bovington. Sadly, Mrs Brenda Gadson, who was ill with Motor Neurone disease, died in June. Five members attended her funeral, which was in no way a sad occasion, and the officiating clergyman told us so many things about her that we had never know before! Mrs Joan Wratten, who is in a Nursing Home, is visited regularly.

Members responded well to requests for help at Army Benevolent Fund fund raising events and enjoyed themselves at the same time. Some helped at a Band concert at Lyme Regis, selling programmes and serving tea after the concert. On Friday 17 September, a number of us were able to watch the Freedom of the Borough march by the Royal Engineers, the Devon & Dorset Regiment and Naval personnel from HMS Osprey. The next day, 18th September, we sold souvenirs and rattled collecting tins on the esplanade, and in the evening several members did likewise at a "Musical Extravaganza" at Weymouth Pavilion. The same evening, the Devon & Dorset Regiment gave a concert in Dorchester and three members went to help. On 26th October, two members helped at a concert given by the Royal Signals at the Coades Hall in the grounds of Bryanston School. There was a carol concert by the Royal Signals on 8th December in Wimborne Minster, to which we were invited, and three members again helped with collecting tins. These events kept us busy and were of great interest and pleasure.

Our summer outing - a barge ride on the canal from "Little Venice" to Camden Lock - was a great success. It coincided with our Secretary's 80th birthday, and to her surprise a beautiful cake was produced and was cut on the coach, and everyone had a slice. The cutting of a cake on a fast-moving vehicle is quite a feat! A large card was signed by everyone present and there were individual cards and presents, marking an unforgettable and very happy occasion.

There was a good attendance of members at the Battle of Britain service and also for Remembrance Sunday services. Unfortunately, owing to a fall, our Standard Bearer was unable to be present. Mrs Esther Pring laid our wreath at the Weymouth Cenotaph and as she had had money sent from America for a wreath in memory of a friend's wife who had served in the ATS, after the wreath-laying Esther went on down the Esplanade and laid her wreath at the American Memorial. Our Chairman laid a wreath at the Portland Cenotaph - and reported how very windy it was there that morning!

At our Annual General Meeting in November all Committee members were returned to Office. Our membership now stands at 38 Annual and 20 Life members.

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT. The Wimbledon and District Branch now numbers 98 and this year we have welcomed 5 new members.

On the 4th June, several ladies visited Worthy Down to witness the dedication of the Princes Royal's Rose Garden in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen. Also in June we had an excellent tea party. In July the historical author, Richard Milward, gave a lecture on the history of Merton illustrated with slides of old buildings and maps.

We did not have a meeting in August, instead our Chairman gave a tea party in her delightful garden. This was a most enjoyable occasion. In September we listened attentively to a specialist in the education of deaf children who emphasized the importance of early detection - to this

end tests are carried out from the age of four months. At the end of September at the invitation of the Hastings Branch, a group travelled down from Wimbledon and were made most welcome at a super lunch followed by a Commemorative Service to celebrate the founding of the ATS in 1938. In October we held a Bring & Buy, a major fund raising occasion to enable us to donate to charities. This was well supported with generous gifts from everyone.

On Remembrance Sunday our branch was represented by members at the Parade in Whitehall, at the service in Westminster Abbey and the War Memorial at Wimbledon.

At the AGM on 19th November, there were several committee changes. After many years of devoted service, first as Chairman and later as President, Barbara Young has (due to her increasing years) decided to stand down. We are grateful to her for the wise counsel which has prevailed at times. Iris Smith, our Chairman for several years, has had a difficult year with health problems and has resigned from her office. Iris has been a tireless and devoted worker on behalf of all members, particularly those who can no longer attend meetings. We thank her and are pleased that she has been elected as President. The newly elected committee is as follows:

Chairman	Marjorie Hindley
Vice-Chairman	Mick Moorshead
Secretary	Bessie Wright
Treasurer	Berry Syrett
Social Secretary	Mary Rulton
Other members	Jean Collyer, Vera Neil, Perry Abbott, Beryl Doubles and Nan Thomas.

Very sadly we have received the news that Barbara Wyeth passed away on the 29th November. A brave and prolonged battle against illness. Barbara never complained, was always cheerful and an inspiration to others. We shall miss her greatly.

WINCANTON & BLACKMORE VALE. Ten days after a memorable day at the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down, 17 of us went to Plymouth on 13 June for the first South West Area Reunion at the Royal Citadel, and enjoyed another wonderful day. It was nice to meet Colonel and Mrs Dunn, Mrs Hill, our new Area Chairman, and members from Exeter, Plymouth and Somerset Branches, many of whom we already knew, but a number we had not met before. These events certainly help to get to know others in the area better.

We do congratulate Plymouth for arranging such a super day, and in lovely surroundings.

In July, we held our annual Garden Party at a members house in Buckhorn Weston, and in spite of the weather we all enjoyed ourselves very much, and managed to get out into the garden between showers! We have had some interesting speakers at the monthly meetings, including talks on small antiques and the Tower of London.

Ten of our members joined the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Sunday march through Wincanton for the Service and wreath laying ceremony.

Our Christmas lunch was held on December 14th and once again it was at a Country House near Wincanton. In the second half of the year we gained six new members and the monthly meetings continue to be well attended.

WREXHAM. During the last 12 months we have lost 2 founder members - Mrs Gwladys James and Mrs Beryl Ankers. Some members have been sick and we have one member in a Nursing Home.

In January we had a visit from our Group Secretary, Mrs Edith Francis, who saw the location for our Reunion. Our Treasurer had been taken ill whilst on holiday and was not

present at this month's meeting.

March, our first correspondence for the reunion (namely tickets) was received from Birmingham. April - Secretary gave her report after attending the AGM in London. She had received her Certificate of Appreciation from the Association.

PDF Compressor Free Version

May, our Treasurer, Mrs Gwladys James, died on the 10th of this month. The family requested that six ATS members from the Branch accompany her coffin into the Crematorium. She will be missed very much by the Branch.

Gwladys served with the ATS Provost Corps after joining the ATS as a cook. She then transferred to the Corps and served with the ATS and later was one of the first to join the then newly formed WRAC. After many various and interesting tours of duty especially her exemplary achievements whilst in charge of the Jewish Women's Refugee Camps in Palestine from 1946 to 1948 lead to her recommendation for a BEM, sadly this award was not realised. She then ended her service career of 14 years at the Wrexham Recruiting Office.

She was involved with many charities and was active with Oxfam until the end. She was also the treasurer for the ATS WRAC Association Wrexham branch for many years. Many will remember her by her nickname of "Willy" and will smile fondly of her "antics" and extraordinary laugh. Gwladys was cremated at Pentrebychan Crematorium on the 13th May and four ATS members from the Wrexham Branch proudly acted as pallbearers.

We have attended a Mayor's Parade to Church and our Armistice Service (where a wreath was laid on the local Cenotaph).

The highlight of the year was hosting the Wales & The West Reunion. This went off very successfully. Our grateful thanks to all those branches who supported (all of our area except one) and many from other Areas. A £300 donation was sent to the Benevolent Fund. Also many thanks for all the Thank You letters received for a wonderful Reunion. The highlight of the Reunion was the Fifes and Drums with Drum Major and the Regimental Goat (not Mascot) with the Goat Major from the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. They were enjoyed by all.

We do have a video of the reunion and if any branch who were present would like one, please contact me for details.

Mrs P Rzezaewska

Hon Secretary Wrexham Branch

125 Bryn Offa

Ruthin Road

Wrexham

WOLVERHAMPTON. We are still thriving and a very friendly and happy Branch. We have had two new members recently. I think we get nostalgic in our old age as we are left alone after losing our partners, our thoughts turn to the memories of our ATS days.

We all enjoyed meeting Maggie Purkis and Terri Goff when they visited us in May. We had a talk by a lady who collects spoons which was very interesting and we had a return visit of a friend of our Chairman who shows us easy and quick ways of altering skirts etc and tips for Christmas decorations.

Our outing to Bourton-on-Water in June was very enjoyable and we were invited to join Birmingham Branch for their 4th Birthday party.

We had an Easter Fayre in March and next month, October, we are holding our Autumn Fayre which helps us to keep solvent and enables us to make a donation each year to the Benevolent Fund.

We are very pleased to hear that they are thinking of erecting a plaque in memory of the ATS killed in action at Gorleston-on-Sea nr Great Yarmouth in 1943 as one of our members, Phyllis Martin, was stationed there at the time, but fortunately lived to tell the tale.

