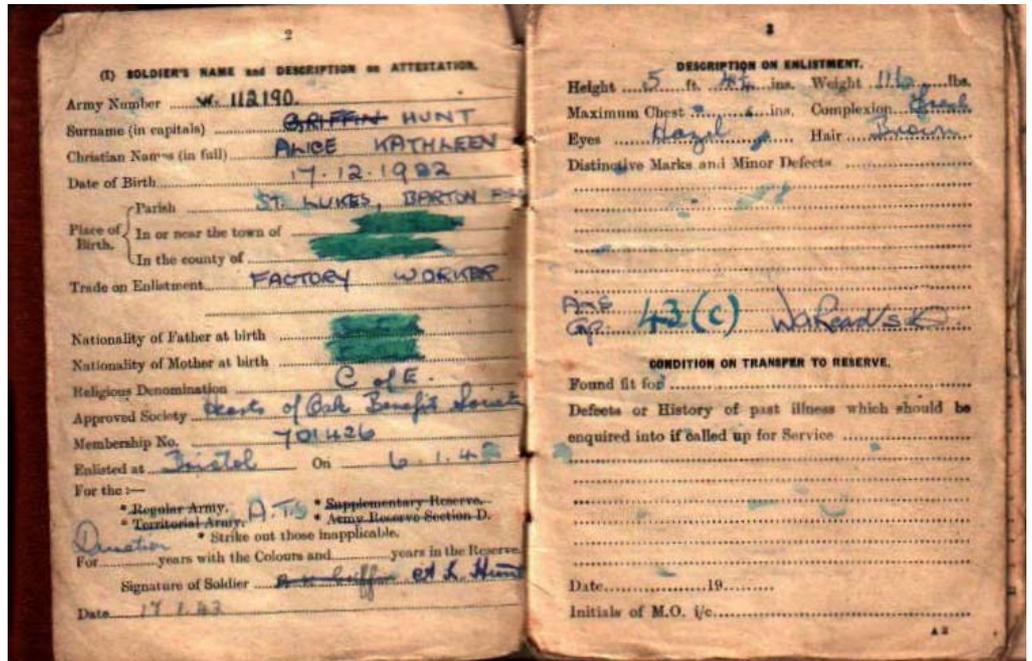


Surname: Hunt	First Name(s): Alice Kathleen	Army Number: W/112190	
Maiden name (if applicable): Griffin	Name used during service: Hunt / Griffin	Rank: L/Cpl	
Main base: Various (see below)	Training base: Honiton, Devon (16 January 1942 for 6 weeks)	Enrolled at: Volunteered in Bristol 17 December 1941 Enlisted 6 January 1942	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery:	Group/Regiment: ATS Signals	Command: Southern
Year(s) of service: 6/1/1942 to August 1946	Reason for discharge: Gave notice to leave following end of war	Trade: Teleprinter Operator Operator Keyboard Line	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Shirt Tie Soft Cap Battledress trousers to wear on evening shifts Field cap privately purchased Wore Southern Command shoulder badge (blue/white with stars)	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift work every day including weekends and bank holidays. 3 teams worked 8-2 2-8 and all night. • Teleprinters received messages constantly whilst at HQ and these messages were then sent out either to other teleprinters in attached regiments or other Sub Areas or by telephone or despatch rider, some of whom were ATS. • Most of the signals were orders and during a particularly busy period many of them came through with the name Overlord on them. These signals particularly were in code and had to go through the cipher office before they could be issued. • PP marked on a message meant it had to go out immediately. One particularly dark night a message arrived noted PP. A despatch rider was called and even though we told him that there was no-one to read the message at the other end 		

until the next morning, he insisted on getting the signal out straight away. Unfortunately, in the blackout, he met with a fatal accident.

Pay book:



Memorable moments:

- Volunteered on my 19th birthday when recruiters visited the firm I was working for in December 1941. My mother was horrified and insisted they wouldn't take me but my father, being an army veteran himself, was quietly proud of what I had done. I was quite happy – volunteers could leave after one month if they didn't get on with army life.
- During basic training we undertook an aptitude test – my friend Daphne and I finished the test quickly and passed with good results. We were both asked to go to radar on leaving basic training, but neither of us wanted to do that. Daphne wanted to go back to the pay corps where she had worked before she joined the ATS and I wanted to do clerical work.
- After basic training I was posted to St Agnes in Cornwall 11 February 1942 and Daphne was allowed to go back to her pay corps job. St Agnes was an AckAck Camp but I was posted to the office there.
- I was only in St Agnes for a few days and was moved to Orchardleigh House, Frome on 17 February 1942.

