

1995

No2

Lioness

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THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960- No 206184

Founded in 1919

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Cover Photographs "The Two Farewells"

Front Cover

Farewell to Mounted Troop
 Cpl Angie Wood and "Princess"

Back Cover

Farewell to Aldershot Area and the Army
 Brigadier Gael Ramsey CBE

(Photos C J Fletcher)



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GENERAL SECRETARY

The position of General Secretary to the WRAC Association and Joint Secretary to the Benevolent Funds will become vacant in the next twelve months. It is a Retired Officer Grade 3 Civil Service post with a starting salary of £12,500 and with the opportunity to earn performance related increases.

Anyone thinking of applying should in the first instance register as a potential Retired Officer with:

Ministry Of Defence
Civilian Management (Retired Officers)
Room 348, Somerset Hall
Somerset Street
BATH BA1 5AB

The act of registration does not imply any obligation to take an RO post.

It simply means that those who register will have their eligibility established and receive notification of all posts as they become available.

EDITORIAL

By the time that you will be reading this edition of Lioness the VJ Day Commemorations will have taken place and the Nation will have reached the end of a seven year period when some event of the Second World War was being commemorated fifty years on. This Association can claim to have been the first in the field with The Grand Reunion in 1988 which commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Formation of the Auxilliary Territorial Service in 1938.

However, this edition was being prepared before the VJ events and the items in these pages are concentrated much more on the VE Day events in London, the Provinces and across the Atlantic in Canada.

Also being commemorated are 34 Golden Weddings indicating those who saw 1945 as a time to look to the future. There is also one couple celebrating their Emerald Wedding who showed even greater faith in the future by marrying in 1940.

I regret that we are reaching the point when it will be necessary to review the rates of subscription. It costs over £1 per copy to produce Lioness and over 50p to post each copy in the United Kingdom so it is obvious that the £2 Annual subscription is insufficient to meet the costs of Lioness leave alone the running expenses of the Association. Although our offices, equipment and staff wages are met from the Ministry of Defence budget, the cost of items such as printing, postage, stationery, the AGM and audits all have to be met from Association funds. Although the Association has investments which bring in some income this is clearly not enough to cover inflation and the terrible rise in the cost of newsprint. Watch this space!

This page also contains a notice which shows that your General Secretary and Editor is approaching his 'sell by date'. Thank you for your support and for the mass of material for this edition. Keep it flowing.

SHOPPING LIST

The Association Badge is available for sale from the WRAC Association HQ These cost £2.00 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:

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AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester
SO21 2RG



WRAC Association Badge

CONGRATULATIONS

'B' Troop of 301 Battery of 93 Searchlight Regiment on having their Victory V behind St Paul's Cathedral depicted on national postage stamps

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Mrs Vera Royall presents bouquet to Vice-President, Brigadier Anne Field at Southern Group Reunion

Mrs Doris Madill (Née Bunch) for being the first overseas member to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. It was delivered to her in Canada and the picture below is of her in her ATS days.



Doris Bunch (now Madill)

Sergeant Kelly Holmes ATC (formerly WRAC) in representing Great Britain in World Championships.

Corporal Andrea Joanne Matthews AGC (Provost) and Lance Corporal Ann Marie Bevan RLC both formerly WRAC on the award of the MBE in the Birthday Honours List 1995.

Rita Macdonald (Née Brown) of Glasgow on being helped by Cilla Black's "Searchline" to a reunion in Luton with the Mayor and other members of 93 Searchlight Regiment.

Mrs Margaret Bingham (Née Stanway) took part in a Channel 4 fund raising appeal for St Dunstan's of which she has been a beneficiary since 1944 when she was blinded while serving with the ATS.

Mrs Ruth W Jewell MBE of the Greater London Branch on her award in the New Year's Honours List 1995.

Major B Walters-Davies, Captain WA Allen and Captain C O'Nians on receiving their Colours for Orienteering.

Mrs Mary Hawley who laid a wreath at the Unknown Soldiers Tomb in Brussels on 50th Anniversary of VE Day as part of a British Liberation Army Association team.

Members of the Colchester Branch who raised £575 for the Benevolent Fund in lieu of flowers in memory of their late Secretary Beryl Wolfe who died in May after a long and brave fight against cancer.

Lieutenant Colonel Helen Homewood RLC (V) on being appointed to form and command 163 Movement Control Regiment (V) and to Lieutenant Colonel Diana Henderson on being chosen to Command 162 Movement Control Regiment (V). They are the first female Commanding Officers in the Royal Logistic Corps (V).

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MEMORIES

by Josephine Flinn (née Moseley)

Anniversaries have a habit of bringing back happy memories, and on my Golden Wedding Day I thought back over the years to 1944 when I was stationed at Churchill Barracks, Ayr. The ATS occupied several rooms in a large barrack block, and I was in 'Martinique'. Just two of us were English, the remainder Scots. There was the usual daily barrack room inspection by the Duty Officer with marks out of 10 and remarks about the state of the floor, dust on lockers and lack of tidiness, etc., recorded on a form pinned to the wall by the door. Each month the room with the highest marks was awarded the honour of holding the prize, a picture, for the ensuing month.

Unfortunately 'Martinique' never succeeded in winning the prize. The picture usually hung in 'Ramilles'. But one day a lovely watercolour appeared on our notice board, painted by one of the girls, with the inscription, 'Presented in 'MARTINIQUE', for having the dirtiest floor, the dustiest lockers, but the BEST GIRLS! This they certainly were. I often wonder what happened to that picture.

As the date for my marriage leave drew near, I was constantly informed about Scottish customs on such occasions, and one was that on my last evening I would be put in a wheelbarrow with my face blackened, and paraded around the Square, accompanied by all the occupants of 'Martinique', while the Reveille bell was rung as loudly as possible. As a gullible Sassenach, with no knowledge of Scottish customs I was very apprehensive, and decided to go out for that last evening with my friend Ada, and stay out until Lights Out.

When we got back to 'Martinique' that night, after Lights Out, we found the lights were still on, but everyone apparently fast asleep. On my bed were two life size dummies, a male in slacks, and a female dressed in my best uniform. They were stuffed with pillows, happy faces drawn with makeup; good wishes and many humorous messages pinned to both. Beneath them my bed was the best 'apple pie' ever. Dried peas and rice and other items from the kitchen inside the folded bottom sheet, pyjamas completely sewn up everywhere with the tiniest stitches - buttonholes, sleeves, legs and waistband; absolutely unwearable, those stitches would take hours to unpick. It must have taken them the whole evening to do. It dawned on me then (how 'green' I was!), that the threat of the wheelbarrow ride was just to make sure that I would make myself scarce for a long time.

In two minutes the room was in uproar as Ada and I went round and tipped up mattresses, tossing everyone out of bed. The Sgts were sports and stayed in their little room and allowed us to have our fun. I will never forget 'Martinique', and the never-to-be-forgotten send off they gave me into marriage! Their wedding gifts treasured still.

I wonder if anyone reading this will remember that night too. Where are you now? Effie McInnes our artist, Bella Farquhar, Milly Glancy, Betty Steven, Cathy Hall, Margaret Kelly, Mary Laird, Marjorie Foster, Emily Mackay, Helen Dykes, Margaret Morris, Cathie Pattison, Ann Mackie and others. You knew me as 'Jo Mo' and I would love to hear from you, at 4, Walders Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3PE. (01903 774818).

VARIED SERVICE

by Dorothy Perry (nee Wheatley)

I served in the ATS first at Talavera Camp Northampton. After training I was company runner between 5 companies of ATS. Later someone took pity on me and let me use a bicycle. The Princess Royal came to inspect, I was QM Clerk then in HQ Company Northamptonshire Regt. It was

1941, very cold and snowy. We had to wait on parade for Princess Mary for 2 hours, no great-coats allowed. The Sgts of the Northamptonshires trained us for drill. They didn't think too much of this at first - but they changed their attitude later, when they knew we passed out in various trades. We were Volunteers then. This was my rank. I would like anyone who remembers me to contact me. Serving (name Wheatley) there or later in 467.72 S/L Regt RA at Gurst in Norfolk in the operations room. I was a teleplotter then. I was on duty when Group Capt Aitkin a fighter pilot was trying to land. He was a 'lame duck' after a raid in Europe. He sent a message on landing safely - 'Thank you boys for the golden road'. The duty officer told me to link all sites and pass on the message. He didn't think most of the 'boys' on duty were 'girls' ATS.

I was in the Middlesex Regt at the Manor House, Old Hanstanton as a decoder. CO Col Boggis allowed us to wear a cornflower on our sleeve (because of a service his family had done for the Crown) in past times. Micky was the ATS with me and some HQ clerks. I saw in the SAGA magazine and cornflowers please contact for a reunion. I did this. They told me we don't have women at our reunion. What a shower, went from there to ATS Provost training on passing to Aldershot, Luton, Hull - R Hart, B Watts, Penny Duckett - Cambridge, London District. I would love to hear from anyone who trained with me at Mychett.

Hazel Tilly or Booker, Jean Turner who was with me serving in interrogation centre 1944. Dorothy Wheatley or long known as BLOT.



ATS PROVOST 1944
Hazel Tilly - Dorothy Wheatley (now Perry)



ATS PROVOST REUNION
Helen Wheeler - Dorothy Perry - Pam Bowles

BRITISH VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT
by Mrs Sybille Phillips (née Nugent)

This letter is meant to be on behalf of all who answered the call for help in 1940 via the British Volunteer Movement in the Colonies. PDF Compressor Free Version
Many did - I cannot give any statistics but I was one of 25 women who came in October 1942 from Washington, DC.

Perhaps you have not heard of this movement. The troop I was with, sailed from New York on the "City of Hong Kong". A very perilous journey but we made it and eventually were sent to Guildford No 1 Queen's Camp. We were a happy group and made a lot of friends. Eventually I was Commissioned, only rose to a humble Subaltern.

I am writing, as I say, on behalf of all. We lost touch, as like all others were scattered and eventually repatriated. However - this 50th Anniversary year, I wonder why no mention is ever made to this group of men and women. We could have stayed in peace and plenty but chose not too. Don't want to be called gallant or any such thing but I am sure for history as well as our love of Old England couldn't we have a "small mention"?

I am a member of the British Legion - not the Women's Section and would gladly march in that wonderful group if my legs would allow.

My husband reads to me but not The Lioness. I have all the bits of paper the Embassy in Washington sent.

Hope I have not bored you!

ENTRIES FOR LIONESS

Entries for Lioness are welcome but the following points should be noted when submitting items:

- a. entries should be typed whenever possible (Modern scanning machines can copy direct without the need for re-typing/typesetting)
- b. Branch Notes, Obituaries, Golden Weddings etc should copy the format from earlier Lioness editions as far as possible. (This saves re-editing)
- c. Send original photographs. (Although no absolute guarantee can be given we do make every effort to safeguard and return photographs. While modern reprographic techniques are very good the fact remains that every time a picture is copied the quality goes down)
- d. Put captions to photographs (remember the 5 'W's Who, What, Where, When and Why). Indicate the position of people in the photograph eg, Left to Right, Seated/Standing, position in row from right or left looking at the picture or in relation to another recognizable person.
- e. Include maiden names or names at the time of the event as that is how you will be remembered.

EARLY DAYS AT GUILDFORD
by Mrs Barbara M Jones (née Williams)

I have intended to write this letter for a long time. Having read the reports over the last couple of years of the farewell ceremonies in the Journal may I offer a quite different point of view, a romantic one.

I was a Platoon Sergeant in Leicester in 1946 at Glen Parva Barracks, when we were told that a move to Guildford was to take place. Leicester was closing down as a Training Centre.

Our final Company was in training and the Main Party left from Glen Parva station by train. I was on the Rear Party and we left Leicester on 6 December 1946.

It was a cold, cold day, the roads like a sheet of ice (no M1 then). RASC drivers drove the trucks and jeeps.

In one of the leading jeeps was Cpl Maclean from my Company, No 3. Blue ribbon on shoulder.

Every so often on our slippery trip the leading vehicle would stop, always near to a mini wood or an interesting looking hay stack, and we would climb out for the obvious reason.

At last we drove into the camp at Guildford after quite a hair raising journey, but a lot of laughs.

We were eventually taken to our huts, the Sergeants' Mess was a shock, there were still men in the camp, some of whom were German Prisoners of War. They did coal fatigues and various odd jobs around the camp site.

One of the members of the Mess paid particular attention to me. He and a few others showed us around Guildford and the Stoughton area. My escort was a Staff Sergeant in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. He changed his posting from York to Aldershot. Guildford at that time was a Demob Centre. We met on 6 December 1946, engaged 6 May 1947, married 6 September 1947. You can imagine what memories were evoked for me in Guildford.

The Training Companies on the Square, medicals in the CRS (now gone) and queuing for kit at the QM Stores, near the Museum site.

I finally left the service in April 1948, and moved into married quarters in Aldershot. My husband was a regular soldier and had already served 19 years in his Regiment, 3 years of which were in Burma. I was to follow the flag for 12 years, W/33263.

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ANTIPODEAN ADVENTURES
by Mrs Barbara M Jones

I have recently returned from Sydney, Australia where I again contacted the British Ex-Service Women's Association. Unfortunately the British Ex-Service Men's Club has closed, but the ladies meet at the RSL Club on George Street.

I attended their October meeting and as I was the Branch Standard Bearer at Allestree, Derby, for 9 years I volunteered to carry the Standard for the British Ex-Service Women at the Armistice Day Service. I had to cancel that honour because my arthritis reminded me it was still there.

I then attended the Christmas lunch in December and we had a lovely meal including small individual Xmas puddings.

It was with great delight I met up with Grace Hansford again.

She had come down from her home in Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, and had brought with her a beautifully decorated Christmas cake. Grace has made the cake for the party for many years, one of dozens she makes and ices, wedding christenings, anniversaries, you name it Grace makes it. I can't remember all of your names ladies I am sorry, but I met Olive Durkin and Molly Webb again. Molly had had a broken hip but was on the mend, the last time I saw her was 4 years ago at the Garrison Church in the Rocks Area, she was wearing her full ATS uniform. The only thing that would fit me today would be my cap!!!

I loved meeting them all again, I was made so welcome.

You are asked to take a small gift which is placed in a bag then each lady draws one out.

There was also a wonderful raffle and I was lucky, my number came out and I was able to choose a beautifully embroidered picture.

My husband and I had a busy time. We flew to Melbourne and he met two Burma comrades from his Regiment 50 years on, and on to Adelaide where we visited old neighbours from my married quarter days in Germany and Jamaica. I followed the flag for 12 years after I was married.

I read "The Lioness" from cover to cover and the latest edition has a photograph with Iris Fenick in it. She belongs to the Wimbledon Branch of the Association.

She, Eileen Nolan and I were all at Glen Parva Leicester in 1945-1946 and moved to Queens Camp, Guildford on 6 December 1946. Iris and I were No 3 Training Company (blue ribbon). Eileen Nolan No 2 Company (yellow ribbon). I met her one day walking through Up Park Camp, Kingston, Jamaica, she had come out on a banana boat to the Caribbean Company. Our Regiment had trooped on HMS DILWARA.

I have looked in vain for years for anyone from those training days, I had moved to Leicester when Honiton closed down. So - Jenny Paton, Sgt Corbett, Sgt Robson, CSM Coldwell, Key Prior, Sgt Higgins, Sgt Lokultz, Cpl Davidson, Cpl Kitchen where are you all? I know where Ticky Wright is, we are still in touch.

I am a life member of the Leicester and Nottingham Branch of the Association, not able to attend meetings I'm afraid.

THANK YOU

WO II (CSM) Kate Prior wishes to thank all of her Service friends and well wishers for their many letters and kind messages of support during her recent illness. They were much appreciated.

CANADA REMEMBERS - 6 MAY 1995
by Mrs Marjorie Brough (née Holman)

Saturday 6th May 1995 dawned bright and clear with a fairly brisk breeze and lots of sun. It was with some trepidation that we descended on the Western Fair Grounds at 8.45am. So much had already gone wrong and we appeared to be a forgotten few. After advertising for ex-members of the ATS, WAAF, WRNS and WRAC in our local paper, we were horrified to find ourselves identified as the Army Transport Service. On questioning this, we were told that the paper had received this interpretation of our service from a Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian Army and another irate officer vehemently denied there was any such Corps as the WRAC. It took quite a long explanation to satisfy the reporter that we were indeed ex-members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service and that there was a very flourishing Women's Royal Army Corps with headquarters in the UK. This did elicit an apology in the next day's press. However, when we arrived at the parade ground no one knew where to place us and, you've guessed it, we were told we would be riding with the 22nd London Service Battalion. This, in spite of our insistence that some of our members would be marching. However, we dug in our heels and after going through various channels of authority, were given permission to march. We had an ATS and WRAC Association Banner attached to the side of the vehicle while just 2 brave souls carried a Banner and were not even within hearing distance of any of the bands to lighten our steps. However, our members riding in the transport gave some very spirited renditions of WW2 songs and as we came out of the Fair Grounds, the cheers of the crowds reached our ears; we gripped the banner firmly; our heads went up and we stepped out smartly. The warmth and friendliness of the crowds; the "Good for You" cries from many of the women watching and the many children waving their flags made it all worth while. One of the most heart-warming sights were 3 children, with a gentleman who appeared to be their grandfather wearing medals from WW1 and WW2. The three children had obviously been well schooled and with their grandfather, gave us a perfect military salute as we passed them by.

Our day didn't end after the parade - we had been given permission to hold a display in the old Court House along with the Royal Hussars and The Royal Canadian Regiment. We managed quite a formidable display of memorabilia and spent the rest of the afternoon answering questions about our various roles during the war and life in Britain.

Altogether we were happy that we had been able to make people aware of the contribution made by women from all walks of life and particularly proud of having been a part of such a memorable slice of history.



CANADA REMEMBERS
6 MAY 1995

VE DAY IN BRUSSELS 8th MAY 1945

by Mrs Joan Awbery (née Stittle)

A letter home (opened by the censor!) dated 10th May 1945 is full of excitement.

"What a time it's been, although I should have loved to have been at home. I think everyone I have spoken to has said 'I wish I had been at home, or in London'. I guess it has been simply wonderful in London. And what weather! Right up to Sunday it was cold and rainy and dull, but since Monday it's been very hot and perfect for celebrations.

Our excitements started on Monday because we heard then that Germany had given in during the morning so at night all the civilians celebrated. At the height of activities I saw three truck-loads of German prisoners in that awful grey uniform being transported through the city. The reaction from the population was frightening.

Tuesday, work as usual in the morning, but after lunching at the Canada Club and meeting up with friends and having riotous reunions with some girls who had just come across from England whom I had known in Cambridge days - we met Henrietta and her husband (Belgians with whom I have been friendly for some time) and they took us off to a cafe (roughly equal to a pub except that they are open all day long for the sale of any sort of drink and most of the tables are out on the pavement so one sits among the pedestrians). At 3 o'clock we heard Mr Churchill speak through a loudspeaker set up front of the American Club. What a thrill that was, and what excitements took place. No more work that day. We walked miles round the city admiring the illuminations, the neon signs, the floodlit buildings and the antics of a wild public.

In the main square was a loudspeaker playing all the national anthems; it was crowded and I really thought we were never going to get out alive. We four held tightly to each other's belts; Margaret, being the largest, was in the lead and forced a passage through. We were pelted with flowers, confetti, clapped and slapped on the back and cheered and it was a most embarrassing experience. Eventually we found our way to the AEF Club, had supper there and were in time to hear the King's speech. Afterwards everyone in the Club got up and cheered. Then we were off again. By this time we had no feeling in our feet and collapsed into a quiet cafe in a side street. At least we thought it was quiet. As soon as we entered the entire contents of the place got up and cheered us. It was terribly embarrassing, anyone would have thought we had actually been responsible for it all.

We regained our strength and went off to a fun-fair; roundabouts, swings, bumping cars, things that twirl round so violently that it's impossible to think coherently for several hours and throwing balls and knocking things down. There were street parties and fireworks, shouts and cheers in all directions, offerings of food and drink in all the cafes. About one o'clock we staggered back to barracks, hot, tired and still excited by it all.

Planes were flying over all day dropping those bits of silver paper, and balloons and dragging Union Jacks behind them. The flags of all nations are out in full strength here, but I'll bet Bethnal Green has beaten it hollow for decoration. I've had it said to me three or four times that the war ended for the Belgians on their day of liberation. Henrietta said that for those people who had no-one in the army (and there are several) or who were working in Germany or prisoners of war it ended on the day the British entered Brussels last September. But for all that, their delight at the end of the war is truly magnificent.

Cars are going around the city, jeeps, three-tonners, private cars, all full to bursting with cheering and waving people, hammering on the roof, riding on the bonnets. The trams which normally hold about fifty people are crammed with probably two hundred hanging on to any surface they can. We have to walk just about everywhere, it's impossible to get aboard a tram.

Please save me all the newspapers you can, I haven't seen one for days and until last night hadn't heard a proper, BBC Home Service one. Then I didn't hear the beginning, something about a salvo of a thousand guns being fired somewhere, could have been London, or Moscow. When we were out in the woods this evening, recuperating, we kept hearing gunfire and couldn't make up our minds if it was a German advance or whether it was Moscow over-reaching itself a bit."

13th May 1945. "As for the people here, they are still celebrating. There are still fireworks and parties. Every hour or so a little parade or procession goes past the window, some with a small band with a long trail of civilians behind waving banners. Some of the processions are students called out FOR the King, or NOT called out for the King! It's very confusing and practically impossible to tell from this which way the wind is actually blowing. There are flowers outside the gates of the royal palace.

This morning Elsie, Mary and I went to the cathedral for High Mass. Major Morris suggested it would be interesting for us as The Queen Mother, some very high Catholic priests and government officials were to be there. So we went and saw the party march in, whereupon everybody inside the cathedral let loose with cheers. Then we stood solemnly but rather uncomprehendingly through the chanting for an hour and then made out way out. Well, we would have done if we could. The congregation went mad yelling out "Vive le Roi" and "Leopold". It was almost worse than VE night. We had the greatest difficulty getting out of the cathedral and found it rather frightening.

A day or so ago we saw an unveiling ceremony of a plaque on a wall where two patriots shot a Belgian collaborator.

The civilians think we are going to be demobbed straight away. They say "I expect you will be going home now" and don't really believe us when we say we shall probably be here for another year at least. ".....



Cpl Joan Stittle (now Awbery)

VE DAY + 50 CELEBRATIONS
by Mrs Mavis Middleton (née Princel)

Felt I had to write about our wonderful four days in London for VE + 50. I was stationed on the gun site in Hyde Park during the war - so the whole events were special to me.

Fri 5th May. My friend Doreen Dennis and I left home early in the afternoon - arriving in Victoria around 3pm. Taxi to the Victory Club - too much luggage to bus or take the underground. Booked in - unpacked and first priority to walk over to Hyde Park and check the entrances - hustle and bustle - everyone working there flat out. Back to the Club to change for Dinner and Dance in the Carlsbrooke Hall. Lovely evening - met old friends. Nattered the night away - back to our rooms in the small hours. Far too excited to sleep.

Sat 6th May. Up at the crack of dawn. Breakfast - then off to Hyde Park by 8.30am. How fortunate we were staying within walking distance of all these wonderful events. Reported to our WRAC Association stall to do our bit. The 1939-45 Veterans Centre was the focal point and housed 3,000 people (hope I've got my facts right there!). It was a glorious day - how lucky we were with the weather. I was fortunate in getting an invite to the Royal Enclosure for the Opening of the International Event. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, gave a speech - also our Prime Minister, John Major. Princess Margaret also attended. It was lovely and cool sitting under the canopy - comfy seats - couldn't believe my luck. This was followed by a lunch time reception in the Veterans Centre. Lovely bites, the wine flowed freely, also fresh juice for us thirsty Golden Oldies'. Met John Major, what a charming man he is! Back on the stall to do our stint and much to our delight Doreen and I were asked to do a TV interview for Satellite TV. We went along to the news marquee where terrific lamps were turned on us and a charming gent (named Peter - if my memory holds correct) proceeded with the interview. What was said I can't remember - but we later giggled about it firmly convinced we sounded like 'Gert and Daisy'! We didn't get to see this ourselves - but were told it was OK. Felt like a grease spot with all the heat! We then went back to the Victory Club to change, have a meal and off to the Royal British Legion Concert. What a memorable evening that was. Our seats were in Z row. Right at the very top. Lovely and warm - we didn't even need cardigans! Atmosphere was electric - not a spare seat and the crowds were unbelievable. Police and military on every corner. Wonderfully organised - must have taken a master mind. Vera Lynn, Cliff Richard, Elaine Page - all the greats appearing in the show - search lights (they'd be lazer beams in this day and age I guess) played over the sky. Such a lovely evening. We waited with the crowds to watch the Princess Royal and her husband go by. Then it was Sunday.



INSIDE VETERANS CENTRE

Sun 7th May. Still a lovely hot and sunny day. Four of us took a taxi to St Paul's and outside the Cathedral who should I meet but Lady Soames (Mary Churchill as she was when I served with her on our gun site in Hyde Park). We had a short chat - really made my day. Then Mr Healy came along, he too stopped for a brief matter. I had a seat in the Nave and was fortunate to be sitting next to a retired London policeman who knew just about everybody. He was a wealth of information. Lady luck surely was with me this day. All the Royals, Heads of State and Government attended. Wonderful service. This was followed by a buffet luncheon at the Locarno Suite, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The number of buses and the crowds were unbelievable. Finally got on the right coach. We were met at the door by a minister who escorted us to the luncheon room. Had to keep pinching myself to make sure it was me attending this grand, wonderful, memorable function. After the meal the buses were waiting to take us back to Hyde Park for the Heads of State Ceremony. This was attended by Her Majesty The Queen and Heads of State. The military bands, the choir of 1,000, the children in their national costumes and the flower children were a joy. I was pleased to be wearing a hat as we were sat in the stands this time and facing the sun. Quite a few folk were overcome with the heat and the St John's Ambulance, Red Cross and the medical services had their work cut out stretching. After all the excitement of the day we were pleased to go back to the Victory Club, have a meal and an early night.