We have approximately 55 members but are so spread out that we can only have 17/20 members attend meetings which are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

YORK. After a lapse of several years our branch was reformed in 1982 and, slightly late, we had a party in January 1993, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our reforming. The cake was made by our Chairman and some of the original members of the 'comback'.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the RAFA Club in Aldwark, York. During the winter months our meetings start at 2 pm to enable everyone to get home in daylight. From April until October we meet at 7.30 pm (no meeting in August) so anyone in York at these times who would care to call on us can be sure of a very warm welcome. You may even meet someone you know.

Our activities are varied. Several of us are members of the ATS Dinner Club and attend the annual luncheon. We are also to be represented at the 75th anniversary celebrations to be held in Guildford in 1994.

In May 1993, our branch was host to the North East Reunion which was held in York. It was such a success that the event will again be held there in 1994. Further information will be published in the Lioness nearer the date. If you would like to start preparations to join us on a really super day out with the "old girls" we will be delighted to see you. (See page 50 for details).



*Manchester members with Goat at Wrexham
Dorothy McClusky, Alice Stallard, Irene Booth, Hilda
Porter, Hilda Stringer*



*York Branch - 10th Anniversary Party
Standing: Mrs P Lindsell, Mrs J Aldridge, Mrs C
Calvert, Mrs N White
Seated: Mrs A Jamieson, Miss P Davies, Miss V Cutley*

CORRESPONDENCE



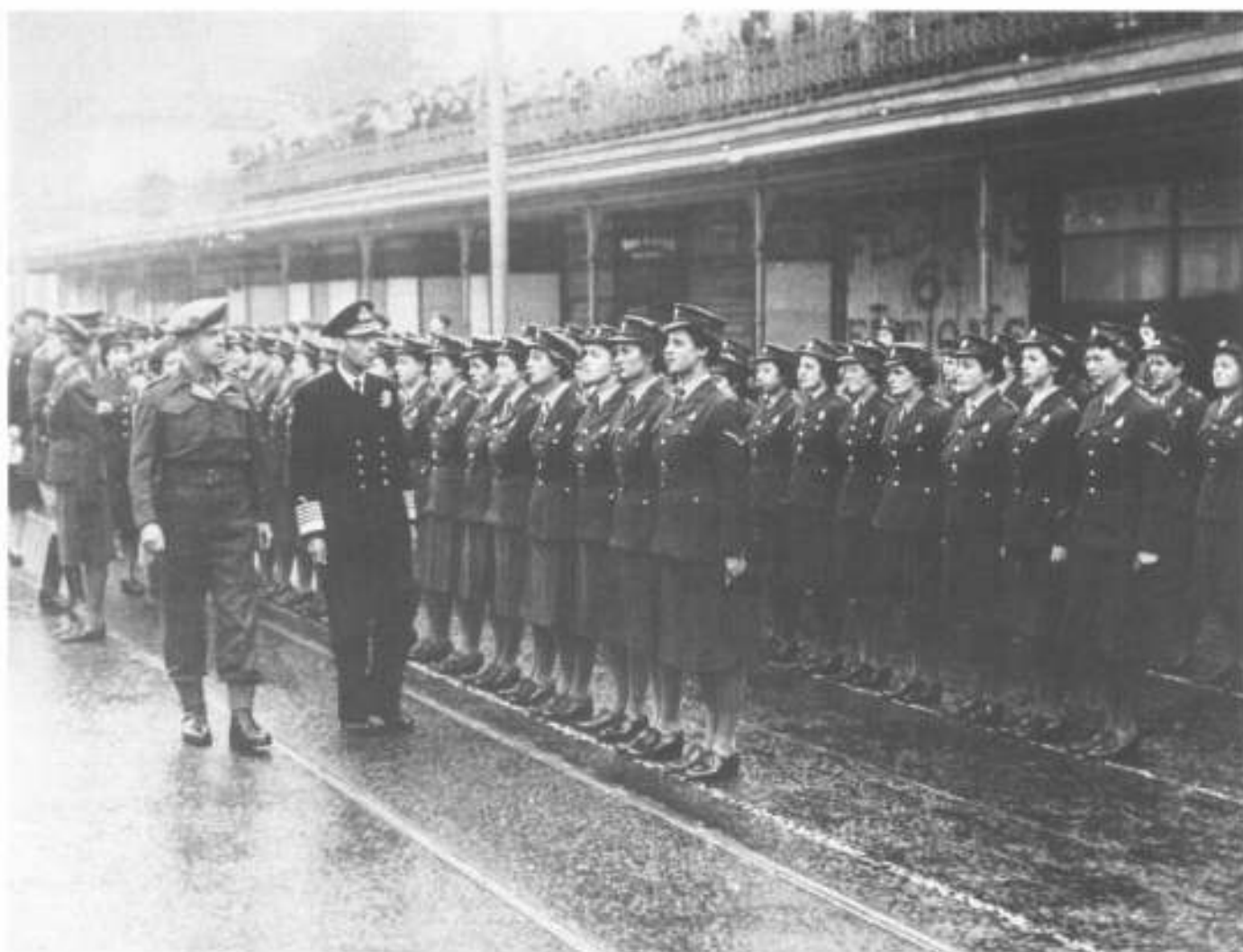
PT Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers with the Commandant of School of PT, Queens Camp Guildford 1943

Mrs Jill Beatty (née Gillett) of 34 Cook Drive, Milton-of-Culcabock, Inverness IV2 3DA (a review of her book is on page 15) has sent photographs of PT Officers and Warrant Officers at Queens Camp, Guildford, and HM King George VI inspecting ATS members on the Isle of Man in 1943.

Mrs Marie-Louise Roberts of 109 Scorton Avenue, Layton, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 7HD is trying to trace any friends who were with her at FVRDE Chertsey 1966-1967 or with her during training in 2 Company at Guildford in January 1966.

Mrs Miriam Hartley (née Crabtree) who served with 1st Warwick Platoon as a Radar Plotter at Coombe Abbey, Binfield, near Coventry from 1942-1944 and wants to hear from:

Sgt Mary Hudson (née Stott)
Cpl Norah Wood
LCpl Greta Jenkins
Jane Usher
Frances Luscombe
Ivy Parker
Bobbie Nelson and Liz Nelson Twins
Mollie Faulkner
Alice Morgan
Cpl Edith Haines
Connie Young
Betty Woodford
Cpl Sydney Newton (Signals)



HM King George VI inspecting 'Y' Service signallers on the Isle of Man 1943. Captain Gillett (now Beatty) is in front of parade. (You can just see the Queen passing behind her)

W Grey of 74 Sunnyside Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 2LQ is trying to trace Connie Parker who was a cornet player in the ATS Band in the early 1940s. He would be grateful for any information regarding her.



*Salute to the Soldier - Redruth June 1943
LCpl St Leger-Chambers is the tall right marker of the
platoon. The officer is Junior Commander Jamieson*

Mrs Mary St Leger-Harris (née St Leger-Chambers) of Druidston Cottage, Penn Close, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 5HG sent the photograph of a 'Salute the Soldier' parade with 1/3 Devon Company ATS in Redruth, Cornwall in June 1943. She wishes to hear from anyone who was at St Agnes, Cornwall at the Practice Camp for Light Anti-Aircraft units.

Does anyone know the present whereabouts of Terry Desmond (her maiden name). She obviously served with Ack-Ack as she wears the bomb flash. Her picture also shows a stripe on the lower sleeve (left). She served during 1943-45 in Norfolk, Wymondham and Attleborough. Her home was in Surrey. This enquiry has come from USA. One picture shows her near Queen Mey's Castle, nr Edinburgh. Mrs Crook would like R L Argent 458 Bty who wrote an article in Lioness 2/90 to get in touch please - she needs your address and christian name and has four contacts from 458 Bty. She is also trying to trace Ginger Mason, Mary Jobey, Tubby Turner, Ruth Sage and the Tweddle Twins of 644 Bty. Mrs Millie Davies 473 Bty (Lioness 2/93) has been in touch for over a year now. "She has supplied me with several contacts and did in fact visit me earlier in 1993 with her husband and inspected my records! but was unable to be at York to meet the other 473 girls. Mrs Crook is still requesting ex-members of (M)HAA to contact her re battery linking. Please give christian/maiden name and Battery Nos. to the above address. A stamped-addressed envelope would be appreciated".



