

LIONESS

SERVE
SUPPORTING WOMEN WHO / SERVED



IN THIS EDITION

NEW MEMORIAL BENCH

LIONESS 10K

REMEMBRANCE CYCLE RIDE

TODAYS ARMY & WOMEN

WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating the QMAAC & ATS Comrades Association)

Registered Charity No. 206184, founded in 1919



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Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent GCVO

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Col (Retd) I M McCord

Life Vice Presidents

Area Chairman

Mrs H Jephcote (Scotland & N Ireland)

(Vacant - East Midlands)

Mrs L Roberts (Northern)

Ms L Hatch (Eastern)

Miss N Smith (London & South East)

Mrs B Anderson (Wales & The West)

Ms A Foster (South & South West)

Jenny Ogden (NEM)

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Message from the Vice President

State Of The Nation

NEW Association Vision Statement

To provide camaraderie, benevolence and mutual support to former members of the ATS and WRAC and exert influence within the military charity sector to broaden support for female veterans.

In addition, we welcome to the Association Servicewomen, both serving and retired, of any capbadge.



As the lockdown and tier system has continued, I do hope that all of you are well and that some of you will be able to reunite with family over the Christmas

period. As I write this, it has just been announced that the first batch of vaccine is on its way to us, so I really hope we are on our way to a better 2021 for all.

Within the Association, we have continued to look forward and keep in touch with as many of you as we can. The buddy buddy system has gone from strength to strength and I am very grateful to all those who are participating in this marvellous scheme to alleviate loneliness.

The Trustees of the Association have taken the opportunity to conduct a far-reaching review into the Association and how we might look in the long term. Given that we will always place our members at the very heart of this charity, the Trustees have agreed a new Vision Statement as detailed above. This Vision places our members at the centre of all we do, whether this is to do with membership activities and events or the distribution of benevolence grants. It also recognises that we are one of the few charities which exists specifically for female veterans and thus we are well placed to exert influence in this area. The review that has been conducted ensures that we can face the future being definite in our purpose and with confidence.

At the time of writing this, we still do not know if the AGM and Dinner planned for Saturday 20th March 2021, will go ahead. We are seeing how the situation evolves early next. By the time you are all reading this, the decision will have been made and communicated to you. If we are unable to hold the AGM at the VSC, we will hold the AGM virtually and will ensure that all of the necessary detail is communicated to you. Please be assured that we will meet as soon as it is safe to do so.

We have continued with all our benevolence activity as normal and I would again emphasise that anyone who has served in the ATS or the WRAC, regulars or reserves, for a day can submit an application for assistance. Please do spread the word far and wide.

Some of you will be aware that the Association is involved in a number of data gathering exercises aimed at better informing the wider audience about the specific needs of female veterans. The first of these is in partnership with Combat Stress and we hope to be able to inform you of the results of this survey around the time of the AGM. The second survey you may have seen is to inform the Defence Select Sub Committee for serving females and female veterans. This is currently conducting its call for evidence and, along with the individual responses, the Association will be submitting a consolidated response. The current interest in female veterans from these organisations and others such as Cobseo, is extremely welcome and, hopefully, will provide the evidence for change, both in terms of policy and attitudes. Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to complete the surveys when they arrived in your e mail accounts.

Once again, my thanks go to our HQ Team of Penny, Julia, Julie and Tanya, the Trustees, Life Vice Presidents, Area Coordinators, Branch Secretaries and all those who are involved in promoting and supporting the Association. Without all of these people giving of their time, we would not be able to have the successful and vibrant Association that we have.

All it remains for me to do is to wish to all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Ali Brown

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Front Cover Images
ATS & WRAC Steel Bench
MEMORIAL
Memorial Garden, Palace
Barracks, N.Ireland

EDITORIAL



A 'post' came up on my Facebook page recently which said "Nobody claim 2021 is 'your year'. We're all going to walk in real slow. Be good. Be quiet. Don't. Touch. Anything."

While this might look, at first glance, as a negative message for the coming/new year, I actually see it as a positive one – reminding us that 2021 belongs to all of us. That with the pandemic still with us, we must not 'rush' anything – we need to take the year, and life, at walking pace, slow and measured. It also reminds us to be good – to each other, to ourselves.

I certainly don't want to appear to be stating the very obvious, but 2020 certainly was a 'different' year – different in every way and even in ways we never thought likely or possible. Plans, personal and otherwise, had, and still have, to be reconsidered. Remembrancetide, Christmas and New Year have all been different ... for everyone. Plans for the WRAC Association had to be changed – including how Council and Trustees meetings were held (all online / via 'zoom' – we all thought 'to zoom' was to do something fast, now we know differently!). March and then October plans for the AGM, along with the Dedication of the new ATS Statue had to be re-organised and then, very sadly, cancelled for 2020. We know that many Areas and Branches have struggled to meet face-to-face - but we also know that you have all stepped up your efforts to show in real and practical ways what it is to 'Support Women who Served / Serve', to Buddy-buddy, in the very best way, using the phone, letters/postcards, social media, etc.

We are aware that very sadly some Members lost their battle with life and Covid-19 and have joined the Parade Ground in the Sky. However, it has been wonderful to hear of those who fought on 'Gentle in manner and Resolute in deed' and came through. I hope that those of you who have been unwell will enjoy better health and life in 2021; and that everyone else manages to stay as safe and healthy as possible. In light of the ongoing Covid-19 situation the Association continues to review how it operates in the short- and long-term, including meetings, AGM and social events, etc.

As an Association we are still looking at ways in which we can Support you and each other; how we can continue to reach out and meet, and catch, up with friends and other veterans. Inside is notification about this year's AGM, and Advance Notice for next year's Grand Reunion.

Gentle reminder to one and all – Please make sure that if you are taking photographs at events to share within the Association, and/or wider, that you get everyone's permission for their image to be used and shared. It is now relatively common practice to announce about photography at the start of events, or to have a written notice on display saying that photography will be taking place. People need to be encouraged to let the photographer know if they do not want their image to be shared.

I found this, online, and send it to all of you, our wonderful Members, with thanks for all have done, are doing and are looking forward to doing:

New Year Wishes for Friends

- New year, new adventures with my best friends. I can't wait!
- In an extraordinary year, I've been grateful for your extraordinary friendship thank you. And cheers to new beginnings!
- I'm so grateful for your support and love this year. Here's to many more years of friendship!
- Here's to another year of making memories with you. Happy New Year!
- Friends are the family we choose for ourselves. Cheers to another year of sisterhood.
- You deserve all the best: May all your wishes come true in 2021!
- The future is your story to write ... make next year the best one yet.
- New Year's Day is the first page in a blank book: Write a phenomenal story!
- May all your wildest dreams manifest in 2021. You got this!
- New year, new start. May all your dreams come true in 2021!

Once again, a **HUGE** thank you to each and every one of you; to all the Branch chairs/secretaries/treasurers/co-ordinators/links/whoever and Area Co-ordinators; to the Officers (in particular Ali for all her help, support, advice and time), Trustees and Council; and to all the staff who work here in the HQ office – namely Julie, Julia and Tanya. The Association really is a 'team' in which there are no 'I's' and everyone really has shown in very

real ways how the Association can and does
'Support Women who Served / Serve'.

Penny Muxworthy
editor@wracassociation.org.uk

*"You are never too old
to set another goal or to dream a
new dream."
C.S. Lewis*

SUPPORT WOMEN WHO ^{SERVE} SERVED

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NEW Association Vision Statement

**To provide Camaraderie,
Benevolence and Mutual
Support to former
members of the ATS
and WRAC and exert
influence within the
military charity sector
to broaden support for
female veterans.**

**In addition, we welcome
to the Association
Servicewomen, both
serving and retired, of
any capbadge.**

Comings and Goings

WENDY HOOTON'S FAREWELL

As Eastern Area Co-ordinator

I felt I couldn't leave without a few words about my 10 years as Eastern Area Co-Ordinator. The photo of Council members was taken outside the Officer's Mess in Worthy Down in 2010 and appeared in Lioness 2011/1.



I was "recruited" by Lt Col (Retd) Sue Westlake who was Vice President of the Association at the time. Sue has quite a knack of recruiting people into the fold!! However, it is not a job I regret taking on. I have enjoyed having the contact with the Eastern Area Branches and attending so many of their events. I am truly grateful for all the opportunities I have had.

The highlight of my time as Area Co-ordinator was being presented to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. This took place in the Army & Navy Club in Pall Mall (informally known as The Rag). We were there to celebrate 100 years of Women serving. It really was an honour and privilege.



My reason for standing down was to concentrate more on fundraising for the Association. However, with lockdown and the pandemic, 2020 has been a challenging time for charities. I decided to organise a Virtual 10k run/walk and a WRAC Remembrance Cycle Ride. Articles for these events are in this Lioness. I was also able to walk the Coastal Path around the Isle of Wight between lockdowns. It was 94 miles in total, and we received donations from our lovely ladies Jenny Bevan, Sheila Peck and Tracy Biddlecombe who live on the island as well as receiving donations on our fundraising page.

I wish my successor Lyn Hatch a really rewarding term as Area Co-ordinator. Lyn brings with her a wealth of experience. She has a great knowledge of our Corps history and of women who served in WW1 & WW2. Her enthusiasm is infectious.

Best wishes to you all.
Wendy Hooton

MEET YOUR TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

In addition to including pen portraits / biographies of new Trustees and Council Members when they join the boards, we will be featuring a few of the longer-standing Trustees and Council Members so you can get to know them a little better. This time we re-introduce you to:

LT COL (RTD) SUE J WESTLAKE

Lieutenant Colonel Sue Westlake was born in November 1952 and educated at Redditch County High School, Worcestershire. She was commissioned into the WRAC in April 1972.



Her first appointments at Regimental Duty included: Recruiting and Schools Liaison, Selection and Recruit Training, and Instructor at the WRAC College, Camberley, where she trained Student Officers, Officer/TA Cadets as well as instructing WO and NCO Cadre courses. Her Grade 3 Staff appointment was as SO3 G1/G4 HQ Berlin Infantry Brigade. She returned to UK on promotion to the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, in 1983 as AIPT WRAC.

From May 1985 until November 1986 she was Comd WRAC/WSLO Scotland. She took command of 29 Coy WRAC in Rheindahlen in November 1986 and followed that by serving in the WRAC Directorate, MOD for her Grade 2 Staff appointment. Her last appointment as a Major was as SPSO AG Corps/OIC Recruit Selection Centre, Guildford.

Lieutenant Colonel Westlake was posted to Germany as SO1 Female Focus in September 1992 to monitor the integration of women into the Army following the disbandment of the WRAC. In addition, she assumed the responsibility of SO1 G1, HQ BAOR. For the next four years she was the SO1 SPS in HQ DSPS(A) responsible for manning, recruiting and training. In June 1998 she was appointed Commander SPS HQ 4th Division. Lieutenant Colonel Westlake is single and lives in Four Marks near Alton. She enjoys all sports and plays in the Army Women's Veterans Tennis team. Her hobbies include music (she plays the violin, trumpet and guitar and is currently learning to master the keyboard), gardening, cycling and photography.

ADVERT FOR EAST MIDLANDS AREA

Area Co-ordinators act as the links between Council, Association HQ and Branches, and remain part of your Council, which meets in London twice a year. The Area Co-ordinators arrive the previous evening for Area Forum, the ideal opportunity to talk through issues you all have in common. Nominations for WRAC Association Mention in Dispatches come from Branches to you, before going to Council. It is hoped that Area Co-ordinators will continue to organise a regular / annual AGM or get-together for your area – another great opportunity to share and promote 'comradeship, support and esprit de corps' for "Women who Served".

East Midlands – Cathy Munro announced she was standing down from last summer for a variety reasons. Therefore, if you are in the East Midlands Area (branches include Derby, E.Riding & N.Lincs, Grantham, Leicestershire & Nottinghamshire, Lincoln & District, Lincolnshire, Peterborough & District and York) and are interested please let us know.



WRAC LIONESSES

HOW COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED THE WRAC LIONESSES.

In September Wendy shared this ...

Well, who knew this coronavirus would have such an impact on the world, causing a pandemic?

The news came in that the Cardiff 10k, scheduled for Sunday 6th September 2020, had been cancelled. This was no surprise as the coronavirus COVID-19 had spread worldwide and the World Health Organisation had declared the outbreak a pandemic on 11th March 2020. It was, and still is, a worrying time for us all.

I decided rather than miss a year of this popular event we could do a virtual 10k run from our home locations. That way we could still fundraise and get sponsored raising vital funds for the WRAC Association. I was on a mission ... I love missions!

I found a company who could print T-shirt's for us and were happy to post to individual addresses. They are for runners, walkers and supporters. The rainbow on the T-shirt's is a nod to our wonderful NHS.

I was then on a mission to sort out a medal (thank you Lynda Harper Richards Reid for the suggestion!) lol. I found a company who were producing Lockdown 2020 medals with a rainbow ribbon. They were a great price and you could have 3 lines of engraving on the back.

My job was almost done I wanted us all to celebrate together on the day and decided on attempting to have a zoom chat for 100 people after our run, all muted most of the time except for me! Wearing our T-shirts we took some screen shots to post in the Lioness.

The Cardiff event is deferred to next year,

Sunday 5th September 2021.

Get the date in your diaries.

Keep training everyone and stay safe.
Thank you as always for your support.

Wendy Hooton

Post-Lockdown Run/Walk report LIONESSES LOCKDOWN 10k 2020

WOW!! What a fantastic response to my call out to have a virtual lockdown run/walk from your own homes. There were 70 of us, plus supporters! You will have seen in the last Lioness that the planned Cardiff 10k was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is deferred until Sunday 5th September 2021 - so get the date in your diaries.

And so it began.....
Fundraising page opened, t-shirts ordered, medals ordered and training in progress.

My grateful thanks to my daughter Hannah for arranging a video message from one of our great female British Olympians - Anyika Onuora. This was posted on social media on the WRAC LIONESSES FUNDRAISING GROUP Facebook page to give us inspiration and encouragement prior to the event.

On Sunday 6th September @ 0930hrs, wearing our lockdown t-shirts, we were raring to set off from our respective homes ... the time we would have started had we been in Cardiff. Thankfully the weather was on our side and everyone completed the 10k with no injuries.

A few special mentions:-

Sandy Cawley our FIRST OCTOGENARIAN, having had her 80th birthday in June. She was out there with her coach,

Derek Vinten, who just happens to be her son in law. Sandy completed the 10k in an incredible 1hr 44 mins which was a PB. Congratulations Sandy, an amazing achievement. Jañ Brant Cassidy, Pip Flegel and Ewok had been doing some exceptional training prior to the event. It is no mean feat pushing a person and a dog 10k's in a wheelchair. Fantastic ladies!

Rowena Naile was our first runner home in an amazing 45 mins. Just brilliant!

Helen Davies - thank you for getting Mo Bear round yet another 10k and promoting her to Warrant Officer Class 1. You did a great job!

Post run I had arranged a zoom chat @1230hrs for people to link up. Everyone was in high spirits and enjoying well deserved refreshments. We are all looking forward to the Cardiff 10k next year.

We also had a minute's silence to remember our staunch supporter Debbie Kay Smith who lost her final battle in April. Since this event we have sadly lost another great supporter of the WRAC Lionesses, Cath Hulme, who worked for the NHS. Our condolences to both families for their loss.

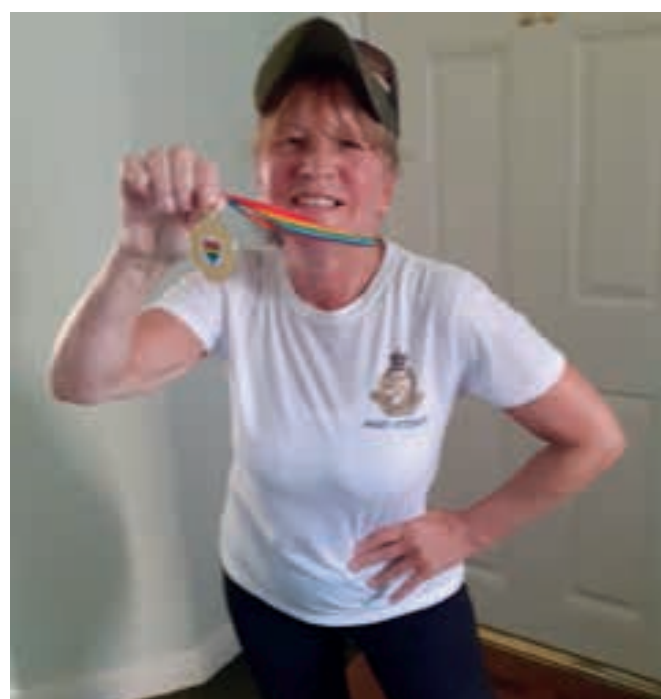
At the time of writing this we have raised £7,233.26, making it over £8,000 including Gift Aid. Thank you all so very much for all your efforts with fundraising during lockdown. Budgie Rosewell still managed to fit in a boot sale between lockdowns. Well done everybody.

Thank you all for your support as always, and I look forward to seeing you all in Cardiff ... God willing!

Take care and stay safe.
Wendy Hooton



Pip Flegel, Jañ Brant Cassidy & Ewok



Gwen Greenwood



Sandy Cawley



Rowena Naile



Mal Fulton



Nan Bulman



Wendy Hooton's Tribe



Babs Anderson



Marg Davies "Worcester Tribe"



Hannah & Wendy Hooton



Wendy Hooton's Tribe



W01 Mo Bear newly promoted! (Mascot)



SGT Chelsea Bear (Supporters Bear)



Diana Keenan, Pauline Marr



Shirley Gladwin, Stephanie Hickmans



Pauline Marr



Margaret Styles



Mandy Jarvis



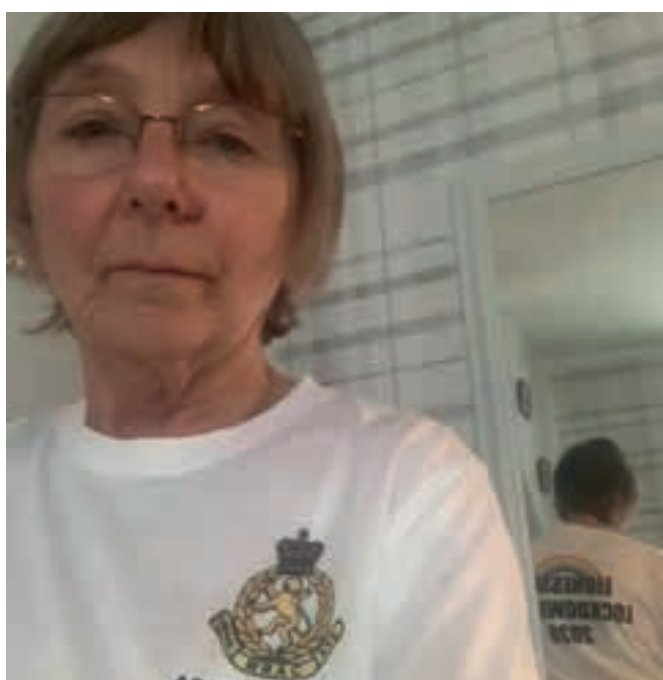
Wendy Brimicombe & Sue Young



Ollie, Peter & Daphne Navin



**Cardiff Lockdown Bear made by Lorraine Gauntlett
(Helen Davies won it in the raffle).**



Geraldine Mallett



British Olympian Anyika Onuora



Frances Fairclough



Denise Fitzgerald



Allie Hall



Amanda Joynson



Lynda Harper Richards Reid



Invicta Tribe



Karen Radford



Pat Neale



Pamela Parker



Wendy Hooton & Helen Davies promoting Mo Bear to W01



Gaynor Morris Webster



**Helen
Davies & Mo
Bear**



Sue Elsknis & Jennie Thomas



Julie White



Alice & Georgina Masters



Nicki Bignell



Cheryl Jones



Cheryl Jones



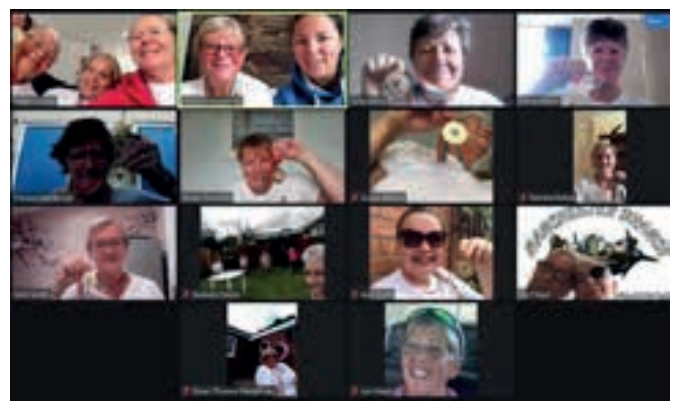
Ann Stack



Marg Davies Worcester Tribe



Gaynor Morris Webster & Jan Foster



Post Run Zoom chat



Marg Davies Worcester Tribe

WRAC LIONESSES 9th FUNDRAISING EVENT

CARDIFF 10k RUN/ WALK

**Sunday 5th
September 2021**
(Entry is not open
at this time)

If you would like to join us
for this popular event as a
runner/walker/jogger/crawler or
supporter please contact:

Wendy Hooton
Email:
wendyhootonski@aol.com
Mobile: 07775 505326
Facebook/Messenger Wendy
Hooton
Or HQ WRAC Association
0300 400 1992

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK GROUP
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN,
IT IS CALLED:

WRAC LIONESSES
FUNDRAISING GROUP
(It is not a chat site, it is
solely to post information for
fundraising events).

OUR FUNDRAISING
PAGE IS NOW OPEN IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE A DONATION.
[www.virginmoneygiving.com/
team/wraclionesses7](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/wraclionesses7)

Thank you as always for your
support

Wendy Hooton

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021 SATURDAY 20th MARCH 2021



The DRAFT AGM Agenda remains the same:

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Confirmation of 2019 Minutes and 2020 Filing arrangements
4. Business Arising
5. Trustees Report
6. Financial Report
7. Report of Editor of the Association Journal
8. Reports of Committees
9. Resolutions
 - a. Trustee/Council
 - b. Branch
 - c. Re-election of Honorary Treasurer
10. Guest Speaker
11. Any Other Business
12. Date of Next Meeting

STOP PRESS
The 2021 AGM will be
held ONLINE – in line with
recent Government
restrictions and
guidelines.

Any Branch Secretary or HQ Branch member who wishes to submit an item for inclusion in the agenda is to do so by 31st January 2021 to penny.muxworthy@wracassociation.org.uk.

The full and final Agenda, with associated papers, will be issued mid-February. This will include joining instructions, for the day. We are aware that not all members have access to online services, and we are very sorry that current Government advice and restrictions do not enable us to hold our AGM physically and face-to-face, as usual. However, holding the AGM online ensures compliance with both Government and Charity Commission guidance, advice and instructions.

If you have any observations to make, or you wish to comment, on any Agenda item please send written notification and details of your comment / observation into the Association Secretary by Friday 12th March 2021, at the latest.

Send to: Association Secretary, Unit 11, Basepoint, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 0LD,
or by email to: penny.muxworthy@wracassociation.org.uk

AGM DINNER

We have organised a Dinner to follow this year's AGM, similar to a Grand Reunion Dinner. We have booked The Yorkshire Military Band to provide entertainment throughout the evening.

Dinner will be a 3-course meal, with wine on the tables and available, along with a bar, throughout, followed by tea/coffee.

There will be a nominal charge for the Dinner of £25.00
BOOKINGS FORMS need to be

returned to HQ Office by 31st January 2021
(Contact HQ Office if you need a Booking Form)

TIMETABLE for day

14.00	AGM
19.00	AGM Dinner
23.30	Close of day

Benevolence Fund Welfare Grant - available to ATS and WRAC Members of the Association who may find it financially difficult to attend the AGM. Please enquire of your Branch Secretary and/or Area Co-ordinator for more information.

Naturally, we are very sorry that this year's Dinner following the AGM, the first such event, has had to be cancelled.

All those who had reserved places for the Dinner will be automatically refunded in full.

2021 & 2022 SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

ADVANCE NOTICE

DECEMBER 2021 - In December 1941 the government passed the National Service Act (No 2), which made provision for the conscription of women. At first only childless widows and single women 20 to 30 years old were called up, but later the age limit was expanded to 19 to 43 (50 for WWI veterans)



© IWM Art.IWM PST 8452

2021 therefore marks the 80th anniversary of the Conscription of women into military service, in World War 2. This conscription will have included those women who went into the ATS.

It is possible the National Army Museum may put on some sort of display to honour all these women. Were you one of them? If so, let us (in HQ Office) know. Even if you have already shared your story and memories, in some guise, please just let us know if you were a 'volunteer' or 'conscript'. We will not share your story with anyone unless you give us permission – but would love to honour you, and your fellow female veterans, in a forthcoming edition of *Lioness* and, possibly, share with the National Army Museum and wider population.

How old were you when you were 'called up'?

What were you doing?

Where were you living, working, being educated, whatever?

Where did you go for initial training?

What 'trade' did you train, and work, in – and where?

The Country and its Allies desperately needed your skills (including your ability to learn new or expand old skills), dedication, time, confidence, and discipline ... and even confidentiality ... to meet the needs of the Country and the war it was fighting for liberation across Europe and the World.

So please, if you were one of this band of wonder-women please let us know, so you can be appropriately celebrated and thanked.

Penny Muxworthy
Association Secretary



APRIL 2022 – will mark the 30th anniversary of the WRAC's disbandment and full-integration of women in the wider British Army in 1992. The Association will definitely mark this event in some way, but it is possible that the National Army Museum, and/or British Army, may also mark this historic event in military history.

Were you one of the band of girls to went to bed WRAC (no matter how long you

had been WRAC) and woke up under another, different, cap-badge?

What was your experience of this time, how did you feel, who were you re-cap-badged to, where were you stationed/ serving?

Were you one of the women who were among the first to go direct into integrated Regiments/Corps, not having been WRAC first?

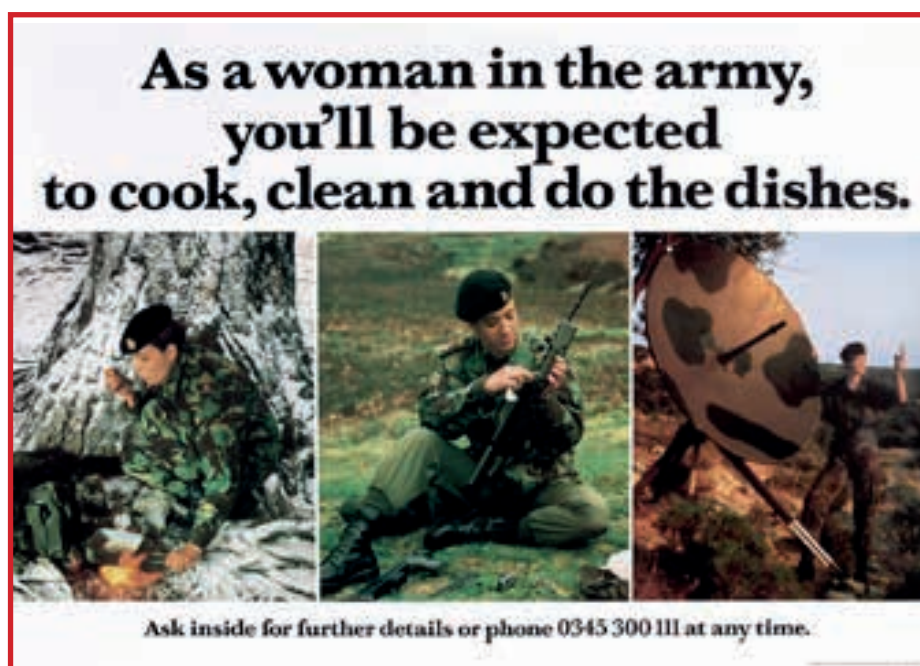
What did/do you miss about the women-only WRAC, or think you may have missed?

What opportunities were opened up to you after April 1992 (that may not have been possible before)?

What have you achieved since – both within the military, and in civilian life (because of, or despite, your military service)?

The Association wants to mark this widening of opportunities and is looking for your help. Naturally, we won't share your stories without your permission. Please send your memories and stories to HQ Office.

Penny Muxworthy
Association Secretary



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Grand Reunion 2022



**HOLD THE DATE –
Friday 18th – Sunday 20th March 2022**



**Exact venue
still to be
confirmed**

BUT

Will be north of 'Watford Gap' (and north of Midlands) and south of Scotland

Town/city will include lots of other things you can do (eg retail therapy, refreshments, museums, etc)

And lots of places to stay

Town/city will be confirmed at this year's AGM

Booking Forms will be included in next edition of Lioness

NOTE: Accommodation in HQ-hotel will not open until mid-October 2021

**PUT THE DATE IN
YOUR DIAIRES NOW:
Friday 18th – Sunday
20th March 2022**

Weekend Programme (all in HQ-hotel):

Friday	Morning Registration Desk opens Evening buffet dinner with dancing
Saturday	Afternoon AGM Beating Retreat followed by ... Evening Gala Dinner with Band music and dancing
Sunday	Morning Drumhead Service Followed by ... Short Parade and Dismissal

Weekend Price: TBC

(Accommodation and travel costs will be at your own expense)

There will be a **Grand Raffle**, drawn at Saturday's AGM
Tickets will be sent out with next Lioness
(and will be available for last-minute purchases on weekend's Friday)

Association Registration/Enquiries desk and Shop will be open:

Friday	mid-morning – 16.00
Saturday	10.00 – 12.30



Features

ATS & WRAC Steel Bench MEMORIAL Memorial Garden, Palace Barracks, N.Ireland

In August we received the following email:

As many will know, the Palace Barracks Memorial Garden has been a beautifully designed and preserved Garden of Remembrance in Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland for the last 27 years.

The garden was designed in 1994 and has been that one place where visiting families, friends and colleagues can come to spend time reflecting and remembering loved ones who have been killed on Operations or lost their lives during service.

I was a member of the Parachute Regiment for over 20 years and so the original garden design I did in 1994 had a number of Parachute Regiment Battalion and Airborne forces (7RHA/9Sqn/216Sigs etc) donated benches. These are now unfortunately weather beaten and beyond repair and I am in the process of replacing them.

As the garden has grown and evolved, it now remembers not only Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces killed in Northern Ireland and the Falkland Islands but all service personnel from all three services as well as the Royal Ulster Constabulary (now Police Service of Northern Ireland).

This is a tri-service memorial garden. I recently discovered that over 75 female soldiers/service women from the WRAC and QARANC had sadly lost their lives either on Operations or in service in the UK. I would like to design and place a steel bench with the WRAC and QARANC Badges as a centre piece in the memorial garden to remember those brave ladies.

If we can raise (through a just-giving page) sufficient we will have full size badges alongside each other on the Bench. If we can raise double the original amount we can have separate benches.

Albert D.Owens MBE

We responded with:

We love the idea that the ladies of the ATS and WRAC might be duly honoured with a memorial bench in Palace Barracks Memorial Garden, Northern Ireland - especially as we are aware no such memorial exists to date.

We discussed your proposals for the design (either ATS and WRAC logos

OR WRAC Association logo) and would definitely want it to be the ATS and WRAC logos (separately), as these are the cap badges that people will have served under and will recall (ie not the Association logo as it was not a 'cap badge', rather it being the charitable association's logo). However, we would like to add the WRAC motto to the WRAC logo, ie 'Gentle in manner, Resolute in deed'.

It was agreed we would make a sufficient donation such as to ensure a memorial bench would meet our requested design and wording. We asked to see copies of the initial design and bench as it is constructed:



Original design



First stage of the bench. The steel solid steel sheet has been laser drawn. The next stage it is assembled into a complete steel bench. It will then be Powder coated

While waiting for the benches to be completed, I have done some research into those ladies who served in the Auxiliary Training Service and the Women's Royal Army Corps and who died while in service.

I have compiled the Roll of Honour in the following order:

Army No, Rank, Surname, Christian names, Date of Birth, Date Of Death, and Unit, WRAC/ATS.

10. ATC dates of death from 1948.

50. WRAC dates death from 1950.

Regards

Albert Owens MBE

NO	RANK	SURNAME	CHRISTIAN NAMES	D.O.B	D.O.D	UNIT
W806988	PTE	ALDRED	JANE MARION	25.05.1959	21.10.1989	WRAC
W0807232	LCPL	ALLSOP	TARA JANE	24.04.1969	12.06.1993	WRAC
W2069	SGT	AMES	ANN LOUSIA MARGARET	25.07.1910	05.02.1952	WRAC
W343444	PTE	ATKINSON	BARBERA	31.07.1929	27.05.1950	WRAC
W410869	PTE	BAMBURY	JUNE ANN	19.06.1939	07.07.1961	WRAC
W303470	PTE	BAIRD	CATHERINE CLACHERS	05.09.1926	08.12.1954	WRAC
192369	CONT	BAKER ,OBE	GLADYS	12.09.1906	07.02.1949	ATS
W418505	PTE	CARSLEY	COLETTE DOROTHY	01.01.1934	12.12.1963	WRAC
W332244	PTE	CASSIDY	MARY JANE	08.04.1926	11.07.1948	ATS
W419598	PTE	CHARMAN	BERYL ANN	03.01.1942	23.02.1966	WRAC
239534	MAJ	CURRAN	ELSIE GERTRUDE	10.07.1904	24.10.1950	WRAC
W350597	LCPL	CHAPMAN	CHRISTINE MARY	01.09.1930	07.10.1950	WRAC
W441286	PTE	CLARKE	ELIZABETH	01.03.1950	18.05.1972	WRAC
W470987	PTE	COWAN	KAREN ROBERTA	04.03.1965	10.11.1985	WRAC
W415354	PTE	DALY	MARJORIE VIOLET	23.09.1944	30.09.1962	WRAC
W523756	2LT	DARBY	JUDITH MARY	21.10.1947	31.05.1986	WRAC
305556	SUB	DAVIES	HILDA MARY	13.06.1906	04.09.1948	ATS
W348945	PTE	DAVIES	JOYCE MARY	22.06.1929	14.07.1948	ATS
W306750	PTE	EVANS	WINIFRED JOYCE	08.11.1926	13.02.1948	ATS
W374696	SGT	FARAGHER	NORAH LEECE	02.10.1921	22.02.1976	WRAC
W390844	OCOT	GARDNER	MARGARET ELIZABETH	02.09.1934	01.04.1955	WRAC
W454500	PTE	HAMILTON (Guilford)	ANN RAY HIGGINS MURRAY	18.03.1955	05.11.1974	WRAC
W345074	PTE	HARRISON	ANN FORMAN	25.12.1928	23.03.1949	ATS
W441851	LCPL	HANIER-NORTHCOTT	PATRICIA JOY	16.05.1954	31.12.1973	WRAC
W401485	SGT	HARRY	JANET MARGARET	27.02.1930	02.08.1961	WRAC
W411785	PTE	HARVEY-CLARK	IONA MARGARET	07.06.1941	02.04.1964	WRAC
W428132	SGT	HAWES	BARBARA ANNE	05.01.1949	10.07.1975	WRAC
W378645	WO2	HEATH	DAPHNE	15.01.1923	12.02.1973	WRAC
W278928	WO2	KELLY	ELIZABETH	18.04.1908	22.02.1960	WRAC
W312801	PTE	KILLIAN	VERONICA	21.04.1927	17.04.1950	WRAC
W196800	PTE	KIMMAGE	PAULINE	13.07.1924	14.04.1949	ATS
W435472	CPL	LAING	JANET	12.11.1950	25.01.1973	WRAC
W0430371	WO2	LAWTON (LSL)	JOSEPHINE MARY	05.11.1949	01.11.2002	WRAC
W420714	LCPL	MANEY	BRENDA PATRICIA	25.10.1945	19.09.1966	WRAC
W429287	SGT	MARSHALL	MAUREEN JOY	09.07.1948	01.01.1972	WRAC
W416333	PTE	MARTIN	MYRA	10.05.1945	16.07.1966	WRAC
W4395720	PTE	MASKEW	PATRICIA	05.04.1939	10.04.1968	WRAC
W391619	OCOT	McHAFFIE	PAULINE ANNE THERESE	29.06.1936	01.04.1955	WRAC
W27556	CPL	MEACHAM	MARY KATHLEEN	10.01.1905	07.10.1962	WRAC
W399868	PTE	MORGAN	BERYL RAVHEL HAZEL	10.01.1939	06.05.1970	WRAC
W434842	PTE	PARKER	HILARY DAWN MARY	09.04.1950	22.09.1969	WRAC
W24023	SGT	PATTEN	LAURA CHRISTINA	15.03.1916	25.03.1953	WRAC
W39531	SGT	PATTERSON	ESTHER	29.05.1921	13.06.1949	WRAC
W0478083	LCPL	PATTISON	JUDITH ANN	06.12.1989	08.01.1989	WRAC
W513252	CAPT	SAUNDERS	ALLYSON	27.11.1961	07.04.1988	WRAC
W0430371	MAJ (LSL)	SEEMAN DE BARCAYE	ELIZABETH HILDA MURIEL	05.11.1949	01.11.2002	WRAC
W290044	PTE	SHARPLES	MAY	22.10.1923	15.08.1948	ATS
W63533	PTE	STAFFORD	ANN	08.09.1916	26.05.1948	ATS
W454448	PTE	SLATER	CAROLINE JEAN (Guildford)	05.10.1956	05.10.1974	WRAC
W455797	PTE	TAYLER	SUSAN MARY	21.06.1956	13.11.1977	WRAC
W209290	WO2	TAYLOR	MAY AGNES VICTORIA	14.09.1911	08.07.1963	WRAC
W447084	LCPL	THAIN (A/Shot NI)	ROBERTA	19.05.1955	25.03.1975	WRAC
W399036	PTE	THOMAS	MELVA	10.06.1940	29.09.1958	WRAC
W9916	SGT	TRAIN	ETHEL JANE	21.11.1896	15.06.1952	WRAC
W104507	SGT	WARREN	GRACE	09.10.1921	24.03.1949	ATS
W0459116	LCPL	WATERLAND	KATHRYN	16.12.1958	16.08.1979	WRAC
W426987	LSGT	WHITBREAD	PAMELA MARGARET	18.01.1950	12.12.1971	WRAC
472814	LT	WILLIAMS	VALERIE MERCEDES	08.05.1937	20.11.1965	WRAC
309810	MAJ	YEATS	MARJORIE	19.11.1913	13.08.1966	WRAC



A lovely 'Christmas present' arrived just after Christmas – the following image of the new bench, almost complete:

We will keep everyone, particularly Ulster branch and Scotland & N.Ireland Area, updated on progress and installation information etc. but we think this is a wonderful new memorial to all those who served, and lost their lives, in the ATS and WRAC from Northern Ireland.

