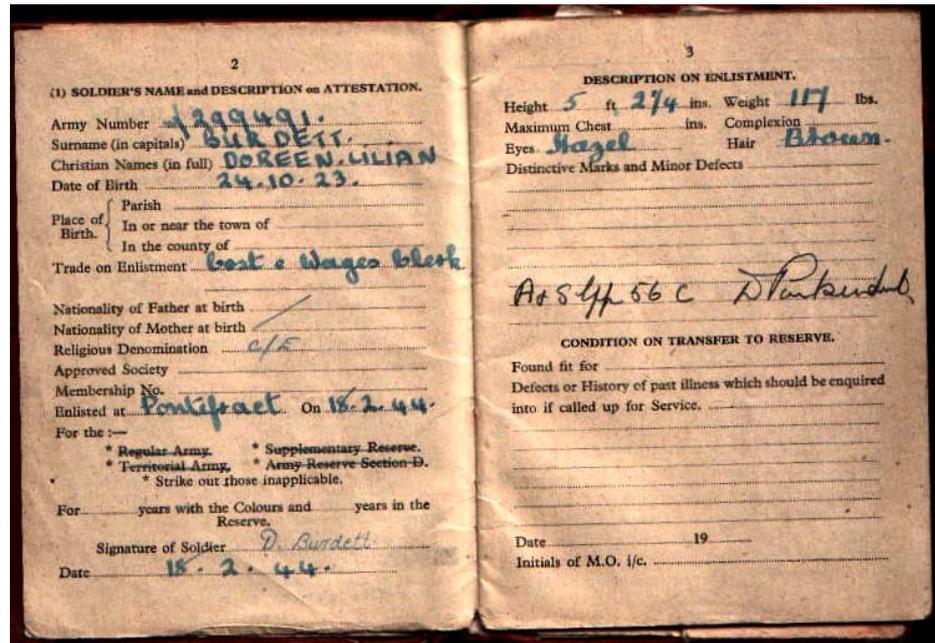


Surname: Hollis	First Name(s): Doreen Lilian	Army Number: W/299491	
Maiden name (if applicable): Burdett	Name used during service: Burdett	Rank: Sgt (Awarded B.E.M. 1/1/1947)	
Main base: Trawsfynydd Shrewsbury	Training base: Pontefract	Enrolled at: Volunteered - Derby	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: E Company No 4 Battery B Company	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery Welsh Border Group	Command: R.A.S.C. Command Supply Depot H.Q. Mid West District R.A.S.C.
Year(s) of service: 18/2/1944 to 23/3/1947	Reason for discharge: Demob	Trade: E.D. Clerk Class II	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Greatcoat, Ground sheet Tie Underwear Blouses Shoes Towels Pullover Housewife Shoe and button cleaning kit	Photo:  21 st Birthday 24/10/1944		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We worked 7 days a week which was hard going and later were all given a day off during the week. Every Wednesday morning we were on drill parade on the football ground. Other mornings there could be physical exercises or a cross country run. 		

Pay book:



Memorable moments:

- Before joining the A.T.S. I live on the Chevinside, a country area of Belper, Derbyshire. My parents had a greengrocery business and a small holding. My grandparents (mums) lived on the farm next to us so I was a country lass. In 1941 my parents gave up the business and we moved into a private house on the same road.
- I volunteered in December 1943. I was working for Ford and Westons Building Contractors of Derby as a Cost Ledger Clerk. I was tired of travelling 10 miles to work, first of all walking 1 mile to catch a bus. The hours were long as some nights we worked until 7.00 pm and Saturday mornings. During this time I was also studying Economics and Book Keeping 1 or 2 nights per week at Derby Technical College.
- I enlisted on 18 February 1944 to Pontefract Training. We were first of all issued with our kit, which as far as I can remember consisted of uniform, greatcoat, ground sheet, tie, underwear, blouses, shoes, towels, pullover, housewife (which was sewing kit). Also shoe and button cleaning kit. We had to have a medical and see the dentist. Most of our time was spent marching physical exercises, and what I hated the most, going in the gas chamber. We had already been issued with gas masks. What I also remember, is how cold it was on the barrack square and in the huts where we slept, 36 at a time in bunks. Our nights were spent pressing uniforms and shining shoes and buttons. We were too tired to do anything but visit the NAAFI and one or two visits into Pontefract.
- We were all interviewed and asked what profession we wished to take and what work experiences we had. I chose to be a G.D. Clerk.
- At the end of 4 weeks we were anxious to know our posting and what a shock mine was, the next morning I was off on a long train journey on my own. To Trawsfynydd in North Wales. This was a R.A. Practice Camp part way up a mountain, I was to be attached to the R.A.S.C. Command Supply Depot. My itinery was as follows ---

Depart Monkhill – 0809 hrs
Arrive Leeds – 0842 hrs
Depart Leeds – 0918 hrs
Arrive Manchester – 1039 hrs
Depart Manchester – 1133 hrs
Arrive Chester – 1249 hrs
Depart Chester – 1315 hrs
Arrive Ruabon – 1407 hrs
Depart Ruabon – 1429 hrs
Arrive Bala – 1545 hrs
Depart Bala – 1735 hrs
Arrive Trawsfynydd – 1825 hrs

It was now very dark and the small stations in Wales were only lit by the Station Masters Lamp. I thought I was in a Foreign land. And very frightened. He said that the Camp usually sent a truck down to collect people only there was not to be anyone tonight. No-one knew anything about me, but they did eventually send a truck. I was very tired and hungry as the rations I was given had long gone. What an adventure for a 19 year old girl.

