

1999

No. 1

LIONESS

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1949–1999
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
50 YEARS

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THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT 1960- No 206184

Founded in 1919

PATRON

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Brigadier H G MEECHIE CBE

COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION

Chairman:

Brigadier H G Meechie, CBE

Vice-Chairman:

Colonel A Clissitt

Life Vice-Presidents of Council:

Brigadier E J Nolan CB

Colonel C E Hammond CBE

Miss M M Thomson TD

Brigadier A Field CB

Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames OBE

The Lady Martha Bruce OBE TD DL

Mrs R R Watt

Mrs A H S Matthews

Mrs R R Watt

General Secretary:

Honorary Treasurer:

Editor of Association Magazine:

Editorial Team:

Brig H G Meechie CBE, Col E J Bowles, Lt Col V Trout,

Mr Maurice Mager, Mrs L Gilbert, Mrs S J Stevens

ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds

Chairman of Trustees:

Brigadier H G Meechie CBE

Chairman of Grants Committee:

Colonel A J Smith

Case Secretary:

Mrs A H S Matthews

Headquarters, WRAC Association, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG

General Secretary: Direct (01962) 887570 or ATN (727) 2570

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Cover Photographs

Front Cover

Best Wishes WRAC

Back Cover

The Reverend Colonel Sue Wing at her Induction
with Bishop John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford

Member of the Association of Service Newspapers

Contributions for next issue by 14 MAY 1999

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ROYAL CHELSEA HOSPITAL

GOVERNOR’S REVIEW 8 JUNE 1999

The Governor’s Review at the Royal Chelsea Hospital is the “Dress Rehearsal” in full dress uniform for the Founder’s Day Parade on the 10 June 1999.

Members of the public are invited to attend the Review free of charge without tickets. Guests are requested to be in their seats by 0930 hrs; entry is via the Chelsea Gate. Sadly there is no parking available or refreshment tents.

EDITORIAL

Hello. Firstly I must introduce myself. I am Ruth Watt née Littlejohns, and I have taken over from Fiona White as the new General Secretary. Fiona White is now settled in the Isle of Wight and is hopefully enjoying the comfort of the Garden Bench presented to her on her retirement from the post of General Secretary. Fiona has also become a grandmother to Angus; we wish him all the best for the future.

I recently moved back to the United Kingdom from the Netherlands where I was working part time as a Special Needs tutor in the local International School. Prior to this I was serving in the AGC as an Army Schools Liaison Officer in Leicestershire and then as a TA Officer in Bosnia.

My first few months have been very busy with moving to a temporary office for the installation of new carpets and computers; my apologies to those who found the office hard to contact. We are just about back to normal. This was combined with the funeral of Brigadier Dame Mary Frances Coulshed, The Field of Remembrance, The Cenotaph Parade, Westminster Abbey, in addition to editing this copy of the Lioness and getting ready for the AGM at Guildford (an application form for Guildford can be found inside). I do hope many of you can come.

I look forward to meeting you all at Guildford.



The new General Secretary getting to know the members of the Aldershot Branch at their Annual Dinner.

*Left to right
Mrs Ruth Watt, new General Secretary,
Mrs Alice Matthews, Benevolent Secretary,
Colonel Audrey Smith,
Benevolent Committee Chairman.*

Appointments

MAJOR ROSEMARY WARNE MBE DL (Retd)

Major Rosemary Warne MBE DL is congratulated on her appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London.

Many will remember Rosemary as a multi-talented person. Her ebullient, generous character; appreciation of the good things in life and her sense of humour make her fun to be with. She enjoys singing; has a love of the theatre and is no mean artist. (Several of her sketches are framed and hanging in colleagues' homes!) As the Senior UDR Women's (Greenfinches) Officer she gave

outstanding service for which she was awarded the MBE. Pleasantly determined, hard working, with the courage of her convictions, Rosemary cannot be other than an asset to her prestigious appointment. We wish her well.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING SERVICES (ARMY)

Colonel P S Purves CBE, late AGC(ETS), is appointed Director Educational and Training Services (Army) in the rank of Brigadier in May 1999 vice Brigadier C F P Horsfall, late RAEC, on retirement.

AGC Corps Day 1999

The Annual Corps Day of the Adjutant General's Corps is to be celebrated at Worthy Down near Winchester on Saturday 12th June 1999. The festivities will commence at 1200 with a Drumhead Service. There will be stalls, static displays, fast food outlets and displays and competitions in the Arena. Lunch and tea will be available at an inclusive price of £10.00.

If you wish to attend please complete the proforma below and send with your remittance to arrive at Corps HQ by 10 May 1999.

To: HQ WRAC Association, Block 32, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG.

From.....

.....

.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

I/We wish to attend the AGC Corps Day on Saturday 12 June 1999 and enclose my cheque/postal order (made out to WRAC Association) for £10.00 per person.

Please enclose an SAE.

I would be prepared to carry our Branch Standard or the Association Standard. (It would involve a 10.30 am start for rehearsals).

I/We will travel by rail/branch coach/car.

Details of car are:

Make.....

Colour.....

Reg No

WRAC Officers Dining Club Dinner 1998

Halloween 1998 saw a different sort of gathering in London. No witches, ghouls or the supernatural, just the super. This was the coming together of 84 members of the Dining Club, meeting up for the fourth dinner, again held at the Army and Navy Club in London.

As is now the norm, members met in the Library for pre-dinner drinks and the opportunity to make contact with friends not seen for a wee while. This year, there were a number of new members attending for the first time, which is a good indication that the word is getting around. I do believe that present at this gathering was the last officer commissioned into the WRAC. Also amongst the many, was the recently retired Regimental Secretary of the WRAC Association, who has just become a grandmother!!

This "meet and greet" hour went all too quickly, in fact, it had to be extended by 10 minutes to allow those who had been delayed for one reason or another to gather their wits, and a glass of something nourishing, before going in for dinner.

This year was slightly less formal than last year, we sat at individual tables with our selected friends. Working out the seating plan was a nightmare!! The informal tone for the event was set by The Reverend Sue Wing, who wrote and delivered the Grace. For those who either could not hear or were not present, it is repeated here:

"Our score is fifteen hundred years of service to the Corps. The attendance rate at dinner night may well be even more.

The ticket price is excellent - the work has all been done. We thank you LORD this evening, for food and friends and fun."

From that moment, the evening became just that - good food and fun. The meal was excellent, the service extremely good and the wine flowed, at least at my table it did. All too soon dinner was over, but the evening was not. Those who wished to do so, repaired to the Ladies Drawing Room where a cash

bar had been arranged. For some, the party continued into the early hours.

As organiser of this event, I feel we are going from "strength to strength". I am particularly grateful to those who support each dinner, I am equally delighted to see many more people joining, especially those still serving. I am however, disappointed in those who do not bother to reply. This year, it totals almost 50!

Farewell to Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) M W Soames OBE

CHAIRMAN ATS & WRAC BENEVOLENT FUNDS GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee Meeting of 21 October 1998 marked the end of an era as Lt Col Mary Soames was in the chair for the last time after a quarter of a century. During these 25 years, she presided over the disbursement of £2.2 million to 18,000 beneficiaries. Not only was she responsible for distributing grants, but she was also instrumental in obtaining a National Lottery Award of

£200,000 to supplement the Funds following the loss of the One Day's Pay Scheme.

In considering the diverse and needy circumstances presented, she always showed great perception, compassion and understanding. These qualities proved invaluable in giving sympathetic but balanced guidance to the Committee. Her dedication and commitment to the Corps in general, and the Benevolent Funds in particular, have been second to none.

In recognition of her contribution as Chairman, and to mark the occasion of her final meeting, a formal lunch was given in her honour in the Officers' Mess, Worthy Down, attended by most of her grants committee members, three former Directors WRAC who had also been Chairmen of Trustees and four Joint Secretaries. Four AGC Officers, who had previously been in the WRAC, and who had regularly attended meetings, were also present.

Brig Meechie paid tribute to Lt Col Soames' selfless commitment, and was delighted to announce that Council had elected Lt Col Soames to be a Life Vice-President at their meeting in July after she had been entertained to lunch by the Trustees and Council. She then presented Lt Col Soames with a brass statuette of a member of the WRAC to match the ATS statuette which she had received at the July meeting of Council, and a large basket of miniature plants for her beautiful garden at her home in Farnham. Lt Col Soames replied saying how much she had enjoyed her chairmanship and thanked all those involved for their support. She then regaled everyone with a most amusing account of her first amazing day of service as a FANY ambulance driver on the day war broke out. She concluded by saying how pleased she was to be handing over to Col Audrey Smith as her successor.

Congratulations to Lt Col M W Soames OBE on becoming and Ordinary Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List 1999.



WRAC Dinner Club Tillington Hall 3rd October 1998

I've never been to Disney World but I did go to Tillington Hall Hotel for the weekend and it was MAGIC. 89 ladies were accommodated at the Hotel and another 17 ladies joined us for Dinner on Saturday evening. Weary travellers were greeted with shouts of delight as friend met friend. Worried expressions lit up as they were greeted by smiling faces. Isabel Jenkinson arrived in a state of shock - she had left her party dresses hanging on the back of the bedroom door. A trip to M&S quickly revived her. The excited chatter, the hustle and bustle, the "I'll be down in a minute" - the weekend had begun.

On Friday an informal dinner had been arranged in the Potter's Restaurant. The restaurant buzzed with chattering voices and much laughter as we ate our fill. After dinner the Castle Bar overflowed as everyone mingled and caught up with old friends. Daphne Jervis met Barbara Hook for the first time in 30 years. It was the same for Chris Corker and Margaret James. Margaret broke her ankle days before she was due to drive up for the weekend. Most of us would have resigned ourselves to the inevitability of the situation. Not Margaret. She gave herself a crash course in how to walk on crutches, booked a train ticket and literally 'hopped' on a train at St Austell. Tillington Hall had organised a wheelchair for her and Margaret was proudly pushed around all weekend by Chris. They didn't stop talking all weekend. Margaret, I forgot to sign your plaster cast!

There appeared to be a permanent crowd at the Bar mainly due to a shortage of bar staff. Chairs from the reception area quickly disappeared leaving Maureen Deeley, Val Kemball, Sue Dolphin, Irene Oliver, Pat Neals, Mabel Lightfoot and Glenys Fitzpatrick sitting on the floor reminiscing about the good old days - they were in no hurry to go to bed.

Our first Business Meeting on Saturday morning, which was ably chaired by an unsuspecting Val Kemball, went very well indeed. There was lots of amicable member participation. The constitution was amended and adopted, a Committee was elected and a future date/venue established. June Skelton was heartbroken when she heard the date for the next Dinner - 9 October 1999 - her twins, Alice and Benjamin, are 2 on that day. Sorry June.

The WRAC Dinner 1998 commenced with Grace by Val Kemball. Although there was background music I didn't hear it. The real music was the voices of 106 ladies talking and laughing to their hearts content. Toasts included the Queen, a Wedding Celebration and Absent Friends. Col Audrey Smith's speech was a delight as she remembered past experiences which involved friends who were at the Dinner. One anecdote involved a 'work ticket', the second 'a nude on the roof'. For some reason all eyes focused on Agnes Doig. Blushing she kept protesting "It was nothing to do with me" as the room rocked with laughter. The £50 Banknote, was ably organised by Irene Hall and presented by Mr and Mrs Rowell, Lloyds Bank. The surprised winner was Col Audrey Smith who very generously donated the £50 to the WRAC Dinner Club.

The formalities over, the tables were rearranged and the disco began. Although the disco had been arranged in desperation, (the original entertainment had been cancelled) they proved to be a huge success. Someone was heard to say "It's like being back in the Naafi". We knew all the songs and we sang our hearts out. Heather Rogers, crooning to the Beatles "She Loves You, Yea Yea Yea" said "This was the first record I ever bought, it was 6s 8d". What a memory!! We collapsed laughing. Irene Maclean felt the years had just slipped away. We were all teenagers again. What a night and it wasn't over yet.

To close the evening the DJ played Auld Lang Syne. The floor was crowded, we joined hands and sang and sang. The Epitaph from Kohima "When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today" was touchingly recited by Jeanne Kick. As her voice died away the opening bars of the WRAC March could be heard played by none other than the WRAC Band. Automatically feet began to march on the spot and then suddenly the room moved as one as we stepped out. We were kept in step by a lone voice softly saying "LEFT" "LEFT". The crowd wanted more and they got more - the DJ played on. Another half hour of old favourites before the night finally ended to the strains of "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill" and the echo of marching feet. Despite the lateness of the hour small groups sat on talking, quietly now, reluctant to end the evening. It was a magical evening of fun and laughter and 'ALL in the Best Possible Taste'.

Sunday Lunch was held at 11.00 hrs. Unfortunately, due to luncheon bookings we were to be accommodated in the Shrewsbury Suite. 50 ladies walked up three flights of steps and stairs. Difficult enough for the fit but an impossibility for Frances Green and Margaret James who were both in wheelchairs. Nothing was going to stop Margaret or Frances. Frances got out of her wheelchair and with the help of Reg and Jean Taylor she 'walked' up those steps and stairs. Only Reg and Jean know just how difficult and painful it must have been for her but she made it with a smile. Margaret determinedly "hoovered" the carpet as she went up and down three flights of steps/stairs on her bottom. Ladies, I take my hat off to you both. There isn't a medal big enough for your sheer guts and bravery. I salute you both.

Coffee over. Lots of hugs. Sad farewells. "Have a safe journey home". "We'll see you again next year". One inscription in my Thank You card read: "Nice to have met, Sorry to part, Nice to meet you again!" - Mo Sibert. That says it all. The memories YOU have given ME have repaid me tenfold. Thank you all and see you next year.

Ann Deakin.

The WRAC Dinner 1999 is to be held at Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford on the 9 October 1999. A weekend package has been arranged. For further details please contact the usual address.

Ann



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FEBRUARY

Cheque issued. No repayments.

MARCH

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APRIL

Still no repayments.

MAY

Repayments start.

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Corporate & Employee Services

A.T.S. Dinner Club

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One hundred and eighty four members of the A.T.S. Dinner Club attended the Annual Luncheon to celebrate 60 years of the formation of the A.T.S., on Saturday, 3rd October at the Albany Hotel, Birmingham.

This year was our first visit to this hotel and I am sure will not be our last. The meal was exceptional and the staff very helpful. Members were pleased to welcome their President, Mary, Lady Crofton. The Chairman, Mrs Marguerite Fellows, welcomed all present and said Grace. After lunch greetings were read from H.M. The Queen and H.M. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and toasts were drunk accordingly.

A film by kind permission of The Imperial War Museum was shown entitled "We Serve". This was projected by Major Howse of Birmingham Recruitment Office with our grateful thanks. Many photographs and memorabilia were on display for all to read.

Details of next year's Luncheon which will be in London will be coming out in the New Year.

Q M Partridge, Press Secretary

WRAC BAND - WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

"I have been asked whether I would undertake to try shaping a book from the exploits and reminiscences of any who have served in the WRAC Band over the years - and having done so myself I dare to deny that any of you cannot have something to tell!

Please use your own words in any style, giving dates and facts where applicable if you can but above all I want to get the 'feel' of our kind of life - the fun, the heartaches, the slog, the reward, friends, husbands and lovers met or lost - all will be dealt with sympathetically, and nothing would be published without the sender having first received and checked out my copy.

If you were not in the band at all but remember anything good, (or even bad) about them, or had a shared experience, then I should like to hear from you as well. Please send as soon as possible to:

Pauline Elise Hawker
8 Cedar Close The Elms
Torksey Lock
Lincs LN1 2NH

If you would like to talk about it first,
my telephone number is 01427/718003".

This idea was mooted at the winter re-union
but I am still awaiting scripts!

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Naafinews

WRAC Dinner Club

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Women's Royal Army Corps Dinner Club
Application for Membership

Membership No: LC/	
Surname:	
please state if - Miss/Ms/Mrs/Rank)	
Christian Names:	
Address:	
Postcode:	Telephone No:
Serial Number: P/W/WO/	
Surname when serving:	
WRAC /TA Service: From:	To:
Last Rank held/still holding:	
Trade/Job: (whilst serving)	
Decorations	

Please return to: The Membership Secretary
WRAC Dinner Club
Mrs Ann Deakin
'Cobblestones'
2 Chesham Road
Stafford ST16 3JP Telephone: (01785) 249992

I wish to join the WRAC Dinner Club and enclose:

	Entrance Fee	£ 2.00	Must always be added	£ 2.00
*	1 Years Subscription	£ 2.00		£
*	3 Years Subscription	£ 5.00		£
*	Life Membership	£10.00		£
				£
*	delete as appropriate			

Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to: "W.R.A.C Dinner Club"

Signature: Date:

A stamp/stamped addressed envelope (DL 4 1/4 x 8 1/2) would be appreciated

Cardiff 2000

There are many hotels in Cardiff. The selection printed here is from the top end of the market and these have been earmarked especially for our Reunion at a special price.

There are smaller hotels and B&Bs, not so near to the centre which cannot be block booked until 2000 when the prices will undoubtedly be higher.

For all information about accommodation please contact
CARDIFF MARKETING – 01222 667773

Cardiff Marriott Hotel

De Luxe

Centrally located in the colourful Cafe Quarter, 5 minutes from Cardiff International Arena, Theatres and Museum, this stylish air conditioned hotel has outstanding facilities including a large leisure club. Spacious bedrooms have one or two double beds and offer all the extras you would expect from one of the world's favourite hotel groups.

City Centre £158.00 Single £108.00 Sharing

Jurys Cardiff Hotel

Highly Commended

A warm welcoming hotel situated opposite Cardiff International Arena, in the heart of the capital city. Extensive shopping, entertaining and attractions are within strolling distance.

City Centre £127.50 Single £93.50 Sharing

Quality Friendly Hotel

Highly Recommended

Close to the junction of the M4 and the A470 on the northern edge of the city, this modern hotel lies in the shadow of the fairytale castle - Castle Coch. Facilities at the hotel include carvery restaurant, friendly bar and a relaxing leisure club.

FOUR MILES FROM CITY CENTRE

£156.50 Single £101.50 Sharing

The Park Thistle Hotel

De Luxe

Situated in the heart of the city on the edge of the shopping precinct, within walking distance of all facilities, 10 minutes walk from Cardiff International Arena. Built in 1883, the hotel recalls an era of Victorian opulence. The park is spacious and elegant.

City Centre £199.50 Single £139.00 Sharing

Cardiff Bay Hotel

Highly Recommended

Strategically located for both Cardiff Bay and the City Centre, 5 minutes walking distance of the Cardiff International Arena.

City Centre £195.00 Single £120.00 Sharing

Riverbank Hotel

Commended

Family owned and operated. Recently refurbished. Situated in the heart of the City and only 5 minutes walk from the Cardiff International Arena and central bus and railway stations. Secure car parking, licensed bar and restaurant.

City Centre £93.00 Single £69.00 Sharing

Forte Posthouse - City

Commended

Modern three - star hotel located in the heart of the city opposite Cardiff Castle, Bute Park and River Taff. Within 5 minutes walking distance of the Cardiff International Arena, arts and theatrical venues. Offers free car parking to residents.

City Centre £136.00 Single £96.00 Sharing

Cardiff Moat House

Highly Recommended

Four miles east of the city centre, the Cardiff Moat House offers superbly appointed bedrooms, a popular carvery restaurant and bar. To complete the picture, the hotel boasts a first rate leisure club, with swimming pool.

FOUR MILES FROM CITY CENTRE

£134.00 Single £114.00 Sharing

Forte Posthouse - M4

Commended

Positioned on the western side of the city this three star hotel places an emphasis on creating an atmosphere of welcome and informality. Facilities including health club with swimming pool.

FIVE MILES CENTRE

£126.00 Single £86.00 Sharing

Lincoln House Hotel

Commended

Privately owned family run hotel offering high quality personal service. The Victorian house has retained its original features and atmosphere. Conveniently situated in a select area, within easy reach of the city. Regular bus service into city.

ONE MILE FROM CITY CENTRE

£115.95 Single £84.95 Sharing

The Central Hotel

Approved

Situated close to train and bus station, within 2 minutes walking distance of Cardiff International Arena.

City Centre £109.50 Single £69.50 Sharing

Holiday Inn Express

Newly built hotel adjacent to junction 30 of the M4 motorway. All rooms have tea/coffee making facilities, satellite TV in-room movies, hair dryer and direct dial telephone. The hotel has no bar but is adjacent to a Big Steak House. Continental breakfast only.

SIX MILES FROM CITY

£126.00 Single £106.00 Sharing

Dinner not included.

Campanile Hotel

Commended

A comfortable, friendly hotel situated 3 miles from the city centre. Separate from the accommodation is a Bistro restaurant and bar featuring daily French specials plus Hors d'oeuvres buffet.

THREE MILES FROM CITY

£79.45 Single £49.50 Sharing

The rates given above are per person and inclusive of a week-end delegate rate for 2 nights bed and breakfast, with Dinner and VAT.

WRAC Association - Grand Reunion
CARDIFF - April 2000

Friday 7 April - Sunday 9 April 2000
ACCOMMODATION RESERVATION FORM

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Cardiff Marketing, acting on behalf of the WRAC Association, has secured accommodation at advantageous rates for all involved in the WRAC Association Grand Reunion.

HOTEL SELECTED FROM OVERLEAF

1 Choice	2 Choice	3 Choice
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Please list room occupant names

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ADDRESS.....

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Name & Initials on cardExpiry Date.....

Card No.

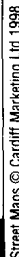
Send your completed form, no later than Monday 20 March 2000, to
Hotel Reservations,
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Oliver House,
16/17 High Street,
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Telephone No 01222 667773 - Fax No 01222 377653



Fax: 01222 6230162

Mon 9-6.30, Tue 10-6.30, Wed-Sat 9-6.30, Sun 10-4
(Mon-Sat from October to March we close at 5.30)

- Friendly and knowledgeable staff
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- Agents for Thrifty Car Rentals



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The Cardiff Card – great value visitor pass

Reunions

CANADIAN 1999 REUNION

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The 11th Annual Reunion of the ATS Association will be held in London Ontario, Canada, on Sept 10th, 11th and 12th 1999. For information please contact: Betty Anderson, 389 Wharnccliffe Road, London, Ont, Canada or Wyn Raven, 595 Knights Hill Road, London, Ont, Canada.

ATS REUNION ASSOCIATION, LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

10th Annual Reunion. The Annual get together of former ATS members was celebrated on 11th, 12th and 13th of Sept 1998, in London, Ontario.

Over 100 members and guests from various points in Canada and the USA enjoyed the programme, which included good food and entertainment. Items made and donated by members were available for sale.

It was decided at the Business meeting that the 1999 reunion will be held in London Ontario. All ATS members attending the reunion were presented with the gift of a specially inscribed cake plate and server to mark the 10th annual reunion.

The 60th Anniversary of the ATS was also observed and a Life membership in the Reunion Association was presented to Marjorie Bogle, (1938) two other members were also honoured, Amelia Craig and Marjorie McRae (1939).

ENIGMA REUNIONS

Sometime in 1990 my thoughts turned to finding some of my former colleagues who worked with me on aspects of breaking the German Enigma Codes during the Second World War.

Having contacted various people I discovered that the Bletchley Historical Society were concerned that Bletchley Park, which was the hub of all the codebreaking operations during the war was to be 'developed'! They formed the Bletchley Park Trust to work towards its preservation as a site of great historical importance. Many of the original huts and buildings were still standing.

As our job had been interpreting sounds which had been picked up from the airwaves, I can only conclude that in 1990 I had picked up some message which told me the time was right to find some way of collecting together as many people as possible who worked on the codes during the war and had memories of Bletchley Park.

In answer to various advertisements I was astounded to receive letters and phone calls from all over this country

and from many overseas countries telling me about the many and varied jobs which had been carried out and which had contributed to the codebreaking which finally shortened the war, it has been said, by possibly as much as two years.

Letters came from former members of all the armed forces, Army and ATS, Royal Navy and WRNS, RAF and WAAF as well as civilians, and they represented many activities which had been carried out in connection with the wartime German and Japanese codes.

By 1992, with the aid of SAGA, who could book a whole hotel a year ahead and take over the considerable mailing once a reunion had been decided upon, I had organised the FIRST ENIGMA REUNION, for a whole weekend in Bedford.

During the war we worked on the principle of 'need to know' so mostly we knew only our own part of the system and we did not ask people from other sections what they did nor talk about what we did outside our own section.

Many operations were being carried out, all over the world, far more than each of us could have envisaged at the time, and we each knew our own bit, which for thirty years after the war remained our own secret.

At that first reunion I was amazed to meet people who had worked in so many places at such varied jobs during the war, all of them connected with the interception, deciphering and interpretation of enemy codes.

So, at that first reunion we spent Saturday hearing from a number of people about what they did in the war. I might add that many were still reluctant to talk about what they did, even though much of it had by that time been discussed in various published books. We also heard from members of the Bletchley Park Trust about how they proposed to purchase and develop the site.

On the Sunday we visited Bletchley Park and many of us tried to recall the memories of fifty years ago and others saw, for the first time, the mysterious place they had heard of but never before seen.

In the hotel we had meals together and everywhere there was talk and amazement at recognising people we had not seen for fifty years.

So successful was that reunion that more followed, in 1994, 1995 (because that year was the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war), and 1997. The format remained much the same although we added other visits on the Saturday afternoons. By 1998 many people had attended every reunion, and some had come from USA, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia more than once. Some friendships had been made at reunions and people looked forward to meeting reunion friends again.

So this year, 1998, at our Fifth Enigma Reunion, with unanimous support, it has been decided to make our reunion an annual event to take place in Bedford during the second weekend in September.

We shall meet at the Mount House Hotel on the Friday hear some talks on the Saturday morning, on the Saturday afternoon visit a place of interest, such as one of the places where some of us were stationed during the war, and on the Sunday go to Bletchley Park, where there is always more to see every year.

SO, CODEBREAKERS OF WORLD WAR TWO, ENIGMA, 'Y' SERVICE, OR OTHERS, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, time is getting shorter, but there are still a lot of us about. IF YOU HAVE NOT FOUND OUT ABOUT ENIGMA REUNIONS BEFORE --- YOU HAVE NOW --- so, to find out how to book a place, contact me, Marie Bennett, (née Le Blond formerly Jones) on 01344 772454.