Nearly complete and ready for installation

Finished, before placing in Memorial Gardens



– Completed and installed into Memorial Garden, Palace Barracks, Northern Ireland.

COVID-19 / BUDDY-BUDDY SCHEME

We have been working with our PR partners, Curious PR, to raise the profile of what was happening in and between individual paired-up Buddies and branches, to let other female veterans know that a Buddy-buddy Scheme was on offer, and in their area. One 'pair' of Buddies who shared their story around Remembrancetide were Carole Tyler (retired WRAC tuba-player) and Sally Cadec (retired Lieutenant Colonel) – here are their stories:

CURIOUS PR MEDIA CASE STUDY - NOVEMBER 2020 Buddy-Buddy Scheme

About the WRAC Association's Buddy-Buddy Scheme

WRAC Association launched its 'Buddy-Buddy' scheme, whereby older female veterans are being supported through the coronavirus pandemic by other veterans or by younger women who continue to serve. The initiative, which has created more than 63 pairs of 'buddies' during the pandemic, has been a lifeline for many experiencing the negative psychological impacts that self-isolating and reduced social contact brings.

Sally and Carole have been recently 'buddied up', striking up a friendship at a time when emotional and social support is key.

Carole Tyler, retired tuba player in the WRAC (1957-1959) is aged 81 and lives in Binbrook, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire has been buddied up with Sally Cadec, Retired Lieutenant Colonel, (1988-2004) aged 59 from Bere Regis, Dorset.

Carole's story (1957 - 1959)

- Carole was born into the 'army life', living in a total of 33 houses and attended 8 schools
- Aged 17, Carole followed her father's footsteps and joined the women's army as a Tuba player in the WRAC band where she travelled across Europe, marching in camps across Germany, Holland, Cyprus and the UK
- She has many fond memories of her time in the WRAC, surrounded by her 'sisters', making friends for life, many of whom she still meets up with today
- Her highlight was being featured in the very first Carry-on film, 'Carry on Sergeant', where her band was featured in the parade at the end of the film
- After a couple of years in the army, she married an RAF man and remained happily married to her husband for 60 years and 3 months, and left the service, which women serving had to do if they married, in those days
- She went on to have a fulfilling and

varied career, serving in the police and social services, working with mentally and physically disabled adults

- Aged 81, she still has three jobs (all voluntary): A case worker for the British Legion whereby she conducts assessments for financial and health grants. Her second and third jobs are with the police (Humberside Police and Lincolnshire Police), which involves proof reading murder cases, or being an actor, where she regularly poses as a wild granny, shoplifting or carrying a gun as part of training exercises!

- Since COVID, Carole has had to withdraw from her work as she is shielding, which has impacted her day-to-day life, leaving her feeling lonely and craving human interaction

- Normally the Standard Bearer at her local Remembrance Day parade, this year she's swapped the flag for poppy fabric masks which she and her daughter are making to raise money for charity

"My husband died quite recently, and coupled with the pandemic, it's been a difficult time for me, like for so many. I'm an incredibly active person, still working several jobs, still chairing various clubs, charities and groups, but I suddenly found myself trapped at home, isolating, with little purpose or interaction."

"Everyone should have a Buddy! The virus has taken away a lot of my independence, my ability to work, my social life – plus I'm really missing hugs from my police colleagues. But I'm so grateful to have been paired up with Sally, and I really look forward to our weekly calls which I know will carry us through the next few months."

"As a veteran, it's always lovely to share your experiences and listen to others who have also served in the forces. Sally is much younger than me, so I've enjoyed listening to her stories of her time serving in the army post 1992, when the WRAC disbanded. We're both interested in each other, so it just works – despite the age difference and the fact that she was much higher up the ranks than I was!"

Sally's story (served 1998 - 2004)

- Sally joined the WRAC in 1988 as an Officer, having previously been a primary school teacher and civilian welfare officer for the Army in Berlin.

- Following Sandhurst, she was posted to Germany to be the first female Assistant Adjutant to serve with the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment.

- In 1992, following the disbandment of the WRAC, she transferred to the Adjutant General's Corps with specific responsibilities for pay and administration.

- Following promotion, she had various unusual staff roles, one of which involved the project management of the design and implementation of new female uniforms, including the hated maternity uniform, the new female Mess Dress and Service Dress, ceremonial uniforms and sportswear. Later staff roles included acting as the MOD liaison officer with the Royal Households and project managing the swift introduction of medals for active service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- She also spent two years in a busy operational brigade serving in Bosnia and Sierra Leone where she was responsible for the Brigade Support Group.

- Other overseas postings included Germany and Cyprus.

- Following her retirement from the Army in 2004 she answered a tiny advert for a part time administrative role for a security consultancy, where she now remains as a Director. She says it's the longest she's ever been in one role.

- In 2004 Sally volunteered as a caseworker for SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity. She is now Vice-President of SSAFA Dorset, having also been a treasurer and latterly Chairman for 8 years. She also volunteers as a caseworker for the Officers' Association. Both charities help ensure the wellbeing of Armed Forces veterans, which is important to her.

- She continues to keep fit with Pilates and Circuit training but cross-country running and combat fitness tests are a distant memory!

"For Remembrance Sunday, I normally attend the local service in my neighbouring village. Occasionally I've been asked to lay a wreath, which has been an honour – sadly this may not happen this year."

"Carole and I speak every Monday for a good hour! Despite being different ages, we've bonded straight away with our shared interest having both served in the Forces. Listening to what it was like for her in the WRAC has been fascinating as I only had three years in the Corps before it disbanded so I've learnt a lot from her."

"It's nice to meet someone who I would have never met. We're different generations, live hundreds of miles apart but we can talk for hours!"

"The pandemic has been particularly tough for Carole as it's meant she has had to pause work, so she spends a lot of time at home, isolating on her own. Likewise for me, I live alone, so the scheme has brought a positive element to both our lives during such difficult times."

Colonel (Retd) Ali Brown, Vice-President of the WRAC Association, explains, "Remembrance Day is a time where we must reflect on the contribution made by pioneering women who served, and who continue to serve, their country. On behalf of the WRAC Association - the only charity specifically supporting women who served in the British Army - we thank them for their great courage, loyalty and comradeship. The charity distributes grants to women who are finding life financially hard, as well as offering social support through initiatives like the Buddy-Buddy scheme, which has provided a lifeline to many in recent months. I hope we can reach out to more people and continue to support one another."

**For more information visit:
www.wracassociation.org**



This item was picked up by Forces.net into the following:

Extract from Forces.net article published on 30 Dec 20 about two of our Buddies.

The Buddy Buddy Scheme is run by the WRAC Association, linking two ladies together in order to make friendly telephone calls. We hope that this will be of benefit to both Buddies; helping to reduce any anxieties of the current COVID19 situation and giving joy to both ladies. If you would like to take part in our Buddy-Buddy scheme please register on the WRAC Association website or leave a message on the office phone.

Read on to hear how Carol and Sally have become good friends through the Buddy Buddy Scheme.

For 81-year-old veteran Carol Tyler, joining the WRAC took her all over the world and helped her make firm friends. She said:

"When I joined in 1957 it was like a big family.

"You were never lonely and if you wanted to go out, you'd say I'm going to the pictures, anyone want to come?

"Suddenly there was six of you all going to the pictures or swimming pool of wherever you decided to go."

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown, Carol has spent much of this year at home because, like many others, she has been classed as a vulnerable person. All outside social interactions stopped abruptly and so, to combat loneliness, she decided to take part in the Women's Royal Army Corps Association 'Buddy Buddy Scheme'.

Through this, she has formed a new friendship with Retired Lt Col Sally Cavick (Cadec), who left the British Army in 2004. Carol said:

"It means you've got someone to talk to. The one I'm buddying with, she's terrific.

"She's younger than my own daughter, and she was in the army a lot later than when I left, but to me, to have someone to speak to and listen to like Sally, she's terrific.

"We talk about all sorts of things. I look forward to speaking every week with her."

Sally regularly calls Carol and shares stories of life in the army as a woman to try and stop the 81-year-old veteran from feeling the isolating effects of the pandemic.

Carol & Sally are among 63 other pairs set up across the association. As Sally explains, it's not just the elderly veterans who are benefitting. She said:

"In her own way, she's helped me because I live alone, albeit I've got plenty of outside activities, but I still live alone so it's a mutual friendship."

Carol's career with the WRAC is one of adventure and variety. She played the tuba in places like Germany, Cyprus and Scotland and featured in the first Carry On film, 'Carry On Sergeant' as her camp in Guildford was stationed next to where the movie was filmed. She said:

"They asked our band to ... play for the passing out parade at the end of the film.

"We got paid £4 a week for our wages in 1958, and they gave us all a week's pay for playing which was really an added bonus."

While Sally is used to keeping busy, as she holds down three jobs, this year it's been more difficult. She said:

"You can do bits on the phone, my boss does a lot over the phone, but it's not the same and we can't wait to get back so we can visit people."

Retired Colonel Ali Brown, Vice-President WRAC Association, was surprised by one of the main benefits of the system, which was originally planned simply to alleviate loneliness. She said:

"What we've managed to do is get people from totally different decades together.

"We actually have a serving member of the army who is chatting to a World War Two veteran. So there you're crossing a divide of some 70 years.

"For them to compare their service, even down to things like comparing their uniform and the way that women were perceived by their male colleagues and what they actually did, the training they did.

Forces | Net

Getting to know you.....

Corporal Shannon Barlow



I'm a Communications Specialist but when I went to the board for promotion to Corporal I actually came off the Instructor Board, which meant I was sent on the Instructor Development Cadre at Worthy Down. We had to deliver lessons on all topics such as skill at arms and drill, and I came off that cadre with a grade to instruct at Phase 1.

I might be a Section Commander at an Army Training Regiment but I'm Mum, Dad, Welfare Officer and more to the recruits ... even the Medical Officer when one asked me to check out a rash - a female recruit I

might add!

Did you ever imagine you'd be one of those scary instructors in basic training?

Never thought in a million years that would be me. I couldn't believe it; it's always been a dream of mine.

I went through ATR Winchester at the age of 15yrs and 7mths as a Junior Entrant. That was the first time I'd seen a female Corporal and I looked at her and thought 'Oh My Goodness, I'm in trouble', she looked terrifying. Still to this day I remember the now Staff Sergeant Rae Metters; she is my inspiration and role model. She tracked me down to wish me well. Being Northern Irish as a Junior Soldier I had a nickname to fit. She couldn't believe that Gobs**** McIntosh had made it as a Section Commander at ATR Pirbright; neither could I!

I'm not the most confident person, so seeing women empowering other women is a massive thing for me. It's hard

being a female in the Army, and from the stories my Buddy Joan tells me I know it's got a lot better, but it's still so hard.

"Women empower women, that's what I need and that's what I'm all for."

And that's why I've just got involved with the Army Servicewomen's Network in Pirbright.

My big thing whilst I'm at Pirbright is to show people that you don't have to be size 8, hair slicked back, no make up, no life, no pink! The Army is a different place now and it's an amazing opportunity. I'm a Mum, I've got a Mum's tum, hair extensions and false eyelashes. I want girls to see that you can be feminine and be fit and do a great job.

What was it you wanted to be when you were a little girl?

A model, a princess I still love all things pink.

Why did you join the Army?

My Dad is a huge inspiration, and I grew up with him serving in the Royal Irish and being away in Iraq when I was a little girl. He wasn't too keen on me joining at 15yrs old though.

And I needed my parents' permission to join under the age of 18. My Dad and I are both stubborn and I said to him "I'm going to prove it to you, if you don't sign the paperwork I'll join at 18 anyway".

My Dad said "go on prove yourself". And so I did.

I'm no runner but I went out running every day, booked my selection and passed! Dad could see my determination and willingly signed the forms.

I've another sister joining the Army too - she's just passed the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB) to go to Sandhurst. Maybe our paths will cross at Sandhurst if I stay on the training path.

Corporal Shannon Barlow, 25 years old, is a Section Commander at 2 Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright. Definitely someone with lots of character but modest with it; Shannon says she doesn't know how she got here. As we chat Shannon tells me about her role model, but she's one in the making herself!

It's fairly obvious to me why she's so well suited to the role of training male and female recruits ready for the Royal Armoured Corps, RLC, AGC and more.

As if this wasn't enough to juggle with running a family too, Shannon volunteered to take part in our Buddy Buddy Scheme. And so it was that I paired Shannon up with Joan McCabe of the Ulster Branch. Little did I know that Shannon was a Belfast girl and the friendship was to blossom well beyond the 1st Lockdown.

Tell me a little about the job you do?
In the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC)



On Parade with recruits



Cpl Barlow with her Platoon

I'm impressed that you and your husband have both been posted to the same unit, nevermind both of you are Section Commander's at an ATR and you have a 5yr old child. How do you manage to balance everything?

Wall Charts - both Alex and my schedules are printed out and put up on the wall in the hall. They help us to survive!

Alex is Royal Lancers, we met in Germany. For a long time we had to cope with a long distance relationship; it was tough to the point that when my husband was offered the Instructor posting he turned it down at first for the sake of our family. Luckily not long after I also received a Posting Order as Instructor at Pirbright.

We wondered if we could do it - both be Section Commanders at the ATR. And when I was promised a different role to Alex; more 9 - 5, working in the rehab platoon we thought 'Yes we can do this'. But 2 days before Reporting for Duty it changed - I was told I was to be a Section Commander in a Phase 1 training platoon. "No way I thought, I've seen what my husband does, going in at 5.15am coming home at 11pm".

It's a full-on job, you can't just walk away when a recruit's crying and homesick. So I was really worried but our Commanding Officer asked "how can I help you both make it work?" The answer was being in different Squadrons. Ideally with a slightly different programme one of us could always be there for our daughter.

Kiera is 5 years old, so she goes to school. One of us drops Kiera at my friend's at 7.15am, who takes her to Breakfast Club at school. That gives us time to do the morning inspections. But if we're on 'tabbing' (endurance training) and it's a hot summer we might start at 6am. So, unless one of us is home with Kiera we can't do it and the Regiment accepts that. At the end of the day one of us picks her up from After School Club at 6pm; it might be one of us gives her tea and the other puts her to bed, as we're in and out all evening between

home and the recruits.

We operate on a level of importance or priority, so whichever of us doesn't have a priority in the training programme looks after Kiera. For example, Skill at Arms (SAA) week is probably the most important week so when it's my recruits I'm in work and Alex picks up Kiera, but when he's on SAA week he's in and I pick up Kiera. It's really stressful, Alex and I are like passing ships in the night and we're taking a hit on our marriage but as long as Kiera is OK, the recruits are OK, then we've got years for us. We both love our jobs and never question why we're doing it. Alex and I are equals, despite the challenges we're always trying to better ourselves and I think the CO appreciates that.

Tell me what's been the highlight of your career so far?

This is it!

Of all the places around the World the Army may have taken you, which country made the biggest impression on you?

It's between Kenya and Oman. In Kenya I was the Ambulance Driver for the Medical Officer and we got about a fair bit. I had a particular experience that has stayed with me. An elephant stopped right in front of my landrover so I had to

slam on the breaks hard. It turned its head and made eye contact with me, just then a baby elephant came walking out from behind. Two weeks later I found out I was expecting a baby and that memory has always stuck with me.

I'd never travelled before the Army, with Dad in the Royal Irish we were always in Northern Ireland and now I'm in the RLC. It's the most diverse corps; it's something I'm really proud of. In Oman the Arabic Translator showed us around the markets and took us to see his farm; that was a real insight into life in Oman.

Is there anything you always ask your family to send out in a BFPO parcel?

My Nanny always sends me Tayto cheese and onion crisps from Northern Ireland - they're rare as gold dust!

A picture from Kiera, but that's hard, I try to focus on what I'm doing so I don't feel so guilty about leaving her.

Tell me about your friendship with your Buddy, Joan?

It's brilliant. Joan's such an inspiration and so interesting to talk to. I can't believe how different her army experience was back then. We met up at home in the summer, it wasn't for long but we have fun when we talk and message each other. She's asked me to Zoom with some of the other ladies. It's such a coincidence Joan's the Secretary of the Northern Ireland Branch of The Not Forgotten Association; the same Club as my Granda!

People in Northern Ireland don't move away and if I think I was brave to break away from home aged 15, Joan did the same in the mid-70s! And then she had to leave the Army because she was pregnant, that's ridiculous to me. It's been good for me to hear a different perspective about army life.

Given the chance, who would you like to ask around for dinner?

My Nanny, the Queen, Sir Captain Tom and Joan, my Buddy.

Would you cook or get a takeaway?

Chinese 100%; I'm not sure if the Queen would like it but it's my house so Chinese takeaway.



With translator in Oman

What's your favourite film?

The Grinch, all-time favourite not just at Christmas.

Favourite music?

Anything! On Spotify I can jump between R & B, country, rap, hip hop

Favourite book?

I'm an audiobook kind of girl; my favourite is The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris.

Tea or coffee?

Milky tea with 2 sweeteners unless it's an early morning on the ranges, then I need strong coffee!

At the end of the day when you can put your feet up would you grab a Beer, Gin or Fizz?

I'm not really a drinker but for a celebration I'll have a glass of Asti.



Shannon plays Corps netball and rugby



Shannon, Alex & Keira

At only 25 years old, Shannon's had 10 years of an army career that's been packed to the brim. In bringing up their 5-year-old daughter Kiera whilst serving, Shannon and Alex have shown just how far the Army has come. Good Luck for the future and thank you for giving your time to be a Buddy.

Julia Doig
Buddy-buddy Scheme co-ordinator

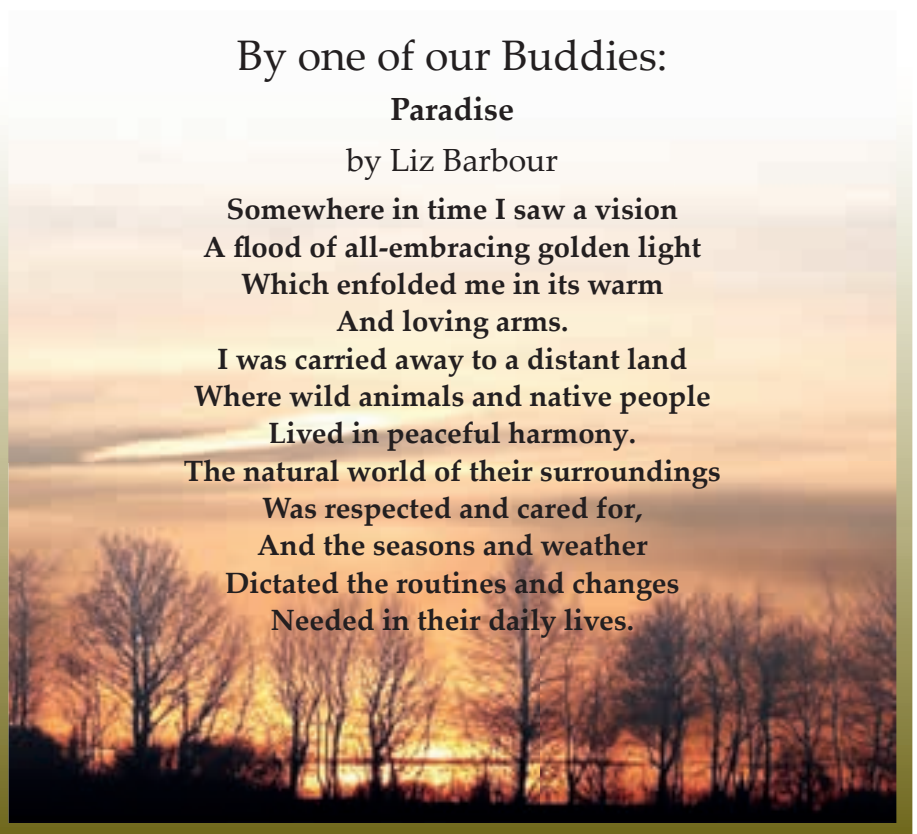
By one of our Buddies:

Paradise

by Liz Barbour

Somewhere in time I saw a vision
A flood of all-embracing golden light
Which enfolded me in its warm
And loving arms.

I was carried away to a distant land
Where wild animals and native people
Lived in peaceful harmony.
The natural world of their surroundings
Was respected and cared for,
And the seasons and weather
Dictated the routines and changes
Needed in their daily lives.



Veterans – we're here to help

We are your first port of call if you are experiencing problems with your mental health and wellbeing post-discharge. Our goal is to understand your situation, provide helpful interventions and liaise with other services to ensure you are fully supported.

We know that women in the military can experience a host of challenging situations and it can be hard to access much needed support. We work closely with organisations for female veterans to make sure we are reaching those who need our help.

Some of the issues we can support you with:

- Mental health difficulties
- Housing, finances and employment
- Referral to other services and charities
- Referral into our complex treatment service if appropriate
- Information for families and carers

How to refer

Our support is available to all ex-forces, regardless of rank, number of years of service or when your difficulties started. We accept self-referrals and referrals from professionals.

TILS is available across England and to find details about your local service, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-and-veterans-healthcare/veterans-nhs-mental-health-services/>

Need urgent support?

If you need urgent support or are in crisis:

Contact your GP,
Call NHS 111

or if immediate support is needed –

Go to your local A&E Dept or Call 999 (let them know you are a veteran)

ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund

Making A Difference

BENEVOLENT FUND GRANTS

The ATS & WRAC Association Benevolent Fund awards one-off and recurring financial grants to purchase specific goods, services or facilities for eligible former servicewomen, or their dependents, in need. The charity also provides annual maintenance grants to former servicewomen who are either elderly, alone, living on low incomes or in ill health, and makes contributions to top-up care-home fees.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HELP?

Any former ATS or WRAC servicewoman, including TA, with one day's paid service or more, is eligible for assistance.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CRITERIA?

Yes, you must be in need of financial help. There's also a limit on the amount of savings that you can have above which the Benevolent Fund is unable to make an award.

ONE OFF GRANTS

The fund has helped with one-off grants in a wide range of categories.

REGULAR CHARITABLE PAYMENTS:

- Princess Royal Memorial Fund Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) – a grant to help with day-to-day living expenses. Applicants will be of State Retirement Age, living on a low income and demonstrate need for such assistance.
- Overseas Princess Royal Memorial Fund Annual Maintenance Grant (Overseas PRMF AMG) – these have the same criteria as the AMG but for those ex service women living overseas.
- Ben Fund Annual Maintenance Grant (AMG) – this grant is for applicants below state pension age where there is a long term need for support. It would apply to those who are unable to find employment through no fault of their own due to being persistently in poor health or caring for family members.
- Ben Fund Support Supplement (SS) – a short term grant of variable duration for those applicants below State Retirement Age. It can be used to cover income shortfalls arising from delays in receiving state benefits or short term loss of salary due to medical treatment.
- Care Enhancement Grant (CEG) – weekly assistance for beneficiaries of state pensionable age to cover nursing/care home fees top up, care at home or a personal expense allowance for those resident in a nursing/care home.
- All Regular Charitable Payments are reviewed on an annual basis.

SO HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR HELP?

If you are a former ATS or WRAC regular or TA servicewoman who needs assistance, or if you know someone who does, then your first port of call is your local branch of SSAFA or regional Royal British Legion (RBL) office. SSAFA or the RBL will arrange for a trained caseworker to interview you in your home to establish the full range of assistance that you need. The caseworker will complete a report that includes details of your household income. This is called means-testing and ensures that your Benevolent Fund's charitable money goes to those in real need. When the report is complete it is sent to the Benevolent Fund Secretary. Once received, applications are considered at the appropriate grants committee meeting and a decision is taken.

SSAFA: 0800 731 4880

www.ssafa.org.uk/help-you/do-you-need-our-help-or-support



RBL: 0808 802 8080

www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/contact-us



Applications for the above grants cannot be accepted direct by the Benevolent Fund Secretary.

WELFARE GRANT

The Welfare Needs Grant has been introduced primarily to assist WRAC Association members to attend either Branch or Association social events where without the grant they would be unable to do so. Grants can

be awarded by the Benevolent Fund Secretary up to £100 per individual member per event but must not exceed £200 per year.

Applicants must be a current member of the WRAC Association and a former ATS or WRAC servicewoman, including TA, with one day's paid service or more. Applicants will need to complete

a Welfare Needs Grant Request form and provide evidence of costs/use of grant.

For more information and details on how to apply please contact Julie Winks, Benevolent Fund Secretary on 0300 400 1992 or alternatively please email to: benfund@wracassociation.org.uk.

BENEVOLENT FUND NEWS

2020 and Covid-19 has presented a unique situation for military charities and caseworkers. As an Association we opted to work from home, as advised by the Government, during the main lockdown periods. However, all staff have worked hard to ensure that this has not caused any interruptions to our working procedures and the Benevolent Fund has ensured that it continues to support our beneficiaries by awarding grants in a timely manner.

Inevitably we have seen a reduction in applications during 2020. Applications were down by approximately 100 from the previous financial year, roughly 27%, but successful beneficiaries only decreased by 19%. However, relatively few of these cases were directly related to Covid. Reduction in cases could be for a variety of reasons but most likely it has been difficult for caseworkers to work with beneficiaries under tighter Covid restrictions. There may also be some reluctance for potential beneficiaries to invite caseworkers into their homes. However, most agencies now have systems in place to undergo assessments remotely either by zoom or telephone. If you, or someone you know, is in need of assistance please urge them to contact either SSAFA or RBL to get the wheels in motion.

As social activities resume please remember that our Welfare Grant can help with financial assistance to attend branch meetings or WRAC events, please see details in Benevolent Fund Grants.

All applications are received through SSAFA's Casework Management System (CMS). The administration team at SSAFA have completed a successful end-to-end trial and extensive user testing of the new CMS2 and the anticipated date for CMS2 to go live is 2 March 2021.

Isabel McCord, Benevolent Fund Chairman, continues to collaborate with Combat Stress to research how our members' experience of serving and their life since leaving compares with that of their male colleagues. The results will feed into the COBSEO Cluster Group for Serving Females and Veterans which will be undertaking research into issues specific to women. Following our call out for participation in an online survey a whopping 750 Association members responded, for which a big thank you. Combat Stress has begun to analyse the data and it is hoped the results will be published early in 2021. This research will help us to better support both our beneficiaries and members.



Sarah Atherton, Conservative MP and the only female former regular member of the Armed Forces in the House of Commons, has launched a sub-group of the Defence Select Committee to take evidence from women serving in the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force called Women in the Armed Forces: From Recruitment to Civilian Life. The committee are seeking the views of all serving personnel and veterans about life for women in the armed forces, both serving personnel and veterans. Our Association will provide a response to this call for evidence which will include the analysis of the research we are doing in conjunction with Combat Stress.



The Secretary of State for Defence has lifted the ban on serving personnel speaking to parliamentarians which is great news for the sub committee and means we will be able to hear from serving women and their identity will not be compromised. The subcommittee will start taking written and oral evidence from next month and submit a report with recommendations to the MoD in April 2021.

Reported below is an update of the Benevolent Fund over the last financial year, 2019/20. If you are interested in the full financial information this will be within the Annual Return which will be available on our website early next year.

Key Facts FY19/20 Q1-4

- 240 applications for assistance were received
- 196 awards were granted across 26 categories
- 24 PRMF AMG Annuitants, 6 PRMF AMG Overseas Annuitants and 4 Ben Fund AMG Annuitants
- 13 beneficiaries were supported with Nursing Home Top Up Fees and 1 for Care at Home.

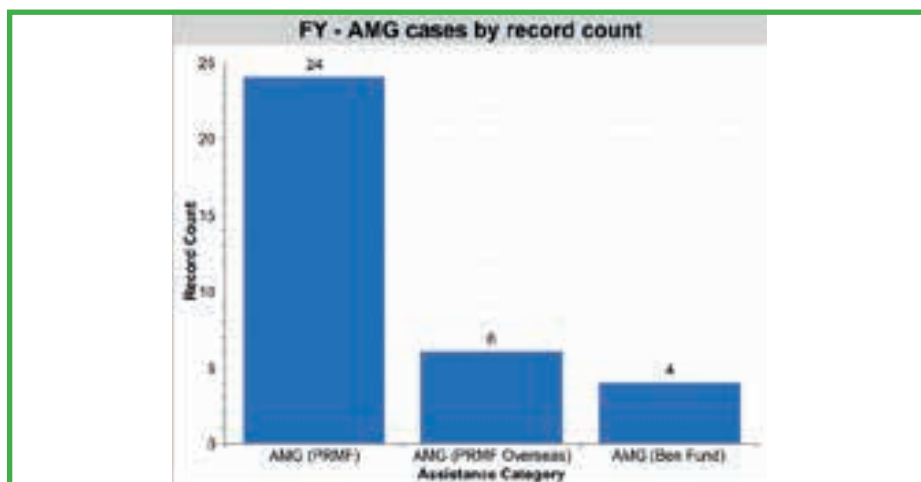
BENEVOLENT FUND EXPENDITURE

The top 5 one-off grant categories in the last financial year (2019/20) are listed below.



Recurring Grants

During this year the AMG's were split into three categories and awarded as below:



Awards are also made for the following categories:

Bathroom adaptations
House adaptations
Electric wheelchairs
Riser-recliner chairs
Stair-lifts
Disability aids including electric beds
Annual maintenance grants
Care home fee top-ups
Respite breaks
Travel and transport
House repairs
Central heating/boilers
Carpets and flooring
Clothing
Furniture
White goods
Removal expenses
Rent, deposits and bonds
Food vouchers

In Care Enhancement Grants (CEG) recurring grant category 13 NHF awards were made and 1 for care at home. Over time as caseworkers have a better understanding of the current grants the charity hopes that this number will increase.

A caseworker wrote "Many thanks from the Client, and from me, for the welfare grants made by ATS & WRAC, RLC, and the RBL, towards his wife's funeral expenses. He is very grateful. Particular thanks to the ATS & WRAC Association for their most generous assistance. I knew Mrs X slightly and she was a lovely lady, and she would have been so grateful to her Corps. Thanks to you all".
£1,326 funeral costs

A caseworker wrote: "Mrs Z's son has asked me to pass on the family's heartfelt thanks for your grant of £50.00 a week (£2,600.00 per annum) to help with the cost of her care at home. Regards and thanks".
£2,600 Care Enhancement Grant
- Care at Home.

BENEVOLENT FUND - WELFARE IN FOCUS

Editor: The information below has been reproduced from outside sources, the WRAC Association takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.

Ex-Service personnel suffering from moral injury, according to new research

New research led by King's College London sheds light on the widely unknown concept of moral injury.



The study, Experiences of moral injury in UK military veterans, carried out by King's College London and Combat Stress, and funded by Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT), is the first to investigate military-related moral injury exposure and its impact in the UK. It also has implications for frontline workers in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moral injury is not a new phenomenon, but it is not widely known and there are no specific treatments. It is defined as 'psychological distress which results from actions, or lack of actions, which violate an individual's moral or ethical code'. It is not unique to one profession, and may occur in the Armed Forces when an individual is adhering to the rules of engagement, or is following orders which result in challenging situations, such as witnessing human suffering or having a role in the deaths of civilians.

Although moral injury is not classified as a mental health condition itself, the research shows that experiencing it can lead to mental health issues. The team of researchers, led by Dr Victoria Williamson, found that the symptoms of moral injury are distinctive from mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Following a morally injurious incident, respondents reported higher levels of shame, guilt, anger, depression and social isolation but not PTSD symptoms such as memory loss, nightmares and flashbacks. However, the research found both can exist alongside each other, and ex-Service personnel suffering from moral injury or traumatic events were more likely to meet the criteria for PTSD,

depression and anxiety than those who reported no challenging events during service.

As a result of the study, the research team developed a new measure, the Moral Injury Scale (MORIS) to assess the impact of moral injury on UK veterans.

The research calls for clinical training and resources for the identification and treatment of moral injury related mental disorders, and an evaluation of whether existing interventions lead to long-term improvements.

"Our research is the first comprehensive study of moral injury in the UK Armed Forces community, and has informed subsequent studies of moral injury in other high-risk populations. We found that factors such as a lack of social support, childhood adversity and a lack of psychological and emotional preparedness increased the likelihood of veterans experiencing distress following morally injurious events."

– Dr Victoria Williamson, Research Fellow at the King's Centre for Military Health Research, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London

She continued "Our findings also demonstrated a reluctance to speak out among individuals experiencing moral injury, due to feelings of shame and guilt. This often led to missed diagnoses and increased distress, highlighting the need to identify and help individuals experiencing moral injury."

"While no validated treatment approach for moral injury currently exists, we will be carrying out a follow-on feasibility study, kindly funded by FiMT, to design and develop a treatment intervention for moral injury related mental health difficulties."

Although this research explored the effects of moral injury in a military context, the researchers identified risk factors which may be applicable to frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, including healthcare providers, emergency first responders, social

workers and prison staff. Moral injury could potentially occur when health workers with limited resources or time are forced to make decisions about the treatment of patients, or if physicians are unable to provide non-COVID related medical care due to the necessity of focusing on COVID-19 patients.

"As well as being highly relevant to military personnel, the concept of moral injury is of particular importance to many key workers professions during the current pandemic including health and social care staff." – Neil Greenberg, Professor of Defence Mental Health, King's College London

He continued, 'We very much hope that our work, which the Forces in Mind Trust have kindly sponsored, will be able to help a great number of organisations take better care of their staff and thereby reduce the likelihood of them experiencing mental health disorders and requiring treatment.'

Ray Lock, Chief Executive of Forces in Mind Trust, said 'Given the long history of human conflict, it is likely that moral injury has been suffered for as long as we have possessed a moral compass. This research is therefore vital in shining a light on the suffering moral injury can cause. Most ex-Service personnel will transition well to civilian life, but this research suggests that those who have experienced moral injury may face challenges in doing so. FiMT is pleased to be funding the next phase of the research, which we hope will have a significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment of moral injury related mental health issues for those who have Served in the Armed Forces.'

For more information and to view a useful video please visit: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/ex-service-personnel-suffering-from-moral-injury-according-to-new-research>.



Veteran Pain Management Programme



The King Edward VII's Hospital are currently running a ten day virtual programme to help veterans enjoy a greater quality of life by teaching them how to manage pain. The Veterans PMP is the only Pain Management Programme in the UK exclusively offered for Veterans and is run by the Centre for Veterans' Health. The Programme is specifically designed to help Veterans who have been suffering with chronic pain to get the correct assessment, diagnosis, and treatment as quickly as possible. It is offered free of charge to Veterans from all Services and aims to help you feel empowered to return to life as you knew it, pre-trauma.