- There were just 32 girls on the camp and only 2 of us worked for the R.A.S.C. I did various jobs, typing and learning to work out Indents for rations. There was very little to do at nights although there were trucks to take us to the nearest towns. Very little to do there only the Pictures. Odd nights there was entertainment in Camp, and dances. It was lovely weather that summer and I loved all the countryside, everyone was very friendly, the only nuisance was the firing of 25 pounder guns all day. There were different Army units there every week. I wonder if anyone remembers Tin Town, there was a little café in a tin hut and a few houses very close by and we could get egg and chips.
- Whilst I was there, a couple of weeks before D Day American Troops began to arrive and sleep under canvas in the valley, their numbers grew every day until it was just like a white cloud, some of them were allowed into the village at the odd dance, it was obvious why they were there. 3 days before D Day we got up one morning and not a sign of a tent, everything gone. I wonder how many of them made it home.
- After this the R.A. began to close down the camp and their girls were posted away, this left just 2 of us at the R.A.S.C. and we had to go. I was posted to Central Supply Accounts, R.A.S.C. Mid West District, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury on 6th September 1944.
- The previous 2 months the R.A.S.C. had decided to centralize the Depot Accounting for Mid West District which included North Wales. This was fully operational when I joined them as a G.D. Class 3 Clerk. We girls were billeted in a large house in Swan Hill Court, just the R.A.S.C. girls lived there. Some of us had to live in Nissen huts in the garden. We had to walk to work, and back again for lunch. My first job was to check NAAFI bills, the lowliest job in the office, as I was the least experienced. The other jobs were done by men and women from the other depots who were experienced. I was later happy to learn that I had to cover for all the different jobs by moving round. We worked 7 days a week which was hard going and later were all given a day off during the week. Every Wednesday morning we were on drill parade on Gay Meadows, the football ground. Other mornings there could be physical exercises or a cross country run. We certainly kept fit.
- Work was very exacting as we had the ledgers to balance every day, they were ration commodities issued to Army and Airforce units in our district plus oil, petrol etc. We were quickly promoted through the ranks as we had a very responsible

job. I was very pleased one day when an Officer came and tapped me on the shoulder and pointed to the Chief Clerk's desk and said 'you will be there one day', and I was, although not under the same Officer. During this time we were moved a couple of times to Whitehall and back for our billets. Whitehall was 2 large private houses which was about the same distance from work. Several times the river Severn overflowed and made it difficult. Large army vehicles were used to ferry us.

- In our spare time there were several picture houses, which had good films, there were dances in town, although our favourite pleasure was dancing at The Maltings, an Army Barracks, which had been a Brewery. There was also Copthorne Barracks on Friday nights. Odd times we were invited to places outside Shrewsbury to concerts and dances.
- As the war progressed people were getting demobbed and they were replaced by new recruits who all wanted teaching, which made things difficult. It was sad because for a long time we had been such a happy lot. We made some special friends. I was promoted and had to deal with this, plus the fact we had a new Officer in charge. He was a very nice man but totally out of his depth as he had never dealt with Accounts. He was Capt Andy Jarvis. Just before I was demobbed the R.A.S.C. decide to disband the Central Office and take it back to the Depots. I wrote all the appropriate literature to do this. Unknown to me this same Officer recommended me for the B.E.M. and it was a great surprise on January 1st 1947 when I received a telegram from General Horrocks of Western Command. It was posted to me later on, a disappointment that I couldn't go and receive it from the King.
- I was so happy all the time I was in the A.T.S. made some great friends and also met my future husband whilst I was at Shrewsbury, he had just served nearly 5 years in India with the West Yorks.

Photos:



Tel. No. Shrewsbury 4092. Ext. 112.

File No. CA/58.

SUBJECT:- New Years (1947) Honours List.

**Officer Commanding,
R.A.S.C.
Mid West District.**

7th August 46.

Reference CRWC 6/20.62/MS dated 20 July 46.

W/299491 ~~Acting Sergeant.~~

BURDETT. DORRIS LILIAN.

Auxiliary Territorial Service.

It is desired to recommend the above named N.C.O. for the B.E.M. for the following reasons:-

Sgt. Burdett has been employed in Central Supply Accounts since June 1944. She has continuously performed duties of ranks higher than those held by her, and has for long periods carried out the duties normally performed by two clerks. She has consistently worked long hours to ensure that the work of the office in general has kept up to date. In addition she has instructed all the present staff in their duties whilst still carrying on with her own work, which was never allowed to fall in arrears, regardless of the amount of additional work she was called upon to perform.

All queries and specially difficult questions, whatever the nature are invariably referred to Sgt. Burdett, and it is not too much to say that for the last two years this N.C.O. has answered practically every question put to Central Supply Accounts.

Shrewsbury.

**A.H.B. JARVIS, LIEUT. C.M.I.
Officer I.C. Central Supply Accounts.
R.A.S.C.**