

LIONESS

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THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 206184

Founded in 1919

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

General Secretary: Direct (01962) 887570 or ATN (94271) 2570

Chief Clerk: Direct (01962) 887478 or ATN (94271) 2478

Fax: (01962) 887478

Benevolent Funds: (01962) 887612 or ATN (94271) 2612

Cover Photographs

Front Cover:

The WRAC Association Badge

Back Cover:

A Highland Gathering of Ex Army Posties

Contributions for next issue by 31 May 2002

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EDITORIAL

Another six months have flown by. At least they have not been marked by the awful flooding of last winter, although I suppose there is still time! However, they have been marred by worse events, the appalling tragedy of September 11th and the subsequent war in Afghanistan, the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and increased tension between India and Pakistan. Although life seems to go on as usual from day to day, one cannot help wondering what will happen next and how it will effect us all. The only thing to do is take a leaf out of the ATS book – be positive and look to the future that we want. So many of you in the ATS have said that that is what brought you through the very dark days of the Second World War and I am sure that it will serve us well in these uncertain times.

The Association has certainly taken this view. The WRAC Plot at the National Memorial Arboretum is now well under way and you can read about this on page 36. Plans for the next Grand Reunion are also well in hand and provisional details of the event are also published in this edition. The Council has been addressing the problems of financing the Lioness and also reviewing the Rules of the Association to ensure the future of both is assured. There is a very important message from your Chairman on page 32, please read it now.

Finally, news from HQ – yet another Chief Clerk has moved on. Julie McDonald joined us in November and promptly got promotion! We hope to replace her by early April, so meanwhile please be patient if we are a little slow in dealing with any queries.

ATS Reminiscences

"JOINING UP"

Mrs Betty Homer née 66244 Sgt Blester, Bungalow 1, Oak Avenue, Great Wyrley, Walsall, Staffs WS6 6MR



Sgt. Betty Blester

When I said cheerio to my darling husband, I told him that if he was going so was I. I marched myself off to the "Blue Gates" Recruiting Office at Smethwick and said that I wanted to join the ATS please. "Come in" said a tall man covered in medals – my legs went all of a jelly.

After filling in many forms I was told to expect a letter in four weeks time. On coming home from work one night, mother said that there was a letter for me marked "On His Majesty's Service". I thought that it might be about my husband, so I put on a brave face and opened it. The letter said "Report to Aston Hall for a medical in one week's time".

Being an only child, all hell let loose and my dad, who had been in the 1914-18 war, just said "Young lady I shall come with you and wait outside". I said "OK".

ERRATA

The Editor wishes to extend her unreserved apologies to Mrs Betty Hutchings of Winchester for the erroneous obituary notice that appeared in the last edition of the Lioness. We would like to assure you that Mrs Hutchings is alive and well.

So came the big day, – after seeing six doctors, I was taken to swear the oath, having been warned that I would be in for the duration. I then received a day's pay, the King's shilling and a railway warrant and was told where to report. I tottered outside to my dad who said "Well, I bet they did not want you!" I held out the money and rail warrant and he said, "Oh my life, – your mother will kill you!" (By the way I am 85 years old now and I still have that King's shilling!) We will pass on Mother's comments, but a week later I was on New Street Station saying "cheerio" to them.

I and seventeen more recruits had to report to Oxford, to the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry Brigade. The first thing was the medical examination, – (bang went all modesty) followed by injections. Next was a visit to the stores, as I am still only tiny I must have looked like Tweedledum and I only got half my kit anyway. Another girl from Birmingham was next to me and we stayed friends from 1940 till she was married in 1942 and went home.

We were then shown into our hut with a very upstanding Corporal who barked "stand by your beds", Lil and I said "Oh for a cup of tea", – but no such luck. We were shown how to make our beds then the Corporal yelled "Come on, over to the Mess it's supper time", and yes, you've guessed it – it was stew. All I wanted was a wash, but that came later – in cold water.

Eventually we were told that it was 'Lights Out', we fell into bed and awoke next morning at 0530 to a Bugler playing Rise and Shine. We didn't know what to do, so we scrambled over to the ablutions, washed again in cold water and dressed in what kit we had. Breakfast, lumpy porridge and powdered egg, then outside where the RSM was waiting to march us away. What a shambles, some went right, some went left and the RSM's language was not for printing.

Our poor feet had blisters the size of half crowns but we weathered it. I did not like the gas chamber, although it was fun until the officer said "Now take your masks off", – and we were all crying. Anyway, six weeks later with sore feet and sore arms we were asked what we wanted to do. I, silly girl, said nursing. I was posted to Tidworth Military Hospital, had two weeks in the Operating Theatre and the rest of the time in the men's ward. The Theatre Sister barked "If you feel faint get out". It was no joke seeing a man's leg come off but I did manage to get out in the corridor where a kindly orderly revived me and then pushed me back again. I gritted my teeth and I never fainted again. Going on to the men's ward was entertaining.

One day we were told that the Princess Royal who was our Patron was paying us a visit. On going out of the ward with a bedpan on "the day" I saw the whole retinue coming up the corridor so I hastily put the bedpan in a patient's locker. I put my hat on, stood to attention and greeted the dear lady, answering her questions with "Yes Ma'am", "No Ma'am" – my heart beating like a drum. Matron's eyes were everywhere, but it all went off well and I remained on Salisbury Plain.

I served from 1940 – 1948 and reached the rank of Sergeant. In 1940 I had a lovely Certificate of Devotion to Duty, and a medal from King George VI. I enjoyed every day of my service, have some wonderful memories and don't regret anything.

I nursed until I was 60 but now I'm full of arthritis, however I've still got my marbles and trot around on my electric scooter. So that's my story and may I say I love my "Lioness".

MEMORIES OF 500 HAA BATTERY RA

Mrs Wyn Taylor, née Howard, Flat 12, Gillian House,
Elms Road, Harrow, Weald HA3 6BU

I was in 500 HAA Battery and stationed at Georgetown for a year. We saw quite a lot of action as we were one of the batteries positioned around the Middlesbrough Steel Works. Then we were sent to Craigenfinny Golf Course near Edinburgh. With the arrival of the "Doodle Bugs" we were moved to Winchelsea where we were accommodated in houses but when we were moved on to Rye Marshes, we lived in tents for six weeks in very wet weather!

I remember we marched to Rye so that we could use the shower in the firemen's quarters. I remember that the water came from high up, it was a communal shower and there were some girls who were too shy to strip right off! We wore the firemen's steel helmets to keep our hair dry for when we marched back.

It was a way of life where you had to be able to rough it, but there were many funny moments and lots of comradeship. Captain Heath who later became the MP was in charge of us for a time.

I would love to hear from anyone who served with me in 500 HAA Battery.

TRAINING CAMP, HONITON, DEVON FEBRUARY 1942

Mrs J Aldridge (Cpl J Mustoe née Delamont ATS),
17 Wordsworth Crescent, Woodthorpe, York YO24 2RX

The "Lioness" has just arrived and nothing will get done this morning until I have finished reading it. I always hope that one day my name will appear in the magazine.

For so many years I have wanted to write to someone about my life in the ATS. Memories have stayed with me for nearly 60 years and I've still got a few wonderful ATS friends who keep in touch. I belong to the York Branch of the Association and attend the meetings – which I so enjoy. I still keep in touch with Lt Col W Andrewes who retired from the ATS in 1982 and who was my CSM at Headquarters Royal Engineers, Longmoor Camp, Hampshire. I spent nearly four years at Longmoor. I have written my life story in the ATS – to let my grandchildren know what 'Grandma did for the war'.

A week prior to D Day my husband, a Flt/Sgt Bomb Aimer RAF was shot down during a raid over Aachen in Germany. I remarried in 1946 to a wonderful man and we were together for 52 years until he died in March 1998. He was an officer in the Royal Engineers at Longmoor and I've two wonderful sons and grandchildren. Now living on my own I've time to sit and think. I also spend time doing water-colour painting, writing my life story and making Cross Stitch and Tapestries. I've a lovely tapestry of a Galleon I bought for seventeen shillings and sixpence

from the Army Bureau Current Affairs which I started when confined to camp prior to D Day. It started as a Fire Screen but, alas, the glass got broken. It is a lovely framed picture now and a reminder of so many happy days.

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The time has now come and I say "What do I do with all this ATS memorabilia?" – I've a lovely album of various ATS activities which I think my sons will treasure, but I would like the "world" etc to know I did my bit to make the future worthwhile for the next generation. I feel I've so much to offer but don't know where to start. Should I perhaps leave a note in my will for it to be sent to the Imperial War Museum? As I am now 80 years and a very positive person I feel that before the "advancing years" – take over, I must make some decisions.

A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER JOINS THE ATS

Mrs P Powell née Newman, 44 Belvedere Court,
High Street, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8UX



*Aunt Helen in the Queen
Mary's Auxiliary Army
Corps*



Pte Phyllis Powell

My Uncle Edgar died during the South African Boer War whilst serving in the South African Military Police, and I have some of the letters sent home to his younger brothers exhorting them to be good boys and look after their mother. Sadly, the youngest, Stanley aged 17 of the Essex Yeomanry, was killed on the Somme and has no known grave although I have seen his name in the Book at the Menin Gate and also on the War Memorial in Brentwood.

My Aunt Helen also joined up in the QMAAC and I enclose a photo of her in her uniform. I am very proud to own her badges, miniature medals and Citation for being 'Mentioned in Despatches' for services behind the Lines in France. The Oak Leaf cluster on her medals make them rather unique.

My own father was a regular soldier and served in India for 21 years and France where he was wounded. I was born during his time at Maresfield Barracks in Sussex.

With such a background of Army Service, I surely was predestined to join up myself, and, indeed, when I was 18

in 1943 I immediately enlisted and started my ATS life in Guildford Barracks. So began the most interesting period of my life starting with the 'Strip to the waist' and get jabbed for inoculations in both arms at the same time – and then sleeping in a hut with some very young, tearful, very apprehensive and naive girls. Modesty and privacy were then forgotten and we threw ourselves into the job of cleaning the ablutions, shining our shoes (even on the underside) and drill on the Square – I loved the army routine as I had already been well trained by my father who was a stickler for cleaning the brasses etc. I hope he was proud of me and I too was very pleased to be able to wear his Signals insignia as my Regimental badge over my pocket. The Aptitude Tests were the next struggle but I managed to fit the round pegs into the round holes and was lucky to be approved for training as a Teleprinter Operator (TPO), so the next stop was Strathpeffer!! Where are the girls who trained there with me in June 1943? I loved every minute of it, although it was my first trip to Scotland and I found the salt in the porridge very strange. Do any of you remember the Dances held at Dingwall – those Polish soldiers were quite a challenge to handle, and I think we all grew up very quickly and enjoyed ourselves.

My first posting was to SWD Signals at Taunton and I met some really good friends there. Fortunately I am still in contact with my friend Joyce Beare (now Wallis) but I would love to know if any of the other girls still remember me, especially Bobby Stack who came from Doncaster. Are you still out there somewhere?

We were billeted in Lyngford House and worked at the nearby Signal Office in Pyrland Hall. Do those old houses still exist perhaps as Hotels? Perhaps someone in the Taunton branch could let me know. I was a Lance Corporal then and a TPO, but in 1945 we were told that we had to take a further course and become Operators Keyboard and Line (OKL), which meant learning the Morse Code and Electronics at a Signal School just outside of Salisbury. We were then billeted in Aldenham Hill in Salisbury. I think I was on the first course in Southern Command because, to my amazement, I did very well and was asked to stay on as an Instructor. This I did and again I hope that perhaps some of my 'students' remember me.

At this point I must thank the good people in Salisbury who were so kind to us ATS. We were never refused anything they could supply and sometimes even the bill was forgotten in the café. Thank you Salisbury. I would especially like to thank the ELIM Church Canteen, they always had something special to give us, but I have never been able to locate the place whenever I have been back to Salisbury.

To get back to my Service Days, I was asked (well perhaps ordered) to join a small Demonstration Team to tour Southern Command Cadet Camps, to show them what the Signals Section was all about. There were three ATS – me, now a corporal, a Wireless Operator and a Driver ATS for the small Bedford Van. Also in the Team and, most important of all, were a group of Signals men

recently returned from the Far East, and yes you have guessed it, I fell for the handsome blonde corporal. Luckily he felt the same and hey presto we have now been married 56 years.

My ATS years were very happy, my only regret is that I didn't stay in longer and do some overseas duty. The accounts I now read in the "Lioness" of the ATS overseas make me realize what I could have done. My admiration for those who made it and for those who also lost their lives makes my own War Effort seem very humble, but I am very proud to have been a part of it.

My introduction to the Association was by a chance meeting, whilst on holiday, with Jacqui Ambrose of the Colchester Branch who was wearing her ATS silver badge. She put me in touch with her Secretary, Vera Cole, who very kindly supplied me with the information I needed to join.

The only disappointment is that my nearest Branch, Luton, is too far away for me to travel to, especially now that we have recently given up our car. I am very grateful to the Luton Secretary, Josephine Connaughton, who has sent me some back copies of the "Lioness" which I read from cover to cover – that is when I can get them away from my husband, Jim, who is just as interested to see what we got up to during the war!

WRAC SNCOs and WOs ANNUAL DINNER

The WRAC SNCOs and WOs Annual Dinner for the year 2002 is due to be held in the Sergeants' Mess, Imphal Barracks, YORK on Saturday 25 May 2002.

Any ex or serving member wishing to attend should contact:

WO2 (SQMS) Mal Fulton
RAO
2 Sig Regt
Imphal Barracks
Fulford Road
YORK
YO10 4HD

Tel: Civil: 01904 665839 Mil: 9/4777 5839
Fax: 01904 662689 Mil: 9/4777 2689

Numbers will be limited, so first come first served basis will apply. Some accommodation will be available. More details on application.

Book early – avoid being disappointed

Reminiscences of the WRAC

OLD FRIENDSHIP RENEWED

Mrs Sandra Steadman, 29 Ash Road, Horfield,
Bristol BS7 8RN



Sandra and June Edwards reunion.

I was W/389465 Pte Sandy White. I joined the WRAC in August 1955. My basic training was undertaken at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford where I made some very special friends. My most special friends were Agnes (Bobby) Robinson, and Shirley O'Connor. We went to Houndstone Camp, Yeovil for our clerical training. I was then posted to Richmond Park, Kingston-on-Thames. There I met Pte Anne (Jackie) Povey. I'd found another good friend.

I was then posted to Singapore. We travelled on the "Dunera" and, apart from the 'mal de mer', had a wonderful time. Special memories are Capetown and Mauritius, where Bobby, myself and two male companions, Bob and Cyril, were entertained to a meal by the sister of a police inspector. I didn't find the water, which was served with the meal of something very hot with rice, very refreshing. But I later realised it was white rum. My legs were not very steady at the end of the evening I assure you. The 'crossing the line' was something not to be forgotten as well.

While at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, I met among others, June Edwards (now Jones). We had a wonderful time when we put on a review called "Spring Fever". This was in aid of the Singapore Asian Games Fund. I still have a copy of a page from "The Free Press" dated 17 April 1958.

I have tried numerous times to trace Bobby, Jackie and Shirley but to no avail. Does anyone have any information please?

Just before Christmas 2000 I had a letter from June (Edwards). I finally got to meet her again in the middle of September this year after 42 years. It was wonderful. I felt as though we had never been apart. I have the WRAC Register to thank for that. We were lucky enough to meet again at the WRAC Dinner Club Reunion at Birmingham. I enclose a photo of our first meeting after 42 years.



Elsie Renshaw

In February 1961 I was looking forward to a new posting to 12th Battalion WRAC, Richmond Park, Kingston-Upon-Thames. My new position in the army was to be an officer's batwoman, a little different from my previous posting as a waitress in the War Office Officers' Mess Woolwich where I was attached to WRAC Shrapnel Barracks. I soon settled into my new surroundings at Richmond Park and found becoming an officer's batwoman was something very rewarding and satisfying.

The beautiful surroundings of Richmond Park have been a life long memory. It was a real pleasure to have been a cog in a wheel there and so it was with sadness that I read the obituary of Brigadier Helen Guild Meechie CBE MA LLD.

She was a subaltern officer in the early sixties when I knew her. I became her batwoman when Miss Meechie, as she was then, was posted to Richmond Park. There were eight officers in my care, Miss Scott, Miss Tweed, Miss Pearce, Miss Gough, Miss Meechie and three other officers.

Elsie Renshaw was batwoman to the Commanding Officer. I often wonder what became of Elsie, perhaps some may recall her. She had the bunk next to mine and had made the Army her life, her family. Elsie must have been in her fifties then and I spent some happy morning coffee breaks with Elsie in the Commanding Officer's kitchen.

When I reminisce I recall the walk from the town up Kingston Hill where my friends and I frequented the local chippie where we would indulge ourselves with rock salmon and chips – so gorgeous and has never been surpassed. Makes my mouth water just thinking about them now. Alas, here 'neath the rolling magnificent hills of Malvern where I now live, salmon and chips are non-existent.

Memories of Richmond Park are evoked in the walks with friends, the roaming deer, plants and flora and little parks within the park.

Any information on the WRAC Camp in Richmond Park, what became of it would be very much appreciated.

DID YOU SERVE IN CYPRUS 1955 – 1959?

Mr David Carter is writing a book about the British Military personnel who had to deal with the EOKA terrorists in Cyprus in the 1950s. He would like to make contact with any members of the WRAC who were serving there during that time as the Corps played a very important role in the anti-terrorist operations.

You can contact Mr Carter at:

8 The Old Drive
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6TB
Tel: 01707 322101

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Swanpool
Lincoln
Tel: 01522 878413

OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Please note that in future, all payments for subscriptions, postage and memorabilia will only be accepted in Sterling. Please ask your bank for a Money Order or Sterling Cheque.

We regret to have to impose this restriction, but due to the vagaries of exchange rates, the majority of overseas payments fall significantly short of the amount due.

Where Are You Now?

HAVE YOU INFORMATION ON

DAPHNE PEARCE

Mr V Jackson, 1 Morton Court, Dawley, Telford,
Salop TF4 2NA

In the early part of 1945 I met an ATS girl. She was stationed at COD Donnington, Shropshire and her name was Daphne Pearce. Her home address was 149 Turnpike Lane, Hornsey, London N8

The last time I saw her was on VE Night. Later her friends said she had been posted to Egypt. I asked for her address but could not get it although one girl told me she had died which upset me. I volunteered to go to Egypt for three years and while there looked all around for proof but no luck.

I am now 77 years old and going blind. So I would just like to know what happened to her for peace of mind.

WERE YOU IN C SECTION 530(M) HAA BATTERY?

Mrs E A S Hannaford née Emptage,
87 Grosvenor Road, Staines, Middx TW18 2RP



C Section 530 (M) HAA Battery.

I am searching for my friends who were in C Section of 530(M) HAA Battery between 1942 - 1946. I was known as W/115254 Pte Estelle Hannaford.

In the photograph, which was taken outside the Grand Hotel, Sheringham, Norfolk in 1943 I am sitting in the front row, third from the right, with my friend May Clare née Rawlings from Cornwall.

LOOKING FOR GLADYS PRESTON

Mrs K Hyde née Thorpe, 19 Denmark Road,
Aylestone, Leicester LE2 8AB

Mrs Kathleen Hyde née Thorpe who did her ATS training at Pontefract in 1941 and was then based at Catterick would like to make contact with Mrs Gladys Preston née Pratt.

WRAC HONGKONG 1971

Mrs Eleanor Ferguson née Jeffery, 133 Pendeen Parc,
Helston, Cornwall TR13 0SL



WRAC Hong Kong, 1971.

Like many others, I keep hoping to see a familiar face in the *Lioness* but then decided to supply a few myself instead. So here they are, I have remembered most names, apologies to the two that I have forgotten, perhaps someone can supply their names?

Cpl Sue Wills is missing from the photo, Judy Starkey where are you now? Sorry to Pat Lawson whom I did not recognise when she visited Cornwall several years ago. Kim our house dog is between WO Byrd and Capt Silcox. Names are left to right.

FRONT ROW

Cpl Carol Dunn
Cpl Audrey Burnham
Cpl Dawn Allen
Sgt
Sgt Millar
WO Byrd
Capt Silcox
Sgt Moffat
Sgt Rita Forster
Sgt Thornton
Cpl Maggie Spence
Cpl Sammie Banham
Cpl Sue Williamson

MIDDLE ROW

Brenda Dilgert
Cpl
LCpl Judy Spencer
Wilma Crawford
Ellen Jeffery
Sue Walton
LCpl Sandy Mackie
Rita Harris
LCpl Babs Findlay
Cpl Jan May
Cpl June Johnson
Lynn Forcet
LCpl Pat Hollamby
LCpl Diddy Owen
LCpl Carol Burns
Pat Nicholson
Cpl Lynn Pitman
LCpl Hazel Flynn
Chris Jons
LCpl Eileen Hobson
LCpl Williams

BACK ROW

Erica Trevor
Sue Sorbey
LCpl Sylvia Williams
LCpl Cathy Hunter
LCpl Sylvia Rollings
LCpl Lynn Farnell
LCpl Sue Bush
LCpl Jane Southern
LCpl Izzy Kennedy
Judy Starkey
Denny Beck

DID YOU SERVE IN 574 HY (M) AA BTY?

Mr Derick Wilson, 2 Hayburn Avenue, Hull,
East Yorkshire HU5 4NA

Although the WAYN you kindly printed for me on page 27 of *Lioness* No. 1 2001 produced no results I have now more information on my grandmother Barbara Porter and her friend Mary Wells whom I would still like to contact.

Mary Wells signed her name S M Wells so she may have been known by another name.



Do you know Mary Wells?

Secondly I now know that they both served with 574 Hy (M) AA Bty RA and were trained at Harrogate then had spells at Park Hill Camp, Oswestry, a practice camp in Anglesey and finally Shepherds Bush, London.

WERE YOU ONE OF MY BRIDESMAIDS?

Mrs Ivy Boyne née Mason, 33 Wolfe Close,
Winchester, Hants. SO22 4DZ

I was wondering if you could help me.

I am trying to trace the ladies who were my bridesmaids when I got married in Egypt 1952.

Their names were Betty O'Brian of Glasgow, Cathey Gray of Edinburgh and Joan Hailstone of Didcot. All were WRAC stationed at Ladysmith Camp Fayid Egypt in April 1952.

We would like to get in touch as it is our Golden Anniversary on 24 April next year.

Any help you can give us will be appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW ETHEL BINNS?

Mrs Josie Thackrah, 5 Springbank Grove,
Farsley, Leeds LS28 5LT



Pte Essie Binns

I am trying to find information about my late mother who served in the ATS. She was called Mrs Ethel Binns but was known as Essie and came from Leeds.

WERE YOU STATIONED AT HUCKNALE GUNSITE NOTTINGHAM?

Mrs A Lowth, 58 Ingram Crescent, Knottingley,
West Yorkshire WF11 0EZ



Hucknall Gunsite, Nottingham

Does anyone who served in 504 (M) HAA Bty recognise themselves in the photograph. If so please contact Mrs A Lowth née Crowther.

WERE YOU IN 633 (M) HAA BATTERY?

Mrs Florence Lyons née Marshall,
12 Mostyn Avenue, Bury, Lancs BL9 6NP



Abbasia, 1945.

I joined the ATS in 1941 at the age of 17 and served until late in 1945. I was a member of 633 (M) HAA Battery. When the battery was disbanded I was posted to Abbasia Garrison, Egypt and was attached to 2nd Echelon Army Records. I would like to hear from Shirley from Bonnyrigg, Gladys from Newcastle or anyone else from 633 Battery, Abbasia or Ismalia (Bitter Lakes Camp). I am on the right in this photograph, and Jean from Whitby is sitting next to me.

DID YOU KNOW MY WIFE?

Mr G A Weale, 6 Ling Dale, East Goscote,
Leicester, LE7 3XW

I am researching my late wife's life in the ATS. I am hoping that some of her colleagues might remember her or even have a photograph showing her. She was W/71398 Pte Evelyn Hill. She enlisted in July 1941 at Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester. She did a cookery course

and was posted to Sidcup in Kent in December 1941. From there she moved to Chislehurst in Kent in 1943. Thereafter she was known as Pte Weale and returned to Leicester.

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LOOKING FOR A JOYCE BUTTERFIELD

Mr Jack Rouse, 33 Marine Valley, North Landing,
Flamborough, E. Yorks, YO15 1BH

I am looking for a lady I knew in 1941. Her name was Joyce Butterfield and her number W/47202. I met her when, as a Corporal PT Instructor in the Coldstream Guards, I was on loan for two weeks to the GHQ, Home Forces, A.B.P.O. The address was actually Wentworth Golf Club, Virginia Waters. I have been told that she was discharged in 1946 and went to live in Wood Green, London although recent enquiries to that address have been unsuccessful. I have also been told that she might have got married and gone to live in Scotland.

JOSEPHINE SCULLY

Peopletracer UK, 4 Stangate House, Stanwell Road,
Penarth CF64 2AA

Does anybody remember Josephine Scully who was in the WRAC, she would be in her fifties now. She was employed as a cook at the RA Depot, Woolwich (6 Company) around 1967.

We would also like to hear from a lady called Major Simmons or anybody who knew her.

WHERE IS IT NOW?

Eileen Smith, 210 St Andrews St, Victoria,
B.C. Canada V8V 2N2

I am searching for any items of ATS uniform. I can arrange to have it mailed to me as soon as I know the cost. If there happens to be any in the Birmingham area I have relatives who could pick it up.

WERE YOU PART OF 138 HAA (MIXED) REGT?

Dorothy Chivers, née Rout, 1 Woodland Crescent,
Cyncoed, Cardiff CF2 6BU

I wonder if these photographs may interest and recall

memories of some members of the Association.

The group were at Waltham Cross in September 1943 on a Radar/Plotters course. A number of us were together with the 138 HAA (Mixed) Regt stationed both at Wroughton in Wiltshire and again in St Botolphs, Milford Haven when the Regiment moved to that area. We were a friendly happy station, and it would be interesting to have an up-date.



L/Cpl Dorothy Rout

If anyone 'out there' would like to get in touch I was then W/253978 LCpl Dorothy Rout.

MRS FRANCES MARY SHEPPARD née EAST

Mrs R Jones, c/o 77 Campion House, Hobgate Road,
Heath Town, Wolverhampton WV10 0PX

I would very much like to hear from anyone who may remember my mother, the late Mrs Sheppard, ex-ATS. Her name before marriage was Frances Mary East. Her date of birth was 9 December 1922 and she joined the ATS when she was around 18-20 years old, serving at either Lynton or Barbrook, North Devon, and also with 4 Platoon, "A" Company, Queens' Camp No. 7 Training Centre, possibly in Swindon.

There is a photograph of Mrs Sheppard in uniform, taken in 1949 with me – at the age of two – on her knee.

Any information would be appreciated, and all letters answered.

WERE YOU AT 932 COY CMT RASC or 597 COY RASC?

Mrs Jean Webster née Brennan, 35 Hulme Street,
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3PB

I was an ATS Driver stationed with 932 Coy, CMT RASC



Radar plotters at Waltham Cross, 1943.

Margaret Harford (W180416 Cpl Midwinter),
"Arfryn", Rhostrygan, Caernarvon, Gwynedd LL54 7LR

I am hoping the enclosed photograph will evoke memories of 'K' Section. The printer operators taken sometime 1944/45, it would be lovely to hear from anyone in the photograph. I am sitting end of front row left and Joan Fulcher is standing next to me. We are still very much in touch although she lives in Ilford. I was also on 'C' Section 1942/44 and I'd like to hear from anyone there. I am in touch with May Brunn (née Jordan) and Margaret Finn (née Davidson).



I'M STILL WAITING FOR ADOPTION!

Mrs Gwen Wallace, 983 East Chezzetcook,
Halifax Co., Nova Scotia, B0J 1N0, Canada

Well I was delighted to see my letter in the last two issues of "Lioness", I've had no adoption offers yet though.

I've received about 6 letters from people that had served in the same places as I had but I didn't recognise any of the names – I enjoyed hearing from them though.

This picture may help track down some of the girls I served with.

Look forward to the next issue of "Lioness".



WRAC at Chester, 1952.

Leonard Gathercole, 329 Nolt Avenue,
Willow Street, Pennsylvania, 17584 USA

I found a small copy of this photograph sent to me after the deaths of my Grandparents.



Do you know these Y signallers?

On the back I have written the group's shift no. *Shift 1 WOYG, ATS Signals, Barrow July 1942*, there are no names associated with the picture. I believe one member is family related. Could you identify any members of the group?

Capt B Leonard, 47 Camden Road, Brecon,
Powys LD3 7RT

Capt (Retd) Bill Leonard is still trying to locate Mary B. some of whose poems have appeared in recent editions of the "Lioness". In light of the importance of Gun Site S 21, he is sure that there must still be ex-ATS who remember it. Maybe the following visit programme will jog a memory or two.

[illegible]

RAOC BICESTER 1943-45

Mrs C M Low (née Eluish), 21 Clarendale Estate,
Great Bradley, Newmarket CB8 9LN

I would like to contact my old friends from RAOC Bicester where I served from 1943-1945. I would love to hear from Freda Howard, Kay Hadick, Violet Coates, Joy Brooks and Cathy O'Shea.

WERE YOU A PAY CLERK?

Julia Enid Long (W/394971), 34 Hopwood Close,
Hull, HU3 1QU

I served in the WRAC from August 1956 until August 1959 attached to the RAPC. Last week I was looking through some old documents and came across some letters written to me in 1959 from some old Army pals and this sent me stepping down memory lane. I would love to know what happened to them. In particular W/397600 LCpl Pat Morgan who came from Manchester and who served with me at APO Ashton under Lyne; Vi Cook from Newcastle upon Tyne with whom I served at RPO Wolverley and Cyprus; and Jill Gibbins from Exmouth who served with me in Cyprus. Plus, I would love to hear from anyone else who remembers me from my time in the WRAC.

IVY HUTCHINGS

Mr D Goodwin, 4 Ryehill Close, Isham,
Kettering, Northants NN14 1HE

Mrs Betty Goodwin joined the ATS on 4 July 1945 at Honiton in Devon. Her maiden name was Betty Joan Bird and her number, W/175482.

For several years she has been trying to trace a friend whose name was then Ivy Hutchings and came from Bridgewater in Somerset before she joined the ATS.

CECILIA STATHAM (née HARWIN)

Mr A G Smith, "Riparia", 10 Riverside,
Scotter, Lincs. DN21 3UG



*Do you remember Cecilia Statham
(née Harwin)?*

I am trying to gather information about my mother-in-law's life in the ATS during the Second World War.

Her name was Cecilia Vera Harwin until 1942 when she married Naphtali Statham who was serving in the Royal Signals. Her service number was W/37704 and I believe she spent some time at Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire.

If anyone remembers Cecilia, please contact me or my wife at the above address.

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

The next Annual General Meeting of the WRAC Association will take place at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London on 06 April 2002 commencing at 1430 hrs.

Provisional Agenda

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Report of the Council
6. Financial Report
7. Report of the Editor of the Association Journal
8. Reports of Committees
9. Resolutions
 - a. Motions of Urgency
 - b. Council Resolutions*That the Draft Rules of the Association published in the 1/2002 edition of the Lioness be adopted*
 - c. Branch Resolutions
 - d. Election of Vice President of Council*Nomination: Lt Col A K Brown MBE (2nd year of office)*
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting

In order for us to know how many people to expect at the meeting, please notify your intention to attend the AGM by returning the proforma below.

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

I will be attending the AGM on 06 April 2002

Name

Address

Reunions

PDF Compressor Free Version **WRAC STAFF BAND** **BAND BRANCH** **REUNION 2002**

Calling all ex-members of the WRAC Staff Band. There is to be a reunion lunch at the Victory Services Club, (Carisbrooke Hall), 63/79 Seymour Street, London, W2 2HF on Saturday 20 April 2002.

Morning coffee will be available from 11.00 am, lunch will be served at 12.45 pm, and the bar will be open for drinks from 12 noon to 3.00 pm

Tickets are £26.00 each which includes morning coffee and 3 course lunch.

Admission by ticket only. Guest welcome.

CLOSING DATE 20 MARCH 2002

APPLICATION FORM
(Photocopies of this form are acceptable)

From

Address

.....

Post code

Telephone

I wish to attend the Band Branch Reunion on 20 April 2002 and require

..... (number of tickets)

I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to the WRAC Association Band Branch

Please state if vegetarian lunch option required

.....

Please send your application form to:-

Mrs P J Smith
7 Grove Road South
Southsea
Hants.
PO5 3QR
Tel: 02392 873259

Please enclose an SAE for receipt and tickets

WALES AND THE WEST AREA ANNUAL REUNION Edith Francis Area Secretary

Leicester with Ashby de la Zouche Branch co-hosted our Area Reunion on Saturday 01 September at Devonshire Place Masonic Hall. Major D M McElligott, Association General Secretary was the invited guest.

The buffet lunch was excellent, with entertainment by Wigston Music Makers, an all ladies choir. Their programme included popular songs from various musical shows with our Regimental Marches sung in their original tunes. The programme ended with a sing song which we all enjoyed.

Leicester and Ashby members worked very hard manning the stalls, cakes and preserves, tombola, raffle etc all doing well.

This was a very successful and well organised reunion from which a total of £500 has been sent to the Association.

Thank you Leicester and Ashby for a very enjoyable reunion.

Wales and the West Area Reunion, 2002

The Area Reunion for 2002 will be hosted by Birmingham at Birmingham City Council House on 7th September.

Further information and application forms will be sent to branch secretaries in the New Year.

Further information from:

Mrs Maureen Deeley,
Chairman Birmingham Branch
5 Bayston Road
Kings Heath
Birmingham
B14 5AS
Tel:- 0121 2443298

ATS REUNION, LONDON ONTARIO, CANADA **7-9 SEPTEMBER 2001**

Wyn Raven

Our thirteenth Reunion was a huge success and, according to the 72 Ladies and their partners who attended, the best one yet. We had one visitor from Scotland, Maria Voller, who has been to quite a few of our get togethers, and Carol Stephenson from the Bournemouth Branch. This was Carol's first visit but she hopes to be back at next year's reunion.

We started our week-end with registrations on Friday afternoon, each person was given the weekend itinerary, also a gift of a Royal Doulton Pewter Base and Candle

which compliments the Pewter Clock they received last year. The Craft Shop was open at the same time and all the beautiful items the ladies had made were soon being bought. Jessie Seddon and Margaret (Taffy) Garbutt did a great job as sales ladies. Friday evening started with a Cocktail hour. **PDF Compressor Free Version**



We had a business meeting on Saturday morning where, once again, the ladies voted another reunion in London Ontario on 6-8 September 2002, and afterwards we had lunch. The afternoon was left open and, as the Hotel is just across from a huge Shopping Mall, you can imagine that's where most of the ladies headed for.

Saturday evening started with Cocktails followed by dinner. Greetings were brought from the Legion by Deputy Zone Commander Frank Barretta and the Reverend Frank Manz gave the blessing for the meal. He also said a few words about our members who are sick and those who have passed away. As usual Sergeant Major Jessie Seddon called on all the ladies who were able, to assemble for inspection by Colonel Georgina Klink (alias George Yelland) who then marched them through the Hotel to the music of the Colonel Bogey March.

Sunday morning and the Breakfast Buffet is a sight to behold, the table just groans with the assortment of food, everyone enjoys it, its time to say our goodbyes for another year and the promise to get together next year.

If anyone is interested in attending our reunion please contact: Wyn Raven, 595 Knights Hill Road, London, Ontario, Canada N6J 3A3. Telephone 1 519 686 5840 or e-mail D.W.RAVEN@Home.Com

NINETY NINE GIRLS WENT TO NEW ZEALAND

Mrs E Averil Smith née Jenkins (W/244661 ATS)
2/249 Wairall Road, Glenfield, Auckland, NZ

I last wrote and had a publication in the 1/1999 edition, page 20, telling you the story of ninety nine British girls who came to New Zealand in 1951 having been recruited in the RNZAR FORCE. We had all served in one of the women's forces in the UK and a great percentage came from the ATS.

We had a wonderful 3 day reunion on the 03 - 05 April 2001 - our big 50 years. It was held in Nelson which is in the South Island of NZ. The reason for Nelson was

because our first Air Force station was at Woodbourne - an hour or so drive from Nelson. The Air Base put on a wonderful lunch for us and gave us the grand tour which, although familiar, was a real eye opener to see the modern living and working conditions.



All together again after 50 years.



L-R: Pat Parker from Australia and Ivy Greenway from the USA.

About twenty five of us turned up for this great occasion. I am enclosing a couple of extra photographs I had developed and I'm sure that somewhere in the UK we would have some 'ex 99s'. One, I'm sure, is Vera Wilkinson (ATS) who saw my last article and wrote to me.

I look forward to my "Lioness" and read it through and through - thank you for so much pleasure.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS DINNER 2001

The Copthorne Hotel, Birmingham
12-14 October 2001 by Ann Deakin

Friday

Due to an unexpected situation, the venue for this year's Dinner was the Copthorne Hotel, Birmingham. Ninety two rooms were ready and waiting for the 130 ladies who were about to descend on the city. As with all big cities, finding the Hotel proved a little difficult. Ladies arrived by train, coach and road. Road works and detours caused Janet Watkins, Chris Dalziel and Liz McLaren to spend 2½

hours circling the city. With the aid of mobile phones they finally arrived, shattered but pleased to find friends waiting for them. A quick drink in the Cricketers Bar, a shower and they were ready for the weekend. Several members enjoyed an excellent meal in the Goldies Brassiere although the majority spent the evening inspecting the numerous bars/restaurants along the canal area of the city. I received a call at 2230 hrs from Maureen Deeley, and friends who had been thrown out of a bar by a transvestite! You can't take them anywhere can you?

Saturday

Breakfast in the Goldies Brassiere was an amazing sight. Everything you could imagine from smoked salmon – fresh fruit – cereals – full English breakfast etc etc. What a way to start the day. A good breakfast followed by a little retail therapy. Just what the doctor ordered! Without mentioning any names, Major McE set out with the intention of doing serious damage to her credit card. Judging by the bulging shopping bags the stores must have wondered what had hit them.

1330 hrs

Our triennial Business Meeting was very well attended with lots of member participation. May I take this opportunity to thank outgoing committee members, Hazel Edwards and Elsie Howard, for all their hard work and to welcome Gladys Pope, Carole Gorman, Sue Thomas and Sue Dolphin (co-opted), to the committee. A very big thank you to Val Kemball for presiding over the Business Meeting it was much appreciated. After all the discussion it was time for a well earned cuppa, a nap, an invigorating swim or a relaxing spell in the Jacuzzi before tonight's Dinner.

1900 hrs

The bar area was humming with the eager conversations of 130 ex WRAC. As usual, everyone had gone to town to make this another special occasion – the outfits were lovely.

1930 hrs

The WRAC March could be heard as the doors of the Cascade Suite opened. Lady Val Kemball, President, welcomed everyone warmly and said Grace. The WRAC Dinner 2001 had begun. Like the wine, the conversations flowed; cameras clicked and video cameras whirled. Our guest speaker was Jackie Fisher, Events Co-ordinator for the National Memorial Arboretum. As always her talk was not only enlightening but enthralling. When she recounted stories of the soldiers who were "Shot at Dawn" there was scarcely a dry eye in the room. Dinner over, Val's renowned prowess with the raffle tickets and Sue Dolphin's runners rapidly despatched 128 prizes. The Dinner and speeches over, it was time for the serious part of the evening – enjoying ourselves.

A well kept secret was about to be revealed – Elvis Presley, Tom Jones and Neil Diamond were popping in as a cabaret act. And entertain us they did. The room rocked with No 1 Chart hits as we danced like teenagers. Cameras clicked as we vied for a photograph with our 'pop star'. Gladys Pope captured, on video, two ladies swooning with delight as Elvis sang to them. Their initials are V. K. and D. McE. My lips are sealed with regard to their true identity. Lucky Daphne Jervis was the only lady to get a kiss from him. She hasn't washed her face since. The night danced on until 2355 hrs when "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill" was played to the sound of marching feet. As usual encore followed encore until we raised the roof with 'Auld Lang

Syne' and 'We'll Meet Again'. The evening was drawing to a close with the National Anthem. As a special request Julie White sang, without any accompaniment, 'Crazy'. Elvis was most impressed. One hundred and twenty nine female voices joined in the chorus. A brilliant end to a brilliant evening. Julie, thank you.

Sunday

Our very own Lay Preacher, Beryl Butcher, held a short but very appropriate and meaningful service. Our thoughts included the victims of the September 11th disaster and the recent death of Dabs Brook MBE. Her words were very much appreciated by those that attended. We joined hands as the music of 'Time to Say Goodbye' flowed around the room. Lots of hugs and many tears as we took our final farewells.

Note:

May I thank Sheila Elliott for donating a 'star prize' of a weekend for two at The Red Lion, Devon. My thanks to everyone for donating so many raffle prizes, for buying so many raffle tickets and giving so generously to this year's charities. The nominated charities were the "Lioness" – £1,000 and the National Memorial Arboretum – £150.

My very best wishes to you all for a healthy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you again in October 2002.

.....AND THE BAND CAME TOO

Mrs J Warsop, 17 Ashfield Road, Carterton,
Oxford OX18 3QY

These are members of the WRAC Staff Band who enjoyed a great time in Birmingham on the 12-13 October 2001.



*l to r: Sheila, Edith, Carol, Averill, Jacquie, Ann, Jill,
Dorothy Chad.*

Where are you band? Become a member of the Dinner Club and join us next year! You may not know everyone but we soon become friends as we have that common bond, being members of the Staff Band.

ATS DINNER CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mrs Betty Bateman, 66 Weir Road,
Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicester LE8 0LP

The Annual Luncheon of the ATS Dinner Club was held on Saturday 6 October 2001 at the Strand Palace Hotel,

London. One hundred and thirty ladies attended, enjoying a splendid meal and a happy afternoon with old friends.

The Chairman, Mrs Marguerite Fellows, read letters from Her Majesty the Queen and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, to the Queen Mother, to absent friends and to the ATS Dinner Club.

The raffle was drawn with the help of the waiter, who called out the numbers and insisted on applause for each winner.

Any ex-ATS who would be interested in becoming a member of the ATS Dinner Club, please contact the Membership Secretary, with a SAE at the following address:

Mrs Doreen Brookes, 99 Meadow Road, Coventry CV6 4GW.

WRAC DINNER CLUB

Are you interested in knowing more about the Dinner Club?

Would you like to attend the WRAC Dinner 2002? then please contact

E Ann Butler-Deakin
'Cobblestones'
2 Chesham Road
Stafford ST16 3JP
Tel: 01785 249992

ATS REGISTER

Mrs Ellen Powis regrets that she must give up her connection with the Register because she is too ill to continue. She is preparing a letter to all members as quickly as possible.

WRAC POSTAL REUNION

The next WRAC Postal Reunion will be held at the **QUALITY COBDEN HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM, 18 - 21 OCTOBER 2002**

We have members who have served from 1952 to 1970 at present, so, if you are an ex-WRAC postie why not find out more about Annual Reunions and Newsletters.

Please contact:

Miss M Grant MBE
Forth Cottage
254 Church Street
Tranent
East Lothian
Scotland
EH33 1BW

WRAC PT REUNION 2001



l to r: Pat Rosewell, Dora Nightingale, Jackie Whitehead, Eunice Jones.

Nearly fifty former PT Officers and PTIs assembled at the Army School of Physical Training on 21 July 2001 for the third WRAC PT Reunion.

The day began with an afternoon visit to the ASPT Museum where the curator, Lt Col (Retd) Alec Forbes, and his 2i/c, Jim Pearson, welcomed many old faces back to the School. The ladies were given a nostalgic trip down memory lane and were able to see the many course photos and memorabilia which had been donated to the museum.

That evening everyone assembled in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess for the customary champagne reception, followed by the group photo and dinner. As usual there was lots of chatter as everyone greeted each other with disbelief that, even though another three years had passed, nobody looked any older. Even the PT world can dream!

After an excellent dinner, greetings from absent friends were read out and welcomes extended to several newcomers. The evening continued with a 'what are they doing now?' theme, and first on the starting blocks was ex WO1 Pat Rosewell who gave a very amusing account of corporate life on the high seas. She works for a cruise company and organises functions for groups and parties. There's just no keeping the 'hooligan' down!

The evening however really belonged to Maj (Retd) Dora Nightingale, affectionately known as our PT family matriarch, and who, surprisingly, was about to celebrate her 80th birthday. As a former SOPT and Army Netball/Swimming Secretary she sat among all her former players, including Josie Kemp, Pat Darby, Beryl Jones, Anne Patterson, Lesley Davison, Trish Cowie and ex Lt Sue Tarry, making her reunion debut. Dora was in her absolute element reminiscing about the glory days with her gels! Former Olympic athlete Audrey Mitchell who knew Cpl Nightingale as 'Nightie' acknowledged her many sporting achievements and Maj (Retd) Jackie Whitehead completed the tribute with a floral presentation.

To round off the dinner we were all treated to a wonderful cabaret from ex Sgt and former Army Singing Champion

Betsy Clewlow, who continues to tour the clubs with her fine Olde Tyme Music Hall repertoire. The rest of the gathering were also in fine voice and happily lent their vocal support. Finally it was time to adjourn to the bar for more late night chat and photographs. Once again, the evening had been a great success and a very friendly atmosphere.

There are still a few former Officers and PTIs who have not yet made an appearance at any of the reunions, and we do all hope that they may be persuaded to attend the next one in the summer of 2004. Further information can be obtained from Kate Bettison at the following address: Capt (Retd) Kate Bettison, 19 Olde Farm Drive, Darby Green, Camberley, Surrey GU17 0DU. Tel. No: 01252 873174 E-mail: katebettison@supanet.com



Betsy Clewlow

OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Please note that in future, all payments for subscriptions, postage and memorabilia will only be accepted in Sterling. Please ask your bank for a Money Order or Sterling Cheque.

We regret to have to impose this restriction, but due to the vagaries of exchange rates, the majority of overseas payments fall significantly short of the amount due.

WRAC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS' BRANCH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The annual Officers' Lunch will take place in the Officers' mess AGC Centre at Worthy Down, Winchester on Saturday 18 May 2002.

Please send a cheque for £17.00 made payable to the WRAC Association together with your application and a SAE for your ticket by 03 May 2002.

To: WRAC Association HQ
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester
SO21 2RG

From:.....

I wish to attend the Officers' Luncheon on Saturday 18 May 2002 and enclose a cheque for £17.00

My car details are:

Make:

Colour

Reg No

"THE RIPLEY LEGACY"

The history of Ripley Barracks from 1863 to the present.

To obtain a copy of this book contact:

Mr George Phythian
2 Shaftesbury Place
Scotforth
LANCASTER
LA1 4PZ

GRAND REUNION 2003

The Grand Reunion 2003 will take place in Birmingham over the weekend of 11-13 April 2003. The event will be held in the University with the Association taking over one of the Halls of Residence for accommodation, the AGM and the Dinner.

There are 349 single and 63 twin rooms available, all with washbasins. Twelve rooms have wheelchair access and 50 of them are on the ground floor. Accommodation will also be available in one of the city centre hotels from which transport will be provided to take people to and from the University at key times.

The provisional programme for the weekend is as follows:

Friday 11 April

Members arrive. An evening meal will be available although this will have to be pre-booked. Some members may prefer to go and explore the night life of Birmingham which is only 5 minutes away by taxi but there will be some musical entertainment during the evening.

Saturday 12 April

0930 Secretaries' Meeting
1045 AGM
1200 Buffet Lunch
1300 Coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum which includes the WRAC Association Plot.
1830 Champagne Reception for Branch Secretaries hosted by the Council
1930 Gala Dinner with music by the AGC Staff Band

Sunday 13 April

1000 Church Parade
1030 Service in the Great Hall of the University

Tickets will be limited to 600 as neither the dining room nor the Great Hall can accommodate more than this number.

If sufficient members indicate that they would like lunch before leaving for home, this can be arranged.

The various costs involved in this programme are still being negotiated, so it is not possible to tell you at this time how much a ticket will cost. However, the following information will help you to plan

Mason Hall – Bed and Breakfast – £28.20 per night
Buffet Lunch – £7.75

The Dinner will cost approximately £25.00 per head

Ticket prices for both the dinner and the trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, together with full confirmed details of the Grand Reunion will be published in the August edition of the Lioness.

AGC CORPS DAY

AGC Corps Day will take place on Saturday 08 June 2002. As it will be the 10th anniversary of the formation of the corps, a very special day has been planned with a drumhead service, arena events, side shows, lunch, tea and an evening function with a Dixie Band, dancing and fireworks.

The Drumhead Service will commence at 1200 hrs and be followed by lunch. The arena events will take place in the afternoon and afternoon tea will be served from 1600 hrs.

Tickets cost £15.00 per head for the day, which includes lunch and afternoon tea, or £25.00 for the whole day including the evening function. Alternatively, if you just want to come for the evening, it will cost you £10.00. The number of tickets available to the WRAC Association is limited so they will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. However, entry during the day is unlimited and admission free if you wish to bring a pic-nic or buy food from the fast food stalls which will be available. The Association will also have its own tent so people can congregate and meet.

To apply for tickets please complete the proforma below and return it with your cheque made payable to **AGC Regimental Association Fund** by 01 May 2002. It would be helpful if you would also fill in the proforma if you are just planning to come along with a picnic so that we will have an idea of how many people to expect.

To: WRAC Association
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Winchester
SO21 2RG

Please send me the following tickets for AGC Corps Day on 08 June 2002

..... day tickets (lunch and tea) at £15.00 each

..... all day tickets (lunch, tea and evening function) at £25.00 each

..... evening tickets at £10.00 each

A cheque to the value of £..... payable to AGC Regimental Association Fund is enclosed.

I do not wish to buy a ticket but will be coming to Corps Day.

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Gunners Corner

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY FOR THE

ACK ACK COMMAND

Capt Sherri Took, 101 (Northumbrian) Regt RA(V),
Napier Armoury, Alexandra Road, Gateshead,
Tyne & Wear NE8 4HX



Dear Friends

The Oxford dictionary describes a friend as "a stranger that one comes across or has occasion to mention again; it is a bond that has been formed". The Ack Ack Reunion is all about these bonds.

This year's Ack Ack Command Reunion celebrated its Diamond Anniversary over the weekend 28/29 July 2001. It was in 1941 that most of these ladies left home to join the Heavy Ack Ack Batteries, many leaving without their parents' consent. These veterans were trained as Plotters, Predictors, Gun Hands and Searchlight Operators. There were friendships made at this time that have lasted a lifetime. It was these ladies who paved the way for the modern women of today.

The reunion occurs once a year at Imphal Barracks, York and has been running for the past nine years. It is about friendships and the meeting of same minded people.

Ten female soldiers from 101 (Northumbrian) Regimental Royal Artillery (Volunteers) attended this year to assist with the smooth running of the event. They were working in the reception tent and selling raffle tickets for the many wonderful prizes on offer, many made by the women themselves. There was also the ATS shop selling mugs and t-shirts, and a tombola.

The entertainment on Saturday was provided by the Pipes and Drums of 204 (Tyneside Scottish) Battery (Volunteers), part of 101 Regt, as well as a Re-enactment Display Team which had travelled from Essex. They gave a Drill Display in uniforms from the Second World War era. The Drill Sergeant then shouted "GET ON PARADE" and at least fifty women jumped up and were marched up

and down the square. Drill is something that is never forgotten and as one lady commented "once you have been shouted at by the RSM to 'get into step' you never forget"; another was heard to mutter "this is good practise for tomorrow".

The North Yorkshire Vehicle Trust provided vehicles from World War 2, including a working Search Light which, after some confusion, required the expertise of one of the Ladies to demonstrate its use correctly!

There was an auction of a cake that had been made and decorated by Mrs Edna Storr. The bidding started at £1 but rose sharply to £10 and finished on £20. It was sold to Major and Mrs David Robertson (The President) who found he was bidding against his better half! The ever popular Bill Crossland Band played and the Harlequin Singers encouraged us all to sing and dance.

The party did not end here and the GSM, Ron Smith, invited all those who had the energy to join him in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess. The Harlequin singers joined us and the sing-a-long continued. I am unable to say what time this finished as my 'spy', Gnr Cooke from 101 Regt, left the Mess at 0115 hrs with many Ladies still partying on.

The late night did not seem to effect the Ladies and the majority were back in barracks by 11 am for tea and coffee with tales of the 'unexpected' from the night before. The veterans who stayed at the University were woken twice during the night by "sirens". Some thought they had been transported back in time! This turned out to be the fire alarms and, dressed in 'nighties', minus teeth, they made their way to the muster points to be greeted by firemen. What we want to know is who fancies a man in uniform? And who set the alarms off the second time so that they would return!

Three hundred and seventy veterans arrived by coach at the Minster for the Memorial Service conducted by the Reverend Alan Dean. The music was provided by the Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Band. The Last Post was played by Sgt Rob Self of 101 Regt. The Pipe Major, Billy Anderson of 101 Regt, played Flowers of the Forest from the balcony.

After the service the Ladies were once again under the watchful eye of the GSM whose job it was to put them into sections for the parade around the Minster. The Parade was led by the Standard Bearer, Bdr Shauna Fraser, and an escort was provided by Mrs Elizabeth Lapham and Mrs Edna Storr.

Major General Mike Steele MBE DL (Chairman of the Royal Artillery Association) Brigadier Andrew Farquhar MBE (Commander York Garrison and 15 North East Brigade) and Miss Kate Adie OBE took the Salute. As the Ladies marched past the Minster, their medals glinting in the sun, the crowd, which had gathered around the South Door, roared and clapped for these immensely proud

Ladies. The few that were unable to march were pushed in their wheelchairs by the female soldiers of 101 Regt and the Army Foundation College, Harrogate, but they looked no less proud.

It was then back to the Barracks for lunch and to meet the honoured guests. A presentation was made by Maj David Robertson, on behalf of the Ladies, to Bdr Shauna Fraser who was completing her last year of carrying their Standard as she leaves the Army for pastures new. "It has been an honour and a privilege to be here and to meet all you wonderful Ladies", she explained.

Maj Gen Mike Steele and Brig Andrew Farquhar addressed the Ladies assuring them of continuing support in being able to hold their reunion in York for the next few years. The Lancashire Artillery Volunteer Band played the Sunset Ceremony and, for the last time, Bdr Shauna Fraser paraded the Standard around the square, escorted by Mrs Jean Shrimpton and Mrs Beryl Pepper, and followed by three girls from 101 Regt carrying the Royal Artillery Association Flag.

It was then time to depart, but not before Miss Kate Adie had heard some tales from the old and bold about past adventures that would make your hair stand on end! So, after a few tearful farewells, the party was over but with friendships renewed for another year.

All money raised over this weekend has been donated towards the Memorial to the Women of World War 2. It is hoped that this will be unveiled in 2002 at Whitehall, London. A total of £960 was raised over the weekend, making a grand total of £120,000 in the fund to date.

FRIENDS

Mrs Jessie Stewart, 57 Marchburn Crescent,
Northfield, Aberdeen AB16 7NL

Having just returned from York, having shared the comradeship and remembering old times, it made for a wonderful weekend.



The Diamond Anniversary.

*l to r: Ruth Wilson, Doncaster, Standard Bearer,
Jessie Stewart, Aberdeen, Jean Savage, Aberdeen plus
Guardroom Dummy.*

The organisation was perfect, even the weather this year was bang on and everybody made our weekend terrific. Speaking with the young ATS, now different names I know, we were sharing our different roles and experiences, which inevitably came round to 'pay'. When we told them we got 9/4d old money and 4/8d of that was left to mother as dependent parent, they howled with laughter. "That wouldn't pay for our NAAFI break", they said. Yes but out of our 4/8d we managed to save leave pennies, so we did manage. We didn't go out like young ones of today as we were mostly on duty, so the NAAFI was our night out. We did manage to have money if we chose to go out on our 24-hour pass, and that caused more laughter – so little spare time. But, they still have the same enthusiasm for their job as we had and they are still as smart as we were in our battle dress and trouser boots and gaiters. Good old days.

This got me on to remembering the good times I had in 350 (M) HAA Bty stationed in Wimbledon Common. We were a happy close-knit unit with a real feeling of belonging. I was a Height Finder and our hut was mostly Height Finders and Cpl Joyce Cliff was our 'keeper'. She was a topper, watched over us in 'kid gloves' always looked out for us. We thought she was old, I guess she was about 28. Of course, we young things would think that old, at the time I was not even 17. Like a lot of other girls I lied about my age, but Joyce was a gem, always on the spot.

