

1995

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No1

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Lioness



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THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960- No 206184

Founded in 1919

Headquarters, WRAC Association, PO Box 212, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6ZD (up to 31 March 1995)
Block 10, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG (from 1 April 1995)

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PATRON

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT, GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brigadier A Field, CB

COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

Life Vice-Presidents of Council:

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Colonel C A Marriott
Brigadier E J Nolan CB
Colonel L M Davies CBE
Colonel C E Hammond CBE
Colonel V K Stead OBE TD
Miss M M Thomson TD
Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn
Mrs A H S Matthews
Lieutenant Colonel D Dunn
Mr M Mager
Mrs M J A Jones

General Secretary:

Honorary Treasurer:

Editor of Association Magazine:

Assistant Editor:

Typist

ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds, PO Box 212, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6ZD (up to 31 March 1995)
Block 10, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG (from 1 April 1995)

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Chairman of Trustees:

Chairman of Grants Committee:

Case Secretary:

Brigadier A Field CB
Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames MBE
Mrs A H S Matthews

Front Cover Photograph

President, Vice-President, Lord Lieutenant & Dean
leave Guildford Cathedral

Back Cover Photograph

Newly formed North West Group Officers
at their Reunion



Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

Contributions for next issue by 14 June 1995

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SHOPPING LIST

Now that the Museum Shop has closed the only item available for sale from the WRAC Association HQ is the Association Badge. These cost £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:

WRAC Association HQ

PO Box 212

Guildford GU2 6ZD

After 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ

Block 10

AGC Centre

Worthy Down

Winchester

SO21 2RG



WRAC Association Badge

EDITORIAL

This is the largest LIONESS ever. Thank you for your contributions. There are also no less than six cut out application forms to attend sponsored events and notices of Group reunions. Please make sure that you send your applications to the right place!



ADJUTANT GENERALS CORPS DAY 1994
Brig Meechie, Mrs Matthews, Maj Simmonds, Mrs Townsend
Lt Col Davies, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Hawkins



CLARENCE HOUSE

S.W.1

13th December 1994

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was delighted to receive your Card and Christmas greetings.

The Patron has asked me to thank you most sincerely, and at the same time, I am to convey to the Vice-President, Council and all members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Association Her Majesty's best wishes for Christmas and the year ahead.

Private Secretary to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Returned 22/2

TRIBUTE
MRS HILDA BELL BEM
Born in 1902

Hilda Bell joined the Army in May 1939 at Morpeth as a Volunteer (Platoon 10th Northumberland Platoon of the ATS).

On the outbreak of war, after two weeks in Brancepeth Castle, Co Durham, she was posted to 152 Signals OCTU in Catterick as a clerk in the Quartermaster's Office.

In 1941 she attended the first course at the newly formed NCO's School at Litchfield and was promoted Corporal. A year later she was promoted to Sergeant on Administrative duties, still in Catterick, and was promoted Staff Sergeant in 1943.

She was awarded Certificate of Good Service in 1944, in the same year promoted Company Sergeant Major in Catterick, served in different Companies during the considerable run down of the ATS units. She transferred to the WRAC in 1949.

Mrs Bell left Catterick for Donnington in 1950, where she served until appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of 328 Bn WRAC/TA in Northern Ireland in 1953. For two years from 1957-58 Mrs Bell was the Warrant Officer in charge of the Central Unit Detention Room at Guildford. This unit took WRAC and WRAF women and part of the training for this job took Mrs Bell to Strangeways Prison and Aylesbury Borstal.

After serving for many years in Catterick, Mrs Bell returned there for her last two years service. On her discharge in 1961 she was appointed to the post in the WRAC Museum, then at Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield during the re-build of the WRAC Depot at Guildford.

Although the Museum was formed in 1950, it was not possible until the new building was provided for property to be adequately, and attractively displayed. Mrs Bell played a most important part in the re-arrangements when the Museum returned to Guildford.

For eleven years from 1961-1972, with the Curator making infrequent visits from Corps HQ in London, the Museum was virtually run by Mrs Bell, and it was on her that all the research devolved. In 1972 Corps HQ moved to Guildford but Mrs Bell continued to run the Museum and took personal charge of money raising activities for the Museum. She was awarded the BEM in 1974 which was presented to her by the then Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Peter Hunt.

Mrs Bell's service covered a span of 40 years:

11 years in the ATS, 11 years in the WRAC and 18 in the WRAC Museum when she finally retired in 1979.

She was a Life Member of the Association and up to this year was a regular attendee at Reunions and Passing Out Parades.

Hilda Bell died on 2 November 1994 in Guildford and her funeral took place on Monday 14 November 1994.

Although Hilda was essentially a private person she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her well especially in the later years of her life.

ATS DINNER CLUB
Patron - Mrs J Croom-Johnson

It is with regret that we have to report that on Wednesday 16 November 1994, our Patron Mrs Jane Croom-Johnson, died peacefully at her home. Jane, an early Chairman of the Club, was so very supportive, especially during the more difficult years of the club, when it was thought the club would have to be abandoned. She gave it full support in so many different ways and we shall miss her very much.

As Junior Commander Jane Richardson, some of you will have served with her at home and abroad.



THE LATE HILDA BELL BEM

MISS MONICA D BRADLEY

All members of our Association in the North East were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Miss Monica Bradley, our Area Secretary, on the 23 October 1994 after only two days in hospital.

Monica was born on 21 October 1921 and served in the ATS from 9 April 1943 to 22 September 1946 and was employed as a Cipher Operator High Grade being fluent in French and German. She completed her service with 1 Company ATS Signals in Germany as a Sergeant. On VE Day she was serving with 21 Army Group Rear HQ in Brussels (Monty's Headquarters) and was one of the operators handling General Eisenhower's official communique to the British Liberation Army in Brussels, that the war in Europe was over. One of her prized possessions was a duplicated facsimile of this message.

She joined the WRAC Association in April 1947 and was a member of the Bradford Branch until she formed the Harrogate Branch in June 1968 with herself as Secretary and Treasurer, a position she still held at the time of her death. In 1972 she became acting Secretary and Treasurer of the Northern Area and was confirmed in the post in 1973. As Secretary of the Harrogate Branch she organised all kinds of activities, celebrations and fund raising events. She was involved in arranging Area Reunions in Harrogate and from 1976 handled all the applications for tickets - a heavy

responsibility. She was especially busy at the time of the Grand Reunion in April 1985 at the Harrogate International Conference Centre.

At the AGM of the Association in October 1988 Monica was appointed a Vice-President of the Council and served for four years. She was always regular in her attendance at Council Meetings. Monica carried out all her duties with great dedication and devotion and will be sadly missed not only in Harrogate and the branches in the North East but also throughout our Association.

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Returned 23 Dec



THE LATE MONICA BRADLEY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The WRAC Association and ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds are moving on 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 10
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

Do not send any mail to Guildford after 24 March 1995.

CONGRATULATIONS

Lioness offers congratulations to:

Mrs Lena Elizabeth Gee (née Burberry) on the award of the National Certificate of Appreciation of the Royal British Legion.

Returned 23 Dec



MRS GEE RECEIVES HER CERTIFICATE
Colonel Sir Peter Hilton with Mrs Gee

Returned 23 Dec



Colonel Lucy Davies CBE former Deputy Controller Commandant on the success of her racehorses. Her horse Options Open won races at York and Windsor and broke the track record in each case.

Returned 23 Dec



COLONEL DAVIES RECEIVES TROPHY AT YORK
Her horse broke the track record on 16 August 94

Corporal Karen Louise Staples, formerly WRAC now RLC, on receiving a Joint Commanders Commendation for service in the former Yugoslavia.

Miss Pamela Dora Barton, who runs an International Dress Shop in Hong Kong, on the award of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Years Honours 1995 for her outstanding services to the community in Hong Kong and charities especially the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Miss Barton was in the ATS-WRAC for six years and then worked for the Army Kinema Corporation.

Mrs Andi Marsh (née Stockbridge) who was a Lance Corporal in the WRAC in the mid-1960s on her election as Mayor of Rochester upon Medway in Kent for 1994/95.

Returned 22 Feb 95



MRS A D MARSH
Mayor of Rochester upon Medway 1994/95

Lance Corporal Jacqueline Runciman, formerly WRAC now AGC (SPS) on the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours List 1995.

Mrs Connie Mark BEM on her TV spot on Video Nation and her mention in the Courier newspaper which read: "Former Sergeant Major Brenda Moor from Wadhurst has met up with four women, two from Jamaica and two from Belize, she recruited for the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the second world war."

Mrs Moor of Sparrows Green, enjoyed a reunion with them at the Red Lion on Saturday - only the second time they have reunited in 50 years. Connie Mark BEM and Esther Armagon from Jamaica joined with Norma and Yvette Best to discuss war memories with their old sergeant-major.

Mrs Moor said: "We're the best of friends; they came down with presents and said they had never forgotten my voice". The women undertook various duties when they came to Britain including working as administrators, mechanics, drivers and secretaries. ATS recruits were also called upon to support the army by maintaining anti-aircraft sites.

They were part of a 30-strong group of women recruited in 1943 to help the war effort. But at the time there was fierce controversy over their recruitment. The War Office, having spent years suppressing uprisings in the Caribbean, were unwilling to accept them into army ranks.

After the war finished Mrs Moor became a welfare officer and then went on to become a hostess for BAOC."

BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTIES 1994

In the year when we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Association, we were honoured by invitations to Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother as Patron of the Association arranged for the Vice President Brigadier Anne Field CB and her predecessor Brigadier Eileen Nolan CB to attend one party on 12 July 1994 and Colonel Marriott, Vice Chairman of Council and Major Rosemary Warne MBE to attend on 21 July 1994.

The Lord Chamberlain on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen invited 50 members of the Association on 19 July 1994.

Mrs Marsh and Mrs O'Neill from the Newcastle Branch attended and said that it was a glorious day. Mrs Roxana Stinson from Canterbury attended with Mrs Doreen Dennis, the Branch Secretary and says that "an equey came up and asked them to move back a little but she explained that she hoped that The Queen might notice her ATS badge and come and speak to them. My friend then mentioned that she had served in the same MT Company as the Queen but not in the same year and she would love to tell The Queen this. We had quite a long chat with the Equerry. He took our names and told us that he couldn't promise anything but he would see what he could do. When we saw the Queen pass us, we thought that was it, but the Equerry suddenly appeared and ushered us both forward and introduced us to the Queen. We had about four minutes conversation with her. It was a great thrill and I told Her Majesty that it was the highlight of my life."



**NEWCASTLE BRANCH MEMBERS AT
BUCKINGHAM PALACE**
Mrs M Marsh and Mrs E O'Neill

THE SUSSEX TEA COMPANY

The Sussex Tea Company who kindly donated a prize for the Grand Reunion Raffle are still in business selling Fruit Tea Infusions and Fine Teas - Coffees.

160 TEA BAGS (500gm) of their flagship
Kenyan Tea costs £5.60 incl. p&p.

Full details and price list:

The Sussex Tea Company
PO Box 66
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 3AN

A 100-YEAR LIFE

by Eva Ellison

On Bank Holiday Monday 29 August, Charlotte Lawrence and I were pleased to represent the WRAC Association at the 100th Birthday of Mrs Sydney Wood who, in the Great War, had first served in government offices in Maida Vale and Buckingham Gate and then as a driver in the Army Service Corps.

It was a very happy occasion with her sons and families present as well as other residents of the Greystones



MRS SYDNEY WOOD ON HER 100th BIRTHDAY

Nursing Home where she has lived since 1990. The Mayor of Southwark was heralded by the Town Crier of Lambeth, resplendent in an embroidered coat and three-cornered hat. Telegrams from HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother and her local MP were read out together with a letter of congratulations from the Council of the WRAC Association who also sent a 75th Anniversary Tray and two mugs. The Town Crier proudly told us that he had for a while in 1939 been an ATS instructor. No doubt that some of you might recognise your Army Drill Sergeant!

Mrs Wood had had a cataract operation only a week before her birthday and was thrilled to be able to see again and appreciate the flowers and other gifts as well as the two splendid birthday cakes - an iced one and another a mouth-watering German one all chocolate and cream. Two days later she was also enjoying a family party with sixty relatives from all over the world.

Sydney Palmer was born in Canada but her father moved to Spain in 1900 and she was later educated in London and Dresden. In 1922 she married Gerald Wood, a schoolmaster at Eton College but after a year they moved to India where Gerald taught with the Indian Forest Service. They had three children and after her husband died suddenly in 1932 she returned to England until 1939 when she returned to Canada. They returned to England in 1945 and in 1960 she joined her younger son who was a tobacco farmer in Rhodesia where she kept the books and ran the farm trading store. In 1973 they moved to Cape Town but Sydney returned to England in 1977.

Mrs Wood died peacefully on 17 November 1994.

OFFICERS BRANCH LUNCHEON

The annual meeting of the Officers Branch of the WRAC Association will take place in the Officers Mess of the AG Corps Centre at Worthy Down nr Winchester on Saturday 23 September 1995.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please apply after 1 April 1995 but no later than 28 July 1995.

CLOSING DATE 28 JULY 1995

**TO: WRAC Association HQ,
Block 10, AGC Centre,
Worthy Down, Hants SO21 2RG**

From:.....

I wish to attend the meeting for former WRAC Officers on Saturday 23 September 1995.

I will travel by car/train (delete)

My car details are:

Make	Colour	Reg No.
------	--------	---------

I enclose a cheque for £10 for the lunch.

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

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

CHEQUES TO WRAC ASSOCIATION PLEASE.

Date.....Signed.....

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CALLING ALL VETERAN TENNIS PLAYERS

In 1993 a trial Womens Inter Service Tennis Tournament was held at Wimbledon at the same time as the main Inter Services event. As it was merely an experiment each Service provided two couples to play their opposite numbers from the other two Services. The event proved to be a resounding success and in 1994 was included as an integral part of the Inter Service programme. The enthusiasm of the players was only matched by the standard of play and so impressed the organisers that the matches were promoted from Courts 15 and 16 in 1993 to 1, 9 and 10 in 1994!

Now the competition has been established each Service is required to provide three couples, the eligibility criteria is: All players must be at least 40 years of age and must have served a minimum of 5 years in the Services. If you would like to play in this competition or know of any ex-Servicewomen or Officer who might be interested, please contact Capt Nikki Rochelle APTC on Fulford Mill Ext 2207 or Civil 01980 631207.

The Army players this year were - 1st couple Maj (Retd) Julia Dixon and Maj (Retd) Jackie Whitehead, 2nd couple - Lt Col Penny Gold and Miss (Ex SSgt) Jenny McMahon, 3rd couple - Lt Col (Retd) Joan Freeland and Capt Nikki Rochelle. Although we were beaten into second place by the WRAF we all had a most enjoyable days tennis and have established this event as a permanent fixture on the sporting calendar.



1994 WRAC REPRESENTATIVES AT WIMBLEDON
Staff Sergeant Jenny McMahon, Major Jackie Whitehead,
Captain Nikki Rochelle, Lt Col Joan Freeland (née Tompler)
Lt Col Penny Gold and Major Julia Dixon

FASHION ON THE RATION

The Imperial War Museum is seeking examples of forties fashion for a special wartime fashion show. The show will be held in 1995 as part of a VE Festival to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war.

Women's dresses, suits, shoes, hats, jewellery and other accessories dating from the late 1930s to the late 1940s are needed, as well as examples of children's clothes and men's outfits. High fashion, basic Utility designs, uniforms and make-do-and-mend creations are equally desirable.

Clothes with stories attached to them are particularly welcome.

CALLING ALL WRAC PTI's, AIPT's, SOPT's AND CI's

Since the disbandment of the WRAC, many of our traditions and customs have sadly disappeared. In an attempt to reduce this decline it is proposed to hold a Supper Evening for all WRAC PTI's, AIPT's, SOPT's and CI's on Saturday 10 June 1995 at the WO's & Sgts Mess ASPT Aldershot.

The cost of the evening, to include a four course dinner with wine, will not exceed £15.00, and limited accommodation at the ASPT is available. The event is being organised by Capt. Nikki Rochelle APTC and Capt. Kate Bettison RLC(V).

For those who remember the fun of the old annual PT Conventions this could be a night to remember! If you would like to attend please complete the accompanying proforma, include a SAE, a non-refundable deposit of £5.00 per head, and forward to Capt. N. J. Rochelle at the UKLF School of P & RT by 5 May 1995. A detailed admin instruction, together with a list of those attending, will be issued shortly after this date.

The organisers are aware that the 'Lioness' may not reach everyone who may like to attend, and therefore would be grateful if the PT grapevine could be cranked into action!

WRAC PT SUPPER EVENING

To: Capt. N. J. Rochell APTC,
UKLF School of P & RT,
Wing Barracks,
Bulford,
Salisbury,
Wilts.
SP4 9LS

From: _____

Tel. No: _____

Tel. No: 01980 631207

- I would like to attend the Supper Evening on 10 June 1995.
- a. I served from _____ to _____
and left the Corps in the rank of _____.
- b. I am still serving.
- Vegetarian requirements. *YES / NO
- Accommodation requirements. *YES / NO
From _____ to _____
- I would like to sit next to _____
- I enclose a cheque for £5.00 made payable to the WO's & Sgts Mess ASPT, and S.A.E.

Date _____ Signature _____

* Delete as appropriate

ATS BURIALS 1939-1947

Mr Val Grimble, who researched the details of the raid at Great Yarmouth on 11 May 1943 resulting in the loss of ATS lives and which was commemorated this year with the dedication of a plaque, has very generously offered to continue his research into ATS casualties during the 1939-1947 period.

Mr Grimble is providing names, next-of-kin, dates and places of burial in all the counties of England, Scotland and Wales and Ireland. This is a mammoth task involving the search of some 83 registers. Included are the names on the Brookwood Memorial to the missing land forces, and burials in Belgium (Ghent and Heverlee War Cemeteries) and Germany (Munster Heath).

I am typing up these lists as they come through from Mr Grimble. If Branch Secretaries would like copies covering their county, please let me know and I will send them on. Also I will search for individual names should anyone wish to make enquiries.

67 ATS members were killed in action and there were 665 non-battle deaths.

Write to Mrs Joan Awbery, 66 Park Lane, Norwich NR2 3EF.

GRAVES REGISTRATION AND RESEARCH

Mr Val Grimble who did the research necessary for the Great Yarmouth Memorial Plaque has kindly agreed to provide lists of ATS war-time burials by County. Any individual or branch seeking more information should contact:

Mrs Joan Awbery
66 Park Lane
Norwich NR2 3LF

PLEASE - IS THERE ONE PERSON WHO REMEMBERS ME?

by Mrs Miriam Hartley (née Crabtree)
31st Warwickshire Platoon ATS

I joined the ATS in April 1942 (aged 17- years). I remember bidding my parents a fond farewell - I had never spent a night away from home - my mother held me close in her arms, my father struggled to hold back the tears which were welling in his eyes.

I started my army life at Wellington Barracks, Halifax, Nr Leeds. After six weeks and a lot of square bashing I was posted to a small mining village in Hemsworth, Nr Pontefract. My only recollection of my stay there was a visit to a coal mine which included a ride in a cage into the bowels of the earth. I then went on a six week course to hopefully become a clerk - after four weeks the powers that be asked me if I would like to try something else I had to let miserably - I couldn't even type in a straight line - still can't! I asked if I could be a radar plotter - eyebrows were raised heavenwards - I was sent on a course to Theobalds Park, Waltham Cross (July 1943). There must have been about 250 on that course - a huge group photograph was taken on our last week - mine was destroyed by fire, if anyone has a copy I would dearly like one. To my surprise and joy I passed out with the top few and was posted to Chester

Road, Erdington, Birmingham. I wonder where my dear friend Sally Archibald is? I have been trying to find her - along with many more ATS girls I became friends with - for over 52 years! I was finally posted to Coombe Abbey, Hinley, nr Coventry - at last I was a GCI - GI Radar Plotter - never had I been so happy, even though I always seemed to be C/C or on Jankers - 252!! Where are all my old pals, old soldiers never die - surely they haven't all faded away?

Enclosed please find a copy of myself with 13 others - I can picture each and every one of them as though it were only yesterday. The photograph may not publish very well but the position of the girls may evoke memories through time. I was fortunate to be contacted by a Mildred Gilbert (nee Howarth) - I know she remembers my missing the liberty truck on more than one occasion!



ATS BINLEY COOMBE ABBEY COVENTRY
31st WARWICK PLATOON

Standing: Jean, Greta, Mary, May, Hilda, Ivy, Miriam,
Liz, Robbie
Seated: Constance, Margaret, Edith, Betty, Edna

I hope someone, somewhere will think back to those halcyon days and remember me - so come forward Mary Irving, Greta Jenkins, Alice Morgan, Connie Young, Betty Woodford, Ivy Parker, Jean Usher, Edith Haines (Haynes?), Liz and Bobbie Nelson and little winsome Edna.

Thank you all for the happy days spent at Coombe Abbey - I ever named my bungalow "Halcyon". Pte Miriam Crabtree then and now Mrs Miriam Hartley, "Halcyon", 7 Queens Drive, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 9DA Tel: Crewe (0270) /642111.

HAIG HOMES Housing ex Service Families

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Application forms and information from:

Mrs Pat Edghill
Alban Dobson House
Green Lane
Morden
Surrey SM4 5NS

THREE FIFTIES by Mrs Gwen Anderson (née Grace)

1994 has been a very important year for me and my family. I have celebrated three 50 year anniversaries. First, my Golden Wedding on the 23 April 1994. I married Corporal Bill Anderson of the 51st Highland Division, a Gordon Highlander, at St Mary's Church in Amersham. My bridesmaid was my schoolfriend Edith Riddle who joined the ATS with me in 1939 as a volunteer at Aylesbury, Bucks. We were both stationed at Aldershot with the Royal Army Pay Corps (photograph enclosed).

RETURNED 22/2



THE ANDERSONS ON THEIR WEDDING DAY 1944

The next 50th anniversary was in Normandy on 6 June 1944 where, at Arromanches, Her Majesty the Queen came over and talked to me and my husband. She had recognised the ATS badge on my blazer. My husband was wearing his kilt and Highland outfit which caught her eye as well.

The next 50th anniversary was a trip to Nijmegen, Holland, to celebrate the freedom of the Netherlands. The people gave us a marvellous time as a thank you for their liberation.

My career started in 1939 at Aldershot. I was there for 2 years. From there I went to Arborfield, Reading for training for Mixed Heavy Ack Ack. I was then promoted to Corporal and went to Bude for firing practice. I then went to my first gun site, was with the 632 Battery at Helensborough on the Clyde (Scotland). One night we found ourselves aboard ship en route for Belfast. Our field station was at Cambledown, Dundonald, North Belfast. We were the first MHAA to go to Ireland.

In 1943 I went home on compassionate leave as my mother was very ill. I unfortunately finished up in the same hospital with a burst appendix. After convalescence, I was posted to Crayford, Kent, so as to be nearer home, with the 531 Battery MHAA. Whilst stationed there I got married on the 23 April 1944. I finished my war service as Sgt Anderson. The gun site was bombed and I was moved to Dartford Heath with the same battery. I have enclosed the names of some of the girls I remember hoping they may get in touch. I had many friends in the ATS but can't remember them all. I am now 72 and I have treasured memories of my war years. I feel privileged that I had taken a small part in the war. I have two sons and five grandchildren (none in the forces).



THE ANDERSONS IN 1994

W/124732 Sgt M Cuts 632 Bty Cambledown, Dundonald, Belfast. Last heard 1943.

Cpl Gillingham BQH 593 Battery, No 6 HAA Practice Camp, Bude, Cornwall.

Last heard 1942

W/155516 B Coy ATS, RAPC, Mickheham, Dorking. Last heard 1942.

Irene Linden (Birmingham) Arborfield, Reading. Had photo taken with her.

Mrs Anderson's present address is 9 Masons Close, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 0LT.

THE WILHELMHAVEN ASSOCIATION

Anyone who attended Prince Rupert School, Wilhelmshaven between 1947 and 1972 is invited to join a voluntary association to keep in contact with former pupils. Details from:

Mrs Hilary Seaborn
37 Daking Avenue
Boxford
Sudbury
Suffolk CO10 5QA
Tel: 01787 210177

THE NEW RECRUIT
by Rosemary Varney (née Wilson)

It was the morning of 4 September 1939. World War II was not yet 24 hours old when I got on my bicycle and rode up the hill towards Henley on Thames. On the market place I spotted a hand-written notice that said "Recruiting Office", propped my bike up against the wall of a rather dingy building and went in. It was even dingier inside and contained two men, one of whom was a very large sergeant with a moustache grown to scale. Luckily my father had told me years ago that soldiers grew facial hair to frighten off their adversaries. This knowledge helped me meet his eye with a confidence I did not feel.

The sergeant was an impressive figure but looked bored. The citizens of Henley were not flocking to join the colours and, apart from the three of us, the room was empty. "And what can I do for you?". He was polite but not interested.

"I've come to join up". Now his attention was caught and he looked me up and down and mused and mused with some attention. I wasn't impressive myself in collar, frock, school blazer and ankle socks (one disappearing into my school sandals) topped by a pudding basin haircut. Now I was grateful that that copious moustache almost hid the twitching of his lips as he struggled to keep a straight face. Without this camouflage I might have gone scurrying back to the safety of my bicycle.

He spoke at last with some gusto. "Not here you haven't", he said. "This is the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry."

He looked me over again. "How old are you?". I was just past sixteen. I thought if you must lie, lie well and, with the utmost conviction, I answered "Eighteen".

"Are you sure?". "Yes" I told him, I was sure. The look on his face said clearly "Pull the other one, it's got bells on", but I stood firm. "Your recruiting office is round the corner", he said kindly.

Here were two uniformed women, an officer and a sergeant, who immediately asked how old I was and then said "You'll have to get a medical certificate to prove you are A1. There's a doctor down the road". They exchanged a glance which seemed to say that this would give me a chance to retreat without loss of face.

There was most certainly not a doctor down the road, nor down the next road, or even round the corner. As I went from one empty consulting room to another it seemed doubtful that there was doctor left in Henley at all. They had all been mobilised or rushed off to join. At last I found an elderly practitioner who pronounced me in good health. But before he could sign to this effect he paused, pen in hand. One little matter had to be cleared up. "How old are you?" he asked. "Eighteen". I was beginning to believe it myself. "Are you sure?".

I reached the door and he asked again: "Are you quite, quite sure you're eighteen?".

Back at the recruiting office I was too shy to wave my precious certificate to illustrate my triumph. But they remembered me all right. "We never thought to see you again" said the officer. "But are you really sure you are eighteen?". I told them I was positive but didn't offer to bring my birth certificate. Neither did they ask for it. They were very short of recruits.

"Sign here" they said. I signed. I was in.

When

I told my father over the 'phone he laughed heartily and told me never to look back except when I cleaned my shoes.

And I never did.

(Mrs Varney ended her career as a WOII CSM).



"NEW RECRUIT"
Rosemary Varney née Wilson



ROSEMARY VARNEY (née Wilson) DRIVING LESSONS
54 Training Regiment, Pertham Down, 1940

MEMORIES OF VE DAY
by Diana Hess (née Lee)

The feeling of tremendous elation, relief, pride, jubilation, thankfulness which greeted the dawning of VE Day were experienced by everyone who had lived and survived the war years. The overwhelming emotion was possibly one of gratitude that we would soon be able to get back to normality and PEACE.

But and this was a big but to so many women life would not be normal for those whose husbands, brothers, boy friends would not be coming home again.

The ATS of my unit, then stationed in Shrewsbury, celebrated VE Day with everyone else. Towards evening we met again in a quiet room for the ten or so who had lost close friends, to remember, to talk, shed a few held-back tears and share a somewhat less jolly hour and to hope that VJ Day could soon follow.

It was not a miserable gathering but the fellow-feeling was somehow helpful and I, for one, had such respect for all the girls who then were able to face VE plus 1 day and get on with the job still to be done until the real "end of it all" came.

VE DAY REMEMBERED
by Major Daphne Lance

I was stationed at Kilo 200 in the Alex Road, just passed Mena House in Egypt. 513 Coy (Driver Training Wing) ATS consisted mostly of locally enlisted drivers (Jews from all over the world, Greeks, an Abyssinian and one girl from the Yemen). We ferried new vehicles eventually to Tripoli West or Tripoli East and anywhere in between where they were wanted.

On VE-day I was in charge of a convoy of vehicles to be delivered to Port Said. As we neared Port Said the ships began hooting and we discovered peace had been declared in the west. The girls all wanted to turn round but were persuaded to continue, which they did at breakneck speed. And as far as I can remember we broke all speed limits on the return in the tender.

I was Chief Instructor of the Driver Training Wing of the Company. We had first trained ATS in driving and vehicle maintenance. Later we trained medically down graded Gunners and Infantrymen and lastly a relief team sent out from England allowed us to eventually go to Greece.

I was delivering a lecture when the news of peace in the Far East came through. Of course it was down tools!



PRIVATE GRACE CARR

DEAL GUNS OPERATON ROOM -
SEPTEMBER 1944
by Grace Carr

I served with the Royal Signals during the war, and after working at Margate for some time, I was posted with a few friends to a new Gun Operation Room at Deal - right on the seafront. We were put into billets - also on the front, a few yards along from the OPS Room. It was at the height of the 'DIVER' episode (named DOODLEBUGS by civilians). They were coming across the coast thick and fast - at 400 miles an hour - in fact, and we were plotting the course of their flight on the OPS Room board. This was hectic enough by night and day but to add to our troubles, we were being shelled directly across the channel from the French Coast. We were not able to go out without our steel helmets, and we came off duty one night to find many buildings badly damaged by shelling. It was then considered unsafe to sleep in the billets, so some slit trenches were hastily and roughly dug just at the top of the beach, and that represented our sleeping quarters for the next night. We were told to put on slacks and carry ground-sheets to sleep on, and down we scrambled into the rough trenches. It was too noisy to sleep much and we could see the shells being fired across our heads. We were only a small group of girls and there was no ATS officer with us at Deal, but at first light, two Army officers emerged with buckets of tea, and very welcome it was. Later that week we were sent back to Margate as Deal seafront was altogether too dangerous.

It is fifty years since these events occurred but I well remember the experience, and certain celebrations are taking place in Dover to commemorate the occasion.

The Forces Help Society & Lord Roberts Workshops

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES
for ex-service men and women

In August 1995 another phase will be completed of the project to re-furbish, extend and re-equip St. Vincents Home, Ryde, Isle of Wight. This will provide ten more single rooms, all with balconies and with ensuite bathrooms fully equipped with aids to facilitate their independent use by elderly and disabled men and women, an additional bathroom and adjacent toilet with equipment for giving assistance to the more infirm, lift to all levels, and pleasant indoor and outdoor sitting areas. A full complement of trained staff will provide personal assistance as needed throughout the 24 hours.

Applications from ex-service men and women needing full residential care will be welcomed from early April 1995.

Meanwhile, vacancies occur from time to time for elderly and disabled men and women in the residential care category at Princess Christian Homes, Knaphill, near Woking, Surrey.

For either Home, please apply for an application form to the Homes and Welfare Officer, The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, 122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE.

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED EVENTS TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

VE DAY PDF Compressor Free Version

6th-8th May – Public Event in Hyde Park

A public event will be staged in Hyde Park to provide the central focus for the VE Day celebrations. The site will play a prominent role in the Government Sponsored Programme with invited Heads of State in attendance. Associations will be invited to send representatives to the opening event on 6th May. On the afternoon of 7th May it will serve as the culmination of the Youth Parade and on the evening of 8th May it may be the location for the finale to the VE Day celebration. Pavilions will stage exhibitions throughout the period and a veterans centre will be provided.