A PMP is aimed to help people with persistent ongoing pain to improve the quality of their lives, the overall aims are to provide you with practical strategies to help you improve the quality of your life alongside your pain, for example managing physical activity and mood, reviewing pain related medications and helping you understand pain better in order to feel more confident in the day to day management of your pain. Individuals with persistent pain can often feel isolated and unsure of how to plan for the future. Addressing these issues and others, PMPs are widely recognised as the treatment of choice for individuals suffering with persistent pain. Programmes not only offer a wide range of pain management strategies but also provide an environment for people to share their experiences and gain support from other group members.

The clinical team consists of a specialist physiotherapist, psychologist and nurse as well as medical consultants in pain medicine and psychiatry, all of whom work in the management of persistent/chronic pain. There are also non-clinical staff key to the service. They so far have delivered 25 PMPs to veterans over the past 6 years.

Due to the recent Covid 19 pandemic they have run the last 2 PMPs via teleconferencing (Zoom) and this has

proved successful. They will continue to run future PMPs this way until they are advised it is medically safe to resume face to face group based programmes.

How long is the Pain Management Programme:

The PMP is 10 days long; nine days over six weeks followed by a follow up day nine months later. Your family and friends will be invited to a day which we hope will support you further in your pain management. Your attendance to all days is key and absence will significantly affect the gains you can make.

What to expect on a PMP:

- The PMP is not an individual psychotherapy or group therapy programme. It is not going to be expected for you to share anything that you do not feel like sharing.
- The psychology sessions are psycho-educational; in other words, like attending a course covering topics from the brain and pain; how to manage the impact of pain on the mood and how to manage pain from a psychological perspective.
- Many of the veterans attending the PMP suffer from PTSD. The PMP is not a PTSD group and we are very mindful not to raise any issues in relation to the PTSD and the focus throughout remains focused upon pain management.
- The PMP is not the same as combat stress courses you may have attended.
- The PMP does not include hands on treatment and physiotherapy. Reasons for this will be talked about much more during the programme and at assessment where appropriate.
- Medication use is discussed and time is offered to look at individuals' needs. The aim though is not for more drugs to be prescribed – this will be considered at assessment. King Edward VII's hospital have in place an agreement with the Nightingale Hospital mental health nurses. They will be offering specific support to some veterans with any mental health issues that are outside of the pain management programme, for example, making referrals, discussing any issues raised by the questionnaires. Their colleagues are not going to offer mental health treatment, but they will assist with any mental health concerns and identify any referral pathways that are appropriate.

Apply for the next virtual Pain Management Programme

The virtual Pain Management Programme delivers the same content as the face-to-face programme, without the need for you to travel or stay in London,

or come into contact with your clinicians during this time.

If you would like to apply to take part in the next virtual Pain Management Programme free of charge, complete and submit the online application form. <https://www.kingedwardvii.co.uk/the-charity/veterans-pain-management-programme>

You must provide a copy of your proof of service. This could include (but is not limited to):

- Certificate of Service
- Pension Entitlement Letter
- Medical Discharge Letter
- A copy of your Red/Blue Book
- A copy of your ID Card

Please note, in order to attend the virtual Programme, you must have access to the internet and a computer/laptop with video and audio functions.

If you have any questions about the application process contact the Programme Administrator, Caroline Dunne, on:

- Email: CDunne@kingedwardvii.co.uk
- Tel: 0207 467 4370

Remember to register as a veteran with your GP surgery as this will help your GP to better understand any service-related health conditions that you may have and ensure that you are referred, where appropriate, to dedicated services for ex-forces. These include services for mental health and physical health conditions.

*"There aren't enough words to express my gratitude for the grant I've been awarded. I will be forever grateful. The last few years I've been in bad health so this has come along just when I needed it".
£1,368.04 awarded for various needs and brown and white goods.*

*"Thank you all so much for your contribution recently which was much appreciated in my time of need."
£59.99 for a new microwave, £40 pw PRMF Annual Maintenance Grant.*

WHAT DOES BEING A MEMBER OF A BRANCH MEAN?

Ali Brown

This was a question asked by myself at the Council meeting in July 2017. The answers received were diverse and varied. Much of belonging to a Branch is variable and intangible so I thought it would be interesting to publish some of the replies I received to share them with you.

If you read this and like the sound of it, all you have to do is join a Branch. All Branches are an integral part of the WRAC Association.

"I certainly see Branch membership as a much-valued part of the life of the Association; especially for those ladies who are on their own. It gives them a sense of belonging and interest, so they look forward to every meeting as for many it is a key part of their social life. It gives them a network of people from a common background who look after each other in sickness and in health, and there is a bond of friendship which becomes stronger with age. The Branch network can provide an individual with friendship, companionship and care with likeminded people who have shared experiences, and can provide them with a sense of belonging and opportunities for fun, laughter and social interaction".

"I think being in a Branch rekindles the comradeship experienced during service and provides for the meeting of old and possibly new friends. Members are offered friendship, advice and generally look after each other. This works whether the Branch is formal or informal".

"It is the uniqueness of belonging to a really special group that you cannot buy your way into. The Armed Forces, as a whole, is a unique family. If someone is wearing a military badge there is always a conversation to be had. All service is important, irrespective of length or type, and we all have memories we wish to share and celebrate".

"The advantages of belonging to a Branch are many and varied. To name a few - knowing someone is always nearby for you night and day; that feeling a warm personal welcome gives you; forming the kind of friendships you have not made since your service days; being able to share the up and downs of your life with friends; and the pride one gets from turning out for events with fellow Branch members. Members go home from our meetings feeling happy, loved and wanted. Being a member of a Branch gives us the additional joy of belonging".

*Events • Friendship • Esprit De Corps
Fun • Support • News ♥ Love your branch ♥*



Branch News

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We know that for many branches 'meetings' have taken a different format to the past 'normal' – going on-line etc. We also know that many of you have been keeping in touch via telephone, postcard/ letters/cards, email etc and, where and when possible, meeting up for a catch-up and coffee. A few branches have sent in news (below) but a HUGE thank you to each and every one of you, whether as 'branches', Areas or individuals, for continuing to 'Support Women who Served / Serve', in whatever way and/or however that looked.

*Scotland &
Northern Ireland*

Aberdeen

Mhairi Irving

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I can honestly say the branch hasn't been up to very much. We still regularly meet up on Zoom for a catch up and a laugh.

At our last Zoom meeting I asked all to wear Christmas hats, I thought it would give everyone a smile, which you can see it did; they are a special bunch.

By the time you read this oh so brief bulletin we will be in 2021 – where I know you will all have celebrated Christmas and New Year and that you are all looking forward to what the new year brings.

As always, the Aberdeen Branch wishes everyone to stay safe!



Ulster

Sylvia Connachan

Hello Everyone,
This year has been an unusual one. We were unable to have our AGM, September due to lockdown with Covid 19.

Our ladies have been very good at keeping themselves active during the lockdown, with taking part in the celebrations which were happening this year at home, along with gardening, knitting, crocheting, baking, and zoom meetings with friends, plus work-related. Some of our ladies have buddy-buddy pals which they keep in touch with.

Marie Jenkins sent me this photograph of the Ulster Branch in 1994.



March meeting (before lockdown)

This is a photograph of our branch now, taken at our Lunch in March before we were in Lockdown. Unfortunately, some of our members were unable to attend.



Ulster Branch in 1994: inc. Marie Jenkins, Florence Logan, sitting at the front

Marie Jenkins, Florence Logan, sitting at the front, which some of you ladies will know from the Grand Reunions, the photo was taken at The Kins Hall, Belfast, where they used to have their dinners. (A blast from the past).

In November our Remembrance Service was scaled down.

Carol Cameron laid a cross in remembrance of our Veterans.



I, Sylvia Connachan, was invited to lay our WRAC Wreath at the Cenotaph, Belfast, on Remembrance Sunday Ceremony, which was scaled down, as there was only one person allowed from each of the associations to attend. It was a privilege to attend.



On the 11th of November 2020, I was invited to our Royal British Legion, at my hometown of Dromore, Co Down, there were 15 allowed to attend. The weather wasn't very kind to us, as we had heavy rain.



We are not sure if our Christmas Lunch is going to happen; hope it does as we all haven't been together for months, it would be a great morale boost. Keeping fingers crossed.

Ulster Branch members would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hopefully, next year will be better, and we will be able to attend the events I've missed.

Hope to catch up with you all.
So Ladies. Take Care, Stay Safe.

South E South West

Amanda Foster

Well it's almost the end of 2020 and not really the year we all planned, but that's life! As per my last note, a mere Global Pandemic does not keep a good WRAC down and its clear from all the branches that everyone has risen to the occasion, and in many cases built new friendships and connections.

Thanks to Pauline Marr I was able to catch-up, via a Video Call, with our amazing ex-ATS Kath Tozer – her energy and outlook is a great example to us! It was also great to see such an interesting and informative article featuring Sandy Cawley from Winchester branch, she has so many adventures of which I heard some when I was lucky enough to share a road trip with her earlier this year.

What Covid19 has done is to delay the potential Road Trip for me as the Regional Co-ordinator – sorry about that ladies but I am looking forward to meeting you all face to face in 2021 as we gradually get back to a new normal. I am hoping to meet many of you at the AGM in March 2021.

Bristol

Judith Stinchcombe

As always Bristol Branch operates an open house and welcomes all visitors, if you would like more information Email: wracbristolbranch@mail.com or telephone 07837 455352

Plymouth

Jean Cundy-Borge

Evon Roberts

Since March this year our group of coffee lovers have been missing their coffee! We managed a meeting in February but sadly from then on this darned virus and the ill health of some of us has curtailed our meetings.

We keep in touch by phone and email but it is not the same.

In August five of our members were able to meet thanks to Evon and Ann visiting the 'Moments Cafe and Memory Matters Hub' at 69A New George Street, Plymouth and arranging with the Manager, Vanessa, that we can book a room upstairs to hold the meeting in. There is a lift for the disabled among us to use and space to spread out and stay safe.

At this point in time we had also booked our Christmas dinner for the 28th November at Tamar View Restaurant. Sadly, with the latest viral problems this has been cancelled but Mandy at Tamar View has said they will cook a Turkey dinner any Saturday in January all being well.

At the October meeting we had a very interesting speaker from the Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club. There are several ways of contacting the Breakfast Club – phone 07716 727632 or 07568 148685 – or PlymouthVeteransBreakfastClub.co.uk

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year

Salisbury

Amanda Foster

Mention has to go to Jane Ricketts again, as she has done the Salisbury & Amesbury Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club proud. This has been the main venue where we have been able to meet over the past few months. We did manage to present her with our own branch Apron in August (see attached) so that the message is clear that we do exist and spreads the word. Thanks to the whole team that have managed to deliver a number of cracking socially





distanced breakfasts outside and allowed us to catch up and stretch our banter to beyond a Zoom Screen. The breakfast has enabled us to meet up with some new members face to face, which has been a blessing for all of us.

We have kept up with Monthly Zoom meetings – a quick catch up, still with lots of giggles and gossip which has always filled the soul with a positive outlook!

We have also started to look at recruiting and spreading the word, and are about to launch (sounds rather grand) that Veterans Come in All Ages, so thanks to our three poster ladies who are Jane Ricketts, Lisa Abbott-Myerscough and Jayne Tait for sharing their before, during and after pictures.

We managed to meet up for our first “Salisbury Strollers”. After reading so many of the inspiring adventures of other branches we thought we should make a start. This proved to be as bracing and refreshing as the weather! The conversation covered many topics including a lengthy debate about the use of a “She Wee” and lots of interesting stories, a realisation that we couldn’t carry out an assault up the side of Old Sarum anymore and, of course, a stop off at a pub (coffee only, honest) then we had LockDown II; but another walk is planned just before Christmas. So, beware if you read about Christmas Elves causing trouble in Salisbury that could well be us!



stopping for refreshments - Amanda Foster, Avril Latham, Lisa Abbott-Myerscough, Carol Martin

Remembrance Parade was held in Salisbury, but like so many it was a cut down version, but we were able to pay our respects. Myself and our lovely Mayoress, Carrie Walsh, were about to pay our respects and lay our wreath when we spotted a WRAC Beret – so welcome to Elizabeth Young – it was lovely to meet another fellow WRAC Veteran and welcome her to our fold.

As we approach Christmas we are not having our planned Christmas Lunch, so we are all sorry not to welcome other branches this year but hey ladies, just think of the party that we can have in the future!

As I type this our love and best wishes go out to our crazy “Jenny Wood” – a complete dynamo of a lady who is always looking after so many of the other residents in her sheltered accommodation. She has suffered a slight set back and is having a few days in Salisbury District Hospital.

Stay Safe, Keep Smiling and Until we meet again!





We all hope and wish you a Happy Christmas, all vaccinated, all well, etc, in good health, to start 2021 – so Happy Christmas and New Year to Everyone!

London & South East

Worthing

Greta Carlisle

Like all branches, Worthing has missed the usual meetings, outings, parties and general get togethers; we have kept in touch through social media over lockdowns. During the last lockdown 'break', we were able to hold our AGM in October, albeit socially distanced.



Southampton

Jean Doe

Hello everyone
Who will forget 2020? I know as we approach the end of the year the weather has been a bit cold of late!!

Stephanie and myself try and keep in touch with members, some have found this last lockdown very difficult – but of course we have autumn and winter – however we love to talk and in general we have some interesting chatter!

We did have a meeting in July and August, and both were very enjoyable, and so as soon as we can we shall have another. Fortunately we are lucky with our venue, so hope the 16th December will be favourable!

For some time I have been waiting for a hip replacement operation and was told 1 – 2 years wait. However, late September I was phoned with a date for 30th September and so fortunately all went well. I only tell you this as for anyone in a similar situation do not hesitate – its amazing and recovery quite incredible; the first difference is no pain!!

I have included a poem by one our members "What is a soldier to me". [Editor – see Remembrances section] Bobby suffers with Parkinson's very badly but is very clever, her husband Steve brings her to meetings. Very rarely does she miss and the same when we have trips out etc.

Although we are only a small group now, they all want our meetings back! No doubt time of chatter and laughter is a tonic in itself; and so our new girl will have a good introduction. This was given to me by an associate member only today at our club lunch. Thank you Jenny for a great gift, which replaces a previous one and in the case of a member who became very ill and died, this item and other items were lost. The family were very helpful but unable to help further – so Jenny your gift is very much appreciated and will be christened at the next meeting!



Before lockdown, we welcomed two new ladies to the group, Doreen and Sue (QARANC). We are delighted to report that Rebecca and Peter, who spent September in Spain, with a view to moving there, have now decided to stay home. Spain's loss is our gain. Our one remaining ATS lady, Edna Sinclair, was interviewed by the local paper, and she recounted her memories of wartime service.

Much of the length of Worthing Pier is adorned by glass images depicting local clubs/societies. More than a year ago, we commissioned a WRAC badge to be made, in memory of our ladies who are no longer with us. This was finally installed in September. We still await the opportunity to gather there, along with families and friends. We are so proud that it will be a lasting tribute to us all, past and present.



Inscription underneath reads
'Too good in life to be forgotten in death'

Christmas will be very different for us all this year, but we have a few surprises in store, to keep spirits high. Best wishes to all our WRAC family.



Babs Anderson

As I write this, we have just entered a third period of lockdown, but the vaccines are rolling out and there is much hope for an end to this pandemic.

One thing I have seen in our Area is how stoic our members are. Everyone has dealt with the situation in their own way but still managed to stay in contact with each other. Thank goodness for technology, old and new. Facebook, Zoom and others of the newfangled social media platforms, stood

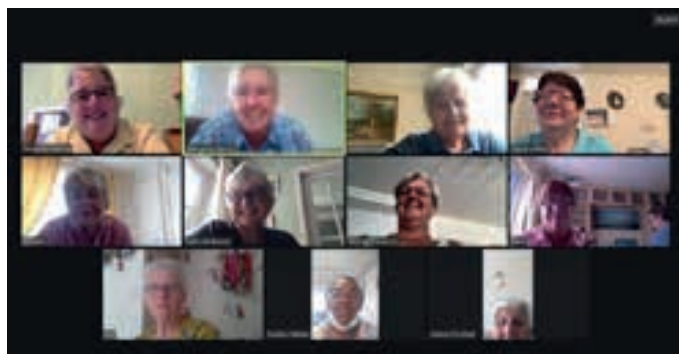
alongside old fashioned telephones. We have all found a way to keep in touch.

Obviously, there hasn't been much physical contact since March 2020, but our Branches have continued to function with our Branch Secretaries working hard to maintain the camaraderie of which we are so proud. Keep up the good work ladies.

Birmingham

Babs Anderson

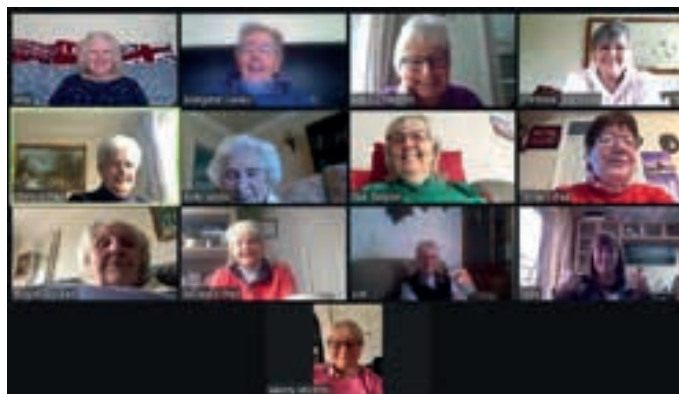
Despite the ongoing pandemic, Birmingham Branch continues to interact through the wonderful world of technology. Our monthly Zoom meetings are still happening under the leadership of Marg Davies. She does her best to keep us in check and ensures that we all get a turn to give our news and share our thoughts on events of the day. As you might expect, we have plenty of opinions and don't mind sharing them. We have also been really pleased to welcome members from other corners of the WRAC Association on most occasions.



Zoom Meeting August 2020



Zoom Meeting December 2020



Zoom Meeting January 2021

Since I last wrote to you we have sadly lost one of our members. Cath Delaney was one of our little group of Territorial Army veterans. She had become very frail in recent years and was struggling with Parkinson's' Disease. In the end, it was Covid 19 that took her off to the Great Annual Camp in the Sky.



Cath Delaney at the Brum Branch Christmas Lunch 2019

I am not going to tease you with a list of things we should have been doing since the last Lioness was published, so I'll share a couple of happy, smiley Zoom gatherings instead.

On 4 October 2020 we had expected to be celebrating the 100th birthday of Nora Jeffreys but were scuppered mid-preparations. However, the Normandy Veterans were able to bring together enough people to make it very special on the day. They had our sculptor friend, Andy DeComyn, to play bagpipes for her and there was bunting galore, along with a lovely cake. Nora must have been exhausted after all that smiling. She even made it onto the local news. Nora is still able to live in her own home with the assistance of daily carers. She is marvellous.



Leonora Jeffreys on 4 October 2020, aged 100

Brum Branch look forward to meeting up with you once all this craziness is over and we are safe, though I expect sanity will have been thrown out of the window. Keep smiling.

Gloucestershire

Ann Stack



First to meet, First to bust,
First of August, Freedom August.
Far and wide we did trek
Sol-i-tude truly brek.
Forest green, picnic lunch,
Sssshhhh, a cheeky rum punch.
Sunshine, chatter, smiles and joy
Not since March and none too coy.
Safety first, distance kept
Sunshine over all was swept.
Restrictions alter, never falter
Here we go, lets grab that halter.
Cardiff Run, not this year
Solo 10 without a tear.
Challenges, jokes, chats and quizzes,
Virtual Library for the Mizzes.
Five new kness balls Branch has had
Back in step, so very glad!
Room for Zoom, now and then,
Kindness caring as and when.
Chin up Girls, soon to meet,
We've ALL got this, we won't be beat.



Hereford

Lynda Armstrong

Oh how quickly this has come around. So much has not happened in so little time. So many things have had to be cancelled, the exact same as everyone else no doubt. Our Branch has had no annual Veterans Lunch, no monthly meetings, no Violette Szabo day, the list goes on and on.

Back in August the Cardiff 10 km got cancelled, but true to form, us Hereford ladies (with Marg's help of course) managed to complete our 10 km on 'The Day' around Worcester. It was a lovely day, not too hot, which makes a change, and quite flat which was a god send. We all completed it in a reasonable time and finished it off with a lovely brunch back at Marg Davies garden (again socially distanced), very much appreciated and massive thanks to the lovely Denise Clarke.



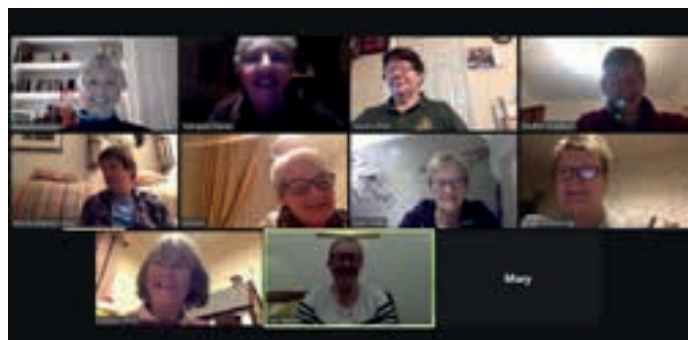
We, as a Branch, were once again very lucky to have been able to hold our annual (with all covid-19 rules put in place) picnic in August, hosted perfectly as always by Joyce Nicholls at Queenswood Park. There was quite a good turnout considering it was smack bang in the middle of lockdown 1 and 2; mind you, I for one, don't think Wales (or Caerphilly come to that) has ever come out of lockdown. During this time however, I unfortunately wasn't able to attend this year, as I used the very short break to get away to The Lake District for a lovely couple of days.

Sadly for us all, our function of the year, 'Dinner Cub 2020' never happened.



Disappointment was felt all across the country, but our main priority was that we all stay fit and well so we can all attend DC 2021.

Hereford Branch held their AGM via ZOOM at the end of October. A few of us managed to remember, even if the host (not saying her name, Marg Davies) forgot and fell asleep. It was so good to catch up with the ladies that evening and another is in the pipeline for the end of the month.



In October, I filled in the application to 'The Not Forgotten Association' to apply for their generous offer to post our ATS ladies one of their beautiful 'Forgot You Not' boxes. How lovely this must have been, to receive this gorgeous box in the post during these difficult times. I have had phone calls thanking me for putting their names forward, but it was the least I could do, if only to have brought a smile to their faces, just to show they are NOT FORGOTTEN.



Marg Davies was invited by The Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association to represent and lay a wreath at Gheluvelt Park Worcester, on behalf of our Branch to commemorate the 106th anniversary of The Battle of Gheluvelt. Thank you Marg.

November sadly saw the cancellation of our ability to go and pay our respects to the fallen at The Cenotaph in Whitehall. This didn't deter our Hereford ladies, Joyce Nicholls, Jo Foster and Jane Griffin-Ash, as they laid our Branch Wreath in Hereford on behalf of us all. Thanks to them all. My Husband

and I paid our respects in our local village, as did many other ladies of the Branch across other parts of the country.



During this lockdown, our Branch ladies have met (in their bubbles) to walk. Their walks have taken them over The Malverns, Bodenham to Queenswood, Much Marcle Ridges, Eastnor Obelisk, plus many more. So good to see them all getting out and about and we are enjoying all the gorgeous photos on social media.



A few of our ladies have been a little under the weather these past few months and were sent get well cards in the post, hopefully they are well now on the road to recovery.

No Christmas lunch get together photos to be able to share this time, our post-Christmas lunch (January) has had to be cancelled, but hopefully, when spring blooms, we will once again be meeting with each other. Until that time comes ladies, please keep safe, help the country by doing what's being asked of us and one day, soon, we will put all this behind us and move on and be very grateful for what we have.

Phoenix

Sheila Johnson



With the onset of Covid-19 the usual array of official, semi-official and social events have ceased during 2020, placing everyone in 'stand by' mode. However, hopes remain high that gatherings will recommence at some stage. Staying safe is the priority now, as with all Branches, to whom we extend Best Wishes for 2021.

Sadly, pre-Covid-19, we learned of the passing of Phoenix's Milly Pover on 2nd January 2020, aged 95 years (see Obituaries section).



Shropshire

Sandra Davies

Well, what can I say, this doesn't happen very often, but I am at a loss for words!

So here goes! It has been most unfortunate that due to the lockdowns we, like all other branches, have had to cancel various events we were either holding or planning, along with those events that we had pencilled in our diaries. We of course have all been in contact with each other via the multitude of platforms that are now available to the world and I am so happy to say that we are all coping well.

Normally November is the highlight of our calendar, which see members of the branch attending either local Remembrance parades or the Cenotaph in London. But this was not to be. However, we weren't about to let the occasion go by without marking it in some way. Some members were able to socially distance on doorsteps and pay their respects. As Debbie Wilson and Mel Howell live in the same village, they agreed to parade outside one of their houses. Chris Powell only lives about 3 miles away, so was able to safely join them, as you can see from the photo.



A couple of the ATS ladies, Nancy Tipton and Marian Jones happily received surprise gifts from the Not Forgotten Association, thanking them for their service during WW2. With their thanks, we would like to add our own, THANK YOU.



It goes without saying that we are all eager for the time when we can resume some kind of normal life, which enables us to meet face to face with our branch friends. Whilst this lockdown is on though, we are making good use of it to dust off our elasticated items ready for the extra intake of good food! I have heard that British Rail, or whatever they call themselves these days, are quite grateful that we won't be using their services this year. I have conveyed to them that they can watch out next year when normal service WILL be resumed; we will have a lot of making up to do!

I will now end my ramblings by sending our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all the branches around the world. Fingers crossed that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. Take care everyone and stay safe.

Tamworth

Marie Smedley

We are still here at Tamworth Branch! A few of our Ladies were lucky enough to get tickets to the VJ Day celebrations during the summer. We have managed a few zoom meetings, even managed 2 socially distanced get togethers at the National Memorial Arboretum. So uplifting to have a winter (socially distanced) picnic and chat to a person in 'the flesh' rather than through a computer screen or TV.

As we are scattered over 4 counties we mainly keep in contact through email, text and Facebook. But we are keeping in touch with each other as best we can in such unusual circumstances.

Hopefully the vaccine will allow us to meet properly in the not-too-distant future and we can give all those hugs we have been saving. Stay safe. Stay strong.



East Midlands

Grantham

Val Odell

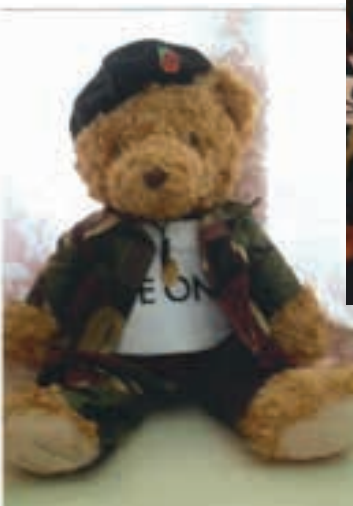
What a year of staying in and avoiding the virus. Grantham WRAC has, like most groups, not met since April but we have kept in touch with each other. Some of the ladies have been helping the less able, helping to cheer people up and just being Good Neighbours.

I have been busy sewing 'scrubs' and caused amusement when asked what was in the parcel. I got confused and called them 'skunks'! The Clerk sniffed the parcel and said "I don't think so – do you mean Scrubs?" Well I am nearly 80 years (Editor: young).

I've also dressed about 130+ teddy bears in military uniforms, all for the RBL to sell on stalls for fundraising, but we've not had much sales success due to the virus. I send you photos of my efforts.

As one old gentleman said to me "We won the war – we'll beat this virus". God bless him – I hope he's right.

Happy Christmas to all



Leicestershire & Nottinghamshire

Chris Corker

It has been the strangest of years none of us ever thought we would see. The branch has been in contact with all members either by telephone or on Facebook. We feel ourselves fortunate that we are able to report that we have not lost any members since the last Lioness article.

Lyn Wenham attended the VJ Service at the War Memorial in the grounds of St Simon and St Jude's Church in Rainworth on the 15th August.

Several members have celebrated birthdays. On 21st November a card was sent to Joan Latham in Skegness for her 90th birthday. On 25th November a card and flowers were sent to Doris Dodswell for her 97th birthday and on 30th December we will be sending a card and flowers to Cynthia Humble for her 95th birthday.

Quite a few members are upset that they will not be attending the branch Christmas Lunch and a special mention must be made to Vi Rawlings. Something to look forward to for next year Vi.

We hope that you have had a peaceful Christmas and are looking forward to 2021 when hopefully the promised vaccine will be widely available and life can return to some kind of normality. Fingers crossed that those who are able will be at the VSC in March for the AGM and Dinner.



Lincoln & District

Jo Worsdall

We continue to keep in touch with each other throughout this challenging year with 'phone calls containing much laughter and a voice at the end of the line.

Sue Smith and Beryl MacEwan laid the Branch wreath at the St Mary Magdalene Church in Newark where the town's war memorial is situated. Jo Worsdall managed to visit a number of houses of veterans and friends who were unable to attend any Remembrance Service with the Standard (from their front gardens).

As we are unable to have our annual Christmas get together this year, I've attached our last year's picture with the hope that we will all be able to meet again very soon. All our very best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and 2021 from Lincoln & District Branch.





Eastern

Colchester & District

Heather Savin

The Eastern Area lunch took place on 31st August and was held in the Pegasus Club, Colchester. Several branches were represented with lots of banter over an Italian buffet lunch, the trio of chocolate desserts were delicious. Sadly Wendy "Hoots" Hooton announced that she would be standing down from the role of Area Co-ordinator after 10 years. She was thanked by all for her hard work and support. She will be a hard act to follow but I am sure she will not be completely disappearing.

Our annual fundraising BBQ took place on 1st September at the Ancient Briton pub with both Alison Brown and Wendy Hooton in attendance. Dawn Amey, once again, did an amazing job organising the event. The food was plentiful with a cornucopia of Dawn's delicious homemade cakes, somehow we found the room to sample them (with my favourite being the Rocky Road); doggy bags were provided and used. With proceeds from the raffle we were able to make a donation to the WRAC Association and to Colchester Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club.

The WRAC Dinner Club was held on the weekend of 12th/13th October at the Crown Plaza in Nottingham. Several members of the branch were able to attend and had their own table. I am reliably informed that no foliage was harmed over the weekend – Kerry and Vinnie!!

Wendy Hooton informed us of a headstone in Colchester Cemetery belonging to W/Private Christine K M Went ATS who died on 30th December 1947 at the age of 22. A Cross of Remembrance was placed on the grave and the branch plans to adopt the headstone and make regular visits. Remembrance Sunday was observed at various locations by individual branch

members and some have helped with collecting for the Poppy Appeal.



Our next event will be our Christmas Dinner on 7th December. Once again it is being held in the Best Western Claydon Country House Hotel and this year we have chosen the theme of "Pantomime" – Oh no it isn't I hear you say!! A full (censored!) report with photos will follow in due course.



Thank you one and all for your contributions – they make great reading, and it is wonderful to see you all so active, busy and living up to Comradeship and Esprit de Corps. I love seeing (and reading) all your reports, and the photos, but could I just ask that you send your photos separate to your report text (preferably as attachments to the report email) – I struggle to copy some of the photos when they have been kindly inserted into a Word document report.
Editor

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Because of Covid-19 we were unable to make our usual Christmas visit to our friends at The Hospital, so we ensured they received their cards and gifts by post. Ali Brown received a lovely telephone call from Charmaine (Bimbo) Coleman, on behalf of all 'our' ladies, thanking us for the gifts and thoughts. "They are all in lockdown, so not much fun, but the good news is that they have all received the first dose of the vaccine".

Bimbo was telling Ali how she played golf with David Beckham just before Christmas. Her words, "lovely looking man but she was not sure about the tattoos!"

Bimbo has also been a Page 3 girl



CHEEKY Charmaine Coleman met David Beckham – but the 88-year-old was more interested in becoming a Page 3 girl.

The ex-Royal Military Police officer said: “Hello David, I am an Arsenal supporter. Now where’s The Sun? I want to be on Page 3.”

The former Red Cap, known as Bimbo, has two titanium knees but recently completed a bungee jump and a wing walk to raise money for the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Daredevil Charmaine, who served 23 years in the Army, now wants to abseil down the Shard.

Asked what she thought of Becks: “Yeah, he’s quite good looking. Thank you for coming and seeing us all.” ■

Courtesy of The Sun

LIGHTING THE FUSE - LUCY LEWIS

Stories from Britain’s first female bomb disposal expert



Imagine standing over a bomb - you need to make a choice. Remember, your life depends on it.

In this extraordinary memoir, Lucy Lewis reveals the hidden world of bomb disposal training and how she came to be the UK's first female bomb disposal expert. From joining Sandhurst to rushing to her first bomb disposal call-out, Lucy's story is full of high stakes and tense situations that for most of us, are beyond comprehension.

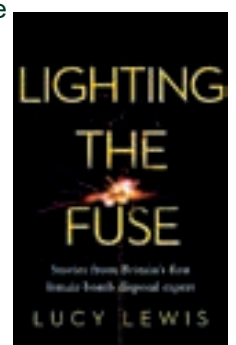
Lucy's story however is also a deeply inspirational one - joining the military in the 1980s just as women were taking on more dangerous roles, Lucy's every move was watched and scrutinised. This didn't hold her back; instead she broke through the ceiling, fought against sexism and achieved something no woman had ever done before.

Lighting the Fuse is an eye-opening memoir, that reveals the hidden world of being a woman in the military and how a young woman with an ordinary background, made history - not just once, but twice.

Lucy Lewis joined the Army in 1988 and after attending Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, she became the first female bomb disposal officer to operate in the Armed Forces. Lucy served in Germany, Northern Ireland and the MOD and was part of a small female delegation to Jordan hosted by the royal family to advise on their merging of male and female armies.

In 2018, Lucy took on another trail-blazing role, becoming the first woman appointed as University Marshal at the University of Cambridge. She lives in Cambridge and is always looking for her next adventure.

Published by Trapeze on 18th March 2021, £18.99. Also available in eBook and Audio



Branch Meetings



All Branch details are correct at time of going to press. If you wish to amend your details please email editor@wracassociation.org.uk or phone 0300 400 1992. If there is no Branch listed for your area but you would like to meet up with like minded members, consider forming a Branch, contact HQ WRAC Association.



National & Overseas

NATIONAL & OVERSEAS

Band

When: The Band Branch is a national Branch and does not meet on a monthly basis.

Contact: TBA

If you have Band news for the Lioness send direct to Editor@WRACLioness

Griffin

Griffin Branch is a virtual Facebook group primarily designed to unite those ex members of the WRAC who do not yet belong to the Association, or if they do already belong do not have a geographic branch to attend.

Contact: Cathy Munro MBE cathmunro@hotmail.com.

Tel: 01733 201231 (working hours) Mobile: 07786 260988

Facebook page: WRAC Griffin Branch

Mediterranean

When: At least every 6 months or more – 2nd Wednesday of each month (from 12 September 2017)

Where: Albir Arms, Albir

Contact: Melanie Howell melphil@britvegas.com Tel: 0034 9658 78963 Mob: 0034 622 036333

Perth (Australia)

Contact: Ann Page ann.page3@bigpond.com



South & South West

Area Co-ordinator: Amanda Foster,

SalisburyWRACVets@gmail.com Tel: 07788 316596

Bath

When & Where: Ad hoc – please contact Sylvia Musgrave for more information

Contact: Sylvia Musgrave Tel: 01225 339904

Bournemouth

When: 12noon, 2nd Wednesday of the month, March, June, September and December

Where: Lynton Court TableTable restaurant (in Premier Inn), 47 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, BH1 3PA, for informal lunch

Contact: Val Wright Tel: 01202 314047 or Jillian Hurst Tel: 01202 679433

Bristol

When: 10.30 on the 1st Thursday of the month

Where: Broadmead Baptist Church, 1 Whippington Court,

46

(entrance on Union Street), Bristol, BS1 3HY (www.broadmeadbaptist.org.uk)

Contact: Judith Stinchcombe

Email: wracbristolbranch@mail.com Tel: 07837 455352

Isle of Wight

When: Bi-monthly

Where: Various venues around the Isle of Wight

Contact: Tracy Biddlecombe. Tel: 07980-673402 mobile or

Email: tracyelizabeth@live.co.uk

New Forest

Contact: Madge Evans Tel: 01425 620995

Plymouth

Contact: Jean Cundy-Borge on 01752 567844 or

Evon Roberts on 01752 215780

Portsmouth

When: 10.30 1st Saturday of the month

Where: The Maritime Club, Queen's Street, Portsmouth

Contact: Sally Watson Tel: 02392 666712

Salisbury

When: Mixture of 'coffee meet-ups' during the day and Saturdays; and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Where: Contact Amanda Foster for details

Contact: Amanda Foster via email: SalisburyWRACVets@

gmail.com Facebook: WRAC Salisbury Branch; or Twitter: @

SalisburyWRACVets. If you prefer to phone contact HQ Office and we'll put you in touch.