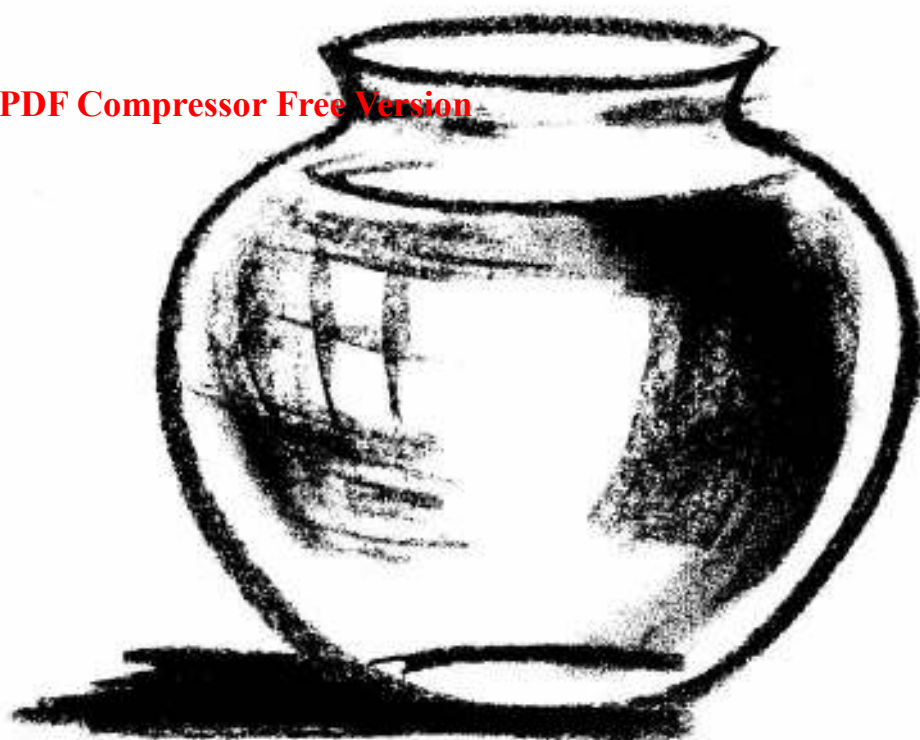
Mrs Jean Webster of Crewe meets Duke of Gloucester

Mon 8th May. It was cooler. We had an early breakfast and went over to our stall for a spell. Doreen and I decided we'd watch the bands form up, but wouldn't march with them to Buckingham Palace. We stood behind the barriers but the excitement of the crowds was too much. We asked a young policeman on duty if we could march with the guards, he said OK, and let us thro'. We fell in with the band, medals proudly displayed, feeling 10 feet tall marching with these wonderful soldiers, all the way down The Mall and right thro' the gates of Buckingham Palace. Doreen said we shouldn't really be there, we'd get thrown in the tower for this! Fortunately, we didn't! Harry Secombe joined Vera Lynn and Cliff Richard and we all joined in the singing. Her Majesty the Queen, Princess Margaret and the dear Queen Mother appeared on the balcony and the crowds let up one almighty cheer. A fly past by wartime planes and the Red Arrows, and fireworks like I have never seen before. We had our pictures taken with the dear Chelsea Pensioners - we did it all! Then much to my delight - we marched off with the Sea Scouts this time, thro' the grounds of Buckingham Palace and out to Hyde Park Corner - marching with the bands thro' the park. Did our old hearts good and it wasn't so bad on the feet either. Back to our stall to do another stint and whilst there a couple of lads doing live broadcast for Radio Kent asked if they could interview us. They didn't have mums or grans in the ATS during the war so we couldn't give them one of our enrolment forms to join our WRAC Association. But we obliged with the interview and

A VIVID REMINDER

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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.

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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.

thoroughly enjoyed ourselves answering the questions, etc. Didn't get to hear this on radio but it went out on Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock and my sister heard it.

That evening was the grand finale. Back to the club for a refresher and change. Getting back into Hyde Park was a struggle, the crowds had multiplied and we had to fight our way back. We were fortunate again in having tickets for the reception in the Vets Centre where we were tempted with dainty bites and wine.

We attended the VE night party. I was lucky in having an invitation into the Royal Enclosure, where blankets were supplied, the weather had decided it had been kind enough for long enough and it turned really cold. A wonderful programme with stars from the London shows. Prior to the show Her Majesty The Queen lit the Royal British Legion beacon - one of 1,000s being lit all over the country and across Europe. This wonderful evening finished with a magnificent firework display.

What a grand finish to a truly memorable weekend.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS - HYDE PARK **by Captain Eileen Carter MBE TD**

We looked forward with great joy to the pleasure that Hyde Park would bring and everyone eagerly applied for the tickets to join in the events.

It was amazing really that so many of us were privileged and able to view and join in the Opening Ceremony where HM The Queen Mother spoke so well and touched all our hearts.

More of us than we ever dared to hope were lucky enough to have seats in St Paul's Cathedral for the Service of Peace and Reconciliation on the Sunday morning, and what a great occasion that was - if only all the Heads of State had been able to wear a notice saying who they were!!

After that followed a splendid lunch, by invitation of HM Government, and then later in the afternoon, the Heads of State Ceremony in the park which most of the Royal Family attended too.

Hyde Park was full to capacity on the Monday afternoon and some members were brave enough to go to the Evening Concert as well, where HM The Queen lit the flame to start the chain of beacons throughout the land.



GLOBE OF PEACE IN HYDE PARK

The Association had two stands in the Official Area, one in the Military Charities Section and a smaller one in the Veterans Centre. The purpose of the stands was to foster interest in the Association and hopefully bring in new members and donations.



ASSOCIATION STALL IN VETERANS CENTRE

New exhibition display boards had been produced showing the ATS in action and the general public were most interested in the old uniforms and photographs of the "fashionable undies" issued to the ATS on enlistment.

Forty members from the Medway, Canterbury, London and Greater London branches ably manned the stands throughout the weekend.

The sunshine helped tremendously, but there was joy in our hearts the whole way through for all of us.

SISTERS **by Enid Cox (née Mallard)**

My sister, Beryl Charles and I, Enid Cox (Mallard) applied for our tickets for the VE Celebration separately, she from Derbyshire and I from Norfolk on different forms and dates when the tickets arrived we were surprised to find that we had seats on the same row in the Royal Box and next to each other in the Stands.

The Royal Box tickets were for the Opening Ceremony and as the seats in between were not occupied we were able to sit next to each other as the enclosed photograph taken by our friend, Mavis Middleton, of Canterbury Branch shows.

We were saddened by the loss of our school friend and comrade, Peggy Richardson (George) who collapsed and died after the Victory Club Dinner on Friday night.

We all served in the ATS and enlisted at Ilkeston, Derbyshire.



Beryl Charles and Enid Cox (née Mallard)

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CAN ANYONE REMEMBER THE COOK by Ex-Staff Sergeant Terry Hart

I joined up at Chatham, Old Brompton, where my CO was the Junior Commander - now Dame Mary Tyrwhitt.

I was selected to go to France, with the BEF in 1940 - we did our training at Saut-de-la-Paix, now (Bulins) under the command of Junior Commander Maxwell, from there we sailed to France, dropping off small contingents of ATS girls - we landed at Le Havre, from there the girls went to Dieppe, Arras, Mons and Paris, etc., - my contingent was sent to Nantes, 102 Group HQ, our officers there, Senior Commander Wagstaff, Junior Commanders Carden and Guggisberg - both now, I believe, sadly deceased - Miss Carden was awarded the BEM for getting the remaining telephonists out of Paris - these girls, stayed at their posts, until the last possible moment, even, I believe, conversing with the Germans, until help arrived.

At Nantes, the Colonel-in-Charge at the RASC MT unit was somewhat annoyed at "those blasted women in uniform" (his words not mine).

We all settled down to do the job we were sent out to do, and over a period, said Colonel, was won over and he presented a plaque from his office door to our unit, the inscription read, "Whistle while you work", and it was also decorated - how many of my colleagues remember that and the other one "Seventh Heaven".

I have a number of postcards and Nantes and Clisson, all autographed by all the girls at 102 Group - if anyone would like copies of these autographs I'd be happy to oblige, there are far too many names on them to list here - have also a card at the Provost at the BLA who were at Sompting with me and if they are interested I will have them copied.

I did my initial ACC training at Guildford and Aldershot and became a Staff Sergeant instructor - travelling widely not only to teach but to trade test potential cooks - including some from the TA and was the first NCO to do this job!

I was also at Sheerness, Bournemouth, Reigate, Bletchley, Carlisle, Maidstone, Pitsea near Vange, in Essex, and many other places also Shorncliffe.



MORE COOKS AT MAIDSTONE

I had to travel with two enormous laundry baskets, which contained all my necessary cooking equipment!

In view of some of the places I have mentioned I would particularly like to hear from Junior Commander Cornish - CO at Sheerness, and Wyn Guinn, I believe now Mrs Heath last heard of in Palfrey and "Jock" from Scottish Command, Sylvia from Honiton and "Brownie" at "Seventh Heaven".

I'm sure many will remember our journey by lorries to St Malo, where we embarked on the already overladen SS Princess Astrid, landing eventually at Southampton and then on to Aldermaston where we were sent home on disembarkation leave - 16th June 1940.

Incidentally our address in Nantes was the "Moulin de Proce" a lovely house in lovely surroundings!

I saw the photo of the cooks at Invicta Lines Maidstone have already written to Nell Creane - I am enclosing a photocopy of all the cooks at Invicta Lines.

I was the Staff Sergeant in Charge of all messes - the photo that Nell sent, was one I took, of some of the girls - so is there anyone out there that remembers Nell and yours truly?!

SUNDERLAND'S VE DAY by Mrs Muriel Brown (née Master)

We old Veterans of the Sunderland Services Club, all ex-service women, wondered whether you would be interested in just one or two ways we, and the people of Sunderland celebrated VE Day fifty years on.

I live in a block of flats for the retired, and Sunderland Football Management were kind enough to invite me and "Veterans" from various clubs in the area to watch the last game of the season between Sunderland and West Bromwich on Saturday 6th May.

I would say between two and three hundred Veterans met at Seaburn Hall, where we were handsomely fed and watered prior to the match.

From there we were taken by coach to the football ground at Roker Park and shepherded in orderly file into the ground all of us proudly wearing our medals.

I also wore my late husband's medals correctly on the right side.

We were warmly applauded by the home and visiting supporters as we walked around the football pitch.

Everyone of the spectators rose as one and applauded us all the way to our seats, I was thrilled, I felt very proud, very humble and unashamedly emotional.

Happily the result of the match was a draw. We were very well looked after during the game and plied with packets of potato crisps and cups of tea.

Great care was taken of us all at the end of the game, to make sure we all got safely out of the ground and on our way home.

Hurray for Sunderland Football Management. A great day out.

On another occasion a teacher and pupils from Dame Dorothy School, Sunderland came to the block of flats where I live, to listen and learn from we old timers just what it was like to have lived during the Second World War, not only we who had been in the services, but also how did civilians cope with the bombing, rationing, loss of homes and families.

I was amazed at just how knowledgeable the children were. It was obvious to me that the children of today learned more of the Second World War than ever the children of yesteryear learned of World War One.

We also of the flats where I live, celebrated in our own way.

Flags and Bunting decorated our lounge, as also the entrance, grounds and garden. All very festive.

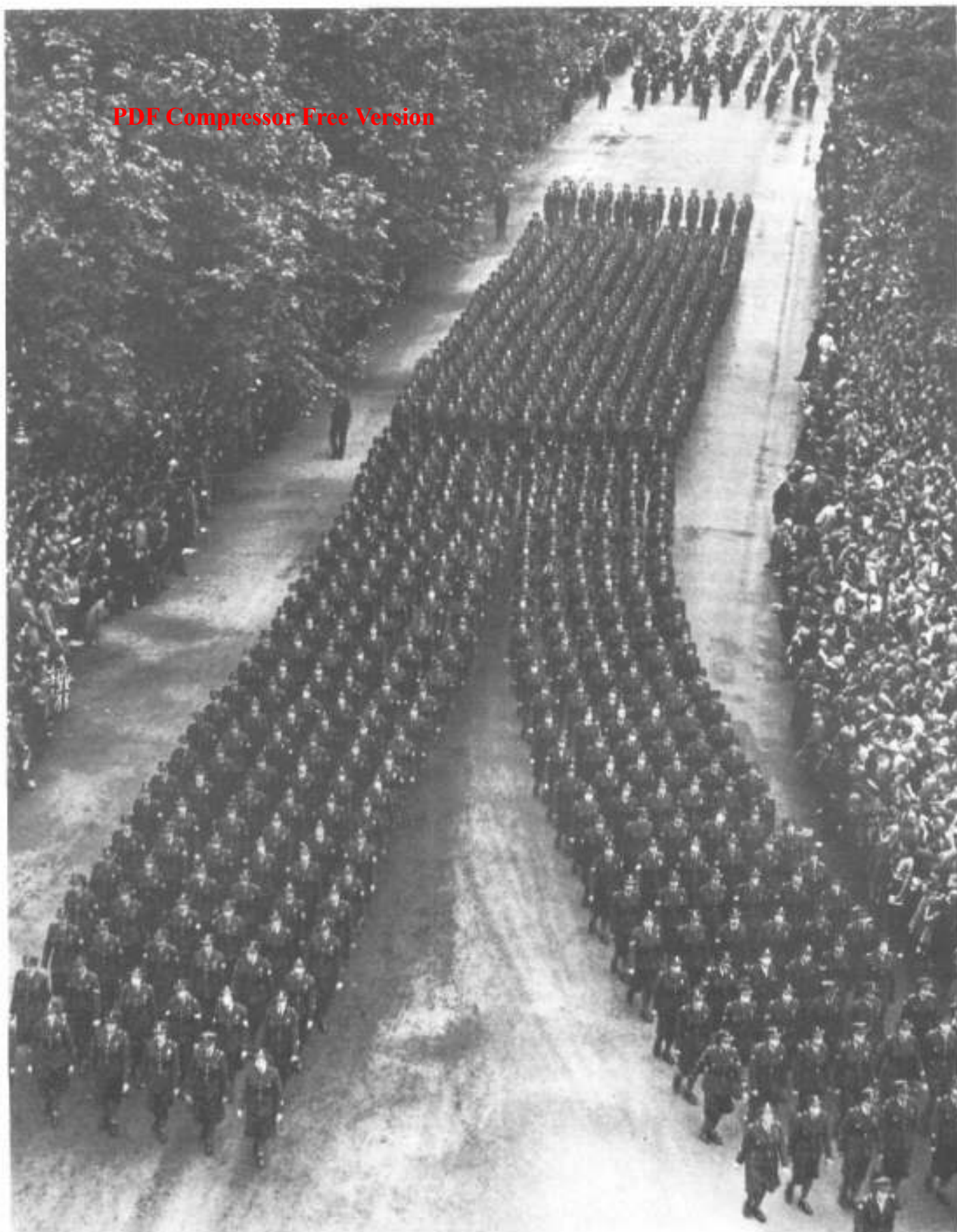
A huge tea and entertainment, Vera Lynn style, plus dancing to suit our ancient bones followed.

Reminiscence of the first VE Day; some just couldn't remember clearly. Others had stories I couldn't repeat.

We of the Sunderland Club are a cheerful, jolly lot, sadly depleted over the years, but of late joined by many younger lasses. We often join the Newcastle girls at their club as visitors, and what a jolly lot they are.

I hope you find something of interest in my epistle.

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ATS Contingent
Victory Parade 8th June 1946

TWIN SISTERS IN THE ATS by Nora Houldsworth (née Hay)

Early in 1942 my twin sister Mary and I volunteered for the ATS and we were called up on Friday 13th February to the Duke of Wellington at High Wycombe, Well, Halifax. I remember it was very cold and snowing and the huts where we lived weren't the height of comfort. We were all very young and we hadn't been away from home before but we soon got used to it. After our initial training we were posted to York for Signals training to be telephone switchboard operators where we were in private billets with a very nice family.

After passing out we had our first posting to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, an ammunition sub-depot at Well near Bedale, North Yorkshire. We wore the Royal Signals badge. There were six ATS girls, three telephone switchboard operators and three teleprinter operators. We had a small switchboard which was manned by us, day and night. The shifts were morning and evening, afternoon and all night then a day off to catch up with our sleep. We had a happy time there as we had dances and concerts in the little village hall at Tanfield and my sister met a Welsh man who became her husband. Well was a very small village with one street, it had a church and a pub, a post office and another small shop. We lived in a tiny village institute with six beds and we had one cold tap. One of the girls, Marjorie Brown who was older than the others was a lance corporal and she had to look after us. We were there thirteen months and celebrated our 21st birthdays with a lovely party, the Colonel paid for our birthday cake. We were posted then to Newcastle for a trade test and from there to York where we spent three years on Northern Command Switchboard living in Low Moor Hutments, Fulford Barracks.

Early in 1945 I was put on an overseas draft as I was single, my sister was married by this time so she hadn't to go. When the war in Europe was over the draft was cancelled.

We stayed together until my sister was demobbed in December 1945 and I was demobbed in February 1946 after four happy years.

We never regretted our army service and have always been proud of serving in the ATS. We are both members of the Association, Bradford branch and I have been the Treasurer for twenty eight years, I am also the Secretary for the Royal Signals Association, Bradford branch. Mary went to live in Pontypridd, South Wales when the war finished but I came home to Bradford and married a Yorkshire man also Royal Signals.



TWIN SISTERS

BACK TO CAMPERDOWN by Cynthia Stanforth (née Edmundson)

At last after 51 years my husband and I have made a return visit to the Belfast area. With the help of an ordnance survey map we were able to pin-point our old AA Gun site at Camperdown which was on a farm half way between Dundonald and Comber.

It reminded us of our courting days when serving there with 490 Mixed Heavy AA Battery. It brought back memories of Church parades led by the Dundonald Flute band playing "Safe in the arms of Jesus". The Christmas party we gave to the local children, my taking part in the regimental sports at Holywood and Practice Camp at Ballymacormick Point near Groomsport. Not forgetting the Security Sergeant's visits when none of us were brave enough to step out in front of his motorcycle ridden at break neck speed to test our defences. This failure led to lectures on security for the whole camp. Apparently no one thought to put in gates or a barrier pole which was done at other sites. How lucky for the Sergeant he never met another vehicle head on coming out of camp. It was the longest time we were on one site 26th November 1943 to 27th August 1944. The enclosed photograph shows there is still some evidence of those days and we very much enjoyed our return visit. We would like to thank all the local people we met who showed such interest and kindness to us and made our visit so successful.



Camperdown Gunsite, Ulster

BOMBARDMENT FROM FRANCE by Doreen Thompson (née Chatham)

I read in the Lioness with interest the story by Grace Carr about her days and nights at Margate and Deal during the heavy shelling.

A few years ago while on holiday in France with my husband we visited the area of CAP GRIS NEZ which is from where the Germans fired the shells which caused so much havoc, damage and fear. We took several photographs, one of which is here, although these relics are showing signs of decay they really are enormous structures. Foundations of 20m visible walls 10m diameter 40m. The guns which have long since been removed fired 380 calibre shells, 2m tall, weighing one ton. This is one of four blockhouses of the TODT battery.

The ground and surrounding area must really have shaken when the enemy shot these frightening missiles at our coastline.



GERMAN GUN EMBLACEMENT

LIGHTING THE SHEFFIELD VE DAY BONFIRE by Mrs Brenda McGhie (née Stephenson)

Thought you would like to share a special night in my life. This is a photograph of my sister Iris Cooper, Ex Provost Military Police, Service in Belfast, Nottingham, etc., and 'me' Brenda McGhie (née Stephenson) ex No 4 & No 9 The "famous" 93rd Searchlight Regiment 301 Battery 'C' Troop.

Hope it triggers some memories ? Troop H.6 Bignalls Corner, Middlesex, Colney Heath, Herts. I remember Miss Shenton, Vera Butcher. I still hear from my friends Nellie Dyson and Rene Raynor (née Durance), would be nice to hear and get together other veterans.

Wasn't The Queen Mother wonderful? Watching the then and now as she stood with her daughters Her Majesty The Queen and Princess Margaret, must have brought a few tears to many I'm sure. It was 3 great days, finding out more about the war now, than we did then. But now I will tell you about VE 50 night.

I was that special someone chosen to light our beacon (what an honour) after all it was more or less at the same time as our Queen (also ex-veteran ATS). Like Her Majesty our youth was also formed, during the Second World War. So it was a great honour, to be joining once more with Her Majesty to celebrate the Peace and remember to honour those who made it possible. I cannot believe it really.



**AT THE BONFIRE
Brenda McGhie and Iris Cooper**



**ON DUTY 1943-44
Left Brenda Stephenson (now McGhie)
and Iris Stephenson (now Cooper)**

It took place on the highest point in North Nottinghamshire.

Even though a bitter cold wind was blowing the families who came, stood ramrod still from the first rocket for the two minutes silence till the second rocket. The chairman of the Royal British Legion passed the torch to me, the people clapped warmly, then it was time for the brilliant firework display, as the beacon burned brightly. It was just like yesterday the real VE Day I was back on Clapham Common, we girls burned the blackouts, our searchlights lit up the London skies and beyond, bells ringing, everyone singing. Twinkling lights shone from homes. Vehicles could see where they were going, no more "TAKE POST ONE MINUTE". Ah well, we fought the good fight. Next day Radio BBC Nottingham rang me and agreed with me what a great honour joining with Her Majesty The Queen in lighting the beacons which lit up the skies of Great Britain.

I hope all this looking back to the end of the war has not been too sad a time, we are allowed to shed a tear, but I for one appreciated my wartime friendships, just like a second family working together days and many long nights.

I have been a widow since 1966, John was 2nd Seaforth, 51st Highland Division. But no one can take away our memories. Thank you for sharing my extra special night, my sister and I send our sincere good wishes to 'Her Majesty The Queen Mother, our Commandant-in-Chief', to all forces past and present, I look forward to my next 'LIONESS' with anticipation, who knows how far flung these thoughts might reach.

CONVOY REMINISCENCES by Mrs Betty Gosney (née Brightmore)

Calling all convoy girls, remember the 'nights away'?

The nine pence if you stayed in a military establishment for the night, because they provided dried up cheese sandwiches for lunch the next day?

If you bothered to pick them up, you generally threw them over a hedge. One shilling and six pence if you stayed in a private billet, because they did not provide sandwiches so you had to buy your own food for the day. Private billets varied considerably, from a very poor house to one I stayed at where there was a maid, feather bed, linen sheets, prewarmed for me to get into, and breakfast served in silver dishes. On the other hand I remember we were going through a small village at the foot of a mountain pass in Wales. It was late on a very dark winters night, when we were stopped by the village policeman. He asked where we were going, we said we couldn't tell him. But you are going

over the pass? we said of course. No you are not, not tonight with those poor lights you could go over the edge, its much too dangerous. After some argument we agreed to let him find us billets for the night. The house that another girl and myself were allocated was a little Welsh cottage with a little old lady. **PDF Compressor Free Version** I think only spoke Welsh as she never said a word to us, but showed us upstairs to a dark bedroom with a double bed in. There was no gas or electricity just candles, I think it was the old ladys bed in which she had been sleeping before the policeman had woken her. We got into bed as we were and slept soundly. The next morning we went downstairs to find the old lady stirring porridge over the fire, she spooned out two servings for us and then we were on our way - not having had a wash or anything.

One night stop that stays in my mind, was a high class hotel in Glasgow, twin bedded rooms with all "mod cons". After a wash and tidy we went down to the dining room for a meal, caviar, etc to start then a lovely meal and our eyes were popping out with our mouths watering at the sight of the sweet trolley heading in our direction. Just at that moment a waiter leaned over us and said that the Manager wanted to see us in his office immediately. We downed our napkins and went wondering if it was a message from HQ. The Manager looked as if he was going to have a heart attack. We were supposed to go into a small room at the side of his office for our food where an ordinary meal was to have been served. Whenever we stayed there again that is what we had to do, but it had been a meal to remember.

In Edinburgh we stayed at the Barracks and it was there that I learned to like the sound of the bagpipes, played in the hills behind the Barracks. When we had to deliver down south below London on the way back we always stayed a night at ATS Headquarters. I think it was called Warwick House near Goodge Street. If there was an alert we had to go down into the bowels of the building, where mattresses were laid along one side of the passages, that did not leave much room for people to walk past and people were walking up and down all the time and the pipes and cisterns were making a continuous noise so as soon as we thought that they had been round checking all the rooms were empty we would go back up to bed. As our train did not leave until after four o'clock that meant we could spend the day going round the shops. In spite of all the time we had I was always in a last minute dash for the train.

I remember one funny incident in London, we were having a coffee when a man suddenly called out "duck everybody", it was a doodle bug - we all ducked under the table, but one of the girls had caught the cloth and a cup of coffee went down her back. Afterwards she was going upstairs to the ladies to clean up when there was a man coming down and a waitress going up. The waitress said to the man "they don't arf go fast don't they"! The man replied "so would you if you had a b..... flame coming from your arse". In cockney it sounded funny.

Then there were nights when we got neither a private or military bed. After working on the depot all day we could get back to HQ for our meal at 6.30pm only to find we were to take some lorries to Manchester, to arrive there for prompt on midnight, with just enough petrol for us to get there. On arrival at the works in Manchester the men (civilians) would greet us and give us slips of paper with numbers written on such as 2 to No 26 - 3 to No 24 etc. We would go across the road and down the street opposite the works and 2 would knock on No 26 and the door would be opened and you would go in quickly because of the black out and the lady of the house would have cups of hot tea and home made cakes or one old lady always made delicious apple pie. Half an hour later one of the men would call with a lorry to take us to the station to catch a train back to Stafford, arriving at 3.30am. Getting back to HQ one could

sometimes find you were on another convoy that morning, it was all go in those days.

Driving through a week of fog

During the war there was a week in which England was covered from top to bottom in fog.

Just before the fog came down Glyn and myself went up to Blackburn to collect two jeeps and take them down south. We had not been going long before the fog began, it was freezing fog and soon we were having to lean out of the side as the windscreen was frozen over. I remember getting to Kenilworth and stopping at the Copper Kettle because we knew there would be a fire and hot drink there, but first I had to prise my fingers of my right hand off the steering wheel. At a table by the fire were some civilians who looked at us as though we had come from Mars. I know our faces must have been black with the fog and we were muffled up with scarves, great coat, leather jerkin, trousers and boots, but I did hope they would move away from the fire. The waitress who had seen us many times before took one look at us and went and fetched us a tray of hot tea and toast.