7th May – The Service of Celebration

Heads of State or Government will attend a Service of Celebration of Peace in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Service will be ecumenical in nature and would emphasise the twin themes of reconciliation and 50 years of peace. Approximately 2500 people are expected to congregate in the Cathedral. Afterwards, the Heads of State or Government would join Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and other receptions will be held at a number of London locations.

7th May – The International Youth Parade

A Youth Parade with bands and representatives from the participating nations will march through Central London during the afternoon. The parade will be essentially civilian in nature and would disperse in Hyde Park with the participants joining the Hyde Park event. Special viewing areas will be made available along the route of the parade.

8th May – The VE Night Party

The 8th May has been designated a public holiday and there will be a final VE Day concert, probably in Hyde Park, that evening. This would reflect the community atmosphere of the day and the theme of the "VE Night Party" would seem to be appropriate. The Royal British Legion plan to hold street parties and to light beacons/bonfires across the country in coordination with other European capitals.

Application form on page 15 (*The deadline of 15 March 1995 is a special concession to us. Please apply quickly.*)



OFFICERS OF 801 (East Anglia) BATTALION WRAC (TA)
l. to R. Joan Wilson OC 'E' Coy (Norwich)
Zoe Parsell Photo Interpreter (Cambridge)
Audrey Told 'E' Coy (Colchester)
"Dippy" Porteous OGD Coy (Bedford)
 Photo taken at Officers' Branch Luncheon 17 Sep 94



SPORTS DAY ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND -
 STANMORE 1943
Senior Commander Wells, General Sir Frederick Pile,
Chief Controller Knox

TICKET APPLICATION FORM VE DAY

Return completed form to:



VE Day
PO Box 1940
Fairford
Gloucestershire GL7 4NA

Enquiries: 0171 824 2936 or 2379

Return complete all details below in BLOCK CAPITALS:

1. SURNAME (MISS/MRS) INITIALS

2. ADDRESS

BRANCH POSTCODE

3. REQUESTED EVENT

EVENT	DATE	TIMES	NO. OF TICKETS	OFFICE USE ONLY
Opening of Hyde Park Events	6 May	12.00		HPE
St. Pauls – Service	7 May	11.00 a.m.		SER
Heads of State Ceremony	7 May	3.00 p.m.		CER
VE Night Party Hyde Park	8 May	8.00 p.m.		PAR

4. Are you a REGISTERED DISABLED PERSON? YES/NO

4a. If YES, please give brief details of disability:

4b. Do you use a wheelchair? YES/NO

This application form once completed, should be forwarded to the address stated above, to arrive no later than **15 MARCH 1995**. Please note that times stated are approximate and precise timings will be displayed on the tickets you receive.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
ADDCODE:	REFERENCE NO:
DATE ENTERED:	DATE CHECKED:
ENTERED BY:	CHECKED BY:

Mrs Mary Hodges (née Pollard) sent in the parable below.
She says that it was circulating in Brussels in 1945.

THE PARABLE OF THE ATS

And behold the Lords of War and them that had the strands of the Scarlet Tape that say to one "Come" and to another "Go thither" did meet in the Council Chambers and did speak in troubled voices, saying "Alas, how shall we sustain the morale of our warriors in the enemy land? Even in the Army of Occupation - for they will yearn for the land of their Mother, which is Blighty; also for the fleshpots of London, Chester and Wigan, for the wine of our enemy's land sustaineth not like unto Guinness or Bass and the women are unlovely and produce Hitler's."

And one of their number arose in his scarlet robes to make a PROPOSAL and spake thus: "Let us send the maidens of this land - even the ATS - that they may comfort our warriors with their appeal of sex and make them content - yea even, as in a land of milk and honey shall their content be found, for the maidens of this land are comely and know their stuff".

And there were cries of "Yea" and "Thou hast said it".

But a wise man arose with haste to move an AMENDMENT, saying "Nay, yet harken unto me for mine is the voice of experience - the people are stubborn and will not be driven into this thing - let us first ask for those who will go forth of their own will, even volunteers, offering them issues additional, of silk panties and brassieres tropica, with much ration and cash, so that we insert the thin end of the wedge and the people will not murmur".

But he who had made the words of wisdom from his mouth, spake again, saying: "Now let us make a decree, even an ACT - that they may go if they will or not, but let us tread with care lest we dash our foot against the stone of PUBLIC OPINION which is a snake in the grass and a thorn in the flesh".

And they produced after many days, an ACT of their will and pleasure, with many therents and hereinafters, saying thus and thus, it shall be done according to para 1(b) - and they that are of age and comely, even of the highest grade, which is A1, shall go for us, but they that have a husband in the land shall not.

And it was so.

And some of the people murmured, saying "These are the children of our bosom, who shall guard and protect them in the land of our enemy?" - but there were women in the Council Chamber who were old and not eligible to go themselves and they said "Pish" and "Tush" so that the murmurings died away.

And there were many heralds who took the tidings to the four corners of the land, and there was consternation in the Sergeants' Messes.

Then was there ringing of many bel's and the calling of the names and numbers and the Officers Commanding did hold audience with their women, saying "Hast thou a husband, but I have a corporal in the Signals (or a Sgt in Heavy Ack Ack) with whom I would fain stay, but the Officers Commanding heeded them not, saying "Thou and Thou and Thou - hast had it", and there was much concern in the land.

Then the warriors heard it and were glad in their hearts saying "Verily this is just the job".

And the women of the lands enemy were wroth - but of no avail.

GUARDIANS OF THE HUMBER by Mrs J Shrimpton (née Shorter)

It was a Monday in early summer and we had just attended the ex-Services Weekend in Bridlington. Unlike most who had dispersed to their homes we stayed on having, like others, who served in Yorkshire during World War II fond memories of that county.

How many ex-ATS girls still remember Hull? - that city which was a short flight across the North Sea for fedgeing Luftwaffe bomber crews with its easily identified 'lead in' of the river Humber, the Ack Ack sites and the continuous raids? Some were, like Costellow playing fields in Anlaby (demolished a decade ago) in town but all too often we were sited miles from habitation.

We had heard from Terry Fishwick 514 Mixed Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battalion (my old unit) such a site still existed, and on this Monday was our destination. Reaching the Hull to Withernsea road, there in the village of Ottringham was the signpost pointing to Sunk Island.

SUNK ISLAND? The very name conjures a vision of mystery and isolation. Out of the village of Ottringham and the road is now straight, stretching out into the distance: then a bend, another straight, a bend - straight - how much further? A crossroads and Sunk Island Church, still we carry on. An isolated farm - then another and still on. Were we really stationed here? At last we can go no further; there is a gate, a bank which we climb and at our feet the river Humber with the buildings of Immingham visible on the other side.

But where is the gun site?

Retuned 23 Feb 95



REMAINS OF ANTI AIRCRAFT GUN SITE

We walk along the top of the bank, and in an adjacent field is the old Ack Ack site. A nissen hut still standing, and a short distance away, the concrete foundations of gun emplacements and the command post are still there. Close your eyes and there, 50 years ago, are the steel helmeted men and girls. Girls? yes, some of the ATS were girls, 18 or 19 years old, matured into women, stationed miles from anywhere.

On such a day as that of our visit, sunny and warm, it was not a bad place to be: not so in the winter. The flat countryside with the cold east wind blowing up the Humber, snow, sometimes driven nearly horizontal, covering guns and predictors, frozen fingers, battle dress thrown over still warm pyjamas, cut off from the outside world, it was, as the name Sunk Island implies, a desolate place.

At Vee Robinson's first Heavy Ack Ack Reunion at York in 1993, the Master Gunner, General Sir Martin Farndale, said of those girls who served in Ack Ack "You were Gunners".

There were many isolated Ack Ack sites and we had found one of them - Stone Creek - manned by Gunners of the ATS, Guardians of the Humber.

FRONT LINE BRITAIN

"Total Area Covered by
Adjoining districts during
the 'V' Weapon attacks
Summer of 1944"

Any person who served
with or was attached
to AA units in this
area is eligible to
apply for this medal.



A private venture commemorative medal
has been commissioned and struck for
those who served in the East Kent District,
South East Command from 1939-1945 plus
anyone who served with Anti Aircraft Units
against the V Bombs in 1944. Full details of
cost and rules for eligibility from:

Alex Summers Esq.,
107 Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham,
DEAL, Kent CT14 9LJ

THE NATION GIVES THANKS

D-DAY Landings - 50th Anniversary - HMS EXCELLENT
by Pat Gibson

Nina Garnham and I were fortunate enough to be guests of the Royal Navy on Saturday 6 June 1994. It was rather grey and dull when we left home but by the time we arrived at Havant Station the rain had started. Fortunately, as suggested by the Royal Navy "Please dress for any weather - Remember D-DAY 1944!" we were equipped with macs and umbrellas. We were collected by a bus - complete with a soldier who had left Catterick at 2 am that morning (he had handed the driving over to a local Naval driver for the local driving) - but as we had to wait some time for other Veterans disembarking from other trains we decided to eat our lunch. Nina had tipped her bottle of juice all through her handbag and had a deal of mopping up to do.

Eventually we arrived at the IBM Conference Centre where a reception Committee of Officers - Army, Navy and Air Force - were lined up to greet us - very impressive - and made us feel very important. We were then handed over to very pleasant young service men and women who sorted us out for ONWARD TRANSMISSION to various destinations. Some to see HM The Queen inspecting the Fleet, some to attend Portsmouth Garden Party where the Heads of State were also guests and some who went over to Normandy. All transport - other than buses from all over the country - was banned from Portsmouth as the town was too full of people.

On arrival at Whale Island we were ushered into a very large drill hall - or maybe it was the hanger for the helicopters - where tea and coffee was provided and the souvenir shop was open. There were lots of interesting things to see and we chatted to the gun carriage team who would be competing at Earls Court in London later in the month.

There was a full programme of events arranged for our entertainment but by that time the rain was very heavy and therefore most of them were cancelled. However, Nina and I went out to the Parade Ground, braving the elements, found ringside seats, put up our umbrellas - one to shield our legs and one to cover our ears - listened to the Band of the Royal Marines, watched an excellent display by the RAF Dog Handlers and then, of course, the Navy who climbed the Masts - MAIN, FORE and MIZZEN - which was terrific - considering that it was so wet and windy it must have been horrendous climbing to the very top and I am sure the Button Boy must have been very relieved to get down to terra firma (I could hardly say dry land) once more. No wonder he took to his heels and sped off to HM The Queen Mother to receive the Queen's Shilling - (or should it be the King's Shilling). It just happened to be the Button Boy's 19th Birthday and Nina and I thought "What a way to celebrate".

We then marched Beating the Retreat and it rained harder than ever. By the time all the Bands, Americans who jived, French, Belgian and RAF Uxbridge, were massed on the Parade Ground it was raining so hard we could not see what was happening and all the spectators - with one accord - just took to their heels and fled to seek shelter.

At various places around the Parade Ground were placed square tents. They were not open when we first went onto the Parade Ground but I saw that one was open near us so we barged in to find that it was a field kitchen where we were given a very warm welcome - in more ways than one - with a dish of corned beef hash. We were so glad to have a hot meal even though we had to stand up to eat it. I can't ever remember being so wet and cold.

We then went back to the Drill Hall (hangar) where we were given tea and coffee whilst we waited for transport back to Havant Station.

It had been a most enjoyable day, despite the weather, and I must say that all the young service people we met were very kind to us and looked after us very well. We had lots of laughs with the lads from HMS DRAKE Plymouth, who were as wet as we were. They had been told to bring only one change of clothing with them as accommodation at HMS Excellent was very restricted and as they were to be at the Drum Head Service on Sunday morning, they could either go out for a drink that evening or else they would have to sleep in the airing cupboard - or the boiler house - that night.

When we eventually got home I ran a hot bath, switched the electric blanket on, got nicely warmed through, poured myself a large whiskey and dry ginger and then off to bed - it was then about 2.15 am. Lots of people had seen us on the television - naturally some of my relatives did - and I had my first telephone call at 7.30 am on the Sunday morning - I was not best pleased - and that continued throughout the day.

We were none the worse for our wetting and, believe me, we were very wet indeed, right through to the skin. Even though we managed to dry our cardigans on the train when we put our raincoats on again they just soaked up the wet. My shoes have never recovered - they are just like boards.

One of the girls - ladies - veterans - who served with me was also at Whale Island and when she got home and switched on the video who should she see but me. She was with her husband who had served in the Navy - sad that we didn't meet though.

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY LIBERATION
CELEBRATIONS, ANTWERP
2 - 5 SEPTEMBER 1994
by Doreen J Peters (née Davies)**

Some of you may recall that, in 1989, I told you about a small group of ATS who had been to Antwerp for the celebration of the 45th Anniversary of the Liberation. Well, nine of us have just had the great fortune to be invited by the Burgomaster and Aldermen to go to the 50th Celebration.

We assembled on Friday 2 September arriving over most of the day, so there was plenty of time to make new acquaintances and renew friendships. We had a session at 6 pm that evening with a reporter and photographer and the report appeared in the Saturday morning edition - a good write up and a surprisingly recognisable photo! Our party comprised:

Molly Ritson	(nee Oakley)	Jnr Comdr	481/137	HAA Bty
Lucy Bowyer	(nee Evans)	Sgt	487/137	" "
Doreen Peters	(nee Davies)	Sub	531/155	" "
Mabel Bolton	(nee Dee)	Sgt	525/155	" "
Mona Heeley	(nee Lindsay)	Cpl	" "	" "
Rosa Riley	(nee Davies)	Cpl	" "	" "
Ida Mees	(nee France)	Pte	" "	" "
Margaret Muskett	(nee Macintosh)	Pte	" "	" "
Helen Wilson	(nee McHardie)	Pte	" "	" "

My husband, Alec, was with us. He was in Royal Signals in Antwerp too. There was an Army Council Instruction which laid down that abroad, husbands and wives were not allowed to be in the same theatre of war. Here we were on either end of a tram route! So for us this was a doubly nostalgic week end. Lucy's husband, Charlie Bowyer and Victor Mees, husband of Ida, made up our party.

Saturday, after breakfast, there was a comprehensive briefing and, after an early lunch, we departed for the Tank Ceremony. A Cromwell tank has pride of place in Antwerp as a permanent memorial. The 11th Armoured Division liberated the City on 4 September 1944 and General "Pip" Roberts, now 91, was their Commander. He was present at the Wreath laying, first by The Royal British Legion and other organisations and later by Albert II, King of the Belgians and Queen Paola and Prince Andrew. A number of bands were there - more about that later. There were so many tall men that it was difficult to identify all the distinguished guests but we had a good view of Sir Edward Heath, who as a young officer, was there at the time. A solemn occasion, with suitable music and "The Last Post" by a band of the Grenadier Guards, always guaranteed to raise a lump in the throat. A further ceremony took place in which the square where the memorial tank is situated was named for General Roberts (who is greatly revered in this city).

On to the buses for transfer to the Parade. Molly and I and my husband opted out of marching this time and we should have been on buses taking us to the viewing stand. Unfortunately it didn't work out that way and we were all dropped at the Parade assembly area. Therefore, we had to walk the length of the parade anyway. We were all wearing our medals and consequently got applause all the way - just for us! Arriving a bit later than planned, we found no more seats available but this proved to be a blessing as we sat on marble seats on the pavement and had a front uninterrupted view of the magnificent parade. The bands again and the veterans were received with much applause from the thousands lining The Meir three and four deep. Our contingent of seven - the only women in the parade - were as smart and well drilled as any as you would expect. We were proud to have Lucy carrying her Standard in the

parade too. After the departure of the King and Queen, there followed a wonderful selection of veteran Army vehicles - British and American. It included armoured vehicles, towing trucks, utilities, jeeps, ambulances and tracked vehicles. A wonderful display which Prince Andrew stayed to see. Appropriate enough it was just at that time that a Lancaster and a Spitfire flew over.

Then to the Bourla Theatre for the official welcome - a very, very long speech from the Mayor, followed by (fortunately) short ones by representatives of Britain, Canada and the USA.

An excellent meal followed in the historic Town Hall, after which we assembled in the Square of which the Town Hall makes up one side - for the Taptoe or Tattoo. This is a magnificent setting for a night time occasion - one side Town Hall, two sides typical Flemish buildings capped by gilt figures floodlit. The fourth side the floodlit tower of the Cathedral with the clock face picked out in gold. By this time it is a quarter to ten.

Huge - but really huge - grandstands accommodated thousands - but not us - as seating was a bit short in our grandstand outside the Hall. However extra seats arrived giving us, once again, a ringside seat for a fantastic show.

The bands came from the Grenadier Guards, The Antwerp Police, The Belgian State Police Force, 5th Light Infantry, The Russian Navy, the US Forces in Europe, The Combined Dutch Army and all were excellent. The Grenadiers were, as ever, a stunning spectacle, outstanding in appearance amongst a collection of bands all of whom were immaculately turned out. The Russians put on a complete entertainment with soloists, choreographed movements and beautiful Russian music. The Americans gave another kind of show - in particular jiving to "In the Mood". But of course the climax of the evening was the arrival of Dame Vera Lynn. A mobile stage, mounted on a 3-ton truck and floodlit drove into the accompaniment of the Grenadiers playing "We'll Meet Again". A short programme included "We'll Meet Again", "The White Cliffs of Dover", the first chorus accompanied by a pianist and the second by the Grenadiers Band and everyone in the square. She received many bouquets and then did a lap of honour, slowing down opposite the stand where all the British veterans were assembled.

The finale comprised all the bands on the Square playing their National Anthems. Due to the late start of the Tattoo, the Fireworks display overlapped and the music was occasionally played to a background of thunderclaps. It seemed a pity that the bangs couldn't have accompanied Tchaikowsky's 1812. A very late night after a long day for us veterans.

Sunday. We assembled at 10 am and were bussed to the river where two river-boats, Flandria 20 and Flandria 16, took us for a trip down the river. En route, we stopped to attend a ceremony for the unveiling of a tribute to the Belgian Resistance, who had been of great assistance to our troops 50 years before - to the day - as they advanced on the city.

Then to the Hilton Hotel for a "mess-tin lunch". Nothing like any mess-tin meal any of us could remember! The only things in a mess-tin were the bread rolls and those tins were shiny and new and straight from the nearest camping shop. During the meal, various presentations were made. The nine of us contributed to a small donation to the welfare fund of The Royal British Legion in Antwerp. I drew the short straw and did the handing over. I explained to about seven or eight hundred people assembled in the magnificent dining room, that I represented nine ex-ATS there, who in turn represented hundreds of girls (well, we were girls then, weren't we?) who served in Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries in defence of the City. Mijnheer Gompertz, Past President of

the Legion, accepted it and said that he was very touched by our gesture. As I stepped down from the platform, a high ranking US Officer grabbed my hands. He told me that that morning a plaque had been unveiled to the Anti-Aircraft Forces of 1944-45 in Antwerp and that he was sorry that he had not been able to get any Brits to attend. I found a copy of his speech amongst the literature that every veteran received and was pleased to find the following:

"... The presence here in those days of General Armstrong and his boys - and British girls! was essential! They succeeded in defeating almost entirely the V1 bomb".

Returned.



ANTWERP CELEBRATIONS

L to R: Lucy Bouyer, Molly Ritson, Doreen Peters, Mabel Button, Margaret Mashet, Mona Keeley, Rosa Riley, Ida Mee, Helen Wilson

I thanked him and stood to attention. His eyes nearly popped out! I don't think that there is any more of that kind of thing in the US Army today than there was 50 years ago!

Another presentation was made to Burgomaster Cools by Rosa Riley, a Corporal in 525/155 HAA Bty. She read a poem which was beautifully written on a parchment scroll -

"We came to you in wartime, now we come to
you in peace
For 50 years ago we came and our friendship
will not cease
We helped to man the gunsites, in Schoten we
were based
In balltress we laboured and flying bombs we
faced
But you were always there for us, your arms
were open wide
You welcomed us into your homes and said
"Please come inside".
You even did our washing, with that we could
not cope
The only payment you would take was just a
bar of soap
Sadly, there are some of us who are not here
today
For in the intervening years their lives have
flown away
But were they here beside us we're sure that
they would know
Today we are united, today we have no foe".

This was received with great applause.

The final occasion for the British veterans was a Service of Remembrance at the Wilrijk War Cemetery and a little time to read some of the inscriptions and to remember the dates of some of the worst V1 and V2 disasters. My husband remembered 1st and 23rd February 1945 when many Signalman perished in two major catastrophes and to

wonder that it could have all have happened.

Some stalwarts - not amongst our small party - finished the week-end by attending a Ball in the square on Sunday evening. Most of us were glad of a few minutes to chat and say our goodbyes for it was an early start for many the following morning.

As in 1989, the people of Antwerp did us proud. Some of the enormous sum of money was donated by the ordinary people of the city. The hospitality was fantastic - accommodation in a premier hotel, superb food, with as much wine as you wished, a specially struck Commemorative Medal, a presentation box of Elixir D'Anvers (a liqueur), Belgian beer and glasses, individual presentation boxes of chocolates and liqueur miniatures at two of the evening dinners. Coaches took us everywhere escorted by police motor cyclists who stopped crossing traffic enabling the convoy of seven coaches to go through the red lights together. Even riding to and fro between events we were applauded and given a wave from many who were not even born in our Antwerp days.

We have a special debt to the Antwerp Branch of the British Legion who worked tirelessly and at no small cost to organise the attendance of the veterans and to look after them throughout.

An emotional weekend - never to be repeated - what a privilege to have been there!

ATS GREETINGS CARDS

A private venture by one of our Association members has produced an ATS Greetings Card. It is 6" x 4" on white card and has a gold ATS Badge on the front and the words:

"Greetings and Best Wishes"
on the inside.

Price which includes an envelope is 18p per card, and you are asked to refund actual postage. Bulk orders from branches are welcome.

Please reply to:

Miss F M Santer
The Hobbit Hole
74 Walkern Road
Bennington
Herts SG2 7LS

BLESMA

The Ancaster BLESMA Home at Crieff in Scotland has vacancies for amputees as permanent residents and during the low season can accommodate respite care cases.

Details from the Home:
Tel: 01764 - 652480

COMMEMORATIVE WINDOW

Donations from the following have been received for the window in Guildford Cathedral since the last edition of LIONESS.

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Lt Col R D Allerton MBE	Lt Col J L Lawson MBE
Miss B Baker	Miss A M Lindsay
Miss E F Bassett	Mrs M McClean
Mrs M Bottomley	Mrs A D S Mitchell
Miss A Cohen CBE	New Zealand ATS Group
Mrs E A Davis	Lt Col S C Puckle MBE TD
Mrs J Eford	Richmondshire Branch
Mrs P D Gordon	Mrs E Robertson
Miss J A Gordon	Maj H M Shenton
Miss H Hoskins	Maj H L Saunders
Mrs A Ivey	Mrs B Simpson
Lady Kemball	Mrs M Wilkinson
London Group	Miss L Wright

The Vice-President and Council of the Association are most grateful to all those who have subscribed to this project.

The appeal is still open and cheques should be made payable to: "WRAC ASSOCIATION".

REMEMBER BEING PAID?

by Mrs Peggy Turner (née Turner)

This photograph of the 1st City of London Company Pay Parade was taken early in 1940 at HQ Eastern Command, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow. Can anyone recognise themselves? I was W/31190 Peggy Turner and I am the volunteer waiting at the front of the right hand column.

The Command HQ split in 1941 with many of my friends moving south of the Thames to the newly formed South Eastern Command. I continued working in the Secret Registry of Eastern Command, when the Headquarters moved to Luton Hoo. Our office was in the Gun Room at the side of the mansion. When I visited Luton Hoo two years ago, I found the Gun Room had unfortunately been dismantled and public lavatories are in place instead (or should I say 'in lieu').

When Eastern Command HQ ATS Group was formed, I was promoted to the Group Warrant Officer Class II. I had the honour of leading round the Royal Party when the Princess Royal - Princess Mary visited us. Our HQ office

eventually moved to Harpenden with Senior Commander Wood-Ingram and her Adjutant Junior Commander O'Meagher.

I later on, I served for two short periods as Company Sergeant Major at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, Essex and at RSD Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire. I then was posted to Chesham as a WO1 and finished my service in November 1947 at the Royal Engineers OCTU at Newark, Notts. I married Cyril Turner of Harpenden, so my name remains the same.

HAPPY MEMORIES

by Mrs Mary Bottomley (née Hookes)

I have very happy memories of my Army days and still keep in touch with four of my Army friends from 1939. I joined the ATS at King Street, Lancaster on 4th February 1939. Our Officers were C/Comdr Julia Cowper and Miss Tansley-Witt. We did our training at Ripley Barracks, Lancs and just before war broke out, we and other Companies of the West Lancashires spent 2 weeks under canvas at Garraevon W Wales.

Our 'calling' up papers arrived two days after war was declared and I am sorry to say that I shed a few tears that day but have had no regrets since that eventful day and was very proud of my uniform.

We were away the next day, a long tiring journey to Bulford Barracks in Salisbury Plain - and into new, married families quarters, that was a wicked winter and weren't we delighted to be issued with boys' overcoats, brass buttons and all.

As there were only 3 things we could be in those days - cook, clerk or orderly - I was advised to be a cook and again I never regretted it. At the beginning there was plenty of food. Capt Salmon was our first Mess Caterer and everything had to be just right - we had such wonderful equipment there (not always so) and worked unceasingly when the Dunkirk soldiers were coming over in droves - I moved on from there - in fact a whole Company was removed from our barracks and we were moved to Carlisle to a much dirtier kitchen - back to back fixed stoves and boilers (no bakers ovens or steamjacket boilers there) and no Capt Salmon - he was a member of the London Lyons' Catering & Corner House families and certainly knew his job.

From there I was posted to the Heysham Towers (Morecambe) and delighted because I was near to relations. I was in charge of the cook house or Mess Caterer, - we served over 900 meals a day in what was a 'holiday cottage' local industry and also a beautiful o.d. well preserved Hall. From there I was posted to Drivers' and Clerks' School in Wales and then to Alton Towers where again we had poor cooking facilities and were miles away from civilisation and very little transport to get anywhere. I hated the place.

Luckily I was posted to Germany. We have marvellous barracks at 2nd Echelon but what terrible destruction - to collect rations we went three miles of barely knee high rubble but wherever there was a roof, however low, people lived there. We were taken into some of the black towers - pitch black, smelly and revolting. We were very lucky - I must say - the building around the 'Alster' were very little damaged and to be able to go up the the Baltic for short breaks was a treat - I had 2 years in Germany and apart from the sadness and madness of men I loved every minute of it. I took my derrob to look after elderly relatives, but what happy memories I had and have of my army life.



AN ATS PAY PARADE

Peggy Turner is in front of a right hand column

LIFE IN CANADA AFTER THE ATS

by Jenny Eardley

Lioness Issue No 2 1994 was special, page 123. 560 Bty third row, third girl from the right. There I am grinning like a Cheshire cat. Millie Davies sent it in. I wish my nose was as good a shape as hers. I'm afraid I didn't remember her as she was a GL girl and I was on the height finder and no one was allowed around the sets to socialize or be nosey, but I've written to her and next time in England, hope to meet her. Three years ago I paid you a short visit, are you still in the same locale?

You asked me if I could write about my experiences over here. I'm not much of a writer so please excuse mistakes and spelling. Some time my thoughts get ahead of my pen. So here goes. I was married May 6 1945 two days before VE day, discharged from the ATS in July, sailed for Canada in April 1946 on the Lotilla. It was a hospital ship, talk about a "slow boat to China", this was it. We used to wave to the other ships passing us, when Queen Mary passed for the third time we hid down stairs so embarrassed at our chugging along. "Let's get out and push" was our favourite saying. The food was marvellous, white bread, lots of butter, hadn't seen anything like that for ages. One little incident happened after we all got on the ship, the personnel went on strike - they hadn't been on shore leave for months so while this dispute was being settled they decided to tow us out in mid stream and there we waited waving to people on shore.

Arrived in Winnipeg 30 April after a three day and night train trip. To while away the time we played cards, sang, talked, marvelled at the food, no rationing here. We cried every stop and there were lots, we'd poke our heads out the

windows and one girl would run and buy fruit while we waited for some girls to disembark. This train we were on went right from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Vancouver and all it carried were War Brides and railway personnel, and the Red Cross. My husband was on the platform when I arrived, he had found an apartment on Home Street, it was more like two rooms in the attic, very hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Houses and apartments were hard to find so he decided we'd build. We got a lot from the municipality and rented a bulldozer to dig the hole for a basement, we bought a prefab and before that could be placed, we had these other things to do - lay footings, get the plumbing, roughed in forms made to form the walls of the basement, cement poured in the footings, once the cement was dry the forms were taken out and the shell of the house was placed on top. It wasn't a big house, just two bedrooms, kitchen, living room and bathroom but it was ours, and boy did we work! There were no walls inside just 2 x 2 and 2 x 4 studs to tell where the rooms were to give the roof support. There were three couples, us, one next door and back of us and when we were waiting on supplies we worked on theirs and vice versa. Sunny was a carpenter, Bill and Stan were bricklayers, at least that was school they were going to. We girls were labourers but by the time we had finished could saw wood and drive in nails like a pro. Of course the Army was a good teacher, we laid paths at Speke, it was a dummy site. We must have lived there about five years and in the meantime our son was born and we had a daughter. But now the house was getting too small for our needs so we bought another lot right on the edge of the city, sold this house, borrowed a friend's trailer and with a six month old baby moved in and it proved to be the wettest summer on record. I broke the axle on the baby pram and lost my boots or wellingtons in the mud.

This time we were building a red brick house with attached garage and apart from his brother we were on our own. The inspector came round from time to time and the police because we were hammering on a Sunday and there was a noise bye-law. We posted a look out and went ahead, had to - winter wouldn't wait. We moved into the garage late September, it was getting too cold for the trailer, we got an old cookstove to heat it and cook on and that's how we lived. It was so cold, I put the kids to bed in their snow suits, the blankets stuck to the walls with the frost. Christmas Eve found us down the basement, the upstairs still wants finishing, furnace was in but duct work had to be done, plastering, wiring and flooring but we had heat and some electricity and some plumbing. We lived down there until April or May, can't remember the exact date. It was slow going and were finally getting things the way we wanted when along comes our youngest son. The following year we took a holiday, the first we had ever had, three days, we went to the white shell where Bill's sister and brother-in-law were building a cottage. Guess who did the chimney? When Johnny said put in a bid on the lot next door and I said no, we've done enough, he said I bet you could get it for \$2500. I said no, but Bill said we'll try for \$2500 and if we get it we'll build and if we don't well that's OK. The white shell was 100 miles from home, the lake was pristine clear as a bell, you could see the deer track where they came to drink, the air smelt of pine, it was really beautiful. You guessed it, we got it. There was no electricity, no water, a road ran down to the lake, there was a stipulation we had to start work within 12 months of the lease. For three Sundays running we bundled the kids in the car and set out, we cleared the land, it was a huge lot something like 200 x 225 ft, and put the footings down, no basement thank goodness. Bears, deer, moose, beaver, skunks, we had the lot including geese, ducks, loons. These skunks with their kids would play on our lawn, they were exactly like cats but black with a white stripe.



JENNY EARDLEY'S FIRST D-I-Y HOUSE WHEN BUILT



SAME HOUSE AFTER CONVERSION

The dogs more than once ran foul of these animals, we always kept a tin of tomato juice especially for them, I guess it was the once acid neutralizing the other as you couldn't wash it off no matter how hard you tried, it was like varnish and the smell, well that's something else, you washed them down with tomato and that made them bearable. I must add there were four years between each child.