Southampton

When: 19.00-21.30 on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Where: Eastleigh Working Mens Club, 18 Upper Market Street, Eastleigh, SO50 9FD

Contact: Jean Doe Tel: 01794 523146

Swindon

When: 19.00, every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Where: RAFA Club, 41-43 Belle Vue Rd, Swindon, SN1 3HN

Contact: Yvonne Parsons via email: ylp69@yahoo.co.uk or

Tel: 07765309379

Torquay

Contact: Pauline Marr Tel: 07787763779, alternatively email paulinemarr55@gmail.com.

Weymouth & Portland

When: 13.00 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month (no meetings from late December to late February and late June to late September)

Where: RAFA Club, Maiden Street, Weymouth, DT4 8AY

Contact: Di Lawrence Tel: 01308 425149

Winchester

When: 2nd Thursday of January, March, September and November plus a summer outing

Where: Location varies depending on lunch or evening meeting

Contact: Herme Emery sec.wrac.winchester@gmail.com



London & South East

Area Co-ordinator: Nina Smith

Email: wracnina@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07771-834-730

Canterbury

When: 13.00 on the first Wednesday of the month (except Jan, Feb, Mar)

Where: Newport Court, Cowdray Place, Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PB

Contact: Jenny Smith Tel: 01843-613552

Greater London

When: 14.00 on a Saturday in March, May, July and September

Where: Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London

Contact: Chrissie Mills Tel: 020 8578 2715

Invicta (Kent)

When: 4th Saturday of each month

Where: Various (contact Karen Radford or view Facebook/WRAC Invicta Branch)

Contact: Karen Radford (Chair) email: mousemole@msn.com, or Jackie Elliman (Sec)

London

When: 1st weekend of each month

Where: Location varies, phone to confirm

Contact: Lauren Fia MacKenzie Tel: 07709 172351

Worthing

When: 10.00 on the last Tuesday of the month (except December)

Where: Lancing Parish Hall

Contact: Janet McKechnie Tel: 01273-249746

Wales & The West

Area Co-ordinator: Barbara Anderson

Email: babs.blay@gmail.com Tel: 07921 832094

Birmingham

When: 11.00 on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Where: Soloman Cutler (Wetherspoons), Broad Street, Birmingham City Centre B1 2DS

Contact: Babs Anderson Tel: 07921 832094

Email: babs.blay@gmail.com

Cardiff

When: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Where: The Fox & Hounds, Old Church Rd, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 1AD (Please check via email or facebook before attending in case date or venue has changed)

Contact: Debbie Amplett on wrac.cardiff.branch@gmail.com or the WRAC Cardiff Branch Facebook page

Colwyn Bay

When: 1300hrs - 1500hrs on the last Wednesday of every month

Where: Woody's Lodge, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP

Contact: Linda Goodier Tel: 07392729387;

Email: goodierlynda@yahoo.co.uk

Dudley

When: Ad hoc, for now – please call for details

Where: The Coffee Bean, Trident Shopping Centre, Dudley

Contact: Babs Anderson, 07921-832094

Gloucestershire

If you are interested in joining Gloucestershire Branch, as a member and/or at something ...

Contact: Ann Stack at annedwardsnip@hotmail.com OR France Fairclough at fran.f@btopenworld.com or 07739 344846 and/or look them up at

Facebook Group: Gloucestershire Branch WRAC

Hereford

When: 19.00 on the last Tuesday of the month

Where: The Herdsman, 54 Widemarsh, Hereford, HR4 9HG

Contact: Lynda Armstrong Tel: 01443 837592

Marches & Mid Wales

When: 3 - 4 times per year

Where: Location varies, phone for details

Contact: Carys Palmer Tel: 01588 640985

Oxfordshire

When: 2nd Saturday of alternate months, 12.30 for lunch

Where: Littlebury Hotel, Bicester

Contact: Christine Townsend Tel: 07756 681441

Phoenix (a regional Informal Branch covering Wales, parts of the Midlands and NW)

When: Every 3 months

Where: Phone for details

Contact: Maggie Purkis Tel: 01952 251717 or 07808 139543

Shropshire

When: 14.00 or 19.00 (alternates month by month) on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except December and January).

Come 1.5 hours earlier if you wish to join us for lunch/dinner.

Where: The Red Lion, Holyhead Road, Wellington, Telford, TF1 2EW

Contact: Chris Powell Tel: 01743 241646

chris.powell3@mypostoffice.co.uk

Tamworth

When/Where: Meetings held monthly, location varies, contact for more details

Contact: Mrs Pat Williams (Chairman) on pat@williams.cx, or Marie Smedley (Secretary) on

marie.tamworth.branch@gmail.com

Worcester

If you are interested in joining a new WRAC Worcester Group, to meet up for a chat and coffee, please contact Jane Griffin-Ash via: 'Worcestershire WRAC Group' Facebook group,

East Midlands

Area Co-ordinator: VACANT

Phone 07880732245 or email janebash@hotmail.co.uk.

Bradford

Contact: Lee Guthrie Tel: 07909 961188,

Email: Lee.guthrie@sky.com

Derby

Contact Judy Smith at judy.smith4529@gmail.com or phone 07790 848364.

Doncaster

Contact: Veronica Hanson Tel: 01226 714757

East Riding & North Lincolnshire

Contact: Dorothy Mitchelmore. Tel: 07897449920

Email: mydeluxe06@icloud.com

Grantham

When: Monthly (usually a Thursday)

Contact: Lou Davies at tonymitz1@hotmail.co.uk

Hull & East Riding

When: The 1st Friday of the month

Where: Wenlock Barracks, Anlaby Road, Hull, HU3 6PB

Contact: Confirm details with Janet Mitchell Tel: 01482 508087
or Janet Marshall 01482 806799

Leicester & Nottingham

When: 13.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month

Where: Devonshire Place, 78 London Road, Leicester, LE2 0RA

Contact: Sue Slattery Tel: 0116 259 2743

Lincoln & District

When: 12.00-14.00 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

Where: Holy Cross Church Hall, Skillingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 7RB.

Contact: Sue Smith. Tel: 01636-671874

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/Lincoln&District

Lincolnshire

When: Very informal group, meeting as and when commitments allow.

Where: Different locations, to share travelling

Contact: by email Mary@faver.plus.com or

Suebeever@btinternet.com.

Peterborough & District

Contact: Pam Sussex Tel: 01733 243944.

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/WRACPeterborough

Sheffield

When: 11.00 on the 1st Thursday of the month except January and August

Where: The Benjamin Huntsman (Wetherspoons), Cambridge Street, Sheffield

Contact: Brenda Colley Tel: 01709 365828

York

When: 14.00-16.00 on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except August), phone to confirm

Where: Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church Hall, Haxby, York, YO32 2JJ

www.haxbyandwiggintonmethodistchurch.org.uk

Contact: Feona Dixon Tel: 01904 633438

////////////////////////////////////
Eastern

Area Co-ordinator: Lyn Hatch

Email: wracnorfolk@aol.com 07929 070665

Cambridge

Contact: Jean Farrington 01223 503867; Email - jeanfarrington62@gmail.com; Facebook - Cambridge Branch WRAC Association

Please phone for when, where and what

Chelmsford

Contact: Georgina Shadrack Tel: 01245 251088

Please phone for when, where and what

Colchester

Contact: Kerry Warnes 07763122474; Email - kerrypam@hotmail.com; Facebook- WRAC/ATS Veterans of Colchester and Surrounding Areas

Please phone for when, where and what

Herts/Bucks/Beds

Contact: Chris Barratt 01799 526671; Email - 78chrisbarrett@gmail.com; Facebook - WRAC/ATS (Herts, Beds, Bucks)

Please phone for when, where and what

Norfolk

Contact: Lyn Hatch Tel: 07929 070665;

email wracnorfolk@aol.com; Facebook: WRAC/ATS Veterans

Norfolk. Please phone for when, where and what

Suffolk

Contact: Liz Ives - 01473 807099 / 07714-259949;

Email - eaissafa@outlook.com

Please phone for when, where and what

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Northern

Area Co-ordinator: Lesley Roberts

Area Secretary: Helen Rowan. Tel: 07714-950219

Bury & Rochdale

Monthly Meeting at 13.30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at

The Old White Lion, 6 Bolton St Bury, BL9 0LQ

Contact: Pat Oldham Tel: 0161 761 7926

Informal Evening Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, phone for details

Contact: Susan Feeney on 07813 313508 or

Kath Kirtley on 07910 925070

Chester

When: 13.00 on the 2nd Monday of the month

Where: Chester Military Museum, The Castle, Chester, CH1 2DN

Contact: Pat Sanders Tel: 07733 270567

Cleveland

When: 13.00 on the 4th Wednesday of the month

Where: Newport Youth and Community Settlement Centre, St Pauls Road (off Union Street), Middlesbrough, TS1 5NQ

Contact: Suzanne Allan Tel: 07801571528

Cumbria

If you are interested in joining a newly forming Cumbria Informal Branch please contact Kerryanne Wilde on 07972 799307 or email khtraining@aol.com

Grimsby

When: 14.00 on the 2nd Friday of each month

Where: Cartergate Social Club, Cartergate, Grimsby, DN31 1QZ

Contact: Gail Davy Tel: 01472 347868

Lancashire

If you are interested in meeting for the occasional informal Saturday lunch at the Walton Fox, Bamber Bridge, Preston contact Gail Newsham on 07939 505485 or email gaildki@talktalk.net

Leeds

When & Where: 1st Wednesday of each month, 12.30, at the RBL, 73-75 Albion St, Leeds, LS1 5AA

And 3rd Saturday of each month, 11.00, at the Cosy Club, 53 Albion St, Leeds, LS1 5AA (except January)

Contact: Jayne Maitland email: jayne849@msn.com

Tel: 07904-084491

Liverpool

When: 13.30 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12.00 in the hotel foyer if you would like to join us for lunch

Where: The Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh Place, Liverpool, L3 5UL

Contact: Pat Brown Tel: 0151 724 5966 (Please note new number - Editor)

Oldham

When: 19.00/19.15 on 3rd Wednesday of the month
Where: Different restaurants – phone for details
Contact: Kath Kirtley 07910925070 kathleenkirtley@gmail.com or Susan Feeney 07813313508 susan4michael@yahoo.co.uk

Manchester

When: 11.00 on 3rd Sunday of the month
Where: Veterans Garage, Barton Aerodrome
Contact: Pip Flegel 07375-095532 pipflegel2009@gmail.com

Newcastle

When: 12.00 on the 3rd Thursday of the month
Where: Leazes End Club, 45-47 Leazes Park Road, Newcastle, NE1 4PG
Contact: Tanya Hall Tel: 07590 323497

Wirral

When: 19.30 on the 1st Wednesday of the month
Where: TA Centre, Chetwynd, Wexford Road, Birkenhead, L43 9TF
Contact: Andrea Jenkins Tel: 07808 648509 or email andrea-jenkins1@hotmail.com

Scotland & N Ireland

Area Co-ordinator: Helen Jephcote

Email: scotland.ni.area@wracassociation.org.uk

Aberdeen

When: 11.00 on the 1st Monday of the month (except January)
Where: Ma Cameron's (Snug Bar), 6-8 Little Belmont Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1JG

Dumfriesshire

Contact: Susan Marcroft BEM Tel: 01556 611944

Edinburgh

When: The Scot's Guards Club, Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station
Where: Location varies, phone for details
Contact: Senga Palmer Tel: 07876 782773
Facebook: Edinburgh and area WRAC/women who served, social group

Fife & Tayside

When: Last Thursday of the month
Where: Salutation Hotel, 34 South Street, Perth, PH2 8PH
Contact: Margaret Selfridge Tel: 01738 639882

Glasgow

When: 13.00 on the 2nd Monday of the month
Where: RHF Museum, 518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3LW
Contact: Joyce Steele Tel: 0141 322 5639

Stirling

When: 12.00 on the last Saturday of the month
Where: Allanpark Hotel, 20 Allanpark, Stirling, FK8 2QG
Contact: Liz Dixon Tel: 01786 743635

Ulster

When: Meetings 3-4 times per year
Where: Location varies, call to confirm details
Contact: Sylvia Connachan. Tel: 02892 693533 or 07764711069, connachan2312@gmail.com

West of Scotland

Based in / around Glasgow area
Contact: Cathy Philip Email: catriona223@gmail.com

If you co-ordinate a branch or a group who get together, whether face-to-face or 'virtually', let us know and we will include you in this list of 'branches'. There is no longer any difference between 'formal' or 'informal', 'face-to-face' or 'virtual'. It doesn't matter how or when you meet up. We are just keen to know that women who served are meeting up to support each other with comradeship, friendship, memories, etc. Let HQ office know and we will also include on the Association website.

VETERANS' GATEWAY

The first point of contact for veterans seeking support

"We put veterans and their families in touch with the organisations best placed to help with the information, advice and support they need – from healthcare and housing to employability, finances, personal relationships and more".

Veterans' Gateway is made up of a consortium of organisations and Armed Forces charities, including The Royal British Legion, SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, Poppyscotland, Combat Stress and Connect Assist (and ourselves, the WRAC Association).

"Our connection with additional key referral partners and information organisations – both within and outside the Armed Forces sector – means we can get you to the right organisation who can help".

Funded by The Armed Forces Covenant, this group has come together formally to deliver a service to help the Armed Forces community. So if you, or someone you know, is looking for help please point them in the direction of Veterans Gateway. They can be contacted by telephone (0808-802-1212) or email (via their website 'contact form'). For more information look at their website: <https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>

MOVING HOUSE?

If you have moved recently, or are about to move **please** let us have your new address (and email address) as soon as possible. This will help us reduce the number of Lioness magazines which are returned undelivered. Please email your change of address to office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk, phone us on 0300 400 1992 or post to WRAC Association, Unit 11 Basepoint, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester SO23 0LD.

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR OLD POST CODE.

WRAC Association (incorporating ATS and WRAC Benevolent Fund) Anti-Discrimination Policy

The WRAC Association does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its' activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, employment of staff, selection of Trustees and Council members, membership and esprit de corps activities, and the distribution of Benevolence and other services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all our members.

The WRAC and RMAS Sisterhood Officers Dinner ...

... due to take place on 21st November 2020 at the Victory Services Club has been postponed and will now take place on 20th November 2021.

Sue & Ish



WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS DINNER CLUB

Application for Membership

Please complete the form in BLOCK LETTERS

* Miss/Ms/Mrs/Rank (if serving)/Other (please state):

Name: Known as:

Address:

..... Post Code:

Tel No: Mobile: Email:

* WRAC/TAVR Service From: To:

Army No: * P/W/WO: Last rank held (present rank if still serving):

Surname when serving: Date of Birth:

Trade/Job when serving: Decorations:

I wish to join the WRAC Dinner Club and enclose £20 for 5 year Membership Cheque/Postal Order must be made payable to: WRAC Dinner Club

To pay by Bank Transfer the Account Number is 16974260 and the Sort Code 30-98-90.
Please put the Applicant's full name as the reference

Signature: Date:

Please return the completed form to:
WRAC Dinner Club Membership Secretary, Meld House, Hawthorn Road, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury. SY3 7NB
Email: mcgowan_alison@sky.com A 2nd Class Postage Stamp would be much appreciated. Thank you

(WRAC Dinner Club Membership Secretary to input Membership No:)

For WRAC Dinner Club please do not make cheques out to the WRAC Association and do not send to the Association Address

WRAC SHOP



WRAC Association Fleece

£28.00

Green fleece with embroidered WRAC Association logo.
Sizes XS, S, M, L, XL

(these are unisex and come up large)



WRAC Association Polo Shirt

£20.00

WRAC Association Polo Shirt is a high quality, unisex Fruit of the Loom cotton shirt with

embroidered WRAC Association logo.
Sizes S, M, L, XL



Reversible Storm Jacket

£44

Dark Green with WRAC100 logo

Sizes S/M/L/XL/XXL/XXXL



Printed Scarf £18

Printed with WRAC100 logo 70 x 70cm



Dog Collar & Lead Set.

£10

Green with white lettering.
Adjustable Collar: 25x65mm.
Lead: 25x1400mm



100 Wonderful Women

£9.99

100 stories of women's service over the past 100yrs



WRAC100 Commemorative Coin.

£10

WRAC100 design on both sides in leatherette presentation box.



WRAC Association 2021 Diary

£5.00

Get organised with the WRAC Association 2021 Diary, week to two pages



WRAC Pin Badge

£4.00



ATS Pin Badge

£4.00



WRAC Association Ballpoint Pen

£5.00

High quality WRAC Association branded ballpoint pen in dark green



WRAC Association Paperweight

£15.00

A beautiful 4 inch diameter paperweight crafted from Bristol

Blue glass (includes display stand)

All items can be purchased online via the website, by post, or phone 0300 400 1992. Cheques should be made payable to WRAC Association and sent to: WRAC Association, Unit 11 Basepoint, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, SO23 0LD. All prices include postage & packing.

See our website for information on our WRAC Association membership gift vouchers

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Order online today - wracassociation.org/shop

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[Editor: As part of the original revised Cenotaph plans for this year we asked each of the ladies who would be representing the Association to give us a few lines about themselves that could be passed onto the BBC for their commentary. Of course, as we know, the Remembrancetide commemorations were completely changed at every level, but I share here the short pieces that those ladies sent in –

The contingent would have been led by **Col (Rtd) Alison Brown**, the WRAC Association Vice-President. Ali retired from active service in 2010 having served for 27 years. Ali was commissioned into the WRAC in 1984 at RMA Sandhurst from the first group of women ever to enter Sandhurst in its 300-year history. She deployed as part of Army HQ to the First Gulf War in 1990, spending 7 months in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. On the WRAC's 1992 disbandment, Ali joined the Adjutant General's Corps Staff and Personnel Support (AGC SPS) - this was at a time of real broadening of opportunities for women in the Army along with Terms and Conditions being aligned to that of male colleagues. She saw further postings, including to Bosnia with the Royal Logistics Regiment getting cash to troops all across the country/region, Staff College, Kosovo in 2002 as Principle Staff Officer to a Norwegian General who was overseeing the peace agreement between Serbia and the new Kosovo Protection Corps, and finally as Colonel at Army HQ. She has been a WRAC Association Trustee since 2012 and Vice-president since 2014

Lt. Col (Rtd) Mary Woollard MBE, who retired from active service in 2007. Mary served in Germany, Belgium, Kenya, Cyprus, UK and on operational service in Bosnia. She is an active member of Hereford branch and of the National Association.

Elaine Osborne (aka 'Ozzy')

Army no: W/441072

I joined the Woman Royal Army Corps (WRAC) in October 1971, age 18. My training unit was Guildford, Surrey. After 6 weeks basic training, and in preparation for our 'passing out parade', I was told to sit at the end of a long line of chairs, in a great hall with about 360 other young women. I was seated there for ease of marching up to be presented as the most outstanding recruit in my intake; I had no idea this was going to happen. My parents, who were present, were very proud, especially as I was one of only 5 - 8 black women in that cohort of 360+ recruits.

I completed 6 years regular service, then 16 years Territorial service, ending as a Staff Sergeant, with a long service medal.

During my service my trade was a Clerk. I was posted to Bicester, Oxfordshire, Camberley Surrey, Rheindahlen West Germany, MOD Whitehall, HQ UKLF, Old Sarum, Wilton, and Tidworth in Wiltshire. I worked for the Ordnance, Royal Signal and Intelligence Corps.

Today I am an active member of the Greater London Branch of the WRAC Association. I volunteer regularly for The Not Forgotten Association, and the Why are West Indian's (WAWI), based in Birmingham, as well as a Standard Bearer all over the country.

I hope my next posting, as a Veteran, will be as a Chelsea Pensioner, where I have a lot of friends and connections.

Mrs Jacqueline McGuckin, from Lancashire. Jacqueline joined as Ms Pope, going on to attain the rank of Corporal. She served 1984 - 1987 as WRAC Supply Specialist serving at 16 Bn RAOC, Bicester, during which time she was detached to the Falklands Logistics 77 Company for an operational tour and had the pleasure of working for the 1986 Royal Tournament at Earls Court. Fond memories include being singled out during a live show and sung to by the Gun Crews as they kneeled in front of the Royal Box ("All the nice girls love a Sailor" & "Daisy Daisy"). Since leaving the forces in 1987 she has retained close links as a Veteran, setting up the 16 Bn Veteran Reunion's every two years, and, as a civilian, working alongside and with the armed forces across Germany and the UK. Today she supports the Navy, working within MoD Maritime Programme Management.

Mrs Jane Griffin-Ash, from Hereford; joined in 1973 as a little 17½ year old. After basic training, she trained as a Comcen Op, later upgraded to a Data Telegraphist with the Royal Signals. She married in 1975 (to a serving soldier in the Royal Signals), but continued to serve as a married serving woman until she left in 1981, as a Corporal.

Miss Pat Rosewell, from London; signed up 2 days after her 17th birthday. She just squeezed in at 4'10. She served 23 years, from July 1969 to July 1992, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer Class One (WO1). Her trade was a Physical Training Instructor, which included posting to Aldershot, at the RAPTC as a staff instructor, Bovington RTR, Larkhill RSA, Bicester, Millhill 12 Coy WRAC, Germany, Canada and America. She represented the Army in Gymnastics, Trampoline and performed at the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Tournament and the London Palladium with Dame Vera Lyn in an Army Benevolent fund-raiser, 'Fall in the Stars'!! She also represented the Army in High board and springboard diving and downhill skiing - she was the first female posted to Canada to teach the men skiing!! She also represented the Army in Orienteering and Field Hockey. In September 1989 she took part in a charity Tandem bike ride from John o Groat's to Lands End to raise money for the Royal British Legion Women's section

and the WRAC Association - en route they were invited to take tea with HM The Queen Mother at her marital home Birkhall. In 2007 Pat became a "Guinness book World record holder", as part of a mass partition team of 157 Masseurs who massaged the head and shoulders of members of the public while they sat down, at any one time, at Potters Lawn, Tower Bridge!!

Miss Nicki Bignell, from Lytham; joined the WRAC at 17½yrs of age in November 1987. Her trade was a Supply Specialist with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and was posted to the Central Ammunition Depot in Kineton, Warwickshire. She also served in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in 1990 conducting 'searcher duties', with the male soldiers. In 1988 she was the United Kingdom's Land Forces Under 21 orienteering champion - the trophy had to be taken back shortly after presentation for the wording to be changed from 'Men's U21' to 'Mixed U21'. She was also seconded to 22 SAS at Sterling Lines, Hereford during her career and completed a tour in Bosnia. After 7 years of service she finished as a Lance Corporal. Since leaving the Army, she has continued her commitment to serving Queen and Country as a serving Police Sergeant in Lancashire Constabulary and, until recently, was also a volunteer lifeboat crew for the RNLI (for over 10 years).

Mrs Ann Stack, from Gloucester; enlisted on September 26th 1977 and served for 3 years until 1980. Whilst awaiting Security Clearance, she was held in Holding & Drafting (H&D) in Guildford, and was sent to Wilton as a Standby Firefighter during the Fireman's strike in the winter of 1977. She undertook her Trade Training in Catterick, as a Switchboard Operator. Subsequent posting was to NORTHAG 2ATAF - NATO Switchboard in Rheindahlen West Germany. Their field unit was 28 Signal Regiment and they were deployed on exercise and manoeuvres with them and practiced for war, along with NATO counterparts and The TA from the UK. Very exciting times as this was the time of The Iron Curtain, which posed a very real threat. Despite females being non-combatant at that time, the lads taught many women how to strip, clean and put an SMG together, on the quiet.

SUNSET

'Sunset' is an arrangement of a bugle call that signals the end of the day; it is familiar to all military band musicians. Although played many times throughout a career, few performers ever imagine it will one day sound in their honour. Last year the evening hymn was 'heard' on two occasions, by those who had known Pauline Hawker and Joan Ellis.

Both Pauline and Joan were past members of the Women's Royal Army Corps Staff Band, in which both were clarinetists, and both died a few weeks before reaching the age of ninety; Pauline in the spring of 2020 and Joan in the autumn.

Pauline and Joan belong to a unique group of musicians known as the '49ers', a name, derived from the year of the WRAC Staff Band's foundation, which distinguishes, in the form of an endearment, the original personnel. Both were lifelong supporters of the 49ers, attending regular reunions in Guildford, which was the band's home from its inception. The 49ers, few of whom remain, set a standard for all who followed and rightly hold a special place in military band history.

Shortly before her death, Pauline published a collection of poems, which she entitled Parts of Life. The final stanza of 'Time Passing', more than fitting as an epitaph for the author and her old comrades, reads thus:

*Now, time-weary, I have no hopes or fears,
My tree bears witness with its fruitful spread.
And so, it is my time to pass along
And join with those who held my childish hand,
And watched as I took my place in the line
That marches on relentlessly renewed.*

On behalf of Janet Cox (nee Skellon) and Julie Collinson (nee Hitchcock)

The '49ers' in later years: Pauline Hawker, back row, first left; Joan Ellis, front row, second left; Janet Cox (nee Skellon), front row, fourth left; Winnie Hitchcock (nee Pollard (1927-2014)), front row, first right



ATS/WRAC Experimental Assistants Gunnery and Kine-theodolite Operators

In May (2020) we received the following email message from Dr Nina Baker:

"I have had some contact with WRACA via your Twitter account, in connection with my research into the women who worked as Experimental Assistants Gunnery and Kine-theodolite operators in the ATS and later in the WRAC. The Royal Artillery Historical Society have been helpful too, but I have just obtained an absolutely wonderful book - The Girls Behind the Guns, by Dorothy Brewer Kerr - about her time in WW2 as a kine-theodolite operator. This is probably one of the best autobiographical accounts I have come across of a woman's service in any of the WW2 forces.

Since I believe she was born in 1920 it is, I suppose, highly unlikely that she is still alive, but I wondered if she had ever been a member of WRACA and, if so, whether there was any chance that your records still held any means of contacting her family on my behalf. The reason I ask this is that the book includes many of her own, excellent, photos which may be unique in showing women doing this work, as even the IWM catalogue does not include many. I was wondering, therefore how to get permission to use any of them as presumably only her family could give such permission.

I am hoping to write a paper about these women, probably for the Royal Artillery Historical Society's journal or some similar military history journal but if WRACA has a magazine and would be interested in a less formally-academic article I would be more than pleased to submit one in due course."

Regards

Nina Baker

DL, PhD, BSc, FIES, HonMWES

We then had various email exchanges with Dr Baker, reference Dorothy, a Lioness article and this message:

"I would be keen to hear from anyone who did this line of work, so feel free to include either my email address (nina.baker1@btinternet.com) or the link to my blog: <https://womenengineerssite.wordpress.com/2020/04/10/research-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>."

Dr Baker's article is included here:

Mirrors and Slide Rules, White Skirts and Wellie Boots: When ATS/WRAC women went ballistic By Dr Nina Baker

In 1941 the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) was desperate to attract more women to enlist and held nationwide public parades and demonstrations of some of the more glamorous trades. Many girls were attracted to the apparent adventure of Motor Transport work but the army was also seeking a very special cadre of women with excellent, education and intelligence for some highly technical roles. At the highest end of such requirements was the ATS trade of Experimental Assistant Gunnery (EAG) for which rank and file women required at least 'school certificate' or 'matriculation' maths (broadly similar to GCSE O and A-Levels) and their officers needed degrees in maths or physics. Indeed, some ATS officers were recruited for this role direct from the universities.

Most such ATS officers and women were sent to the Royal Artillery Experimental Establishment (XP) at Shoeburyness, although there were others elsewhere in the UK. Shoeburyness as a location for experimental artillery ballistics and test work dated back to the 19th century and the area had several ranges on both sides of the river Thames, as well as important artillery and small arms training areas.

White Skirts and Side Caps

On arrival at the Experimental Establishment at Shoeburyness, the first surprise for the ATS girls was that they were given a new uniform, a smart outfit of double-breasted Navy-style blue jackets, Royal Artillery side caps, white blouses and white skirts. ATS uniform was to be worn off-base but this new and rather glamorous outfit was what they wore daily for their new roles. It was based on the historic, arguably eccentric, working rig of the Royal Artillery (RA), which had a long tradition of unusual uniforms.

The ATS were also given the metal and cloth Royal Artillery cannon sleeve badges (normally worn by senior RA NCOs) to wear on their jackets apparently a local decision as no other ATS wore these. When one daring ATS dyed her khaki battledress jacket navy blue to match her male colleagues' uniforms, the commanding officer approved this adaptation.

Tin Hats and Wellie Boots

Some of the work done was cold, wet, and dirty and the women were kitted out accordingly in their warm reefers and high rubber waders or wellington boots.

Although the ATS rank and file were recruited based on superior school qualifications and high marks in the new recruits' tests, much of the work they did at Shoeburyness was more manual than cerebral. Unlike the ATS Kine-Theodolite Operators (KTOs), EAGs were also in front of the guns. In the earliest days of experimental artillery work, in Victorian times, the ballistic performance of a gun or ammunition under test was measured by positioning a junior officer on horseback out on the sands at low tide to record where the shell fell. This is more or less what the ATS women did – they were driven out onto the sands in heavy carts pulled by six horses, where they waited to the left of the firing line, ready to find and collect the shells. They had special long, iron rods with a hooked end to drag them back to the cart, where they were carefully counted to ensure none were left out on the sands. Unsurprisingly, the women wore their heavy jackets and rubber wader boots for this work. The east coast is known for its biting winds at all seasons!

The ATS at Shoeburyness also assisted with the loading and firing of the guns, even helping to load 25 pound shells. This would have been considerably heavier work than their colleagues did even in the mixed batteries of the Anti-Aircraft service, albeit without the pressure under fire which the latter work involved.

By the time of the Second World War methods had progressed to the early stages of what would soon become dominated by radar and computers, via pendulums and clockwork chronographs. However, in 1940 the technology was not all that far removed from that of the Victorian era: shells were still being fired through a system invented by the Reverend Bashforth of 10 screens at 120-foot intervals, each of which measured electrically when an artillery shell passed the wires in the screen, giving a very precise timing at each part of its trajectory. The signal generated by the Bashforth screen system was transmitted to a Signal Room and recorded in the form of a spiral trace on chronograph paper, with marks indicating the passage of the projectile through each screen. ATS then fitted the paper strips into an apparatus which gave the preciseread-off of the time of each mark derived from each screen, to the nearest one ten-thousandth of a second. As each test meant the breakage of one or more of these wires, the ATS women were trained to dismantle the screens from their high frameworks along the range, and renew them for the next test.

Mirrors and Slide Rules

When not donning their 'tin lids' to load guns or rubber boots to plod out onto the

sand, ATS women also had more technical, but not much more modern, ways of assisting with the tests for range and accuracy. These two methods of plotting the behaviour of shells relied on optical methods: the mirror and the window, both dating back to First World War innovations developed by the physiologist and mathematician Archibald Hill and his 'Hill's Brigands' in the Munitions Inventions Department, at the request of Horace Darwin.

The Darwin-Hill Mirror Position Finder was a method for tracking fast-moving high-altitude projectiles. It consisted of a pair of large flat mirrors marked with graticules of lines at 1cm intervals. The distance (about a mile) between the pair of mirrors formed a base line of a triangle with the target object. Observers at each mirror viewed the aerial target/s through raised eyepieces and marked the reflections on the mirrors with red glycerine ink. The locations on the mirrors were transferred to special absorbent paper and the positions of the objects in all three dimensions could be calculated. The ATS EAGs were trained in this work, including the calculations and also the similar work with the 'window position finders', theodolites, telescopes and other optical apparatus.

The ATS KTO women who were recruited to support the Royal Artillery training ranges were trained in all aspects of the use of their kine-theodolites: loading the celluloid film, assembling, calibrating and dismantling the equipment, and developing the resulting films. They were then set to work on analysing the data from those films, which involved hours of painstaking calculations and graph production. The KTOs had to mark up paper with gridlines and numbering before the graphs could even be drawn.

The ATS officers, with their maths and physics degrees, were responsible both for the management of the rank and file women's work and also for the more sophisticated calculations, and the planning of future experimental programmes.

After the War

The ATS women who served their country as Experimental Assistants Gunnery or Kine-Theodolite Operators knew they were doing very special work, were proud of what they did and found it both interesting and even fun. The few memoirs of this work that exist make clear that the women felt they had been privileged to be selected for these elite technical roles, even though only a tiny number were to remain in the post-War ATS.

Whilst the EAGs with the Royal Artillery at Shoeburyness were mostly working with equipment invented in the previous war or even in the previous century, their work was at the cusp of change. They were aware of the use of radar for the anti-aircraft guns but its use had not quite arrived for testing and proofing of ammunition. The KTOs, as the ATS became the WRAC, to some extent bridged that transition as their increasingly sophisticated equipment continued to be used for tracking trial launches of rockets for both weaponry and space programmes. It would not be long before the use of radar, computers and other early electronic equipment would radically change such women's work in both the British army and the rocket ranges of the Cold War era, but that is another story.

Further reading:

A more detailed version of this article, with full references, is in the Journal of the Royal Artillery Autumn 2020, No.1, Vol CXLIX.

There is also a nice film clip online which includes shots of ATS reservists preparing the screens in 1949: Girl Gunners. <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/girl-gunners>

IMAGES © IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



Auxiliary Territorial Service: ATS girls at the Royal Artillery Experimental Unit, Shoeburyness, Essex recover shells from the mud flats at low tide, 1943. The cart and horses used to transport the shells can also be seen



ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) girls loading shells into the breech of a 25-pdr field gun at the Royal Artillery Experimental Unit, Shoeburyness, Essex, 1943



ATS women dismantle Velocity Screens at Shoeburyness

Sandy Cawley Discussing her life ahead of Remembrance

(Andover Advertiser: <https://www.andoveradvertiser.co.uk/news/18842455.andover-veteran-discusses-army-life-ahead-remembrance/>)

Curious PR Case Study:

*"Twice I've been saved by the
Women's Royal Army Corps"*

*- 80 year-old veteran, Sandy Crawley from
Charlton, Andover, shares fond memories of being
in The British Army and being reunited with her
fellow veterans many years later*

Sandy Cawley

- Aged 80 (6th June 1940)
- Lives in Charlton, Andover
- 2 children and 3 grandchildren

Sandy on becoming the First female recruit from Workington –
"I felt 10 foot tall!"

"I was 18 years old (1959), living in a sleepy village and I knew I wanted to get out and do something with my life. One day, I phoned the sergeant working at the WRAC Centre in Carlisle barracks, and asked for an interview. I completed the interview, and then underwent a medical: I should have failed as I was a few pounds short (!) but the officer kindly lied on my application! Then, I received the news that I had passed the interview process. It was a proud day, as not only was I getting to leave home and start a new adventure, but I was the first female recruit from that particular recruitment office in Workington!"

"After an intense 6 weeks of trade training at Yeovil, I had my passing out parade. There is no better feeling than wearing your uniform and marching across the yard! I felt 10ft tall! For the first time, I felt a real sense of pride stood there with my fellow ladies, a feeling I'll always remember.



Heading overseas

"Shortly after passing out, I went to work in Yeovil as a clerk (July -September 1959), and after a short stint, I was thrilled to learn that I was being posted overseas to Rheindahlen in Germany. I was one of the first female recruits to go abroad after trade training, which was exciting! I'd never left the UK before, so the idea of going to another country in those days was thrilling! We travelled in uniform by Troop train, and then Troop ship, to the Hook of Holland. I remember the first building I saw when I arrived in Germany was the store, C&A! Not quite what I was expecting, but I did not care, I was in a different country and ready to explore.

"Whilst in Germany, as females, we got lots of invites to other camps because there was a shortage of women in the Army back then. We would go to dances and meet up with others like ourselves living the 'forces lifestyle'. It was a life of fun and laughter, but also discipline, which did me good. I remember every Monday night we'd have our inspections where the sergeant would come around to check our room was spic and span, and our uniform was pristine. Being in the women's army, we were trained by women, not men, so it felt special, like we were part of something which we were all proud of.

"Shortly after arriving in Rheindahlen, I met my husband who was serving in the RAF at the time. We married in 1961, at which point I had to leave the army, because back then you weren't able to remain in the forces if you married. It was the right thing to do at the time, but I do wish I could have served for longer.

Life after the forces – 10k races and skydiving!

"Life after the army involved children and new jobs. We both remained linked to the forces in some way. My husband worked for GCHQ, and I was a civil servant for almost 20 years. Sadly, my husband died in 2003 after a 10-year battle with illness, which was an incredibly sad and lonely time. But I knew I had two choices: either stay at home on my own, or I start living again. I chose the latter.

"Since joining the WRAC Association a few years ago, I've made some wonderful friends and have some lovely memories. Meeting like-minded people who all have interesting stories to tell about their time serving is fascinating. Many women are widowed like myself, so the groups organise trips and meetings, and provide a safe space for us to come together and support one another.

