

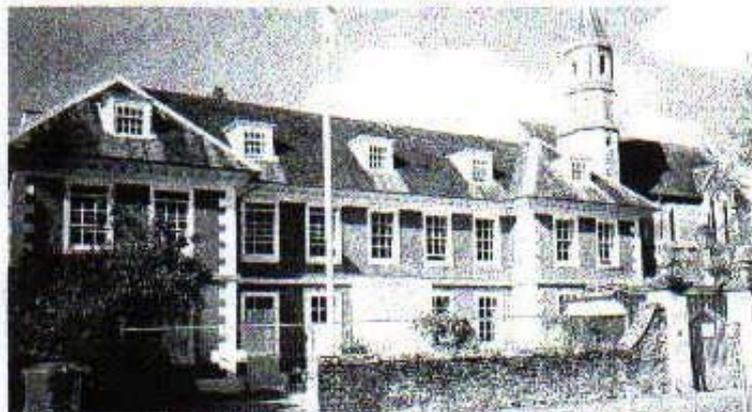
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|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Surname: Mitchell | First Name(s): Betty Anne | Army Number: W/42300 | |
| Maiden name (if applicable): Ellis | Name used during service: Ellis / Mitchell | Rank: Sergeant | |
| Main base: Salisbury | Training base: Aldermaston | Enrolled at: Reading | |
| Platoon/Section: Pay Office | Company/Battery: 6 th Glos Clerical Company | Group/Regiment: | Command: Southern |
| Year(s) of service: 1940 to 1942 | Reason for discharge: Compassionate | Trade: Clerical | |
| Uniform Issued: S.D. Stockings Shoes Shirts Ties Undies (including Khaki bloomers! – from neck to knee) Field Cap Badges: Forage cap, Southern Command Flash | Photo:  | | |
| <p>Volunteer Betty Ellis (later Sgt Mitchell) soon after enlisting in 1940 after Dunkirk</p> | | | |

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| Description of daily tasks: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing and verifying bills for payment incurred in Southern Command • 7.00 – 8.30 Reveille, Breakfast. Tidy Barrack Room, Parade at Rear of Building. • 8.30 – 9.00 Inspection, March to Command Pay Office • 9.00 – 5.30 Clerical Work (big rush on after Dunkirk with men being rebadged, retrained and re-equipped) • 6.00 Supper, then free. In by 10.00 pm – 2 passes to 10.30 and one to 11.00 pm allowed per week. • Pay parade each Friday. |
| Pay book: | <p style="text-align: center;">AB64, Parts 1 and 2 (not presently available)</p> |
| Memorable moments: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally all girls in the 6th Gloucester Clerical Company came from Gloucestershire, but with the rapid expansion of the ATS in 1940, girls were recruited from all over the U.K. • During the war the 6th Gloucester Clerical Company ATS lived at the Salisbury and Wells Theological College, now Sarum College in the Close, Salisbury, but worked in different offices at HQ Southern Command. • When I arrived at Salisbury in the summer of 1940 there were no spare rooms, so 13 of us had to be housed in the lecture hall. I slept in the middle of the stage with a blackboard and easel behind my bed! • I worked in the Command Pay Office and every morning we marched out through St Anne's Gate to Barnard's Cross to work. • Square bashing took place on the quiet roads within the Close and the Close Gate was locked at dusk with the Close Constable having to unlock it for the many girls returning to college barracks. It must have been quite a culture shock for the other residents of the Close to have over 400 girls in their midst, but a great experience for us. • Pay 9s 2d per week. 2d retained for Barrack damages. Pay rose to 19s 6d per week as Sergeant. • In April 1941 the King came to inspect the Pioneer Corps and the Queen the Sixth Glos Clerical Corps of the A.T.S. in the forecourt of Wilton House, then the Southern Command HQ. The King arrived on time and inspected the Pioneer Corps which was then dismissed, but unfortunately the Queen was delayed for one and a half hours. We waited at ease in the pouring rain but still looked smart and the Queen seemed pleased with the way we were turned out. I stood opposite her, the tallest girl on parade (see picture below). Our serious expressions may be in honour of her visit or they may have been because we were VERY wet! • I had a sheltered upbringing, but loved the company, uniform and drill and the freedom and independence of the ATS. I learnt discipline and management and loved rubbing shoulders with all and sundry. My ATS service played an important part in later life. |

Photos:



April 1941 – Parade of over 400 ATS at Wilton House HQ Southern Command



Salisbury and Wells Theological College (now Sarum College)



This building at Salisbury is now privately owned, but in 1940 it was the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess