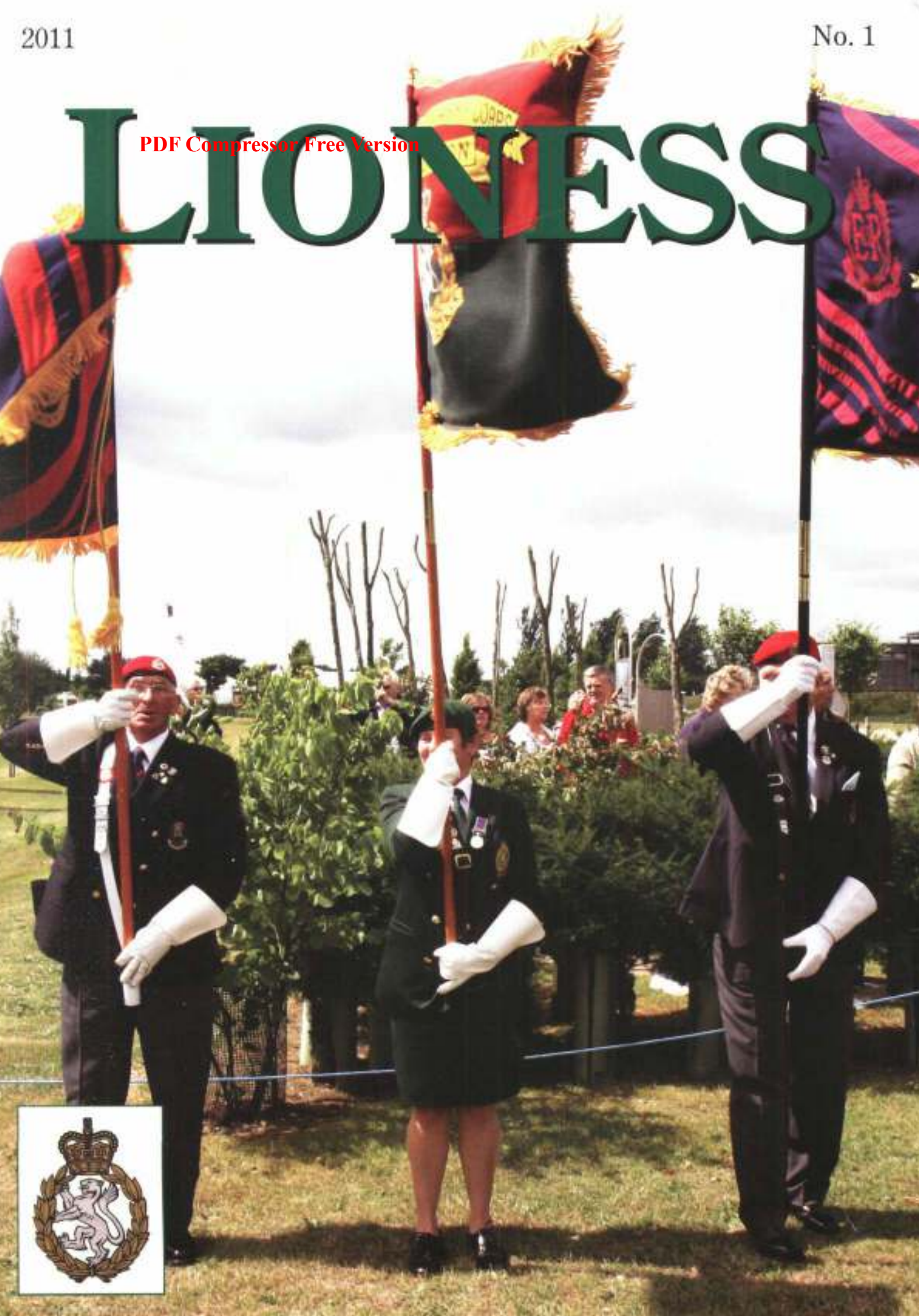


PDF Compressor Free Version

LIONESS



PDF Compressor Free Version



THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association)
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 206184

Founded in 1919

PATRON

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

PRESIDENT

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT GCVO

VICE-PRESIDENT

Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake

Chairman of Trustees:

Vice-Chairman:

Life Vice-Presidents:

Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake

Lieutenant Colonel J M Young

Brigadier A Field CB CBE

Lieutenant Colonel The Lady Martha Bruce OBE TD DL

Lieutenant Colonel M W Soames OBE

Brigadier Dame Joanna Kelleher DBE

Brigadier S P Nield CBE

Colonel F M Cook

Colonel E J Bowles

Mrs E Carter MBE TD

Regimental Secretary:

Honorary Treasurer:

Editor of Association Magazine:

Assistant Editor:

Typist:

Major G M Shanahan

Major L Barr-Jones

Colonel A Brown

Mrs A Schofield

Mrs Noreen Unsworth

ATS and WRAC Benevolent Funds

Chairman of Trustees:

Chairman of Grants Committee:

Case Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake

Colonel A J Smith

Major G M Shanahan

Headquarters, WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG

Regimental Secretary: Direct (01962) 887612 or ATN (94271) 2612

Chief Clerk: Direct (01962) 887570 or ATN (94271) 2570

Fax: (01962) 887478

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

E-mail: wracassociation@googlemail.com

Website: www.wracassociation.co.uk

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front Cover

Dedication of the ACG Plot

Back Cover

150th Anniversary of the APTC –
WRAC PTIs

Contributions for next issue by 11 June 2011

Published by the WRAC Association, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG.

Printed in Great Britain and distributed worldwide by Warwick Printing Company Ltd, Caswell Road, Leamington Spa CV31 1QD.

CONTENTS

Message from the Vice President	1
WRAC Association Council	3
Remembrance	9
Articles of Interest	7
Articles from Serving Soldiers	12
Branch News	17
ATS Reminiscences	41
WRAC Reminiscences	46
Where Are You Now?	49
News from Overseas Members	52
WRAC Officers Dining Club	53
WRAC Dinner Club	54
Reunions	57
Grand Reunion	61
Letters to the Editor	62
Poems	63
Weddings	65
Obituaries – their final salute	66
WRAC Statement of financial activities	71

PDF Compressor Free Version

Editorial



This is the first edition of the *Lioness* that I have edited and I thought that I would take a few lines to introduce myself.

I was commissioned into the WRAC in September 1984 from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The WRAC College had closed a few months before my intake arrived at

Sandhurst and our arrival was met with many mutterings and questions of "how will they be able to march in skirts?" My first posting was to 10 Company WRAC as a Platoon Commander and I do view this posting as my formative training, paving the way for the next 27 years. Following 10 Company WRAC I did not return to further WRAC postings, rather I completed a variety of SO3 and SO2 posts with the Infantry and the Royal Regiment of Artillery before transferring to the AGC (SPS). Staff College followed – two years for me – and then I was fortunate enough to Command Manchester and Salford Universities' Officer Training Corps. I finally retired in April 2009 from the post of Colonel Individual Training at HQ LAND. I know that I have been very lucky in the variety of postings I have had and have thoroughly enjoyed all my postings including the operational ones to the Gulf, Bosnia and Kosovo. However, I do consider that first posting at 10 Company WRAC to have been the catalyst for the future. Throughout my career I did not really participate in the Association but attending the WRAC Officers' Dining Club in 2007 changed all that, and when Lt Col Sue Westlake mentioned, quite a lot, that a new Editor for the *Lioness* was needed, I felt that it was something I definitely wanted to get involved in.

In this edition of the *Lioness* I have not departed from the well tried and tested format but I have made contact with all of the Regimental Associations in the Army who employ female soldiers. I hope to develop these

relationships further as time goes on to gain access to a wide variety of articles about female soldiers – essentially our successors. For this edition you will see that I have included a number of recent articles by female soldiers, both operational and sporting. I hope that these provide a good insight into what roles and activities women in the Army are now doing. Again, none of this would be happening if it was not for their predecessors in the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC.

There is much in this edition about Remembrance Day and the visits organised by the Not Forgotten Organisation; all of which make for interesting reading. There are a healthy number of reunions including the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the APTC, now the Royal Army Physical Training Corps and the ATS Dinner Club. It is good to hear about the effort our members make to attend meetings and participate in events. News from our overseas members has come in from as far a field as Australia and the USA.

My thanks must go to Denise, Noreen and Jan for their assistance and patience, without whose efforts I am not sure that you would be reading this edition of the *Lioness* before Christmas 2011. I also appreciate the contributions from the Branches; reading all of them has already begun to build my knowledge of the Association. It is encouraging to see the numbers at the various Dinner Clubs and Reunions holding up and I hope that more take action to subscribe to the events to ensure they do continue.

One note of caution and a bit of a plea. The lack of contributions from ex WRAC members is quite startling and that does concern me. We, the ex WRAC members, must start to take up the torch lit for us by our predecessors to ensure that it does not go out and one of the consequences of this is to plan the longevity of the *Lioness*. This does mean taking positive steps to attract more ex WRAC members to subscribe to the Association and thus start to use the *Lioness* as a means to keep in touch and share experiences. I am open to any ideas and would welcome comments from the Branches as to how they believe this might be achieved.

So a baptism by fire, but thank you for your support in getting this edition compiled. Long may it continue.

Alison Brown

Message from the Vice President



New Year 2011 brings New Team 2011 to WRAC Association Headquarters. I would like to 'welcome on board' Colonel Ali Brown, who is editing this her first edition of *Lioness* and Major Gabi Shanahan, who although no stranger to Association HQ because she has been our Benevolent Fund Case Secretary for the past 3 years, has taken up her new role as

Association Regimental Secretary. This appointment combines the roles of the General Secretary and

Benevolent Fund Case Secretary and brings us into line with other Associations who use this title. Both Ali and Gabi were WRAC Officers who transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps (SPS Branch) following our disbandment in 1992 and so we continue to maintain our WRAC pedigree. **PDF Compressor Free Version**

Staying in Association HQ, I would like to say a very sincere 'thank you' to Jan Ford (ex WRAC) who stepped in to help out as our Chief Clerk from September through to January whilst Denise was recovering from her dreadful accident. Hopefully, by the time this journal reaches your home, Denise will be back at work full time.

Apart from the Regimental Secretary and Chief Clerk who receive a salary, the Association is **completely** manned by volunteers, like the Area and Branch officials. They all do it because they loved their time in the Service and want to put something back; similarly, the governing body of the Association known collectively as 'Council' are also all volunteers but carry the added responsibility of being Trustees – I am privileged to be its Chairman. I make specific mention of Council here because I urge you to read the article in this journal written by Lieutenant Colonel Nicky Murdoch about its workings and organisation. I look forward to telling you in future editions of the *Lioness* how the Executive

Committee of Council, chaired by my Deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Jo Young, will be taking forward new projects. As I write this message, the Association is having a new website designed which will incorporate some of the latest technological trends and will enable new members to join 'on line' and existing members to carry out a plethora of other transactions. However, we would not be where we are today with the website had it not been for the foresight and hard work of our Association Webmaster, Herme Emary, who single-handedly created and has maintained our current website over the past few years. Our membership has increased as a direct result of Herme's initiative – we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

Knowing how much I love to party (!), you will not be surprised that I end this missive with a rallying cry to start saving for the next Grand Reunion which is now only just a year away! You can read all about it in this journal. I would also like to invite you to the Association AGM at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 2nd April 2011 followed by Lunch 'on the house'; it will follow the same format as last year which was a great success and turned out to be a mini Reunion! There are only 200 places available – so it is first come, first served! Fill in the proforma today to avoid disappointment. See you there!

Sue Westlake



New Team 2011

L to R: Major Gabi Shanahan, Mrs Denise Thompson, Lt Col Sue Westlake, Colonel Ali Brown

WRAC Association Council

WHAT WE DO AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

PDF Compressor Free Version

I was commissioned in to the WRAC in 1980 having been trained by Sue Westlake at the WRAC College. My time in the Corps was enjoyable and interesting and is where I learned and developed as a person and as an Army Officer. I was extremely lucky to work for, and be taught by, some excellent WRAC officers as I worked my way up the ladder. Tours took in Depot Regiment Royal Artillery, HQ BAOR, 10 Coy WRAC and the WRAC Centre where I finished as Adjutant in 1990. I then had the privilege of working for Brigadier Helen Meechie in the MOD when, to my knowledge, she was the first female Brigadier to work in a staff job where she was selected in open competition with her male peers. It was during this tour that the WRAC was disbanded and I transferred to the AGC (SPS). I have to be honest and say that at that stage I felt that I had to completely embrace a new Corps in order to make it work and for me to progress. I therefore had a temporary break from involvement with the WRAC, other than meeting up with friends I had made, and this was to last until Sue Westlake roped me back in and on to the Council in about 2001!

Trail Blazers

In the Army of today all women serve alongside their male counterparts with the exception of the Royal Armoured Corps and the Infantry. (I still cannot see the attraction in being cramped in a tank or digging trenches!) Opportunities for employment have definitely improved and the young women of today expect it because it has always been this way for them. What is not evident to them however is the fact that without the trail blazers that came from the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC they might not be in such a position. That is always the case with pioneering work so none of us should be surprised. What is important though, is for those of us who were trained and developed in our various predecessor Corps and Services, remember the contribution that has been made. These Officers and service women led the way. Working during war time in Ack Ack and in staff jobs, setting up women's defence forces overseas in places such as Jamaica and Brunei, getting selected for staff college and other leadership courses in direct competition with those in the wider Army, becoming skill at arms instructors when women first carried arms are all examples of what had been done before the WRAC disbanded. All this activity secured the future for women who serve today in almost every area of the Army. Corny as it may sound this is why I joined the Council and because Sue Westlake is very difficult to say "No" to!

We all gave to the Day's pay scheme, a practice which still continues to this day, and this money is largely what makes up the funds for which the Council is

responsible. The members of Council are there as guardians of the money and to ensure that the aims of the Association are met. In essence that is what we do. The principal areas are the running of the organisation, the organisation of reunions at branch and association level and administration of the allocation of grants from the benevolent fund for those in difficulty. This is the same in Regimental and Corps Headquarters across the Army. This is a really important and much underestimated function.

The Council is chaired by Sue Westlake as all readers will know and it is made up from a variety of us who have served in the ATS and WRAC ranging from former Directors of the Corps, leading lights in the WRAC TA and officers and servicewomen who served in the WRAC. What I have found fascinating in my years on Council so far is hearing just what some of our forbears achieved. It highlights how far we have all come and history, as with all matters military, is important. Council is therefore an opportunity for all of us to learn about what has gone before and what is occurring today. We are the representatives of all former members of all 3 former Corps and we must safeguard that legacy so we have to be in touch with our membership. Those of us serving on Council today will continue to try and meet that need but we always want new blood so we will be looking for willing volunteers to serve on Council for some years to come! It is interesting, fulfilling and worthwhile and now is the time when those of us who served in the WRAC must pick up the torch from the ATS and run the association. Perhaps best of all I find that once again I am working with friends with whom I have served with, who share the same values and capacity for fun while we do our business!

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

I have to confess that other than when I was sent to WRAC Association functions as a junior officer I had not attended any sort of reunion of any kind. I felt that life had moved on and I needed to move with it and that harping back to the past was not what I wanted to do.

I was wrong and what I have subsequently discovered by attending the last 2 Grand Reunions is that we have all moved on and those that attend the branch meetings, the AGM, grand reunions and dining clubs actually attend because they are meeting up with old friends. We all recognise that not everyone who ever served thought the WRAC was the most enjoyable experience of their lives but I suspect that most, if not all of us, made some enduring friends. I think this is the key to the future of the Association. It will not last forever but, while it does, we all have a duty to protect the history and the memories. The best way to do that is with one's friends. At the Grand Reunions I have attended I have met up with lots of old friends and some very old ones!

I have even met up with some old adversaries and made peace because life is too short. For me the secret has been going to these events with my mates and meeting even more. Those who haven't been yet should try it. You will be very pleasantly surprised.

PDF Compressor Free Version

The membership of the Association is increasing, in the main due to the success of reunions and dinner clubs through word of mouth, but we need to try and encourage those who are not members to join. Jo Young will be leading the Executive Committee in planning how we can achieve this over the coming months.

We will also be looking for contributors to *Lioness* who would like to tell us what they have been doing since

they left the WRAC whether they have been continuing to serve or have moved on to pastures new.

I am now leaving the Army having had 30 really enjoyable years in both my Corps. All that I learnt in the WRAC has stood me in extremely good stead for my time in the Army and I am now taking up the job of Chief Executive of the Defence Medical Welfare Service. This is a charity that provides welfare support to serving service personnel and their families while they are in hospital, either in a military environment such as Afghanistan or in one of the military units in civilian hospitals across the UK. I am really looking forward to it.



The WRAC Association Council.

Standing L to R: Maggie Purkis, Sue Donova, Dot Ryder, Pat Stevenson, Ann Maskens-McIntyre Jo Young, Nicky Murdoch, Wendy Hooton, Leona Barr-Jones, Gabi Shanahan, Carrole Montessori-Gorman

Seated L to R: Brigadier Shirley Nield, Eleanor Bowles, Sue Westlake, Audrey Smith

Not Present: Brigadier Dame Joanna Kelleher, Brigadier Anne Field, Lady Martha Bruce, Frankie Cook, Gerry Fahy, Mary Soames, Eileen Carter, Kate McGregor

Remembrance

WRAC ASSOCIATION REMEMBRANCE PARADE

PDF Compressor Free Version

The air was full of anticipation as we made our way over Westminster Bridge towards Horse Guards Parade Ground and what a colourful spectacle greeted us as thousands gathered to line up for the start of the parade. At the order we marched into Whitehall through the archway to see the public lining the pavements, giving such great support clapping and cheering all the way round the route. The rain was gently falling as we waited for our turn to march, but nothing could dampen our spirits being together in such an historic place. We

proudly marched together past the Cenotaph remembering those who gave so much for us, and thinking of our friends who could not be with us that day. All too soon we were passing St James Park with the autumn leaves falling from the trees, and onto Horse Guards parade ground with the sound of our footsteps resounding on the gravel, then lining up to await the dismissal and to cheer the others as they march past us. What a privilege it is to take part in the Remembrance Parade each year, and for us to march together once again is very special indeed.

Carol Traynor



A Special Day





Articles of Interest

RE-DEDICATION OF THE AGC MEMORIAL

Major Clare Samwell AGC (SPS)

PDF Compressor Free Version



Dedication Stone

On a warm but blustery July day, the Corps gathered together to re-dedicate the AGC Memorial Plot at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. The Plot was first dedicated on 18 September 2001 and since then the Arboretum has been developed and like many other Corps, the AGC has invested in a new memorial stone and bench.

So, on Friday 16 July 2010, a Dedication Service was held at the AGC Memorial Plot, with our recent widows and their families in attendance. We were honoured with the presence of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, our Deputy Colonel in Chief, who laid a wreath on behalf of the Corps. In addition, Major General Andrew Gregory, our Assistant Colonel Commandant and Lieutenant General Sir Richard Shirreff, one of our Deputy Colonels Commandant, and all Branch Directors were in attendance.

We were also joined by eight of our Chelsea Pensioners, and our Antecedent Associations were well represented by many former members. Those officers and soldiers on parade were drawn from all Branches of the Corps and the Band of the AGC provided musical accompaniment throughout the day. The Corps was also represented by Captain Wayne Boyes and Sergeant Carl Grundy who were instrumental in the design and delivery of the new memorial stone and bench.

As the major Corps event for 2010 it was an ideal opportunity for us to recognise the sacrifice made by our officers and soldiers and those of our Antecedent Corps. In addition to the re-dedication service, a ceremony was held to present Elizabeth Crosses and Memorial Scrolls

to family members of three Royal Military Policemen who were killed in action in Iraq on 24 June 2003.



The Gathering



In Memory

After a buffet lunch many of those attending took the opportunity to explore the Arboretum and experience the tranquil surroundings. Despite the solemnity of the occasion there was a distinctly warm and welcoming atmosphere and a strong sense of 'family'; a family to which all members of the Corps belong.



Enjoying lunch



HRH The Duchess of Gloucester meets our Vice President and General Secretary

NEWS FROM THE AGC MUSEUM

This year it falls to me, Bianca Taubert, to write a brief update of the goings-on at the Adjutant General's Corps Museum where I have worked for a year, slowly but surely coming to grips with the corps history. Heading towards the end of 2010 we have had over 16,000 visitors and have had sixteen enquiries about the WRAC and ATS. I've also been tackling the backlog and the new acquisitions, which include some 275 (and counting!) items relating to the WRAC, the ATS and QMAAC. This includes several photograph albums and loose photographs as well, mostly dating from the 1940s. Also new to the collection are recruiting booklets that span the 1960s through to the 1980s and two medal groups. One of the medal groups belonged to Capt Elizabeth Stephenson ATS and WRAC (TA), who served during the Second World War until at least 1958. The other set of medals were received by another member of the ATS and WRAC (TA), Edina Clarke. RSM Clarke served at one point with 'A' Company 305 (E & WR) Battalion WRAC (TA), and we also have some of her photographs and papers. Some of the more interesting or unusual acquisitions this year include a pair of stockings (still in the packaging), a WRAC car badge, and by far my favourite the ATS recruiting poster dubbed "The Blonde Bombshell", donated last year, and is now displayed in the museum.

The poster was designed by Abram Games, who during the Second World War was the Official War Artist and designed many of posters of that era. The "Blond Bombshell" poster was given its nickname by the House of Commons, who thought it was too glamorous an image for the ATS, and the poster was discontinued in 1941. The poster now in the museums belonged to Freda Ann Joan Bean who joined the ATS early in the war. She was posted first to Bedford Reception Area driving trucks; later she was the staff driver for a brigadier and met actors David Niven and Clarke Gable, and the founder of ODEON cinemas Oscar Deutsche. She married Lt Col (later Dr. Sir) John Henry Chambers in 1944. Thank you to the Worthing Branch of this association for kindly donating it last year and for coming to visit us once again.

This year we have also purchased recording equipment,

and will be continuing the project by recording oral histories in the near future. We hope to have a museum representative at the next Grand Reunion to record some of your stories of your time in the ATS/WRAC.

We have recently launched a museum Facebook page, where we post objects of the month and other updates about the museum.

We are sorry to see Major Jane Freebairn retiring, having built up a close working relationship since the opening of the museum in 2003. We hope to continue the cooperation between the Association and the museum in the future, and wish Jane all the best during her second retirement

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH HARROGATE BRANCH

The sun shone, the grass was green
A birthday party there has been
The marquee, (BIG TENT) didn't blow away
We live to feast another day.....



Barbara Dawson welcomes all



Margaret Potter cuts the cake



Eager faces



The Loyal Toast

TAMWORTH STANDARD AT COLIN GRAZIER MEMORIAL SERVICE

Douglas Heath, Tamworth RNA

Attached is a photograph taken in Tamworth RNA Club with the Tamworth Standard present.



Tamworth RNA Club

STORY BEHIND THE BUTTON WORN ON THE WRAC UNIFORM NUMBER ONE DRESS

M J Baldwin, ex LCpl Training Instructor

Several members of the Birmingham WRAC Association have requested that I write to you with the story behind the button that is worn on the WRAC uniform number one dress in the hope that it is published so that ex-members are made aware of the story behind the button.

The late Princess Royal – whose name was Princess Mary was Commandant in Chief of the WRAC. It was therefore decided to use the initial M for Princess Mary on the button as she was Commandant in Chief.

I hope this small piece of information may be of interest to your members

NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION – A GREAT DAY OUT

Patricia Pierrepont

On 8 July 2010, I had the honour and delight to be invited by the "Not Forgotten Association" to a Garden Party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace by permission of Her Majesty the Queen, in the presence of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester KG GCVD. My daughter Kate was also invited as a "Good right arm". So there we were – all dressed up and somewhere to go – in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, through the Grand Entrance into the Quadrangle and down into the garden.



A Grand View

I had not been forgotten as an ATS girl for 4 years 1942-1946 and now rather aged! I doubt I could have managed without my daughter's safe arm. However, from the moment we had crossed the threshold we had safe hands either side of stairs so easy at about 3" high! There was always a member of one of the 3 Services both male and female in very best uniforms ready to assist and encourage, with good humour and chat. We had Personal Identity cards and were greeted by the Association's Presidents who were charming and made us feel welcome. The Association whose Patron is HRH Princess Royal is celebrating its 90th year.

The stretch of green grass was cool in the heat of the day – a long marquee ran down the left hand side where tables etc were ready for the tea and already people were

enjoying the super sandwiches and cakes – I must say the Victoria Sponge was the best I had ever had and as it is my favourite, I am an expert! All this was followed by strawberries and cream. We were entertained by the Band of the Welsh Guards who at 3 o'clock announced the arrival of the Duke of Gloucester. I did not recognise him amongst the entourage of grey suits as he moved around talking to pre-designated people.