In a month when we were all feeling low, she came up with a way to lift us. She designed a dress for each of the Height Finders in the room, got material (never found out how or where from) and so we all sewed. The dress had a gipsy type bodice tied with black velvet ribbon which hung down the skirt, which was panelled. This was never heard of in wartime. I think it was 8 or 10 panels. When I look back I think it was like the wide skirts that came in much later but it hung so beautifully. Anyway Cpl Joyce persuaded the Captain that we could use them to show off our handiwork at our Sunday night dance. Boy did we shock a lot of folk. We had been tormented about all the sewing, but we girls felt good, and what's more we looked good. I don't know about the other dresses but mine went home and I'm told that all 3 sisters got it in turn as they grew into the dress. It was something else, where are you now Joyce? I do hope you get the "Lioness", as I don't think we ever told you how great you were. The other girls I can see but names?? Meg, Rene/Edna, Betty, Rosemary, ah so many 'sisters in war'. Maybe they'll remember my nickname 'Cuddles' and also 'Kipper Kate' as I always took back a box of Aberdeen Kippers, because they all liked them.

In fact I was admitted to hospital and Joyce made my get well card, a lovely drawing of a kipper, for Kipper Kate. I've still got it, so girls it would be great to hear from anyone out there. I always hope next year at York someone from the 350 will be there but no, only ever me. Still next year who knows who I'll meet.

PS Ruth Wilson has looked after me along with Mary Reilton (Putney) and Jean Lloyd (Croydon) from the first reunion I went to on my own. They are super friends.

480 HAA (M) BATTERY

Constance Evans (Britten), 21 Windsor Avenue,
North Hillingdon, Middx UB10 9AT

The letter 'Comparisons' page 54 "Lioness". How many memories it brought to mind. Anzac Barracks, Devon, and yes – the spud bashing! When our turn came, the Sergeant said 'You'll be pleased to know you lot have got two lots to do, it's chips as well'. He did round up some extra bods later thank goodness. Marching back to Anzac Barracks at about 11pm, I muttered to my friend Edna Kilbairin 'I'm going to enjoy every mouthful of those chips and spuds tomorrow Ed'. And I did!

I met my husband there. He was in the 4th Field Barracks across the road in 'Field Artillery'. Sadly he died after I nursed him from November 1984 to October 1993, when he had a series of strokes. He did not want to go into hospital as he had never before been ill.

I go to the York Reunion each year now. There are only four of us from 480 Battery and the other three served in different batteries before coming to 480. I am in touch

with some of the others, Edna Thurlow (Kilbairin), Margarette Clarke, Bessie Cottey (Curry), Doreen Dennis (Evans). I used to see Jean Andrews (Connie Killeddy as she became later) until she died 4 years ago. Sadly Zella Lawrence (Jones) died this year, I used to speak to her on the telephone regularly.

I often wonder why the 'Yorkshire Girls' don't come to the York Reunion. We have a wonderful time there. I am only sorry I never knew about the WRAC Association and the Royal Artillery/ATS Association until about 5 years ago.

Do others remember having to help 'build' Bere Alston Camp? The men cemented in the four guns and we girls had to fill wheelbarrows with earth and put it round the command post walls – OK until we had to run the heavy metal barrows up planks of wood and tip it out! Happy Days!

Bere Alston was our second camp. We were first at Home Park Football Ground, Plymouth. After Bere Alston, Nettan Camp, New Fevers.



Netball team of 480 HAA Bty, Plymouth, Devon, 1943.

Letters to the Editor

COLONEL NAOMI CHRISTY

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Naomi Christy and "friends".

Dear Editor

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed photograph of Major Naomi Christy, whose obituary is in the current "Lioness". It was taken in June 1950 as we were completing our one year course, before being commissioned into the Regular WRAC. The first of many to come.

The photograph was taken during a week-end exercise under canvas. We were in a damp and cow-patted field near Pirbright. Hence the fact that Major Christy is wearing a pair of riding boots! We just had to plough around in damp footwear I'm sure.

I'm afraid I cannot remember the name of the other officer in the photograph (or the dogs!). I think the lady could have been a messing officer.

Our passing out parade took place at Huron Camp, in August 1950, the salute being taken by the late Princess Royal.

If any member of No. 1 course would like to get in touch, I would be delighted to hear from them.

Mrs Heather O'Hagan, Butlers Farmhouse, Horseshoes Lane, Langley, Maidstone, Kent ME17 3JY

WOULD YOU PAY FOR YOUR MAGAZINE?

Dear Editor

A big thank you for the latest issue of "Lioness". (I'm now housebound and no longer in my Surrey birth county - so

reminders of my more mobile days are a special delight). I really believe we should pay for the magazine now - if we possibly can. The quality of the paper and all the associated costs certainly warrant this. What do you think?

More particularly, the content and layout of "Lioness" this time is so well balanced and a joy to dip into. (With MS - reading can be a bit tricky on off days - we need plenty of para spaces)!

I used to be a journalist and did subbing and editing - so I can appreciate the care and effort you have all put in. I thought you would be happy to know - it shows and is appreciated!

Thanks again.

Mrs Daphne Neech, 58 Cathwaite, Paston, Peterborough, Cambs. PE4 7BE

REUNIONS - LOCATION IS IMPORTANT

Dear Editor

I was interested to read the letter from Amy Maund, about the ATS/WRAC Provost Reunion in the last edition of the "Lioness" (Issue 2/2001, Reunions, Page 32).

How sad that only three ATS Provost were able to attend. I too, had hoped to go, but distance and lack of transport made it too difficult likewise a friend from Cambridge.

I remember a few years ago, attending a very enjoyable Reunion held at the RMP Barracks at Chichester, where we were made most welcome by the serving members, and there was a good turn out of ex-ATS Provost.

Perhaps, as we get older and fewer a more central venue could be looked at for future "Get Togethers" before we get too old to travel at all!

Mrs Pamela Green, 5 Mill Lane, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0UN

MEMORIES OF BOVINGTON CAMP

Dear Editor

Hello to Margaret Rawles (Lioness 2/2001 Page 52). I was in the first contingent of WRAC posted to Bovington Camp in 1958 and we had a very good CSM. As I left in 1960 your first six months there were probably with the same one.

I worked in Publications Wing and have recently discovered that the training manuals produced are now referred to as 'Bovington Bibles'!

The thorn in my side was the Sergeant in the Stores. REME Workshops personnel promised me a ride in a tank, but I had to wear trousers. So I went to stores and

politely asked for some. "Certainly not, we don't issue trousers to Clerks". (I just know it was because it was ME asking!!) So if Sgt Burns I F is also reading this – I'm about to have that ride in a tank, thanks to the Friends of Bovington Museum.

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Mrs Gladys Pope, 11 Lynch Close, Mere, Wiltshire
BA12 6EL

308 Bn WRAC/TA – ERRATA

Dear Editor

In "Lioness" Issue 2/2002 Page 15 you kindly printed my reminiscences.

The main reason for my writing this short note is to apologise, profusely, to any member of our Association when I said that Lady Isobel Barnett was our Commander in Chief – I was wrong. Lady Barnett was our Honorary Colonel. This was brought to my attention at a reunion last week, so I thought I had better put the matter straight and submit an apology.

Muriel Porch, "Green End", 10 Sea View Road,
Skegness, Lincolnshire PE25 1BP

ASSOCIATION? MAKING MEMORIES

Dear Editor

Having newly joined the WRAC Association, I feel that this year I have a much younger view on life.

Many years ago, during the last war, I joined the ATS and was with them from early 1945 to 1947. I find that I can look back and chat to my many new friends about the times and life in the Forces.

This year I went to the Chelsea Flower Show in May and collected for the Army Benevolent Fund. It was a very happy event, and I found the public were very friendly and generous. Some time later in July a group of the Greater London Branch members enjoyed a day out at Guildford where we saw, in the castle grounds, a floral tribute in the shape of the WRAC badge. Afterwards we went to Guildford Cathedral to see the WRAC stained glass window. All in all very interesting. May I thank all the friends at the Greater London Branch for the laughter, happiness and help they have given me.

Mrs Edna M Lee, Flat 12, 7 De Vere Gardens, Kensington,
London W8 5AR

FORMATION SIGNS & SHOULDER FLASHES

Dear Editor

I have no wish to reopen the discussion on the various shoulder flashes worn by colleagues during WWII, but I thought some readers might be interested in the information I have obtained from the Royal Artillery Museum on this particular subject, and also a related item.

The Bow and Arrow Flash:- This was taken into use in 1939 when General Pile became GOC AA Command. The design was taken from a plaque on the front of a house known as Glenthorn which was occupied by HQ AA Command. At that time the flash was only worn by personnel of HQ AA Command, many of the divisions and brigades, and some of the regiments, having already put up various flashes. In 1943 orders were given for the flash to be worn by all AA Command HQs and Units and all other flashes were to be taken down.

The second item concerns the introduction of 5.25" guns and as some colleagues served on sites where these were installed they may be interested in the following piece of history.

Three 5.25" twin turrets were obtained from the Royal Navy and were installed at single gun sites in London (ie Primrose Hill, Wimbledon and Coldharbour) and these were manned by 350 (M) HAA Bty of 163 (M) HAA Regt. The performance of these guns pleased AA Command, and as no more twin turrets were available the War Office decided to get the Ministry of Supply to produce a number of 5.25" guns in single turrets and eventually 164 were deployed.

The first of the single turret 5.25" guns were being placed at sites from April 1943 under the command of 163 (M) HAA Regt; 538 (M) HAA Bty was among the first to man these guns on sites at Dulwich and Bostall Heath in South London.

I hope this will be of interest.

Mr C W Acres (ex RAOC/REME), 86 Wood Lane,
Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1UP

Dear Editor

I am a retired Intelligence Corps Colonel who has been serving, mostly in the Balkans, as a mobilised reservist in the AG Corps (ETS) (V) since retirement in mid-1997.

Prompted by the considerable amount of correspondence in the "Lioness" from former members of the ATS who served in Anti-Aircraft Command in the Second World War, I have written a short article on the formation signs worn within the Command during the war by both ATS and RA personnel.

I have been a student of this aspect of military heraldry for the last 40 years or so and, of course, am also a collector of the actual items.

The reasons for writing the article are various. Apart from providing information for the interest of those ladies who wrote to the "Lioness" giving information on the badges that they wore all those years ago. I want to prepare the way for an appeal by myself for any further information on this topic that your members may have and, for possible inclusion in a book that a French Army colleague and I are writing, photographs of these signs being worn. The interest does extend beyond AA Command of course. By 1944 the ATS were the mainstay of Army fixed telephone, telex and radio communications in the United

Kingdom. ATS serving in communications units also wore distinguishing flashes, many of which have never been researched or logged. Ideally this would be the subject of a separate appeal for information.

On the latter subject, I have spent hours searching the Imperial War Museum Department of Photographs for evidence of one particular sign or other being worn. Some photographs are very few and far between and many that were taken were censored at the time.

But I do know that there are many in the private domain. These are usually studio portrait photographs, some of which have been published in the "Lioness". It is these that are of enormous value to the researcher and writer because they are uncensored, unique and of high technical quality. The photograph of Mrs Goodinson in "Lioness 2/1999" is an excellent example of the 5 AA Div formation sign in wear.

Mr M Jackson, Joint Service Intelligence Organisation, Defence Intelligence and Security Centre, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5PR

Editors Note: This article appears on page 24

Poem

THE MONSTROUS 93RD

When we came to Searchlights
We thought "Oh what a curse,"
But then we'd joined the Army
For better or for worse.
We slowly got accustomed
To listen *and* the men,
Some even got a liking
For turning in at ten!
We started understanding
To think of others too,
And pulled our weight together,
Not me – but me and you.
We had our fun and laughter,
We also had our tears,
But its something to remember
Just now *and* in later years.
The Regiment has broken
The time has come to part,
And yet in one small corner
Of everybody's heart
We're saying it together
It surely must be heard
"We're proud that we were members
of the 'monstrous' 93rd". M T-B

M Talbot-Butler (ATS)
(on the disbandment of the 93rd Searchlight Regt RA
after WWII)

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 Member and enclose £50 cheque

OR

I enclose £5 cheque for Annual membership which
is in payment of the first annual subscription up to
the 31 December.

Date Signature

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

QMAAC/ATS/WRAC/TAVR Army Number

Last Rank held (Present Rank if still serving)

Surname

Miss/Mrs/Ms

Christian Names

Surname when serving

Address for Correspondence

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

Telephone

Units during service

Date of Enrolment.....

Date of Release.....

Decorations.....

Date of Birth.....

Articles of Interest

A PERSONAL VIEW OF A ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE TRAIL

Mrs Daphne Brookes, (Hon Sec) Bournemouth
37 Harewood Gardens, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7RH



Daphne Brookes at the grave at Bari in Italy.

Have you ever joined a Royal British Legion Remembrance Trail? Despite being a Legion member for many years, I admit I hadn't realised the extent of this Branch of the organisation.

Before meeting the man who was to be my dearly loved husband for 42 years, I had been engaged to a Flt Sgt Navigator who was killed on a mission over Italy early in 1944. Life went on for me of course, but after 14 years of widowhood, my thoughts returned to my first love, I felt I needed to "tie up loose ends". Many questions – 58 years after saying farewell on embarkation leave, could I now say a final good-bye? What would my family think?

First step was to contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – this my brother did for me on the Internet. This done and given grave number and cemetery, how did I get to Bari Italy? It was then that I noticed the Remembrance Travel advertisement in the Legion magazine, and enquiries showed that a group would be visiting Southern Italy in Spring 2001. Family consulted, arrangements made, I was off to meet the 50 others from all over the country who were flying to Rome from Stanstead. We quickly gelled as a group, some were veterans of the Italian Campaign (including one person who told of his survival of an ambush at Cassino). Others were relatives of the fallen.

We were well catered for. Our leader, a retired Brigadier, had a good knowledge of Italy and of the battlefields and was able to give us plenty of interesting information. We also had a Doctor to see to any medical problems, and a Standard Bearer officiated at the short ceremonies.

Our hotel at Gaeta, a 2½ hour drive south of Rome, was literally almost on the beach of this small fishing village, a most pleasant spot. This was not a morbid trip, although obviously there were solemn and emotional moments when we visited the various cemeteries that were of particular interest to individual members of our party – Monte Cassino, Angio, Bari, Minturno, Naples, Salerno. There were also optional excursions to Pompeii, Rome and the Vatican City, or we could choose to have a free day, staying in Gaeta.

The differences between the layout of the cemeteries amazed me – the British and Commonwealth graves, in blocks and straight rows, were interspersed with flowering plants and shrubs; the American cemetery at Angio, had white headstones arranged in huge semi-circular bays, set in grass, no flowers; the Polish cemetery on the hillside of Monte Cassino just below the Abbey used grey granite, again no flowers except for wreaths on a large circular memorial in the foreground. Different nations have different ways of showing respect to their war dead.

All in all a terrific experience which I am glad I made. Maybe next year I'll join a group visiting the Somme area where my father served in the First World War.

FORMATION SIGNS OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT COMMAND

As has been stated in the correspondence columns of the "Lioness", those members of the ATS serving in Anti-Aircraft Command in the Second World War will have worn a variety of formation signs on their uniforms.

It's a very complex subject, but essentially the situation by mid-1942 was that formation signs were being worn by all ranks serving in the following formations:

HQ Anti-Aircraft (AA) Command
HQ 1 AA Corps
HQ 2 AA Corps
HQ 3 AA Corps

And by members of the HQ and units within:

Numbers 1 – 12 AA Divisions

Straightforward so far. However, in many cases, the design of the sign initially adopted for wear by a HQ or formation changed, either in design or colour, at some time during the period 1939 – 1942. In most cases the change of colour affected the background – either khaki

Examples of Anti-aircraft Command Formation Signs



KEY

- 1a AA Command – 1st Pattern. Colloquially known as the badge of “Cupid’s Cavalry”? (Printed (Ptd))
- 1b AA Command – 2nd Pattern. (Embroidered on Felt (EonF))
- 2 1 AA Corps – a symbolic sign in Royal Artillery colours (EonF)
- 3 2 AA Corps – design taken from the Corps Commander’s personal crest (EonF).
- 4 3 AA Corps – design – in Corps colours – taken from the Corps Commander’s personal crest (Silk Embroidered) (SkE)).
- 5a 1 AA Division – one variation of a symbolic sign incorporating the City of London sword (EonLinen).
- 5b 1 AA Division – another variation. This specimen was worn by Subaltern HW Bamber ATS (EonF).
- 6a 2 AA Division – one variation of a symbolic sign. The motto of 2 AA Division was “We sweep the Skies” (Ptd)
- 6b 2 AA Division – another variation, in Royal Artillery colours (EonF)
- 7 3 AA Division – a symbolic sign – most of the formation was located in Scotland (Ptd)
- 8a 4 AA Division – 1st pattern sign. The design was taken from the Corps Commander’s coat of arms (Ptd)
- 8b 4 AA Division – 2nd pattern sign in Royal Artillery colours. The reason for the change in design is not known (Ptd)
- 9 5 AA Division – one of many variations of this symbolic sign. The background colour was also mid blue and the design of the aircraft varied (SkE).
- 10 6 AA Division – one variation of this symbolic sign (EonF)
- 11 7 AA Division – the scales – the seventh sign of the Zodiac – in Royal Artillery colours (Ptd)
- 12 8 AA Division – another symbolic sign – the shell burst having eight points to reflect the number of the formation (SkE)
- 13 9 AA Division – symbolism galore. A German bomber falling to earth, a black cat for luck and nine lives and the figure 9 formed by the cat’s tail (EonF)
- 14 10 AA Division – the lion’s head is taken from the Divisional Commander’s crest (Ptd)
- 15 11 AA Division – simpler symbolism – a rather plump Germanic eagle impaled on an arrow (EonF)
- 16 12 AA Division – a sign which, unusually, hints at the number of the formation – the double 6 dice – but gives no hint as to its role (Ptd)

to blue or vice versa. In a minority of cases there was a fundamental design change.

(Mrs Sullivan's letter in "Lioness 1/1999" and Mrs Goodinson's and Mrs Strivens's letters in "Lioness 2/1999" refer. The sign of the AA Division – the naming Dornier – was manufactured on both a mid-blue and a khaki square background).

And there were variations in design, resulting from the selection of a variety of manufacturers to actually produce the signs for wear on uniform. And some signs were made in a form of rather delicate cotton weave embroidery, others were machine embroidered on felt and others, the economy version, were printed or painted on cotton. The latter were often enhanced by being over sewn by nimble fingered ATS ladies.

However, in 1943, this plethora of heraldry came to an end – within AA Command at least. It was decided that the hierarchical organisation of a Command, three Corps and twelve Divisions was too unwieldy and complicated. So the Corps and Divisions were disbanded and in their place a number of more loosely organised AA Groups were formed. The reorganisation was effective from 1 October 1942. With this reorganisation came the virtually universal wearing of the familiar black arm, bow and arrow on scarlet square of AA Command.

But there is anecdotal evidence, Mrs Jones' letter in "Lioness 2/2000", suggests that the AA Groups were permitted to choose to continue to wear either the sign of the AA Division from which they were formed or the supposedly universal bow and arrow (or Cupid's Cavalry) sign of AA Command.

**ATS GRAVES DISCOVERED AT THE BRITISH
MILITARY CEMETERY AT HAVERLEE
NEAR BRUSSELS**

Mrs Suzanne Gordon née Douglas,
15 St Lawrence Close, Stratford-sub-Castle,
Salisbury SP1 3LW

In May, whilst attending the South Area Reunion in Weymouth, I noticed on their board of memorabilia, a picture of some ATS graves in Belgium. Having served in Belgium in WWII with 531 (M) HAA Bty, 155 Regiment, I could not recall any casualties at that time.

As my son happened to be in Belgium, I asked him to do a little investigating and this is what he found out.

"Haverlee is near Leuven, which is about 20 km from Brussels. I asked in Flemish in Haverlee where the cemetery was and I was directed down a road. However, the cemetery is completely unsignposted so I missed it and ended up in the next town. I then asked a chap in a café again where the cemetery was. He gave me a strange look and replied in French that I had gone too far. The cemetery is exactly on the Flanders-Wallonia border!

Haverlee military cemetery is, as I expected, an immaculate graveyard like all the Commonwealth

cemeteries. All gravestones were erect and constructed of Portland Stone with flowers at the foot of each stone. The lawns were well cut with the stripes clearly visible. It is a fair size cemetery, with about 1000 graves but by no means large by WWI standards.

Most of the servicemen were in the RAF and other allied air forces (Poles, Canadians, Australians, South Africans and New Zealanders). There are quite a few army graves from an assortment of regiments including, right at the front, six not five ATS graves. I thought of it afterwards but I did not make a connection between the buried Royal Artillery men and the six ladies."

The six ATS women buried there are:

Pte Clara Carter	(d. 07.5.45) 457 Battery, 132 HAA Royal Artillery
Pte Isabella Goodfellow	(d. 15.1.45) 139 HAA Royal Artillery
Pte Eileen Smith	(d. 15.1.45) 139 HAA Royal Artillery
LCpl Marie Rose	(d. 15.1.45) 139 HAA Royal Artillery
Cpl Elsie Norris	(d. 15.1.45)
Subaltern Dorothy Liddell	(d. 15.1.45)

It appears that 5 of these Auxiliaries (all in their 20's) died on the same day. Can anyone provide further details?

PLAYTEX MOONWALK 2001
Major R C Griffiths, DPM(A) P2K

What were you doing on Midnight on Saturday 12 May 2001? I'll bet you were not waiting to cross a start line in Battersea Park wearing a DPM Wonderbra and your combat trousers as 8 brave servicewomen were (7 of whom had been WRAC). Can you imagine the powers-that-be allowing a group of WRAC personnel to do that in those dim and distant days! Majors Sam Erskine-Tulloch, Bev Northover, Barbara Gregory (US Exchange Officer) and Rowena Griffiths, and Captains Julie MacPhee and Ros Brown, and Cpl Bev Bates and LCpl Alison O'Connor were all members of *The Ladies in Green*, an 8-woman team taking part in the Playtex Moonwalk 2001. This was no lightweight women's stroll around Battersea Park but a power-walking marathon – that's right – a full 26.2 miles around London. The aim of this annual walk is to raise money for 'Breakthrough Breast Cancer' and 'The Bristol Cancer Help Centre'. The team has raised over £3,000 as a result of our tour around London, with the whole event expecting to raise over £1 million.

It was a magnificent achievement for all those who took part. Walking 26.2 miles is hard enough; but to do it through the night, not only when you are normally sleeping, but wearing a decorated Playtex Wonderbra as

your only top in Central London, past the emptying nightclubs takes considerable fortitude. The men departing the clubs thought that they were in seventh heaven and road works came to a standstill as the workmen gazed on in amazement!

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The atmosphere was amazing – impossible to describe adequately but it was one that made all of us taking part very glad to be there. Hopefully some of us will repeat the walk next year to raise further money.

MILLENNIUM BRIDGE – JUST A BLINKING OF AN EYE

Mrs P Binns née Bell, 22 Denbeigh Place,
Benton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 8DE



Newcastle members inspecting "The Bridge".

There is a great deal of attention on our river at present due to the erection of a new and almost completed bridge across the River Tyne. This is the Millennium Bridge, known locally as the "Blinking Eye" due to its new and exciting design which indeed resembles an eye when fully open. A party of our Club members were invited to view "behind the scenes" and to see how this wonderful, awesome bridge has been constructed. So, for a few hours, we were given the VIP treatment. We were equipped with hard hats, fluorescent jackets and gumboots and given a guided tour of the site. We were truly amazed at this huge construction of iron and concrete which can be moved with such ease. This bridge is Gateshead's "baby" but we, who live on the other side of the river, are equally proud to be associated with it. To stand on it at this early stage of its construction and look up the river and see it with its other famous landmark, the Tyne Bridge, and the no less famous six other bridges was magnificent. The new bridge will do the river proud.

THE FLORAL CARPET BADGE

Mrs B Jones, Caerlee House, Warrawong, NSW 2502



l to r:

*Front: B Stockley ATS RA, V Molloy WAAF,
L Richardson ATS RA, E OShea WAAF, M Holcroft WAAF
Back: I Walker WREN, L West, Aussie and Bunty Jones
ATS RA*

This floral carpet is on a mesh backing covered in ivy and live flowers. Two days of hard work and the result is there to be seen. The centre contains "Badges" of The Australian Army, Navy and Airforce. The "Girls" in the memorial arch include 'Brits' (three RA, three WAAF, one WREN) and one Aussie. I'm in the "rear rank" on the right – the tallest.

We still meet every couple of months for lunch and I may add, we have a ball.

UP-DATE ON THE FORMER QUEEN ELIZABETH BARRACKS, GUILDFORD

Jane Smith (formerly W/425499 Sgt Stark P J)
WRAC Staff Band 1965 – 1969

On 1 October 2001, the Planning Committee of Guildford Borough Council approved outline Planning permission for the development of the site.

Lainghomes and Lindenhomes will now construct 525 dwellings; facilities for employment, a nursing home and community centre; retail facilities and a health and fitness centre. The site will include open space and associated roads.

The development is, of course, a very large one and its completion is expected to take several years.

The original 7 roads on the site were all named to commemorate former Directors of the ATS/WRAC: Gwynne Vaughan Avenue, Knox Road, Whateley Road, Tyrwhitt Avenue, Railton Road, Rivett-Drake Road and Henderson Avenue. I submitted a written request to the

Borough Council to retain these original names and understand that the developers are sympathetic to the idea but I have had no confirmation in writing.

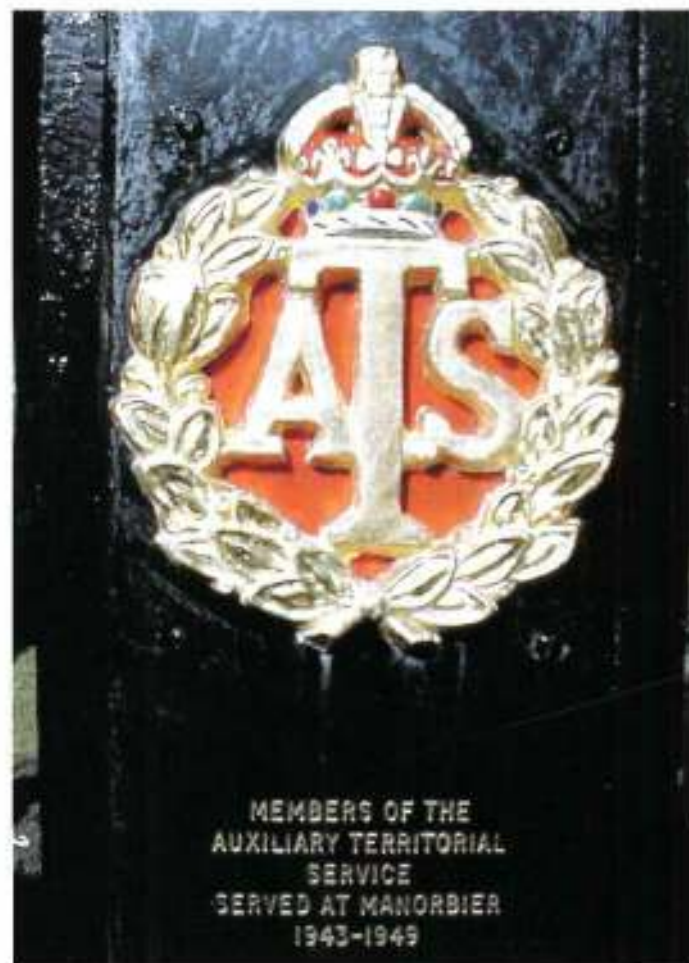
I have also been informed over the telephone that part of the planning process has been completed and it is the part of the developers to produce an artistic memorial to commemorate the use of the site by the WRAC. A competition will be held to select the design. So far, I have not received confirmation of this in writing either or any details of the time scale involved.

However, I do think that firstly, it is very important that the WRAC Association is involved in the siting of any memorial. Secondly, if there is to be a competition, presumably it will be decided by a panel of judges. To ensure that the design is not chosen without WRAC input, it seems essential that the Association should have representation.

I will continue to monitor these developments.

MEMORIAL GATES AT MANORBIER

After 31 years at Manorbier, the School of Artillery closed on 31 December 1970. The School had enjoyed close ties with Tenby, and as a lasting memorial to that connection, funded the erection of a set of memorial gates showing the cap badges of all regiments and corps that had served there over the years. By the year 2000, the gates were in sad need of refurbishment, some of which was paid for by The Royal Artillery Memorials Society. The photographs show the refurbished ATS and WRAC badges.