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THE OLD DARK HOUSE by Mrs Vera Wilks (Coventry)

How is it that an embarrassing moment so devastating at the time, can appear so absurd fifty six years later? Looking back it was so ridiculous I can hardly believe it really happened! Perhaps a sense of humour only develops with the years because at 20 I don't think I could have had one. (Of course life suddenly becomes serious for everyone when war breaks out.) The Territorials were called up immediately. It was no surprise, we were ready - well almost. We were leaving home, some of us for the first time, a little apprehensive perhaps of what might be in store. Our generation had been born some time before the Great War of 1914-18 and we had grown up with the stories of that terrible time and the misery afterwards. Little did we know the horrors this one would bring!

But there were lighter moments and this is one of them, although I didn't think so at the time. Whenever I remember that dreadful old house I can't resist a quiet chuckle so join me for an amusing glimpse of those early days of September 1939.

In full uniform, and with bulging kit-bags and army respirators, our small company of ATS assembled at the Drill Hall. We climbed into covered trucks and were delivered to a large "ancient dwelling" somewhere in the south, late in the afternoon. Deep in the heart of the country, buried in trees, far from nowhere in particular, it looked a grim old place but was worse inside! There were several long stone-flagged passage ways with various rooms branching off, all with dark oak panelling almost up to the ceiling, and such small windows, so high that they let in very little light. No furniture to speak of - just the odd chair or rickety stool, all heavy, old and dusty. A sad, desolate, neglected house - no one had lived there for many years. To me the atmosphere was not so much menacing as resentful. I felt it objected to all the young khaki-clad females poking about in its dreary dusty corners, disturbing the peace and the woodworm. The floors were wooden and covered with threadbare carpeting of no discernable colour, some with crumbling dirty matting.

We were informed that four male officers had arrived the day before, a Major, a Captain and two Lieutenants. They had living quarters and offices somewhere up above us in another part of that mysterious mansion (surely more habitable than the rooms we had seen). We had no idea why they were there but we soon found out why we were! We were there to look after them. This was WAR and we had volunteered for service wherever it was needed and it was certainly needed there. We should soon get things organised.

We spent some time exploring but eventually curiosity and hunger satisfied, we retired to our "bedrooms" - two rows of iron bedsteads with sad-looking blankets and endured a very restless first night nervously listening to all the creaks and groans of that old dark house!

So it was sheer relief to rise at five o'clock next morning to try and sort things out. We managed of course but believe me those first few days were complete chaos (especially for me). Such was the confusion that for some reason I have never fathomed, cooks and domestic workers were surprised to find themselves in offices while secretaries and

clerks were even more surprised, and right out of their depth in the kitchen. And what a kitchen! The demon old cooking-range looked as if it could have been responsible for Alfred burning the cakes, and it said a great deal for the ingenuity and patience of the "cook" and her assistant that they finally managed to get it alight.

Last in line as usual, I was rewarded with the one job that nobody else wanted - waitress in the Officers Dining Room. Overwhelmed with all responsibility of such an awesome task, I gamely trotted off to find a room suitable. After traipsing down endless passages I came across the only room with a ten-foot table in it. The fact that it was nowhere near the kitchen never occurred to me. Well, there was no other choice anyway. It was not a very large room, oblong in shape with the great heavy oak table against the long right-hand wall. Behind it, backing onto the panelling, with hardly any space between it and the table, was a six foot oak settle or bench. At the foot of the table, to the right of the door, was a shaky old 'Carver' dining chair that had seen better days long ago. It was riddled with woodworm and looked very unsafe. But at the head of the table was the strangest chair I had ever seen. A great black oak seat it was - heavy and solid with a high rounded back, ornately carved, with arms and legs as thick as tree trunks, also deeply carved. It looked like a huge black throne!! The grimy monster, cleaned up, would be ideal for the Major who, I had already observed the evening before, was a big man. It was too close to the table but impossible to move - everything would have to remain as it was.

In the time allowed I made everything as clean as possible. With such meagre, haphazard provisions I was surprised to find condiments and cutlery included so I laid the table carefully, rejecting the idea of flowers for the centre - such frivolous feminine fancies would not be appreciated in war time.

Glancing over my shoulder to check all was satisfactory on my way out, I crashed into the Major on his way in! The impact seemed to have very little effect on him but it sent me flying. I was helped up and gently guided through the door. Dazed and slightly dishevelled but none the worse, I belted back to the kitchen for his breakfast which proved to be a single slim sausage and an egg (I told you the rations were meagre!). Not exactly a Gourmet's Delight - it looked rather pathetic and not particularly appetizing, certainly not much of a meal for a hefty man but was cooked thoroughly.

Back again, peeping through the door I discovered the other officers had also arrived. The two young ones squeezed onto the settle, side by side backs to the wall, bolt upright and so alike that they looked like a pair of bookends. The Captain was gingerly trying his weight on the wobbly carver while the major, looking remarkably like Henry VIII reigned in royal splendour on his "throne". Judging by the expressions on their faces their expectations were far too high.

But this was my big moment. This had to be done properly, with dignity. So determined to impress them with my cool, calm efficiency, I squared my shoulders, took a deep breath, pushed open the door and marched in - caught my foot in the rotten matting (which I had avoided so easily all morning) and the sausage sailed away high in the air, right along the length of the table. Four pairs of astonished eyes followed its flight until it descended somewhere in the vicinity of the Major. Meanwhile the overcooked little egg made a graceful arc and plopped to the floor just before I did, not so gracefully! For the second time that morning I 'bit the dust' and it was only eight o'clock. The war had barely begun!! I hoped it would be a short one or I would never see the end at this rate. Falling about four foot from the Major it really wasn't worth getting up, so on my knees, carrying the egg on the plate, both unbroken (there's always a silver lining) I shuffled over to rescue that miserable sausage.

I seemed to be ages down there in the dark, under that evil-looking chair while up above me there was a dead silence - not a sound. Not a movement, only me fumbling around in a blind panic. With so much dust about it was not surprising that some went up my nose causing a mighty sneeze and I banged my head on a sharp point in the carving on the chair leg. The loud yelp of pain ended with an even louder hiccup, in my youth any crisis could bring on an attack of hiccups. At this moment I needed that like a hole in my head!!

Fate, I suppose having punished me enough, allowed me to find my quarry, lurking furtively behind a ruck in the matting. Staggering upright with a mumbled apology (and a hiccup) a very flushed face, a hole in my stocking, and a grazed leg, I made for the door, praying not to fall over anything else.

By this time, filthy with the dust of centuries, ashamed and disgusted at such an appalling exhibition, before escaping, I cast a forlorn glance (and a hiccup) at one of the young officers and was surprised to see his left eye close slowly. To this day, I'm not sure if it was a sympathetic wink or a nervous facial tic.

Trudging back to the kitchen I examined the breakfast. It was definitely the worse for wear. Even in the gloom it looked humble - not a pretty sight - it never had been but was not improved by the heavy layer of coconut matting. It would have to be changed or dusted down or something and "Cook" would not be at all pleased - she was very short of sausages. What a fool! What a disaster! What a way to start the war! So much for dignity and efficiency - promotion for me was not only a long way off, it was completely out of sight! I was well down the second corridor, deep in my misery before I hear the distant roar of male laughter. They had evidently stifled their mirth for as long as they could and I was grateful for that, but now I had to go back in there with four breakfasts. And without a tray! Anything could happen! A tiny titter or even a small smirk and I could drop the lot!

To be fair, I should point out that it was not a lack of chivalry which prevented the men from helping me in my downfall. I'm sure normally they would have rushed forward. Remember the young ones were pinned to the wall behind the table. The portly Major was wedged firmly in the arms of the "monster" and it had all happened so quickly for the elderly Captain clinging desperately to the edge of the table on his crumbling carver. Just as well really - any sudden movement and the whole thing would have collapsed under him! (I found a safer one for him by lunch time).

During the few days we were there I found the officers extremely kind. Perhaps they realized the sort of conditions we were working in, and made allowances. Or, more likely, they felt sorry for the poor little ATS girl who was so obviously "tuppence short of a shilling". We shall never know.

Anyway, imagine my relief when the following week our company was posted to a huge barracks in Shrivenham. It was an Officer Cadets' Training Unit, where I decided for the safety of all concerned, I would be far better off back in an office. So this time, when work was allocated I made sure to be nearer the front. The result? WAITRESS IN THE OFFICER CADETS' DINING ROOM!! Experienced workers are always preferred.

Fortunately all those floors were tiled.

This little tale of my early days in the army could be a tribute to all the "square pegs" like me who served cheerfully throughout the war years in all those mundane but necessary "round holes" allotted to us.

"They also served".

So in this year of celebration, here's to our memories - amusing or sad, they are as vivid as ever!

Mrs Wilks now lives at 8 Ashwood Avenue, Coundon, Coventry, Warwickshire CV6 1ET.

SERVICE LIFE AT HOME AND OVERSEAS by Mrs Phyll Harvey (née Birch)

I read in the Lioness with interest of girls on the AA sites. I was stationed at Anti-aircraft Command Headquarters "Glenthorne", Stanmore, Middlesex, our GOC-in-C was Gen Sir Frederick Pile. We were "next door" to Fighter Command, Bentley Priory, when Glen Miller came during his visit to Britain. Our offices were huts in the grounds of Glenthorne and whilst typing I could hear the band rehearsing. Many a letter I typed to the rhythm of "Little Brown Jug".

We had some well known personalities at Command HQ. Henry Longhurst, the golfer, was Transport Officer and John Churchill, the artist and the late Professor Coldstream were Camouflage & Chemical Warfare. At our Welfare Branch in London Jimmy Kennedy the songwriter was the Entertainments Officer. One of my jobs was to put clean blotting paper (no biro in those days) on the desk - what a pity I didn't keep the old sheets - the original copy of a song perhaps - or a doodle of Major Churchill!! The Welfare Branch organised the shows and exhibitions by famous stars and sent wireless sets and games as often as possible to the gun sites.

My stay at Glenthorne came to an end by my overseas posting. Somewhere at sea, on the troopship "Alcantra" I celebrated my 21st birthday (I suspect my friend Rene Ogden also from Glenthorne told all). The cook very kindly made a cake with 21 matchsticks for candles - a birthday I will never forget. We eventually docked at Alexandria and after an exciting train journey to Cairo spent a week at the famous Kasr-el-nil Barracks. Here I had a reunion party with Jean Waters, a friend from home who was with Signals in Cairo.

I was then posted to 503 Coy ATS at Abbassia. My job was a statistics typist at GHQ 2nd Echelon. Two events happened which were of national importance. Loyd Moyne (our Ambassador) and his driver LCpl Fuller were assassinated - an event which has been lost in history. The funeral service at All Saints Cathedral Cairo was a very colourful and emotional ceremony. The cap and belt of LCpl Fuller lay on top of flowers covering the Union Jack draped coffin. Both coffins were carried out to the waiting gun carriages. Gen Sir Bernard Paget C-in-C MEF walked between parties bearing the coffins. Mourners of many nations attended.

The other interesting item was being interviewed by the press. In 1943 Parliament debated whether ATS should be drafted abroad and I was asked for my opinion. This was reported in the national press and for months afterwards, by every postal delivery, friends and relations in Britain kept me well supplied with copies.

My thoughts on Egypt - fleas, standing the bed legs in tins of paraffin - in the town the smell of horse manure and petrol - the poverty of the natives who seemed quite happy - the bright lights (after the blackout in Britain) King Farouk and Queen Farida's yacht lit up overall at night in the harbour, the kite hawks swooping down to steal our food as we came out of the cook house into the Mess - the sudden winds which blew the sand through the shutters and covered everything - and of course - bananas. Not having seen one for years they were on sale everywhere and so many other memories which have remained with me for 50 years. I have a menu card from Christmas 1944 signed by Pat Skinner, Pat Reed, Gerry Moon, Jock Weir, Mabs Gutteridge, P Hammond, Marjorie Payne? and Eileen Darcy (Scouse).

I returned to UK in 1946 sadly missing our on all the VE and VJ day celebrations at home. Of my service life at home and overseas I can only say "I wouldn't have missed it".

A DRIVERS LIFE by Ena Scott (née Campbell)

I was a driver, joining in 1941 and did my training in Inverness, before going to the Bradbury Lines at Hereford. From there to Camberley for a Driver Instructor course. The houses of Beaufort, Cornhill and Mulroy (with another I cannot remember) made up the HQ of the Company, after which we were given our postings.

I was sent to 25 Western Coy in Newport, Monmouthshire. I went to various outstations or detachments, including Aberport and Manorbier, both Artillery Camps. I then went to the Drivers Training Centre in Keswick, Cumberland as a Driving Instructor. The Manor Brow Hotel in Keswick was run by the Western Command MT Corps as a "finishing off" centre for drivers before going on to other Companies. It became a joke that the girls so enjoyed their stay at the Manor, they just did not want to leave and so performed, shall we say, just not 100%, when it came to "exam" day.



MAINTENANCE DAY AT KESWICK 1942



DRIVING SCHOOL KESWICK SEPTEMBER 1942
Peggy, Chummy, Rosalie, Ena

After a time I returned to South Wales and my old Company which was now called the 585 MT Coy and I was stationed, among other places, at Picton Castle, which was a military hospital. We had six ambulances at Picton and eight of us drivers. We had our own flat and thought we were in clover. It was a really lovely place to be and we all enjoyed our time there. Every Sunday was maintenance day when our vehicle got the once-over. I often tell my family that the underneath of a vehicle had to be as clean as the top, and I really mean clean. We used to spend many an hour lying underneath with a brush, cloth and a very little amount of paraffin.



**PICTON CASTLE MILITARY HOSPITAL,
HAVERFORDWEST, SOUTH WALES**
Betty Johnston, Ena Campbell, Mervyn Bayliss,
Molly Line, ?, Carol Brinkley

To get in and out of the yard at Picton with an ambulance was a nightmare as there was only about 2' clearance on either side. A needle (operational), elastoplast and camouflage paint were always on hand. We received one of the American Ambulances gifted from a town in America but thought that, compared with our own, they were a bit "tinny".

Came the day when there arrived on our doorstep 4 BEVACs complete with their own ambulances. No one knew anything about them and it wasn't until the following day that we were informed by HQ to return to Newport. At Newport we all separated - I went to Scotland where I worked with the SAS before going to Europe. They were the greatest lot of men to be with and, along with two other girls in the Brigade, were given permission by General Montgomery to wear the red beret.

I finished up in Europe with the 21 HQ and 721 Car Coy, driving all over the country as far as Copenhagen, and was also the 1st ATS in Willemshaven and I remember having my photo taken with the Town Mayor. I was shown the vast underground barracks the Germans had which was most interesting. Another time I was in Paris when my rotor arm in my car broke and I stuck it together with elastoplast. I was taking officers to the British Embassy that evening and collecting them later on, and was praying that the plaster would hold which thankfully it did.

Before the main 21 HQ went to Germany from Brussels, I was one of a party of twenty who went to Herford to open up the barracks, and take over two streets of houses for our Company. We had a hectic time and I always remember the Durham Light Infantry putting up a barbed wire fence round the street we had taken over and singing "Don't Fence Me In". Happy days in a way, made good friends and comrades. Wonder where they are all now. Maybe this will jog their memories and make them think back. We girls had to be able to do a certain amount of repairs etc including changing tyres but we took it all in our stride.

If anyone remembers any of these places, do let's hear from you. I have gone on for long enough.

ATS IN THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

by Miss Ida Neve

54 years ago an advance party arrived in Nottingham to plan the Royal Engineers Army Postal Centre. Men with any postal experience were called in and when they couldn't get enough men the Colonel in charge asked for 1000 ATS girls. In due course about 1300 arrived.

The sorting of letters was done by the girls. Six weeks training was given. Sorting was a job needing skill, care, accuracy and a good memory. The work was repetitive, exhausting and needed concentration. The shifts were very long. Early shift to midday, one to evening and then an all night shift.

The girls were standing most of the time. If lucky enough to find a stool - then sure enough one hardly sat down when the Sgt Major shouted 'Put those stools away'. Speeds started at a slow but sure 200 an hour rising to 1000+ an hour and the target was 8000 per day per person.

At Christmas rush time the mail bags were stacked from floor to ceiling and the girls often worked 12-14 hours per day to clear the floor in readiness for the incoming batch.

The office worked at full pressure 24 hours per day. In 1944 - 3000 men and women despatched 340 million letters, 95 million packets and newspapers and 13 million parcels in 2- million bags to our overseas troops. Christmas 1944 broke all records. Mail was sent to all parts of the world where our troops were stationed. In addition to sorting the girls also learned to tie letters in bundles and seal the mail bags.

As high priority was given to the mail much secret information passed to Nottingham so that sorters knew where to send items. Confidential location lists were provided to show in which formation each unit was located. Security was very strict and temptation to divulge information to friends and family resisted. The secrecy of work at Nottingham was maintained throughout the war.



POSTIES THEN AND NOW

Above: Ida Neve, Anne Pattison (now Hanrahan),
Joyce Constable, Joan De Vere, Florrie May (now Rider),
Olga Pratt, Joan Kirkman (now Hughes)



An old lace factory and vyella tie factory were used as letter sorting offices. Other buildings were used for parcels, general correspondence and casualty work. The sorting of parcels needed practice. The women found it more difficult than the men to flick parcels into sacks. Badly packed parcels were re-packed and re-labelled.

The lace factory was very old and airless and the smell from a tannery across the road awful. About once in six weeks the girls were sent out to a nearby street for 5 minutes PT - no doubt for fresh air. Meals were taken in Trent Bridge Cricket Pavilion, an old laundry and beneath the Palais Dance Hall. Sometimes girls were taken by coach to the mess. Mostly one walked and must have covered miles and were often too tired to eat the army food.

During the night shift at Vyella House we marched through the town in the blackout to the Palais mess with a red light at the rear of the squad. The ATS lived in private billets around the town. Old houses with no hot water laid on and water often found in the cellars. To have a hot wash or bath one went to the NAAFI club or public baths. Some had friends in the area and made use of their bathroom in off duty time. It was quite an experience to go to the old fashioned public wash house with laundry.

Some girls were posted overseas to release men for home. The first draft went to Cairo, others to Naples. The work was very hard but a wonderful spirit of comradeship existed and this remains today when some of our former colleagues meet up for annual reunions organised by the Army Post Association formed some years ago.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The WRAC Association and ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds are moving on 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 10
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

Do not send any mail to Guildford after
24 March 1995.

WRAC BAND REGALIA

Green velvet tabards with the WRAC Badge on them are for sale.

These were used on music stands with the WRAC Band.

Proceeds to ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund.

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Please apply to:

Captain M. Torrent
Director of Music
AG Corps Band
Buller Barracks
Aldershot GU11 2DR

ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND - EPISODE 2

by Joan Ahrens

I write to answer Major E S Beedle's interesting query about 96 (M) HAA Regt RA not Battery published in Edition 2/94 **PDF Compressor Free Version** Lioness and add a few more.

I was posted to the regiment at Waller Barracks, Devizes from clerical training on, of all days, 5 November 1947 and remember on changing trains at Bristol seeing evidence of bomb damage. Living on a quiet coast, it was the first I'd ever seen, close up. It was a cold winter and Devizes seemed a rather bleak place, although I do remember cinema shows next door at Prince Maurice Barracks (take your own cushion/pillow), and that was fun. The following March we all moved to Carter Barracks, Bulford and unpacked RHQ office from the back of a 15cwt truck in the snow, quite exciting really: the brew of tea in the front office I enjoyed most of all. Life took on a rosy hue as we discovered: a garrison cinema, a NAAFI Club in Salisbury, dancing at 77 HAA Regt Larkhill (and in camp) weekly. My Battery colleagues though more probably remember cleaning and painting the Barracks in the popular ? green and cream, I speak of 273 and the same activity went on in 279 and 283 Battery lines.

Then it was springtime and off we went by train to Practice Camp at Weybourne, where it rained a lot, but the Battery did well firing the 3.7" Mk IV guns and operating the equipments. My only disappointment was with the TEA - what WAS that taste? Bromide, I was told and more of it was to come at Towyn (Tonfanau) and Bude, Cornwall in 1949. My typing didn't improve that much!

Later that year, the regiment went into suspended animation; we all held our respective breaths; it seemed like forever. I recall vague mutterings about the waiting, was it to be the gestation period of an elephant or were we soon to be delivered of something exciting? About six weeks later we became 46(M) HAA Regt RA and our Bys redesignated 117, 124 and 126 respectively. The rundown of AA Command started about that time I believe and soon ATS and gunners from disbanded regiments, 101 and 104 as Major Beedle said, arrived at Bulford. It was a sad time for them, especially those who had served with AA for six years of war, but I think we made them welcome and they were certainly an asset to 46. We also received one RA officer and 2 gunners from the disbanded 46 LAA Regt RA.

1949 was to be a busy year and Carter Barracks a hub of activity as national servicemen started to arrive; we reinforced RHQ office so that was helpful. A 2LI earned

promotion to Captain and became Adjutant of the regiment, no mean achievement in two years. His sister, I was told was Daphne Walker, the skating star at that time. The regiment took on a new lease of life I thought.

In May of that year, many ATS attended an Attestation Parade and entered the newly-formed WRAC. Page 63 Ed 2/94 Lioness refers. The other half of that picture showed 117 Bly ATS on parade and THE Gun; the Bly lines making a handsome backcloth. We had 3 guns, one for each Bty.

Then we were visited by the late Richard Dimbleby for a "Down Your Way" radio programme and I enclose a picture of that event on the square. L/Cpl Bell WRAC is seated at the predictor, a BBC man to the left and the CO Lt Col J Bannerman RA to the right (standing). I don't remember the music chosen but I expect we heard the recording on the radio later. In early June, ten of us took part in the 2nd RA Rally at the Albert Hall, the pageant being the Duchess of Richmond's Ball on the Eve of the Battle of Waterloo. We rehearsed the old-fashioned waltz with gunners from the RA depot at Woolwich, and we thought they were excellent on the night, especially since some had never danced a step before the rehearsals. We enjoyed that experience and I think they did too.

I volunteered for overseas service and went off to Egypt in June 1950 to hear later by letter that 46 Regt had moved onto Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield late 1950 to be disbanded in 1955, the last regiment to survive.

As well as the 'Farewell to Ack-Ack' message published in Lioness May 1955, an entry appeared in the following February issue that made an impact on AA readers I imagine:

Amendment to list of Branch Secretaries

Delete the following branches:

1, 2 and 5 AA Group (M) Sig Regts; 3 and 4 AA Groups;
46(M) HAA Regt RA; 455(M) HAA Regt RA (TA).

AA Group (M) Sig Regt shared Carter Barracks with the regiment and were an integral part of our activities. I don't remember if they were with us at Waller Barracks, Devizes, perhaps a member will write in and tell us.



DOWN YOUR WAY AT CARTER BARRACKS, BULFORD
BBC Producer, Lance Corporal Bell, Richard Dimbleby,
Lt Col Bannerman RA

BBC TV DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF YOURSELF ON VE DAY?

BBC TV are making a short series based on photographs taken on VE Day. If you have a photograph of yourself taken on that day (either in this country or abroad) or featured in any of the newspaper photographs of celebrations and have vivid memories of the day and your thoughts about the end of the war, we would love to hear from you.

If you can help, please contact:

Jenny Abbott,
BBC TV, Room 4097,
Kensington House, Richmond Way,
London, W14 0AX

with brief details and a phone number.
If it is possible to send a photocopy of your photograph we would be grateful, if not we would still like to hear from you.



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You can contribute as much time as you want in any one year. The minimum that we ask is that, as a member of the Independent TA, you complete 6 weekends, a two-week Summer Camp and some weekday evenings. As a Specialist we ask only 15 days training and two weekends.



In return you will receive payment equivalent to the rates paid to Regular Army soldiers, plus an annual tax-free bonus.

If you would like more information about how you can stay in the swim of things, write to the address below giving details of which option you are interested in, your current age and address, your intended county of residence, and of the regiment you have left or are leaving.

THE CONTINENTAL GROUPS OF ATS by Margaret Treadaway (née Elliott)

No 1 Continental Group started under the command of Chief Commander, the Hon Mrs Hornsby at St Paul's School Hammersmith in 1942 - 3 Companies - Drivers, Clerks and Cooks and Orderlies. We were a completely separate entity from London District, who had no jurisdiction over us.

My Company - the Cooks and Orderlies - staffed messes from the General's Mess in Latimer Court (Sir Bernard Page was then C in C), Officers' Mess in St Paul's School (200-300) and ORs in Olympia (500 plus).

They worked under the ACC and had two Platoon Officers, Mary Boyle and Rosemary Crayston-Inglefield. The HQ moved to the Wentworth Golf Club estates, an arduous undertaking for several months.

General Montgomery was approached to lead the invasion and the HQ then changed its name from GHQ Home Forces to 21 Army Group and we became No 1 Continental Group ATS and the sorting out of ages, suitability etc for services in Europe began.

Chief Commander, Molly Gourlay, was appointed and after another sortie to Wentworth, we were sent to a staging Camp and sailed on an old Indian Troopship called "The Neuralla" from Portsmouth on 11 August 1944 - going out in convoy was spectacular and emotional, in the early hours of 12 August we were the first ATS to land at Mulberry Harbour.



Dame Leslie Whatsley visits Continental Group

Our kit bags were handed down the gangway by Canadian Infantrymen also on board - most of whom were later killed at Falaise. The welcome we got from the troops on shore as the deck of the landing craft was let down, still rings in my ears - 700 women?! Life was hard in the fields outside Bayeux - one cold tap for 300 of us - eventually an old boiler was found to provide hot water. The tents had to be dug down owing to falling shrapnell as we really were not far from the front line when the reversal at Falaise began.

Spirits were high and my cooks who had had very little instruction in field cooking in the UK, battled with oil and petrol monsters of stoves always getting burns and always in their "wellies" owing to mud - not long ago I saw such stoves and cookers as they used in the fields of Normandy, as "museum pieces" at the Marines Camp! A Canadian journalist came and did a brilliant write up of their work which sadly I have lost.

I could also tell you of how I fell into a cesspit on the camp site!! or going back to 1942, an amazing journey on the C-in-C's train (which incorporated the Princes of Wales' train)



NO 1 CONTINENTAL GROUP HQ STAFF, NIENBERG 1945
Do you recognise yourself?

from Addison Road, Hammersmith, round the coast of Wales from North to South for 5 days, as Sir Bernard Page's guest. He felt that I should see how the girls worked on such an exercise but the happenings on that journey would be a page in itself - a mere Junior Commander surrounded by so many Generals and the fun we had!

I went up to Brussels in convoy (the only female!) in September 1944 to meet Molly Gourlay to plan the arrival of the 3 companies and find accommodation - there are many stories attached to that, going into Gestapo SS HQs in the Avenue Louise - with warnings not to touch anything in case of booby traps - finding how the Germans had just left everything in their desperate and hasty exit - clothing everywhere, food and drink still on tables.

Doreen our Scottish Medical Officer and myself were given an address in the Avenue Louise as a possible CR Station - to find that it had been used as an abortion centre for the "Sowis Grise" (Grey Mice) as the Belgians called our female counterparts - it took a while to convince the Belgians that there was no similarity in any way! Doreen said that she had never seen such equipment or drugs in the theatre and the bottles in rows and sizes of foetus, was horrendous.

I moved to Roubaix near Lille, as Adjutant to start the No 2 Group. Having done that I was given the job in Helmond, nr Eindhoven, at HQ Lines of Communication, to set up No 3 Group and when Senior Commander Betty Elwes arrived, we were posted in May 1945, to Nienburg nr Hannover attached to HQ 30 Corps with that wonderful man General Sir Brian Horrocks. There I met my husband whom I married in 1946.

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Winchester SO21 2RG

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24 March 1995.

VJ DAY CELEBRATIONS

(The article from a local paper was sent in by ex Sgt H Thomson (W125562) who was one of those who rushed out with greatcoat over her pyjamas. Ed)

There were scenes of wild excitement outside Normanton Barracks in the early hours of this morning when the VJ news became known.

ATS girls, some of them with coats over their pyjamas, soldiers and civilians sang and danced in the streets. Then the Vicar of Normanton, the Rev E B Bull, arrived and the whole crowd fell silent as a brief service of thanksgiving was held by the traffic island.

The midnight broadcast was the signal for the outburst of merry making. As soon as the news spread, ATS girls at the barracks got up, some dressed, others hastily threw topcoats over their night clothes and all marched out of the depot and began to celebrate.

Members of the Sherwood Foresters band who were able to obtain their instruments struck up popular airs and soon the whole district was alive, as civilians turned out of their houses to join the laughing and singing throng.

The Vicar of Normanton, hearing the jubilation went to the Barrack gates, and from the traffic island, surrounded by hundreds of service girls and inhabitants from the district, he began a service. All voices were hushed as the Vicar said prayers and then everybody joined in singing "O God, our Help in Ages Past".

Mr Bull gave a short address and, the service over, rejoicing broke out afresh. It was nearly one o'clock when in an endeavour to persuade the girls to return to the Barracks, the regimental march of the Foresters was struck up. The ATS reached the gates and then turned back. In the end the civilians were invited into the Barracks and dancing went on for several hours on the square. It is estimated that there were 1,000 people there. The only lack was of cigarettes but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the revellers.

As soon as the men on night shift in the Carriage & Wagon Works of the LMS heard of the surrender, many of them decided to leave work for a "couple of hours' jollification". Failing official sanction, they dragged the canteen piano into one of the sheds and proceeded to hold a lively sing-song. A bonfire was then suggested and all the black-out material at hand was pulled down and used as fuel for the "C and W Department's Victory Bonfire".

After more celebrations, the men went back to work and the works fire brigade put out the remains of the fire.

During the last event Derby streets were almost empty, expectant crowds going home early. After midnight a truck load of coloured American troops made merry by careering round the town, shouting and singing.

THEATRE OUTINGS

Any branch contemplating a visit to the National Theatre in London and would like to discuss group bookings should contact:

Jane Arch
15 Grove Road
Sonning Common
Berk. RG4 9RH
Tel: 01734 723474

EARLY DAYS

by Masie Harradine (née Puttock)

(Mrs Harradine's Golden Wedding was celebrated in the last LIONESS. Ed)

I think we ATS should try to recall all we can about the war years, whilst they are still in our memories. I did my initial training at Aldermaston in 1941. On arrival at a specified time, having been issued with Railway Warrants, we new recruits were given a meal, then a medical examination, including inoculations and vaccinations. We were weighed (I was 96 lbs). All was duly recorded in our new pay books.

We were issued with uniforms and kit. Two full uniforms, two pairs of shoes, and three each shirts and underwear. I had never had need of a bra being very slim so I felt three issues were rather surplus to requirements.

This all took some time and we were weary by the end of the day when we were allocated to a bed and locker each in Nissen huts attached to Ablution Blocks. That first night seemed very strange to us having "Lights Out". Each of us called out "Goodnight" in turn around the hut. Then silence fell with just the sound of one girl crying noisily as she was homesick. Next day, Reveille was 6.00 am. There was no heating in the ablution block. We were intrigued by one girl who had a lovely tan all over, until the 'penny dropped' when we realised she was nudist!. Some of us were shocked as it was practically unheard of in those days. I remember another girl having odd eyes, one blue and the other was brown, also the girl who was always singing whenever possible. She had a lovely voice and we enjoyed joining in the popular wartime songs.