I love Military Bands and the Welsh Guards Band played all afternoon and looked so smart AND so young! I enjoyed just sitting and listening whilst Kate took the opportunity to wander round the garden – alas age restricts my walking distances and I suggested she tried to find the flower borders as a keen gardener but no luck, it really is a very large garden!!



Perfect Music



On Parade

Sitting there gave me a chance to view the various fashions on a very hot day. The ladies had done the occasion very proudly producing a colourful and exciting display – good hats, not so good hats, but I really did not take to what I was told were "Fascinators".

The girls from the 3 Services who came and sat with me were beautifully turned out in their best uniforms and looked wonderful. I tried to describe the uniforms we wore in 1942-46 and they roared with laughter and we had lots of fun comparing tall tales of Service life.

I'm afraid we were all outshone by "The Yeoman of the Queen's Guard" who were on duty. Their uniforms are very smart and glamorous and I talked with one when we were having tea. He was all set to hear me address him as a "Beef Eater" but was delighted when I informed him that we knew the difference between "Yeoman of the Queen's Guard" and "Beef Eaters" from the Tower of London.



Yeoman of the Queen's Guard

I photographed Ester Rantzen talking to Dame Vera Lynn. I managed to say thank you to Dame Vera for the work she had done past and present for the Forces – Lovely Lady.



Ester Rantzen and Dame Vera Lynn

The day finished with a Beating Retreat by the Band of the Welsh Guards – I found it very emotional, as it brought home to me that this was probably my last Military Assembly – what a splendid occasion, and at such a splendid location!

So at 5 o'clock we were once again in the Forecourt of the Palace, very weary, delighted by the day and grateful to be one of the "Not Forgotten".

A MARVELLOUS TOUR

Mrs Sheelagh Wilson, (W432338 Pte Brown R Sigs 1967/68), 811 Foxhall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5TJ

In May my Sister Mairi (WRAC R Sigs 1966/71 Edinburgh & Singapore) and her Husband Hamish came over from New Zealand and with my Husband Frank we embarked on a 4-week tour around Britain and Ireland.

We started our trip in Nottingham and whilst there we went to Alrewas, Staffs and visited The National Memorial Arboretum. This is a truly amazing place set in beautiful countryside and is a very fitting tribute to all Branches of The Armed Services. If you haven't been, I can definitely recommend a visit – you won't be disappointed, well worth the journey. Next port of call

was over the sea to Dublin where we went on an open top bus for a tour round the city. After Dublin we headed west to Galway, drove through the Connemara National Park – very picturesque although as the day went on the mist started closing in. We also visited Ballina, Donegal, Port Stewart and Portlaoise. Irish hospitality is very much in force.

From Larne we sailed to Troon where the weather was very wild, wet and windy – definitely arrived in Scotland! After visits to Alyth – where Mairi met up with her friend Sandra from her Army days and remained good friends over the years – Arbroath, Aberdeen and Grantown-on-Spey, we arrived in Culloden, a few miles from Inverness. We stayed here for a week with relatives who took us to several places starting with a day trip to the Isle of Skye. A long way to go for lunch but with beautiful Scottish scenery, a very enjoyable day out.

Next day off to Culloden Battle Field – last battle to be fought on British soil. There is a very impressive information centre depicting the battle and you can also walk round the battlefields. Another day was spent at Fort George which is still a working barracks – possibly not for much longer – but some areas are open to the public, one being a very impressive museum, not to be missed if up that way. You can also walk round the perimeter of the barracks which overlook the Moray Firth and if you are lucky you may see the dolphins and seals. A trip to Aviemore and The Cairngorms – Scotland's Ski Centre – was next and we took a ride in the Funicular Railway up the Cairngorms and the views were really spectacular – Scottish Scenery at its best. Whilst there, if you wished, you could go sledging or snowboarding as there was still quite a bit of the "white stuff" about. We declined but enjoyed watching those who did.

After our week in the Highlands we headed south to Blair Atholl, Killiecrankie and Pitlochry. This is mine and Mairi's old stomping ground and was good to be back. Met up with friends from school days and visited some old haunts. One place which is a "must see" on visits home is Blair Castle. This is a truly awesome building, you round the corner of the driveway and come face to face with this pure white castle in a very picturesque setting, never fails to pull at the heart strings.

After spending a few days reminiscing we headed to Edinburgh and whilst there visited The Royal Yacht Britannia. Not as impressive or luxurious as I imagined but nice to see how the other half travel! Heading further south we left Scotland behind – possibly the last time for my sister – and arrived back in England. After much searching we eventually found a length of Hadrian's Wall – not exactly sure where but I can say I've walked on Hadrian's Wall.

Leaving Hadrian and his wall behind we headed to "Eden Camp" in Malton, Yorkshire (www.edencamp.co.uk). This was a POW Camp in the 2nd World War and is now a museum, the only modern history theme museum of its kind in the world. You definitely need a whole day to go round this place but very interesting and informative place and very much well worth a visit. After the stopover in Hull we headed back to Ipswich, 4 weeks, 2,500 miles later. A very enjoyable holiday but good to be home again.

TIME GOES BY

W/411789 (now 226IP) Marjorie Cole
Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR

The last couple of months in the run up to Christmas I have been very busy. Oh no I'm not complaining, I'm loving taking part in what ever I can, especially taking part in the Festival of Remembrance at The Royal Albert Hall and felt very proud to represent not only The Chelsea Pensioners but the WRAC Association, also marching at the Cenotaph.

It was absolutely wonderful seeing that wonderful sea of green fleeces and lovely smiles of those of you that marched, also I was so proud of you all and it was with great pride I was able to tell my pensioner colleagues who you were – well done ladies. Since then I've done various things – gave a talk at Kensington & Chelsea Ladies Conservative Luncheon Club, attended The Not Forgotten Society Christmas Party. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales came and chatted to our group for 10 minutes.



On Horse Guards Parade 14th November 2010

During December I've been attending different carol services each night in the WREN Chapel all for various charities. I know all the carols by heart now. I also attended various lunches plus a March on Appearance at The Royal Military Tournament, in the Finale. There is still plenty more happening before Christmas, but I'm loving it. I meet so many interesting people, especially lots of ATS and love a chat with them.

Wishing all ATS/WRAC members a very happy and healthy new year.



Chelsea Auto Legends

Articles from Serving Soldiers

'Q' WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT

Warrant Officer Class 2 L Tolley AGC (SPS) (V)



Warrant Officer Class 2 L Tolley AGC (SPS) (V)

Scouring the Operational Commitments Establishment list I disregarded every post that involved Afghanistan. Being downgraded, I never imagined that I would be allowed to go. Finally, I found what appeared to me to be my ideal job. An administrative post in Kosovo that involved everything I was qualified to do. After applying, I was advised that the job was no longer available. The words, "What about Afghanistan?" was next. The job was as Administration Support and Financial Mentor for the Provincial Reconstruction Team. Initially I thought, it's not my first choice, but agreed. After all, this is what I trained for.

The range at Camp Bastion was quite a surreal experience. I was walking with full kit for the first time, carrying a small day sack filled to the brim with water surrounded by Electronic Counter Measure kit. A few weeks later, a young soldier was killed and more were wounded in the same area I found myself in on that range package. It certainly hit home the severity of the situation I was in.

My arrival at Lashkar Gah was uneventful with my handover very much the same. No notes, just a tour. I got the impression the job was not going to be as expected and I was right. Menial tasks for the first two months, not something you would expect a Warrant Officer to be doing. Also for some, the fact that I was different meant I had additional barriers to overcome. However, as time went by I found myself getting more involved with Information technology (IT), Information Management (IM) and setting up processes and dealing with the odd visit. In such a high profile environment I was making a difference. It also helped that it was primarily a civilian organisation. My civilian job as an MOD Civil Servant helped immensely with my integration. Non military colleagues would also refer to

me as 'Q'. They found it amusing and associated it with the Bond movies. If you wanted a job doing, help with a problem or just any old advice, then 'Q' was the one to speak to.

Working long hours, seven days a week pales into insignificance when notified of someone, somewhere who has either been severely injured or killed. In my six month tour I attended twenty four Services of Remembrances for fifty nine personnel who had lost their lives.

Would I do it again, yes, with the bad there has to be some good. Lashkar Gah was a small but compact military operating base, where everyone knew everyone. We are all different but drawn together to achieve a common goal. What struck me most was the camaraderie. No matter how dark the days, we found the time to laugh, make jokes, celebrate the good things, including my 40th birthday and the new friends we made.

BRUNEI ATTACHMENT

Captain Sarah Watson AGC (ALS)

In January 2010 I flew out to Brunei, with no small amount of trepidation, to undertake my attachment with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles.



Captain Sarah Watson AGC (ALS) and team

During my time with the Gurkhas I learned the basics of playing the bagpipes and ceremonial drumming. I got the same score (100%) as the Support Company second-in-command when I visited the sniper cadre, shared pork belly with the Chief of the General Staff, went on Rugby Tour with the Flying Kukris, had a week of adventure training in the Ulu Temburong with some of those on Loan Service to the Brunei Military Academy or Brunei Army and was the legal adviser in a Battlegroup Planning Exercise. All of which were fantastic learning experiences.

One of the most enjoyable activities I took part in whilst I

was in Brunei was the Military Skills Competition. Team 13 was a team made up of representatives from the gymnasium staff, transport department, Quartermaster's the Education Centre, a clerk and the 'Chukus' (baby chick/crow) lawyer.

PDF Compressor Free Version

The week commenced with weapon handling tests on the 51mm mortar, light support weapon, heavy machine gun and the Minimi. Then in 36 degrees heat and 60% humidity followed the range competition which included the Parachute Regiment Cup, combat snap shooting and falling plate. On the penultimate day we had an Improvised Explosive Device lane where we had a timed patrol and had to identify as many IEDs as possible. Whilst we found most of them in time, the sobering moment came when we were shown the ones we had missed, most of which we had stepped on.

After the IEDs came the medical test, where I was appointed Team Medic. Thankfully our abdominal wound patient survived and the walking wounded... well walked. Finally came the Commanding Officer's surprise and with much anticipation we made our way to the sports pitch, where most of the Battalion was there to watch. On the ground were markings almost like a football pitch. Suddenly out came an enormous ball made from medicine balls, footballs, water polo caps and boxing gloves. It was announced that we would be playing Murderball, a game that involved 7 players from each team wearing a water polo hat and boxing gloves. Each team had to take out every member of the other team, incapacitating them in whichever way possible, so that only one member of your team was left to push to victory. Needless to say this involved leg grabbing, spread eagling over multiple members of the opposition and a lot of determination to get your man.

Whilst this is only a fragment of what I did on my attachment, the lessons I learned during my attachment have been invaluable. Thanks to all the officers and soldiers I met. I have a far better appreciation of how a battalion operates and the day to day issues of both officers and soldiers alike.

THE 52nd INTERNATIONAL MILITARY PILGRIMAGE

Lance Corporal J Donnelly AGC(SPS)



Lance Corporal J Donnelly AGC (SPS) on Centre Stage

Lourdes is renowned throughout the world as a place of healing and forgiveness. In 1958 French soldiers invited some German soldiers to spend a few days with them in friendship and prayer. This was the first time that German soldiers were allowed on French soil since the ending of the Second World War. Since then soldiers from all around the world gather in the French village to celebrate the International Military Pilgrimage.

Private C Hughes AGC(SPS) and I were amongst a select few who were given the opportunity to represent 7 Signal Regiment under the guidance of our Chaplain, Father Paschal Hanrahan and the British Military Pilgrimage Organisers.

We left Köln railway station where we met the main party of the Pilgrimage on the train. They all made us feel very welcome and the overnight journey commenced. The 26 hour train journey was cramped and uncomfortable but we were given some relief as we had a 4 hour stop at Worms in France.

Whilst in Worms we made our way to the local church to begin our first church service. Pte Hughes and I were tasked to read out a prayer to the six hundred or so people present. I found this a rather nerve racking, yet exciting prospect as I had never previously spoken to such a large group which included a multinational military audience. We eventually arrived in Lourdes and once settled in we met up with the other pilgrims of the British Contingent.

The Pilgrimage included delegations from all over the world including the United States and South Korea. There were over 30 countries represented and about 40,000 people began to congregate upon this small village in southern France. It was a proud moment to be part of during which service personnel, veterans and their families marched down to the main Church to worship and begin services for that day.

On the second day we learnt the history surrounding Lourdes. This included the story of Bernadette and the Grotto. She was told to pray, repent, drink from, and bathe in the waters of the spring. It is believed that these springs have healing powers and I also learnt that I had a bit of healing of my own to do. My healing was not of the physical type but more of the spiritual and I needed all the help I could get. I was left with the feeling that personal time to reflect was important and something we should all do much more of.

The third day of the pilgrimage included an international Mass led by U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, Archbishop Timothy Broglio and a candlelight procession.

After the end of each day there were opportunities to get together to meet many of the other international personnel. During my three day trip I had the great pleasure to meet pilgrims from many different services around the world. These included the French Foreign Legion, Italians, The Jamaican Defence Force and the Polish and Irish Army. I managed to gain and exchange different flashes and military insignia from different arms, services and armies, many of which I did not know existed.

The trip was a great eye opener and extremely beneficial to both Pte Hughes and myself. I would also commend the pilgrimage to anyone, regardless of faith. It was one of the most memorable trips of my life and an excellent opportunity to reflect on friends, family, and loved ones. And furthermore, the PDF Compressor Free Version good friends were made along the way.

LIFE ON OPERATION TOSCA

Corporal A Woolley AGC (SPS)



Corporal A Woolley AGC (SPS) and AGC Detachment

27 Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps are currently involved in a number of operations, including the deployment of 7 Squadron on Operation Herrick in support of the Operational Mentoring Liaison Team, the continued roulement of 19 Tank Transporter Squadron also on Operation Herrick and the remainder of the Regiment consecutively deployed to Cyprus on Operation Tosca.

The deployment to Cyprus provided very different experiences for the SPS Detachment including a detached element supporting the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) in Nicosia at the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA). A balance of effort was required with the majority of the detachment working at the Regimental Admin Office in Wolseley Barracks, Nicosia.

All members of the detachment were able to take part in the adventure training programme which rounded off an excellent deployment. This was an action packed week of activities based in Dhekelia. We took part in rock climbing, kayaking, high level water entry (basically, jumping off various 10 metre high cliffs into the sea below), mountain biking, diving, horse riding and gliding. Cyprus is a lovely country and thankfully the weather was good for all activities during the week.

Some of the more adventurous members such as Lieutenant Maria Beaney (Detachment Commander), Lance Corporal Bicknell and Lance Corporal Coggle took part in parachuting. A more experienced skydiver, Lance Corporal Coggle is currently part of the AGC Parachuting team, so encouraged them to jump and took them under her wing. A tandem skydive was the thrill of

the day, as those crazy enough threw themselves out of a plane and raised money for Help for Heroes.

There were plenty of outings, functions and even some competitions within the Regiment. There was even a chance to compete in the Military Skills competition with and against our multinational counterparts. During the training and the lead-up to the competition, all sectors were competing with each other, as well as training extremely hard.

The day consisted of a very early start, where I took part in the setup of the area as well as keeping the scores on every event. There were plenty of tasks and after a very tiring day the Mobile Force Reserve were announced winners of the competition. An after party was held where all sectors enjoyed a much needed curry and a few refreshments to soothe the aching limbs and blisters.

GI JANE EXPERIENCE

United States Marine Corps - Female Engagement Team Course

Lance Corporal J Garraway AGC (SPS)



Lance Corporal Garraway AGC (SPS) enjoying a well earned rest

I deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 12 with the 1st Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland as a Combat HR Specialist administering over 100 people. In addition, I was employed as part of a two woman Female Engagement Team (FET) in an infantry ground holding company.

Before deploying on operations I completed many courses and briefings, and since arriving in Afghanistan I have completed the FET course with the United States

Marine Corps (USMC). It was a nine day all female course in Camp Leatherneck, near Camp Bastion. My Colleague, Lance Corporal Nicola Murray RAMC and I were fully imbedded with the female marines during the course, working, living and eating with them throughout. We were the first British military female to attend the course.

A FET is a team of women who normally work in pairs within an infantry company patrolling alongside infantry soldiers to interact with Afghan women directly. This gains the trust and support of the local people. The FETs interact with the female population on a daily basis as women are not allowed to be spoken to by a male outside their family. This is due to cultural and religious differences, so male soldiers are unable to access this important segment of the population. These barriers make it hard to build a relationship with the local nationals as 51% of the Afghanistan population is female. An Afghan woman has significant influence on their families and communities, and their influence is often reflected in the behavior of their children and husbands. The ability for me to engage, influence and collect information from the Afghanistan females is critical to my company and other groups that are in the area.

During the course we learnt many skills such as patrolling, radio procedure, medical training and self defence. Weapon training and ranges were also included in the syllabus as well as PT which included runs, circuits, flipping tractor tyres and a hike, essentially a fast walk, for three miles carrying a full combat load weighing around 55 kg (I only weigh 67kg). I found the PT fairly easy as I'm used to doing arduous PT working with an infantry battalion in a company of 116 guys. Doing PT with a group of females made a great change as Nicola Murray and I are the only females in the company. We worked with female linguists, a part of the course which I found the most interesting and rewarding as most women from Afghanistan have lived through many wars and their experiences were amazing and very motivating. I felt that they truly want to make their country a better place. This also gave members of the course a huge boost and made us think that we can do something to make a difference.

I am looking forward to going on patrols and utilising the skills I've gained during the USMC FET Course. I think this will be a great opportunity to make difference.

IRON POPPY CHALLENGE TRIATHLON WITH A DIFFERENCE

Major Pip Tattersall AGC(ETS)

It was definitely after a couple of glasses of wine late March that I somehow agreed to get involved with a triathlon of a different type. My friend Major Carolyn Young of the Royal Artillery had been avidly reading out an article where a civilian had completed the Lake District Coast to Coast (C2C). A broad outline of the challenge was that we would complete the C2C as a triathlon. The rough distances meant we would be completing more than an Iron Man 'Iron' with a 30 mile run, 5 mile swim and a 120 mile road cycle. The charity we chose was the Royal British Legion 'Poppy'.



The team looking relaxed

Firstly, there was the slight issue of not owning a road bike. I delayed as much as possible but by May I was dragged to a number of cycle shops and guided through the process of purchasing a road bike. The training continued and we managed to get another two girls to sign up to the challenge. As training was going well, all the spanners started being thrown in and training halted. With postings and other personal issues cropping up everywhere for the team it looked as though we may have to postpone the challenge to the following year. Another meeting and another couple glasses of wine we decided to keep going. After all, if we delayed there would surely be issues next time round as well.

On August bank Holiday Monday we met at the Youth hostel 15 minutes from Ravensglass. We had checked out the start point in daylight and then proceeded to sort equipment, eat pasta, brief the support crew, eat pasta, pack day sacks and generally eat more pasta. At 5am we set off on the run, jog, shuffle phase of the triathlon. Initially there were limited paths and navigation was quite challenging, so the pace was slower than anticipated; however, it was not raining. We completed the first phase with relative ease and reached Lake Coniston in 7 hours for a well deserved ice cream. The other girls then prepared for the swim. I still had wires protruding from my hand from a recent operation and was unable to enter the water. Instead I drove the equipment van down to the exit point and eagerly waited for the girls to complete the swim, and waited, and waited. Four hours later and the girls crawled out of the lake.

Once everyone was refuelled, warm and kitted up we set off on the third and final phase of the triathlon, the 120 mile cycle. We set off at 7pm in good spirits. By 2.30am after several severe hill climbs, all our bike lights ceasing

to work and a navigational error which saw us down some very small country lanes we decided an enforced rest was required.

Having refuelled and rested and brushed our teeth (always does what we need) we set off at 5am. The first couple of hours were painful, but the sun soon came up and the peanut butter sandwiches kicked in. We reached Northallerton and I remember thinking that this would be the point where finishing seemed achievable. It was 1pm and we had roughly 80 miles to go. Some steep hills stood between us and the finish, but as we climbed the last one in the distance we could see Whitby Abbey. At 5pm we rolled into Whitby and our finish point on the pier. The standard photos were taken and we then headed back to the vehicles to sort ourselves out. Again in true military fashion most of us were expected back in work the following morning. Luckily there was time for the pre planned fish and chip supper. In total we took 36 hours and raised over £1,500 for the Royal British Legion.



120 miles completed!

MY FIRST SPS DETACHMENT Private R Dorrian AGC (SPS)

I am serving with The Queen's Royal Hussars (QRH). I first arrived at the regiment which is located near Sennelager in April 2010. I was nervous as I didn't know what to expect as it's a whole new environment, new people and a different language, and for someone who has never lived away from home it was quite daunting.

My first impression of the regiment was a bit tentative. I found it hard to settle in within an all male environment at first. The detachment I have joined is active and social so I soon found myself rock climbing and being asked if I wanted to attend parachuting courses. I took the opportunity to enter the Guttersloh half marathon later on this year but to pass the time I took part in the British Army (Germany) Swimming championships.

The first day in the office was full of mixed emotions, I was nervous, excited, happy, but most of the time I was confused. I was appointed as the Command Clerk and was based in Regimental Headquarters. I didn't feel experienced enough and thought my superiors would expect too much of me. However, I soon realised this wasn't the case, the Systems Coordinator, Sergeant Lisa

Wainwright explained that she would be monitoring me and I would be mentored by the other more senior members. The learning curve has been almost vertical; I completed my class two workbook in two weeks which was a challenge, but I enjoyed learning the details of my trade.



Private Dorrian AGC (SPS)

Recently I have moved to A squadron. I still feel there is a lot for me to learn, but having only been here for a short time I am just getting in the swing of things and understanding how an SPS detachment works. I am enjoying my time here as things continue to get better. I feel settled in my new environment and am beginning to make some really close friends. Joining the SPS was the right move for me.

My life ambition is to progress up to Olympic standard at Judo and the first step on that ladder was winning a Gold medal at the Army British Judo Championships in Aldershot where I fought in the Open category against a competitor much heavier than myself. I aspire to join the Great Britain team and compete in the Olympic Games in 2016.



A view of the tank park otherwise known as "Home"

On the immediate horizon, the regiment will be deploying to BATUS in Canada on Exercise Prairie Thunder. I have never been to Canada, but this trip will be particularly memorable because I will be involved in a full scale armoured exercise.

Branch News

ABERDEEN BRANCH

PDF Compressor Free Version

Hello again – The Branch is soldiering on though we are suffering a little from what one of the ladies call “The creaking gate” syndrome.

We held a poetry morning in August and in November we had songs that evoke memories. That was a hoot. Betty Fleming recalled singing “I’m a Little Teapot” when she was small. She was word perfect still. Mary McLeod sang “Don’t Fence Me In” – with words that her group made up in about 1940. She and Jess Gellatly even managed “Lily Marlene” in German! But pride of place has to go to Pat Valentine who had an entertainment group at one time and regaled us with a couple of verses of “Nobody Loves a Fairy when She’s Old” and a risqué ditty about Bill Cocain and Sue Morphine!! What did you all get up to? We also spoke about songs we wanted at our funerals – Sandra Lemmon wants “I’m Nae Awa Lae Bide Awa” and her pal Irene Thomson wants “Wake Me Up Before You Go Go”. We may creak but there is nothing wrong with our sense of humour.

Sandra Lemmon and I (Joan Bartlett) attended the Scottish AGM in Perth in October. It was a thoroughly nice day. Good food, good company and 5 raffle prizes to go North. It was also nice to see Jane Freebairn again. I hope she enjoys her retirement.

I asked at the meeting if the *Lioness* editors had thought of putting out the superb cartoon cover as a calendar. If they do I will have 6, plus how about 2 more ideas. I submit – BLADDER WRAC and in a nod to Rev Sue Wing HOLYWRACETTE.

Regards to you all.

BAND BRANCH

Well by now you will be recovering from Christmas, and the very severe weather – I do hope you did not struggle too much.

Those of you who knew my late husband “little Dai” will be as pleased as I am to announce our son Bryan delivered his baby girl safely on 29 October 2010 – now he is being teased as a midwife!

I am sorry that London had to be cancelled but as finances are difficult for many it was the kindest thing to do. I may well have informed you by now of the possible visit to York, maybe much more appealing for most. I was very fortunate to go to a concert played by the Royal Marines (Plymouth) Band. Excellent as usual and a few comedy bits as well made me feel very nostalgic for our Band Concerts.

I have been advertising us in different venues, so I do hope we will have a few more members soon. Please get your standing orders in soon, if not yet done.

May I wish you all a Very Good New Year and the best of health you can enjoy.

BATH BRANCH

Attendance at our twice monthly meetings has reduced slightly in the last few months, we now average 12 to 14. Three regular members have died in the last five months who were all regular at attending meetings; Joan Ferguson née Jackson, who was for many years Secretary of the Branch and had been a member since 1948; Peggy Saman née Hemsley had served on our committee for many years, and Lilian Lewis née Sartain who had been our Vice Chairman for a long period. We miss these members very much as they all played a large part in our Branch activities.