Mrs Joyce Stenio (née Broadway) see page 39

Mrs Dot Nixon (née Vernon) who sent the photo of British Troops in Berlin in 1946 to the last Lioness (page 93) has stirred some memories. Mrs Jean Eastham (née Hart) of 11 North Houses Lane, Lytham St Annes, Lancs FY8 4NT recognised WOII Joyce Chilvers (6th from right in front row), Sgt Fielding (4th from left in front row), Flight Sergeant Bratley (5th from right in middle row) and Private Woods (7th from right in middle row). She has sent for republishing a picture of ATS in Berlin two years later in 1948.

PDF Compressor Free Version

Mrs V E Duckett (née Phillips nickname 'Flip') of 53 Sheeley Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6ES wonders if there are any members of the 11th City of London Yeomanry who could get in touch. She joined at Finsbury Barracks in 1938, went to Stiffkey in August 1938 for TA camp before being called up in September 1939. She tells me that they went from Stanford-le-Hope to the Tilbury Hotel and then the Haven Hotel at Thameshaven where they mounted guard on the oil tanks. "A spooky experience" was her description. She claims that 11th City of London Yeomanry were the first unit to wear the City of London shoulder flash of the city sword on a red and black background. Unless you know otherwise!

*British Troops Berlin 1948
Mrs Eastham (Cpl Hart) is 4th from right in second row*



*'B' Coy British Troops Berlin 1948
Back Row: Ptes Gibson, McGowan, LCpl Mills,
Cpl Gough, Pte Mellor, Cpl Dell, Ptes Wood, Hindley,
LCpl Dewade, Pte G Reid
Second Row: Pte Bower, ACW Mossman,
Ptes A Thomas, Taylor, Brophy, McAteer, Cpl Griffith,
Ptes Pollock, Hayter, Cpl J Hart, ACW ?, Ptes Dick
and V Reid
Third Row: Sgt Scannell, Sgt Wilkinson, S/Sgt Rees,
Subaltern Rankin, Junior Commander Chester,
WOII Chilvers, Sgt Fielding, F/Sgt Bratley & Sgt Clark.
Front Row: Pte Compton, ACW Mill, Ptes Starr, Hall,
Barnett, ACW Hayman & Pte Edwards*

Mrs G Corstin (née McCormick) also wrote and sent copies of wedding invitations for marriages in St George's Garrison Church at Charlottenburg in 1947 and 1948. She, "Mick" McCormick, was the medical orderly dealing with ATS and the wives and children of married families.



*M E 10 War office 1942-1946
The centre row: Cpl Kay Perkins, Cpl Ann Knox,
Cpl Pat Hitchcock, Cpl Doris Saunders, Cpl Betty Ridly,
Sgt Peggy Gough, Sgt Rita Ford, Sgt Billy Lee,
Sgt Anne Margery Radcliffe-Wilson, Sgt Rose Ellis,
Sgt Win Crook, Sgt Flopsy Barker and J/Cmdr Pile with
J/Cdr Broadbent in front row*



*16th Carmarthen Company ATS – 1939
later to join 'C' Company of 4 Group, Didcot*

Miss Esther Poole-Hughes of 5 St Ethelberts House, Castle Hill, Hereford HR1 2NJ has had a long correspondence with the Editor as it turns out that he was evacuated to a house in Wales owned by her parents but given over to a school from South East England during the war. She has sent a photograph of the 16th Carmarthen Company ATS taken in 1939 and some sporting shots taken in 1946 and 1947.



*ATS Cricket XI – 1946
going out to field*



*ATS Cricket XI – 1946
Back Row: J Comd Gowans, J Comd Blower, SSgt Lancaster, S Comd Bell, Pte Nicholson
Front Row: Sub Bowles, J Comd Cochrane, S Comd Lewis, S Comd Poole-Hughes (Capt), J Comd Cunningham, Sub Hollis
(Courtesy of Fox Photos London)*



*Ex ATS Cricket Team – August 1947
Back Row: S Comd Christy, J Comd Jensen, ??? Nicholson, Sulman,
Front Row: Poole-Hughes, Bloom, MacLagan (Capt), Snook, Turton*



*ATS Table Tennis Team - 1947
Match versus WAAF
(Courtesy Green Park Studios)*

Mrs Joan M Mason (née Thomas) of 27 Curlew Road, Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3PA relates that in early 1943 when she was stationed in Hull with 65 Anti-Aircraft Brigade she was nearly posted to Yarmouth but was reprieved. Among those who were posted was her friend who was killed in the air raid on 11 May 1943.

Mrs M Scott-Watson (née Smith) of Burnhead, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 8PL wrote having read of the death of Miss Keyes-Wells. She tells me that she and Section Leaders James-Davies and Jones opened the first Emergency Cooking Training Centre in Lancaster.

Mrs Marjorie D Jones (née Davidge) would like to hear from Private Olive Wattis (who became Mrs G Mason) and anyone who was stationed at "Pabo Hall" at Llandudno Junction in 1942/43 with 498 Searchlight Battery.

Encouragement has come from Bill Court whose wife Mavis (née Fry) died in 1992. He used the columns of Lioness to make contact with his wife's friends and has been in touch with 10 ex-ATS from 554 Mixed HAA Battery. His claim that his wife was the youngest member of the ATS has been challenged. Mrs G B Yoxall (née Crane) claims that her sister Joyce Crane (now Hibbard) enlisted at fifteen. Mrs Joyce Stenio (née Broadway) of 7 Blaenant Street, Duffryn, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA13 3HB claims that she was sixteen years two months old when she enlisted with her mother (Amy Broadway) and joined 540 Battery of 158 Regiment at Arborfield. Mrs Stenio has sent a photograph of herself for recognition purposes. (See page 36). Mrs Evelyn O'Neill claims that Sylvia Jones

of Whitburn Co. Durham who served in 484 Battery was only sixteen when she enlisted.

Mrs Emily Jacklin (née Clements) of 21 St Augustine Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 9 sent the photograph below of the Officers' Mess at 'Flixton', Clumber Park, Derby Road, Nottingham.



*Officers and Staff in Nottingham
(LCpl Clements is second from right in back row)*

Neil Hamilton of 10 Mill Way, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 2QP is doing some research on a house called "Highfield" on the A4008 Oxley Lane between Watford and Harrow. It was requisitioned by the Army during the war and in 1954 was occupied by 26 Company WRAC. Princess Mary visited there in 1954. Anyone who served there is asked to contact Mr Hamilton.



*Members of 484 Battery on leave in Brussels 1945
Taggy, Anne, Edna, Bella, Winnie, George, Evelyn*

Mrs Evelyn O'Neill (née Thompson) of 33 Bede Burn View, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear NE32 5PQ who also joined in the "youngest soldiers" discussion sent pictures of 484 Battery members on leave in Brussels in 1945 and a modelling photo of the khaki issue.



"Khaki Issue"

Miss Margaret Smith of 28 Mersey Street, Parr, St Helens, Merseyside WA9 2JX who served with the 7th Cheshire ATS Platoon at Western Command HQ, West Lancashire HQ, Pay Office, Chester and West Bridgford, Nottingham between December 1939 and September 1943 and after commissioning in 1943 served at Derby COD, Bicester COD, Deepcut, Larkhill and Devizes up to 1948 would love to hear from anyone who remembers her from those happy days.

Mrs Peggy Binns (née Bell) of 22 Denburgh Place, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8DE was a sick bay orderly of A Coy, Aldershot and would like to hear from any ex-members of staff or patients of the "Sick Bay" at one time located in Macadam Square, then moved to the "White House" Heath End, Nr Farnham about 1944. Names of some staff that come to mind are as follows:

Pte Jackie Paton from Coatsbridge, Glasgow
Pte Irene King of Long Melford, Suffolk
Pte Flo Shepherd of Forest Row, Sussex
Pte Olive Cooke, also Dot, nothing else.
VAD Nurses were J M Moore of Berks and E Burnett of Guildford.

Mrs Binns has contacted the following Sick Bay Orderlies:

Ellen Doonanco and Barbara Jones (now Smith) both married Canadian servicemen and moved to Canada around 1945/46.

Pte E Green who worked in the office.

Mrs Binns enclosed a photograph of the staff and some patients taken in front of the "White House" but unfortunately she is missing from it as she was on leave at the time.



*Sick Bay at White House, Farnham
Front Row: Dot, Jackie Paton & Flo Shepherd between the Boilerman and Cook*

Miss Muriel Tatum MBE of 37 Hampton Drive, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1SL tells me that during her 25 years of service she was PA to a number of Generals in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Egypt, Cyprus and Germany but she started her service at the ECRD at Saltdean and was retained on the



*Norbury House Hotel, Droitwich Spa 1941
Left to Right M Tatum, B Dyer, D Harding,
Penman & Fabian (FANYs)*

Permanent Staff moving with the unit to Bournemouth, Droitwich and back to Saltdean. Miss Tatum was one of many who responded to Mrs J Shelley (née Hardacre) and her cry "Is anyone out there?"