WALES AND THE WEST AREA REUNION 1999

Will be held at the Oakley Centre, West Street, Crewe on the 18th September 1999. Tickets are £8.50 and available after January from Crewe Branch Social Secretary, Mrs B Patton, 4 Chapelmere Court, Coppenhall, Crewe CW1 4SW. Tel: 01270 585524. E Francis, Area Secretary.

ACK ACK REUNION 1998

The Women's ATS Ack Ack Association held their Reunion at Warmers 'Alvaston Hall', at Nantwich, on May 29th to June 1st.

It was a super weekend, arranged by Elizabeth Lapham. What a wonderful Town! And what charming people!

When we attended St Mary's Church, on the Sunday morning, we were treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness.

Everyone enjoyed our Line-Dancing Weekend, and excellent entertainment, on each evening. Good for you, Elizabeth. We are all looking forward to next year's 1999 Reunion.

The weather wasn't too bad, either! Yvonne S. (Rhyl Branch).

NORTH EAST AREA REUNION 1999

The Reunion will be held on Saturday 19 September 1999 at York Racecourse in the York & Ainsty Suite:

1100 hrs Tea/coffee and wine bar open
1300 hrs 3 course lunch
1430 hrs Guest Speaker - Brig (Retd) Gael Ramsey CBE
1600 hrs Tea/coffee bar open

Why not come to historic York for the weekend and join us for lunch?

Tickets £12.50 from Mrs G Friday, 25 Murton Grove, Billingham, TS22 5AZ. Tel: 01642 556101.

RETIRED HOMEOWNERS

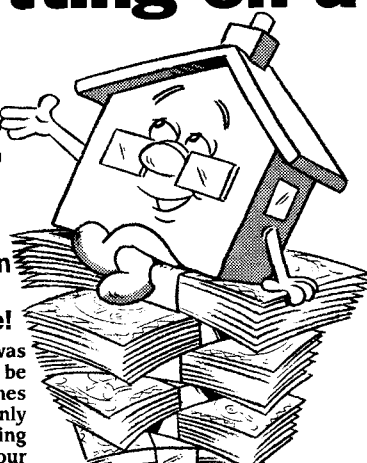
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WRAC ASSOCIATION HQ SHOPPING LIST

ATS Silver Plated Badge	£2.75
Association Badges	£2.50
Association Key Fobs	£1.80
Association Lapel Badges	£1.50

Army Benevolent Fund Square Polyester Scarves Blue, Green or Beige	£2.50
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If Branches order between 10-20 of the same item they may deduct 5% from the cost.

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

All cheques to WRAC Association please and sent to:

WRAC Association HQ
Block 32
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester SO21 2RG

The Y Service Memorial at the National Arboretum

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This unique event took place in the 60th Anniversary year of the formation of the A.T.S., and we, the A.T.S. of the 'Y' Signals were very proud to represent all of the A.T.S. at this ceremony.

It was attended by men of the 'Y' Signals, plus representatives of the 'Y' Services in the Royal Navy and Wrens, Royal Air Force and WAAF, Royal Marines, Civilian 'Y' Operators and the Intelligence Corps. Many local dignitaries were also present.

A tribute must be paid here to Joan Nicholls. After some of the secrecy was lifted a few years ago, she has done a marathon job. Keeping the A.T.S. 'Y' ladies in touch with a regular newsletter and by organising reunions back to one of our war-time bases, Beaumanor, in Leicestershire. She has written a book about us, to which we have contributed our memories and photographs, and is now seeking a publisher. Joan has also been interviewed and filmed for the TV Series on the 'Y' Services, Intelligence and Enigma, which is due on screen this winter. Joan has been the instigator and leading light of the Arboretum project from the first idea in 1996, liaised with the Ministry of Defence and Col. Evans O.B.E. for the site; and with Comdr Childs in planning the design. Fund Raising across past and present personnel was a major task with escalating costs. As plans changed the project grew larger and larger - then the organisation of Dedication Day itself!!!

Veterans travelled from all parts of Britain, and of these approximately 35 were ex. A.T.S., including Thelma Snyder from America. Speaking for the A.T.S. - it was a wonderful day - even the weather was ordered specially, honouring those veterans representing all A.T.S. who served from 1938 on. Our heartfelt thanks go to you Joan, for all you have done, past and present, and for never giving up. May the rest of your dreams finally come into being.

Our warmest thanks also go to the ALREWAS Branch of the R.B.L., who provided us with a most enjoyable lunch before the Dedication and a very welcome "cuppa" afterwards.

The 'Y' Services Memorial is designed as a restful Arbor, central in the Millennium Avenue, with outside hedges of Yew Trees within which are four curved teak seats. The ground within this centre circle will be surfaced with black chippings, with a large Y inset in white chippings.

A Lime tree, grown from a cutting of a 2,000 year old tree was planted by Terry Whittles. In the space formed by

the arms of the Y is the plinth - a large square chunky boulder of black granite. The top has been shaped into a slope to allow the words of the Dedication to be easily read. Etched on to the brass plaque set in the plinth are eight badges of the Y Services, from WW1 to the present day, including the A.T.S. badge. Also included are the old and new Royal Signals badges, in which we served. This plaque is a gift to us from Col. Evans and the Souvenir Programmes are also a gift to us from DSSS at Chicksands.

Military and War historians have stated that our secret work shortened the war by at least 2 years and saved uncountable lives.

Audrey J. Ross (née Wright)
W. 138370. Y Operator. (S.W.O.P.)



The Y Service Memorial at the National Arboretum

Letters



LETTERS PAGE

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Ladies please use this page to air your views,
good or bad.

Dear Editor

The last weekend, I attended the Reunion at York, for we Ack Ack A.T.S. girls, it was a great pleasure and honour, and was extremely well attended.

A puzzle arose, however, amongst we Members, as one or two of the earlier Ack Ack ladies, around 1941? said they wore a Blue Flash, with a 'Domier' on it. The good majority of us had never heard of it, or seen it, we all wore the Red Flash, with the Bow and Arrow.

We would all be grateful if you could throw any light on this matter?

Eileen Sullivan
67 Goodwin Road
Slough
Berks SL2 2ET



Dear Editor

The enclosed photograph was taken at Liphook in Dec 1961.

Does anyone recognise themselves or me? I am in the back row 2nd from left next to 'Bimbo' Coleman who is on the end in her very recognisable Provost Cap. Second row (standing) 1st left is Sheila Alexander from 70 Coy RASC, 3rd left is June Green who was a PTI. I don't remember any other names.

I was Cpl Maureen Merritt who joined the Sgts Course direct from Gibraltar.

Mrs M Brown née Merritt
22 Alec Rose House
The Anchorage
Gosport PO12 1LZ

Dear Editor

May I say thank you to Lt Col M G Fahy for her prompt reply to my "where are you now" article Lioness No 2 '98, and

also to Catherine A Fincher (née Whitehead) for her memories of Bulford Camp '43-'46.

We all worked in the Dorset & District Headquarters at the bottom of Beacon Hill. Catherine says she does not remember me, perhaps enclosed photo will jog her memory. I am seated front row right hand side and the photo was taken 24 November 1944 at the P.T.I. school at Leicester, (I was the part-time P.T.I. in Bulford Camp for 2 1/2 years.)

Our platoon "The first London" were billeted in married quarters near Beacon Hill (all wives and children of regular soldiers had been sent home for the duration) we were 4 ATS PTS + 1 corporal to each house, (houses forming a quadrangle) each morning 7.30am sharp I would nominate two girls to collect a bucket of hot cocoa from the cookhouse. Blow the whistle, out you would all dash with your mugs, have a quick drink, and then I would commence my P.T. lesson of the day, either "on the spot exercises", or "a run round the camp".

The enclosed picture of No.1 ATS PTI school Leicester 24 November 1944 has a list of names on the reverse side, see if you can spot your signatures! You are welcome to photostat copies if you care to write to the address below.

Ann Maddocks	Edna M Fairquhar	Margaret Cruise
D Spring	B Vivienne Blewett	Peggy Fellows
Muriel Berry	Rosemary Burtonshaw	Jacqueline Clarke
E Gordon	Estella Ridal	Hannah Parkin
Joan A Cooper	Dorothy Walin	Tony Fitzgerald
Mary Allsopp	Rene Gottlieb	
Grace Blanchette	Jeanne Johnson	
L Noble	C Lyham (Sgt)	
Jill Hand	Eve Covington	
P Upton	Audrey Bailey	
J D Joy	Cathrine Manson	
Joy Avery	W Dunthorne	

Happy memories.

Margaret Hands (née Tony Fitzgerald)
6 Houndsfield Grove
Wythall
West Midlands B47 6LR



Dear Lioness

I was prompted to write to you as a result of opening mail addressed to my late mother - a copy of 'Lioness'. My mother was Mrs Olga Mary Patch, formerly Dickson, née Worthington, and died, aged 80 on 3rd March 1998 in the Laurels Nursing Home, Hastings.



I believe she was a life member of the WRAC Association, having joined the ATS sometime before the outbreak of war in 1939. In September 1942 she married Capt A C Dickson, an officer with the Royal Artillery. Shortly after their marriage he was posted to Malaya and in December was reported missing and much later presumed dead. My mother continued her career in the ATS after the war and later transferred to the WRAC when I understand she bitterly resented no longer being able to wear the hat! She was a major when she finally left the service in 1953 to join (and marry) my father in Kenya where he was serving with the KAR (Border Reg) fighting Mau Mau. They had met when they were both serving in Chester.

I know that my mother kept in touch with a number of her ATS friends and I should therefore be grateful if you would arrange for a notice of her death to be placed in the obituary column of *Lioness*.

You will find enclosed with this letter one of many photos I have found of ATS tennis (and hockey) teams. My mother was the ATS tennis champion on at least one occasion and I believe she partnered Daphne (Dippy) Portway (also in the photo) to win the doubles title. Incidentally I noticed in the *Daily Telegraph* recently that Dippy has also died - whilst playing tennis at her home.

Mrs Olivia Jane Ainsley
7 Lansdowne Way
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex TN40 2UJ



Tennis Stars of the ATS

Dear Editor

I am enclosing a photo to be included in the next issue of the *Lioness*, please.

I am still attached to a group in Stockport, Cheshire, where we meet once a month for friendly chat and a cup of tea.

My stay in the Royal Corps of Signals for 4 years were the happiest days of my life. I am in constant touch with a few of my friends, and we discuss what happy days we had in Chester.

I was 6 weeks in Wrexham on joining up, with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, then on to Quensbuy near Bradford for 3 months. The remaining time was spent at HQ Western Command in Chester, where I was on teleprinter duty on D-Day and V-J Day, so I've some lovely memories.

This photo was taken as I joined up, so I am very proud of it. My brother was in Signals too, so we reminisce a lot when we're together.

Mrs D Pott née Satchwell
5 Cedar Lawn
Laudrey Drive
Cheadle Hume SK8 5LW



Pte Dorothy Pott (née Satchwell) 1942

Dear Editor

Yes I too have often wondered what happened to the WRAC Depot at Guildford, the article from Jane Smith brought back so many memories of time spent there.

I arrived at the depot in June 1966 and did my basic training (also with 2 Company 6 Platoon) and then served in the MRS (Medical Centre) until Jan 1988. I was then posted to Hong

Kong. I remember the WRAC Band being on the floor above mine in the permanent staff block. I remember well the no trousers rule. Not having to wear a beret to the cookhouse. The endless passing out parades and having to stop walking when the General salute was played. No walking on the parade ground. The dances in the NAAFI. The joy of being allowed to use the YWCA to get away from new recruits. Helping in the YWCA peeling potatoes for chips, etc, washing up. The "In" nights. Church Parades. Going to "Smoky Joe's". And many many more fond memories.

There also must be someone reading this issue who has memories of being in Hong Kong, if so please put pen to paper,

Formerly W/429115 Pte Walsh.
Local Hong Kong Rank L/Cpl Walsh.

Mrs C A Wilkes née Walsh
96 Queens Road
Radcliffe on Trent
Nottingham NG12 1DU

Dear Editor

I thoroughly enjoyed 'My recollections of the 1948 Olympic Games' by Mrs Audrey Williamson. She mentioned in her article the ATS OFFICERS SCHOOL AND OCTU at Windsor and the Commanding Officer, Lady Bowyer Smythe. I joined the ATS on 13 June 1947 and after initial training at Guildford and clerical training at Gresford I had my first posting and it was to the ATS Officers School and OCTU, Alma Road, Windsor. I seem to remember that the duty officer on the day I arrived was Junior Commander E. Nolan. It was a very happy unit under the command of Chief Commander Lady Bowyer Smythe and we were all saddened when we, in 1948, amalgamated with the WRAC School of Instruction at Liphook. From being stationed in the centre of Windsor we went to the bare countryside of the wilds of Hampshire. From there I was posted to British Troops Berlin and after that to HQ Hamburg District where I met my future husband Alec Ross of the Royal Engineers. When my overseas tour was finished I was posted to 326 City of London Bn TA as a PSI and there once again my Commanding Officer was Lt Col Lady Bowyer Smythe. I left the Army to start my family so I had gone full circle from first posting to last posting and both under the command of Lady Bowyer Smythe.

A party of us from the School at Windsor were taken to the 1948 Olympics to see the last day and I always have remembered the Olympic Flame being extinguished. A very touching moment.

I would be very pleased to hear from any of my old comrades especially Rene Darlington, Manchester, Jo Cox, Erith, Ann Ashworth, Rochford, Jan Carpenter, Carshalton and all the rest of my old friends.

Mrs A H Ross née Jack
Caixa 59 Vista Real
Castro Marim Algarve
Portugal

Dear Editor

On July 23rd this year, the Colchester Branch came to Felixstowe. We had lunch at the Royal British Legion Club. We were made most welcome, and our sincere thanks must go to Miss Vera Coles for the arrangements. It was so lovely to meet you all.

You will recognise the "Lioness Cover" in the photo, with my Army dolls.

Sincere best wishes to you all.

Mrs Joan Frampton, née L/Cpl Jex
68 Alan Road
Ipswich
Suffolk IP3 8EJ



Dear Editor

Thank you for my Lioness magazine, you will guess how excited I was to read an account of 602(m) HAA battery. I also joined up in Oct 42 and went to Ballysnod in Northern Ireland as a GL operator (Radar). I stayed with that battery until 1944 when they asked for volunteers for overseas. I then joined 139(M) HAA Reg in Belgium, where we had to help build our own gun site as we were the first girls to go out there. It was mud everywhere as it was a bitter cold snowy winter. We had 24 girls to a nissen hut and one hurricane lamp for lighting. We melted snow in petrol cans cut down to have a good wash, and in the mornings the frost was as thick inside the hut as it was out. But we all survived and I met my husband Di Collings there when he came to a camp dance. We've been married 52 years. I finished my service in Berlin in 1946.

I am enclosing two photographs hoping they will be of interest to someone. As you can see one is in Northern Ireland, and one in Berlin (Potsdam).

Mrs L G Collins née Ingram
42 Hodder Avenue
Peacehaven
E Sussex BN10 7PH



*GL Team Bally Snod NI, June 1943
Gladys Ingram, Iris Kemp, Unknown,
Mac and Connie Hammond*



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*Berlin 1945
Jimmy Lox, Lois Wedgwood and Friends.*

Dear Editor

Here are some photographs taken by Colin Harnes, a member of the Devon & Cornwall Military Vehicle Trust, and owner of the Ambulance in which I was interested.

Over 50 years ago I passed my driving test on an Ambulance, and explaining this to Colin, he invited me to sit at the wheel in the cab, then gave my husband and me a tour along the sea front.

Although the weather at Torquay that week could have been better, this episode made my holiday.

Mary Beeston
77 Campion House
Heath Town
Wolverhampton WV10 OPX



Fond Memories of driving an ambulance



*"D" Day Anniversary
6th June 1998 - Harbour - Torquay*

Ref: Private Annie Hester Glendinning

Allow me, if I may, through the pages of 'Lioness' to address myself to veteran members of the ATS among its readership who served during the period 1942-1945.

Contact is sought with anyone having knowledge of, or recalls serving with, the above named. Her children, of which, I am one, have little or no information concerning her during those now distant days.

It is our belief that her service days were spent at, or in the vicinity of, Colchester barracks. Her period of training may well have taken place elsewhere, possibly at a place quite close to me, namely, the once Glen Parva barracks, then home of the 'Leicesters'.

The final months of our late mother's service with the ATS were far from happy, she found herself beset with dire personal problems, which, in truth, affected her for the rest of her life. Space here does not allow for expansion, but suffice to say the staff of 'Lioness' have been appraised of her situation.

There is little more to add, if there is anyone reading this who recalls our mother, then I would welcome contact, any and all recollections, photographs, which we might be allowed to copy, would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to contact with anyone who recalls our mother, Annie.

A P Chapman (Tony)
148 Station Road
Wigston Magna
Leicester LE18 2DL



Letters from Abroad

Mrs E Averil Smith (née Jenkins) W/244661

**2/249 Wairau Road, Glenfield,
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND**

What joy I had when last week I received my first copy of your delightful "Lioness" (1997 No. 2) which was sent to me from my dearest friend Betty McKay whose home is in Dumfries. I joined the A.T.S. in January 1943 at the age of 16 and did my initial training at Wrexham. From there I was sent to Oswestry for Ack Ack training and there I met Betty. We were put into the same Radar Team and so when we were posted to our first gun-site at Swansea 680 (m) H.A.A. Bty it became the beginning of a wonderful friendship.

Along with this lovely magazine, Betty had also enclosed a photo of all six girls that were in our team (Myself, Betty, Jean Pullen, Kath Clayton, Bessy Clark, Jean Watts). After our battery was disbanded I was sent to Golders Green on a clerical course then posted to Arborfield attached to the R.E.M.E. and left the service in June 1946. I rejoined the A.T.S. in November 1948 and served as a clerk at the Royal Military College of Science (Shrivenham).

Early in 1951 I saw an advert in one of the Sunday Papers - New Zealand needed ex-service women to join the N.Z. Air Force on a 2 year contract. I applied and left on the S.S. Atlantis with 99 other girls from all the various services. I made some wonderful friends in the Airforce who I still keep in touch with but the A.T.S. was always the love of my life.

It was magic to read all the stories and to know that your magazine reaches so many hearts. Keep up the good work, looking forward to the next copy which my "Sister in Arms" has promised to send me.

**Mrs Edna Curlew (née Mounsey))
Apt. 103, Golden Legion Manor, Gander,
Newfoundland, A1V 1A6 Canada**

I have come to the conclusion that it will not be possible for me to attend the next reunion. Neither my health nor my budget will stand the upheaval of another journey across the ocean.

I have attended the last two reunions and enjoyed every moment even though both times I wasn't able to make contact with any of the girls I served with. So I have decided to send you a short history of my ATS experience and maybe through these words someone will have the same memories and, if so, I would love to hear from them. The women I served with are often in my thoughts and it would be wonderful to reminisce those exciting times again with them across the miles.

I did my basic training in Pontefract in the old barracks in the bitterly cold January of 1944. There were few of us in



*Edna Curlew (née Mounsey),
Company B, London District Group, No.5*

my room and we got our hot water for washing by getting empty jam tins from the cookhouse filled with cold water and these we would wedge on the edge of the tiny fireplace in the corner of the room, each girl taking turns with a can full of water.

Before enlisting I had worked as a key punch operator and I had been told that the same machines were being used at a branch of the war office for the purpose of records. I applied to be posted there and fortunately I was accepted and arrived in London on my 21st birthday in the middle of pea soup fog. I can remember standing on the steps of Victoria Station with my kitbag, suitcase, tin hats and respirator wondering how on earth I was going to find my destination, 16 Eaton Place. Luckily a sailor took me under his wing, he was going to a hostel close by and so I was safely delivered and managed to reach my room just as the air raid warning went and we all proceeded down into the cellar for the rest of the night. But I was also able to share my 21st birthday cake, sent to Pontefract by my

mother, with my new friends, and so began my three years of service in London. We worked at Hobart House in Governor Place so we were able to walk back and forth easily across Eaton Square where we sometimes did our P.T. Maybe it's wrong to look back on those years as exciting and wonderful because a bitter war was being fought all around us and lives were being lost every day. But we were young, and even though we often had to dodge bombs and "doodle bugs", life was still an adventure as we walked the streets of London, worshipped in the churches and cathedrals, visited whatever museums and galleries were open, lined up for free theatre tickets and shared a friendship that I will never forget.

On return visits to my family in England I have visited London several times and walked again through the squares and streets and relived the memories. Sadly, I have no contact with any of the girls I served with and I search in vain through the pages of "Lioness" and also at the reunions. I know I am isolated here in Newfoundland although I do belong to the branch of the association in London, Ontario and we correspond regularly.

However, to return to the purpose of my letter, I have enclosed a picture of myself taken in 1944 and if anyone remembers me please get in touch. I would love to hear from you.

Poem

THOUGHTS IN AN ARMY HUT ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON - 8-10-44

My home, - The hills and dales, the babbling brook
the quiet countryside, the shepherd's crook
guiding the lambs as they frisk and play
the warmth of the sun on a summer day
The harvest moon, lighting the park
silhouetting the stooks, minimising the dark
of the 'blackened out' land, - a 'Bombers Moon' (that's a
morbid thought,
that one can't keep out - one the war has brought!)
Tea by the fire, the room dimly lit
good conversation, something to knit.
These things are so simple, maybe trifling and small,
but wouldn't we give anything, to be back in the hall
with walking stick, and jackets yes you nod, I agree
it would be something to see how I'd look in that coat, if it
still fits me!
Don't know why I should wonder about that old thing
for when the war's over, new fashions they'll bring
and we'll all wear dashing colours and glamorous hats!
But gee, will we ever forget we were "ATS".

Marjorie S A Mutch
W/239953
Sgt ATS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the General Secretary
THE WRAC ASSOCIATION
AGC Centre,
Worthy Down,
Winchester,
Hampshire SO21 2RG

I wish to join the WRAC Association as a

Life (£30) member and enclose £.....

Annual (£5)

Date..... Signature

Subscriptions include "LIONESS"
(Please complete in Block Letters)

Surname Miss/Mrs/Ms

Christian Names.....

Address for Correspondence

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

..... Post Code.....

Telephone

Units during service

.....
.....

Surname when serving

QMAAC/ATS/WRAC/TAVR Army Number
(Please strike out whichever is not applicable)

Last Rank held (Present Rank if still serving).....

Date of EnrolmentDate of Release

Decorations

Branch News

ACCRINGTON

This year we have been busy on the civic front. Branch members attended the Accrington Pals Memorial Service held at St Johns Church Accrington in February, and in May the Branch was invited to the Mayoral Sunday held in Accrington.

The Branch was saddened by the death of one of our original members, Joyce Orton. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

In August the Branch held its main fund raising event. We had a stall on the Padiham Charity Market selling home made cakes and bric-a-brac. The day proved very successful.

On October 27th we are holding a dinner to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the A.T.S., at the Copper Kettle Restaurant, Accrington. The Mayoress of Hynburn will be guest of honour, a cake has been made for the occasion by Mrs Hamilton and will be decorated by a member's daughter. Our member Mrs Isabella Hamilton is hoping to be reunited at our Anniversary Dinner with a friend who she has known for 55 yrs. They were together on a gun site on the East coast of Britain during the war; we are sure they will have lots to talk about.

We are looking forward to the Reunion in the year 2000 at Cardiff. Many of the members who are attending have sent a deposit for accommodation and are hoping to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

Next year we are hoping to have as much success as this year.

ALDERSHOT

The Aldershot Branch has had a very busy year the high-point of which was the South Area Reunion held on 23rd August. Major contributors to the success of the event were the Garrison Sergeant-Major, WO 1 Fairbairn R Signals who masterminded the use of his mess and personally oversaw the arrangements for coach and car-



Brenda Killick, Elaine Smith, Kate Arnold and Jill Sale made over 150 lovely cups of tea at the South Area Reunion on 23 August 1998.

parking and disabled access, OC 251 Squadron who allowed us into the Comcen and the Aldershot branch of the Royal Signals Association whose chairman, Brigadier Noel Moss, arranged the introduction which made these events possible. Further support came from the Garrison Museum who reduced their entrance charges and provided a volunteer guide, and from the Garrison Church of Scotland who allowed us to raise the Association standard and to use their hall on a Sunday which is after all, their busy day! Sadly the weather was not on our side and what should have been an elegant outdoor lunch on the terrace and lawns of the Garrison Mess degenerated



Is RQMS Denham completely distracted by the latest arrivals to the Aldershot Branch? (twins Andrew and Robert)

into somewhat of a squash as just under 150 members squeezed into an ante-room designed for 100. However, everybody was very good-tempered and seemed to understand our problems. After lunch members dispersed to a choice of one of three visits and one static activity so as to cater for all interests and degrees of mobility. Branch members put in much hard preparative work, from our new President, (serving officer Lt Col Sue Westlake) down to our latest recruit, former WRAC band member Marion Potter (previously Jones), now a Cpl musician in the band of the RAMC/TA who changed into her uniform in the rather cramped quarters of the ladies' loo in order to mark the end of the proceedings. Nor must we forget those committee members who made and served the tea, arranged the hall, showed videos sold souvenirs and organised the raffle - resulting in a total of £500 which has been sent to the Benevolent Fund on behalf of the South Area. We were very grateful to our Association Vice-President, Brigadier Helen Meechie for coming to speak to us on the day and a word of appreciation is also due to the secretaries of those branches who attended, who uncomplainingly undertook the extra secretarial work necessitated by holding an event in a restricted area. Sadly Bath, Guernsey and Cheltenham branches were unable to be present, but sent their good wishes which our chairman read out to those assembled.

Other activities this year have been three very interesting talks, a French "Boules" evening on Bastille Day, July 14th,

and a coffee evening. Still to come are the branch annual dinner, for which 49 members have signed up, the Annual General Meeting and the Christmas Party. Next year the Association Annual General Meeting is to be in Guildford and the Aldershot branch has been asked to assist. We hope to see you there.

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Sadly, two of our long-serving members, Majors Dione Parker and Marion Coverdale, died this summer. Both contributed greatly to our branch as well as being active in the Association as a whole - Dione Parker was for many years Assistant Secretary of Headquarter Mess and subsequently was for eight years Aldershot Branch treasurer; Marion Coverdale was for several years Case Secretary at the ATS/WRAC Benevolent Fund and although she held no formal office within the Aldershot Branch she was a willing helper whenever she was called upon.

On a happier note we have two miniature additions to honorary status within the branch in the persons of Andrew and Robert Denham, twins born in August to RQMS Andrea Denham, (one of our serving members, at present on maternity leave).