In spite of the Artic conditions, even in Bath, we have managed to keep meetings going albeit with only 6 able to make our last meeting! We are almost all ex ATS so it says a lot for our stamina. We have a full programme for 2011 but have cut down on having speakers so save on the Branch’s finances. Like all charities these days we have to watch our pennies and think of new ways to raise funds.

We would like to express our thanks to all who have helped out at Headquarters since Denise’s accident and the departure of Major Freebairn. We send our best wishes for 2011 to all and hope that those Branches in the north of the country do not suffer too much from the climatic conditions.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

There have been a few changes at Birmingham Branch over the last few months. Not only have we established ourselves in our new meeting place at the Britannia Hotel on New Street but there have been personnel changes to the Committee. Margaret Walkeden stood down from being Secretary and Mary Gunning from Treasurer. We are grateful for their efforts on our behalf. Our Chairman, Chris Fretwell, has now taken on the Treasurer role and been replaced in the Chair by Marcelle Stephenson. The spare job of Secretary has fallen to Babs Blay.

Since our last missive there have been a few events taking place, starting with Armed Forces Day on 26 June 2010. Several of us manned a stall outside Birmingham Council House and chatted about the ATS and WRAC to anyone crazy enough to wander nearby. Three of us were pleased to join the end of day parade. It was comical to hear a little girl shout to her mother “ooh look Mom! Girl Soldiers”. It makes you taller by a good 2 inches.

One of the Birmingham schools, Swanshurst Girls School, invites us to all their events about war years and the roles people played. A little gang of us go as often as we can manage. They treat us like royalty and we behave

like young schoolgirls. It is a joy to talk to the girls and pass on stories of our experiences.

We have been lucky enough to be invited to Tamworth on a few occasions to play skittles. We have had some success once ~~PDF Compressor Free Version~~ the winner's trophy. Maureen Deeley and Marcelle Stephenson have been recent winners. We failed to make an impression at the September contest but watch out Tamworth – we are in training.

Birmingham Branch have gained quite a few new members over recent months. We hope to see them all at our meetings when they are available, considering some of them are still in work. We are looking at the possibility of holding a meeting in the evening occasionally to accommodate our working ladies. It is a work in progress, so watch this space.

After many years of sterling work, Sue Dolphin has been forced to cease being our Branch Standard Bearer due to an injured shoulder. We are grateful for the time and miles she put in to parade our Standard in often inclement weather. We have been fortunate in having a willing replacement in Mary Wright. She has already proudly paraded at Birmingham International Military Tattoo and did a fine job. Several of us went along to support Mary in this big event. In the meantime Maureen Deeley's health has prevented her from parading the National Standard for many months. She has every intention of receiving a full bill of health soon and resuming this prestigious role. Obviously, we wish her well in that ambition.

Maureen Deeley and Kath Adams have continued in their fund raising efforts for Troop Aid. We are very proud of their achievements and we know that the funds are gratefully received by the injured troops here in Birmingham at the new, state of the art, Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Recently we held our Christmas lunch at the Britannia Hotel and had a lovely time. If the weather had been kinder there would have been nearly 30 people but it was too treacherous for some folk to venture out. We looked gorgeous in our little paper hats and laughed at the jokes in the crackers despite the fact that they didn't snap properly.

Our monthly meetings are held at 12.30 pm, on the first Wednesday of each month, at the Britannia Hotel on New Street, opposite the Odeon Cinema. It is a short walk from New Street Railway Station if any of you feel like joining us sometimes. Each month we partake of a wonderful two course cooked lunch for the reasonable price of £5.50. In March we are to receive guests in the form of Army recruiters. They will be telling us how life is nowadays for our ladies and gents in uniform. It promises to be an interesting presentation.

Unfortunately we still have a few members confined to barracks due to ill health. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them soon.

Be good everyone, but not too good!

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

The Bournemouth Branch started the second half of the year with a coach trip along the coast and into the New Forest for a delicious cream tea at Holmesley Railway Station. The railway was closed a long time ago but the station is now well known as a popular cream tea location.

Bournemouth town recognised Armed Forces Week in June, starting with the Flag Raising Ceremony on the Monday at the Town Hall. Margaret Drew represented our Branch.



*Flag Raising Ceremony
L to R: Margaret Drew, Cllr Barry Goldbart (Mayor),
Mrs Vivienne Goldbart*

Our thoughts are with Margaret Drew, née Kirkland, whose husband, Leonard, passed away on 16th November after a fairly short illness. Margaret was in the Pay Corps stationed in Bournemouth from 1946-48, at the Suncliffe Hotel before being moved to Kidderminster. Margaret met Leonard when the Suffolk Regiment returned home from Jamaica.

On Sunday 25th July 2010, the RIFLES were given the Freedom of Bournemouth and a number of our members were able to attend the ceremony at the Pier Approach in the presence of the Duke of Gloucester, prior to the RIFLES marching through the town. In September 2010 a recent record number of 23 members attended the monthly meeting where plans for 2011 were discussed before the our summer Bring and Buy sale. The latter raised over £43.00 towards the costs of our meetings. We were helped by Kathleen Brownbill, our own auctioneer, who encouraged a few further purchases when sales slowed down. In October Jillian Hurst, our Social Secretary, gave an account of her recent experiences on visiting war graves at Fromelles in France. Members found this a most interesting meeting.

November brought our AGM when our Chairman, Betty Tucker, felt it was time for her to retire and Margaret Drew was appointed in her place. Members had been generous this year with donations to the Branch which will enable us to carry on with our meetings at the Premier Inn. On Remembrance Sunday Carol Stephenson again represented the Branch laying our wreath at the Remembrance Service in Broadstone.

We wish a Happy New Year to all Association members everywhere.

BRISTOL BRANCH

Bristol has once again been busy, starting with the events leading up to Armed Forces Day. Our ladies were invited to the Flag Raising on the Monday, it was a very hot day. On the Tuesday the parade took place. The ladies were placed in front of the men, who were telling us that they would be on our heels. It was the opposite, as we were told by the Parade Marshall to 'slow down' so the men could catch up. We had a very good day, lots of interest in our stand and the weather was very kind to us. We also represented the Branch on the Sunday at another event.

In September I took two of our members to be filmed by local ITV news programme. It was to be filmed at night, and along with members from a local re-enactment group we met in a field. One of our members was filmed with the Ack Ack gun, and the other with the Searchlight. It took about 4 hours but fortunately it was quite a mild night, with a very starry sky, it was quite pleasant. Two more of our members were filmed at our meeting place and they were filmed talking about the bombing in Bristol. When it was shown on the local news it was very good, they did give us a copy of the broadcast. For those ATS members, Beryl Furey-King has a very good website www.ATSRemembered.org.uk check it out you may find a colleague.

In July two of us were invited courtesy of The Not Forgotten Association to go to Highgrove. We had a really nice day, the tour was very good, the gardens and layout give you loads of ideas of where to place your plants in your own garden. We bought some goodies in the shop, if you have a sweet tooth I can recommend the Fudge it is very Moorish. Afterwards we were taken for a superb lunch. We would like to go again, it is so interesting.

In September we took advantage of our bus pass and 22 of us met for a fish and chip lunch. Very enjoyable, and we will certainly do this again.

October was our AGM we have a new Chairman, Stella Fogg. Stella has been our Vice Chairman for the past ten years, and is looking forward to representing the Branch. All the rest of the Committee stood for re-election and were voted in.

We are so lucky that we get such good support for our Committee from our members.

October also saw our Annual trip to Salisbury/Wilton. Our Chairman and myself attended the Area Meeting at Wilton, where once again Joan Ford did a superb lunch. I always enjoy this meeting, as we are meeting secretaries from the area and it is interesting to hear their reports, and be amazed at the interesting activities other Branches do.

In November, we had representation once again at Festival of Remembrance in Bristol, and again at the Cenotaph Parade. We were fortunate that we did not get wet.

December was our Bring and Buy with lots of bargains, our food was organised by our Chairman which was very nice and time went by so quickly but it was a most enjoyable meeting. It was decided that items left from the

Bring and Buy would be taken to a charity shop for the homeless.

Christmas is almost here, and whilst we did not expect too much snow, it does make getting about difficult, however on the plus side it makes the trees and the gardens look special.

Our Best Wishes for the coming year.

BURY BRANCH

The Bury Branch is going from strength and has had a few changes over the last few months.

After many years of service to the Branch Mary Gregory ATS Cpl Pay Corps, who was with Manchester and Stockport Branch from 1981 to 1986 and Bury from 1993, and Lily Cropper ATS Cpl Gun sights also with Bury from 1996 have decided to step down as Secretary and Treasurer. We would like to thank them both for the many years of loyal service they have given to the Branch; they will both be remaining with the Branch hopefully for many years to come.



The Handover

L to R: Pat Oldham, Mary Gregory, Yvonne Dunbar, Lily Cropper

We would like to thank Joyce Lunn and her husband for the help they have given keeping the *Lioness* up to date with our activities.

The Branch had a lovely afternoon tea at the Midland Hotel in Manchester on 13 April – the ladies of the Rochdale Branch also attended this event with us. Several members of the Branch attended the North West area meeting in Liverpool on 7th August – a pleasant time was had by all.

The tea party given by Carrolle Montessori Gorman was very entertaining and the journey to and from Wrexham gave us all time to have a good chat. There are numerous events booked for the months ahead but that is another story. Bye till next time.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

Our Summer Tea Party was held in July with members of both Worthing and Medway Branches to swell the

numbers; a great success. As we no longer hold a meeting in August our next get together was September when we combined collecting our subs with a social meeting. During our AGM in October, Susan Wing was voted in as our new Vice Chairman and Kate McGregor thanked members for their commitment to keep the Branch running smoothly. In November Liz Cork from the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary updated us on the work on this very worthwhile charity, which looks after the welfare of donkeys all over the world.

Sadly this year dealt a heavy blow when we reluctantly had to cancel our Christmas meal on the 1st December as East Kent was blanketed in snow. Our friends from the Medway Branch were unable to travel to Canterbury and it soon became apparent as the snow moved across Kent, that for the sake of the safety of our members our annual festive meal was, for the first time ever, to fall victim to Mother Nature. However, despite this setback, our meetings will continue next year usually at 1.00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Dominican Priory in the centre of Canterbury.

CHELMSFORD BRANCH

In Memorium

It is with sadness we record the death of Joyce Wright our Vice Chairman.

Our meetings have continued through 2010 with an event in July when we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the re-formation of the Branch. We held a luncheon in Chelmsford to which 3 other Branches were invited and were delighted to have members from Norwich and Cambridge together with our Area Chairman Patricia Stevenson as our guests. This event became a Group Re-union and was a great success that we hope it will be possible to repeat someday as we all enjoyed each other's company. A large raffle with almost everyone winning a prize added to the fun and we would like to thank all those who made the considerable journey to be with us on our special day.

September saw us meeting as usual on the third Tuesday of the month at the RAFA Club in Chelmsford. We had an afternoon of "A chat and a cup of tea".



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the re-formation of the Branch

October - This meeting was cancelled due to the Hon Sec having to report to the local hospital (first one missed for 20 years!) but now she has a new shoulder - let's hope she does not make any more spelling mistakes on the computer!

November - We all enjoyed this meeting. A lovely lady - Shirley Perkins - who is a floral demonstrator made 4 Christmas arrangements which we were able to raffle and we were impressed by her skills and the ability she had for creating exhibits which were small and easily handled.

December - Our Christmas Lunch was held on 7 December at the Miami Hotel and was once again one of the highlights of our year. We enjoy each other's company with good food (and wine) and look forward to meeting again on 15 February.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to the AGM. Our thanks go to the staff at Worthy Down as they cope with being "under new management".

CLEVELAND BRANCH Armed Forces Day

Thursday 24th June promised to be a lovely sunny day and by 0715 hours our Branch Standard Bearer Ann Mahony, her husband Roy, and our newest member Gemma Moore who is still serving travelled in convoy to the centre of Stockton, where we prepared a WRAC Association stand which was all flagged up and decorated by 0800 hours ready for the festivities to begin. There were many veterans' stands and we chatted to the ladies from SSAFA and chaps from the RAF.



Armed Forces Day

The Yorkshire Regiment were been given the freedom of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees with a church service and of course a parade. The Cleveland Branch Standard was paraded just one of many to line the entrance to the Parish Church.

After the Church Service we had only a few minutes for a well deserved coffee break before folks started arriving in town asking lots of questions about our posters and photographs and of course the *Lioness* magazines strewn across the tables. We were well supported by members of our Branch with eleven members on duty ready with applications in hand for any likely candidates. Our Secretary Gwyn Friday was armed with flags for the children to wave during the Parade. All the on-duty staff were invited to the Town Hall for lunch which was delicious. Before the Parade started we managed to get some of our less able ladies seat in the VIP area so they had a good view of the proceedings. Us lesser mortals cheered and waved when the parade marched smartly

passed, I defy anyone not to get a lump in their throat when the band strikes up.



A good day had by all

Well done to all who made the day a success.

In July 7 members of our branch were invited by the Not Forgotten Association to the Royal Garden Party in Buckingham Palace Gardens. To begin our adventure we met at Darlington Station for our train journey to London. We all stayed at the Victory Services Club for two nights. On our first morning we were all awake early and full of excitement as Ann Mahony our Standard Bearer had arranged with her local MP for us to visit to the House of Commons where we had coffee and a brief history of the building. We watched the Speakers procession in to the Chamber, when a cry went out "Hats off Strangers" it was like watching a bit of history taking place. We had a

few moments on the terrace in the lovely sunshine and then it was time for us to get ready for the Palace. It was fabulous, I am still on a high, the portraits of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and some of their young family had me spellbound, I just wanted to freeze time and soak up the atmosphere. In the conservatory the comfortable chairs waiting for us and cold lemon and barley water to cool us down. A military band played in the background whilst Cleveland branch "people watched". The buffet consisted of delicate sandwiches and cakes and of course a cup of tea. We wandered for a while and spotted Jimmy Perry, he of Dad's Army, It Aint 'alf Hot Mum and Hi de Hi fame, he was a lovely gentleman who happily posed for photographs with us.



House of Commons



Enjoying the day



Branch Standard Bearer, Ann Mahony

Alas, it was soon time to leave, but we had a wonderful time. On our return to the VSC we quickly changed as we had dinner booked at an Italian restaurant and seats booked to see "Blood Brothers". Well when you get the chance to go to London you have to make the most of your time there.

Thank you to Association Headquarters and thank you to the Not Forgotten Association.



A lovely day out



Jimmy Perry and friends

In the month of August we usually have an outing or do something interesting instead of having a meeting. This time some of our ladies took a cruise up the River Tees between Yarm and Stockton. Now that there are fewer steel and chemical works the river is quite a pleasant place to be. Lots of water sports take place and plenty of other activities. We had a lovely sunny day and the trip took about 3 hours. A good time was had by all.

CREWE BRANCH

Member's Holiday

One of our members holidayed in Australia this Autumn, visiting the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Fraser Island in Queensland. A cuddle was had with one of the country's iconic Koala bears at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. A scrub turkey's zoo enclosure bore the intriguing legend "Sorry for the mess (a 2ft high pile of dried leaves) but I'm building this nest to impress the sheilas" ie potential mates! A soothing paddle in the fresh

water Lake Mackenzie on Fraser Island was much appreciated especially as there was no fear of sharks interrupting these idyllic moments.

The Melbourne Cup classic horse race was run during the visit but sadly no dust flutter on it yielded no profit. The equine theme continued at an 'Australian Outback Spectacular' show featuring the historical exploits of the Australian Light Horse Infantry. It was sobering to learn that their mounts were but 15 to 16 hands high only giving testimony to the horse and riders' supreme bravery in battle.

2010 Branch Excursions

In June, to mark Crewe Branch's 25th Anniversary, members celebrated by visiting the War Museum in Manchester.



*Waiting for the train at Crewe Station
L to R: Edith Francis, Joan Berry, Millie Pover*

The Branch was later represented at the Western Area Reunion held in October at Shrewsbury where scores of treasured memories were recounted.

Notwithstanding the welcome sunshine to be had 'Down Under' the Branch members who attended the Arboretum National Memorial in June enjoyed their day in the sun too. Thanks were due to the local branch of the Royal British Legion for organising the inspirational outing.



*Enjoying the sun
L to R: Joan Berry, Sheila Johnson, Edith Francis*

As 2010 draws to a close, the date for our Christmas lunch has been set for 17 December.

Best wishes for 2011.

DUMFRIES BRANCH

We are very sorry to report that this Branch has lost 2 dear long serving members, Lillian Hodgson BEM and Ruby Gray, and we miss them greatly.

After the dreadful winter we all had, we enjoyed a meeting at Hetland Hall Hotel for an excellent lunch to cheer us. Then in May we had a splendid afternoon tea at the National Trust Gardens at Threave. Ruby came for her last meeting with us and so enjoyed herself looking round and choosing presents for her carers.

In October members and friends met at Dalbeattie Church Hall for a most delicious tea preceded by a Bring and Buy sale. Two Life members attended for the first time – we hope not their last! Congratulations to our Sue Marcroft on receiving her very well deserved Certificate of Appreciation.

We send our Good Wishes to all members of the Association.

FIFE & TAYSIDE BRANCH

Our Branch continues to survive although we have had to change our meeting place. We now meet at No 24 George Street, right next door to our old venue and we are able to have a room to ourselves. The food is good and variable and prospects look good for this to become our permanent home. Our numbers are 24 annual members and 38 life members. Some of our members have moved to new homes over the past year but the majority still manage to attend the occasional meeting.

On 10th August 2010, six ladies attended a most enjoyable lunch and afternoon organised by the Not Forgotten Association at the Marriott Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, near Kirknewton, Edinburgh. Helen Youngston picked up Joan Smith in Dundee, then detoured to Crieff to pick up Audrey Henderson, Zena Howard and Sheena Muir. Florence Green valiantly made her own way from Fife via train, bus and foot. The lovely hotel is set amid beautiful grounds near the prestigious golf course. The staff were most welcoming and offered a choice of pre-lunch drinks of soft drinks and wine. The majority of the attendees were male members of the Services, intent on letting their hair down. An excellent lunch, served by first class waitresses and waiters, was followed by tea or coffee. Afterwards two ladies and a gentleman on the piano provided a musical programme of songs ranging from Judy Garland to Will Fyffe. The concert finished with Auld Lang Syne. The Fife and Tayside Six were unanimous that they had a most entertaining and enjoyable day, very well arranged by the event organiser, Rose Thompson. The rest of the year has been very quiet and now we have reached the end of 2010 and look forward to 2011. We have nothing planned as yet.

We had our usual two AGMs, the Branch one in April and the Scottish one on 16th October which was attended by 50 members. Major Jane Freebairn was an honoured guest and Col Janet Lawson was also able to join us from the Glasgow Branch. Lily Bell won the competition for making a greetings card with the help of the children of Major Jane Freebairn. So what, I hear you say. Well, many moons ago, Lily was Officer Cadet Jane Freebairn's Sergeant Major in Tayforth University's Officer Cadet Corps. Indeed, what goes around comes around!



Presentation of shield to Lily Bell by Jane Freebairn

HARROGATE BRANCH

Monthly meetings are opened with the Collect Prayer being read by one of our tea ladies of the day. Our own member kept us all in hysterics for our June meeting with her readings. Many thanks to Elizabeth. We have a new Life Member (Marion Bumby) who joined us at our June meeting. Cheers to Marion.

July was Party Day – 7 very fit and healthy ladies with a 90th birthday in 2010. Tea and wine was freely flowing – food home grown, home cooked, home based and was enjoyed by all. (I beg to differ – salmon and prawns had to be bought). Margaret Potter cut the cake as it was her birthday on the day. Cameras were clicking which meant our next meeting was spent talking and looking at our party photos.

AGM September – A cold afternoon but a really good and beneficial turn out. We voted en masse for Chairman and Secretary to continue for another 12 months.

Our support for the local girls who did a Trek on the Great Wall of China Team of 34) raised £61,000. This sum goes towards the Yorkshire Cancer Centre. We are looking forward to an afternoon from them at one of our 2011 meetings. An entertaining afternoon was had from another friend – Eric Nunn, the flower arranger of Newby Hall from when Christopher Wren was the Architect 1689 to the present day marriages plus name changes of convenience over the decades to the present day.

14 November – Secretary and Comrades in Arms are left to defend the drawbridge as our Chairman disappears down the long and winding road – London beckons.



A year with the Branch

HEREFORD BRANCH

The second half of 2010 saw Hereford Branch "busy as usual". In July three branch members were given British Legion Poppy Merit awards by Lady Darnley the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford. To get the TA centenary Rosemary Jones received 45 years, Mary and Joyce Nicholls received 25 years each. Well done you three no doubt you will be busy later in the year.



*Presentation of Poppy Merit Awards
Major Andrea Maclean with from L to R: Rosemary Jones, Joyce Nicholls, Mary Nicholls*

August saw our annual summer picnic at Queens Wood near Leominster, this is our fifth year and the worst weather so far (you can't win them all). It was a little wet and windy but we found a sheltered spot and we all had a good chat and enjoyed the food. This is when our "Summer Raffle" is drawn the prizes went out about to quite a few members who can't make the event but always support us. A few hardy ones of us did walk around the woods with our four legged friends who are always invited.

The coffee morning in September held by our Ross on Wye Ladies was a great success and the money raised was used by seven branch members to visit the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. The two ladies in the



Visit to the National Memorial Arboretum

wheelchairs had their own chauffeurs' that day a big thank you to Jan (Evelyn Radford's husband and Ian the mini bus driver). The ladies were glad they went as they found the Arboretum very moving in places especially the New National Memorial and the 11am service, they are still talking about it at branch meetings.

October saw our President Ena Price celebrate her 95th birthday.



*Celebrations all round
L to R: Rosemary Jones, Ena Price, Mary Nicholls, Joyce Nicholls*

Thanks to Rosemary who very kindly baked two birthday cakes, one for Ena and her friends at the Rest Home and one for the branch ladies as our meeting was the next evening and very nice it was too.

This month also saw Wales and West Area Reunion at Shrewsbury. At the event our secretary Evelyn Radford was given her Certificate of Appreciation for 10 years service as branch secretary as she was standing down from the post.



Presentation of the Certificate of Appreciation to Evelyn Radford by Maggie Purkis (Wales and West Area President)

At our AGM the following week Sharon Joyce was elected the new branch secretary and this is my first branch report. In November as the branch's standard bearer I was busy with Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday Parades.

Our next event is our Christmas Lunch in January 2011 at the Axe and Clever where Andy the landlord and his staff look after us all very well. We shall be 30 plus this year up on last year. The word must be out about how "good" a time we have. Let's hope the weather is kinder this year as we did not get it back last week because of the ice and snow.

LEEDS BRANCH

We had a truly memorable day at The Arboretum, the weather was kind and the less mobile found plenty of transport to get them around. We were all impressed by how quickly the number of plots have increased making this a haven of peace.

Nine members were able to join the Secretary at her Birthday Lunch – a pity the sun did not shine. Many of us were able to travel to Wetherby for a Pensioner Lunch in August. Eight members attended the Northern Area Re-union and Lunch in Lincoln in September. Discussions are in progress as to what form this will take next year.

We had our AGM in October, a full attendance of members who stated their willingness to carry on for another year at least. All members are hard workers and help with all that we do which makes life so much more of a combined effort. The Committee say thank you very much. We shall all be busy with the Poppy Appeal in November and our Christmas Lunch has already been booked for December. Our main problem will now centre on the weather – if it is as bad as the last one we may not be able to meet again until March.

We shall be opening our *Lioness* eagerly scanning the pages for news of the Grand Re-union. See you all there.

LEICS AND NOTTS BRANCH

Our Branch numbers have increased by 5 ladies over the past few months, at the rate we will be needing a larger room! No complaints as we must be doing something right.

June – we filled 20 boxes for our troops, which were delivered to our local collections centre by Jessie Fairbrother who had to climb about 3 flights of stairs, which was no mean feat as she had to do it all herself. Well done Jesse, many thanks.

Also this month 9 ladies paraded with the Normandy Veterans Association, 4 ladies attended the Lord Mayor's annual civic service at the town hall, 9 ladies were at County Hall for the flag raising ceremony which was for the launch of Armed Forces week. Later that week we attended a service at the Leicester Cathedral, followed by a march through the city centre which we all felt very proud to be part of.

Our annual coach outing to Trentham Gardens this month proved to be very successful albeit a very hot day. The gardens were lovely as were the numerous walks, especially around the lake and judging by the bulging

bags the ladies enjoyed the various shops. We were joined by Jenny Hearsey, one of our members who lives in Cheshire, who was accompanied by her husband.

