

Surname: Hollands	First Name(s): Grace May	Army Number: W/184234	
Maiden name (if applicable): Wilson	Name used during service: Wilson	Rank: Private	
Main base: Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey	Training base: Guildford, Queens Camp	Enrolled at: Chatham, Kent	
Platoon/Section: 4 Platoon	Company/Battery: R.M.C. (Royal Military College)	Group/Regiment: A.T.S.	Command: Southern Command
Year(s) of service: 3 years 5 months	Reason for discharge: End of War	Trade: Clerk, Class 2	
Uniform Issued:	Photo:  June 1942		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Office Duties. • Typing reports for cadets, training etc. 		
Pay book:	Not available		
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was conscripted and was not happy at having to go as I was very happy at the time working for an Army Chaplain and his wife. It was a choice of the services or 		

	<p>a munitions factory, so I chose the services. When my call up papers came I had to report to Guildford, Queens Camp for training that lasted 3-4 weeks. I remember it was a very hot day when I reached the station at Guildford. There were a number of girls like me, wondering what our new life would be like.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were kept very busy, what with drills, lectures and medicals. It was really hilarious when we were fitted out with our uniforms. They had been in store and were very creased, the material was very warm for that time of year. We were also given undies, three of each garment, the panties we called 'passion killers'. We had khaki stockings which after a few washes turned a horrid shade of yellowy green. • We had to stand in line for injections; if you were last in the queue the needle was blunt. It wasn't changed all the time, only sterilised. We had vaccinations and jabs, we didn't know what half of them were for, but our arms were very stiff and sore for a week or more. • At the training centre whilst I was there, a film was made call "The Gentle Sex". The stars in the film took part in the square marching with us A.T.S. I remember it was in June and very hot. The stars invited us for tea break afterwards and gave us chocolate mini rolls. • After training we were sorted for postings. I did really want to do driving but they had too many, so they suggested clerical training. • After three years almost, they wanted volunteers for clerks and cooks overseas, but as there were not enough volunteers they conscripted them. So I went to France and Germany. I was stationed in Versailles, opposite the palace and we were with the American forces SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces. Our "Big Chief" was General Eisenhower. • When VE day came we were separated and I was sent to Germany (BTB) British Troops Berlin. All travel was free to forces so we were able to visit places of interest. • When war ended we were given our discharge dates and I was able to go home as my then fiancé was demobbed from the navy. I was sent back to London for demob and my service details sent from Germany. I had to return my kit to Guildford where I first started.
<p>Photos:</p>	