ANDOVER

Contrary to supposition, we are still going strong in Andover, although only about twelve members attend the monthly meetings. We have many members in our branch who through various reasons are unable to attend but still remain loyal to us. Most meetings we have quiz nights, taking it in turn to bring the questions which can be very mind taxing, we also have a serving member on our books but had never met her, so it was a big surprise when she walked in on one of our meetings, still more interesting to hear what Cpl Stevens had to tell us about the modern army. She is stationed in Germany and made a contribution to the "Lioness" which was published in the last issue and made interesting reading, she also promised to come and visit us again, when possible.

Six of us made the effort to attend the area meeting at Aldershot. It was a pity that the weather was so bad, but it was good to meet up with old friends again.

The branch has now joined the support groups of our area, the Test Valley, hoping that we may be of assistance to any old comrade who may need our help.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

We look back on another good year - variety in our meetings, good comradeship and a couple of special events.

Our talks have covered the "Rainbow Charity", Living in Rhodesia, Leicestershire Ghosts and Legends, and one of our members will give a talk after the AGM in November.

Pub lunches are always popular in the summer and well attended, with a few husbands as well. We sometimes have one or two 'Personal Profiles' - members giving a resume of their service life and we have nearly completed our 'Personal History' book.

The Branch Officers meeting was attended and the Area Re-union at Wolverhampton was enjoyed by six members.

In Autumn 1997 our Secretary approached several local councils with a view to having a floral display of the ATS cap badge for the 60th Anniversary. Response was disappointing but, happily, one agreed to do it and it was our own North West Leicestershire Council. On August 10th, we assembled (with support from our friends in the Leicester branch) to view the display. The local press attended and we had some good publicity.

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of the ATS, we had a luncheon on October 12th. Members of other services were invited and attended - WRNS, WAAF and Land Army. This was held at the hotel owned by one of our members - Betty Carter - where we have our meetings. After luncheon, the Chairman talked of women in the Army and the history of the ATS.

It was a very pleasant occasion and we now look forward to the AGM. This year we had a new Treasurer and, if all the persuasive powers fail, next year we shall have a new Secretary. Then Christmas Lunch in December.

Lastly, a note of triumph - we have increased our numbers of ex WRAC members by 100%! We now have two instead of one.

AYLESBURY

I wonder how many Branches of the Association are in the same predicament as the Aylesbury Branch. The present founder Chairman/Secretary no longer feels able to carry on, and offer herself for re-election after eight years in the position. Regrettably no one is prepared to take on the duties of Secretary and the inevitable has happened with the closure of the Branch in January 1999 after the Christmas Lunch.

Possibly in areas of denser population there are more ex W.R.A.C. members who would be prepared to step forward and fill the gap left by the ageing A.T.S. members.



Aylesbury members surrounding Brigadier I. P. Inshaw Commander, Bicester Garrison who read the lesson at the Floral Display A.T.S.

We all look pleased with ourselves - we had had an excellent tea, provided by the W.I.

Who knows? Our membership of 40 includes 7 W.R.A.C. members who are otherwise engaged and unable to help in this instance.

However, all is not doom and gloom. From the Aylesbury Branch, during its existence, two new Branches of the Association have been formed. Dacorum and Luton. Both of these are larger towns. Several new friendships have been formed between girls who previously did not know of each others existence. That can't be bad. Although we are no longer an official Branch, we can occasionally meet up for a coffee or something stronger on market days! Everyone has my telephone number, and each others.

Now what has Aylesbury done and achieved in the last six months?

In May a party of us paid a visit to the 'Kings Head'. This is an old Coaching Inn in Aylesbury Market Square and now under the care of the National Trust. As this was in the morning, coffee only was taken as refreshment before the conducted tour of the refurbished building!

In July we attended the dedication of the floral display of our A.T.S. Badge in Bicester, referred to in 'Lioness No 1'. Despite the rain, it was a well-organised event and appreciated by all who attended.

The Chairman's annual garden party was this year incorporated with Buckland Village Fete. The weather was kind to us, and after visiting the various stalls etc, we retired to the Chairman's home for a welcome cuppa.

September was the month of our own Aylesbury floral display dedication. This was attended by the Mayor, Chester Jones, our Group Chairman, Mrs Eileen Carter, T.D. and Mr Bob Bryant AVDC Park Dept. The short service was conducted by Reverend Keith Watson and at the conclusion we returned to the Ex-Servicemen's Club for refreshments. During our previous visit to the Mayor's parlour we had seen displayed shields presented by other organisations who had been honoured with invitations. So not to be outdone, the opportunity was taken to present Mr Mayor with an A.T.S. shield, suitably inscribed 1938-1998. This will be added to the other privileged ranks on display for future generations to gaze upon in wonder. It was of course a "Thank you" for all AVDC help and support in providing our floral display in memory of Women's 60 years continuous service to our country and the Crown.

And so to our sad A.G.M. but despite this a Christmas lunch is planned, Branch or no Branch. We are a very special band of ladies, having known comradeship in the armed services not normally experienced in civilian life.

I would like to thank all those members who so kindly contributed to my retirement gift and imaginative card which I was presented with at yesterday's A.G.M. 10th Oct 98.

BATH

Bath Branch continues to flourish with several new members this year and we continue to hold twice monthly

meetings. We were honoured by our City Council with a Floral Badge of the A.T.S. in the central park, which was visited by His Worship The Mayor who placed a plaque commemorating our 60th anniversary. He invited Branch members to meet him and the Mayoress in the Guildhall afterwards, and we were pleased that our Group Chairman Col Val Trout was able to join us.

Three of our members who regularly attend the meetings joined the service in 1938, and quite a number joined in the early part of 1939. We were also pleased this year to welcome members who have served in the W.R.A.C. One of these is the Recruiting Sgt stationed at Bristol who gave us a most informative talk on the service to-day, a very illuminating experience for the A.T.S. members present!

We try to arrange a Social event for each month, and besides our Fund Raising Coffee Mornings we have had Supper Parties and Tea Parties in members homes, attended a concert by the Marines Military Band (Plymouth Division) and had a trip to the Gower coast which was most enjoyable. We hope to plant a tree in the city to mark our 60th anniversary and will have a shopping trip near Christmas to Devizes and Swindon, ending with our annual Christmas Lunch when we hope to be joined by members who live some distance from the city. A large number of the Branch members live in Somerset and Wiltshire so it is always a pleasure to be able to meet them on this occasion. We look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the W.R.A.C in 1999.

BEXHILL

We are into our second year and on the up and up. Up on membership, up on finance, up on social events, I know success when I see it! Of course we have had the minor blips along the way but nothing too serious. We also need to remember those of us who have been under the weather from time to time but we do have a good network of support and caring, and that is very comforting. Our Welfare Officer, Joan Hawgood, also sends out birthday cards which I know are much appreciated.

Attendance at meetings is at a high level, we have had coffee mornings and a Strawberry/Cream Tea in the summer. The highlights have been the 60th Anniversary celebrations, we joined Hastings branch for their church service, which was a splendid afternoon, on the 6th of September. Some of their members came to our tree planting ceremony in the Polegrove, in Bexhill, the weather was atrocious but spirits were high, especially in the Traffors Pub afterwards!

Finally as secretary, I would like to thank the membership for their support in all we do, not least the car drivers who help those without cars, it is a great asset on so many occasions. I would also like to thank John Moloney for keeping our scrapbook, it's looking good!

BRADFORD

Greetings to all members, home and abroad. Time flies and we are already in the last quarter of the year. The old saying "it's being so busy which keeps you going" is perfectly true.

The AGM in April was attended by Penny Kenny and Norah Kendall (author of this article) when Norah was awarded a Certificate of Merit.

In May we had a lunch at the Pine Room at Bradford University, a Civic Service at Bradford Cathedral and a service at Sheffield Cathedral with the Dunkirk Veterans Association on 24 May.

Thirteen members spent a memorable weekend on 18 June at the Combined Services Reunion at Bridlington; a great time to meet old friends with plenty of entertainment and dancing.

The Royal British Legion held a parade and service at Bradford Cathedral on 19 July.

The 23 July saw members make their way by train, bus or car to Ilkley to see the carpet bed which had been laid by the Parks Department of Bradford Metropolitan Council to celebrate 60 years of the A.T.S. The flower bed was set in a very prominent position on an embankment on Ilkley's main street. A focal point much admired by all passers by.

The Bring and Buy sale at Undercliffe Cricket Club was, as always, a very busy and rewarding day. We were joined by the Dunkirk Veterans Association and their wives who now look forward to this event. Sadly, this may be the last time we can use this venue. More of this later.

On Sunday 13 September we had a full coach to take us to the Veterans Parade at Eden Camp. This grows in stature each year with 96 standards and over 2000 guests. Also of special interest to our party, a plaque has been placed in the Chapel, dedicated to the ATS who served and died in World War II.

The standard was paraded again on 20 September for the Battle of Britain Sunday. The same afternoon there was a service at Wakefield Cathedral for War Widows and War Pensioners where I felt very proud to carry our Standard to represent the Army.

Also in September our AGM was held. The committee was returned en-bloc apart from Ada Hudson who asked to stand down as Vice Chairwoman so she can concentrate on being minutes secretary. Norah Kendall was nominated in her place.

Owing to the AGM we postponed our 60th birthday celebrations until the October meeting. A cake was made by Olive Rhodes and decorated by her daughter Susan. Various goodies were donated by members. We give special thanks to Olive and Susan as Olive recently lost her husband.

I close this article with the sad news of the sudden death on 22 September of Ivy Wheelhouse. Ivy was a very popular, hard working member of our branch; she was in charge of birthday cards, and I don't think anyone ever missed getting their special cards on the correct day. Ivy was also instrumental in our having the full days use of the Undercliffe Cricket Club. She was also a member of the Royal British Legion and I am sure they will miss her too. A large party of our members attended her funeral. As I was the last person to speak to the Vicar after the service, he passed the remark "I think we've done Ivy proud, don't you?". I can only endorse this - she was greatly loved and will be sadly missed.

BURY

We held a party on Thursday 8 September 1998, to celebrate the ATS 60th Birthday. We were happy to welcome our friends from Rochdale Branch and also Mr Hathaway, Head of Bury Parks and Leisure, who did so much to help us to get the project of our plaque under way; and Mr Fred Brown, a local businessman, who sponsored us for half the cost of the board. We all had a wonderful afternoon.

On Thursday 10 September 1998, Mr Hathaway accompanied the Board to Eden Camp in Yorkshire.

It is a very interesting place to visit. We are grateful to Bury Council as they transported the Board for us, free of charge. Mr Nick Hill, the Museum Archivist, was delighted to give this Board a permanent home, outside Hut 8 "Women at War". We are always amazed that WRNS, ATS and WAAF are so seldom given full credit for their services during World War II, but the ATS now have a small place in history at Eden Camp.

On Sunday 13 September 1998 about a dozen of us from Bury went up to Eden Camp to join their annual Ex-Services Parade (about 2,000 ex-service men and women were there). We had this picture taken outside Hut 8.

Thank you Editor and Good Luck, it is a wonderful magazine, I am sure that you will enjoy doing the job.

BLACKPOOL

We celebrated our 4th Birthday with a party and birthday cake at Fulwood Barracks, Preston in August and our Birthday Cake was wonderful. Photo enclosed.

We also visited the Carpet Garden prepared for us by the Wyne Borough.

Greetings were read from our one overseas member, Mavis Wannamaker in Canada.

We had a lovely time at Boundry Mill and hope for more visits. Everybody liked the A.T.S. Brass Statuette and orders were taken.

BOLTON

Our secretary for the past 17 years, Mrs Joon Nadir, retired and was presented with flowers and a cut glass goblet inscribed with the ATS insignia for her services. I have just transferred to the branch from Leeds and as no one else wanted to be secretary I offered my services. I am not fully conversant with the activities but am enclosing a photo of some of the ladies visiting the Bubble Factory, Oswaldtwistle on the 16th April. Also a photo of our visit to Lever Park, Harwich, along with the Mayor of Bolton, where Bolton Council had kindly arranged to celebrate the ATS 60 years with a flower display showing the ATS insignia. Seven of our members attended Bolton War Memorial along with the Combined Services to commemorate V.J. Day. At the moment we are looking for a new venue to hold our meetings. Finally I have sadly to report the death of one of our members, Miss Ada Dudley, who died in February.

CANTERBURY

We started our meetings for 1998 in January when we were entertained with quizzes arranged by Mavis and Maria; and the winners received their prizes of wine, pencils and key rings. On the 30th February we enjoyed a talk given by Col Frances Hutley. We had a large turnout to listen to her interesting talk about her time in the WRAC. This was followed in March by a talk and slides of the Nature Reserve at Kingsnorth Power Station by Bill Jones.

At our April Meeting we started early with a fish and chip lunch and a decorated egg competition which was won by Joan Powell with Joan Ratcliffe in second place, and Joyce Haynes won the number of pennies in a jar competition. Well done ladies.

In May we did not have a speaker and we looked at various crafts that members had made and had a general chit chat. Our Chairman Doreen Dennis' Coffee Morning/Plant Sale was held on the 19th May and she made £265.00 for the branch, the whole morning was a resounding success.

We had a very relaxed June meeting and thanks go to Madeleine for her talk about the wedding of her granddaughter to a Japanese man. July brought on a more serious air when we were given a very informative talk from Help the Aged, which was very enlightening for most members.

Onto a bit of frivolity with our outing to Eastbourne, although the weather was slightly cool and damp. I don't think it stopped anyone from enjoying themselves and the music from the band was excellent. We also had a trip to the Royal Tournament on the 30th July and this turned out to be a brilliant day from start to finish.

Then August was upon us with our meeting being held at Mavis' Beach Hut with our bathing belles, this was enjoyed by all those present judging by the photograph. Madeleine held a coffee morning in August. Unfortunately the weather was not excellent but nevertheless an enjoyable morning was still had by those who attended.

In September The Chestfield WI gave a very entertaining repertoire under the careful eye of Mrs Barrel.

We held the WRNS/WAAF Social gathering on Wednesday 4th November 1998 and we all gorged ourselves on tea and sponge cakes before being entertained by Colonel Hoskins RM ex Director of Music.

This brings us onto our final meeting of the year where we held a Christmas Party with Carols accompanied by Sonny Day. Members provided the sumptuous array of food for our buffet and we all heartily sang along making for a festive air to the afternoon on Wednesday 2nd December. As well as our meetings we have interspersed the year with various other activities. These have included three members invited by the WRNS to join them for a "Fun Quiz Day" in June, then the girls went to Hastings for the 60th Anniversary of the ATS and were treated to an excellent lunch and there was also time to

catch up on all the news, as well as a time to remember events of the past. On to The Trafalgar Day Parade, where we were represented by some of our members, and then the moving experience at the Festival of Remembrance at the Winter Gardens, followed by Remembrance Sunday where members went to local services as well as to the Cenotaph.

The chill of December could be felt when the Association was represented at Ramsgate and Woolwich for St Barbara's Day. We were then invited by the Queen's Own Buffs to their Carol Service where we all heartily sang the carols and remembered why we were there at this time of the year.

After our fund-raising efforts for our 50th Anniversary of being a branch, we had some money left over and decided to dedicate a seat in remembrance of this event. This has been placed in the Westgate Gardens in Canterbury. Our local City Council also agreed to plant an ATS flower bed in Westgate Gardens for the Anniversary of the ATS and this looked lovely.

Kay Perfect recently had the honour of carrying the East Kent Branch Royal Artillery Association Standard at Woolwich for the birthday bash organised for Bernard Miller who was 100 years old. There were nine standard bearers in all and they marched on with the Royal Artillery Band playing "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "Mademoiselle from Armentieres". There was a presentation for Bernard by Colonel Steel and Tiffy Stanley, the band played "Happy Birthday" and after the presentation they marched off. Then followed the photocall, Kay was the only female present and during this Bernard proposed to Kay and then he said that he had better not as he had worn out two wives already and had better not take on a third. Col Steel showed those present around the Officers Mess and the silver, which was very impressive. They all had lunch and Bernard was presented with a big birthday cake. After lunch they went to the Rotunda to see the weapons and guns.

The branch was very pleased that Bella Mephram one of our members received The Certificate of Appreciation at the AGM in London and we thank her for all the hard work that she puts into the branch.



WRAC Association Members celebrating their 50th Anniversary as a Branch.

The 1999 programme for Canterbury Branch WRAC Association will be as follows:

- 6th January - Chit/Chat and Quiz
3rd February - Where you served - with photos
3rd March - Talk by Jean Collyer on the White Porcelain
7th April - Fish and Chip Lunch
Talk on Flower Arranging
Flower Arrangement in small Container competition
5th May - Quiz and Natter
2nd June - Kate McGregor - Experience of Kuwait
7th July - Talk to be Confirmed
4th August - Bathing Belles at Mavis' Beach Hut
1st September - Phil Craft on Argentina
6th October - AGM
3rd November - WAAF & WRNS Social Gathering
Kay Rawlings and her Troupe
1st December - Christmas Lunch - Dominican Priory

On a final note may we take this opportunity to wish all members a Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year.

CHELMSFORD

Since our last report in the Lioness the branch has continued to meet regularly at the British Legion Hall, London Road, Chelmsford on the third Tuesday in the month at 2pm. An average of 45 members attend which includes our friends, the affiliated members from the WRNS and the WAAF.

In April our branch was well represented at the AGM in London. A few of us went to the ATS Dinner Club Tea Party also in London and spent an enjoyable time there, had a lovely tea and met and talked with members from other branches. It was interesting to learn what other branches did and it also gave the opportunity to reminisce about "old times". Likeminded people who served with the Ack Ack met in York this year for another reunion, and a small group from Chelmsford joined in this event and had a very good time.

A holiday in May at Nidd Hall Holiday Centre (Warner's) proved a great success. Lovely place, lovely food! During our stay we visited Harrogate and York taking in the beautiful countryside around us and wishing we could have a few more days up there. At an evening game of Bingo the six money prizes awarded for that night were all won by ATS, - weren't we lucky? There is a holiday arranged at Corton, near Great Yarmouth in November, which is a return visit as it is a popular venue.

In June we held our Fayre which is our fund raiser for the year. It was well supported by those who came provided goods to sell and then bought it all back. Together with our usual raffle and Bring and Buy Stall we manage to keep afloat and keep the Treasurer happy.

In July we held our 9th Anniversary Tea and also celebrated the 60 years of the ATS - 1938-1998. What memories it holds for all of us. A beautifully decorated cake commemorating both events was made and given by the daughter of Miriam

Humpherson, a former member who died last year. The cake given in memory of Miriam was cut by our "most senior member" Margaret Woods seen in the photograph.

In August we spent a day together visiting the Van Hage Garden Centre in Ware, Herts. It was a sunny warm day and we much enjoyed "cruising on the river" Stort during the afternoon. The trip included a cream tea which was delicious.

We have had several interesting speakers who included:

A local blacksmith (with many a tale)...A police detective who brought his riot gear for us to see. This was tried on by Iris Brown and though we tried to hit her we could not penetrate the clothing (aren't the police wonderful)!! We also had a talk by a Yeoman of the Guard. He brought some of his uniform to show us including his Tudor style bonnet (but left the Crown Jewels behind). He gave us an illustrated talk on "Life in the Tower" which was much enjoyed by us all. We recently had a talk by Peter Russell who, in his former days, was a butler in the Royal Household. He gave an amusing account of his life and work.

We are grateful to the staff at HQ who help with our queries whenever we ask for their assistance. We are also very aware that lots of jobs are done on our behalf at meetings by a band of willing helpers. Many thanks indeed everyone. May our branch continue to flourish.

CHELTENHAM

Sadly the Branch has had to close as it has become more difficult to recruit members and office bearers. We are sad to report the death of the secretary Miss Stuart-Taylor.

COLCHESTER

We have had quite a busy year with meetings, speakers and outings. During February we had an attendance of 57 members at our meeting and had a good discussion about the role of women in WW2, and the monument which we hope will come to fruition. Since that time we have been delighted to hear that funding is going well and the project is to go ahead.

In May we had an outing to Burnham-on-Crouch and although it was rather a cold day a great time was had by all. We all enjoyed our lunch and followed this with a brisk walk along the front. In June we listened to a talk by Mrs Margaret Ward about her search for her natural parents. This was a most thought provoking address which proved of special interest to many of us. Also during June we travelled to Lavenham and were made very welcome and provided with tea at the Salvation Army Hostel after looking around this delightful little country town.

Another enjoyable day out for us took place in July when we visited the historic seaside town of Felixstowe. This was also the month which saw the celebration of the 60th birthday of the ATS and so we decided that a party was in order. We had a lovely afternoon replete with food and

entertainment together with many reminiscences, as you can well imagine. One of our members who attended the Edinburgh Tattoo reported that during the evening an announcement was made that this year was the ATS's 60th anniversary, which we thought was great.

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During this month of September we met at Clacton Golf Club and again had a lovely meal and natter together. We look forward to these days very much and feel that it does a lot to foster our sense of 'togetherness'. At Christmas we propose visiting the Golf Club again for our traditional dinner - another item in our calendar which is eagerly anticipated since we always have a happy gathering and a super meal.

COVENTRY

We continue to meet on the second Friday of the month at the Royal Warwicks Club and we have had several new members join us this year. During the year though we have temporarily lost one of our members, Marguerite (Rita) Fellows who has gone to live in France. Marguerite was the founder member of our Branch and, before going to France, travelled from Malvern in Worcestershire to attend our meetings.

Visits this year have been limited, but we enjoyed our trip to Worcester, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, and to a fete at Galonas House, The Royal British Legion Establishment. We were also invited to the Birmingham Branch Birthday Party, and of course our own Wales and West Reunion at Wolverhampton. Many thanks to Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Thanks also go to Dorothy Morris for organising our ATS Badge which was arranged by the Leamington Parks Department as a Floral display in Jephson Gardens, and though it has been vandalised and repaired twice, it remains a fitting tribute to our 60 Year Celebration. Thank you Dorothy.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas lunch in December. We also send our best wishes to our members who cannot get to our meetings.

CREWE

This year, although it started off well, has been rather difficult at times with a few disappointments - No 1 being the Flower Bed commemorating our 60th Year. Because the local authorities do not do them any more we had an awful job finding someone else to do it for us. After a lot of mither we found a School willing to do it but at the end of the day they were let down and unable to do it.

Sadly we had to cancel a Charity Market Stall at Crewe on May 23rd as our secretary Edith was in hospital at the time, however the Nantwich ladies saved the day by stepping in and holding a Jumble Sale at Nantwich instead. A Coffee Morning arranged for June 4th at Nantwich was also cancelled for much the same reasons as before so we let the R.A.F. Association take the venue over. However, we did manage to do a Market Stall at Crewe on June 13th and we were very pleased it did so well.

In June several of us went to the Welsh Tea with Rhyl Branch which we enjoyed very much. Betty Pattor, our Chairman, went to the Ack Ack Reunion at York on July 31st and enjoyed the weekend very much.

Our Branch held a Dance at the Crosville Club on September 3rd, which we always enjoy doing as it is very rewarding.

A party of us attended the Area Reunion at Wolverhampton on September 12th, we all enjoyed the day very much including Edith who by now was fully recovered from her illness. Thank you Wolverhampton for all the work you put in to make it a very happy day.

We have been making jam and marmalade which went on our next Market Stall at Crewe on September 26th. We are very grateful to our member Louise who lives in Newcastle; she came all the way to Crewe to bring us a lot of things for the stall.

Our A.G.M. was held on October 1st. All the Officers were returned unchanged. This year we were able to send £300 to the Benevolent Fund. We have an invitation to the 8th Army Reunion in Stoke-on-Trent on October 24th, which several of us will be attending.

There will only be three members travelling to London this year for the Cenotaph Parade in November, our Chairman has deserted us to go on a cruise.

We have been busy planning and making arrangements for the Area Reunion to be held in Crewe in 1999. All the ground work has been done, things are progressing very well, and the proformas will be going out in January.

Our last fund raiser this year will be a Market Stall at Crewe on December 5th.

It has been suggested that we have our Christmas Lunch in January this time but we shall be seeing the Pantomime at Crewe Theatre in December. We then have a welcome break until February.

May we send our Good Wishes for 1999 to all our friends in the Association.

DARLINGTON AND SOUTH DURHAM

Announcing the birth of a new Branch

Last year I saw an advert on Teletext asking for WRAC girls to form a new club, now called the WRAC Dinner Club. I phoned Ann Deakin and promptly signed up for same. Until this time I knew nothing of the WRAC Association and through Ann joined this too. What a difference this has made to my life, the camaraderie of my youth now found with the friends I have made via both the Dinner Club and the Association. Last year I came home and set to work to find girls in my own area. The response I received was so good I just had to get us together. Last November saw our first meeting. Mrs Gwen Friday, NE Area Secretary and Secretary to the Cleveland Branch, came with three of her girls to help us get started. Since then we have steadily grown though we still have room for improvement. We meet on the 1st Thursday of the month

at 7.30pm, alternating between Darlington and Bishop Auckland. We were officially recognized in February 1998 and so by the time this goes to press we will be celebrating our 1st birthday.

At our start we had a majority of WRAC and 9 ATS. Last month in the local paper I saw an article re Two ATS ladies from Spennymoor, who had arranged a flower bed in their local park to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the ATS and had put on a display of ATS memorabilia at their local library. Mrs Maisie Waggott 81 (I'm sure she won't mind me telling you that) did an excellent job and has to be congratulated on her efforts along with her friend whose name, unfortunately, I do not know. I contacted Mrs Waggott and went to see her, and hopefully she and a number of her friends not already in the Association will soon be joining us. We think we are very lucky to find these ladies and have them with us.

Unfortunately I have to report the death of Mrs V Adams, who passed away after a long illness bravely born. Our condolences were sent to her family.

Our meetings are friendly, we have raffles, bingo, quizzes etc and hopefully for next year we intend to put on a display of WRAC memorabilia throughout the year at ten different libraries in our area and, with luck, will bring in more members out of the woodwork.

Congratulations 'Lioness' for an excellent magazine and the same to all the ladies who contribute articles for us to read. Well done. Lastly I would like to thank Ann Deakin for all the excellent work she has done over the past two years in getting us all together and thank you Ann for telling me about the Association.

EASTBOURNE

We have had a busy year. Members have visited Windsor Castle, the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and Pashley Manor gardens to listen to the Band of the Grenadier Guards who played in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

The South East Area celebrated the ATS 60th Anniversary in Hastings, thanks to the Hastings Branch who arranged everything from food to the Church Service and we did stop to see their floral crest on the way back.