REUNIONS AND RENEWING OLD FRIENDSHIPS

Maryanne Bradshaw

Earlier this year I got in touch with two ATS friends after 54 years, through the "Lioness". Up to this time I had only had contact with one old friend, who now lives in Canada. We have been in close touch since we were demobbed in 1947. So with the desire to meet up with other like minded service friends I placed a photograph in the Lioness, sat back and waited.

Two people got in touch, both drivers like myself, one from Wales and one who now lives in Hong Kong. We excitedly exchanged phone calls, relating memories and discussing happenings as if it were yesterday.

The Welsh girl no longer keeps in touch, except at Christmas. She had never married and had lived a very quiet domesticated sort of life like most of us, retiring at 65 after many years as an assistant at Woolworth's.

The Hong Kong lady had led a much more adventurous sort of life, going to Hong Kong from South Africa with her then husband whom she later divorced. Starting her own business in the fashion world, she became very wealthy. She is now retired and spends half her time in the UK where she has an apartment in Lancaster Gate, London, the other half of the year in Hong Kong. She also spends as much time as she can travelling and seeing the world.

She has thrown herself into charity work having an old peoples' home in Hong Kong named after her. She also

devotes lots of time and money to an animal home. As a result of all this she was awarded the MBE three years ago.

During her last visit to England she came up to Coalville to spend a day with us. We talked for hours about my husband Tom's surprise. She came up from London by train so I arranged to meet her at Loughbrough station. When the train came in there was no sign of her, lots of people got off the train but no Pamela, then she appeared. She had travelled first class and the train had run out of platform so the first class passengers had to come to the middle of the train to alight. All was well. It was as if the years just rolled away.

The next experience of renewing old friendships was quite different and is really geared around Tom. He was a POW for four years, first in Italy and then in Germany. When we met, I was stationed in Beverley East Yorks but on detachment at Hull which was a transit camp for troops returning from Germany. I was one ATS driver among 400 men, a very daunting situation. Most of the staff were ex POWs, and they had some great stories to tell. Tom was a shy quiet sort of guy but he would talk and talk of the happenings in the prison camp, I just listened and hardly believed some of these stories.

Years passed, we married had a family and moved to Leicestershire. One day, reading the Daily Express, there was an article from Scotland about POW life and a camp called Stalag 4B. A group of Scottish ex-servicemen were looking for fellow prisoners with a view to meeting up again. I wrote on Tom's behalf and that was the start of some wonderful renewals of friendship.

The guys who lived in Scotland formed a committee and arranged a reunion weekend, they chose 23 April to correspond with the day they were liberated in 1945.

There were well over 100 couples attending the first reunion. Having answered the article in the newspaper, they came from all over the country. Some had never seen each other since the day the Russians had walked into the camp in 1945 and told the prisoners to fend for themselves. There were tears of joy to meet again, an unusual sight amongst fully grown men.

The stories Tom had told me when we had met were told again and again by the other guys, a pattern emerged of their lives in captivity, there was no bitterness just a joy to be alive and well.

The wives, girlfriends and daughters also struck up a friendship and it was the start of many years of reunions, in fact they continued until 1990, which was 50 years after their liberation. Tom and I attended most of them making a yearly pilgrimage to Edinburgh. The numbers grew and we had to move to bigger hotels, families came from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa to name but a few.

It became apparent that the 4B Association would have to end, age catches up with everyone, but the friendships that were forged will never be forgotten. It was a sad day when on the 50th Anniversary they called it a day. But I for one will look back on wonderful memories of renewing old friendships.

THE SWORD OF THE CITY OF LONDON

Penny Riddy (née Pension)

In the Autumn of 1938 on the formation of the ATS, having volunteered to join, I was interviewed at Duke of York's Headquarters and was asked if I wished to join a County of London or a City of London Company. I chose the former because I think it was nearer my place of work and easier to get to on Drill night. I was allocated to the 19th County of London platoon attached to Artists Rifles in Duke's Road, opposite St Pancras Church. (The site has recently been developed for the prestigious Dance Company).

Not long ago I was talking to a gentleman who had been a member of the Inns of Court TA Regiment immediately prior to World War II, and he had no knowledge of there being ATS attached to the regiment. However, I was sure there were and that they wore the City flash, and I have been trying to establish that my memory is correct. The National Army Museum did not have one in their records.

I am happy to say that my interest has been justified as our Secretary has recently been given a City of London Sword flash by Miss Hunt for the Association. I do not know to which City of London company Miss Hunt belonged, but I remember Miss Manhire the WO1 at the ATS Training Centre at Droitwich in 1941 wore the flash, having belonged to a pre-war City of London company, and as far as I am aware all such members were permitted to wear the flash throughout the war.

The Lioness 1995 No. 2, page 131 has a picture of 2nd City of London Company at Suncliffe Hotel, Bournemouth, and I wishfully think I can see some City of London flashes, not to be confused with a Divisional sign which I notice on the front row.

Time marches on and those members who had the privilege of wearing the City flash are, like me and most pre war volunteers, eighty at least, but I would be so grateful if you could drop a short note to the Secretary giving your City of London ATS unit, and the male TA regiment to which you were attached. The period is such a short one probably from December 1938 to September 1939 when the men left the TA centres to do their training, and the ATS went for attachment to their pre-arranged military units.



The Sword of the City of London embroidered on khaki cloth and sewn on the upper arm of the tunic (not a shoulder flash).

Weddings

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

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PARKER - MILLS

Present Address: 101 Longcroft, Oxhley, Watford,
Herts. WD19 4JS



On 2 June 1951 at Southey Methodist Church, Sheffield,
Yorks. L/Bdr Sidney Parker, 6th Airborne to Cpl Nellie
Mills ATS, 7 & 8 Bn RAOC Publications Dept,
Donnington Salop.



WRAC NATIONAL REGISTER

Are you interested in trying to find old friends?
Did you serve/enlist between 1949 and 1992?
Why not join the WRAC National Register?

E Ann Butler-Deakin
'Cobblestones', 2 Chesham Road, Stafford ST16 3JP
Tel: 01785 249992

BRIDSON - GARMAN

Present Address: 4 Coxhoe Road, Billingham,
Stockton-On-Tees TS23 3BL



On 28 July 1951 SSgt Frank Bridson RAPC to Sgt Phyll
Garman ATS W/92789

OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Please note that in future, all payments for
subscriptions, postage and memorabilia will
only be accepted in Sterling. Please ask your
bank for a Money Order or Sterling Cheque.

We regret to have to impose this restriction,
but due to the vagaries of exchange rates,
the majority of overseas payments fall
significantly short of the amount due.

Memorials

War Memorials are of great importance to all who have served in the armed forces, particularly to those who served in the two World Wars or other conflicts such as Korea or the Falklands. Here at the Association Headquarters we are aware that many of our membership have a keen interest in, and concern about, commemorative matters. We receive a steady stream of correspondence and calls regarding such issues as the inclusion of women's names on War Memorials, participation in acts of commemoration, the National Memorial Arboretum, War Graves and, of course, the Memorial to the Women of World War 2.

In 2000, many members were concerned about the BBC coverage of the Act of Remembrance in Whitehall. The commentary did not accurately reflect what was on the screen, particularly where the various women's contingents were concerned. Last year, the coverage was better but the commentary was still inaccurate despite the fact that the producers are supplied with detailed information from all the organisations taking part, including the WRAC Association. Having heard that the WRAC was formed in 1919 and served throughout the Second World War, the Chairman of the Association decided to write to the BBC to draw their attention to the achievements of the ATS. Her letter is printed below.

27 November 2001

I am writing to you concerning the Cenotaph March Past 2001.

First of all I would like to congratulate you on the commentary during this year's Cenotaph Parade. It was well synchronised and informative. It is so important that those on parade and those they represent should feel proud and appreciated on that day when they commemorate their achievements and sacrifices and those of their comrades. A very important part of that good feeling is generated by the coverage on radio and television.

I would like to draw your attention to the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in particular. They were formed in 1938 as an auxiliary service for the duration of the impending war. By 1945 there were 215,000 women wearing khaki uniform and the ATS cap badge. They had served in many areas and many trades. Notable amongst them, as searchlight operators and range finders in Mixed Anti-Aircraft Batteries throughout UK, but also ambulance drivers, signallers, intelligence analysts and many many more as well as traditional tasks such as cooks, clerks and storewomen. Many lost their lives. It was a direct result of their achievements during the war that it was decided to form them into the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) as a regular corps of the British Army.

Women had not until then served as regular soldiers on a full-time basis in peacetime. This enabled women for the first time to make a full career in the Army on the same basis, with the same ranks, as their male counterparts. I do not believe this revolutionary step would have been taken had the ATS not paved the way and proved the worth of women in the Army. A tradition continued by the WRAC who have served in every part of the world and in all trades in the

Army not involved in direct combat for nearly half a century through all the conflicts of Cold War, "retreat from empire" and terrorist troubles in Northern Ireland.

Now ex-ATS and ex-WRAC members march together under the banner of the WRAC Association but on this occasion it is really an ATS day. Most of the women marching are ex-ATS, now late 70s or early 80s – a wonderful example of their durability and spirit.

I realise that it is not possible within the time constraints of the programme to cover all aspects of our service and history, but please try to do justice to the enormous contribution made in skill, dedication and sheer determination by those 215,000 women who held their heads high then and still do as they march more than half a century later past the Cenotaph each November.

*Yours sincerely,
Shirley Nield*

Friends Of War Memorials

The Friends of War Memorials (FoWM) is a registered charity who try to do for War Memorials what the Commonwealth War Graves Commission does for War Graves. The major difference is that whereas the War Graves Commission is funded, FoWM is a voluntary organisation.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to maintain the memorials, but it is a low priority. The Royal British Legion will always support efforts to restore and update memorials but, quite rightly, directs its funds towards helping veterans. This leaves FoWM as the only organisation devoted to the restoration and preservation of these memorials.

The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To monitor the condition of war memorials and to take steps to ensure that local authorities and other relevant organisations are alerted to such condition with a view to their undertaking any necessary restoration, essential maintenance, repairs, renovations and cleaning.
2. To liaise with ecclesiastical authorities, regiments and other responsible bodies with a view to their accepting responsibility for, and undertaking repairs to and restoration of, war memorials.
3. To publicise and to educate and inform the public about the spiritual, archaeological, artistic, aesthetic and historical significance of war memorials as part of our national heritage; to encourage support groups and to inspire young people to cherish their local war memorials and the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom.

... continued on page 34

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Members

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The last year has been, as always, a roller coaster of ups and downs. I would like to share with you a few "Snapshots" of my year 2001.

- In March I attended the Dedication of the Memorial Plaque in Warley Chapel CHELMSFORD which was so well organised by Gina Shadrack and her team. It was a totally appropriate and moving service in the beautiful historic Regimental Chapel rich with the history and traditions which we all value so much. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our members, the ATS personnel who served there are now a real permanent part of it.

- Also in March I attended the funeral of Lt Col Naomi Christie. I am sure known to many of you, a wonderfully strong and courageous woman.

- Later in the year I remember receiving an angry and distressed letter from a member about the new sculpture which has been produced to represent the contribution of women in WW2. It was an attempt to represent all women but I believe the brief was too wide and too unfocused and agree the result is disappointing. Unfortunately we were not consulted at any point.

- I was leaving the Royal Albert Hall after the Festival of Remembrance when I met two Association members on the steps. They had enjoyed the evening but said sadly "yet again no mention of the ATS" - (nor of the WRAC I might add) although women serving with the Army now were quite well represented. You will have noted that the format of the Festival has changed quite drastically and the former Muster Parade has disappeared. The available seating on the platform has been used for others and therefore space is limited. I am told that the Royal British Legion has decided to invite Regimental/Corps Associations to provide a standard on a rotational basis. You will recall that our Standard was borne in 2000 by Eleri Pirie and very proudly and smartly too.

- I watched the WRAC Association contingent marching past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. I was very proud of you and many members of Council expressed the same feelings at our meeting in January. You were a credit to us all. Congratulations to the Parade

Commander Major Maskens-Mackintyre, to our other marshall, Mabel Lightfoot and to all who marched that day. I was sad to hear the BBC commentary however, especially as the BBC researcher had been very well briefed beforehand by Major McElligott our General Secretary. My subsequent letter to the BBC is printed in full in this issue of "Lioness".

- We had an interesting and encouraging meeting with Commander David Childs who is the organiser, planner and devoted enthusiast for the National Arboretum. Our plot has now been chosen and cleared, and planting has started. Each of the trees and shrubs has been chosen not only to make an attractive display but also to symbolise some aspect of our Corps. Great love and care is being given to this project and I am sure we will be pleased with the results. The first young shoots perhaps this spring?

- We were all very sad to hear that Major Vanessa Lang had been killed in a helicopter crash whilst serving in Sierra Leone and more recently, in December, that Lt Col Elizabeth Robinson died suddenly and unexpectedly at her home in Shropshire.

- A happy occasion to celebrate in November when Miss Muriel Thompson, a long serving member of Council, reached her 90th Birthday. Although unable to attend meetings now, she never fails to let me know her views on matters relating to the WRAC Association and the Benevolent Fund. Long may she continue to keep a close eye on us all.



Now turning to the snapshots of work done by the Association HQ Staff and the Council.

- In May it was a real pleasure to welcome Major Jane Freebairn back 'into the fold' when she took over as Benevolent Fund Case Secretary. We are very fortunate to have the benefit of her long experience of the Corps, her skill and her great goodwill. Long may she stay with us.

At our July meeting the Council decided to elect an Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt Col Sue Westlake, my Deputy Chairman of Council. The committee was tasked to study and present rules in detail and to recommend any necessary amendments to meet our present and foreseeable future needs and also to

recommend how we might reduce our annual deficit on the "Lioness". I am glad to say that I received an excellent suggested re-draft of the rules and a very urgent appraisal of the problems and possible solutions to the "Lioness" deficit within a few weeks. Both papers were put before Council in January and the rules agreed. They are presented in full in this issue so that you have an opportunity to see them before I bring them to the AGM in April 2002 for final approval. Please read them.

- At the Council meeting in January 2002 the Executive Committee was transformed into the Grand Reunion 2003 Committee, with the task of organising the event on behalf of the Council and in conjunction with Area Chairmen and Branches. It is proposed to hold the Grand Reunion in Birmingham in 2003. More details will be available at the Annual General Meeting in April 2002

I was pleased to see that we have received many generous bequests this year. The Benevolent Fund was by far the biggest recipient but the Princess Royal's Memorial Fund and the Association also benefited. We do need to raise more funds for the Association and in particular for projects pre-fronted by the Association. The losses occur chronically on the "Lioness" and each Grand Reunion, but temporary deficits have to be carried also for other projects such as the plot for the National Arboretum where £5000 was provided of which less than £500 has so far been collected. The account is of course in credit overall but if we wish to remain comfortably viable in the future we must assess these problems.

Visits During 2001

- 28 April Greater London Branch. Thank you all for your warm welcome on what turned out to be a rather showery April day. It was nice to see you still in your lair under Orange Street Congregational Church, Trafalgar Square and particularly to see so many old friends and colleagues. I am reminded of you regularly, recently almost everyday, as the lightweight umbrella is always in my briefcase and has come to my rescue many times. Thank you all again.

- 6 May South Area Reunion & Luncheon in the Pavilion Complex Esplanade Weymouth. What a wonderful excuse to be in Dorset in the Spring. A lovely luncheon in a splendid venue on a day when the International Kite Flying Competition had Weymouth Harbour en fête, what could be better? Thank you so much for your kind welcome. Everything was so wonderful, especially the weather, that I took the chance to stay another day or two in your lovely part of the world.

- WOs & Sgts Annual Dinner in the Broxhead Sergeants' Mess, Bordon. The photograph was taken at the WOs & Sgts Annual Dinner. It was a very lively and successful evening and so very good to see so many, both serving and retired, enjoying an evening together. I know how difficult it must be organising such a big event when you have no settled base or staff and I congratulate WO1 Kaz Smith and her team on achieving such a stylish setting and delicious meal. I was also intrigued to notice the array of TV monitors in the bar showing videos of,

would you believe, passing out parades at Guildford long ago. Did I really also see a few misty eyes as the evening progressed and small clusters gathered to watch? Don't worry, it gets to all of us in the end. I hope that you continue to meet, to enjoy each other's company and to remember your shared experiences and traditions for many many years to come.

To all members I look forward to seeing the Spring and as many of you as possible at the Victory Services Club at the Annual General Meeting in April 2002.

Brigadier S P Nield

GIFT AID DONATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE WRAC ASSOCIATION (Reg No 206184)

and

THE ATS AND WRAC BENEVOLENT FUND

Since 6 April 2000, Deeds of Covenant have been replaced by Gift Aid as means of giving to charity.

- If you are a UK Taxpayer, you can make a Gift Aid Declaration when you make a donation to charity. By making such a declaration, the receiving charity can reclaim any tax you have paid on your donation. This will give the Association or the Benevolent Fund an extra 28p for every £1 you donate.
- Gift Aid Declarations may be written or given orally over the telephone.
- If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains at least equal in amount to the tax that the charity reclaims, you should cancel your declaration.
- You can cancel the declaration at any time simply by notifying us that you wish to do so. If an oral declaration is cancelled within 30 days from the date on which written confirmation is sent, it will be as if the oral declaration had never been made.
- If you are a high rate taxpayer, you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment Tax Return.
- If you are unsure whether or not your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, please contact the Association HQ on 01962 887570 or ask your local tax office for leaflet IR 113 Gift Aid.
- Please notify the Association HQ of any change of address.

Last year FoWM gave assistance to 500 groups who were dealing with memorials of all sorts, either restoring, conserving, refurbishing or combating vandalism. They distribute funds on behalf of English Heritage and the Halifax PLC but need to find their own general resources in order to continue their work.

FoWM have a number of Regional Volunteers (RVs) who are members who act as the organisation's eyes and ears locally and inform them of war memorials and rolls of honour in their area that need attention. RVs also may represent FoWM at re-dedications. They do as much or as little as they are able and, in effect, act as "reservists" to be called on when needed, as well as being correspondents when they see fit.

Membership costs £20 per year or £100 for life membership and includes a quarterly newsletter. If you would like more information, you can contact the membership secretary, Amy Flint, on 020 7259 0403. The conservation officer, Maggie Goodall can also be reached on this number.

Memorial to the Women of World War II

Many of you will be aware that the design for the Memorial to the Women of World War II has now been chosen. A photograph was published in the newspapers towards the end of last year and there was also some coverage on the television. The choice of design has not been well received by some members of the Association and comments that we have received are printed below. However, it appears that the photographs and computer images that have been seen do not do credit to the finished maquette. Some of the comments that have been passed by women including ex-servicewomen of the time who have seen it are: "it is just brilliant", "each time I see it the more I appreciate the meaning of it", it is a memorial I would be proud to stand in front of". That is not to say that all of those who do not like it would change their minds on seeing it, particularly if they feel that the memorial should be to the women who served in the WRNS, ATS and WAAF.

The appeal to raise funds for this project is governed by a trust deed drawn up by the Charity Commissioners. Unfortunately, it would appear that many people's understanding of what the Memorial was to represent i.e. the WRNS, ATS and WAAF, is at odds with the intention laid down in that trust deed. The object states that the Memorial is to be to all the women who made a contribution during World War II of whom there were 7.1 million. Of these, approximately 10% were Servicewomen. The contributions made by the Land Army or the women in the munitions factories were vital to the survival of the country and over 3,000 civilian nurses were killed during the war. It is intended to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

The selection of the work was made by the Arts Committee amongst whom are Professor Philip King, the current President of the Royal Academy, Dr Judith Collins, until recently Head of Modern Sculpture in the Tate Gallery and James Butler, an eminent sculptor and tutor in



his own right. The Committee chose two pieces of work from different sculptors. The bottom piece (the plinth) consists of the hats, coats and other articles of attire which depict the main occupations in which women were involved, including the WRNS, ATS and WAAF. These will be in bronze and will surround the entire plinth. Descriptive inscriptions will also be included. The reason the Committee chose this is because it symbolised "When the Nation asked of them, the women came forward in their millions. Now the war is over they have hung up their war garments and returned from whence they came." The top piece will also be in bronze and is taken from a true situation which happened in Kent in which a 24 year old woman ARP Warden sheltered children with her own body from a bomb blast. The symbolism of this is "here is a woman, in man's clothes, doing a man's job (war), not only shielding the children with her body, but protecting the future of our Nation with her life." It was felt that these two pieces encapsulated the spirit of the invaluable work done by all the women.

The total cost of this memorial is likely to be £700,000, considerably more than the original £180,000! The reason for this is the siting of it. It was to be placed in Trafalgar Square, £180,000. Then it was going into Raleigh Green, but this was totally unfeasible because of a massive underground storage tank. Finally it is destined for Whitehall but this will involve major structural work to the road, hence the sum of £700,000.

...Members comments

"Should the Memorial to the Women of World War II be mentioned at this point? It has certainly caused a furore amongst many, what do you and yours think? Please do not write and tell me, there are other more important people involved!!"

".....came along with a press cutting of the proposed Memorial and our Treasurer also had a copy. These were passed round the hall and it was quite evident that they were all very upset at the picture. To me it looked better

suited for a memorial to the Miners as there is certainly nothing feminine about it and it was quite obvious that had we not already sent a good donation towards the ever increasing cost of this memorial we would certainly not send it now. It was also felt that if they delay putting up a statue to the WRENs in WWII we shall have forgotten this life and they can spend our money on other things." "Another thing for sure is that if this proposed Statue is not changed Colchester Branch will not be at the unveiling as an when this takes place."

"The design for the Memorial has appalled us. At no time

were we consulted, we have given a donation, nor could we find out any details until very recently. If this design is accepted, we will ask for the return of our donation."

"We have been overwhelmed by phone calls and letters from practically all our members stating how disappointed they are in the Memorial to the Women of World War II. We feel it would have been more appropriate to have just had a figure of a WREN, an ATS and a WAAF as we understood in the beginning that it was for those who served in the Armed Forces. We feel it is an insult to be depicted by a row of great-coats on pegs. I am sure other Branches feel the same."



WRAC Association Memorabilia



Bone China Mugs
£4.50



Teapot Stand
£3.50



Regi-Bears
£7.50



Key Fob
£2.50



Sandwich Trays
£4.60



Square Tray
£4.80

Badges

Association £2.50



ATS £2.75



WRAC £2.75



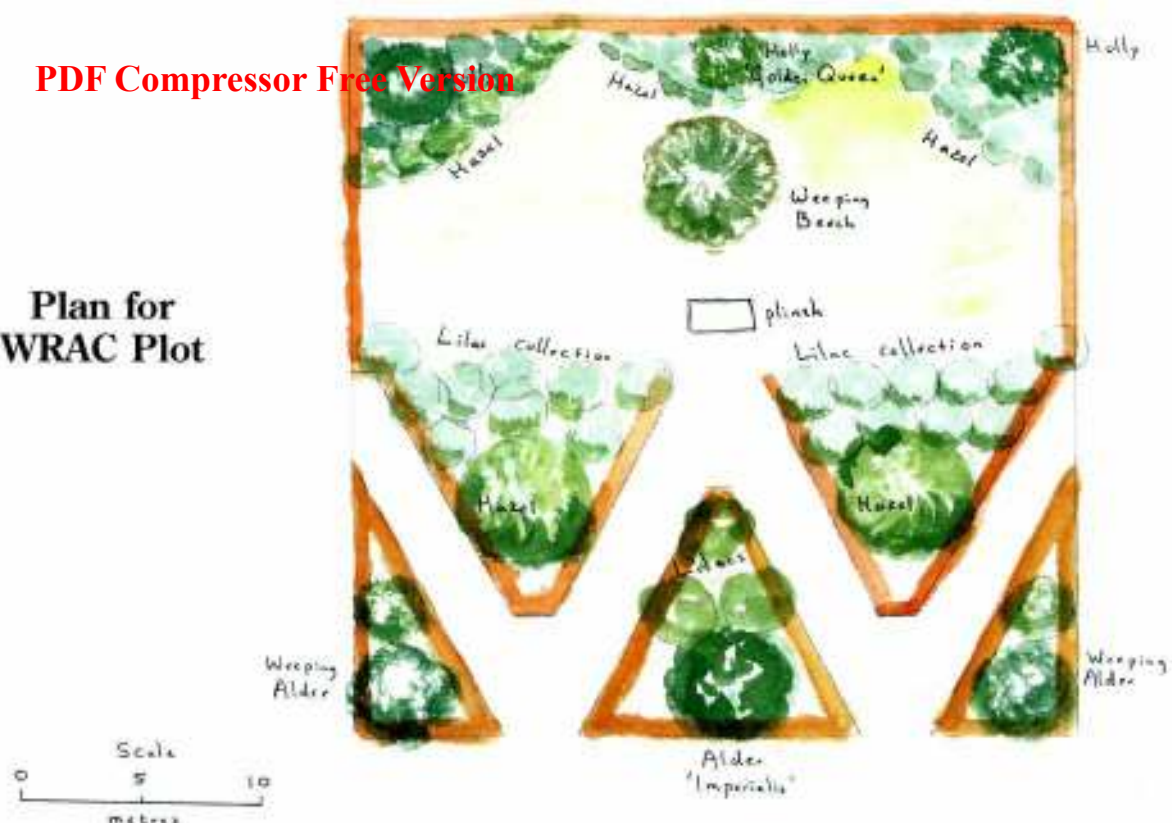
Association £1.50



THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

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Plan for WRAC Plot



In 1994 the then Adjutant General, Sir David Ramsbotham, wrote to every Regiment and Corps of the Army proposing that they join together to create a military plot of commemorative trees in the National Memorial Arboretum that was to be created at Alrewas in Staffordshire.

The idea to plant an Arboretum in tribute to those who had served in the Forces was conceived in 1988 but was not announced to the public until November 1994 when the Prime Minister, John Major, launched an appeal for funds.

The design was based around four central plots: a collection of oaks for the Royal Navy; silver birches in the shape of an eagle's wings for the Royal Air Force, a wood in which every tree represented a British Merchant Ship lost in the Second World War and a more complex planting for the Army.

The central feature of the army area is a group of trees in squares to represent the Regiments of Foot while ahead of them, in a horseshoe, is a line of beech trees for the cavalry. All these trees are columnar in nature so they will form a tall erect formulation of trees in due course.

Very early on during the Appeal period several Regiments and Corps wrote to ask whether or not they might fund their own plot. To date these plots include a collection of native Irish Trees for the Royal Irish; a selection of ash trees for the Royal Tank Regiment; a star pattern of birches for the Household Division; and mature species for the Staffordshire Regiment and Royal Artillery.

In September the Adjutant General's Corps Plot was dedicated. Their plot design is based on the west front of Winchester Cathedral in the form of a line of limes through which one walks to the centrepiece, a copper

beech surrounded by a circular seat. Trees for the antecedent corps form a screen beyond the beech tree.

The WRAC Association also decided that their memory should be recalled at the site in the form of a dedicated plot. The design for this has now been completed and groundwork begun.

The plot is based around a 'W' shape path, the centre of which will converge at a monument to all those who served in the WRAC and it's forerunners, the QMAAC & ATS. The trees and shrubs selected have been chosen with three themes in mind; the bottle green of the WRAC uniform; the Corps Pipe Air and ATS March, *The Nut Brown Maiden*, and Women's names. Thus at the entrance there will be dark green alders with tall evergreen hollies at the back.

A group of Hazel trees will occupy the centre while a collection of Lilacs will give the site spring colour. The 'Royal' in the Corps title will be acknowledged by the planting of the Alder '*Imperialis*' and the Lilac '*Royalty*'. Among the women's names reflected in the shrubs are *Audrey, Elinor, Diane, Maud* and *Katherine*.

The National Memorial Arboretum was opened by the Duchess of Kent in May and can be visited daily (except Mondays in winter) from 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs. It is a large site (some 150 acres) and, although still very much in the development stage, takes at least 2 hours to walk around and study the more than sixty plots that are being created. There is a restaurant at the site as well as the only Chapel built in the country to celebrate the Millennium.

It is hoped that the WRAC Association plot will be dedicated in 2003 at a Service to which all Association members will be invited.