"In the last few years, I've really thrown myself into new experiences. My son-in-law got me into park runs with him every Saturday morning, which I loved! I 'got the bug', and soon moved onto 10k races, most recently competing in a 10k (and getting a personal best) to raise money for the WRAC Association alongside some other members from the group. My latest moment of madness was doing an indoor skydive! There were different options of heights to fall from, so being me, I went for the highest. I can't wait to do it again later this year!



"Twice I've been saved.."

"The WRAC has given me two leases if life - the first was when I joined up. As a shy girl with little self-esteem, it transformed me into a woman with courage and confidence. I revelled in the fun and freedom it brought me in my late teens/ early twenties. The women's Army taught me so much, and I'll always look back with fond memories of those years. Secondly, after my husband died, I was reintroduced to the WRAC Association which gave me friendship and purpose at a time when I really needed the support. So twice, I've been saved by the WRAC.

Remembering Brigadier Shirley Nield CBE "A Director's Lot Is Not a Happy One"

*Written by Captains Murdoch, Brodie-Murphy and
Moffat and performed by them,
with Colonel Nan Robertson, Major Sue Westlake
and Major Jane Freebairn,
at Brigadier Shirley's Dining Out from the Corps
at the WRAC Centre Officers' Mess, Guildford*



"When the Director's not involved in our deployment
Orchestrating a momentous little plan
She'll be advocating wider Corps employment
For she knows we're just as good as any man
Her feelings she with difficulty smothers.
When there's talk of our cap badging to be done
Taking one consideration with another
A Director's lot is not a happy one.
When there's talk of our cap badging to be done
A Director's lot is not a happy one.

When the enterprising Shirley's not a-working
When she's finished daily fighting for our cause
She likes to fly to countries weird and wonderful
And drink and sun herself on distant shores.
In America she had a helicopter
With another 'copter tagging on behind
But in MOD she's lucky to get a staff car.
A Director's lot is not a happy one
When the staff car duty roster has been done
A Director's lot is not a happy one

In her early days she went to Sheffield Uni
And she studied a psychology degree
Then she spent a few years working on probation.
Now she's a BA, CBE and ADC
She will often find that senior men outrank her
And her female chauvinism is outdone.
Taking one consideration with another
A Director's lot is not a happy one.
When her female chauvinism is outdone
A Director's lot is not a happy one.

The Director's programme's always very busy
And there's little time to eat or even drink
But the COs always kind and very willing
As he shows her yet another shiny sink.
When she's asked to give a speech or words of wisdom
She loves the chance to give us verbal pleasure
She will speak however long that you have asked her
...and an extra thirty minutes for good measure.
When she adds her thirty minutes for good measure
The listener's lot is not a happy one!

The lady then spent ten years in selection
Where she interviewed at least nine girl a day
Using psychology and basic intuition
She sent them all a-smiling on their way.
On promotion she was posted to the College
By The Jolly Farmer pub in Camberley
There to corporals and cadets she gave her knowledge.
What a bind she had to suffer little me
Putting up with wayward officers ain't much fun;
A Director's lot is not a happy one

Now she's come to the conclusion of her service
And she's leaving us to tour around the world
And we hear she'll be a-walking round the outback
With a compass and a WRAC sack on her back.
With Surbiton left behind her in the distance
She'll have sold her rusty Mark 1 Ford Capri
Taking one consideration with another
A Director's lot is not a happy one.
But ... when globetrotting retirement has begun
The Director's lot should be a happy one.



SUPPORTING WOMEN WHO / SERVED

WRAC – Ladysmith Camp – 1954/55 As Remembered by Evelyn Norton

W.R.A.C. – Ladysmith Camp – 1954-55
As Remembered by Evelyn Norton



In 1949, aged 14 yrs old, I joined the Air Corps 262 Squadron in Alverstoke, Dorset. In 1952, aged 16½ yrs old, I lied about my date of birth so that I could join the Territorial Army – a full year before I should have. On joining I was attached to 35AA Artillery of Derby – trade: Radar Operator. I did two long weekends and many evenings Drilling etc. On the 23rd December 1952 I joined the Regulars – Woman's Royal Army Corp – as a Silver Service Waitress, stationed at Guildford, Surrey. I was into all sports and gymnastics and we did displays for Nursing Homes and schools. When there was a Big Parade Day or Inspection, one or two of us were picked out to lay out our kits. I was always one of them as I always took pride in my appearance. In 1953 I was one of the privates picked (only two of us out of all other ranks) to attend Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. As we practiced marching down the steps – eyes front – there would be an NCO on each step and if, at any time, your eyes looked down then you were off the Parade. I was told I had been chosen because I was smart and had immaculate kit. We all worked hard to get two pairs of shoes up to standard – brown ones for practice and black ones for the actual days and evenings. 6/7th November 1953, I kept my nerve – no eyes down!



I am on the back row – 5th one along
Practicing for the
Remembrance Parade
6th/7th November 1953

In September 1954, I was posted to Egypt and sent to Kingston-upon-Thames for Holding & Drafting whilst awaiting to sail. A few of us were told to do a few days in

Earls Court in London for the "Forces Broadcasting Services". We had to select records for people to send a tune and messages to their loved ones for away in the services. On the day of our ship, the "Empire Ken" we sailed from Southampton. I was lucky. I wasn't seasick, so spent much of my time handing out sick tablets to those who were. On board ship we did P.E. on deck and dancing etc. which we all enjoyed. We stopped at Algiers where the men could go ashore but not us women – they said we were not safe and could end up in a Casbah and been seen no more! When we docked at Port Said we were loaded onto truck to take us to our camp – mine was Ladysmith Camp, Fayid. Our camp was patrolled by different regiments' month by month – to keep us ladies safe!

My duties were that of waitress but most of the time the Egyptians did the work. They were a lovely crowd and nick-named me "Shoo, Shoo". As and when the Sgt Major required of me, she also had to call me this otherwise nobody understood who she was asking for! My work also was to be on duty most times – day or night – as we looked after the married families as it was a transit camp for them. On early mornings, 01:00 am onwards, flights would come in and we would have to meet them, cook a small meal, before getting them to their quarters. Then the next morning serve them breakfast.

As and when off-duty there would always be lots to do – pictures, sports, bedch, dancing etc. – never a dull moment. For sports I did the high-jump and a truck would come and get me for training before Sports Day. I came 3rd and received a Bronze medal. In Fayid village we used to go to the Piccadilly – roller skating – rifle shooting – food and drink. There was a shop called Freddy's selling lots of goodies to send home. The cinema was the Cameronia, then it was down to the Ladys Beach for a steak, egg & chips supper – was it camel or donkey meat? – I do not know, I didn't eat the meat! We also went to the Scottish church in Fayid for Scottish Dancing. Every Sunday, we would meet up with other servicemen and women at the Old Victoria Lido. A lot of the ladies couldn't dance so I taught them a few steps, especially the Be-Bop which I loved. At the Yachting Club dance my partner and I was an alarm clock for the best Be-Boppers. Most of the Army and RAF camps put on dance nights. I remember a few such as the Life Guards, 1st Inf Div REME, RASC, RMH, the Yachting Club and RAF Kasrefort. At one dance we were asked to dress up as it was a "Tramps Night". I wore a nightdress and came 2nd.

Before Remembrance Parade 1954, I asked the young man I was seeing if he could take my uniform to his Arabi man; it came back like a cardboard box! I did feel a very smart. December 1955 saw the end of my 3 year service. Undecided as what to do, either sign on – go to Cyprus – or go home to get married. Yes I flew home – what a mistake – it didn't marry so I bought myself a motorbike instead! I flew back home on a creaky plane. We dropped down in Malta at 03:30 hrs – ate eggs and chips – but the plane suffered engine trouble so we landed in France – given more food and finally made it back to Stanstead then back to the Holding & Drafting Base in Kingston-upon-Thames.

I joined the T.A. again then Signals (a waitress). If I had known that I could have rejoined after 6 months I would have done so. On leaving the forces I went to work at the Ordnance Depot in Derby (Army again) as a Diesel Fork Lift Sticker driver which I had to pass a test for. Serving in the Canal Zone and other parts was an education and I would not have missed it for anything. Meeting so many comrades. Good old days and what memories!

[Editor: We include this sent in item and hope it reproduces in print so you can read it. Sincere apologies if this proves difficult for you]

Service Memories Miss Mary Marshall W/403621 (now of Bromley, Kent)

Miss Mary Marshall kindly sent the following after receipt of the last Lioness:

Sat 10 October 2020:

Your magazine arrived this morning. I've been reading it this evening. I got so engrossed that I omitted to take my 9pm medication (I've just taken it now, 11.15pm!!). Its very engaging. Reminds me of myself when younger. I liked reading adventure books (Enid Blyton) – once you picked them up, a job to put down!

I will try and send with this note some photographs (copies). I am sure other folk must get as engrossed as I!

Male guards were on duty. It was out of bound to all male military personnel (mixed camp). I am inside taking the photos.

The 'on-lookers' – the 'Juniors' now become the 'Seniors'. I'm in the back of the truck, dressed in No.1 dark green uniform (we've completed our time there and are departing). I can't recall if I went by train or was driven all the way to 12 Battalion, A Company in Richmond Park, Kingston, Surrey, to become a Shorthand-Typist at War Office in Whitehall. (From the office window there we could look down and see Princess Margaret's wedding-day procession). I visited home often (11 Queen Anne Av, Bromley, Kent)



Drivers & Clerks Training Wing
10th July – 31st August 1959
Houndsditch Barracks, Yeovil, Somerset

Thursdays were pay days so we'd go to the basement, salute at the table and sign for our salary/pay. On Thursdays the men of Royal Signals Corps had their pay day too. They'd hide behind the noisy, clanging, metal doors. They didn't want me to be embarrassed.

I had my first, one and only, 'scrumpy' (cider) drink. I recall sitting down on the grass verge in the land and laughing. Strong!

Royal Army Service Corps soldiers patrolled our barracks. WRAC quarters barracks were painted pink inside.

RASC men guarded the camp – a camp for both men and women, in separate quarters.

[Editor – if anyone knows what became of these two ladies please contact HQ, Miss Marshall would like to know]



Cpl Patchett



L/Cpl Mundy

At Houndsditch Barracks, Yeovil, Somerset. Mainly male barracks. A male soldier guarded the female quarters night and day. The 'coloured' ribbon the tie denotes 'trainee'



L-R: Cpl King (Leader / Course instructor), Mary Lawrence (from Redruth Grammar School), Helen, Pearl (in glasses), Cpl Edwards (Trainer / Course instructor)



L-R: Lady from S.Africa (Marina, I think), Mary Lawrence, myself (Mary Marshall)

Miss Marshall also remembers: a Pte 'Marty' McSeveney, who went to 22 Independants Platoon, HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong. She was Scottish, from Lancashire and may have left for pregnancy; and W/403643 Pte Veronica B McCabe. She was Irish and possibly from an orphanage. Miss Marshall thinks she went to Larkhill rifle range.

My first Christmas in the WRAC – 19th (?) December 1959, Kingston Gate Camp, Richmond Park, Kingston on Thames, Surrey. Held, in the Cookhouse, early so that folk could go home etc. for Christmas.



Far left, with back of head facing us, is Pte Jean Steer (aka Bernie) – was kind and humorous

At Jean's back, and facing us, is Jamaican (?) Frankie Williams (I think she was, or became, a L/Cpl)

On Frankie's left, and in the 'corner', L/Cpl Di Cambridge

On Di's left, Delmer (?) Reid (Jamaican ?), in front of curtain. She came from Yeovil barracks with me.

On Delmer's left, seated with paper hat on, left-hand raised, is myself (Miss Marshall)

Sgt Grant (standing) – I can't recall her name; nice person

Lady in front, with her right elbow on table, and lady on left holding glass – I can't recall their names.

The 3 candles were in a small log.

Officers and senior staff 'waited' on us.



Fairy holding wand, front left, 2nd Lt Workman [Editor – does anyone know what became of 2nd Lt Workman?]

Standing in the centre, holding hands – Commanding Officer Lt Col Gibson

On her left is Officer Commanding 'A' Company 12 Bttn Major McIntosh (I was in A Coy)

Behind Major Mac, and just visible, is 2nd Lt Scott

Dressed is Adjutant Capt Cook

Right hand corner is RSM Hope

(I think lady all in white, wearing shorts, could be a Warrant Officer, who was a shorthand writer? And travelled daily on War Office, MoD, bus)



In the NAAFI, on stage, Finale

Centre front, lady on left, Maid Marion (name?)

Lady on right, in Robin Hood hat,

Commanding Officer Lt Col Gibson – she is singing song from musical "I could be happy with you, if you could be happy with me"

L-R: 2nd on left, wearing glasses, WO1 Williams (I think she travelled daily to work, no weekends, on War Office Whitehall bus. She would knit/read during the journey. She was a P.A.)

Central figure – Commanding Officer Lt Col Gibson

From Right – 3rd in ? Sgt Maynard

2nd in Sgt Henderson, wearing glasses

1st person on far right, Company Sgt Major Thomson



Finale

1st on left, in front, Miss Allmore, the Chaplain's Assistant, wearing glasses. I think she took evening bible class once (?) a week. Bernie (Jean) Steer and I used to go

2nd person on left - ?

3rd person from left, in centre, is Lt Col Gibson (Commanding Officer)

4th from left, lady bending over, is Commanding Officer Major 'Mac' McIntosh – lady in white / shorts?

3rd from right, lady dressed in black with white collar, is Capt Cook

2nd from right, wearing white pinafore, is RSM Hope

1st on the far right, dressed in black, is RSM Thomson

12 Battalion A Company and B Coy 'girls / ladies' went to work at Mill Hill Post Office, War Office in Whitehall and other London offices eg telephonists, Horse Guards, Ministry of Defence Whitehall.

Janet Massey ('Nai' because she was from Nairobi, Africa) was L/Cpl. Some worked on Camp at Kingston so they had to wear uniform all the time, I think.

Working in War Office London, we needed to wear uniform mainly on Thursday – pay day. We went to the basement of War Office Whitehall (working there). We'd line up and salute, then received wages.





O.A.T.S & WONDERFUL WOMEN

Last year we launched the Find Our Oldest ATS (OATS) Campaign. Thank you to everyone who helped in our searches; we have engaged with several ex-ATS ladies, some of whom we already knew about and some we did not. It is wonderful to have you as part of the Association, to hear your stories and be able to celebrate some of the wonderful things you did in your time in the Army and afterwards. Here are just a selection of some of the Wonderful OATS' ladies we have heard about and from:

Editor

PAT (MARY PATRICIA) MACKAY nee HOWE

1915 - August 2020

(age 105)

**Served as Pte Howe, MP,
W/68537**

This is Pat's own account of the war years, shared with family and friends at her funeral in September 2020. [Editor: Pat's Obituary is included in the Obituaries section].

When war broke out on the 3rd of September, I was living with my aunt in Banstead Surrey. I had a job at Shinnars in Sutton, cake making. It was a big store, and they had a cake Department and a restaurant, so we were kept busy. During air raids in 1940 we had to go down in the basement where the carpets were stored and sit on rolls of carpet, for hours sometimes. The gas was turned off in the kitchen so many of the cakes were spoilt especially the yeast buns. In January 1940 my aunt's business in the City of London was bombed and destroyed.

I joined the ATS on the 25th of July 1941. I was sent to Aldermaston for basic training, after which, we were sent to train in anti-aircraft battery in Blandford and Bude and formed the 1st Ack Ack battery. When we were on Manning duty on the height-Finder we used to go to bed as usual in our pyjamas and maybe have our curlers in. When the alarm went off, we had to put trousers and battle dress tops over them and our tin helmets and boots and rush off to the command post as quickly as possible.

The height Finder was a long tube with three sets of eye pieces, one at each end and one in the middle. The ones at

the end were for elevation and vertical vision when following the plane. In the middle one you could see two images of planes one on top of the other. By turning the handles, you could get the two images exactly on top of each other. When this happened, you said "Read" and the operator on the other side of the instrument read the height and range that was on a scale. This was put into a predictor which was then sent to the gun team to set the fuse on the shells so that they exploded at the correct height and range to destroy the plane.

We shot down 14 flying bombs and four German planes over Birmingham and Manchester. When the all-clear went we went back to bed and were sometimes allowed to have extra sleeping time if we'd been up a long time during the night.

Each battery was self-sufficient, except the cooks who did not have to do many duties. The ATS did all the kitchen cleaning duties like washing up and peeling vegetables ('spud bashing'), cleaning the Sergeants' Mess and the Officers' Mess. Sometimes I was sent to help out with the cooking in the Sergeants' Mess as I had been a cook before I joined up. Then we had PT and marching drill and lectures on plane spotting and various other things. In the evenings we used to sometimes have concerts, dances and Housey-Housey in the NAFFI canteen.

At the first Ack-Ack camp I went to, in Castle Bromwich, the Nissen huts let in water and we were not allowed to light the fires until about 5:00 PM. I wrote to my aunt about it and she wrote to her MP. I also told her we had to repair our stockings before we handed them in to get new ones. I did not know we were not allowed to tell anyone about things like that. Anyway, the roofs were repaired, and we did not have to darn our stockings after that.

After training, we were sent to Castle Bromwich to a site where we stayed nine months, and then on to various cities

like Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Southampton and Shotley HMS Ganges. I got to Shoreham in 1944.

In July 1944 I got weekend leave, so went home to Banstead to see if everything was alright there. My aunt had gone to live with her sister in Bridlington as it was so dangerous in Banstead. When I got to the house it had been bombed by a doodlebug that morning, but I didn't know anything about it. The house next door was completely destroyed but our house, most of it, was still standing but had to be pulled down later. There were Canadian soldiers there bringing all the furniture from upstairs into one room downstairs. I had to stay and contact my aunt and various other people and I had to go to the council offices where I met an officer who granted me a few days extra leave. At night we slept in a table shelter in a neighbour's house under the table. It was an air raid shelter and we shared it with about four other people. I couldn't stay long as I had to get back off leave.

When I got back to Shoreham we were moving off almost straight away to Romney Marshes. There were a lot of doodlebugs or flying bombs coming over there, so we went to shoot them down. It was just in a field with tents and bare necessities. We used to go out at night gathering mushrooms and cook them over the oil stoves we had in our tent - that was the only good thing about it.

It was a great treat to get a bath after 26 days without one in Romney [Editor - this possible should read 'Romney'?]. I don't know why we couldn't have gone there earlier to get baths, but we did that day and it was appreciated.

There was a Royal Artillery battery, and I met my future husband there, Sam Mackay. He was a Scotsman from Caithness. I met him at a dance and after a few weeks we became engaged. He went off to France about two weeks after D-day and went all through France and Belgium and fought in Arnhem in Holland.

Our battery stayed on at Romney Marsh's until the 12th of October. It was a wet autumn, and the field was very muddy. We went everywhere in wellington boots. We shot down 14 flying bombs while there.

At the end of November I went on leave to Bridlington, where my mother and father lived, because my brother, Dick, was coming home from leave from the Navy to meet all the family and had brought home his new wife Joy. The whole family was there to greet them, and we made a great fuss of them. My mother got a hare, and we had Jugged Hare for dinner, and hare pie the next day. Meat was rationed of course.

I moved from Seaford to Barrow Head in Scotland, to a firing camp, for three weeks at the end of December, then back to Seaford until the flying bombs stopped, then on to Southwold in Suffolk. We celebrated VE Day on the 3rd of May.

We had a fancy-dress dance, and I made a dress from green draped hessian, which was to be used for curtains, and used safety pins to make it. I could not cut it so draped it around and made a crinoline skirt and used silk scarves for the bodice. We went swimming in the sea until we were told the beach was mined.

We were sent to Newport in Cardiff for a few months after that. The battery disbanded and it was sad to part from all the girls I had known for four years. Some were demobbed and others went on to various training courses. I was sent to Newcastle.

On the way to Newcastle it was VJ day, so I had to stay two days in Kettering as it was a holiday to celebrate the real end of the war. I went to an RAF dance.

Having taken a cook's course and passed my exams with flying colours, I was sent to Southend-on-Sea as a cook in an Officers' Mess until I was demobbed in December. I went home to Banstead, to my aunt, to a temporary house as our house had not been rebuilt since it was destroyed.

Editor: If this magazine has been shared with you, and you too are an ex-ATS, whatever 'trade' you served in, please do contact us. Or, perhaps you know of someone who is ex-ATS (mother, aunt, sister, neighbour, friend through the veteran community), please let us know. We would love to thank and honour each and every one of you.

JOAN RICH 102 on 11th September 2020

Dear Diane

We have a note that it is your mother's 102nd birthday next week (11th September) and so, as is our usual custom, we are wanting to arrange for a bunch of flowers to be delivered to Joan for her birthday, along with our good wishes.

How has Joan been getting on with her walks? No doubt some of the weather over the past couple of weeks has not been ideal for her marathon effort, but we hope she has continued to enjoy her perambulations around the park. We have been thinking of her, and all of you as well, and wishing you all the very best.

We hope you, your mother and everyone else has continued in good health.

With best wishes
WRAC Assoc.

Many thanks for your interest in Joan, and kind offer of flowers. Joan's final walk will be on Friday, on her birthday, hopefully at 16.00 hours. There's just one more walk to fit in this week and the weather looks promising. Fingers crossed it will keep it up on Friday.

I'm not promoting this as a public event because of all the restrictions on social gatherings. But, there will be RMPs, who have confirmed they would like to walk with Joan and possibly RMPA members too, as well as neighbours and children dressed in NHS outfits, possibly even Spiderman as a patient with a bandage! I think a string quartet want to will play happy birthday, and the local and national press will be there too.

*Thank you for all the support from WRAC Association.
Diane Rich*

Thank you for the lovely flowers and birthday wishes for Joan. They arrived this morning.

*Thank you.
Best wishes to all.
Diane*

JOAN AWBERY (nee Skittle) 100 on 9th September 2020

The following was sent to local press by Lyn Hatch:

WW2 ATS veteran celebrates her 100th birthday

WW2 ATS veteran celebrates her 100th

birthday Joan Awbery (nee Skittle), who served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service which was the women's branch of the British Army during the Second World War, celebrated her 100th birthday on September 9th 2020.

Joan, who was born in Soham, Cambridgeshire, spent the day celebrating with her family at her home in Norwich.



Remembrance(s)



National / London-based plans for the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey changed as Covid-19 went on and Remembrancetide got closer. We went from the usual plans of each organisation / Association having representatives at The Field, to just one representative per organisation, to the whole event being cancelled ... for this year. We put the message out as far and wide as we could, utilising social media etc.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE Wendy Hooton

"I was expecting that [cancellation of Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey] too so held back sending you the crosses. I will save them for next year.

I have ordered a WRAC wreath to lay at the War Memorial in Bury St Edmunds. I am invited to the Remembrance events as the Veterans representative. I'll take that! (Our events are still going ahead at the moment, on a smaller scale).

The WRAC Remembrance Cycle Ride fundraising is going quite well so that will be a few more pounds for the Association. Hopefully there may be a few more joining us. I'm looking forward to visiting some local War memorials and will be taking some photos to post on our Facebook groups.

Stay safe everyone.

Best wishes
Wendy Hooton

CENOTAPH Ali Brown

As with the Field of Remembrance, the arrangements for the annual Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph was quite fluid. Confirmation of what it was hoped would take place came late September, with just 8 representatives per organisation / Association, regardless of size or age of Association. With Covid-19 continuing apace this was changed to the event being cancelled, with just a small handful of specially selected organisations representing the whole veteran community. It was such a shame, and felt by everyone, including the Royal British Legion, as this year marked the Centenary of the Cenotaph and the Grave of the Unknown Soldier.

With participation in the National Remembrance events in London having been cancelled for most, the WRAC Association's poppy wreath was laid at the WRAC Association's Plot at the National Memorial Arboretum. This was done on a day leading up to Armistice Day.

At the same time, a wreath was placed at the Women's Land Army and Timber Corps memorial statue to remember all women who served on the land.

Ali Brown
Vice-President

POPPY PRIDE

Please buy a Poppy, the lady said,
And held one out, but I shook my head.
I stopped and watched her standing there,
Her face was old and lined with wear
Beneath the scars, the years had made,
Remained a smile that did not fade.

A boy came whistling down the street
Bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun,
"Lady" said he, can I have one.
She pinned it on, and he turned to say
Why do we wear a Poppy today?

The lady smiled without a flaw,
"For all the boys who died in war.
Because they did, we are free
So, we wear this Poppy, you see."

"I had a boy about your size
With golden hair and big blue eyes,
He loved to play and jump and shout
Free as a bird, he would race about.
The years went by, he learnt and grew,
As, in time, you will too!

When war broke out, he went away,
All I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight,
Which, I can see, in dreams at night.
Tanks and bombs and cruel barbed wire,
Bullets and mines, screams and fire.

The fields were gone, the land all bare,
Yet seedlings spouted from their lair.
The Poppy grew and flowered red,
And breathed sweet perfume upon the dead.

The soldiers saw this sight with awe
Which gave them strength to fight the war.
Until at last, the war was won,
"That's why we wear a Poppy, son".

The small boy turned as if to go,
"Thanks Lady", I'm so glad to know,
That sure did sound an awful fight
Was your son safe, and so alright?"
She shook her head but didn't speak,
A tear rolled down each faded cheek.

I slunk away, so full of shame,
If you were me, you'd do the same.
Our thanks in giving is oft delayed,
Our freedom bought and thousands paid.

So, when you see a Poppy worn,
Reflect upon the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer, Country's call.

So buy a Poppy for all who died,
And show it clearly with great pride.

Unknown.

WRAC REMEMBRANCE CYCLE RIDE 2020 Wendy Hooton

My thoughts were -
How can we commemorate
Remembrance this year as we
are in "Lockdown?" Many of us would
have been congregating at Horse Guards
for the Remembrance Parade at the
Cenotaph in Whitehall.

I thought we could cycle on
Remembrance weekend, or 11/11, to a
few of our local War Memorials, pay our
respects and take photos to share on
social media.

Remembrance is important, especially
to Veterans. We remember those who
made the ultimate sacrifice, and those
whose lives were changed forever.

I decided to make this a fundraising
event as The Royal British Legion Poppy
Appeal would struggle, like so many
other charities, to raise funds in this year
of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dawn Bagnall launched the WRAC
VETERAN'S CYCLE CLUB on Facebook
earlier in the year. I put the suggestion
to the group as well as to the WRAC
LIONESSES FUNDRAISING GROUP. I
was delighted, we had 25 cyclists and
cycled just under 1,000 miles between
us! We went to 125 War Memorials and
12 Graves. Most of us were wearing
WRAC cycle tops organised by Liz King
who, incidentally, was in Mallorca for
the event. So as not to miss out, Liz
cycled an 84-mile round trip to a "local"
monastery!



The Women's Timber Corps Wreath
- Bury St Edmunds

Amanda Joynson



Bev Fenning

W.R.A.C. Wreath - Bury St Edmunds

Sue Elsknis & Jennie Thomas



Wendy Hooton & Bev Fenning





Sonya Young & Maddy Walker



Rowena Naile



Alice Bush & son



Celia White & Daughter



Karen Radford & Amanda Tillotson



Cheryl Jones



Dawn Bagnell



Shirl Ghobrial



Wendy Hooton

Some of us were at Memorial Services at 1100hrs and have posted fabulous videos and photos of the day on social media.

Thank you all so very much for supporting this new event, I thoroughly enjoyed my ride out with Bev Fenning. I am new to road cycling, something I started in the first lockdown and was very grateful for some useful tips from Bev!

We have raised an amazing £2,339.91, and over £2,815.47 with Gift Aid. This is being shared between The Royal British Legion and the WRAC Association.

HUGE thanks to all our cyclists who took up the challenge in all weathers, and to our donors for such generosity.

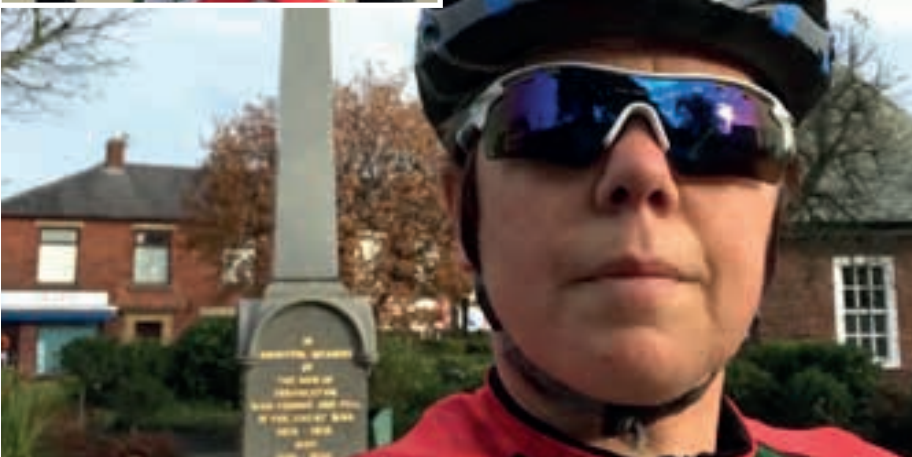
STAY SAFE EVERYONE
Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re



Kaz Smith & Heather Bradbury



Nicki Bignell



TODAYS WOMEN & ARMY



In addition to the articles Julia Doig has supplied, last and this edition, with serving women who are part of the Buddy-buddy Scheme, I also asked the RMP Association and AGC Association to share any stories they may have of women in today's Army. Both were very kind and with their permission I reproduce a few articles here for your interest: Editor



Royal Military Police Association:



1 Military Police Brigade were asked to showcase some of the outstanding work our women have been involved in over the last 18 months. Proud of all of our people, whilst we cannot outline all of the outstanding achievements, here is a quick snapshot.

Cpl Rosie Jepson awarded the 'Provost 500' Provost Marshal (Army) Sword. For her outstanding contribution to the Service Justice System, Cpl Jepson 1 Regiment Royal Military Police (1 RMP) was awarded The 'Provost 500' Provost Marshal (Army) Sword; awarded annually to the JNCO in the RMP who is judged by the Provost Marshal, to have done the most for the RMP in the previous year.



This soldier has been employed as a Section NCO on General Policing Duties within the firm base and twice deployed overseas. Quick to step into the firing line, she has had a relentless year that has catapulted the RMP into the limelight.

At very short notice, she deployed to Cameroon on a Short-Term Training



Team (STTT) with the Specialised Infantry Battalion, 2 SCOTS, where she was first on the ORBAT in a singleton RMP position to deliver police training to local security forces showing resilience in a particularly austere operating environment. By bringing the unique and necessary RMP capability to a training team focussed on infantry skills, she contributed substantially to national Defence Engagement objectives.

Quick to volunteer for a second overseas deployment and waiver her nights out of bed, this JNCO deployed on Op MONOGRAM, working with the Joint Counter-Terrorism Training Team (JCTTAT) in Somalia. Here she has truly impressed, leading the mentoring of a team of female Somali Police Officers. With limited resource and as the sole

female, she overcame cultural prejudice with infectious energy and truly thrived, adding value above and beyond the job specifications of her appointment. Beyond the policing expertise expected of our NCOs, even under extreme, high threat conditions, Cpl Jepson showcased a high standard of soldier first skills, turning her hand to whatever tasks were required and doing them well. Her approach once again increased the operational effect of the mission and consequently raised the profile of the RMP in 3 Cdo Bde and JCTTAT.

This JNCO showed equal enthusiasm for throwing herself into police work on the firm base where her approach, both at the scene and planning investigation strategy, was critical in bringing forth successful referrals. A natural leader, the common thread throughout is selfless commitment and her altogether positive approach which balances resilience, self-confidence and humility in equal measure. As a result, this JNCO has expertly represented the Corp's contemporary relevance to other Units, organisations and international partners and been a superb example to her fellow NCOs within the Coy, Regt and Corps. She is a role model of the highest order having delivered in challenging conditions, with an effervescent smile and fully deserving of recognition.

Cpl Lauren Janney Special Investigation Branch Regiment

Cpl Janney was selected onto the Troops to Target Programme, part of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), at Bisley in January 2020. Specialising in 10 Metre Air Rifle, 22 Rifle Prone position and Three Position disciplines. Cpl Janney hopes to represent Team GB in the next Olympic games.



LCpl Haywood 3 Regiment Royal Military Police

Injured during a parachute accident in 2016 while serving with 156 Pro Coy, LCpl Haywood's journey back to full fitness has been a long one.

Determined to do everything she could to remain in a career she loves, she has worked incredibly hard over the last 4 years to regain her fitness levels and was recently awarded a Commanding Officer's Coin for passing the 8 mile Annual Fitness Test which will see her progress onto the JNCO Army Leadership Development Programme.



Sgt Heidi Lown 1 Regiment Royal Military Police

Sgt Lown's father was in the Army, and this gave her a pull towards the Armed Forces. After University Sgt Lown felt that she needed a new challenge and so joined the Royal Military Police and found her way to 116 Provost Company. Since joining she has had many exciting and challenging experiences.

"The thing that I enjoy the most about the Reserves are the opportunities presented to me that most civilians will never get to experience. Ranging from



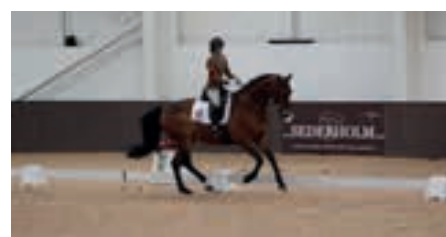
flying over The Houses of Parliament in a Chinook helicopter to Police Mentoring in Afghanistan. I have participated in adventure training all over the world while learning new and exciting skills back home with my Unit. Joining the Army Reserves was one of the best decisions I have made in my life, the skills and excitement I have experienced have been second to none and many I will never forget. As the Reserves go from strength to strength, I just wish I were younger and could start it all over again."

Cpl Sarah Karim 1 Regiment Royal Military Police

In her civilian life, Cpl Karim is a self-employed dressage instructor and physiotherapist with additional medical qualifications. She has transferred her organisational, medical, and coaching skills to the Army Reserve and supports her Regiment as the training JNCO for 116 Provost Company.

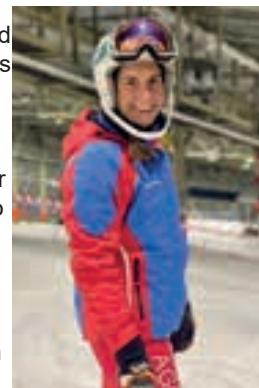
Cpl Karim was selected as the Army Dressage Team (ADT) Manager and onto the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). Cpl Karim has had a busy year, managing the Army Dressage Team, but has still managed to squeeze in 3 British Dressage competitions herself. She won all 3 events with high percentages and in good company, competing against National & Olympic level riders.

Cpl Karim puts her success down to the support of her coaches and 1 Regiment Royal Military Police, who allow her flexibility in her role as the Training JNCO in order to attend competitions and events.



Cpl Sarah Yeomans 1 Regiment Royal Military Police

This season saw Cpl Yeomans represent the Army Alpine Team for the third time and she was selected to be the Army Ladies Team Captain (the first member of the RMP to do so) at the 2020 Inter-Service Snow Sports Championships (ISSSCs) held in Meribel, France.



The Ladies Army Team found stiff competition this year from the RAF who were successful, due to their high level of experience in the technical disciplines and won all but one event. Despite this the Army Ladies showed their grit, determination and bottle in winning the blue-ribbon event – the Inter-services Downhill. This victory makes the Army Ladies more determined to go back next season and take back the overall prize.



Personnel recognised for their outstanding contributions to Army Apprenticeships.

WO1 Nia O'Hara 3 RMP, has been nominated as the Army Apprenticeship Champion

The positive effect that WO1 O'Hara has had on the apprenticeship within her unit cannot be overstated. Under WO1 O'Hara's leadership, there has been a complete change of perception within the unit, from both apprentices and their managers. WO1 O'Hara's unit is the best performing RMP unit on the apprenticeship.

LCpl Lucia Turner 3 RMP nominated as the Army Apprentice of the year.

LCpl Turner completed the apprenticeship, with the support of her chain of command, to an outstanding standard. When she transitioned from the Policing Platoon into the Unit Investigations Element, she saw herself, the level of technical policing knowledge amplified. An example of this was having the responsibility of an investigation dealing with an alleged sexual assault. This required her to use all the skills she had accumulated from the apprenticeship to submit the investigation for referral.



1 Regiment Royal military Police delivering training in Malawi

A team from 1 RMP have been working hard to deliver the Malawi Military Police (MMP) their 9th Initial Military Police Course (IMPC). The team saw 51 recruits pass the course and embark upon a career policing across all three services at various locations in Malawi.

The recruits undertook environmental testing which saw them complete various investigations, providing them the opportunity to demonstrate their learning. Recruits have also completed Personal Safety Training.