*Betty Brightmore (now Gosney)
WITH HER DAIMLER SCOUT CAR*

THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB (THE RAG)

Retired Officers of the ATS and WRAC are eligible to join the Army and Navy Club in Pall Mall and make use of its extensive and (for London) reasonably priced facilities including overnight accommodation. The inaugural dinner of the WRAC Officers Dining Club is to be held there on 14 October 1995.

For Details of the Club and membership write to:

Major DB Taylor
The Secretary
Army and Navy Club
36 Pall Mall
LONDON SW1Y 5JN

The next stop that I can remember was Banbury, it was dark and that made seeing almost impossible. I stopped at a kerb side and went to say to Glyn that if I could find the cross I knew my way to the Police Station where we could ask for billets for the night. Seeing a man stood close by I asked him for direction to the cross. "You are stood on it" was the reply, so of course I asked for directions to the Police Station. He very kindly walked just in front and led us there. The police found us a billet alright but it was not a very warm and welcoming one, a bed and that was it. The women looked at us as though we were criminals or at best vagrants. Of course we were dirty, cold and tired. During the next few days travel I saw a post with a notice board and stopped. Glyn came forward and I pointed to the board so she went to look up at it and quickly came back. It says No Fishing, and I nearly fell in and if you don't alter course we will all be in. It was the lake in Windsor Great Park and because it was only a grass verge it had been difficult to see the edge of the road.

Well eventually we reached our destination and being already two days overdue I decided to call our HQ to let them know why we were delayed and would get back as soon as possible. That was a great mistake, I got as far as the word fog when there was such a yelling in my ear, I couldn't make out all that was said but gathered that my duty officer couldn't care less how, when or where we were we should not mention the weather over the telephone. She calmed down a little and said she knew we would get back as soon as we could and I gathered she was not a bit worried about us.

I did feel a bit deflated, we could have found our way home or a nice billet and stayed until the fog had cleared and no one would have said a word or thought less of us. Never mind we took a train up to London and stayed the night in Warwickshire House and the next day visited the shops in London until our train for Stafford at 1600 hrs.

AIR CRASH 1945 by Mrs Elizabeth Heal (née Paddock)

In October 1945 I was an ATS Sergeant at Flatton Transit Camp near Peterborough. My duties were to meet ATS and nurses coming in from overseas and billet them until papers were ready for leave or demob. For those returning from leave, I arranged their return overseas.

This was the case on 3 October 1945 when two planes were returning to Italy leaving some time in the morning with one carrying 5 Nursing Sisters and 17 ATS, the other 15 ATS.

About 4 o'clock in the afternoon I heard that the plane with 22 personnel had crashed and that all had died. They were:

W/ 7326 W/Sgt Semark JE
W/184715 Cpl Cosens H
W/145732 Pte Goodman B
W/154454 Pte Larkin J
W/144264 LCpl Rice ED
W/237256 Cpl Goring J
W/155271 Pte Fraser RA
W/147946 Pte Precious RE
W/ 99752 Pte Taylor M
W/236937 Pte Mann ME
W/ 23244 LCpl Allan W
W/203386 Pte Courtman S
W/ 77451 Pte Bacon P
W/252761 Pte Cullen
W/258693 Pte Edwards AC
W/170036 LCpl MacLeod S
W/ 74459 Pte Lillyman A

The plane crashed on 3rd October 1945 but news was not given to the next of kin until 9 October and no further details were released until six weeks later when the Daily Mail demanded answers from the Air Ministry.



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When Princess Margaret visited Princess Christian Homes, residents were proud to show her their "homes from home".

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THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY & LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS
122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE Tel: 0171-589 3243 Registered Charity No. 209753

WAS THIS A RECORD?
by Mrs Mary Hughes (née Lloyd)

My parents had four daughters and one son. First born, twin daughters, myself and sister Daisy, followed at 3 year intervals by sisters Gwen and Marjorie and brother William. All four daughters served in the ATS. First to go was Daisy who volunteered in November 1941. I volunteered in May 1942. Gwen was called up in June 1942 and Marjorie in March 1944.



Marjorie Lloyd

Daisy, Gwen and Marjorie all went in the Signal Corps as teleprinter operators. Daisy and Gwen were eventually stationed together at Luton Hoo, perhaps someone may remember them? I went into 559(M) HAA Battery RA starting off at Lancaster, then Oswestry, Tycoes, Wolverhampton. In 1943 our Battery moved to HMS Ganges, Shotley, and were there for D Day. In 1944 our Battery was disbanded and I was transferred to the RAOC and sent to Feltham Depot.



Mary and Daisy Lloyd

We rarely managed to get leave at the same time so kept in touch with letters, but we certainly had plenty of memories to share when we were all demobbed in 1946 and 1947 and back home.



Gwen Lloyd

Our local newspaper did a write-up in 1944 about our family holding a service record in the district, of having four daughters serving in the ATS. We often wondered if there was any other family in the country who were in the same position.

WORKING WITH OUR ALLIES
by Petty Troutman (née Wallace)

I was conscripted into the ATS in February of 1942. I did my basic training in York, and from there was sent to a Training Centre for secretaries at Strathpeffer in Ross-shire. We stayed at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, and the scenery was absolutely fantastic and the air literally tasted like wine. I loved every minute I was there, and my parents enjoyed every letter I wrote to them because they were so interesting and colourful.

From there I was sent to Salisbury and billeted in the Theological Seminary across from the cathedral. I was only there for a short time and then was stationed in Wilton, Wilts., and was secretary to an army officer at Wilton House, the home of Lord and Lady Pembroke and Montgomery. While there, a contingent of American soldiers arrived in the area and were housed in the dungeons of Wilton House until they could build their own camp. The Commanding Officer applied to the British for the loan of a stenographer, and it so happened that I was chosen.

The American camp was built just down the road from Wilton House, and is presently occupied by a branch of the Government. It was called Fugglestone Camp and was the

home of Southern Base Section, ETO, USA. They were Nissen Huts and it was soon a hive of activity. At first, I was the only woman on the camp, and when the CO was away on inspection tours of the area, I would be on loan to a variety of officers, and at one time attended court martial trials of prisoners to take notes and transcribe them. This went on until one time the CO came back from a trip and happened to read what I was typing, and it was a pretty gruesome account of a rape, and he pulled the sheet of paper out of my machine and said that I would no longer attend court sessions! Everything was going along beautifully for me; when the soldiers went to the PX they would bring candy bars, chewing gum and cigarettes, back for me and leave them on my typewriter, and in the evening I would hand them out to the girls in my barracks and in turn they would do chores for me, eg cleaning shoes and buttons! When the girls would stand outside the cottage for inspection in the morning and eventually march off to Wilton House to their assigned jobs, I would wait behind and a car would pick me up to take me to Fugglestone Camp! Most of the time I would eat at least one meal a day in the Officers' Mess, and it always beat our meagre rations!

One day, Brigadier General Charles O Thrasher, commanding the base, decided that he would write to the British War Office and ask that I be released from the ATS so that I could be re-enlisted into the American Army. He said that I had learned the American way of doing paper work and their spelling and that I was invaluable to him. Unfortunately, the War Office fired a letter back saying that it was only due to an oversight that I had been allowed to stay with him for such a period of time and that forthwith I would return to Southern Command! This was when my 'bubble' broke!

However, in the meantime, I had become engaged to M/Sgt Ed Troutman and we were to be married in June of 1943. Our first daughter was born in May of 1944 and I came to the States to live in February of 1946. I came to a small town called Owensboro, Kentucky; the first English girl to arrive here. We now have a large number of ladies from England, as well as Germany, France, Belgium and several other countries. We have a club that meets once a month, but then the English gals meet another time during the month in each others homes, and we share so many things in common from the early years of our lives, that we have a strong bond of fellowship.

My husband and I had four daughters, the eldest is 50 years old, then 46, then 42 and the youngest is 35. We have eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year.

MEMORIES FROM CANADA **by Adrienne Dawson (née Standage)**

I try to remember as much as I can, to recall my ATS years as it was a good time in my life.

I did my initial training at Northampton in 1942 and from there I was posted to Whiston Grange, just outside of Rotherham, Yorks to a GOR 152(M) HAA Regiment.

Phyllis Huckle (née Charman) and I travelled together to Rotherham and we have remained friends over the years, although I now live in Canada.

The enclosed picture taken outside our nissen hut shows some of our shift and if anyone out there recognises themselves Phyll and I would both love to hear from you.

I was posted to Bursledon, Southampton several months before D Day still plotting in the GOR. After D Day we moved to Lyndhurst in the New Forest and then one night we were transported to Bridlington, Yorks right on the sea front.



OFF DUTY AT ROTHERHAM

When I was called into the ATS I had wanted to be a driver however everyone seemed to be going into Anti Aircraft at that time. Well in 1945 I was sent on a Drivers Course to Chester and ended my days in the Army as a Driver 84 Co RASC Woolwich, until I married an ex-POW in 1946.

Is anyone out there who remembers??

Address is: Mrs Adrienne Dawson, 960 Westney Rd S, Apt 215, AJAX, Ontario L1S 7L1 CANADA.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION **HALSEY HOUSE, CROMER**

Halsey House stands in its own spacious grounds, a few minutes from Cromer Town Centre and Sea Front and is managed by Mrs B Mayes.

There are three purpose built accommodation wings including a dependency unit staffed by a sister, nurses and carers.

There are 47 men and 10 women residents at present, 6 of the women have served in the ATS/WRAC and their ages range from 77 years to 88 years. The residents are very well looked after, with plenty of recreational facilities, including a coach and minibus with lifts which take residents including the wheelchair bound on excursions to the country, coast and town for shopping. The ATS/WRAC recall their service life with pride and hope to hear from any old comrades who may remember them.

Sadly, since this report Eileen Allen lost her fight against cancer. The funeral service was held in the Chapel at Halsey House which was packed with family, friends and residents. The Chaplain paid tribute to Eileen's service in the ATS, and her courage and cheerfulness in the face of adversity. Eileen was a great example to us all and is sadly missed.

W/202505 - Mabel Lees joined the ATS in June 1942 on a direct intake and was posted to A Company, Bournemouth and billeted at the Suncliffe Hotel. She was employed with the RAPC "H" Wing responsible for the RASC and Pioneer Corps accounts in the Pay and Pensions Section. She was demobbed in 1946 at Basingstoke. She runs the "In House" Darts and Whist and the Red Cross Library.

Eileen Allen joined the ATS at Norwich in 1941 and trained at Aldermaston. She was then posted to Bournemouth and attached to The Royal Artillery Signals Office as a Cook/Orderly. Later she was posted to The Royal Tank Regiment at Lulworth Cove.

Eileen finished her service at King Alfred's College, Winchester attached to the War Office, when she was demobbed in 1945.

Eileen was confined to a wheelchair and lived in the Hospital Wing. She participated in the various activities. Eileen had two sisters in the ATS.



The late Eileen Allen as Queen of Hearts

Sgt Maud Poulton (née Gage) was born in Pretoria and came to England in 1935. She enlisted in the ATS in 1942 and joined 527(M) HAA Bty RA and trained as a Predictor and Plotter.

The Battery went to Weybourne and Whitby Practice Camps and served Gunsites at Beverley and Spurn Point, Yorks. She married Jack Poulton a Sergeant in her Battery in 1945.

W/14190 Enid Cox (Mallard) enlisted in May 1939 with the 10th Derbyshire ATS attached to the 5th Bn Sherwood Foresters at the Drill Hall, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Mobilized on the 3rd September 1939 she was posted to COD Chilwell as a RAOC Clerk.

In 1942 she was posted to 528(M) HAA Bty RA and later 665(M) HAA Bty RA. Tours of duty with the Royal Artillery included the S of A Larkhill, 603(M) HAA Regt RA TA, 46(M) HAA Regt RA and 94(New Zealand) Bty RA Gibraltar.

Posted to HQ BAOR BAD Oeynhausen she served with the RE (Movement Control) as a train conducting Warrant Officer. Her tours of duty on a home posting were 320, 307, 308 and 305 Bns WRAC TA.

S/Sgt Ellen Shadford (née Neal) W/9417 joined the ATS in February 1939 and served with the 40th Norwich Coy.

She was attending Annual Camp at Britannia Barracks, Norwich on the Declaration of War on 3 September 1939 and remained there as a stores orderly with the Royal Norfolk Regt. She was transferred to the RAOC at Mousehold, Norwich and became an RAOC Technical Storewoman. Later she served with HQ 13 Coy RAOC at Elstree, Herts and finally at AFV RAOC Brackley, Northants where she was demobbed in September 1949. Nell is a

member of the Leicester Branch of the WRAC Association whose members visit her at Halsey House. She is a member of the Halsey House Darts Team.

W/86201 Trudi (Rita) Love was called up in 1941 and trained at Guildford. On completion of training she was posted to 12 Coy ATS Canterbury. Postings to Aldershot, Catterick and finally finishing her war-time service at Beavers Lane Camp, Hounslow. Trudi rejoined after a spell in civvy street and served at Milan and Naples.

A posting followed by HQ BAOR at Rheindalen for 2 years and then on to Lisburn, Northern Ireland and Ricarton House, Edinburgh.

Her final tour of duty was with the Staff College, Camberley.

Trudi completed 31 years service in the ATS and WRAC received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal while at Guildford.



HALSEY HOUSE MEMBERS

*Back Row L to R: Mabel Lees : Enid Cox : Mrs Mayes
Front Row L to R: Maud Poulton : Nell Shadford : Trudi Love*

THE FORGOTTEN FEW **by Mrs Pamela Green (née Rice)**

I was so pleased to see the picture of the Training Course at Mychett Military Police Depot sent in by Mrs Mary Jackson and published in 1995 *Lioness* - many whom I recognised.

As we were a relatively small part of the ATS very little has been written about us and our duties.

I, too trained at Mychett in 1942 and served with the ATS Provost in London District until 1949. Our duties were varied and interesting, not all the time was spent chasing auxiliaries, as is often thought, for having long hair and not wearing caps! While many of the newly trained provost were posted around the country and some overseas, a fairly large unit remained in London District, carrying out similar duties to our male counterparts, through Incendiary Raids, V1s and V2s. We witnessed the lot. In fact I cannot remember a day when the Patrols did not go out regardless of raids, the exception being VE and VJ Days, when we were able to celebrate with everybody else. There was not a great deal of free time, but when there was any, we played hard as we worked hard. I stayed in the Army after the War ended for another four years, it had all been a wonderful experience never to be forgotten, friendships made during those days have remained, and the years slip away when we get together. The local ATS/WRAC Association has helped to keep these memories alive, although there are still some raised eyebrows when I am asked "What unit were you with" and I reply "Provost". Some memories die hard!

THE REVEREND COLONEL
by Lt Col Helen Homewood RLC(V)

On 3 July 1994 in Canterbury Cathedral, Colonel Sue Wing was ordained by the Archbishop of Canterbury as an Anglican Priest. This marks the end of a bold career change and the beginning of a new life.

My husband and I were fortunate enough to be able to join Sue and her congregation in Brenzett, Kent, last autumn and see her 'in action'. Not only were we made most welcome by all but they also served coffee and cake before the service which resulted in stomachs as well as souls being at peace during the sermon.

What the Army has lost is the Church's gain and we congratulate Sue on her ordination and wish her well in her ministry in her many parishes in Kent.



Reverend Sue Wing

SILVER PLATED ATS BADGES

Association HQ now holds a stock of the silver plated replicas of the ATS badge which was issued to volunteers in 1938-39 before uniforms were available. The cost is £2.75 each including packing and postage.

Branches may order in bulk and a 5% discount is allowed for orders over 10 badges.
(The stock of those badges offered by London Branch in the last Lioness has been exhausted)

SHOW TIME IN TYNESIDE
by Mrs P Binns (née Bell)

During one of our club meetings, a small group of members decided that they would like to form an entertainments group with the idea of bringing even more fun and laughter into our happy club.

Six of us "Girls" finally formed ourselves into a Concert Party and then the fun and hard work began!

We met every Thursday, firstly to pool ideas, then draw up a programme and begin to collect props and make our costumes. Then started the serious business of regular rehearsals. This was when our fun began, as we realised there could be no high kicking in our show! Even though the flesh was willing, I'm afraid age prevented it. At this time, we were indebted to John, the Resident Steward of our Social Club for allowing us the use of the Concert Room and playing the organ for us at rehearsal and at the actual shows.

Our first show, on 19th January, went on 8 weeks after the initial idea was suggested and was acclaimed by all who attended to be a huge success.

We sent invitations to the members of the clubs in Cleveland, Sunderland and Middlesborough, who, along with our own members, filled the Concert room, with over 100 Ex-ATS "girls" all waiting for the show to begin.

"Hello everybody, how do you do, I have some friends to entertain you. There's Peggy, Joyce, Lillian, Ivy and Anne, they're gonna do the best that they can. We'll start the show with some cheerful songs, if you know the words, then please sing along". So opened the show which lasted approximately 1 hour.

A delicious Buffet Meal for the audience was provided in the Interval by the members of the Newcastle Club and then the audience settled down again for the final part of our show.

This proved to be a wonderful afternoon for all, especially the Performers and worth all the effort and worry, (yes there was some) when we heard the applause given to us. The sound, the sight of all those friends' arms upraised, swaying and singing, "We'll meet again" at the end of the show will remain in our minds and remind us that our efforts were indeed appreciated and that the companionship we enjoyed in the ATS still exists today, but we need to show it more.

Can we, "The Girls", suggest to other clubs to try this for themselves. One never knows what talent lies hidden until called upon. There's lots of enjoyment and age sets no limits to having fun.

No show can go on without help backstage and our thanks went to our No 1 and only helper, Lena, who was our dresser, fetcher and General Dogsboddy who could, by some miracle and without fail, produce any item of clothing needed from under heaps of costumes and props. She was indeed a genius.



NEWCASTLE CONCERT GROUP

*Ann Pallonis (née Atkinson) : Ivy Bennett :
Joyce Stephenson (née Eaton) : Betty Arkle (née Appleby) :
Lillian Barrons (née Symons) : Peggy Binns (née Bell)*

93RD SEARCHLIGHT REGIMENT RA
by the late Mrs P E Longland
formerly Subaltern P E Baxter ATS

It's all a very long time ago and memories of the Second World War are fading but I would like to put on record some of the details about the existence of the only Searchlight Regiment in the world to be manned by women, namely the 93rd(M) S/L Regt RA. Compared with the exploits and adventures of today's WRAC, our ATS efforts will probably sound insignificant but in 1942 we were unique and had to prove that we could do the job and stand the conditions that only men had coped with previously. War Office had said that we wouldn't be able to cope and weren't capable - it was to be a very lonely and hard existence - but Ack Ack Command had more faith in our ability and Gen Sir Frederick Pile won the day. As he wrote in his book 'Ack Ack': 'To place a dozen girls in some bleak and desolate spot, five miles or more from the nearest town, with night sentry duties to carry out in a countryside abounding in noises eerie to a townsman was another thing. How would they deal with possible intruders, with saboteurs, with all the sudden imponderables inherent in the rural life. As it happened we need not have worried. The now famous 93rd went into action for the first time in the middle of 1942'.

The main stumbling blocks were the fact that the diesel generators which supplied the power for the S/L equipment were too heavy for women to turn over (it was feared that it would spoil their child bearing chances) and the fact that we would have to live on very isolated sites with little contact with civilisation. We even had to learn pick and shovel drill during training in order to dig our own latrine pits. As a concession to our femininity self-starters were fitted to the generators, thus that obstacle to our efficiency was removed. As to loneliness, everyone coped remarkably well, probably because we felt that we were really doing something useful. We also had to justify our worth in the eyes of the War Office and to dispel their doubts for good. Consequently morale remained high throughout.

There were six detachments to each troop and four troops to each battery, with three batteries to the regiment. Each detachment consisted of 14 girls - one a cook - commanded by a sergeant with a corporal as assistant. The equipment in their charge cost thousands of pounds. Each troop was commanded by an ATS subaltern (equal to a 2Lt or Lt). This was the extent of operational personnel. At battery level admin was in the hands of a male captain and the command of the regiment was a male Lt Col. Each detachment had a male radio-mechanic housed in a hut at the other end of the site well away from the opposite sex. Guard duties were carried out by the girls without any defensive weapons of any kind so how we could have defended ourselves and our equipment against trespassers or marauders remains a bit of a mystery. After one or two minor incidents we were allowed to carry a short stick but it would have been quite useless had we been attacked. Our only contact with the outside world was a small radio transmitter and receiver on which detachment personnel could give and receive messages from the troop officer. The radio set was manned hourly during the day and constantly at night so that the troop officer could warn the detachments of the approach of enemy aircraft. A dispatch rider visited each detachment daily with details of the number and colour by which friendly aircraft could be identified, and at the same time delivered personal mail. Personal mail took rather a long time being routed through battery HQ and troop first. The ration lorry visited the detachments twice weekly to deliver what will now seem to be meagre rations.

The function of searchlights was obviously to illuminate

enemy aircraft to aid the Gunners, but they also had a secondary role in illuminating the way home, to the nearest aerodrome, for crippled, friendly aircraft returning from operations over France and Germany. These were called homing beacons. A permanent hazard was the fact that enemy aircraft would fire along the searchlight beam to extinguish it.

The work was very varied and interesting. We learnt the rudiments of electricity, radio circuits, mechanics, radar, morse code, plotting and had to be able to recognise a minimum of 50 aircraft, both enemy and friendly, on sight, in good, bad or indifferent light.

Initially the searchlights had to be aligned visually, supplemented by sound locators, but later more sophisticated equipment appeared in the form of what must now seem to be quite crude radar equipment, known affectionately as 'Elsie'. Movement of the searchlights was manual, rather after the way guns were aligned, though latterly mechanical means were provided whereby one person could elevate and track on her own, remote from the searchlight itself.

From the point of view of the operations network, 'searchlights' were linked to the sectors operated from the RAF establishments at Biggin Hill and Tangmere as part of Ack Ack Command. Defence of London was the purpose and for perhaps obvious reasons sites were in remote country areas, with access to command posts for troop officers across ploughed fields, at the top of church towers and the like - height above the surrounding countryside being important.

Clear skies at night meant no sleep but virtual continuous 'stand to' with daytime swallowed up on care and maintenance. Broken cloud meant broken sleep and hazardous nightly journeys with all the noises of night time in the country to give the town girls the jitters. In retrospect they were good times with quite a camaraderie, though by now quite a few will have fallen by the wayside. Few of those that remain seem to have kept in touch and against today's sophisticated weaponry it possibly seems to be something out of 'cloud cuckoo land' but to those who were involved the clatter of heavy guns and the like were all very real. As with many there were long periods of boredom and then periods which were quite frightening.

It was my privilege to serve 'searchlights' twice, first as a corporal and then to return, after officer training, as a troop officer. It was also my privilege, though I had my doubts about that at the time, to be taken up by the RAF in a twin engined plane at night to see what it was like at the other end so to speak. (See page 90).



301 SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY
UNION JACK CLUB 1994

MORE INFORMATION Private Nora Caveney

More information has been received concerning Private Nora Caveney, the first ATS girl in AA Command to have been killed on duty.

Mr Rushworth, of Dawlish in Devon, has provided the following paragraph, compiled from letters he received in response to the paragraph on page 73 of LIONESS No 1 1995:

Private Nora Caveney W/91467 came from Walsden, near Todmorden, north of Rochdale, Lancashire. The daughter of John and Hannah Caveney of Walsden, she was 18 years of age.

She was attached to 505 Battery of 148(M) HAA Regiment, Royal Artillery and was serving on the AA site known as "Weston" in the grounds of Netley Abbey (ruins) in Grange Road, Netley, on the north shore of Southampton Water just outside the south-east boundary of Southampton Borough.

On 17 April 1942, at 0230 hours there was a minor air raid on the Portswood, St Denys, Bitterns and Peartree districts of Southampton in which 6 bombs weighing 3 tons seriously injured 1 civilian and slightly injured 2 others, demolished 12 houses, seriously damaged 26 and slightly damaged 247.

During the raid Private Caveney was at a predictor when she was hit and killed by a splinter from a high explosive bomb which exploded close to the gunsight emplacement. Her place was immediately taken by another ATS girl, Private Gladys Keel, and the tracking of the enemy aircraft continued.

Private Caveney is buried in the Military Cemetery at the Royal Victoria Hospital, near Hound. Shortly after her death a memorial plaque was dedicated to her on the gunsight, but the site has been completely cleared in recent years.

One of Mr Rushworth's correspondents, Mrs Mollie Bedford (née Cox) now living in Canada, was a predictor operator in 529 Battery, 1942-1945, and remembered that the recreation hall on the site was decorated in Nora's memory with a large picture of Nora above the stage. Another correspondent kindly sent a photograph of Nora's grave and had been in touch with a former officer of 551(M) HAA Battery who himself had shown Nora's parents around the gun-site so that they could see where their daughter had served, and he too remembers seeing the memorial plaque.



Private Caveney's Grave

HEROIC ACT REMEMBERED From the MIDDLESBOROUGH EVENING GAZETTE 19 December 1942 ATS GIRL CLIMBED INTO BLAZING AIRCRAFT AND PULLED OUT BY SOLDIER

When a British aircraft crashed in the North of England, Private Margaret Johnson, a 22 year old ATS ambulance driver, climbed into the blazing plane and risked her life among a hail of bullets in an attempt to rescue the crew.

She was on duty driving her ambulance along a lonely country road in the black-out when she saw the plane crash. She was carrying a patient, another ATS, who was not seriously ill and was sitting beside her.

Private Johnson pulled her ambulance into the side of the road, jumped out, scrambled over two walls and ran across a field to the plane, tying a scarf round her head and turning up her greatcoat collar as she ran towards the flames.

"I could hear one of the crew screaming for help" she said afterwards "and the thought of my brother, who is training to be a pilot, made me determined to try and rescue the airmen".

She cut the canvas, climbed right into the blazing plane and seized hold of the pilot before she was overcome by the smoke and heat and was pulled out by a soldier who had seen the crash from a distance and found Private Johnson already struggling to release the airman when he arrived.