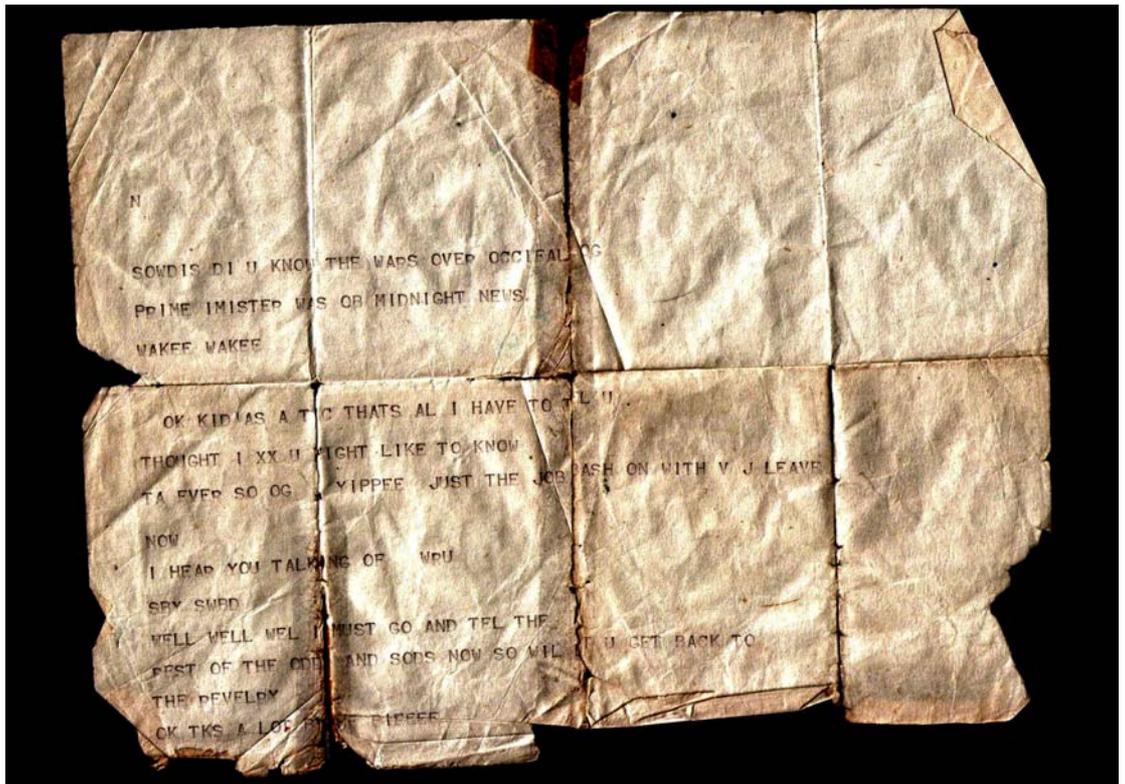


- During my time at Salisbury, an ATS member came rushing in one day to report that a naked soldier was wandering the grounds. When asked how she knew he was a soldier if he had no clothes on, the ATS girl said "He was wearing a hat!"
- On leave one day I accidentally scalded myself on the thigh with hot water I was boiling for a wash. My mother helped me bind my wound and I made my way back to Orchardleigh with my heavy suitcase. The drive up to the house was about 2 miles long and I was just trying to work out how I was going to walk that far with my problem leg, when a despatch rider drove up and offered to give me a lift. He could obviously see I was having trouble as no-one was allowed to ride pillion on the despatch bikes. However, I could not even face getting on the back of the bike, so he took my suitcase up the drive and I made my way slowly up to the house. The walk obviously did not do me much good, as I spent the next week in bed trying to get my wound to heal.
- Orchardleigh is where I met my husband. We went back to visit a few years ago and had our picture taken on the style in the grounds. This was the last picture taken of us together and it seemed very appropriate that it was at the spot where we met.
- On 30 October 1942 I moved to 3rd Command Signal Company, Wilton House, Salisbury. I was soon moved on again to Bicester Ordnance Dept on 21 December 1942, in Huts Tobruk and Rostov.
- Many of the ATS girls suffered from lack of heating in their huts but, because the Signals girls had to work shifts, their heating was kept going all day.
- One night duty at Bicester we found that the Teleprinters were not connected. We snuggled down and slept the night away, but were afraid to wash ourselves in the morning in case we didn't look tired enough.
- ATS Signals were not expected to drill but I did decide to be clever one day on parade and turned my nice thick khaki stockings inside out. This was noticed straight away and I was torn off a strip!
- Next I moved to St Marys Hill House, Reading, Berks from where I started up a new office at Inniscarra on 24/4/43, moving on to Rodney House, still in Reading on 17 June 1943.
- July 1943 found me in Taunton at Courtlands and on 16 July 1943 (only 4 days later) I found myself at Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset Sub Area. Whilst at Burnham I celebrated my 21st birthday – my colleagues fetched me dinner from the Officer's Mess which was quite a treat.
- On 21 June 1944 I worked at the Grand Parade Hotel in Plymouth, underground, but on 15 July 1944 I moved to Taunton, working first of all at Lyngford House and then at Pyreland Hall. Another 4 days and I found myself at the Bristol Sub

District (Sneyd Park) moving back to Taunton on 23 October of the same year to the ATS Signals HQ.

- I continued to move around:
 - Movement control Shirehampton, Bristol 3/11/1944
 - Bristol Sub Area 3/12/1944
 - Movement Control Shirehampton 14/12/1944
 - Taunton 6/1/1945
 - Bridgwater Ordnance Dept 9/3/1945
 - Exeter 15/3/1945 (Fairpark House) Record Office
 - Alderbury Salisbury took OKL course 6/5/1945. Whilst at Salisbury I was taken with a group of girls to a dance – it turned out that there were 4,000 men and 200 women there – my feet hardly touched the floor all evening!
 - Taunton 16/6/1945
 - Sherford Camp Demob unit for men 6/7/1945
 - Taunton 29/7/1945
 - Exeter (civvy billets) worked at infantry records office 12/12/1945
 - Salisbury en-route to Guildford for demob August 1946

Photos:



Signal from another operator confirming the end of the war.