In addition to the IMPC delivery, the team also formulated the MMPs first ever doctrine in the form of two MMP Handbooks, the first covering the role of the MMP and the second guidance on policing



Adjutant General's Corps

Award Winning Personal Assistant By Sergeant Claudine Martin

Sergeant Claudine Martin provides an insight to the fantastic opportunities and benefits of a Personal Assistant.

Aspirations

Throughout my Army career, I have always aspired to work as a Personal Assistant to a Senior Officer, in order to expand my general profile and experience. Each year, my reporting officers also identified my suitability for this role. The opportunity to work as a Personal Assistant finally materialised in 2018 when I was informed that the position of Personal Assistant to the Assistant Chief of the General Staff would be available in the summer of that year. After looking at the job criteria, I became more confident that I possessed the qualities required and therefore decide to express my interest in applying for the role. Soon after, I was invited to attend an interview, that I thought went really well, and a few days after, I received the good news that I was the selected for the role. Needless to say, I was very excited and over the moon but knew that many challenges awaited me.

Starting My New Role

I started the job in August 2018 and, as expected, a Senior Officer's diary is very busy and can change at the flick of a switch. It was different at first, with a lot to learn. I had strong support from the Military Assistant, who patiently taught me the skills I needed. Diary management, booking travel, coordinating plans for overseas engagements and support to wider Army outer offices are few of my day-to-day tasks. Initially, I was the Personal Assistant to the Assistant Chief of the General Staff, but the role was later retitled as Personal Assistant to Director Engagement and Communications. Within a few months, I had a new principal, Major General Neil Sexton, who took over as the Director. I was on the path of great job satisfaction and immediately developed a good rapport with him, which is important for supporting each other's goals.

The Tempo

Luckily for me, my desk is in front of the office of the Chief of the General Staff, so I got the opportunity to meet high profile guests and visitors, such as Dame Kelly Holmes and Coronation Street actor Anthony Cotton. The job has its pros and cons; sometimes the tempo can be hectic, especially when the diary changes quickly or when technology

fails. The key thing is to stay focussed, calm and apply your skills effectively. The benefits are countless, even though I have enjoyed working on regimental duties, the experience is different and gives you a more varied skillset. My communication and organisational skills have improved through my day-to-day tasks. As the job involves dealing with high-ranking officers and civilians, great interpersonal skills are important qualities.

Opportunities

As well as enhancing my career profile, my professional profile is important too, so I decided to join a few civilian Personal Assistant networks in London. Soon I was invited to networking events and I attended them in the evenings after work. Some of the events included receptions, dinner evenings and parties. I met others from various backgrounds, be it from the corporate world, legal and media industries etc. I thoroughly enjoyed the networking opportunities with them as I was getting to learn and understand various civilian industry practices.

Magazine Interview

During one of my networking events, I was invited to do an interview with 'PA Life' magazine, and asked to share my experiences and give career advice and tips for becoming a successful Personal Assistant. I felt very honoured by to be given such fantastic opportunity and happily agreed to it. The magazine published my interview in their August 2019 edition, and I was proud to have my face on the front cover and my story as the top story.

Personal Assistant of the Year

Later that year, I was shortlisted for Personal Assistant of the Year with 'PA Life' and again shortlisted for Rising Star of the Year with 'Miss Jones'. In November 2019, I attended the award ceremony and was surprised to be crowned Personal Assistant of the Year. The achievements did not stop there; I was approached by Gett.com, a corporate ground transportation company, to do an interview and later I was asked to speak at the Pushing Talent seminar in York to promote the perks of being a Personal Assistant.

Great Achievement

My greatest achievement thus far was when I was invited to be a panel speaker at the 2020 Personal Assistant Show, and asked to speak alongside other PAs to celebrity comedian Julian Cleary, the Chief Executive Officer of Odeon Cinema and Virtual Assistant to Mark and Howard from celebrity boyband Take That. Even

though I was excited to be offered this privilege, I was also nervous because I had never spoken on such a big platform. I put my fears aside and proudly represented the Army, the Corps and myself when I spoke.

Career Opportunities

My smile broadened as I watched my ambitions turn into career opportunities. Again, in March of this year I was shortlisted for 'We are the City' rising star award. This award recognises the achievements of women representing the female talent pipeline and the next generation of future leaders. Even though I did not win, I was proud to see that my achievements were recognised. I have also been nominated for the 'Women in Defence award 2020'.

Endnote

There is an old stereotype that Personal Assistants are primarily needed to make tea and answer the telephone. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Personal Assistant's set of skills is broad and versatile, working closely with their senior officer to provide administrative support, enabling the best use of their time in order for them to efficiently carry out their role at a strategic level.

Sergeant Claudine Martin
AGC



Personal Assistant of the year
With Anthony Cotton



Claudine Martin with Dame Kelly Holmes

Speaking at the Personal Assistant Show



In the last edition of Lioness we shared Sandy Cawley, and others, photos etc of meeting up with Major Chris Brannigan (aka Barefoot Soldier / Hope for Hasti). Here are a couple of first-hand reports:

Walking with a Legend **By Staff Sergeant Michelle Nicholson**

Well where do I start. I had previously worked with the legend that is Major Chris Brannigan when we both served at Headquarters London District, so I knew a little bit of history with Hasti's condition and how much it meant to him to help her.

Showing Support

Once I had seen what he was aiming to do with the Barefoot Soldier, my emotions as a parent took over and I knew I wanted to support him without a second thought. So, I donated to start off with, and then began to follow his journey every day which filled me with such joy to see what he was achieving. But on the days he was emotional and struggling, it was hard to see again and my emotions took over. I just wanted to help and for Chris to be alright, and it was heartening to see the people on that leg with him showing him support and helping him get to the end of that day.

Ripon to Catterick

At last it came to a day where I had the absolute privilege and honour to join Chris on one of his legs. That was Tuesday 4 August 2020 on the Ripon to Catterick Garrison leg. I got to the point of meeting him, and the warmth I felt just to see how far he had come, and the smile on his face for what he was achieving and the support he was getting was a great feeling. Then we promptly set off on that journey.

Catterick

What was so nice was that Chris seemed happy to see I had come to support, and we then began chatting and catching up as we walked which was so lovely, and I felt so proud to be by his side that day. He then got such a lovely surprise, a couple miles from Catterick, when Hasti with her mum and two brothers appeared to give him that extra boost after the real tough day he had. All I can say about that was I had the biggest lump in my throat as it really was such a lovely thing for them to do and for him to see.

Countrywide Support

Another great part of that day was to see all the support across the country, and all those supporting him on the route. As we neared Catterick there were hundreds of families and people that had come out to welcome such an inspirational man. He was piped in by a piper from 4th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, but to then come towards the roundabout we had the local fire brigade supporting and then a Military Band to welcome him. That's when the lump in my throat appeared again and some tears came down my face as it was so truly amazing to see the support and welcome. It was whole heartily deserved and was nice to see the emotion it had brought to Chris.

Gurkha Display

It did not finish there though; Chris and his family were escorted by recruits of the Initial Training Centre either side of him and taken to meet the Gurkha recruits doing a guard of honour with their Kukri knives. After that he was guided into an area where a Gurkha display was conducted in his honour and what a display that was. After all the greatness of the day he then finally got to say his day had been complete and Chris along with his family enjoyed a lovely meal put on by the Gurkhas.

A Happy Day

I walked away that day so happy and emotional as Chris really is an inspiration to so many and what he's willing to do as a parent is phenomenal. I can't put into words what a pleasure it was to be part of it, not only watching it every day, but to actually march alongside him what a legend.

Barefoot Experience

It was Saturday 7th November 2020 and it was my turn to take part in the Hope for Hasti Barefoot relay and to say I was excited was an understatement even though I had to leave at 7 a.m. that morning.

Raring to Go

Off I set off from Darlington to Stamford with my mum Jayne and my son Josh as my support team, and I was raring to go and I was all prepped. We arrived around 9.40 a.m. at my start point where I met Danielle Chamberlain, who I was taking over from, and had the obligatory handover picture taken with Hasti's teddy Obama the Lama, the famous rucksack with the Hope for Hasti banner and finally the charity bucket.

Leg 75 - Stamford to Cottesmore

I then set off on Leg 75 along the cold and very stony roads, but the public were very kind along the way with cheers, car hoots and even donations. All things that just boost you and make you feel even better about what you are doing. My son Josh decided he wanted to walk by my side, as he thought it was amazing what I was doing. I can only say this made me happy to be proud to be his mum and then my day was made even better when I arrived at Cottesmore. Some of my friends, Anna and Jason Brown, who live in Grantham, had come out to cheer me on and show support which really meant a lot. At this point after just over ten miles, and at the end of Leg 75, I had a few blisters along the top of my left foot which had burst and were bleeding. It's safe to say the roads were not kind, so I had to clean that up and add some tape to my feet to prevent any infection.

Leg 76 - Cottesmore to South Witham

As I was going along the route to South Witham I had this overwhelming feeling of admiration for what Chris had really done. Seven hundred miles barefoot day after day for 36 days; I was just in awe. I can't explain how great I felt to be able to be part of the relay team, even though I had previously done a couple of legs with Chris. I was in boots on those occasions and this really hit home just how much it meant to him and the grit and determination he had to complete. He is just one amazing and inspirational man.

Nearing the End

It was coming toward the end of my final leg and the darkness was starting to creep in. My mum drove behind me with the car lights on to keep my path clear. She had been a great support to me that day. The end was near, and my feet were cold and a little sore at this point, but I felt truly honoured and privileged to be able to take part in this event.

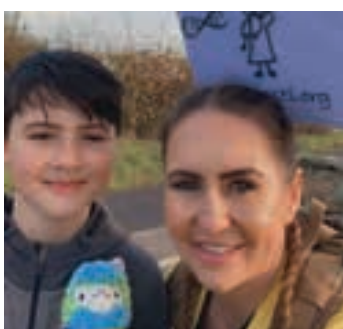
Handover

Finally, after 20.1 miles clocked up, I came to the finish point where I met Maxine Skellett who was then taking on Leg 77. So again, the obligatory photo of the handover was taken and put in the Barefoot Relay Whatsapp group Chris and his lovely wife Hengameh have set up for us. I then proceeded to my mum's car to put my soft fluffy slippers on and open a much-earned little bottle of pink prosecco.

Again, I would like to say thank you to Chris and Hengameh for letting me be part of such a great event for a great cause and what an honour and privilege it was.

Chris you are a Legend.

By Staff Sergeant Michelle Nicholson



Nordic Skiing By Corporal Rachel Wyatt

This year was the first time that the Corps Nordic Ski Team has included male skiers.

The Ladies Team

The Ladies team consisted of: Major Jenny Close, Major Justine Williams, Sergeant Amanda Lightfoot, Corporal Rachel Wyatt, Corporal Anastasia White, Corporal Eden Carr, Corporal Meg Lewis and Corporal Whitney Burke

The Men's Team

consisted of: Lieutenant Dan Taylor, Corporal Jan Van Wyk, Corporal Aled Edwards and Private Suman Shrestha

Exercise Nordic Crown 1- (Exercise Infantry Sword) – Idre Fjall, Sweden

This year the Ladies team along with the first time ever male team deployed to Idre Fjall in Sweden on Exercise Nordic Crown 1. Training with the Infantry was a massive step up from last year. The packed programme saw our teams develop their skills in both Nordic Ski disciplines and on the range. Often gruelling, but always worth it to reap the huge benefits that come with arduous physical challenges in a demanding yet beautiful environment. A great opportunity to develop team cohesion and build the endurance that enable the team to compete at Divisional, Army and National levels. We were also fortunate to host the Army Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class 1 Gavin Paton and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Clarke.

Exercise Nordic Crown 2- (Infantry Qualifiers) – Bessan, France
Exercise Nordic Crown 2 was in the beautiful French Alps town, Bessan for the Infantry qualifiers. The Corps team was able to use this week as extra training before the Divisional level championships at Exercise Pipedown. We gained lots of experience with different race disciplines and lots more range time. The town of Bessan is located 1,750 metres above sea level. This high-altitude training developed tough, resilient, and highly motivated soldiers, capable of adapting, training and competing under pressure in extreme conditions. This set us up nicely for the qualifiers at Divisional level. All athletes competed in the five-kilometre Classic relay, fifteen kilometre Classic individual, ten kilometre Biathlon Sprint and seven and a half kilometre Biathlon relay. Competing alongside the Infantry was tough, but we certainly kept them on their toes, and we didn't come last.

Exercise Pipedown – Les Contamines, France

Both teams travelled to Les Contamines for the Divisional Championships. This was a great opportunity to test our new race suits. They attracted lots of compliments (and jealousy) from

the other Corps teams. Both teams competed really well in tough conditions and tough competition. The Ladies team took home a great stack of silverware: first place in the ten kilometre Classic, first place in the five kilometre Classic Relay, fourth place in the seven and a half kilometre Biathlon Sprint, first place in the six kilometre Biathlon Relay, third place in the twenty kilometre Patrol Race and first place in the overall best team in Alpine and Nordic Combined. We now qualify for the British National Championships; we smashed it. The highlight has to be the Patrol Race, which required strong mental resilience and determination, and the dedication from both the Women and Men's teams just shows how teamwork and the right attitude pays off. Work hard, play hard.

Floodlit Challenge

The floodlit challenge is a competition consisting of teams whereby an Alpine skier and a Nordic skier team up and ski a challenging route and fire rounds down the range in the dark. This year our Corps duo consisting of Jan Van Wyk (Nordic) and Jack Fairhurst (Alpine) and their incredible performance saw them take home gold for the Corps. Another boost for the teams.

Exercise Rucksack – Ruhpolding, Germany

Exercise Rucksack is the British National Championships held in Ruhpolding which recently hosted the Nordic Ski World Cup. A fabulous achievement for the Corps team; it was an honour to represent the Corps and to be able to race against and with other Armies and Civilians from around the world. Joining our team at the Champs was Olympian Amanda Lightfoot, such a talented and inspirational yet humble person. It was an honour to meet her, but the team also benefitted from her expert coaching for skiing, shooting and waxing. We were also pleasantly supported by the then Corps Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One (now captain) Colin Morrison, who came out to support us. The Ladies team competed in the ten kilometre Classic Individual, seven and half kilometre Free Skate mass start, five kilometre Classic Relay, twelve and a half kilometre Biathlon, seven and a half kilometre Biathlon Sprint and the six kilometre Biathlon Relay. The Ladies team took second place for the seven and a half kilometre Biathlon Sprint and six kilometre Biathlon Relay and third overall. Amanda Lightfoot was awarded first place in the twelve and a half kilometre Biathlon Individual, seven and a half kilometre Biathlon Sprint and ten kilometre Mass Start.

Endnote

What a season, demanding yet rewarding for the Corps Nordic Ski Team. Bring on next season.
Corporal Rachel Wyatt



Eden Carr, Rachel Wyatt, Anastasia White and Justine Williams



Eden Carr, Megan Lewis, Anastasia White, Jenny Close, Rachel Wyatt and Justine Williams showing off the new race suits



Anna and Rachel



Whitney Burke, Rachel Wyatt, Amanda Lightfoot, Justine Williams and Anastasia White

Letters.....



I wonder if you could place a plea on your Facebook page and any association magazine for any ladies who served in Cyprus to contact me. I started a project five years ago searching for the relatives of the 372 men who died in Cyprus during the 1955 to 1959 Cyprus emergency to tell them that their loved ones have not been forgotten by their comrades and that we now have two memorials in their memory. One memorial is in Kyrenia, Cyprus and the other on The National Memorial Arboretum Staffordshire. Also, the next of kin are entitled to receive The Elizabeth Cross. (Google Les Smith Cyprus Veteran and The Elizabeth Cross Cyprus for details).

As a spin off from my project I now have contact with over 400 male Cyprus Veterans and only one lady who served with The Royal Signals in Cyprus.

We have a website and Facebook page and quite a lot of information that I am sure would be of interest to any lady who served out there. I would be very happy to supply more information. If anyone is interested, and served in Cyprus during the 1955 - 1959 Emergency please contact cyprusveterans@gmail.com.

Regards
Les Smith
Royal Horse Guards Cyprus Veteran

[Editor: This is an unusual 'letter', received from the RMPA National Secretary, which he sent to all RMPA Branch Secretaries but which he and I thought you too may find of interest -

"Morning all, I regularly get emails that I consider to be "dodgy" as I am sure you all do. I get them not only via the RMPA related email boxes but also my Fishing and Woodturning ones as well. I simply forward all now to the following email address report@phishing.gov.uk; I gave up with the various service-provider based platforms such as phishing@bt.com etc.

I have already sent off a couple today [Editor - this was received late September] and got this rather enlightening response back, which I thought I would share with you all - it at least shows that someone is doing something somewhere.!

Thank you for sending on your suspicious message. Timely alerts from people like you help us to act quickly and protect many more people from being affected. As of 31/08/20 the number of reports received stand at more than 2,330,000 with the removal of 9,315 scams and 22,237 URLs. Thank you for your continued support.

Our investigations may take some time. Whilst the NCSC [National Cyber Security Centre] is unable to inform you of the outcome of its review, we can confirm that we do act upon every message received. We'll analyse the content of the suspect email and any websites it links to where appropriate.

If we discover activity that we believe is malicious, we may: seek to block the address the email came from, so it can no longer send emails; work with website hosting companies to remove links to malicious websites; raise awareness of commonly reported suspicious emails and methods used (via partners).

Care should be taken with any communication that asks you to share personal or financial information. Please note... You should not report a crime to the NCSC in this way. If you think you may have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime, and live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you should report this to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2020. If you live in Scotland, you should report this to Police Scotland by calling 101.

There are a number of ways you can protect yourself from attacks like this and the NCSC has published plenty of advice which will help you to stay secure online: The NCSC's top tip for staying secure online Phishing attacks: how to deal with suspicious messages and emails Securing your devices For a full overview of the NCSC's advice for the general public please head to our dedicated individuals and families webpage.

How we handle the information you send to us: Information provided to the NCSC is protected

in the same way we protect our own confidential information: It is held securely, with strictly limited access.

We may share details with our Law Enforcement partners, such as the National Crime Agency and the City of London Police, to help identify investigation and mitigation opportunities.

The information we hold is exempt from Freedom of Information requests.

For further detail on how we handle information you send us, please see our Privacy Statement.

Further information about reporting suspicious emails to the NCSC can be found at www.ncsc.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails
Thank you.

Signed
National Cyber Security Centre

You and or your members may like to add the email report@phishing.gov.uk to your address book as well.

Stewart
RMPA National Secretary

On Boxing Day (26th December) we received the following email message:

Heather Cary

Dear friends, to my astonished delight I have just had a phone call from Heather Cary! She had a rough time with Covid and was incommunicado for a while, despite my numerous attempts to ring, and I had had to assume the worst. The first I knew that she had recovered was when I received a Christmas card and a phone call! She had been seriously ill with Covid, and after 2 weeks of ringing her home I had feared the worst but she is recovered and at home.

I am so sorry to have fed you incorrect news [in October/November].

My best wishes to you all
Elaine Beaumont

[Editor - We are so pleased to hear of Heather's recovery and wish her and all her family and friends all the best for 2021]

Dear Madam,

I am trying to trace a Vivienne Davies (Maiden Name) who did her basic training with the WRAC in Guildford during the period January to March 1970. The spelling could also be Vivien. I believe she was a member of the Intelligence Corps.

Any information that you can provide me with would be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully
Paul Barron

Dear all

My Lioness arrived through my letterbox today and I have been otherwise engaged since, in reading it.

I have to say that it is one of the best produced issues that I have read (in 50 years!). I know it takes a lot of effort from everyone, members and staff alike, but I'd just like to say a personal thank you to those that make it happen and the work that it involves behind the scenes. Your efforts are much appreciated.

I've heard nothing but good comments over the weekend about this edition. You should all be very proud of what has been achieved.

Grateful thanks
Barbara D

I am writing to follow up your kind letter of 18th August 2020, in which you stated that a little article and photograph of my mother, Stella Hill, on her 100th birthday would be included in the next edition of The Lioness.

I am particularly keen to get my hands on this issue now because I am very sad to report that my mother died on 6th November. She died peacefully during her afternoon sleep.

She was cremated privately in Dublin on November 10th. None of the family were able to attend because of the Covid isolation travel restrictions, so we have asked for her ashes to be stored until this dreadful period is over. We then plan to go to Dublin and have a proper Church Service and reception.

Siobhan Hill Elam (daughter)
November 2020

(Email, and question, from National Army Museum

... to introduce Peter Johnston, who is Head of Research and Academic Access at NAM. He's currently doing some research into the experience of British Army soldiers in Austria and wondered if any of your members had served there? I'm sure he's got lots of other questions, but that's a good launch point!

Kirsty Parsons
NAM

[Editor: If any of you are able to help please contact the Association Office and we will forward onto the NAM]

Dear Friends

Thank you for the Lioness and also printing the little photographs I had found. The news is very sad now: I have received a letter to say the RASCALS have had to cancel the yearly special church service, and lunch has had to be cancelled; also I have heard the Signals have to had to cancel the visit to the Railway Club. Wait a minute!! What's this? The 'Not Forgotten Association' are sending war veterans a Box!! It will contain things to thank us for our service. How exciting!!

Re the photograph of six girls [Editor: on page 29 'Features General' of last edition] does not include me - the first two (on the left) are the cooks, then it is Betty Jones, Noreen Ball and my friend Joan Burke (I don't know the last one). I enclose an old photo of myself.

With very best wishes
Iris Fenn

PS Forgot to say I spent my war in Battle Dress (not like the Statue)



Mum [Esme Hayes] says 'Thank you so much, it was very kind to send her flowers'. She was delighted to receive them, and they were very pretty: pink roses with golden rod, purple spray and dark leaves. She had a really enjoyable day. Attached is a picture with her Queen's message. [Esme served during WW2 and was 100 on 11th December 2020].

Many thanks
Anita Pond
(daughter)

Association News and Updates

2020 AGM AND WRAC STATUE AND MEMORIALS DEDICATIONS

With the ongoing Covid-19 situation no firm plans have been put in place for an event at the NMA this year ... BUT ... as and when we can start planning, particularly face-to-face, events we will enter into discussions with the NMA and all appropriate persons to see if we can organise something for this summer.

Rest assured – we will let you all know As Soon As Possible once we start the planning, especially the date and outline programme.

Thank you for your continued interest and patience in this matter.

Penny Muxworthy
Association Secretary

PR AND MEDIA

The Brief for Curious PR over the past 2-3 years has been to Promote the WRAC Association, Promote the ATS & WRAC Benevolence Fund, Promote the Association as the sole female-only Army service organisation, primarily to and through 'national' press and media outlets (television, radio, national papers and magazines, etc).

After much discussion with various parties, the Association is pleased to announce that it has agreed to extend the PR working partnership with Curious PR that we have enjoyed over the past 2-3 years. Curious have helped us secure some wonderful exposure over the past few years, especially nationally (on radio, television, national press and magazines, BFBS, etc, etc), and also helped in the production of our DVD in our Centenary year.

Going forward it has been agreed that the focus of our PR efforts will be 'local', across all platforms. So, we are calling all Area Co-ordinators, Branch Secretaries and individuals to let us know if you think you have a story in your area and we will put you in touch with Curious. Curious will work with you sensitively such as to maximise your story, event, whatever.

The Primary Aims remain the same, but, we are aware that the appetite among local press and media is most definitely for 'local' stories and/or angles on stories. Most local press, radio and television is interested what local organisations and individuals are doing, where they are going, etc. **Things they are often interested in might include:**

Increasing Membership among eligible service-women (including both pre- and post 1992 integration), including Branch and Association Membership;

Increasing understanding of the Benefits of Membership (by and through "Supporting Women who Served / Serve" by "Fostering esprit de corps, comradeship, welfare, and preserving the traditions of the ATS and WRAC") including and especially at Branch as well as national level;

Increasing Awareness and Understanding of the ATS & WRAC Benevolent Fund (by raising awareness with and among local caseworker organisations, eg SSAFA and RBL at branch level);

Promoting the Buddy-buddy scheme – locally and nationally;

Promoting the Find our O.A.T.S. campaign – especially locally;

Promoting involvement in and with key anniversaries and Special Days – especially locally;

Promoting the Supporter Membership – women can be a Branch Member without being an Association Member (although they will not enjoy the same level of Membership benefits).

Things that you do, organise, participate in might include:

Events that you are organising (whether 'Fun-raising' social, catch-ups, days out, etc; phone/postal/social-media catch-ups, etc)

Events that you are attending representing your branch at the Cenotaph or Field of Remembrance in London (November), a Not Forgotten Association event (eg Garden Party), a national Association event (eg Statue Dedication, AGM, Grand Reunion, etc)

Fundraising events you have organised, or taken part in, for/with the Association (eg cycle rides)

Fundraising events and activities any individuals take part in (eg run/walk 10ks, marathons, etc)

Fundraising events and activities any individuals organise or participate in for the Association (whether just for the Association or in conjunction with other organisations)

Special anniversaries and birthdays you are celebrating (Celebrate ladies who reach personal milestones – 80th, 90th, 100th or above birthdays; 50th, 60th or above wedding anniversaries; long-service anniversaries; etc

Remembrance activities you are organising or joining in with

Links you are forging with other veteran communities

Promoting the Support you offer to other female veterans, whatever their age, wherever or however they served, giving appropriate examples of how you show your 'Support of Women who Served / Serve'

Promoting Friendship, Comradeship and Support for each other

Promoting the ATS & WRAC Benevolence Fund in your area by highlighting examples of how a female veteran has been helped by the Benevolence Fund – to help more ex-ATS/WRAC veterans know the Fund is there and they might meet the Fund's Grant-making Criteria.

Promoting Membership in your area.

You may also know of an individual who has a military service story to tell – but you/she may feel more comfortable speaking 'locally', rather than 'nationally'

Link into local events and stories – your own local Remembrancetide events (poppy selling, Parading, etc); local Armed Forces Day events (stall, stewarding, etc).

Curious will help you build the story and will circulate to your local press and media (your advice on the best outlets, (ie which is your most-read local paper, your local BBC and ITV television outlets, etc) will be much appreciated by them. 'Nationals' will often pick up their stories from 'local' outlets in the first instance. We are wanting Curious to work with us and you for a Local upwards focus, rather than a National downwards focus.

We know that Covid-19 has impacted on Branches quite a lot, with physical get-togethers put on hold for such long periods, and not everyone having access to online platforms and/or social media etc. Working with Curious offers you, the Areas and Branches, the opportunity to work with public-relations professionals to promote you, your Branch(s), your Area to female veterans who live/work in your area (especially if they are not already connected to you), and shows the wider community that you exist and are still active and relevant to today's female veteran – regardless of their age, their service, their trade, their rank.

Contact the Association Office, in the first place, and we will put you in touch with Curious.

Penny Muxworthy
Association Secretary



Below is some of the coverage that Curious shared with all their clients in September:

As a study in Communications and PR, there can be no better example of the myriad ways people process, react to and communicate about a crisis: from blunt denial, to conspiracy theory, and everything in between. And despite the enormous destruction unleashed by microscopic pieces of genetic information that can have devastating effects on our bodies, we predict good things, as well as bad, will come from this crisis. Yet, one thing is for sure: the need for good communications has never been greater.

Securing a 99m Audience - Lest We Forget...

Despite the sadness, VE Day 75 in May provided a chance for the nation to come together - albeit at a safe distance. Three quarters of a century after WW2 ended, we helped to mark the contribution made by Britain's veterans, securing coverage featuring female veterans in their 90s and early 100s on behalf of charity, the

WRAC Association. Many interviews later, including for ITV Good Morning Britain with Lorraine Kelly, our Bletchley Park code-breaker, 97 year old Betty Webb MBE, also graced the cover of National Geographic. BBC Breakfast spoke to 102 year old Molly Francis from her care home about manning anti-aircraft guns as a woman. The reach of our coverage totalled nearly 99 million.



Then, to mark VJ Day 75 (Victory in Japan) in August, we set up media opportunities including the extraordinarily moving interview of 102 year old Joan Rich for BBC Radio 5 Live: DJ Nicky Campbell asked her to describe helping to rehabilitate Japanese POWs. It was almost impossible, she said, as these poor souls had been "tattooed on the inside" by their torturers. Such stories must be aired and remembered for posterity, including those of pioneering women like Betty, who helped to crack enemy codes, as reported in The Times.

Time to INNOVATE and COMMUNICATE!

Our end-of-year newsletter finished by asking, 'How will YOU roar in the 20s?'

which seems cruelly ironic, given our inevitable move into recession. Yet, a recent article in The Telegraph, by Jeremy Warner, sheds a hopeful light: In the decade after WW1, around 10% of global GDP evaporated, and Spanish Flu killed 0.5% of the British (and US) populations. This compares to just 0.07%: the current approximation for Coronavirus deaths. Warner counters negative predictions for a century later and posits that the 2020's could usher in great innovation and a cultural explosion. Could weakening of the near-monopolies held by the 'Big Tech 4' make way for newbies, as hinted at by the grilling of their leaders by US Congress this summer? Certainly we are hearing a loud roar for justice - for people, planet (and profit), not to mention for an end to healthcare inequality around the globe.

More recently Curious shared these with us:

The British Forces Broadcasting Services (453,338 MUU) broadcast the 4 minute report featuring 'buddy' Carole Tyler and Ali every morning from the 24th of December to the 4th of January this week.

We are waiting on more 'buddy' stories (exciting!) which we hope to receive soon.

We have also been liaising with Wendy Hooton who informed us that a producer from ITV's Good Morning Britain attempted to get in touch with her around Remembrance Day. Our team has now been in touch with this producer to see whether ITV would like to do a feature on Wendy Hooton's current attempts to fundraise amidst another lockdown - or - to cover the Buddy Buddy scheme.

OTHER COVERAGE SECURED or FORTHCOMING PUBLISHED:

Suffolk news - Bury St Edmunds letter by Wendy Hooton - Published 4th December

BFBS Radio – 4 minute report with buddy-buddies Carole & Sally – Broadcast 24th December-4th January 8am-9am Breakfast shows

CONFIRMED:

Lancs Live - Hannah & Lieann phone interview for use in a piece for online publication - DATE TBC

Let's Talk Magazine – Interview with Wendy Hooton – Out in Spring 2021

Townswoman – Interview with Carole & Sally - Out 28th January 2021



WORTHY DOWN ROSE GARDEN

Further to the news about the Rose Garden at Worthy Down, we received the following good-news updates:

October:

I had a good meeting with the Regt Col AGC yesterday, Suzy Holmes, and the following has been agreed.

The new Memorial Garden will be located at the entrance to the Worthy Down site. Some of the roses will be re planted and some will be purchased to fill the gaps. The fountain has been rescued but does not work as such. Instead, it will be used as a decorative central focus and will be planted up. The plaque from the rose garden will be mounted to commemorate the move from Guildford.

The piano in the Officers' Mess will be refurbished with the Officers' Mess donating £5K, the AGC Association donating another £5K and we are donating £2K. The work will take approximately 6 months and a plaque is being purchased to show the history of the piano and to highlight the donation from the WRAC Association.

This is all good news and has been largely resolved by having a dedicated SO2 Heritage in place.

Ali Brown

"Delighted to hear that the Rose Garden will continue. It meant a great deal to many members of the WRAC. There was a piano in the Ante Room at the Centre when I was a subaltern. Some played well and we often had great fun after dinner. I remember one evening when we were all crowded round the piano listening to a ditty taking off a senior officer when she crept in and listened for some time before we realised she there! Despite having piano lessons for years, to the great disappointment of my family, I never really mastered the instrument. I wonder how many officers play the piano now? Helen Meechie played the cello but could sometimes be persuaded to play the piano for a sing song. Congratulations on the excellent result".

Audrey Smith



MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND PROVISIONS

I work with the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) as the Veterans Network Engagement Lead for the Veterans Mental Health Services (TILS & CTS) in the South Central region. The Trust is roughly 80%+ female.

The areas we cover are Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Hampshire & the IoW.

A brief explanation of our teams is below for those that are not aware; TILS - Transition, Intervention & Liaison Service

TILS provide a holistic approach to the care of Veterans with any Mental, identifying their needs and working with them to refer to the most appropriate service, as well as providing an introduction to coping strategies, case management amongst others. The Team is made up of Occupational Therapists, Mental Health Practitioners, Social Workers, Veteran Peer Support Workers and an admin team. TILS are not set up to deal with High Risk individuals.

CTS - Complex Treatment Service Is slightly different as they treat the more complex mental health cases. These personnel must have military related Mental Health difficulties, not just PTSD. They provide 32 sessions of treatment initially, but this can be extended where necessary but also provide anger management groups and numerous psych-educational information webinars. The team is made up of Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Mental Health Specialists.

Both teams work closely together and access to the CTS is only via the TILS Teams.

Since joining the team, we have become acutely aware that we do not see as many females as we would expect and a brief look into this through numerous channels, including listening to Allison Browne and the Salute Her presentation in January at the Amex Stadium suggests this in part could be down to not wanting to open up to male clinicians. Our teams are predominately female, all highly trained and what males we do have are aware of this potential barrier and will facilitate the wishes of the client at every stage.

We would be very interested in linking in with you and looking to see how we could develop a formal collaboration or partnership to bring services to all those in need. This would have been

sooner however our focus over the last 6 months+ has been maintaining as normal a service as possible to our clients, albeit virtually.

If you would like further information or to arrange a meeting, I would be delighted to facilitate that. As such, please feel free to contact me and I will bring this together.

I look forward to your reply.
Best wishes

Antony Colton
Veterans Network & Engagement Lead

Veterans' Transition Intervention Liaison Service

Veterans Complex Treatment Service
Berkshire Traumatic Stress Service

SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP

Become a Supporter

Not ready to become a member yet? Sign up as a Supporter and get news and updates first.

Already a member? There's no need to sign up as a supporter.

For those who would like to be part of the WRAC Association wider family and hear of forthcoming events and news updated, we now offer Supporter Membership. In joining this new group you will receive notifications via social media (usually Facebook) and email, get to hear current news, share in archive items, and get the opportunity to apply for tickets to certain events.

To receive the full range of WRAC Association Membership benefits please complete the enclosed Membership Application Form or go to our website and the 'join' page. Full Members get to receive the Lioness magazine twice a year, along with getting discounted tickets to certain Association events, and the opportunity to attend and participate/vote at the AGM, etc.

Notices A - Z

Change of Address. Please don't forget to notify us of any change of address. Every time *Lioness* is distributed a number of copies are unnecessarily returned as members have failed to inform us that they have moved.

Donations. Did you know that you can send a donation to the Association at any time? More information can be found inside back cover. Donations can also be made online via the Association website or by phone 0300-400-1992. Whatever you decide to do, PLEASE make sure that we have a Gift Aid form from you - if you pay tax, we can reclaim the tax and the government adds to the donation you have made, without it costing you any more.

Dress on Parade. In line with the Royal British Legion and other Regimental Associations, parade dress is to be smart and appropriate; the norm is for dark colours. Since the Association is no longer an active Corps (regiment) Stable belts and forage caps should NOT be worn. Within the WRAC Association the tradition has arisen to wear a green WRAC Association fleece or a bottle green blazer. **Please note that this form of dress is not mandatory and those who do not possess it are still very welcome to parade, as long as they are dressed smartly and appropriately.** (See Medals & Badges etiquette below for further information).

Event Tickets. We occasionally receive free tickets for events, or invitations to attend functions organised by The Not Forgotten Association. Historically these have primarily been offered to regional Branch members. However if you are an **HQ Branch member** and would like to register your interest in being sent information about these events please email office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk and type **EVENT TICKET REGISTER** as the subject heading. Please note that the vast majority of these events take place in London or the South.

Lioness (audio version). Due to the size of recent *Lioness* editions we have been unable to offer this service. However, we continue to keep it on file and will resume as, when and if it is possible.

Lioness. Articles for inclusion in the next edition of *Lioness* must be received by **15th JUNE 2021**. PLEASE NOTE: this is a slightly earlier date than in the past - we are trying to move the magazine to 6-monthly intervals, rather than 7- & 5-month intervals.

Please email direct to editor@wracassociation.org.uk. Please type the text into the body of the email, not as an attached document.

Please send photos as attachments to the email; do NOT embed them into a document, as it makes life very difficult this end. Ideally send just 3 or 4 good quality photos (jpg format only). Additionally, if you are able to give names to people in a photo that would be helpful, and we will try and include

Medals and Badges Etiquette. Etiquette rules for wearing medals only allow the wearing of official awards. The WRAC Association badge and the Veterans badge may be worn on the left lapel by the position of the buttonhole.