Mr D James of 1 Ancre Close, Hales Place, Canterbury wishes to hear from anyone who knew his mother, Mrs Gladys May Hoyle (later James). He has sent a photograph for recognition and his telephone number is 0227 463477.



Gladys May James (née Hoyle)

Mrs G B Yoxhall (née Beryl Crane) of 1a Rosehill, Denton, Manchester M34 3GT would like to trace Kay Passmore and Joan Collins who were with her in 497 Mixed HAA Battery. She would also like to know the designation of batteries and groups in Essex. Mrs Yoxhall also served in 342 Searchlight Regiment and would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

Mrs Muriel Foulshaw (née Stephens) of 3 Greenway Avenue, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 8HQ who was a Public Relations speaker with the ATS Band on a tour of the West Country and Northern Ireland and would like to hear from anyone from that era.

Another son seeking information on the service life of his mother is Paul Irving who lives at "Shields", Chapel Lane, Scrooby, Doncaster DN10 6AE. His mother served in the ATS in 1942/43 in her maiden name of Mary Anne Solan and she married Private Joseph Irving of the Border Regiment



Mrs Mary Anne Irving (née Pte M A Solan) with son Paul in Carlisle where she was stationed in the Castle.

Mrs Nora Budd (née Cann) of 28 Carmarthen Grove, Willsbridge, Bristol BS15 6EF sent the picture of herself with Nancy Rogers (see page 31 of No 1/93) as standard bearers at the Coronation in 1953.



Mrs Budd (then Private Cann) and Nancy Rogers (QMAAC) at the Coronation Review in Hyde Park in 1953



ATS at Fulford Barracks, York, July 1944

Mrs Myra Marsh (née Clough) of 120 The Brooms, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH2 1RP sent a photograph of her recruit training squad at Fulford Barracks, York in July 1944, would like to hear from anyone who recognises themselves or anyone who served at Dovercourt in 1944 or Biddick Hall in 1945. Her cousin Doris Dickinson (née Marriot) from Ryhopes, Co Durham was also in the ATS.

A repeat request has come from Mr I S Worthy and Mr Sid Bolton who are anxious to trace ex Privates Terry Saughton and Joyce Vagus who were with 8 Independent Company WRAC at St Georges Barracks, Bicester. Anyone who has any information please write to Mr I S Worth, 68 Roman Pavement, Tower Estate, Lincoln LN2 5RD. The photo of Terry Saughton was taken at Bicester.



Terry Saughton WRAC

Miss Edna Mears of 4 Balmoral Court, Waterford Place, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5HS has another tie in with the rubbish skip. Alert readers will remember that a wedding photograph was published in Lioness No 1/93 which had been found in a rubbish skip and sent to Lioness anonymously. No 2/93 Lioness established that the bride now lives in Canada and had returned to UK for a Kine Reunion. Edna Mears tells me that she and Muriel Hogan (née Rose) were at junior school together. Edna sent a photograph of herself taken in her ATS uniform and would like to hear from anyone who was at 25 War Office Selection Board.



Pte Edna Mears - 1943

Mrs A Hyams (née Foster) of 18 Greenwood Drive, Scarning, East Dereham, Norfolk NR19 2TR Telephone (0362) 691 560 would like to hear from the girls of 13 Lines of Communication Signals BAOR 1945/46. Among names of comrades which spring to mind are Corporal Molly McClure, Ann Regan, and Green Woods. Her children made this cake for her 70th Birthday with echoes of the past.



Mrs Hyams 70th Birthday Cake

Violet Thorogood (née Twose) of Villa Capri, 29 Truro Road Close, Burnham on Sea, Somerset TA8 1JE Telephone (0278) 788479 has sent a photo of herself and husband on their wedding day in 1941. She would like to get in touch with Betty Hickey, Betty Jamieson or "Twiggy" who were with 5th City of London Company stationed in Truro, Cornwall.



*Bob and Violet Thorogood
Wedding Day 1941*

Phil Brown of 41 Torogay Street, Milton, Glasgow G22 7RA who was a trooper in the 10th Hussars is a persistent chap. He tells me that he has written 470 letters in trying to trace Linda Perry who was at Bovington Camp, Dorset in 1961 in the COs office. She came from Perry Common in Birmingham.

Mrs Constance Tarr (née Poole) of 136 Gerrards Green, Beaminstor, Dorset DT8 3EA would like to learn of Vera Cullum known as 'C' who was at the RAC Tactical School at Oxford in 1943/44.

Armande Cohen CBE of 65 Cadogan Square, London SW1X ODY wrote to tell of the death of Mademoiselle Helene Terre who was head of "Voluntaire Francais", the women's section of the Free French Army. She features in Dame Leslie Whateley's autobiography "As Thoughts Survive". Helene died on 11 November 1993 aged 91 years.



*Commandant Helene Terre, Commandant of French
Women's Forces of Free French Army
(Picture from Dame Leslie Whateley's autobiography)*



Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed visiting Kenya

Miss Joan Ahrens, Treasurer of the Greater London Branch sent the above picture of DWRAC (Brig Dame Frances Coulshed) visiting Kenya in 1953/54.

A Lioness success story. In Edition 2/93 Major Lesley Lockley asked for help in tracing members of CRE staff in Derbyshire. He has met up with Shirley Reynolds (née Whittaker) and Monica Johnson (née Houston) and was able to have lunch with five former colleagues at the Royal Overseas League House.

Mrs Mary Beeston (née Allison) of 77 Campion House, Heath Town, Wolverhampton WV10 OPX would like to hear from anyone who served at 23 (Scottish) General Hospital in France or Germany in 1944. She enclosed a photograph of herself and friends in Lille on 27 May 1945.

PDF Compressor Free Version



Members of 23 (Scottish) General Hospital at Lille, Mary Beeston is on the extreme left in the photo

Mrs Sylvia (Sue) Crook 14 The Larches, Horsell Vale, Woking GU21 4RE is delighted to report the success of finding Sergeant Peg Cooke for Mr Alan Evans (see Lioness 1/93). Sergeant Cooke retired from the service in 1961 as a Major. Regarding the photograph shown of Ena Ashwell (Lioness 2/93) Records Office has confirmed that she served in 493 Battery. She will pass on any contacts to her sister, Mrs Linda Butler. Ena died quite a while ago.



Cpl Sylvia (Sue) Crook (née Woolston) and Private Margery Wells, Hove during a lull from Doodle Bugs



Mrs Sylvia (Sue) Crook of the Battery Linking project



*606 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery
Mrs Barbara Morris (Marriot), Mrs Lucy Russell (Pitt)
Mrs Sue Crook (Woolston), Mrs Minnie Mackie
(Hambleton), Miss Margery Wells*



Vee Robinson with members of the Royal Artillery Association, York



Mrs Margery Wells and Mrs Sue Crook with one that they got earlier



Josephine 'Jose' Shelley (née Hardicre) as CSM in 1942 and proud grandmother in 1993



Mrs Josephine Shelley (née Hardicre) who wrote the article "Is Anyone Out There" in the last *Lioness* tells me that she was pleased with the response. She has sent a set of "then" and "now" photographs and would still like to hear from anyone "out there" who remembers her. Her address is 45 Chauncey Road, New Moston, Manchester M40 3GG.

Mrs G E Austin (née Balls) although only partially sighted (registered blind) did recognise the picture of the then Queen inspecting the ATS at Wilton in 1941 shown on page 94 of the last *Lioness*. She has sent two more sequential pictures.



*HM The Queen at Wilton 1941
Lady Lawrence and General Alexander greet her*



*HM The Queen inspecting ATS at Wilton 2 April 1941
The Queen shakes hands with Miss Nicholas,
Mrs Austin (née Balls) is in front row to right of
Miss Nicholas*

*Front: G.O.C.Sn.Comd., Lady Lawrence,
Miss Britton (my C.O.), H.M. The Queen,
Miss Nicholas (Sigs)*

*Back: Jane Comfort, Todd Lisban, Balls, Leddra,
Lane (Sigs Coy)*

Situation Vacant COOK/HOUSEKEEPER

Taken early retirement but still active in mind and body? Then this opportunity could be for you.

A small but high standard West Highland Guest House requires a Cook/Housekeeper with flair in preparing good and wholesome meals from March 1994.

Accommodation provided for cheerful non-smoker.

Interested? Then please telephone 044584 271 to discuss matters further.