The officer commanding the ATS company said "Private Johnson's hands were burnt and she will be unable to drive for several days".

Before the war, Private Johnson, whose home is at Altrincham, Cheshire, ran her own hairdressing salon at Eccles, Lancashire.

Private Johnson was awarded the British Empire Medal in April 1943

If anyone who knows of this brave lady, or anyone who served with her in the ATS would get in touch with Mr Rushworth, 3 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon EX7 OHP it would be greatly appreciated.

GUARDIANS OF THE HUMBER by Mrs Elsie Walker (née Windsor)

What memories those words conjured up for me!

I was L/Cpl Elsie Windsor W/119617 aged 19 and in 1942 was serving with 518H(M)AA Battery, "B" Troop, 139H(M)AA Regt RA.

The Battery had previously been stationed in Yorkshire and Derbyshire and arrived at Barrow Haven, between New Holland and Barton on Humber all "genned" up and ready for action.

The gun-site had been occupied by an all male RA Battery and the first shock was the state of the billets, these were wooden huts, but the inner linings were full of holes and goodness knows what was stuffed into the linings!

There were no ATS lines so the Sergeants' Mess was set up in a hut which thus divided the RA and ATS lines.

The advance party had prepared the kitchens and dining hall for use. The dining hall was decorated on three walls with landscape murals, but the mural on the other wall made our one and only ATS officer blush very nicely, as it was of a full-size life (nude) of Adam and Eve standing under an apple tree among whose branches was entwined a serpent which gazed with a leering look at Adam and Eve.

Someone suggested this would certainly take ones mind off the quality of the food served here!

The signwriter was called in and told to paint leaves over all the interesting places before the Church Army came on Sunday to take the Service.

Then it was just a wait for the first of the week blocks of latrines, so one could be for ATS only, as the cubicles had only waist high divisions, and one could, if one so wished, have shaken hands with the girl in the next cubicle. The single block of showers would be used day about for RA and ATS but as often "the best laid plans gang oft aglae" when after a night's work on the guns the now grimy Gunners didn't worry over whose turn it was of the showers.

The guns were 4.5's with a Vickers Predictor where I was either operating at number four or one when on duty. The OP was a clock across the river and there was a restriction on firing across the city. It was a "busy" site and hardly a tour of duty passed without a "Take Post".

My friend then was Grace (where are you?) who lived in the city of Kingston-upon-Hull. Grace and I had met at Arborfield where she was the occupier of the top bunk while I had the lower one. One Sunday she invited me to meet her folks and I discovered the delights of REAL Yorkshire Pud and Apple-pie with cheese.

When I first stepped off the ferry in Hull I was shocked to see the cobbled streets awash with what looked like blood, finding out, mostly by the smell, the ferry landing was close by a pickle factory and this was pickled cabbage time. The one day off per week was spent over at Hull, often ending in a rush to get the last ferry, which, alas, sometimes got stuck on one of the ever shifting sandbanks of the Humber. It was no use, when late saying "The ferry got stuck" as the Army said "You should have allowed for such a possibility, 7 days confined to barracks (CB). On an evening off, if we had any money left we went to the cinema in Barton-on-Humber, where there were double "Lovers" seats in the back row. Then a stop at the Sally-Ann for "Beans on" after which there was The Railway Waltz back to camp. Ever tried to walk arm in arm along the sleeper tracks? It's one short and two long steps. (Yes, we did have permission to Waltz the track). Grace's efforts to pair me off the a blind date came to nothing as I was more-or-less going "steady" with L/Bdr Stanley Walker, RA also confined to barracks did not worry me as I saw "My" L/Bdr every day, and some mornings got a nice mug of "char" with my early morning duty call, delivered by the guard complete with steel helmet and rifle. At times L/Bdr Walker was Guard Commander and took over from me, who had been on daytime gate picquet. I tried to look him in the eyes (they were blue) as I reported "I have completed my tour of duty. I have nothing to report. I have no prisoners" - if indeed this was so.

My other job, was Gas Instructor and now and then I was sent on a course to keep up to date. Then L/Bdr Walker went on a small arms course to Catterick where he discovered the joy of the Sten gun, in fact he became quite attached to it, (one does NOT do rifle drill with a Sten and it's lighter to carry). He decided all this gadding about was not good for the romance and asked me to become engaged to him. So there I was, not waiting at the church but in the NAAFI on Xmas Eve 1942, waiting for him to return from Hull where he SAID he was going to buy a ring. Why did I not go with him? Well, was he serious? Would he have enough money to buy the ring I might choose? Had he missed the last ferry on Xmas Eve? When he arrived, backed by his pal who had gone with him to help him get up "Dutch" (Scotch) courage, and to lend him money towards the ring - what did I tell you? Just as Stan put the ring on my

finger the Bells went and as I was on duty I went too, without even a kiss to seal our engagement!

As number four on the predictor my first job was to switch on the equipment, so I switched on to enable me to inspect my ring. "Put that light out" - what's the use of saying "Put that light out" when we had a searchlight on the site?

This was not loved by the Gunners and made then uneasy by illuminating the barrels of the guns and we all felt "exposed". But I had seen my ring which was a tiny sapphire in a circle of tiny diamonds. Hitler, DO your damdest!

My "fiance" played the trumpet in the group for the unit Saturday hop, and as I was a wallflower I usually "washed my hair" on Saturday night. I was willing to exchange duties, subject to Sgt Deacon's approval, to stay in camp and so wangle a week night off with Stan. Thanks Sarge! Worth all the hard work and the wheedling? YES.

Firing practice was now done on a gun site at Spurn Head, and could have been the one described by Mrs Shrimpton in her letter, so desolate was the area there. We went there on a day's stint taking haversack rations. The pop song of the day which was "Sand in my shoes" took on a new meaning of "Sand in my sandwiches, Sand in my hair, Sand in my shirt, Sand everywhere."

518 Battery moved away from the banks of the Humber in 1943, and we often talk over the old days and think, with affection, of the time we spent guarding the South Eastern approaches to Kingston-upon-Hull.

PROUD MOMENTS

by Mrs Sue Crook (née Sylvia Woolston)

On 7th October 1943 I was called from A Troop, 606 MHAA Bty at Stone Cross, Walsall, to the HQ site in Perry Park, Birmingham for reasons unknown except that I was being sent 'somewhere'. I was told to wear my Service Dress and take changes of clothing. I must tell no-one.

I was issued with a complete new uniform - I would be transported to my destination the following day. My memory lapses as to what mode of transport I used - I went alone - and my journey ended somewhere in Epping Forest (Leytonstone rings a bell).

There were many other girls, singly, from other Ack-Ack units, as I was. We soon paired off.

We were told that evening of an important Parade which was to take place in the near future. We would undergo lots of 'square bashing'.

Meanwhile we were confined to Barracks. Our new clothing had to be prepared - skirt hems to 16" above the ground - stripes blanched - bow and arrow flashes sewn on - buttons brassoed - plenty of 'spit and polish' to our new shoes, uniforms neatly pressed. It was a busy weekend.

From Monday 11th to Saturday 16th we travelled daily in lorries to Wellington Barracks. Other groups arrived from other centres. We drilled continuously - formed into five ranks - round and round - up and down the square.

Then came Sunday 17th. This was THE DAY. For the last time we went to Wellington Barracks, a last practice, we had been told what was happening.

We formed into our usual five ranks - we marched up The Mall - this time lined on both sides with cheering crowds. When we came to Buckingham Palace we were given the 'EYES RIGHT' in our Salute to Queen Elizabeth (now The Queen Mother). How proud we all felt. Then on to Westminster Abbey for a Thanksgiving Service - the fifth Birthday Parade. I well remember the Trumpet Voluntary - how Royal it sounded.



Corporal Sylvia Woolston (now Crook)

Again the crowds cheered as we re-formed our ranks and marched along Bird Cage Walk, to where our lorries were waiting to take us back to our temporary accommodation. The following day I returned to Walsall.

Sad to say I cannot remember the name of the girl with whom I made friends for those few days but I do remember on the Saturday evening when we were given a few hours of freedom in London, that she and I spent an hour on the steps of St. Martin's in the Fields where I had been requested to meet Lt Bill Crook for the first time. Due to a misunderstanding the meeting did not take place, but that is another story.

BRANCH REPORTS

ACCRINGTON. After a slow start to the year the invitations started arriving from the various ex-servicemen's associations in the area asking us to attend their functions to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE. We did manage to attend most, the main one being the Royal British Legion concert, a photo is enclosed. We also attended the church service in the town.

The Branch had a dinner in June as our celebration, and along with some old friends of the Branch we had a most enjoyable evening.

We are now preparing to commemorate VJ Day.

SILVER PLATED ATS BADGES

ASSOCIATION HQ now holds a stock of the silver plated replicas of the ATS badge which was issued to volunteers in 1938-39 before uniforms were available. The cost is £2.75 each including packing and postage. Branches may order in bulk and a 5% discount is allowed for orders over 10 badges. (The stock of those badges offered by London Branch in the last Lioness has been exhausted)



ACCRINGTON BRANCH MEMBERS

Back Row: Mrs J Howarth, Mrs H Beattie, Mrs J Delaney, Mrs D Cassidy

Front Row: Mrs I Hamilton, Mrs S Whitehead

ALDERSHOT. The accompanying photograph shows members of the branch relaxing after our May Fayre, which to-date has almost reached last year's total of £600 for the Benevolent Fund - but money is still coming in, so we may yet have beaten our record. Standing just outside the door, on the left as you look at it, is Emily, at age 94 our oldest member, still upright after valuable work on the bottle stall, and yes, there ARE two husbands in the picture, the "Head Gardener" on the right being the genius behind the plant stall - ladies, beware of inviting him to your garden, he'll take a cutting and sell ten of the same next year - on second thoughts, as it will be in aid of the British Legion or the Benevolent Fund, not such a bad idea!



ALDERSHOT BRANCH MEMBERS

We have had a stimulating series of events since our last entry in Lioness, talks on the history of Sandringham, the South Pacific and Deaf Awareness, this last being very useful not only for those whose hearing is fading but also for those who converse with them - we even learnt something about sign language. And yes, provided with a picture alphabet. Outings have included (or will have done so by the time you read this) coach trips to the Royal Tournament and Corps Day at Worthy Down and a memorable day on the Isle of Wight at the South Group Reunion. For those of us who attended the AGM at the National Army Museum it was a very great pleasure to be there when Kay Edwards was presented with her Certificate of Appreciation; not only was Kay a member of the ATS from its inception in 1938 but she raised the Aldershot Company of her Battalion when the TA was reformed after the war and when she retired she turned her attention to the Association and founded our branch, thus being its longest-serving member - congratulations Kay, from all of us.

Outings apart our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Church of Scotland Hall, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, at 7.30pm. If we don't have a guest speaker we organise our own activity at a "Club Night" plus coffee and biscuits and a Bring and Buy Stall. The exception to this is our branch annual dinner, to be held on the 10th October 1995 at the Squire's Holt restaurant (on the Hog's Back). We would be very happy to welcome you at any of our events: why not join us at our dinner - our Secretary, Brenda Killick (Tel: 01-252-330250) will be happy to take your booking and we have chosen the venue especially so as to be in the centre of the very large area that our branch covers. We look forward to seeing you, (partners welcome of course).

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH. How to celebrate VE Day? It fell on our regular monthly meeting day, so we changed our day to May 1st, thus enabling members to attend events in their home area on the actual day.

A Tea Party was decided upon to be held at our usual venue - Holywell House Hotel, Proprietor - Betty Carter, one of our founding members.

It seemed a shame to restrict it to our membership and the occasion seemed appropriate to include others, who, like ourselves had much to remember. So we sent out feelers for WRNS, WAAF and Land Army ex's. There was no trouble in finding them; finally it was necessary to call a halt. In this area there was no shortage of Land Army,

WAAF's fairly easy - WRNS not so easy. Three were found, but, unfortunately, one had to call off at the last minute due to a family bereavement. We ended up with a complete party of 50. They were all given name tags and small ribbon bows - dark blue for the Navy, Red for Army, light blue for WAAF and green for the Land Army. This enabled them to recognise their own fellow service members.

After assembly, they were greeted by the Chairman, Doreen Peters, and each group identified. Then, the weather being favourable, half an hour was spent enjoying the spacious and interesting gardens of the hotel. There was plenty of chat, photos were taken and finally, the Press arrived to take some for the local paper.

Tea followed, being provided by the branch members. Once again, the conversation flowed and the level of noise was ample evidence of how well everybody was getting on together.

Mavis Litchfield-Parry, our Vice Chairman, entertained briefly with some amusing stories and very generous raffle prizes were distributed.

Our Chairman thanked all who had helped with the occasion and presented Betty Carter with a flowering plant. She thanked all the guests for attending and remarked how kindly time had dealt with us and what a good advertisement we are for our generation.

A suggestion that we do it again in 10 years time was greeted warmly. A great time was had by all and we have received a number of "Thank You" letters from our guests.

On May 7th, a group of us attended the VE Celebration Church Service in St. Helen's Church, Ashby.

AYLESBURY. We held our third annual Garden Party, in the charming home and garden of our chairman, Alma Stride, on Thursday, May 18th. The dubious weather forecast seems to have daunted some members, but the Met Office was wrong, we had a lovely day! Members were asked to wear a "Patriotic Hat" - some of the creations would have put Gertrude Schilling to shame. An excellent buffet lunch was provided by Alma, with contributions from the rest of us, and replete, we sat down to two Quizzes, a Musical one, compiled by Freddie Weatherley, and a General Knowledge one by Madge Evans. We were later shown round some attractive and extensive gardens, by one of Alma's neighbours, and visited the little country church behind Alma's home. A great time was had by all.

Plans are well in hand for the 1995 London Area Group re-union, which we are hosting at Aylesbury Ex-Services Club, on 2nd September. It should be great fun - we have lined up some interesting speakers, and some good food. We hope Brigadier Field will be able to attend, together with members from the other branches in the London Area Group. We aim to cater for about 150, so someone had better turn up - see your Branch officers re tickets.

One of our staunchest supporters, Edith Bedford, has suffered a stroke and sadly, had to go into residential care. We maintain contact with her through Nancy Pearce, our dedicated Welfare Officer, who also regularly visits Sheila Baxter, who is chronically ill and confined to her home.

Gertie Mitchell, our enthusiastic Entertainments Officer has arranged several interesting events: we all dressed a potato as an historical or a nursery rhyme character - entries ranged from King Henry VIII to Little Red Riding Hood. Local super-markets were scoured for suitably shaped spuds. Next we had our version of the Antiques Road Show, each taking our oldest family heirloom. Highlight of the show was the log of a voyage to Australia in the 1850's, written by one member's grandfather. Beautiful copper-plate handwriting. We then had a photographic display, all taking our earliest



ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH VE DAY PARTY



Aylesbury Patriotic Hats

photo, one in uniform, and a wedding photo, which was very amusing. On VE Day minus one (PLUS 50 years), we held a Bring and Buy Sale, and sent the proceeds to the Benevolent Fund. Gertie has been awarded a medal by Dacorum District Council, in appreciation of her service to the Community.

Several new members have joined our ranks, amongst them Wyn Carter, Hilda Lang, Dorothy Lett and Jean Westrope. On paper we have about 70 members, usual attendance averages above 30.

We are sad to report the death, last September of Marjorie Mattlock, ex-ATS.

BOLTON. 1995 got off to a good start with our Annual visit in February to the Mayor's Parlour. This has now become an established event in our calendar when we visit to pay our respects to His Worship the Mayor and the Mayoress. We spent a very pleasant hour enjoying our tea and biscuits (chocolate) whilst the Mayor regaled us with a fund of amusing stories about some of the towns history.

Our next trip out was to the Chester Branch Tea Dance where a good time was enjoyed with the usual meeting of old friends and making new ones. It was a lovely sunny day and the drive through parts of the countryside made it even more enjoyable. Thank you Chester for your warm welcome and hospitality.

Alice Chandler invited members to her home for a coffee morning, where we enjoyed the lovely buffet she had provided, (our thoughts always seem to be centred around food) but we all appreciated Alice's efforts on our behalf, not forgetting her husband Ernest, who is a good friend to the Branch, he produces our news letter and as a special gesture he printed some "Golden Wedding" greetings cards for three of our members Sybil, Kathleen and I've.

The Secretary attended the AGM in London when she received her Certificate of Appreciation from Brigadier Field.

VE Day. We started the day by attending the Celebration Service on the Town Hall Square where the Mayor laid a wreath of poppies on behalf of the townspeople. Lucy Ainsworth laid our Branch ATS wreath. We then made our way to a 'night club' opened specially at lunch time for the 'veterans' on the parade. We enjoyed a super buffet, the drinks were being sold at 1945 prices. Union flags were provided, the Mayor and Mayoress joined in and a good time was had by all. In the evening a Grand Concert organised by the Combined Ex-Service Men and Women's Association was held in the Town Hall, this was voted a great success.

On May 12th we visited Bootle Town Hall to see the Maritime Memorabilia in the Council Chamber, the Mayor

explained what all the different insignias and flags depicted and later we were given a guided tour of the Town Hall by the Mayor accompanied by the Mayoress. After the visit we were invited by the Chairman of the North West Area, Irene Walker, to her home for afternoon tea.

This half year ended on a very sad note with the death of our Associate Member, Mrs Joyce Sjackie. Joyce had been an Associate Member for over ten years, she had always attended every meeting and social function and she had been very generous to the Branch. She died in Bolton Hospice after a long and painful illness borne with great patience and fortitude. She will be sadly missed.

BRADFORD. We are now almost into the second half of the year - sorry, by the time this goes into print we will be in the second half - how time flies as we get older.

Our two walking wounded (Mrs N Houldsworth and Mrs A Hudson) have now had their second knee operations and have made very good recoveries.

In November I visited Perth, Australia and then New Zealand for three months on a visit to my daughter and her husband who have gone there to live. New Zealand is the most beautiful country and I would recommend it to anyone who has the chance to visit.

Another of our members Mrs Eva Kincaid has just returned from Australia and we will be getting a first hand report on her visit at our June meeting.

Our usual First World War Veterans lunch was held in November, with three in attendance, and with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford a happy time was had by all. This may be the last one as this week I attended the funeral of Mr Sam Wainwright who was just 18 days away from his century. A lovely man.

Our Standard was paraded at all the events of November, Oldham Festival, Remembrance Day Parade in the morning - a service and parade at Eccleshill in the afternoon and our own Festival of Remembrance Concert and Service in the St George's Hall having been held the previous Sunday because Remembrance Sunday itself was getting to be too crowded with events.

In February 30 members visited Harry Ramsden's famous Fish Restaurant in Guiseley.

May was a very crowded month with VE Day 50 in everyone's minds. Nora Houldsworth, Peggy Kenny and myself along with various associations spent some time at the National Museum of Film Photography talking to school children about our war-time memories.

Saturday 6th May we had a VE dance and one of our members Mrs Isabel Toft won the prize as the best dressed 40's style housewife, and very well deserved too.



BRADFORD BRANCH MEMBERS

Sunday 7th May a drumhead service was held at Valley Parade Football Ground, Bradford in the presence of the Lord Mayor and the Bishop of Bradford.

The last event was a VE Day in the Park, with bands playing 40's music and lots of Army activities ending with parachute jump.

We ran a stall selling cosmetics, jewellery, books and bric-a-brac items which helped to swell our funds.

The accompanying photograph was taken at our VE Party on the 1st May.

In July we will be at the Undercliffe Cricket Club again for our yearly Peas and Pies lunch, meeting and bring and buy sale - this is always a good event and our thanks to Ivy Wheelhouse for the hard work she puts into it.

Last year I made a mistake with the name I said Eccleshill instead of Undercliffe so am making sure I get it right this time.

Now looking forward to the re-union at York in September, this was a great success last year.

BURY. Our membership has increased slightly and our monthly meetings are well attended, as are our local outings. We hope to arrange more social outings as the weather improves.

Several of our members attended the Chester Re-union in April and all enjoyed their day very much.

Mrs Gregory is presently in Australia and in her absence Mrs Belgin and another member attended the meeting of the North West Area held in Southport.

We joined in the VE Day Church Parade.

CANTERBURY. This Branch continues to meet at the Jubilee Hall, Wincheap, Canterbury on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. Our average attendance each month is approximately 33, and although we are a large branch of 120 plus, many of our members live too far away to attend the meetings. We take this opportunity to send them greetings. Sadly we lost one member, Mrs Joan Ling early in the New Year.

We have had some very good speakers over the year including, slide shows of "The Countryside during the Four Seasons", and one on Travel - "A visit to the Holy Land". The Canterbury Townswomen's Guild Choir entertained us and we joined them in singing some of the well known pieces. We invited the local branches of the war-time WAAF and WRNS to a party, followed by entertainment provided by one of our members, Kay Rawlings accompanied by her husband Phil on the keyboard and their group of singers. Kay and Co do a lot of entertaining for Local Service Associations and are very popular and get everyone singing the choruses. They have promised to do Part II of their programme at our next party!!

In order to keep our expenses down we encourage members to give talks on their experiences. Joyce Derne and Doreen Dennis spoke about their visit to the 50th Anniversary of the battle of Arnhem and Nijmegen. Reggie Stinson and Mary Richardson told us about their visit to Buckingham Palace Garden Party where they were lucky enough to meet and speak to HM the Queen and see other members of the Royal Family at close quarters. Another popular meeting is the Poetry Reading when members bring their favourite poems to share with others. We are very lucky to have our own poet in the branch, Madeline Croll, who has had several of her poems published.

Some of us attended the ATS Luncheon at Wellington Barracks (will we ever forget it?)

The AGM was held at the National Army Museum, where we were lucky enough to see the exhibition "The Right to Serve". We sent members to the November Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and later this month (June



**CANTERBURY BRANCH AT
ATS LUNCHEON - WELLINGTON BARRACKS**

24th) we hope to be taking a minibus to Worthy Down for the AG Corps Open Day.

For our fund-raising activities we have a Coffee Morning in June in the Secretary's garden. We have a Raffle and Bring and Buy Sale every month at our meetings, and one of our members, Mavis Middleton, makes and sells Homemade Apply pies and gives the proceeds to Branch Funds.

Four of our members attended many of the events staged at the VE Celebrations in Hyde Park and two of them had invitations to the St Paul's service of Reconciliation and Remembrance. They met up with several members from other branches and had a memorable time. We are now looking forward to August and the VJ 50th Anniversary celebrations.

CARDIFF/NEWPORT. The branch is still expanding and membership has now reached 55. Meetings are held at the United Services Club in Cardiff on the second Tuesday of every month.

We held our annual dinner in January, which by common consent was the best to date. Several members attended the re-dedication of the War Memorial in Caerphilly in April. Four of our members were invited to attend the VE service at Llandaff Cathedral on 8th May and included Mrs Sylvia Cawley and Mrs Doris Clifford who were in the guard of honour for HRH The Prince of Wales as he entered the Cathedral. That afternoon many branch members attended a service at the Cenotaph in Cardiff and then marched in the parade to the City Hall. We then enjoyed the hospitality of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at a 1940's-style tea dance in the City Hall. The subsequent Little Big Band Forties Show was much appreciated by everyone present. It was a wonderful occasion - to reminisce, to meet former members from all sections of the armed forces and to sing the old songs again.

CHESTER. We continue to meet at the RAOB Club, City Road, Chester on the second Monday of each month and have gained three new members.

The last twelve months have flown since last going to press - this also goes for the last fifty years!

Sadly too many of our members and our Secretary have been out of action due to illness but glad to say all are making progress.

Four of us attended the Ack-Ack Re-union in York, it was good to meet old comrades from our war years.

Once again our Standard Bearer has done her duty as always by carrying the Standard on special parades despite the wind and the rain.

Mrs K Jones laid the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

Mrs V Hamblet and Mrs M Chopin obtained seats for the Albert Hall and would not have missed it for the world.



**Mrs Hamblet and Mrs Sampson
AT A-A RE-UNION IN YORK**

A very good AGM with officers voted in. Donations sent to ATS Benevolent Fund and The Royal British Legion.

Members enjoyed the Christmas Dance supported by different associations and family. We had a Christmas Lunch this year well supported by members - our first Tea-Dance went down very well, most of the northern area branches came and also the northern area chairman, Miss I Walker. Everyone enjoyed themselves and danced to the music of "Mr Frank Sampson" - thanks Frank you were great!

Members joined in the VE Day celebrations at Tatton Hall Park, Knutsford and were pleased to see the ATS Standard on parade carried by Mrs E Francis.

On VE Sunday our Standard Bearer, Mrs P Bowlder and members were on parade in Chester where a service was held in the Cathedral - which was packed to overflowing. Tea and biscuits were enjoyed in the Town Hall after the Parade and March Past.

There was also an exhibition in the Town Hall of war time memorabilia to which all sections of the community contributed. The chairman of our branch, Mrs J C McLellan prepared exhibition boards covering all aspects of the ATS service during the war. The weekend was rounded off by a river trip up The Dee with buffet and dance and bar! The trip had been arranged by the Wrexham branches of the Dunkirk Veterans and Eighth Army Veterans and there were over a hundred ex-service men and women having a jolly good time as only we know how.

One of our members, Miss Pat Conway, spent the weekend in London, and met up with three ex-ATS members she served with during the war. Her verdict was that it was a marvellous weekend and she wouldn't have missed it.

Next year we are hosting the northern area re-union at the Town Hall in Chester so look out for the final details in the February "Lioness" in 1996.

All will be welcome.

COLCHESTER. Our branch has gathered a few more members this year so numbers are holding steady. We have had a number of very enjoyable meetings with speakers, quizzes and of course, lots of happy chat.

During May about 50 of us had a super lunch at Clacton Golf Club followed by a mystery coach tour round the Essex countryside which was great fun.

VE Day was of course the highlight of our year. 24 members marched in the Colchester parade resplendent in their green berets (which we had an awful job to track down!) It was a very emotional occasion - the public turned out in force and the applause was terrific. At the same time 12 of our Clacton ladies marched to the town War Memorial and took part in their own parade.

During the same week we had a memorable lunch at the King's Cliff hotel in Holland-on-Sea followed by a visit to the Westcliff Theatre to see the show 'Happy as a Sandbag' where we all waved our flags furiously and sang along with the performers.