Branch News

ALDERSHOT BRANCH

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Because of falling attendances and difficulty in finding members to serve on the committee, formal meetings have been restricted this year. In place of these, events of a different nature have been introduced. Two pubs in areas not in the immediate vicinity were selected and named as venues within easy access of our wide area, where members could meet informally over the lunch hour on a specific date. This was moderately successful and seems to appeal to those who no longer wish to venture out in the evenings. A Cheese and Wine evening accompanied by a talk on the areas of origin was enjoyed by the small number who braved the terrible weather on that particular night. A Spring dinner at the Training Centre for chefs at St Omer Barracks was greatly enjoyed, as was the area reunion at Weymouth by the group which travelled there. Once more the Royal Signals Association, Aldershot kindly invited our members to join them – this time it was to the final rehearsal of the Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; this particular occasion was especially interesting since, being the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the war in Korea, there attended as honoured guests those former cadets who, by nature of the sudden emergency, had been denied their final parade.

A branch Christmas Dinner took place at St Omer Barracks and we hope that volunteers for the committee will be forthcoming at our next Annual General Meeting, otherwise, regretfully, our social activities will have to cease.

ASHBY-DE-LA ZOUCH BRANCH

We started the year with some excellent talks organised by our Programme Secretary, Lydia Dolman. Subjects ranged from the Derby Soup Run and America Travel to Renewing Old Friendships, Textiles and Birds. These talks, together with Personal Profiles, Pub Lunches and an excellent Christmas Lunch have provided a varied and interesting series of meetings.

Our finances are in good order, thanks to our Treasurer, Mavis Litchfield-Parry, enabling us to subsidise transport and Christmas Lunches.

Sadly, one of our members passed away early in the year – Ada Soar. She would have been delighted to have seen her name mentioned on page 17 of the No. 2 2000 "Lioness". Two members have transferred to Leicester because of changes in the bus schedules. We shall miss them but they are still alive and well in the Association. We were happy, in the Spring, to welcome "our WAAF", Peggy Pill, who has settled in well amongst the "brown jobs".

The big item of the year was our participation in the organisation and running of the Area Re-union in Leicester on 01 September. We were happy to be associated with such a successful and enjoyable occasion. As I write, there is not much of the year left. We hope to have our AGM at the home of our Chairman/Secretary,

Doreen Peters, in November and our Christmas Lunch is all booked. By the time you read this we shall be in 2002. We look forward to another happy year together and wish you all the same.

BATH BRANCH

We are still meeting twice a month with an average attendance of twenty five members, quite a few of our members live some distance out of Bath. We welcomed three new members. Marjorie Davis, who lives at Bathampton, served in the ATS with the Royal Signals Wireless Operators. She would like to trace her former friends, Mavis Mummery and Joan Hignal née Dunsford, so if anyone knows their whereabouts please phone 01225 339904. Kay Guest comes from Chippenham and served in the ATS, and Jenny Stevens served in the WRAC in the 1960s. Fortunately these three are able to attend fairly regularly, however we do keep in touch with those members who cannot get to meetings through regular Newsletters and most of them keep in touch with us. We do have a problem in common with many other Branches – Life Members who are just names on our register and who don't even reply to our letters. Reluctantly we came to the decision that we could not send regular Newsletters to them, the posting and printing is too costly these days.

One of our very dedicated members, Irene Maggs of Brislington, Bristol, died at the end of last year. She served with the ATS in Nottingham. She was a former committee member and always supported all our events.

We raise funds through the two Coffee Mornings we hold each year, we now have a regular following and are able to support other Service Charities a little. It is not easy these days, there are so many causes needing help.

We have an annual Christmas Lunch and once a year we visit Weston-Super-Mare for coffee in a hotel when we meet up with our members from that part of the world. This is always most enjoyable.

BEXHILL BRANCH

It is that time again. To look back over the past six months and report! Can we remember? Thank goodness for minutes and programmes which soon jolt our memories and we realise what a good time we have been having, we hope it has been just as enjoyable for you too!

We have enjoyed the summer months, with the usual range of activities; cream teas, half day outing, a games afternoon and speakers. Attendance at our meetings has been excellent, over 50% of the membership, which stands at 45 not bad for such a small area as we cover.

Unfortunately we have lost 2 of our members in the last year and the Welfare Officer has been quite busy but we understand this side of our work is bound to increase.

So dare we think of Christmas yet? It is looming fast and we have our annual Christmas Lunch which is booked to look forward to. We here, wish you all a Happy and Healthy time, see you next time!

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BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Time disappears so quickly these days. We have had quite a busy year, here in Bournemouth, and have been pleased to welcome two new members and another transferred from Greater London. Sadly two members have died. Miss Walters (known as Mick) died in June and Miss Margaret Miles in October. Both ladies had served in the ATS as Sergeants and each had been a branch member for over 40 years and will be greatly missed by us all.

Chairperson, Doreen Snell, together with Social Secretary Freda Lyon, attended the Southern Area AGM at Wilton October 2000. November saw groups attending Remembrance Day services in London and locally. Margaret Drew presented our Poppy Wreath on behalf of the branch at the Bournemouth War Memorial.

November – our Branch AGM – unfortunately again no volunteers to take office. Come on you younger WRAC members we NEED you. Later in November 18 of us enjoyed the hospitality of the WAAF at Boscombe RBL Hall for a Christmas Coffee Morning. Never again can members complain about *our* quizzes- the WAAF gave us some really difficult brainteasers!

In December, 50 members enjoyed Christmas Lunch at the Cadogan Quality Hotel, a very happy atmosphere prevailed. Due to illness, our numbers were down to 23 for our January meeting, but all enjoyed a talk given by Mr Rob Somes (and his dog) from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

At our February meeting Mr Ron Broome regaled us with a talk covering his career – from a 16-year-old police cadet, through his National Service in the RAF Police Dog Handling Section to his return to civilian policing and his eventual promotion to Chief Constable.

In March Ms Hilary Warner gave us a great insight into her varied career as a BBC producer in TV Drama, Radio and as head of personnel in the overseas section. This was most interesting, at times poignant and yet highly amusing. Our Bring and Buy Sale in April raised £43 for branch funds, an excellent result.

On Sunday 06 May we had a most enjoyable time at the Pavilion Weymouth when Weymouth Branch hosted the Southern Area Reunion – thank you Weymouth it was a great occasion. At our May meeting Daphne Brookes gave a talk about some Finns she met on holiday in Tunisia and of their continuing friendship, their visit here and Daphne's two visits to Finland.

June saw us again in Weymouth for the Annual Veterans Remembrance Service, March Past and Festival. This is always a memorable occasion, with over 2000 ex-service personnel on parade, followed by various service vehicles. Festivities commence on the Saturday, the Parade takes place on Sunday and various concerts etc go on during the week. Why not join us in 2002 – the Parade will be on 16

June. If you are unable to march, you could join the hundreds lining the promenade cheering everyone on. Maybe in 2002 we could see our Standard on parade! Our June meeting took the form of a Garden Party at the home of Daphne Brookes – once again we were fortunately blessed with good weather.

July saw a group of us visiting the D Day Museum at Southsea – a great reminder of that time.

At our August meeting Lt Col Val Trout gave us a most interesting insight into the workings of the Benevolent Fund, which was greatly appreciated.

The September meeting was called “getting to know you” where we sat in groups and exchanged stories about our service careers. We also welcomed two ladies who were holidaying here and who had spent their service time stationed in Bournemouth. A Bring and Buy sale raised £42.

As this goes to print, we have our AGM before us and our Christmas Lunch to look forward to. Although we have 80 members, the average attendance at our monthly meetings rarely gets above 30. We cover a huge area, from Wareham and Swanage to the South, Blandford to the West and Lymington to the North. Fewer of us are able to drive and public transport is not always feasible.

Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of the month at the Cadogan Quality Hotel, Poole Road, Bournemouth at 2.15 pm. We are always ready to welcome new members, or anyone down here on holiday.

Good wishes to all members.

BRADFORD BRANCH

Greetings to all members.

November was, as always, a very busy month, with the annual Festival of Remembrance at the St George's Hall being enjoyed by a large audience. A week later there is the parade and service at the war memorial with, as always, a large attendance. Each year it also attracts a larger amount of onlookers.

Our Christmas Lunch was held at The Pine Room, Bradford University, and we were joined once again by members of the Dunkirk Veterans Association.

We had our usual Bring and Buy sale and lunch in July, which was a very successful day.

At the AGM in September, Ivy Weston stood down as secretary on account of ill health. Ivy was secretary for a long time but is now in a residential home, although she is still able to attend meetings. We wish her a happy retirement. Peggy Kenny has been standing in for Ivy and at the AGM was elected to take her place, we wish her every success. The rest of the committee is unchanged. I accompanied Peggy to the Secretaries' meeting at York. A good meeting but there was a lot of disquiet about the memorial which is to be erected in London.

BRISTOL BRANCH

This past few months have seen the Branch settle in at our new meeting place. We are made to feel most welcome, but we are mindful that it is a working office and as such treat it with respect. One of our members made a Birthday Cake and we asked Col Kate George, (who happened to be in the office) if she would make the first cut. Col George also took the opportunity to introduce herself to the Branch, and told us about her role in recruitment. It was most interesting and, as it was unexpected, it was doubly pleasing, so 'Thank you' Col George. We had lots of cake left over, so it was distributed amongst all the personnel at the Recruiting Office (they were more than pleased). We held a car boot sale which was very successful and raised funds for the Branch.

In June some of us went to the 'Veterans Week', which was held at Weymouth. Whilst we didn't join in the Parade on the Sunday, we supported Weymouth and Bournemouth who were marching. We have decided that we will march next year. We visited the Nothe Forte at Weymouth. One of our members was stationed there and she was able to let them have photos which will be put on display.

In August we made a visit to a children's home here in Bristol. George Muller started the home in 1836 with 30 children, by the time he died at the age of 92, he had cared for over 10,000 children. It was interesting to see the records that were held, and to know that the work was still continuing.

Bristol members were well represented at the WRAC Dinner Club which was held in Birmingham. For some it was their first visit, but I am assured that they are definitely going again next year. Congratulations to Anne Deakin and her Committee who work so hard. I think 'Elvis' was the star on Saturday night - more please!!

On behalf of the Bristol Branch, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Look forward to seeing you in April.

CANTERBURY BRANCH



l to r: President Mrs Jenny Wells with Vice Chairman Doreen Dennis.

We have had a busy year with meetings at the Dominican Priory, Canterbury, every month except August when we always gather at a member's beach hut in Herne Bay to chat, swim and bask in the sun. Mavis Middleton was our hostess and, with friends, produced refreshing cups of tea and cakes for all on a beautifully sunny day.

Once the routine business is dealt with at meetings, we proceed with one of our varied activities. Doreen and Mavis usually make the raffle an amusing one and it always ends with an auction. Members are advised not to make any movements or gestures that could be remotely construed as a bid. We enjoy talks, demonstrations, and parties and in December we have a Christmas Lunch. We entertain ourselves with quizzes and, in January, we thoroughly enjoyed a lively talk from Maria Power who was then our Secretary. She spoke amusingly about various aspects of her Army career. Sadly Maria and family have moved to Weston-Super-Mare and we miss her greatly.

On 04 July our Branch President, Mrs J J Wells, celebrated her 80th Birthday. Members gathered to wish her many happy returns of the day and everyone enjoyed birthday cake and a glass of wine.

At our AGM, in October, members voted to support the "Lioness" and Benevolent Fund with substantial donations. Sadly, the representatives from the Horder Centre for Arthritis Care had to cancel their presentation in November but we hope to welcome them at a future date. Mavis organised one coach outing this year to the Royal British Legion Village at Aylesford, which was thoroughly enjoyed. However it is difficult to arrange such trips for a membership which is so widely spread throughout East Kent. Sadly five of our staunch members died. Where possible, Kay Perfect carried the Branch Standard at their respective funerals.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year and health and happiness in 2002.

CARDIFF BRANCH

We continue to enjoy our well attended meetings and have taken advantage of the fine weather by taking day trips to Hereford, Gloucester and Newport. A Bring-and-Buy sale at our last meeting was very successful and helped to swell our finances.

Readers might be interested to learn that our letters of condolence sent to the Mayor and Governor of New York in respect of the terrorist attack have been appreciated.

Our best wishes to our many friends in other Branches.

The letters are printed below.

"Governor George Pataki
of New York

17th September 2001

Dear Governor Pataki,

On behalf of our Association of ex-Army Servicewomen I wish to express our sympathy and support to our American friends.

The shock and horror of the terrorist attack on your country and the heartbreaking images on our TV screens will remain with us for all time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Yours sincerely

cc: Mayor Rudy Guiliani"

"STATE OF NEW YORK

GEORGE E PATAKI
Governor

October 4, 2001

September 11th will always be remembered as a day when a dark cloud descended across America. The unspeakable terror that struck New York City – and America – will stand as one of the darkest moments in human history.

In the wake of the terrible destruction and loss of life at the World Trade Center, the spirit of New York shined through with the extraordinarily courageous and selfless efforts of the firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers who put themselves at great risk to save others. From this worst of moments, we saw the best of New York. Many of them gave their lives that day, but their memory and their example have been an inspiration not just to all of us in New York, but to people around the world. Those still on the scene continue to work under the most difficult of circumstances without wavering. They will always have our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the difficult and dangerous jobs they do with such dedication and bravery.

And the many thousands of people throughout our State, our Nation and the world who have offered their assistance and shown their concern, compassion and support in the days since this tragedy have our heartfelt thanks as well. The outpouring of support from one end of the globe to the other has been simply overwhelming, and the people of New York have been deeply touched by your generosity and kindness. We will never forget it.

The forces of evil that committed this atrocity have caused pain that will last for generations, pain that has claimed the lives of innocent men, women and children. But evil never prevails. Freedom, despite its vulnerabilities, will always prevail. Our spirit is strong and our resolve is unshakeable. Make no mistake about it – we will not just survive this disaster. Nor will we simply overcome it. We, the people of New York, will join together, united in strength, and lift New York to its greatest day.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement. May God bless you, may God bless the people of New York, and may God bless America.

Very truly yours"

CLEVELAND BRANCH

Greetings everyone from the new Borough of Stockton-on-

Tees. The powers that be have decided we are no longer CLEVELAND!!! We used to be County Durham, but it appears nobody want us!

At our April meeting, after the business details, we had a try at "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire". It was a complete flop, as the hostess, Christina Tarrant made the questions far too easy. Our ladies have more general knowledge than I gave them credit for.

In June we were invited to Sunderland Branch for lunch, entertainment, bingo and, of course, the inevitable raffle. We took a lot of prizes back with us – yes – revenge was sweet – only joking! "The Andrew Sisters" sang for us and they were brilliant. Every foot was tapping with the "Bugle Boy", "Don't Go Under The Apple Tree" and other songs. Ladies, you were fantastic – very very well done.

Also in June one of our members, Margaret Kelly, brought us a display of eggs – from Pea Hen through to Ostrich size! They had been beautifully decorated in the Fabergé style, and some were musical. We were all enthralled by her explanation of how she fashioned them, starting with blowing them and then the decoration, with tiny pearls and other ornaments. What hidden talents we have amongst us!!!

At our July meeting we celebrated our birthday. Our members provided a beautiful buffet, along with birthday cake and wine. This year we invited Newcastle Branch to join us, hoping that they would not be quite as lucky in the raffle as Sunderland – no chance!!! They did very well, so we hope they enjoyed their afternoon with us. We were fed and watered, then entertained by our favourite "Geordie Lad" Ray Mandell. Those ladies who were at the North Eastern Reunion last year at York will remember him.

Also in July, seven of our members attended the "Ack Ack" Reunion in York where one of them was interviewed by Kate Adie who is writing a book on Women during World War II.

In August, we had our outing to Bridlington – I can still smell the Fish & Chips! It was quite a nice day and the ice cream men did a good trade from our group, then on to Hornsea Pottery. Not a bit of pottery to be seen, as it had folded up 18 months previously! There were some shopping outlets (thank goodness!), so we had a little spend!



Members of Cleveland Branch at the NE Reunion.

September saw us, with some guests from Newcastle Branch, in Cleethorpes for the North East Reunion. We were billeted at a hotel in Grimsby for two nights and had a great weekend. The meal at the reunion was, in my opinion (and many others) very good, and our thanks go to Grimsby Branch. **PDF Compressor Free Version** Cleveland will be your hosts, so we look forward to seeing all of you. I wonder what Gwen Friday has up her sleeve to entertain you all – come to Cleveland and find out!!!

COLCHESTER BRANCH

Nearly late again! My get up and go seems to have got up and gone, maybe the years are catching up on me but I'll endeavour to keep going as I do enjoy dealing with all the paper work. It is just that September and October are much busier than the other months.

I am very sorry to have to report the passing of two of our members, Mrs E Manasseh and Mrs Jenny Mackenzie, both ex ATS Officers. Also to date, four members have had to resign due to health problems, but on the brighter side, we have gained two new members so our membership is still quite high.

In my last report I mentioned that we were going to visit an ex USA Air Base which was also the base for Churchill's Secret Army, made up of selected members of the Homeguard and ATS. They were housed deep underground and fully prepared to take action should we ever have been invaded. There is a small display on this subject which will hopefully be extended in the future. The rest of the Museum is in memory of the American Airmen who flew from that base and it was very sad to see the photos of the young men who lost their lives during the war. It really is an impressive museum, small but interesting. We were all quite subdued when we left but once we arrived at the Crown Inn for a meal we cheered up.

On 15 August we headed off for a visit to Dedham. It was a really hot day but we had a happy time, including lunch at The Essex Rose. After lunch we left Dedham and made for Langham as we had been invited to visit the home of a member, Mrs Edna Ricketts, to have tea in her garden. Edna & Peter, her husband, are very kind to us and we spent a couple of hours in the shade of the lovely trees and enjoyed tea and cakes.

Our last outing on 19 September was to Dovercourt. We had been invited to a Buffet Lunch at the home of Mrs Gorman and Dorothy Whitmarsh. They live in a very nice retirement home known as Hanover Court, and they really did us proud. Although we have not had many outings this year, those we have had have been very enjoyable.

Now we have our Christmas Dinner and Party to look forward to. How quickly this year seems to have gone.

In passing I would like to mention how grateful I am to Mrs Barbara Reeves, Chairman, Mrs Beryl Newall, Treasurer and all the other members who man the Bring & Buy stall, the Raffle stall, looking after SAE's and to Joan Harvey for collecting all the renewed subs this year. Without their help the Branch would not continue to run and be as happy as it is. Thank you all and long may you all continue your sterling work.

Colchester Branch sends their best wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas. In this very troubled world at the present time it is difficult to say what the future holds but we must all hope and pray that peace will prevail.

CREWE BRANCH



Mrs Betty Patton, Mrs Edith Francis and the Mayor of Crewe.

On 16 May Edith, Betty and Joan went to the opening of The National Memorial Arboretum and planting of the Millennium Yew performed by HRH The Duchess of Kent. As there had been an awful amount of rain prior to the event, walking conditions were very muddy. The Service was very impressive and I have never seen so many Standards paraded. The WRAC Association plot had not been started then but The Royal Artillery ATS "Ack Ack girls" plot is shaping up very nicely. It is a very impressive place and will improve year by year.

In June we decided to try something new which we hope will be appreciated by our members whom we do not see very often because they cannot get to meetings, it will be in the form of a quarterly newsletter undertaken and compiled by Mabel Lightfoot.

In 1985 the Branch was presented with an Illuminated Address by Mrs Barbara Smith one of our Stoke on Trent members who unfortunately died in 1991. It was to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of D Day remembering all the people and Cities who suffered in WWII. This beautiful scroll pays tribute to the dead of all countries involved in the Second World War, named too are those who died in concentration camps and those who lost their lives in Air Raids. The citation on this Tribute ends: WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN. LET US SEEK TO PRESERVE THE PEACE WHICH THEY WON AT SUCH A PRICE. Unfortunately we had nowhere to hang this tribute; it has always been kept safe at our secretary's house but we decided it was time for it to hang in a prominent place. It was offered to Crewe Council to hang in the entrance hall at the Municipal Buildings, the offer was accepted by the Mayor and a presentation ceremony was arranged in the Mayor's Parlour. It was a very nice evening which quite a few of our members attended. The illuminated address is now hung in the entrance hall along with other service plaques and photographs: a worthy home.

Betty our Chairman was very disappointed that she had to cancel going to the Ack Ack Reunion at York due to illness and she sends her Best Wishes to her 93rd Searchlight Regt friends. Later in August Edith and Betty attended the Royal British Legion Annual Drumhead Service at St Peters Church, Mill Yarners, Nr. Crewe. On 1 September a party of us attended the Area Reunion at Leicester. It was a perfect day, lovely food and the entertainment was great. It was also nice that Major McElligott was able to be there too. Thank you Leicester for giving us a very happy day. We held our AGM on 27 September, all of our officers were returned unopposed. This year because the Association is badly in need of funds our £200 donation was sent there. We also sent a donation to The National Memorial Arboretum. We held our last fund raiser this year on 4 October a Table Top Stall at Nantwich which was very successful. All being well there will be five of us going to London this year for the Remembrance Weekend. In December we wind down, visit the Theatre and have our Christmas break until February. We would like to thank Major D McElligott and all who help to produce "Lioness"; you are doing a grand job. May we send Best Wishes for 2002 to you and all our friends in the Association.

DACORUM BRANCH

Greetings from Dacorum, a whole year has passed since I last managed the deadline for the magazine, (I hope). The years seem to gallop by, is it because of old age? I am certain it is for me. I do hope all our other members of the Association are doing better.

We had our usual Remembrance Service in November at St Johns Church where our Chairman laid a wreath, it is amazing how many wartime service personnel are still marching, many of whom are disabled. Christmas lunch was at a local Jarvis Hotel, an excellent meal, and entertainment, enjoyed by all of us. Our January meeting was very relaxed, members had brought various games in, scrabble, card games etc, never more than a fun afternoon, no one takes winning too seriously, we just enjoy a challenge and have a good laugh, a reasonable start to 2001. In February we had a speaker, Mr David Stevens, who gave us the history of the Boxmoor Trust, a well known local beauty spot, protected and cared for, in trust forever? March was one of our regular quiz meetings, always a challenge, enjoyed by all I think, and hopefully helping to keep our brains working and memories going. In April we had a speaker, Mr Dymont who showed slides and told us the history of the Postal service and stamps, a very interesting afternoon. Our May meeting was a group discussion, starting with the teenage years, 1930's, 1940's and today, the pro's and con's, the majority verdict seemed to be that for all the hardship, and the Second World War, our lives were probably more free and relaxed? We then had a nursery rhyme quiz, quite a challenge strange to say, but also a good laugh. On 9 May we had an outing to the Geffrye Museum in London's East End, set in former almshouses, each room depicting a different era, from the 17th to the 20th century. In June we had a talk and slide show given by Mr Collis, a representative from the Richmond Star and Garter home for disabled service personnel. He told us we were eligible to apply for help should we ever need it; the slides were very impressive, nursing care, physiotherapy, and

numerous other services are available. July already, we had a games afternoon, always enjoyable, a choice by so many of our members. We had a speaker from our local fire brigade in August; he gave us much interesting information a lot of which made us aware of how dangerous our homes can be, and how to make contact with all the emergency services, if any of us, or our families need help.

The brown leaves are falling fast, so it must be September. At the AGM the present committee were asked if they would continue for another year and they agreed. Tea and biscuits were served, followed by a musical quiz, in which most of us seemed to know the tunes but could not recall the titles – so frustrating! On 12 September we went on a mystery tour followed by a pub lunch and as usual it was a very pleasant day.

The subject of our October meeting was reincarnation. From an early age the Guest speaker's daughter had remembered a previous life and as a young adult had visited a town which she recalled from a former existence and found everything to be true – a fascinating story. We members of Dacorum would like to send everyone at Worthy Down Best Wishes for the year 2002, and thank you for all your hard work and support.

EASTBOURNE BRANCH

Last October we visited Boulogne. We have had a talk given by a Korean veteran and also one about smugglers in this area long ago. This year we will be holding a cream tea.

Two of our members attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party given for the "Not Forgotten Association". Our Standard Bearer joined three Standard Bearers from Regiments to show the audience at the Remembrance concert how important standards are. At the moment we have two topics of conversation, the cost of the "Lioness" and the Memorial to WWII Women.

EXETER BRANCH

Once again we send greeting to all our friends throughout the UK. The Exeter Branch continues to thrive with three new members joining us. We have sadly lost loyal members this year however; age and illness take their toll and we miss them at our monthly meetings so much.

The highlight of our year was the Annual South West Reunion, which we hosted. We were well supported by the Plymouth, Wincanton and Somerset branches and the atmosphere of friendship was, as always, quite remarkable. Seventy of us enjoyed a super lunch, followed by an excellent résumé of her work as a QA Nurse by Major McElligott. We considered ourselves most honoured to have her as our principal guest and again we thank her. Indeed the sun did shine on the righteous that day!

At our meetings, speakers have inspired, amused and uplifted us. A handsome announcer from our local radio station proved very popular – a talk by our own Chairman Eve Tichy on her early married life as a war bride in Prague left us begging for more. The McMillan Nurses Trust, the Cinnamon Trust (a worthy group who look

after pets whose owners die or are ill or hospitalised). Slides of the "unknown" parts of our city all enhanced our meetings. We will send representatives to our local Armistice service and concert and will enjoy our annual birthday lunch at the Exeter Catering College in October.

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All of us enjoy our "Lioness" magazine so much and little work is done when that comes through our letterboxes. If necessary we will try to contribute this year to the ever-expanding expense of producing the "Lioness". It is a link between us all, young and older and we certainly must not let it die from lack of financial support.

The Exeter group send our warm wishes to you all and hope you will enjoy good health, the support of friends and continued comradeship for many years to come.

FIFE & TAYSIDE BRANCH

Our current membership is made up of 39 Life Members and 56 Annual Members giving us a total of 95 overall, at this time. Sadly, from May through to October four members have died and one resigned for health reasons.

At our branch AGM in Spring it was decided to make a further donation towards WRAC Association (Scottish Branches) Memorial Arbour at the walled garden Murray Royal Hospital, Perth. The arbour has matured well and this money will be spent in that area within the garden.

It was also agreed to donate £100 to the Association Benevolent Fund going with our warmest wishes.

GREAT NORTH RUN

Our thanks go to Maureen Lawson for running and completing this half-marathon, with any money raised to go to "Lioness". We didn't raise as much money as we hoped to, but many thanks to the individuals and the branches who *did* contribute to the sum of £805.30. Thank you all!

Our former Chair, Colonel The Lady Martha Bruce, and our Treasurer, Mrs Florence Green, set up stance at the Recreation & Hobbies Exhibition, Glen Pavilion, Pittencreeff Park, Dunfermline to promote our "existence" and raise awareness in the organisation. There was quite a bit of interest in this and we have gained one or two new members. Thank you both for the long stand you had over two days.

The next outing is to be to the Scottish AGM on the 27 October hosted by Stirling Branch. Fifteen are travelling by coach and twelve making their own way. The competition for the Scottish branches Shield is a photograph of a flower and budding photographers are quite thick on the ground *but* as a few have said "it is getting off the ground after taking the photograph that is a bigger problem" !!!!!!!

Now I would like to take this opportunity to say to all who support our branch in various ways, be it postage stamps, donations to raffles and other numerous ways, the lovely letters and telephone calls, thank you so very much and forgive me if something is sometimes overlooked, as we have a widespread membership.

GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT BRANCH



*Presentation of the Lottery Award.
l to r: Eunice Dillerstone, Amanda Welldrake,
Audrey Porter and Carole Tyler.*

Greetings to all of you.

Well where can I start? We've had such a wonderful hectic summer these last six months, marred sadly by the sudden passing of our friend Jean Rose on the 25th of April. The Standard was present at her funeral and many members paid their last respects.

Jean went into the ATS at fourteen and a half in 1942, with her twin sister Joan as cooks in the ACK ACK. I know it was a very young age to join, but their father was an ex-RSM in The Welsh Fusiliers. He signed the form so that they could enlist. Jean was a very active branch member, always available to give a helping hand even though she lived out at Ludborough. She always came to all our functions. We are grateful to have known her and her other sister Flo is still with us.

On 29 April the Normandy Veterans celebrated their 20th Anniversary, our Standard was carried by Carole Tyler.

In May the branch was invited to a Drum Head Service at Healing by the local Branch of the Royal British Legion, it was their 80th Anniversary. Carole carried our Standard at the moving service. They let us run a Bric a Brac and nearly new jumble stall, out of which we did very well; the Royal British Legion made us most welcome.