THE OLD MILL,
Talladale, Loch Maree,
Ross-Shire IV22 2HL

Miss Mildred B Veal of 30 Milton Carr, Ridings Park, York YO3 6PU would like to hear from old comrades from her varied service with Anti Aircraft Command. She tells me that she served in 362 Searchlight Battery at Brigstock near Kettering; 236 LAA Regt, Oswestry; 533 HAA Bty, Barking Park London; 532 HAA Bty; 236 AA Tfg Regt; 590 HAA Regt; 162 HAA Regt; 561 HAA Bty, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton and London.



Sergeant Mildred B Veal

Miss Mildred B Veal, 30 Milton Carr, Ridings Park, York YO3 6PU gave me a potted history of her service from Nevills Cross in Durham to Kettering, Oswestry and Cowsands Nr Plymouth. She also sent a list from her address book from her time at Plymouth showing their subsequent postings.

Sgt (TIFC) B A Baines

att 502 Battery, Bridlington and 469 Bty Rockingham Farm Camp, Henbury, Bristol.

"Bidge" I remember very well, we were on a TIFC Course together in London. 12 Battalion, Richmond, Surrey.

Major B Drake

J/C Reed, Adjutant,

W/129405 Pte L Mann,

3 Northern Command Group, Nottingham.

134(M) HAA Regt, Walberswick, Surrey, 460 Bty West Nash, Newport, Mons.

No 4 ATS Camp, Arncote Depot, Oxford

L Coy No 7 Camp, Graven Hill, Oxford.

W/156974 L/Sgt Phee

480 Bty Chigwell Rise, Chigwell.
No 6 Formation College, Stourport on Severn, Worcs.
449 Bty Shepherds Bush, London

W/80301 Sgt Porter
W/89292 CSM Roberts

48 Cedar Road, Bromley, Kent
M R 533 Bty, Barking Park (I remember being in Barking Park).

Sgt Thompson

499 Bty Shepherds Bush.
151 Regt Hull

W/168409 Pte J E Wilson

519 Bty Hedon Nr Hull
601 Bty, Shorham by Sea.
4 Section B Troop, White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean
63 GD Course Golders Green London
"D" Coy, ATS Burniston Barracks, Scarborough

Mrs E Yewdall (née Hawley) of 34 Upper Carr Lane, Calverley, Pudsey, West Yorkshire LS28 5PL sent in two photographs in her cook's whites. She remembers cooking for 42nd DTRA in Whitby and the Army Apprentice School in Chepstow and the names of Beatie Pouncitt, Olive Smith, Nellie Duncan.



Cooks at Whitby 1943-1945



Cooks at Chepstow 1941-1942



'C' Company, Officers & Subalterns, Ocean Hotel, Saltdean June 1940

Joan M Rogers of 837 Shadeland Avenue, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7T 2M2 has written with a history of four former ATS/WRAC who emigrated to Canada in 1954. First was Mary Gunn who was formerly a Staff Captain at Scottish Command. She joined the probation service of the provincial government once in Canada. She is now retired. Second was Kitty Arnott who was platoon officer with 'G' Company of Scottish Command in Edinburgh. Kitty became a social worker in the child welfare and psychiatric services. Third was Christine Hamilton who was Orderly Room Sergeant with 'G' Company and in Canada founded and directed a show called "The Geritol Follies" which is composed entirely of senior citizens. Joan Rogers became an administrative director in the child welfare service. All four would love to hear from any members of 'G' Company in Edinburgh or 39 County of London Clerical Company. Write in the first instance to Joan Rogers at the above address.



Mrs Suttle with RBL Women's Section Standard

Mrs H Suttle of 2 Bateman House, Brandon Estate, London SE17 3PF carried the Royal British Legion Women's Section standard at Louvain in Belgium where there are some ATS graves.

Miss Kay Rule of 50 Munro Crescent, Millbrook, Southampton SO1 4PB wants to contact Stella Bateman, Collie Mills, Freda Higgs, Irene Friend, Olive Blaker, Gladys Wiseman who served with her in 1944/1947 at RAOC/ATS Craven Hill, Bicester for a reunion (four of them are already in contact).

Eileen Rose Lambert (née Phillimore) of 16 St Peters Court, Ditton, Kent has loaned a photo of 5 Platoon A Company No 7 Training Centre at Guildford. Any clues to the date?



5 Platoon A Company No 7 Training Centre



Pte Norah Turner (later Kendall)

Mrs Norah Kendall (née Turner) sent the photograph of herself taken on VE Day 1945 in Brussels. She served at 9 Field Regiment RA at Uniacke Barracks, Harrogate as Depot Battery Typist 1941-1943 and a switchboard operator with an RASC Unit in Haywards Heath from 1943 - 45. In 1945 and 1946 she was in Brussels and Herford. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.



***Unveiling of Alanbrooke Statue
Mrs Norah Kendal, Mrs Edith Francis,
Mrs Peggy Kenny***



***Mrs Joyce Bookers Platoon at Guildford May 1949
(still wearing ATS Badges!)***

Mrs Joyce Booker of South Australia will be cross that the photo of her platoon at Guildford did not accompany her article "A Varied Career" on page 66 of the last Lioness. I hope that she will forgive the omission.

The first item on page 85 of Lioness No 2/93 related the saga of Bella Stark (née Coates) in Australia making contact with Win Richardson (née Potter). They have gone one better now and Mrs Richardson tells me that she went to Australia in November 93 to meet Mrs Stark. Mrs Richardson has taken me to task over my dyslexia on their battery number and sent this photo to show that it should be '510'. Mrs Richardson

lives at 32 Cairo Road, Walthamstow, London E17 3AE if any other 510 Battery members wish to make contact.



Mrs Richardson and Mrs Stark at Sydney Airport



The Stark-Richardson memorial plate!

Apologies time! The Editor apologises to Mrs Marjory Gregory of Great Sutton, South Wirral, who was WO1 (RSM) Knowles who sent the photograph on page 84 of Lioness No 2/93 showing the "Mass of the ATS" at the Eastern Command Reception Centre. The apology is for confusing her with Mrs Mary Gregory of Stockport. One correspondent thought that the Orderly Officer in the picture was the late Myrtle MacLagan.

REUNIONS

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

PROGRAMME – SATURDAY 16 APRIL 1994

- 09.30 a.m. Trains met at Guildford Station and members assemble at Guildford.
- 10.00 a.m. Congregation to be seated in Cathedral.
- 10.30 a.m. Service of Thanksgiving in Guildford Cathedral attended by the Association President HRH The Duchess of Kent.
- 11.30 a.m. March Past outside the Cathedral (if fine). approx
- 12 noon Secretaries Meeting in Canal Suite, Lakeside approx
Country Club, Frimley, Surrey (other members are encouraged to remain in Guildford for shopping, lunch and sightseeing).
- 1.00 p.m. Council and Secretaries lunch in Peninsular Lounge of Lakeside International Hotel.
- 2.00 p.m. Coaches depart Guildford for Lakeside Country Club Complex, Frimley, for those wishing to attend AGM. No return until end of Dinner.
- 3.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the WRAC Association in the Canal Suite of Lakeside Country Club, Frimley.
- 4.30 p.m. Coaches depart Guildford for Lakeside Country Club for those not attending AGM but attending Dinner.
- 6.00 p.m. Doors open for Dinner
- 7.00 p.m. Grand Reunion Dinner in Cabaret Suite of Lakeside Country Club, Frimley. Guest of Honour will be General Sir Martin Farndale, The Master Gunner. The AG Corps Staff Band will play.
- 10.00 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. There will also be a shuttle to and from Guildford for those who wish to leave cars at Frimley.

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 1994" may be obtained from:

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

Rooms on a bed and breakfast basis with meal on Friday evening have been reserved in the University of Surrey (close to the Cathedral) for the nights of Friday 15 April and Saturday 16 April 1994. Some barrack room accommodation is available at Aldershot.

Secretaries of Branches/Groups or individuals wishing to avail themselves of this accommodation should contact the General Secretary.

(Those Members who applied before 1 February 1994 should have received their tickets and Information Sheet by now. Any member who has not applied should do so quickly using the form in Lioness No 1 and No 2 of 1993.)

538 (M) HAA Bty RA REUNION

A Reunion will be held at Union Jack Club London 7pm Saturday 26th March 1994.

Contact Mrs Elizabeth Mattison, 9 Martello Tower, Ravine Road, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset BH13 7HX.