**THE LATE Mrs Beryl Wolfe
RECEIVING HER CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM
THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

June was not such a happy month for us at Colchester because our well-loved Secretary, Beryl Wolfe, died on 19th May after bravely suffering a long illness. Her dedication to our Association was an example to us all and she will be sadly missed.

However I am sure that she would have been very touched to know how many of us attended her funeral to say our goodbyes to her. Our Treasurer, Vera, has been taking meetings during Beryl's illness and has been really wonderful keeping us all going. We are now looking forward to one or two outings in the near future to cheer us all up again.

Several of us are off to Worthy Down on the 24th June followed in July by a trip to Bury St Edmunds to have tea with Lady Kemball - hopefully in her lovely garden (weather permitting!) On 19th August we are looking forward to visiting the Imperial War Museum which should be another great day out.

Our monthly coffee mornings, held by invitation in the houses of members at Clacton, are also proving very popular and also providing a useful additional source of Branch funds.

CREWE. We started the New Year off like we always do with our Chairman's Party. In March our Secretary, Edith Francis and Chairman, Betty Patton attended another informal meeting called by our Area Chairman, Mrs Purkis and hosted once again by Hereford Branch who look after us very well.

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In April we held an Easter Dance which was the start of our fund raising this year. Later in April a party of us went to the theatre to see Music Hall, it was a very amusing and enjoyable evening. Still in April, our Chairman and our Secretary who is also Area Secretary for Wales and West attended the AGM in London which was at the Chelsea National Army Museum this year. Our Secretary, Edith, was pleased to receive a Certificate of Appreciation after the meeting from Brigadier Field.

On the 6th May a party of us went to a VE Day Celebration at Tatton Park, Cheshire. Its lovely parklands were a perfect setting for the event, it was a hot, sunny day which helped to make it a very happy occasion which finished with a Parade and March Past taken by the Lord Lieutenant for Cheshire, Mr William Bromley Davenport. Our Standard Bearer, Edith carried the ATS Standard. Crewe Branch were the only WRAC Association members on the parade. We were approached by one or two Ex-WRAC girls who were interested in joining our Association so we were pleased to help them.

The next day Sunday, May 7th we attended a big Parade and Service for Crewe and Nantwich held at Nantwich Parish Church. It was quite an international occasion attended by a deputation from our German Twin town of Bischofsheim and our French Twin town of Macon and of course our own Mayor and Mayoress and the Lord Lieutenant for Cheshire. The Rev G D Geddes gave the sermon in English, French and German, prayers were said by a French and a German representative and we finished the service singing all three National Anthems.

Later on the Parade the March Past was again taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. When the Parade was over Mr Bromley Davenport remembered us from the day before at Tatton Park and he complimented us on our smart turn-out on both occasions.

On May 9th our Branch was invited by the Mayor and Mayoress with other ex-service personnel to a VE Celebration evening in the Mayor's Parlour it was a very nice evening enjoyed by everyone.

May 20th was our next fund raiser at Nantwich, we joined the local Lions Club again when they held their open air fund raising event, in spite of it being Cup Final Day and very cold we did very well and were pleased with the results of our labour. We were also pleased to see Mrs Phyllis Rzeszewska the Wrexham Secretary and her daughter who came over to support us that day.



**CREWE BRANCH MEMBERS AT TATTON PARK, CHESTER
FOR VE DAY PARADE**



**Mrs Edith Francis
OUTSIDE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM
WITH HER CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Our Branch has three Golden Wedding Anniversaries this year. The first one was on June 2nd, Mrs Elsie Walton and husband Harry, who is the President of Crewe Branch British Legion. Elsie took a party of us out to lunch to celebrate the anniversary and we gave her a piece of Aynsley China to mark the occasion and we wish them both continued Good Health and Happiness.

Our next fund raiser was a Coffee Morning at Nantwich on June 3rd which was a horrible, wet day but it was successful financially so we were happy.

We seem to be having a hectic year this year, we shall be attending the usual civic and service parades and we hope to fit in some social outings too. Not forgetting we have two more Golden Weddings to look forward to, one in August and the other in November. There are also several events being organised in Crewe for the VJ Celebrations in August. Our Branch are having a Celebration Dance on August 17th.

FIFE AND TAYSIDE. We celebrated Christmas with a festive lunch in the Civil Service Club, Perth, followed by a visit from Santa and live music. The same venue was chosen for lunch before the Branch AGM at which Mrs Betty Berwick agreed to take over as Secretary from Major Isobel Gordon who requested a break after nearly seven years in the job.

The next Branch get-together is in September, although many of the Perth members attend a monthly lunch in the Royal British Legion.

Dundee and Perth members took part in their respective cities' commemoration of VE Day, and several plan to attend the VJ Day ceremonies in Edinburgh.

Sadly, we lost three staunch members with the deaths of Miss Isabella Martin, Mrs Eveline Morgan and Miss Helen Macdonald. Our condolences are extended to their families.

GLASGOW. Our Glasgow branch goes from strength to strength, we have had 4 new members in the last session.

We hold our meetings from September to May, and we come together on the second Tuesday of each month.

In September we held a Bring and Buy Sale and the proceeds were given to Erskine Hospital. In October Mrs Cameron showed us slides and spoke on Queen Victoria's journeys through Scotland.

27 members attended the Scottish AGM and Re-union which was hosted by Ayr branch, this was a most enjoyable day.

In November Major Steel spoke of how Erskine became a hospital and home for the First World War ex-service members, a film of the care they received, and the workshops, they now have there are a number of ex-service women.

A Remembrance service was held at George Square in November where one of our members laid a wreath. We held our Christmas lunch at Clyde Hall and had a most enjoyable time, with entertainment by friends of our Treasurer.

Our second half meeting started on January 10th 1995, the first of two speakers showed us slides and spoke of Scotland's favourite drink (no not whisky) but Barrs Inn Bru we all ended up by being given a can of the favourite drink. March was our AGM.

Our friends from the association of WRNS and WRAF Association were our guests at our April meeting. We were entertained by a group from Strathclyde Police Force known as "off the beat". We had an attendance of seventy and all enjoyed the music - joining in many of the songs, which reminded us of the many camp concerts of long ago. We also included an Easter Bonnet Parade and finished off with a Buffet supper. The evening was voted a huge success by all - many thanks Strathclyde Police! Next came the VE celebrations and we had a busy weekend - Saturday morning 6th May saw us assembled in glorious sunshine at the Peoples Palace in Glasgow Green to join the Ex-Services Parade. Part of the route took us through the famous open air BARRAS Market where we were warmly applauded by shoppers and traders alike. The salute was taken by Brigadier Alastair Pearson CB DSO OBE MC TD, who later congratulated us on our marching. We were invited to attend the VE day dance in the evening in the Barrowland Ballroom where many of the dancers wore costumes of the forties, seeing many of the ladies in two piece suits and Silver Fox furs, made us smile and brought back happy memories - we enjoyed listening to the Glen Miller music played by the 16 piece band, a big thank you to the Barras Enterprise Trust for their hospitality.

Sunday morning saw us at Glasgow Cathedral where we joined the Normandy Veterans Association in a Commemoration Service. Being in the Cathedral again reminded us of the service there when the Grand Re-union was held in our city in 1991. Afterwards, led by the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, we marched to George Square for a wreath laying ceremony - then to the City Chambers for welcome refreshments. A few of our members were privileged to be present at the service in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Monday 8th and it was a memorable occasion. It was attended by HRH The Princess Royal, and later at the reception in Parliament Hall, she chatted to us for a few moments. We returned to Glasgow tired, but agreed it had been an emotional and unforgettable week-end.

GRIMSBY. We feel our branch must be very special as some of our members travel 30+ miles to join us at our monthly meetings; as well as those from Scunthorpe area, we now have a new member from Sutton-on-Sea, Doris Strickson (née Farthorpe). We would be interested to know if other branches have regular members from such a distance.

Pauline Ellis (née Wade), who has been our Treasurer for some years, has felt the need to relinquish the task which she has carried out with such efficiency and enthusiasm. A presentation was made from us all: and we are pleased to announce that she has taken on the office as our President.

Mrs Ruth Jenner (née Hansop) has taken over as Treasurer.

The ASDA collection raised £944. Plus £379 House to House collection.



*Mrs Pauline Ellis and Mrs Ruth Jenner
AT LOCAL ASDA STORE SELLING POPPIES*

Our Quiz Team has again been in action - winners locally and during a visit to Torquay: "Back to 40's", War Songs Sing-A-Long, etc: Fancy Dress another winner Dolly Thompson (née Fox) and Kitty Scruton (née Vander-Vord) proudly displaying ATS Poster and Union Jacks.

We have been represented at VE Thanks Giving Services at St James', Grimsby Sunday 7th May and St Peter's, Cleethorpes Monday 8th May and proudly marched behind our Standard.

We continue to share in friendship and comradeship fund raising for local and association charities.

HASTINGS. The last issue of LIONESS showed some of our members wearing pretty or patriotic hats at our 14th Birthday Party. Since that issue we have celebrated our 15th Birthday and as the date fell very near to Easter the theme was Easter Bonnets. The party was organised by our Rye contingent and we had a most unusual cake with 15 candles and 15 Easter chicks sitting at the foot of each candle. The cake was donated by the brother of one of our members who died recently.

Hastings celebrated the VE Anniversary with lots of street parties and the Royal British Legion organised a Family Fun Afternoon on the East Hill which ended with fireworks and our beacon being lit.

On 8th May there was a march of Ex-Service and Youth organisations from the Town Hall along the Sea Front to the

White Rock Theatre where a Service of Thanksgiving, Reconciliation and Hope was held. The Address was given by Reverend Father Peter Fenwick who is a member of our local Ex-Prisoners of War Association so he was able to combine the theme of the Service with his own experiences, emphasising the selflessness of some of those who shared his experiences. The Parade was led by the Standards of participating organisations.

Another event was the VE Celebration Tour - A tribute to the music of Glenn Miller. At the Mayor's invitation our Vice-Chairman and Secretary attended a wonderful nostalgic evening. The band was conducted by Glenn Miller's nephew and one member of the original Air Force Band - Peanuts Hucko - was still capable of playing magnificent clarinet solos.



**HASTINGS BRANCH STANDARD CARRIED BY
MARGERY LUCAS**
(Photo Hastings Observer)

We were asked to provide posters showing the work of the ATS during the war for display in local libraries and museums. We had no such poster so we made our own by asking members to bring appropriate photographs. Our final effort was well received and displayed in Hastings and Bexhill.

On the death of her husband our sympathies go to Betty Marshall who has been a branch member for over 14 years.

Betty and Tom met on a gun site in Norfolk during the early days of the war and corresponded while he was overseas. They recently celebrated their Golden Wedding and a gift from their children was a holiday in a hotel adjacent to the location of that gun site. Tom was an active member of the RA Association and always took an interest, a very helpful interest, in our own activities. He will be sadly missed by many of us.

Our congratulations go to Fanny Frewan Laton who has just received a three-book publishing contract. Two of the books are already written and publication will be early in 1996. The first book is *THE TORTOISESHELL* followed by *THE GIRL FROM LILY COTTAGE*. We do hope her book on our Service *THE KHAKE GIRLS* will also be published before too long.

HEREFORD. Since sending my last report, our membership has gone up to 45, and we are as usual, very busy raising funds and preparing for the annual area re-union. Tickets are selling well, but we are now inviting branches from outside the Wales and West Area. Anyone wishing to attend can contact the Secretary on 01432 270165.

The nostalgia of VE has been commemorated and celebrated in many ways locally and nationally.

Last December several members enjoyed our annual christmas lunch at the "Stage-Coach Inn". We had a big raffle and raised funds for the branch.

15 members attended the January meeting and a sub-committee met to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming area re-union next September 30th 1995. A Market Stall netted over £100 on January 31st 1995.

In March, Mrs Celia Davies a co-founder of Hereford branch and Chairman since July 1989, stood down in favour of Mrs Mary Nicholls. Mary was our Vice-Chair so fits comfortably in the Chairmanship! Celia, still is an active member and was sincerely thanked for her support and interest.

On March 4th we entertained 27 members from Area Branches at the Royal British Legion Hall for another Q&A meeting with Mrs Maggie Purkis in the Chair. Mrs Miriam Murray had received flowers and a "Get Well" card after her recent operation. Cheques from branches for sale of area raffle and re-union tickets were already coming in and so enabling us to keep solvent at the bank!

April saw 11 members travelling to the AGM in the National Army Museum, Chelsea and enjoying themselves. Our member Mrs Sally Waterhouse-Brown, tells us she did some cartoons for the Army, during the war, and we are anxiously awaiting a report from her as to where they are now. We understand they have been exhibited somewhere. Mrs Mary Nicholls, Mrs Jo Anscombe, Mrs Rosemary Jones and Mrs Eva Burton were present at the Civic Service in the Cathedral on May 7th for a Service of Thanksgiving, Reconciliation and Hope, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of VE - very moving.

A "Car Boot" on May 21st saw a small profit of £60 and another market stall is booked for June 26th.

Two more sub-committee meetings for the September area re-union have been held at the home of Mrs Billy Cordner.

Our lovely "Ross" ladies, Mrs Mary Davis, Mrs Dorothy Brooks and Mrs Phyl Bates, are planning a fund-raising tea-party shortly.

Mrs Ena Price and Mrs Vera Denning have kindly donated cheques and everyone is busy working hard selling raffle tickets, making goods to sell, and begging raffle prizes. We hope our re-union in Hereford on Saturday September 30th 1995 will benefit the Benevolent Fund greatly. Miss Joyce Nicholls is working particularly hard and we are most grateful. Joyce and Rosemary, as our only car-drivers, are kept extremely busy and are always willing. Joyce hopes to have a "Wine and Cheese" evening sometime too.

It is a great joy to be secretary to a great hard-working branch. We wish our "Not so well" members speedy recoveries.

ILFORD. Ilford branch meets the first Saturday of every month at 40 Argyle Road, Ilford from 1.30pm. We are a very small group with loyal members some of whom have been coming for a good many years.

One of our members Barbara Canning comes from West Mersea a long journey and an expensive fare. We were delighted, therefore, when it was Barbara's name that came up when we had a draw for the one ticket the branch received for the service at St. Paul's.

Three of our members were able to join the Sunday events in the afternoon of the VE week-end.

As a result of the participation of one of our members in the local VE events we have recruited another member to join our small group.

We had a good attendance at the AGM in April when our Secretary was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in its very attractive frame.



ISLE OF WIGHT BRANCH - BEMBRIDGE STREET FAYRE

ISLE OF WIGHT. What a very busy year we have had so far and by the entries in diaries it will appear to be continuing!

We had a very enjoyable Xmas Lunch when we welcomed members of the Southampton Branch to join with us and the usual support was given to us by our Padre and his Sister together with our own members. This all seems such a long time ago especially when we were so busy planning the Annual Re-Union of the Southern Area of the 30th April last when we were so pleased to welcome members from our area Branches - and a few people who supported us (via of course invitations from our members). After a short coach tour from the Ryde and E.Cowes ferries we assembled all 187 of us - at The Broadway Park Hotel Sandown. To our great pleasure we were joined by Brigadier Anne Field, Lt Col and Mrs Dunn, Lt Col Trout our area Chairman and Mrs Ford our area Secretary. Our special guests from the Island were The Governor - The Lord and Lady Mottistone and many other representatives of Island Ex-Service organisations. After what we all know was indeed an excellent meal the usual raffle followed and our Chairman presented Brigadier Field with an 'old print' of Osborne House Cowes and our lady guests all received a small floral bouquet. Departure for our members catching the E.Cowes ferry was delayed because of time-table changes for which we were not aware. We do hope it did not spoil your day with us and again apologies for this 'hitch'. At this point I would like to thank you all for the lovely letters that we have received from other Branches and I may add from individual members saying how much everyone appreciated the hard work by our Branch and the enjoyable day spent on the Island.

On the 29th May we had our usual stall at the Annual Street Fayre at Bembridge and if it is possible the photograph I am sending will explain what a 'fun day' we all have at this particular function - together with the hard work of course!! To all contributions received from our members both for the 'white elephant' stall and our produce stall - from guns to gateaux and from bombs to buns!!

Your attention please - have the ex-ATS members reading this noted the war time 'Join the ATS' poster on the front of the stall - I think this possibly helped us to win the **SECOND** prize in the best decorated stall competition.

All these events on the Branch's agenda and in between of course has been the VE plus 50 years when again our Standard was paraded together with quite a few of our members taking part on Monday 8th May last at the Newport celebrations in the form of a March Past - Drum-

head Service and a religious service as well. The Branch was again represented at the RBL Parade at Sandhurst in June. Maybe but it wasn't exactly mid-summer!! We will, we hope, be taking part in the VJ plus 50 years in August - the local Branch of The Burma Star Association have issued an invitation (no Standard this time) on the 15th August but we shall be travelling to Portsmouth on the 16th August to take part in the celebrations to be held there.

I would just like to thank once again all of our own Branch members and those from 'overseas' who have supported us during the last months.

LEEDS. We continue to have our very friendly monthly meetings and have now moved to a new venue. Headingley Branch of the Royal British Legion have very kindly allowed us the use of one of their Lounges and a well equipped kitchen, an improvement on our old room which was a tight squeeze when we had full attendance. We have two new members and two possibles.

Elizabeth Bustard, whose photograph was in the last Lioness helped the Royal British Legion with an Exhibition of Memorabilia in Boston Spa Village Hall on Wednesday May 3rd as part of their VE Day celebrations. Six of our members plus one husband met for lunch in one of the local hostellers before supporting the exhibition. The verdict was "well done" one of the highlights being Elizabeth's Wedding and Going Away Dresses. She also won the prize for her outfit, almost authentic wartime. Three members supported the Royal British Legion Coffee Morning in Bramham on Saturday May 6th.

All members took part in their local VE Day Parades and Street Parties unearthing Pay Books Badges and Photographs. Many memories came tumbling back of comradeship and fun which made light of the many hours spent on duty in the cold and the wet. A few tears were shed.

On May 11th the Lord Mayor of Leeds invited four of our members to a Wartime Lunch in the Civic Hall. Ethel Cotterill, Emily Newbould, May Walker and Rose Watson joined about 300 other ladies who had all done war-work of some kind. The Menu was Corned Beef Fritters with Salad, Corned Beef Hash with Potatoes, Carrots and Peas, Jam Roly-Poly and Custard with Tea or Coffee - could have come straight from the Cookhouse, I wonder if anyone played the Bugle. Crackers, Paper Hats and Serviettes were Red, White and Blue and the appropriate music was played. Our members sat alongside the Mayor and had photographs taken.

LONDON. As a prelude to the VE Day anniversary events we have had, at our monthly meetings three speakers who shared with us their memories of war-time service. Derek Sleeve was one of the men who helped to set up Mulberry Harbour, that triumph of ingenuity which played such a vital part in the aftermath of the D Day landings, making it possible for the landing of stores and equipment. In a very amusing talk entitled "It ain't half cold Mum!" Mrs Hannaford described her winter of 1944/45 as she followed the army with ENSA as they pushed through Holland and witnessed the dreadful deprivation of the Dutch civilians with a lunch of a few miserable vegetables, but served up with pride as if it might be a Sunday roast. Mr C Bovill talked about his service with SOE and the dedicated work of those who flew clandestinely into France to assist the work of the Resistance.

Many members enjoyed the Government's hospitality over a memorable three days in Hyde Park. Everyone is to be congratulated on the success of all the events arranged for us and especially the Veterans Centre where everyone contrived to make us feel very special and we send a vote of thanks to all the young services personnel who were on duty to welcome us and look after us so well.

Quite a number of the branch had seats for the service in St Paul's Cathedral and it was also shown live in the Veterans Centre where we were given the order of service and were able to follow a very moving occasion. A few of us were happy to be on duty at the ATS/WRAC Stand and the WRAC Benevolent Fund Stand alongside all the other Military Charities and we did our best to raise funds and recruit new members to the Association - so far we have seven new members.

As well as the public Opening Ceremony, Heads of State Ceremony and VE Night Party when HM The Queen lit the first beacon there were also receptions each day in the Veterans Centre and various Government Ministers chatted to us. A truly enjoyable three days.

We have had an interesting coach trip to Wilton House where General Eisenhower had his HQ and many momentous decisions made in these now peaceful and lovely surroundings. We particularly liked the beautiful Elizabethan costumes worn by the guides which looked so appropriate in the carefully resorted rooms. Sad to say the armed services left it in a mess.

Our last event for this half of the year was the Parade, Service of Rededication and Victory Commemoration Service at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst arranged by The Royal British Legion. Our luck held and the heavy morning rain stopped as we marched behind the Standard of the Isle of Wight branch of the WRAC Association to the Parade Ground. How nice it was to march to the music of the Wantage Silver Band who kept us in step all the way. We are now looking forward to a good turnout for the AG Corps Day at Worthy Down.



LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS AT ST PAUL'S
*L to R: Ethel Burrows, Chris Gibbs, Doris Chaplin,
 Edna Hall, Janet Reeve, Beryl Barker*

MANCHESTER. 1995 started quietly for us, dark nights, etc., which curtailed our activities but not our plans for the rest of this very special year.

Our first excitement was being invited to the wedding of Phyllis Owens and Douglas Young who you will recall met after a visit to Normandy. Phyllis is a member of our Canterbury Branch and a Standard Bearer for the British Legion. Douglas was with a party of Cassino Vets Association.

Phyllis visited our Branch and we soon became firm friends. Douglas is a member of British Legion in Manchester. I think you will in previous write-ups recall we had predicted the inevitable. I have enclosed a photograph taken at the wedding of the happy couple escorted by the Standard Bearer.



WEDDING OF
Phyllis Owens and Douglas Young

Our ATS group flanked the rear to complete the photo group. The couple are now residing in Ramsgate so Phyllis can return to her ATS Branch at Canterbury.

Our next venue was a VE concert given by the Ashton-on-Mersey showband. What a day! They play every year to commemorate, but this was something very special. We arrived in our Red, White and Blue, given Union Jacks, Balloons, etc., to commemorate the fun side. All 1940-45 songs and activities, the audience truly played their part to make it a quite exceptional occasion.

Our next venue was VE Day proper. Our ATS Branch accepted an invitation from the local British Legion Branch to march with them to the local parish church for a special service. Included in the parade were British Legion Branch contingent, Naval Club, RAF cadets of all specialities. We were placed in the parade, just in front of the RAF and their cadets. The parade was led by the Manchester Police Band so we really had to be on our mettle.

The band played in church whilst we took our allotted places, followed by the full clergy and choir. It was a welcome sight to see various outlets of youngster joining in our homage, it was a welcome sight also to see the younger element as intent as we were joining in this most beautiful service and acknowledging all that it meant to us all. After the service the Police Band played for us to march back to the British Legion, this being about a mile away. All contingents laid wreaths at the cenotaph and accepted British Legion hospitality, a very special and touching commencement to the following day of VE Day proper. One of the Vet soldiers said jokingly "Ee Lassies thee can march thee knows". We did, feeling duly proud to do so in such good company. It was a beautiful Service of Remembrance before VE proper when we could let our hair down.

On VE Day some of us ventured into the centre of Manchester. As we all had our ATS badges prominent we were stopped several times from people taking photographs, I don't expect we will ever get to see them ourselves but who knows we may adorn somebodies mantle-shelf one day.

We left town early to get a glimpse of TV from London and all the celebrations there and of course to see our beloved

Queen Mother joining in the singing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and she knew all the songs too.

Personally I can remember seeing her with King George VI picking their way through the rubble after a raid and saying they were proud to do so. They lifted the morale of the London folk who adored them. One didn't recognise her standing on the balcony 50 years later. God Bless Her. After the excitement of May, we settled down to our next meeting to arrange to visit our friends from Chester Branch. They made us very welcome and the buffet was superb.

I am writing this after just arriving home from an afternoon tea dance invited by Rhyl Branch for celebration of VE, a reunion of all branches.

We danced every dance devised in 1940-45, if we didn't dance we sang. (I didn't remember those words did I?). Once again we enjoyed a lovely tea and were encouraged to take home a "doggy bag" to eat on the way home. It was a lovely day to be "beside the sea side". A little weary in the legs, but with a lovely feeling of belonging to the ATS Association.

We booked our passage from Manchester by coach so were very pleased our friends from the Wilmslow Branch were aboard. We said our happy farewells, still living it up 50 years on, after VE.

At this point I feel we must thank both Chester and Rhyl Branches for their superb efforts of making us realise what the ATS Association is all about after 50 years.

NEWCASTLE. At the beginning of the year we invited Middlesbrough, Cleveland and Sunderland Branches to our meeting and our concert party entertained. (See page 103). Members have attended parades and VE Day Celebrations.

Twenty two members are going for an Ack-Ack weekend at Nantwich, Cheshire at the end of June.

Two of our members, Mrs Summerell and Mrs O'Reill and two members of Cleveland Branch, Mrs Marsh and Mrs Sklanny arranged to go to York Railway Station and meet another member of 484 Battery whom we had not seen for 50 years! We had a meal together and you can imagine we had plenty to talk about.

During our stay in Belgium in 1944-45 some of our girls became friendly with a Belgian family, but lost touch. With the 50 years celebration coming, Mrs Sklanny of Cleveland Branch wrote to the Mayor of Lovain regarding John and Marie Louise Clareboets-Dehaes. He contacted them and they phoned Mrs Sklanny, the result was she and myself going to Brussels for four days and had a day at John and Marie Louise's apartment. Out came the photo albums and Marie Louise never stopped talking!

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK. We have had the pleasure of welcoming several new members during the past six months and now number 132 in both counties. We were very sad to lose Sheila Mocklow who died in March. She had been with us for many years and came regularly to meetings. In the ATS as Sheila Hall she had been a Dome Teacher/Operator in aircraft recognition with the Royal Artillery, stationed in Datchet, Hampstead, and at St John's Point and Ballykilliner in Northern Ireland.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well-attended and very jolly affairs, often with a speaker on such diverse affairs as 'The Role of Men in Society today' and descriptions of holidays in Bohemia and New Zealand. At the May meeting we were shown two videos of the plaque ceremony at Great Yarmouth in 1994. On the first anniversary of this ceremony, 11th May this year, the Yarmouth members placed a wreath at the foot of the plaque in memory of the 26 ATS girls killed in 1943.