The mess was in a large hall. I think it was in the Court, which had been requisitioned and probably had been part of the servants' quarters. I remember Aldermaston as being very spacious. There were brick buildings in the extensive grounds which were NCOs' quarters. The Officers lived in the "Court". The NAAFI was a Nissen hut, it was a very popular venue. We were allowed visitors on Sunday afternoon the first weekend, who were supplied with tea and cake, as we were, of course we had to queue up for it and wait on our visitors.

I was pleased when we were given a weeks pay in advance. I think it was fifteen shillings.

We were taught drill and enjoyed our first Route March accompanied by our lusty young voices singing "Bless 'Em All". We were given experience of various trades, presumably to assess our capabilities. Each Section was put on a Duty Roster each day for different tasks which we took it in turns to do. The cookhouse duty was the least favourable. It meant reporting to the Cook in Charge at 6.15 am. The first thing she did was to make a large pot of tea. After she had helped herself to a big mug of it, she invited us to do the same. We were not allowed to linger over it.

Our first task was to prepare a large boiler for porridge, filling it with water before adding huge amounts of oats which we had to stir continuously to prevent lumps forming. We had to heat large pans of baked beans, while others made mounds of toast or whatever was on the menu that day. The tea urn had to be boiling on time and of course we had to dish out the breakfast too. I can still hear the echo of my voice saying 'with or without?' as sugar was rationed and was not supplied ad lib.

The Cook in Charge must have been very good at instructing and delegating the preparation and cooking with so many different helpers. I remember the food was well prepared, or perhaps we all had healthy appetites. Nobody grumbled about the food as they knew it would be their turn next to prepare it.

We had to polish our badges and buttons, clean shoes and sweep out the Nissen hut ready for kit inspection each morning, standing by our beds with neatly folded blankets and three "Disculits" which served as a mattress and our kit laid out in special order.

As I had a PDF Compressor Free Version

As I had a cold (which was the first of many) other sufferers after reporting to the MO, were seated on benches each side of a table, where steaming bowls of E-Mars Balsam were put in front of each of us, a towel was put over each of our heads and we were told to inhale the steamy vapours until it cooled. It certainly cleared my head.

We were taught Aircraft Recognition, had a written exam and an IQ test. Then we were selected for various trades. I presume those who excelled in Aircraft Recognition were drafted to Ack Ack sites. While those with writing skills went into Admin, others more suitable to be orderlies. I did not waver in my choice to be a driver. I was gratified when I was given a posting to Camberley for a Drivers Course along with other prospective drivers. (Our Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, also took a Drivers Course at Camberley).

Mary Churchill arrived towards the end of our training at Aldermaston. She 'turned up' with her mother and several of her friends. They seemed to think it was huge fun. Of course, they arrived by car and were hustled off to the Officers' Quarters.

During our stay at Aldermaston many friendships were made and it was an emotional time when we all departed with our kitbags to various units. We drivers travelled to Camberley by truck. It was exciting for us as many of the girls had not ventured far from home before.

Aldermaston Court is now a hotel. How different it must look after all that has happened there in the intervening years. I wonder if my memories will evoke similar ones in other ATS girls who went to Aldermaston, and also if they can add to those memories.

BRANCH NEWS

ALDERSHOT. These notes mark the end of the first full year of our branch club. This in no way excludes those members still serving or those outside our immediate area, but it does mean that such members' subscriptions do not have to cover the cost of being notified of events which they cannot possibly attend. We meet at 7.30 every month in the Church of Scotland Hall, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot and aim to have at least six special events, such as talks, outings and of course our annual dinner, during the course of the year; in the intervening months we have our club nights. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month.

This copy of your Lioness will most likely have been packed by one of our branch members, since this is something that we have undertaken to do in the gap between the last servicewomen leaving the Queen Elizabeth Centre and the moving of the Association HQ to its new location. This anniversary year you may also have met some of us sporting ushers' green sashes at the Cathedral and the Reunion Dinner - all of which we have enjoyed enormously.

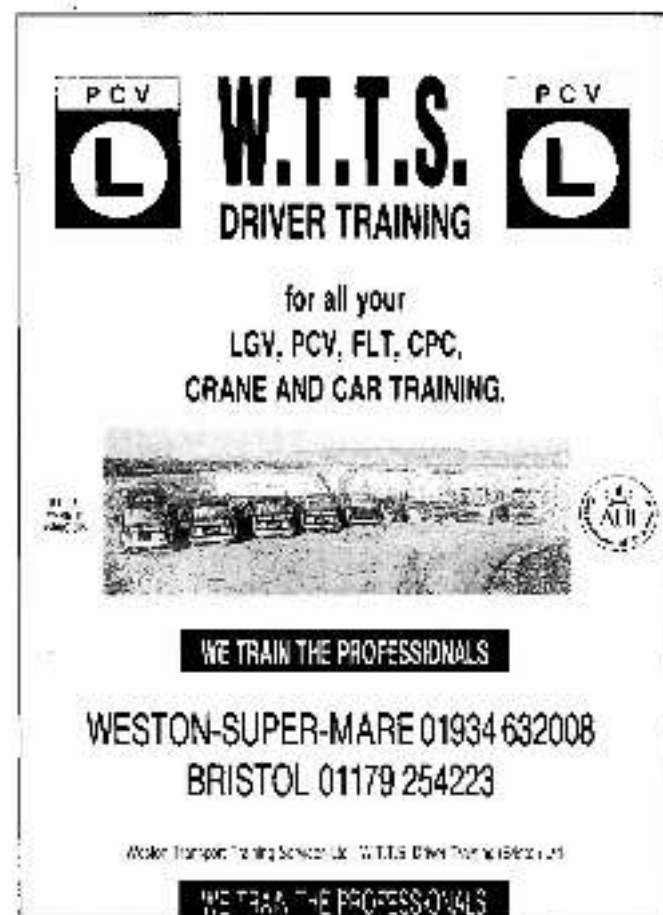
We have had four major outings this year, first to Woolwich, where Lt Col Pearson kindly showed us the medal room and the silver collection in the Royal Artillery Mess, and then entertained us to a delicious lunch. Secondly we went to an evening concert at Kneller Hall and then, in rapid succession, a most interesting day at the Military Port (Marchwood Barracks) organised by the Southampton Branch for the South Area reunion and, four days later, a visit to Buckingham Palace (our branch having been lucky in the draw for coach parties).

Of other activities our May Fayre, held in Aldershot in the pouring rain, made 600 for the Benevolent Fund - hard work by the committee and a loyal band of helpers ensured a magnificent display of goods for sale but because of the weather many of these would have remained unsold had it not been for the wonderful efforts of our two serving members WO1s Elaine Smith and Jill Turner, who toured the car boot sales the following day and did a roaring trade with the leftovers - we are most grateful to them. Forty one members attended our annual dinner, where the loyal toast was proposed by our Vice-Chairman, who by the time you read this will have taken over the office of Chairman for the next two years.

We enjoyed three very interesting talks during the year, one on Africa, illustrated by slides, the second, accompanied by the creme de la creme of her collection of pill boxes, by Brigadier Nolan and the third, which included samples to eat and drink, by a demonstrator from the Guildford branch of Whitards of Chelsea (the tea and coffee merchants).

The furthest-flung member of our branch is French resident Pamela Hastings (formerly Sgt Bowles - her last regular appointment was as an instructor on the WONCO Wing at Liphook). She now offers BED and ENGLISH BREAKFAST to any members passing through. The charge is reasonable and the address is 1 Chemin des Rochers, Marcouart-Fromanville, 77140 France; she is very conveniently situated a mile from a motorway exit to the south of Paris, between Fontainebleau and Nemours. Pam would love to hear from anybody who remembers her, whether or not they intend to call in - and don't forget to let her know if you are coming in case she's full! Of course we would also love to see any members who are in the Aldershot area - come and visit us on one of our club nights!

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH. We continue to meet in the afternoon of the second Monday in the month. Our membership has increased to 24 and it is nice to see so



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many at meetings in spite of transport difficulties. Our speakers this year have included three of our own members talking on subjects as varied as hatpins, service in the WRAC and candlewick embroidery.

We have been well represented at Area and National meetings. Four members attended the Grand Reunion at Guildford - a memorable occasion and four attended the ceremony in Great Yarmouth when a plaque was unveiled by Lady Soames to commemorate ATS killed in 1943. Two members were invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July and had a wonderful day. Our

Return 23 Feb 95



BUCKINGHAM PALACE INVITATIONS
Lydia Dolman and Gina Levington
(Photo courtesy of Trident Midlands Newspapers)

Chairman and her husband were invited to Antwerp in September to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the liberation of that City where they had both served in 1944. And in October six of us travelled to Telford for our area reunion.

By the time you read this our programme for 1995 will have been completed and will include a visit to Snibston Discovery Park. This is on the side of the former Snibston Colliery, Coalville where the famous Stephenson's of 'The Rocket' fame sank the first mine shafts in 1832. I am sure we will all enjoy the 'hands on' experience of the Science Gallery and be interested to see in the Textiles and Fashion Gallery how the 'fashions' have changed down the years - an industry with which Leicestershire has long been associated.

AYLESBURY. We are pleased to report our membership continues to grow with a nominal roll strength of 72 ATS & WRAC heroes so we must be doing something right. I am sure it is a matter of publicity and all existing members not missing an opportunity to spread the gospel.

Two members, Kathy Booth and Barbara Hurman,



**AYLESBURY BRANCH MEMBERS AT
FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE**
Mrs Alma Stride and Mrs Joan Shrimpton

attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on behalf of us all. The names of all 16 members able to attend were placed in a hat. The Chairman came out 15th but, never mind, my reward will be in heaven, so my husband tells me.



CENTURION OR CENTENARIAN
*Agnes Brazier QMAAC on her 100th Birthday with
Mrs Alma Stride at The Royal British Legion Women's
Section Club Barkhamstead 12 Dec 1994*

In our last report we mentioned a trip to the Cotswolds was planned. What a trip it turned out to be. After an enjoyable journey through the beautiful Cotswold countryside, we arrived at the village of Hook Norton where we were met by Pam's son, the Rev John Acreman. After coffee and freshening up at the local pub, a short tour of the area led us to a scrumptious 3 course lunch in one of the joining villages. We then returned to Hook Norton for a tour of the local brewery! This is a Victorian family run establishment - believe it or not still driven by steam. The liquor, you must not call it water, still comes from the original springs beneath the brewery. We were shown the processes by which it is turned into 'Old Hookey', the local and nationally distributed brew. Sampling could be indulged in for those who wished in the Tap Room on the premises. We then tottered back to the parish church which under John's guidance has been redecorated and possesses a lovely memorial Chapel to the Fallen. Here more oats were laid on in the form of a cream tea, which we enjoyed, before reluctantly taking our leave of John, his wife and all who had given us such a grand day at Hook Norton.

It turned out the Guardsmen we encountered at Wellington Barracks during our Group get together, were quite safe from any amorous attentions from the ATS members. It's all in the mind now. I don't know about our WRAC member though. However, we all enjoyed a good day and look forward to the 1995 event. 1995, just think of it, 50 years since most of us became Demob happy.

We had a good AGM with the existing Officers re-elected, and I am pleased to say two new Committee members. The Chairman would publicly like to thank the Secretary Josie Meade, Treasurer Madge Evans and the Committee plus all who have supported her and contributed in anyway to the welfare and prosperity of the Branch throughout the past year.

It was agreed that the Aylesbury Branch offer to host the Group 'Get Together' for 1995. Details will of course be issued from Group Officers.

We all enjoyed our Birthday/Christmas lunch when 36 members sat down to celebrate the joint occasion.

AYRSHIRE. On 9 October 1994, Mrs Joyce Neilson, President of the Ayrshire Branch of the WRAC Association, celebrated her 100th birthday with many relatives and friends. In the First World War, she volunteered for the WAAC, driving round the countryside on her motorbike finding recruits. In 1938 she joined the ATS and became Chief Recruiting Officer for Scotland with the rank of Chief Commander. Mrs Neilson was a keen sportswoman, having been a low handicap golfer and having a keen interest in cricket and other sports.

Col Bryce Knox proposed a fine toast to Mrs Neilson and Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Cow presented her with a congratulatory telegram from HM The Queen. Mrs Neilson founded the Ayrshire Branch of the Association and attended Branch meetings until she was well into her 90s. The Association has recognised Mrs Neilson's birthday in a very tangible way. She received the good wishes of the Association in a letter from Lt Col David Dunn, together with a 75th Anniversary tray and an ATS scarf. She was also thrilled to receive the following message from HM The Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother - "Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, has heard you celebrate your 100th Birthday today. Her Majesty congratulates you and sends you her warm good wishes for a very happy day". Mrs Neilson also received a telegram from HRH The Duchess of Kent GCVO.

On 15 October, following the Scottish Area AGM, Lt Col Lawson, the Area Chairman, visited Mrs Neilson in the Nursing Home where she now lives and presented her with the Association's 'Certificate of Appreciation'.



*100th BIRTHDAY
Miss Margaret Craig, Capt Pat Stevenson, Miss Rita Hounie
Lt Col Janet Lawson, Mrs Joyce Neilson*



*BLACKPOOL BRANCH
RBL Standard Beaver, Mrs K Harding
Mrs M Royle, Mrs O Dwyer, JP*

BIRMINGHAM. Birmingham have 110 members, 40 of them are Life Members. We have had a few ups and downs this year so we have changed our venue to the Nautical Club and will be holding our meetings every 2nd Monday in the month. We also held our Christmas Dinner there.

In April quite a lot of our ladies went to Guildford for the dedication of the window in the Cathedral and our Standard was present. Also in June some of us went to Portsmouth for the D-Day services. It was a very moving weekend, our Standard was present there as well.

We have also been to the Birmingham Mail and saw how the papers were printed right from when the news reporters get the news until the papers are tied up and put on the vans, it was very interesting. We were due to have a demonstration by Elizabeth Arden but owing to the train strike it was cancelled but one of our members, Margaret Grant, gave us a very interesting talk on where she used to live in Africa. Also we had a talk all about cheeses from Switzerland and how they were all made. The speaker brought some along for tasting. We had a visit to Severn Trent Water at Minworth where they also laid a buffet on for us. In November we are going to Wolverhampton to an Old Time Music Hall. We had two Bring & Buys and a Coffee Morning. Our Standard will be at the Tattoo in Birmingham.

BOLTON. The second half of the year started off with a flurry of excitement when Sybil Yates and Alwyn McFadden received their invitations to HM The Queen's Garden Party held on 19 July. The invitations bearing the Lord Chamberlain's Office inscription were the cause of the postman addressing Mr Yates as "Sir" and raising his hat! The visit to the Palace was most enjoyable and we were regaled with stories of the delectable goodies which had been provided for the guests. Truly a memorable experience for both Sybil and Alwyn.

Ten members travelled to the North West Area Reunion which was held in Boodle Town Hall, we spent a lovely afternoon renewing old acquaintances. This being the first Reunion for the North West Area, the organisers are to be congratulated for all the hard work which had been put in to give us all a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon.

On Monday 15 August a Service was held on the Town Hall Square to commemorate VJ Day. Wreaths were laid by various organisations and Lucy Ainsworth once again laid our ATS wreath. Following the service a parade to the Parish Church took place when the new Standard of the Combined

Ex-Servicemen and Women's Association was dedicated by Canon Wolstenholme, the escorts to the Standard Bearer were Mr Fred Walker - an 8th Army and Normandy Veteran and Mrs Betty Crompton, our Branch Chairman.

At the same time the "Book of Remembrance" to the fallen men and women of Bolton was also dedicated. This Book is the brain child of Mrs Rita Turner, as reported in 1994 Issue No 2 of the Lionesse. The Book was carried up the aisle by a very smart young Royal Marine Cadet escorted by Mrs Turner and her co-researcher, Mr James Wilkinson. The photograph shows them both with the Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton taken after the dedication service.

In October we held a Car Boot Sale and also our Home Produce Sale, this was a huge success owing to the wide range of goodies on sale. Jams, jellies, pickles, bread, cake and scones as well as home-made chocolate rum truffles. We were very grateful to Ivy Walker who provided a lovely food hamper which was raffled. The event raised in excess of £100.

Our annual dinner was held on 21 October and our Christmas Dinner on 15 December.

BRADFORD. Bradford Branch has had a very busy year, also a very sad one. We were all devastated at the beginning of October by the very sudden death of our respected colleague and friend, Jean Theakston. Jean née Burnett was born in Fraserburgh and she served in the Ack-Ack in Antwerp and Brussels where she met Harry, her late husband who was a released prisoner of war. Most of her married life was spent in Bradford and she became a Life Member of our Branch. We shall all miss her very much, she attended every meeting and always supported us in any activities.

Our Standard was paraded at the funeral along with the D-Day Association Standard and members formed a guard of honour. Our sympathy goes to David her son and Zoe her grand-daughter. David asked for donations to the ATS Benevolent Fund in lieu of flowers and the sum of 381 has been donated.

Some of the members attended the ex-service weekend at Bridlington and the Northern Area Reunion at York in September which was a splendid occasion with an excellent meal. Our Standard bearer met a friend at the Reunion with whom she had served in Herford, Germany in 1945.

Norah carried our Standard at the Battle of Britain Parade also at the Festivals of Remembrance at Bradford and Oldham. The Bradford Remembrance Parade was her last before jetting off to see her daughter and son-in-law in New Zealand, calling at Perth, Australia before returning to the UK in February. We all hope she will have a lovely time.

We shall once again be hosting a lunch in November for the 1914-18 veterans who sadly are down to three, we now include the Dunkirk Veterans to swell the numbers. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will be coming for their lunch and to talk to the Veterans.

Our sympathy goes out to Harrogate Branch on the death of their Secretary Monica Bradley, who was Bradford Chairman before starting Harrogate Branch. Three members attended the funeral and our Standard was paraded.

At our October meeting we were pleased to welcome Mrs Irs Boyter from New Zealand. We hope she enjoyed her visit to us.

Our Vice Chairman, Ada Hudson and Treasurer, Nora Houldsworth, are now back on their feet after having new knees in Catterick Military Hospital where they had the best of attention. Our Secretary, Ivy Weston BEM, has returned to the fold after being indisposed since April. We all look forward to a healthy 1995.

Return 23 Feb 95



DEDICATION OF BOLTON BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
Mrs J Wilkinson Mrs R Turner
Mayor & Mayoress of Bolton
(Photo courtesy of Bolton Evening News)

BURY. Mary Gregory, who was Treasurer of the Stockport Group, moved to Bury and started a new Group there. A meeting was held in the Castle Armoury, home of the TA in Bury and was attended by 7 ex-ATS members. Mary talked about the Association and the Guildford Reunion and it was decided to start the new group.

Several evening meetings were held in the Armoury but we felt that afternoon meetings would be more convenient for most of us so we switched our venue and now meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.00 pm at the White Lion in the centre of town and we would be very pleased to welcome any members who care to visit us.

Two of our members visited the Army Transport Museum at Beverley Minster at the invitation of the Stockport Group and Mrs Lily Crupper, formerly Cpl L Healey, met Mrs Lilian Day for the first time in 50 years, having served together at Purdown, Bristol, Clacton and Felixstowe in 515 IMAAB, RA. (See picture on page 45)

Two of our members attended the North West Area meeting in Bolton in May and two attended the Liverpool meeting in October. On both occasions it was pleasant to meet up with representatives from other groups.

We were very pleased to be visited by four members from Manchester who extended an invitation to their Christmas lunch in November. In the event five of us went and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

We have had several outings during the year including a trip to Southport, a visit to the Stitchcraft Exhibition at G-Mex Manchester and a visit to the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum in Bury. On Remembrance Sunday we joined the town's parade and laid a wreath on the Cenotaph.

CAMBRIDGE. The Branch membership currently stands at 71, but because of the area our Branch covers, many of the members are unable to attend. A few of our stalwart members are photographed below.

Some of the functions attended by our members during the year - the Grand Reunion at Guildford Cathedral, Frimley Green and the dedication of the ATS plaque at Great Yarmouth. In July we visited the home of Mrs Fay Warrne who held a BBQ, thanks to Fay, Janet Herdman and husband for the excellent food, and very enjoyable evening.

At our September meeting Mrs Martinne Freestone and Mrs Lil Higgins gave an interesting account of their memorable day at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in July.

In August, members were off on a boat trip down the River Cam, to Ely and back. Despite a few hiccups on the way (jammed locks) all members had a great day, the boat was kindly loaned and manned by the Cambridge Sea Cadets.

On a very windy day in September we visited the

Return 23 Feb



CAMBRIDGE BRANCH MEMBERS

Muckleburgh Museum. Weybourne Camp, North Norfolk, they had numerous photographs of ATS which were stationed at the camp during the war with the Gunners. They are desperately in need of some ATS uniforms for the collection. The Branch has since presented the museum with an ATS plaque. Members attended the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph.

We also had a very enjoyable day at the Right to Serve Study Day at the National Army Museum and visited the display of our Uniforms and Memorabilia (which were from the WRAC Museum).

Our oldest member, Miss Violet Rhodes, presented each member with a copy of a booklet which her loving nephew has compiled and had printed to commemorate his aunt's service in the ATS. (Copies are available - see Book Review section - Ed).

RETURNED 22/2



CHELTENHAM BRANCH MEMBERS AT MARCHWOOD
Mrs Diana Felling-Kepp, Lt Col Betty Mitchell,
Miss Kileen Hingsworth, Miss Lesley Stuart-Taylor,
Mrs Gertie Ruse

CLEVELAND. We have had a very busy, interesting and eventful year, in fact at times it has been rather hectic. Two of our members Mrs Ivy Rattus and Mrs Ivy Mole, were our Branch representatives at the Queen's Garden Party in July. They looked very chic in their lovely suits and hats, they did us proud. They now have something to talk about which very few have had a chance to do. They were so happy and proud to be going they glowed.

Thirty of our members popped down to Guildford in April for the dedication of the window in Guildford Cathedral, then attended the Reunion Dinner. In June, thirty of our members attended a Royal Signals Reunion weekend at Catterick camp, great time had by all who were there. In August almost the whole Branch had their annual outing, we started off at the Hornsea Potteries in the morning and then finished our day in Bridlington. We had good weather and lots of laughs.

Return 22 Feb 15



CLEVELAND BRANCH MEMBERS AT THE YORK REUNION

Returned 22 Feb 95



CLEVELAND BRANCH MEMBERS AT THE YORK REUNION

September was a hectic month for most of us. Twenty members went to York for the Northern Area Reunion which was the best we have had for some time. Another party were in York for an Ack Ack reunion weekend by all accounts they had quite a good weekend. Also in September our Chairman went off to Bedford for an ENIGMA Reunion. Once again in September a number of the members visited Caterick to attend the Farewell Parade of the Royal Signals who have now left Caterick after many years service there, a very sad day for all. Many members have attended many parades over the last year, quite a few attending the Armistice Parade in Whitehall.

COVENTRY. Since our last entry in Lioness we have had a few more members join our Branch. We seem to be going from strength to strength.

We have sadly lost two of our members. Mrs Mona Allum and Mrs Hannah Mills, both after a painful illness. Eight of our ladies and six Standard bearers formed a Guard of Honour at each of the funerals.

Our Treasurer, Mrs Rita Follows, has left Coventry to live in Malvern but she still manages to attend some of our meetings. Rita started our Branch in 1989 and she worked hard to get it off the ground.

Those of us who attended the Grand Reunion in Guildford and Frimley had a wonderful weekend. The commemorative window in the Cathedral was a joy to behold.

We attended a parade and service at Trinity Church on 5 June to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings. We have had one Bring & Buy Sale which was well supported. We supported the Fete at the British Legion Homestead, although it was a dreadfully wet day. We also had a great day out at Eden Camp War Museum. We have also visited the Kingfisher Shopping Centre and a large Midland garden centre.

CREWE. We have managed to maintain the standard we set ourselves last year although it hasn't been without difficulties. We have been dogged with illness, several of our members have been ill at times. We are not a big branch and our work force is even smaller. In spite of that we still had a successful fund raising year so we were pleased to be able to donate £500 once again.

This year we have celebrated our 10th Anniversary, first with a Dinner for members, our member Mabel Lightfoot had a lovely cake made for the occasion depicting the four badges like the Guildford Cathedral window and we had a very jolly evening. Then at a later date we held an Anniversary Dance to which all our friends were invited. We

were pleased our Chairman, Mrs Maggie Purkis, was able to join us and we all enjoyed a very happy evening.

In July a party of us attended the North West Area Reunion at Bootle hosted by Liverpool Branch. They gave us a warm welcome and we enjoyed meeting up with old friends whom we don't see as often as we would like.

We also have attended the usual civic and service parades locally. We held our last coffee morning this year in October. Also in October, a party of us attended our own Wales & West Area Reunion at Telford hosted by Shropshire Branch this year. It was a very happy day out and we all enjoyed the entertainment. Thank you Shropshire for all your hard work.

Several of us went down to London for the Cenotaph Service and Parade. We went to see the Poppy Fields of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, we also visited the National Army Museum at Chelsea, which we found very interesting.

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CREWE BRANCH 10th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
Standing: Edith Francis, Glenis Fitzpatrick, Joan Howe, Mabel Redfern, Milly Power
Seated: Mabel Lightfoot, Betty Patton, Kate Watton

Later in November, we had a stall at a Christmas Fair in neighbouring Nantwich which was a very successful end to our fund raising this year. We are now having a break until the New Year.

EASTBOURNE. Members attended the 75th Anniversary ceremonies and the AGM in Guildford. Unfortunately, owing to a breakdown, the Standard arrived but not the uniform. We got lost in Guildford in the dark, asked a police motor cyclist the way and he very kindly said "Follow me" and took us back through the town to our hotel.

Our Standard was paraded at the Great Yarmouth memorial ceremonies, the local members must have worked very hard to make the event so successful. We have had invitations from various regiments as we are members of the Eastbourne Branch of the Combined Ex-Services Association. Because of this we get a share of the Remembrance Concert profits. Perhaps the most unusual invitation was from the Canadian Veterans where, after the Church Service and tea, we motored to Ashtford Forest where there was a short service and wreath laying. The memorial stone is on the exact spot where nine of them were killed by a doodlebug. Two of our members are Normandy Veterans, we joined them on the D-Day procession and service.

We have had various lectures, members deciding to arrange their own outings with regular coach firms. Our twice yearly newsletter is much appreciated.

RETURNED 23/2

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KESTOURNE BRANCH OCTOBER MEETING
Margaret Rogers, Irene Horton, Olive Jones, Betty Cobb

Although we now have over 70 members, and good bus and train services from Brighton, the Branch is supported by the same small number who attend the meetings. Perhaps some members do not realise that the whole of the annual/life subscriptions go to HQ. Members can always phone the Hon Secretary after the meetings for the latest news.

Two members attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 19 July. The weather was perfect, the occasion was very much enjoyed. News was exchanged with the two members from the York Branch.

EXETER. 1994 has been the most successful year yet for the Exeter Group, starting in 1985 with a nucleus of eight ladies, we have now grown to a membership of 72 and are proud to include one of the members who was in the WRAC Band. It is good to see we are encouraging younger members. We now meet monthly by popular demand (and courtesy of The Royal British Legion).

Our speakers without exception have been enlightening and a Miss Jeffs from St Lloyds College (where disabled people are retrained in many skills) gave us her very first public talk and was most appreciative that we were such a "happy and appreciative audience". We aim to please.

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Mrs Sybil Hunt (née Yen) Exeter Branch at
Citadel "Music of the Night"

One of our own members enlightened us on the mysteries of the Standing Conference of Womens' Organisations and our Secretary gave away some of the secrets of her lifestyle whilst working for the ex-Shah of Iran as a teacher. On a lighter note we were left gasping at the twists and turns we would be expected to perform at a modern health club. We reluctantly agreed that PI was never our favourite pastime when in the Service.

Social events have been great fun. With that little bit more money in the kitty we can now subsidise occasional outings for all of us. This is something that we have aimed for as the high cost of travelling and entertainment meant that we have had to forego some outings in former years. A 1994 highlight was "Music of the Night", an outdoor spectacular at The Citadel in Plymouth with no less than 2000 spectators. Wonderful music from two military bands (real cannons had us lifted from our seats during the 1812 Overture!). Dancing laser beams, flag waving - this certainly was a night to remember.

In September we visited a sister group in Wincanton. Warmly welcomed by very friendly ladies we enjoyed lunch followed by the skilful auctioneer from Phillips who valued one small article from each of us. Thank you Wincanton ladies, it was a brilliant idea and some of us went home with potential wealth we didn't know we possessed.

Our successful Birthday luncheon was again held at an hotel in Bishopstington. We were delighted to host Mrs Doreen, our Honorary member and her husband plus some of our new members who wondered why they hadn't heard of us before. Our December meeting will swell our funds again. We have all agreed to bring food and a raffle prize and we would like to thank publicly our 'Raffle Lady' who quietly sells tickets and collects our money. Thank you Mrs Peggy Gill - your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

Friendship with members of the WRNS group has flourished. Invitations have been exchanged and accepted. We all agree that we can't have too many friends. Our own members have opened their homes and gardens and it is in this way that we have funds to donate to our chosen charities. This year we were happy to be able to donate 100 to our own WRAC Benevolent Fund and 50 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Our group would be grateful to hear from any groups in and around London who may be organising 1995 Victory Celebrations in the Metropolis. We would like to swell your numbers.

FIFE & TAYSIDE. The current membership figures are 48 Annual and 26 Life members.

Five members attended the dedication of the Association's Memorial Window in Guildford Cathedral, followed by the Grand Reunion Dinner in the evening. This was a hectic but rewarding weekend.

We had a most enjoyable Christmas lunch in the Civil Service Club in Perth at which Lt Col Lawson, Chairman WRAC Association Scotland, was our guest. Lunch was followed by dancing to live music.

The Christmas lunch was such a pleasant occasion that it was decided to precede our AGM with lunch. Again this was most successful. Prior to the AGM several local newspapers agreed to publish photographs of groups of members in bygone years, together with information about the Branch. This was at the suggestion of our Chairman, Col The Lady Martha Bruce OBE TD and resulted in ten new members being recruited. Since then we have acquired another four members who either applied via RHQ or transferred from RHQ.

GRIMSBY. We continue to enjoy comradeship at our monthly meetings which are well attended. Our hardy Scunthorpe and Brigg members managed to bridge the 30 miles despite the rail strike.

In June and September, our quiz teams were once again in action. We enjoyed an outing to Whitby and organised our usual summer and Christmas fairs to raise money for our funds and were able to donate £100 to the ATS/WRAC Association Benevolent Fund, £100 to Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and £30 to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Our members were busy selling poppies in the streets and manned the stall in our local ASDA during the week. We attended civic remembrances service in our parish church and afterwards at the War Memorial to lay the wreath. Our Standard Bearer had a busy day, as we also had our own service in our Chaplains Church, during which a cushion was dedicated for Mayor's Mace during the service. The material for the cushion was provided by Gladys Mitchell and the ATS logo beautifully embroidered by Audrey Porter.

Next November we hope to have a contingent at Whitehall. Our President Eunice Chidwick nee Stephenson - known as Steve - moved to Derbyshire but still keeps in touch with us. Our December meeting took on a festive air as we tucked into our buffet and drank each other's health with a glass of vintage plonk.

We are looking forward to our Annual Dance in January 1995 to begin yet another year of comradeship together.

HASTINGS. Hastings Branch celebrated its 14th Birthday in April this year with a Birthday Party at which we were asked to wear hats - pretty hats or patriotic hats. Eileen Kent won first prize with a combination of both; our Chairman wore a cup and saucer reflecting the essential 'cuppa' and our Vice Chairman retrieved her ATS Cap from the attic. The party was so successful we have been asked to organise one to celebrate our 15th Birthday next year.