The Towner Art Gallery and Museum showed us exhibits dating from Roman times onwards. The Art was much discussed and on leaving we were each given a selection of small gifts. Members and others have given talks with slides on a wide variety of subjects.

Our Standard was carried at the Remembrance Day Concert, the Blackpool March Past and at other Ceremonies.

We look forward to meeting new members who served in the A.T.S., the W.R.A.C. or in both. In April we lost Olive Jones who had served in both for a total of twenty-three years.

FIFE AND TAYSIDE

An informal coffee morning was held at the home of one of our members Miss Beatrice Arthur, in May, to 'test' a cake plate which we presented to her, for making so much tablet for us over the years. The pattern on the plate was appropriately called 'Beatrice'.

We held a table sale on the 1st August at our local MENCAP club premises. They very kindly give us the use of their facilities, tables, crockery, urns etc and in turn we give them a small donation from our takings for the use of these. As we are both charities it is a two-way arrangement and works very well. We raised £147.

Quite a few of our members have been going to exotic climes this year for holidays, Canada, Hong Kong, The Greek Islands, and Italy to name but a few.

In the main we have had a quieter year than most but we are off to our Scottish A.G.M. to be held at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, on the 24th October, hosted by Edinburgh Branch. This venue is causing some excitement as a number of our members began their service there and can't wait to see the old place again. In fact at our last meeting two recent members Mrs I Collie and Mrs A Page realised that they had been in the same billet together, so the conversation just flowed. A few members have been put in touch who live in the same towns but were unaware of each other, so now they have company travelling to meetings which makes everything much easier and, best of all, companionable.

Our monthly meetings are still held at the Royal British Legion War Memorial Club and always on the last Thursday of every month, where we have lunch (three courses for under £4 - coffee extra). The catering is excellent and we extend a warm welcome to any members who are on holiday in our area to come and join us. We have a raffle, with each member bringing something along for the table. We arrive about 12 noon.

Our Christmas lunch this year will be at the Grampian Hotel, Perth on the 14th December.

Congratulations to our Branch Chair Lady Martha Bruce on becoming a Life Vice-President of the W.R.A.C. Association.

I'll conclude by saying we wish everyone a Happy 1999. May the Lioness go from strength to strength. Thanks to everyone concerned.

GRIMSBY

Greetings from Grimsby Branch to all members and a very Happy New Year - the last of the Century!

I remember a teacher at school in 1936 asking the class who would still be here in the year 2000 - not many hands went up! In those days, if you had your three score years and ten you were doing very well. We were all just into our teens, to be over seventy years was beyond our imagination. Sadly, several members of that class were to lose their lives in later years in World War II.

Grimsby Branch have had a busy year again. Our first outing this year was a Mystery Tour finishing up at Bradford for fish and chips, followed by a visit to an industrial museum and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Our Summer Fair in June was fairly well attended. The weather was appalling but we made a fair amount of money which will help with our contribution to the Benevolent Fund.

In July we were visited by our friends from Hull Branch. Our members were their usual generous selves and provided a wonderful buffet. We had an extra large raffle, refreshments and wound up the afternoon with a few games of Bingo. We

then bade them a fond farewell hoping it will not be too long before we all get together again.

August found us on the road again, this time to Harewood House. What a lovely place this is. In spite of a few showers we really enjoyed ourselves. Lovely gardens and the birds were beautiful. Thanks must go to Audrey Porter (our Chairman) as she plans all these outings for us. We really do appreciate all you do - Thank you Audrey!

The 18th September saw us on our way to Newcastle for our Northern Area Re-Union. We had decided to make a weekend of it and 21 of us, along with 8 of our friends from Hull who we picked up on the way, booked into the Stakis Hotel in Newcastle.

We stopped on the way at Durham to give people time to look around. Several members visited the Cathedral which is a majestic place. How did our forefathers manage to build in this manner with next to nothing in the way of tools?

We left Durham to go on to our Hotel to arrive in time for Dinner. Next day, we went to the Park Hotel at Tyneside for our Re-Union.

Now we are all getting things ready for our Christmas Fayre at the end of November and our Christmas Party in December.

Once again, Best Wishes to all members from Grimsby Branch,

HARROGATE

Our monthly meetings go from strength to strength - in fact our comfortable room (with use of kitchen) threatens to burst at the seams. We all seem to enjoy ourselves even at business meetings as well as the AGM - not everyone's idea of a fun afternoon out!



Gladys Robertson aged 21



Gladys on sentry duty a little later on!

What talent we have in our own Branch Barbara Dawson held us spellbound with her talk on British Canals - she has her own narrow boat and with her family uses it to great advantage. By contrast Vicky Radford gave us a wonderful demonstration of one of her many gifts - lace-making! Nimble fingers, sharp eyes and great patience are the key words!

A member of the Citizens Advice Bureau team came to one meeting to explain the work of the Bureau. How knowledgeable and versatile these volunteers have to be



Mrs Marjorie Harrison also on sentry duty.

and all monies needed have to be raised by voluntary contribution. Our annual trip was a great success. Twenty of us sallied forth to Eden Camp (we even picked a warm sunny day in this wretched summer) which is a Wartime POW Camp in North Yorkshire, taken over by a local business man and made into a Memory Land Museum Park. Lots to see and do and a splendid NAAFI (the tea is drinkable now!) I also enclose a wartime picture of Gladys aged 21 in 1945 which is of particular interest as she sent her uniform and photos to Eden Camp when it was being put together and there they were!

Sadly we said Farewell to one of our oldest members, Anne Davies, in September. She was a Territorial (4 figure number) and a lively member, attending our meeting a week before she died. Our Annual Effort for Charity raised £134.60 enabling us to make donations to local good causes as well as our own Benevolent Funds.

Twenty of us had a wonderful day out at Tynemouth when we attended our Annual Northern Area Reunion. Aren't we lucky to have folks who organise these events

HASTINGS

We imagine 1998 has been a year of memories for many who served in the A.T.S. and in this area it will be remembered for a long time to come.

In August the Mayor of Hastings inaugurated the Anniversary by attending a photo session in Gensing Gardens where Hastings Borough Council had planted our A.T.S. insignia. We really did appreciate the display.

Then came our 60th Anniversary Service in St. Matthews Church and we were delighted that Brigadier Nolan and Lt.Col. Soames were able to be with us. Out of just over 250 in the congregation, about 100 were ex A.T.S. who came from other South East Branches, the Jamaica Company A.T.S. and the Belize Company A.T.S. There were also some who were on holiday in the vicinity and made themselves known to us. The Service was supported by many of the other Ex-Service Associations in the Town and the Parade of Standards under the direction of C/Sgt Pelling, T.A., was most impressive. Following the Queen's Colour to



Brigadier Nolan with Joan Lovell inspecting standards following the SE area 60th Anniversary Service.

the Altar was our A.T.S. Standard carried by Mrs Kay Perfect of Canterbury Branch and our photograph shows her presenting it to the Padre, the Reverend Christopher Cook, in the Sanctuary. Margery Lucas sang 'Non Nobis Domine' and we are indeed fortunate to have such a soloist in Hastings Branch. In this area the letters A.T.S. are apt to be associated with a Tyre Company so to avoid any misunderstanding Monica Ellis commenced the Service with a resume of the work we undertook during the war!

During the following week we were invited to join Bexhill Branch when they planted a commemorative tree in Polgrove Park. Despite a Force 9 gale the event was very well attended and the hospitality following was excellent. We are delighted that this new Branch in our area is flourishing so well - congratulations May.

Later the same week we enjoyed an anniversary lunch party organised by Medway Branch - lovely food, an excellent speaker and a group of young singers rendering nostalgic war time songs. They appeared a little surprised at our variations of some of the words! Thank you Medway for a grand day.

So the year closes and next year is the turn of the W.R.A.C. May their events be as impressive and successful as ours have been and may the last year of a century in which we all played our part be a year of contentment and happy memories for all.

HEREFORD

We have been very busy this year raising extra funds in order to purchase a Branch Standard. Our thanks are due to several generous donations from members and organisations outside the Branch. On Saturday September 19th the Standard was Dedicated at St. Christophers Church, Stirling Lines, Hereford. A separate report has been sent to Lioness together with photographs.

In May we had a Cream Tea and a stall of 'bring and buy' goods. This was organised successfully by our Ross-on-Wye ladies and was profitable. We sent donations to R.B.L., B.L.E.S.M.A. and S.S.A.F.A. During June, four members travelled to Cardiff for a meeting with Cardiff and Swansea Branch members to discuss arrangements for the Millennium



Hereford Branch members with their newly dedicated standards

Reunion in April 2000. We offered £20 for a raffle prize and decided to run a handicraft stall with some memorabilia. In July we held a Car Boot Sale which in spite of bad weather made a profit of £74. Our meeting this month was held at the home of Mrs Jackie Neave where she prepared a splendid tea, huge raffle and lovely gifts to buy. The day was a great success and made over £100 for the Standard Fund. Mrs Neave was thanked and congratulated. In August Mrs Debbie Casey returned from living in Cyprus to a home in Tidworth so hopefully we shall meet up with her again. We held a Table Sale and this made a profit of £74.

Mrs Neave made two trips to Birmingham to purchase her uniform as she is to be our Standard Bearer. Mrs Helen Thomas, Birmingham Standard Bearer, has been immensely helpful and bought her her tie as a gift. We all thank Helen very much for her valuable assistance and wish her a speedy recovery from her recent operation.

In August we also nominated Mrs Ena Price to be our President. Ena was a founder of the Branch in Hereford and acted as Treasurer for the first four months. Mrs Phyl Bates and Mrs Win Birt attended the York Ack Ack reunion and had a wonderful time. In September we had a lovely day out at Wolverhampton for our Area reunion, fourteen of us attended and enjoyed it very much. We of course had our Standard dedicated and handed out raffle books for a November raffle. The Secretary sent an application for a Carpet Bed for the WRAC Golden Anniversary. The ATS Diamond Garden was a success in 1998.

HULL

We have a nucleus of members who regularly attend our meetings and support our fund raising efforts, usually between 14 and 20. Old Father Time is catching up with most of us and as our meeting room is up a flight of steep steps our members are to be admired for their loyalty to the Association.

In July, on a day which managed to keep fine, we took a trip over the Humber Bridge to visit Grimsby Branch. They always make us welcome, with games of Bingo and a Raffle followed by a good buffet tea.

Whilst there 8 of our members were able to complete arrangements to travel with Grimsby members for a weekend in Tynemouth and to attend the Northern Area Reunion.

In August we had a day outing to Leeds to visit their Market and then out to Roundhay to see the ATS flower bed which Leeds Branch had asked Leeds Parks Department to plant for them. This was well worth seeing, on the side of the main road where it could be seen by all passing traffic. The gardens were also a beautiful sight.

Nine of us attended our Northern Area Reunion in Tynemouth. It was a wonderful day, after weeks of dull East coast mist the sun shone brilliantly, the sea and sky were blue. Congratulations must go to Newcastle Branch for organising the Reunion, also to Col. Cook our Northern Area Chairman, and Mrs. Friday the Secretary. It must have been no easy task.

LEEDS

We have welcomed quite a few new members to our usual monthly meetings and we hope that they will enjoy our comradeship.

Members attended the A.A. week-end at Nantwich where we were blessed with glorious warm sunny weather in the middle of a miserable summer. Four members attended the Combined Services week-end at Bridlington where again the weather kept dry and at times quite warm.



Thank you May Conley for your contribution to the Leeds Branch.

The City of Leeds Parks Dept laid out a beautiful A.T.S. Badge to commemorate our 60th Birthday and invited members to congregate for a photo call. A similar Badge was displayed in Ilkley, the work of Bradford Parks Dept, so we were certainly honoured in West Yorkshire.

We had our usual full turn-out at York: many of us still able to join the March Past. What a joy these re-unions have turned out to be.

Our few days holiday in Whitley Bay exceeded all expectations as once again the weather was hot and sunny not cold and wet as it had been up to then. We enjoyed the Northern Area Lunch much better being on the spot, arriving in time to chat and circulate and not being rushed to get away immediately after the entertainment. The Battle of Britain Parade on Sunday was a bonus as was the hospitality shown by the R.A.F.A. members. A week-end to remember.

Our President, May Conley, was duly presented with her Certificate for Meritorious Service to the W.R.A.C. Association by Colonel Stead, we all join in wishing her well.

Cards and presents were sent to Elizabeth Bustard on the occasion of her 80th Birthday.

We now look forward to hard work for the Poppy Appeal and attendance at Remembrance Services followed by a Christmas Party and a visit to the Pantomime.

LEICESTER AND NOTTS

1998 has been a pleasant year so far for our branch. We have continued our meetings each month and have had speakers at some of them. One of our members, Miss Barbara Hewitt, gave us a very interesting talk on National Trust Gardens, supported by slides, and we had a speaker from the Norfolk Lavender Company who showed videos on the growing and harvesting of lavender. In May we had Sgt Major Bockenham and Sgt Howard from the Army Careers Office to tell us about the modern day army, again supported by videos. There was some laughter and some questions - ours was a completely different world and I wonder if the companionship is the same without the trauma of a war.



Leicester and Notts branch members and guests at the ATS 60th Celebration Tea, June 1998

We held a Buffet Tea in June in celebration of the 60th Birthday of the A.T.S., inviting members of the W.A.A.F., W.R.N.S., and Land Army Associations and some members from our friends at Ashby Branch.

Our Chairman Miss Doris White started the proceedings with a brief history of the A.T.S. then inviting our guests to eat the mountains of food supplied by our members. We also had a large cake with the A.T.S. badge iced on the top. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon with our guests, ending with an excellent lady singer who encouraged us to join in with her.

June turned out to be a special month for us. We had asked our City Council if they would have our A.T.S. badge on one of the city's flowerbeds but after phone calls and correspondence they informed us that the City couldn't afford to do this. However one of our Nottingham members Mrs

Barbara Danter approached the council in West Bridgford and they agreed to a flowerbed at West Bridgford and she also managed to get another at Wollaton Hall in Nottingham. So, on June 23rd our members took the 'Stagecoach' to West Bridgford and our badge was laid out in all its glory. Barbara organised this day and did a brilliant job. We had the Mayor and Civic Dignitaries join us, and the two gardeners responsible for setting this bed with no less than 10,500 plants. We also contacted members who live in the Nottingham area and some were able to join us which was good because the distance for them to our branch meetings in Leicester is too far. We had a speech by the Mayor and Barbara replied and also read out a greeting from the Lady in Waiting to the Queen. After many photos Barbara then led us to a small hall where she with the help of two friends had laid on a super buffet for us. We had a really lovely happy day.

In July, about 15 of our members made their way again to Nottingham to Wollaton Hall to view the lovely flowerbed badge placed outside Wollaton Hall. This is a really beautiful place and the flowerbeds are a sight to behold. It is being entered in the City in Bloom competition and also the Entente Floral contest.

At our August meeting we welcomed several new members and we hope they spend many happy years with us. Our only regret is that we cannot get the younger W.R.A.C. members to join us and so eventually carry on the branches.

September saw our members out for the afternoon at a Barbecue hosted by two of our members Doris Doswell and Irene Bell with the help of some friends at their Sailing Club. The weather was a bit mixed but the eating area was under cover and we all stayed dry during the showers except for the ladies who were brave enough to go for a boat trip round the lake - the heavens opened and it poured just for a short while but it didn't seem to dampen their spirits. We had a good selection of food cooked to perfection, plenty of hot drinks and a really good time enjoyed by everybody. We now have our Harvest Auction to look forward to in October and our A.G.M. in November, then comes Christmas and the year is at an end again.

Seven of our members made the visit to Wolverhampton for the Area Reunion and had a pleasant afternoon. Our Standard Bearer, Mrs Vi Rawlins, continues to represent us at different parades along with some of our more able members.

Our thanks to our members who have made this such a happy year and also to those who don't get to our meetings but support us with gifts and donations to our funds. It is greatly appreciated, and we send you all our best wishes.

LONDON

To celebrate the ATS 60th Anniversary our enterprising Treasurer, Gladys Stewart, decided to find out if she could bring together all the ex-ATS in the Bromley/Orpington area. She set about publicising the event on Kent Radio, in the local press and shoppers news etc and the result was more than 70 phone calls expressing interest. The Orpington TA allowed her the use of their hall one Saturday in September and about fifty ladies turned up, braving very heavy rain, for

two hours of reminiscences. Kay Hind, who had served with the RAPC in Leicester, caused a ROAR OF SURPRISE when she took off her raincoat to reveal her ATS uniform which she had just managed to squeeze into! Everyone was eager to exchange name and units and most had never heard of the WRAC Association and immediately joined as new members and several more since. Gladys managed to put one lady, who had served in the Army Post Office like herself, in touch with people she had served with including the girl who had been her bridesmaid. It was a very successful effort. Over the year the branch has had 28 new members.

Beryl Barker and Edna Hall managed to persuade Wandsworth Council to put a small plaque, commemorating the ATS in the Herb Garden in Battersea Park. On grounds of cost they could not do a flower badge but this is in fact preferable as it will be permanent - set in concrete. Marjorie Monkman who served in No 2 WO YC at Beaumanor Hall approached Hillingdon Council who were pleased to plant an ATS badge at Northwood.

Our second coach trip of the year was to Waddesdon to see the Rothschild Collection. Although only built in the 19th century it transports you to 16th century France and is a truly memorable experience.

The London Area Reunion at Luton was attended by 21 members and we had a most enjoyable day. We thank the members of Luton Branch for all their hard work.

We had our annual Quiz against members of the RBL Women's Section and the WRNS Association in August, and once more failed to wrest the cup from the Senior Service but made a creditable showing and came second. At the September meeting Mary Curtis showed us slides of an extensive tour of New Zealand earlier this year. This is always a great treat and this time she surprised us with a slide which showed an unexpected meeting with one of our members, Janet Reeve, who was also holidaying in New Zealand. ATS pop up everywhere don't they?

MEDWAY

September was a busy month; on the 6th of September we joined other Branches at Hastings for a service to mark the sixty years of formation, many thanks to the members for making us welcome and putting on such a wonderful lunch. On September 12th the Medway Branch held a party to mark the sixty years with a speaker and entertainment by the Global Theatre Group, a buffet was laid on and we had the cake made by the Royal Engineers Officers' Mess staff, what a wonderful job they made of it.

The Ack Ack Reunion held in York was attended by three members and a further four members went to the WRAC Dinner Club, all enjoyed the events.

Helen Dodd has stepped down as the Chairman of the Branch, Helen has been on the Committee for fifteen years. Thank you Helen, sadly there has been no replacement.

Money raising must be looked at as the charity stalls are bringing few people to these events.

Several members hope to attend the Westminster Abbey service and the Cenotaph parade this coming November. Others hope to go to their local services.

Our Christmas lunch has been booked in Rochester for twenty two people and many members will join others at Guildford in April 1999 for the AGM.

NEWCASTLE

We are still thriving and seeing 45-50 regular attenders at our meetings in the Newcastle Companions Club on the third Thursday of each month 12-3pm.

Inevitably as with most branches we have one or two who are unable, due to illness or incapacity, to attend regularly.

Some of us were at the York reunion of A-A Command in August, whilst others took a bus ride to the Skipton area. The weather was not too kind to them and they had to forego a river trip, though all enjoyed a good lunch.

On September 19th with Col Cook we hosted the Northern Area Reunion at the Park Hotel, Tynemouth where approximately 230 sat down to lunch. Entertainment was provided by a well known organist and our own Newcastle Branch concert party. The ladies of this party dressed up in glamorous outfits and greeted the guests on arrival - with raffle tickets! The weather was sunny and warm and most enjoyed the extensive sea views and walks in the area. As is usual on these occasions, as well as the raffle, a collection was taken for the Benevolent Fund.

NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

1997 ended and 1998 began with the sad news of the deaths of five of our dear members: Enid Cox in December 1997, Crystal Reeman in December 1997, Nellie Broughton in January 1998, Margery Wells in February 1998 and Ruby Nichols in April 1998.

The Branch continues to be quite active with speakers, raffles, bring and buys, outings, etc. Although we gained two new members for 1998, because of the loss of some members and others discontinued for several reasons, our membership is now a little reduced standing at 59 life members and 85 annual.

On 16th January we held our W.R.A.C. Association luncheon, 35 members attended. As it was our oldest member's birthday on the same day we gave her a nice birthday surprise in the form of a large birthday cake and a huge card signed by members beforehand.

On May 11th several members once again travelled to Great Yarmouth where a service was held at the A.T.S. Plaque, and flowers were placed in the vase in memory of our comrades. Also attending the service was one survivor of the day of 11th May 1943 and a sister of one of the victims. Coffee and biscuits were served in the Palm Court Hotel after the service. It is always a very moving service and we wish to thank Mrs Beryl Coupar



Wolverhampton Branch



*Photo taken in Fululee Park,
Spennymoor, Co. Durham,
23rd July 1998.*



Hastings Branch 60th Anniversary



*Carpet Bed with members of Bradford Branch
at Ilkley.*



Bolton Branch.



Blackpool

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Just 8 of the 24 who meet in Coventry once a month.



Oldham's contribution to our 60th Anniversary.



Norfolk and Suffolk



*September 5th 1998
Floral Display Dedication, Aylesbury Branch W.R.A.C.*



Medway Branch



*Leicester & Notts Branch
Some of the Members visiting A.T.S. Badge
at Wollaton Hall, Notts, July 1998.
The Gardeners were just about to start
trimming and weeding - getting ready for
City in Bloom Competition*

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L to R: Alice Lofty, Colin Roome (Head of Conservation), Marjorie Monkman.



Sunderland Branch 1998.



Aylesbury Branch



*Bury Branch W.R.A.C.
Eden Camp September 13th
Outside Flat 8 with the Board.*



*Leeds Branch and the beautiful floral A.T.S.
60th Birthday display
by Leeds Parks Department.*



*60 Years Anniversary Jubilee Park, July 23rd 1998
A.T.S. Diamond Celebration,
Spennymoor, Co. Durham - 1938 to 1998.*



Floral display outside North West Leicestershire Offices, with members.



Salisbury Branch – Garden Display.



*Leeds Branch
Our 60th Birthday Floral Badge in Ilkley.*



*ATS Garden, Castle Green, Hereford,
July 7th 1998.*



Coventry Branch



*Leicester & Notts Branch
Meeting at Floral Arrangement of ATS Badge
at West Bridgford, 23rd June 1998.*

and her members from Great Yarmouth for all the help in arranging things.

On our first outing for 1998 seventeen members enjoyed a Forties Style tea party and entertainment at the Highwayman at Chichester.

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On July 2nd twenty-six members enjoyed a very exciting day as guests of the 100th Air Refuelling Wing of the United States Air Force at RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk. The day started with lunch in the Galaxy Club and ended with a visit aboard an Air to Air StratoTanker, courtesy of the actual crew. The weather kept fine and the visit was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our 60th Special Day on September 9th was celebrated at RAF Duxford Imperial War Museum where a room in part of the old World War II 19 Squadron RAF building was provided for us, courtesy of the Duxford Marketing Office. A buffet lunch was provided by the Chairman and committee members and a large celebration cake, complete with our badge, dates and the words '60th Anniversary' all displayed on the cake in coloured icing. Our guests for the day were a group of Normandy Veterans from the Norwich N.V.A. Although it was a very windy day it did keep fine. I am sure everyone who attended the celebrations had a day to be remembered.

We wish to thank our members for the support they give to the branch. We look forward now to our Christmas outing and our Christmas party, and hope come 1999 we will have another good year.



Norfolk and Suffolk Branch at Duxford

PLYMOUTH

The steam railway trip in May was a resounding success, a lovely day enjoyed by all. This was followed by the Area Reunion.

On 17th June our Chairman, Mrs Doris McCoy, welcomed members from Exeter, Wincanton and Somerset to the South West Area reunion, visiting secretaries updated us on branch activities. The General Secretary, Mrs White, and Vice President, Brigadier Helen Meechie, brought us up to

date with Association business. The Brigadier concluded her talk by presenting a framed 'Certificate of Appreciation' to Plymouth President, Mrs Lenora Hannaford, for outstanding service to the Branch since it was formed in 1978.

At midday the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Councillor Mrs Eileen Evans JP, extended a civic welcome to everyone and joined us for a delicious lunch served by Brian and Jean Stedman. After lunch we were all held enthralled by Major Maclean of the Royal Logistic Corps who told us of her service in Angola, for which she was awarded the QCVS, so very different from the tasks performed by the ATS during



The Lord Mayor of Plymouth and Councillor Mrs Eileen Evans lunching with the Plymouth Branch.

the 39/45 war. The Major expressed her admiration for the work of the ATS who she described as her military foremother and said she appreciates that she could not do what she does today if it hadn't been for their ground breaking efforts. A well deserved tribute, coming as it does in the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Auxiliary Territorial Service. Well done ladies, Mrs Pankhurst would have been proud of you! The day concluded with a bumper raffle, Plymouth Branch are grateful to all who gave such generous prizes.

In July, Mrs Hennessey gave us an insight into the magnificent work of the Devon Air Ambulance, often working under very difficult conditions, we pray we will never have to avail ourselves of their services. The Army Benevolent Fund collection day was deemed a success; in fact it was so successful we have been asked to raise funds again by selling raffle tickets outside one of our major stores! (are we too successful for our own good?). Once again Ruth, our Looe Island trip organiser, was thanked, several members so enjoyed the first visit they returned with the second contingent.

Our main project now is 'THE SEAT'. To have a lasting commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the ATS we are having a seat installed on Plymouth Hoe bearing a plaque inscribed with the ATS badge on the left followed by:

"Commemorating the 60th anniversary
of the Auxiliary Territorial Service
formed 9th September 1938.
Donated by the Plymouth Branch
WRAC Association 1998."

And finally, I attended the 2nd WRAC dinner at Stafford over the weekend Oct 2nd-4th and I cannot praise the event highly enough. The accommodation was first class, the food fit for a King, the company was terrific and the organisation by Ann Deakin was impeccable. 'Thank you Ann' is a simple phrase and it does not express what I actually feel but if I could give a medal for service to our cause you would have the gold.

We will have an interesting list of speakers for 1999, so visitors in Plymouth on the first Monday in the month are welcome to join us in the Royal Fleet Club, Devonport for a little local entertainment.

PORTSMOUTH

The past year has been fairly quiet after 1997 with the reunion at Blackpool and several big parades we attended, although it seemed every time we paraded it rained. The Remembrance Parade November 1997 was the worst ever with hailstones, thunder, lightning and heavy rain, therefore, for the first time in 20 years we had to go inside the Guildhall.