In June our Chairperson, Audrey Porter, Vice Chairperson, Carole Tyler, and our Secretary, Eunice Dillerstone, moved heaven and earth to get a Lottery grant for the 15th Anniversary of the start of the branch. I must say these three ladies put a lot of time and effort and paperwork into the project and it paid off. We were awarded £5,000 for expenses to visit our Corps HQ at Worthy Down.

The representative from the European Lottery Department, Amanda Welldrake presented the certificate and cheque for £5,000 to Audrey, Carole and Eunice at our July branch meeting. The local paper "The Grimsby Evening Telegraph" gave us a nice write up about what the branch did. We hope it might encourage some ex-WRAC to come and join us.

We had our summer fayre in July, a change of venue this time. The ladies worked hard, nearly new jumble, cake stall, bric a brac, tombola, face painting for the children and our big raffle. Unfortunately, the area had other activities going on so we didn't have as many people as expected, but **PDF Compressor Free Version**

17 July saw 32 ladies setting off at 8am to Rochdale, Lancashire, calling at Saddleworth to sail on the Huddersfield Upper Mill Canal by barge. The weather was not at its best, heavy rain then sunshine, but an experience. Then on to Stockport for a guided tour of the Museum of Hatting. Very interesting, they showed us how hats were made start to finish. On our way home, we stopped for a carvery meal at Conisbrough.

August saw our big outing to Worthy Down. We left Grimsby Town Hall at 0730 hrs by executive coach, 32 members all looking forward to 3 glorious days break. First stop Tibshelf in Nottinghamshire for a coffee break, then on to Hampshire and the home of the late Lord Mountbatten, Broadlands in Romsey, for a guided tour of the house and grounds. Then to Winchester and to our hotel "The Moat House", accommodation excellent. The ladies soon settled in, all very tired, but eager for tomorrow.

The next day was optional. Some went to the coast to Bournemouth, some walked down into Winchester and explored the many Army museums and its Cathedral. We had been informed that it was not possible to visit Corps HQ the next day but in the evening, Major Dee McElligott the Association General Secretary came to see Audrey our Chairwoman, and joined us for a branch dinner, with the good news that somehow she had managed to get us a quick visit in the morning to Corps HQ. It made our day, this is why we had come, this was the reason for our Lottery grant, to see the museum and our HQ.

Next day we left the hotel for Corps HQ. At Worthy Down we realised that we had the honour to be the first branch to visit the AGC museum display. On arrival the personnel welcomed us warmly. The new museum will include a permanent display of our Corps past history and will include many other support units of the British Army. The RO1 Regimental gave us a quick talk on what was going to happen to the museum in the future. He wants more memorabilia of the ATS, there will be a special display about us so come on girls dig out those medals and souvenirs you put away, and send them to the Corps HQ, the staff will be delighted.

Whilst we were at the museum a drill squad of both men and women were on the square, how very smart they all looked, it brought back many memories of our youth and square bashing (without the rifles of course).

Unfortunately we could not stay any longer as it was a busy day for HQ. We enjoyed the time we had with you and wish you every success with the museum, maybe one day we will return for another visit. We said our goodbyes and thank you General Secretary for helping.

On the way home we called at Winchester to let the ladies who went to Bournemouth explore this ancient city of King Alfred before departing for our long journey home. What a glorious three days made possible by Lottery grant and three committee members' hard work.

September and the NE Area Reunion, held at the Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes. Our guests came from all parts of the NE Region, as Grimsby was hosting this year reunion. What can I say? It was fantastic, the food, entertainment, raffle. We hope our guests enjoyed themselves. The local press took photos of some members and we had quite a big write up in the Grimsby Evening Telegraph about the Association. We were entertained by Honey Jackson singing all our favourite war songs, danced in the aisle like twenty year olds, and enjoyed every minute of it.

This is all from us at Grimsby, we wish you all a Happy New Year, be well and God bless.

HARROGATE BRANCH



The annual outing to Hornsea.

A very busy year once again. All meetings well attended with an interesting programme dealing with both social, semi-political, welfare and travel topics. A wide spectrum of life styles, hobbies and interests means that our members contribute a great deal to our programme.

Our Annual Outing was to the pleasant seaside town of Hornsea - we do miss the sea here in Harrogate - and of course we had an 'ambulance' full, driven by our Chairman Barbara Dawson, to attend the NE Reunion at Cleethorpes in September. We all enjoyed both excursions and extend our thanks to the Grimsby Branch for a well-organised event.

In early October a group of us travelled to York Minster for the recording of 'Songs of Praise' to be broadcast on Sunday 11 November 2001. The theme was 'Remembrance' & 'Women at War' so we were pleased to represent the ATS.

HASTINGS

This is a special year for Hastings Branch for we celebrate our 21st Birthday. In January members were given pencil and paper and asked to indicate how they wished to mark the anniversary. The highest vote was for a Fish & Chip lunch at the Anglers' Club down by the Lifeboat Station, an ideal spot for a celebration lunch and, of course, our local

fish is always the best! Following lunch a Mystery Tour took us round the Sussex countryside. It was April and we were all watching the lambs hoping they would be allowed to live and not be blighted by the awful foot and mouth disease. The day finished with a cream tea in Alfreston but it was so cold that most of us did not go to the village preferring to stay in the hotel or in the lovely old church.

Those 21 years had passed very quickly and when thanking Branch members for a lovely bouquet the Secretary said it was particularly gratifying that so much good-will had been achieved – sixty women could not all like each other, but with tolerance and comradeship very little friction had occurred.

So far this year the Branch has held its annual Coffee Morning which was successful both as a get-together and financially. Two members accepted an invitation from the 'Not Forgotten' Association to a lunch followed by tea on the Bluebell Railway. Three members visited Eastbourne Branch for a most enjoyable afternoon. In June ten members attended a Tri-Service afternoon arranged by the local Association of WRNS, – this latter function following the theme of the Tri-Service lunch organised last year to mark the millennium.

Eileen Kent, who runs our monthly Bring & Buy Stall, recently visited Singapore and the photograph shows her in the Changi Chapel. As several of our members had husbands who had been prisoners of war in the Far East, Eileen thought it would be appropriate to leave a message and poppy from Hastings branch expressing our gratitude to those who gave so much.

In April we started our monthly luncheon club trips to local villages and towns. In April we visited Guestling, in May, Rye, in June we had both our strawberry tea and a visit to Winchelsea and July took us to Broad Oak. We close down for a month in August but September took us to Brown Bread Street.

Our Secretary's telephone number is 01424 424076 and members visiting the Town would be most welcome at any of our functions.

Again our best wishes to you all.



Mrs Eileen Kent in the Changi Chapel.

HEREFORD



L-R: Evelyn Radford and Jo Anscombe

It is with mixed emotions that I am writing this article. Our Co-founder and Branch Secretary, Jo Anscombe, has decided to stand down. She has worked unselfishly at all times. I was asked to take on the role and seeing what the role entails I will take this opportunity to salute all secretaries for all their hard work and the dedication they put into the position. Thank you Jo from all your friends and colleagues.

The Branch is taking this opportunity to introduce some innovations. We, at present, have a thriving Branch of 67 members, which cover all ages. As some of our younger members are working full time, we are varying the times of our meetings. The meetings alternate between afternoons and evenings. The evening meetings are held at a local hostelry, where members can enjoy a meal and a small libation. I have to say that the more mature members are not slow to show the younger ones how to enjoy themselves. The evening meetings have proved to be very successful. Our three meetings to date have averaged 20 attendees.

In line with this we are in the process of setting up a transport system whereby those who drive will be willing to assist other members who cannot get to the meetings because of their age or problems with transport. The initial response has been heartening. Watch this space and we will update you on its success.

Can I introduce myself, I am W/428290 Pte Evelyn Radford (née Bertie) and I served with the WRAC attached to the Royal Signals in England and Krefeld, Germany (16 Signal Regiment). I hope that if I am given the same support that was given to Jo, we, as a Branch, will continue to thrive.

HULL BRANCH

At the beginning of the year we had the pleasure of Colonel Cook's presence at our meeting when she presented one of our members (Sylvia Parkin) with her

Certificate of Appreciation. Sylvia hasn't been able to attend meetings this year so it was good that she was able to be there that day. She has since had her knee operation and is doing well so hopefully we shall see her soon. We are waiting for some alterations to be finished at the RBL premises where we will be able to meet downstairs and that will help a lot of us who have difficulty with stairs. Our eldest member, May (90), keeps going despite being mugged a while ago; last month she was featured by the press as the oldest member at the Northern Area Reunion. Because we are a small group with mainly elderly members (although I am pleased to say we have had a few younger members this year), we cannot be very adventurous in our programme, and this year we did not manage an outing although seven members did go to the Northern Area Reunion. Nevertheless we enjoy our monthly meetings even if it is only for tea and chat.

In April we had a presentation by one of our members Sgt Ami who is also sergeant in charge of recruitment at our local careers office; this was quite a revelation to those of us who remember service life in the war years. Sgt Ami is also our Standard Bearer and has been very busy lately taking our Standard to various events.

LEEDS BRANCH

Another new member has joined us putting our total up to over 50 of which on average 20 attend our monthly meetings regularly.

We have had a very busy summer. The members who attended the Official opening of the Arboretum were impressed by the amount of work, which has been done in the year since we dedicated our own plot. Our trees are coming on a treat.

Bridlington was enjoyed even more than usual, the weather was kind, the Parade helped along by a very good Band.

At our July meeting we had a most interesting talk by Sheila Pantin about her work with the families of the Gurkhas in Hong Kong.

Our branch had a very large contingent at the Mixed Hy AA Reunion in York, voted a success as usual.

In September members attended the NE Area Reunion in Cleethorpes, a most enjoyable day. Thank you to Bradford Branch for allowing us to share their coach. Eight members had a day out in Skipton which was disappointing as they were unable to take the Boat Ride due to overbooking.

In October we had our AGM. Beryl Hales will take over as Treasurer, May Conley remaining as Chairman and, in the absence of any other volunteers, Emily Newbould will remain as Secretary. We thank her for her excellent services and wish her better health.

We are now looking forward to our usual Christmas Party and a trip to the Theatre in February to see "Singing In The Rain".

Happy New Year to all members.

LEICESTER & NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

Following on from our previous report, the rest of the year's activities have gone as planned. We have gained four new members but sadly lost Nell Shadford. Nell was in her nineties and had resided in the Royal British Legion Home at Cromer for some years where some of our members visited her from time to time.

We have been represented at various parades by our Standard carried by Vi Rawlins and supported by some of our more able members who hope to be in London once again taking part in the Whitehall Remembrance Service in November.

In June we again held our meeting at West Bridgford and had an excellent afternoon thanks to Barbara Danter and her two helpers. We had the company of members of the WREN and WAAF Associations, a super buffet and a talk on 'News in the early 1800's' raising a good deal of laughter.

Our visit to the sailing club in August found us with a lovely sunny day. We take our own sandwiches but the desert and tea etc are supplied. The sailing club is situated in very peaceful surroundings and our thanks to Doris Doswell, Irene Bell and Sandra Smith for giving us such an enjoyable afternoon. Sandra took the helm of the dinghy so that our ladies could go on the lake. However, out on the lake the engine ceased and the 'crew' had to paddle the dinghy back to shore. Maurice, the lovely man who helps out, did some repairs and off went the next group. As our Chairman remarked 'We are a hardy lot'.

The highlight of our year was, of course, hosting the Wales and the West Area Reunion along with our friends at Ashby-De-La-Zouch. When we agreed to host this event some two years ago, it seemed such a long way off; now the day was upon us. Our members have been brilliant in collecting items for the various stalls - all stored in my spare bedroom. On the Friday evening the people at the Masonic Hall kindly let us go in to arrange the stalls. We had three stalls each for the Tombola and Bric-a-brac two each for the raffle and cake and produce stalls and one for the "Guess the Weight of the Cake" and "Guess the Name of the Dolls".

Those of us who were manning the stalls and acting as guides and reserves arrived at the hall for 9.00 am on the Saturday morning, to put the final touches to everything. Guests started arriving after 10.00 am and the secretaries meeting was held at 11.00 am.

The tables for lunch had been beautifully arranged for us and we took our seats for a buffet lunch at 1.00 pm. The staff of the hall had a team of young waiters and waitresses to help serve the food and we had an excellent lunch. After lunch we were entertained by the Wigston Music Makers, a group of about 20 ladies. They sang light hearted music from the shows and ended with a medley of the old sing along songs. We then drew the winners of the raffle, cake and dolls, and gradually drew the proceedings to a close. We hope that those of you who came enjoyed the afternoon, we certainly did even if a little tired at the end of the day. We thank you for supporting the various stalls and enabling us to send our Association £350 and the Millennium Arboretum £150.

We held our AGM in October and Barbara Castell outlined our 2002 programme. We hope to visit the Millennium Arboretum Project during the year.

We have a speaker in November telling us about the "Leicester River Project" and in December we have elected to have Christmas lunch out instead of our usual party. We are going back to the Masonic Hall and they have kindly offered to give us a talk and tour around the Masonic Lodge rooms which are generally closed to the general public. This will make a nice ending to the year.

We have had several members who have either been ill, had operations or felt under the weather during this past year. We would like to wish them all better health and happiness for 2002 and to all of you our best wishes in a very uncertain year ahead of us. May it be peaceful.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

Mrs Agnes Lappin received her Certificate of Appreciation from Mrs Jean McLellan, Chairman of the North West Group. The presentation was made at the monthly meeting of the branch at the Headquarters of the British Legion, Liverpool. She has been a member for 53 very enjoyable years, had been Chairman of the branch many times and is now masterminding the social side and raising money for internal charities.



Mrs Agnes Lappin receives her "Certificate of Appreciation" from Mrs Jean McLellan.

Mrs Agnes Lappin is wondering if anybody remembers her. She was attached to the RAPC and finished her service in Hut 3, Hurstbourne Park Camp in Whitchurch, Hants. She would dearly love to hear from them. At that time she was Cpl A Davies 314292, often known as the 'Knight Owl'!!!

LONDON BRANCH

It is, I fear, inevitable but Branch numbers are slowly diminishing. We did welcome nine new members but, sadly, we also lost nine others. We also lose trace of some members who move away and there are some annual

members who do not renew their subscription, the rest of us soldier on.

We had a very moving visit from Terry Bullingham of St Dunstan's in June, he was blinded when his ship was bombed in San Carlos Water. He made us laugh a great deal with his reminiscences – the very best kind of medicine with which to treat any disaster. On that occasion we were also very pleased to welcome Evelyn Lucas, who has recently been registered blind and has found enormous support and kindness from other members of St Dunstan's.

In May we had a very enjoyable coach trip to Hughenden Manor, the home of Benjamin Disraeli, made doubly pleasant because the young coach driver was so helpful to those of us who are no longer nimble. Then in September we had what, regrettably, was to be the last of these outings because so few of us can undertake the walking and the coaches have become so expensive to hire. However, I like to think that it was our best ever and very fitting that it should be to Chartwell, beloved home of Sir Winston Churchill. We were all reminded once more of how grateful we were to him, who more than any other, reminds us of those heady days when we were young and felt that each of us in our small way was helping to win the war.

We enjoyed the London Area Reunion at Luton in September and congratulate Luton & Dacorum branches for their hospitality and super buffet lunch. How we all loved the 'Owl Man' and his two beautiful and friendly barn owls.



Jean Taylor with one of the Barn Owls.

MEDWAY BRANCH

The branch spent the afternoon at the Canterbury Branch Tea Party. The speaker told us about what happens behind the scenes giving us a good laugh. The table was, of course, laden with mouth watering things to eat. Many thanks to Canterbury, an enjoyable time was spent by all who came.

Although no one was to blame, the boat trip to Greenwich had to be cancelled. The weather was not that good but we hope to try again next year.

We were lucky to get a stall at the market that was just for charity. We did better than we thought and thanks to those who sent goods to sell.

Christmas Dinner has been booked at the same hotel as we were given a splendid meal last time.

Many members have been poorly and we do hope they recover soon. It would be nice to see some members who are not able to attend. Compensating for the AGM in London and the Branch AGM.

The WRAC Dinner Club was missed this year as some members were ill and others found it too expensive.

Seven application forms have been sent out in the hope of gathering new members; three to ex-WRAC and four to ex-ATS. New posters are to be printed and hung in the British Legions around Kent, we may find some new recruits.

The coffee morning and strawberry tea was a good fund raiser and more are planned, also a Bring and Buy in November.

We have also had a speaker on bombs. We all sighed with relief when he said that they were non-active, but it made us think how many different kinds there were. Sadly we didn't know that at that time things were disastrous in America.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH

We are still maintaining our membership, 35-45 members at our meetings once a month. In April members of Sunderland branch were invited, we were entertained by our concert party followed by refreshments.

In July we accepted an invitation to Cleveland branch and enjoyed a splendid day with them. Our treasurer for the past twenty years, Mrs Joy Fennel, retired and a presentation was given to her. Our new treasurer is Mrs Mollie Summerell.

A donation for the past two years was given to the Companions Club, as they kindly let us have the use of their meeting room.

Eleven of our members were invited by Cleveland to go in the coach with them to Cleethorpes for the North East Reunion. We had a wonderful week-end with them and many thanks to their secretary, Mrs Gwyn Friday, for her hard work. Our Chairman, Mrs Bolton, has visited the Arboretum at Lichfield and spoken about it to our members and shown photographs.

A day outing, subsidised from our funds, was organised by our social member, Mrs Ann Pialionas. We went to Otterburn Hall.

Good Health and Best Wishes to all branches.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

Despite the blustery weather on 01 October, our Annual General Meeting was the best meeting of the year for attendance. Chaired by our President, Mrs Leonora Hannaford, the meeting opened with two minutes silence in memory of those killed in America on 11 September.

This AGM brought several changes to the committee. Our Secretary, Mrs Jean Cundy-Borge, has resigned. We thank her for her time and expertise given for the benefit of the branch over the past few years. We are thankful that Miss Ruth Jennings is able to take over as Secretary. Both Jean and Ruth have undergone major surgery recently, but we are happy to report that they are recovering well.

Other changes include a new Vice-Chairman, Miss Glynis Harvey WRAC. Assistant Secretary, Mrs Betty Mitchell ATS. Assistant Treasurer, Mrs Margaret Drummond ATS and a new Standard Bearer, Mrs Pauline Evans WRAC.

The branch outing to the Eden Project in Cornwall was a lovely day out. This unique enterprise is truly a wonder to behold. In fact, Tim Smit, Chief Executive of Eden, calls it the "eighth wonder of the world". It has attracted many thousands of visitors since it opened. If you haven't been yet, we urge you to come to the West Country to visit Eden and the many other attractions that are set in the fantastic landscape and scenery of our two beautiful counties of Devon and Cornwall.



Mrs Jessica John receives a bouquet from Mrs Doris McCoy, Chairman.

At our September meeting we were able to wish Mrs Jessica John "a very happy 90th birthday". She was presented with flowers from the branch and she treated us to a slice of delicious birthday cake. This was a very busy meeting as we also had a Bring and Buy Sale, which raised over £40.00 for the branch funds. Our thanks to Mrs Eileen Morgan and Mrs Barbara White for their hard work. We hope to be represented at the Cenotaph on 11 November 2001.

Plans are in hand for our Christmas Lunch at the Grand Hotel on the Plymouth Hoe on 11 December.

As always, there is a warm welcome awaiting any member who is in Plymouth on the first Monday of the month, (except Bank Holidays, when the meeting is held on the following Monday). Come to the Royal Fleet Club at Devonport at 1.30 pm and join us. Contact phone numbers for the branch are: Secretary, 01752 363118, Assistant Secretary, 01752 348632

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

2001 has been a good year for Portsmouth Branch.

Our members who were ill have now recovered and taking part in branch events. Large numbers of members try our Standard as her back trouble will not enable her to do this. One day we hope to get a younger member to join us and be our Standard Bearer. Our change of meetings, reported last year, has worked well so we are going to continue holding meetings from March to November and then social events in members' homes from December to February. Our usual meetings are still second Thursday in the month at Hampshire Ex-Service Club, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

We have attended our usual D-Day and Falkland Parades and had a very nice lunch with the Isle of Wight Branch. Usual coffee mornings and tea parties were held at the homes of Mary Lindsey, Joan Jelley and Mary Moore. A lunch at a pub in Fareham and more coffee mornings from November to February will be held at the homes of Teddie Bray, Gillian Utting, Edna Metherell and Joy Elmer.

In December 2000 we lost one of our very good members, Mrs Frances Lanchester, who will be missed by us all. She was for many years a librarian at West Dean College, Chichester and lived on the estate. The college wished to commemorate her years of service by planting two tulip trees in the college grounds. Her son and daughter helped arrange the ceremony and invited all the organisations their mother belonged to in the area. About seventy – eighty people came and tea was served in the Main College Hall where photographs were displayed showing her life and the work she did. It was very interesting and we were pleased to see her details of service in the ATS and WRAC Association events.

A few members went to the Area Reunion at Weymouth and enjoyed the day. We hope to attend the Armistice Parade at the Guildhall although numbers get smaller each year.

We continue to make some money at social events which enables us to send donations to the Association Benevolent Funds.

We all hope 2002 will be a good year for the Branch and the Association.

ROCHDALE BRANCH

Our meetings are well attended, despite a few members being hospitalised and, of course, holidays. We were all saddened and upset at the death of our friend and colleague, Ann Murray. She was very popular with us all and always attended meetings and joined in activities at other branches including Remembrance Days at Rochdale and in London and, of course, the annual AA Reunion at York. Her funeral was attended by our Rochdale branch together with the Rochdale Branch of the Royal British Legion of which she was also a member. May she "Rest in Peace".

Lucy Foracre, who has been our welfare person over the years, has had to stand down as she is awaiting hip surgery

again – she had a similar operation 10 years ago. We see her occasionally when she can make it to meetings, but she has now passed on the baton. We presented her with a "Certificate of Appreciation" and one of our fantastic brass ATS statues on a plinth with the inscription "Thank You Lucy".

In September we had to cancel our usual visit to Eden Camp due to transport problems. The usual party of our ladies attended at the York Reunion and everyone enjoyed themselves to the full, as they usually do.

The second of October was to have been the date when Joan McLellan would present awards for long-service to our Association to our Secretary, Joyce Goddard, Chairman, Mary Campbell and Mona Schofield our Treasurer. We were all going to the Hurstead Nursing Home where Mary now resides, but due to unforeseen circumstances it has had to be deferred until 24 October. Never mind – an excuse for another day out!

We are busy now getting ready for our Christmas activities and, of course, the New Year.

RHYL BRANCH

Another six months have gone by. Here in Rhyl we have been busy again.

In July we held our meeting on the 9th and a coffee morning on the 27th.

In August, in addition to our monthly meeting, we attended a parade at Llandudno and joined Rhyl Normandy Veterans for a service round a tree followed by a meal at the David Bryant Bowling Club.

The Branch AGM was held on 10 September. The same officers were returned for another 12 months. The meeting was followed by a Buffet and Drinks. Five of our members together with 2 from Chester Branch joined the Rhyl Branch of the Normandy Vets on a weeklong pilgrimage to Holland. This was a marvellous week. We had 3 small parades in Holland and one in Klieve Germany. We had taken along our own Piper and a Bugler for the services. The week was no sooner over that we had to return to the everyday lives that we are used to.

We joined the Normandy Vets for lunch on 11 October and exchanged photographs. Then on the 25th, the ladies met for Lunch at Crown Bard, Rhyl. Jean and Yvonne attended the group meeting at Manchester

On 5 November, the Branch went on a Mystery Day Tour with a local coach company. We took part in the Armistice Day Parades on the 11th, Rhyl in the morning and Prestatyn in the afternoon. The following day we held our monthly branch meeting

An early Christmas Dinner was arranged at the Grange Hotel, Rhyl and we could now look forward to trying to finish our own Christmas shopping. The last coffee morning of the year was held on the 14 December.

Just time now to wish all our comrades all around the very best wishes for the year 2002.

SHIPLEY BRANCH

Time once again to send our report from the Shipley Branch.

The numbers attending meetings have been less, as so many of our members have been ill and unable to attend. However, the ones who managed to come enjoyed the meetings, we have had slide shows, bingo, interesting talks, the usual Faith Tea and Spring Fayre which enabled us to send our usual donations to the two Benevolent Funds. Some of our members attended the Reunion at Cleethorpes and will be telling us about it at our next meeting.

Once again we send our good wishes to all the staff who make such an excellent job preparing the "Lioness" for us and to all the branches we send our best wishes for the year 2002!!.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH



Members of Shropshire Branch at the Area Reunion.

By the Left, let us quick march into another New Year, hoping it will be a happy and peaceful one for us all. Last year was quite eventful as usual.

One Sunday in March found us in snow, wind, rain and feeling very cold, attending the 60th Anniversary Service and Parade of Air Training Corps, at the Roman Catholic Church, Wellington. Afterwards, we were pleased to partake of the refreshments in the Drill Hall.

At our June meeting, following requests from members, we again had a local clairvoyant, who gave readings from flowers which each of the members had brought, most interesting. In July we played Bingo.

The Annual "Dawley Day" on 01 July proved beneficial to us, as we made £47.50 on our Tombola Stall. Still in July, we joined the Wellington & Oakengates RBL for their annual service and parade at which there were 15 Standards. Later a buffet was held in the Church Hall.

Referring back to our previous report and the "Two Branches" (Telford & Shrewsbury), we had a ballot, resulting in the majority voting for two branches, but unfortunately, no one felt inclined to start the Shrewsbury Branch, so up to now we retain the status quo and remain the same 'Shropshire Branch'.

In August we had a Beetle Drive. On the 19th we supported the RBL 80th Anniversary Service and Parade at Llandudno, 57 Standards being present. We ended the day with a memorable evening in the RBL Club.

What a wonderful day we had at the Reunion at Leicester – good venue and food, and the ladies choir, one of whom was ex-WRAC Band, sang beautifully. The collection of memorabilia on show was quite amazing. Thank you Leicester & Co.

In September, the Battle of Britain Service took place at St Georges Church.

As mentioned in our last report, Shropshire Branch is 21 this year, and it is appropriate to thank the people who initiated the first meeting in June 1980. I believe Mary Beeston from Wolverhampton Branch had the idea originally. The volunteers who formed the first committee and members, with one exception, are still with us. They are; Terri, Chris, Beryl, Lucy and Joan Heath. Consequently they are the forerunners of the many friendships we enjoy today, keep soldiering on girls!

To celebrate our 21st Anniversary, we had an outing to Eden Camp WW2 Museum in Yorkshire. We had lunch in the NAAFI, listening to our old songs, then toured round the huts etc. We did notice however that the ATS sign outside Hut 8 was wrongly dated; 1938 – 1998! We had a good day out!!

Our AGM in September resulted in the same committee being reinstated, we also had a belated 80th Birthday Party for Lucy, our Treasurer and Standard Bearer. She is still Marching on with vim & vigour, we must ask her to reveal her secret tonic, (we know she has an excellent Aide-de-Camp)?!

During our October meeting, we gave a Farewell Party for Joan Gold and husband, Matt, who are returning to their home county of Cumbria. Good luck to you both, we shall miss you.

We have recently been able to donate £100 to the WRAC Association central funds.

We received an invitation to RAF Cosford with other local associations. We enjoyed wine and food and saw an informative promotional film of the 'Army Today'. An officer agreed to give us a talk at our next meeting and we are looking forward to that. November will again see us on parade for the Remembrance Services, then December arrives with the usual festivities.

We welcome another new member, ex-WRAC Lee Campbell. Thank you members and friends for all your support to our branch. If anyone is visiting our area do call and see us, on the first Wednesday of the month, 2-4 pm at the Haywood/Lonsdale Court Residential Lounge off Glebe Street, Wellington. You will be very welcome.

To all our members and friends, near and far, we wish you Good Health and Happiness.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

We continue to meet monthly with an average attendance of no more than twenty. Following on from our last report,

the month of June saw a Radio Presenter telling us about her various duties, whilst in July we enjoyed our usual American Supper. Members of the WRENS Association attended this function and Margaret Newcombe gave us yet another talk on her 30 years on the "Queens" boats.

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Interestingly, some members went along to Worthy Down Camp to attend the first meeting of the opening of the new Winchester Branch, to whom we wish every success for the future. Also, later in July, members attended a Passing Out parade at Winchester.

Three fund raising events were held in August. Amazingly the weather was such that they were all held in members' gardens, ie an evening at the home of the Secretary, Doreen Pledge, a buffet lunch at the home of Gail, daughter of Louise Longhurst (née Masters), and a tea afternoon at the home of Betty Rush.

