

<b>Surname:</b> Dolphin	<b>First Name(s):</b> Mary	<b>Army Number:</b> W/233818	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Homer	<b>Name used during service:</b> Homer	<b>Rank:</b> L/Cpl	
<b>Main base:</b> Chilwell Doncaster Leeds	<b>Training base:</b> Harrogate	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Leeds	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b>	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> R.A.O.C.	<b>Command:</b>
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> Beginning of 1943 to July 1945	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> Marriage 14.4.45	<b>Trade:</b> Clerk/Typist	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> S.D. Jacket Skirt Shirt Collars Tie ATS cap  Field cap worn in photo was purchased for wearing off duty	<b>Photo:</b> 		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Chilwell – typist</li> <li>• Doncaster/Leeds – Clerical returns/indents and filing</li> </ul>		
<b>Pay book:</b>	Not available		
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Served three weeks basic training in Nissen huts at Queen Ethelburgers School, Harrogate. It was very cold, only heated with two coke stoves. We slept in dressing gowns and bed socks. Many girls were sobbing in the night with home sickness, it being their first time away from home.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After three weeks of marching and drilling we were posted to our commands. Mine was the R.A.O.C. at Chilwell, Nottingham which was a very large mixed camp.</li> <li>• I was assigned to an office attached to the stores sending spare motor parts to all the war zones. Our office was the fanfold section, which were typewriters taking a continuous roll of invoices, 6 copies divided by metal rods – for Russia we had to adjust the machines to take 9 copies.</li> <li>• Monday morning was gas mask practice when we had to work all morning until 12 noon wearing gas masks, sometimes typing very small labels to be attached to the parts. We were glad to hear the buzzer at 12.</li> <li>• We worked in shifts – one week 6.00 am to 2.00 pm, one week 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm and one month nights, 10.00 pm – 6.00 am.</li> <li>• The cookhouse was about half a mile up the hill from the depot and on nights we had to march silently up the hill with NCOs front and rear carrying lamps.</li> <li>• The King and Queen visited Chilwell – stopping at our table in the cookhouse and chatting with us.</li> <li>• Eventually I was posted to the ice rink at Doncaster. This depot dealt with tyres of all sizes and the work was more varied.</li> <li>• Doncaster was an overnight stop for convoys of troops, so we were never short of dancing partners. One of our O.R.s had been with Victor Sylvester’s band and he organised concerts.</li> <li>• Appeared on stage at Windsor Cinema Doncaster. Billed as a member of “The A.T.S. Lovelies” with Doreen Moore, Pat Hampton, Mary MacIver, Bette Smith and Doreen Jordan. The Concert was held in aid of local Military Charities.</li> <li>• Apart from the concert at the cinema, none came to anything as usually the men were posted overseas before we could perform, but we had fun rehearsing.</li> <li>• Earned 10/- per week – 2/6d deducted and sent home.</li> <li>• 10 Clothing coupons allowed each year.</li> <li>• I finally received compassionate leave to Leeds owing to my mother’s illness. This was a small camp comprising an Officers’ Mess, Sergeants’ Mess, one men’s hut and one for A.T.S., plus various offices which dealt with sub-depots in the area keeping records and movement of stock held there.</li> <li>• I was promoted to L/Cpl until my marriage and was demobbed from Fulford Barracks, York in July 1945 where I received £27.12.4 post war credits and a clothing allowance of £12.10.0.</li> </ul>
<b>Photos:</b>	None available