During the year we attended the AGM in London and the local ANZAC parade in April. The D Day and Falklands services were attended with our standard and we did not get wet.

Everyone enjoyed the trip to the Isle of Wight for their lunch at Newport. For the Area reunion at Aldershot we hired a coach and 21 members including some from the Isle of Wight attended. Once again it rained most of the day but the reunion went well.

In September four members attended the Southampton Branch 50th anniversary lunch at the County Hotel. This was a very enjoyable event and we were made very welcome.

This year we have held several fund raising events at Portsmouth, coffee mornings at the homes of Mrs Joan Jelley and Miss Teddie Bray on behalf of the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds. The highlight of the year however was our 60th ATS Anniversary American Tea Party held at the home of Mrs Mary Lindsey, where we had a birthday cake made by our member Miss Geraldine Norfor which was duly cut with a sword. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon with about 22 members present. We shall be holding another tea party in October at the home of Mrs Joy Elmer and a lunch at the Royal British Legion, Fratton, Portsmouth, in November. This year will end as usual with the November Remembrance Parade which we hope will be dry. During the year our standard bearer Mrs Phyllis Price has carried our standard at all the parades in all weathers and we are all very proud of her.

RHYL

We at Rhyl have had a very hectic six months. We started in April by travelling to Rochdale to their 15th Birthday Party, what an excellent buffet and afternoon we had.

In May we were invited to join our friends from the Normandy Veterans Association at a dinner and knees-up.

June was even busier. On Sunday 7th we again joined the Normandy Veterans on their D Day parade at Prestatyn. On the 18th we held our Annual Social Afternoon where we were joined by over 80 of our comrades from other branches. We always look forward to this as we meet old and new friends and have lots of fun. We are already busy planning next years event where we hope to see everyone again.

On the very next day, twelve of us were up early travelling to the Combined Services Weekend at Bridlington. This was a great weekend, both with the weather and the events held over the two days. There were lots of A.T.S. ladies on the parade on the Sunday, we will definitely be going again.

July began with us joining Wilmslow at their branch party, another fantastic afternoon, where they again put on a wonderful buffet; and then we were entertained by a super troupe of dancers. Well done Wilmslow, we certainly learned a few things from you. July 12th saw five of our members attend Manchester Cathedral to mark the 60th Anniversary of the A.T.S. Association. Our Secretary Jean Lander had the honour of carrying the A.T.S. Standard on behalf of the Association. The weather helped to make this a baptism of fire for her. She did manage not to get blown off her feet, and kept the standard upright. She enjoyed the experience and the honour of the occasion.

August 2nd saw ten of our members on parade yet again, this was for the Rhyl Festival. Three other members were away at this time at Imphal Barracks for their Annual Anti Aircraft Reunion where they meet up with old friends year after year. August the 5th saw twenty of us enjoying a lunch as guests of the Dunkirk Veterans.

All of us at Rhyl take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

ROCHDALE

After our successful 15th Birthday celebration, which was reported in the last issue, we omitted to mention the donations made. These were £50 to Princess Mary Fund, £25 to the Mayor's Charity Appeal and £25 to the Women's Memorial Fund.



Rochdale Branch Parade with their standard

The beginning of January saw some of us beetling off to our various Town Halls, etc, to ask for help with our A.T.S. 60th Anniversary. Rochdale came up trumps with a park bench complete with commemorative plaque, situated in a lovely rose garden. Oldham gave us a beautiful floral display depicting the A.T.S. in its garden. The plaque is in the garden of Chadderton Town Hall. We are indebted to both these local authorities for their kindness and courtesy on our behalf. Manchester City Council, however, were unable to accommodate us without some considerable monetary contribution which, of course, we were unable to provide. After speaking with an official from the Lord Mayor's office however, we are led to believe that they may be able to do something for us next year!

On 2nd July, eight of our members visited the Wilmslow Branch for their party, which was a very successful lunch followed by some great entertainment by a group of tap dancing ladies. The venue was the British Legion Branch and was enjoyed by all.

On July 12th all our members attended a service at Manchester Cathedral in honour of the 50th Anniversary of the Womens Section of the British Legion and the 60th Anniversary of the A.T.S. This was a very moving experience and special mention was made of women from all walks of life who helped to "win the war".

On 8th September we joined in a march through Manchester followed by a buffet in Manchester Town Hall.

We joined our friends in Bury for their 60th Anniversary Lunch, then we had the opportunity to see their plaque which was to be taken to Eden Camp later that week. We are hoping that our plaque from Oldham might end up in the Womens Section of the Army Museum in Ashton Town Hall.

Needless to say, we are all now looking forward to the Christmas celebrations.

SALISBURY

We were made very welcome at St Thomas's Church in July when our new Standard was dedicated at the beginning of the morning service. Standard bearer was Alison Ogden, escorts Joan Morgan and Gladys Pope.



The Salisbury Branch enjoying the Summer.

Also in July our meeting was held at the home of Brigadier Helen Meechie and Lieutenant Colonel Val Trout. The weather was very kind to us as we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch in the garden.

SCARBOROUGH

In January we enjoyed our Christmas Lunch at the Delmont Hotel and selected presents from the Bran Tub.

During February we held our Branch meeting at a member's house together with a Bring and Buy Sale. We then enjoyed a very good buffet lunch provided by our host.

Our meeting in March was held at the Wine Bar in the town and the North East Group Secretaries meeting was held at Imphal Barracks in York.

In May we discussed and arranged the programme for future meetings. In June we attended the Combined Services Annual Reunion in Bridlington and chose Eden Camp for our Branch outing in July. We also had a table top sale as part of the local Gala.

Again in August we met at a member's house with yet another delicious lunch and viewed a video of the last Ack Ack Reunion.

At the September meeting members showed their photographs taken of various events during the year.

SHROPSHIRE

In May we had an Elegant Necklace Competition, won by Eunice Clark. "Dawley Day", also in May, (mentioned in the last Report), raised £52 for us.

At the June Meeting we participated in Flower Readings with a local Clairvoyant, a new experience for us, which proved very interesting.

To celebrate our Branch's 18th Birthday in July, we went to the "Bucks Head" Wellington, and enjoyed a very nice meal.

Our very talented member Lilian Boardman has won the "International Editors Choice Award" for her Poetry, also a medallion and plaque, the title of the poem was "Memories".

Our Lucy, being one of the Lady Gunners, went to the Ack Ack Reunion at York in August and had a great time.

On September 2nd, our AGM was held with the same committee members being reinstated.

On September 12th we journeyed to Wolverhampton for the Reunion, enjoying our day out and winning back the raffle prize we had taken!

Once again on September 13th, our energetic and zealous member Scott Mills, took part in the Charity Walk, around 6 miles, in aid of the "Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice", collecting £63, mostly from our members.

Still in September, this time travelling to attend the Hereford Dedication Service of their new Branch Standard, which was a very moving and memorable occasion, the buffet afterwards in the British Legion Club, was excellent. Unfortunately our standard bearer, Lucy, couldn't attend,

due to illness, which was very disappointing for her and us; we're pleased to say she is now recovering.

Finally, September 26th, found us very busy, catering for a special party for members of the Dawley Rest Room; much dashing to and fro with a glass of Sherry and a good old Sing Song with Roy on the organ. From this event we were able to donate £50 to the Benevolent Fund.

Four of our members attended the "ATS Dinner Club" luncheon, on October 3rd at the Albany Hotel, Birmingham; we had a marvellous time, a delicious meal, and the "Film Show" afterwards gave us some laughs, transporting us back to the Good Old ATS Days!!

On October 4th, we commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the ATS, at the Garrison Church Donnington. The service was officiated by the Padre Rev Cable, the lesson was read by Chris Grigg. We had a Plaque installed in the church, donated by Chris Grigg, the inscription on it was kindly paid for by Norma Robinson, who has now moved to Annan, Scotland, and hopes to join the Dumfries Branch.

Events for the remainder of the year include:

Civil Sunday - October 25th, Remembrance Day Service and Parade, a visit to the Houses of Parliament, our Xmas Party, a Senior Citizens Xmas Party.

We shall be starting the New Year with our Annual Dinner.

We thank all our members and friends for their help during this past year, and we remember our members who cannot join us at our meetings. We wish you all good health and happiness for the future.

SOUTHAMPTON

We have had various speakers during the past six months, these included a Southampton City Tour Guide, a local Historian, "Canine Partners for Independence", one of our own members who served on the Queen boats for 30 years and a slide show on "Southampton - then and now".

Two members attended the 100th Anniversary of the RAMC at the Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley, where one of our ladies met a fellow serving member she had not seen for over 20 years. A very successful and enjoyable buffet lunch and bring and buy was held in the garden of the daughter of one of our members, which considerably boosted our funds.

Quite a few of us went along in various forms of transport to the South Area Re-union at Aldershot on the wettest day for some long time, but nevertheless we enjoyed our day out, finding in particular the visit to the Museums very interesting, plus the video of the closing of the Guildford Camp, a very apt film.

This year was the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Branch, and to celebrate we had a special lunch in a local hotel on 19th September for which friends from the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Branches joined us, together with our special guest Brigadier Anne Field, CB, CBE.

It was an excellent lunch in charming surroundings and was a grand opportunity to renew old friendships and reminisce. The occasion ended with tea and a splendid cake decorated with the badges of the three Corps.



Brigadier Field cutting the 50th Anniversary Cake at Southampton

This year we were happy to welcome four new members to the Branch, two ex-ATS and two ex-WRAC. However, very sadly we lost two of our long standing members, Mrs Dorrie Eley (née Masters) and Mrs Ursula Harvey-Francks (née Bury). Neither was able to attend meetings for some time, but happily Dorrie Eley came along to the Buffet Lunch and bring and buy which she so much enjoyed and we enjoyed seeing her again.

SOUTHPORT

In May, members of our Branch attended a family service at St. Cuthberts Church, the oldest church in Southport. We do this each year, and take our Standard which is paraded and carried by one of the Church Guides.

The Clergy take this opportunity to tell the younger members of the Church a little about us and what we used to do. The photograph is of a few of our members outside the Church.

We have also, by invitation joined with the W.A.A.F. Association in a days outing which was very enjoyable.

Our monthly meetings are well attended and are happy get togethers.



*Outside St. Cuthberts Church, Southport
Peggy Dawson, Maud Ward, Muriel Marshall,
Renee Cleverley, Jean Turpin.
Our little standard bearer in the middle.*

STAFFORD

Since our last report to the Lioness we have gained two new members. Unfortunately, one of our Life members, Mrs Olive Hardy (née Lloyd) died in September. Our total membership remains at 58.

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In February we enjoyed a visit from Stafford's new Superintendent of Police, Mrs Norma Cartwright who spoke about her early life and how she became a Policewoman.

During March a coffee morning was held at the home of one of our members, and in April our Branch Birthday lunch was celebrated by 22 members at the Bridge Restaurant in Penkridge.

We had a most interesting talk in June by a lady who is completely deaf, on the training and importance of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. She was accompanied by her own dog to demonstrate how they work together.

July was quiet but in August 20 members enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Red Lion, Bradley and our President, Mrs Ruth Dickson, kindly invited us to her home. A very pleasant evening was had by all.

Seven members went to the Wales and West Reunion at Wolverhampton in September and thoroughly enjoyed the day - a very nice venue, good food and pleasant company. Well done Wolverhampton! Ann Deakin and Marjorie Powell attended the dedication of the Hereford standard and were very proud to be asked to act as escorts. The Battle of Britain Service and Parade on September 20th brought an end to our summer activities.

We shall be busy during the coming months preparing, with Crewe and Shropshire Branches, for the Wales and West Reunion 1999.



All in together girls - the Stafford Branch enjoying a get together.

STOCKPORT

The ladies of the Stockport Branch meet every 2nd Tuesday at the Armoury, Stockport and we have an excellent membership.

In March we visited the Buxton Catering College in the High Peak District and enjoyed lunch which was served by the students who had prepared and cooked the meal. This

lunch would have put more experienced personnel to shame. The bar was also staffed by the students and a very good job they made of it.

In April we went to visit the ladies at the Rochdale branch who had visited us to share in their birthday celebrations. The ladies did us proud with a very nice afternoon tea followed by tombola and raffles, the Stockport girls winning with some notable prizes. The Mayor of Rochdale made a very handsome donation to our memorial fund for which we all thank her.

The month of May found the girls en-route to Eden Camp in Malton, Yorkshire. Again a very nice outing and very interesting to be reminded of what was - then.

June saw us all in Rhyl once again. We are invited each year and we all look forward to meeting old friends once again.

On July 2nd some of our ladies made their way to Wilmslow where we had been invited to join the members there for an afternoon assembly. We met again with the ladies from Rhyl and Rochdale among others.

The Wilmslow ladies entertained us with a troupe of Dancing Ladies called Dancarama followed by the raffle, and an auction closed a very enjoyable afternoon.

Sunday July 12th we were invited to Manchester to join the Royal British Legion South Lancashire Womens Section who were celebrating their 50th anniversary. A service was held in the Cathedral Church commencing with several Royal British Legion standards being paraded and our own A.T.S. standard which was proudly carried by Jean Lander of the Rhyl branch. This was a first for Jean and she did an admirable job. After the service everyone formed up for a parade which ended with the salute being taken by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire. Three wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, the Royal British Legion Women's Section and the Auxiliary Territorial Service. There was a short service at the Cenotaph after which we all went into the Town Hall for afternoon tea. Our thanks to the ladies for allowing us to join in with the celebrations of their Birthday as it was the 60th birthday of the A.T.S. and a prayer was said on our behalf. Many thanks to the Ladies' Chairman for allowing us to join them.

SUNDERLAND

In May we had an outing to Millstones. It was a celebration of V.E. Day and we enjoyed a meal followed by entertainment appropriate to that time, a sing-along, dancing and an excellent banjo player.

In August, thanks to sterling work by one of our members, Mrs Gladys Atkinson who approached the Parks Committee, the Mayor of Sunderland and Vaux Breweries for sponsorship, two plaques commemorating the 60th Birthday of the A.T.S. were sited in flower-beds in Mowbray Park. The Mayor of Sunderland joined us for the ceremony and a photograph of the occasion appeared in the "Sunderland Echo".

A "Hotpot and Stotty Cake" lunch was arranged for our October meeting and the Christmas Lunch booked.

We usually have an attendance of 20 plus at our monthly meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month and we are shortly hoping to run a Recruitment Campaign.

ULSTER

Since our last report we have held three social occasions.

Our Annual Luncheon was held in February when 52 members attended including 3 members from Omagh Branch.

We held our outing to Ballymena and Ballymoney with a beautiful meal at Aughadoey Presbyterian Church prepared by the ladies of the church.

On 3rd October, 22 members travelled to Omagh branch for their Annual Luncheon and since it was the 60th birthday of the ATS they had a lovely cake with ATS logo on it.

WILMSLOW

Our monthly meetings have been well attended and we have reminisced about our Summer holidays.

We have discussed the CARDIFF 2000 and some of us who hope to attend have already booked their Hotels.

In July we hosted our first Branch Party at our meeting place the RBL Wilmslow. We catered for 90 members from other Branches in the North West. We have had many compliments from our visitors for the hospitality and the excellent lunch. Thanks to everyone especially to our members who worked hard to make it such a success.

In September some of our members met for lunch at the Courtyard in Knutsford, famous for its collection of Penny Farthing bicycles and a free cup of tea for anyone arriving on such a bicycle.

By the time this is printed we will have been to London for the Remembrance Parade and a visit to the Phoenix Theatre to see "Blood Brothers". We will go as usual to the Garden of Remembrance at St. Margaret's, where we will plant small wooden crosses on behalf of members and associates.

Arrangements have been made for our Christmas Lunch at the Pinewood Hotel, Handforth.

We would like to wish all our members who have had operations or are not too well a speedy recovery and to let you know that we are thinking of you.

WIMBLEDON

Attendance at our meetings throughout the Summer months has averaged 20 and we have been pleased to welcome some new members.

In April we had a very interesting illustrated talk about the History of Kew Gardens. They are easily accessible to many of our members and many spoke of childhood visits during their school holidays.

One of our fund raising events was held in May and our Treasurer was pleased to report that £88 had been raised. This meeting was well supported and thanks to all those who brought things for sale and contributed to the money collected.

In June we celebrated the arrival of summer (?) with a party. Members arrived with a good selection of eats and we had an enjoyable afternoon.

We asked our members to talk about their hobbies and interests in July and although quite a few people were on holiday those who attended were surprised to learn about dressmaking skills, patchwork and sculpting. A member also described things she had learnt during a long period of convalescence.

We were lucky this year in the choice of a Sunday to visit our President's home in August - the sun shone and it did not rain. We all contributed to the tea and sat in the garden admiring her flowers and enjoying ourselves. Thank you to Iris and Geoff.

We were visited in September by a speaker from British Gas who brought with her samples of aids to assist people with arthritis and those with poor sight more easily to manage the controls on cookers etc. We were also given leaflets explaining who to contact for help and ways to reduce our heating costs.

A number of our members travelled to Luton on the day after our meeting to attend the London Area Re-union. They were very interested in the talk by a gentleman from S.S.A.F.A. and also from the T.V. cook - Zena Skinner.

WINCANTON

Since our last report we have had a busy year with interesting speakers. For example, a talk by an Army Officer captured at Dunkirk who spent 5 years in a prisoner of war camp, and another soldier who spent his war in West Africa.

Then there was a talk about an expedition to South Georgia to study the wildlife there.

We also had our characters read from our handwriting which you could imagine caused great hilarity!

One of our members, a Social Worker, spoke on the benefits that are available to our members and afterwards put us through our paces with gentle keep-fit exercises.

In June, we organised a Tombola Stall at the Wincanton Street Market and later in the month celebrated our birthday at a new venue at an old Inn in Dorset, which was enjoyed by all our members.

Many of our ladies attended the South West Re-union which seemed to start off disastrously because the coach failed to arrive. However, with great A.T.S. resourcefulness one of

our members managed to produce a replacement vehicle and we arrived late but triumphant.

Our next outing will be to Ottery St. Mary garden centre for lunch and Killerton National Trust gardens in the afternoon. Let's hope for a fine day.

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The South West Re-union will be on the 28 September 1999.

WOLVERHAMPTON

The latter half of 1998 has been an eventful time in more ways than one. The Secretary unfortunately had a nasty fall and so has been out of action, her place was kindly taken by Mary Davies.

Wolverhampton Council kindly planted a Badge of Flowers in West Park to commemorate 60 years of the formation of the A.T.S.

Our outing this year was to Hatton Country World in Warwick and all who went thoroughly enjoyed it. Members

of the Branch went to the Edinburgh Tattoo, where the Announcer gave out "Congratulations to the A.T.S. as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary. Mrs Beeston and colleagues, former members of the A.T.S. are here today - congratulations to all A.T.S."

The highlight of our year was on 12th September when we hosted the Wales & West Area Reunion at Wolverhampton University, Compton Park Campus. This was a great success. The University provided the meal which was most enjoyable and the entertainment was by the Connerlea Handbell Ringers from Stafford. Many thanks to Mary Davies who organised the Reunion and to all members of Wolverhampton Branch who each played their part; every member had a job and carried it through with enthusiasm. The final figure to be sent to the Benevolent Fund has been estimated as approx £600.

Unfortunately, we end on a sad note, we have lost another member - Emily Perkins who died in September. She will be sadly missed.

Barracks Still Standing

HURON CAMP REVISITED

Mrs C Bass, née Pte Rooney, Ann Archer, Joan Wilson, Eileen Sutcliffe, Dawn Simmonds and Pamela Parker recently revisited the site of Huron Camp (near Hindhead) where they also met Alison (Senior) Schofield who had been a trainer at Huron.

Sadly the camp is no longer standing and has gone back to mother nature but the group remembered that the Canadians had been at the camp when it was called Bramshott from 1914 through to the Second World War. The camp was closed in the 1960's. Mrs Bass remembered the visit of the Queen Mother to the camp and has found the original press report from 1954, it makes interesting reading.

We meet again:



WRAC Reunion at Liphook

UPDATE ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH BARRACKS, GUILDFORD

Many thanks to everyone who contacted me following the account of my visit to the Camp which appeared in the August issue of "Lioness" (1998 No. 2). I very much enjoyed speaking to you all and hearing your memories, particularly of the early days before the Camp was re-built in the 1960s.

Visit Number 2

Since then, Lt Col Chris Berry of HQ 4th Division at Aldershot very kindly arranged for a group of us to pay a visit on 3 September 1998; Valerie Beedell-Maybee, (No. W/401046), Sally Beadle, (No. 0815745), their long-suffering husbands and myself. Mr Mike Cope, (who was incorrectly referred to once as David in my previous article), again did an excellent job of showing us around.



The Square, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford
From L to R:

Sally Beadle, Valerie Beedell-Maybee & Jane Smith

It was a lovely sunny day, and the Camp was full of flowers and greenery. I was struck once more by how the clever use of landscaping and sloping ground broke up the huge site, making it easy on the eye and giving it an interest that it would not have had if it had been left flat. The hard, regular lines of the 1960's architecture, which were very prominent thirty years ago, are now softened by all the mature trees and shrubs.

The Three Generations

As for us, quite coincidentally, we represented three generations of Servicewomen. Valerie had served from 1958-1961 when the accommodation consisted of huts. Now, the only original buildings remaining from that time were the gymnasium, which brought back all sorts of memories (!), the assembly hall and the Churches. Also, Valerie had joined up exactly 40 years ago to the day, so for her, the visit was quite an emotional experience.

Moving on to the 1960s, I served just after the Camp had been re-built while Sally, the youngest of our trio, served from 1990 to 1997 and thought it was just as she had left it eight years ago.

Walking round, our varied experiences prompted many thoughts. For example the way in which our service had differed. Valerie had served in this country and abroad, I had only served in the UK but had toured abroad and Sally, the most recent Servicewoman, spent only four months in this country, out of a total of seven year's service.

The world that Valerie and I knew of women keeping fit by servicing their own accommodation, of continual cleaning of rooms, blocks and offices but little PT, gradually gave way to one of no cleaning but plenty of fitness tests, cross country runs and assault courses. Civvies gradually took over all the manual work with the trade of "Stewardess", for example becoming defunct. In addition, Sally's was the first group to take rifles on exercise while of course, we had never seen one, let alone taken it anywhere!

I was amazed at the amount of drinking that seemed to have gone on. There were more bars in the NAAFI than I ever remembered and notices up to remind women that no-one under 17 was allowed alcohol. I don't recall that being a problem to us! However, coming from a suburban, almost teetotal home, and an upbringing whereby ladies did not go into pubs, I was amazed to find that not only did the Sergeant's Mess have a bar, but that I was expected to do bar behind it! Something that I did not miss when I left.

Our combined service, totalling almost 40 years, saw some fascinating contradictions in WRAC life. "Women's work", ie: cleaning inside, was replaced by equally hard but less feminine sports outside; floor polishing with sanitary towels was replaced by rifle drill.

As for behaviour on and off Camp, the wearing of trousers was prohibited on Camp, yet acceptable for women off it; whilst on Camp the freedom to drink like a fish was acceptable yet unacceptable off it!

Lastly, we all noted the silence and strangeness of a Camp without the women who gave it life and our friends of the time were very much in our minds. We were all very grateful too, to Col Berry and Mr Cope for making our visit possible.

Visit Number 3?

Thursday 1 July 1999 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of the WRAC Staff Band. It may be possible to arrange a third visit to the Camp and the Bandroom on that date, so if anyone is interested in coming, please let me know on 01705-873259.

It may be your last chance!

Jane Smith
Formerly W/425499 Sgt Stark P J, WRAC Staff Band

Life After WRAC

Thoughts from RQMS Andrea Denham

Life after the WRAC and now serving in the modern integrated Army is not all that I thought it would be.

As a member of the WRAC I was always aware of whom I was, and exactly how I had to conduct myself, (and the consequences if I didn't!) I still know now. Those standards are implanted deep within. I'm not so sure about the young servicewomen of today. I invite their comment. They are, to my mind, rather like loose cannons - directionless. Those of us remaining from the WRAC try our best to act as role models to support them and show them the way ahead. Sadly they are torn in the opposite direction by our male counterparts who cannot or will not understand that the subtle differences between men and women mean that they should be managed differently, to achieve the same result. The young servicewomen of today shout for equality and think that we come from a dark, distant, downtrodden time, I never felt less than equal, just different. Our motto "Gentle, in manner resolute in deed" said it all for me. I didn't have to behave brashly, or like a man, to be able to do a good job.

This seems to have been lost on the new generation of servicewomen, who now have male training instructors looking after them, and to look up to.

I luckily have moved on, an advantage of modern Army life, (yes there are a few) is that women are permitted to have children. I am pleased to say that, like the author of the first "Life after the WRAC" "Hello June". I too have twins, born 26 August 1998 still very new, 8 weeks at this time and very much a handful. I have twin boys, which I'm very glad about because if I had a daughter I'm not sure I would want her to join today. Training young babies is very similar to Army life in so much as my house looks like a bomb site, organising myself and the babies has to be done with military precision, the kit list is enormous and sleep deprivation is thrown in for good measure just to test your mettle. Strangely, I wouldn't change it for the world.

My life was once the WRAC, my life now is wife and mother. I'm not sure how the Army views me now, or exactly how I will view it upon my return in the New Year.

Watch this space and I will let you know in the next edition.

Stories

COLONEL THE REVEREND SUSAN WING

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Our Corps Chaplain was inducted into the Parish Church of St Luke's Grayshott by the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend John Gladwin and the Archdeacon of Surrey, the Venerable Robert Reiss, on Thursday 13th August 1998.

The Service comprised several facets. Firstly, the Priest makes specific declarations and takes particular oaths before being entrusted with the sacred office of Parish Priest. She was then given possession of the Benefice and officially Installed as Parish Priest. After this representatives of local Churches and Leaders of the community gave her their greetings. The Junior Choir then led the Sign of Peace throughout the congregation with a hymn and a dance mime of peace. Finally there was a procession to the Font, the Chancel steps and the Altar symbolising the life and mission of the Church. The ceremony was well attended and a joyous event. WRAC past and serving were well represented. The ceremony was followed by a reception in the village hall. We wish the Reverend Susan Wing every happiness in her new and challenging appointment.

MEMORY LANE

Mrs Margaret Mayo née Finn

Last year, I wrote to the Commanding Officer in Hyderabad Barracks, asking if I could go back to "memory lane". He very kindly invited me back on a visit.

