

<b>Surname:</b> Goodman	<b>First Name(s):</b> Doreen Mary	<b>Army Number:</b> W/251500	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Wells	<b>Name used during service:</b> Wells	<b>Rank:</b> L/Cpl	
<b>Main base:</b> Droitwich Alverstoke Beckenham Manchester	<b>Training base:</b> Guildford Oswestry Hayling Island Weybourne Ty Croes	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Guildford ITC (Stoughton Barracks)	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 508 (M) H.A.A. Battery Pay Office	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> Royal Artillery Manchester	<b>Command:</b> A.A. Command
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> Feb 1943 to August 1946	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> AA Battery disbanded Aug 1945 Demobilisation number came up in Aug 1946	<b>Trade:</b> Plotter / Tele Operator (1943-45) Pay Office	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> Dress Uniform Battle Dress Jerkin Boots Khaki stockings Brown shoes Capo Gaiters Pyjamas Shoulder bag Haversack  (We could buy dress forage caps)	<b>Photo:</b>  Not available		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manned command post with partner.</li> <li>• Worked in 8 hr shifts through 3 days followed by 24 hr leave. Sounded take-post when instructed by AA command and plotted incoming enemy aircraft.</li> <li>• When not on duty in command post we were on standby at all times to take post when bells sounded, except during 24 hours off.</li> <li>• Pay office worked office hours Monday-Friday. Lived in billet.</li> </ul>		

**Pay book:**

RELEASE LEAVE CERTIFICATE A.F. X 2020

Army No. 4351500 Present Rank AJPL

Surname (Block Letters) WELLS

Christian Name DORRAN MARY

Coy. and Group/Unit C. COY. MANCHESTER GROUP A.T.S.

Date of Last Enrolment 16.2.45 \*Calling up for military service.    
 \*Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

(a) Trade on enlistment SHORTHAND TYPIST. (c) Service Trade R.A.A.C. CLERK C.I.

(b) Trade courses and trade tests passed CL III Clerk (d) Any other qualifications for civilian employment

Military Conduct: EXEMPLARY

Testimonial: A conscientious, neat, and very accurate worker.

Coy. and Group/Unit Overseas or United Kingdom Stamp

Place MANCHESTER Date 30.9.46

Signature of Officer [Signature] Signature of Auxiliary Member [Signature]

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

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

\* 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. 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 PROCCEEDED ON RELEASE LEAVE ON THE DATE SHOWN IN THE MILITARY DISPENSAL UNIT STAMP OPPOSITE N.B.—A certificate (A.F. X 2020/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.

RELEASE LEAVE EXPIRES ON 25 OCT 1946

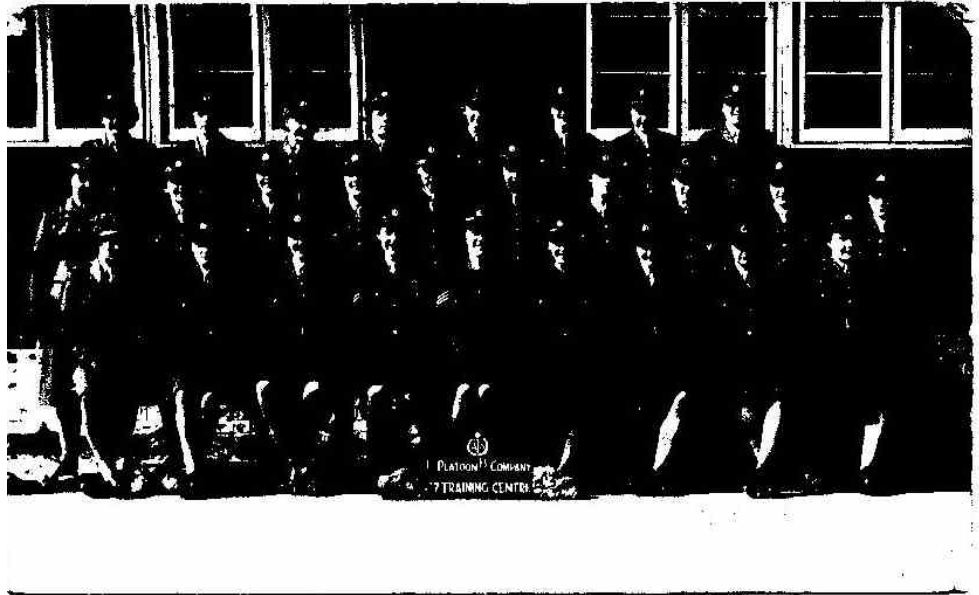
Military Dispensal Unit  
No. 5  
30 AUG 1946  
GUILDFORD  
DISPENSA-UNIT

**Memorable moments:**

- I volunteered early 1943. Training in Oswestry consisted of such things as plotting aircraft, telescopic identification of aircraft, identifying aircraft by their shape only, height taking. I was asked to go into GL but preferred the command post duties.
- We lived in huts, and as best I can remember there were about 25 or 30 girls in the room.
- As we were considered to be on duty around the clock, we were not required to participate in routine camp activities, ie fatigues, parades, inspections etc. In times of heavy enemy air activity we could conceivably be in the command post for many hours straight – but regular shifts plus taking post when action bells sounded. On one such occasion I actually fell down asleep running between the guns to the command post!! My partner dragged me up to complete the trip. I was always a very heavy sleeper, so when we went to new camps my 'friends' insisted that I take the bed right under the action bells – and even then they would often have to drag me out of bed, throw my clothes over my pyjamas and push me out of the door when the bells sounded – seems unusual to me now when I recall the noise of those things!!
- One thing I remember is that when I joined the battery it was located on the coast near Portsmouth, and upon my arrival the CO told me I would have to be prepared for noisy nights. A few days later there was action, and since I was not on call I was not awakened and didn't know anything about it until told in the morning due to the fact that I was such a heavy sleeper. When the same officer asked me how it felt to be so near heavy guns I told him that I hadn't heard them. His response was "Well you're the right person in the right place and should do all right." It was surprising that I managed to sleep in view of the noise and concussion of those heavy guns. It has occurred to me that living in London during the blitz may have made me immune to much of the noise of bombs and guns, that is, if one can become immune to such awful things!
- Fun memories of dances in the camp when not on pass to go out.

- Three members of our battery played regularly.
- Local camps were invited to send servicemen for the evening – naval personnel during our coastal stay; Canadian soldiers during our London stay.
- Spent out passes in London always holding our breath during air raids.
- Met good friends – many of which I still keeping touch with.

**Photos:**



ITC Guildford – March 1943  
Doreen Wells back row, far left



AA Training camp Oswestry – summer 1943  
Doreen Wells back row, fourth from right