HASTINGS MEMBERS IN HATS AT 14th BIRTHDAY PARTY
Winner (Eileen Kent) is on far right and cup and saucer appear above the horizon

In this town the D-Day events were rather disappointing and our Standard Bearer found it almost impossible to hold the Standard steady with a very strong breeze blowing in from the sea to our Parade on the sea front, also the wind made it impossible for most people to hear anything of the Drum Head Service.

In May we were sad but proud to represent the Association at the funeral of Marine Timothy Coats who was shot and killed in Sarajevo. The Service was held at the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs and was led by the Chaplain of 42 Commando Royal Marines.

We again attended the Remembrance functions in the



HASTINGS BRANCH STALL.

town. We were present when the Mayor led the planting of Crosses at the War Memorial and, as previously, in addition to a Cross for our own comrades we planted one for those Canadian WACs who died in this theatre of war. On Remembrance Sunday two of our younger members paraded at the Cenotaph and our Standard was supported by ten members when we marched from Queen's Road to the War Memorial in Alexandra Park. In the evening the full representation of 11 Ladies paraded on the stage at the White Rock Theatre during the Cavalcade of Standards. For the first time the Branch was asked to organise the collection which follows the appeal by the Mayor on behalf of the Benevolent Funds of the participating Associations and this year 42 will be sent to each of the fifteen Associations which were represented.

This year Nell Wood has taken over as Welfare Member helped by Margery Lucas who visits in the Bexhill area and Betty Lowe who covers members in Rye. Nell organised a most successful coffee morning in July to raise money for our Welfare Fund and we have received some most welcome donations during the year. Unfortunately we are finding more visits, flowers etc are now required.

Each year we have a stall at the Town's Charity Fair and this represents our main fund raising event for the Branch, at the time the photograph was taken Sue Cash was in charge assisted by her twin daughters. Betty Marshall is our representative on the Charities Committee and she makes all the necessary arrangements for our annual participation.

Joan Skinner, who was an Army Nursing Sister during the war, had been an Honorary Member of the Branch for many years so we were very sad when she died recently. She had always acted as our First Aid member and in addition to carrying the First Aid box to all our functions she

INSURANCE

The Association central policy covers those standard bearers whose branches belong to the scheme against third party injury.

It does not cover the standard bearer themselves against injury.

Any branch which holds a satisfactory policy for personal injury to their standard bearer is asked to contact:

Miss Dorothy Dixon
39 Pine Avenue
Hastings
East Sussex TN34 3PP

TICKET APPLICATION FORM
VJ DAY

Return completed form to:
PDF Compressor Free Version



VJ Day
PO Box 1940
Fairford
Gloucestershire GL7 4NA
Enquiries: 0171 824 2936 or 2379

Return complete all details below in BLOCK CAPITALS:

- 1. SURNAME (MISS/MRS)..... INITIALS
- 2. ADDRESS
- BRANCH..... POSTCODE.....
- 3. REQUESTED EVENT

EVENT	DATE	TIMES	LOCATION	NO. OF TICKETS	OFFICE USE ONLY
OPEN AIR SERVICE	19 Aug	3.00 p.m.	London		ASL
BEAT RETREAT AND SUNSET CEREMONY	20 Aug	9.00 p.m.	London		LON
	20 Aug	9.15 p.m.	Edinburgh		EDI
	20 Aug	7.30 p.m.	Cardiff		CAR
	20 Aug	9.00 p.m.	Belfast		BEL
CHURCH SERVICES	20 Aug	2.30 p.m. (the)	Belfast		CSB
	20 Aug	3.00 p.m. (the)	Edinburgh		CSE
	20 Aug	2.30 p.m.	Cardiff		CSC

- 4. Are you a REGISTERED DISABLED PERSON? YES/NO
- 4a. If YES, please give brief details of disability:
- 4b. Do you use a wheelchair? YES/NO

This application form once completed, should be forwarded to the address stated above, to arrive no later than 1 JUNE 1995. Please note that times stated are approximate and precise timings will be displayed on the tickets you receive.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
ADDCODE:	REFERENCE NO:
DATE ENTERED:	DATE CHECKED:
ENTERED BY:	CHECKED BY:

**GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED EVENTS FOR
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VJ DAY**

19th August – The Tribute and Promise Parade

A mobile parade and marchpast of veterans' organisations reflecting both the military and civilian elements of the wartime generation is planned to take place in London.

19th August – The Drumhead Service

A Drumhead Service will be held in Central London after the Tribute and Promise mobile parade and immediately prior to the marchpast. Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal Family would be asked to attend the ecumenical service. Veteran Associations will receive priority but the Service would be open to all and very large numbers are expected to attend.

19th August – The Culminating Event

The final part of the commemorations in London will include a firework display along the Thames which will act as the signal to spread the message throughout the Nation.

20th August – A Tribute Throughout The Nation

On Sunday 20th August throughout the nation a common church service will take place. Local authorities will then be encouraged to follow this with community events including parades. The day would end with the Sunset Ceremony which would vary in size and scale from the full Beating Retreat being organised in the national capitals (including London).

The Sunset Ceremony would signify that the Nation's commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War had finally drawn to a close.

Application form on page 38

ENQUIRIES 0171 824 2936 or 0171 824 2379

**ADJUTANT GENERAL'S CORPS
CORPS DAY '95**

The Annual Open Day will be held at the Adjutant General's Corps Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hampshire on Saturday 24th June 1995 commencing at noon.

Picnic areas for lunch will be available and tea will be served.

If you wish to attend please complete the proforma below.

✂

From:	To: WRAC Association HQ
.....	Block 10
.....	AGC Centre
.....	Worthy Down
Post Code	Winchester, SO21 2RG

- 1. I wish to attend the AGC Corps Day on Saturday 24 June 1995.
- 2. I will travel by bus/coach/rail/car (*Delete as applicable*)
- 3. I enclose £1.50 for tea ticket. (*cheques to WRAC Association*)

RETURN BETWEEN 1st AND 28th APRIL 1995 PLEASE

was a most active and supportive member of our Branch - she will be sadly missed.

So with 71 members we now approach our 15th Birthday and the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war in which so many of us served - may the coming year of 'Tribute and Promise' revive memories of which you are justifiably proud and may it be an excellent year for you all.

HEREFORD. The Branch has been as busy as usual raising funds. We have 44 members, but only about ten to fifteen manage to get to the monthly meetings. Most keep in touch though and send donations. We are grateful to them for their generosity.

Sadly last December, our oldest member, Miss Ursula Eden, died at the age of 97. She had served in both World Wars and is greatly missed by us all.

Last February we were hosts for a 'Question & Answer' meeting suggested by our Area Chairman Mrs Purkis. Several officers from the area branches in Wales & West attended and found it most helpful. We plan to host another on 4 March 1995. We had our usual two invitations to hold our April and August meetings at the homes of two members who live in Ross-on-Wye. We enjoy these days out, especially as we are generously treated to lovely teas afterwards. Five members attended the AGM and enjoyed greatly the Cathedral service at Guildford and everything that took place at Lakeside afterwards. The evening meal and entertainment, speeches etc were a great success and we thank all those who worked so hard to make the day memorable.

In April we sent contributions to the Benevolent Fund, SSAFA and BLESMA. We also sent a donation towards the plaque at Great Yarmouth and closely followed the events. We held a successful car boot sale in May and in June the D-Day commemorations in Hereford, attended by our members, was thanksgiving church service and an exhibition of memorabilia from the war years. We held a profitable market stall in July and Miss Nicholls had a coffee morning, Bring & Buy Sale and video viewing of Wrexham Reunion. Mrs Nicholls ran a Bingo Session which also made a profit. Another car boot sale in September raised more funds and Mrs Jones, Mrs Mary Davis and Mrs Brooks attended the Women's Section Royal British Legion Conference at the Town Hall later in October.

Eleven of us went to Telford for the Area Reunion and Mrs Edith Francis and Mrs Betty Patton from Crewe Branch came to our October meeting which was nice. Last September 30th we were happy to present three gold miniature rose bushes to our Vice Chairman, Mrs Nicholls, on the occasion of her Golden Wedding with her husband Ken. Well Done!

Mrs Jones and Mrs Burton represented us at the City Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on 13 November when Mrs Burton laid a poppy wreath on our behalf. We met at a local hostelry on 6 December for our Christmas lunch. Plans are well in hand for the Area Reunion in Hereford on 30 September 1995 and any help or donations from our members will be gratefully received by contacting the Secretary.



"No place like home!"

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

The FORCES HELP SOCIETY tries to ensure that disabled and elderly ex-service men and women can stay in their own homes as long as possible. But when increasing difficulties with day-to-day living call for help to be at hand throughout the 24 hours, the Society aims to provide the best possible residential care, with equipment and staff to give the personal assistance needed, without loss of personal dignity, with companionship or privacy, stimulating activity or rest, as each resident chooses.

This quality of life has been made possible at Princess Christian Homes. Now the Society plans for similar residential care at its St. Vincents Home, Ryde, Isle of Wight. The necessary extension, refurbishment and installation of equipment is being carried out in stages. How soon the entire project can be completed depends on funds coming in.

Please support us now with donations and covenants and help our work to continue into the future with a legacy.

THE FORCES HELP SOCIETY & LORD ROBERTS WORKSHOPS
122 Brompton Road, London SW3 1JE

Tel: 071 589 3243

Registered Charity No. 204753

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50 YEARS OF FREEDOM



**PORTSMOUTH SALUTES
VJ DAY COMMEMORATIONS**

**PORTSMOUTH 1995
VETERANS' REGISTRATION FORM**

Title:	Decorations:	Initials:	Surname:
Home Address:			
Postcode:		Country	
Telephone No:		Age	
		Yes	No
Are you disabled and require assistance?			
Would you be prepared to be interviewed on Television, Radio or by Newspapers?			
<i>It should be noted that only two events will require to be ticketed - all other events are unlimited in the numbers who are able to attend.</i>			
If you require more than one ticket for the ticketed events, please enter below the details of the person who will be accompanying you.			
Name:			
Address: (if different from your own)			
Do you belong to an Association? If so which?			
ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS			
SAGA Holidays Limited Group Sales Department VE/VJ Day The SAGA Building Middelburg Square Folkstone, Kent CT20 1AZ Telephone FREE on 0800 300 666			
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:-			
Captain Jim Rayner - 82 Chelsea Manor Street - London SW3 5QJ			

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

EVENTS	DATE	YES	NO	No of Tickets
Veteran's Reception	15.8.95			
Sid Lawrence Orchestra World War II Flavour Concert (Guildhall) £5.00 per ticket	15.8.95			
Veterans Parade (Southsea Front) Assemble 10.15 am	16.8.95			N/A
Drumhead Service 11.00 am	16.8.95			N/A
March Past - Approx. Noon	16.8.95			N/A
Refreshments (Southsea Common) (Cash Basis)	16.8.95			N/A
VE/VJ TATTOO - (Southsea Front) - 3.00 pm	16.8.95			N/A
Museums will be open to Visitors at Discounted Rates	17.8.95			

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**'A' BATTERY 617 MIXED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT
BATTERY, THORPE BAY ESSEX**
*Margaret Butbroh (now O'Neill) is in centre behind CO
with Lorna Jarrett and Helen Wills on her left*

EVENT IN PORTSMOUTH

A consortium of 29 National and Portsmouth Area ex-service organisations, together with Portsmouth City Council have arranged an event to commemorate and celebrate VJ Day and the end of hostilities in the Second World War.

A programme of events is on the page opposite. Please note that this is the reverse of the application form and is the request for tickets. Pages 41 and 42 represent the application form which should be sent to Captain Jim Rayner NOT the WRAC Association.

If you wish to bid for tickets to the Sid Lawrence Concert please send £5 with your application. Cheques payable to:

PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

If Branches would like to make a block booking and parade their Standard another application form is needed which may be obtained from Association HQ.

ISLE OF WIGHT. We have had quite a successful social calendar over the last few months and with such glorious summer weather we had our Bembridge Street Fair, a Ploughman's Lunch and a cream tea besides numerous coffee mornings.

In the last issue we reported the installation of the seat outside the Church in Newport. We have with deep regret had to have this removed as it had been vandalised no less than three times and was as one member put it "a wreck". With the help of our new Chairman's son it was transferred to our own Church at Yarmouth after it had been completely repaired and "treated" by the husband of one of our members. It now stands in the vicinity of the War Memorial and we trust that all will be well.

On Monday 5 December we held our pre-Xmas Sherry and Mince Pie meeting - by kind permission of our Committee!! With coffee or tea if required!! and the following Monday 12 December we had our Christmas lunch where we were again joined by members of the Southampton Branch and other members of local organisations.

May we wish you all a very successful year in all you do especially remembering the VE and VJ Day celebrations on 8 May and 15 August respectively. Happy and healthy New Year to you all and we wish you all that you wish yourselves.

LEEDS. We have had a very busy year started in style with lunch at World's End in Pudsey in January. We have had two outings to Roundhay Park where the floral displays and the tropical house are superb and we also had lunch there. One of our members attended the 75th Anniversary celebrations in Guildford which she thought were very fitting to the occasion.

Eleven members were present at the Ack Ack Reunion weekend also voted a great success, especially the March

Past at York Minster. The Northern Area Reunion at York Racecourse was a fitting end to this special year which included so many memories of 1944 and D-Day. Many of our members are active in the British Legion being very active in collecting for the Poppy Appeal and also helping to run Branches.

The Royal British Legion Golden Award was awarded to Mrs Elizabeth Mary Bustard (nee Sanderson) who served in the ATS from 1946 to 1948 at Ashchurch, Glas and Bardney, Lincs with the RAOC and REME. On leaving the forces she joined the RBLWS Boston Spa and District Branch in Yorkshire. As a very active member of the Women's Section she has held various responsible positions including being Standard Bearer for the past 25 years, being awarded the Merit Bar in 1973, she is the current Chairman of the Section. In April 1994 the Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary at St Mary's Church Boston Spa when Mrs Bustard received the Golden Award which was presented by the County Chairman.

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GOLDEN AWARD FOR LEEDS MEMBER
Mrs N Cattle cuts cake watched by Golden Girl Mrs Bustard

LIVERPOOL. During 1994 Liverpool Branch has been very busy. Apart from our usual meetings we have had a number of special events and, of course, we hosted the North West Group Reunion. At our AGM in February our members were very enthusiastic about the reunion and readily agreed to help with the arrangements.

In April several members attended the service at Guildford Cathedral for the dedication of the window which all agreed was very impressive. In the afternoon they went

to the AGM and the Grand Reunion at the Lakeside Country Club. At the meeting our Secretary, Mrs Barton and Treasurer, Miss Hayward, received their Certificates of Appreciation. The dinner in the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and we arrived at our various overnight accommodation weary after a very long day, but happy.

On Sunday 5 June 1994 many of our members attended the service in the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. The Cathedral which holds 2,000 was full and

there was an impressive display of standards. After the service the parade, including Branch members, formed up and marched past the Cenotaph. The parade then dispersed and everybody gathered in St George's Hall for refreshments. It was generally agreed it was a fitting way of marking such an historical event.

Later in June we attended the Afternoon Tea Dance hosted by the Rhyl Branch. Once again we were blessed with fine weather, and a good time was had by all. Next we were busy putting the final touch to the arrangements for the North West Group Reunion on 16 July. We were pleased it proved to be a very successful and enjoyable afternoon.

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**LIVERPOOL BRANCH MEMBERS AT
MERSEYSIDE POLICE HQ MOUNTED DIVISION**
*Miss Foxley, Mrs Smith, Mrs Goodchild, Miss Learmouth,
Mrs Lappin, Miss Smith, Miss Hayward*

Usually we do not have a meeting in August but this year our Treasurer arranged for us to visit the Merseyside Police Headquarters Mounted Division in Liverpool. We were shown round the stables and allowed to feed the horses with sugar and polo mints. They were very well turned out but appeared enormous at close quarters. We were shown the best saddle room where all the special equipment for ceremonial occasions is displayed, also the various cups and rosettes they have won. In addition we were shown old and more recent photographs which were most interesting.

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**LIVERPOOL BRANCH MEMBERS SEEKING
TIPS FOR THE GRAND NATIONAL**
*Mrs A Lappin, "Police Informer" Miss Hayward,
Miss Smith, Miss Learmouth*

After the visit we retired to Miss Hayward's house for afternoon tea.

At our October meeting one of our members and her husband who are Master Wine Makers gave a demonstration of liqueur making. We are all now busy experimenting ready for Christmas.

Continued 22/2

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TRANSPORT MUSEUM BEVERLEY
Mrs Lily Cropper and Mrs Lilian Day

(see BUHY Branch Report on page 34)

LONDON. The second half of the year has been a busy one with talks at our regular meetings from Wing Commander Collinge on the work of SSAFA, Mary Curtis with holiday slides and Mrs M Taylor on lady gardeners. The Bring & Buy sale in October was well supported and we have had a successful financial year which has enabled us to make a further donation to the WRAC Benevolent Fund. In September we were challenged to a friendly quiz against the London Branch of The Royal British Legion Women's Section and a team from the WRNS Association. This was great fun and although we were beaten into second place by the Senior Service we acquitted ourselves well and hope that we will have an opportunity to do better next year.

Our coach trip to the Barnsgate Manor Vineyard in September was very enjoyable in spite of the rather wet weather which had the decency to be at its worst while we were enjoying our Ploughman's and local vintage. I am not sure if it was a sign of affection but I got spat on by one of the llamas which they also keep there. like camels they have such disdainful faces that one can never be sure!

There was a good attendance at the Field of Remembrance. As the Queen Mother had hurt her foot, the plots were inspected by the Duke of Edinburgh who immediately recognised the ATS badges worn by the two members standing in front of our plot. Many of us joined the large contingent for the march to the Cenotaph and found ourselves further at the back than ever this year. However, I had a report from a member who watched us on television that we had marched well and managed to keep in step all the way to the saluting base and Princess Anne.

The study at the National Army Museum on 19 November to complement the new exhibition "The Right to Serve" was a great success, nostalgic and forward looking. The reminiscences of the two ex-ATS Celia Oridge and Mary Coomber, struck chords in all our memories and we laughed aloud at their experiences which so mirrored our own. We were all impressed by the accounts by Sylvia Hopkins and Joanna Roberts of the sheer volume of work which went into the preparation of the exhibition and the very high cost.

The talk by Captain Fiona Say, a serving Signals Officer, was very illuminating as she outlined the very real challenge of being a woman officer in command of a company of men, some of whom resented her. The review by Hugadler Gael Ramsey CBE of the role of women in the post-war Army made me realise how difficult it is for women of the 1939-1945 generation to appreciate the very different values of the supposedly "equal opportunity" world. In 1939 which of us gave any thought to the fact that although we had women Company Officers, it was the men who were in charge of our real war work. It was then the accepted norm and in fact in six years in an Army Pay Office I never saw a woman officer in the pay office and seldom saw our company officer except on pay parade.

At discussion time when Mrs Hopkins asked which of us would, given the opportunity, join the present Army there was an enthusiastic response from the mainly ex-ATS audience. I, for one, would and I hope that I could show in the changed milieu the same dedication and maturity of Captain Say.

We held our annual lunch in December and look forward to some enjoyable Victory celebrations to come next year.

MANCHESTER. The latter part of the year always seems to be our busiest. The Monte Cassino Veterans Association invited their friends to join them on a week's holiday over to Normandy. They returned with tales to tell on the Normandy people recognising our insignia on their ATS badges and responded with cries of "Liberators" and insisted on escorting them to War cemeteries and places of interest. They visited Pegasus Bridge, all the beaches in Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno following the journey of servicemen from Great Britain, USA, Canada and many other countries whose brave action in 1944 led to the beginning of the end of World War II.

Settling down after this excitement was quite difficult but furnished us with great pleasure, looking at photographs and snapshots and hearing their stories when we met for our next meeting. Our next thoughts were for a visit to London for Remembrance Day. Some of us were lucky to get tickets for the Service of Remembrance in the Albert Hall, a never to be forgotten pleasure. We were lucky to get a good view of all the Royal family when they arrived, even got a wave from them. Next day, Remembrance Sunday, the weather was very kind for us. We were due to muster at 10.10 am on Horse Guards Parade and were quite amazed at the number of ATS on parade, outstanding really. At the allotted time we marched off on Parade. We were very proud indeed when passing ex Para Regiment who stood and cheered and clapped us enthusiastically along with the crowds of sight seers. After the short service and two minutes silence, the Guards Band played for the March Past the Cenotaph. I think we marched well and held our heads high (well who wouldn't with the Guards keeping us in line?) After the Cenotaph we marched back to Horse Guards Parade where the Princess Royal took the Salute. We finished the rest of the time we had by a visit to the Guards Museum, lunch and a quick dash to return home to

Manchester. At this point we must mention all the people of London who were very kind helping us to find our way around. Well done, London! Meanwhile the remaining friends of our Branch mustered at Manchester Cenotaph to pay their respects and afterwards lunch in the Town Hall.

Back to earth, our next meeting was a shopping luncheon date for Manchester Branch with an open invitation to all other Branches in Greater London. We had a good response the last count being 80 plus our friends from Canterbury to make it 61. A lovely meal and lots of hellos and goodbyes with old friends. Our Treasurer who has held the reins for many years organised this event which proves such a success and appears to be gathering momentum each year. Did I hear - So Say All of Us? She is now after all these years having a break and has passed the reins over to yours truly. I hope I can do justice to the work she has done all over the years. Thank you Elsie.

MEDWAY. Medway had a very happy year. Two new members from Northfleet joined us and also a member from Sittingbourne who, although a long time member, has never been to our meetings so we were very pleased to welcome them.

We really did have a great day with the Canterbury Branch - on the hottest day of the year we toured around Chatham Dockyard. We were all melting by the time we arrived back at the club for tea and refreshments.

Medway branch members would like to thank the London branches for their invitation to their reunion - we had a very interesting day with them. We should get the branches together more often. This first year of course has been a sort of special year for Kent and the South East - Kent being the last line of defence before London. I'm sure a few Ack Ack girls have tales to tell of the area. Some members went to Portsmouth for D-Day commemorations. Some to Dover - the people of Dover cheered the ATS so much - it was quite emotional really.

We were invited to a D Day service in Rochester Cathedral by the Mayor of Rochester (himself an ex-WRAC member). After the service a grand buffet in the Corn Exchange - the Mayor was so proud to be Mayor in this special year more so being ex-WRAC member.

We marched with Chatham British Legion at their D-Day service. As we wore our uniform with green beret they put us with the ex-Marine Commandos - did we walk tall!



**MEDWAY BRANCH AT CHARITY MARKET
IN ROCHESTER**

Queenie Headington and I are only 5ft tall so we had to step it out and we did. One of the Medway members, Marge Grant-Smart - is President of Chatham Branch British Legion - so we could not let her down with snippy marching could we?

Four of our members regularly go to Amhem, Holland every year. This 50th Anniversary year was very special and the Dutch people turned up at Amhem and Nijmegen from all over Holland and made us so welcome. It always amazes me that the youngest Dutch children you speak to can tell you about the Battle of Amhem and who General John Frost was. Ask any English child about General John Frost - their response is "What pop group is he in?". Very bad really.

Medway held a stall at the annual Dickens' Festival in Rochester - great fun in spite of the rain. Also a stall at the Lions Charity Market in Rochester.

We have arranged our Christmas Dinner with husbands and friends. We always enjoy it all together. Most husbands (indeed all) are ex-servicemen - they support us throughout the year, drive us here and there and we really do appreciate the fact that they pick us widows up on the way so we also can attend functions.

MIDDLESBROUGH. Our small happy group of willing members meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the RAFA Club, Woodlands Road, Middlesbrough between 1 - 4pm. As usual at our meetings we have tea and sandwiches, a raffle and Bring and Buy table. This year we held a concert at the Southlands Centre, Middlesbrough to raise funds for the RAFA Club which is going through some financial difficulties and may have to close down. Besides our branch, there are a lot of other Associations that use the Club for meetings and social events. If the Club were to close all of us would have nowhere to meet. Our concert and the other Associations fund raising activities for the Club were very much appreciated.

We have sent £20 to the Benevolent Fund, £10 to Brigadier Anne Field for the Memorial Window at Guildford Cathedral and we have also sent £10 to the Norfolk and Suffolk Branch for the memorial plaque dedicated to the ATS killed by a direct bomb on their billet in Great Yarmouth on 11 May 1943. Eight of our members including myself attended this event in Great Yarmouth with Lady Soames doing the honours. Although a lot of the ladies were in poor health and the weather was cold and windy, it was a great turn out with ex ATS ladies from all over Britain and even as far off as Canada attending, the experience was very moving.

We were invited to Catterick Camp by the Signals Regiment, who made us very welcome by showing us around the camp and then we had a lovely buffet with wine. We have had several days out during the summer months all of which our members enjoyed. Some of our members attended the AGM and Reunion at Guildford, and those who were able to, attended the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in Middlesbrough on 13 November.

Over the past few months we have acquired a few new members but we have lost two members to the Richmond Branch and another to the Cleveland Branch. We are also sorry to report the very sad loss of another two of our members who both died in May. They were very good workers and the mainstay of our concerts, we all miss them very much for their companionship and for their hard work and devotion to the Association.

NEWCASTLE. We have had a busy year with full attendances and increased membership, and because of this we have had to go into a larger room in the Companions Club where the staff are very good to us.

Our members attended the D-Day North East service and parade. Two of our Members, Mrs E O'Neill and Mrs M Marsh, attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. The weather was lovely and it was a memorable day for them.

Mrs M Bolton attended the 50th Anniversary at Antwerp, Belgium and enjoyed a lovely weekend. Sunderland Branch joined with us on the coach to the Reunion at Guildford.

Most of the members went to the North East Reunion at York Racecourse. Two members attended the ATS Plaque dedication service at Great Yarmouth. Mrs E O'Neill and Mrs M Bolton attended the Mansion House, Newcastle, where the Lord Mayor presented cheques to the three homes for the war disabled.

I am pleased to say we are a happy group who enjoy the companionship.

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK. The Branch continues to expand. We met for some years in a room at the British Legion HQ. This became too small for us and about four years ago we had to move to a newly built church next door with several meeting spaces available. We very quickly outgrew (in numbers we hasten to add and not in avoidance) the first room we were allocated and have expanded into a larger room but that can now seem almost cramped when we have a full attendance at meetings. Last month the vicar, calling in probably unable to believe the volume of noise a body of mature ladies could produce said, significantly, "there is always room upstairs" meaning we hoped still larger accommodation and that he was not directing us heavenward. We are not ready for that just yet.

Our September meeting was attended by six members of the Normandy Veterans' Association who gave an exceedingly emotional account of their experiences on D-Day and afterwards. It brought home to us all the personal involvement and suffering of so many brave men during that period. We were all affected by their reminiscences and were reminded of how much we all, young and old, owe to them. They are dedicating their time to visiting local schools as a team, to speak of their own sufferings and to impress on the younger generation the agony and futility of war. Their theme is "There is no glory in war".

A number of young people in Norfolk have formed a Living History Group concerning themselves mainly with the Royal Norfolk Regiment. As it had only recently come to their knowledge that women were attached to the Regiment they asked us for help, and several of our members who served with the Norfolks at the Nelson and Britannia Barracks here in Norwich were able to provide the group with a considerable amount of information.

We continue to knit jumpers and blankets for Oxfam, make our annual contribution to BLESMA and again this year our intrepid member, Marjorie Spiers, absolved down the front of the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital to raise money for the local Spastics Charity. It was a very windy day and Marjorie had the pleasure of being supported in her downward journey by a handsome young man. This was supposed to be for safety reasons, but we all wondered why she had been so anxious to make this perilous journey a second year. Marjorie also undertook a run through Dovedale, on a very wet and muddy occasion, for the same good cause. Some 1500 people started and after running 5 miles, wading through the River Dove in flood, uphill and

down dale, Marjorie came 1020 among 1070 people who finished. We are all very proud of Marjorie and her achievements.

An audio-tape of the Great Yarmouth plaque ceremony has been deposited with the National Army Museum and information about the plaque has been sent to the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

We held our annual luncheon on 4 January and by the time you read this we shall be well embarked on the New Year.

Returned 23 Feb 95



OMAGH BRANCH MEMBERS
at their October Meeting

PLYMOUTH. We continue to meet at the Royal Fleet Club, Devonport on the first Monday in the month at 2 pm. Between 25 and 30 members attend regularly, and from time to time one or two of our Cornish members join us. We were delighted to see Mrs Marjorie Owens of Cheltenham Branch at our September meeting. She had seen our open invitation in the Lioness and found her way to the Royal Fleet Club. We would like to repeat this invitation to all members of the Association should you find yourselves in Plymouth during the summer.

We have welcomed two new members, but sadly lost one of our regular members, Mrs Thelma Gill ex-ATS. Our sympathy goes out to her family and to Mrs Yvonne Lee who was her close friend, and also ex-ATS.

In July the Chairman and Treasurer, Mrs Hannaford and Mrs Mitchell, were honoured to represent the Branch at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. That was a day to remember from the entry through the Palace to the gardens, the tea, the elegant fashions and the Queen, Prince Charles and Princess Alexandra walking amongst their guest. Thank you Ma'am for having us!

In August we had a trip to Teignmouth where we enjoyed this quiet resort, despite the showers. Our September meeting included a produce sale of homegrown flowers and vegetables, raising 35 for our funds. On 21 September four of us attended the South West Area Reunion at Wincanton. This was most enjoyable. We were given a warm welcome, a delicious lunch and an Antiques Road Show afternoon. Many members went away feeling richer when their antiques were valued higher than they expected. Thank you Wincanton!

In November, the month for remembrance, two of our members, Mrs Grace Cox and Mrs Audrey Hammond, laid the WRAC Association wreath at the Cenotaph. This honour was well deserved as they attend this service every year.

In Plymouth the Federation of Ex-Service Associations put on the Festival of Remembrance at Plymouth Pavillion. It was especially pleasing this year to see an excellent display by the Army Cadets. The Royal Marines and the Devon Police choir provided the music, and our Standard was paraded. **PDF Compressor Free Version** We were very proud that our Chairman was closely involved with the organisation of this important event. Thank you Leonora.

We have visited the Royal Citadel twice in December. Nine members attended the annual St Barbara's Day service in St Catherine's-on-the-Hoe Chapel which was followed by a curry lunch in the WO's & Sgts' Mess. Thank you RSM Lindsay and Sgt Paul.

On 7 December we held our Christmas Party in the same venue. We were entertained by a group of Scottish musicians - 'A Touch of Tartan'. They gave us traditional songs and dancing accompanied by the piano accordion. It was a lovely evening and brought to a close what has been a very busy six months.

We look forward to 1995 with a new Secretary - thank you Glynis - and to meeting friends from other Branches at the South West Area Reunion at Burnham on Sea. A happy and healthy New Year to you all.

PORTSMOUTH. Our first big event of the year was the Grand Reunion at Guildford. Eight members stayed in a hotel at Guildford and had a weekend of luxury. We all enjoyed the service and dedication of the window (especially the Secretary as she attended the service when the window was first put in the Cathedral), we all took part in the March past. The dinner in the evening enabled us to meet a few old friends. We finished the weekend with a champagne lunch on the Sunday at our hotel.