My son drove me there, it took just over the hour from where I live. I remember coming home for weekends and then the bus used to take three hours.

Anyway, I was entertained to tea in the Officers Mess and one of the Officers took us on a tour of both barracks. It was very nostalgic. I recognised some of the places, but couldn't find the lovely Naafi Club that was opened while I served in Colchester. And our barracks appeared to be boarded up.

The photos my son took didn't print because the flash wouldn't work, so the Commanding Officer invited us back for a further visit. This time, they had even arranged for an official photographer to take some pictures of me in the Officers Mess and around the barracks. Also, there was a story printed in the local paper. I didn't know until I arrived at the barracks, that the "Royal Scots" were doing their stay there, and my late husband was in the "Royal Scots", which made it even more special.

Unfortunately I never heard from anyone that knew me, maybe because the photographer had printed my married name, instead of my single one.

Margaret Mayo (née Finn) W/339339
3 Rykhill, Chadwell-st-Mary, Essex RM1 4RR

THE DAY THE QM STORES BURNED DOWN

My Army career, which had started in Honiton in June 1941, ended at Guildford some eight years later. I was posted here from Catterick in July 1948 to be one of two subalterns - Betty Drake was the other - at the Pre-OCTU Wing under the command of Senior Commander 'George' Holt. The courses lasted for a couple of months, after which the successful candidates went on to the ATS OCTU at Hindhead.

Among the sixteen who completed Course No. 42 was one Anne Hodgson, better known to us now as Brigadier Anne Field, DWRAC. And, yes, we did know she was a bright girl! That course ended in September 1948 so Anne missed the great drama towards the end of October, the burning down of the QM Stores.

Another future DWRAC was with us, though - Eileen Nolan, OC No. 1 Recruit company. Peggy Boydell was Commandant, with Sue Puxley as 2i/c and Bea Wilson (now Hutchinson) as Adjutant. I cannot, for the life of me, remember who the QM was. No doubt someone, perhaps the lady herself, can enlighten me?

A group of us was sitting in the Officers' Mess after lunch that day when the fire sirens went off. The local civilian ones frequently did, so we took no notice, apart from expressing our gratitude that they no longer presaged an air raid. Then Betty Shepherd, OC HQ Company and the luckless Orderly Officer of the day, burst in, shouting, "Why are you all sitting there? The stores are on fire!" We left the building fast enough for an Olympic gold! The accompanying verses were written a day or two later and, reading them again after half a century, they do evoke that extraordinary Wednesday, traditionally such an easy day to be Orderly Officer.

I enjoyed my time at Guildford, and was there when we bade a wistful farewell to the ATS, but were proud to swear our allegiance to the Monarch, his heirs and successors, as members of the WRAC. At the same time, we stopped being Senior Commanders, Junior Commanders, Subalterns, becoming Majors, Captains and Lieutenants instead. It felt odd at first.

In September 1949 I married a regular officer in the Royal Tank Regiment and resigned my commission in November. I, and later our two daughters, "followed the drum" in England, Germany and Libya before Gerry retired in 1963 with a "golden handshake". Twelve years on, our younger daughter, Imogen (now Corrigan) began her almost 20 year career in the Army as a recruit at Guildford.

We were both there on that bitterly cold, proud, sad 25th March 1992 for the WRAC's final parade, I an onlooker, Imogen commanding No.1 Company. She and I joined a few other exhausted officers in the Mess for lunch on the following day. I told them about the Great QM Stores Fire of 1948. None of them, it seemed, had ever heard of it! Ah, well...

Mrs Mary Andrews (née Brotherton)
Tyrrells, Rumburgh, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 0JY

The Song of the Orderly Officer

Wednesday's such a peaceful day -
No cinema, no church parade,
No Intake, Output, no TA,
No Bank, no cash, no Prigade
of Guards to thrust into the night,
No Begums and no VIPs -
Oh, Wednesday's load is very light.
Oh, Wednesday is a day of ease.

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!
Sound the tocsin! Ring the Bell!
FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!
QM Stores are burning well!
See the engines, coming roaring,
See the troops rush to the square!
Soon the hose in torrents pouring -
CIC are still not there.
Flames and smoke are still resisting.
How far will the damage spread!
HQ really aren't assisting,
Standing on the flowerbed.
There's Pre-OCTU, Education,
Holding, Nos 1 and 3,
And 2 as well. Oh, consternation!
Where can Selection people be?
Unlikely they are in there, burning.
See them later on - and how!

All the troops can be returning
To their work. It's over now.

Over! Things have barely started
Even though the flames are out,
And the firemen have departed.
Salvaging and sorting out!
Salvaging among the wreckage.
What a mess the water made!
A little man assessing damage -
A cool two thousand to be paid!
What remains must all be crated,
Removed to places we can lock.
How clearly now are demonstrated
The drawbacks of a three-months' stock!

Sifting, sorting, sorting, sifting,
Surely it is nearly doneSorting, sizing, packing, lifting -
Some folk seem to think it's fun!
Sorting, sizing, sifting, weeding
As the evening turns to night.
Somewhere I remember reading
"Wednesday's load is very light."
Slowly, slowly ah, it's ended.
"Thank you, thank you, one and all
For your help. You've all been splendid."

To bed at last! I can recall
Way back in the past a saying
Who was the author? Tell me, please,
Who was the ass who kept on braying:
"Wednesday is a day of ease?"

Written on 27 Oct 48 by Subaltern Mary Brotherton
(née Andrews)

I CAUGHT A SPY

At the onset of the war, being a girl guide I was asked to join the ARP Civil defence. Every night when the air raid warning sounded, I looked out of my window and noticed somebody signalling from a house in Aerodrome Road. I told my mother who told the Sergeant of the Buffs. The army kept watch and the person was caught, so that was the beginning of my war service.

Then I joined the A.T.S. on January 16 1942 at Queens Camp Guildford.

On leaving Guildford I had many postings finally being demobbed in 1945. One of my memories is of a very snowy winter when a local farmer lent us his horse and sleigh to transport our rations and a kind farmers wife gave us hot cocoa as we passed her farm

Mrs R A Martin née Gardner W/122683

HEREFORD BRANCH STANDARD

After hard work collecting funds for a Branch Standard we have done it! After just eighteen months, too. Our members have generously donated money and time organising Cream Teas, Raffles, etc. Jackie Neave our Standard Bearer volunteered for the job when she took part in the Blackpool Reunion March Past. She raised the money for her uniform at a Bumper Tea Party and Raffle held at her home last July.

Mrs Helen Thomas the Birmingham Standard Bearer has given valuable help to Jackie and gave her the uniform tie as a gift. We all thank Helen very much and wish her a speedy recovery from her recent operation. Sadly she was not well enough to attend on Saturday September 19th 1998 when our Standard was dedicated.

The service of dedication took place at St Christophers church, Stirling Lines, Hereford by kind permission of the Commanding Officer. The Reverend A.W. Cumberlidge, Chaplain to the Forces officiated, assisted by Dr. C. May at the organ. His Address was mostly about our Collect and how appropriate the words were. Eight other Standards were presented and these were from Birmingham Branch WRAC, The Royal Navy Association, The Royal Marines, The Royal British Legion, Hereford and The Royal British Legion, North Branch, the Burma Star Association, The British Korean Veterans and The Royal Engineers. Also present were The Deputy Mayor of Hereford Cllr. Colin Rumsey, Tanky and Cecile Smith, the Mayor and Mayoress of Hereford, Cllr. and Mrs David Fleet, and the Chairman of the Council and his wife. The Wales and West Area Chairman Mrs Maggie Purkis and Area Vice-Chairman Mrs Terri Goff were present, as were representatives from Cardiff, Coventry, Birmingham, Shropshire and Stafford Branches; also a large contingent of Hereford Branch ladies. Two ladies from Stafford Branch Mrs Ann Deakin and Mrs Marjorie Powell

were Escorts to the new Standard and all arrangements were carried out by a sub-committee of Mrs Mary Nicholls, Chair of Hereford Branch, Miss Joyce Nicholls, Treasurer, and Mrs Jo Anscombe, Secretary, ably assisted by Mrs Eva Burton, Mrs Rosemary Jones and Mrs Jackie Neave. On the day, Mrs Rosemary Jones was Parade Marshal and Miss Joyce Nicholls read the Lesson taken from St Pauls Letters to the Ephesians Chapter 6 Verse 10-20. Mrs Jo Anscombe presented the new Standard for Dedication and Mrs Eva Burton spoke the Tribute for the Fallen before the two minutes silence. The collection taken was for the ATS and WRAC Benevolent Fund and amounted to over £70. After the Dedication Service, over eighty guests retired to the R.B.L. Hall for a finger buffet provided by Mrs Jenny Hoare. We are most grateful to all who turned out on the day and to those who gave so generously; and to Mrs Jackie Neave for volunteering to be our Standard Bearer and for being so smart in her uniform. We now look forward to supporting her on many occasions as our Standard Bearer.

THE YELLOW PERILS

This wonderful title came from the end-of-training concert presented by our squad, the recruits of No 1 Company in May/June 1945 at Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester. The name came from the yellow shoulder flashes we had to wear. It was my task to play the piano for the signature tune, and for Pte Tarplin's act singing "My Old Man", with a feather boa, an act which, I understood, was part of a Music Hall act performed by a relative at one time.

For me, joining the Army was following in my Father's footsteps. Apart from the inoculations and the early rising, I quite enjoyed Basic Training with Sgt Dorothy Scott and Cpl Marie Forman keeping us in order. I was posted to Gresford Camp near Wrexham for Driving Instruction, and from thence to Bassaleg Camp near Newport, and afterwards to Edinburgh, Dover, and BAOR HQ. Driving anything from Tillys, 15 cwt trucks, 3-tonners; the Ration Truck and Staff Cars in Germany, including a wonderful trip taking a Brigadier to inspect Bailey Bridges in Germany and Holland, I thoroughly enjoyed my days in the ATS. Memories of BAOR include my first taste of sauerkraut at my first meal on arrival there, taking my driving test in the snow, never having driven a Humber Snipe OR on the right-hand-side of the road, (oh, that poor Captain having to endure such nervous driving from three of us); and one Boxing Day watching the Ladies Team return muddy and bedraggled but in good voice from a game of football with the lads; the German trio "band" who played in the NAAFI, and paying the German hairdresser in Bad Oeynhausen three cigarettes for a shampoo and set!

Now retired from teaching secretarial subjects and word-processing, I sometimes think of the ATS girls I worked with and friends with whom I have now lost touch. While no-one may remember ordinary me, I sincerely hope

that someone out there will remember their part in The Yellow Perils concert and what a hilarious evening it was.

Brenda Chappell (née Bagshaw), Richmondshire Branch, North Yorkshire.

DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER?

I wonder if I was the smallest member to join the A.T.S? I served from 1942 to 1946 and on enrolment was told that at 4ft 8 3/4" I was below the height minimum. Weighing in at 6 st 3 lbs you can imagine I would be no threat to the enemy! However when told I was a qualified shorthand-typist a request was sent to Higher Authority for permission for my enrolment.



Permission was granted and I was duly sent to No. 8 ATS Training Centre at Glen Parva Barracks. You can imagine what a sight I looked on being kitted out with a great coat which came down to my ankles and sleeves about 6" over my wrists; skirt and jacket of the same proportions. Alterations didn't take place until about a week later so I must have given everyone a good laugh during that period.

After training I was sent to the Drill Hall, Derby Road, Nottingham, and served for my 4 years in the Army Education Corps Office. I wonder if anyone remembers me? I am enclosing a photograph taken of our Company, all of whom worked at the Drill Hall. I am little tich on the 2nd row, 3rd on left. If anyone seeing the picture remembers me I should love to hear from them.

I joined the Civil Service in 1950 and during my time in the Foreign Office served in Pakistan and Uganda. In 1964 I did the overland trip with a friend from East Pakistan to the UK in a VW 'Beetle' car. It was some journey but a wonderful experience.

Mrs Margery Wood
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CAN YOU BEAT THIS? YES, THE OLIVER FAMILY CAN!

Following the bid by the Thompson family in Issue 2 of 1998 the Oliver family have responded with four sisters in the ATS:

Nancy Oliver served 1941-1944

Coral Oliver served 1940-1946

Brenda Oliver served 1942-1945

Audrey Oliver served 1946-1948

Any more offers?

PDF Compressor Free Version



*Nancy Oliver (Brazier) – 1941–1944
Ended at Abergavenny*



*Coral Oliver (Fraser) 1940–1946
Cardiff and Others*



*Brenda Oliver (Rogers) 1942–1945
Tonfanau, North Wales*



*Audrey Oliver (Foster) 1946–1948
Bicester and Weedon*

LT G H WILKINSON'S LIFE IN THE MODERN ARMY

My civilian friends assume that, as a young female Army officer, I have a lifestyle and daily routine something like that of Kate from Soldier Soldier. Indeed I often get the impression that we remain stereotyped as glamorous PA's to chauvinistic Commanding Officers, or uniformed social workers concerned only with soldier's welfare problems. Whilst the latter is a vital part of my responsibilities, the reality of my job as a Troop commander in The Royal Logistic Corps is more varied, challenging and fun by far.

I chose Physics, Maths, English and Art as my A Level subjects with a career in Architecture in mind. However, with a fear of centripetal forces and laws of mechanics creeping up on me for my whole working life I decided to change tack and on leaving school I went to the University of Dundee to study English. It was during my first term there that I answered the Army's recruiting call: I had often considered joining the forces but had a limited knowledge of the range of jobs available. The Army was changing with new opportunities opening for women at every turn. I was encouraged to look around various different units but on visiting the headquarters of The Royal Corps of Transport (RCT) I looked no further. It was April 1991 and the Gulf War had reinforced the role of logistics in the Army. Modern warfare's fast moving battles can only be sustained by a professional and capable support system. In this organisation young managers were given a demanding role with substantial responsibility: I wanted to be part of it.

Mainstream Army officers are selected on a three day appraisal called a Regular Commissions Board. The Army then spends eleven months training its officers at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. No account is taken of an individual's future specialisation. Rather, the course is intended to develop the individual's leadership skills, physical fitness, military knowledge and much more besides, in order to produce officers capable of command in whatever area they are required. However, having passed the selection I was lucky enough to receive sponsorship from the RCT and was awarded a bursary throughout my remaining time at university. By the time I passed out of Sandhurst and was commissioned, 'Options for Change' had seen the Army's transport function combined with ordnance, catering, postal services and labour support into a new 18,000 strong organisation called The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC). Whilst this meant that I could no longer be assured of a purely transport orientated job, the range of opportunities open to me was much wider.

Before letting us loose on real live soldiers all new RLC officers attend a Troop Commanders Course. In fifteen weeks we were given a whistle stop tour through all the Army's logistic functions in order to prepare us for the variety of tasks which would come our way in the future. This included a month's driver training at The Defence School of Transport at Leconfield. So that we could understand the demands on our soldiers, we underwent training and gained our licences. Of course the real bonus here was that we were able to assess the quality of the bacon butties in every truckies cafe in the Hull area.

On this, my first posting I came to Gutersloh in Germany where I was initially given command of a Stores Troop. The Troop's role was to supply technical and fast moving spares to an Armoured Brigade. These range from light bulbs to tank track and the stores are held on wheels to maintain a mobile and flexible capability. My job involved ensuring that the troop was physically, technically and mentally fit to move anywhere in the world within six days, as part of a rapid deployment force. As that commitment finished the squadron (of which my troop was part) was rerouted to train for a six month operational tour in Northern Ireland. This was to work specifically in transport and proved to be the most demanding period of my employment to date.

My troop was 63 strong and my mission was to provide a mobile armoured capability to infantry operations in various locations throughout Northern Ireland. In real terms this meant that I was responsible for the management of a fleet of 55 armoured vehicles. The characteristics of these vehicles included poor visibility and instability, and the soldiers were given specific training before deployment to ensure that they could both handle them competently and maintain their serviceability. The consequences of any vehicle being unroadworthy could hardly be more serious than in that unstable and unpredictable environment. My drivers worked long hours often under barrages of bricks or petrol bombs. The safety of the soldiers they carried depended heavily on not only their driving but also their decision making skills and their confidence in the vehicles. Some of my soldiers maintained and drove specialist vehicles as part of bomb disposal teams. If they were unable to move immediately to respond to an alert, lives could have been lost.

We were on call twenty four hours a day and were often stretched to the limit, but I was fortunate to be able to rely on a commodity, the strength of which I doubt could be found elsewhere; the insurmountable spirit and sense of humour of the British soldier. These professional men and women generally lived in cramped six person rooms in mortar hardened accommodation, without windows or fresh air. The harmony of this fragile ecosystem could turn to discord over a pair of smelly feet. (Where else could a transport manager's remit extend to lectures on personal hygiene?) Since they could each be called upon to drive at any time they couldn't even have a beer to relax at the end of the shift. They worked seven days a week throughout the six month period except for one nine day break. The Army does not pay overtime. Many had to face family bereavements or cope with the difficulties of separation from their families during the tour. It was part of my job to ensure that such problems were dealt with, whilst still maintaining each soldier's operational effectiveness. I was able to rely heavily on the experience and advice of the more senior soldiers yet ultimately the responsibility for both the welfare of the soldiers and the serviceability of the vehicles was mine.

I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunity to work in such an environment. Whilst I cannot deny that at times I have envied my civilian friends' ability to switch off when they leave work at the end of the day, I know that I thrive on the demands which this job makes on me. When the chips are down I can always rely on good old Private Bloggs to turn a crisis into a magic moment.

Graduates entering the Army are given some seniority for their years at university and this facilitates relatively speedy initial promotion. The downside is that this means that my days of Troop Commanding are numbered. However, the future brings new challenges and my next job will probably involve the co-ordination of a Squadron's transport assets. There are also a variety of other options available including specialisation in ammunitions, fuel supply, catering or postal services. Whether a broad base for a future within the Army or a stepping stone into logistics management outside it, my four years service has given me experience in supply, transport, personnel management and a lot more besides (not to mention a few grey hairs!) Alongside all these, my work gives me the opportunity to travel and even to try crazy sports like bobsleighing.

Lt Gill Wilkinson,
11 Sqn,
2 Close Support Regiment Royal Logistic Corps

EXERCISE LONG LOOK 97

2Lt Karen Boshier
24 Transport and Movements Regiment RLC

'So Karen, how do you feel about four months in Australia'? My CO had finally uttered those words I had been longing to hear. At this point I couldn't quite decide whether my reaction should be calm, cool and collected, or should I just burst into spontaneous celebration. Unfortunately this conversation was taking place whilst being run ragged over the infamous Bielefeld Ridge. My reaction was a rather dampened version of the latter due to a lack of oxygen at the time in question.

So there I was a month later about to embark on an adventure of a life time, asking the all important questions like 'where exactly is Adelaide'? My biggest dilemma was how to fit enough culture and experience to last four months into 36kg of baggage! The atmosphere at Gateway House the night before departure was one of nervous energy and excitement, 0400 the next morning it was somewhat more subdued, a couple of hours later you could have heard a pin drop in that Tri Star.

I had thirty hours in which to let my imagination run wild, that was of course in between the copious amount of sleep and two books. My feeling on arrival in Sydney was sheer relief to have finally made it. We were met on arrival by the outgoing Aussie contingent who insisted on taking us to the bar. Well, it was only polite! My host unit for the duration was Joint Movement Control Office (JMCO) Adelaide, a small office manned day to day by the Ops Officer (me), one WO2 and two Sgt's, the remainder were some eighteen General Reservists (GRes) including the OC. As far as the Movements trade goes I found their working methods were not that dissimilar from my own unit so it was quite easy to jump in and help out. My brief from the CO in Sydney before I moved on to Adelaide was to try and visit as many of the JMCO's as possible during the exchange. Each major town or city in each of the states has a JMCO, Perth, Darwin, Townsville, Brisbane (Brisvegas), Sydney, Melbourne and a small detachment in Hobart, Tasmania.

My first stop was Perth, nine hours in a Hercules from Sydney. It didn't put me off. As I moved around about the country all of my hosts were wonderful. I have never been looked after so well. I also bumped into quite a few fellow Long Lookers (British personnel on detachment to the Australian Army) which was great for catching up with the essential gossip and the passing of war stories, which only seemed to know the boundaries of the narrator's imagination!

I did manage to get away on exercise which was an experience in itself, I'd even say fun. Ex Tasman Eagle was an evacuation exercise staged out of Townsville in Queensland. My role as 2IC of Movements at the Evacuation Handling Centre was completely different from any exercise I had previously taken part in with my own Regiment. In total we evacuated some 200 refugees over a period of three days. In reality we sent about 80 of the local residents of a town in the middle of nowhere on a shopping trip to Townsville. It was a good working arrangement, they got free flights and we didn't have to play with only notional pax. What hit me most was the heat and the dust, and it wasn't even summer yet. Although there was a constant breeze it wasn't cooling, and tarmac runways don't offer much in the way of shade once the relative safety of a building has been left. It was amusing trying to describe to my Aussie colleagues the difference between Queensland in October and the North coast of Germany; only about 25 degrees C.

Aside from lots of visits and the Exercise I did manage to get away to do Adventure Training. Ex Cold Contractor was a trekking expedition to Tasmania in the Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clare national park. Over a period of five walking days we covered a total of about 140km and climbed four peaks. The country was stunning but the weather was very changeable. Be prepared really was the motto of the trip. Day one was gale force winds, day two snow blizzards, days three and four glorious sunshine, finally day five rain. Fortunately it was me for once who was in my element and I thoroughly enjoyed pay back time with the two Queenslanders who decided this was obviously what hell must be like in winter. Neither of them had seen snow before so we wasted a good couple of hours on the summit of Mt Ossa building snowmen, not something I expected to find myself doing in Australia.

Working with another Army for such a period of time was a wonderful experience. I'm sure I returned to my own Regiment with new or changed ideas and attitudes, and I'm sure my exchange counterpart took home similar thoughts.

"MOVERS IN CROATIA"

Capt Rachel Leighton
24 Transport and Movements Regiment RLC

A detachment of Germany based soldiers from 24 Regt have worked in recent months to keep the British troops in Former Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) on the move. The soldiers from 24 Regt are all Movement Controllers and have been deployed on Op LODESTAR (Nov 97 - May 98) in support of the NATO SFOR (Stabilis Force) operation. The Movers, commanded by Capt Rachel Leighton, the Force Movements Officer, were responsible for the



*Movement Controllers in Split North Fort
Nov 97-May 98*

planning, co-ordination and execution of all movement inter and intra theatre be it passengers, vehicles or equipment. Movement could be by road, rail, sea or air and it all has to be carefully co-ordinated by one central Movement Control Centre (MCC). The MCC sits alongside HQ UK National Support Element in Divulje barracks in Split but controls movement in the Multi National Division South West area of operations.

The Movers are the first point of contact for anyone entering the theatre, they meet, greet and ensure any onward moves go smoothly. Central to the roulement of units are the operations conducted at Split North Port. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ship (RFA) SEA CRUSADER arrived from Marchwood Military Port via Emden in Northern Germany. Although encountering violent storms in the Bay of Biscay the ship reached Split on schedule. She brought into theatre the AS90 guns of 26 Regt RA based in Gutersloh, they were roulementing with 40 Regiment RA on return to their base in Hohn. In total 250 vehicles were disgorged and Capt Steve Townell had the unenviable task of ensuring that all was conducted in an orderly manner. The Port Task Group consisting of 3 x JNCO and 1 x Pte ensures that all of the vehicles are marshalled into convoys prior to despatch "up country" to the various units locations some six hours drive away in Bosnia. A JNCO, sitting in the MCC, monitors the movement of the convoys within the Divisional area and passes on valuable route information and warnings of diversions or bad road conditions. The rouling units conduct a relief-in-place



*Offloading AS90 at Split North Port in Croatia
- Op Lodestar.*

operation, and those leaving theatre move back to Split, are marshalled and then loaded onto the SEA CRUSADER for the return journey home.

Whilst vehicles are moving through the port personnel are transiting through Split Airport. Weekly flight schedules are enhanced during the roulement period and aircraft are carefully timed to coincide with the movements of the ships. Tact and diplomacy are required in bundles and often JNCOs must lay down the law to more senior people in order to ensure that things run as smoothly as possible.

Normal movement tasks never abate and the Air Booking Desk is among the busiest in theatre. The phones ring constantly as everyone wishes to book or confirm their flight details. The Movers are everyone's best friends....until, of course, something goes wrong. People sometimes forget that although Movers are indeed a multi-talented bunch, they don't actually fly the planes or sail the ships themselves!

THE CSM'S DILEMMA

by Mildred Peek

The minute he woke that morning, CSM Claymore, the Permanent Staff Instructor at the Drill Hall, had a strong feeling of foreboding. Something horrible was waiting for him. What it could be he didn't know, and was in no hurry to find out.

When he got to the Orderly Room there was nothing in the mail that could possibly account for his depression, and he began to cheer up.

At 12.30, just as he was getting ready to leave to go for his dinner, there was a knock at the door, and he yelled "Come in." Milly Pearson came in and stood at his desk. 5ft 2inches tall, very plump, she blinked cheerfully through her glasses and announced "I've come to join the Territorial Army." She felt alarmed as the CSM - 6ft 2 inches and proportionally large, rose, his face getting redder by the minute and his whole body seeming to swell. Just as he seemed about to burst, he pulled himself rigidly to attention and shouted "What did you say?"

As Milly's two brothers could have told him, she was not easily intimidated, and she merely smiled even more cheerfully and stated, "I've come to join the Territorial Army. It said in the newspaper today that girls over 18 years of age can now join the Auxiliary Territorial Service and train for administrative jobs to release the men for combat duties - whatever they are. I'd be glad if you would enlist me rather quickly because I've come in my dinner hour." She paused for breath and waited hopefully.

The CSM stirred and in a strangled voice said, "I've heard nothing, you must be mistaken. I suggest you forget it. We've never had women in the Territorial Army to my knowledge and I hope we never do. Goodbye."

Looking despondent although very determined, Milly left the Orderly Room, took her bike from the railings and made her way back to work. There she opened up the "Daily Express" and there it was on the front page. "ATS to be formed as

part of the T.A. to release troops for combat duties", she had not made a mistake.

All afternoon she kept at the back of her mind the decision to join this new women's army, in spite of the soldier she'd met at the York Road Drill Hall. As soon as she left the office at the end of the day, she made her way to York Road. CSM Gilmore was not at all pleased to see her. By the second post that day he had received confirmation of the formation of the ATS and even now was still reeling at the thought of women in his Drill Hall, taking the men's interest from their training. There was even the thought of the language often used - his mind boggled.