- The medals awarded to a deceased Service/ex-Service person may be worn on the right breast by a near relative (no more than one group should be worn by any individual).
- Unofficial medals, or badges, other than the WRAC Association badge/pin and Veterans badge, should not be worn when representing the WRAC Association.
- Unofficial purchased medals and foreign medals which do not have the Sovereign's permission to be worn are not allowed.

Memorabilia. We have a selection of Association Memorabilia and, Centenary Memorabilia available to purchase

online via the website, by post (prices include P&P) or by phone. See page 51 for details.

Remembrance. By tradition The Association receives an allocation of tickets for the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on the Thursday prior to Remembrance Sunday, for the Cenotaph Parade and for the service in Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Sunday. Tickets are open to any member of the WRAC Association who wishes to attend, prior attendance or Branch participation are not a prerequisite.

In light of the necessitated changes (due to Covid-19) we have no indication of what 2021 Remembrancetide commemorations will look like. However, historical years would lead us consider:

- **Thu 11 Nov 2021** Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
- **Sun 14 Nov 2021** Cenotaph Parade - Ticket applications need to be made by letter via Tanya, or email only (office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk), no later than **01 July 2021**
- Please note that the RBL's criteria for this Parade, is that participation is only open to Veterans (no carers, unless they also served) and you will need to be in possession of 2 forms of ID, one of which must be photo ID.
- **Sun 14 Nov 2021** Guildford Borough Remembrance events
- **Sun 14 Nov 2021** Westminster Abbey Service - Ticket requests to be made to the office ASAP, by email (office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk) or letter only.
- If demand exceeds supply a ballot will take place, as with all events.

Guildford - Places are usually available each year at the Service of Remembrance in Guildford (the 'mother' city of the WRAC Association). We recently cemented our historic links with our 'mother city' by leading the Parade, and so encourage you to apply to attend here, especially if you are unsuccessful with tickets for the London Cenotaph. Please apply to the Association Office (office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk) or letter only.

Overseas Members. Overseas Members are requested to pay an additional £5.00 per year to cover additional *Lioness* postage costs. Only sterling payments can be accepted.

Service Records. Veterans UK is your one stop shop for all queries about Service Records, Medals, Pensions and much more. Go to www.veterans-uk.info or phone 0808 1914 2 18.

Subscriptions. Annual Members are reminded that subscriptions (£10.00) are due as at 01 October. Subscriptions can be paid via your Branch, online, by phone (0300 400 1992) or by post with a cheque/postal order (sterling only) payable to WRAC Association. For your convenience, we now offer multiple-year (3, 6 or 10 years) subscriptions (after your initial first year of Membership). See Member Log-in area of the Association website or telephone HQ office manager on 0300-400-1992. (No discounts apply).

Veterans UK. Veterans UK is your one stop shop for all queries about Service Records, Medals, Pensions and much more. Go to www.veterans-uk.info or phone 0808 1914 2 18.

WRAC Dinner Club. The WRAC Dinner Club meets every year on the second Saturday in October (Saturday 9th October 2021), full details can be found at www.wracdinnerclub.co.uk.

WRAC Officers' Dining Club. The WRAC Officer's Dining Club Dinner will take place on Saturday 20th November 2021 at The Victory Services Club. For more details email wracofficersdc@gmail.com or visit the Facebook Closed Group 'WRAC Officers' Dining Club'.

(Announced late October 2020):

Many will remember the unswerving battle of 'Rank Outsiders', the community group which supported LGBT+ Veterans in the late 1990's and successfully challenged the MoDs Armed Forces' 'gay ban'. In the 20th anniversary year of the lifting of the ban, Fighting with Pride (FWP) has formed as a charity under the leadership of Joint CEOs Caroline Paige and Craig Jones MBE. FWP Chair, Patrick Lyster-Todd forms a symbolic bridge in FWP's history as the former Chair of Rank Outsiders. Their senior leadership team is completed by the recruitment of their Vice Chair, Colonel Rtd Ali Brown who many members will know as the Vice President of the WRAC Association.

FWP supports the health and wellbeing of LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families, particularly those who were affected by the ban. The charity has brought together a Board of Trustees with over 35 years continuous experience of leadership, in an area of Veterans welfare and support that is acknowledged as being long overdue focus. The lived experience that their team brings as Veterans and serving personnel has been widely welcomed. 20 years on from their battles, FWP have been warmly welcomed as a new charity by Cobseo and Veterans charities, and they were supported in their launch by founding partners SSAFA, RBL, NHS England and Stonewall. They have also formed important partnerships with NHS England and Mental Health Trusts across the UK to develop awareness of the enduring impact of the 'ban' upon the lives of those most affected.

Diversity, equality and inclusion work to support Veterans has rightly become a priority in recent years and FWP is on course to help find some of our most hard to reach and vulnerable Veterans and welcome them back to the military family.

Details on how you can support or be supported by FWP can be requested at info@fightingwithpride.org.uk, and more information is available on the website at www.fightingwithpride.org.uk

OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION



Armistice Day – reflections on the military's outstanding service, past, present, and future by former Air Marshal, Sir Baz North and Lee Holloway, CEO of the Officers' Association.

For the first time in 100 years, there will be no gathering at the Cenotaph to mark Armistice Day this November. We will still remember the sacrifices of all those that fell during both world wars, and those from more recent conflicts, but it will be rather different.

Another first this year has been that younger generations have seen our Armed Forces in action, in their hometowns and cities across the UK, as the 20,000 strong Covid Support Force has built hospitals, set-up and run testing stations and transported urgently needed PPE to the NHS front-line.

As we struggle to adjust to the shifting sands of our new normal an interesting recruitment phenomenon is also occurring. Although rising job losses will continue to dominate the headlines in the weeks and months ahead as eye-watering unemployment numbers become worryingly familiar, for those businesses that are adapting and recruiting, the abilities of former military service personnel are cutting through.

When you have a crisis of uncertainty like the Coronavirus pandemic, that arrived at great speed and now affects every walk of life, paralysis can impact even the smallest decisions.

For businesses of every sector and size, each day has brought fresh challenges. Firms soon began to recognise the importance of resilience and the need for teams to be led by people of sound judgement and character, able to make decisions and create a structure based on incomplete and uncertain information.

Former military personnel who have made the transition to civilian employment, have distinguished themselves as problem solvers, agile, diverse in thought and able to motivate others despite the uncertainty, yet still able to make the tough judgement calls, when necessary. Even if it means passing on difficult messages to the boardroom.

No-one has a crystal ball but the ability to anticipate different outcomes and make tough decisions quickly as the implications of a crisis unfolds is second nature to former officers. From manufacturing, infrastructure, and logistics through to cyber, professional, and financial services, the intelligence coming back from employers is the same.

Former serving officers are delivering results and making an impact across a wide range of commercial settings. Their resilience, sound judgement and ability to "get things done", as described by the Boston Consulting Group or as cyber security specialists Marclays, put it "they are simply problem solvers par excellence".

Just as the Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Johnny Mercer recently observed, "business support for our Armed Forces continues to grow", with more and more, "business leaders, understanding how a military background can be a valuable asset". Good news may be in short supply right now, but this bodes well for all our futures as we get better at living, working, and doing business in this new normal.

It is also a source of immense pride for the armed forces and the Officers' Association, which is committed to providing life-long employment services for serving and former officers.

As we mark this year's Armistice Day, let us reflect on the military's outstanding service, past, present and what may be possible in the future.

[Editor: And, of course, as many of you, our Members, will attest, this 'transition to civilian employment' and distinguishment 'as problem solvers, agile, diverse in thought and able to motivate others despite the uncertainty, yet still able to make the tough judgement calls, when necessary. Even if it means passing on difficult messages to the boardroom' applies to all those who have served in the military – whatever the rank or trade.]

COLLABORATIVE WORKING ON RESEARCH PROJECTS

As you will know from previous articles, some of your Trustees are actively involved with various research projects connected to both the military veteran, and still-serving, communities. These projects include working with Combat Stress, Cobseo partner organisations, NHS, national government and others.

We endeavour to include information and updates on each of these as available. Some time constraints mean we initially share on social media, particularly if questionnaires need completing within certain timeframes etc. but we will try and ensure you are all kept briefed on the work that the Association is involved with and/or where our Members' thoughts and experiences are sought.

Once such was:

NHS ARMED FORCES FAMILIES ENGAGEMENT

////////////////////////////////////

Email received 30 Oct 2020:

Dear colleagues and supporters,
Thank you for all of the communications activity you've supported so far. We are seeing a great response to the armed forces families engagement but were sure many more people can be reached.

I hope you've had chance to share and or complete the survey as appropriate and if you want to speak to us about arranging or attending a focus group please email: nelcsu.armedforcesfamilies@nhs.net

[As this project] reached midway we [were asked to] help keep the momentum going to reach as many families as possible, [and] share a post (or two) on our social media channels, using one of the images attached and suggested options for accompanying copy below (please adapt to suit) – which we did.

The full link: <https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/health-and-wellbeing-support-armed-forces-families/> directed people to an NHS website and the following:



Overview

The NHS in England provides healthcare services for families of serving personnel (regular and reserve) who have registered with an NHS GP practice and the families of veterans.

Whilst most armed forces families enjoy healthy lives, the unique circumstances of military life can cause pressure for some, and affect an individual's health and wellbeing. This is in addition to moving home every few years, which can make accessing the NHS difficult. These factors can affect the lives of armed forces families, creating a difficult situation for them. We want to help change this, so armed forces families are able to access local NHS services easily in all parts of England. We also want to ensure that they can get care and support from clinicians and people who understand their health and wellbeing needs.

This questionnaire is/was an opportunity for people and organisations to share their views on how we can do this.

Why we/were are engaging

We want(ed) you to share your thoughts, experiences and ideas by filling in a questionnaire, which covers NHS services in England only.

Anyone could share their views, however, we are particularly keen to hear from armed forces families (regular, reserve and veteran families), people who are serving in or who have served in the British armed forces and organisations working with or supporting the armed forces community. Responses will be treated in confidence and help us to improve the care and support we offer to armed forces families in England.

For more information, respondents were directed to see the engagement document, which included information on why we/they are doing this and how you could share your views.

What happens next

Feedback from this engagement is being independently analysed and written up into a feedback report. All information will be treated in confidence and anonymised with no identifiable data.

The report will be shared with decision makers to shape what support will be put in place for armed force families in the future. Implementing this will require ongoing conversations with armed forces families to ensure we are getting things right.

The engagement feedback report will be made publicly available and shared with those who gave their feedback and asked to be kept informed of progress.

We will make sure future opportunities to be involved with this work are promoted widely to ensure we hear from as many people as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: This engagement Survey Closed 30 Nov 2020 (having opened 30 Sep 2020)

[Editor: As/when we receive feedback from this we will keep you updated – by social media and/or Lioness]



**Veterans' Mental Health
Transition, Intervention
and Liaison Service**

VETERANS – WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We are your first port of call if you are experiencing problems with your mental health and wellbeing post-discharge. Our goal is to understand your situation, provide helpful interventions and liaise with other services to ensure you are fully supported.

We know that women in the military can experience a host of challenging situations and it can be hard to access much needed support. We work closely with organisations for female veterans to make sure we are reaching those who need our help.

Some of the issues we can support you with:

- Mental health difficulties
- Housing, finances and employment
- Referral to other services and charities
- Referral into our complex treatment service if appropriate
- Information for families and carers

How to refer

Our support is available to all ex-forces, regardless of rank, number of years of service or when your difficulties started. We accept self-referrals and referrals from professionals.

TILS is available across England and to find details about your local service, visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/armed-forces-and-veterans-healthcare/veterans-nhs-mental-health-services/>

Need urgent support?

If you need urgent support or are in crisis: Contact your GP, Call NHS 111

or if immediate support is needed – Go to your local A&E Dept or Call 999 (let them know you are a veteran)

UNFORGOTTEN



We have been asked to promote the following to you, our members:

Blink Films is currently producing a documentary series for the BBC called Unforgotten. Unforgotten tells the stories of individuals who have lived through extraordinary moments in recent history, such as wars, natural disasters, protest movements or waves of migration. Each episode follows someone who has experienced such an event as they search for a long-lost friend, relative or significant stranger that had an important impact on their life. If you served in a conflict zone and want to find someone from your past, we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch via email: georgina.turner@blinkfilmsuk.com or phone: 07933912151.
(Please contact Georgina, at Blink Films UK, direct; not the Association office)

NEW BBC SERIES - UNFORGOTTEN

Did you serve with the British Army? Are you hoping to find someone from your past?

Did someone save your life or help you during a challenging moment in combat? Did an inspirational colleague become a role model?

Are you looking for someone from this period who had an important impact on your life?



Unforgotten is a new history format made by Blink Films for the BBC, focusing on the personal stories of ordinary people who were caught up in extraordinary events – and their quest to find the individual who helped them through.
Each episode follows individuals who each experienced a major event in living memory – for example a natural disaster, riot, strike, war, wave of migration, health crisis or terror attack. We follow these individuals on a detective journey as they look for a long-lost friend, family member or significant stranger who helped them through this time or had a lasting impact on their life.

To find out more about the documentary series or to apply, please get in touch.

EMAIL: unforgotten@blinkfilmsuk.com or CALL: 07933 912151 and ask for Georgina

We look forward to hearing from you.

BLINKFILMS

Wonderful Women Book Celebrating women who served

Over 200 printed pages with 100 stories of women who've served in the British Army since 1917. From the first women's corps of WAAC & QMAAC in World War One, the ATS during World War Two and through the post-war WRAC and into the present day.

Containing a broad spectrum of stories, not just the famous and well known stories and individuals but also more prosaic stories of women's service, in a multitude of roles, from telephone switchboard operators in WW1, through to the present day where all roles across the British Army are now open to all.

The book will show that women are a valuable part of the British Army and that this has only been possible due to the dedication, hard work and sacrifice of the women who have preceded them since 1917





Obituaries - Their Final Salute



**LT COL (RTD) MRS GLYNIS HARVEY
(NEE HOWITT)**

Passed away 25th November 2020

**Lieutenant Colonel Glynis Harvey.
A tribute, drawn together by Brig (Retd)
Nicky Moffat CBE**

We learnt in December that Glynis Harvey had passed away at her home in the North of Scotland. She is survived by her husband, John.

Saddened not to be able to celebrate her life at her funeral, we wanted to capture something of her spirit and of her contribution, both to the WRAC and to the WRAC Association.

Many of us who served with Glynis ... and who dared ... called her 'Auntie Glad', which is an indication of how loved she was within our WRAC family. If you knew her, you'll doubtless have the most wonderful memories of her; here's some of ours:

Pepi Simpson claims to be the member of the Association clan who knew her longest; Glynis was Pepi's PE teacher at Weston-Super-Mare Grammar School for Girls. Pepi, it seems - with her lifelong allergy to PE - would skive off her lessons by hiding in the cloakroom. Glynis was clearly having none of it; she joined up at the WRAC College as Officer Cadet Harvey, to haunt Pepi on her first tour as a young officer.

Fast forward a few decades and Sue Westlake reports that Glynis was Chairman of Plymouth Branch of the WRAC Association. At the time, Plymouth Branch was one of the largest Branches in the SW Area; unsurprisingly, "it thrived under Glynis's leadership".

My own memories of Glynis are as follows:
"What a character! I don't think I'd be overstating it to say that Glynis was a legend in our lifetime ... and certainly a legend in our lunchtime on the day that Captain Jan Brodie-Murphy and I arrived back from Jan's weekly shop in Sainsbury's, 10 minutes late to teach our afternoon classes in WONCO Wing.

The formidable Major Harvey was waiting for us at the door to the Wing and let's just say it all went downhill from there. As the most junior officer, I came in for most of the flak whilst Jan, as the more experienced LE hand, seemed to come off mysteriously unscathed...

As our Officer Commanding, Glynis set very high standards. A hugely experienced, highly regarded officer (and with OC 29 Company already under her belt), she could be both majestic and imperious, striking the fear of God into a miscreant private soldier ... and me ... with a single look. But she was also warm and wonderfully human; a complex, amusing and quite private woman, we laughed a lot with her, whilst knowing instantly where the lines were drawn.

I remember her very fondly indeed; the WONCO Wing team thrived under her command and she was certainly a significant influence for me personally during my formative years."

Jan Brodie-Murphy puts it brilliantly "we all loved Glynis". She remembers how Glynis had made quite sure that Jan (who thought she'd throw a sickie) didn't slope off the WRAC Centre Training Exercise on Barossa. They ended up sharing the misery together ... Jan might have loved her just a little bit less then! Jan reports too that "Auntie Glad loved the Archers, billed 'an everyday story of country folk'. Well, to us, memories of Glynis are an everyday story of a WRAC officer who was anything but ordinary; she was totally unique ... a one off. But didn't you just shake when, with a steely gaze, you were invited into her office 'for a chat', whilst she curled a tendril of hair, menacingly, with her finger!"



Major G E Harvey (3rd from right, seated)



Brig Harvey (3rd from left, seated)



29 Coy WRAC Officers' (and Chief Clerk's) outing - early 1980s 83/84 ish. The then Major Harvey pictured along with officers Lt 'Jilly' Cole, Captain Annie Evanson, Lt Jo Bower and Lt Nicky Vickers (and Elaine Smith Chief Clerk)

Nicky Murdoch, in her own inimitable style, recalls: "The triumvirate of Murdoch, Moffat and Brodie-Murphy was broken up when "Auntie Glad" arrived at WONCO Wing and Murdoch moved from Interim OC to be the Adjutant. The Adjutant's role at the Centre was not always easy, (despite excellent and sustained support from RSM Kath Kay, Chief Clerk Karen Blake and the RHQ Clerk, Sally Renshaw) but Glynis had already served as Adjutant and I found her now to be a real ally. She had a great sense of humour, was passionate about her role and, for me, was kind, compassionate, patient and really supportive. She understood the challenges, recognised when advice was required and was empathetic when a listening ear was needed. Her experience was invaluable, as was her knowledge.

Additionally, in anticipation of performances at both Corps and Centre dinner nights, by our officers' mess 'girl band' and Gilbert and Sullivan (with apologies) tribute act "Fascinating Hilda", gathering for a pre-dinner G and T and a barrel of laughter in Glynis's suite were most welcome.

Glynis was a great boss, a kind and compassionate officer with a fabulous sense of humour, who made serving at the Centre a really great experience. A privilege to have served with her."

Lynn Tomkins reports that she was "a great OC WONCO Wing" and that she used to ask the then Corporal Tomkins to record The Archers for her, so that she didn't miss an episode!

Gill Campbell, our Sergeant Major WONCO Wing, reports that she was ... "a sound boss and a lovely person, respected by all".

Glynn (birth name Glynis) Cardy has fond memories of her too and, unsurprisingly, a good story to tell. Glynn recalls being the Escorting Officer (Sgt) for a Passing Off Parade, accompanying Major Harvey and the Inspecting Officer on the way to the parade square. The Inspecting General enquired; "So how have you been Glynis?" "I'm very well thank you Sir", retorted Sgt Cardy, only to hear Major Harvey's firm and inimitable voice; "I think the General is speaking with me Sgt Cardy".

The Reverend Sue Wing recalls Glynis as being "full of laughter" and Jane Freebairn remembers what "great fun" she was at social occasions.

Former Director WRAC, Brig (Retd) Gael Ramsey CBE, remembers Glynis as "a terrific strong character, with an infectious sense of humour, instantly empathetic, highly professional and engaging".

I must draw this tribute to a close now. We cannot fully do justice here, to the legend that was Glynis Harvey, but I want to end with words of Gael's, which sum up perfectly the thoughts of the many of us that knew her:

"Glynis was a breath of fresh air in many lives - such sadness that the lights have gone out"

Brig (Retd) Nicky Moffat CBE



PAT (MARY PATRICIA) MACKAY nee HOWE **1915 - August 2020 (age 105)** **Served as Pte Howe, MP, W/68537**

In September we received the following message from SSAFA: We have been told about the very sad passing of Pat Mackay (Mary Patricia Mackay) at the incredible age of 105. Her title in the ATS was Pte Howe, MP, W/68537. The funeral was on Thursday 10th September at Rose Hill Crematorium, Doncaster.

Her daughter, Mrs Jean Mowbray, asked if any representatives of ATS in Doncaster might attend the funeral and has gave permission for SSAFA to share the following [Editor - edited by the Association] script for the funeral:

I would like to offer you a very warm welcome as you unite in love and friendship, not just to say goodbye but more importantly to give thanks and remember the life of Mary Patricia Mackey, known to her friends and family as Pat, mum and grandma.

Pat's life sadly came to its end on the 28th August, she was 105 years old. Fit and active for a woman of her age Pat had lived independently in her bungalow with the support of her family and friends for 22 years since her husband sadly passed away. It was only in the last month of her life, following her admission to hospital, that she needed the specialist care offered by the care home.

Pat was a well-known in her community and made many friends along the way but leaves behind her beloved family - Daughters Liz and her husband David, Jean and her husband Arthur, her grandchildren John and Daniel, Katherine and James, and Matthew and his wife Sylvie, and great grandchildren Alex and Lion in Australia.

I am aware that no one person can sum up the life of another, especially one that spanned 105 years. So how do we begin to recall the events and times of Pat's life? Jean and Arthur told me about Pat, of the person she was, the things that gave her life joy, and Pat's own account of her life during the war years.

Pat was born in Larne in Northern Ireland to Kate and William Howe she was part of a large family. When she was five her dad lost his job, he was a chemist at the power station, so she went to London to live with her aunt and uncle. They owned a shop where they made umbrellas and walking sticks. They had no children of their own, so Pat was well looked after and very loved. While she was with them she took elocution lessons so lost her Irish accent. When she was about eight, she was asked if she wanted to return to Ireland and her parents, she said no and so remained with them until the start of the war.

Pat wrote her own account of the following war years some of which I will share with you now - [Editor: these are included in the OATS/Wonderful Women section in more detail]

"When war broke out on the 3rd of September, I was living with my aunt in Banstead Surrey. I had a job at Shimmers in Sutton, cake making. I joined the ATS on the 25th of July 1941. I was sent to Aldermaston for basic training, after which, we were sent to train in anti-aircraft battery in Blandford and Bude and formed the 1st Ack Ack battery. We shot down 14 flying bombs and four German planes over Birmingham and Manchester. When the all-clear went we went back to bed and were sometimes allowed to have extra sleeping time if we'd been up a long time during the night.

After training, we were sent to Castle Bromwich to a site where we stayed nine months, and then on to various cities like Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Southampton and Shotley

HMS Ganges. I got to Shoreham in 1944. After a short period of Leave we moved off almost straight away to Romney Marshes.

There was a Royal Artillery battery near, and I met my future husband there, Sam Mackay. He was a Scotsman from Caithness. I met him at a dance and after a few weeks we became engaged. He went off to France about two weeks after D-day and went all through France and Belgium and fought in Arnhem in Holland.

I moved from Seaford to Barrow Head in Scotland, to a firing camp, for three weeks at the end of December, then back to Seaford until the flying bombs stopped, then on to Southwold in Suffolk. We celebrated VE Day on the 3rd of May.

From there to Newport in Cardiff for a few months; after that the battery disbanded and it was sad to part from all the girls I had known for four years. Some were demobbed and others went on to various training courses. I was sent to Newcastle - on the way it was VJ day, so I had to stay two days in Kettering as it was a holiday to celebrate the real end of the war.

Having taken a cook's course and passed my exams with flying colours, I was sent to Southend-on-Sea as a cook in an Officers' Mess until I was demobbed in December. I went home to Banstead, to my aunt, to a temporary house as our house had not been rebuilt since it was destroyed."

In 1947 Pat married Sam and eventually moved to Doncaster when he found work as a joiner. Together they had two children, Elizabeth and Jean. As a mum Pat looked after her family well, she was very understanding and always there when they needed her. In her spare time, she belonged to the Town Women's Guild, who met at Elmfield House, and was involved in all their activities.

She loved to sew and made most of her and her daughters' clothes. She was a talented artist and loved to paint and draw animals. Sam would make animals and butterflies from wood and she would paint them. There are lovely examples of her work displayed in Jean's home. Pat and Sam were always fit and active. They enjoyed camping and caravanning holidays and loved to visit Scotland; they went as often as possible. They were still camping two or three times a year in their late 70s. They were devoted to each other, and did most things together for 53 years. Sam was 83 when he passed away on the 11th of July 1998 after a short illness.

Pat was always independent and self-sufficient and although she missed him terribly, dealt with Sam's death well. She would go to bingo and art club in the Community Hall opposite where she lived. She had many friends there, sadly most of them have passed away before her.

Family were always important to Pat, she enjoyed having her grandchildren to visit, she liked to know what they were all up to and also took a keen interest in the lives of her nephews and nieces and great nephews and nieces. Her nephew Peter loved to visit with her when he was over from France. She enjoyed spending time with Jean and Arthur, particularly the trips they took to Woodfield farm for dinner. The Christmases they spent together were always special times.

It was with them that she flew for the first time, when she was 92, they went to Dublin. While there they took coach trips into the mountains. She had a lovely time. Pat enjoyed going on holiday - when well into her 90s, they went by car and ferry to the Isle of man. Although she was fit and active she didn't fancy the long climb of steps to the Laxey wheel so she sat on the bench and waved at her family while they went up. At 95 she took a coach trip to Belfast, in Northern Ireland, with Liz and Dave, Jean and Arthur, Roger and Mavis. They drove through her hometown of Larne on her 96th birthday.

Pat was good company and had a great sense of humour. She loved to gossip and about the news. She loved to watch cricket, football and tennis on the TV and always wanted to check the cricket scores before going out.

Pat had seen many changes in her life and adapted to them all well. As an intelligent lady she soon picked up modern technology and had her first laptop at 95. She loved to Skype her family in Australia.

She was proud of her military history and won three medals during the war. As a member of the Royal British Legion she would make the poppies to sell each year. She always went to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day, and loved to watch the Trooping of the Colour, the Opening of Parliament and the Queens speech, on TV.

Pat was a lady, well-spoken and always well dressed. She was happy with the simple pleasures in life and content with her lot. Although the light that was her life has been extinguished

The memories she leaves are happy ones
She leaves an afterglow of smiles now
she is gone
She leaves an echo whispering softly

down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and
bright and sunny days.
She'd want the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun;
in happy memories that she leaves now
her life is done.

Here today we have started a portrait of Pat, but it is only the barest of sketches. It is up to each of you to continue with this picture, to provide the colour and detail of her life. You can achieve this from the colour palettes of your own memories of her. Although Pat is no longer a visible part of your world she will live on in your memories and always remain a member of your family and your community through the very special part she played in your lives. So, talk about her often, repeat the stories about her life, and treasure your memories of her, for these are her greatest gift to you all. Maybe if you hear any of the music we have played today again in the future you will be reminded of Pat and feel able to smile at your memories, just as she would have wished.

Andrea Bonser, Civil Celebrant



CHRISTINE SPENCER
W/399425 (Nee Walker)
24/12/1939 to 27/07/2020



Christine Spencer served as chairwoman of the South and West Yorkshire Royal British Legion (RBL), helping to raise many thousands of pounds for veterans and their families, and ensuring their sacrifices were never forgotten.

She sadly died in hospital on Monday, July 27, aged 80, and her funeral took place at St James Church in Norton on Thursday, August 13.

Christine, who grew up in Abbeydale, Sheffield, joined the Army aged 18 as a physical instructor and was based in Woolwich, where she met her future husband Peter, who was also in the Army.

(Text and images Sheffield Star)



IRENE HALL
To 8th October 2020



Irene Hall, a Life Member of the WRAC Association and long-standing member of Shropshire Branch, was elected as Area Secretary in September 2002. Many members of Wales and the West will remember the Area Reunions at The Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury, organised by Irene. She not only organised the Saturday functions but also Friday night supper at The Dragon King Restaurant in Shrewsbury, as so many of our members, travelling fair distances, would make a weekend of it.

In October 2010 Irene helped to inaugurate The Phoenix Branch and became the first Secretary and Treasurer, a post which she held until 2013.

Irene spent the summer of 2016 in the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, suffering from a cocktail of issues. She recovered quite well, but it had become apparent that her memory was fading, and she would need more care when she was discharged.

In September 2018 Irene became a resident at the Briarfields Care Home in Shrewsbury. While she was able to control her Diabetes, Irene's memory continued to fail and Dementia set in.

Irene was 87 years old and had spent her whole life in the service of others. She sadly passed away in the RSH on 08 Oct 20, having been admitted with Coronavirus. Irene is to be cremated at a private family service. She will be fondly remembered by many of us.

Thank you Irene; stand down and rest easy. Your duty is done.
Maggie Purkis



CONSTANCE PUSEY
(nee Wakeling)
To 12th June 2020, Age 93

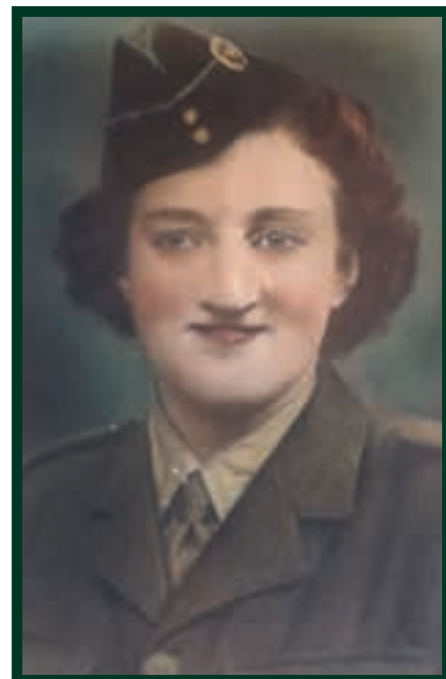


Constance Pusey (nee Wakeling) sadly passed away peacefully at her home on the 12th June 2020 aged 93. The spirit of the ATS, in which she served from 1944 – 1946 whilst stationed at Lark Hill (RA), was always with her and was amply demonstrated by the fact she was determined to stay in her own house and look after herself and her husband until the last. She always said of her years in the ATS that "they were the best years of my life". I am sure those sentiments will resonate with all those women out there that have served. She leaves behind a loving husband, nine children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Paul Cherriman
(Son)



DOREEN CORRIE



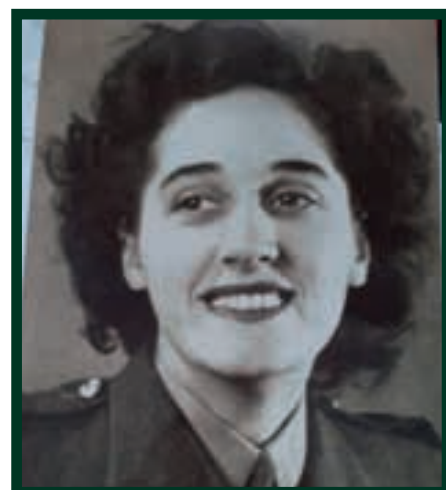
I don't think you have had any information about her from me, as regards where she went to to do the morse code help etc. She managed to keep it a secret for 20yrs, even kept it secret from all her family.

She was interviewed for going down in history at Bletchley Park, and also was interviewed for an entry about her, to go in a book, which is currently being written by an author who writes a lot about veterans. He will let me know when it will be published. His name is Gary Bailey and he was on television recently.

Many thanks.
Anne Brannick
Daughter of Doreen



**ELIZABETH MARGARET
JOHNSTONE (Nee Lindsay)**
27th December 1921 - 23rd
May 2020 (from Covid 19)



Elizabeth was born in Belfast to Caroline and Frederick Lindsay and had two sisters and four brothers. Elizabeth was known to her brothers and sisters as 'Girlie,' and outside the family as 'Betty'. When Betty tried to volunteer for the ATS, aged nineteen years old, her parents refused to sign the papers that would allow her to go, but undeterred she was able to persuade a relative to sign, and away she went to Ballymena for basic training. Mum remembered the thrill of hearing the bugle playing the Last Post on her first night; she was also reminded of the situation in N. Ireland (even then!) when at church services rifles were propped against the seat in front. Ballymena Barracks was closed in August 2007 and this was a sad day for her, she said she only had to smell Pears soap to be transported back to that time and place. Going into the army was a liberation, she was now able to go to dances and out with boys, it was also when she started smoking. Mum also said she had many proposals at the time, not all of the marriage! I have been unable to track down who said that but it sounds like Mae West.

Mum was very proud of the fact that there was no conscription in the North of Ireland and everyone was a volunteer. Basic training completed, she was posted to Ballykinler Infantry camp as a clerk in the orderly room, she was one of only twenty women in a camp of thousands of men and mused whether that was heaven or hell? Armagh was next and then on to Mourne Park, Kilkeel, which was the estate of an MP in the N. Ireland office.

Mum's first venture outside N. Ireland was when she was sent to London to the Northern Polytechnic to do a film operating course. Dregghorn, Edinburgh, was her next stop to do a driving course for cars, lorries, and land rovers, and then on to Kinfauns Castle in Perth. Sometime later, she had an accident in a 15cwt lorry which went off the road and down the side of a hill, the spare wheel being found 10 miles away. The service engineer who pulled her out of the wreckage unhurt said she was talking about speeding and took him flying! For many years, we had a picture of a Scottish hillside that was known in the family as Betty's Loup.

Mum's 21st birthday in 1942 saw her in the Orkney Islands at Stromness near Scapa Flow. She was one of only two ATS among the WRNS; I think the rest of her friends were in another camp and too far away to attend the party. Mum was in Orkney to show 16mm, then 35mm, training films during the day and popular films for entertainment in the evening. When she returned to Edinburgh, she was stationed at the Metropole Hotel Morningside, later on,

to James Street in York, not far from York Minster.

In 1945, she was posted to Aldershot, where she and a friend watched the planes flying from horizon to horizon going to Europe. Mum was then posted from Aldershot to Belgium and onwards to Germany. 1946 saw her join 721 car company in a camp 4-5 miles from Bad Oeynhausen; the Royal Engineers were stationed close by and this was where she met the love of her life Staff Sgt Andrew J Johnstone.

Mum enlisted in the WRAC on the 18th June 1949 and continued to serve in Germany. (Her daughter Caroline joined the WRAC in Belfast on the 26th October 1973, and served for several years before she married). On the 25th June 1950, Betty married S/Sgt J. Johnstone (known as Jonny) in Soltau Germany and then had two daughters, Lindsay and Vanessa.

In 1953 - 54 the family were posted to Nairobi after a short visit home to Belfast. Mum made the 20-hour flight to Kenya with two small children on her own, Dad had gone ahead to start his secondment in the Nairobi police. He was sent to take photographs and issue work permits to tribesmen, mostly Kikuyu coming in from the bush, this was to ensure their fair treatment. Many years later, I read an article that said they were, in fact, tracking the movements of men who could be Mau Mau terrorists. Caroline was born during this uprising and our safety was a worry for Mum as the Mau Mau snatched children; she had several frights when Vanessa and I wandered out of shops.

1957 saw us back in the UK and posted to Perth, Dad was by this time a Warrant Officer. Fiona was born in 1958 and we moved shortly after that to Elgin, which was a camp for families left behind in married quarters when there was a long posting abroad. Dad was posted to Nepal for eighteen months leaving Mum to look after us with no family support. When Dad returned to Scotland, he was informed that he would be posted to Cyprus and could not take us with him, and his posting could not be changed, so he decided to come out of the army and face civilian life.

Dad worked for RAF Kinloss in the Moray Firth, and Mum looked after four small children in a caravan on a large site in Findhorn, the site at the time housed mostly RAF personnel. Our last winter in the caravan was the Winter of 1963, and in the north of Scotland as everywhere else, it was epic! So the decision was taken to move to Belfast.

Mum spent the rest of her life in Belfast and lived through The Troubles working as a typist in Tyrone House where Dad was Chief Executive Treasurer of the N. Ireland Territorial Army, until they both retired together in 1984. Dad died in 1997, and Mum continued to live independently until she was 93 and admitted to The Somme Nursing Home. She was 98 years old when she died on 23rd May 2020 from the effects of Covid 19.

This is not nearly all of Mum's wartime adventures but it is most of what I know.

Betty your duty is finished, now you can join your comrades and family.
May you rest in peace.
Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re.
Lindsay Garden (daughter)

Sylvia Connachan (Ulster Branch)



MRS ROSE-MARIE COX (W0467459 Cpl R Piper) Passed away 25th October 2020





Rose-Marie Cox (Nee Piper), known as Rose, age 58, passed away peacefully on 25th October 2020 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rose enlisted into the WRAC as an Administrative Assistant on the 2nd June 1980 and discharged from the Army on 19th February 1987 after a rewarding service career. Rose was incredibly proud of her time in the Army and she was not afraid to embrace opportunities. She had many people in awe of her indomitable spirit and her strength of character taught so many about the gift of life.