Sadly this was the last day, one of our members Chris Smith would be spending with us as she has now returned to Scotland to be near her family. We miss you but at least we are able to keep in touch by phone or e-mail.

July. Things quietened down a little this month and at our meeting the quiz raised a few laughs and taxed the old grey matter somewhat!

August. Cakes and catch up was on the agenda for this month which gave us time to discuss arrangements for our yearly visit to the sailing club and the progress we had made towards our new standard dedication service, which is to take place in October.

Our numbers in attendance at the sailing club exceeded 50. Our guests included Lt Col Sue Westlake, Maggie Purkis and Irene Hall. As always it was a great day, despite the rain showers, the food was good, our members and guests enjoyed chatting to all their friends, who they possibly see only once a year. Some members ventured out onto the lake in-between showers. A big thank you to everyone involved who helped to make this a memorable day.

September. Our Harvest Festival raised £73.00 – thank you to all who made contributions. This month 10 ladies including the standard paraded at Somerby with the Parachute Association and 4 ladies attended the Battle of Britain parade at Victoria Park followed by a service at St James The Greater Church. October was our AGM, followed by our final arrangements for the

16th October. The day began sunny and dry which was encouraging and made us feel that today would be a good day, how could anything go wrong on such a lovely day. The short service for the laying up of our first standard commenced at 1230 and Vi Rawlins, escorted by Lillian Hollis and Ann Atkinson, carried the Standard for the final time to where it was laid up in the Chapel of The Royal British Legion Club, Oadby. Then everyone moved to St Peters Church where the Mayor of Wigston and Oadby and Mrs Griffiths, also the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and Mrs Osborne joined us, also Maggie Purkis and Irene Hall. Fourteen Standards, including one from Birmingham and one from Tamworth Branches also from the Royal British Legion and other Associations, paraded into church followed by our new Branch Standard carried by Lyn Wenham and escorted by Barbara Danter and Joan De-Vall. The Padre Paul Whitehead, the organist and the bugler did us proud and a fitting conclusion to a memorable service was when the Standards marched out of the church to the recessional music of The WRAC Regimental March. Photographs were taken outside the church, then the Standards were paraded in the car park where they formed a Guard of Honour to salute the new Standard, after which we moved into the Royal British Legion Club for a welcome buffet and drinks. Finally a special iced decorated cake with our Association badge, celebrating the dedication, was provided by Lyn. What an amazing

memorable day this turned out to be. Our thanks go out to many people, too numerous to mention in this report, who helped to make this day so very very special and one we will never forget.

PDF Compressor Free Version



A collection of Standards



Assembled group



The splendid cake

On 16th October, 2010 ten ladies attended the Wales and the West reunion at Shrewsbury where we all enjoyed a lovely lunch and shared stories with our area comrades. This was followed in November with our Christmas Fayre together with wine, sherry and mince pies. Monies raised £71.00 for our funds. Also in November 4 of our

members joined Birmingham Branch for a buffet lunch and quiz. Many of our Branch members attended various Remembrance Services/Parades in Nottingham, Leicester and also in Whitehall London.

This year Joan Thornton, May Wadeson and Margery Brutnell all celebrated their 90th birthdays, congratulations to all 3 of you.

This Branch now looks forward to our Christmas lunch on 14 December. May I take this opportunity on behalf of our Branch to wish all our comrades a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

LINCOLN & DISTRICT

The end to the year for the branch and doesn't time fly. In July an intrepid few set out across the fields near Peterborough with Linda Hilton again providing the map reading skills to lead us safely back to the pub for lunch (must get your priorities right!).

We had a very enjoyable talk from Mavis Wilkinson on famous Lincolnshire people who we had to guess by indentifying a prop – an example being a handbag which, of course we all recognised to represent Margaret Thatcher'.

August saw us once again enjoying our annual summer lunch provided by our resident chef, Marion Raithby. September proved to be a busy month with the branch hosting the NE Area Reunion Lunch at the Charlotte House Hotel in Lincoln. Sixty one members from across the region attended at a beautiful venue near Lincoln Cathedral and Castle.



Members of the Branch

Eleven members travelled to visit Tamworth branch for what is now becoming the annual skittles event; but whether we shall be invited again is debateable as the branch were champions again with Marion Raithby taking home the trophy. In September a group of members attended the British Legion 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain which was held in the magnificence of Lincoln Cathedral. October saw thirteen members heading for the Dinner Club Reunion at Solihull. Chris Corker, our erstwhile branch secretary,

was elected to be the Dinner Club Secretary. Chris is the founder member of the Lincoln & District branch and her many talents will be an asset to the club.

On Remembrance Day our standard was paraded on a cold, but thank **PDF Compressor Free Version** Cenotaph service by Nora Jones and Beryl Butcher laid the wreath. Several members also marched at the Remembrance parade in Whitehall. At our November meeting the speaker for the day was Judith Theobald who is a presenter on Lincs Radio. She is a published writer and poetess whose witty style had us all in stitches and many members went off clutching one or more of her books of poetry.



Remembering

With the Christmas season upon us a celebratory lunch was held on Saturday 11th at a local hostelry for those members unable to attend our mid week party on the 14th. As usual the ladies had a thoroughly merry time. This was followed on the 14th by the Branch Christmas party.

At the start of 2010 it was decided to make the *Lioness* our charity for the year and a box was displayed at meetings throughout the year. Members have donated generously on a regular basis: Averill Ward bravely faced the dawn

and the elements to raise money at car boot sales for us. A donation of a delightful rocking horse by the daughter of Doreen Horne proved to be a great attraction. We were all delighted when the treasurer announced that we had made a little over £450 so this amount will be winging its way to Worthy Down.

Nora Jones has a splendid photograph of the line up of standard bearers at the last Grand Reunion in Blackpool. If anyone would like a copy please contact the Lincoln Branch Secretary and she will forward your request to Nora.

LONDON BRANCH

We have just held our 90th AGM which sadly seems likely to be our last. This year members attending meetings have become fewer and fewer as we have all become less mobile. Our Secretary resigned in July and we have continued with meetings already arranged but we had to cancel our accommodation at the Drill Hall of the RIFLES. We hoped we might find somewhere else but so far have been unsuccessful. We plan to keep in touch with informal meetings from time to time and hopefully in the New Year we may start the Branch again. We send our good wishes to all Branches for a successful New Year.

LUTON BRANCH

First of all we hope all our friends and comrades throughout the Association have had an enjoyable festive season. We are threatened with a white Christmas, as I write this – can't say I am looking forward to it – I've outgrown snow!

We had a certain amount of trauma during the past few months. Luton Mens' Working Club, our venue since inception, got into financial difficulties, without letting anyone know, even their landlords at Luton Mall. We arrived for two consecutive meetings and were unable to gain access. C'est la vie, we have now managed to arrange an alternative venue thanks to local Celtic Supporters Club – much nicer surroundings too. Some of our members went to Earls Court recently, to the British Military Tattoo, arranged by the Army Benevolent Fund. Well worth seeing. The actual trip was arranged by our local "partners in crime" the Far East Veterans Association, with whom we have an excellent relationship. The Tattoo was very impressive, and thought provoking. It is hoped that this will become an annual event – Luton Branch would certainly go again.

MEDWAY BRANCH

Our 2010 ended with an enjoyable Christmas lunch at the 'Something Nice' restaurant in the village of Hoo in Kent. Eight members attended, as well as one very welcome carer, Theresa. Nan Ovenden has moved into a residential care home, so it was especially lovely to see her on parade! She was presented with a WRAC fleece jacket by Nellie Dodds, as a special Christmas gift.



Enjoying the Festive Spirit

From; (L to R) Margaret Gallafent, Grace Smith, Dot Stedman, Janet Cameron, Sadie Kemp, Nellie Dodds, Nan Ovenden, Barbara Gallafent



Presentation of WRAC Association fleece to Nan Ovenden by Nellie Dodds

In July, six members attended the Canterbury branch tea party. This was most enjoyable, especially as our invitation to the WREN's Christmas meal was postponed because of the ongoing snow!

In October, two of our members went to the annual dinner and came back telling us that they had a wonderful time. Sounds like great fun, I really hope to get to the next one!

Sadie Kemp visited the Garden of Remembrance and the



Sadie Kemp on Remembrance Day

parade at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. Sadie Kemp and Nellie Dodds were also on parade at Rochester Cathedral, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Medway Branch. It poured hard with rain that day which was dreadful for the parade... so needless to say a hot cuppa afterwards went down well!



The laying of wreaths at Rochester Cathedral

It has been a turbulent year for our few members one way or another. Loss, illness, operations, falls and snow...but we are always there for one another and only a phone call away. All members are thanked for renewing their membership in October, and we are grateful to those who have sent donations to our branch.

New members will always be given a warm welcome!

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE BRANCH

Hello Ladies, In July some of our group went on an outing to Alnwick where we stayed for an hour and then went on to the Fishing Boat Inn at Boulmer for lunch where we were served some wonderful fayre. What a treat. Some lovely photographs were taken at the time. On our way back to Newcastle we stopped off at Morpeth where we had a good look round. The weather was a little hitty missy but brolleys at the ready as always.



The group at Boulmer



Lunch and views of Boulmer – in the rain!

In August, two of our ladies, Joyce Stephenson and Ann Palionis, were picked to go to the military tattoo in Edinburgh, courtesy of the Not Forgotten Association and they had a wonderful time as you will see the photographs elsewhere this edition. We also drew our Summer Draw and made £145.00 for Branch funds. At our November meeting we greeted Sophie Brown from Durham University who wanted to ask the ATS ladies about their military fashion during the war for her dissertation. As you can imagine she was kept busy scribbling away and left with loads of information. We WRAC ladies were very interested and learnt a lot about bloomers for the use of! I think we all spent an amazing afternoon.

Next month we are having a little get together – it's a

case of bring one, eat one free. Once again we are trying to fill our Branch coffers with a little Christmas Draw. Best wishes to all our ladies.

NORFOLK BRANCH

The theme of 2010 has been about having fun and not about boring business meetings! On looking through the diary to review our year, we seem to have had garden parties galore, a trip to the seaside (although it poured down!), a visit to the Essex Branch and would you believe it some new members!

In July our Secretary and all round star, Joan Awbery stood down having held every post available over the years. She has kept everyone entertained with her newsletters and humour and it's going to take me a long time to match her standard! The members clubbed together to buy her a state of the art digital camera – Chairman Linda Graver presented it to Joan on the trip to Southwold.



Linda Graver making the presentation to Joan Awbery

This meant lots of photos of the pavement and beach until she got the hang of it! Although Joan turned 90 in September she is a credit to our Association and, Joan we would like to thank you for all your hard work and we hope you are enjoying sitting at the back of the room whilst the youngsters scurry around after you!!

The two meetings we have had have been well attended by the Norwich contingent, but plans are afoot to lure the 70+ members we currently have that are lurking somewhere in the County. Be warned we are looking for you!! In October we had a very interesting talk by a former member of the WRNS who spoke of her time as a code breaker at Bletchley Park. She appeared to her parents to be swanning around the world doing very little but all the time she had to keep her work a secret! Sometimes I think I joined the wrong Service!!!

It seems a long time since we were sitting in the sunshine in August at Beryl Manthorpe's, who read from her memoirs about her time as a PTL. A collaborations between Beryl and Joan means we are now all able to read Beryl's exploits for a small donation! As I type, the snow is falling hard and December isn't here yet! Hopefully the snow will clear in time for our annual

Christmas buffet – our last get together of 2010. It has been busy year and we now look forward to new adventures, new members, old members rejoining and lots of laughs!



The "Usual Suspects"

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

The second half of 2010 went by so fast!

In June, Plymouth was once again busy with the Armed Forces and Veteran's celebrations which have become a regular feature for us these past 3 years. Our ladies are only directly involved with the Veteran's Weekend and we are getting very adept at setting up our display of ATS/WRAC memorabilia in the Guildhall. We have 2 tables and are situated between the munitions ladies' table and the WRNS' display table. The Guildhall is full of many displays from ex-Service personnel; Service related charities, the Scouts and Guides, Cadets and many more, all of which are very interesting. Quite a few are fund raising and well many badges and useful or decorative gifts for us to buy. On Sunday there is a RAFA service of Thanksgiving and Wreath Laying on the Hoe which is followed by aerial and ground displays by many different Services.



*Armed Forces and Veteran's Week 26th June 2010
L to R: Mary, Eileen, Ruth, Evon*

There was a shortage of attendees for the Sea Sunday Anglican and Catholic Services in July but at least we were represented at both churches by a handful of

blazers. Each followed by lunch either in the City or on the Hoe. Evon's garden party in August raised £160 from her loyal supporters for Cancer Research. Also in August we were asked by the RAF to take our ATS/WRAC display to their fund raising Jamboree in Ernesettle. This we did, with Evon, Jane, Mary, Thelma and I behind the table telling folk all about our role in the Army through several decades.

The Merchant Navy's Atlantic Day parade and the RAFA Battle of Britain Parade in September were both held in St Andrew's church, again our faithful band of blazers were there and acknowledged. It is an easy walk to the Bank restaurant further down the Royal Parade and we are beginning to be recognised and welcomed there.

In October, Jane, Pat and I went to Solihull for the WRAC Dinner Club; another great weekend thanks to those who organise it all; the following weekend Jane and I went to Salisbury for the South and South West Area AGM at the Wilton Bowls Club. We then prepared for our AGM at the end of the month and Jane Evans, ex-WRAC, is our new Chairman, she is taking over from Betty Michell who has held many posts over the past 20 years in Plymouth and previously in Salisbury Branch. Betty recently celebrated her 90th birthday and decided to rest on her laurels and let the 'youngsters' do the work from now on. Unfortunately she fell in the autumn and broke her arm but happily she is healing well and benefiting from the enforced rest.

Also in October we had the sad news that Mrs Betty Freak had died, she was recently taken back to Kent to be with her daughter because her other daughter who lived in this area had moved abroad. Betty hadn't been able to come to our meetings for several years but she was always very supportive of our branch and the association too. She had many friends in the UK and will be sadly missed by us all.

Earlier this year Doris McCoy accepted our invitation to be our President, a post which has been vacant for several years since Lenora Hannaford died. The Festival of Remembrance was in November and Cadet Katie McGee paraded our Standard for us with Mary and Evon as escorts.

Our Christmas lunch will be at the Masonic Hall in Stoke as usual and we will be welcoming some of the WRENS Association and we will be going to their Christmas lunch too.

We have one new ex-WRAC member, Mrs Samantha Rayner, nee Kelly living in Wadebridge, a little too far for an easy commute to Plymouth but we hope to see her at the Truro reunion in May next year.

Our Committee have a meeting in January 2011 and we are looking forward to the AGM at the Victory Services Club in April.

As we, Plymouth Branch, now 'belong' to South Area, renamed the South and South West Area, we are taking our turn at hosting the Area Reunion. This will be held at the Boringdon Hall, Colebrook, Plympton, PL7 4DP on Saturday 2 July 2011.

Our meeting venue has changed and we now have our meetings in the Abbey Hall, behind the Minster Church of St Andrew on Royal Parade – 1.00-4 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. There is no meeting in December.

Please feel free to contact me if you need to.
Ruth Jennings, Secretary – 01752 363118.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

The year started with the AGM on 20th March in London. This was well attended and the buffet lunch was enjoyed by us all.

Our membership now stands at 39 Life Members and 12 Annual Members. We lost one Life Member, Esther Reay, on 11th November 2010. She had not been with us long as she transferred from another branch but she always attended our events and to mark the event our standard attended her funeral carried by Assistant Standard Bearer Phyllis Price, supported by Sally Watson.

On 5th June 2010 we had a very good day at the Area Reunion hosted by Southampton Branch. We visited Southwick Wickham Museum, had a guided tour of the house and then we saw the D Day map. The guide delivered a very interesting talk. Lunch afterwards was at Chandlers Ford Masonic Lodge where the food was very good and as there were over 200 present we met a few old friends.

On Veterans Day we visited Portsmouth Dockyard. It was a very hot day and there was a general power failure. A field kitchen was produced to brew tea and two ladies told us about their wartime food which we all tasted. We then walked around the few stalls in the Dockyard and watched dancers on outfits from the 1940s performing a jitterbug.

Our AGM was held on 13th July 2010 and 10 members attended. Then our usual events followed during the year including coffee mornings with Sally Watson, Jasmin McCree and Phyllis Price. One great moment for the Branch was on 11th November 2010 when our Treasurer Phyllis Price was presented with the Pingat Jasa medal for her services in Malaysia when she served with the WRAC. Our last parade was the Remembrance Service in the Guildhall Square. Our standard was carried by Sally Watson supported by 6 members. They all got very wet.

ROCHDALE BRANCH

We have had a relatively uneventful first part of the year until August when our Branch went through a major change in the make up of the committee. Joyce Goddard and Mona Schofield who were joint founding members of the Rochdale Branch have both retired from their respective posts of Secretary and Treasure and are hoping to sit back and take a well earned rest. Our members would like to thank them both for setting up and giving total commitment ensuring a well run and happy branch. Lorraine Landers took over the role of Branch Secretary, however Joyce's retirement from the rigours of high office was little short lived and she was

called upon to step into the breach fulfilling the role of Branch Treasurer. Following the sad death of Doris Huntbach our Branch Chairperson, Elaine Brooks took over the post.

Early in August we enjoyed our day out at the Area Reunion held in Liverpool at the "Adelphi Hotel" where we met up with lots of friends from the regional branches.

Later that month we received an invitation from our Area Chairperson Carrole Montessori – Gorman to a garden party held at her home, deep in the beautiful Welsh border countryside. Although one or two of us managed to get lost, taking in even more of the Welsh country side than we expected to and after driving around the very picturesque lanes and with the help of a very nice Welsh Policeman we eventually arrived at Carrole's cottage. We were greeted warmly and there was plenty of tasty food and lots of drinks. We enjoyed the good company of friends from area branches and our vice president. A very good time was had by all. Even the sun was shining. One of two of us even managed a dance!

In September we were on our travels again attending the Eden Camp Inter Services Parade where as many as 30 plus Standards were represented. Our Standard was carried this year by Maggie Ashmore.



Standard borne by Maggie Ashmore



Remembrance Day

Standard borne by Karen Kirtly with Elaine Brooks

In November, our Standard was paraded again, this time carried by Kathy Kirtly, at the Festival of Remembrance to launch the poppy appeal, held in the beautiful historic Rochdale Town Hall. Kathy also braved the freezing cold and carried our Standard on Remembrance Day

PDF Compressor Free Version

We are very pleased to welcome a new member Rene Burlinson and together with our other 13 active members we will be enjoying Christmas Lunch at the Rochdale Masonic Hall on the 10th December.



A Festive Lunch

We send best wishes to our members who cannot attend meetings and also wish the best for all members in the New Year.

SALISBURY BRANCH

Another year draws to a close – how time flies when you are having fun – which is what we aim for in our branch.

At our June meeting Marilyn Offord talked about her time in Saudi Arabia when her husband was deployed there with the RAF, dressed as she would have had to be in an aboyou. One of the difficulties she described was that of shopping! Women are not allowed to drive so she had to wait until her husband was off duty. Marilyn also



Marilyn in dancing mode

demonstrated the local dancing, with very good hip effect! She also brought examples of 'local' food. The chocolate dates were delicious.

In July members attended the Armed Forces Day activities in Salisbury. We were delighted to see Thirza Sillick presented with an award by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire. Members of the Rifle Brigade looked very smart on parade with a number of standard bearers. I was walking round in my fleece when a lady stopped me as she recognised the badge. Lo! a new member, I must wear my fleece more often.



Before the presentation. Thirza Sillick with Jane Hockey

We were pleased to welcome Chris Brice (nee Boughey) to our monthly meeting and she would like to hear from anyone she served with in the 1960s. Unfortunately our planned canal trip was cancelled so Val ran an interesting quiz. The winners were Jenni Exton and Maureen Robertson. Clare Edwards and Suzanne Gordon reported on their wonderful day out as guests of The Not Forgotten Association when they attended a Concert at Buckingham Palace – the subject of a separate report

We were blessed with good weather for our annual Garden Party held at Amesbury in August when we welcomed Jane Freebairn and our Area Chairman Major



*Garden Party
L to R: Val Trout, Jill Trainor, Jane Freebairn, Alison Ogden, Ann Maskens-McIntyre*

Ann Maskens-McIntyre. It was very good to have our own Chairman, Alison Ogden with us again and looking so well. The competitions, auction and sale of jams raised £79 for our funds.

Our AGM in September was held in the presence of the Committee. Joan Freeland thanked Alison, Val, Jill and Gladys for all their hard work. At our October meeting suggested speakers and outings were discussed and our Secretary will organise another interesting programme for the coming year.

In November Gladys Pope attended the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster Abbey. It was also very good to see on TV the WRAC Association squad taking part in the Cenotaph parade. Well done to everyone who took part. We had another brain testing quiz at our meeting – much enjoyed by all.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch, once again at the RBL Headquarters. Sadly Gladys Webb has passed away and she will be missed at our meetings.

Thank you for the *Lioness* – always look forward to receiving a copy and much appreciated by everyone.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Greetings to everyone and hope you've all had a good summer.

We've attended several parades in Sheffield since our last report – D Day and The Armed Forces Day on 19th June. After this there was dancing in the Peace Gardens but we had left by the time that started. July we had our annual trip to the Arboretum, accompanying the Royal Artillery. Once again an excellent day.

In August the few who were neither sick nor on holiday went to our Treasurer's house for lunch. It turned out to be a lovely day, so after an excellent meal, eaten indoors,



Back Row L to R: Jean, Chris, Brenda
Front Row L to R: Joyce, Joan, Connie

we spent the afternoon relaxing in the garden. Joan Whittles had just had her 90th birthday so we took this opportunity to present her with a bouquet of flowers which both pleased and surprised her.

We have lost one of our numbers – temporarily we hope – as Dot Lean had a fall and spent several days in hospital. She is still no 100% fit but we hope she will be able to come to our Christmas lunch on 2nd December and we look forward to seeing her.

September was the NAR in Lincoln which was most enjoyable, and our annual trip to Eden Camp was, as usual, an excellent day. There were even more on parade and more standards than usual.

In October Margaret Duffy celebrated her 90th birthday by holding a luncheon for 60 friends. We presented her with a beautiful bouquet at the lunch and at our meeting the following week we gave her a silver photo frame with a photo of her taken at the lunch, plus a bottle of Port. She said she wished to give up her post of Secretary so we made her Chairman. Brenda will now be Secretary and Jean will take-over Brenda's position of Treasurer.



90th Birthday Celebrations. Centre: Margaret Duffy

A few of us went to London for Remembrance Day, once again attending the service on board HMS Belfast. A wonderful service enjoyed by all who attended. We have once again been invited to a carol service in the cathedral with refreshments at Somme Barracks to follow. That and our Christmas Lunch on 2nd December will put us properly in the mood for Christmas. We hope everyone has had a very Happy Christmas and we wish everyone a healthy, happy and enjoyable 2011.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Hello to all our friends far and wide.

We at sunny Southampton hope that everyone is keeping fit and well and enjoyed all the Christmas festivities.

Our branch has had a good year with entertaining guest speakers and interesting trips out. We had a full minibus on a return trip to the Chelsea Hospital. Our members do enjoy their visits there and did get the chance to speak to the Lady Chelsea Pensioners. The only down side was when our own Florrie Groves unfortunately fell up some

steps. She was looked after exceedingly well by the Chelsea Pensioners who followed it through the following day with a phone call to see how she was.

Last month saw some of us going to Beaulieu Motor Museum. The **PDF Compressor Free Version** building dedicated to the SOE which we were really interested in. On the way out there was a puzzle to take part in. Hazel Hutchings and Hazel Watson were over the moon because they solved the Enigma Code. It was a very good day and the restaurant was clean with a good selection of food.



Group at Beaulieu outside the SOE building

On the 20th November we went to the Jane Austin Museum. One of our members Di Gardener (our very own celebratory) is related to Jane Austin and Di gave us a very informative talk on her relations. She even found a relative she didn't know about.

As well as our AGM at the October meeting we have an American Supper. The food that our members bring is lovely and everyone goes home at the end of the night content in the knowledge that they have been well fed and once again avoided being nominated for a job.

We have had some special birthdays in the branch this year. Starting with Margaret Newcombe 90 years young followed by our very own Chairwoman Jean Doe rolling in at a young 80 years. Next we have Jean Kingdon at 90 years and close on her heels is little Betty Rush at 90 years also. Well done ladies.

We have a new member to say hello to, Hazel Watson used to be a member of our branch but was unable to attend, however, since she has retired Hazel is able to get to the meetings once again, welcome back Hazel. I must apologise for not sending the photo earlier of the



Shared memories – Kings Court Masonic Lodge

Area Reunion that our branch hosted in June. I would like to thank the other branches that attended for their very nice comments.