Our Standard was again paraded at Romsey Abbey for the Memorial Service of Lord Mountbatten, and finally our October AGM went along smoothly with the same officers being re-elected.

Greetings go to Daphne James (née Pilcher) one of our ex-members now living in Australia. Your article in the last "Lioness" was read with great interest. Best wishes to you from your Southampton friends.

Sadly we have to advise of the passing of three further members – Joan Kennard (née Wood) of Southampton in October, 2000, Vera Price (née Chalk) of Winchester in June, and Marjorie Williams, who was in a Southampton Nursing Home, in September.

STAFFORD BRANCH

Our meetings have recently changed from the first to the third Wednesday of the month and are held at Trinity Church, Stafford. Since our last report we have gained two new members, Mrs Margaret Jean Bird (née Thursby) and Mrs Doris Annie Mee (née Talbot).

The branch has had a very full and varied year which began in November with a talk by a local resident, a Belgian lady, entitled "Growing Up in Belgium during the War". Other activities including a talk from the liaison officer of the National Arboretum, an illustrated presentation about Lake Garda by a wartime member of the ATS and her husband, two sales – one in aid of branch funds and one for the Association plot at the National Arboretum, two lunches and a visit to the Wales and West Area Reunion – the day was huge success and we congratulate the organisers and their helpers.

May we take this opportunity to wish all Association members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

STIRLING BRANCH

The branch has 2 life members, 32 annual members and approximately 20 members attend monthly meetings.

Edith Connel who joined the ATS in 1938 and who was a life member of the Association died on 18 August 2000. Mary McHutchon died 8 February 2001 and Helen Muir died 5 February 2001.

Due to the generosity of Stirling Council a grant was allowed to enable the high cost of Saturday afternoon meetings to be met. Without this assistance the branch would have been in financial difficulties and the grant is appreciated.

Nine members attended the Scottish AGM at Inverness on 28 October 2000. An excellent lunch was served and was followed by entertainment by a Dixieland Band. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Twenty members attended the Christmas Lunch in the Terraces Hotel and the general opinion is that it gets better every year. One of our members gave an excellent talk, illustrated with slides on her holiday in Nepal. Mrs Munro gave a talk on Library facilities provided by Stirling Council and illustrated her talk with publications depicting past life of villages in the Central Region. Books on villages were handed out to our members. A Headteacher of a Primary School in Falkirk gave a talk on how she spends her summer holidays going out to work with street orphans in Brazil. The children in her own school collect large sums of money to help these deprived children.

Members continue to collect loose change to send to the Erskine Hospital for limbless ex-service personnel. A cheque for £50 has been sent.

Four of our members attended the Ack Ack Reunion at York at the end of July. We are looking forward to hosting the Scottish Area Reunion and AGM at the Milton Golden Lion Hotel in Stirling on 27 October 2001. Tickets have been sent to branches.

The branch wishes to express their appreciation of the work that goes into producing the "Lioness" twice a year and each issue is eagerly awaited.

SUNDERLAND BRANCH

About 20 of our members enjoyed the invitation to Newcastle Branch in April. We were made very welcome, fed well, and entertained by Newcastle's concert party. In return, we didn't win *all* the raffle prizes, but certainly had a fair share of them.

In June we entertained Cleveland Branch. We all had a good laugh together and they seemed to enjoy the entertainment. The stewardess put on an excellent buffet – so good in fact that the Branch have asked her to cater for a Christmas buffet rather than having the usual sit-down lunch. Cleveland branch duly took their revenge for our having won all *their* raffle prizes, so honours are now even.

In July 14 of our members went to Gilsland Spa for a day out – dancing, lunch, more dancing and entertainment. Two of our members put on a floor show of their own – wrestling on the dance floor. They insist it wasn't the drink and that they had merely got their legs entangled – do you believe them? They refused to do an encore so that we could take a photo. Spoilsports!

Our monthly newsletter continues to do well and it keeps members in touch with what is going on at the Branch when they are unable to come to meetings themselves.

In September John (our Chairperson's husband) gave a wood-turning demonstration. It was very interesting

watching pieces of wood being magically transformed into works of art. He and his friend also put on a display of their work and several of us purchased Christmas presents – all, of course, quite unique.

Good wishes to all Branch members.

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SWANSEA BRANCH

We are pleased to welcome a new member to our branch, Mrs Elizabeth Ryder.

Unfortunately our May meeting at Clyne Gardens was spoilt by the weather. Only 3 members appeared, so we took shelter in the Woodman Inn at the entrance to the gardens and enjoyed a drink and a pleasant chat.

In July we were unable to have our usual room at the Guildhall for our meeting, so it took place in the Council Chamber which was mentioned in the previous “Lioness” and is a most impressive room. Our speaker for that day was Mr Harris who gave an interesting talk on the history of Love Spoons. Love Spoons are hand carved with different designs which have hidden meanings and Mr Harris does some very elaborate carvings on his spoons.

In August members met at the West Cross Inn for lunch together with Maggie Purkis and her daughter. After lunch we had a very enjoyable afternoon at Mrs Barrington’s house with tea provided by Veronica and husband Bill.

The September meeting was at the County Hall which made a nice change as this is a modern building. Subscriptions were collected and we had a game of Bingo with playing cards, suggested by Lillian Clarke and enjoyed by all. We also decided our Christmas Lunch would take place at The Oxwich Bay Hotel as usual.

ULSTER BRANCH

My last contribution to Branch News ended with praise of a book which had transported me back almost 60 years to my ATS years, 1943-46. I found that I had shared many of the experiences of its author, Romie Lambkin of Dublin. Although I had never met her we had shared memories of initial training at St Patrick’s Barracks, Ballymena, with its square-bashing, Nissen huts, TAB and ATT jabs, dixies of grub and later on London and the Blitz and the doodlebugs ... and even Drum House, Dunmurry. And we had both met David Niven. So I had every intention of writing to her via the publishers of ‘My Time in the War’ to thank her for the pleasure her book had given me. Sadly it was too late: ‘July 20, 2001, after a long illness ...’ Romie had gone. Our sympathy goes to her son, Blaise, his wife and family. And our thanks for those words he inserted: ‘Lambkin, Romie, (Howth) and formerly of the Auxiliary Territorial Service.....’ A la recherche du temps perdu – trouvé?

At the last count we had 78 full members and 1 semi-detached. The latter, Peg Bailie, keeps up her membership of her original branch Omagh although she has lived in Belfast for years. Small in number, Omagh give us a big welcome each October in the Silver Birch Hotel, complete with a special cake decorated with ‘ATS 1938-2001’ and a menu rolled like a scroll and bound with a golden ribbon.

Our mini-coach driver Billy treats our gang of 21 like royalty and offers an arm here and a hand (discreetly) there if the going (and the steps) get tough. And he doesn’t, thank goodness, suggest that we have a sing-song.

Apart from the Association’s four get-togethers in the year, some members are active in other areas. Jean Graham’s BEM was awarded for her continuous efforts on behalf of Action Cancer. Riding for the Disabled was another string to her bow but it was the former interest that resulted in her invitation to Stormont recently, where she was shown round by the head of Action Cancer, Peter Quigley.

Secretary Trudy Watson popped up on Radio Ulster’s ‘Love-40’ – which sounds like a ‘late night show’ but in fact is a magazine programme hosted by Walter Love! The discussion was on Post-Polio Syndrome, the unexpected developments in the on-going story of those who contracted the disease years ago, battled against the disabilities and thought they’d won – only to have to take up arms (and legs) against a return of symptoms after, in Trudy’s case, 51 years. Walter also interviewed Dr Piggot, one of the few doctors who have had experience of a Polio outbreak. Professor Salk and his team in the USA killed the monster with the famous vaccine from 1951. Just a year too late for Trudy. Keep taking the vaccine – it hasn’t gone away, you know!!

Sally Davies was entertaining a visitor from Calgary, Alberta, so she brought her along to Omagh. Ethel Baker was born in Northern Ireland but emigrated in 1949. Food was still rationed here when she left; now Sally sees restaurants galore. She sees amazing changes in Belfast (some due to the Troubles, some due to creativity)..... but her province still retains its beauty.

Waiting for the raffle to be drawn, we swapped yarns. I heard of Peggy Couser BEM and her encounter with the Queen Mother – a friendly, chatty lady who asked what Peggy’s civvy job was. “Next time you have your G&T Ma’am, think of me – I may have helped produce your Tonic”. The raffle interrupted the chat but none of my numbers turned up. Until the very last call. The prize was in great taste, well worth waiting for and very familiar – I’d donated it! Ah well.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BRANCH

We have had an exceptionally busy year, mainly due to our hosting of the South Area Re-Union, more of which later.

Our meetings restarted in September 2000 and included a talk and demonstration on making a Christmas box; a talk, “My Mayoral Year”, by the retiring Mayor of Weymouth; an illustrated talk on “Passenger Ships and Car Ferries from Weymouth”; a talk entitled “Look Back with Laughter”, about the music hall artistes whom the speaker had met over the years; and another illustrated talk “Travels in South America”. All of these talks were very interesting and amusing.

We have recruited two ex-WRAC as members of the Branch and, although neither of them will be able to attend meetings as they are working, we hope that they will join us for other functions, especially our Branch Luncheon and Outing. We welcomed another Life Member who is now affiliated to the Branch, Major Ann Maskens-McIntyre (Mac).

The Christmas Social in December was well received by members, after which we had a break until February 2001, when our meetings restarted and the build up to the Reunion began in earnest.



The guest speaker demonstrating how uniforms have changed!

Most of the administrative arrangements had been finalised by April and the function in May appeared to be a great success. We were honoured by the presence of the Vice President of the Association, Brigadier S P Nield, the General Secretary, Major D M McElligott and the past Mayor of Weymouth, Tina Roebuck. Over 100 members of the Association from our Area attended.

As usual we marched in the Annual Veteran's Parade in Weymouth on 17 June and were joined by members of other Branches. Unfortunately, Diane Lawrence, who had agreed to take over as our Branch Standard Bearer, was unable to march due to ill health but watched the proceedings from the Grandstand. We were very lucky with the weather which was excellent and the drive past of all the WWII vehicles brought back memories. Later that week we had a stall on the Sea Front and were pleased to send the proceeds of £151.00 to the Benevolent Fund. The summer outing later that month was a "Bygones" at Babbacombe and then on to Torquay. The weather was truly glorious which helped to make it a good day. We had our summer break and returned "fresh" in September.

We now look forward to another interesting and fulfilling year and to joining Salisbury for the annual Reunion in 2002.

WILMSLOW BRANCH

We have just held our September meeting at the Wilmslow Royal British Legion where we were able to partake of light refreshment before beginning our meeting proper.

We are not a very large Branch but very enthusiastic and so far have had a successful year, visiting Rhyll and the Chester Branch where we had a lovely strawberry tea, and are looking forward to more outings in the future.

Many of our members have sent in their war time reminiscences to the Imperial War Museum. When future generations read about the lives we lived, the jobs we had to do and conditions under which we lived, always having to obey orders so no "opting out", they will surely wonder how we coped and kept our sense of humour, while never doubting the outcome of the war.

Seven of us went down to London for the Remembrance Parade in November, although this year unfortunately some of us were not able to march. The spirit is more than willing but the legs are weak, so we attended the service in Westminster Abbey instead. We went down to London on Friday and treated ourselves to afternoon tea in one of the 'posh' hotels where we pretended, for a short while, to be rich and famous. On the Saturday we put our crosses in the Field of Remembrance, this is always a very emotional occasion, and then on to the Royal Albert Hall for the afternoon performance. The brave ones among us were thinking of going on the London Eye!

In March the Scarisbrick Hotel in Southport held a special Mothering Sunday Dinner and 12 of us spent a most enjoyable time there, staying overnight. The weather was rather cool but nevertheless we explored the town and walked along the seafront but weren't tempted to go on any hair raising rides on the Pleasure Beach. We were very pleased when the Hotel gave each of us a small bunch of daffodils to take home.

Some of our members have had the wanderlust this summer, visiting Croatia, Russia, Germany, America and Ireland, and some went to Edinburgh to see the Tattoo. I wonder where our next 'posting' will be. Our super Secretary, Lillian, hails from Liverpool, so is always ready to visit her home town and, with that in mind, we are having an outing there. We are planning to have a tour of the city on a Duck (an amphibious vehicle) which ends with a sail on, but not we hope in, the River Mersey. Lillian tells us there are lots of things to see and do in Liverpool so we are looking forward to a good day out, and good weather of course.

While on the topic of Liverpool I must add that we have been invited to take part in the Mayday Celebrations in 2002, which will give Lillian another chance to visit her hometown.

In December we have our Christmas lunch at the Pinewood Hotel in Handforth. Since our formation seven years ago we have always celebrated our July Birthday and Christmas there so are well known by the staff and always have a most enjoyable time.

The Royal British Legion asked us to sell Poppies in the two local supermarkets so it was a good opportunity to interest any ex-service women in joining our Association and perhaps recruiting new members for our Branch.

Looking ahead to year 2002, one of our projects is a visit to the Arboretum, and in April we are planning to have a party to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee to which we will invite members from other Branches in the North West.

When the Monument to Women in WWII is erected in Whitehall perhaps we will be planning another trip to London and maybe doing a bit of sightseeing while we are there.

PDF Compressor Free Version **WIMBLEDON BRANCH**

Our last report finished with April which proved to be a very entertaining month.

In May we had Mrs Joan Lee and her Canadian Capers, based on her journey to Canada and the trials and tribulations accompanying it. Lost luggage not recovered for days since it had been sent on to one of the European countries, accommodation and other related problems. Her amusing presentation of these was appreciated and we all sat back to enjoy the rest of her encounters. These were accompanied by some very professional drawings of wild life. I mentioned that Joan had been in the ATS. She had been a junior officer which sparked off considerable interest with other ex-junior officers and lively reminiscences. Hopefully we will be able to ask her to come again.

In June we had our summer tea party which again was a resounding success. The food as always was very colourful and appetising and sufficient to feed an army. Sausage plaits and trifles are always a must but there are many other mouth-watering platters to be enjoyed. We always include leftovers in our regular monthly raffles. To explain, as we pay our fees we receive a ticket. Prizes are provided voluntarily by members and there are always quite a number. So as you can imagine no-one goes home empty handed on 'party days' and most go with much more than they came with.

July was to be for me the highlight of the year's programme. Having managed to persuade a sprightly 90 year old to postpone his retirement and entertain us with 'Our Kind of Music' I wasn't able to be there. An unexpected invitation to a wedding in the West Country had me scurrying off to Cornwall. But the feed back was very encouraging with what was obviously a very entertaining afternoon.

In August we had our President's Tea Party in Iris and Geoffrey's beautiful garden. The flowers were at their best and we sat under umbrellas enjoying the day and the relaxed atmosphere. No need to mention the food except to say again it was plentiful and superb. Iris and Geoffrey do so much and it must be very tiring for them. We were especially concerned for Iris who hadn't been at all well and wondered at the end of the day whether a halt should be called to this annual event. We would miss it very much but all good things must come to an end. I know Iris will wish to carry on if possible but at the end of the day it's her health that counts. One thing is for sure we all agreed it was the best 'garden' party ever.

In September we had another members' afternoon – hobbies and interests. Some members brought along their hobbies while others had photographs. Those who were unable to do either spoke about their interests. One member knits for a local hospice, another is involved with Donkey Sanctuaries. We had examples of the many gifts which could be made out of pan scrubbers, mops, washing up cloths etc. These took the shape of a delightful country cottage, and there were several other examples of cleverly

made gifts. One member produced a photograph album of very professional sculptures and other work she had created which showed her considerable talent. It was clear that with so many willing to speak and time getting on we would need to have a 'carry over' for another occasion which I'm sure everyone will enjoy. Just to conclude, members were puzzled by a box of tulip bulbs which were exhibited. Given time there would have been a tale about what had happened to a front garden from the 70s onwards – quite a saga!

In spite of what seems to have been a very successful programme our numbers have slumped to a mere 17.5. This for me is extremely disappointing after my first year as Chairman and members have been asked to give some thought as to how things can be improved to encourage more members to attend. I do hope we can resolve this situation so that Wimbledon Branch can continue.

WINCANTON BRANCH

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended with an average of twenty members and we are pleased to report that we have acquired three new members. We have had a number of interesting speakers during the year. One of our members, Aileen Hawkins, who has had her poems published, read her favourite pieces for us. It was most enjoyable. Another speaker told us about her pilgrimage, on a bicycle to Spain to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela. Also we had a talk about Australia by a member who travelled from Darwin down to Perth via Ayers Rock and Alice Springs.

Our outing in May was a great success. We took the steam train from Bishop's Lydeard to Minehead and returned with lunch on board. The guard who was in charge of the train gave an interesting talk about how that stretch of line was restored by a group of railway enthusiasts.

In June we set out to Topsham in Devon for the South West Area meeting arriving in time for lunch. It was nice to be met by our hosts and we were all warmly welcomed.

Our 12th birthday party was held in July at the home of our President. It was a wonderful sunny afternoon and we enjoyed our picnic under the welcome shade of umbrellas.

In July we had a coffee morning raising £140 for funds and later in the month ran a stall at our local street fair.

WINCHESTER BRANCH

Before I get down to the Branch Report, for those who remember an article that I wrote in LIONESS No 1 of 1999 about life after the WRAC, I promised to keep you posted on my progress on returning to work after having my twin sons Robert and Andrew who are now three and a half. Where has all the time gone!!

Returning to work after 18 weeks at home with two babies was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do but I did and just two weeks after my return, my husband, who is serving with the Royal Engineers, deployed to Bosnia for 6 months. I was well and truly in at the deep end. Thankfully I got through it without too many problems but must admit to feeling quite vulnerable and alone at times. Whilst the Army has accepted that Servicewomen can have

children, they haven't quite got to grips with it. Talking to other serving mothers, most feel the same way too. Personally, if I had not been quite so close to my run out date I would have left. In my opinion, and it is just my opinion, motherhood and the Army today are not very compatible. Both require a total commitment, dedication and loyalty and the willingness to go that extra mile when the need arises. In my case I feel that I am constantly robbing Peter to pay Paul, patching here and there, trying to keep everything together as best I can with the underwhelming feeling that my best just isn't good enough. I now have the end in sight. My husband has deployed three times since the twins' birth and each time it takes a little more of my resolve to keep going. I leave in September 2002 after 23 years service. If I had it all to do again, would I? Of course I would! I could not have missed what will be one of the best chapters of my life.

I am now pleased to announce the opening of a new branch in Winchester. The founding members are myself, Andrea Denham as chairperson, SSgt Maggie Gardiner as Secretary and Herme Emary as Treasurer (ex pay clerk). We have 10 members so far and have had 2 meetings. The first was a "meet and greet" which was kindly supported by the ladies from the Southampton Branch. Then we had a video evening showing footage from various locations with servicewomen past and present that we hope to make into a compilation video to show and sell at Corps Day in June. We are still on the lookout for more members. We have found a few of the wives from Worthy Down are ex-WRAC and we still have quite a few servicewomen still serving who were in the WRAC. All in all we are definitely on the up. In our short lifetime we have also been doing some fund raising and have managed to raise £100 for the Association and £100 for the Army Benevolent Fund by selling home-made cakes at work and running a Christmas raffle. Our next challenge (or Herme's, who is a bit of a wizard on a computer) is to launch a Winchester Branch Website so that everyone can access information about what we are up to. Hopefully we will get snippets from WRAC Headquarters to help keep us all up to date. Meanwhile we can be contacted via our E Mail address WRAC-Assn@Hotmail.com. We have volunteered to help the WRAC Association on Corps Day which promises to be an interesting day as it is the 10th anniversary of the AGC so a lot of effort is going into making it a memorable one. See you there!

WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH

In May members attended the Birthday party of Birmingham branch and in June the branch was represented at the Civic Service held in St Peter's Church, Wolverhampton. Despite Wolverhampton being granted city status the city church has not been elevated to a cathedral.

Two summer outings were arranged. In May members and friends visited Evesham in Worcestershire where, after lunch, a tour of the Heritage Museum was followed by a trip on the river. Then in August members were again water-orientated with a barge trip on the Shropshire and Union canal to Brewood for lunch at a pub where the staff 'turned up trumps' following a misunderstanding on the booking. Both events were blessed with good weather.

The branch gave good support to the Area Reunion at Leicester.

Four members were guests of the "Not Forgotten" Association and enjoyed a trip on the Severn Valley Railway. Lunch was served on the train on the way to Kidderminster where, after a short stop, they rejoined the train for tea and biscuits.

The branch meetings continue to be well attended and this half-year's programme has included two speakers who have been very informative and entertaining.

WORTHING BRANCH

Sadly, our secretary, Dorothy Munro, lost her husband on New Year's Eve 2000. It was unexpected and she understandably has taken a long time to recover from the shock. We have managed to limp along without her but do miss her valuable support.

Christmas Lunch at the Kingsway Hotel, Worthing was held in December 2000. In January we had planned to have a members' New Year Party. This had to be cancelled because of Dorothy's illness and I also was taken ill suddenly. In February we held an open meeting with a quiz, followed by a Bring and Buy and Bingo in March. Easter came in April so there was no meeting. Pauline and myself attended the AGM at the Victory Club.

In May we had the AGM followed by a quiz and in June, a speaker from St Dunstons, Terry Walker. A speaker from Ferring Country Centre for Disabled gave us a talk in July and there was no meeting in August although on 21 August Pauline held a Bring and Buy at her home. The September meeting collected all subscriptions and deposit for the Christmas Lunch. In October Mrs Perkins presented "Taxis, Photos Transport" and Mrs Green gave a talk entitled 'Top of the World Almost' (Greenland) in November. Back to December for the Christmas Lunch again at the Kingsway Hotel. On a final note, it seems we have to carry on another six months without Dorothy. After three heart attacks, she is not well enough to take up the reins yet.

WREXHAM BRANCH



Wrexham Branch in celebratory mood.

Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month in Wrexham Memorial Hall.

Our Christmas Party was held at the December meeting - everyone brought something for the festivities. Then at Easter we held an Easter Bonnet competition.

Sadly we lost one of our members, Miss Edith Humphries. She is sadly missed by all as she was a regular member and attended everything.

Many members have been under the weather but are now well and back to work. **PDF Compressor Free Version**
their eightieth birthday this year.

Our new Treasurer who is an ex-WRAC has settled into her new job and gives us very comprehensive reports. Our other WRAC member has had a spell in hospital but is now better.

On the whole we have had quite a good year.

YORK BRANCH

Hello once again, here's wishing you all a happy New Year 2002 (doesn't time fly).

We've had some really enjoyable meetings this year, starting in April when we had Mr Tony Cleever reminiscing. He had us all in stitches talking about the happy memories of the past. We certainly will have him back again. In May we had a very interesting talk by the granddaughter of the founder of Browns Department Store. She had only just started giving this type of presentation, but how the ladies enjoyed it and it took many of them back to their childhood days. In June we entertained the members of the WRNS Association who thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon tea.

In July we visited Scarborough and met up with the Scarborough, Bridlington and Whitby ladies. We had a really enjoyable day out including lunch at the Grand Hotel. This was arranged by a Committee Member Mrs Kay Dobson. Sadly, the following day, Kay collapsed and died in hospital whilst awaiting a check before a hip operation. Five of us attended her funeral where we met her husband, daughter and son who thanked us for making her last day a happy one. Kay will be sadly missed by us all.

In September we held our produce stall where many of our members brought their own produce – tomatoes, courgettes, beetroot, apples and not forgetting the beautiful flowers. Twelve of our members attended the North East Area Reunion at Cleethorpes, the weather was kind, and the meal good as were the raffle and entertainment. A vote of thanks to the organisers. Sadly one of the founder members of our branch, Mrs Cora Clavert, died in September – she was a keen member who will be greatly missed.

Our AGM had to be postponed until November but in October Colonels Cook and Powell came to the rescue with one of the film shows for which they are renowned. Also in October three of our members attended the filming of the BBC Songs of Praise at York Minster – the theme being "Remembrance" and "Women at War". I do hope that members from all over the country watched it. A number of our members have been in hospital throughout the year. May I take this opportunity of wishing them a speedy recovery and good health in 2002. Eightieth birthday wishes for 2002 go to the following members: Mrs Pat Helm (5 February), Mrs Vi Taylor (15 March), Mrs Irene Quarrie (22 May).

Just to remind visitors to York, our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month in St Lawrence's Church Hall at 2pm, and they will be most welcome. (I can be contacted on – 01904 761498).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Joyce Seward, Unit 32 – 6 Sepia Court,
Rockingham, Western Australia 6168

At long last my latest edition of the "Lioness" has arrived, and been quickly read from cover to cover. Can I congratulate all those who work to put together such a great publication – a lot of time and hard work goes into it, I am sure.

Once again, greetings from 'Down Under' – the Western Coast. Our group of ex-service members in the Perth region continues to grow, and at our three monthly lunches we are averaging an attendance of about 30 which, considering distances, transport difficulties and age, is a goodly number. Each luncheon ends up with everyone expressing thanks for such a wonderful day, when years have slipped away for a few hours.

At our recent luncheon, one member (Terry Weadley) asked if anyone could recall the magazine "Picture Post"? We could. In a publication printed during 1942/43, she had been photographed and had her picture printed as the centrefold! With visions of Betty Grable or Rita Hayworth, with long legs and skimpy costume we were interested to see how Terry had appeared. I enclose the photograph that was published – not quite what we had expected – but I thought it might bring back memories to many of our members.

Also, a poem that was written by a member of the 93rd Searchlight Regt RA when the group disbanded at the end of WWII. When the Unit was being disbanded the CO had printed a small booklet giving the names and addresses of all members who had ever served in this Regt, (which Terry has still got) and this verse was printed within it. I wonder if there are any girls from the 93rd Searchlight Regt who recall this?
(Ed: see page 23)



Centrefold fame!

Obituaries

COLONEL LINDA THOMPSON OBE,

LINDA BALDWIN, ATS/WRAC

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Linda Baldwin was born in Cardiff in 1910 and began her adult career as a Froebel teacher. At the outbreak of war she joined the ATS as a driver. Having gained her commission, she was involved in the formation of the WRAC in which she remained for the rest of her Service life. She held a variety of posts including that of Deputy Director. In 1959 she was awarded the OBE.

In 1964 she married Major Miles Thompson and the couple retired to Ramsbury in Wiltshire. Following the death of her husband in 1966, Linda remained in the area where she became a guide for visitors to the Elizabethan mansion Littlecote House, an active worker for the RSPCA and a valued member of the Royal British Legion.

The last years of her life were spent at a retirement home in Moulsoford where she continued to enjoy an interesting social life until her death on 05 July 2001. At her request, her ashes have been buried with those of her husband in the churchyard of Holy Cross, Ramsbury.

Mrs Georgina Brooks

MAJOR VANESSA LANG 1961 - 2001



Vanessa Lang was on a Reconnaissance flight in Sierra Leone in October 2001. Tragically the helicopter crashed and Vanessa was killed.

The Army was Vanessa's life and she was appropriately born into it at the Louise Margaret Maternity Hospital, Aldershot, in June 1961. For the next 40 years she followed the flag, initially with her parents and then in her own right. From an

early age she showed her adventurous spirit and, in common with many little girls, she loved horses. By the age of 8, she was a very competent rider having been taught by Olympic gold medallist Jim Fox; she lived in her jodhpurs and, more often than not, had to be dragged from the stables for her meals! While the family were serving in Hong Kong, Vanessa became an excellent swimmer and in Germany she learned to sail and parachute. She completed 25 free fall parachuting descents, which is no mean feat for anyone. Always a fine athlete and despite suffering from asthma, Vanessa won the Europe Service Schools 400 metres at the age of 16. With all these active hobbies it was therefore not surprising that she decided to pursue a career with the Army on leaving school.

I first met Vanessa on 02 January 1980 when she arrived at the WRAC College, Camberley, to start her officer training. I was an instructor on Officer Cadet Wing and she was one of 19 cadets assigned to my platoon. She was a model officer cadet; lively and enthusiastic which clearly set the tone for her future years.

She was commissioned on 06 August 1980 and posted to 16 Air Defence Regt Royal Artillery. Having travelled widely with this regiment, Vanessa, always at the forefront of new adventures, was posted as Assistant Adjutant to the 13th/18th Hussars, only the second female to have served with them. She was particularly thrilled with this posting because of her love of all things equestrian and being with this polo playing regiment was an excellent opportunity for her to pursue her much loved hobby. In addition, being so close to the Hartz Mountains, Vanessa was able to indulge her love of skiing. She was an excellent skier and captained the Women's Services Ski team for several years.