We hired a minibus and had a very enjoyable day at Worthy Down at the Adjutant General's Corps Day. The main Portsmouth event was, of course, the D-Day commemorations. The authorities made really excellent arrangements. The Veterans Centre on the Common was wonderful and we met some interesting visitors from all sorts of places. Some of us went to the Beating the Retreat at Whale Island and got very wet. We did however get our picture and a write up in the local paper. Other members went to the Drum Head Service on the Sunday morning and on Monday 6 June we took part in a service at the D-Day Memorial Stone and marched there and back all along the sea front, the parade was wonderfully marshalled by a team from the Royal Navy. We have also taken part in other D-Day parades and church services.

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PORTSMOUTH BRANCH MEMBERS AT THE LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB

During the year we have held a tea party at our Standard Bearer's new home, an American Tea party in the garden of another member's home and will be having a coffee morning at the Secretary's home. All these social gatherings help to keep members in touch. Together with monthly raffles these meetings raise funds for the Branch. Due to so many things happening this year we did not have a luncheon but we enjoyed going to the one held by the Isle of Wight Branch.

In September we attended the Area Reunion at Marchwood hosted by Southampton Branch. It was a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Our thanks to Southampton for the excellent way they handled this. We finished the year attending Remembrance Parades and Services in November and our Christmas Dinner in December. We are all looking forward to taking part in the 50th anniversary celebrations for the end of the war to be held in Portsmouth in 1995.

RHYL. We are still a very thriving branch. Our monthly meetings held on the first Monday of each calendar month are well attended. We all work well together as a team. Our afternoon tea reunion was a huge success thanks to all the Branches of our Group area attending, again we enjoyed a 'Sunny Rhyl' afternoon. We have had coffee mornings, afternoon teas and jumble sales. We had a very enjoyable evening out with dinner at Deckers, Saie Water Park.



RHYL BRANCH MEMBERS AT BOOTLE REUNION

Standing: Irene Brindley-Mayne, Doris Jones, Eileen Copeland, Ivy Ruffley

Seated: Alice Williams, Jenny Williams, Yvonne Sampson, Joan Salisbury-Jones

Yvonne & Phyllis attended the Reunion in York and Joan, Yvonne and Phyllis went to the ATS Dinner Club lunch at Wellington Barracks and met quite a lot of friends. The Bootle Reunion was very enjoyable, again meeting up with comrades.

After our AGM business we had a social hour with buffet provided by the girls. The Rhyl Remembrance service unfortunately was not well attended by our Branch, we had so many socks with flu but our wreath was laid very smartly by Norma Earith. The highlight of our year was our member and very well known friend Phyllis getting married in November. Yvonne was her Matron of Honour and Lt Col Liz Wallers and Joan were her WRAC & ATS supporting friends. Enclosed is a photograph with Hon, her husband and Frank Sampson - Yvonne's husband - Best Man. We all had a lovely lunch at an hotel in Rhuddlan. Phyllis looked lovely in Kingfisher Blue, truly the radiant bride.

Racoon 22/2



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WEDDING OF
PHYLLIS STANDING TO RON BROWN - NOV 94
Mrs Salisbury-Jones, Lt Col Walters, Mrs Sampson
Mrs Brown, Mr Brown, Mr Sampson

Our branch had a very good social afternoon as guests of the Rhyl Branch WRNS Association. Rhyl winning nearly all the raffle prizes, never mind we will return their hospitality in February. And now I will leave off wishing everyone a happy Christmas and healthy New Year from all members of Rhyl Branch.

We are having our Annual Afternoon Tea Dance on 8 June at Rhyl Town Hall incorporating VE and VJ celebrations.

RICHMONDSHIRE. Last June was the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the Branch and we celebrated with an evening meal at the Riverdale Hotel, Bainbridge in Wensleydale. This venue enabled Jess McKenzie to join us, she is now 91 years young and living in a home in Bainbridge.

We had several enjoyable outings during the summer months and those members who attended the Northern Area Reunion in York voted it a great success.

Our Chairman and founder of the Branch decided at our AGM that the time had come to relinquish her office and we thank her for all her hard work over the past ten years. We now have a new Chairman and also a new Treasurer, and we wish them well.

Meetings are held at Catterick Garrison at 7.30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

ROCHDALE. With our Standard in Rochdale Shopping Centre, we manned a stall there selling poppies and wreaths etc. on behalf of the Royal British Legion, from 7 to 12 November. It was hard work at the stall which was on wheels and had to be taken into one of the shops at 5.30 pm each night and brought out at 7.30 am in the morning! Our President, Mrs V Dargan (centre in the picture) did this each day.

We also had a TV showing the D-Day celebrations with tapes of music and songs of the war years, which brought a great response from the public. We don't know how much we collected as the collecting boxes went straight to Barclays Bank where they are opened and the money counted.

There has always been a close link in Rochdale between the WRAC Association and The Royal British Legion, in fact several of us wear "two hats" as officers of The Royal British Legion in addition to the WRAC Association. It has become a tradition that we make the sandwiches, tea and coffee on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday when the Navy, Army and RAF Cadets take to the streets with the poppies. This will be our

Rochdale 22/2



ROCHDALE BRANCH
Mrs M Schofield, Mrs J Goddard, Mrs V Dargan,
Mrs M Campbell, Mrs D Harnbach

tenth year. Unfortunately, the weather was very wet this year and the biggest problem was keeping the cardboard trays from collapsing.

SALISBURY. At our September meeting the annual report by our Chairman Claire Edwards reflected what a busy year we have all enjoyed. Our summer outing to Staple Hill Abbey and Gardens, Nr Wimborne, was a great success. The weather was good, the gardens and flower baskets beautiful, the workshops and museum most interesting.

In July our meeting was held at Hedley Davis Court by invitation of Joan Morgan, May Robinson and Muriel Viney who provided the very tasty supper. A number of members attended the Southern Area reunion held at Marchwood, Southampton, where we enjoyed the tour of the port facilities, guard dog and rifle shooting demonstrations. Thank you Southampton Branch.

Five members also attended a South West Reunion at Wincanton where the host branch provided an excellent lunch and an interesting talk on antiques. In November members took part in the Remembrance Parade in Salisbury when the Standard was carried by Gladys Pope. The monthly meeting proved to be a mini feast, with lots of goodies at the faith lunch.

Reunion 22 Feb 95



SALISBURY BRANCH MEMBERS AT STAPLE HILL.
Back Row: Veronica Dodkin, Theresa Sillick,
Suzanne Gordon, May Robinson, Irene Ludlow,
Claire Edwards, Jennie Eston, Doreen Chalcraft
Front Row: June Jones, Joan Morgan, Frances Green,
Dinki Harper, Ena Hazzard and Anna Lort

SCARBOROUGH. At our May meeting we had discussions on invitations received from The Royal British Legion and plans for the future of Burniston Barracks, now obsolete, put on show for public information and discussion. From 1990 until its closure we held our monthly meetings there thanks to the OIG Colonel Wallace.

In June D-Day Garden of Remembrance Service was held in the town. The Combined Services held a Reunion in Bridlington. Our July outing was a picnic on Goalland Moors.

The North East Reunion was held in the Ainsley Suite York Racecourse in September. We enjoyed the luck of the draw, lunch and the very interesting report from Lieutenant General Sir Michael Gray (Para Normandy Trust) on the Pegasus affair.

Our AGM was held at the TA Centre by kind permission of Captain France in October. A video of the Anti-Aircraft Reunion in York on August 13 and 14 was shown at the AGM.

A new poster was displayed within the Branch Area for new members. Together with a TA Coy formed in 1949 of which some members took part, we inserted in the local press a cutting from 1949 with photograph of its members hoping to attract these members into the Association and Branch. We have had quite a few enquiries and membership forms have been sent out to prospective members.

SHIPLEY. Another AGM looms as I write these notes. The Committee and members of Shipley Branch have by their efforts made this a very successful year. We average between 20 and 30 members attending monthly meetings which are held on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Shipley Library.

During the past year we have had several fund raising efforts and have made several donations to our own Association charities.

Each month members are entertained in many ways eg speakers, demonstrations, slide shows and last but not least a sumptuous Christmas lunch prepared by the Committee. This year our Christmas lunch will be bigger and better than ever and each member receives a small present.

Our members who attended the Area Reunion at York on 10 September were delighted with both the meal and the arrangements.

We were proud to be present at the Grand Reunion in Guildford when Mary Brett was awarded her Certificate of Appreciation, an accolade well deserved. Congratulations Mary.

Lastly I must just add how sad we all are at the sudden passing of Dorothy Appleyard. Dorothy has been a constant help and was always willing to perform even the smallest task. Her presence at the Book Stall and her cheerful personality will be missed by us all. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family.

SHROPSHIRE. 1994 has been quite a busy year in view of preparations for the reunion. In February we held a belated Christmas Dinner at an hotel in Shrewsbury. 24 members attended and everyone had a good time.

We have been somewhat unfortunate with illness this year, two of our members are still quite ill and have been unable to attend our monthly meetings for some time. Maggie Purkis has lost her father this year and Nancy Meredith lost her grandson quite tragically just recently and so much of our happy time has been marred with sadness.

There have been one or two rummage sales and an attic sale to boost funds and members have been working towards 'Goods for Sale' at the reunion.

Several events have been attended by Lucy Bowyer who is unceasing in her efforts to parade the Standard. We are very fortunate to have Lucy together with her husband

who performs as a very able 'batman'.

We are getting new members and have lots of items in the pipeline for 1995.

In August the Anti-Aircraft Reunion was held in Imphal Barracks, York, by kind permission of the Sergeants' Mess. Five members attended the service in York Minster on Sunday, followed by a buffet lunch in the Sergeants' Mess.

In October some members attended Miss Monica Bradley's funeral at Stonegate Cemetery, Harrogate. The Garden of Remembrance Service was held in the town and was taken by the Vicar of Scarborough and Association crosses were placed from all the various organisations in the town, military and civil. All Standard bearers were in attendance.

A Service of Remembrance was held on 13 November at Olivers Mount with the Mayor and escort attending. Wreaths from all the Associations in the town were placed on the memorial and the Association Standards were on parade. The Salvation Army Band provided the music for the Choral Service taken by the Vicar of Scarborough. Refreshments were provided by The Royal British Legion - many thanks for their help and organisation in these two ceremonies.

On 14 December we held our Christmas lunch in the Crown Hotel Esplanade.

SOMERSET. Since our last report, we have held our usual monthly meetings where there have been lively discussions. In July our Secretary held a tea party at her home in Burnham on Sea which was well attended and was a great success.

On 21 September a party of our members attended the South West Group Annual Meeting at Wincanton which we all enjoyed. It was a pleasure to see new faces. On 22 November we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Branch by a luncheon, complete with birthday cake and appropriate WRAC music at the Somerset County Cricket Club. Husbands were invited and the whole affair was enjoyed by everyone, including a contingent from Exeter Branch including the Chairman, the Secretary and her husband and a member with her husband.

The cake was cut by Rebecca Hardinge-Francis MBE TD whilst several of the original members looked on.



SOMERSET BRANCH 20th ANNIVERSARY CAKE

SOUTHAMPTON. The second half of 1994 started with a mini-bus trip to Corps Day at Worthy Down, very much enjoyed once again in good sunny weather and in non-crowded conditions on 17 June. In July we went by mini-bus to Bath with firstly, a boat ride on the river, then to our ex-member Betty Keating's home where we were once again entertained to a beautiful lunch, plus wine, in her garden. Two very happy days.

Sadly in July we lost another of our members, Mrs Elsie Baker, nee Tranter, after a very nasty illness. She will be remembered by quite a few members who were in the Territorial Army, both at Southampton and Aldershot, as she was a Sergeant in the Regulars attached to the TA at Aldershot.

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Also in July we took ourselves off to the New Forest to enjoy our annual Wine and Supper evening with excellent catering by one of our members, Louise Longhurst and her husband.

In August we held our Plant and Cake stall at Eastleigh which has now become an annual event. On 4 September two of us were proud to attend the Royal British Legion Earl Mountbatten Memorial Service and Parade in Romsey Abbey. Later in September, our Standard was paraded with the Hampshire Royal British Legion at their re-dedication service at Worthy Down.

Our biggest event of the year of course was being host branch for the South Group Reunion which was held at 17 Port and Maritime Regiment RLC Marchwood, the New Forest side of Southampton, at which 137 people attended. The venue was the Sergeants' Mess, a comparatively new and spacious excellent building, ideal for members to sit and have a good chat which they did. There followed a coach tour of the camp arranged by the military, the camp being more extensive than is obvious from outside the perimeter. Regrettably not all the guests originally invited were able to attend but we were honoured to have as Guest Speaker, Brigadier Helen Meechie CBE MA LL D and the Commanding Officer of the camp, Lt Col J M Bowles MBE RLC. All in all a very memorable day.

At our AGM in October we said goodbye to our Chairman for the last five years, Mrs Joan Doe, and welcomed in Mrs Audrey Pickett, founder member and in November we were proud to have our Standard again paraded at the Remembrance Service in Southampton Guildhall.

The year ended with our usual Christmas party with a good spread again laid on by member, Louise Longhurst and Tubby, her husband and eleven of us went across the water to join the Isle of Wight Branch in their Christmas Luncheon, the company and the whole day we never fail to enjoy. Even the sun shone for us on our boat trip yet again.

SOUTHPORT. Our small group of members continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month.

During the year we have attended various social functions including the Normandy Veterans Dance on 30 May where our Standard was paraded along with others. Several members enjoyed the Tea Dance at Rhyl, and the highlight of the year was the North West Group Reunion

Refused 23 Feb



**SOUTHPORT BRANCH MEMBERS AT
THE NORTH WEST REUNION**

held at Bootle Town Hall in July. The enclosed photograph shows some of us outside the Town Hall before the Reunion.

On 5 June one of our members attended the parade in Liverpool Cathedral to mark the Normandy Landings anniversary. Two of our members were lucky enough to win the draw when our Branch was allotted two tickets to attend a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in July. They were blessed with good weather and recounted their experiences to the rest of the Branch, needless to say, they thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Some of us will be attending the ATS Luncheon Club lunch on 1 October. We meet in each other's homes throughout the year, and amongst our Group there is a strong bond of friendship and comradeship.

STAFFORD. Our meetings continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Royal British Legion Club, Stafford and of the 34 members we have in the Branch, only 18 live in Stafford so our monthly average attendance is 14. Owing to the cost of heating, lighting etc. the British Legion has closed down the room we used for a number of years and has given us a very small room used as an office and storeroom on other nights of the week. Consequently, we are limited to the type of speakers we can have as slides or films are out of the question. As there is no charge for the room, we are grateful that an alternative one has been found for us.

We have been out and about this summer and from May until October, we have had evening meals and lunches at local public houses instead of meeting indoors and these have been a great success.

We have also attended Mayor's Sunday and Battle of Britain Sunday services and laid a wreath on the town War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Four of our Branch attended the Canotaph Service in Whitehall.

A Car Boot Sale (indoor) is planned in aid of the Benevolent Fund early next year.

Three of our members attended the Wales & West Area Reunion in early October organised by the Shropshire Branch and enjoyed the event. There is always such a friendly atmosphere on these occasions.

This year we had our Christmas lunch at a local restaurant instead of our usual social evening as we felt that our small room might not create a Christmas atmosphere.

STIRLING. The branch which covers Central Region has one life member and 61 annual members and meets on the last Saturday afternoon of each month except June, July and August.

The Scottish AGM of 1993 was hosted by the branch and was held in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling. Everyone voted the occasion a great success.

The branch AGM was also held in October and it was unanimously agreed that £150 should be sent to Erskine Hospital and £50 to the ATS Benevolent Fund.

In November, a talk was given by Mrs Joyce Bogg on her work as a free-lance journalist. This proved to be most entertaining and Mrs Bogg had her audience "rolling in the aisles".

In December, 40 members attended a Christmas lunch at the Terraces Hotel and as usual this proved to be a happy choice with an excellent meal.

In January after a last minute cancellation, we were fortunate to get the services of Falconer Walters who entertained us with a talk on the people he met while walking "the West Highland Way".

In February, Miss Betty Carmichael, whose father had been an Officer in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and who had been born in Egypt, gave a talk on a visit she had recently made to her birthplace. She also gave a slide show on "The Wonders of Egypt".

In March, Colonel Janet Lawson gave a talk on the progress of women in the army now that the WRAC has been disbanded. She also gave a detailed account of the work involved in organising a convoy to take medical supplies of Rumania. This proved to be a most interesting insight into the amount of organisation.

The Secretary attended the church service at Guildford Cathedral when the Duchess of Kent unveiled the stained-glass window commemorating the Women's Services. The Secretary also attended the AGM and reunion at Frimley Country Club.

In May, instead of a speaker we had a debate; subject - "Are you glad you were a teenager fifty years ago?" This proved to be a very lively debate and some of the ideas proved to be more than controversial!

In June, the Normandy Veterans Association invited 20 of our members to join them in a parade and church service in the Church of the Holy Rude followed by a march-past to the War Memorial. Stirling District Council entertained the parade to a Civic Lunch in the Albert Hall, Stirling.

In July, Jean Heggie and Anne White were delighted to receive invitations to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. They had a wonderful day in London and gave a talk on their experience on their return to the branch.

In August, five members who had received medals from Dover District Council attended a reunion for HAA personnel held in York. After a church service in the Minster and a march-past, a lunch was held at York Garrison. Three hundred anti-aircraft personnel attended.

After a very busy year we now look forward to the Scottish AGM at Ayr.

SWANSEA. Our monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month in the library of the City Guildhall continue to be well attended. Members travel from a radius of 20/30 miles and most use public transport, which leaves much to be desired in our area. Two stalwart members come by taxi and as they are OAPs show a determination that made the ATS what it was.

We usually have a speaker with talks ranging from 'How to Grow Herbs' to 'My Life as a Beefeater in the Tower of London'. One of our members supplies us with tea or coffee at 15p per cup, half of which goes into funds. This is much appreciated as the Guildhall Catering Company charges 60p per cup.

Once a year the Lord Mayor visits and tells us how much (or otherwise) he has enjoyed his year of office. Afterwards we partake of a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit by courtesy of the City Council.

Rehearsal 23 Feb



SWANSEA BRANCH PARTY
Blwyddol Newydd Dda i eiddi

In April Mrs Mair Folkes tragically died in a fire. She had been a loyal member of our Branch and has been sorely missed.

Mrs Lillian Clark, Hon Secretary with other members attended the Guildford Reunion. Our President Mrs Veronica Barrington was at the D-Day Services and saw HM Queen Elizabeth at the Bayeux Cemetery and on Sword Beach.

Several members travelled from South to North to the Telford Reunion which was much enjoyed. Mrs Biddy McNaughton of Pembroke Dock met an old ATS friend after some 47 years, Sgt Glad Warden. In spite of the very long journey we enjoyed meeting members from other Branches.

Next year the Wales Reunion will be held in Hereford and in 1996 in the City of Swansea.

We had a most enjoyable Christmas meeting on 7 December and on 4 January we held our AGM and New Year Luncheon.

ULSTER. While we have a membership of around 90 because of the geography and other factors of Ulster, it is not very easy for members to get to a central point so we only meet three or four times a year - mostly social occasions!

We held our Annual Luncheon in February at the King's Hall, Belfast and 54 members attended. We always hold a small Bring & Buy sale at this event - mainly to help pay for postage etc for the Secretary.

We had an outing in May by bus round the Mountains of Mourne with lunch in Kilkeel but unfortunately the weather was dreadful. In May five of the office bearers were entertained to dinner by the Secretary of State and Lady Mayhew at Government House, Hillsborough - this was for veterans of World War II.

Our Vice Chairman and Secretary were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace but owing to a family bereavement they could not attend. In October 14 members travelled eighty miles to have lunch with our friends in the Omagh Branch and in November we held our AGM in Bangor. 38 members were present and again we had lunch before the meeting. We are delighted to welcome several new members from the former UDR.

Sadly our Chairman died in April. We also lost four other members of long standing so we are especially glad to welcome new younger members.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND. We have recently had our membership increased by three new Annual Members, one an ex-WAAF being an affiliated member, so we are now 40 Annual and 19 Life members.

We continue to meet twice monthly and by the time our next news report comes in we hope to have a new venue for our

meetings which will then be in the afternoons, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Many members have been uneasy at returning home after evening meetings as the streets are becoming increasingly unsafe for pedestrians after dark, and car owners are also reluctant to drive in the evenings.

At our AGM all Committee members were returned to office. Mrs Anne Scott who now lives and works in Devon, felt that she could no longer continue as our Standard Bearer, and she also asked to be transferred to Exeter Branch. We were sorry to lose an extremely smart Standard Bearer but Mrs Esther Pring nobly volunteered to 'have a go' as Standard Bearer, and she acquitted herself splendidly at the D-Day parades in Dorchester and Weymouth. Several of us paraded on these occasions, and were pleasantly surprised to find that (thanks to the drill sergeants of our ATS days?) we could still march after 60 years!!

Several members helped at the fund raising events for the Army Benevolent Fund, flatle tickets were sold recently

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WILMSLOW BRANCH MEMBERS AT THEIR INAUGURAL MEETING

in aid of the Royal Star & Garter Home so we are now anxiously waiting to see if any of us are lucky prize winners! We have twice sent shoe boxes of gifts out to Bosnia, and names of addresses of people out there were given to us so that Christmas cards could be sent to them.

Two members attended the annual Mayor making ceremony and the Mayor's reception. The Remembrance Day Services were well attended and Mrs Gloria Earley laid our poppy wreath at the Weymouth cenotaph. Our Chairman, Mrs Necia Trent, being a Portlander, laid a wreath at the Portland Cenotaph. Some members attended the Battle of Britain Service, and the reception afterwards at the Wings Club.

We had a luncheon instead of an evening Dinner this year so that members living outside Weymouth could join us. This was a great success, and another luncheon is planned for 1995. Several of us went to the Area Reunion at Southampton where we had a very enjoyable time, and met many friends from other Branches.

Our annual outing was to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and was greatly enjoyed. Our guides took us round the outside of the Hospital and told us a lot of its history. We were allowed into the Chapel, and also the Great Hall where the pensioners have their meals. The menus for that day's meals were on the tables and we were most impressed at the choice of food available. After visiting the museum and shop we ended - where else? - in the canteen for a welcome "cuppa".

We are glad to say that Miss Joan Biddlecome, who had a stroke some months ago, is making excellent progress, and she came to our Christmas party on 7 December. Her carer kindly drove her from Bridport with another Bridport member. Members also come from Dorchester and Warrimwell and we spent a very happy evening chatting and partaking of a wonderful selection of goodies. Mrs Joan Wrenn is being very well cared for in a Nursing Home and we visit her regularly.

All members have programmes of Branch events twice a year, these are posted to those unable to attend meetings so they know what is going on.

WILMSLOW. On the 7 July this year, ten ex-ATS met at the Wilmslow British Legion Club to discuss the opening of a new Branch. Since then the local newspaper photographer has taken a photograph of some of our members and with this an article on our aims and objects has been published in their September edition. The outcome is we now have 18 members including three ex-WAAF as Hon Members.

The Group has had a day out at the Southport Flower Show and a Christmas Lunch has been arranged.

Six members attended the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 13 November at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Any ex-servicewomen would be made most welcome to join us on the first Thursday in the month at the British Legion Club. We have coffee and a snack at 1 pm followed by the meeting at 1.30 pm. For any enquiries please contact the Secretary of the Branch Mrs Lilian Edwards c/o Wilmslow British Legion Club, Wilmslow.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The WRAC Association and ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds are moving on 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 10
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

Do not send any mail to Guildford after 24 March 1995.

WIMBLEDON. The Wimbledon and District Branch number 97 and this year we have welcomed three new members. Our meetings have been lively and enthusiastically attended by an average of 23 members each month. There have been two committee meetings followed by luncheon. **PDF Compressor Free Version** These have proved valuable in integrating the Committee.

In June we held our summer tea party. Members gave generously displaying their culinary skills and the festive board was covered with a delicious display. In July we tried something new for us - a "Bake & Take" afternoon. Each member brought a cake which she had made and after judging by the President the cakes were then sold to each other making a profit for our funds. Prizes were awarded to Nan Wilson and Eileen Job.

We do not hold a formal meeting in August. Instead members and their husbands are invited to an afternoon party at the home of our President, Iris Smith. There we were made most welcome and enjoyed the lovely garden and splendid tea.

In September we had an excellent lecture with slides given by Mr Richard Milward, the writer and historian. He engaged our close attention with a fascinating account of 'Famous Visitors to Wimbledon'. Also in September twenty of us attended the London Group WRAC Reunion held at Wellington Barracks. There were several interesting speakers and our Secretary, Bessie Wright, gave an excellent account of her time in the Fire Service in the days leading up to and including the declaration of war.

Our usual fund raising event - a Bring & Buy Sale was held in October. We held two each year thus enabling us to donate to charity. Some of our members attended the ATS Dinner Club Luncheon held at Wellington Barracks in October. On Remembrance Sunday the Wimbledon Branch was represented in Whitehall and at the War Memorial in Wimbledon.

At the AGM I am pleased to report that Beryl Douglas was elected Vice Chairman and Marc Wade was elected to the Committee.

I am sad to report that Olive Eddolls died on 12 July 1991. Olive was a founder member of the Wimbledon Branch and although latterly prevented by illness from attending meetings, she nonetheless maintained her interest in the Association. Nor was she ever forgotten by members who continued to visit her to the last. Barbara



WIMBLEDON BRANCH MEMBERS HONOURED

L to R:

Bessie Wright (Secretary) Barbara Young (née Somen)

(Past President and Chairman)

Iris Smith (née Stead) President and past Chairman

Potempa, who died in October very suddenly of a severe heart attack had been a Wimbledon member for just over two years and in that time had made a small circle of friends. She was also a member of the British Legion.

WINCANTON. We had to cancel the February meeting early in the morning because of heavy snow. In April a party of us went to Guildford in a minibus driven by one of our members for the very moving and impressive service in the Cathedral and the dedication of the Memorial Window by the Duchess of Kent. This was followed by the AGM. Later in the month we held our annual coffee morning, which was well supported and made a profit of £240.

At the end of May two of us went to 'Hampshire Remembers', a gathering of veterans at Netley and in June one member and her husband went to France for the events commemorating D-Day.

In June some of us went to the Adjutant General's Corps Day at Worthy Down and enjoyed sitting in the sun watching the events followed by an excellent tea.

At the end of the month some of us attended a Drum Head Service which commemorated the crash of a Flying Fortress on the outskirts of Wincanton in 1944 when the entire crew, the youngest only 17, were killed when the pilot trying to land his badly damaged plane at a nearby airfield, just managed to avoid the town before crashing into a field. The service was attended by about 1000 people including the pilot's sister and family from



SOUTH WEST GROUP REUNION - WINCANTON
Brig Field, Mrs Spearpoint, Lt Col Dunn, Miss Cloy, Mrs Hill

America and the CO and a detachment of airmen from the USAF Base at Fairford.

Two of us went to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in July. Our Garden Meeting was at the home of a member in North Cheriton at the end of July and unfortunately the weather was not good enough for tea in the garden, but everyone enjoyed themselves and we had the usual sumptuous tea.

September was the event of the year as far as our Branch was concerned when we hosted the South West Area Reunion. We were so pleased that Brigadier Anne Field and Colonel and Mrs Dunn were able to join us with Mrs Hill, Chairman of the South West Area, Colonel Trout, Chairman of the Southern Area and members from the Exeter, Plymouth and Somerset Branches. In the South West Area, also visitors from Andover, Cheltenham and Salisbury. We did so enjoy having you all in Wincanton and look forward to joining the Somerset Branch next year.

Our outing postponed from June was in October when we went to Wilton House on a warm autumn day, having lunch and looking over the house and grounds before visiting the adjoining Garden Centre.

Our Christmas lunch was held once again at Holbrook House near Walsall.

We were saddened in September by the death of one of our members, Mrs Frances Wragg, and a party of us attended a Thanksgiving Service in Hindon Church.

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended and the membership remains about the same as last year.

WOLVERHAMPTON. Wolverhampton Branch continues to thrive and is a very happy Group. We have a membership of over 50 but quite a number are unable to attend meetings due to where they live or their health, but during the year we see at least 30 of the members at some time or other. We still have a OMAAC member who, unfortunately, lives out of Wolverhampton, but she is visited by Mary Beeston.

We have been represented this year at:

The Guildford celebrations in April

Great Yarmouth in May by two members who

were there on that disastrous day in May 1943.

North West Reunion in Liverpool in July.

ATS Dinner Club in October.

West & Wales Reunion in Telford in October.

London Cenotaph Parade in November.

We also had an outing to Chester in June and visited an out of town member in July and enrolled two new members living near to her.

Mary Beeston



MARY BEESTON WITH HER MINI EXHIBITION
Making sure the ATS were remembered on D-Day

In Wolverhampton we are always represented at the Civic Service in June and at the Remembrance Day Parade and Service in November, and also at the Festival of Remembrance in our Civic Hall. Two members are on the Working Committee for the latter.

Fund raising activities are limited owing to the distance people have to travel, and the fact that our meeting room is only available during business hours. However our monthly raffles and two Bring & Buy Sales during the year are generously supported by all our members and enable us to keep solvent and send an annual donation to the Benevolent Fund.

WREXHAM. After hosting the 1993 Area Reunion we had our Christmas Luncheon. This gave us a little celebration after all the hard work.

1994 saw the start of the New Year. We hold our meetings once a month (1st Wednesday) and these have been well attended. In April ten members were in Guildford for the Reunion and the Dedication of the Stained Glass window in the Guildford Cathedral. We all had a memorable weekend.

We also visited Rhyl for an Afternoon Tea Dance. Two of our members are in a Nursing Home and also other members have been sick or in hospital. 14 members attended the Area Reunion at Telford which was a success. In November a wreath was laid by our members on the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

YORK. Since our last report we have had our usual monthly meetings which have been well attended and we have gained two new members.

We do not usually meet in August but this year one of our members and her husband invited us to a garden party at their home. We were blessed with good weather and had a very enjoyable afternoon which included lovely refreshments and croquet on the lawn. To cover some of the costs we held a raffle which raised over £40.

September brought the North East Area Reunion which was as successful as the one held here last year. Everyone enjoyed themselves and preparations are already in hand for next year. Details will be published at a later date in the Lioness. Unfortunately since this reunion took place, the very hard working Secretary of this area, Miss Monica Brailey, has died. Two members represented this branch at her funeral in Harrogate which was also attended by more than eighty members from all over this area. She will be sadly missed.

In October we had our AGM which always provides a good turn out and some lively conversation. We now have a new Chairman and two new committee members but the remaining 'officials' were persuaded to stay for another year. Next year's programme was also discussed and we hope to include a theatre visit, a day out and an evening meal somewhere local.

Our next occasion was the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance held at the Barbican Centre on 6 November. The Association Standard was carried by one of our members and made us all feel very proud. The following week we were well represented at the local Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial.

We had our Christmas Lunch on 14 December when about thirty members wine and dined together at the same restaurant where we held our festivities last year. When the New Year arrives most of our thoughts will be turning towards methods to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

REUNIONS

SOUTH GROUP REUNION SUNDAY 30 APRIL 1995

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Greetings to all our 'overseas' friends. The Isle of Wight Branch are all looking forward to hosting the 1995 South Group Reunion and with this aim in mind our plans are now proceeding accordingly. Please remember that ALL applications must reach our Secretary by 5 April 1995 with full payment, ie coach trip from either East Cowes or Ryde Esplanade Ferries after tour to Broadway Park Hotel, Sandown for 1300 hrs lunch after which transport returns to respective ferries - £12.00 per person.