Sadly, we lost one of our dearest members at the end of August. Jean Mathews was a lovely lady who had been a branch member for many years. Although Jean didn't manage to go on many trips, she always attended the meetings with her great friend Shirley Connis. Jean will be missed by all of the branch.

Now if I may, we are looking to change our Standard Pole because Carolyn is finding it difficult to carry the Standard. Does any Branch know of anywhere we can find a lighter pole please. If anyone can point us in the right direction, the Secretary of your branch has my phone number. The Branch has a green skirt and jacket uniform which we would like to sell. It is sized as 14, but it is more like a 12. The jacket does not have a badge or buttons. We have approximately 22-25 members at our meetings and keep in touch with Ladies that can't make the venue with a monthly newsletters and phone calls. Southampton members send very best wishes to one and all far and wide.

Talking about celebrities we have another one in our branch, Penny Bailey will appear on TV in the New Year. I got a phone call from Jackie Naysmith to give me a phone number from an Alison Brown who is from Glasgow. Alison is compiling a documentary about Pathe' News that used to be shown in the cinemas during WW11 and afterwards and she wanted to know if any of our members joined after watching this item at the cinema. Anyway after giving Alison some of our members phone numbers (with their permission), she had a chat with our ladies and as Penny had joined up because of Pathe' News, Alison visited Penny at home with her camera crew and had a nice talk which was all recorded. So we are all waiting to see the documentary when it arrives.



Penny Bailey inspired by Pathe' News

So you see, we at Southampton are getting to be a mite famous!!!

Until next time we hope everyone keeps healthy.



Mary MacDonald doing her bit for the Poppy Appeal in Eastleigh

SUFFOLK BRANCH

Having returned from my jaunt around the countryside, its back to business at the Suffolk Branch.

At the July meeting which had a sing-along finished, led by Sylvia Johnson, we had a sing-along – rest assured today's pop stars can breathe easy as we are no threat to their careers!

August was another quiz and the theme was "Who-What-When-Where-Why" – the grey matter was soon turning and memory cells in full swing and top of the class to several members.

In September we had a quiz about Ipswich – pinched from Sylvia's church magazine – it was a very cryptic quiz and very cleverly devised. If we didn't know Ipswich before we certainly did afterwards. As you may have realised by now we do enjoy our quizzes here in Ipswich – brain boxes everyone of us!!

Normally our AGM is in October, but Sylvia (Chair Person) was on holiday so this was deferred until November. This month we just had a general chat and some suggestions for next year, maybe a quiz or two! On Remembrance Sunday I laid a wreath from the Branch at The War Memorial and several members braved the cold weather and also attended.

At the AGM it was unanimously agreed that Sylvia Johnson (Chair Person), Sheelagh Wilson (Secretary) and Marjorie Lambert (Treasurer) would all serve for another year.

There was no meeting in December as we had our Christmas Lunch at the Conservative Club – 12 members dined and an excellent time was had by all – good food, good wine and good company.

Hopefully 2011 will be a happy and prosperous year to all in the Association.

TAMWORTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Well here we are again with another Branch report. We have been busy during the last 6 months. Our skittles in June was a great success. We hold them at lunch time so everyone can get to Tamworth for 1200 hours. Majella from Birmingham Branch was the lucky lady who won in June.

It was decided that we would have a BBQ in August to thank the other Associations for their help when we started the Branch. As Belle's garden was the only suitable in size for the event, the gazebo's went up and the BBQ's were brought out and we hoped for a day without rain, but unfortunately that was not to be but it didn't dampen our spirits and a good time was had by all.

Our September skittles once again saw our Area Chairman, Maggie Purkis and Area Secretary Irene Hall on their way to Tamworth; also Lincoln, Birmingham and Stafford Branch members. The winner on this occasion was Marion from Lincoln Branch.

Wednesday 3 November saw Vee and Belle board a train on the way to Birmingham for that Branch's meeting and quiz lunch which was very enjoyable.

We are looking forward to our skittles evening on 27th November when we will again be seeing our friends from the RE, RS and RASC & RCT Associations along with members of Shropshire Branch. Our Christmas meal this year will be in the Moat House Restaurant in Tamworth.

We are still looking for new members so if anyone out there knows of ladies in the Tamworth area, we will make them very welcome. Our members would like to wish all the readers of the *Lioness* the best of health and happiness in the New Year.



Skittles for All

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

PDF Compressor Free Version

To the General Secretary
The WRAC Association
Gould House, 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 October

Date: Signature:

All cheques must be in **sterling** and made payable to "The WRAC Association"
Subscriptions include *Lioness*

Overseas members should contribute an extra £3.50 a year to cover postage of *Lioness*

Please complete this form in **BLOCK LETTERS**

ATS/WRAC/TAVR Army Number: Last Rank Held:
(Present Rank if still serving)

Miss/Mrs/Ms: Surname:

Given Names:

Surname when serving: Date of Birth:

Address for Correspondence:

.....

.....

Post Code: E-mail: Telephone No:

Units during service:

Date of Enrolment: Date of Release:

PDF Compressor Free Version

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS DINNER CLUB

Application for Membership

Membership No: DC/.....

Present Name:
(Miss Ms Mrs Rank if serving)

Christian Names:

Known as:

Address:
.....
.....

Postcode: Tel No:

Email:

Mobile:

Army No: P/ W/ WO/

Surname when serving:

WRAC Service From: To:

TA Service From: To:

Last Rank held/still holding:

Trade/Job whilst serving:

Decorations:

Please return to:

WRAC Dinner Club – Membership Secretary
Miss Maggie Bradshaw
Myrtyle Cottage, Tatworth, Chard, Somerset TA20 2NZ
Tel: (01460) 221617

I wish to join the WRAC Dinner Club and enclose:

5 Years Membership	£13.00	(Includes initial joining fee of £3.00)
Life Membership	£18.00	(Includes initial joining fee of £3.00)
(delete as appropriate)		

Cheque/Postal Order should be made payable to: WRAC Dinner Club

Signature: Date:

A 2nd class postage stamp would be much appreciated. Thank you

'Sauviter in modo, Fortiter in re'
'Gentle in manner, Resolute in deed'

**WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS
ASSOCIATION**

PDF Compressor Free Version

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

The next AGM will be held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London on **Saturday 2 April 2011**.

The programme for the day is:

1000 Arrival and coffee

1100 Secretaries Meeting

1200 AGM

1330 Hot buffet lunch

Provisional Agenda for the AGM:

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Business Arising
5. Trustees Report
6. Financial Report
7. Report of the Editor of the Association Journal
8. Reports of Committees
9. Motions of Urgency
 - a. Council Resolutions
 - b. Branch Resolutions
10. Any Other Business
11. Date of Next Meeting

Numbers for the buffet lunch will be restricted to 200 so please notify your intention to attend by returning the proforma below by – **at the very latest – Friday 18 March 2011. NO PROFORMA – NO LUNCH!**

To: WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down WINCHESTER SO21 2RG

I do wish to attend the Buffet Luncheon and the AGM on Saturday 2 April 2011 at the Victory Services Club:

OR

I will only be attending the AGM at 12 noon.

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Post Code

Tel. No.

.....

**NIL RETURNS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT REMEMBER –
NO PROFORMA – NO LUNCH!**



PDF Compressor Free Version

Skittles Winner and groups from Tamworth, Birmingham and Leicester Branches

ULSTER BRANCH

I am sure none of us thought that we would be writing our December magazine article amidst a Winter Wonderland. The countryside is beautiful, but unfortunately the accompanying problems are huge, e.g. abandoned vehicles, public transport at a halt, school closures – to name but a few – and we are having to take extra care to avoid broken limbs.

The Ulster Branch have been having a great year. We are already planning our Spring outing which will probably be around the Antrim coast road towards Portrush. It is really wonderful how quickly situations can change. Some time back we were having difficulty motivating our members and now everyone seems to be excited and interested in our plans for the future.

In the early Autumn we also received news that quite a number of ladies would like to become members of the Association. However, they live quite a distance from us in the North-West. I do hope that this works out as it would be just great to perhaps plan the odd visit to that part of the country.

I have just had news today that our eldest member, Mae Milne, has sadly passed away. I shall miss her wonderful smile and sharp sense of humour.

Sylvia Connachan placed our wreath on the Cenotaph this

year. Sylvia is a very dedicated member of our Association and she placed the wreath with her usual grace and dignity. I always find the ceremony of Remembrance very sad, but this year there was a feeling that those wonderful people who had given all that it is possible to give, were standing among us urging away our sadness.

We were very lucky to have a second bus outing in the summer. We had such a good time when we went around the Kingdom of Mourne to Newry, that we decided to have another outing in August – this time to Enniskillen. We stopped at the Linen Green in Moygashel for coffee and shopping and then on to Killyhevlin Hotel in Enniskillen for a carvery lunch. The setting is really wonderful – the hotel is situated right at the edge of Lake Erne and the views over the lake are quite breathtaking. It really is a tourists' paradise and attracts many visitors from Europe and even further afield. Afterwards as we reached the shops there was a short very heavy thunder shower, but not to be deterred, one of our members Army Wall produced umbrellas for us from a nearby shop.

Our Christmas Lunch, weather permitting, has been booked for Saturday 11th December in Beechlaw House Hotel, Dunmurry, just outside Belfast. It is usually an occasion to bring along our guests and have some good food and 'Ulster Craic'. Some of our members come from quite far away and really look forward to coming together at this time, so I am trying to be optimistic that it will happen and that the weather won't take its toll.

Our pantomime outing will be later in the month, ie 21 December. This year we are going to see Snow White in the Grand Opera House Belfast with the TV actress Lesley Joseph playing the role of the wicked queen. We always look forward to the pantomime as the beautiful costumes and scenery help us to escape – for a couple of hours at least – to a world of fantasy which only something like a pantomime can create.

Could I wish all our members near and far and also our hard-working headquarters staff, a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

I am writing this article in the throes of a bad chest infection so I shall now crawl back into bed and the hope that I shall be well enough to attend our Christmas Lunch next Saturday and that the frost and snow will have gone by then.

WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND BRANCH

I am pleased to report that our numbers have remained fairly stable, although unfortunately we have had three deaths during the past year; Collie Tarr in September 2009, Pauline Anthony in February 2010 and Mollie Holland in April 2010. We now have 17 Annual Members and 26 Life Members and usually have about 14 members present at our meetings.

The past year has been fairly busy, and we have had quite a few interesting speakers. Major Mack gave us a fascinating talk on her holiday in Kenya. Nigel Coles from Age Concern (now Age UK) explained their role in advising and helping pensioners. In November, Lt



Before the wreath laying. Sylvia Connachan

Colonel Sue Westlake visited us and gave a talk entitled "Women In Khaki". She catalogued her own career from Cadet Training through to the present day. Everyone found this fascinating and one or two of us recognised some of the girls in the photographs.

PDF Compressor Free Version

In December we had our Christmas Social where the food was provided by members and a glass of wine or soft drink was paid for from Branch funds. After this we closed for the Winter Recess and we reconvened in February 2010. At the AGM in March the existing committee were voted back en bloc.

Two more speakers came during 2010, both talking about different details of Weymouth and Portland. Mr. Searle talked about passenger ships and car ferries to and from Weymouth. Many of the members recognised the various ships; then Mr. Reynolds gave us historical details about the responsibilities of being a Portland Reeve and about the Royal Manor.

Peg McElwaine hosted another coffee morning/bring and buy, which was a great success and £142 was sent to HQ for the *Lioness* fund. Twelve members from our Branch attended the Area Reunion hosted by Southampton and after a circuitous route we found our way to the museum and to the hotel for a sumptuous lunch. Our thanks to Southampton for a super day. Another outing had been arranged by one of our members, Janet Cox, to visit the Blue Pool which was very well received.

Also in June we paraded the Standard along the Weymouth sea front at the Veterans Parade. After which meetings were ceased for the summer months. We did, however, have a summer lunch in July which was well received by members and we look forward to reconvening our meetings in September.

WINCHESTER BRANCH

By the time you read this Christmas and New Year will have come and gone and most of us will be on diets to try and get over the excess of the festive season.

We don't get together much in Jun or July because of holidays so the main event was our AGM in August. As Jane Freebairn is a Winchester member and some of her colleagues from Worthy Down wanted to take her out, we decided to try and combine both by suggesting that we hold our AGM at In-Tech, Winchesters local Science Park. We arranged a Group booking for a visit to the Planetarium for a show followed by a home made cream tea, onto this we tacked lunch from a special menu. What a terrific venue, working closely with the event organisers we managed to pre book our lunch and it was all ready for us when we arrived very nice it was too. Lunch was followed by the Branch AGM whilst the others in the group explored the centre. Then we saw a show all about Black Holes, very impressive, and we finished off with the cream tea. What can I say 2 scones each (homemade just out of the oven), pot of jam each, pot of cream each and our own individual pot of tea. The staff were very helpful even down to giving non tea drinkers some coffee.

We had members of the RAPC and RAEC Associations joining us as well as our Area Chairman. Unfortunately, 2 serving members were called away to an important meeting and one member was ill. Her husband joined us for lunch and the café staff kindly put her lunch in a box for him to take home. All in all a very good afternoon out, a venue we might use again.





Patricia had tickets to a Royal Garden Party courtesy of the Not Forgotten Society, you will see her report elsewhere in this issue.

November saw us once again in the pub, the change of day was brought about by one of our members, Bodie, visiting from Crete and her visit actually coinciding with a meeting so it was nice to see her and catch up. Just for a change to raise some money the Secretary had a few items for sale; bags, mouse mats, mugs and notepads all with the Branch logo, needless to say she did not take many home. November saw a number of the Branch taking part in the Remembrance Day Parade in London, with a flurry of phone calls asking where berets could be purchased; they were pointed in the direction of the Association website.

WOLVERHAMPTON BRANCH

We send best wishes to all members of the Association and especially to members of Wolverhampton Branch, who for various reasons have not been able to attend our meetings. We continue to meet but numbers are dwindling. However the meetings are very friendly and time passes very quickly. We decided not to meet in January or February in 2011, so look forward to meeting in March to catch up with each other again.

Since our last report we have paid a visit to a garden centre a few miles out of Wolverhampton. After enjoying a very good meal we spent the time looking around the centre. We were represented at the Armed Forces Day celebrations in the City, also the Festival of Remembrance, the short parade on 11th November and service at the Cenotaph, and the Remembrance Day parade in St Peter's church. As in many other places the amount of people watching the parade and the Drumhead Service was the highest for many years and the ex-Service contingent in the parade was wonderful.

In November we were invited to join the ladies of Stafford Branch at their pre Christmas celebrations. Three members attended and were made very welcome. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we say "thank you" to our friends in Stafford. We trust the early wintery weather did not cause too much disruption for members in various parts of the country and hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas.

WORTHING BRANCH

As the report I sent in June did not get printed in the last *Lioness*, this report covers the whole year.

We didn't do much over last winter, but about 20 of us regularly attend the monthly meetings. If any of us is ill and cannot attend it feels like the end of the world. On the last Tuesday of the month if any of you find yourselves in Worthing between 1000 and 1200 – come to the church at the corner of Steyne Gardens. We can assure you of a warm welcome. We love making new friends.

We had a good laugh in our April meeting when Greta and Carol came back from cruising around the southern hemisphere and danced for us in their genuine grass skirts. In June we again had a stall at West Sussex Armed Forces weekend, held here in Worthing and run by our own Secretary. We had fun and made lots of money.

A few of us took a small coach to invade Canterbury for cream teas, hosted by our friends down in South Kent. They made us very welcome. We had another trip later on to Winchester to see our ATS poster, which had been donated to us at last year's Armed Forces weekend and now resides in the museum in Winchester. We had a good day out as usual. A chilly few took a trip on the Chichester Canal.



Off to Canterbury for the day



Visiting the ATS poster AGC Museum, Winchester

Ten of us attended the AGM in London, which was better

this year as we all had lunch together and met other branches. Six of us attended the Dinner Club weekend in Solihull and found a new friend! Jackie lives in Chichester, not far from us and was not aware of our Branch. She is now a very active member.

PDF Compressor Free Version

We finished the year in style on 30th November at the Chatsworth Hotel in Worthing with a glorious lunch with the table decorated with little bags of sweets made by Janet Mackenzie, and presents (WRAC Association diaries) and a wonderful raffle, all organised by Carol, Greta, Marion and Sylvia. We were joined by Lt Colonel Sue Westlake and were happy to present her with a cheque for the *Lioness*. Unfortunately we had just lost our oldest member – Phyllis White W2281, aged 89, on 13 November.

As a month always seems to be a long time we occasionally meet up in-between meetings for lunch. Whatever happens we will not miss our monthly meetings to catch up on all the chit-chat. I won't call it gossip as that word sounds malicious, and that's one

word we don't have in our communal dictionary. Worthing's motto could well be 'Here be friends'.



Edna Sinclair from Worthing Branch meeting Dame Vera Lynn at Alexandra Hospital Home for Ex Services Open Day July 2010



Out and about

NOTICE – SCOTTISH AREA

Two Scottish Area Members received their Certificates of Appreciation with Lt Col Jo Young presenting the Certificates



Mrs Cathie Russell, Glasgow Branch



Miss Sue Marcroft, Dumfries Branch

Susan Sinclair, Glasgow Branch was also due to receive a Certificate of Appreciation but was unfortunately unable to be with us on the day. Lt Col Janet Lawson undertook to deliver it to her.

ATS Reminiscences

MY PERSONAL MEMORIES OF 559 (Ack Ack)

PDF Compressor Free Version
Martha (Mattie) Watson née Bruce

LAMP SWINGERS

559 (Ack-Ack) Battery, HMS Ganges
by Martha (Mattie) Watson (1943, 559 Battery)



I was on leave when our Battery (Bty) moved to HMS Ganges. I had never heard of the place so had no idea what we would be doing on board a ship!

Having been on the Outer Hebrides with the weather being so stormy I arrived at Ipswich to be met by fog. There wasn't any transport to meet me so I went to the RTO (Regulating Transport Office) which was manned by Americans. They didn't know a thing about Ganges, and anyway I was Army - HMS Ganges was a ship, wasn't it?

I spent the night in the waiting room of the railway station with a few others. In the morning when I went back to the RTO there were British boys on duty. Once again, they had never heard of an Army lass going to be

stationed in a battery on a ship!

After a lot of phone calls a truck was sent to take me to Manningtree HQ. I stayed there overnight and slept on until 1300. At 1800 our major, sergeant major and a friend, Errol, who worked at HQ, plus a driver, set off for the Ganges, all telling me I would be 'on board a ship'.

After a difficult journey because of the fog and darkness we eventually arrived. I was taken into a room to be welcomed 'aboard'. I was sure I wasn't on board any ship, but with the lights were swaying from the ceiling I didn't know what to think. The sergeant took us to my room along a corridor where my pals were so pleased to see me, and once again welcomed me 'aboard ship'. Of course, they were laughing as I noticed that the lamps in this room were moving too! When they saw I was so dubious they told me it was the heat of fires that caused them to move.

The NAAFI was across from our hut and there was a dance. When I went to enter the NAAFI with my pals I was told by one of the sergeants (ATS) to get out as I was on a charge. I was three days later! However, that was soon sorted out by our major. The ATS sergeant was certainly not one of our favourite



people, and I didn't keep in touch with her [after the war].

A few years ago she had a request in our *Lions Magazine* 'Were there any 559ers around?' We got in touch and she came to our 'Ack Ack' reunion in York - so all was forgiven. She died two years ago but her daughter still writes to me...

... The first cross-country run a group of sailors were passing in the opposite direction. We were saying 'Good morning Mr So & So' and they seemed so surprised that we knew their names until they realised the ship on their gas masks had their name on.

That was our first meeting of some of the Ganges boys. They had a hard life - one of the petty officers was really a big bully. Some of the young lads would try to run away and we would let them through our camp and delay the petty officers who were after them. Goodness knows what happened to the lads when they were caught...

... One day we were told that the Princess Royal (Mary) was to visit. Everyone, especially the officers and sergeants, went crazy making sure everything was 'shipshape'. A pal and I were told to 'kill all the caterpillars that were on the cabbages outside the NAAFI'. No way was I going to touch them. I got a brush and shovel and brushed the beans down and covered them with earth. The whole thing was hilarious. I was also told to display my kit on my bed for the Princess. I was worried because I needed to sew some buttons on my



shirts and my socks needed darning. When the stores sergeant major heard he sent a message for me to come to the stores for a new kit!

... No one told us the ranks of the Navy with the result that two lads visiting our camp had brass buttons on their sleeves and peaked caps. I saluted them and they saluted back. Later one of our ATS sergeants asked me about the saluting and laughed. One had been her twin brother and the other had his pal. A few weeks later the sergeant was sent home. Her brother's ship had been sunk. We were so shocked...

... When the German bombers came over we knew before the bells and sirens went - the ships would be heard first - and would dash up to the gun. Some nights I would be so tired that the girls would pull me out of bed - I always seemed so exhausted. Once we did nine days and nights on duty. One of my grandsons found a diary I had written at that time and asked 'What was 'manning'?' When I said that it meant 'manning the guns' he was relieved having thought 'other things' Granny had been up to!

... We didn't go to Harwich or Ipswich very much because of the bombers. We had no time for the Yanks; how we never shot them down I'll never know - they never bothered sending the correct lights. When the doodlebugs started, which came in very low, then the V1/V2 rockets, it was difficult trying to shoot them down...

... One day a frigate, HMS Cosby (K559), came into Ganges. Some of the lads were invited to our camp but they were sailing in the morning and couldn't manage it, but they invited some of our men and girls aboard. We never heard of that ship again.

Fifty years passed and at reunions we would talk about the Cosby and wonder what had happened. At one reunion at Perth, I was

told that someone from 559 Bty was looking for me. I couldn't believe it. The person, a telephonist, had been from Yorkshire and had recognised me. I asked her what she was doing in Scotland - she had married a Scot. I asked if she knew what had happened to K559 and she told me that she had met her future husband that night and had been married. They have now been married over 60 years...

... Most of our men were old enough to be our fathers and really respected and looked after us. I never heard any bad language. In fact, looking back, we seemed to be protected. (Things seem to be different these days). Any Navy boys who visited our camp were usually related to someone. Also, they would play football, hockey, or darts against our team.

There weren't many Scottish girls in our Battery, with the result that if I was in the NAAFI very often a lad from Scotland would be told I was Scottish and would come and talk to me. One lad who came from Ayr wrote to me from HMS Barle - I think that ship

was sunk.* Another lad told HMS Bulldog asked one of the men if I would write to him, although I had never spoken to him. I don't know if that ship survived the war...

... The day before D-Day we knew something special was happening - I lost count of the many ships, warships etc. which sailed past Ganges. The lone Piper playing made it so comic and sad. Two of our officers and our younger men had gone from our battery. After the invasion came back the signals that so it so had been killed, or certain ships had been sunk.



The following information I have gleaned from 'The Dictionary of Ships of the Royal Navy of the Second World War' by John Young and by searching the internet... Ed.

* HMS Cosby, a lease-lend ship from the USA, survived the war and was returned to the USN in 1946 and broken up. Was initial ship involved in the liberation of Jersey.

HMS Barle, also a lease-lend ship from the USA, survived the war and was returned to the USN in 1946 and sold on in 1947. Sailed to Australia December 1944 for service with British Pacific Fleet, returning late 1945.

HMS Bulldog survived too and was broken up at Walsend at Rosyth in 1946. The ship has two significant incidents of note to its credit.

Firstly: Bulldog was escorting convoy O8318 outward bound from Liverpool in the Atlantic when the convoy was attacked by the German submarine U-119. A concerted depth-charge action by HMS Bulldog, HMS Broadway and the corvette HMS Aubretia forced the submarine to surface on May 9, 1941 and was captured. Before the submarine sank the surviving crew were taken prisoner and a boarding party was able to retrieve the boat's Enigma coding machine and code books in-situ. These were sent to Bletchley Park and were effectively used in breaking German naval codes without the enemy suspecting, playing a significant role in shortening the Atlantic U-boat war.

Secondly: The surrender of the German forces occupying the Channel Islands was taken on board HMS Bulldog on May 9, 1945.

1939 AND ALL THAT (Abridged) W/82907 Vera (Tommie) Worsell née Simpson

Editor: Many thanks to Vera Worsell for the pamphlet 1939 And All That. I hope you do not mind that I have taken the liberty of putting an abridged version together for this edition and included just one of the many convoy experiences.

Having taken the "King's Shilling" in Hereford Recruiting Office, I ended up in Wrexham. After 3 weeks initial training (I still wonder how we did not end up with foot and mouth disease), I went back to Hereford for driving instruction and there met up with some of the girls who are still my friends today. The Hereford Depot... was near the RAF Training Depot, and just down the road was the Munitions Factory. So just one air raid on the factory and we would have all gone up. Anyway we used to spend half the day on driving instruction and the other half in lectures, and taking things apart, then putting them back together again and keeping fingers crossed there were no bits left over. After 8 weeks, and the last written exam, we knew we have passed the driving test.

Great excitement We were DRIVERS and now able to put the straps on the top of our hats and wear big driving gloves. We felt we had arrived. Then came the postings; Chilwell - no thank you, all the Queen Bees lived up there; Ireland - no, no; Feltham - yes please as very easy to get home from there. We arrived in Feltham, the first ATS drivers, everyone else were FANY..... After a few weeks of doing vehicle maintenance, hoping you had found all of

the grease nipples, and how many taps there were for draining the water system, we were looking for a convoy.

There was a rush job to catch the tide at Barry docks with a new staff car for Monty. It was such a rush I had to get a police car through each town. On the way I picked up a soldier and an airman, telling them to keep feet on the paper and hands off everything. As we went through each town I saw people waving at the car and could not think why. Then I saw the two in the back. They were waving to everyone, just gentle waves of course. I do wonder who people thought they had waved to!

MEMORIES OF WARTIME SERVICE

W/25077 Cpl Doris (Mickey) Hamblen ATS 1943 – 1946
2059904 Cpl Joy (Joey) Spencer née Wharmby WAAF
1941-1945

Editor: On a recent trip home I was told about two ladies who lived in Malvern, both of whom had seen Service during the Second World War. I had the opportunity to chat to them both and their memories are below. They did not meet during their Service but now are good friends.

Doris Hamblen, known as Mickey, was called up in 1943 and went to Leicester to complete two weeks basic training. She was then posted to a Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery in Kent as part of a mixed team. The location of the Battery was known as "Hellfire Corner" and covered the aircraft crossing the Channel. The days consisted of a routine of Early Shifts (0600 onwards), Retirement Shifts (1300 onwards) and Aircraft Battery Shift (the night shift). Initially housed under canvas, the Battery eventually moved into Nissan huts and Doris remembers the weekly bath parade and having to jostle for position with the WRNS who always seemed to be ahead in the queue. Doris spent many days and nights on the radar, plotting the course of the airplanes and passing the information to the guns. In 1943 the Americans assumed Command of the camp and brought with them unseen before foods and Lucky Strikes. Leave was for one week every three months. Doris also saw Service in Brighton and Essex before being demobbed in 1946.

Joy Spencer joined the WAAF in August 1941 from a previous appointment in dealing with the fur trade. It was her responsibility to safeguard the sable when the air raid siren sounded. She went to Bridgenorth for her basic training where her 5'10" height gave headaches to the Quartermaster so she only had a hat and shoes to start her service career! After basic training it was off to Leighton Buzzard to train as a clerk SD (Special Duties). Joy's service then took her into the Operations Room where she was responsible for plotting the movement of the ships as located by the Royal Observer Corps in a tri service environment. Secrecy was critical and there were frequent visits by King George VI amongst others including high ranking politicians. Accommodation was basic and subsequent postings meant literally field conditions eventually being upgraded to a billet in the local farmhouse. Other memories include the noise made by the V2 rockets and being guarded by the Kings African Rifles. As the planning for D-Day heated up, Joy and her colleagues were sealed into the Operations Room with little chance for leave and they were escorted at all times. She was demobbed on VJ Day and remembers the ensuing party very well.

WARTIME MEMORIES Florence Connolly née Bass

To the Vice President

Thank you for all your excellent work you do for the *Lioness*. I still have all the copies from 2001 after I transferred from the London Branch to Chelmsford Branch which was nearer for me to drive to and it's my joy to still to be a member of. Some of them remember me going into the Sgts' Mess to cook in 1939. That wasn't fun I can tell you but a great shock. I was on a week's holiday from Service, having my tea at 6 p.m., when the knock came – when my Mother-in-Law opened the door, it was a Policeman "Is Miss Florence Bass here". Yes, she said, I could not believe my ears, so I slowly walked up the passage. His voice roared at me "Are you Miss Florence Bass?" – my knees trembling, I said "Yes". "Here is your Calling Up papers here, report immediately to Warley Barracks". Naive as I was, I said "I can't do that, I've got to do my mistresses shopping in the morning". "Well, she'll have to do her own shopping, won't she, get cracking". He gave me the papers, got on his push bike and went. Len and I were courting then, he took me home to Grays to pick up my bits, then drove me over the Warley Barracks on his motorbike (15 miles away). When we got there all the old ATS members were grouped together, no where for us to sleep (Married Quarters were there and a Peace time Army of 250 men). So we had to wait until an officer had to find a spare room in somebody's house in Brentwood. Until they had moved all the families out of the Quarters in the Barracks, then that became the ATS Living Quarters. Huts went up like mushrooms overnight. To cope with the Territorials I was put in the Cookhouse to feed 150 men, which increased to 850 – two sittings, extra coal ranges, coal coppers for hot water, soup, vegetables etc, but no extra flues, so sometimes they got blocked with soot, so we were chimney sweeps sometimes. They also installed a dutch oven, which we had to run through the Veg room whatever the weather and stock it up with coal.



Francis Connolly in 1940

When the soldiers had their 6 weeks training, they were marched down to Purfleet Camp for a week's practice firing on the Rifle Range. I was sent down there to cook for the Essex officers. I know the Camp which was quite near to where I lived. It was built in the 1st WW and condemned in the 2nd WW. I found the Camp Manager. You will have to have that one down by the hedge built for Sgts' Mess, I will try and find the key. I said to Bob "can't you find Major Atkin's wireless - lets have some music". It was loud and we heard Lord Haw Haw say "We have just bombed the Magazine at Purfleet and the people are falling down."

Then came the Camp Manager with the key and a bottle of oil and eventually opened the door, it just looked like a blanket of dirty cotton wool. "What that I said? He said "I don't worry about that, it is what the spiders have made through the years". He got to the hedge to get some sticks to break it all down, then looked for the stove, it was a little coal range all red rust. Then I noticed holes around the tops of the supports of the easex boarding, what are those holes I said. That's alright said he, that's where the rats sharpen their teeth. Stand still and they will come and look at you, then go away. Fun - not my type. I didn't realise at the time that the Magazine Lord Haw Haw spoke about was just over the other side of the road, until last year - 70 years on, when I was invited to the Purfleet Centre to the Service of 3rd September 2009 Declaration of War against Germany. Somebody said "Where were you when the War was declared? I said "In the Cookhouse having been called up 6 days and it's about time too, lets get it over with quick", but it didn't work like that.

November 2009 the Anniversary, I remembered standing at the Memorial of the many ATS personnel that had lost their lives on the beaches of Normandy. To this day it is still very moving.

Sitting in our Secretary's garden having our Anniversary Tea, I started chatting to a lady and asked where did her service lead her. "Oh, she said, I joined the WRAC and it was marvellous, and went on to say what a marvellous country house they lived in. They had such fun - I would live it all over again if I could". You can imagine what my thoughts were!

4 May was our 70th Wedding Anniversary - what a wonderful occasion.

10 June - 70th Anniversary of Dunkirk and I happened to be Orderly Sgt that day when the Messing Officer came and asked if I would stay late and help him and the Mess Sgt prepare a special 3 course meal for 36 soldiers from Dunkirk. They had landed at Tilbury Docks, then brought on to our Barracks. I cannot stop to tell you how they told us of their experiences. That is still fresh in my mind. Not funny I can assure you. Then of course the 70th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain, not funny of course, and so I could go on, but I won't bore you any more.



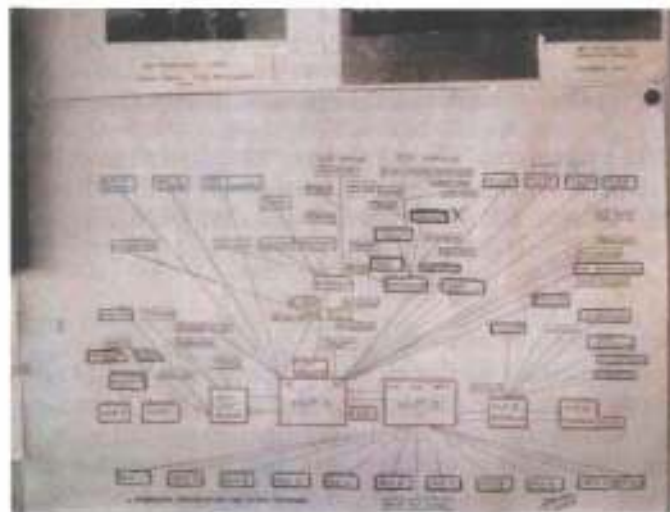
Celebrating 70 years of marriage

I feel very humbled when I think of how God has helped Len and me through our lives. I still try to help young people to be loyal to our Queen and country and be good citizens.

Excuse me for writing to you in this way, it's the first time I've done this. As you know I am now 92 and my husband is 93. As I am the youngest, I'm his carer and God is helping me.

MRS BETTY CARPENTER,
NO 5 ATS "Y" WING, SHENLEY, HERTS
ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS
Lorna Smith, 6 Cannon Court, 38 High Street,
Shoburyness S53 9AP

I'm afraid I don't know when Betty volunteered or was called up for the Army. Because of Betty's age and the tablets she has to take, her memory has gone off. Betty was a shorthand typist and because of this was drafted into the Signal Corps for morse code. At Shenley the work done by the ATS went straight to Bletchley Park. Sworn to secrecy no one knew of the importance of their work. I don't know when Betty was demobbed.



Taken at Bletchley Park in August 2000
Diagram of the chain of interceptor stations feeding Station X with information requiring decoding

Betty married George Carpenter who came to England to fight for his country, from the Channel Islands, and free them from the Germans. They married during a leave they both took before George was again drafted abroad. George was in the Anglian Regiment and 6th Airbourne Division where he carried a wounded soldier onto the boat just off the shore. They were one of the last ones to get away and back to England – thousands didn't make it.

Eventually George and Betty took out a small mortgage, when demobbed, and the money is being used up for Betty's fees in a nursing home, as Betty developed epilepsy as a result of an operation and later Parkinson's Disease. George died earlier, through his sufferings during the War. They had 2 children and 2 grand children, all living in Yorkshire where they had to go for work.



Betty Carpenter, date unknown

SOME OF MY EXPERIENCES ON CAMPS IN THE ATS

Mrs Rosalie Martin, (W/122683, nee Gardner),
4 Brimstage Green, Brimstage Road, Heswall,
Wirral CH60 1YL
Tel: 0151-342-6033

At 18 I joined the ATS in February 1942. I went to Guildford Training Camp and then posted to 51p Mixed HAA Batteries, Royal Artillery. I was a telephonist in the Command post and later in 524 Battery and 519(M) H.A.A.B TY RA in Sheffield.

Being telephonists we did not go on parades as we worked shifts. One day all the Camp were confined to Barracks owing to somebody doing something wrong, so as it was my half day and the person who was off with me, it would mean waiting a long time to get another half day, so we got dressed and the girls in our Barrack room lifted the wire fencing and we slid under, and the same coming back. We were not missed as our Barrack room was away from the others as we had to sleep when we came off night duty.

On my 21st Birthday in April 1944, there were 12 of us that had birthdays on the 1st and 2nd of April. We had a big dance arranged for us in the NAFFI that was at Costello playing field, Orange Camp, Hull. When we were out in the country at our base, we used to be taken to our firing duties by truck. Once when it was thick snow our officer went to the farm up the road where the farmer took our rations by horse and sleigh. We walked behind and we stopped at the farm where we sat on bales of hay and the farmer's wife made us hot cocoa and gave us cake before we carried on walking behind the horse and sleigh.



W/122683 Pte R A Gardner RA

In more recent years I have shaken hands with the Her Majesty The Queen Mother when she opened the ATS Museum at Guildford. Her hands were like blocks of ice. I have also recently attended a Queen's Garden Party at Larkhill. When she walked around, 5 of us remained sitting, and she stopped and said us "Now that's the way to come to a garden party" – she looked very nice. Additionally I have been to several Reunions and on 11th November 2007, I fired the 25 pounder Gun at Dover Castle.



Mrs Rosalind Martin

LETTER TO ALL RANKS OF THE AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE
from CHIEF CONTROLLER L E WHATELEY CBE

PLEASE read this as you would a letter knowing that the message it contains is meant for you personally. My one regret is that I cannot say it to you, but after fifteen months as your Director I now realize that, in spite of every effort on my part and touring continuously, the ATS now being so large and serving such a vast area – the whole of Great Britain, the Middle East, East Africa, Italy, Belgium, France, the North and South Caribbean and the United States of

America – it is a physical impossibility to fulfil my wish to visit and speak to you all for some time to come.

Do you realise what a magnificent contribution you have made and are making to the war effort and how much you have helped to build up the name the ATS has now earned? I realize that we have not achieved this good name without some of the "blood, toil, tears and sweat" of which our Prime Minister, Mr Churchill, warned us in 1940, for the task of women in uniform is made just that much more difficult by the constant call of home as well as the call of service, which really means our National Home. For five and a half years this struggle has gone on and the fact that the ATS is now as strong as it is and so vital to the Army and to the winning of the war, shows that you have never failed to know where your duty lay and there is, in my opinion, no praise too high for your efforts and the sacrifices you have made.

Recently our Service has been brought into the limelight a good deal over posting overseas. I think, therefore, there are certain facts which it may help you to have in writing.

First, many of you volunteered some time ago and have not yet been sent simply because demands in your particular trade or employment have not yet been sufficiently great. Second, when your age and service group becomes due for release to civil life, you will be released whether you are in this country or overseas. Third, if you are married you will not be ordered overseas unless you wish to volunteer. Fourth, if you are single and have genuine compassionate grounds for remaining at home, again you will not be ordered overseas. Fifth, in spite of compulsion, all volunteers, if in the right trade or employment, will be taken first. Sixth, if you do go overseas, in addition to your direct contribution to the war effort, you may be the one to enable a soldier (between the ages of 35 and 45) who has served abroad for five or six years, to return to this country. A soldier who has been separated from his family for so long cannot be repatriated until someone else is available to replace him.

The chief criticism from the public and a very few members of the ATS, at the decision in the House of Commons to post ATS overseas compulsorily, has been the fact that "young fit men are still in this country". If this criticism has been or is made to you, tell them "all is not gold that glitters", and we cannot judge by outward appearances only; we do not know how many of these men may not already be earmarked for service in the Far East or even home on leave from Burma. Finally, you can point out that you are trained in your job, and would they prolong this war by the months it would take to train the men, even if they were available to answer the calls Field-Marshal Alexander and Montgomery and the other great soldier leaders of overseas theatres of war have made for ATS. You may safely take it from me that the military authorities are very vigilant on this point. Continuous efforts have been and will continue to be made to utilize every fit man to the best advantage, and it must be remembered that some fit men *must* be retained at home. For instance, you cannot use a weakling as a Battle School instructor! But, surely, the short answer is to leave matters of this kind to those who know *all* the facts and are therefore the only ones in a position to decide them. The recent official account of Britain's war effort shows that no country – Allied or enemy – has succeeded in mobilizing her entire population to better advantage than we have.

You in the ATS undertook to serve your country wherever you might be needed and up to date you have done so magnificently, and **will continue** to do so until the end, and I as your leader take this opportunity to say a very sincere "Well done" and "Thank you".

When the war in Europe is finished we must not forget the thousands of our fellow-countrymen who will be fighting in the Far East and indeed making the supreme sacrifice that you and I may live. We must not forget, either, as we are all inclined to do, the horrors and sufferings we have been spared compared to the peoples in occupied countries, thousands of whom have been separated from those they love for over five years and in many cases not even known whether they were alive. The sacrifice we may be asked to make in serving overseas for a limited time cannot be compared with those people's.

Many of you will marry and bring children into the world, and we are not going to have it laid at our door that for want of a little more unselfishness on our part now our children or our husbands might have to go through the horrors of another war which with modern science will be far worse than even this one. Selfishness has brought us into this war and only unselfishness on the part of us all can bring a lasting peace.

I have implicit faith in you all and know you will not fail in the last lap of the race. You and I know that our belief is contained in the words of Drake's prayer before the Battle of Cadiz:

O LORD GOD, when Thou givest to Thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory.

Director, Auxiliary Territorial Service

THE WAR OFFICE

WRAC Reminiscences

SINGAPORE CONUNDRUM

Mrs Sue Bateman (nee Chalcraft)
 Email: suejaybee@btopenworld.com

While staying in Singapore several years ago, I re-visited the war cemetery at Kranji. Near the central memorial I found two WRAC headstones that had been re-located with others from the cemeteries at Pasir Panjang and Ulu Pandan. They were carved with the names of two girls who had died in the 1950s.

Does anyone remember Pte. Barbara Atkinson who died in May 1950, aged 20, or Lcpl. Christine Chapman also aged 20 who died in October 1950? What caused these two young women to loose their lives so far from home?

In 1966 I was posted to 4 Independent Coy WRAC in Tanglin for two years with Lt. Lynne Merrin (last edition of *Lioness*) commanded by Maj. Brenda Godin as OC and Capt. Anne Holloway as 2 IC. On this return visit I eventually found my way up to the old company lines, now used by the Singapore Regiment. Medical Services. I was shown around the old accommodation blocks, cookhouse etc. and "my" office was now air-conditioned! Except for the Q stores, most of the familiar buildings were still standing but put to very different use.

St George's church on Minden Road remained, as did the once gleaming Officer's Mess, undergoing renovation and transformation to become a Government Ministry building. The Senior Officer's Mess and officer's accommodation in "Sin City" below the golf course had been demolished.

Beyond the Tanglin complex, high rise blocks of flats, offices and hotels were everywhere across the island; many stores in Orchard Road matched those in British high streets. Everything was so sanitised! No open monsoon drains to catch the unwary and sprain ankles; no street traders serving superb food cooked by the roadside, and no hooting allowed on the roads, and you disobeyed the pedestrian lights at your peril. I was able to find some remaining areas of old shops stocking furniture etc, but suspect they may also have vanished now.

The intense humidity was familiar as I wandered round the Botanic Gardens, and so were the monkeys. But there were no sounds of cicadas there or in residential areas, as most insects had been destroyed by spraying against mosquitoes; consequently there were very few birds. Only the Night Safari park sounded familiar. Large areas of land reclamation had also been covered in buildings designed to attract the tourists, and I felt the original character of the island had been lost.

I was so glad that I had experienced and enjoyed Singapore **before** it all changed.

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS - MYSTERY SOLVED

jane.freebairn@aol.com



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

I am very grateful to ex RSM, Miss Agnes Doig, who has solved the problem of the mystery photograph published on Page 15 of *Lioness* 2/2010. She showed me the photograph again and the original programme for the pantomime at the WRAC Dinner Club meeting at Solihull in October. It was indeed a performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" held at the WRAC Centre in Lingfield in 1963 and it was produced by Sgt Bulbrooke. WO1 L Hopkin provided all the sound effects and many readers will realise that the very same Lyn Hopkin became the Director of Music of the WRAC Band. Clearly, appearing as a rabbit, when only a Staff Sergeant, did not hamper Miss Doig's career either!

The original programme - printed on that wonderful orange shade of paper which I am sure we all remember - is a little fragile so I have reproduced the cast list below. How many of them can you recognise in the photograph?

Queen	Mrs H Bell	Simon The Pageboy	Sgt L Sowerby
Snow White	Cpl J Sharpe	Huntsman	WO2 Ea Henderson
Maid	Musa A Simmonds	Prince Charming	2lt Gm Bance
Gypsy Queen	WO2 M Hargreaves	Rosita	Sgt J Bulbrooke
Dorita	Sgt J Montes	Conchita	2lt Mb Merrett
Juanita	2lt Ce Hunter	Lolita	2lt Kr Collins
Marchita	Lcpl W Barratt	Bugs	Sgt Wr Sweeney
Rabbit	WO2 J Forbes	Squirrel	Sgt M Moore
Rabbit	Sgt Am Doig	Squirrel	Sgt Bimbo Coleman
Rabbit	2lt Mmf Reid	Thumper	Rsm Mj Evans
Baby Rabbit	2lt Gp Furney	Father Bear	Sgt L Bostock
Mother Bear	WO1 L Hopkin	Baby Bear (Rupert)	Sgt J Hancock
Doc	Sgt J Walker	Sleepy	WO2 F Shooter
Sneezy	Sgt P Cox	Grumpy	Sgt L Sowerby
Bashful	Sgt M Davey	Happy	Sgt N Brew
Dopey	WO1 A Kitchen	Wicked Witch	Sgt G Williams

HAPPY SIX O

Marcia Holder-Reece



Marcia Holder-Reece

Marcia Holder-Reece and gang (all former members of the WRAC) are going to Barbados in February 2011 to celebrate her 60th birthday in warmer climes – her homeland.



The Gang. L to R: Chris Wolf, Anne Malecki, Marcia, Jean Hall, Julie Wickings

MEMORIES OF 4 INDEPENDENT COMPANY SINGAPORE

W/420613 Anne White née Marsh
31 Clos Cilsaig, Dafen, Llanelli, SA14 8QY

In 1964 I was serving with 4 Independent Company WRAC in Tanglin Barracks Singapore. The Royal Navy ship, HMS Ark Royal, came to stay. We were invited for a picnic by the sailors to a small island nearby. Several girls volunteered for a joyful day out. We were taken in a large boat and treated in a respectable fashion to a delightful day of local food items and games in the sea. Then came a game of diving off the boat into the sea. I followed everyone and dived off the boat, but because I was such a light weight I surfaced under the edge of the boat, and did not realise I had cut myself on the rudder. Blood appeared all over me and the boys in the water immediately gathered me up and wisked me back to HMA Ark Royal where a doctor on duty sewed up a nasty gash in my face, just under my right eye. It was quite a memorable outing and my face healed up as best as possible. The recent announcement that the ship is to be de-commissioned brought it all back to me.

The injury did me little harm. Soon after I met my future husband and we married in Tanglin Barracks Church of England in October 1966. We were married for 24 years. I am still in connection with a true friend that I made at the said barracks after 46 years – Pte Dorothy Berrigan. I did enjoy myself as a member of the WRAC; they were memorable years.

NEW LOOK FOR THE WRAC

Editor: This photograph was found by one of our members and is the coverage of the launch of the new uniforms for females. I could not find the date for this so any further information would be welcome.



Pte Esme Steed wears the walking out uniform of the WRAC flanked by QARANC colleagues

ALLIANCE WITH THE W.R.A.A.C.

The following item appeared in the May 1956 edition of the *Lioness*

"An alliance between the Women's Royal Army Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, has now been approved by Her Majesty The Queen. To mark the occasion, a telegram of greetings and good wishes was sent to the Director Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, and the following reply was received:

"We are delighted and proud that The Queen has been pleased to approve the alliance between our two Corps. All members of the W.R.A.A.C. send their greetings – Director W.R.A.A.C."

In a letter to PDF Compressor Free Version

"On behalf of all members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, I desire to express our sincere pleasure and pride in our alliance with the Women's Royal Army Corps. We feel that, wherever in the future members of the two Corps meet and serve together, there they will find friends. Our Hon. Colonel, Col Sybil Irving MBE, was tremendously pleased to hear of the alliance, which fulfils her deep desire to see the two sister Corps of those great war-time women's Services, the A.T.S. and the A.W.A.S., related in fact. We send you our greetings and good wishes."

It seemed appropriate to recall this historic event, as the W.R.A.A.C. Association in celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year with a Grand Reunion on the 11th and 12th February. Readers will know, from the previous edition of the *Lioness*, that the President of the W.R.A.A.C. Association has invited any members of the WRAC Association, who might be in Sydney on the 11/12 February 2011, to attend the Reunion.

In 1960, the Director of the W.R.A.A.C. visited the WRAC Depot, Guildford, on Corps Day, the 26th April, and marking the event, the W.R.A.A.C. flag was raised by



Sergeant Paget raising the W.R.A.A.C. flag at Guildford on 26th April 1960

Sergeant Paget (now Captain (Retd) Paget), the Orderly Sgt of the day, to whom we are indebted for the photograph below. A copy has been sent to the President together with a card of congratulations and greetings, from all members of the WRAC Association.

Editor: The raising of the W.R.A.A.C. flag was first covered in the Lioness in August 1960. I am grateful to Colonel Nan Robertson for this contribution.

DONATIONS

Did you know that you can send a donation to the Association at any time? We are often asked if this is possible and the answer is, "Yes, of course it is." Many branches send us donations in memory of members who have sadly passed away but it is possible to make a donation at any time for whatever reason. You can specify whether you want your donation to go to the main Association account – please make cheques payable to WRAC Association – or, if you want it to go to the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund then make your cheque payable to ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund. It is important that you do make out your cheque to the right account.

Whatever you decide to do, PLEASE make sure that we have a Gift Aid form from you. If you pay tax, the funds can reclaim the tax and it adds to the donation you have made without it costing you any more.

A Gift Aid form is available from Headquarters, WRAC Association at Gould House, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG.

If you have never sent us a donation, perhaps you would be kind enough to think about it now and send it in with the Gift Aid form.

Even if you are not thinking of making a donation now, why not fill in the form anyway and send it back. We will file it and have it to hand if you should be kind enough to make any donations in the future. You will not have to look out the form and we can reclaim the tax!

WRAC SWEATSHIRTS FOR SALE

Bottle Green Sweatshirts, Polo shirts and T-shirts embroidered with the WRAC badge

Sizes 36 – 46

Other colours available

Also
Knitted WRAC Dolls

Price list and further information from:
Miss B P Butcher, 15 Westwood Drive,
Swanpool, Lincoln. Tel: 01522 878413

Where Are You Now?

BRIDGET MARY BOLAND

Dr Catherine Smith, School of English,
University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
e-mail: catherine.smith@ucc.ie

I am currently researching the life of the Playwright and Novelist Bridget Mary Boland who served in the ATS from 1941-46 and was Senior Commander. Boland was born in London in 1913 and attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton (1921-31) and Oxford (1932-35). I would be delighted to hear from anyone who may remember her, and to receive any information, no matter how brief, on her wartime service.

Please contact me at the above address.

WRAC - 21 CAR COMPANY, REGENTS PARK BARRACKS, LONDON - 1950-52

Gillian Adams
e-mail: moetchandon57@btinternet.com

I am trying to source some old photographs of the WRAC 21 Car Company, Regents Park Barracks, London around 1950/52. I would very much like to contact W354635 Sylvia Wilson. I have typed this into Google and have not had any luck. I would appreciate any help as I am trying to find information for a friend who has just turned 80 and served in this Company.

SEARCHING FOR DINAH RUMSEY

Linda Harvey née Gaul
linharvey@yahoo.com

I am a former pupil of the Wadhurst College mentioned below in the article re Dinah Rumsey's commission into the WRAC, (probably from a publication in her local paper in Uckfield, Sussex in about 1964/65/66). I went to school with Dinah and we are having a reunion for our year at that school in May 2011.

We are trying to find Dinah which would be wonderful as we have found at least 24 of our class who are coming from all over to attend in London. I would be very grateful for any information as to Dinah's whereabouts now. My maiden name was Gaul, now known as Linda Harvey. Other girls that she would remember are: Jenny Page, Jenny Philips and Rosalind Shannons. Any information should be sent to linharvey@yahoo.com

SEARCHING FOR WRAC STATIONED AT SHRIVENHAM IN 1953

W/376963 Jean Bradley née Ross
15221 Purdy Street, Westminster, California, USA 92683

I have not given up hope of finding any WRAC who were stationed at Shrivenham in Wiltshire in 1953. I did have a previous photograph published in the *Lioness* but have not heard any news yet so I am keeping my fingers crossed.



*Taken at Shrivenham Wiltshire in 1953
L to R: Phillis, Pat, Kelly, Gwen, Jean*



Jean Bradley taken outside Buckingham Palace

SEARCHING FOR ATS STATIONED AT CATTERICK AND CHILWELL

W/267038 Cynthia Needham née Thornton ATS
39 Barkham Close, Cheddington, Leighton Buzzard
LU7 0RT

I joined the ATS IN 1943 and served four years. I was stationed at Catterick, York and Chilwell and billeted in Crusader Camp Catterick. The people I would like to trace are: Betty Russell, Elsie Warburton, Eve Worthington, Joan Halliday, Vera Bradbury from Leeds, Vera Neaves and Margaret Fairfield.



Cynthia Needham

ANYONE REMEMBER CROOKIE?

Jean Crooke (Crookie)
Jeancrook222@btinternet.com

PDF Compressor Free Version



Jean Crook

I am known as Crookie or Jean. I served in the WRAC at Richmond Park, training at Mill Hill PTS. I was at Gunsite Camp, Ducane Road as the Leave Clerk to 1961 and was then posted to Cyprus, first at Episkopi and then Dhekalia. In 1963 I served at Mill Hill Postal Depot in the accounts department. I left the WRAC in 1965 as a Corporal. I am now retired and living in Plymouth in Devon. All contacts welcome.

SEARCHING FOR CAROL 227 PROVOST COMPANY CYPRUS

Mr Bill Lomas
Law1188@ntlworld.com



Carol and Bill Daniels 1978

I am searching for Carol who served with the WRAC Provost. Carl was about 5'6" tall, slim build with strawberry red hair. I believe the photograph was taken in 1978 for a recruitment poster. She was stationed in Episkopi in 1978 and I believe she was posted to Germany afterwards. I would be very grateful for any information as to her whereabouts.

LOST AND FOUND - COURSE PHOTOGRAPH GUILDFORD 1965

Mr A A Brett
16 Springcroft, Gosport, Hampshire PO13 0YW



Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford 1953

The photograph was found in the attic of my son's house in Medina Road, Wymering, Portsmouth. I would be delighted to be able to return it to its rightful owner. Some of the signatures on the reverse are legible and examples are Joyce Bennett, Corporal Snell and Margaret Hobson.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER ME?

Kay Gardner Bergl
381 I.U. Willets Road, Roslyn Heights,
New York 11577, USA
kay@piedpipertravel.com

Does anyone remember me? I served in Signals at the War Office in London from August 1944 to April 1946 and then at General Montgomery's BAOR HQ from April 1946 to December 1946. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me.

SEARCHING FOR ANNE STAFFORD TAYLOR NÉE HUNTER

Steve Talyor
stevetaylor930@gmail.com

The notice searching for Anne Stafford Taylor, known as Nancy, first appeared on the Darlington and South



Ann (Nancy) Stafford Taylor and John Taylor's wedding in Cyprus 1958

Durham WRAC Association website in April 2006. Steve Taylor is their son and has forward the photograph above. He has been told that his dad carried a revolver to his own wedding, put a sword on for the church and reception, and then got the pistol back afterwards! The car used was the 1940 Daimler.

PDF Compressor Free Version

NEWS FROM W/403621 MISS M E MARSHALL



Group photograph, Guildford 1959

Miss Marshall has been in touch with some colleagues in the above photograph taken in the Summer of 1959. She served in the WRAC from 1959 to 1962 in Richmond Park and Whitehall. Any contact from former colleagues is very welcome via the WRAC Association.

COPY DEADLINE

Articles for inclusion in the next edition of the *Lioness* must be received by

11 JUNE 2011

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

The WRAC Association now has badges to denote how long you have been a member of the Association. The badges are based on a plain version of the Association badge and the silver one is for 25 years membership and the gold coloured one is for 40 years membership.

You can buy the badges from WRAC Association HQ at Worthy Down. The silver coloured ones are £3 and the gold coloured ones are £4. Cheques should be made payable to "WRAC Association".



Across the UK, thousands of veterans have been seen proudly wearing their HM Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge. The Veterans Badge was launched in May 2004 and was given to those First and Second World War veterans travelling back to the battlefronts that year under the Heroes Return Scheme. The badge soon became so popular that the Ministry of Defence decided to extend eligibility to other veterans. It has now become a symbol, identifying veterans as a distinct group within the community and one that deserves special recognition and thanks.

The badges are issued by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency from their offices in Blackpool. Demand is high and to allow the process to be properly managed, entitlement has gradually been extended in steps. However, since January 2008, **anyone who has served in the Armed Forces can apply.**

HOW TO APPLY

Telephone:

Call the Veterans-UK Helpline on 0800 169 2277 (UK only)

or 0800 169 3458 (Minicom users).

The helpline is also a source of help and advice on any other issue or problem faced by veterans.

On line:

visit www.veterans-uk.info

Click the Veterans Lapel Badge button on the homepage. Complete the application form, sign and date it then either fax it or return it by post to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

Email:

lapelbadge.team@spva.gsi.gov.uk

By letter:

Write to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency at: Veterans Badge, SPVA, Room 6108, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 3WP.

News from Overseas Members

HANDOVER OF ANZAC DAY TORCH

PO Box 66, Redlynch, Queensland, 4870, Australia

Editor: This is an extract from a newspaper article sent by Patricia Jones which I was unable to reproduce in full. I only wish I could have printed the photograph – a truly proud day.

Joining the ATS, at the beginning of January 1941, was a wonderful experience. At 17 years of age straight from school, I was very naïve and I can truthfully say I grew up in the Army. I made many friends both in England and Germany and I am still in touch with two or three of them today. Having emigrated to New Zealand after World War 2, I then spent 3 years in the Royal New Zealand Air Force and then spent 15 years in Kenya, returned to the UK and finally settled in Cairns in 1965. I have been involved with the RSL for 28 years and hold positions on the Cairns ex Servicewomen's sub branch and the Far Northern district RSL branch. I felt so honoured to be asked to handover the torch during the ceremony and was delighted that it was to a female soldier in the 51st Battalion. This was the first time that two women had participated in the traditional torch handover; a fabulous day.

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.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION REMINDERS

Are you an annual member? If so, your membership runs out at the end of September. If you belong to a geographical Branch, please you're your Secretary or Treasurer your subscription renewal in good time. If you belong to Headquarters Branch then you must send your subscription directly to WRAC Association, AGC Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester SO21 2RG.

Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and arrive as soon as possible after 1 October.

It is very important that you renew your membership in good time. If you leave it too late, you will not receive your *Lioness* at the right time and it will cost more in money and time to update your membership records accordingly and to post out your *Lioness*.

PLEASE HELP US TO ENSURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS KEPT UP TO DATE

PS Why not become a Life Member and then you will not need to worry about renewing your subscription each year? A bargain at £50. Why not ask your family and friends to club together and buy it for your Christmas or Birthday?

WRAC ASSOCIATION FLEECEES

The WRAC Association now has a stock of dark green Fruit of the Loom fleeces embroidered with the Association badge on the left side. We now have them again in all sizes but if you are unsure, please check first. The ones left from the original batch are very generous but the new ones are more realistic. If you are in any doubt, please ring before placing an order. Each fleece costs £25 which includes postage and packaging.

Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and sent to WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, WINCHESTER SO21 2RG.

If you want to check the actual sizes before placing an order, ring 01962 887478



WRAC Officers' Dining Club

Alison Brown

PDF Compressor Free Version

Eighty three Officers and guests once again met up at the Victory Services Club to enjoy an evening of catching up with old friends and colleagues. Those attending were a mix of ATS and WRAC and ranged across the age ranges forties to ninties, including a handful of serving officers. The Victory Services Club did us proud with an excellent meal and lots of wine which resulted in the noise of those assembled increasing in volume and the conversation continuing until the early hours of Sunday morning. A great evening was had by all and swelling the numbers can only add to the success of the evening so start spreading the word for 2011.

The WRAC Officers' Dining Club will meet once again at

the Victory Services Club in London on Saturday 26th November 2011. If you are already a member of the Dining Club, you will receive an individual application form.

If you did serve as an officer and you are not a member, ring the WRAC Association 01962 887570 for more information. **PLEASE** come along – the event is really enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to meet up with old friends and colleagues and hold a reunion of courses or intakes.

Editor: Thanks must go to Alison Schofield for taking and submitting the photographs of the evening.



Table 1



Table 4



Table 2



Table 5



Table 3



Table 7

WRAC Dinner Club

Carol Traynor

PDF Compressor Free Version

The Tangliners booked in for 4 nights at St Johns Hotel for this years WRAC Dinner so we could spend more time with our pals, because we all say each year that the weekend passes by far too quickly. The hotel was very comfortable with a lovely swimming pool, we did a bit of retail therapy at the nearby shops over the weekend and enjoyed meals out in the town. The dinner evening was great, lovely food and superb entertainment which had everyone up dancing the night away and we all had a lovely evening. All too soon the weekend was over and we were saying our goodbyes for another year.

Many thanks to all who make the dinner weekend possible.

Editor: Thank you to all who submitted photographs, they came in from all four corners of the Association.



L to R: Pat Williams, Nancy Puchey, Belle Jenkinson, Vee Moore, Pam Monk, Nicola Scott



L to R: Lynn Clark, Jackie Clark, Gill Rich, Sandy Stanford-Barclay, Rena McGregor



Wendy Hooton, Sue Westlake



Sue Westlake, Kath Hughes



Nancy Puchey, Margaret James, Belle Jenkinson, Cordelia Harding



*Back Row: Lynn Greer, Jan Ford, Sue Jennings, Donna Wilson, Dawn Fleming, Glynn Cardy
Front Row: Heather Bradbury, Julie White, Jo Foster*



Maria Hemmings, Pat McNeil, Avril Williams





Reunions

ATS DINNER CLUB

Joy Balmain
Email joybalmain@hotmail.com

PDF Compressor Free Version

The annual ATS Dinner Club break was held again in Bournemouth from 27th September until 1st October at the Britannia Hotel. Forty three members and guests took part and again we were blessed with fine weather until the day of departure. The Chairman welcomed everyone on arrival and the pan for the weekend was unveiled and Members sat down to their first dinner.

A committee was held on Tuesday morning and amongst other items it was revealed that this holiday would be the final one and that the Club would be wound up with a final lunch on 1st October next year, the 50th Anniversary of the ATS Dinner, all members now being well into their 80s. There would be an annual get together at the Victory Services Club for the die-hard Members on the Tuesday nearest to the 1st October 2011 providing Members let me know a week in advance. Following the meeting, after lunch, the first outing was to the New Forest by coach provided by Sea View Coaches of Poole. The outing terminated at Holmsley Station Tearooms, a popular venue for holiday makers, returning to the hotel in time for dinner and a quiet evening.

Wednesday was a free day for shopping or for some adventurous types, a trip to Swanage. The evening was our Gala Night with dinner in a private room, a raffle and a presentation to our Founder Member, Mary Beaston now in her late 80s, of a photograph of the ATS Memorial at Alrewas. The Memorial was collected for and

organised by Mary Beaston and she was visibly moved by this gesture. A very successful evening.

On Thursday a trip was arranged to the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford Camp where the staff were most attentive and instructive to the elderly visitors. A sandwich lunch was laid on for us and of course many Members saw equipment with which they were familiar. Many memories were revived and the evening after this outing was a quiet one.

Sadly, Friday brought the day of departure and the promises to meet again in a year. Hopefully many will be around to fulfill these promises but I am sure memories of this holiday will remain with everyone.

ACK ACK REUNION NORBRECK HOTEL

MAY 2010

Grace Fatherley

Rene Grouch and I arrived at the Norbreck Hotel Blackpool for our Ack Ack Reunion. There were 4 ATS girls there and we were well looked after. There was a good assembly of ex Ack Ack but mostly the assembly consisted of the serving regiment from Afghanistan. We saw some interesting films and talks of how the men were living and fighting in such a volatile country. There was a big assembly on Saturday and we were entertained by the Ack Ack Scottish Pipe Band amongst others. We then had our banquet which made it a great day. On Sunday morning, after the church service, there were awards to our heroes for bravery under fire. They each received a carriage clock and their ladies received a



ATS Gala Night

bouquet of flowers. There was one very moving moment when one young lady went up to receive her husband's clock; he had just been killed after saving his friends life. It was so very sad. On Sunday evening we had a lovely buffet along with good entertainment which everyone enjoyed. Monday morning we said our fond farewells. The sun had shone all weekend. It was a lovely reunion.

WRAC PT REUNION 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS

Kate Bettison

This year saw the 150th Anniversary of the Army Physical Training Corps, with the WRAC PTIs proudly joining in the weekend celebrations. As usual our base for the reunion was the newly refurbished Falcon Hotel in Farnborough, which is ideally situated for the weekend activities. We were delighted to welcome Millie Elias and Helen Ikert to their first reunion. An informal supper evening was held on the Friday, followed by a testing sports quiz in which the "Barker Babes" emerged the winners. The brainy team members were Sue Barker, Jackie Walker, Rowena Partick, Sheila Pantin and Chris Jones.

Saturday dawned and it was off to the ASPT for the biannual netball match against the APTC ladies in defence of the Peglar Trophy. Each year there is quiet concern about how much longer our gallant warriors can stand up to this tough physical battle! With an average



The victorious warriors looking relaxed

team age of fifty five, our eldest player was sixty two – no guesses allowed. Seeing the young enthusiastic opposition warming up certainly raised a few eyebrows as to what the result might be. However, as in previous years, our warriors led by team captain Chris Jones were soon in their stride and it was not long before the goals started mounting up. Helen Ikert as goal shooter, had not played netball for nineteen years, but it was hardly noticeable as she confidently potted most of her shots. She I turn was very ably supported by the never say die Kym Lofthouse as goal attack. With Jodie Foster confidently commanding the defence, Jackie Walker, who broke a finger in the heat of the battle, Lynne Greer and Mandy Watts dominating the centre court, here was sheer poetry in motion. Once again our young opposition was shown the tricks of the trade as the warriors stormed to a 29 – 10 victory. Despite not having the opportunity to play netball regularly our opponents played very well and were very sporting in defeat.

After all this excitement it was time to move on to the APTC Museum for the Grand Opening of our WRAC exhibition. The project had been ongoing for many months as all of the memorabilia and historical information was being collected. We were delighted that Colonel Vere Fisher, who was APTC from 1967 – 1969, was able to formally open the Exhibition and we toasted the event with a glass of bubbly! Included in the display are two large freestanding panels showing the involvement of the Army Women's Physical Training from the QMAAC, ATS and WRAC through to the integration with the APTC. Added to these are a further three panels showing our two Olympians; Audrey Mitchell (née Williamson) and Dame Kelly Holmes, plus one for Major Myrtle MacLagan who was the first lady cricketer to score a century for England. There are cabinets containing uniforms, medals and Olympic memorabilia and a large digital photo frame displaying course photographs and general sport throughout the years. Of course none of this would have been financially possible without the tremendous generosity of the PTIs and both the WRAC and the APTC Associations. I would also like to thank publicly Lt Col Sue Westlake, Major Sue Barker, Major Bob Kelly (Museum Curator) and his Hampshire County Museum Advisor, Katerina Kremmida for their invaluable support throughout the project. It was a great



Lto R: Major Bob Kelly (RAPTC Museum Curator), Katerina Kremmida (Hampshire Museum Advisor), Kate Bettison, Lt Colonel Sue Westlake, Sue Barker

team effort of which we are all immensely proud. Should any of our association members ever be in the Aldershot area do please take a wander over to the museum where you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Back now to the fun! On Saturday afternoon, Sue Barker arranged a golf competition at the Army Golf Club for those with enough energy to play, whilst the rest put their feet up in readiness for the APTC 150th Anniversary Dinner. We all assembled for our customary group photo, before attending an excellent gymnastics display and Beating Retreat. This was fooled by a champagne reception in a much transformed Fox Gymnasium. The tables were beautifully decorated, the food superb and with a plentiful supply of wine. It was certainly a most memorable evening as we made the most of meeting up with many friends and colleagues from the past.

Sunday dawned and there was an impressive turn out of WRAC PTIs at the APTC church service at St Andrews Church in Queens Avenue. This was followed by lunch in the WO and Sgts Mess as the finale to an unforgettable and successful reunion weekend.

On an afternote, we were thrilled to hear the announcement on Remembrance Weekend that Her Majesty The Queen had granted the Royal title to the APTC.

WRAC POSTAL BRANCH REUNION W/383053 Miss Margaret Grant MBE Mgrant2009@live.co.uk

We stayed at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool for the weekend and we were made welcome. The staff were very helpful and the food was great. I think a few of the members are fitter now with all the steps inside the hotel although it is a lovely hotel.

During the weekend we had our special raffle, lucky dip and played bingo. Some of us went on the ferry across the Mersey, the big wheel and visited the cathedral. We also went shopping to the market and had a trip on the open top bus. We showed photographs and swapped stories of the good old days. Some of us even went to the disco in the evenings at the hotel.



Some of the group



On the big wheel. L to R: Pam Sussex, Chris Fretwell



On the water. L to R: Sylvia Knowles, Margaret Smith, Brenda Griffiths Val Sanders

One of the members, Isobel Duffy, gave us a nice surprise on the Sunday as she was dressed as Santa Claus and we all had a good laugh as well as the other guests in the Banqueting Hall. Thanks must go to all the members who helped with the weekend. Sadly Monday came too soon and it was time to travel home. Next year we will be at Newcastle so hope to see many of you there.



Santa Claus arrives!

NORTH EAST AREA REUNION

Submitted by Cleveland Branch

As far back as 2009 it was decided that the 2010 North East Reunion would be held in Lincoln and that some of the ladies from the Lincoln and District Branch would help to host it. With the help of Secretary Chris Corker and 2 volunteers, Helen Haynes and Jackie Walton, we decided to hold our reunion in the Charlotte House Hotel situated in a chic part of the city. Although the function room of this 5 star boutique hotel was a marquee which looked very dark, we were quickly informed that by the time we would be holding our lunch the marquee would have been replaced by an orangery – a very grand glass conservatory.



Two views of venue

The lunch was a three course affair and our guest this year was our Vice President, Lt Col Sue Westlake. The event was attended by 61 ladies for the branches in the North East. During lunch a handsome pianist played

some lovely background music and afterward we held a raffle, but not just any raffle. The hotel donated a star prize of a 2 night stay for two in one of their sister hotels in Cumbria and our lucky winner Sylvia Cree, a member of the Lincoln and District Branch who currently lives in France. Sylvia plans to take her daughter with her.



Sylvia Cree with prize notice

We enjoyed more entertainment and conversation with old friends until we dispersed at about 4.30pm. A long lunch you might say but a very enjoyable one. I would like to thank all of the ladies who helped make the day a great success. Now on to the planning for 2011.

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY OR ARE YOU ABOUT TO MOVE?

PLEASE let us have your new address as soon as you can and help us to reduce the number of *Lioness* magazines which are returned undelivered.

Mrs/Miss Initials.....

Surname

First line and post code of old address

.....

New address:

.....

.....

Post code

Tel. No.

E-mail

Send to:

WRAC Association, AGC Centre, Worthy Down,
WINCHESTER SO21 2RG

GRAND REUNION

PDF Compressor Free Version

Friday 23 – Monday 26 March 2012

The Grand Reunion in 2012 will be held at the 4* Bristol Marriott Hotel City Centre. This is a venue which comes highly recommended and we hope you will enjoy the opportunity to visit the southern half of the UK. Certainly the city of Bristol is a very vibrant and exciting place to explore. There is something to suit everyone's taste and it has excellent communications with the rest of the UK and overseas.



The format will be similar to the last reunion in 2009 – the only change being that the themed dinner (theme still to be revealed!) on the Friday night will be a buffet making it a much more informal evening. Carrying on through the weekend, the AGM will be on the Saturday afternoon followed by the Gala Dinner on Saturday night. We will have a short church service on Sunday morning which we hope will be followed by a parade through a park adjacent to the hotel.



The main difference with this Grand Reunion is that we have not gone for an all inclusive package. You will need to book your own accommodation, however the hotel have allocated us 100 rooms for each of the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights for those who want to stay on site. The rooms are really super so start saving now and spoil yourself over the weekend taking advantage of the facilities including an indoor pool, a health club, sauna, fitness facility and a steam room. The cost of the rooms will be: single occupancy, £95 bed and breakfast per room per night or double/twin occupancy, £105 bed and breakfast per room per night. More details of how to book rooms will be in the next edition of the *Lioness*.



It is planned that the total cost to members of the weekend excluding accommodation will be approximately £50.00. For this price you will get one buffet supper, one Gala Dinner, wine on the table for both nights, entertainment, decorations and room hire. This bargain is made possible because as always the Association will generously subsidise the whole weekend. I hope you will agree this is superb value for money in a prestigious hotel.



APPLICATION FORMS TO ATTEND WILL BE IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE *LIONESS* PLUS DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK ACCOMMODATION AT THE HOTEL. IN THE MEANTIME DON'T DELAY START SAVING TODAY.



For more details on the hotel go to their website:
www.bristolmarriottcitycentre.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

MAJOR B. M. GRACIE ATS/WRAC
Mr Bill Hannam

Postboys, Sedlescombe, near Battle,
East Sussex TN33 0QF

Dear Editor

I would like to hear from anyone who may remember or has heard of Major Betsy Mable Gracie, née Welland, ATS/WRAC who served from approximately 1935 to 1957. She served in Africa during WW2 and in Malaya in 1949 as a junior commander/Captain and was finally a Major as Deputy Assistant Director Southern Command/War Office. She married in 1940 and died in Rustington near Littlehampton in Sussex in 1990 aged 80. All letters will be answered in confidence and may I thank anyone who is good enough to reply.

Editor: Major Betsy Mabel Gracie ATS/WRAC was awarded a MID for Malaya in 1949, one of only 6 WRAC throughout the 12 years of the Emergency, a very rare award. Mr Bill Hannam is the current custodian of Betsy's medals and is very interested in any further information.

MORE MEMORIES OF AUDREY MITCHELL
NÉE WILLIAMSON

W/88327 Jean S McKenna née Gammie WRAC
29 Kenilworth Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3EP

Dear Editor

In my memory photos I found the attached photographs. As you will see Miss Williamson is centre front row. It was taken in 1952. I remember Miss Williamson, as we called her, as a terrific netball player and a very kind lady. I played in the same team with her on many occasions. As you will see, Colleen Power and myself are the only ORs in the team, of which I have many happy memories of lots of hard training and many victories.



Army Netball Team 1952. Standing L to R: Colleen Power, Miss Hallcombe, Miss Marrott. Kneeling L to R: Jean Gammie, Miss Williamson, Miss Nightingale

MEMORIES OF AUDREY MITCHELL NÉE WILLIAMSON

Madge Evans

15 Laburnum Grove, Luton LU3 2DW

Dear Editor

I was saddened to hear of the death of Audrey Mitchell, née Williamson, in the latest *Lioness* (2/10). Our paths crossed several times during our WRAC careers. I initially met her when playing hockey at Q.E Camp, whilst I was in basic training, when she caught my ankle with a good knock and I had to leave the field. Later on at HQ Eastern Command we played a team from the Training Centre I believe, and I accidentally (!) caught her across the shin. She was of sterner stuff than I and played on! Some years later we met again, in Woppertal BAOR, when she arrived as the spouse of our new OC. She remembered our hockey encounters well.

Just after this I met with an old school friend on the steps of the NAAFI shop one day and as we stood there reminiscing Mrs Mitchell passed us. I thought nothing of it, until we went to the Wives Club the following week, when Mrs Mitchell took me to one side and said "It isn't really correct for senior NCOs' wives to call officers' wives by their Christian name", to which I replied, "It is when you have sat next to them in school for five years".

Major and Mrs Mitchell were with our unit during 1964, and for two consecutive Wives Club meeting, we were told, in great detail, about the 1948 Olympics. On the third week, another member and I arrived to find the VDU set up again. My co-conspirator shall be nameless but if she reads this she will know who she is. "Oh no not again" she said; I heartedly agreed. A fully qualified couch potato can only take so much athletic prowess. A little electrical knowledge can be handy, so with the aid of a nail file, we unscrewed the plug and removed the fuse; no Olympics that night! I did confess to Audrey, at the first Grand Reunion I attended in Blackpool in the early 1990s, and I think she forgave me – my partner in crime was also there. I did not reveal who else had been involved.

Through the *Lioness* I would like to offer my condolences to her husband and family. She was always fair and just. Thanks to her, I can say in all honesty, that I have an Olympic silver medal in my hand. Mind you, unless they initiate a category for contrariness, I'll never win one!

Poems

A PRAYER FOR THOSE GETTING OLD

Submitted by Mrs Stella Fogg née Hill as apt for the *Lioness*

Lord thou knowest I am growing older.
Keep me from becoming talkative and
possessed with the idea that I must
express myself on every subject.
Release me from the craving to
straighten out every ones' affairs.
Keep me from the recital of endless
detail. Give me the wings to get to
the point.
Seal my lips when I am inclined to
tell of my aches and pains, as they
are increasing with the years, and my
love to speak of them grows sweeter
as time goes by.
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally
I may be wrong.
Make me thoughtful but not nosey,
helpful but not bossy.
With my vast store of wisdom and
experience it does seem a pity not to
use it all. But thou knowest Lord
that I want a few friends at the end.
Amen

MEMORIES

Submitted by Mrs Maisie Chase née Hennings
W/242203 Pte ATS, 645 Bty, 187 Regt

Twas Boxing Day when I was born
At 8 o'clock in the morn
The snow it came upon that day
As in the cradle I did lay
And as my life it did progress
Through many changes it did pass
Different homes and different schools
Different jobs and different rules
And then one day the war did come
To serve our country we did run
Marching and drilling was not fun
But at least we had begun
To live our lives courageously
We manned the instruments each day
We looked for planes and manned the phones
They cooked the food which we did eat
For six long years the war did last
And many things came to pass
Life was so different then
And we could say "remember when"
The places we went, the people we met
The comrades in memory we never forget
We may have lost touch and never did meet
But never forget, to live was sweet

K I A

Submitted by Mrs H E Forrester née Ross Q1291
Cpl

We glimpsed our Heaven you and I
my love my dear love
We had such plans, such happy plans
my love my dear love
We knew life might be hard
but we had hope
and the will to cope
I quelled unspoken fears
you had them too
all soldiers do
And then the gates clanged shut
my love
my dear dear love
You on one side
and I on the other

THE HEADACHE

Submitted by Miss Jill C S Hunt (W/401658)

I took a trip to Nurofen
Near Asprin-by Sea
And all along my journey
There were many sights
To see
Like Anadin and Panadol
Two lovely seaside towns
And a place called
Alka Seltzer
Nestling in the Downs
We bypassed Paracetamol
And took the road
Through Vick
It was quiet in Mentholatum
So we got through
Pretty quick
I saw the oil rigs near Hedex
Just past Solphadine
And because of all its
Olbas oil
It's twinned with Aberdeen
But now I'm safely
Home again
I'm tired for goodness sake
I've got a splitting headache
But I don't know what to take

DON'T GROW OLD

Submitted by Miss Jill C S Hunt W/401658

Don't grow old in England
'cos it ain't a lot of fun
The Government don't
want you
when your working days are done
You become a burden
to the system and the State
Something that our leaders
really cannot tolerate
They can't give you a
decent pension
despite what you've
paid in
Because you've become
a problem
You really cannot win
The price of almost
everything
it seems, increases at will
The pension on the
other hand
seems mostly to stand still
Budgeting now is something
That really worries me
Perhaps instead of
A pension
I should have become an MP

HISTORY OF THE WRAC

This booklet was written just as the WRAC was disbanded in 1992 and it was revised in 2009. It has 37 pages and contains all the essential history of the Corps and useful information about uniform, employments, postings and training units. It also gives all the details about the Royal connections the Corps had.



Copies are available from the WRAC Association, Gould House, Worthy Down, WINCHESTER SO21 2RG and cost just £2.50 incl p&p. Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE & WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

AND

AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE & WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND

Details of Donor

Title: _____

Forenames: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____

I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and I request that the Auxiliary Territorial Service and Women's Royal Army Corps (ATS & WRAC) Association and the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000, and all donations from the date of this declaration, to either the ATS & WRAC Association and/or the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund as Gift Aid Donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Notes:

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
2. You must cancel this declaration if, in the future, your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
3. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the ATS & WRAC Association and/or ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund. The declaration will longer apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
4. Please notify the ATS & WRAC Association and/or the ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund of any change of address whilst this declaration is in force.

Weddings

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(60 YEARS)

JOHN JONES AND KAY ROWING



John and Kay on their Wedding Day in 1951

John and Kay met in York on duty whilst serving in the RMP and ATS Provost respectively. They think fondly of the times spent on duty together in various parts of the North of England. The many years together has resulted in one daughter and three grandsons, and since retirement the grand sum of 22 cruises to various parts of the world.



John and Kay now

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(60 YEARS)

CYNTHIA HUMBLE NÉE GROSSMAN



Wedding Day 24th June 1950

The wedding has its own special Guard of Honour made up of ATS from Gresford. Cynthia left the WRAC the week prior to her wedding but fondly remembers her service.



The happy couple 60 years on. Note the wearing of the GCHQ medal, awarded in September 2009, for services connected with Bletchley Park

Editor: The ATS reminiscences accompanying these photographs will be in Lioness 2/11

Obituaries – their final salute

W/200770 JOAN HORSFALL

24 October 2010
PDF Compressor Free Version



Joan Horsfall, date unknown

Joan Horsfall was born in 1923, and spent most of her life in Sale, Cheshire. She was called up on the 11th September 1942, joined B-Company, Manchester S.D. Group, and was posted to Lowercroft Camp, near Bury, Lancashire, where she worked in the Officers' Mess. She was discharged in June 1946, *"A thoroughly reliable, trustworthy auxiliary. She is a cheerful and willing worker, an efficient officer's mess waitress, and has a pleasant manner and neat appearance."* After her demob, she returned to Sale, becoming assistant manageress of the Scotch Wool/Bellmans shop. She spent a year in Canada, then returned to her old job, later working at Boots in Sale.



Joan was proud of her ATS service and was a life member of the Manchester ATS Comrades, regularly attending their meetings, Remembrance Day parades, and ATS reunions where she made and kept many friends. She will be sadly missed.

Joan Horsfall in 1999

Peter Horsfall

IRENE WALKER NÉE MULLAHEY ATS
25 October 2010

With great sadness, I must inform you about the death of my mother Mrs Irene Walker, on the 25th October 2010.

Irene joined the ATS in February 1946 until June 1951. She spent time in Germany and Egypt and was a TPO. She died peacefully in the Arbory Residential Home, Andover, Hampshire, where she had lived for 5 years with dementia.

Hilary Akehurst

W/15221Y LILY WHEELER ATS

17 September 2010



Lily Wheeler, date unknown

We would like to inform you of the sad passing of Lily Wheeler, who passed away on 17th September 2010, aged 88. Lily enlisted into the ATS on 2nd March 1942 and was discharged in February 1946. Her rank was W/Sgt Lily and she served some time with the Military Police.



Lily Wheeler in more recent times

After being discharged Lily was Captain of the Walton On The Naze Girls Brigade for around 40 years and was an active member of the local church.

Tim Horton

PDF Compressor Free Version

MARGOT COOPER ATS

21 September 2010

By kind permission of the *Daily Telegraph* (24 November 2010 – abridged)

Editor: I thought this would be of interest and pays testament to the many untold experiences of the ATS.

Margot Cooper, who has died aged 92, was the first woman officer to set foot in occupied Europe after D-Day; later she helped to organise the British Delegation at the Potsdam Conference.

Margot Marshall, as she then was, was a 26-year-old subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) when, at the beginning of June 1944, she was summoned to a secret meeting at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, where she and her colleagues were briefed about plans for D-Day by Montgomery. She was appointed Officer in Charge of an advance party of 30 members of 1st Continental Group ATS and at the end of July her party crossed the Channel in secret in a tank carrier, landing on the beach at Courseilles and camping amongst the ruins of Bayeux, close to the front line. The rest of 1st Continental Group, consisting of three companies – cooks, drivers, and Margot Marshall's E Company of clerks – arrived about a month later.

In September 1944 the whole camp moved from Normandy to Brussels, where they were given a heroes' welcome. Margot Marshall was billeted in a building in Avenue Louise which only days earlier had been the Gestapo HQ. In the Spring of 1945 senior Allied and Nazi officers met to address the worsening problem of food shortages in the northern Netherlands. A temporary truce was agreed and subsequently Margot Marshall was posted to 3rd Continental Group ATS, Netherlands District as junior commander. She formed K Company to secure food supplies for the starving Dutch people.....

....In the run-up to Potsdam, Margot Marshall was instructed to form a temporary company to look after the British delegation at the conference. After selecting some 140 ATS volunteers, she flew to Berlin and remained in Potsdam for five weeks. During this time she attended the Berlin Victory Parade, at which she and colleagues were given a box next to Churchill's. She was demobilised in April 1946.

**W/55181 JOYCE MARY WRIGHT
NÉE WALLACE. ATS
20 October 2010**



Joyce Mary Wright

Those in the Chelmsford Branch and other members who knew Joyce were sad to learn of her death on 20th October 2010 at the home of her daughter Christine in Cornwall. Most of Joyce's life had been spent in Essex. She once lived on Foulness Island and later in Springfield near Chelmsford with her husband Ken.

During the Second World War Joyce, who quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant, was attached to the Army Pay Corps and was stationed for a time at Sandhurst. In 1989 Joyce placed an advert in the local paper asking former ATS to visit her at home with the idea of re-forming the Chelmsford Branch which had originally opened in 1947 and closed a few years later. Joyce became Treasurer followed by the Social Secretary and finally Vice Chairman, a position she held until her death. She was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation which speaks for itself but it was recommended largely on the tremendous effort she put into organising holidays, days out a quiz and other games at meetings, and her intense interest in the work of the branch.

In recent months she went to live with her daughter as she had become very unwell but she kept in touch with friends by post and was delighted to hear from them. A Service of Thanksgiving was held in her memory on 23rd October 2010 at All Saints Springfield where she had regularly worshipped. Eight members of Chelmsford Branch were able to attend.

We remember Joyce with gratitude and we shall miss her. "Well done that ATS".

Gina Shadrack

SUE NICHOLS N E SIMPSON, WRAC
22 January 2011

On Saturday, 22nd January 2011, one of our Tangliners, Sue Nichols sadly passed away. Sue served in Salisbury and Singapore in the 1960s and was a very privileged to know her from those times and others knew her through the WRAC Dinner Club. Patricia (Flogger) Gates contacted Sue in 2004 and they attended their first WRAC Dinner at Stoke on Trent that same year. Sue was so thrilled and excited to be contacted by one of her old comrades from Singapore, and over the moon to meet so many old pals. Patricia and Sue often commented that it was one of the best things that had happened to them. Since then, throughout the last 7 years, we have enjoyed Sue's sparkling company at the yearly WRAC Dinners, the Grand Reunions, a holiday in Spain for Anne Gurney's 60th birthday and a holiday in Patricia's home town Wivenhoe in Essex. Such wonderful times with sunlit days filled with friendship, support and laughter. It was as if the years had rolled back and we were once again those lively young girls from our service days, with a sparkling love of life and sense of humour in common. Whether we had served in the same postings or not did not matter, we all appreciated those times and now we have lost Sue, we recognise more than ever that they were very special times indeed.

Sue would tell us hilarious tales of times when she travelled to the reunions with Patricia – and she told them in a way that only Sue could! She would have us holding our stomachs with laughter, and when we all met we would get her to repeat them to us – and this she did with so much relish.

Just after the 2007 WRAC Dinner in Liverpool, Sue was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout the past 3 years she showed such strength and resolve and continued to attend our reunions, always positive and smiling quietly enjoying us all being together. Sadly last year Sue knew

she did not have long left. Last October she somehow summoned up even more courage and strength, showing us all how much she thought of us all, and attended what she knew would be her last reunion. Sue came to say goodbye to us all and she did this with such dignity no-one would have guessed that there was anything wrong. She smiled and enjoyed the whole weekend even though it must have been so difficult for her. How elegant and beautiful she looked on the dinner evening. Sue just wanted everything to be the same as normal so we did the same things we had always done, enjoying meals out and shopping really enjoying her company. It was only when the weekend was over and Sue said her goodbyes that it hit us that it really was the last time we would be with her. Tears flowed from both Sue and us.

Memories of Sue that all her friends remember are many; a lovely lady, very special, a one off, full of fun with a contagious giggle, a supportive friend, elegant and brave, and from her service days – Jeanette Thirwell who worked with Sue in Singapore remembers that Sue would always "pick up the slack on the switchboard", share her sandwiches and let you borrow her dresses – a great friend.

A group of Tangliners and friends attended Sue's funeral in Ipswich on Tuesday 1st February. It was a celebration of her life with all who knew and loved her packed into the chapel. Sue wanted colour to be worn and a service of happiness and, even though it was overcast outside, inside that little chapel that day was what sharing Sue's life meant to us all.

Rest in peace Sue, well deserved, we salute you and we will always remember you.

Carol, Irene, Patricia (Flogger), Rose, Anne, Cherry, Margo, Sandy, Rita, Lesley, Jan, Lin, Maggie, Jeanette, Jackie, Jenny, Annette, Ann, Marlene, Marilyn



ASHPLANT Maj Ruth, of Wokingham on 24 Sept 2010, WRAC

BESLEY Mrs Joan, née Colcough, of West Bridgforth on 23 Jul 2010, ATS

BLOWERS Mrs Rosa Joyce, née Massey, of Portsmouth on 26 Mar 2010, ATS

BRENT Mrs Margaret Ivy, of Baldock, ATS

CAMPEN Mrs Betty, of Chelmsford on 3 Dec 2010

CARPENTER Mrs Patricia, née George, of York on 28 Aug 2010, ATS

CARPENTER Mrs Betty, née Smith, of Southend on Sea on 11 Sept, ATS

CHRISTIAN Mrs Mary, née Innes, of Aberdeen on 17 Oct 2010, WRAC

CONN Mrs Doris, née Henley, of East Sussex on 9 Sept 2010, ATS

CROFT Mrs Mary, née Mathews, of Harrogate on 14 Dec 2010, WRAC

DAVIES Mrs Betty Esme, née Maybee, of Dorchester on 8 Jul 2010, ATS

DAVIES Mrs Mona, née Williams, of Rhondda on 8 Jun 2010, ATS

FERGUSON Mrs Joan Patricia, née Jackson, of Bath on 8 Jul 2010, ATS

FOSTER Mrs Anne, née Strain

FREAK Mrs Betty Doris, née Halsey/Gerry, of Kent on 21 Oct 2010, WRAC

GALLAGHER Mrs Joan, of Cardiff on 27 Sept 2010, WRAC

GIBBONS Mrs Netta Anna, née Bettsworth, of Inverurie on 27 Aug 2010, ATS

GRAY Miss Ruby, of Dumfries on 24 June 2010, ATS

GRAY Miss Irene, of Salisbury on 14 Dec 1020, ATS

HARRIS Mrs Jean, née Pollard, of Southampton on 25 Jun 2010, ATS/WRAC

HAWARD Miss Jill Rosemary, of Chichester on 18 May 2010, ATS

HILLIARD Mrs Lillian, née Booth, of Northampton on 7 Aug 2010

HINE MBE Mrs Margaret Alice, née Reeve, of Brighton on 5 Oct 2010, ATS/WRAC

HODGSON BEM Miss Lilian, of Dumfries on 2 Jun 2010, ATS

IZOD Mrs Margaret, née Elgie, of Buckingham on 2 Jan 2010, WRAC

LEWIS Mrs Lilian Hilda, née Sartain, of Bath on 3 Nov 2010, ATS

LITTLE Mrs Nancy, née Boddie, of Reading on 19 Jul 2010, ATS

LOVELL Mrs V B, of Bournemouth in July 2010, ATS

MATTHEWS Mrs J, née Niven, of Southampton on 24 Aug 2010, WAAF

McHENRY Mrs Edna Margaret, née Hawler, of Liverpool on 6 Oct 2010, ATS

MELBY Mrs Dorothy May, née Dobson, of Norway on 5 Jul 2010, ATS

MILNE BEM Mrs Mary Elizabeth, née Edgar, of Newtownabbey on 5 Dec 2010, ATS

NEWMAN Mrs Norma Louise, née Dredge, on 19 Sept 2010, WRAC

NORBURY Miss Elsie Freda, of Macclesfield on 16 Aug 2010, ATS

PALMER Miss Celia, of Bottisham, WRAC

PARTRIDGE Mrs Queenie May, née Cattermoul, of Wolverhampton on 16 Jul 2010, ATS

PATTERSON Mrs Joan Elizabeth, née Higgs, of Newcastle on 24 Jun 2010, ATS

REED Mrs Nancy, née Stead, of York on 15 Nov 2010, ATS

ROBERTS Mrs Lily Elsie, née Cooke, of Auckland, NZ in Mar 2010, ATS

ROBINSON Mrs Joan Bridget, née Skinner, of Sleaford on 31 Dec 2009, ATS/WRAC

SAGE Miss Elizabeth Mary, of Martock

SALE Miss Gill, of Seaford on 18 Jan 2011

SEAMAN Mrs Peggy, née Hemsley, of Bath, ATS

SETTLE Mrs Elizabeth (Peggy), of Glasgow on 28 Nov 2010, ATS

STEPHENS Mrs Joan, née West, of Coventry on 31 May, ATS

STOCK Mrs Cynthia Doreen, née Hook, of Minneapolis on 1 Sep 2010, ATS

TINKER Maj Elizabeth, née Nevin, of Long Melford on 16 Aug 2010, ATS/WRAC

TODMAN Mrs Isabel, née Glen, of Winchester on 10 Dec 2010, ATS

TOTTEN Miss Irene, of Bournemouth on 10 May 2010, WRAC

UNDERWOOD Mrs Mary Kathleen, née Stevens/Lawrence, of Gloucestershire, ATS

WALKER Mrs Irene, née Mullahey, of Andover on 25 Oct 2010, ATS

WATERS Mrs Jean, of Newcastle on 8 Jun 2010

WATSON Mrs Isobel, née Troup, on 23 Sept 2010, ATS/WRAC

WAY Miss Margaret (Pippa), of Taunton on 19 Jul 2010, ATS

WEBB Mrs Gladys, née Robinson, of Durrington on 11 Jul 2010, ATS

WEBB Mrs Muriel Olive, née Durn, of Stronghouse, WRAC

WHEELER Mrs Lily Rose, of Walton on Naze on 17 Sept 2010, ATS

WHITE Miss Phyllis, of Worthing on 13 Nov 2010, ATS

WILLIAMS Miss Jessie Elizabeth, of Cheltenham on 7 Dec 2010, ATS

WOLSTENHOLME Miss Shirley, of Doncaster, WRAC

WRIGHT Mrs Joyce Mary, née Wallace, of Chelmsford on 20 Oct 2010, ATS

WILLIAMS Mrs Joan, née Sample, of Woodborough on 17 Dec 2010, ATS

PLEASE DO WHAT YOU CAN TO SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION

PDF Compressor Free Version

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A T-SHIRT WITH THE ASSOCIATION BADGE?

We often get requests for a tote bag.

What about a mousemat or travelling insulated mug?

All these and more are available.

Visit the website www.zazzle.co.uk and search for WRAC items



There you will also find tote bags, insulated coffee mugs, mouse mats and postcards and notelets with the Association Badge. There are also postcards with the Corps Prayer printed on them. PLEASE visit and buy – the WRAC Association is given a small percentage.

www.buy.at/WRAC

Have you tried this yet? If you shop online, visit this website first and connect to your usual favourite shop through this website.

IT IS LEGAL and IT IS NOT A SCAM. Go on – check it out.

Again, if you shop by connecting through this website, the WRAC Association gets a small percentage.

IT IS A VERY SIMPLE WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR OWN CHARITY.

A great number of high street companies use it e.g. NEXT, M and M and Marks and Spencer. If you shop at amazon.co.uk or HMV or hire your films online PLEASE go to www.buy.at/wrac NOW and see how it works. You will be able to buy your normal purchases at the usual online prices AND the Association will receive anything between 4-6% of the amount you spend.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES for the year ended 31 October 2010

PDF Compressor Free Version

		• Unrestricted •				
	Notes	General Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2010	Total 2009
INCOME & EXPENDITURE						
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary Income	1	22,749	4,533	35,661	62,943	28,079
Activities for generating funds	2	-	-	-	-	33,966
Investment Income	3	11,146	-	138,659	149,805	182,979
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4	50,408	-	-	50,408	63,905
Other incoming resources	5	1,096	-	1,014	2,110	6,039
Total incoming resources		85,399	4,533	175,334	265,266	314,968
Resources expended:						
Cost of generating funds:						
Cost of generating voluntary income	6	8,438	-	23,299	31,737	47,922
Charitable activities	8	64,869	-	162,793	227,662	244,357
Governance costs	9	6,480	-	2,943	9,423	4,699
Total resources expended		79,787	-	189,035	268,823	296,978
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS						
		5,611	4,533	(13,701)	(3,557)	17,990
Transfers between funds	14	3,170	(3,170)	-	-	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR		8,781	1,363	(13,701)	(3,557)	17,990
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES						
Gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised		18,496	-	264,401	282,896	592,390
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	17	27,277	1,363	250,700	279,339	610,380
Fund balances brought forward at 1 November 2009		518,026	34,421	4,645,186	5,197,633	4,587,253
Fund balances carried forward at 31 October 2010		545,303	35,784	4,895,886	5,476,973	5,197,633

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.

THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET for the year ended 31 October 2010

PDF Compressor Free Version

	Notes	2010	2009
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	10	5,163,362	4,920,464
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks of badges, souvenirs & standards		5,410	4,351
Debtors	11	41,212	42,559
Cash at bank & in hand	12	276,048	233,842
		322,670	280,752
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	9,058	3,583
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		313,612	277,169
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		5,476,973	5,197,633
		=====	=====
FUNDS FOR THE ASSOCIATION			
Restricted funds:			
The Benevolent Funds	15	4,185,998	3,953,124
The Princess Royal's Memorial Fund	16	709,888	692,062
Unrestricted funds:			
General funds		545,303	518,026
Designated funds:			
Membership life subscription fund	14	9,569	7,563
Lioness life subscription fund	14	26,215	26,858
TOTAL FUNDS	17		
		5,476,973	5,197,633
		=====	=====

Approved by the trustees on

..... Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel S J Westlake

21 January 2010