Also in May some of us attended a Naval service at Great Yarmouth when a plaque was dedicated to 7 WRENS killed in another bombing incident there in 1943.

Two of our members attended the AGM at the National Army Museum in April when our Chairman, Joan Awbery, was honoured to receive one of the Association's Certificates of Appreciation. Three of us went to the ATS Dinner Club Tea Party at the Victory Services Club. Members continue to knit jumpers and blankets for OXFAM and we have just made our annual contribution towards BLESMA funds.

Sixteen of us joined in Norwich's very large parade in celebration of the 50th anniversary of VE Day. The numbers taking part were swelled by some 200 American veterans who had known East Anglia as their home for a great part of their service days, flying out of the innumerable bases dotted throughout the area. Norwich had been a very popular war-time rendezvous for them and this year they had come across the Atlantic in their hundreds for the occasion. They were keen to tell us of their fondness for the local NAAFI Club, the Samson and Hercules Ballroom, the friendliness of the local families, and of the girls they had met and married. After the service they joined a large number of ex-servicemen and women at the Lord Mayor's Reception in St Andrew's Hall where reminiscences brought many emotional re-unions.

The parade had formed up early in the morning on a scene that could have been that of a morning after one of the 'Baedeker raids' on Norwich. We faced the burnt-out shell of the City Library, totally destroyed by fire last November, and, to our left, the badly damaged and roofless skeleton of the Assembly House, scene of another fire in April. It made the occasion particularly poignant. The Lord Mayor and Lord Ironside, whose father General Ironside had been present at the parade on VE Day in 1945, took the salute and we marched to the Cathedral for a Service of Thanksgiving, Reconciliation and Hope.

Other activities for the 50th Anniversary of VE Day here were low-key; plans are now in hand for celebration of the Anniversary of VJ Day which will be a particularly important day for us locally, so many men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment were lost in the fall of Singapore or prisoners of war of the Japanese and VE Day was not the end of the war for them. VJ Day will be a greater cause for local rejoicing.



NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BRANCH MEMBERS IN NORWICH

PLYMOUTH. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself and for the Plymouth Branch it seems no time at all since the last report.

This has been a very busy six months culminating, of course, in the VE Day 50th Anniversary celebrations. We were so proud to see our Standard carried at the Parades, many of which were Tri-Service, and the Festival event at Plymouth Pavilions. Well done to Doreen Greenaway, our "Standard Bearer in Chief" and to Doris McCoy, our new Deputy Standard Bearer, who really earned her "spurs" in all the marches and Parades. Well done too, to Mrs Jane Rendle who, complete in turban and wrap-around pinny, gave a spirited demonstration of the "Palais Glide" to the audience of the Radio Devon programme "A Knees Up for VE Day".

Since Christmas we have welcomed 6 new members to the Branch so our total membership now stands at 60 Annual and 29 Life members. With members living as far afield as Porthleven in the West and Barnstaple and Newton Abbott in the East we consider ourselves a very active Branch with up to 30 of our members managing to get to the monthly meetings.

In February we inaugurated a Thrift Club to enable members to save for Branch functions and outings. With so many trips planned for the coming Summer months this has become a thriving concern!

In April several members were interviewed by the Plymouth paper "Prime of Life" about where they were and what they were doing on VE Day. We also ran a competition for poems on this subject and our Falmouth member, Mrs Doreen Partridge, had her poem printed in the Western Morning News on 8th May. During this month a small group visited Plymouth Museum to see the "House of Elliott" costumes. This was linked with an Exhibition showing life in Plymouth in the 1920's and 30's. Mrs Betty Mitchell, our Treasurer, represented us and our views at the Association AGM in London. She returned full of praise for the "Right to Serve" exhibition.

At the May meeting we held a May Fair which raised the princely sum of £51 for our funds.

On June 4th our annual Anniversary Service took place at St Catherine's upon the Hoe chapel at the Royal Citadel. Our previous Standard which had been laid up in 1988 was on view in front of the altar which itself was decorated with flowers in the Corps colours. We had invited the Standard and members of the Royal Artillery Association to join us and were delighted to welcome 16 of their number to the Service and to the Curry Lunch afterwards in the WO's and Sgts' Mess, 29 Commando Regiment RA.

AND NOW An open invitation to all readers. If you are holidaying, visiting or just passing through the Plymouth area on the first Monday of the month why not drop in to our monthly meeting. We would love to see any Association "grockle" in the region!! Branch Secretary is Glynis Harvey (01752-336203) who will give details of the meeting and will, if at all possible, arrange transport.

PORTSMOUTH. Portsmouth branch start this report on a sad note. Our Treasurer for the past ten years, Miss Iris Clover died on the 3rd May 1995. She joined the ATS at the beginning of 1939 and served through the war on mixed heavy AA batteries serving all over Southern UK and in 1944 at Antwerp and Germany. Remaining in the army she served in the WRAC her last years attached to the TA. She retired in 1965 after serving 26 years. Miss Clover was a loyal member of the association and sadly missed by us all. Our Standard and 15 members attended her funeral.

Portsmouth members and Standard attended the VE parade and service in Portsmouth Guildhall Square on Sunday May 7th 1995. This was broadcast live by Anglia TV so for a brief few minutes we were TV stars, we also got a mention in the commentary.



PORTSMOUTH YOUTH AT THEIR CLUB

In the afternoon we all attended another parade and service at St Mary's Church organised by the Royal British Legion. It was quite a day with all the marching but everyone managed very well. Things have been fairly quiet otherwise, some members went to the AGM and enjoyed seeing the National Army Museum. Our Standard and six members will be attending the Royal British Legion parade at Sandhurst on the 4th June 1995. We are all looking forward to going to some of the VJ events in Portsmouth in August.

RHYL. Since Magazine No 1 Rhyl Branch has been busy as usual. December we had the Christmas Dinner not enjoyed quite as much as other years. It has been decided we will try a Christmas Lunch this year (Tempus Fugit and all that) we don't care for going out at night! We did well with the Christmas Coffee Morning and in the New Year we have had a Jumble Sale, Afternoon Tea and a Book Stall. The girls worked very hard preparing and organising our



RHYL BRANCH

L to R: Ivy Ruffley, Yvonne Sampson, Joan Salisbury-Jones, Cathy Hurt, Norma Earith, Phyllis Brown, May Walker, Olive Fernihough and Olwen Landin

Afternoon Tea Dance in June approximately 130 attended, with a good Raffle, Tombola and other things, we had a very successful monetary result. Enclosed a group that attended St Thomas' Church and Parade on VE Sunday.

ROCHDALE. We continue to have well-attended meetings, held at our lovely Rochdale Town Hall, on the last Tuesday of each month. Most of us partake of a very pleasant lunch



ROCHDALE BRANCH MEMBERS AT TOWN HALL

in the Town Hall Restaurant beforehand, so we are well fortified for the meeting to follow.

Two of our ladies attended the Tea Dance at Chester, to which we had been invited on 28th March 1995. Our March meeting was held the day following a very heavy snow storm the previous night and eleven ladies braved the elements to attend with yours truly and another member falling and measuring our length in the ice and slush; we soldiered on to arrive shaken and wet.

30th March 1995 saw nearly half our members attending a Celebratory VE Concert at The Queen Elizabeth Hall in Oldham. The ladies from Manchester Branch were also there along with hundreds of ex-service personnel. A very memorable afternoon was experienced by all.

In April we were visited by the "Rochdale Reporter" who wrote: "During the Second World War, it was the women who kept the home fires burning while the men were fighting on the front.

They had a variety of jobs in the forces including mechanics, clerks, MT (motor transport) drivers and switchboard operators.

The Rochdale branch of the Women's Royal Army Corps was founded 13 years ago after women decided they wanted to start a branch closer to home than the nearest group in Manchester.

Most enjoyed their time in the forces - and it was where many met their future husbands.

Mrs Joyce Goddard, aged 72, of Holt Street, Littleborough met her late husband Tom who was a sergeant in the same battery.

Mrs Vera Dargan, aged 72 of Edenfield Road, Norden, cannot understand the meaning of the word stress.

She said: 'We don't know why people have to be treated for stress these days - we saw people killed.'

Vera was born in County Durham and came to Rochdale after the war with her family.

She volunteered in 1941 when she was 17. Her first station was York city and she later moved to Marskeby-the-sea on the east coast.

She worked as a switchboard operator and a physical training instructor.

'I used to take the girls on a three-mile country run which they did not like and I was the most hated person on the camp when it came to that.'

One day they found a whale on the beach - it was nearly split in two and was riddled with bullets. Vera thinks it had been mistaken for a submarine.

'We had to wear masks for three days, the smell was that bad.'

Mrs Mary Campbell, aged 72, of Rooley Moor Road, joined up in 1941 and was a radar operator on an anti-aircraft camp.

She grew up in Rochdale in the Milkstone area and Spotland and was married to the late Robert Campbell.

Mrs Mona Schofield, aged 71, from Cutgate, joined the forces as a cook, but as soon as she saw the big Dutch ovens in the field, she had second thoughts and became an orderly stationed at Rhyl.

She then became a switchboard operator and transferred to Wembley.

'I was a radio mechanic there and we used to make the radios that were dropped to the spies. It was all hush-hush and we had to sign the Official Secrets Act.

Like many of the women, she can remember a lot of good times and comradeship - something that still exists today.

Said Mrs Goddard: 'If one of the members has a problem everyone comes together to help.'

These days they have about 30 members and they meet every month at Rochdale Town Hall and raise cash for good causes.

They are always on the look out for new members. If you served with any of the women's forces and would like to join, telephone Mrs Goddard (374304)."

On 6th May ten of our members helped out at the British Legion street party for children in Rochdale and once again a happy time was had by all.

On 9th May a party of fifteen paid a visit to the Police Museum in Manchester - what an interesting afternoon we had. The Sergeant (Retired), who took us round, was a treasure who had all the facts off pat and was really patient in answering all our questions.

On 8th June four members attended a Tea Dance organised by the Rhyl Branch.

SALISBURY. We continue to enjoy our monthly meetings which so far this year have included a Silent Auction; Quiz on flowers - won by Maureen Robertson and Kath Cassey; a talk from the Samaritans, and a delightfully illustrated talk on Wiltshire Churches by Miss Kathleen Quinn.

Twelve members attended the Southern Area Re-union on the Isle of Wight which really was a most enjoyable day. The tour of the island was much appreciated as was the excellent meal. Thank you to our hosts.



SALISBURY BRANCH MEMBERS AT SOUTH GROUP RE-UNION ON ISLE OF WIGHT WITH GROUP CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

Seven members went to the National Army Museum for the Association AGM in April. With the appeal for new members in mind, we were fortunate to get an article published in a local newspaper and as a result ten new members were welcomed to the May meeting by our Chairman, Clive Edwards.

Members attended a Service of Reconciliation at the Civic Hall when the Standard was carried by Mrs Thurza Sillick.

We are looking forward to a picnic lunch at the home of Colonel Trout later this month, we can only hope for some improvement in the present 'summer' weather!

SWANSEA. Our meetings continue to be held on the first Wednesday of every month, at the City Guildhall, and are very well attended. We held our AGM and belated Xmas Lunch on January 4th. We were all very sorry to hear that two of our committee members had resigned owing to ill health. But they still attend the meetings. They are Mrs Lilian Clark, Hon Secretary; and Mrs Irene Morgan, Chairwoman. We had our usual Tea and Welsh Cakes on March 1st.



**SWANSEA BRANCH MEMBERS
WITH LORD MAYOR**

The Lord Mayor visited us in May. He told us all about his year of office which was very interesting.

On VE Day, May 8th, a few of our lady members went on parade and they marched down to where the New Ack-Ack Gun is at the entrance of the Park Tawe bridge overlooking the River Tawe.

We were all made welcome at the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Club for a Buffet which we all enjoyed. At 3 o'clock we attended the Church Service held at St Mary's Church, Swansea.

On our meeting of June 7th we had a lady speaker telling us all about how the streets of Swansea were named.

The ladies who are going to the Hereford Re-union are looking forward to it.

In 1966 the Re-union will be held in the City of Swansea.

SCARBOROUGH. We, through the local press and personal contact of members have become acquainted with various people from the area who are already members of the association or are prospective new members.

We arranged to have a buffet lunch at the TA Centre to which they were invited - our own NE Area Chairman, Colonel F M Cook attending along with our own Branch Chairman, Major Sally Mohan (Army Careers), Captain



**SCARBOROUGH BRANCH MEMBERS
WITH GROUP CHAIRMAN**

France, OIC TA Centre and his Colour-Sergeant.

We had a very pleasant lunch - good food - drinks - photographs and flowers.

Members from other towns in the area took part in their own towns activities during the VE weekend celebrations - we in Scarborough attended a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 7th May 1995 followed by a Parade of Veterans and their Standards along the seafront - The Salute being taken by Sir Marcus Worsley - followed by refreshments.

On Monday 8th May a 40's dance was organised in the evening with an American Buffet and on Saturday 6th May a much larger dance was held in the Spa Ocean Room attended by the local dignitaries - and I noticed several cadets among the packed assembly.

We are hoping to arrange a fund raising effort within the next few months.

One member of the Scarborough Branch attended the Hyde Park celebrations and had a thoroughly good time.

SOMERSET. We have held our monthly meetings but some of them have not been business ones. February was an ordinary meeting, but the January one took the form of a Coffee Morning at the home of Audrey Riley which was enjoyed by all. The March meeting was an entertaining slide show by our Assistant Secretary, Dorothy Warren of her trip down the Nile. In April, instead of our usual meeting, Helen Jeffries organised a Skittles Evening on 27th April, this was a great success with an attendance of 31 which included three members of the family of one of our members and a new member and her husband. It was pleasing to welcome a member who cannot attend our meetings during the day, together with her daughter. The evening concluded with an ample supper. In May, seven members and husbands came to the Ottery St Mary Garden Centre. The visit was very much enjoyed. In June, we hope to have a Somerset Tea at the home of one of our longest serving members, Rebecca Hardinge-Francis.

Three WRAC members and two other ex-service personnel were at Hyde Park on Sunday 7th May. Apparently, it was "quite like old times" with everyone being so friendly, and our party was well looked after. Two of our members were able to obtain tickets for the Service in St Paul's Cathedral.

On Saturday 19th August at Martock, there will be a Commemoration with a full day's programme commencing at 9.30am. At about 4.00pm there will be a Drumhead Service and a parade of Legion, Regimental and Association Standards. At 8.00pm there will be a Barn Dance followed by a Grand Prize Draw.

SOUTHAMPTON. The early part of 1995 saw us caught up with The Saints football matches as we meet some 200 yards from The Dell so we had to meet half an hour earlier to avoid being one of their many fans, also it entailed one speaker being cancelled. With summer here and with the Cup having been played for we should enjoy a few trouble free months for a while. However, if we can't beat them we will have to join them!

At our 46th Annual Dinner held on 5th April, 1995, three members were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by Mrs Audrey Pickett, Chairman.



From L-R:

Mrs Ruth Young : Mrs Frances Allen : Mrs Betty Rush

Three members only were available to attend the Association Annual General Meeting held at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, on 22nd April.

On the last day of April 13 of us very much enjoyed this year's South Group Re-union hosted by the Isle of Wight Branch, one with a difference in that we started off with a boat ride, then a coach tour of the Island, and an excellent lunch at a spacious venue in Sandown. Thank you very much IOW. On the return boat trip we even gained a new member having enquired who were we and why so many ladies travelling!

At our May meeting in our own little way we commemorated VE Day with a drink on the house prior to a lady speaking to us on her experiences during 35 years as a Home Help, some down to earth and others very amusing.

Ten members were very fortunate in being able to attend the VE Day Commemorative Service at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 7th May at which we were very proud to be part of the congregation. Packed to capacity with the sermon being given by Lord Runcie.

There are other commemorative events later in the year at which we will be attending and parading our Standard.

STAFFORD. Since the last issue of the Lioness we are pleased to welcome two new members to our Branch bringing our total membership to 35.

We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month in our small room at The Royal British Legion. We have recently had a flower arranging demonstration given by one of our members and on other evenings have had quizzes, which are always popular, or Bingo is enjoyed now and again. With such limited accommodation it is difficult to invite outside speakers but we find that just getting together once a month and chatting about old times is enjoyable.

Our March meeting and AGM were cut short when we heard that one of our regular attenders, Mrs Pearl York, had been involved in an accident with a car on her way to the meeting and was at the hospital with a nasty head wound. Fortunately she made a good recovery and was able to join in the VE celebrations in London.



STAFFORD BRANCH - ANNIVERSARY LUNCH - 30 YEARS

Back Row:

**Joan Higgins : Dorry Newton : Olive Hardy : Linda Ball
Pearl York : Kath McCabe : Ann Deakin**

Seated: Rhoda Taylor : Vera Faulkner : Winnie Plant

On March 27th we held a Coffee Morning at the Secretary's home which was most successful in spite of the snow. Yes, snow!!

In April our Branch had been in existence for 30 years so we had a celebration lunch at the Lockhouse Restaurant by the canal at Great Haywood near Stafford. A coach party was also there and, chatting to two of them after the meal, we discovered they were members of Birmingham Branch.

May seems to have been a busy month starting with a Drumhead Service in Stafford on Sunday 9th May. Nine of us were on parade with the male Army veterans and the town was crowded with onlookers who clapped us all the way. Three of our Branch spent 3 or 4 days attending the events in London.

Then on the following Sunday, 14th May it was Mayor's Sunday which several of us attended.

In April the Chairman and Secretary attended the AGM in London and four of us are planning to attend the Wales and West Area Reunion hosted by Hereford Branch on 30th September. We are looking forward to this event.

STIRLING. The Stirling Branch of the Royal British Legion invited members of the Association to join them in a Commemorative Parade on 7th May 1995. The Parade formed up on Stirling Castle esplanade and marched to a service in the Church of the Holy Rude. After a march-past and wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial a civic reception was given by Stirling District Council at the Golden Lion Hotel.

The enclosed photograph shows some of the members of the branch waiting to take part in the Parade.



STIRLING BRANCH

On Monday 8th May 1995 a Service to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the End of the War in Europe was held in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal and Commander Timothy Laurence RN and was followed by a reception in Parliament Hall, Edinburgh.

The Secretary received an invitation to attend this Service and was privileged to join the 600 Ex-servicemen and a few Ex-Servicewomen. It was a most impressive event and the Princess Royal spent over two hours talking to a great many people.

On 5th May 1995 we were sorry to hear of the death of one of our founder members, Mrs Barbara McIntosh. Condolences were sent to her husband and family and the Branch was represented at her funeral together with representatives from the many charities and organisations with which she was involved.

ULSTER. Since our last report we have held our Annual Reunion Luncheon which was attended by 57 members.

Two members attended the VE Service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast and also a Civic Banquet in City Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor. The Duke of York was present at both events and also at a reception on VE Day held at Hillsborough Castle where another four of our members were present.

In May we had an outing by bus to Enniskillen and visited the Bellock Pottery. After our meal in a Dungannon Hotel the Branch Secretary, Mrs Alison Warnock (née Dixon) was presented with the Certificate of Appreciation by Miss Ethel Thompson, WRAC Association Council Member for Ulster.

Some members are hoping to attend a Garden Party for Veterans hosted by Secretary of State Sir Patrick and Lady Mahew and hopefully two members will attend the VJ Celebrations in London.



**MRS ALISON WARNOCK
RECEIVES HER CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM
Miss Ethel Thompson, Group Chairman**

WINCANTON. We held our Coffee Morning in March this year, and in spite of a cold, wet and windy day, and few visitors, did quite well, although the proceeds were down on last year.

We hired a Coach to go to Chelsea for the AGM and everyone enjoyed the day, and found the Museum most interesting.

At our May Meeting, three of us gave short talks on our war-time work. This proved popular, and we shall repeat it, with other members giving accounts of their life in the Services.

Our next outing will be to the Adjutant General's Corps Day, at Worthy Down, and we have already booked a Minibus for both the VJ Commemoration at Portsmouth, in August, and the South West Area Re-union at Taunton, in September.

None of us managed to get to London for the VE week-end event, but I went up the previous day, for another Re-union in Buckinghamshire, and was amazed at the sight of all the marquees in Hyde Park.

WIMBLEDON. Our membership remains at 96 and our average attendance has risen to 26 but it would be pleasing for this to continue to rise. We have 2 new members.

The account of our past six months activities begins with the Christmas party which was well supported with 29 members attending, including the Group Chairman, Captain Eileen Carter, MBE TD. Members always give generously on these occasions to make the festive board appetizing.

We do not meet in January but in February we had an excellent lecture given by Joan Everitt, one of our members who is a talented and experienced lecturer, on the history of English Cathedrals well documented by her slide collection.

In March the Secretary of the Branch, Bessie Wright, gave a graphic account of her tour in Israel last November illustrated with many colourful slides.

In April, a loyal and supportive group attended the 'Bring and Buy' which is an important meeting for fund raising. Frankie Fox stepped in to auction the remainder of goods at crazy prices. Also in April a small group of members attended the AGM at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. They were pleased to see Doris Lee awarded the Certificate of Appreciation by Brigadier Field. Doris joined the ATS in 1940 and was posted to the Welsh Guards at Sandown Park, Esher, where she served from 1941 to 1946. She became a life member of the Wimbledon Branch in 1968 and was its Secretary for 8 years. In 1973 she became a member of the Welsh Guards Association.

As Chairman I am delighted that no fewer than 12 of our members were invited to attend the VE Service of Reconciliation at St Paul's Cathedral on the 7th May. This is a signal honour for our Branch - a memorable experience.

In May, Ken Woodward, the amateur actor, theatre critic and member of the Theatre Trust, established by the late Harold Wilson when Prime Minister, amused us with his many anecdotes about theatrical life - a different kind of talk well received.

WOLVERHAMPTON. We were well represented at the VE Parade and Service on 7th May. Our members followed the Standards, so headed the Ex-service section of the Parade. (How did we manage that?) Two ladies were in wheelchairs, one a member of our Branch, and the other one an ex-WAAF, so we are sure we were noticed by the townspeople watching the Parade. We had three Bands, one being a local Pipes and Drums Band which was immediately in front of the Standards. They had a varied repertoire of tunes, but not all suitable for marching! Somehow the Standard Bearers managed to keep in step. Following the Service in St Peter's Church, and the March Past, we were invited to the Civic Centre for light refreshments. Being such a warm day we were all very thirsty.

BOOK REVIEWS

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ALEXINA – A WOMAN IN WARTIME YORK

(ISBN 0 9525392 0 9)

by Van C Wilson

'Alexina' is the story of one woman's war. Set mainly in York, it traces her life from the outbreak of war in 1939, through friendships, work, social life and the first painful losses to her war spent as a driver in the ATS.

Copies at £3.85 including postage are obtainable from the author at 42, Frances Street, Fulford Road, YORK YO1 4DP.

THE VIEW FROM THE COOKHOUSE DOOR

(ISBN 0905355 45 8)

by Sylvia Mundhal Harris

The author joined the ATS on the day that war was declared. This book tells the story of her struggles and tribulations as a private in the ATS before being commissioned and working in the Royal Army Educational Corps. Later she married and went to South Africa. The latter part of the book reveals how her early subordinate experience helped her to understand her servants' problems in a country divided by Apartheid.

Copies at £6.50 post free are obtainable from CAEDMON OF WHITBY, 128 Uppang Lane, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 3JJ.

HAD I THE HEAVENS (ISBN 0 86332 955 1)

by M M Burnie

The author is a teacher and this is her first novel. E L-S writes: "This book will be an interesting reminder

of what it was like to leave the security of home and community to embark on a hitherto completely unknown way of life for women with the exception of a few who had previously served with the Forces in the First World War. MM Burnie gives a graphic description of Polly Reeves experiences in the ATS; from her day of enlistment in November 1942, her training and service with Anti-Aircraft Command in the Defence of Great Britain from German bombing missions and later the V1s and V2s to her demobilisation in June 1946. Three and a half years in the ATS opened up a new world for Polly Reeves, memories which will remain with her forever and brought her a new kind of confidence and freedom.

"Had I the Heavens" will be of interest to any women who lived through this particular time in our history.

Copies at £14.95 are available from THE BOOK GUILD Ltd. Temple House, 25-26 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2LU.

THE HISTORY OF BRITISH MILITARY BANDS.

VOLUME 1 CAVALRY & CORPS

(ISBN 1 873376 01 4)

This is the first of three volumes which will be the definitive illustrated history of music in the British Army. Volume 1 covers the Cavalry and Corps together with The Parachute Regiment and Brigade of Gurkhas and includes the Women's Royal Army Corps. The accompanying compact disc includes the slow and quick march of every band included in the volume.

Copies at £60 are available from SPELLMOUNT PUBLISHING LTD, The Old Rectory, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 0AZ.

A unique ceremony took place in Wolverhampton on 15th May. After the fall of Holland the Dutch soldiers who escaped from the Nazis came to England and served with the Prinses Irene Brigade and were in camp at Wrottesley Park near Wolverhampton. They soon became well known in the town, and, in fact, quite a number married local girls, and some eventually settled in the area. Members of the Prinses Irene Brigade Association and their families have visited Wolverhampton on several occasions, now, due to their ages and loss of members they decided to hold their last Parade, and because of their close connections with Wolverhampton, chose to hold it here instead of in Holland. The local Ex-service Associations were asked to support two events. In the morning a Parade and Memorial Service was held around the War Graves in the town cemetery, and in the afternoon we gathered together again outside the Civic Centre, where we were inspected by our Mayor and the President of the Dutch Association.

Afterwards the Mayor took the Salute during a short March Past, and a Service and Wreath laying ceremony was held by our War Memorial. The Dutch Queen had to give

permission for a very special Dutch Flag to be taken out of Holland, and our Queen had to give permission for it to be carried in England. This was carried and escorted by a group of present day Dutch soldiers, and it was very interesting to watch the ceremonial way in which they handled this Flag. We felt it an honour to have been asked to join in which the last Parade of the Prinses Irene Brigade Association. We were all given a pair of tiny clogs as a memento.

Pat Ash, our Treasurer, and Nan Joesbury, a loyal Committee member have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries this year, and we extend our best wishes to them and their husbands.