Ferry times from Southampton - depart 1030 hrs
Portsmouth - depart 1020 hrs
and these ferries must be caught for there will be coaches laid on to meet these and no others.
Return times will be from East Cowes - 1630 hrs
Ryde - 1645 hrs

If any members wish to stay overnight (Saturday night only 29 April) the Broadway Park Hotel will accommodate with Bed & Breakfast at £15 per person per night. For any other accommodation if you write to the Information Bureau, Esplanade, Sandown they will be able to furnish you with details of alternative addresses.

REUNION ASSOCIATION OF LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

The 7th annual reunion will be held in London, Ontario on 15, 16 and 17 September 1995. For information and registration details, please contact President Barbara Smith Apt 707, 521 Riverside Drive, London, Ontario, N6H 5E2, Canada.

The Reunion will be held at the Howard Johnson Motel, London, Ontario. Activities will include Friday dinner and entertainment, Saturday - business meeting, afternoon tea and get-together, Gala Dinner and entertainment, Sunday breakfast and farewells. The event is open to all former ATS members and their spouses.

SOUTH WEST GROUP REUNION WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1995

The South West Group Reunion will be held at The Royal British Legion Club, Taunton on Wednesday 20 September 1995. Details from:

Mrs H P Barlow
15 St Mary's Road
Burnham-on-Sea
SOMERSET TA8 2AZ

ATS RECORDS WINCHESTER 1995

I have been informed of the date for the King Alfred's College Reunion 1995 and it is to be 8 July 1995, a Saturday. Our Winchester Reunion weekend will therefore be Friday 7th and Saturday 8th July. Accommodation at the College will be available on the Thursday evening for those who travel some distance. Forms will hopefully be available mid-April 1995 and will be sent to those ex-ATS members who wish to attend. Members who were at the July 1994 Winton Club Reunion will automatically be sent a form. Anyone who would like further details please contact me on 0703-254024 before April 1995.

REUNION - MIXED HEAVY ACK ACK

A Reunion is to be held in York on 5th and 6th August 1995 for ladies of the World War II Mixed Heavy Ack Ack Btys. For details please write to Major D M Robertson HQ York Garrison, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4AU.

'L' COMPANY ATS HOBART HOUSE, LONDON (WAR OFFICE) REUNION

We are having our 10th Reunion on Wednesday 3 May 1995 at the Victory Services Club in London. Anyone who was with us - we would love to see you. The venue is easy to get to and will take the form of a lunch with heaps of time for talking and remembering old friends.

As this is our 10th Reunion it will be rather special and we would like to share it with you. We remember many of the "girls" and lots of our conversations start with "What happened to?". Please do join us. All details, write or phone:

Mrs M Benson
1 Hawksview
Fairmile Park Road
Cobham
Surrey KT11 2PG
Tel: 01932 - 865131

The "girls" come from all parts of the UK and accommodation can be arranged if necessary. Maybe even someone to travel with. Come on, lets hear from you!

REUNION, WALES AND THE WEST 1995

The above reunion will be at Hereford on Saturday 30 September 1995 at the Palud-R-Inn Club, Hoarwithy Road. Tickets will be £6.00 and available from the Hereford Secretary from April.

PLEASE NOTE - there will be absolutely NO ADMITTANCE without an Association Membership Card and a Reunion Ticket.

Hereford Secretary - Mrs J Anscombe, 6 Haydock Avenue, Hereford HR4 9LZ.

CHESTER REUNION

Enjoy a day out in Chester and in the afternoon join the Chester Branch of the

Association at a Tea Dance on
Wednesday 11 April 1995 at the

Stafford Hotel, City Road, Chester (by Railway Station)

1330 hrs - 1700 hrs

Refreshments etc Ticket £4.00

For further information:

Secretary/Treasurer

Mrs V Hamblett 0151-339-5313

538 (M) HAA BATTERY RA REUNION

UNION JACK CLUB, LONDON

7 pm SATURDAY 25 MARCH 1995

Contact Mrs Elizabeth Mattison
9 Martello Towers
Ravine Road
Canford Cliffs
Poole, Dorset BH13 7HX
Tel: 01202-709812

1994 ATS RECORDS REUNION

The 1994 ATS Records Reunion held in Winchester on 1st and 2nd July 1994 was quite a successful event. 24 members met in Winchester at the Railway Station and were photographed by the Hampshire Chronicle's photographer at 11.15 am. We had quite a few new faces, 2 from the USA and our regular visitors had traveled long distances to attend on both days or for the King Alfred's College Reunion of their Winton Club on 2 July 1994. We were well represented at Roll Call! We had a long table of ATS members, all of whom had worked at the College 1942-1946 and joined the College Club.



WINCHESTER RECORDS REUNION 1994
Miss Clarissa Kilia with members attending their reunion
1 July 1994
(Photo courtesy of Hampshire Chronicle)

We were sorry to hear of Miss Joan Biddlecombe's illness and missed her at our Reunion this year (Bridport resident). I understand Miss L M Hamilton who was in charge of Central Office, King Alfred's College during the war years has died. She resided in Winchester until recently. Brenda Reid, Stirling Branch, who attended the 1993 Reunion in Winchester, died in December 1993 (before Christmas) as some members had already received her Christmas card. It is hoped that 1995 will see many more ATS clerks at the July Reunion. Anyone who worked at the College and would like to have details please contact 0703 254024. An application form will be sent as soon as received in April 1995. The Secretary of the Union Jack Club was very helpful in providing a notice regarding our Reunion. Also Charlie Chester broadcast details on the Sunday Radio 2 programme 6 am - 7 am. The Saga Magazine also published the event and reached a few new members. To all a big Thank You. I would like to trace "Sunny" Steele and Miss E Elsey, both attached to Records Office, and employed in Discharge Wing ATS Records. Both resided in the south of England (Kingston Upon Thames) Surrey area.

NORTH WEST GROUP

On Saturday 16 July 1994 the North West Group held their first Reunion. It was hosted by the Liverpool Branch and took place at Bootle Town Hall. There was a very good attendance of members from the Branches in the North West Group and we were joined by members of Branches in the Wales and West Group. Before 2 pm members began to arrive and the hall became a hive of activity as they greeted old friends, bought tickets for the draw and tried their luck on the Tombola and Naming the Doll. They also made purchases at the handicraft stall. All these fund raising efforts were very well supported.

Our guests, the Mayor and Mayoress of Sefton and Colonel Val Batchelor OBE accompanied by the Group Chairman and the President and Chairman of the Liverpool Branch, entered the hall and took their places at the top table to the strains of the WRAC Regimental March. The Mayor welcomed the visitors to the Borough and spoke about Bootle's role during the war as a port of Western Approaches where much of the aid from America was landed, as a result of which Bootle, like its immediate neighbour Liverpool, was heavily bombed. Later in the afternoon he showed members around the Council Chamber, the walls of which are lined with plaques presented by the captains of the many ships of the Royal Navy which have visited the port. Colonel Val Batchelor spoke about the women in the Army today now that they are fully integrated and some of the problems which still exist.

After the buffet had been served the winner of Naming the Doll was announced and the draw took place. The afternoon ended with a final half hour of music and singing. By 5 pm members were beginning to make their farewells and start their homeward journey, followed by the Liverpool Branch members who were pleased that their efforts over the last few months has resulted in a very enjoyable and successful Reunion. (Photo on back cover)

ATS LUNCHEON CLUB

About 180 members gathered at Wellington Barracks on 1 October 1994 for the Annual Luncheon and Triannual General Meeting.

After the usual formalities, which included many happy reunions with old and new friends, luncheon was served in the Junior Mess Hall. The General Meeting followed, chaired by Mrs Audrey Juby for the last time. She reviewed the last three years, regretting the passing of many helpful members, explaining the cancellation of the projected Buxton weekend due to lack of support and expressing satisfaction that the introduction of the Annual Tea Party has been so successful.

Since there was no election possible, three co-opted members were introduced, Doreen Brooks, Joyce Edwards and Millicent Joslin. Retiring members were thanked. The subscription was raised to 2 per annum or 5 over three years. Tankards were presented to two of the "Q" staff and Brigadier Anne Field spoke about the National Army Museum.

Audrey Juby was thanked for her work for the Club and, together with Mary Gregory, retiring Treasurer, received gifts of appreciation. The new Chairman, Lt Col Betty Michell, was warmly welcomed and the meeting closed with the distribution of a large number of raffle prizes.



ATS LUNCHEON 1 OCTOBER 1994
Brig Fickett, Mrs Joy Belmain, Mrs Mary Beeston

BEATING RETREAT

Horse Guards Parade, London
6.30 pm on 13th, 14th and 15th June 1995
in aid of SSAFA

From:

.....

.....

..... Post Code:

To: Association Secretary, SSAFA
19 Queen Elizabeth Street
London SE1 2LP

Please send me tickets at £5, £8, £10
For the night of 13th, 14th, 15th June 1995
(circle desired date and price)

CHEQUES TO SSAFA PLEASE

WALES AND THE WEST GROUP REUNION - TELFORD 8 OCTOBER 1994

Once again we have had an excellent area Reunion, this year Shropshire Branch were the hosts with over 200 Association members being present. We had a 'full house' at the Secretaries Meeting, all 11 Branches being represented. A warm welcome to the Reunion was given by Cllr Malcolm Smith, Chairman of Wrekin District Council. Lucy Bowyer and Joan Purcell had a craft stall which was stocked with beautiful crochet work, knitting and embroidered tablecloths etc. Irene Hall was responsible for the raffle and Nancy Meredith manned the stall selling AIS memorabilia.

The entertainment was by the Telford Barber Shop Singers who gave us a varied programme of songs, these were much enjoyed especially as the singers were all male. Lt Col and Mrs Dunn were invited guests and Lt Col Dunn gave a short talk on Association matters.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Chris Griggs and Terri Goff. A donation of £700 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund from this reunion. We thank and congratulate Shropshire Branch for this marvellous effort, we are already looking forward to Hereford next year.

Revised 20/2



WALES & WEST REUNION
*Chairman Maggie Purkis presents
Certificate of Appreciation to Mrs Hilma Grigg*



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WALES AND WEST REUNION
*Counsellor Smith, Lt Col Dunn, Mrs Smith
 Mrs Parkis, Mrs Grigg*



REUNION IN CANADA 1994
Barbara Smith, Wyn Ruten, Betty Anderson



WALES AND WEST REUNION
Terri Goff and Beryl Lane

1994 ANNUAL REUNION ATS ASSOCIATION, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

The 6th Annual Reunion of former ATS members took place in London, Ontario on 9, 10, 11 September 1994. The annual event was attended by members from coast to coast in Canada. Nearly 100 members enjoyed a well organised weekend of entertainment, an escorted tour of a local winery, the annual business meeting, Friday night dinner and entertainment, Saturday's Gala Dinner with entertainment concluding with farewell breakfast on Sunday.

All those attending returned home with happy memories of a good time and the hope that everyone will be able to attend the 1995 reunion.

NORTH EAST GROUP REUNION

The North East has just had its Reunion at the York & Ainsty Suite at York Race Course which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Brigadier Anne Field CB and Lt General Sir Michael Gray KCB OBE were our guests. Brigadier Field gave an informative talk and brought everyone up to date with Association news. Lt General Sir Michael Gray kept us entertained with behind the scenes incidents from 1944 and the present day plans for the Pegasus Bridge.

Our thanks and appreciation go to the late Miss Monica Bradley and Colonel F Cook for all the hard work they contributed to the organisation of the Reunion and making it so successful.

LONDON GROUP REUNION - 3 SEPTEMBER 1994

From morning coffee at 10 am until afternoon tea at 4.00 pm Wellington Barracks rang with the sound of 178 female voices, reminiscing and exchanging greetings at our second successful reunion.

As the day was the 55th Anniversary of the outbreak of the war, we began with some memories of that momentous day. Who does not remember the shock of hearing the sirens sound on that first morning? Miss Ellison read a letter of greeting from the Canadian Women's Army Corps Unit 47 and she has sent greetings to them from us all.

Lt Col (Retd) Susan Payne gave an interesting talk about her career in the QARANC TAVR. She had retired the previous day as Matron of 257 General Hospital and she has been HM The Queen's Honorary Nursing Sister.

After a good lunch, and the opportunity to purchase 75th Anniversary souvenirs, Colonel Dunn brought us up to the date with the Association news. Then Lt Col Rosemary Cornwell who was previously our Chairman, gave a talk on the valuable work of BLESMA which she has joined on retirement from the WRAC. We then saw the video made at Guildford in April and as time was pressing only part of the video of HM The Queen's visit to Corps Day at Worthy Down in 1993.

As a result of the generous support of everyone at the raffle we were able to donate £100 to the Window Appeal. We now look forward to next year's reunion which we hope will be at Aylesbury.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1995

The AGM and WRAC Association will be held at the Portrait Gallery, National Army Museum, Chelsea at 3.00pm on Saturday 22 April 1995. (Admission to the AGM will be by Membership Card).

AGENDA

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

SECRETARIES MEETING

There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries (or another nominated Committee Member) in the Portrait Gallery of the National Army Museum at 12 noon on Saturday 22 April 1995. Members of Council invite those attending the meeting to join them as guests for lunch prior to the AGM in the Templer Gallery of the National Army Museum. Application forms for tickets for the lunch were circulated in January 1995.

KEY FOBS

Leather key fobs with an ATS Badge design in acrylic can be bought from:

Premier Badges Ltd
Adams House
219 North Street
Romford
Essex RM1 4QA
Tel: 0708 767844

£1.50 each incl p/p and VAT

HOW TO FIND AGM AT NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

CHELSEA

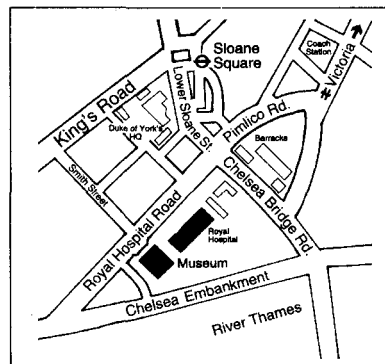
Royal Hospital Road
Chelsea, London SW3 4HT
Tel: 0171-730 0717

By Rail: Victoria Station

By Tube: District or Circle Line to Sloane Square

By Bus:

Nos 11, 19 and 22 along King's Road
No 137 to Plimlico Road
No 239 (Mon to Sat)
stops immediately outside the Museum.



Coach and Car Parking will be available in the Royal Hospital (by kind permission of the Governor) but you must apply to Association HQ for a Vehicle Pass to gain entry.

OSBORNE HOUSE Isle of Wight

Serving and retiring officers, their dependants and serving or retired civil servants are eligible to stay temporarily or permanently at Osborne House. For details write or telephone:

Miss Joan Plant
Matron
Osborne House
Isle of Wight
Tel: 01983 292511

or

Gillian Cobb
Civil Service Benevolent Fund
Anne Boleyn's Walk
Cheam
Sutton
Surrey SM3 8DY
Tel: 0181 642 8511

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Connie Shirlill (née Clarkson) of 53 Ravensmead Road, Purston, Pontefract WF7 5AQ sent in this 50th Anniversary photograph of members of 476 Battery at York Minster 50 years after they had served together in Belgium.

Returned 03 Feb



**176 MIXED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY
YORK MINSTER**

Miss J Finch of "Hadleigh", 11 Goodham Way, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0ER sent this picture of 476 Mixed Battery on Hampstead Heath. (The mix of 2 gunners to 24 ATS seems generous).

Returned 22/2



**476 MIXED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY
HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

Ex-Sgt Freddie Allen and ex-Pte Beryl Groves and Maisie Stephenson are beginning to believe that they are the sole survivors of the OFC of 451 (M) HAA Battery RA 133 Regiment. All reunions have drawn a blank. Please contact Mrs Freddie Weatherley (née Allen), 4 Small Acre, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2LP if you know any different.

Returned 22/1



**451 MIXED HEAVY
ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY BEDMINSTER DOWN**
*Privates Norris and Cole in male bulldress
before special ATS designs came into use*

Mrs Alma Stride (née Finning) of Ticehurst Cottage, Peggs Lane, Buckland, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5HX wants to know what happened to Johnny Garner, Lyn Jones, Pauline Becannes, Martha Lindsay and Ann Underwood who were with 501/72 Searchlight Regiment up to its disbandment and were posted 425/58 Searchlight Regiment which was disbanded at Skegness in Autumn 1944 when the picture was taken.

Returned 22/2



**425 BATTERY of 58 SEARCHLIGHT REGIMENT -
SCARBOROUGH**
*Standing: Johnny Garner, Lyn Jones, Vera Ling
Seated: Pauline Becannes, Martha Lindsay, Ann Underwood*

Sunderland Branch member Martha Halliday (née Cleghorn) has been traced by Florrie Lewington whose bridesmaid she had been 49 years before. They both came from Seaham in Tyne & Wear and served together in Selby. Mrs Lewington now lives in Kent.

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WAR BRIDE MEETS HER BRIDESMAID 49 YEARS ON
Mrs Florrie Lewington and Mrs Martha Halliday
by White Cliffs of Dover

The family of the late Major Greta Baylis MBE would like to identify the two people with her in the photo and the location. Greta served for 32 years in the ATS & WRAC and 10 years as a MOD civilian. She died on 17 November 1994 aged 75.



MYSTERY WOMEN
WO1 / 2LT / Capt Greta Baylis



**A PLATOON 2 COMPANY THE TRAINING CENTRE,
GUILDFORD**

Mary Fox left hand end, second row from top
Lesley Fryer is middle of same row and
Jinny Dench (in glasses) is in front of her

Mrs Mary Clements (née Fox) has sent this picture of herself at Brighton. She joined in 1949 and was trained as clerk at Wrexham. She served in Cater Barracks, Bullford; Hoobs Barracks, Lingfield, Bude firing camp and Bad Oeyenhausen. She also sent her recruit squad photo. She is at left hand end of second row from the top.



RECRUITS IN BRIGHTON 1949
Mrs Mary Clements (née Fox) is on the left
(already with WRAC Cap badge but ATS uniforms)

ATS BADGES

London Branch have a supply of chrome ATS Badges for sale – similar to the silver plated ones previously available from HQ.

Cost £2.00 each (incl p/p)
apply to:

Mrs G Stewart
4 Graham Court
Cooden Close
Bromley BR1 3TT



**10th CUMBERLAND PLATOON ATS
WORKINGTON & WHITEHAVEN**

*Rear Rank: Eddy Mulholland, Lucy Nicholson,
Sally Leighton (née Wilkinson), V Cates (née Saffell),
W Cogan (née Moore)*

*Front Rank: Margaret Beckett, Isabel Lawthwaite,
Mayor & Mayoreas, Ellen Scurr (née Craddock)*

Miss Margaret Beckett BEM JP of 25 George Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7EY tells me of two reunions of the 10th Cumberland Platoon ATS. On 5 April some members of the platoon met at the Waverley Hotel, Whitehaven. The platoon formed in 1939 by Miss G StG Jackson and 32 were posted to Luton attached to No 7 Driver Training Centre. On her way back from the Grand Reunion in Guildford, Miss Beckett went to Luton and met the Mayor, Mrs Fensome who had assembled 40 ex-ATS from the Luton area for another nostalgic occasion.



Mayor of Luton and Miss Beckett

Mrs Ena Scott (née Campbell) of Tudor House, Drumore, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway DG9 9PU who wrote the article on page 24 sent this photo of herself with three friends. On the back is written "We the above have arranged to meet at The Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London on 28 February 1948 for the purpose of painting the town red. Time 1 pm - first one there to do the ordering".



DRIVERS AT NEWPORT
V E Pugh, C K Jolly, M J Ross, R I Campbell

Mrs N Tiplon (née Scott) 91 Dawley Road, Wellington, Telford, Shropshire TF1 2HT would love to hear from Guildford, Glen Parva, Lincoln, Hut 7 Hooe Lines Catterick. She has sent this photo taken outside the huts at Hooe Lines.



HOOE LINES, CATTERICK CAMP 1947
*Standing: Nancy Scott, Christine West, Rose Clark
Knesling: ?*

Returned 22/2



PDF Compressor Free Version

The Calling All Provost box item on para 95 of Linness No 2/94 has elicited this photograph of a training course at Mytchett Barracks, Ash Vale in August 1942 from Mrs Mary Jackson (née Waters) of 21 Ockfynge Close, Little Common, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 4PF. Telephone 01424 - 844870. She would love to hear from anyone who was on the course.

W/178665 Pte Sally Allison who was with No 1 Signals Company HQ London during the war would like to contact any one who remembers her. She is now Mrs Sally Stafford of 4 Willow Crescent, Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand.

W/139070 Pte Dorothea M Carter, Clerk, stationed with the 317/36 S/L Regiment at Ely and Newmarket and also with the 920 RASC Company at Chelsea and Putney, London, would like to contact Sylvia M Rollett who lived at Lincoln, Pat Whitehead who lived at Manchester, Mavis Todd from Newcastle on Tyne and Pat Warner or anyone who remembers her. Her address is: Mrs D M Carter, 2/4 Ti Nana Crescent, Henderson, Auckland 8, New Zealand.

Mrs R A Martin (née Gardner) of Dover says that she would like to praise the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich where she had operations on both wrists to relieve the carpal tunnel syndrome. She says that her records were annotated "ex ATS" and the nursing staff said "this is one that we must look after as she is one of us".

Mrs Pauline Jones of 162 Battery has made a pen pal contact with Mrs A M Ross in Portugal despite not being the Pauline Jones being sought.

Dennis Landin, a Lieutenant RA with a mixed Battery was badly injured in the face on a battle course at Swanage. He wonders if any one remembers the incident and can help revive his memory.

Major Edna Shields of 12 Highbury Road, Darlington DL3 7QF is the captain in this photograph taken at Catterick when she was Company Commander of G Company 1944-46. The 700 strong Company was mainly from the North East and she would be pleased to hear from any ex-members.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The WRAC Association and ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds are moving on 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 10
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

Do not send any mail to Guildford after 24 March 1995.

Returned 22/2



G COMPANY "O" LINES CATTERICK

Mrs Renee Willows (née Needham) has sent in a photo of herself and a group of ATS at Craven Hill in Bicester. She was following up a Sue Crook contact on 681 Battery and as her career did not match one supplied by Anne Roscoe of a Needham in 681 Battery, thought that there may have been two of them!

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Returned 22/2



CORPORAL RENEE NEEDHAM (née WILLOWS)

Miss Beryl Wylie (née Cates) would like to trace Mrs Peggy Baldwin (née Brownjohn) whom she knew at Hounmouth Pay Office with a view to a meeting next May when here on holiday from America. Contact Mrs Lola Goodyear (née Hayes) at 13 Grange End, Smallfield, Nr Horley, Surrey RH6 9NE.

Norman P Smith of Suite 203, 3880 Lander Street, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5C 2L5 wishes to contact W/199347 Jacqueline (Jacky) Sharpe who was with HAA Regiment at Danson Park, Bexley Heath. He was in RCAF attached to the RAF. Anyone who remembers either of them is asked to write to Mr Smith.

Major R V (Bob) Raine wishes to trace two sisters Mary Alison Morford (later Cook) and Patricia Alice Morford. They were FANYs who transferred to the ATS in 1940. Any news should be sent to Bob Raine at 36 Swarldale, Haxby, Yorks YO3 3NZ.

Mrs D M Short of 15 Georges Close, Whipton Lane, Exeter, Devon EX1 3LA thanks Sue Crook and her Battery Linking project for helping her find comrades in her Battery. She has sent this photograph of some of the Battery at Anglesey Firing Camp.

Returned 22/2



**523 MIXED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY
ANGLESEY FIRING CAMP**

Returned 22/2



BICESTER 1946

*Standing: Vi Logie, Renee Needham, Ricky, Marguerite Graham, Margery Cooper, Jane Dunne, Maureen O'Riordan, May Connor, Pat Robert and Joan Rhind
Seated: Miss Rose, Junior Commander Rhosenburg, Subaltern Wilson*

Mrs Joan Marshall of 54 Haigh Court, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0BJ who served in H Company ATS attached to 15 ITC in Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester from 1943 to 1945 met up with 3 friends 48 years after demobilisation and would like to meet more from the Company.

Returned 22/2



**H COMPANY ATS, HYDERABAD BARRACKS,
COLCHESTER 43-45
Joan, Annie, Florrie, Ida**



WELSH GUARDS ST DAVID'S DAY PARADE MARCH 1948 SANDOWN PARK

*Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier, Col T A Oakshott inspecting with Lt Musie Seymour (later Fount)
Front Row: Cpl Davis Lee (who sent in the photo), Ptes Goss, Kingsley (later Fox), Crutcher and Boudel
Middle Row: Pte Potts 1 1 1 Back Row: Pte Langford 1 1 Kelly, Lt Cpl Griffen*



PRIVATE BETTY NEWLANDS IN HER RAOC DAYS

An overseas returnee this time. Miss Betty Newlands served in the ATS from 1944 to 1947. She trained at Pontefract and was stationed at Ashbourne Lodge in Derbyshire before going to the Ordnance Depot at Bicester. On demobilisation she went to South Africa only returning in March this year. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. She lives at Flat 3, 13 Constable Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7HL.



DORIS HANCOCK (née BAKER) THEN AND NOW

Mrs Doris Hancox (née Baker) of 36 Woodland Road, Worcester WR3 8HH first heard of the Association at D-Day celebrations and would like to hear from anyone who was with her at South Wigston in Leicester, Hampstead, London, HQ North Kent, Rand Surrey District at Betchworth.

BOOK REVIEWS

FORGET AND SMILE (ISBN 0 9524494 0.4)

An autobiography by Austin Shorney
PDF Compressor Free Version

Mr Shorney is a native of Sussex and has written of the tremendous changes to the towns and villages of the county from 1900 to 1970. Of particular interest to Association members will be the Chapters in which he gives an account of life in the 53rd City of London Regiment RA (TA) where he met his wife, Ruby, who died in April 1994.

The book is available from Shorney Publications 16 Sackville Court, Fairfield Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4HQ. Price £11.50 including packaging and postage.

THE POISONED SPY by Muriel Bol

The Poisoned Spy portrays the world of cold-war espionage and counter-espionage with great attention to detail, intrigue and excitement. With the vividness of first-hand experience Muriel Bol breathes into her characters and their adventures a zest and authenticity seldom equalled in spy fiction.

It is Trieste, 1949. The British Intelligence officer assigned to debrief a high ranking Russian defector is poisoned. The defector, Colonel Alexander Petrovich Ivanov, head of Russian Intelligence in Austria, is found hanged. The mystery that connects these events creates an ever-widening circle of fear and death. To escape being enveloped by it, a British agent and the defector's beautiful mistress begin a desperate flight from Romania to London and safety. Fighting sickness and appalling cold, the hunted pair strive to outrun their invisible pursuers across war-torn Europe. But the hunters are closing in.....

MURIEL BOL (née Clarke) was educated at the City of London School for Girls, the Bromley School of Art and the London College of Music. She served in the ATS and WRAC and worked in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. For a time she was in Military Intelligence. She travelled widely, married a Dutchman and lived in Holland for fifteen years.

The book can be obtained from the publishers Fairmile Press, PO Box 494, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 2SX at £14.95 including packing and postage (£2 of this goes to the Muriel Bol Mission to Romania).

MY LIFE IN THE ATS by Miss Violet Rhodes

This eight page illustrated pamphlet covers Violet Rhodes' time in the ATS from 1942- 1947 and her subsequent life in the schools meals service. Published privately copies may be obtained from Miss V Rhodes, 51 Selwyn Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EA. Price £1 part of which will be donated to the Benevolent Fund.

OFFICER QUALITY (ISBN 0 450 61005 5)

by Rosemary Enright
Published by Hodder & Stoughton.

Rosemary Enright (née Watkins, formerly Clayton) served in the WRAC from January 1971 to 1976. JMF writes:

As a fan of Rosemary Enright, I have read her previous novels with great enjoyment and I greeted the arrival of her latest book with high hopes. The fact that new heroine was a young WRAC officer was only a very small cloud on my horizon for I thought her Service would save me from the hair-tearing caricatures which have so often peopled the pages of stories in the past.

I did find the introductory chapter rather slow, with the details of Esme Hansard's birth a little far fetched, and I could not help but wonder what those who served with SOE during the war would make of it! From there on the story of this rather naive idealistic young officer went along at Ms Enright's usual good pace and had me reading on when I should have been doing other things. Watching Esme battle with her personal life in the Army environment, makes good entertainment and Ms Enright draws her characters in her usual rounded manner. This is especially true of those who live in and around her heroine's North Yorkshire home. Indeed I feel I have met Esme's aunt on many occasions at my own area of that county. If I had little or no knowledge of Army life in the 1960s I would consider this a most enjoyable light novel, entertaining and well written. The problems started when it came to the "Army" aspects of the book and I found myself lost. Was this the world into which I was commissioned less than six months before the heroine? I fear the answer must be No. Peopled by male chauvinists, narrow dried up females and Cavalry Regiments whose officers are heavily discouraged from contact with WRAC officers who were considered socially unacceptable, it is an element of the book which shows outdated stereotyping. This, together with several factual errors, was a disappointment to one who served contemporaneously with the heroine in some of the same locations and specialisations portrayed. If it was supposed to show the young officer as a progressive career woman, ahead of her time it might well succeed with young women of today. However most Army officers are too intelligent to accept that it could possibly have been as bad as that!

Again when Esme eventually marries, we are projected into a world which had almost disappeared by the suggested date, being more reminiscent of the life known by my mother in the 1950s than to my contemporaries in the late 1960s and early 70s. It is not surprising that this marriage duly fails but what is surprising is the career change chosen by a woman who, up to this point hasn't always shown the best of judgement or initiative. Unfortunately I feel Ms Enright rather ducks how her character finally finds a successful life and career, by skipping the intervening years until the book concludes with the last Corps Dinner in the Guildhall (where the "young and feisty" DWRAC is quoted) and we are left in doubt that she was successful!

I did, as stated, find this a good read and I am sure that the urge to see what came next resulted from Ms Enright's undoubted ability to tell a good story. Enjoy reading Officer Quality but please do not think this is an entirely true picture of Army life at that time.

Returned 22/2

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No 4 ATS TRAINING COMPANY SOMTB MAY 1948

Back Row: LCpls Rushbrooke, Alderley, Whittam, Fordon, Burnett

Standing: LCpls Dennison, Callinan, Cpls Gray, Bellingham, Harris, Grant, LCpl Biecher

Seated: Cpl Davis, Sgls Elzey, Kern, Sub Hooton, J C Garnett, Sub Clifford-Smith, CSM Salkillea, Sgt Fawcett, Cpl Edwards

On ground: Ptes Smith, Keownham, Salsage

Mrs G E Austin (née Balls) of 3 Highmoor Close, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH14 8TG has sent in some more photos from her scrapbook. She is not in this particular one of No 4 (ATS) Training Company SOMTB in May 1948 but someone may recognise themselves or the location.

Kathy Young of 224 Saxon Sisters Road, Lower Willington, East Sussex BN22 0PF met up with colleagues who were in Cyprus in 1959/60. She sent in this picture of their reunion.

Returned 22/2



CYPRUS REUNION

*Ann Walker (née Collinson) Kathy Young (née Sturgess)
Pim Bearell (née Mordland)*

Mrs G E Brunton says that as a result of the Golden Wedding photo of Betty Gawthorpe to Sergeant Simpson in the last Lioness she has now made contact with Betty in Australia.

Mrs Doreen Peters (who wrote the article on page 18) made contact with Vi Thorogood (née Twose) through a Lioness link and finally met up in Burnham on Sea.