During her service Rose served in the following locations:

June 80 – Oct 80	WRAC Centre, Guildford
Oct 80 – 82	Army Air Corps Centre, Middle Wallop
82 – 83	RAEC Centre, Beaconsfield
83 – 85	13 Sig Regt, Wildenwrath
85 – 87	WRAC Centre, Guildford

Rose was a dedicated mother first and foremost, she treasured her children embracing every moment with them. She was a dedicated daughter to her father and she especially loved being a wife.

Rose's success in work can be directly attributed to her work ethic and her natural ability to get a job done with the minimum of fuss. Her attention to detail was legendary and she took pride in the fact that her customers always left feeling satisfied with her excellent customer service.

Rose had a vivacious personality, always making people around her laugh. Rose made friends everywhere she went and her colleagues at Hermitage Station, where she was employed as the Station Postal Clerk, loved her and her presence will be greatly missed by all.

Rose is survived by her husband Richard, her son Christopher and her daughter Becky.

Kind Regards
WO2 (SQMS) Mark A Marston, RAWO
Regt Admin Office, Headquarters 77th
Brigade
Denison Barracks, Hermitage, Berkshire



BETSY ANNE CLEWLOW BA 8 June 1941 – 27 September 2020



It was with great sadness that the death was announced of Betsy Clewlow who suffered from a brain tumour. This came as a huge shock to all her many friends and former colleagues, as Betsy was a definite one-off with her effervescent personality and the ability to make a success of everything, she turned her hand to.

Betsy joined the PT family in 1964 on her return from Aden. Her sporting prowess shone throughout, particularly on the athletics field, where she was the Army and Inter Service Javelin Champion for many years. Away from the sporting arena, Betsy was a brilliant singer and became the Army Singing Champion. When she later became a Recruiting Sgt, Betsy was the lead vocalist in a military pop group called the Militaires, formed by fellow Recruiters serving in London District.

The Militaires fame quickly spread to television, as they came second on 'Opportunity Knocks' with Hughie Green, the 'Today Programme' with Eamon Andrews and the 'Dave Allen Christmas Show', when they were accompanied by a military choir. During the festive season, the Militaires and choir performed outside several of the London recruiting offices, but Betsy's

proudest moment was appearing in front of Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family at the Royal Albert Hall for a Festival of Remembrance.

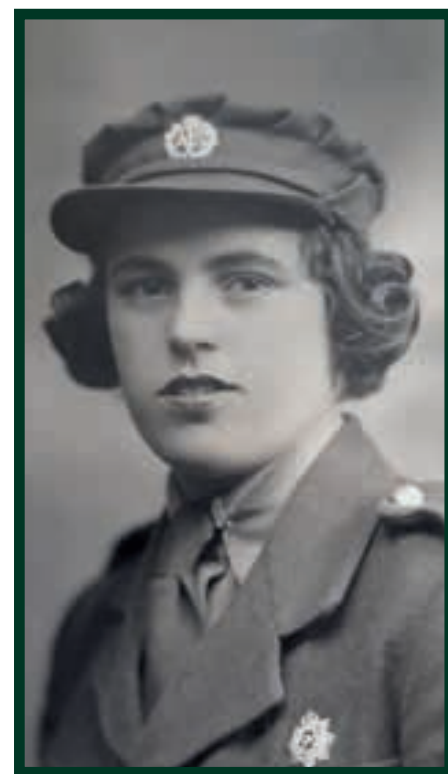
Betsy was a perpetual scholar with a great thirst for knowledge, gaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Performing Arts. On leaving the Army, her love of Old Time Music took over, as she regularly performed at many theatrical events. She was also an accomplished ballroom dancer, appearing many times at the famous Tower Ballroom, Blackpool. As an actress with an Equity card, Betsy even appeared on 'Coronation Street' as an ambulance lady, rescuing Bet Lynch from a fire in the Rovers Return!

Betsy changed the lives of many people, and all those who came into contact with her will not have forgotten her infectious personality, her zest for life, her outrageous nature and above all, the sincerity of a well-loved friend.

Kate Bettison
Joyce Tuomey
Lee Telford



GLORIA ALICE IRELAND (nee Reynolds) 17 July 1923 - 15 November 2020



Gloria sadly passed away on 15 November 2020 in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Born 17 July 1923 in Skerries, County Dublin, Ireland, Gloria joined the ATS in June 1941 where she served until

February 1947. As a sergeant, she joined the staff of CHQ and Echelon East Africa Command on 23 July 1945 and was employed in the Gazette Section. During her time there, her work was on of great responsibility.

Gloria suffered from vascular dementia in her last few years and following a fall, which resulted in a broken hip, she was taken into hospital where she sadly passed away three weeks later, having been unable to recover from pneumonia.

Regrettably, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, her family were unable to visit her for eight months. She leaves behind three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild, who unfortunately she never got to meet.

Gloria's ashes will be taken to the USA so she can be reunited with her mother and other siblings.

Gail Madeley (Daughter)



DAPHNE BROOKES **(W/276481) Served 1943-44** **4th August 1924 –** **3rd November 2020**



A Service of Thanksgiving was held on 20th November at St James Church, Pokesdown for the life of Daphne Brookes (nee Bower). Sadly, due to the Covid restrictions, only 30 people could be present, but we were allowed three representatives from Bournemouth Branch WRAC.

Back in 1943, having considered a career in nursing, Daphne signed up for the ATS just before her 18th birthday, only telling her parents afterwards. She was selected as a Wireless Operator and sent to Douglas, IoM, for her training. She was then posted to Kedleston Hall, near Derby. Here she was a part of the Royal Signals Y Service, carrying out vital work for Bletchley Park.

Through her service she met her husband Kenneth, although they never spoke

of their highly secret work. They had three children. For many years Daphne worked as a Senior Lab Technician in three different senior schools, as well as bringing up the family. Sadly, Kenneth died in 1986 and she decided to move to Bournemouth to live near her daughter and family.

Initially she volunteered in the Royal Signals Museum at Blandford because of her Royal Signals background. Then she found and joined the Bournemouth Branch of the WRAC Association. She soon joined the Committee and became Branch Secretary in 1997, later covering for Treasurer and Social Secretary. She worked tirelessly, running branch activities, and attending National and Regional Meetings and Reunions. In the summer she hosted garden parties for all the Branch members. In the early days there were some 80 members, mostly ATS, so the numbers have declined recently.

Daphne handed over the reins in 2008 but still supported the Branch. She was a very hard act to follow.

Val Wright
Bournemouth Branch Secretary



THELMA IRIS NICHOLS **(nee Hawkes)** **13th October 1921 –** **2nd November 2020**



Thelma was born on October 13th 1921; her maiden name was Hawkes. Thelma joined the ATS and served, as Pte Thelma Nichols W/224775, from 23/10/42 till 16/9/45.

When the Luton WRACA Association was set up by Madge Evens in 1998 Thelma became a member and attended on a regular basis till it was disbanded in 2012.

The Branch consisted of ATS and WRAC members and the ATS slightly outnumbered WRAC but we were a very happy group until the Branch disbanded. Thelma, along with 3 other members, were invited to become associated members of the Far East Veterans Association.

This group also was very happy and friendly and we joined in with all their activities. Thelma continued supporting this group until she was admitted to a Care Home on Thelma's 99th birthday in 2020. The Chairman, Thelma's son and myself took a cake to the care home for Thelma to enjoy with her friends.

Unfortunately, we were not allowed into the home. This was just a few days before she died. Thelma will be missed by all her friends.

Kathleen Kyne
ex Secretary of the Luton Branch

LIFE IN THE BRITISH ARMY **A.T.S. 22/10/42 – 16/09/45** **ARMY SERVICE NO. 224775**

My name is Roger Nichols, I am Thelma's son and this is the story of Thelma's life in the British Army during World War 2 as she told me over the years I have known her, which I believe to be a true account. I have the basics of the story, but I do not have exact dates relating to places as this information is still held by the M.O.D.

At the start of World War 2 Thelma was working at Vauxhall Motors in Luton and was often helping in her parent's pub at night. When Thelma was called up to go into the Army, her mother pulled every string available to prevent Thelma from going into the Army. However, she was not put off by all her mother's efforts to stop her as she was very determined to join the Army and so she did.

Thelma was first sent to Fenham Barracks in Newcastle to do her basic training and checked to be medically fit for service. Following that she was posted to Arbury Hall in Nuneaton and another large country house in Halesowen for further training with other girls that had been called up for the Army. After that Thelma and her team were sent to a holding unit at Kidderminster and they were told that they had qualified to be Plotters in the A.T.S. in support of the artillery and that they would be in a Welsh Regiment. On the day of their posting, the local people of Kidderminster gave them a very nice send off by providing a meal for all of them before they caught the train to leave for Devon. Their new base was to be at a small country house called Parnacott House near Holsworthy in North Devon, which the Army had requisitioned for the duration of the War.

I visited Parnacott House with Thelma a few years ago, and we met the family who owned the house and they said that the house had been in their family

for 400 years. Mum said that all the plotting took place in the front room of the house and covered the Bristol, Devon and Cornwall area. Thelma thoroughly enjoyed her job as a Plotter and became very proficient at plotting and was well thought of by her officer's and colleagues. Sometimes the site had to send a car to Exeter at night to collect some personnel and bring them back to Parnacott. Thelma volunteered to go with the driver as a navigator when she was off duty, in order to help the driver find her way through the narrow lanes in the dark.

Thelma had one embarrassing moment during her time at Parnacott when on one night she went to a social gathering at a nearby pub with her officers and colleagues. As the evening progressed Thelma was noticeably becoming more boisterous and the Major questioned what the matter was with Hawkes. Well, unbeknown to her she had had her drinks spiked, thus she was drinking more alcohol than she would normally drink. Unfortunately for her she had to operate the telephone switchboard when she returned to Parnacott. This proved to be a little difficult for her, as when a phone call came in she could not put the plug in the socket of the switchboard and despite several attempts, failed every time, much to the amusement of the officers and colleagues who had gathered behind her. No doubt the culprits who had spiked her drinks were among this little gathering.

On another occasion Thelma and a colleague named Glenis Jones had been to another part of Devon whilst off duty and were thumbing a lift back to Parnacott. Then an American Army lorry came along, stopped and the American soldier asked them where they were going and if they wanted a lift. Glenis was doubtful whether they should accept the lift but Thelma said "come on let's get in". So they got into the lorry and had a pleasant drive back to the site.

As time went on, Thelma was asked to attend an officer's training course. When she went on the course she had a nasty moment right at the beginning of the course, she unfortunately injured her head quite badly. She did not tell anyone about it and thought nobody had seen her have the accident, so carried on as best she could but she didn't pass the course. Then a while later she was asked to do the officer's course again but in the meantime she had met a sergeant in the artillery, later to become my Dad, and she didn't want to go too far away from him, so she reluctantly turned down the opportunity of the course.

One night she was on duty and noticed that there was a lot of activity at the site with more despatch riders coming and

going than normal, she found out the next day that it was D-Day.

When it became obvious that the Allies were winning the war, German air attacks reduced and her unit was closed down. Thelma and her team of Plotters were moved to a holding unit at Kettering before she was posted to London to work in the Army Pay Corps. She didn't like the work because it was so boring compared with her plotting job. However, London had its advantages with all the entertainment that was available. One day she was offered a ticket to see Bob Hope, the comedian, who was appearing at The Albert Hall and she said that none of her colleagues were interested in going. Thelma thought this was too good an opportunity to miss, so she went and enjoyed the show very much. One of the disadvantages of working in London was the attacks by V2 rockets. When one of these rockets landed on the building next to the one where she was working, she said the floor was raised about three feet in the air on the impact of the rocket and then the floor dropped to its normal level. Although the building next door was completely destroyed her building remained standing and everyone carried on working.

One of the officers in the Pay Corps realised that Thelma didn't particularly like the work in the Pay Corps. So, she offered Thelma the chance to work at Bletchley Park as a Cypher Clerk. However, Thelma was concerned about this posting because she did not know anything about the work, quite rightly. Also, she thought it would be difficult to get home to Luton from Bletchley. So, she turned the opportunity down which was a pity because I think she would have found the work very interesting and enjoyable.

In August 1944 Thelma married Donald, my Dad, at Luton Parish Church and they honeymooned at Weston-Super-Mare. Following that they returned to their respective jobs in the Army until the end of the War was declared.

Mum sadly passed away on 2nd November 2020 aged 99.

By Roger Nichols (son)



VIVIENNE WENMAN (nee Karpeles)

21 Mar 1923 - 17 Oct 2020



Julie Winks, the ATS & WRAC Ben. Fund Secretary sent this email middle November: I have just discovered that one of my school friends' mother was ex ATS. She has passed away unfortunately but her obit is quite a nice story. I remember this lovely lady so well!! She was a gentle quiet lady - you would have never known her history!!
Julie Winks

From an interview 16th February 2011:

A true cockney, Vivienne Wenman (nee Karpeles) was born in the City of London, at the Maternity Hospital on the corner of Old Street and City Road. She was the second of three sisters. Eighty-seven years later, the hospital is no longer there. Her mother and father were also born in London, but her father was a diamond cutter from a family of gem merchants — his father, uncles and three brothers were all in the same business — and lived a lot of his life abroad. His brothers, a cousin and an uncle were captured and sent to concentration camps. The uncle never came out, and it is thought he died of starvation. Vivienne did not get to know any of her father's family until after the war.

Because her father was so often away, Vivienne saw much more of her mother, who Vivienne describes as lovely, a very good mother in every way, who did everything she could to look after her children. Although married women could not work in those days, Vivienne's mother tried. The family was so poor (Vivienne's father didn't always send enough money home) that Vivienne's mother would sometimes work half the night to get a few pence to make ends meet, rolling paper hats for bonbons (crackers). She didn't make the bonbons, just the hats that went in them.

Vivienne's older sister, Marjorie, went to a Central School. First established following the 1918 Education Act, Central Schools were selective secondary education schools, between the more prestigious grammar schools and the ordinary secondary schools. Vivienne and her younger sister Yvonne went to a London County Council school. It was academically less challenging and in her

mother's words was there just to "churn out people for factory work".

Vivienne finished school at the age of fourteen, but her last few years at school were blighted by absence. At the age of ten or eleven, she had fallen in the playground and broken her teeth. Afterwards, her face puffed up with infection, and going through the teeth was apparently the only way to remove it. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for three years, she went to the dentist who put 'sticks' up her. With all her time out of school, Vivienne never got on with maths. She remembers one lesson in particular when the teacher wrote on the blackboard a sum, with a dot (decimal point) in the middle of a string of numbers. Why has she put a full stop in the middle of a sum?

Vivienne left school and was working for a milliner when war broke out. The staff were told not to come in at the weekend in case war was declared. It was. Afterwards, she worked for a food wholesaler, collecting food and sending it to about half a dozen large London shops, none of which remains today. Vivienne remembers it as a great place to work.

Having married in 1939, Marjorie (her older sister) had moved to Sheffield. Her husband had been called up with the first lot of recruits. Vivienne's mother could not stand the noise of the bombs in London, which seemed to land closer each day. Vivienne, her mother and younger sister decided to move to Sheffield to stay with Marjorie, but Vivienne's father stayed in London. Not only did he not want to move, he had throat cancer, and he became increasingly unwell. One night, during a terrible raid, he sought refuge in the large public air-raid shelters at the Geffrye Museum, which held 200-300 people. Being very ill, he went to sleep, but he woke up distressed, saying, "No, no, you mustn't put me in a box", left the shelter and went to the nearby Underground Station until the raid was over. On his way home, he passed by the Geffrye Museum, where a direct hit had killed most or all of the people who'd been in the shelter with him. Had her father not moved, he too would have died there, and his family would never have known what had happened to him.

Soon after, Marjorie's husband was killed in action, and she moved back to London to look after her father. When his health deteriorated further, the whole family returned to London. After he died, Yvonne and the girls' mother returned to Sheffield, but Marjorie and Vivienne stayed in London. The noise of the raids that had so bothered their mother did not seem to bother Marjorie or Vivienne. They slept soundly, even

during particularly bad nights.

When Vivienne was called up to the Army, she was pleased about it. She had asked earlier to go in the land army but was too young at that time. Thinking her surname sounded foreign, the doctors at her medical tried to trick her: "How do you like the food here?" Vivienne was amused by the questions; she'd never been out of the country before. Her mother was never sure where the surname came from. Later, Yvonne did some research, and it seems it hails from the Germany-Czech Republic region.

At a base on the Anglo-Welsh border, near Chester, the Army taught Vivienne to drive lorries. She was then posted to Belfast, before being sent back to England — to Epping and later to Bath from where she was sent overseas. Vivienne landed at Oostende, Belgium, and then travelled to Brussels, arriving just a week after the Germans had gone. She remembers that every room in the Nazi headquarters was bugged. She was shown the cellars where the Germans had held their prisoners. Dates on the walls of the cellars showed that the prisoners had still been there just eight days earlier.

Vivienne has many stories from the time she spent in Brussels. One day, when she was about to cross a road, she saw a British lorry full of German prisoners slow down for the lights at an intersection. As it slowed, she noticed that the local residents had also seen that the lorry was full of the enemy, and a cry went out: "Les Boshes, les Boshes!" Suddenly there were dozens of people coming from the side streets, appearing from nowhere. Vivienne froze, thinking that the prisoners would be lynched there and then. But the lights changed, the lorry drove away, and the local people dispersed. Vivienne, however, stood at the intersection, frozen for some time. Although she realized afterwards that the armed guards in the back of the lorry would have prevented any disturbance getting out of hand, it frightened her, nonetheless.

After two months, Vivienne drove to Germany — to Osnabrück, Herford (about three miles from Bad Salzuflen) and then on to Badenhäusen. Vivienne drove either a troop carrier or a 3-ton goods lorry. In Germany, a 'no fraternising' policy prevented any communication with the local Germans, even the children. Vivienne recalls that one officer committed suicide because he had been caught fraternising. After about a month, the policy changed to permit talking to Germans under the age of nine, and a few months later, the ban was lifted altogether. Vivienne stayed in Germany for eighteen months before she was demobilised.

Back in London, Vivienne drove for the Ministry of Works, a job that occasionally gave her access to 10 Downing Street and even Buckingham Palace. Vivienne enjoyed her job very much.

In 1948 Vivienne married Tom Wenman. Tom worked for a builders' merchants in Leatherhead but the couple had met earlier at one of the Army bases. In fact, Vivienne had had to clean Tom's lorry. The Commanding Officer at the base did not like having women on his base and forced them to do all the dirty jobs, including cleaning the men's lorries.

Tom's grandmother lived in Little Bookham Street, Bookham, and after the couple were married, Vivienne moved in too. Vivienne looked after Tom's grandmother and when she died, she and Tom stayed on in the house. While the marriage was neither unhappy nor happy, Vivienne feels that getting married was a silly thing to do. Nevertheless, she and Tom were married for forty-three years, until Tom died in 1991.

Although they didn't have children of their own, they adopted two children, a boy and a girl, both of whom are now grown up with children of their own. Vivienne's daughter, Linda, lives in Perth, Australia and has seven-year-old twins. Vivienne's son, Peter, lives in Manchester and has three children from his first marriage.

At least twenty-five years ago, a friend introduced Vivienne to the RBL, and she has been a member ever since, serving as Chairlady for four years. The group does many things: they used to play bingo on the first Monday of the month but that stopped when numbers got too low; on the second Monday of the month, the group holds its committee meetings; and on the third Monday, the group usually has speakers to talk about a variety of subjects.

For the past twenty-seven years or so, Vivienne has also been a member of the Craft Club at the Barn Hall. The Craft Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The club was so popular that a second club, the Crafters, was formed a few years ago. While Vivienne did a lot of craft in her heyday, these days she prefers to 'go around nattering'.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is the nation's leading Armed Forces charity, campaigning for and promoting the welfare and interests of current and former members of the British Armed Forces. The British Legion was founded in 1921 and granted a Royal Charter on 29 May 1971 to mark its fiftieth anniversary. The Chairlady of the local Royal British Legion Women's Section

asked Vivienne — a member of both the RBL and the local Craft Club — to stitch the kneeler. The original intention for its design was to incorporate the RBL's crown logo but it was too difficult. Vivienne suggested poppies instead, and it was agreed that they would be an appropriate alternative. It took Vivienne two years to complete the kneeler.

Vivienne recovered well from a stroke she had in April 2008 but it affected her walking and speech, and although her friends said she sounded the same, Vivienne continued to find it difficult to talk fluently. In March 2010, she moved to Southey Court, preferring to stay in Bookham, enjoying her Legion meetings, the Craft Club and nattering with her friends.



MISS CAROLYN I FORWARD February 1946 - 2020

Sadly Carolyn lost her battle, following a long illness. We hadn't seen her for some time, despite phone calls. She was a very proud lady.

Carolyn lived in America for many years following her Army service and on her return we were privileged when she joined us, because in many ways she was different!!! We went to have many mini-bus trips; with Carolyn on board we were in for a good happy day! I remember one such day as we were getting on the bus I said to her "like to be our Standard Bearer?" – her reply was "OK then" and so be it – just like that, and so she helped us out at a difficult time.

She had a great humour as many will know. It reflected on many happy day trips. I also remember when we held a dinner at West Wellow Gold Club and I was lucky enough to get the Mayor and Mayoress of Southampton as our guests. Carolyn was sitting quite close to them and she was on incredible form that day. The Mayoress was crying with laughter – it truly was a fantastic day.

At least we were fortunate to have known Carolyn and enjoyed her company. She made a lot of people happy. Thank you Carolyn.
Jean Doe
Southampton



MILLY POVER (nee Hough) Passed away 2nd January 2020 – aged 95 Ex-ATS



At 17 and a half Milly joined the ATS, receiving training as a Teleprinter Operator, followed by assignments with the Royal Corps of Signals. Her postings included Lancaster, Southbourne and Chester, gaining her promotion to Corporal.

On leaving the ATS Milly lived and worked in Blackpool. As a skilled Teleprinter Operator she secured employment at the GPO (Head Post Office) in Blackpool.

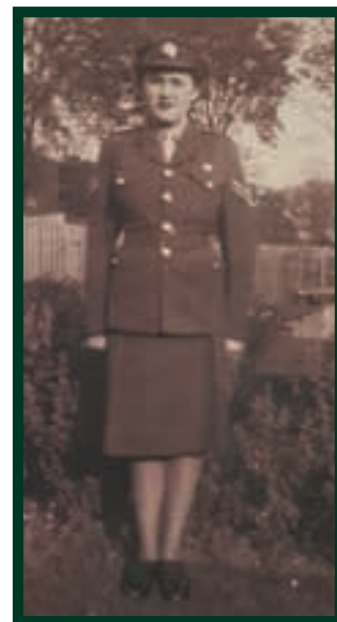
Milly maintained links with ex-ATS colleagues as a member of the WRAC Association's Crewe Branch. When this branch closed Milly became an inaugural member of the Phoenix Branch, formed in 2011.

Milly supported in-house functions plus those held at the NMA (National Memorial Arboretum) and other social events hosted by local branches eg Shropshire.

Milly's cheery and smiling company was much value and will be sorely missed.
Sheila Johnson
Phoenix Branch



MRS GWENDOLINE ALDERMAN (nee Cooper) (ATS) Passed away on 8th Sept 2020.



242935 Cpl Gwen Cooper (known as "Coop") joined the ATS in March 1943 and completed basic training in Northampton. She was then posted to the RASC at No 9 Petrol Depot Waddesdon, Bucks., then took physical training (PT) course at the ATS PT School, South Wigston Leicestershire and become the PT instructor (Cpl) at Waddesdon in March 1945.

Gwen met her husband, Lt. Dennis George Alderman, whilst serving at Waddesdon. They married in 1946 and remained happily married for 67 years.

Gwen is sadly missed by her children David, Robert, Jane & Peter and all of their families and by Gwens' friends, too many to mention.

Mrs Jane Sherwood
Daughter



CATHERINE ANNIE DELANEY 11 May 1930 – 9 December 2020



Catherine was born in Birmingham on 11 May 1930 to William and Rose Delaney and attended Stratford Road School. Catherine was full of fun and always very well turned out. She would be off on days out and holidays to the seaside at every opportunity.

Cath relished moving house often - many times around the Birmingham area and even followed a friend to the south of the country to places in and around the Havant area. In between her travels she had the offer of marriage but enjoyed her freedom too much to accept. Her last few years were spent around the Solihull area.

Catherine's occupations were many, including being a clippy on the Birmingham Corporation buses and with the NAAFI at Leamington Spa from 1947 - 1951. The last few years of her working life were spent as a temp in offices around Birmingham.

In 1963 she joined the Territorial Army working in the Medical Inspection Room with 109 Company, Women's Royal Army Corps at Kings Heath in Birmingham. A reorganisation in 1967 saw her transferred to 202 General Hospital in Birmingham with the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps as a Nursing Assistant and gained the rank of Lance Corporal. Every year Catherine enjoyed going on the two-week Annual Camps around Britain and Germany. She served until 1976, aged 46, and had been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal for long service.

Since 2012 Catherine enjoyed many outings and social occasions with the Associations of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Federation of Birmingham Ex-service Associations.

During her last few years Cath was not in the best of health but was well looked after by the Josiah Mason Trust in Olton, Solihull and the Tanworth Court Nursing Home. Cath passed away on Wednesday 9 December 2020.

Babs Anderson
Birmingham branch

MISS BETTY STEVENSON Passed away 1st September 2020

Sadly, Betty Stevenson passed away on Sept 1st 2020, she was 87 years old and had lived in a Care Home for the last four years. Betty had served a full career in the WRAC.

Betty had been in the Hertfordshire Police Force prior to her enlistment, so opted to serve with the RMP. After several years policing troops in Germany and Cyprus, she decided to revert to administrative duties.

Her next tour was to the WRAC Centre as CSM of 2 Training Coy. She was promoted during this tour and became RSM at the Centre. On completing her duties at Guildford, she was then posted as RSM to the WRAC College at Camberley. Betty loved the pomp of parades and especially the Commissioning Ceremony. Betty always ensured that everything ran like clockwork. After a short tour in Northern Ireland, Betty was then posted as RSM to 10 Company in Aldershot. Her final tour was with the newly formed Welfare Assistants.

Betty enjoyed her service life, she always maintained the high standards expected of an RSM; she was fair but firm in all disciplinary matters and was respected by all ranks. Provided the Martini's were served chilled, she enjoyed the social aspects of Mess life.

Saint Peter will be watched carefully, he will learn that punctuality is vital and woe betide any angels whose wings are not shining brightly.

GOD BLESS YOU BETTY.

Vi Brown
(with the blessings of Betty's sister).

Mrs Jean Munt (nee Orchard) W/393622 Served: 1956 - 58 Passed Away 14th November 2020

Mum unfortunately passed away on the 14th of Nov 2020. She was so proud to have served with the WRAC staff band and I just think its worthy of a story. I think she was the first to get married at St Mark's Church on the camp (I think). An article was run in the Sunday Dispatch of which I still have a copy. Mum was a member and did receive the Lioness.

Regards,
Russell Munt (son)



Last Post

BAKER, Mrs Julia, nee Webb, of Glamorgan in September 2018 (ATS)
BRADES, Mrs Olive, nee Lilley of Slough on 31st December 2019 (ATS)
BROOKES, Mrs Daphne (Pam), nee Bower of Bournemouth on 3rd November 2020 (ATS)
CLEMENTS, Mrs Mary, nee Fox of Wakefield on 29th August 2020 (WRAC)
CLEWLOW, Mrs Betsy of Stoke On Trent in October 2020 (WRAC)
COX, Mrs Rose-Marie, nee Piper of Berkshire on 25th October 2020 (WRAC)
DELANEY, Miss Catherine of Solihull on 9th December 2020 (WRAC)
DOLMAN, Cicely Woodhouse Roe of Stavely in December 2020 (WRAC)
FAHEY, Mrs Anne, nee Ryan of Croydon on 27th November 2019 (WRAC)
FORWARD, Miss Carolyn of Hampshire on 25th June 2020 (WRAC)
FUDGE, Mrs Nadine, nee Brown of Hul on 13th July 2019 (WRAC)
GLEDHILL, Mrs Amy, nee Ellis of Huddersfield on 17th August 2020 (ATS)
HILL, Mrs Stella, nee Kinchin of Leopardstown on 6th November 2020 (ATS)
HOWITT, Mrs Glynis nee Harvey, of Perthshire on 25th November 2020 (WRAC)
IRELAND, Mrs Gloria, nee Reynolds of Gloucester on 15th November 2020 (ATS)
MANTHORP, Miss Beryl of Norwich on 9th January 2020 (ATS)
McDOUGAL, Mrs Jean of Kent on 9th December 2020 (ATS)
MUNT, Mrs Jean, nee Orchard on 14th November 2020 (WRAC)
NUTMAN, Mrs Valerie, nee Morgan of Essex in June 2020 (WRAC)
PIPER, Mrs Pamela of Shepton Mallet on 2nd December 2020 (WRAC)
PRENDAGAST, Miss Patricia of Liverpool on 21st November 2020 (WRAC)
SCHOLAR, Mrs Joan, nee Ashmore of Cheshire on 9th August 2020 (ATS)
SPENCER, Mrs Dorothy, nee Walker of Sheffield on 27th July 2020 (WRAC)
SWEET, Mrs Joan, nee Adams of London on 14th October 2020 (ATS & WRAC)
THOMAS, Mrs Elizabeth, nee Thomson, of Wiltshire in July 2020 (ATS)
THOMAS, Mrs Joyce, nee Oliver, of Milton Keynes on 19th September 2020 (ATS)
TULLY, Miss Gill of Lincoln on 7th March 2020 (WRAC)
WILSON, Mrs Margaret, nee Hudson of Norfolk on 7th October 2020 (ATS)



KEEP CALM AND BE A BUDDY

**40 Women serving in the Army today are waiting
to be Buddied up with you.**

**Register now at
www.wracassociation.org
or call 0330 400 19 92**

Legacies & Donations

IN MEMORIAM

So far this year kind donations were made by individuals and Branches in memory of the following persons:

Eizabeth Laurence-Smith MBE RIP
Mary Ellen Adele Pearce RIP
Brig (Retd) Shirley Patricia Nield CBE RIP
Norma Lynn Ashby (known as Lynn) RIP

LEGACIES

So far this year the WRAC Association very much appreciated the legacies received from the following, which varied from £500 to £10,000, every penny of which will ensure the continued work of the Association:

Lt Col (Retd) Margaret Geraldine Fahy RIP
Brig (Retd) Shirley Patricia Nield CBE RIP
Brig (Retd) Dame Joan Evelyn Clara Kelleher DBE RIP
Margaret Gallafent RIP
Betty France RIP
Shirley Knight RIP

WRAC Association, Unit 11, Basepoint Business Centre, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, SO23 0LD
Tel: 0300 400 1992 (local rate call, including mobiles) Email: office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk
Benevolence: benfund@wracassociation.org.uk Lioness: editor@wracassociation.org.uk
Website: www.wracassociation.org.uk



Association Vision Statement

To provide Camaraderie, Benevolence and Mutual Support to former members of the ATS and WRAC and exert influence within the military charity sector to broaden support for female veterans.



In addition, we welcome to the Association Servicewomen, both serving and retired, of any capbadge.





WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION



LEGACY & DONATIONS FORM

Leaving a Legacy donation to the WRAC Association is an extremely tax efficient way of supporting the Association (which is a registered charity) into the future.

The key facts:

- * A legacy costs NOTHING in your lifetime.
- * You can make a gift of any size: there is no minimum or maximum amount.
- * Even a modest gift will have a huge impact.
- * You do not have to be a millionaire or wealthy to leave a legacy.
- * A gift can be a specified amount or a percentage of the residue of your estate, after you have provided for family and friends.
- * You can specify where you want your money to be directed.
- * A legacy can reduce the inheritance tax liability on your estate.
- * You can change your mind at any point.

Whilst there is no requirement to do so, it would be helpful to the Association if you would complete the form below giving details of your intended legacy/donation and return it to the Association Secretary. This would be for information purposes only and will be treated with total discretion.

I wish to give the sum of £ _____, or _____% of my residual estate, to the WRAC Association (Registered Charity Number 206184).

FROM :

Your Full Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Telephone: _____

Your Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ENSURE YOU SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR SOLICITOR.

Making a Donation to the WRAC Association is a simple and easy way of showing additional support for the Association. Donations are invaluable in enabling the Association to do all it does in 'Supporting Women Who Served'.

If you wish to make a donation (whether regular or one-off) you can do so by:

- * Using this form, or
- * Going to our website (Website: www.wracassociation.org.uk)

DONATION and CHARITY GIFT AID DECLARATION

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:
WRAC Association Charity Number 206184

☐ I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details: Title _____ First name or initial(s) _____ Surname _____

Full Home address _____

Postcode _____ Email address _____ Date _____

To make a regular monthly or annual donation please either visit our website or your Bank to arrange a Direct Debit, using the prefix DON and your surname as a reference.

Please notify the WRAC Association if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

If you are a non-UK tax payer or do not wish to sign this declaration it would still be good to hear from you. If this is the case please complete name and address above and tick below:

☐ I do not wish to complete this Gift Aid Declaration and/or

☐ I am a non UK tax payer or do not pay enough Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to make it worthwhile.

**Return to: The Association Secretary, WRAC Association, Unit 11 Basepoint,
1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hants, SO23 0LD**

Tel: 0300-400-1992 Email: office.manager@wracassociation.org.uk





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR

THE CHARITY THAT 'SUPPORTS WOMEN WHO SERVE / D'

(Charity Registration: WRAC Association, 206184)

I WISH TO APPLY FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
(UK-resident: £10 per year; Overseas resident: £15 per year)

Please complete this form in **BLOCK LETTERS**

Miss/Mrs/Ms/Other: Surname:

First Names: Known as:

Surname when serving: Post nominals:

Address for Correspondence:

.....

..... Post Code:

Telephone No(s): Date of Birth:

Email:

Local Branch (if known): Area:

Please indicate your preferred method of contact?:

(Your copy of the Lioness magazine will be posted to you unless you advise otherwise)

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 2 copies of Lioness magazine per year
- Events, Friendship and Support through HQ, Area Co-ordinators and network of Branches
- Invitation to WRAC Grand Reunions Association and AGMs
- Notification of WRAC Association events
- Option to apply for tickets to certain non-WRAC Association events (geography and timescales permitting)
- Priority booking for WRAC Association and other events
- Various updates from HQ and Areas via letter or email

The WRAC Association holds data in order to carry out its 'legitimate business activities' - these include running an efficient and effective Membership organisation that "supports women who served" by encouraging "comradeship, esprit de corps, benevolence and pre-serving traditions" (ie friendship, community and support). Personal Data is processed for WRAC Association purposes only - including the organising of events, editing and distribution of the Lioness members' magazine, and linking individuals with Headquarters and Area Co-ordinators, by post, email and telephone - and is not shared with any third party individual or organisation. In line with the Association's charitable status, and for the purposes of GDPR, the 'Association' includes Headquarters and Area Co-ordinators (it does not include individual WRAC branches). Please be assured that we do NOT share your information with any third-party individual or organisation. Please contact the WRAC Association by post or email if you have any queries.

Please tick here ☐ if you do NOT want your contact details shared with your regional Area Co-ordinator:

Signature Date

Association Membership is not exclusive to those who served as ATS, WRAC and/or signed-up post 1992. Membership is also open to those still serving. Please share the following information with the Association if you wish:

Army Number Last Rank Held:
(Present Rank if still serving)

Date of Enrolment: Date of Release:

Membership Subscription Payment:

I wish to Join as:

UK-resident Member Y / N (*) £10 per year OR £50 for 5 years (*)

Non UK-resident Member Y / N (*) £15 per year OR £75 for 5 years (*)

(Overseas Members are asked to pay an additional £5.00 per year to cover postage of *Lioness* magazine)

(*) Please indicate which Membership type you are applying for

I wish to make an additional donation: Y / N **Amount** £.....

Total amount: £

Method of payment (please tick appropriate box):

☐ **I have joined/will join online and set up an automatic credit/debit card subscription**
To join the association online go to www.wracassociation.org/join

☐ I enclose Cheque for £
(All cheques must be in **sterling** and made payable to “**WRAC Association**”)

☐ I will set up a **Bank Standing Order / Direct Debit** £
(please phone the Association HQ Office for a form and/or assistance)

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In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: WRAC Association Charity Number 206184

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

If you are a non UK tax payer or do not wish to sign this declaration it would still be good to hear from you. If this is the case please complete name and address above and tick below:

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☐ I am a non UK tax payer or do not pay enough Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax to make it worthwhile.

Please notify the WRAC Association if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or your circumstances change (eg you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains or you can now gift aid donations)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM, AND PAYMENT, TO:

WRAC ASSOCIATION, Unit 11 Basepoint, 1 Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hants, SO23 0LD

If you have any queries: Please telephone: 0300-400-1992.

Or visit our website: wracassociation.org Or email: info@wracassociation.org