

<b>Surname:</b> Dean	<b>First Name(s):</b> Edith	<b>Army Number:</b> W/10095	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Rowles	<b>Name used during service:</b> Rowles	<b>Rank:</b> Corporal	
<b>Main base:</b> Horfield Barracks, Bristol Gloucester	<b>Training base:</b> Initial training at the Territorials Drill Hall, St Michael's Hill, Bristol Sent for shorthand typing training	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Joined the Territorials in 1938 Enrolled 1939	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b>	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> 40 <sup>th</sup> Gloucester's	<b>Command:</b>
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 1/9/1939 to Oct 1945	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> Demob	<b>Trade:</b> Clerk Long service and good conduct metals	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> Initially only an armband and shoes.  S.D.	<b>Photo:</b> 		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial duties at the Horfield Barracks were as a cook. When the A.T.S. first started the girls were used to assist the men in going to war. We made sandwiches for the reservists being called up. They had a standard meal of a sandwich and a piece of slab cake.</li> <li>• Other early duties included feeding soldiers returning from Dunkirk.</li> <li>• One of my first clerical duties was at Shirehampton – I checked the paybooks of troops going out – I was checking they had money and nothing that they shouldn't have had.</li> </ul>		

<b>Pay book:</b>	Not available at present.
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initially I joined the Territorials and on 1 September 1939 I was called up by a radio announcement telling us to report to the local Territorial hall. My uniform at that time consisted of an armband stating A.T.S. and a pair of brown leather shoes. I was 21 years old at the time.</li> <li>• When Dunkirk was on trains were bringing soldiers back to Stapleton Road Station. Our Commanding Officer, Mrs Bridge collected us girls from our homes in the middle of the night (1.00 am) and took us to Eastville Park. We were dealing with the injured and handing out food. The men were of all nationalities. When we were not on duty we slept in camp beds.</li> <li>• We were still at Eastville Park in June when bombs fell – one raid we sheltered in a two and a half foot trench with tin hats on. We lived on pineapple chunks and evaporated milk – to this day I can't face eating pineapple! We stayed at Eastville until September and then went back to the barracks at Horfield.</li> <li>• The Regiment went back to Gloucester town shortly afterwards and we went too.</li> <li>• Whilst visiting Southmead, Bristol one day, I became injured in an air raid – some shrapnel in my leg. I was sent to an A.T.S. convalescent home which was in Kingham (half way between Cheltenham and Oxford). It was whilst I was there that Bristol underwent heavy bombing. I could see Bristol burning – the sky was lit by the fires, I was so worried – my family were still there. When my sister got back to our house we seemed to be the only ones who still had running water, and there was a queue from our house of people trying to fill jugs and buckets.</li> <li>• When I returned to Bristol I was sent to Shirehampton and then on to Beacon House, Queens Road working for the M.L.C.O. I found loads for lorries so that they could be fully laden on return journeys – this meant that fuel was not wasted. I also requisitioned lorries for the home guard, making sure that each unit could call on transport in an emergency – the task was to find flatbeds so that they had somewhere to put the guns.</li> <li>• I was later attached to Southern Command and sent to Orchardleigh House, Frome (we were based in Pinewood whilst there) and then to Berrow where we exercised every day on the beach!</li> <li>• At Berrow/Burnham I worked for Captain Londbury who had been a Solicitor before the war. There was a YMCA at Burnham and it was there that I met my husband who was in the Royal Artillery. He was based at Steep Holm Barracks at Brea Down.</li> <li>• Whilst at Burnham I attended the military funeral of a local A.T.S. member who was buried in her local churchyard.</li> <li>• I was sent to Taunton C.S.D. (Norton Fitzwarren) and was there during the lead up to D Day. I was in charge of garages who provided special petrol pumps for use in emergencies – this information was on the secrets list. It was at this time that Americans were based locally. They had to come for petrol at Hut 827 for fuel from Avonmouth garages. They brought tea, coffee, tinned fruit, oranges.</li> <li>• The Americans joined us at dances and we were able to see Bob Hope and James Stewart entertain the troops.</li> <li>• Directly after D Day all troops disappeared overnight at 6.00 am we were told no-one would be coming in that day.</li> <li>• I was sent to Newcastle PTO at 9.00 pm and travelled all day. When I got there I had to find a bed and I ended up staying for 3 weeks, working in a Chaplin's Department. I found out later that I should have gone to Newark OUT, Royal Engineers.</li> </ul>

**Photos:**



Edith and Nan Rowles, Horfield Barracks, Bristol 1939



Nan Rowles (my sister) 1939