Milly knocked and walked into the Orderly Room. "Well", she said, "I've brought the newspaper to show you. When can I start?" "I don't need that, the details came in the second Post. But you're the only one who has applied." Optimism arose - perhaps there wouldn't be any others! "How do I join?" asked Milly patiently. It was obvious that if she had to be an ATS unit of one, she wasn't bothered. The CSM pulled out a green form from an envelope on his desk and filled in Milly's particulars. When she gave her occupation as Secretary he cheered up. Perhaps she could be persuaded to help in the office. Little did he know that from her first visit to the Orderly Room, Milly's fingers had itched to get it properly organised.

"Thank you, Miss Pearson. I'll let you know when the first meeting is to be held." He held out his hand, and Milly shook it, her face one great beam. "Thank you, sir," she said, "I'll look forward to joining your Army." The soldier winced slightly, but there was something infectious about this cheerful little soul.

Three weeks passed before Milly had her first sight of a letter styled in the Army manner, informing her that there would be a Parade at York Road Drill Hall on Monday September 29th and if she was still wishing to become an Auxiliary, she should report at 1900 hours. All that day, Milly walked on air. She found it difficult to keep her mind on legal matters, and was the first out of the office at 5.30 - unusually for her.

At 6.45 she arrived at the Drill Hall, the small door was open, and she stepped in. It looked enormous. Two women stood there. They were identical twins, and they eyed the new arrival "I'm Molly Waters and this is my sister Kitty. I shall be your officer and Kitty will be your Sergeant. As you are the first to be enlisted, you can have the two stripes of an Assistant Section Leader." What luck, thought Milly. Joined and promoted on the same day. Just then three more girls arrived. Lotty Brand (to be known as 'Blue'), tall, elegant, with curly hair and legs up to her armpits. Joyce Smith, slightly shorter, who said she was a cycling champion and bred Bedlington terriers. Ikey Chilvers who was even shorter than Milly, had practically no neck which was to cause her much trouble in keeping her hair off her collar.

The CSM came in, told them to fetch chairs, and when they were seated took out of a large envelope a small booklet and a packet of green forms, one of which already had been filled in for Milly. He suddenly saw one advantage - he

would get her to complete all the other forms for him and save him a job he hated. She was delighted. He opened the booklet and explained the working of the ATS. There would be the Officer, and two non-commissioned ranks. Assistant Section Leader, with two stripes, and Section Leader with three stripes. He explained that these ranks had already been allotted and that Other Ranks would be known as Auxiliaries. It transpired that the Waters sisters, members of a very minor County family, had already been up to Norwich for preliminary drill, and that they had been put in charge. They said they had already had their uniforms made up by a Norwich tailor.

After a tour of the Drill Hall, the CSM put the girls through some elementary drill, and when the Waters sisters stood on one side, to the delight of the others he called them in. Among the others who had arrived that evening were Alice Green, who kept the Kings Head public house, and her daughter-in-law, Lyn. Poor Alice just could not get her arms and legs to synchronise. Always the left arm moved with the left leg, try as she might, and finally the CSM gave in. So she went into the clothing store and tidied it up at every parade.

After half an hour, they had managed to halt more or less at the same time, were fifty percent sure of which was right and which was left, and were exhausted. "Fall out", called the CSM. They just looked at each other. They started to giggle, Joyce and Blue started to stroll away together, and Lyn and Milly started a discussion as to what "Fall Out" meant.

At the end of the parade one evening the CSM told them that their uniforms would be there next week. Cycling home Milly saw herself in Army uniform at last; shiny buttons and shoes, well-fitted jacket and skirt, cap at a Beatty angle.

At the next parade, as the CSM opened the Drill Hall door from the inside he was almost trampled on - everybody rushed in and then stood and waited hopefully. "Get Fell In", the now familiar cry came, "Come on, at the double." He stared in disbelief - nobody had moved. Then Milly came towards him. "Where are our uniforms, please, Sergeant-Major"? We'll do all the drill stuff, but we would like to wear our uniforms like real soldiers." "It'll take more than uniforms to make you lot into soldiers, now GET FELL IN." "Sergeant-Major" repeated Milly courteously, "I've just explained; we're waiting for our uniforms - then we'll drill. Come, on, be a dear." Whether it was this unusual approach from a rookie that silenced the CSM, or the trance that sheer disbelief had thrown him into, at any rate he finally gave in.

Here Alice at last came into her own. She unlocked the stores and took out several boxes. Eager hands helped to unpack them. Cap, badges and khaki overalls - nothing else. "Well come on. Choose what fits, get it on and then we can stop wasting time."

Gingerly, like a customer at a jumble sale, Scotty picked up a cap and tried it on. It completely covered her eyes. She tried another, but it was obvious that the War Office had strange ideas about the size of women's heads. Alice picked up an overall and nearly had hysterics. It was obviously meant for a 20-stone woman with vital statistics of 50-50-50.

As each recruit grabbed an overall the whole unit collapsed into gales of laughter. They had stand-up collars, and were buttoned down the front, with a figure-saving belt. They put them on and looked at each other. Any girl over 5ft 6ins was lucky. Milly and Ikey, whose overalls were the same size as the bigger girls found their hems came three inches from the ground. Topped by apparently air-filled caps they didn't look very military. The sleeves ended about 9 inches past their hands. 14 women, from 5ft to 5ft 8 ins in height, enveloped in khaki, the tallest had their belts so tight they looked air-filled, the smallest with the spare length pulled up and folded over the belt like a Roman toga, sleeves dangling loose topped with caps that were dumpling-shaped.

The CSM took one look, turned scarlet, and dived for his office. They could hear his guffaws as they stood silently appraising each other's appearance.

They looked at one another with horror, tore off the overalls, threw their caps on the table and waited for the CSM to come back. "I'm going to alter mine to make a proper fit," said Blue, "and do something with my cap. If I've got to wear the rotten stuff, then at least it will look better than it does now." So they all folded up their overalls, and took them home, together with their caps.

On the next parade, as the girls lined up in uniform, their overalls were almost unrecognisable. Blue and Joyce had practically taken theirs to pieces and remade them. They were really figure-hugging, and the hem came just above their knees. To put shape into their caps they had ironed the crown and put a circle of cardboard inside - this brought the outside of the cap well outside the area of the peak, and gave them the appearance of musical-comedy soldiers.

Ikey's mother, no needlewoman, had done her best. The overall came down to her calves, the pockets being on the hem and the sleeves had a round lump where the needlewoman had 'taken them up' inside. Her cap was as she had received it.

Milly's sister had turned up a ten-inch hem which made the skirt wobble as she walked. She had taken up the sleeves at the top arm seam, and the result was inbuilt epaulettes. Her cap crown had been ironed by her Boy Scout brother and stuffed; it seemed rather uncertain of its position.

Lyn's grandmother had done a good job, except that the overall now had a distinctly flared skirt, and so much paper was stuffed into her cap that it kept rising from her head.

At least it was some improvement, and they were in uniform at last. Whatever the CSM felt, he was helpless to complain, because the Auxiliary Territorial Service was not subject to military discipline. They were officially classified as "Camp Followers" - on a par with wives and prostitutes. This state of affairs lasted until December 1941, when they were absorbed into the British Army.

As time passed, they received their 'proper' uniforms; skirt, jacket, etc. and began to feel really part of the Territorial Army. War was now imminent, and they settled down to Bren gun stripping, rifle shooting etc., in an effort to prove themselves a valuable asset.

CSM Claymore became quite fond of 'his' girls, and invited the Mayor to see them. On their mettle, the squad, now numbering about thirty, did him proud, but unfortunately he got carried away and decided, as a grand finale, to get them to drill wearing gasmasks. At the end of this demonstration, with the squad still wearing their gasmasks, he forgot himself and called for three cheers for His Worship. All he got was a series of raspberries, as the air was expelled from the masks. These were then torn off by the girls, and the squad collapsed in a fit of giggling.

By the time that war was declared, the Gt. Yarmouth Auxiliaries were really efficient; ready to fulfil their duties whenever and wherever they were called.

But that is another story.

OVERSEAS LIFE MEMBERS

Now that the despatch of the Lioness magazine has been taken over by a distribution company from January 1998 it is only possible to operate a one tariff postal system.

It will therefore be necessary to request an annual contribution of £3.50 to help with the cost of posting.

Members who previously received the magazine by airmail have already been advised of the balance on their airmail account.

Snowdon House, 46 River Street, Rhyl, LL18 1PT Telephone: (01745) 331786

W/454215 Sue De Barr (Mrs Roberts)
runs the above Licensed Guest House.

She is offering registered Two Crowns Tourist Board accommodation with full or half board. Snowdon House is three minutes from the sea, shops and amusements.

Ex WRAC who book accommodation will receive a discount.

Where are you now?

Mrs Margaret MAYO (née Peggy Finn)

PDF Compressor Free Version

I am trying to trace anyone who knew me while serving in Colchester, Hyderabad and Meednee Barracks during 1946-48. I had one particular friend from Ashton-U-Lyne Lancashire who I have lost touch with. Her single name was Anne Swindells, and I know she married a Les Martin. Contact: Mrs Margaret Mayo, 3 Rykhill, Chadwell-St-Mary, Essex RM16 4RR.



Mrs Margaret Mayo (née Peggy Finn)

Mrs Alice KEMP (née Login)

I am hoping to trace any members (A.T.S.) of 511 Bty 151 Regt H.A.A. stationed in Manchester or Preston near Hull in 1942. I am enclosing a group photo in case it is possible to have it printed for anyone to recognise themselves. Please contact Mrs Kemp, Keystones, 19 Fore Street, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LL.



*NCO's & Privates (some unknown)
511 Bty 151 Regt stationed at Preston Hull in 1942.
Ethel Buckingham, Hitty Filmouth,
Alice Kemp (Login), Helen Barham,
Audrey Stoneman, Dorothy Roberts, Doris Miller.*

Susannah Blanche BOOTH (Dolly)

Mrs Norah Kaye would like to hear from anyone who knew her aunt, Susannah Blanche Booth (known as Dolly) and a cousin Blanche Booth (known as Bobbie) who told me that they were the first "mother and daughter" to join up. My aunt has died and I have lost touch with my cousin but I wonder if anyone remembers them or knows where they enlisted. They told me "We were in the newspaper" but I don't know which paper, or even the town in which it was published. Contact: Mrs H N Kaye, 4 Grasmere Close, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 8QZ.

Mrs Rae ZUROVCIK

Pictured below you will find a picture of my friend Audrey Stanton (née Taylor) and myself Rae Zurovcik (née Brewer). Audrey and I were able to get together during the

May 1995 V.E. Day celebrations, due to a write up I placed in the 1994 1st issue of Lioness. I was looking for old A.T.S. friends I knew back in Chilwell (1944-45) Nottingham. As a result of that, after 50 yrs I was able to find Audrey and, with her husband, shared all our old memories. We spent a wonderful week together and even managed to join the "National Pilgrimage" to Dunkirk, France where Audrey's husband Bill was a standard bearer for the "Glorious Gloucesters". I do hope others who may remember us see this and get in touch, so we may get together in 1999 when I hope to make another trip home. Contact: Mrs R Zurovcik, 1704 Romine Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15133-3325.

PDF Compressor Free Version



May 1995

Left: Audrey Stanton (née Taylor)

Right: Rae Zurovcik (née Brewer)

Pictures on the wall are how we looked in 1945.

**Mrs Myfanwy PRITCHARD (née Roberts, Bishop)
known as Robby, Taff or Ann**

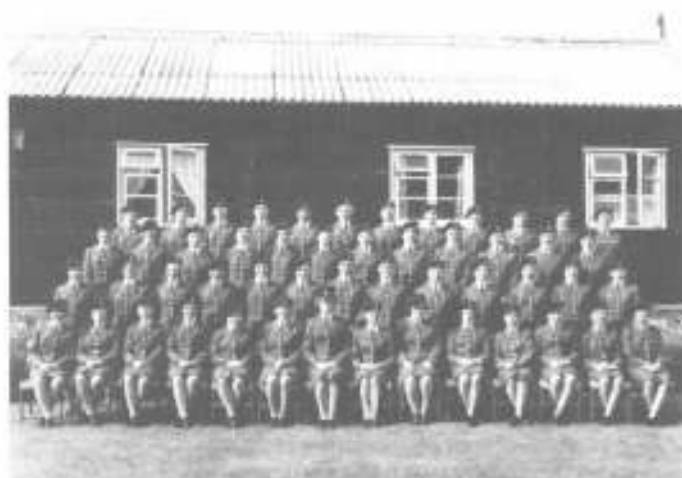
Below is an alphabetical list of all the girls of 1 Training Company who signed my photograph at Lingfield sometime in October 1962. The only names and faces that I can remember in the photograph working from left on each row are:

- Third Row: 11th Ellen Tollington; 12th Angela Flynn (Angie)
Second Row: 8th Linda Starkey; Carole Mackley (Phoebe); Ann Roberts (me)
Front Row: 3rd Pauline Bennett; 7th Mary (Military Police Sgt); 8th Cpl Bunny Coleshill; 9th L/Cpl Woods; 13th Ann Gittins (Cleo)

Can you help me trace any of these girls?

Violet Adrock	Valerie Bruffell
Ann Butler	Mary E. Davies
Shirley Hollingsworth	Mary Lockwood
Margaret Odlin (Noddy)	Dot Ogley
O Steward	Rita Unwin
Mandy Williams	Kay Woodhall

There are other names but I am unable to read their signatures. Please contact: Myfanwy Pritchard (née Roberts), Tregarne, 23 Tyn Coed Uchaf, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 8WB, 01248 722330.



Mrs E M PLUMMER (née Sgt E M Crossley ATS)

I was a Sgt Instructor at No. 2 ATS TC York (when it was bombed) and Harrogate. Then a long course at Normanton Barracks - Derby (when I sang as Princess Balrou Gadar in "Aladdin", and in the Co-optomists Concert Party in my spare time). From the beginning of 1944 to 1946 I was posted to the 31st AFV (TANK) Regiment at Bristol where I was in charge of the ATS Company who worked on preparing the tanks for the 'D' Day landing and repairs following. The girls at 31st AFV were absolutely wonderful and I would love to meet them again and my officer Sub Margaret Naish. Contact: Mrs E M Plummer, 44 Windmill Court, William Booth Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4XP.



Sgt E M Plummer (née Sgt E M Crossley ATS)

Mrs Jean ROBINS

Do you think anyone out there remembers an 'Amy Hughes'? She was a Junior Commander when demobbed on 7 September 1947. She joined up in 1938 or 39 at Tidworth. Her home was at Coulston, near Westbury, Wiltshire. Her enlisted number was W/971. She was later commissioned (P196598). She was in charge of a Company near Nuneaton, and also at one time in charge of 'P' Company ATS, Leicester. She is currently in a residential rest home in West Lavington, near Devizes, Wiltshire, where my husband and I visited her. (Her name had been passed to Salisbury Branch by HQ, and I volunteered to try to visit). She is a sweet, gentle, well preserved old lady of 97, born 1901. She sadly has no real memories at all. Her married name is Lumsden. Please do write to me if any of you remember her at all. Contact: Jean Robins (late Junior Commander ATS Signals), Hillview, Snowhill, Dinton, Salisbury, SP3 5HN.

Mrs Pauline O'CONNELL (née Yeo)

Mrs Pauline O'Connell would like to regain contact with ex S/Sgt Coleman (Provost), and also like to hear from anybody else who served at Wilton Park or the Army Education Corps at Beaconsfield between 1953-1956. Her address is Mrs Pauline O'Connell, 3 Cumbrae Place, ARAHOHO, Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand.

Joyce GRIFFITS

Mr Eric Cleave would like to get in touch with Joyce Griffiths (maiden name) whom he knew at the RAOC Depot, Moreton on Lugg, Hereford Company Office Staff 1946. She came from Sheffield. Please reply to: Mr Eric Cleave, 15 Westfield, Exminster, Exeter, EX6 8DP.

Mrs Betty HOMER (née Lester)

Why, I ask myself, is it no one ever mentions Southern Command HQ? I was stationed at The Close Salisbury, Wilton House, Salisbury, Middle Wallop and finally at Tidworth Military Hospital where I was a Nursing Auxiliary in the rank of Sgt. Returning home to Birmingham in 1948 I went into nursing and gained my S.R.N. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me. Although I am 82, I am still active and alive and kicking but sometimes lonely. My address is: Mrs B I Homer, 30 St Peters Court, Cirencester, Glos G17 1RZ.

Mrs May TAYLOR

I am looking for any information with regard to my late grandmother Miss Margaret Taylor who was born on the 23rd November 1918. The only information I have is that she joined either the A.T.S. or the Army during the Second World War. We are under the impression that she enlisted in Burnley. Her address around this time was Kings Terrace or Street Burnley. I am particularly interested in where she was posted; we know it was in the London area. Please contact: Mr S Taylor, 12 The Ridings, Burnley, Lancs with any information.

Private Annie Hester GLENDINNING

My sister and I would welcome contact with anyone having knowledge of, or who recalls serving with our late mother. We know nothing of her during the period stated, but we believe that she may have been based at, or in the vicinity of, Colchester Barracks 1942-45. If there is anyone reading this who can throw light on our mother during those now far off days, I would be more than grateful if they would contact me at the following address: Tony Chapman, 148 Station Road, Wigston Magna, Leicester LE18 2DL, Tel (0116) 2888175.

Dorothy (Bunny) MELCHER

If anybody remembers this lady would they please reply to: Pauline O'Connell, 126 Grey Street, Wanganui, North Island, New Zealand.

Larry RICHARDS

Are there any ladies who were stationed at Richmond Park Camp between 1951 and 1953, who remember a soldier in the Royal Signals, who used to be a friend of one Bobby Chambers ATS? He used to spend time in the ladies NAAFI and drink with them at times in the Three Fishes Pub in Kingston-on-Thames. They would remember him as Larry. He would be pleased to hear from them and how they have fared in life. Please reply to Mr L D Richards, 63 Burns Avenue, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9HT.

Cpl Joyce TEARNEY ATS (W/44404)

Does anyone remember the above lady who served in the R.A. Pay Office at Foots Cray, Kent in 1940 and ATS HQ No 4 London District Coy, White Pines, Widmore Road, Chislehurst, Kent until 1943? Her address is PO Box 2048, Elizabeth Park, South Australia 5113.

Marjorie WREN (née Tawner) (Midge)

I would like to contact some of my army chums:

Grace Brooker	Joyce Driver
Stella Pullen	Sylvia Payne
Yvonne Matthews	Florrie Williams
Eileen Bengefield	Kathleen Barron
Marjorie Barron	Joan Goodison
Margaret Hutchinson	

Some of whose photographs I have enclosed. We were all O FCs (Radar Operators) in 574 (M) H.A.A. Battery 137 Regiment, and were stationed in and around London at the



Grace Brooker



Sylvia Payne



Yvonne Matthews



Florrie Williams



Eileen Bengelfield



Joan Goodison



Joyce Driver



Iris Pricet

following places: Shepherds Bush, Gunnersbury, Hyde Park, Whetstone, Walthamstow, Mill and Putney (Hurlingham), but mostly in Hyde Park, this after our training at Guildford, Oswestry and Anglesey. I was also a part-time PTI and went on a couple of P.E. courses, one in Dunblane and one in Dalkeith. Please contact me at: 41 Moatview Court, Moatfield Road, Bushey, Herts WD2 3TH.

Miss Marjorie S.A. MUTCH W/239953

I wonder if anyone remembers me! I joined up in Nov 1942, trained at Dalkeith, and was posted to the ATS Signal School at Strathpeffer, from there went to Cairgmillar Edinburgh, and then to Dewbury, Newton Abbot, demobbed 20 February 1946 at Edinburgh. This is a photo of the ATS Signal School HQ Coy taken at Edinburgh. Maybe someone will recognise themselves. I'd be so pleased to hear. (I am seated 4th left front row). It's so good to remember happy days gone by. Please contact Miss M.S.A. Mutch, 24 Nicol Place, Porthlethen, Aberdeen AB12 4QE.



Mrs Mary FOREMAN (née Cunningham)

I am trying to trace Private Mary Bullen and Private Mary Ferguson - telephonists/teleprinter operators, Western Command based at the Mayfair Court Hotel, Piccadilly - later at Headford Place, Hyde Park Corner. Please contact: Mrs Mary Foreman, 18 Jericho Court, Liverpool L17 5AY.

Mrs Maisie LINDSEY (née Stephenson)

Reading the letter in the last issue of the Lioness from "Bunty" Jones I wonder if she will also remember some of the people in this wedding photograph. The bride is Ray Fimister and the bridegroom Lt Blamines, with Helen Hovell as their bridesmaid. We were in 451 H(M) AA Battery stationed at Cribbs Causeway near Westbury-on-Trym. I often wonder where the rest of 451 Battery are, so I hope this photograph will revive some memories! Replies to Mrs Maisie Lindsey, No 3 Luddite House, Carr Street, Liversedge, West Yorkshire WF15 6QN.



Mrs Mary GREGORY (née Angle)

Mrs Gregory (Bury Branch) (née Mary Angle) who served with the Royal Army Pay Corps at the Command Office (Imprest Section) in Edinburgh 1942-1946 would like to hear from ex colleagues. Contact: Mrs Mary Gregory, 11 Royd Street, Tottington, Bury BL8 3NH.

Rosina LINE

I am writing in the hope that you may be able to help me to trace a relative who was a member of the A.T.S. during the Second World War. The lady in question is Rosina Line and her A.T.S. number 178103. She was based either in London or Manchester as a Packer in food distribution, I think in 1945. Any replies to Mrs P.H. Spencer, 10 Orchard Rise, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9JL.

Lucille Ernestine TAYLOR

Mrs Julia Jones writes that she would be most grateful to hear from any ex-ATS lady who may have known her Mother during her service in 1941-45/46. She was W/97918 Private Lucille Ernestine TAYLOR - Auxiliary Territorial Service - enrolled 04.12.41 - embodied and posted to 13 Training Centre 12.12.41 - posted to K Company 07.01.42, to G Company 14.09.42, to No 2 Mobilised Centre 13.10.42, to No 2 Group 05.06.43, to K Company 26.06.43, to G Company 30.09.43, to M Company 28.06.44, to G Company 04.09.44, to M Company 30.04.45, Relegated to U List

22.03.46, Discharged 01.04.54 - Cause of Discharge: Termination of Engagement. Service with the Colours: 04.12.41, and Medals issued etc: Defence Medal and War Medal 1939-45. She has also learnt that her Mother's sister - Yvonne TAYLOR also served in the ATS. Therefore could anyone who knew her get in touch with any information or photographs that they may have to Mrs J. Jones, 53 Shaw Road, Monkmoor, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 5RN.

Pte Phyllis McGLOIN

I have been seeking for three or four years a lady who was in the A.T.S. in 1942 when we were both stationed in Clyst Hydon, Nr Exeter in Devon in the 538 S/L Bty, 88th Regt RA. At that time she was called Pte Phyllis McGloin and her home was at Strathaven, Nr Glasgow, Scotland. Please contact L R Giles, 150 Underland, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 1QZ.

Mrs Elsie PLUMMER

W/89104 Sgt E M Crossley would like to contact those who served with her in York - No 2 ATS TC, Derby and Bristol, 31st AFV (Tank) Regt in particular Sub Margaret Naish.

Margaret Tulloch BROWN

Margaret Tulloch Brown was a Sgt in ATS, born in Leith, Edinburgh - 8 June 1919. Does anyone know her whereabouts? She may well have married. Contact: Mrs Olive Durkin, 7 Stanley Street, Tempe 2047, New South Wales, Australia.

Anne ELKINGTON

The person I am looking for is Anne Elkington, aged 28/29 in 1945/46, who was a Civil Servant with the Control Commission of Germany after the war ended. As far as I can tell, they were stationed at Herford, near to the 21st Army HQ at Bad Oeynhausen, Germany. Contact: Mrs L Wood, 55 Beechwood Road, Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 0JE.

Mrs E Averil SMITH (née Jenkins) W/244661

This photo was taken at Arborfield in 1945. I was the other half but I am so ashamed that I can't even remember her first



Averil Smith (née Jenkins)

or last name. Shame on me - can anyone help me? Please contact: E. Averil Smith (née Jenkins), 2/249 Wairau Road, Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand.

Attention All Bowlers in the TORQUAY Area

Berry Abbott wishes to know if there are any ATS/WRAC in the area who are bowlers and would like to get in touch. Contact: Miss B Abbott, "The Moorings", 24 St George's Road, BABBACOMBE, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3QY



Mrs Averil Smith (née Jenkins)

Gunners' Corner

627 AA BATTERY -
MRS IRENE BENNETT née DAWSON

PDF Compressor Free Version

All the years I have been having the Lioness I've never seen 627 Ack Ack Battery mentioned in it.

I am enclosing a photo of the Battery taken at Buckles Farm, Ockenden where we brought a JU 88 down and part of the fuselage is showing on it.



February 1944 - part of JU 88.
Sec 3 627 (M) HA Battery, South Ockenden, Essex.
Brought down by 627 Battery, January 29th 1944.



Irene Bennett née Dawson,
Norma Dowell née Fitton and Jessie Obee.
All 627 Ack Ack Girls.

I am sure people will be interested to see it and that many are still alive.

My name is Irene Bennett née Dawson and I was in Section 3. I still keep in touch with Jessie Obee and Norma Dowell née Fitton.

Am also enclosing a photo of the three of us taken two years ago when they called to see me. I am on the left looking at it then Norma and Jessie.

How nice it would be to see it in the Lioness.

Mrs Irene Bennett, 144 Tiverton Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG23 8EH.

BATTERY LINKING

My latest quest for 'ack-ackers' led to a message printed in Woman's Weekly Magazine in July '98. Salisbury Branch had already been in print - with a photo - so doubted that I would be lucky too. Ten weeks later I had received 140 replies - including Australia - N.Z. - Canada - USA - S.Africa - Spain and the rest from the U.K. To date, all, with the exception of one or two who had forgotten their Bty numbers - have been 'linked' to their units. One 'missing' Bty suddenly has 3 contacts, all living in Southern England. Hopefully they will be getting together by letter/phone/in person? A new lady from Gateshead - Lily Booth - said 'what an excellent idea' - she would contact Newcastle Evening Chronicle. So this was the reason I had eight letters in two days from Tyne/Wear area. These names have gone to Lily - possibly another mini-reunion? My original idea of linking in this way is working well, so many are unable to travel far.

