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| Surname: Carter | First Name(s): Dorothea M | Army Number: W/139070 | |
| Maiden name (if applicable): Torey | Name used during service: Carter | Rank: Private | |
| Main base: Ely Newmarket Chelsea | Training base: Talavera Camp, Northampton | Enrolled at: Bishops Stortford, Herts | |
| Platoon/Section: | Company/Battery: 317 / 36 S/L Regiment 920 Coy | Group/Regiment: 36 S/L Regiment R.A.S.C. | Command: Eastern London |
| Year(s) of service: March 1942 to 2/7/1945 | Reason for discharge: Demobbed as I was married | Trade: Clerk Class II | |
| Uniform Issued: Jacket Skirt Greatcoat Shoes Shirts Stockings Tie Pyjamas Vests Brassieres Knickers Suspender belt Cap Gym shoes Slacks Shoulder bag | Photo:  | | |
| Description of daily tasks: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorthand typing. At Ely I worked from 8 am to 9.30 pm with two meal breaks. I worked with another girl called Sylvia Rollett from Lincoln. She was 21 and I was 22. There was far too much work for us and we worked for three weeks and then had two days off. Life was much easier at Chelsea with weekends off. | | |

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| Pay book: | Not available at present. |
| Memorable moments: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I joined the A.T.S. in March 1942 and had six weeks training at the Talavera Camp in Northampton. I was a shorthand typist but classed 'Clerk Class II'. In early April 1942 I was sent to a camp of a searchlight battery at Ely, Cambs. There was a huge camp there at West Fen but it wasn't ready for us girls so we were put into private billets. Mavis Todd, a pay clerk, Edith Brown and I shared a bedroom in the home of a lovely lady called Mrs Baker. She was the widow of a police sergeant. I had my bicycle with me so cycled to work more like slavery really, so much work to do the officers who didn't seem to be able to put letters together. • After three months I was sent to another battery headquarters at Newmarket, Suffolk, 317/36 was its title. I married in June 1942 and my husband was stationed on a searchlight site at Petham, near Canterbury. I applied to be moved closer to him and was sent to 920 RASC Company at Cadogan square, Chelsea. After a week there I was sent back to Newmarket, as my replacement couldn't do shorthand and the Major, a Major R.B. Hall, wanted me back. I was quite annoyed but of course, had to do as I was told. After about four months I was again sent to the office in Cadogan Gardens so I was able to visit my husband sometimes on a day off. He would always be able to find me somewhere to stay. The people in Petham were very kind to the boys on the searchlight site there. • After about eighteen months, in October 1944, at Cadogan Gardens our whole office was moved to Putney. We were billeted in a very old-fashioned block of flats on West Hill, Putney, the girls on the top floor, the officers on the floor below us and the men on the ground floor. I shared a bedroom with four other girls. We were forbidden to make up our beds during our lunch hour, but didn't take any notice of that 'command' but one Thursday, on pay day, we'd made up our beds and gone back to the office after dinner and were told that some General was coming to inspect us and the billets. I hurried back to the billet and barracked the five beds in my room, rushed back to the office, stood in line for pay and fainted. I'm not surprised at that as I'd lost about two stones in weight which was the beginning of thyroidtoxicosis. I was sent to Putney hospital for three weeks, they couldn't find anything wrong with me but a year later, in civvy street, I had to have the thyroid operation. My vocal cords were cut so I haven't been able to talk very loudly since then. Had I had the op when I was in the ATS this might not have happened. • Apart from all the above I really enjoyed my life in the ATS. |
| Photos: | None available |