Returned 22/2



VI THOROGOOD AND DOREEN PETERS 54 YEARS ON

Mr Peter Mann of 28 Breamwater Gardens, Ham, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1DQ remembers an ATS Sergeant on the staff of the OCTU at Alton Towers (now a theme park) who sang solo in the chapel there. Belatedly he wants to thank her for a wonderful musical experience.

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Garats Hay, Beaumaris. Did you serve in the ATS 1942-1945 at the WOYG station? If so, please contact Joan Nicholls née Nixon 0181 644 9156.

Mrs Edna Christie-Smith of Flat 30, Heynard Court, 100 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 2QA served as Cpl Edna Lewis, Pontefract, Nottingham and in Maidstone. She was a star of camp concerts and wonders if any other 72 year olds remember her!

Miss Elen Margaret Creane of 42 Bedford Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 7BL has asked for this photograph of cooks at Invicta Lines, Maidstone, to be published to try and make contact with anyone who served with her.

Returned 22/2



COOKS AT INVICTA LINES MAIDSTONE AUGUST 1948

*Given Andy Breathe Joan
Alice Lucy Mitty Eileen
Joan Mary Phil*

Mrs Ray Munt (née Bell) of 33 Homewood, Findon Village, Worthing, Sussex BN14 0XA reminds me of the story of the travel courier who could speak three languages but spent the war in the ACC because he told the recruiting Sergeant that he worked for Cooks! She wanted to be a driver and spent her whole service in whites. This picture shows her at Holywood Barracks outside Belfast in 1943.

Returned 22/2



COOKS AT HOLYWOOD NORTHERN IRELAND

A long shot from Australia. Mrs Esther Stone of 17 Leachard Street, Frankston, Victoria 3199 Australia seeks Margaret Bain.

Mrs Frances Boulton (née Frankie White) of 24 Winrow Gardens, Basford, Nottingham NG6 0GS was one of the 'Belles of RHQ' with 822 Mixed Battery stationed at Neath in South Wales. She wants to hear from other Belles or anyone who was in the Battery.

Returned 22/2



BELLES OF RHQ 862 BATTERY

*Back Row: Irene, Vera, Pam, Phyl, Annie (Laiden)
Front Row: Joyce, Nellie, Judy, Frances*

Mrs Norma Robinson (née Scholey) of 22A Pasteur Avenue, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3SH was interested in the picture in Lioness No 1/94 (page 37) of troops in Berlin. She sent in this picture of two who were missing from the earlier pictures, herself and Phillis York, plus a request for news of comrades.

Returned 22/2



BERLIN 1948

Phyllis York and Norma Scholey (now Robinson)

Mrs L C Varley (née Syder) of 33 Scymour Avenue, Newton, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 4BB hopes that this photograph will jog memories of those who served in Glor Parva, Arborfield, Seaford and Bude.

PDF Compressor Free Version



MRS LILIAN VARLEY (née SYDER)



Mr W (Bill) Court of Marsh Acres, High Lane, Sleethby, Alford, Lincolnshire LN13 9NR has asked if anyone can identify themselves from this photograph of 554 Battery in Sutton Park in 1944.

Mrs Freda Strand (née Bowden) of 6 Hillview Gardens, Barnes, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear has been asked by a Belgian family if they can trace Jean Prince and Doreen Farwick whom they befriended in the village of Overysse, Nr Bruxelles. They were with 4/6 Battery of 117 Regiment.

Gwen Newhouse of 2 St Pauls Close, Stratford, London E15 4QE Tel: 0181 519 4424 is housebound and would like someone to contact her - she was the Medical Orderly at Wembury Point.

Mr John Eldridge of Flat 34, St Clements Court, Creswell Close, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare, Avon BS22 0NH is trying to trace Enid Wheeler whom he met in Chatham in 1943-44. Enid came from Hayes in Middlesex.

A Korean POW Mr Edward English is trying to trace an ATS friend with whom he lost touch during his captivity 1950-1953. She was Private Winnie Dean and in 1946-47 was stationed as a cook at Markeaton Park Camp, Derby. Mr Edwards' address is 14 Drumberg Court, Lisburn, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Mrs Nora Budd (née Cann) of Little Croft Residential Home, 44 Barry Road, Oldland Common, Bristol BS15 6QY tells me that the now defunct Bristol Branch was one of only three Branches to parade at the 1953 Coronation All Services Review. She is now 80 but recalls her ATS service as her happiest days. She sent in this 'Beneath the Flag' photograph.



FORMER BRISTOL BRANCH AT PORTISHHEAD 1953
 Mary Dunston, Kay Keynton, Nora Budd (née Cann)
 Wilma Smith, Gwen Hayward

Mrs Ruby Virtue (née Dresser) of 34 Draycott Avenue, Bromsea, North Humber, LE HU18 1EX is grateful to Vee Robinson and Major Robertson for organising the Anti Aircraft Regiments Reunion in York and sent the photo which includes members from the USA and Australia.

PDF Compressor Free Version



354 BATTERY MINI REUNION AT YORK AA REUNION
Hilda Lynn (née Harrison) Ruby Virtue (née Dresser)
Mary Buckingham (née Plewes) Peggy Parker (née Gower)
from USA, Jean Hird (née Smith) and Nessie Johnston
(née Parleous) from Australia



SERGEANT JOSEPHINE PEGGIE RICARDI
(now DUDGEON)

Mrs J Peggie Dudgeon (née Ricardi) of 807 Live Oak Drive, Garden City, South Carolina USA 29576 has sent in a photo of herself and her training squad at Guildford. She is top right in rear rank. She would like to purchase an ATS uniform for wear at US Veterans meetings and parades.



4 PLATOON A COMPANY No 7 TRAINING CENTRE, GUILDFORD

Rear Row: Kay Teyman, Kenny Kinschek, Mary Brookes,
Gail Hopkins, Jean Cubitt, "Yank" Ricardi
Front Row: Madge Tyall, Molly May Row,
Eva Cunningham, LCpl Strut, Sgt Hawkins,
LCpl Sykes, Betty Glover, Vera Devere

Mrs Doris Shettle (née Chandler) who wrote on page 116 of Lioness No 2/94 about her interest in the Frances Nunnally story and Eva Winkler Raphael - another fugitive from Hitler. She has sent a photo taken at the billets in Illey Road, Oxford.

Returned 22/2



OXFORD

Back Row: Rita Ann Vickery, Marion, Doris Chandler
(now Shettle), Isobel Ann & Joan Eva Marjorie

Mrs Dorothy Lean (née Dot Shepherd) of 48 Longley Hall Rise, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S5 7LP has outlined a long friendship with Betty Goldthorpe (née "Twinks" Greenfield) for over 52 years. She has sent a "then" and "now" set of photographs.

Returned 22/2



BETTY GOLDTHORPE AND DOROTHY LEAN - THEN AND NOW

Returned 22/2



Ole! Any ATS in Spain are asked to contact Mrs Z Munck at Edificio Beatriz, 3c Buson 18, Jocquin Rodrigo, Albit Playa, Affaz del Pi, Alicante.

Mrs F M Burling (née Howard) of 31 Cardinal Court, Grand Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 5AL saw the photo of Senior Commander Kathy Cooper on page 83 of Lioness No 2 of 1994 and would like to hear from anyone on No 7 Course No 2 OCTU at Windsor in March 1943.

Mrs Rosie Robb (née Murray) Pte of 35 Donnotar Avenue, Stonehaven, Scotland AB3 2JT would like to hear from anyone who served with 563 Battery 129 Regiment.

Mrs D G Guile (née Berice) of 8 Maple Drive, Abram, Wigan, Lancs WN2 5XF wonders if anyone has copies of photographs taken at Broadstairs in 1943-44 of 182 Company Northern Division. She was a driver with the company.

Mr B W Bains of 29 Western Avenue, Peterborough PE1 4HS is trying to discover the circumstances of the death of Private Jean Scott on 28 January 1945. She has no known grave and is commemorated at Brookwood Cemetery on one of the panels.

Mrs Agnes Cain of 5 Dairy Farm Close, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 8AT very kindly placed flowers on the grave of W/89826 Private Laura May Collinson who died on 29 April 1944 aged 19. Mrs Cain wonders if anyone knows any more details of the death.



Grave of W/89826 Private Laura May Collinson

Mrs V E Duckett (née Phillips) of 53 Shelly Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6ES continues the saga of the City of London shoulder flash (see Lioness No 2/94 pages 67

and 68). She says that she has a notice issued to ATS units stating that the Lord Mayor of London had approached higher authority and permission to wear the flash was granted and dated 17 November 1939 - it ends "... The Chief Commandant congratulates the whole of her command upon this mark of recognition".

Mr Tommy "Taffy" Lewis of 93 Neath Road, Resolven, Glamorgan, South Wales Tel: 01639-710219 is anxious to try and trace LCpl Deryl Knox who was with the Royal Signals at Fulford Barracks in York in 1949. She hailed from Willesden in London where her father was a taxi-driver.

Mr W Tasker of 1 Linetree Terrace, Highfield Burwash, East Sussex TN19 7ET was able to visit the grave of his step-sister in Hannover Military Cemetery in Germany. He would like to hear from anyone who knew or remembers his sister.



Grave of Private Vera Tasker - Hannover

Mr H L Adams 7 Elm End, Alconbury, Huntingdon PE17 5EF is anxious to trace friends of his late wife Kitty Adams (née Moriarty). Kitty served in the following units: 564(M) HAA Battery RA September 1944 at Seaford, Whitby, Ellesmere Port, Windsor and St Brides (nr Newport S Wales); 525 (M) HAA Battery November 1944 - October 1945 at Merzern (Antwerp) and Mureboko Wass (a vehicle park) Belgium. No 1 Coy ATS Signals Germany at Ploen, Schleswig Holstein October 1945-March 1946 and Bad Oyenhausen March 1946-May 1946. Mr Adams would particularly like to contact any of Kitty's friends - Molly McDonald 525 Bty, Daphne O'Garde 584 and 525 Btys and Mitty Milton or Hilton No 1 ATS Signal Coy, Germany.

Report in The Times newspaper dated Tuesday 21 April 1942 - "Private Nora Caveney, aged 19 years, of Walsden nr Rochdale is the first ATS in AA Command to have died at a gunsilo as a result of enemy action. She was killed by a bomb splinter as she stood at a predictor on a south coast gunsilo during a raid. She was actually on target when she collapsed. Another girl immediately took her place and the action continued". In a war-time issue of "War Illustrated" Mr Rushworth found a picture of Private Caveney. The caption reads "Private Nora Caveney of Walsden, nr Rochdale, Lancashire - the first of Britain's AA girls to be killed in action. Private Caveney was working a predictor on a gun-site during an enemy air raid on the south coast on April 17 (1942). She was following an enemy plane and was "on target" when she was hit by a splinter of a bomb which fell not far from the emplacement. Another ATS Private Gladys Keel, at once took Pte Caveney's place. A battery officer said that the girls' discipline under fire was splendid".

Does anyone have any knowledge of the location of this gunsilo and the date of the tragic incident?

If so, please write to Mr Rushworth, 3 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon EX7 0HP.

A letter from Mr Rushworth in Devon asks for help in finding out details of a tragic accident on 23 October 1943 on Salisbury Plain in the vicinity of Winterbourne Gunner. Reading through old copies of The Times, Mr Rushworth came across a brief report about this accident and has enquired from many sources for details without success. He recently found a short article in the Salisbury Times & South Wilts Gazette of October 1943 giving a little more information, which says "During an experiment on Salisbury Plain on Saturday 23 October 1943, two soldiers and five ATS girls were killed and others were injured. The accident followed the fall of an object from a low-flying plane owing to undisclosed technical fault in the plane. (The Inquest was held in camera). The Coroner recorded a verdict that the deaths were caused accidentally during a military exercise. A soldier and two ATS girls were injured and detained in hospital". Only the names, ages and home towns of the girls were given in the newspaper article, but Mr Grimble has been able to provide further information. Mr Rushworth is writing a book on war-time incidents which were not due to enemy action and if anyone has any knowledge about this and any other similar incidents he would be most grateful to have information. His address is Mr C Rushworth 3 Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish, Devon EX7 0HP. Telephone: 01626 864410.

Mrs E M (Peggy) Fisher (née Gregory) of 41 Fairlawns, Maldon Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8BG has sent some unusual photos as part of the VE & VJ Day remembering exercise. She was in the Middle East as Subaltern Gregory and led the ATS contingent on the VE Day Parade. A



PARADE IN JERUSALEM
Subaltern Gregory leads ATS contingent on King's Birthday Parade in Jerusalem in June 1945. Salute taken by Viscount Gort VC



CAMEL CORPS CONTINGENT JERUSALEM JUNE 1945

Camel Corps contingent was also on parade. By VJ Day she was in Ismailia as OC a draft returning to the UK.

Mrs Jean Mitchell (née Creed) would like to hear from anyone who was in 631 Mixed Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery. She lives at Bleet Farm, Gillingham, Dorset. Can you see yourself in the photograph?



**631 MIXED HEAVY ANTI AIRCRAFT BATTERY
RAVENSBOURNE, HERTS 1944**

Back Row: Jean Creed (now Mitchell), Ella, Edie,
Heather, Vicky, Nancy
Front Row: Gwen and Willie

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity:
**The Women's Royal Army Corps
Association**

Scheme for the general reorganisation
of the charity
Ref: 206184-SC

The Charity Commissioners propose to
make a Scheme for this Charity.
Copies of the draft Scheme may
be obtained from them
(ref: DM-206184-A/1-SC)

at Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton,
Somerset, TA1 4BL.

Objections and suggestions may be sent to
them by 31st March 1995.

Mr Graham Ailes has tried the local papers, Salvation Army, British Legion, Red Cross and now Lioness in the hope of finding Victoria Thompson who was in the ATS. The daughter of a local butcher she came from Plymouth. Anyone knowing of her is asked to write to Mr Ailes at 181 Beech Road, **PDF Compressor Free Version**

Mr Arnold Wasp of The Nursing Home, Mulgrave Terrace, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 1QQ who was in the 49 Royal Tank Regiment (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers). He is anxious to trace Olive, a girl from Liverpool, who was ration corporal at a Home Guard Officers School at Altkar. A long shot but at 74 Mr Wasp thinks that it is worth a try.

Another long shot from an 86 year old in America! Mr B Franklin Steiner of 900 North Taylor Street, Apartment 1528 in Arlington, Virginia, USA 22203, is trying to get in touch with Elsie Pass whom he met in the ATS in 1945.

Any members of the ATS who were attached to the Auxiliary Units, Special Duties Branch (GHQ Reserve) during the Second World War are asked to write to Mr Axill c/o The Editor. The names of Hannington Hall and Coleshill House seem significant.

An overseas call from Mrs Dorothy Roach (née Clapp) who lives at 166 Main Street North, Glovertown, Newfoundland, Canada A0G 2L0 and served in 529 Battery on the Isle of Wight and Clapham Common. She has lived in Canada since 1946 but would love to hear from Joyce Cumberland who married someone called Robbie or anyone who remembers her.

Mrs Helen Dodd (née Stringwell) of 26 Forge Lane, Mldhigham, Nr Rochester Kent ME3 7AS would like to meet up with the other two Musketeers from the Sergeants Course at Aldershot in 1940.



SERGEANTS' COURSE AT ALDERSHOT 1940
Sgt Helen Stringwell (now Dodd), Sgt Tillie Tettech,
Sgt Willa Williams

Mrs Marjorie Bushell sent in this photograph of the Enigma Reunion at Bedford on 30 September 94 and wonders if anyone has news of Peggy Calcutt, a Sergeant in Y Signals. Mrs Bushell lives at 5 The Grove, Grimston, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 1DG.



**EX MEMBERS OF WOYG AT ENIGMA REUNION
IN BEDFORD**

Vera Sayer (née Atkins), Gladys Earle (née Webb)
Hazel Down (née Webb), Doris Hopkins (née Atkins)
Mary Jackson (née Pearce), Betty Medway (née Nichols)



REUNION IN LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Mrs Hilda Campbell (née Grover) and
Mrs Patricia Neal (née Harris)

Mrs Patricia Neal of 5041-214 A Street, Langley British Columbia V3A 8K9 tells me that she has met up with Hilda Campbell (née Grover) who featured on page 114 of Lioness No 2/94 despite my giving the wrong address. Hooray for telephones! Mrs Neal would like to hear from anyone who remembers her from Guildford, Camberley, Slough or Dorchester-on-Thames where she was Pay Corporal. Everyone remembers their Pay Corporal, don't they?

Mrs Jean Webster (née Brennan) of 35 Hulme Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3PB met a Canadian member visiting for the 75th Anniversary celebrations at Lakeside Country Club, Frimley. This enabled her to have a three-week holiday in Mississauga, Canada during which time she met up with Canadian members of the British Airborne Forces Association in Toronto.



Revised 22/2

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NCOs COURSE STORRINGTON JUNE 1942

Phyllis Beardsmore (née Pearce) of Elizabeth House, 59 Horon Street, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 2DZ (01889-584180) wants to know if anyone recognises themselves on the photo taken at Storrington June 1942 on an NCOs course. Phyllis is fifth from the right on the back row. On her left is a girl called Elleen Horton and they were all together for four weeks. Phyllis of 496(M) HAA Bty 1 Sector 143 Regt thanks everyone for letters and phone calls in answer to her request in Lioness 2/94. She is sorry she could not make it to Biddlington or York as she had to go into hospital.



LANCE CORPORAL PHYLLIS BEARDSMORE

LIONESS APOLOGIES

Mrs P M Beardsmore was denoted on page 114 of Lioness No 2/94. She was a Corporal.

Major Jake Beedle points out that the mess at Woolwich (Lioness No 2/94 page 77) was a GUNNER one not GURKHA!

Mrs Joan Huxtable tells me that on page 86 of Lioness No 2/94 her billet in SALERNO should read SORRENTO!

Mrs Pollie Ward would like to correct the facts in the article "Three Important Days" (page 76 1994 No 2 Lioness) by Mrs Audrey Stevens née Mathers. She was at Nottingham House, Weymouth - not Upwey House. The unit was AA Signals attached to 69 Brigade. Delighted to know she is a member of the Association. Mrs Ward and her husband had their holiday in Weymouth and were there for D-Day Anniversary. They particularly wanted to be there as that is where they met. They have been back several times and always take a look down Nottingham Lane, but it is so frustrating that there is a very private housing development in the grounds of Nottingham House and where their camp was. This year there was much memorabilia in Weymouth, but the Signal Office and Gun Operations Room must have been so secret there was no mention of them. The only spot they found the GOR marked was on a replica Top Secret map in the Bovington Tank Museum and even that had the GOR on Portland and not Nottingham.

Mrs Hilda Campbell of 8009 139th Street, Surrey, British Columbia V3W 6P9 tells me that I have moved her by five blocks in printing her address as 3009 on page 114 of Lioness No 2/94. All you who were on the Aldershot Switchboard 1951-52 note that the proper number is 8009.

Mrs Doris Shettle (née Chandler) 44 Church Road, Solsey, West Sussex PO20 0LS tells me that the photo on page 116 of 2/94 Lioness should read CE SMD and not CE SMO.

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

WARD - IBBETSON. On 6 March 1945 Signaller David Ward, Royal Signals to Private Pollie Ibbetson, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 374 James Rickett Avenue, Hull HU8 0JA.



DAVID AND POLLIE WARD
Wedding Day 6 March 1945

DEBBAGE - PHILLIPS. On 9 April 1944 at St Alfred's Church, Burnt Oak, Edgeware, Middlesex. Walter James Debbage, Royal Artillery to Elsie Margaret Phillips, Auxiliary Territorial Service, 496 Battery of 132 Regiment RA.

PARKIN - PERRATT. On 2 May 1945 same place. Parkin, Merchant Navy to Corporal Sylvia Perratt, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 18 School Road, Preston, Hull HU2 8TW.

PRINGLE - CARNIE. On 19 June 1945 at St Ninians Church, Leith, Edinburgh Sergeant Gideon Pringle, King's Own Scottish Borderers to Lance Corporal Margaret Camle, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: 17 Alexandra Drive, Lockerbie DG11 2PD.

RETURNED 22/2



GIDEON AND MARGARET PRINGLE
Wedding Day 19 June 1945

BIRTHS

HARPER. On 13 September 1994 to Mark Harper and Captain (Retd) Annette Harper, a son Maxim James. Brother for Nadia Elizabeth.

GERRELLI - HARWARD. On 6 August 1944 at Bristol. Sergeant Sidney Gerrelli, Royal Air Force to Private Mary Harward, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address 78 Worcester Park Road, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7QE.

RETURNED 22/2



THE GERRELLIS ON THEIR WEDDING DAY
6 AUGUST 1944

WITHENSHAW - DUTTON. On 26 August 1944 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Little Leigh, near Northwich, Cheshire. Mark Withenshaw Royal Artillery to Private Hilda Dutton, Auxiliary Territorial Service. Present address: Greystones, 85 Top Road, Kingsley, Warrington. Cheshire WA6 8BU.

RETURNED 22/2



MR & MRS WITHENSHAW ON GOLDEN WEDDING

OBITUARY

APPLEYARD. Mrs Dorothy Appleyard (née King) of Shipley on 12 September 1994. ATS.

ARMSTRONG. Mrs V I Armstrong (née Lamb) of Boreham Wood (formerly Salisbury) on 12 July 1994. ATS.

ATKINSON. Miss Muriel Atkinson of Yeadon, Leeds on 3 October 1994. ATS.

ATTACK. Mrs A A Attack of Great Haywood in August 1994. ATS.

BAYLIS. Major G Baylis MBE of Horsham on 17 November 1994. WRAC.

BELL. WO1 Hilda Bell BEM of Guildford on 2 November 1994. ATS/WRAC.

BLACKER. Mrs C E Blacker (née Rossiter) of Henley on 13 September 1994. ATS.

BRADLEY. Miss M D Bradley of Harrogate on 23 October 1994. ATS.

BRIMECOMBE. Miss J Brimecombe of Torquay in September 1994. ATS.

CAREY. Mrs Mary Elizabeth Carey MBE (née Auld). ATS/FANY.

CHEATER. Mrs A O Cheater (née Adcock) of Leicester on 30 March 1994. ATS/WRAC.

COLYER. Miss M Colyer of St Leonards on Sea on 16 December 1994. ATS.

CONLIN. Corporal Hannah M Conlin of Middlesbrough on 3 August 1994. ATS.

COWPER. Colonel (Retd) J M Cowper, TD of Lutterworth on 5 January 1995. ATS/WRAC.

COX. Mrs M T Cox of Christchurch in October 1994. ATS.

CROOM-JOHNSON. Mrs Jane Croom-Johnson (née Richardson) of London on 9 November 1994. ATS.

CULLEN. Miss J T Cullen of London on 27 December 1994. ATS/WRAC.

DONALDSON. Mrs I F Donaldson (née Morton) of Glasgow on 8 September 1994. ATS.

DOONAN. Mrs H Doonan (née Dingwall) of North Berwick on 3 June 1994. ATS.

EALIS. Miss E J Eales of Chislehurst, Kent on 14 July 1994. ATS.

EVANS-GWYNNE. Miss V J Evans-Gwynne of Hastings on 15 September 1994. ATS.

EVERINGHAM. Miss J Everingham of Liverpool in July 1994. ATS.

FERGUSON. Miss F E Ferguson of Newcastle, Co Down in October 1994. ATS/FANY.

FERGUSON. Mrs M A Ferguson (née Robb) of Inverness on 22 May 1994. ATS.

FOLKES. Mrs Mair E Folkles (née Jones) of Swansea on 24 April 1994. WRAC.

GILBERT. Miss M E Gilbert of Marlow, Bucks on 3 August 1994. ATS.

GILL. Mrs T D Gill (née Metters) of Plymouth in December 1994. ATS.

GODDEN. Mrs M I Godden (née Wilson) of Fishbourne, Isle of Wight in September 1994. ATS.

GREY. Irene Florence Grey TD on 19 January 1994. FANY/ATS.

GROOM. Celia Ruth Groom on 14 January 1994. FANY/ATS.

HARDING. Miss D Harding of Dorset on 25 August 1994. ATS.

HARRIS. Mrs R M Harris (née Chadwick) of Wolstanton, Staffordshire on 11 April 1994. ATS.

HARRISON. Captain A H (Toni) Harrison MBE, Croix de Guerre of Easton-on-the-Hill, Stamford on 15 November 1994. ATS/WRAC.

HICKS. Mrs C L I Hicks of Killinchy, Newtownards, Northern Ireland in June 1994. ATS.

HOWORTH. Mrs E A Howorth (née Parkinson) of Rochdale on 28 November 1994. ATS.

HURR. Mrs G E Hurr of Colchester on 5 October 1994. ATS.

JONES. Mrs Nancy Jones (née Fuller) of Shanklin, Isle of Wight on 10 July 1994. ATS.

JORDAN. Mrs M Jordan (née McCallion) of Glasgow on 6 June 1994. ATS.

MacDONALD. Mrs Ina Leonora (Peg) MacDonald MBE (formerly Clarke née Edwards) of Hampshire in November 1994. QMAAC.

MacKENZIE. Mrs Margaret Mackenzie (née Sulter) of Beaulieu, Invernesshire on 23 October 1994. ATS.

MacKENZIE. Mrs Irene Bertha Mackenzie (née Cornell) of Chelmsford on 5 September 1994. ATS.

MAINWARING. Mrs D J Mainwaring (née Karling) of Purley on 18 December 1994. ATS.

MARSTON. Miss D O E Marston of Kidbrooke, London on 15 December 1994. ATS.

MATSELL. Mrs W M Matsell (née Sergeant) of Devonport in 1994. ATS.

MATTHEWS. Mrs I Matthews (née Temperley) of Sunderland on 17 August 1994. ATS.

McCUTCHEON. Mrs E F McCutcheon of Belfast on 25 November 1994. ATS.

MILLS. Mrs Hannah Mills of Coventry on 25 September 1994. ATS.

NEWCOMBE. Mrs Doris Muriel Newcombe (née Friendship) of Callington, Cornwall in November 1994. ATS.

PARKHILL. Mrs K Parkhill (née McKeown) of Belfast on 2 April 1994. ATS.

PEARSON. Mrs Nancy Pearson (née Wright) of Blyth on 16 November 1993. ATS.

PITNEY. Mrs J Pitney of Aldershot on 22 July 1994. ATS/WRAC.

POLSON. Miss C B Polson of Brora, Sutherland on 21 May 1994. ATS.

POTEMPA. Mrs B J Potempa (née Wickham) of Wimbledon on 18 October 1994. ATS/TA.

SNELLING. Mrs D Snelling (née Mutton) on 13 January 1993. ATS.

STEPHENS. Mrs K N Stephens of Ballynahinch, Co Down in September 1994. ATS.

THEAKSTON. Mrs J R Theakston (née Burnett) of Bradford on 4 October 1994. ATS.

WHELPTON. Mrs Margaret Whelpton (née Watson) of Billingham, Cleveland in September 1994. ATS.

WRAGG. Mrs N F Wragg (née Mackness) of Hindon, Salisbury on 22 September 1994. ATS.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The WRAC Association and ATS/WRAC Benevolent Funds are moving on 1 April 1995 to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 10
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

Do not send any mail to Guildford after 24 March 1995.

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

BALANCE SHEET – 31st OCTOBER 1994

	£	1994	£	£	1993	£
ACCUMULATED FUNDS						
GENERAL FUND						
Balance at 1st November 1993			129,452			125,079
Less: (Deficit)/Excess of Income over Expenditure			(2,487)			3,227
Transfers from Other Funds			10,000			12,000
			<u>136,965</u>			<u>140,306</u>
Less: Transfers to Other Funds						(10,854)
			<u>136,965</u>			<u>129,452</u>
LIFE SUBSCRIPTION FUND						
Membership Life Subscription	10,185			9,481		
Lioness Life Subscription	<u>15,308</u>			<u>14,242</u>		
			25,493			23,723
REUNION FUND						
			11,320			24,812
			<u>£173,778</u>			<u>£177,987</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
INVESTMENTS						
At Cost per Schedule						
(Market Value £185,692)			152,758			150,105
CURRENT ASSETS						
Badges Stock	174			165		
Association Standard	199			199		
Sundry Debtors	524			49		
Cash at Bank – Current Account	357			1,179		
– Deposit Accounts	22,192			28,551		
Cash in Hand	234			50		
	<u>23,680</u>			<u>30,193</u>		
Less: Sundry Creditors	<u>2,660</u>			<u>2,311</u>		
			21,020			27,882
			<u>£173,778</u>			<u>£177,987</u>

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS AT 31st OCTOBER 1994

1993 Cost £		Cost £	Market Value 31st October 1994 £
55,238	M. & G. Charifund – 12,495 Units	55,238	85,228
15,366	8% Treasury Loan – 2002/06 – £12,193.14	11,587	11,569
3,679	7.75% Treasury Loan – 2012/15 – £6,548.12	3,679	6,180
5,765	12.75% Treasury Loan – 1995 – £5,991.31	5,765	6,304
–	8% Treasury Stock – 2003 – £38,037.38	37,375	37,340
10,571	9.75% Exchequer Stock – 1998 – £11,115.00	–	–
10,570	12.25% Exchequer Stock – 1999 – £10,030.00	10,570	11,408
3,544	14% Treasury Stock – 1996 – £3,123.04	3,544	3,492
10,000	4.375% Index Linked Stock – 2004 – £8,669.72	10,000	9,377
15,000	2% Index Linked Stock – 2006 – £8,772.02	15,000	14,794
20,372	8% Treasury Stock – 2009 – £20,770.10	–	–
<u>£150,105</u>		<u>£152,758</u>	<u>£185,692</u>

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER 1994
PDF Compressor Free Version

	£	1994	£	£	1993	£
INCOME						
SUBSCRIPTIONS						
Annual	1,416			1,230		
Proportion of Life Subscription	814			744		
			2,230			1,974
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Subscriptions	5,518			4,922		
Proportion of Life Subscriptions	1,211			1,103		
Advertisement Revenue	844			1,174		
			7,573			7,739
OTHER INCOME						
Income from Investments	12,426			9,507		
Deposit Account Interest	1,342			5,310		
Sale of Badges	273			(24)		
Surplus on Investment Sales	2,674			3,143		
Museum Profits	-			854		
			16,715			18,790
TOTAL INCOME CARRIED FORWARD			<u>£26,518</u>			<u>£28,503</u>
INCOME BROUGHT FORWARD			<u>£26,518</u>			<u>£28,503</u>
EXPENDITURE						
Branch Expenses:						
Grants	96			120		
			96			120
THE LIONESS PUBLICATION						
Cost of Publication			18,592			16,537
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES						
A.G.M. Expenses	2,070			2,011		
Printing and Stationery	1,275			1,297		
Postage	1,477			843		
Subscriptions and Donations	1,105			947		
Travel Expenses	324			198		
Audit and Accountancy Fee	1,199			1,116		
Sundry Expenses	259			105		
Bank Charges	570			152		
Commemorative Window	2,038			1,950		
			10,317			8,619
			<u>£29,005</u>			<u>£25,276</u>
(DEFICIT)/EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			<u>£(2,487)</u>			<u>£3,227</u>

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

We have audited the accounts set out on pages 78 and 79 in accordance with Auditing Standards.

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the affairs of The Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Services Comrades Association) as at 31 October 1994 and of the income and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

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

8 February 1995



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NORTH WEST GROUP REUNION

Back Row: Mrs Margaret Barton, Col Val Batchelor OBE, Miss Lottie Learmouth MBE TD, Miss A Hayward, Miss Violante Broughton TD

Front Row: Miss Irene Walker, Mayor of Sefton Councillor Fanning, Mrs Mary Fanning.

(Photo courtesy of Bootle Times)