Although we have over 50 members, there are many we do not see for various reasons. We would like to send them our very best wishes and assure them they are not forgotten. We appear to have lost touch with an ex-WRAC Life Member. Where are you now, Carol Richardson? The two Mary's would like to have news of you and Ken. We would also like to send greetings to Nell Shadford; we hope you are well, and still enjoying life in RBL Hasley House, Cromer. (See page 102)

AGC CORPS DAY 1995

The Corps Day of the Adjutant General's Corps was held at Worthy Down on Saturday 24th June 1995. It was the one day in the middle of the June Heat Wave when the sun did not shine and the weather was just what was needed. It was contrary to the weather forecasts and caught those attending without that extra layer of clothing which would have made all the difference between comfort and scurrying between wind breaks. As Worthy Down had once been an air station it is by nature fairly flat and exposed. In consequence the wind was at its most efficient. However it did not rain and the temperature out of the wind was pleasant.

The theme for 1995 was to be a family day with an emphasis on the country fayre style of events. There were ferrets on display, an Arts & Crafts exhibition and sale, geese herding, second hand book sales, archery (not Archer Addiction), coconut shies and all the fun of the fair. On the military side the Royal Military Police laid on an extensive exhibition of their work, the infantry displayed their wares and the local Army Training Regiment gave examples of its syllabus. In the arena a military skills competition, on the theme of a race against the clock and other teams, was held. A junior six a side football competition was completed and the Free Fall Parachutists dropped in.

The day started at noon with a Drumhead Service in the Main Arena. The Colours of the Duke of York's School at Dover were marched on and piled on the drums. The Standards of the antecedent Corps Associations were also paraded. In fact two standards from the WRAC Association were on parade. The standard of the Birmingham Branch carried by Mrs H Thomas and the standard of the Isle of Wight Branch carried by Mrs J Trowbridge were displayed.

After the Service lunch was served in Association tents. The WRAC Association at 250 members was by far the largest contingent. With great bravery and considerable organisational skill Lieutenant Colonel Di Davies and Lieutenant Colonel Sue Westlake, both on the staff at Worthy Down, had arranged a sumptuous lunch of salad, sandwiches, strawberries 'n Cream plus coffee or tea for the 250 members at the unbelievable price of £2. A bar had also been provided which was well patronised.

After lunch was the opportunity to visit the side shows and watch events in the Arena or saunter to see the progress of the Princess Royal's Memorial Rose Garden, relocated to Worthy Down and dedicated by Her Majesty The Queen in 1993.

Tea was served in the Adjutant General's Corps tent to allow a coming together of the serving members of the Corps and those retired members of the antecedent corps. It was a pleasant tea served with remarkable rapidity and



AGC CORPS DAY 95

Mrs Thomas and Mrs Trowbridge with Association Standards

enjoyed by all. The day was rounded off with Beating Retreat by the Adjutant General's Corps Band which had 16 female musicians on parade and an enterprising mixture of traditional tunes and novelty items.

Corps Day 1996 is to be on Saturday 15th June 1996 and it is hoped to exceed the 250 members who attended this year. Please note the date in your diaries. Details and an application form will be in the No1/96 Lioness.

REUNIONS

GRAND REUNION

The Grand Reunion in 1997 is to be held in Blackpool on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th April 1997. Events will be based on the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. There is to be a Church Service and March Past on Sunday 20th April.

NOTE THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES
AND START SAVING NOW!

ATS BRITISH TROOPS BERLIN 1948 49 REUNION

A reunion for those who served in Berlin during the Blockade is to be held at Lytham St Annes on 8th and 9th September 1995. Details:-

Mrs Jean Eastham (Née Hart)
11 North Houses Lane
LYTHAM ST ANNES
LANCASHIRE FY8 4NT
Tel: 01253 722081

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II CANADA WIDE

Friday 29th September 1995 at 201 Niagara Street, Toronto, ONTARIO M5V 1C9. TELEPHONE (416) 781 2872

ENIGMA REUNION 15 to 18 September 1995

Third, and possibly the last, reunion for those who worked for the 'Y' service is to be held at the Moathouse and Swan Hotels in Bedford with outings to The Park during the weekend 15 to 18 September 1995. Details from:

SAGA on Freephone 0800 300 666

LONDON GROUP REUNION SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 1995

The London Group Reunion is to be held at the EX Services Club, Aylesbury on Saturday 2 September 1995. An interesting and enjoyable day is planned. Details from:

Mrs Eileen Carter (0181 864 7378 Evenings)
Mrs Alma Stride (01296 630590)
Madge Evans (01582 606470)

HEAVY ACK ACK REUNION

B Troop 504 (Mixed) Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery of 144 Regiment, Northern Command are trying to arrange a reunion. Write to either;

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Mrs Edna Goble
Little Condray Farm
THURSLEY
NR GODALMING
SURREY GU28 6ZQ

Mrs NH Garnham
32 Keswick Gardens
Ruislip
MIDDLESEX
HA4 7XN

WRAC STAFF BAND REUNION

On Saturday 30th March 1996 from 11.00 am to 15.00 pm at The Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London. Lunch will be available. Potential attendees please send name, address and phone number to:

Miss Lynette Hopkins
Flat 2
Culworth House
West Road
GUILDFORD

WRAC ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND AGM AND REUNION 14 OCTOBER 1995

The Aberdeen branch are hosting Scotland's 1995 AGM and Reunion at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen on Saturday 14 October 1995 at 12.30pm.

Following a three course lunch, members will be brought up to date on 'Women in the Army today' followed by the AGM and raffle. A cup of tea will be served before the members depart.

Tickets costing £9 may be obtained from any Scottish Branch Secretary or direct from the Group Secretary:-

Captain (Retd) PM Stevenson
ACIO Glasgow
Charlotte House
78 Queen Street
GLASGOW G1 3DN
Tel 0141 221 9955 Ext 25

ATS DINNER CLUB SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER 1995

The annual luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club is to be held at the Thistle Mount Royal Hotel, Bryanston Street, London on Saturday 7th October 1995. The hotel is a 10 minute walk from the Victory Service Club.

The cost will be £18.50 including wine. Details from:-

Mrs Fellowes
20 Mount Nod Way
COVENTRY CV5 7GY

Let SAGA organise your next reunion

Our specialist Reunion Service has successfully reunited thousands of ex-servicemen and women. Leave the arrangement of your reunion to us, and you'll have a professionally organised occasion to savour and remember. You can enjoy recapturing the spirit of past glories with your comrades, knowing that every last detail has been taken care of. Whether you wish your reunion to take place in the UK, at an overseas location of strategic importance, or in an area significant to your group's past history, we will accommodate your requirements.

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- Single rooms in the UK at no extra cost
- Free visits to hotels to evaluate suitability
- Private rooms for AGMs, banquets, film shows etc included in the discounted rates
- All administration and accounting carried out on your behalf
- Optional reduced rail and coach travel from anywhere in the UK
- Leaflets promoting your reunion, plus a free mailing to all your members

To obtain further information, please contact:

Jane Saunders, Groups Department
Saga Holidays Ltd
FREEPOST, Folkestone, Kent
CT20 1BR
or telephone FREE 0800 300 666.
Please quote QBS95



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*ATS Dinner Club
Kathleen Johnson, Jean Ogden, Gweneth Stock*



*Same Group 1942
Jean Ogden, Kathleen Mitchell, Gweneth Quick*

CORRESPONDENCE

SUCCESSES AND FAILURES

Miss Doris Lee of 5A Burbank, 71 Dukes Avenue, New Maldon, Surrey, has sent me a letter in response to the publication of the photograph (page 66 of *Lioness* No 1/95) of the St David's Day Parade in 1943. Doris Goss of 29 Servite House, 89 Suffolk Road, London, N15 5RN was able to supply some of the missing names and they have been able to swap memories.

Mr Arnold Wasp who put in a long shot (page 70 of *Lioness* No 1/95) to find "Olive" was successful and they have been in correspondence.

Not so successful was my effort to put photos with articles. The picture on page 20 of *Lioness* No 1/95 which I attributed as Posties was in fact members of H Company at Hyderabad Barracks in Colchester and should have been on page 65 and of course vice versa.

Many of you wrote to identify the others in the photograph of the late Major Greta Baylis (page 62 of *Lioness* No 1/95). Mrs Diane Egerton (née Winter) of 2 Stoney Cottage Common Lane, Alciston, Polegate, Sussex BN26 6SU remembered Captain Baylis in 4 Squadron of 10 Signal Regiment at Wilton, near Salisbury. Mrs S Archer (née Derham) identified the WO1 as Lois Taylor. Mrs Archer who lives at 3 Kinsale Road, Plymouth PL5 2QX sent this photo of herself and WO1 (then Sergeant) Lois Taylor in April 1955 at Craigiehall, Edinburgh.



Mrs Archer (née Derham) and Sgt Taylor. 1955

Mrs Ruby Virtue returned from holiday in Spain to find her mini re-union on page 71 of *Lioness* No 1/95 described as 554 Battery when it should have been 555 Mixed Battery. The error is mine and Ruby is not going senile in case her friends were worried!

Mrs Edna Christie-Smith (née Lewis) tells me that her message on page 69 of *Lioness* No 1/95 brought her in touch with a comrade of 50 years ago in Maidstone. She tells me that she still has her ATS uniform and is in much demand at VE/VJ Day concerts.

Mary Clements (née Fox) corrects me on the caption which I put to her picture on page 62 of *Lioness* No 1/95. She was in Brighton on draft for Germany in 1951 NOT 1949. Mary lives at 15 Orchard Avenue, Stanley, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF3 4PB. On the plus side the item did result in a reply from her former CSM.

The Canterbury Branch contingent which attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party consisted of Miss Mary Richardson and Mrs Roxana Stinson who tell me that they had a wonderful time.

Mrs Rae Zurovcik (Wessel) (née Brewer) who wrote an article for *Lioness* No 1/94 (page 15) tells me that she did find one friend from her Chilwell days. She is still keen to find more especially her bridesmaid Eileen Lynch from Liverpool. Rae's address is 1704 Romine Avenue, McKeesport, Pennsylvania 15133 USA. She visited her Chilwell comrade Audrey Taylor in May this year.

Helen Wilson (née McHardy) of Meallmore Cottage, Daviot, Inverness IV1 2XQ berates me for demoting her in the article on page 18 of *Lioness* No 1/95. She was a Sergeant with 525 Battery of 155 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment and I am happy to make the correction.

Mrs J Peggie Dudgeon (née Ricardi) of 607 Live Oak Drive, Garden City, South Carolina, 29576 USA made a contact after her item and photo in the last *Lioness*. Readers will recall that she was seeking an ATS uniform. She tells me that a mail order catalogue received by her husband offered "a small assortment of ATS miscellaneous items". The mind boggles!

Phyllis Beardsmore was in 1 Section of 495 Battery of 143 Regiment and not in 496 Battery as stated on page 75 of *Lioness* No 1/95.

Miss Irene Beal, the Scarborough Branch Secretary has written to Mrs Alma Stride the Aylesbury Secretary following the picture on page 61 of *Lioness* No 1/95 and is arranging a re-union in Scarborough (I am glad about this as I was worried that the text said Skegness while the picture caption said Scarborough! Ed).



BLACON CAMP, CHESTER. 1944

Mrs H Withenshaw takes me to task for describing her husband in the Golden Wedding column as Royal Artillery whereas he was Fleet Air Arm. I apologise for the error and am happy to make amends. Mrs Withenshaw (née Dutton) sent the photo taken at Blacon Camp, Chester in 1944. She is at the bottom right kneeling and she remembers Jessie with the camp cat behind her and the names of Connie Seabrook and Doris?

Mrs Doris Rutherford (née Storey) is at bottom right corner of this photograph taken at No 2 Holding Unit, Hadrians Camp, Carlisle. Anyone who remembers her is asked to contact her daughter Mrs Y J Nunn at 8 Burdale Avenue, Slatyford, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE5 2NU.

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*No 2 HOLDING UNIT, HADRIANS CAMP, CARLISLE
Mrs Rutherford (née Storey)
is at right of front row*

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

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

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

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

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PLEASE GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE



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Donations and information: The Chairman, National Appeal Committee,
BLESMA, Midland Bank PLC, 60 West Smithfield, London EC2A 9DX

BLESMA
BRITISH LIMBLESS
EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION



THE FIRST STEP
by a recent, young double amputee

FOR RENT

The Women's Section of the Royal British Legion owns two flatlet houses that are available for rent to ex-Service women. **PDF Compressor Free Version**

Bronwen House in Southport appears to have no difficulty in maintaining full occupancy but Castle of Mey House at Haslemere in Surrey has a growing list of flatlets which need to be filled.

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

If this sounds of interest to you, or to someone you know, please write or telephone to the National Secretary, The RBL Women's Section, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY, Tel: 0171 973 0633.



*Leslie and Joan on 5 October 1944.
Do you know them?*

Mrs Irene Hardman (née Trantor) of 33 Croston Drive, Rufford, Lancashire L40 1ST sent in this picture of another's wedding. It is the marriage of Joan and Leslie on 5 October 1944. Joan and Irene were stationed at Purfleet Wharf. Can anyone help them get in touch?

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

Mr H O Pendlebury of 2 Prescott Road, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 3UB has a long shot request. He and a Mr Furnival were stationed at Compton Verney, nr Wellesbourne, Warwickshire and used to go dancing at Leamington Spa and met Hazel who came from Wednesbury or Hednesford in Stafford. Any clues to Mr Pendlebury please.

Mrs Dot Harding of "Twos Four", Brookhill Road, Cophorne, West Sussex RH10 3PJ tells me that as Musician Dot Atkinson she was a cornet player, a french horn player and a euphonium player. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her and who might have a band photograph of her with her euphonium.

Mr Kenneth Wintle of 2 Bedford Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B71 2RS (Tel: 021 566 8277) is running a private "service pals" linking scheme and would like to trace Nancy and Ivy Hinshaw from Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Maureen Payne (née Thurlow) thought to live in Sale.

Evelyn McGeachy of Toulbreck End, Bull Park Lane, Hambleton, Poulton-Le-Fylde FY6 9DD who was in the WRAC 1956-1959 is trying to locate Joan Wilson who was her bridesmaid. She came from Peterborough and they were in Hong Kong together travelling home on the NEVASSA troopship in 1958.

Mrs Sheila Panton (née Hull) of "Wood-be Green", 8 Oxford Terrace, Harrogate HG1 1HT (Tel: [01423] 507154) would like to contact drivers who were with the ATS Special Platoon in London November 1941 to November 1942 and 640/641 Mixed Transport Company RASC in Edinburgh 1942-43 and later at Ayr.



**GRAVE OF
Private Barbara Atkinson
IN SINGAPORE**

Does anyone know the circumstances of the death of Private Barbara Atkinson WRAC on 27 May 1950 in Singapore. Any information to Mrs H Thomas, 325 Stonehouse Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 3AD.



PIRBRIGHT CAMP 1945

Peggy Riddall (now Wiggett) : Maureen Boast : Sheila Weller (now Tooley)

Mrs S E Tooley (née Weller) of 26 Holland Park, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6LR has sent in a "then" and "now" photo of herself and Peggy Wiggett (née Riddall).



CLACTON-ON-SEA 1995

Sheila Tooley (née Weller) : Peggy Wiggett (née Riddall)

Mrs Dorothy Elizabeth Beastall (née Parker) of 75 Park House Road, Lower Pilsley, nr Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 8DG who was an ATS medical orderly in London during the war at Lennox Gardens, Sloane Square, Queen's Gardens, and Woolwich remembers the relief when VE Day arrived.



LENNOX GARDENS CRS

LCpl Parker (now Beastall) : Elsa and Olive



**PRIZEGIVING
WHERE AND WHEN?**

Do you remember this prize giving ceremony (possibly Guildford) ? If so telephone 01723 378485 to discuss a possible re-union in Scarborough.



Mrs Kenny (née Harvey)

Mrs Monica Kenny (née Peggy Harvey) of 84 Reeve Road West, Buttershaw, Bradford BD6 3LU (Tel: [01274] 603822) sent this photo of herself in an acquired uniform worn when she and Norah Kendall and Nora Houldsworth talked to local school children on their part in Hitler's downfall. She confesses that the suit is slightly larger than her original.

Muriel Canning (née Stephens) is trying to trace anyone in the ATS who was working at the Ministry of Information in Warwickshire House, Gower Street as part of SHAEF (Rear) Headquarters. Her address is 3 Greenway Avenue, Rumney, Cardiff CF3 8HQ (Tel: [01222] 796780).



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DRIVERS AT EXPERIMENTAL RANGE

*Dot ? : Molly Randle : Mary Hughes : Winnie Lock
Lilian Burdett : Queenie Mallet : Frankie Page : Vera Townsend*

Miss Q E Mallett of 26 Half Year Close, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk NR 27 9PT sent this photograph of her group who were drivers on an experimental gunnery range (probably Canvey Island). She says that their uniform of navy blue skirt or slacks, navy and red hats and white blouse were often mistaken for the fire service.

Mrs Eve Peters whose address is PO Box 54, Lake Erroch, Vornino, British Columbia, Canada has issued a cry for help. Her entire reel of 36 photographs taken during the VE Day events have failed to develop. If you have any spares or could lend her your negatives she would be most grateful.

Mrs Jean Robins MBE (née Mackay) of Hillview, Snowhill, Dinton, Salisbury SP3 5HN (Tel: [01722] 716335) would like to make contact with anyone that served with her in teleprinter operations at Fort Bridgewoods, Nr Rochester, Hounslow, Cheltenham, Stathpeffer, Holloway OCTU or Taunton.



Sergeant Jean Mackay (now Robins). 1941

Staff College - Bagshot Park - H E L P ! !

During my service in the ATS I was stationed at Bagshot Park in 1945. I was on the administrative staff and issued with a circular brass badge looking rather like the old penny.

It had a milled edge and fastened like a brooch with a long pin on the back. On the front was a raised owl (denoting education) and round the owl was the inscription "STAFF COLLEGE". Until recently it was a much treasured memento of happy days of service with the ATS. Sadly this badge was stolen during a robbery and though many enquiries have been made to obtain another they have not been successful. If anyone reading this has this badge and would lend it to me for a short period a copy could be made. Alternatively I would be willing to purchase one. Any expense will be reimbursed. Please contact G Shadrack (Tel: 01245 251088) and THANK YOU.



CENOTAPH CALAIS

*Mrs Olwen Teruna
(née Curtis)*

*Mrs Irish Boyter
(née Addinall)*

Mrs Iris Boyter visited the UK in 1994 for the Frontline Britain commemorations. She wanted to thank all those involved in these events and the ATS Dinner Club where she met old comrades. She also attended events at the Cenotaph in Calais.

Joan Awbery, 66 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3EF is seeking information on two subjects:

1. Was anyone stationed in Fulford Barracks, Leeds, in November 1945 with D Company, York Garrison Group ATS?
2. On the Brookwood Memorial to the Missing Land Forces are the names of 31 ATS girls who have no known grave. Seventeen of them were killed in an air crash over the Mediterranean on 4 October 1945. The war-time fiancé of one of these girls, May Mann, (of 602 Company, 1st Mediterranean Group, ATS attached to the Supplies and Transport Directorate in Maison Carre, near Algiers) is anxious to trace any relatives of May and would be very grateful for information. He knew May's brother Bill for a long time, but has lost touch. The family had lived in Woodford, London E18. Please can anyone help? (See article on page 99).

All replies will be acknowledged.



2nd CITY OF LONDON COMPANY
Cpl Cole is fourth from left in front row

Mrs J Collins (née Cole) of 6 Wincroft Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 7HH would like to hear from anyone in this photo of the 2nd City of London Company at the Suncliffe Hotel in Bournemouth.

Mr William Edward Lincoln MBE of 10 Derwent Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands WV6 9ES (Tel [01902] 759126) wishes to contact both LCpl Jill Gambiar Parry and LCpl Robbie Russell.

The Greta Baylis query in Lioness No 1/95 (page 62) has produced this photograph of the Signals Operators of 19 Army Group Signals Regiment at Rheindahlen in 1956. WO1 Greta Baylis is on the COs left and Captain Pat Ruston WRAC on his right.



19 ARMY GROUP SIGNAL REGIMENT. 1956

Miss Evelyn Norton of 15 Pendlebury Drive, Mickleover, Derby DE3 5SS served in the WRAC from December 1952 to December 1955 in the Middle East at Ladysmith Camp, Fayid in Egypt and on the Permanent Staff at Guildford, she would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. She has qualified for her bus pass.



Private Evelyn Norton in 1953

Mr Duncan Brown of 10 Northfield Square, Gloucester GL4 9UB (Tel: [01452] 387565) wrote to the Royal Signals magazine in an effort to trace Sergeant Barbara Jordan who was serving with 2 Company ATS Signals Main HQ of 21st Army Group in 1945. Can anyone help Mr Brown?



39 SQUAD DOUGLAS ISLE OF MAN 1943

Miss Kathleen Tucker of 75 Lowden, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 2BS sent in the jolly looking group of Squad 39 at Douglas on the Isle of Man in 1943. The training was for 'Y' Section radio operators.

Mrs Nancy Hayward (née Vincent) of "Sorrento", Coads Green, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 7LY was on convoy duty on VE Day but sent this photo on a subsequent day off in the hills at Church Stretton in Shropshire with red, white and blue ribbons in their hair.



CONVOY DRIVERS RELAXING



QMAAC IN PARIS. 1919

Mrs Nora Budd (née Cann) of Little Croft Elderly Peoples Home, 44 Barry Road, Oldham Common, Bristol BS15 6QY has gone back to 1919 with this historic picture of the QMAAC in Paris.

Mrs Greta Wells (née Docker) of 25 Princes Close, Eton Wick, Nr Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6LZ (Tel: [01753] 869208) would like to hear from anyone who remembers Pay Corporal Docker. Names which come to mind are Nicky Hearn, Ella Adams, Elsie Furness and Jean McCready.

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WEDDING OF
Dorothy Fanthorpe to Sergeant Durrant, 1918

Mrs Doris Strickson (née Fanthorpe) of 51 Marine Avenue, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire LN12 2ND. (Tel [01507] 442630) has sent in some interesting photographs. One is of a group at the wedding of her aunt, Dorothy Durrant (née Fanthorpe) in 1918 at Morninghill Camp, Winchester.

The other is of Mrs Strickson when Private Fanthorpe at the Tees 'J' Gunsite at Greatham, near Hartlepool, Co Durham in 1942.



502 (Mixed) HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY
Private Doris Fanthorpe

Mrs Shirley Rose (née Fortag) of 227 2229 Maple Street, Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada V6S 3TS sent this not very warlike picture of herself and Norah Worley in Egypt, and as a new Life member wonders if anyone else remembers her.



EGYPT
Shirley Fortag (now Rose) with Norah Worley on right

Mrs J R Troake (née Sparks) was a driver with the CRS at Gorleston-on-Sea in Norfolk in 1945 and sent in this photo of Captain Ann Jordan RAMC and her team. Mrs Troake would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. She now lives at 19 Orchard Close, Lower Westford, Willington, Somerset TA21 0DR (Tel: [01823] 664016).



CRS GORLESTON-ON-SEA - JUNE 1945
Cpl Sparke (now Troake) is 3rd from left in rear rank

Just up the coast but 50 years later the members of the Great Yarmouth members of the Norfolk and Suffolk branch laid wreaths at the site of the memorial plaque to the ATS killed in 1943.



GREAT YARMOUTH MEMORIAL PLAQUE



HRH Princess Mary at Bodmin 1940
Miss Anne Smith is in middle of centre rank

Miss Anne L Smith of 4 St Pirans Close, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1SF sent this photo of Princess Mary, Princess Royal at Bodmin Barracks in 1940. Whether HRH commented on the hat style that she was inspecting is not recorded.



HEIGHTFINDERS
*Doreen MacIntyre : Mary McNabb : Mary Hopper
Lt Threpleton : Elizabeth Graham : Ruby Waters
Bette (Spike) Morgan (now Rose)*

Heightfinders ranged in size in this photo from Mrs E M Rose (née Morgan). They are with C Section 522 (Mixed) Battery at Ty Croes in 1942. Mrs Rose is now in Australia but would love to hear from anyone in 522. Her address is "Ty Coed", 9 Koonunga Avenue, Rostrevor Park, South Australia 5073.

524 Battery telephonists and spotters want to expand their group. Mrs Rosalie Martin (née Gardner) was telephoned by Gladys Johnson after a showing of Songs of Praise from Hull where they had both been stationed. These two are in contact with Rose Stakes but would like to hear from other 524 or 519 Battery members particularly Maxie Mill, Joan Middleton, June Boyd, Kath Hughes. Mrs R A Martin (née Gardner) lives at 11 Crabble Close, River, Dover, Kent CT17 OLK (Tel: [01304] 822474).

Mrs Alice Kemp (née Login) of "Keystones" 19 Fore Street, Moretonhampstead, Devon TQ13 8LL would like to contact anyone from 511 Battery of 151 (Mixed) Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment. She was on predictors at Manchester, Preston near Hull, and Ty Croes. Mrs Kemp is the taller Corporal in the picture.



Corporal Alice Login (now Kemp) 1942

Mrs I (Paddy) Bromley (née Blackstock) of 8 Essex Street, North Road West, Plymouth, Devon PL1 5HB served with 525 Battery in Schoten, Antwerp and would love to hear from others who served there. She sent a photo but it is too poor quality to print. It shows Peggy Cullen, Sergeant McMahon, Margaret Muldowney, Ivy Shorland and Margaret McKenzie in echelon with Paddy Blackstock so if you were there please get in touch.

SILVER PLATED ATS BADGES

Association HQ now holds a stock of the silver plated replicas of the ATS badge which was issued to volunteers in 1938-39 before uniforms were available. The cost is £2.75 each including packing and postage.

Branches may order in bulk and a 5% discount is allowed for orders over 10 badges.

(The stock of those badges offered by London Branch in the last Lioness has been exhausted)



490 MIXED BATTERY
LCpl Kellan (now Radford) is second from right in front row

Mrs Any G Jago (née Hogg) of 21 Temple Green, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 0HH congratulates Sylvia Crook (so do we all) on her Battery Linking Project through which Mrs Jago has met some old battery friends. In the hope of meeting more she has sent this picture of the CSM and Section Sergeants of 462 Battery of 133 Regiment stationed mainly around Bristol with its HQ in WD & HO Wills country manor.