REUNION – 514 (M) HAA Bty and others – WARNING

Another Reunion will take place in Bridlington during the Combined Services Weekend 17, 18 and 19 June 1994. Anyone interested please contact Mrs B Holder (née Lewis) 10 Dale Road, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6YG. Tel 0246-412951.

WRAC ASSOCIATION NORTH WEST GROUP REUNION SATURDAY 16 JULY 1994

A Reunion will be held at Bootle Town Hall, Merseyside on Saturday 16 July 1994 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

There is a lift and parking facilities.

Tickets price £6.50 (including buffet) may be obtained from

Mrs M Barton,
3 Fairfield Avenue,
Huyton, L36 4JE.

Please make cheques and Postal Orders payable to "WRAC Association North West Group".

WRAC ASSOCIATION LONDON GROUP – WARNING ORDER

A Reunion for members of branches in the London Group is to be held at Wellington Barracks on Saturday 3 September 1994.

Keep this date to see your friends. Further details will be available in the Spring.

ENIGMA REUNION

A reunion of Old Comrades of the Y Service is planned for September-2 October 1994 at the Moat House Hotel, Bedford.

Details from SAGA, Freepost, Folkestone.

A newsletter and an ID card for entry to Bletchley Park can be obtained from

Friends of Bletchley Park
150 Queensway
Bletchley
Milton Keynes MK2 2RS

WRAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH GROUP – RE-UNION 1994

Southampton Branch is the hostess Branch for 1994.

The Reunion is to be held at 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RCT Marchwood, nr Southampton on Sunday 11 September 1994. Details will be sent to Branches later.

WRAC ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST)

A North East Reunion will be held in the York and Ainsty Suite at York Racecourse on Saturday 10 September 1994 from 12 noon to 5 pm and will include a Buffet Lunch.

Advance information and details of costs can be obtained from

Miss M Bradley
60 West End Avenue,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire
HG2 9BY (Tel 0423 507032)

and tickets will be available from her not later than 27 August by sending a stamped-addressed envelope and appropriate cheque or postal order.

PLEASE NOTE THAT BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE BY 27 AUGUST. NO TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THAT DATE OR AT THE DOOR.

MARY BENSON'S REUNION

Mary Benson plans to hold her ex-ATS Reunion at the Victory Services Club in Seymour Street, London on 4 May 1994.

Details from Mary at 1 Hawksview, Cobham Surrey KT11 2PJ.

ATS RECORDS REUNION - 3 JULY 1993

Just to report our ATS Reunion in 1993 in Winchester at King Alfred's College for those now enrolled as members of the College's Winton Club and who were employed at the College (then ATS Records) 1942 - 1946. We had many new members and had a very nice weekend spending the Friday in Winchester, lunch and tea together.

Next year's Reunion date will be the first weekend in July 1994. Assembly Friday 1st for reunion on Saturday 2 July 1994. Anyone interested should enquire as soon as possible. Accommodation at King Alfred's College is possible. Application Forms will be available approximately mid April 1994.

One colleague was missing. I would be grateful to hear that she is well and possibly has a new address - Mrs Dorothy Harvey, King Alfred's College 1942 - 1946 period and home address last known to be Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 8EB area.

I do contact Charlie Chester's programme on a Sunday BBC Radio 2 between 5 pm and 7 pm each year.

There is a need of a WRAC Association Branch in the Banbury area. I understand the Branches are quite some way away and create problems. I received many enquiries during the Spring and Summer from Saga magazine to which I appealed. Very heartening. We enjoyed visiting the Adjutant General's Corps Centre at Worthy Down in June 1993.



ATS RECORDS WINCHESTER REUNION - 1993

Margaret Sawbridge, Dorothy Ashton, Clarissa Ellis, Jean Kingdon, E Hogan, Terry Johnston, Gladys Miller, O'Doherty, Brenda Reid, Rita Gambrell, Lilly Babey, Mary Hughes, Betty Venworth

WRAC ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

The Association AGM in Scotland was held in the Golden Lion Hotel Stirling, beautifully hosted by the Stirling Branch. We thank Mrs Castle and all the members for all their hard work. It was attended by 127 members. The AGM was followed by a delicious lunch and a talk by Major Cheryl King AGC which was most interesting and informative. The day was concluded by a raffle and tea.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT REUNION

On 3 September 1993 the Master Gunner, General Sir Martin Farndale, addressed an unusual gathering, quite unlike any previous assembly he had attended.

The first ever Reunion for ex-members of Mixed Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries Royal Artillery ((M)HAA RA) took place in the Garrison Town of York. In the Viking Hotel. To the Royal Artillery Slow March, the RAA York Branch, paraded their Standard, escorted by two ex-Ack Ack girls, at the start of the Reunion Dinner.

Male gunners and ATS girls who had served together with the Royal Artillery on gunsites in World War II were honoured by his presence and inspired by the words of the Master Gunner himself.

At the end of the war in Europe, mixed batteries were disbanded and girls split up from teams which had served together for four and a half years under Ack Ack Command. Neither fish nor fowl, out of battledress, the girls served in many capacities as ATS until demobilisation.



Members of 462 Battery at Anti Aircraft Reunion in York

Back Row: Mrs Ruby Ashton (née Taylor)
Middle Row: Mrs Mary Gerrelli (née Hayward),
Mrs Una Tolliday (née Tearle), Mrs Amy Jago (née Hogg)
Front Row: Miss Dora Bugg, Mrs Vera Bugg (née
Hardcastle), Mrs Pauline Jones (née Jones)

Pride was on every face that evening as we listened to the Master Gunner, "you are all gunners" he told us "and thus eligible to join the Royal Artillery Association", if we so wished. He added "Because I, the Master Gunner, said so". Entertained in the Sergeants' Mess, Imphal Barracks, on Saturday night, the weekend culminated with a Service of Thanksgiving in All Saints Church on Sunday, which was attended by the Lord Mayor of York and the Civic Party. The RAA Standard was paraded again with its two female gunners. Thus ended a memorable weekend for everyone.

Seven of us from 462 Heavy Ack Ack Battery Royal Artillery were reunited and old photographs and cuttings were poured over in the hotel room. Memories of the gunsites we had manned in Bristol and Plymouth were recalled. Stories of the various idiosyncrasies of some of our comrades were remembered with laughter and affec-

tion. The lasting friendships that were formed that helped us through the days when we were "browned off", eg Brigadier's or CO's inspection when every static thing had to be white-washed.

Yes, 3rd September 1993 was a special day and a sentimental, regimental journey we hope to repeat, age permitting.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION WALES AND THE WEST GROUP REUNION

Over 200 Association members made the trip to Wrexham on 25 September for Western Area annual reunion and social afternoon. The Branch Secretaries Meeting was well attended, 11 branches being represented. The reunion got off to a good start with the arrival of the Lady Mayor of Wrexham and the Mayoress.

Mrs Purkis, Group Chairman, welcomed neighbouring branches from North West Area. The usual stalls, tombola and raffle did very well (the cake stall very quickly sold out).

The highlight of the afternoon, however, was the band of the 3rd Battalion TA Royal Welsh Fusiliers, complete with Goat Major and Goat, who needless to say, got a tremendous welcome.

We send our thanks to the ladies of the Wrexham Branch, Royal British Legion Women's Section, who very kindly came along and helped with the refreshments. A donation of £300 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund from this reunion. A superb effort by one of our smaller branches, congratulations to Wrexham for a very enjoyable and successful afternoon.



3rd Bn Royal Welsh Fusiliers Goat

ATS DINNER CLUB

Three hundred members of the ATS Dinner Club assembled at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel on Saturday October 2nd 1993 for luncheon. The customary happy atmosphere which we all have come to expect and enjoy was well in evidence and old friends were greeted and new acquaintances made. After a good meal, the Chairman Mrs Audrey Juby, read the acknowledgement from HM The Queen and HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, of the loyal messages which had been sent.

Members were plesed to hear that it is likely that the 1994 Luncheon will be held at Wellington Barracks. In June 1995 it is hoped that a week-end reunion will be held at Buxton. A proposed programme was given, and arrangements for events over the weekend were explained. This weekend will be confined to paid up members of the ATS Dinner Club so why not join us? The more who attend, the better the weekend will be, not only from the comradeship angle, but also because the entertainment will be better.

Write to our membership Secretary with sae please!

Mrs Marguerite Fellows
20 Mount Nod Way
Coventry CV5 7GX

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1993

The AGM of the WRAC Association will be held at the Canal Suite, Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, Surrey at 3.00 pm on Saturday 16 April 1994. (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 3 April 1993.
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) Museum Liaison Committee
9. Resolutions
 - (a) Motions of Urgency
 - (b) Council Resolutions
 - (1) Amendments to Rules
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of next meeting.