When Vanessa left the 13th/18th, the following appeared in the Regimental Journal: "Benjamin joined the Regiment in December 1983 and quickly established himself as the most uncontrollable spaniel ever to be granted a dog-license. He brought with him a well-proportioned, flax-haired WRAC girl called Vanessa. Her arrival had met with much curiosity from the subalterns, eager to see what the powers that be would produce next to continue the trend of 'A lady in the Mess'. They did not have to wait long to find out. Whereas she appeared to have absolutely no influence on the extraordinary antics of her dog, she very quickly made her presence felt in the Mess. She was quite able to take the constant leg-pulling doled out to her by her brother officers and equally able to deliver a well-aimed retort."

It was while she was serving in Dortmund that she met her husband to be, Christopher; they married in 1989. Sadly their marriage was cut short due to Chris's untimely death from cancer in 1994; Vanessa dedicated herself to nursing him throughout his illness. Tragically, five months later her brother David also died.

After this very difficult time, Vanessa, now in the Adjutant General's Corps, completed an operational tour in Northern Ireland, served as a Regimental Administrative Officer with the Household Cavalry Regiment and 22 Engineer Regiment. This included another operational tour, this time in Bosnia. During this time, Vanessa made her home in Wiltshire with her horses and Oscar and Mugsley, (Mugbug as she called him), her border terriers.

This 'entourage' moved with her to HQ 2 (SE) Bde in Dover, and I will always remember the dogs scuttling around her feet in the office there. Dover meant that she and I were to meet again and, more importantly, we were going to work together. I was therefore able to see at first hand all those qualities I had seen at the WRAC College eighteen years before. A consummate professional, Vanessa was highly protective of her troops and always at her best when faced with a challenge. In her own CV she

described herself as an enthusiastic but untalented Sky and Scuba diver who enjoys cooking and fine wines – those of us who have dined with her know the latter to be true. Vanessa had a wicked sense of humour, like the time she appeared before Magistrates for driving at 107 mph at night on the M1. She managed to persuade them that she thought she was being followed by IRA terrorists. She got away with a nominal fine and kept her license! She was vivacious, charming and always looked fabulous, very chic, no matter what she was wearing – whether it be the latest Armani suit or Combat 95. As well as having a lively and energetic personality, Vanessa was remarkable in her fortitude. During a difficult time when she personally had to endure significant pain and suffering with her back, she showed tremendous inner strength, determination, tenacity and courage – qualities that she had displayed throughout her entire career and which were much admired by all with whom she served.

Vanessa packed more into her forty years than most other people manage to pack into twice that time. She was much loved and respected by her soldiers and fellow officers alike. We all remember her infectious laugh, her fondness for Champagne and gin & tonic, but above all her great love of life and of the Army. Vanessa was always happiest when she was doing something exciting, out of the ordinary and where there was an element of danger; she had recently parachuted with the French Foreign Legion in Corsica. She was a most accomplished woman with a great spirit of adventure. She was an exceptional officer who will never be forgotten, but above all, Vanessa was a great contributor; a girl with a huge personality, enormous energy, warmth and generosity who touched many people's lives – she will be greatly missed.

Lt Col S J Westlake

WOI DORIS AUDREY BROOKE MBE



It is with great regret that the Cambridge Branch inform you of the death of DABS Brook on 4 September 2001, after a long and brave fight against cancer.

DABS joined the ATS on 25 September 1946, and served with the WRAC from its formation to her discharge in 1985.

During her long and varied career in the WRAC, DABS had many interesting and unusual postings. She served in Jamaica from March 1961 until the country's independence in March 1962. She was also lucky to have been posted twice to The Change of Air Station in the Cameron Highland, Malaysia, from 1963 to 1965 and 1969 to 1971; she helped to close the station down, again on the independence of Malaya from Great Britain.

From November 1972 to June 1973 she served in Northern Ireland, and was awarded the MBE.

Her last posting was as an Army Welfare Assistant at Waterbeach Barracks near Cambridge; it was here that she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

On her discharge from the WRAC in 1985 she settled in Hardwick near Cambridge and worked with Cambridge Social Services until 1989. From 1990 to 1999 she was a Learning Support Assistant at Cottenham Village College.

DABS was one of the founder members of the Cambridge branch and has been the chairman for many years. She was also a member of the WRAC Dinner Club and the ATS Luncheon Club.

She will be sadly missed.

Avril Williams

WOI EDITH WOOD

Edith Wood had a distinguished career in the Regular Army and her commitment and enthusiasm for her Service life never waned once throughout the rest of her life. In fact, her service in the Regular Army was a time of much happiness, during which time she made lifelong friends and took immense pride in serving her country.

She enlisted in December 1941 and was discharged in January 1967 having served a total of 25 years and 17 days. No-one could have been more dedicated to her Army career.

She died peacefully, at the age of seventy nine years, at Springhill Hospice, Rochdale.



ABRAM Mrs Thelma Abram, née Bailey, of Cheltenham on 2 June 2001. ATS

AGGLETON Maj (Retd) Alice Mary Hamilton Aggleton, née Byers, of Rowledge, Farnham on 25 December 2001. ATS/WRAC

ALEXANDER Miss Elizabeth Alexander of Glasgow on 21 August 2001. ATS

ALLISON Mrs A G Allison, née Patterson, of Glasgow on 15 June 2001. ATS

ARTHUR Mrs M Arthur, née Delderfield, of Canterbury. ATS

BEECH Mrs Lily Beech, née Walton, of Middlesborough on 1 August 2001. ATS

BENNETT Mrs May Bennett of Margate on 11 May 2001. ATS

BOYD Miss Catherine M Boyd of Portsmouth in January 2001. ATS

BROOK Miss Doris Brook MBE of Hardwick, Cambridge on 4 September 2001. ATS/WRAC

BUCHANAN Capt Theresa Buchanan of Neston, W Wirral on 12 July 2001. ATS/WRAC

BUTCHER Mrs Joyce Butcher, formerly Tyler, née Walden of Bournemouth on 9 November 2001. ATS

CATT Miss Joan Frances Catt of Worthing on 17 March 2001. ATS

CALVERT Mrs C Calvert, née Myers, of York on 16 September 2001. ATS

CONROY Lt Col (Retd) Hugh Conroy MC, DSO, of Camberley in June 2001. Ex Adjt WRAC College

COOPER Mrs Margaret Cooper, née Livingstone, of Burntisland, Fife on 22 June 2001. ATS

COUPLAND Mrs Dorothy M Coupland, née Payne, of Christchurch on 8 January 2002. ATS

CRABTREE Miss Mary Crabtree of Southbourne in mid-June 2001. ATS

DAVIDSON Mrs Moira Davidson, née Gillies, of Inverness on 3 March 2001. ATS

DAVIES Mrs Hilda Davies, née Sansom, of Bexhill on Sea on 16 September 2001. ATS

DAVIES Mrs Mollie Davies, née Wilkinson, of Sydney, Australia on 2 September 2001. ATS

DAWSON Mrs Vera C Dawson of Lewisham on 4 January 2002. ATS

EDMONSTON Mrs Margaret Edmonston, née Archibald, of Edinburgh on 27 October 2001. ATS

EDWARD Miss J A Edward of Saffron Waldon on 7 November 2001. ATS

ENSER Mrs Elizabeth Enser, née Wilkinson, of Holbeach, Lincs on 28 August 2001. ATS

EWING Mrs Roberta Ewing, née Green, of Belfast on 31 December 2001. WRAC/TAVR

FISHER Mrs Lilian Fisher, née Hiscock, of Plymouth in June 2001. ATS

GARDNER Maj (Retd) Majorie Rose Gardner of Bordon on 30 April 2001. WRAC

GAUNT Mrs Kathleen Gaunt of Christchurch on 23 October 2001. ATS

GEORGE Mrs Ada George, née Ewer, of New South Wales, Australia on 23 June 2001. ATS

HANSFORD Mrs Grace Hansford, née Shreeve, of New South Wales, Australia on 5 May 2001. ATS/WRAC

HOMER Ms Betty Irene Homer of Cirencester on 13 December 2001. ATS

HUNSPERGER Mrs Edna Hunsperger, née Kenny, of Colchester on 3 March 2001. ATS

HUXTABLE Mrs Joan Huxtable, née Taylor, of Dumfrieshire. ATS

JAMES Mrs Daphne Joyce James, née Pilcher, of Caloundra Queensland on 19 September 2001

JENNINGS Mrs Catherine Jennings, née Griggs, of Woodford Green on 24 December 2000. ATS

JOHNSTON Miss Elizabeth Caldwell Johnston of Stirling on 3 October 2001. WRAC

KILLICK Mrs Beryl Killick, née Gant, of Maidstone on 7 September 2001. ATS

KING Mrs Evelyn King, née Kerry, of Australia on 28 July 2001. ATS

LANNEN Mrs Frances Gwen Lannen, née Rudling, of York on 12 December 2001. ATS

LEONARD Mrs Molly Leonard, née Stenhouse, of Bexhill on Sea on 1 October 2001. ATS

LLOYD Mrs F Lloyd of Stafford on 1 October 2001. ATS

LOCK Mrs Hilda Rose Lock of Addlestone, Surrey. ATS

MACKENZIE Mrs Jenny Mackenzie, née Lister, of Thaxted on 15 August 2001. ATS

MALBY Mrs E Malby, née Hitchings, of Bournemouth on 14 October 2001. ATS

McCULLOCH Mrs Marjorie McCulloch, née Manning, of Selkirk on 30 October 2000. ATS

McMILLAN Miss Christina Rose McMillan of Balluluig Perth on 31 July 2001. ATS

MILES Miss Margaret Miles of Bournemouth on 14 October 2001. ATS

MORRIS Mrs Margery Agnes Morris, née Burchell, of Ontario on 15 November 2001. ATS

MULLIN Mrs J S Mullin, née Ballantyne, of Glasgow on 24 July 2001. ATS

MURRAY Mrs A L Murray, née Hayes, of Rochdale on 13 August 2001. ATS

NORMAN Ms Ivy Norman of Scarborough in early 2001. ATS

PENMAN Mrs Helen D Penman of Glasgow on 30 November 2001. ATS

ROBERTS Mrs Grace Mary Roberts, née Sissons, of Rhualt Denbighshire on 10 July 2001. ATS

ROBINSON Lt Col (Retd) Elizabeth Ann Robinson of Newport, Shropshire on 23 December 2001. WRAC

ROBINSON Mrs E R Robinson of Great Dunmow, Essex on 29 August 2001. ATS/WRAC

ROYALL Mrs Vera Royall of Isle of Wight on 29 September 2001. ATS

SANDERS Miss Hilda Lillian Sanders, of Ewell on 18 September 2001. WRAC

SEATH Ms Anne Seath of Canterbury in September 2001. ATS

SHADFORD Mrs Ellen Shadford, née Neal, of Cromer on 14 March 2001. ATS

SHALE Mrs Rhoda Shale of Gillingham, Dorset on 12 May 2001. ATS

SHEPPARD Mrs Edna Sheppard, née Hackett, of Coventry on 10 January 2002. ATS

SHIMMIN Mrs V C Shimmin, née Hill, of Isle of Man. WRAC

SIMMONS Mrs Vicky Simmons, née Wond, of Woolwich on 4 August 2001. ATS

SMITH Mrs Barbara Smith, née Simon, of Haywards Heath on 21 September 2001. ATS

SMITH Mrs Barbara Smith, née Jones, of London, Ontario on 28 August 2001. ATS

STAPLEHURST Mrs May Staplehurst, née Bice, of Chelmsford on 14 August 2001. ATS

STEVENSON Mrs Dora Stevenson, née Thompson, of Kettering on 22 August 2001. ATS

SUTCLIFFE Mrs S M Sutcliffe of Prestwich on 30 November 2001. ATS

WARDROP Mrs Peggy Wardrop, née Cambridge, of Northampton on 13 August 2001. ATS

WHITEHOUSE Mrs Beryl Whitehouse, née Collins, of Stafford on 30 July 2001. ATS

WILLIAMS Miss Marjorie Williams of Southampton on 10 September 2001. ATS

Rules

The following draft contains the amendments to the rules which the Council recommend to the membership and which are the subject of the Council Resolution to be put to the AGM in April 2002.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association)

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "The Women's Royal Army Corps Association (incorporating Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps and The Auxiliary Territorial Service Comrades Association)".

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be to promote the efficiency of the Army by:

- a. Maintaining contact between former members of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC), the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC), Women's Royal Army Corps Territorial Army (WRAC TA), WRAC Territorial and Volunteer Reserve (WRAC TAVR) and women still serving in the Army, fostering mutual friendship between them and providing for social gatherings.
- b. Fostering esprit de corps, comradeship, welfare and preserving the traditions of the QMAAC, the ATS, the WRAC, WRAC TA, and n TAVR.

3. POWERS

In furtherance of the foregoing Objects, the Association, through its Council, shall have the following powers:

- a. To take all necessary action for publicising and disseminating information concerning the histories, deeds and traditions of the QMAAC, the ATS, the WRAC, WRAC TA and the WRAC TAVR
- b. To execute and administer exclusively charitable trusts.
- c. To receive, take and accept any gifts of property whether subject to any special trusts or not.
- d. To receive and accept contributions by way of subscriptions, donations and otherwise and to raise funds for the said Objects provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable Objects.
- e. Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law, to purchase, take lease or exchange any property required for the purposes of the Association and to lease, exchange or otherwise dispose of the same.
- f. Subject to such consents as may from time to time be required by law, to borrow in order to raise money for the purposes of the Association on such terms and such security as may be thought fit.
- g. To invest funds of the Association in such investments as may from time to time be authorised by law.

h. To accumulate funds of the Association for such period as may from time to time be authorised by law.

i. To do all such other things as shall further the said Objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP

a. **ORDINARY MEMBERS** – Former members of the QMAAC, the ATS, the WRAC, WRAC TA and WRAC TAVR shall be eligible for membership. If an ex-servicewoman's retirement or discharge from the Service is due to misconduct, she shall not be admitted to or retained in membership without the authority of the Council. Adequate proof of service must be given. Former members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, the Canadian Women's Army Corps and the New Zealand Women's Royal Army Corps are eligible for membership.

b. **AFFILIATED MEMBERS** – The following are eligible for affiliated membership, they shall pay the normal subscription but have no voting rights nor representation on Council:

(1) Women serving or who have served in the Army who are otherwise ineligible for ordinary membership.

(2) Former members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF), the Expeditionary Forces Institutes (EFI) of the Navy Army Air Force Institutes (NAAFI).

c. **HONORARY MEMBERS** – Those whom the Association wishes to recognise by reasons of their good work for the Association, may be recommended to Council for election as Honorary Members. Branches may also invite local dignitaries, and others who have helped their Branch, to become Honorary Members of that Branch. Honorary Members are not required to pay a subscription. They have no voting rights and cannot hold executive office.

d. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP** – The membership of any Member, Affiliated Member or Honorary Member may be terminated by the Council. Before such a decision is taken, the member concerned shall be informed, shall have an opportunity to state his or her case to Council and be told that the decision of Council is subject to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association. Notice of the intention to appeal must be given within four weeks of the decision of Council being communicated to the member.

5. INSIGNIA

a. **BADGE** – The badge of the Association shall be a laurel wreath surmounted by a crown; within the wreath, a Lioness rampant; underneath the wreath a scroll bearing the initials QMAAC WRAC ATS.

b. **STANDARD** – The Standard of the Association shall be the Association badge on a background of beech brown and bottle green divided horizontally and with the Association designation in black letters on gold. Full specification is at Annex B.

c. **UNIFORM** – Dress for the Association Standard Bearers is detailed at Annex C. This form of dress may be worn by any member, if desired, when representing the Association.

6. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

a. Officers of the Association shall be the President, the Vice-President who will be Chairman of Council and Chairman of the Managing Trustees of the Benevolent Fund, the Vice-Chairman of Council, the Honorary Treasurer (who shall be an ex-service member), the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Grants Committee and the General Secretary.

b. The Vice-President shall be proposed by Council and approved by the President. The Vice-President shall serve for four years and may be re-appointed for a second term.

c. The Vice-Chairman shall be appointed for a term of three years and will take office following her election by Council.

d. The Honorary Treasurer shall be appointed by Council and will take office following ratification of her appointment by the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The post will be reviewed annually at the Council meeting which approves the audited accounts.

e. Other Officers may be appointed by Council.

7. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

a. The Members of Council shall be:
The President

The Vice-President who shall be Chairman of Council

The Life Vice-Presidents of Council

Two Council Vice-Presidents

The Vice-Chairman of Council

The Honorary Treasurer

The Chairman of each Area (May be represented by the Vice Chairman)

The Chairman of Headquarters Branch

Two officers who have served in the WRAC

Two Servicewomen who have served in the WRAC

A representative of the ATS

The Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Grants Committee

b. Council members are also the Managing Trustees of the ATS and WRAC Association Benevolent Fund.

c. Life Vice-Presidents of Council may be appointed by Council.

d. Each Council Vice-President shall be appointed by Council annually and ratification of these appointments shall be made by the AGM. None shall serve for a term of more than four years.

e. Additional members may be co-opted by the Council.

8. COUNCIL POWERS

a. Council is empowered to manage the affairs of the Association and to deal with all monies and investments. It shall invest or use such monies, at its discretion, for the benefit of the Association. Members of Council shall not be held liable, either individually or collectively, for any losses incurred, provided that they have acted with reasonable care and, to the best of their belief, in the interest of the Association.

b. Council shall meet at least twice a year. It has the

power to make such regulations and to appoint such committees as it considers necessary. Such committees are to include:

(1) The Executive Committee

(2) The Benevolent Fund Grants Committee.

c. Subject to any directions received from a General Meeting of the Association, Council may invite any member or members of the Association, or other persons who they consider would be helpful in their deliberations, to attend any meeting. Such members, or other persons, shall leave the Meeting when the business for which they have been invited is concluded.

d. Six members of Council other than the General Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall form a quorum.

e. Members shall receive ten days notice in writing of a meeting of Council.

f. The Vice-President of the Association, the Vice-Chairman of Council and the Honorary Treasurer are ex-officio members of all committees.

g. The General Secretary and Editor of the Journal of the Association shall be in attendance at all meetings of Council and the Executive Committee.

h. In circulating the agenda for the meeting prior to the AGM, the General Secretary shall call for nominations for any vacant offices to be sent in writing not less than ten days before the date of the meeting. Should more than one person be nominated for any office, a ballot shall be taken. The Candidate having the most votes shall be declared elected and shall take office from the date of her election.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a. The members of the Executive Committee shall be:

The Vice-Chairman of Council (Chairman)

One Council Vice President

Two Area Chairmen

Chairman of Headquarters Branch

An ATS Representative

b. Up to 3 additional members may be co-opted by the Chairman.

c. Four members shall form a quorum

d. The Executive Committee shall meet as directed by Council, or as the work of the Association makes necessary, and shall report to Council.

10. BENEVOLENT FUND GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee is a sub-committee of Council consisting of any two or more Trustees and such other persons as the Trustees may consider necessary. The Trustees on the Committee must be in the majority. Members who are not trustees are to be elected annually by Council.

11. BRANCH GROUPINGS

a. The United Kingdom shall be divided into areas as approved by Council.

b. Branches are grouped within an area. Each area shall

have a Chairman, who will be a member of Council. Each may also appoint a Vice-chairman and a Secretary.

c. Areas may organise functions as required and undertake such other duties for the good of the Branches as a whole, as the Council of the Branch in that Area shall agree to delegate to them.

d. A sum of up to £20 to cover postage may be claimed annually by each area from the Treasurer of the Association.

e. Travel expenses to the Council meetings by the Area Chairman or her representative can be claimed from Association HQ.

12. BRANCH ORGANISATION

a. A Branch may be formed with the approval of Council. A member may belong to more than one branch.

b. The members at each Branch shall appoint a Chairman, Secretary and a Treasurer from among their number and shall forward the names of those appointed to Council. If Council does not approve, the members of the Branch shall make a fresh nomination. A Branch of less than fifty members may appoint one member to fill two offices.

c. Each Branch shall hold a meeting before the AGM of the Association, and the Secretary of the Branch shall forward to the General Secretary any items to be placed on the agenda of that meeting.

d. It is the duty of the Branch Secretary to keep in touch with the members of her Branch, to collect subscriptions, to inform members of the Branch of all Branch reunions and meetings, and generally to carry out the instructions of Council in respect of the Branch.

e. It is the duty of the Branch Treasurer to keep the accounts of the Branch and to forward to the General Secretary of the Association, the subscription for each subscribing Annual Member of the Branch. The Branch financial year ends on the 30th day of September. The Branch Treasurer is to forward the balance sheet showing the financial state of the Branch to the General Secretary by the 15th day of October annually.

f. All monies and investments held by the Branch are distinct from those held by the Association and a Branch shall be liable for its own commitments. In no way shall the Association, the Council or the Area be held liable for debts contracted by a Branch. Notwithstanding the foregoing, where a branch has applied for, or been awarded a grant by an outside organisation, copies of all relevant correspondence and accounts must be forwarded to the General Secretary.

g. Should a Branch cease to exist, the balance of funds, if any, will be sent to the Association Treasurer and included in the general funds of the Association. However, if a Branch is re-formed in the same location within three years, the Honorary Treasurer shall forward a like sum to the Branch Treasurer on the reconstitution of that Branch.

h. A newly formed Branch or one that is re-formed after a lapse of more than three years may apply for an initial grant of up to £50.

i. A newly formed Branch or one that is re-formed after a lapse of more than three years may apply for an initial grant as agreed by Council from time to time.

j. Members who do not belong to a geographical or other Branch shall belong to Headquarter Branch and be administered by WRAC Association Headquarters. They shall be represented on Council by the Chairman of Headquarter Branch.

k. Certificates Of Appreciation – At the discretion of Council, a Certificate of Appreciation may be awarded to any member of the Association for outstanding service to the Association.

13. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND JOURNAL

a. The life subscription to the Association shall be set by Council and approved by the AGM.

b. The annual subscription, also set by Council and approved by the AGM, shall be payable on the 1st day of October each year for commencement of membership on that day and shall include the Journal.

c. If membership is terminated under rules 3(a) and 3(d) no part of the subscription will be refunded.

d. Only life members, and ordinary members who have paid the current annual subscription (or whose subscription has been waived), have the right to vote at Branch meetings.

e. The Journal of the Association (LIONESS) will normally be published twice a year. It is included in the subscription of each member of the Association.

14. FINANCE

a. It is the duty of the Honorary Treasurer to have custody of the Funds of the Association.

b. All cheques drawn on the funds of the Association require the signatures of two of the following: the Honorary Treasurer, the General Secretary, a nominated member of the Council and the Benevolent Fund Case Secretary.

c. The Honorary Treasurer shall make a financial report to the Council at each of its meetings. She shall also submit the accounts for audit annually and present the audited accounts for approval at the AGM.

d. The financial year of the Association shall end on the 31st day of October.

e. Alteration to investments of the Association may be authorised by the Executive Committee in cases of urgency. Such alterations will be reported to a properly constituted Meeting of Council at the earliest opportunity. If, in their opinion, no urgency exists, the Executive Committee will refer any proposal to alter investments to the Council.

15. GENERAL MEETINGS

a. The AGM of the Association shall be held on any Saturday during March or April. The issuing of the Minutes of an AGM and publication of a precis of the

Minutes in the Association Journal LIONESS shall constitute the notice for the next meeting. The Agenda of the meeting will be published in No 1 edition of the LIONESS. Branch secretaries may submit any resolutions for consideration not less than six weeks before any General Meeting. Standing Orders for General Meetings are at Annex A.

- b. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by Council on its own motion, and shall be called on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than one hundred and fifty members and deposited with the General Secretary. The requisition shall state the object or objects for which the meeting is called, and no other business shall be considered. A requisition may consist of several documents signed by one or more members provided that the same object or objects are stated in each. At least fourteen days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given, and shall be accompanied by a statement setting out the business of the meeting. The date, time and place of the meeting shall be decided by the Council.
- c. Publication in the Journal of the Association shall constitute sufficient notice of the AGM. No General Meeting, Branch Meeting or Meeting of Council shall be invalidated by the fact that any member has failed to receive a notice of the meeting.
- d. Voting at General Meetings of the Association shall be by show of hands. Each Branch shall have one vote only to be cast by its appointed representative.

16. DISSOLUTION

The Association may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting which shall have been convened for the purpose and for which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Association, provided that, if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the Objects of the Association, as the Association may determine; and, if in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.

17. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Any alteration to these Rules shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the constitution must be received by the General Secretary of the Association at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. No alteration shall be made to Rule 2, Rule 16 or this Rule. No alteration shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners has been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity in law.

WRAC ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS' BRANCH
ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Officers Branch Annual Luncheon will take place on Saturday 18 May 2002 at the Officers' Mess, AGC Centre Worthy Down.

The inclusive price for the event including morning coffee, aperitif, lunch and wine will be £17.00.

Please send your cheque for £17.00 made payable to WRAC Association together with the application form and a SAE for your ticket by 03 May 2002

To: WRAC Association HQ
AGC Centre
Worthy Down
Hants SO21 2RG

From:

I wish to attend the Officers' Lunch on Saturday 18 May 2002.

My car details are:

Make

Colour

Reg No

I enclose a cheque for £

I enclose a SAE for my receipt and ticket

Date

Signed

WRAC DINNER 2002

11, 12, 13 October 2002
The Moat House Hotel
Stoke on Trent

If you would like to attend then please contact:

E Ann Butler-Deakin
'Cobblestones'
2 Chesham Road
Stafford ST16 3JP
Tel: 01785 249992

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

PDF Compressor for the year ended 31 October 2001

	<u>. Unrestricted .</u>				
	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2001	Total 2000
INCOME & EXPENDITURE					
Incoming resources:					
Subscriptions	978	1,650	–	2,628	4,039
Income from branches	76,769	–	–	76,769	78,976
Lioness publication income	4,911	–	–	4,911	12,167
Investment income	12,114	–	170,674	182,788	177,705
Donations	7,723	–	238,446	246,169	123,983
Other income	1,418	–	–	1,418	6,272
Grand Reunion	–	–	–	–	16,663
Total incoming resources	103,913	1,650	409,120	514,683	419,805
Resources expended:					
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Grants & donations	–	–	171,912	171,912	174,659
Expenditure by branches	73,157	–	–	73,157	84,663
Lioness publication costs	–	–	–	–	19,951
Other expenditure:					
Management & administration	16,558	–	23,680	40,238	37,833
Grand Reunion	–	–	–	–	31,113
Total resources expended	89,715	–	195,592	285,307	348,219
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS	14,198	1,650	213,528	229,376	71,586
Transfers between funds	3,181	(3,181)	–	–	
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	17,379	(1,531)	213,528	229,376	71,586
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES					
Losses on investments:					
Unrealised	(33,498)	–	(506,416)	(539,914)	303,724
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(16,119)	(1,531)	(292,888)	(310,538)	375,310
Fund balances brought forward at 1 November 2000	311,138	36,604	4,371,655	4,719,397	4,344,087
Fund balances carried forward at 31 October 2001	£ 295,019	£ 35,073	£ 4,078,767	£ 4,408,859	£ 4,719,397

The net movement in funds for the year arises from the charity's continuing activities.

No separate Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses has been presented as all such gains and losses have been dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities.

BALANCE SHEET

31 October 2001

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	2001	2000
FIXED ASSETS		
Investments	3,957,242	4,497,156
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of badges & souvenirs	2,980	3,248
Association standard	199	199
Debtors	214	818
Cash at bank & in hand	459,445	226,904
	462,838	231,169
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	11,221	8,928
NET CURRENT ASSETS	451,617	222,241
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	£ 4,408,859	£ 4,719,397

FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Unrestricted funds:

General funds	295,019	311,138
Designated funds:		
Membership life subscription fund	9,460	10,108
Lioness life subscription fund	25,613	26,496

Restricted funds:

The Benevolent Funds	3,501,610	3,788,301
The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund	577,157	583,354

TOTAL FUNDS	£ 4,408,859	£ 4,719,397
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Approved by the trustees on 2002

..... Chairman
Brigadier S P Nield CBE

..... 2002

OVERSEAS PAYMENTS

Please note that in future, all payments for subscriptions, postage and memorabilia will only be accepted in Sterling. Please ask your bank for a Money Order or Sterling Cheque.

We regret to have to impose this restriction, but due to the vagaries of exchange rates, the majority of overseas payments fall significantly short of the amount due.



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A Highland Gathering of Ex Army Posties