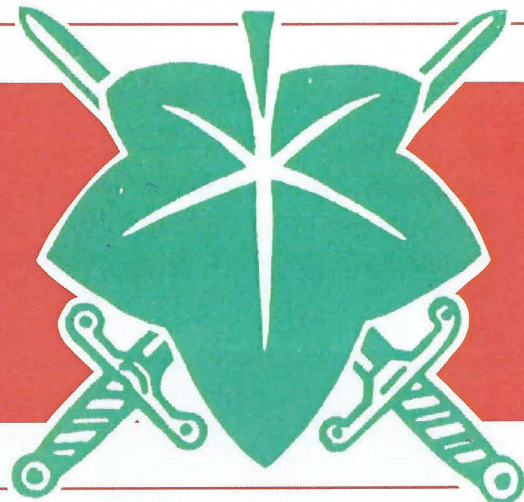


THE FORMATION SIGN



JOURNAL OF THE MILITARY HERALDRY SOCIETY

EXPERIMENTAL ASSISTANT, GUNNERY



Formed in 1946 as successor to the wartime Auxiliary Territorial Service the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) served as a separate Corps of the British Army until, after a gradual demise it was finally disbanded in 1992. WRAC officers permanently employed with other Corps were transferred to those Corps on 1st October 1990, the rank and file of those Corps following a year later. The remainder of the WRAC subsequently joined the Adjutant General's Corps formed on 6th April 1992 alongside the Royal Military Police, Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Army Education Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps Staff Clerks.



Reproduced with thanks to **Gary Gibbs** this photograph shows WRAC Sergeant Christine Ainley's well-badged battledress. Below the Corps title at the top of her arm but hidden in the folds of her sleeves is the

badge of the Ministry of Supply's Military Staff which, based on the crest of the arms of the Board of Ordnance, was worn by those working with the Ministry on developing weapons and stores. Below this she has the cannon of the former Shoeburyness Garrison, worn by those serving at the Ministry's Experimental Establishment based there. As a WRAC attached to a Royal Artillery unit Sergeant Ainley wears the RA's white lanyard and brass guns above her Sergeants' chevrons, distinctions authorised for the WRAC in June 1951. Her uniform is completed by the WRAC Experimental Gunnery Assistants badge introduced in July 1959 to replace the former 'A' trade badge. A badge unique to the women of the Corps, an unofficial blue version was worn on blue battle dress when on range duty and a beech brown and green version authorised for No 1 Dress.