SECRETARIES MEETING

There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries (or another nominated Committee Member) in the Canal Suite of the Lakeside Country Club at 12 noon on Saturday 16 April 1994.

Members of Council invite those attending the meeting to join them as guests for lunch prior to the AGM in the Peninsula Lounge of the Lakeside International Hotel.

Application forms for tickets for the lunch were circulated in January 1994.

RAFFLE

A raffle will be held at the Grand Reunion on 16 April 1994. There is a splendid range of prizes to include:

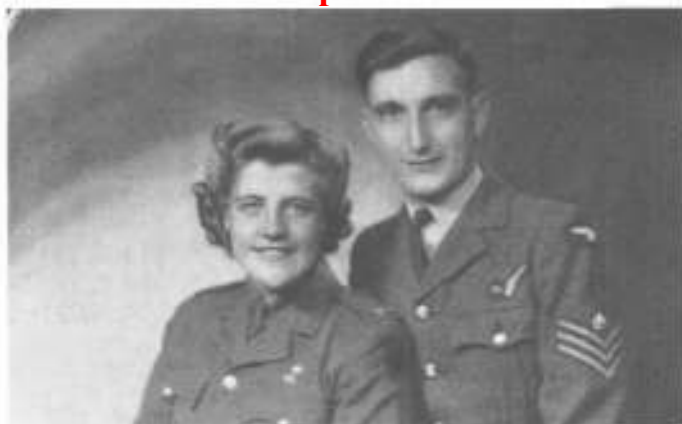
- Weekend for two in Paris
(donated by Sun Alliance Insurance)
- Weekend at Inglewood Health Hydro
(donated by Inglewood)
- Portable Radio (value £80)
(donated by Roberts Radio)
- Dinner for two at Lakeside, Frimley
(donated by Bob Potter OBE)
- Selection of Teas
(donated by Sussex Tea Company)
- Cases of Wine
- Two tickets to Epsom Downs 3 June 1994
- Shopping Vouchers for Boots, Marks & Spencer and C & A
- AND MANY MANY MORE

Tickets have been sent to Branch Secretaries to sell but you can order books of four tickets direct from Association HQ. Call 0252 355562 and say how many books you would like.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

POYNER – LIFE. At Patricoft Methodist Church, Manchester on 21 August 1943. Warrant Officer Frank Poyner, Royal Air Force to Private Zillah Life, Auxiliary Territorial Service (592 HAA Battery).

PDF Compressor Free Version



*The Poyners in 1943
and in 1993*



STUDZINSKI – LUPTON. At Stirling Registry Office and Polish Padre, Alloa on 25 February 1944, Corporal Jozef Studzinski, Polish Signal Corps to Sergeant Esther Lupton, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 76 Bannachra Crescent, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire G83 0LQ.

BARDEN – DAVIS. At Milborne Port Parish Church, Somerset on 11 September 1943. Private Fred Barden, Royal Sussex Regiment to Private Irene Davis, Auxiliary Territorial Service (556 HAA Battery). Present address: 7 Divalls Cottages, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3RH.



HOLDER – LEWIS. At Norwich on 24 June 1944. Ken Holder, Royal Navy to Betty Lewis, Auxiliary Territorial Service (514 Battery). Present address: 10 Dale Road, Dronfield, Sheffield, S18 6YG. Telephone 0246 412951.

RUBY WEDDING

NEAL - WOOLEY. At Caxton Hall, Westminster on 4 September 1954. David Neal, Coldstream Guards to Phyllis Woolley, Women's Royal Army Corps. Present address: Heathersett Cottage, Littleworth Cross, Seale, Farnham, GU10 1JL.



MRS FRANCIS DOROTHY TRUDE (née HARRIS)
Born 21 August 1895. Died 29 August 1993.
Served in the QMAAC in the First World War and was mentioned in dispatches for outstanding leadership during the Zeppelin bombing of Woolwich Arsenal

FUNERALS

You and your families should be aware that ex-servicemen and women are entitled to have the Union Flag on their coffin.

Undertakers can supply the flag but it needs to be requested specifically and some proof of service must be given.

Only one floral tribute is permitted on the coffin if the Union Flag is used.

OBITUARY

ANKERS. Mrs Beryl Ankers of Wrexham on 1 September 1993. ATS.

ARCHER. Mrs Gwen Archer of Plymouth on 17 August 1993. ATS.

BANNON. Mrs M C Bannon (née Bilcliffe) of Newcastle on 19 August 1993. ATS.

BEUZEVAL. Miss P B Beuzeval BEM of South Moulton on 23 October 1993. ATS/WRAC.

BROWN. Miss B B Brown of Barnet on 2 January 1994. ATS.

BUTLER. Miss Vera G Butler of Reigate on 16 November 1993. ATS.

CLAPPERTON. Miss Mary Clapperton of London on 18 July 1993. ATS.

CRAWFORD. Major M E Crawford of Edinburgh on 18 December 1993. ATS/WRAC.

CROOKE. Major Joan T Crooke of Shrewsbury on 20 December 1993. ATS/WRAC.

CRUICKSHANK. Miss M J Cruickshank of Edinburgh on 19 December 1993. ATS.

CURTIS. Mrs M V Curtis of Romford on 16 October 1993. QMAAC.

DENNETT. Miss Doreen M Dennett of Hastings in July 1993. ATS.

DOUBLE. Miss M B Double of Colchester in September 1993. ATS.

DUNKLEY. Miss E A Dunkley of York on 27 November 1993. ATS.

EDEN. Miss Ursula O Eden of Dymock, Gloucester on 23 December 1993. QMAAC/ATS.

FLOWER. Mrs Dorothy V Flower (née Harvey) of Basingstoke on 23 September 1993. ATS.

FUTCHER. Mrs Doris Mary (Dot) Futcher (née Low) of Andover on 3 May 1993. ATS.

GARTSIDE. Mrs V A Gartside of Folkestone on 8 October 1993. ATS.

HAMMOND. Miss J M Hammond of Leighton Buzzard on 3 December 1993. ATS.

HAWKES. Miss E J Hawkes of Great Baddow on 29 May 1993. TAVR.

HOUSTON. Mrs E Houston (née Kirk) of Glasgow on 6 August 1993. ATS.

HODKIN. Mrs Ester Hodkin (née Bayne) in 1992. ATS.

JENNER. Miss Emma A Jenner of South Merstham on 29 August 1993. ATS.

LANGSTEAD. Mrs A M Langstead of Portsmouth on 14 August 1993. ATS.

LEVER. Mrs S M Lever (née Tannock) of Harrogate on 12 June 1993. ATS.

MAGRATH. Mrs Tandy Magrath on 1 December 1993. ATS.

MACKINNON. Miss E Mackinnon of Glasgow in August 1993. ATS/WRAC.

MALTHOUSE. Mrs Ethel Malthouse (née Savage) of Doncaster on 21 December 1993. WAAC.

MARSH. Mrs Mary E Marsh (née Pratchett) of St Albans on 4 December 1993. ATS.

MATTHEWS. Mrs Sylvia Matthews (née Bell) of Eastfield, Peterborough on 23 September 1992. ATS.

MASON. Miss J P Mason of Christow, Devon on 20 September 1993. ATS.

MAY. Miss Eveline M May MBE TD of Grimsby on 12 July 1993. ATS/WRAC(TA).

MOORE. Miss Grace E Moore of Fleet on 18 July 1993. ATS.

O'CONNOR. Miss Ada P O'Connor of Estover, Plymouth on 7 November 1993. WRAC.

OLYOTT. Mrs JE Olyott of Ipswich on 27 October 1993. ATS.

ROBERTSON. Mrs Ann Robertson (née Naismith) on 20 October 1993. ATS.

ROBERTSON. Miss A B M Robertson of Edinburgh December 1993. ATS.

ROBINSON. Mrs E L Robinson (née Stirk) of Harrogate on 19 October 1993. ATS/TA.

ROSS. Mrs R E M Ross (née Hunt) of St Leonards on Sea on 11 November 1993. ATS.

RUMMING. Mrs M I Rumming (née Grace) of Gateshead in November 1993. ATS.

SHAW. Mrs Helen Shaw (née Weir) of Glasgow in July 1993. ATS.

SHEPHERD. Miss N F Shepherd of Todmorden, Lancs on 5 November 1993. ATS.

SILVERWOOD. Mrs Josephine Silverwood (née Tait) of Bacup on 18 August 1993. ATS.