I would like to point out that my message in Woman's Weekly was not completely true to my wording. I did not say I had organised reunions on a large scale as it may have implied. But I helped with names on each occasion.

Regrettably I was unable to get to York reunion - just as well as I had cancelled two weeks before as I was taken to hospital on July 29th and remained there until Aug 8th. I am now taking part in a 'trial'. May I wish you all 'Good Luck and Health' in 1999.

Mrs Sue Crook, 14 The Larches, Horsell Vale, Woking, GU21 4RE.

OVERSEAS LIFE MEMBERS

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It will therefore be necessary to request an annual contribution of £3.50 to help with the cost of posting.

Members who previously received the magazine by airmail have already been advised of the balance on their airmail account.

WRAC Association AGM

WRAC ASSOCIATION AGM 17 & 18 APRIL 1999 – GUILDFORD

APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete even if you do not need accommodation -
we need to have numbers in by 12 March 1999 for booking the refreshments)
(Applications can only be made by the individual named. You cannot apply for someone else)

PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS FORM ARE ACCEPTABLE

Applicant: Surname:First Name:Title: Miss/Mrs

I will be coming to the AGM *YES/NO and the Church Service *YES/NO

Address:

.....

.....

.....Post Code.....

Telephone Number:

Association Branch:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received
Member YES/NO
Life/Annual
Length Member
Subs paid 1999 YES/NO
Branch Confirmed
Branch Official

ACCOMMODATION MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE BY 12 MARCH 1999

I wish to book the following accommodation:
(Cheque/Money Order payable to WRAC Association + SAE)

A. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast:

A1 Bed Friday 16th, Breakfast and
Dinner Saturday 17th. £35.60

A2 Dinner and Bed Saturday 17th and
Breakfast Sunday 18th £35.60

B. Bed and Breakfast:

B1 Bed Friday 16th and Breakfast
Saturday 17th £25.03

B2 Bed Saturday 17th and Breakfast
Sunday 18th £25.03

LUNCH ON SATURDAY IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

C. Weekend Package £60.63
Bed Friday 16th, Breakfast and Dinner
Saturday 17th, Bed Saturday 17th and
Breakfast Sunday 18th

**NB: Lunch on Saturday is not included in
this package - the Cathedral offers light
lunches on Saturday and Sunday**

PARKING

- * I will/will not need a parking permit for the University
- * Delete as necessary

ENTER TOTALS

Information Sent

AGM YES/NO

Parking YES/NO

CHURCH YES/NO

Secs Lunch

Accn Confirmed (*delete*)

A1 A2 B1 B2 C

Sum Paid £

Sum Outstanding £

Receipt No

Date Acknowledgement sent

Initis

FINAL TOTAL

Annual General Meeting 1999

The meeting will take place at 1430 hrs at the University of Surrey, Guildford, in the Sir Austin Pearce Building on the 17th April followed by a Church Service on 18th April at 11.30 am in the Cathedral. Admission by membership card or ticket (obtainable from WRAC Association).

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held at Victory Services Club on 18th April 1998 at 1430 hrs.
4. Business arising from the meeting.
5. Report of Council.
6. Financial Report.
7. Editor's Report - Lioness.
8. Reports of Committees:
 - a. ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund.
 - b. Executive Committee.
9. Resolutions:
 - a. Motion of Urgency.
 - b. Council Resolutions.
 - c. Branch Resolutions.
 - d. Elections.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of Next Meeting.

**ITEMS FOR THE AGM SHOULD BE WITH THE
GENERAL SECRETARY BY 31 MARCH.**

OVERSEAS LIFE MEMBERS

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Members who previously received the magazine by airmail have already been advised of the balance on their airmail account.

PROGRAMME

Friday 16th April 1999

Accommodation only available.

Saturday 17th April 1999

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 11.30 am | Secretaries Meeting - Sir Austin Pearce Building small lecture theatre |
| 12.30 pm | Council and Secretaries Buffet Lunch - Sir Austin Pearce Building |
| 2.30 pm | AGM - Main Hall Sir Austin Pearce Building |
| 4.00 pm | Tea - Foyer Sir Austin Pearce Building |
| 6.45 pm | Evening Meal for those booked |

Sunday 18th April 1999

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7.45-9.00 am | Breakfast |
| 11.30 am | Church Service - Guildford Cathedral |

**ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA SHOULD BE WITH THE
GENERAL SECRETARY BY 31 MARCH 1999**

SECRETARIES MEETING

There will be a meeting of Branch Secretaries (or other nominated Committee Members) in the Sir Austin Pearce Building at 1130 hrs. The General Secretary would appreciate items for discussion to be sent to Worthy Down by 31 March 1999. Members of Council invite those attending the meeting to join them as guests for lunch prior to the AGM.

ROYAL CHELSEA HOSPITAL

GOVERNOR'S REVIEW 8 JUNE 1999

The Governor's Review at the Royal Chelsea Hospital is the "Dress Rehearsal" in full dress uniform for the Founder's Day Parade on the 10 June 1999.

Members of the public are invited to attend the Review free of charge without tickets. Guests are requested to be in their seats by 0930 hrs, entry is via the Chelsea Gate. Sadly there is no parking available or refreshment tents.

Golden Weddings

BARDWELL-CRUSSELL. On 22 May 1948 at St Lawrence Church, Upminster, Essex. Frank Crussell, Navy Combined Ops to Private Dorothy Bardwell, ATS 1942-1946. Bridesmaids Dot Lewis, ATS (second left), Jean Bardwell, ATS (far right). Present address: 33 Phillips Crescent, Headley, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 8NG.



Wedding Day



Today

GEORGE-CARPENTER. On 15 May 1948 at The Garrison Church of St George, Bulford, Wiltshire. David Kenneth Carpenter, Sgt, Wiltshire Regiment to Patricia George, Pte, 'A' Company ATS, New Ward Barracks, Bulford.

SANDERSON-BUSTARD. On 11 September 1948 at All Saints Church, Braham, Yorkshire. Reginald Bustard served in 2nd Battalion Royal Norfolk Regt. Reginald and Elizabeth Bustard (née Sanderson ATS) celebrated their golden wedding. Present address: 41 Old Bridge Rise, Ilkley, W Yorks, LS29 9HH.



Wedding Day



Today

Obituary

MISS B ABBOTT

Please note that Miss B Abbott is very much alive. We apologise for not including her in the obituary of the previous Lioness.

ALLEN. Miss A Allen of Nuneaton, Warwicks, on 1 July 1998. ATS. WRAC.

APPLETON. Mrs Helen Appleton (née Rush) in Australia on 6 September 1998. ATS.

ASPINALL. Mrs Freda Jane Aspinall (née Holland) of Christchurch, Hants on 20 May 1998. ATS.

BIRCHALL. Mrs Barbara J Birchall (née Batten) of Lyneham, Wilts on 12 February 1998. WRAC.

BOLTON. Mrs F E Bolton of Liverpool, on 18 May 1998. ATS.

CARRUTHERS. Mrs Mabel Carruthers (née Jackman) of Bradford, W Yorks on 8 August 1998. ATS.

CHILTON. Mrs Elsie Doris Chilton (née Richardson) of London, on 3 August 1998. ATS.

CLAPPERTON. Miss Amy Noreen Clapperton of Brautwood Rd, London on 20 July 1998. ATS.

CORBETT. Cpl Pat Corbett of London on 14 September 1997. WRAC, 1957–1966.

COULSHED. Brig Dame Frances Coulshed, DBE of Hampstead, London on 28 September 1998. ATS. WRAC.

COVERDALE. Miss Marion Coverdale of Farnham, Surrey on 2 July 1998. ATS. WRAC.

CROKE. Miss Mary Croke of Tipperary in June 1998. WRAC.

DAKIN. Mrs Pat Dakin (née Milling) of Gosport. in August 1997. ATS.

DAVIES. Mrs Ann M Davies (née Watkinson) of Harrogate, Yorks on 3 September 1998. ATS.

DAVISON. Mrs R L Davison (née Spooner) of North Shields. ATS.

DUDLEY. Miss Ada Dudley of Bolton, Lancs on 22 February 1998. ATS.

EARNSHAW. Mrs E V Earnshaw of Guisborough, Cleveland. ATS.

ELEY. Mrs D Eley of Southampton, Hampshire on 1 August 1998. ATS.

FINCH. Miss Joan Winifred Finch of West Wickham, Kent on 13 July 1998. ATS.

FISHER. Mrs Elizabeth M Fisher of Wallington, Surrey on 29 June 1998. ATS.

FISHER-HOCH. Hon Mrs Nesta Donne Fisher-Hoch of Carmarthen, S Wales on 1 April 1997. ATS.

FOX. Mrs Katherine Margaret Fox of Brackley, Northants. ATS.

GIFFORD. Miss Tracy Gifford of Boscastle, Cornwall on 27 August 1998. WRAC.

GREEN. Mrs H L Green (née Westing) of Maidstone, Kent. WRAC.

GUNTRIP. Mrs Irene Guntrip (née Rayner) of Newton Abbot in October 1998.

HARDY. Mrs O Hardy (née Lloyd) of Lichfield on 24 September 1998. ATS.

HARVEY FRANCKS. Mrs U Harvey Francks (née Bury) of Hamble, Southampton, Hampshire on 24 August 1998. ATS.

HOSSACK. Mrs Patricia M Hossack on 1 May 1998. ATS.

HUNTER. Mrs Mary Teresa Hunter (née Vennard) of Sunderland, Co Durham, on 11 August 1998. ATS. WRAC.

JONES. Miss Olive Edna Jones of Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex. WRAC.

KENNARD. Mrs Renee Mary Kennard (née Musson) of Dartmouth, Devon.

KING. Mrs Diana Barbara V King (née Heasman) of Angmering, Sussex. WRAC.

KITSON. Mrs Lilian Kitson of York. ATS.

LINDOP. Mrs Joyce Lindop (née Carman) of Rochdale, Lancs. ATS.

MARSAY. Mrs Martha Ann Marsay of Saltburn, Cleveland on 27 July 1998.

MAXWELL. Miss Helen Maxwell of Dumfries on 24 May 1998.

McCOMB. Frances of Belfast on 23 September 1998.

MUNNS. Mrs Jenny Munns (née Blair) of Cambridge on 19 September 1998. ATS.

NEEVE. Mrs J Neeve (née Dyer) of Corsham, Hants on 18 June 1998. WRAC.

NEWLANDS. Miss Betty Newlands of Kirkley, Lowestoft, Suffolk on 25 May 1998.

OLIVER. Mrs Mary Oliver (née Dyne) of Herts on 17 May 1998. ATS.

ORTON. Mrs Joyce Orton of Accrington, Lancs on 27 May 1998.

PARKER. Mrs Dione Parker of Farnham, Surrey on 5 June 1998. ATS. WRAC.

PATCH. Mrs Olga Mary Patch of East Sussex on 3 August 1998. ATS.

PERKINS. Mrs Emily Perkins (née Fairhurst) on 15 September 1998. ATS.

PERRY. Ssgt Sandy Perry BEM of Cornwall on 23 December 1998. WRAC, 1962–1988.

PORTER. Mrs Hilda Porter of Wythenshawe, Manchester. ATS.

PORTWAY. Maj D L M Portway TD (Retd) of Cambridge on 31 July 1998. ATS. WRAC.

REEMAN. Mrs Crystal Reeman of Bentley on 13 December 1997.

RICHARDSON. Mrs E M Richardson of Middlesbrough, Cleveland on 20 August 1998.

ROBINSON. Mrs Betty Evelyn Robinson of WA 98027, USA on 1 November 1996. ATS.

ROWAT. WO1 Carol Ann Maxwell Rowat MBE of Telford on 30 December 1998. WRAC, 1970–1993.

RUDLAND. Miss B E Rudland of Peacehaven, Newhaven, East Sussex. ATS.

SCOTT. Mrs B Scott MBE TD (née Fisher) of Tintagel, North Cornwall. ATS.

SHETTLÉ. Mrs Doris Catherine Shettle (née Chandler) of Selsey, Sussex on 14 June 1998. ATS.

SMITH. Mrs Doreen Smith of Bristol on 9 September 1998. ATS.

STAR. Mrs Clara (née Bardon).

STEVENS. Mrs M Stevens (née Owen/Reed) of Bognor Regis, West Sussex in February 1998. ATS.

STUART-TAYLOR. Miss Lesley Evelyn Stuart-Taylor of Cheltenham, Glos on 1 July 1998. ATS.

TATTERSALL. Miss Joan Tattersall of Manchester on 6 June 1998. ATS.

TAYLOR. Mrs Joan Taylor of Halifax, Yorkshire on 20 May 1998. ATS.

WATERS. Mrs Marjory Waters (née Wilkin) of Braintree, Essex. ATS.

WHEELHOUSE. Miss Ivy B Wheelhouse of Bradford on 14 September 1998. ATS. WRAC.

CAPTAIN JANE NEEVE (NÉE DYER) 11 September 1949 - 18 June 1998

All who knew Jane will be saddened to know that she died from cancer on the 18th June 1998.

Jane's great talent was for dealing with people and getting the best out of them. She had a direct, calm pragmatic approach and always spoke the truth kindly and without malice. She was a very successful soldier because she could relate to anyone. She proved this in her time as an Instructor in WONCO Wing Camberley as well as a Regimental Officer in Northern Ireland. She always had the courage of her convictions and the determination in all that she undertook made her a highly respected and loved person. She also had a good sense of humour and a memorable laugh!

Jane pursued many interests both academical and aesthetical. She lived life to the full painting, gardening, choral singing; collecting artefacts and pictures during her travels to Hong Kong, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Germany, Spain and Argentina.

With her husband John, Jane was a deeply committed Christian. Their Faith was a comfort to them in troubled times. Jane will be missed by a great number of friends both Army and Civilian. We offer our sincere condolences to John on his great loss.

BRIGADIER DAME FRANCES COULSHED DBE, TD.

Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed DBE, TD, former Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), died on September 28 aged 93. She was born on November 10, 1904.

When she crossed the Channel in December 1944, Frances Coulshed made history by becoming the first woman officer to join a mobile operational headquarters in wartime. With the rank of Senior Commander - the equivalent of major - in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), she took her place in the anti-aircraft headquarters of 21st Army Group as mixed-sex anti-aircraft regiments were arriving for the first time on the Continent.

Among the first to join the ATS six years before, the one-time schoolmistress had already helped to break new ground on several occasions. As a Junior Commander (Captain) in a searchlight company, she had helped to organise the first 24-hour plotting teams in the war. Then, some time later, by then experienced in anti-aircraft operations, she had trained some of the first girls to serve

with gun detachments in mixed regiments. But her move to continental Europe as the Allies advanced from their Normandy beach-head, was Coulshed's sternest test.

As troops slowly liberated territories in northern France and the Benelux countries, overtaking the enemy V-1 and V-2 launchpads, the Germans were resiting their missiles on their own territory and aiming them at the ground they had once occupied. As more and more anti-aircraft crews were being summoned up for the Rhine crossing, mixed regiments were being shipped over from Britain to take their place in defending against this new threat. This was the background to Coulshed's own arrival on the Continent, where she was to remain until after the end of the war.

In the late summer of 1945 she was promoted to Chief Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) before returning to Britain in December 1945. She was mentioned in dispatches during that time and was later decorated by both Belgium and France, which awarded her the Croix de Guerre (with palm). She may, however, be remembered best as the Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps (which replaced the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1949) who abolished the peaked cap and replaced it with the more practical dark green beret.

Born in Sheffield into a practising Roman Catholic family, Frances Coulshed was educated at Oakfield Cedars School, Derby, and the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Kensington, before starting a teaching career. She was working in Derby when she joined the 1st Derbyshire Company of the newly formed ATS in 1938.

Mobilised on the outbreak of war in the following year, she was attached to the 68th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment - and remained with one or other anti-aircraft unit for the greater part of her subsequent career.



*Brigadier Dame Frances Coulshed
Born 10 November 1904
Director WRAC 1951-1954. CBE 1949. DBE 1953*

After the war she was made Deputy Director Anti-Aircraft Command, 1946-50, and was then briefly Deputy Director of the WRAC before taking over as Director in 1951 with the rank of Brigadier. She retired three years later. Appointed CBE in 1949, she was advanced to DBE in 1953.

On leaving the WRAC, she worked in telecommunications for a while, before retiring to the block of flats where she lived in North London. Failing health prompted her move to a nursing home some years ago.

A highly respected Director of the WRAC, she saw the Corps' strength expand from 5,800 to about 6,500 during her three years at the top. Her diligence is best exemplified by one well-remembered reception held in her honour, where she kept everyone standing for more than three hours by insisting on meeting and talking to every guest.

But she was also known in the Army for her femininity in a man's world, and her room at the War Office was often filled with flowers. She maintained her links with the WRAC, once donating a number of books to the Corps Headquarters Mess to form the nucleus of a library. But Frances Coulshed was essentially a very private, self-contained person whom few of her Army contemporaries knew well.

In retirement she lived modestly on her own, with a signed photograph of the former Princess Royal, Controllor-Commandant of the Corps, prominently displayed, and surrounded by a battery of model cats made of anything from porcelain to wool. She adored cats and on the day she died the cat from the nursing home, who spent much of his time on her chair, sat disconsolately under her window throughout the day.

Frances Coulshed was unmarried and leaves no close relatives.

Printed by courtesy of the *Sunday Times*.

TRACY GIFFORD

Miss Tracy Gifford MBE (Ex W/0804295 Sgt AGC(SPS)) died on Thursday 27 August 1998 as a result of a Road Traffic accident. Tracy initially joined the WRAC later transferring to the AGC(SPS). She served in UK, Cyprus, Falklands and NI. Whilst serving with the Quarter Master General's Department in Andover she was awarded the MBE. Tracy will be sorely missed by family and friends.

W/125893 - SGT OLIVE JONES A.T.S. and W.R.A.C. 1942 to 1965

Olive died on 17 April, having been diagnosed as having terminal cancer last summer. She was 82 years old. Olive was a long standing member of St Winifrid's Church, and although we were all saddened at her death it was also a tremendous release for her. Olive had a wonderful life in the Army having been called up during the Second World War and she got to see many parts of the world. She stayed in the Army until she retired when she came to live with her parents in Park Croft. She loved living in Lower Willingdon and especially for the beautiful views we have of the Downs. She loved St Winifrid's Church and came to view the Church as her family - which, of course, is what all Christians are: part of the same world wide family. She spent the last months of her life at Mais House in Bexhill, Sussex, a British Legion Retirement Home. However, in her heart she continued to think of Lower Willingdon as being her true home.

MAJOR D L M PORTWAY

Major Daphne Portway, known as Dippy to all her many friends, was born in 1921. She collapsed and died on 31 July 1998 playing tennis with friends on the grass court in her garden. She had still at the age of 77 been playing tennis regularly several times a week throughout the year.

Her father Colonel Portway, a keen sportsman, was at one time Master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge. Her mother was of Polish descent. Dippy, an only child, had many cousins. She still maintained an interest in her father's college and kept in touch with her family in Poland.

In the early 1940s Dippy read Geography at Newnham College, Cambridge. She enlisted into the ATS in August 1943 and was commissioned in the November. With the formation of the WRAC she obtained a short service commission. Throughout her regular service she served with the Military Survey branch in the War Office and in Germany. In 1955 she left the regular Army and in 1956 joined the WRAC TA serving in various parts of East Anglia, first with a military transport unit but mostly with the Royal Corps of Signals. She left the TA in 1967 and was in the TAVR until 1975.

Sports had always been Dippy's main interest. She represented Cambridge University at tennis and squash and later played regularly in the Army Women's hockey, squash and tennis teams always with great keenness and enthusiasm. She captained the hockey and squash teams. She was Army Women's tennis champion in 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954. As a result of her services record she once played in the first round at Wimbledon; she was beaten by a girl of 16, Christine Truman.

She also played hockey and squash for Cambridgeshire but her greatest prowess was at tennis. She won her county tennis colours in 1948 and captained the Cambridgeshire team for 18 years from 1959 to 1977. Dippy was president of the Cambridgeshire LTA from 1976-1978 and then honorary life president and the counties representative on the Lawn Tennis Association Executive Council for 10 years. She did much to promote county veteran's championships and was captain of the counties over 60s when she died. She was still keenly interested in the Women's Inter Service Championships and was delighted when in July shortly before her death the Army Women's Veteran's team she was playing in won. She continued to play squash for many years and only gave up playing regularly when the courts she used were pulled down to make way for some other development.

Dippy was a fearless driver of her small family car. She drove great distances, regardless of the weather, the traffic or the time of day or night, to play tennis or to attend dinners, reunions or TA drill nights. She was always prepared to drive 20 miles or so out of her way to pick up a passenger. Four or five times during the Wimbledon Championships she drove from Cambridge directly through London and back. She was normally accompanied by her dog. If humanly possible she returned home at night to feed her cats. At one time she had at least 12. In her TA days Dippy had been known to leave a TA camp in Kent after a day's work to attend a May Ball in Cambridge and to return for work the next morning. Usually each year she accompanied a friend on the London to Brighton Classic Car Run, an event she looked forward to.

Of small stature Dippy was full of energy and enthusiasm. She lived life to the full and enjoyed all she did. She had many friends connected with her Army and sporting careers. She herself was a loyal and generous friend who always returned hospitality. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

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

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at 31 October 1998 and of its net movement in funds for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

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

1998

	Notes	General funds	Membership life subscription fund	Lioness life subscription fund	1998	1997
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE						
Incoming Resources						
Life subscriptions		–	954	3,818	4,772	6,182
Annual subscriptions		3,171	–	–	3,171	4,801
Investment income	1	12,698	–	–	12,698	15,146
Lioness publication income	2	15,348	–	–	15,348	15,956
Sale of badges and souvenirs		801	–	–	801	–
1997 Reunion income		2,329	–	–	2,329	25,342
Total incoming resources		34,347	954	3,818	39,119	67,427
Resources expended						
Direct charitable expenditure:						
Grants and donations		–	–	–	–	–
Lioness publication costs		24,960	–	–	24,960	21,914
1997 Reunion expenditure		–	–	–	–	19,842
Other expenditure:						
Management and administration	3	6,429	–	–	6,429	9,756
Total resources expended		31,389	–	–	31,389	51,512
NET MOVEMENT IN RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS						
		2,958	954	3,818	7,730	15,915
Transfers between funds		3,262	(978)	(2,284)	–	–
NET MOVEMENT IN RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR						
		6,220	(24)	1,534	7,730	15,915
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES						
Gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised		(31,267)	–	–	(31,267)	19,944
Realised		23,286	–	–	23,286	–
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		(1,761)	(24)	1,534	(251)	35,859
Balance brought forward at 1 November 1997		225,051	10,641	23,437	259,129	223,270
Balance carried forward at 31 October 1998		223,290	10,617	24,971	258,878	259,129

BALANCE SHEET 31 October 1998

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Notes	1998	1997
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	5	211,533	217,053
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock of badges		1,036	2,042
Association standard		199	199
Accrued Income		6,442	1,507
Cash at bank and in hand	6	41,806	43,717
		49,483	47,465
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	2,138	5,389
NET CURRENT ASSETS		47,345	42,076
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		258,878	259,129
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	8	258,878	259,129

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are stated at market value, and are in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

INVESTMENTS

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments are taken to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they arise.

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and realisable value.

LIFE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Life subscriptions are accounted for when received and allocated to specific designated funds to be released to general funds on a straight line basis over a period of 20 years.

INVESTMENT INCOME

Investment income is accounted for once the dividend or interest has been declared. All investment income during the year was received gross.

	1998	1997
1. INVESTMENT INCOME		
Dividend income	10,758	13,066
Deposit account interest	1,940	2,080
	12,698	15,146
2. LIONESS PUBLICATION		
Subscriptions	14,937	14,766
Advertising revenues	411	1,190
	15,348	15,956
3. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION		
AGM expenses	1,888	111
Printing and stationery	–	–
Postage	1,226	3,434
Travel expenses	165	383
Investment management fees	–	1,988
Audit and accountancy	2,230	2,968
Subscriptions and donations	215	115
Sundry expenses	705	757
	6,429	9,756

EMPLOYEES

There were no persons employed by the Association during the year.

No trustee received any remuneration for services to the Association in the current or previous year.

No trustee was reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the Association in the current or previous year.

5. INVESTMENTS

At market value:	1998	1997
M&G Charifund Units (1998: 9,005 units; 1997: 12,495 units)	87,349	113,336
Schroders Charity Equity Fund (61,891 units)	124,184	—
8% Treasury Loan 2002/06 (£15,000) £2,807 purchased July 1997	—	15,746
7.75% Treasury Loan 2012/15 (£6,548)	—	7,322
8% Treasury Stock 2003 (£38,037)	—	41,343
12.25% Exchequer Stock 1999 (£10,030)	—	10,834
4.375% Index Linked Stock 2004 (£8,670)	—	10,628
2% Index Linked Stock 2006 (£8,772)	—	17,844
	<u>211,533</u>	<u>217,053</u>

The historical cost of the investments, purchased at various dates, is £242,800 (1997: £147,044).

6. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	1998	1997
Current Account	16,566	9,889
Deposit Account	25,240	30,240
Cash held by investment managers	—	2,477
Cash in hand	—	1,111
	<u>41,806</u>	<u>43,717</u>

7. CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

1997 Reunion: Deferred income	—	—
Sundry creditors	2,138	5,389
	<u>2,138</u>	<u>5,389</u>

8. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	DESIGNATED FUNDS			
	General funds	Membership life subscription fund	Lioness life subscription fund	TOTAL
1 November 1997	225,051	10,641	23,437	259,129
Net movement for the year	(1,761)	(24)	1,534	(251)
31 October 1998	<u>223,290</u>	<u>10,617</u>	<u>24,971</u>	<u>258,878</u>
Analysis of net assets between funds:				
Investments	211,533	—	—	211,533
Net current assets	11,757	10,617	24,971	47,345
for the year	<u>223,290</u>	<u>10,617</u>	<u>24,971</u>	<u>258,878</u>

Unrealised (losses)/gains and realised gains on investments included in unrestricted funds at the year end amounted to £31,267 (1997: £19,944) and £23,286 (1997: £ nil) respectively.

9. CONNECTED CHARITIES

The Association is connected by virtue of common management and administration, and by related objectives and activities to the Auxiliary Territorial Service Benevolent Fund and the Women's Royal Army Corps Benevolent Fund and the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund.



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