462 BATTERY OF 133 MIXED REGIMENT
*Standing L to R: Section Sergeants Phyllis Cousins : Bobby Hughes : Una Yearle and Amy Hogg (now Jago)
 Seated: CSM Clarice Nott*

Mrs D Vicky Radford (née Kellan) has sent this group photograph of B Section of 490 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery in 1944 while stationed at Kinnegar Camp opposite Hollywood Barracks near Belfast. Mrs Iris Boyter (née Addinall) who features in an earlier item will recognise herself in the third row from the front.

The article on Service Life by Phyllis Harvey (née Birch) on page 23 of Lioness No 1/95 revived memories for Mrs Marjorie Jones (née Davidge) who served with a Rene Ogden with 434 Searchlight Battery. She remembers being at Hoo, near Rochester during a doodlebug raid when they shared a steel helmet! Mrs Jones' address is 91 Somerset Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4NW.

Mrs L B Johnson of 3 Thomas House, Mount Pleasant, Brighton, Sussex BN2 2JT (Tel: Brighton 689926) would like to hear of or from Mary Patterson of Ayr as they served together in 645 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery at Thryberg, Yorkshire in 1943. Mrs Johnson was then Corporal L B Robins and she left the battery when her daughter was due. Her husband was killed on Atlantic convoys if these facts help jog any memories.

Miss Norah B Fallon of 17 Bakers Almshouses, Lea Bridge Road, London E10 7EF (Tel: 0181 558 7384) sent an interesting picture of a "Salute the Soldier" parade in Belfast in 1944. What is interesting is that unlike most Gunners Corner items this is not of Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment but Coastal Artillery namely 525 Coast Regiment.



SALUTE THE SOLDIER PARADE - BELFAST 1944
Private Fallon is fifth from right in centre file



463 (M) HAA BTY - PORTISHEAD

Mrs Monica Walton of 9 Leighton Court, Leighton Road, Dover CT16 2JZ was at Portishead, nr Bristol on VE Day with 463 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery and sent this photo of the occasion.



525 SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY

Pte Brown (now Gray) is second from left in centre row

Mrs Irene Gray (née Brown) of 9 Vernon Walk, Northampton NN1 5ST sent in this picture of members of 525 Searchlight Battery stationed at Buckland, near Farringdon in Berkshire.

She also served with 82 Searchlight Battery at Raveningham, Norfolk.

A ready for action group is of 504 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery. Mrs Nina Garnham (P&H) has sent a history of the Battery from its formation at Blandford in Dorset in 1941 to its disbandment at Westerhope, Newcastle in 1945. The Battery are having a re-union and any ex-504 members should contact Mrs Edna Goble, Little Condray Farm, Highfield Lane, Thursley, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6ZQ. Mrs Garnham lives at 32 Keswick Gardens, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7XN.



504 MIXED HAA BATTERY



631 BATTERY

Mrs R W C Leach of 23 Sunbeam Drive, Great Wyrley, nr Walsall W56 6LX sent this difficult to decipher picture of 631 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery at Grove Park in South London during the V1 and V2 raids.

Belle Coates (now Mrs Stark) writes from Australia and sends good wishes to Win Richardson all members of 510 Battery of 151 Regiment. She had enjoyed her visit to the UK in 1994 for the Grand Re-union, a visit to Normandy and the Ack-Ack re-union in York.

Mrs Enid Gooch (née Lines) of 89 Summerwood Estate, Great Massingham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2HS is seeking comrades from 487 (Mixed) Battery stationed at Whetstone, North London. Names which come to mind are Audrey Salt and Irene Hallis.

Another success story for Sylvia Crooks, Battery Linking Project is Mrs Nora Williams (née Forster) of 21 Grampian Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH2 3AY. She was with 517 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery and other members are in touch. In the hope of increasing their number she has sent this group photograph. (See page 144).



**517 MIXED HAA BATTERY
AT BARTON ON HUMBER. 1944**

The article by Joan Ahrens on page 26 of Lioness No 1/95 has brought a response from Mrs Mary Green (née Clark) of Edgeways, 1A Chresmans Place, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4PL. She was a cook with the 2nd AA (Mixed) Signal Regiment who joined 96 (Mixed) Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment at Carter Barracks. They too had moved from Waller Barracks in Devizes. Mrs Green married an ACC Sergeant who after demobilisation worked in the Royal Hospital Chelsea for 24 years. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her.

If Anne Shae from Warrington, Lancashire stationed at Chigwell, Essex in April/May 1944 reads this she is asked to contact Gil (Gordon White) at Melsbrock, 26 Roath Street, Cardiff CF2 3EA.

Mrs Norah McKenzie (née Flynn - LCpl) sent this photo of 485/602 Battery taken at Kampenhout - Belgium in 1945. Norah is kneeling left end/bottom row.

Sgt George is centre/bottom row.

Evelyn Molyneux 3rd from right/top row.

Norah's address in Australia for anyone interested - c/o Mrs Sue Crook - Battery Linking, 14 The Larches, Woking GU21 4RE



485/602 BATTERY AT KAMPENHOUT

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

BEAT-TYSON On 21 September 1945 at St Mary's Church Cockerton, Darlington, Co Durham, John Beat 8th Army to Connie Tyson, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 93 Trafalgar Road, Scarborough, Yorkshire YO1 2JN



The Beats wedding group



The Beats today

BULLEN-TWIGG On 23 August 1945, Sergeant William Bullen, Royal Army Medical Corps to Private Lois Twigg, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 13 Holden Lane, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6HZ

CHALCROFT-LAMB On 8 October 1945 at St George's Garrison Church, Moascar, Ismalia, Egypt, Ronald Chalcroft, Royal Military Police to Dulcie Lamb, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 76 Wellington Way, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 9BX



Wedding in Egypt

FLINN-MOSELEY On 2 September 1944 at parish church of St Nicholas, Arundel, Sussex, Colour Sergeant C Flinn, Royal Marines to Corporal Josephine Moseley, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 4 Walders Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3PE



The Flinns with family

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CULLEY-DALY On 24 May 1945 at the Church of Scotland, Glengarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland Corporal James Culley, United States Army Air Force to Private Grace Daly, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address; 6 Library Lane, Gales Ferry, Connecticut 06335 USA



The Flinns going away 1944

HARPER-HUNTER On 22 December 1944 Corporal Harper to Private Florence Hunter, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 104 Great Knightleys, Basildon, Essex SS15 5AW



GI and Bride



Harpers Wedding Day



The Harpers relaxing 50 years on



*Cupid meets Mercury. 7 July 1945
The Hills*



*The Hills Golden Wedding
(ATS and Royal Signals badges on the cake)*

HAWLEY-KENNEDY On 21 July 1945 at the Church of Notre Dame de Sablon, Bruxelles Private Arthur Hawley, Royal Pioneer Corps to Corporal Mary Kennedy, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 17 Robert Saunders Court, Unwin Close, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PV.

HAZELL-MOUNT On 4 August 1945 Ronald Hazell to Joan Mount, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 34 James Road, Toukley 2263, New South Wales, Australia (Her bridesmaid was Ellen Fisher and Mrs Hazell would like to hear from anyone at Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield 1941-42 or Brompton Barracks, Gillingham 1942-45)

HILL-DUROSE On 7 July 1945 at the Parish Church of All Saints, Oystermouth, Swansea Lieutenant Wilfred Hill, Royal Signals to Junior Commander Doreen Durose, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: - Pippins Field, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devonshire EX15 3BS.

HOPE-JAMES On 24 November 1945 at St John's Evangelist Church, Miles Platting, Manchester Frank Hope Royal Army Ordnance Corps to Blanche James, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 31 Weaver Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5NP.

HOWARTH-SEMKEN On 17 March 1945 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead, London E11 Driver John Howarth Royal Army service Corps to Corporal Gladys Semken, Auxiliary Territorial Service.



The Howarths "then"



The Howarths "now"

HUTCHINGS-MORDEY On 28 April 1945 Private Hutchings Royal Army Ordnance Corps to Private Lottie Holden Mordey, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 60 Bolden Avenue, West Bolden, Tyne & Wear NE36 0TF

JONES-O'KANE On 21 August 1945 at the Roman Catholic Church, Bad Salzuflen, Germany David (Taff) Jones, Royal Signals to Dorothy (Pat) O'Kane, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 15 Brynteg Avenue, Pyle, Mid Glamorgan CF33 6BD



The Jones at Bad Salzuflen

LEAN-SHEPHERD On 10 November 1945 at St Aiden's Church, Sheffield, Trooper Kenneth Lean, Reconnaissance Corps to Dorothy Shepherd, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 26 St Leonard's Court, Longley, Sheffield S5 7SR



The Happy Leans

LEYLAND-MCGUIGAN On 3 March 1945 at Wigan Parish Church Leading Aircraftman Fred Leyland, Royal Air Force to Private Kathleen McGuigan, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 26 Junction Road, Bolton, Lancashire BL3 4LT



The Leylands Wedding



The Jones today



Leylands and family celebrate Golden Wedding

McGAVIN-BOARDMAN On 20 January 1945 at St Nicholas Church, Ingrave, Brentwood, Essex, Musician Andrew McGavin, Grenadier Guards to Sergeant Daphne Boardman, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 82 Bull Lane, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8LY

PDF Compressor Free Version



The McGavins' Wedding

MELZER-BOARDMAN On 4 July 1945 at St Saviour's Church, Wesclyff on Sea, Essex, Corporal Richard Melzer, Royal Signals to Private Jeanne Boardman, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 79 Dundonald Drive, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 1NA

O'BYRNE-WALLER On 8 September 1945 at St Ignatius Church, North London. Pat O'Byrne, Desert Air Force to Rosa Waller, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 110 Hipswell Highway, Wyken, Coventry CV2 5FJ



Richard and Jeanne Melzer

PEARCE-DOUBLE On 7 February 1945 at Holy Trinity Church, Ipswich, Suffolk, Private George Pearce, Royal Pioneer Corps to Private Marjorie G Double, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 64 Denison Street, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1AX



Pearce-Double Wedding



Pearce-Double Celebration

PRIOR-EELES On 12 December 1946 at Belgrave Church, Torquay Lance Corporal Brian G Prior, Royal Berkshire Regiment to Sylvia D Eeles, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address : Reverend and Mrs Prior, 26 Lea Road, Wyke Regis, Dorset DT4 9HT

QUARRIE-HAND On 29 September 1945 at St Mark's Church, St Helens, Lancashire Regimental Sergeant Major Jack Quarrie, No 9 Commando to Company Sergeant Major Irene Hand, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 5 Thatchers Croft, Copmanthorpe, York YO2 3YD



Sergeant Majors Marry

RAFFELL-TUCK On 14 October 1944 at Holy Trinity Church, Norwich Corporal Reginald Raffell, Royal Air Force to Private Irene Tuck, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 8 Hillside Grove, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 9DA



Wedding day for the Raffells



Raffells at Gt Yarmouth in May 94

REDFERN-BOWEN On 25 August 1945 at St Paul's Church, Sheffield, Leslie Redfern, Royal Army Ordnance Corps to Mabel Bowen, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 48 Weaver Road, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5NP

SHEPPARD-SYMONDS On 10 February 1945 Flying Officer Bryan Sheppard to Kathleen Symonds, Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Presently living in Canada.

STANFORTH-EDMUNDSON On 10 March 1945 at West Parley Church, Dorset Private William Stanforth, King's Own Scottish Borderers (formerly Royal Artillery) to Private Hyacinth (Cynthia) Edmundson, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 3 Sandhill road, Begbroke, Kidlington, Oxfordshire OX5 1RS.

STOCK-QUICK On 6 March 1945 at St Andrew's Church, Deal, Kent, Philip Stock, Royal Signals to Gweneth Quick, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 2 Claremont Avenue, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes MK11 1HH



The Stocks at St Andrew's Church Deal on wedding day



The Stocks 50 years on

WALKER-OPENSHAW On 11 April 1945 at Uxbridge Registry Office Sergeant Fred Walker, Essex Regiment to Private Ivy Openshaw, Auxiliary Territorial Service. (I am told that a passing Polish airman was witness as their own witnesses were late! Ed)

WALKER-WINDSOR On 20 September 1944 Lance Bombardier Stanley Walker, Royal Artillery to Lance Corporal Elsie Windsor, Auxiliary Territorial Service.

WALTON-WOODHOUSE On 2 June 1945 at St Barnabas Church, Crewe, Corporal Harry Walton, Royal Army Ordnance Corps to Elsie Woodhouse, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 51 Carlisle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7NX

WILLIAMS-FORSTER On 16 April 1945 at Parish Church, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, Frederick Williams, Royal Navy to Lance Corporal Nora Forster, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 21 Grampian Avenue, Chester-le-Street DH2 3AY



Lance Corporal Nora Forster

WILLIAMS-CUTLAN On 11 August 1945 Sergeant Gethin Williams, Royal Artillery to Private Enid Gladys May Cutlan, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 6 Darren View, Crickhowell, Powys. NP8 1DS

WILSHAW-TYSON On 17 March 1945 at the Priory Church, Bridlington, Yorkshire, Gunner George Wilshaw, Royal Artillery to Corporal Betty Tyson, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 16 Priory Crescent, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 5SB



Wilshaws Wedding



The Yates on their wedding day



NO CAPTION NECESSARY

WILSON-EELES On 21 July 1945 at Belgrave Church, Torquay Captain Geoff Wilson, Royal Army Service Corps to Corporal Daphne E Eeles, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 59 Bure Lane, Friars Cliff, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4DL

YATES-KELLIE On 9 May 1945 at Wigan Parish Church, Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Yates, Royal Air Force to Private Sybil Kellie, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 24 Bradyll Road, Over Hulton, Bolton, Lancashire BL5 1DY.



The Yates Golden Wedding

EMERALD WEDDING

LANGRISH-CHARLES On 1 June 1940 at Epsom, Lieutenant Roger du Plessis Langrish, Royal Army Service Corps to Daphne Marguerite Charles, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present Address: 14 Nelson Court, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 1DP.

OBITUARY

AGNEW. Miss E Agnew of Whitehead, Co Antrim on 20 February 1995. ATS

BALL. Mrs Joan Barbara Ball (née Nigg) of Romford, Essex on 19 May 1995. ATS.

BARLOW. Mrs G Barlow (née Pickin), of Swansea on 15 February 1995. ATS.

BARROW. Mrs Jane Ann Barrow (née McCann) of Whitley Bay Northumberland on 8 January 1995.

BECKETT. Miss Margaret Beckett JP of Whitehaven, Cumbria in December 1994. ATS.

BELL. Miss Joan Ellen Bell of Whetstone, Leicester on 14 April 1995. WRAC TA.

BREHAUT. Captain G M Brehaut (née Pucknell) of Gower, Swansea on 18 April 1995. WRAC.

BULL. Mrs P I Bull (formerly Plodway née Stannage) of Hendon, Middlesex on 13 October 1994. ATS.

BURLEY. Mrs K R Burley (née Hampson) of Birmingham on 1 January 1995. ATS.

CHAPPELLE. Mrs Phyllis Chappelle (née Crawley) of Otterbourne, Winchester, Hampshire on 8 February 1995. ATS.

CHEVERILL. Miss C M Cheverill, MBE of Trowbridge, Wiltshire on 13 March 1995. ATS.

CLOVER. Miss I V Clover of Portsmouth on 3 May 1995. ATS/WRAC.

COLLINS. Mrs Lilian May Collins (née Stock) of Bournemouth on 17 February 1995. ATS.

COMBE. Mrs Martha Florence Combe (née Price) of Seaton, Devon on 7 April 1995. ATS.

COTTER. Mrs Audrey Margaret Cotter (née Dobson) of Godstone, Surrey on 1 July 1995. ATS/WRAC.

COX. Ms Audrey Cox of Derby on 29 January 1995. WRAC.

DACRE. Mrs Elizabeth Dacre MBE TD of Rottingdean, Sussex in February 1995. ATS.

de GARIS MARTIN. Lieutenant Colonel Cynthia de Garis Martin of Poole, Dorset on 21 July 1995. WRAC.

DAVIES. Colonel Lucy Myfanwy Davies CBE (née Anwyl-Passingham) of London on 2 August 1995. ATS & WRAC.

DICKSON. Miss Dorothy Dickson in The Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond on 23 May 1995. ATS.

DOW. Miss Janet Dow of Glasgow in May 1995. ATS.

DUNCAN. Mrs M B Duncan (née Sinclair) of Edinburgh in April 1995. ATS.

EMERY. Mrs Kathleen Emery (née Grice) of Walsall, Staffordshire in March 1995. ATS.

ESPELAND. Miss Margaret (Margot) Espeland of Cardiff on 26 May 1995. ATS. WRAC.

FLACK. Mrs L F Flack (née Smith) of Braunton, Devon on 17 June 1994. ATS.

FLETCHER. Mrs P Fletcher of Southport on 4 July 1995. ATS.

FRASER-TYTLER. Controller Christian Helen Fraser-Tytler TD (née Shairp) in July 1995. ATS.

GILLER. Mrs C Giller (née McKay) of Rayleigh, Essex in February 1995. ATS.

GODERRE. Mrs Peggy Goderre (née Marchant) of Ottawa, Canada on 22 January 1995. ATS.

GOODMAN. Mrs V Goodman (née Jemette) of Cardiff on 16 November 1994. ATS.

GOSLING. Miss Joyce Dorothy Gosling of Colchester, Essex on 16 January 1995. WRAC.

GREEN. Mrs Margaret Green (née Westing) of Maidstone, Kent on 27 January 1995. ATS.

GRAHAM. Mrs D H Graham (née Hurley) of Blackpool, Lancashire in November 1994. ATS.

HALL. Mrs M Hall (née Duncan) of Isle of Wight on 4 March 1995. QMAAC.

HARDESTY. Mrs Eileen Ethel Hardesty (née Eales) of Isle of Wight on 21 April 1995. ATS.

HARRIS. Mrs Margaret Harris (née Street) of Orpington on 6 June 1995. ATS.

HARRISON. Major (QM) E E Harrison MBE of Bournemouth on 24 July 1995. WRAC.

HILL. Mrs May Hill (née James) of Telford, Shropshire in May 1995. ATS.

HUBBLE. Mrs S Hubble (née Watson) of London on 10 January 1995. ATS.

JERAM. Mrs J F Jeram (née Cornwell) of Portsmouth in 1994. ATS.

KINNEAR. Mrs B Kinnear (née Doyle) of Omagh on 8 March 1995. ATS.

LEVY. Mrs Leah Levy (née Cohen) of Newport, Shropshire. ATS.

MACDONALD. Miss Helen Macdonald of Dundee.

MARLEY. Mrs Beryl Marley (née Woodcock) of Birmingham in February 1995. ATS.

MARSHALL. Mrs Celia D Marshall (née Mason) of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire on 15 February 1995. ATS.

MARSHALL. Mrs Joan Kathleen Marshall of Chelmsford, Essex in May 1995. ATS.

MARTIN. Miss Isabella (Ella) Martin of Perth in May 1995. ATS.

MAYNARD. Mrs Eileen Emily Maynard (née Ansell) of Birmingham on 17 April 1995. ATS.

McINTOSH. Mrs Barbara Gorrie McIntosh of Stirling on 5 May 1995. ATS.

MILLS. Mrs Florence May Mills (née Sheldon) of Doncaster on 3 December 1994. ATS.

MOCKLOW. Mrs Sheila Jeanette Mocklow (née Hall) of Norwich on 22 February 1995. ATS.

MONTAGU. Mrs R F Montagu of London on 5 May 1995. ATS.

MORGAN. Mrs Arabella Morgan (née North) of Bexhill-on-Sea on 22 January 1995. ATS.

MORGAN. Mrs Eveline (Lyn) Mary Morgan of Perth on 8 May 1995. ATS.

MORROW. Mrs Winifred Ellen Gibson Morrow (née Olsen) of Livingstone on 2 February 1995. ATS.

MYATT. Miss E M Myatt of Hastings on 23rd May 1995. ATS.

NEWTON. Miss D A Newton of Glasgow in November 1994.

NEWTON. Mrs Ursula Helen Newton (née Rank) of Leicestershire in May 1995. ATS.

PAPWORTH. Mrs Phyllis Mary Papworth (née Driver) at Doncaster in May 1995. ATS.

PHIPPS. Mrs Kathleen Doris Phipps (née King) of Birmingham on 4 July 1995. ATS.

POLLARD. Mrs Grace Pollard (née Gaul) of Middlesbrough on 9 June 1995. ATS.

PRANGLEY. Mrs Irene Prangley (née Moss) of Crewe on 30 March 1995. ATS.

PRIESTLEY. Miss A Priestley of Bromley on 22 January 1995. ATS.

REEVES. Miss W E Reeves of Sittingbourne, Kent on 2 August 1994. ATS.

RICHARDSON. Mrs E Richardson (née George) of Ilkeston, Derbyshire in May 1995. ATS.

ROBSON. Mrs J Robson (née Johnson) of Berwick in January 1995.

ROGERS. Mrs C Rogers of Omagh on 17 March 1995. ATS.

SANDERS. Mrs Gillian Ferriday Sanders (née Bentley) of Oakham, Leicestershire in February 1995. ATS.

SMITH. Miss K M Smith of Inverness on 26 March 1995. ATS.

SUDDS. Mrs Phyllis Mary Sudds of London in January 1995. ATS.

TAYLOR. Mrs H D Taylor (née Armiger) of Birmingham in December 1994. ATS.

TAYLOR. Mrs Victoria Taylor (née Prestage) of Wallasey, Wirral in June 1995. ATS.

TEULON. Miss Hazel Alice Lesley Teulon of London on 10 May 1995. ATS.

USHER. Mrs Daisy L Usher (née Jiggins) of Chelmsford, Essex on 7 June 1995. ATS.

VAUGHAN. Mrs Barbara Daphne Joan Vaughan (née Marshall) of Lymington, Hampshire on 5 March 1995. ATS.

WHEELER. Mrs E Wheeler (née Little) of Houghton-le-Spring, County Durham in January 1995.

WILLIAMS. Miss Joyce May Williams of Somerset on 9 January 1995. ATS.

WILLSON. Mrs (Ex Sergeant) Eileen Mary Willson of Belvedere, Kent on 24 June 1995. ATS.

WOLFE. Mrs Beryl M Wolfe (née Philbey) of Colchester on 19 May 1995. ATS.

WOOD. Miss Ethel Noel Wood TD of The Wirral, Merseyside on 17 July 1995. ATS.

COLONEL L M DAVIES CBE

As this edition of Lioness was going to print the sad news was received of the death of Colonel Lucy Davies. Colonel Davies joined the ATS at the outbreak of war in 1939 and served continuously in the ATS & WRAC until 1968. Her last post was as Deputy Director of the WRAC and she was the Deputy Controller Commandant from 1967 until 1977. She was a Life Vice-President of the Association.

A full tribute will appear in the next edition of Lioness.

TRIBUTE

CONTROLLER CHRISTIAN HELEN FRASER-TYTTLER TD

Christian Helen Fraser-Tytler (née Shairp) was born on 23 August 1897 in Lothian. She served in the Foreign Office between the Wars and joined the ATS at the outbreak of the Second World War and was appointed by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan as her Deputy. In 1941 when London became increasingly dangerous she moved to Cheltenham with many other of the Adjutant General's Department branches and from there as Director of Organisation (ATS) she dealt with many of the problems of organization for the ATS and the detailed planning for the expansion of the ATS.

In 1943 she was appointed to Anti-Aircraft Command responsible for the ATS in the Mixed Batteries. (The Royal Artillery were the largest single employer of ATS and in Anti-Aircraft command there were more ATS than male Gunners).

TRIBUTE COLONEL JULIA MARGARET COWPER TD

Julia Margaret Cowper was born on 13 April 1907 in Darjeeling, India and was educated at St Paul's Girls School, matriculating in 1924. From 1926 to 1929 she was Assistant Secretary for Literature with the National Federation of Women's Institutes. She travelled abroad in Italy and France between the Wars and enlisted in 1938, attended the ATS Officers School of Instruction and was granted an ATS Emergency Commission. She rose through the ranks to Controller in 1947. On the formation of the WRAC she was first granted a Short Service Commission which was transferred to a Regular Commission in 1949 with seniority dating from 1 August 1938.

In 1949 she compiled the official record of the work of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the Second World War for the War Office. It is a work of diligent research and commonly known as "The Red Book" and much revered as a work of reference.

She left the Army in 1959 and continued her interest in her predecessors producing a "Short History of the WAAC and QMAAC" in 1967. She also embarked on a narrative history of the ATS and her research papers were the basis of eight of the nine chapters of Shelford Bidwell's later book on the Corps published in 1977. He wrote "I must first record my indebtedness to Colonel JM Cowper TD late WRAC who wrote the book on Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and collated the official reports on the Auxiliary Territorial Service." Julia Cowper died on 6th January 1995. KC writes:

"Julia Cowper was one of the many pre-war officers who helped the newly formed ATS to develop into an effective auxiliary service under emergency conditions. Very much a soldier's daughter, with a keen interest in military history and tradition, her enthusiasm inspired those serving under her command with a sense of pride in the Service and a desire effectively to adapt to the military environment – not always coming naturally, in the early days, to newly joined women officers. Through her enthusiasm and organisational skills her influence found widening scope and the opportunity to promote the value potential of the women's service sometimes in the face of more conservative opinion. She could be a firm contender, especially where matters of principle were involved. Julia had that kind of outgoing personality which made her known and appreciated well beyond the ken of those with whom she served. Whilst in appearance she could be seen as a somewhat formidable character, closer acquaintance showed her to be anything but intimidating with a jovial sense of humour and greatly enjoying a party. In particular she will be remembered with affection and respect for her strong sense of loyalty, which those who served with her will recall with lasting appreciation."

She edited Lioness from March 1950 to August 1954 in the days when there were four editions per year.

WILLS

You are asked to consider when making or revising your Will to leave a bequest to the
Corps Benevolent Funds.

For example words such as "I bequeath the sum of £XXXXX to the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Funds, presently at Worthy Down or their successors.

I wish my legacy to be used to relieve the current needs of those eligible to receive help from the said funds".

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