SMALLEY. Mrs E M Smalley (née Gudge) of Cardiff on 18 July 1993. ATS.

SMITH. Mrs Mary Smith (née Norice) of Camberley on 8 November 1993. ATS.

SMITH. Miss Irene F Smith of Liverpool in August 1993. ATS.

SOMERVILLE. Mrs J R Somerville (née Robb) of Glasgow on 28 November 1993. ATS.

STEVENS. Miss D P E Stevens of Salisbury on 11 January 1994. ATS.

STOBIE. Mrs F Stobie (née Campbell) of Glasgow on 3 November 1993. ATS.

STOKES. Mrs K D Stokes of Cirencester in September 1993. ATS.

STOPFORD. Mrs J K Stopford (née Henderson) of Bletchley on 19 December 1993. ATS.

SUTTON. Mrs D W Sutton (née Capps) of Twickenham in November 1993. ATS.

SWAYTHLING. The Dowager Lady Swaythling CBE (formerly Chief Controller Jean Knox) at Chichester on 13 December 1993. ATS.

TENNANT. Miss Dorothy M Tennant of Richmond (The Royal Star & Garter Home) on 30 October 1993. ATS.

THOMPSON. Mrs Phyllis Thompson of North Shields in 1993. ATS.

TRUDE. Mrs Francis D Trude (née Harris) of Gloucestershire in August 1993. QMAAC.

TUCKER. Mrs Megan Tucker (née Evans) of Plymouth in October 1993. ATS.

WARD. Miss Margaret H Ward on 6 August 1993. ATS.

WATERS. Mrs A Waters (née Pilling) of Birmingham on 29 August 1993. ATS.

WATERS. Mrs Nancy Waters (née Bennett) of Sittingbourne on 3 October 1993. ATS.

WYETH. Mrs Barbara Wyeth (née Sellen) of Wimbledon on 29 November 1993. ATS.

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

BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1993

	£	1993	£	£	1992	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1st November 1992			125,079			132,795
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure			3,227			(6,273)
Transfers from Other Funds			12,000			–
			<u>140,306</u>			<u>126,522</u>
Less: Transfers to Other Funds			(10,854)			(1,443)
			<u>129,452</u>			<u>125,079</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	9,481			8,978		
Lioness Life Subscription	<u>14,242</u>			<u>13,473</u>		
			23,723			22,451
MUSEUM FUND			–			22,058
REUNION FUND			24,812			6,137
			<u>£177,987</u>			<u>£175,725</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule (Market Value £199,075)			150,105			67,021
CURRENT ASSETS						
Museum Stock	–			976		
Badges Stock	165			369		
Association Standard	199			199		
Sundry Debtors	49			113		
Cash at Bank – Current Account	1,179			2,001		
– Deposit Accounts	28,551			107,800		
Cash in Hand	50			170		
	<u>30,193</u>			<u>111,628</u>		
Less: Sundry Creditors	2,311			2,924		
			27,882			108,704
			<u>£177,987</u>			<u>£175,725</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1989

1992 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1993 £
10,247	M. & G. Charifund – 12,495 Units	55,238	89,939
50	Royal British Legion Housing Assn. – £50 Bond	–	–
8,324	8.75% Treasury Loan – 1997 – £10,000.00	–	–
4,520	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £16,629.41	15,366	17,722
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	7,129
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	6,797
9,751	9% Conversion Stock – 2000 – £9,573.60	–	–
10,571	9.75% Exchequer Stock – 1998 – £11,115.00	10,571	12,844
10,570	12.25% Exchequer Stock – 1999 – £10,030.00	10,570	12,705
3,544	14% Treasury Stock – 1996 – £3,123.04	3,544	3,786
–	4.375% Index Linked Stock – 2004 – £8,669.72	10,000	9,956
–	2% Index Linked Stock – 2006 – £8,772.02	15,000	15,770
–	8% Treasury Stock – 2009 – £20,770.10	20,372	22,427
<u>£67,021</u>		<u>£150,105</u>	<u>£199,075</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 31st OCTOBER 1993

	£	1993	£	£	1992	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual.....	1,230			2,278		
Proportion of Life Subscription	744			687		
			1,974			2,965
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions	4,922			9,426		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	1,103			1,016		
Advertisement Revenue	1,714			844		
			7,739			11,286
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments.....	9,507			9,061		
Deposit Account Interest	5,310			8,734		
Sale of Badges	(24)			—		
Surplus on Investment Sales	3,143			360		
Museum Profits	854			1,443		
			18,790			19,598
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD			<u>£28,503</u>			<u>£33,849</u>
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD			<u>£28,503</u>			<u>£33,849</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Capitation Fees	—			143		
Grants	120			—		
			120			143
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Cost of Publication			16,537			21,383
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. Expenses	2,011			2,220		
Printing and Stationery	1,297			1,571		
Postage	843			1,203		
Subscriptions and Donations	947			950		
Travel Expenses	198			149		
Audit and Accountancy Fee	1,116			1,189		
Sundry Expenses	105			22		
Bank Charges	152			35		
Farewell Events	—			11,257		
Commemorative Window	1,950			—		
			8,619			18,596
			<u>£25,276</u>			<u>£40,122</u>
EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£3,227</u>			<u>£(6,273)</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 audited the accounts set out on pages 54 and 55 and in accordance with Auditing Standards.

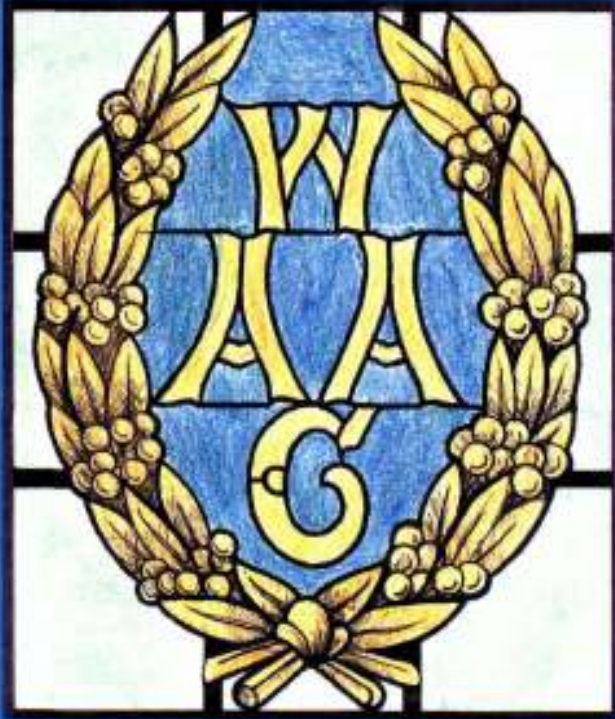
In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the affairs of The Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Services Comrades Association) as at 31 October 1993 and of the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

BAKER TILLY
Registered Auditor
Chartered Accountants
The Clock House
140 London Road
Guildford
Surrey GU1 1UW

20 December 1993

Lioness

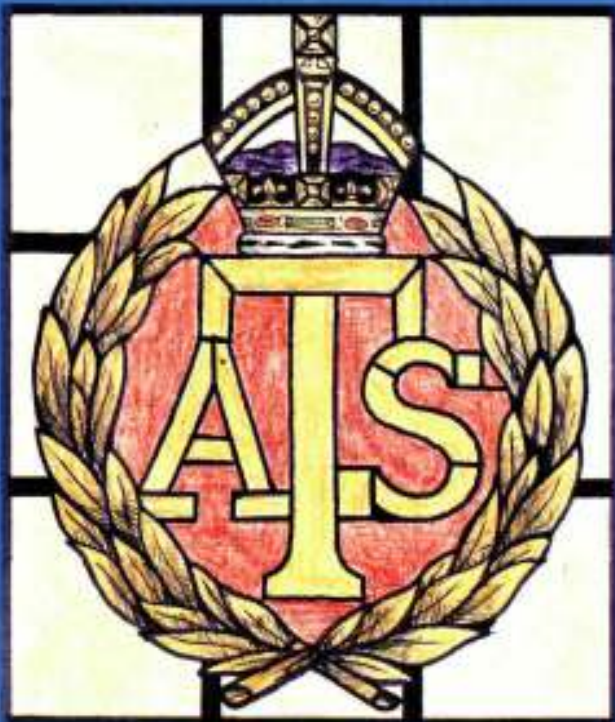
PDF Compressor Free Version



Women's Army Auxilliary Corps
1917-1918



Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps
1918-1921



Auxilliary Territorial Service
1938-1949



Women's Royal Army Corps
1949-1992

Commemorative Window