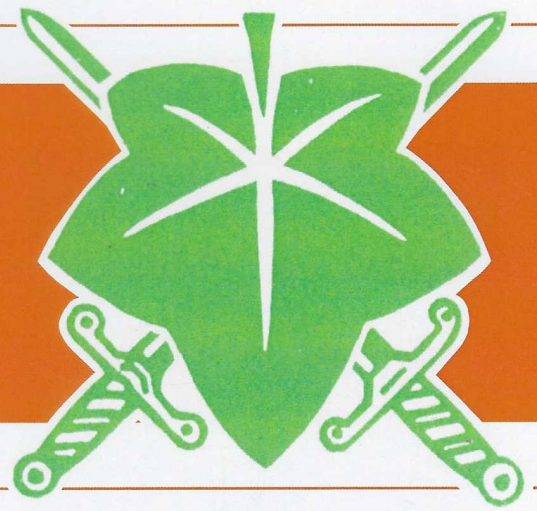


THE FORMATION SIGN

JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY



Vive La France Combattante



The front page of *Formation Sign* 281 in 2021 which told the story of NAAFI, included a picture of a Free French woman with a "Kumangatit" badge on her uniform. Last October an email from Pierre Le Don suggested we could find further information at <https://www.francaislibres.net/liste/fiche.php?index=99146>.



This identified the woman as Renée Davelly a volunteer French artiste who entertained Allied troops in the Middle East from 1940 to 1946. Her documents show she served with the British Red Cross and created "le Cake du Blessé" - "The Wounded's Cake", raising 42 million Francs to supply troops with sweets, cigarettes, radio sets, wine, alcohols and food.



A BBC broadcast by War Correspondent Richard Dimbleby reported 'The British residents of Egypt have presented two huge motor vans called "Kumangatit" which go right to the front line troops carrying, beer, lemonade, chocolate etc', the War Diary of the 11th Hussars recording in February 1941 that *'The night was spent at kilo 45 from Tobruk where we caught a few glimpses of a Kumangatit van which produced some much needed comforts for the whole regiment, including a good supply of eggs.'*