

Surname: Davies	First Name(s): Connie Magie	Army Number: W/26671	
Maiden name (if applicable): Smith	Name used during service: Smith	Rank: Volunteer on joining S/Sgt	
Main base: Aldershot Church Stretton Shrewsbury Rosset Liverpool	Training base: Had not been established	Enrolled at: Waterloo Barracks, Aldershot	
Platoon/Section: 1 Hampshire A.T.S.	Company/Battery: Aldershot	Group/Regiment: 50 Anti Tank Training Regt, R.A.	Command:
Year(s) of service: 28/9/1939 to 28/9/1946	Reason for discharge: Personal	Trade: Clerical, Admin	
Uniform Issued: Jacket Skirt Shirts Shoes Stockings Cap Knickers Corseletts Bag Gas mask	Photo:  <p style="text-align: center;">June 1941</p>		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My duties included working with the officers in the day to day running of the unit. Discipline, Health, arranging leaves, Drill and Church Parades etc. 		

Release book:

RELEASE LEAVE CERTIFICATE A.P. X 202/D

Army No. 26671 Present Rank S/SGT

Surname (Block Letters) S.M. ITH

Christian Name(s) C. V. ATANSE M. A. G. G. I. S.

Coy. and Group/Unit No. 1 WESTERN COMD HOLDING UNIT

Date of Last enrolment 28 NOV. 39 *Calling up for military service.
* Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

(a) Trade on enlistment HOME DUTIES (c) Service Trade Admin. N.C.O.

(b) Trade courses and trade tests passed None (d) Any other qualifications for civilian employment General Training
W.C.P. Lt. 1. General Training

Military Conduct: Very good

Testimonial: S/sgt. Smith is very conscientious, reliable and painstaking in everything she undertakes. She has a quiet and easy pleasing personality, with an excellent understanding of those working with her and under her.

Place RIVER POOL Date 24 Sept. 40

Signature of Officer N.H. Newby S/lt Coy. and Group/Unit Overseas or United WESTERN COMMAND

Signature of Auxiliary/Member G.M. Smith HOLDING UNIT, A.T.S.

* Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below) — * This section will not be filed in with the copies of further War Office instructions.

(a) Type of course.	(b) Length.	(c) Total hours of instruction.	(d) Record of achievement.
(i)*			
(ii)*			
(iii)*			
(iv)*			

* Instructors will insert the letter "I" here to indicate that in their case the record refers to courses in which they have acted as Instructors.

Signature of Unit Education Officer _____

NOTES:
 (1) Further details of service and of medals to which entitled may be had on application to O. I/c Records, accompanied by the applicant's A.B.64, Part I.
 (2) If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

THE ABOVE-NAMED PROCEEDED ON RELEASE LEAVE ON THE DATE SHOWN IN THE MILITARY DISPERSAL UNIT STAMP OPPOSITE

N.B.—A certificate (A.P. X 202/D) showing the date of transfer to the Unemployed List in the case of A.T.S. auxiliaries, and the termination of release leave in the case of V.A.D. members, will be issued by the Officer i/c Record Office. All personnel released are liable to recall if necessary during the continuing period of the emergency.

Military Dispersal Unit Stamp
 21 SEP 1940
 WILDFORD

RELEASE LEAVE EXPIRES ON 1 SEP 41

Memorable moments:

- The ATS was started as a Territorial Unit in 1938 and was brought under Army Rule in 1941/42. One day in October 1939 my sister, who was a Cpl in the ATS stationed in Waterloo Barracks Aldershot, came home and said they needed some new recruits. The next day I went along and joined up. For some weeks we were billeted at home with an allowance, and we did not quite realise how little pay we were getting. It was not until we moved into barracks, and on our first pay day after that we stood to attention, saluted and received 9/4d. One week we were asked if we wanted to buy National Savings stamps, as I had 2/- left I said yes 2/- worth. To my surprise the next pay day I was handed 7/4d, but I soon told them I did not mean to save 2/- a week.
- We lived at home for about 3 months and then one very cold and frosty day in early 1940 were told to move into married quarters in the barracks. These had been empty for some time and all the water pipes were frozen solid. Four of us shared, and the first evening we lit a roaring fire, after a while we heard water running. Oh good said somebody the water has come on, but the pipes had burst, and we were flooded out. Home again for a few weeks.
- I worked in the QM Stores, and as it was a training unit we were attached to, each month we had a new batch of recruits. It was my job to issue them with boots and caps. We had a joke among ourselves that if they didn't know the size of boots or hats "mummy always bought them" – they were potential officers.
- In the summer of 1940 we dealt with hundred of uniforms for men returning from Dunkirk.
- In October 1940 we were told the unit was moving and taking the ATS Unit with them. We were going to Shropshire. So one dark November night we arrived in a small town called Church Stretton, and thought it as the end of the earth. But before long I for one had grown to love it. My friend and I were billeted in one of the local pubs. It became my second home and I have visited the family ever

since. As it is a beauty spot, it had been a holiday resort, and had several large hotels. These had all been commandeered for the war, and taken over by the army. St Dunstons had also moved from the south coast, and had their HQ at the Longmynd Hotel. It was quite a shock on meeting the first blind men, 2 lads about 18 years old. The ATS girls went to dances and sports days and also escorted blind boys out for walks. We also had a tea party every Sunday afternoon when we moved to a large empty house in the Cardingmill Valley as our billet.

- After about 6 months I was promoted to Cpl, and went on to the admin side of the ATS unit. After a while I was promoted to Sgt. And moved to another unit. This was mainly office work, working with the officer in charge, 2 Sgts, and about 20 other ranks. It was a school in a large country house where the men were taught to waterproof vehicles to take them across rivers etc.
- After some time my next move was as Acting Sgt Major to a larger ATS Unit attached to an ammunition Depot near Shrewsbury. Two things I remember of the visit we had from Princess Royal soon after I got there: One was her asking an ATS Red Cap how long she had been there, as the girl hesitated she said only here for the day like me. The other was we had furnished a hut as a sitting room for the girls, they were surprised when they found it was for keeps.
- I was there for some time before I was posted to a holding and transport unit of ATS at Rossett, North Wales on the permanent staff. One thing I remember about that was having girls sent to us on a 24 hour notice because they had been friendly with coloured American soldiers, they were never told why they had been posted.
- On VJ Day we were moved from Wales to Liverpool. There we joined with a male officers' Transit Unit. We met QARNS and men from the boats mostly coming from the Far East.
- I was discharged in October 1946 having signed on for a year extension on my original discharge date in October 1945.

Photos:



24 February 1940 – All Saints Aldershot
(My sister's wedding)

