

<b>Surname:</b> Mortimer	<b>First Name(s):</b> Eileen Lily (Mickey)	<b>Army Number:</b> W/145777	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Ward	<b>Name used during service:</b> Ward	<b>Rank:</b> Private	
<b>Main base:</b> Grosvenor Square, London	<b>Training base:</b> Honiton, S. Devon	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Barnstaple, N. Devon	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b> M Company	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> No 2 London District	<b>Command:</b>
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 24/3/1942 to 27/2/1946	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> End of Hostilities	<b>Trade:</b> Clerk Group C, Class I	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> See description below	<b>Photo:</b>  <p style="text-align: center;">Eileen Ward ATS – 1942/43</p>		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the maintenance of soldiers pay records mainly by extractions from Part II orders relating to promotions, relegations, F.G.C.M. results, dependants allowances etc.</li> </ul>		

**Pay book:**

The image shows an open military enlistment form. The left page is titled '(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION OR ATTESTATION' and contains the following handwritten information: Army Number W/145777, Surname (in capitals) WARD, Christian Names (in full) EILEEN WY, Date of Birth 9-2-22, Trade on Enlistment At Home, Enlisted at Barnstaple On 24-3-42. The right page is titled 'DESCRIPTION ON ENLISTMENT' and contains: Height 5 ft 3 ins, Weight 130 lbs, Maximum Chest 34 ins, Complexion Fair, Eyes Blue, Hair Dark Brown. The bottom of the right page is titled 'CONDITION ON TRANSFER TO RESERVE' and contains: Found fit for AF 3149 Res, Date 26/2.19.46.

**Memorable moments:**

- After passing a medical exam at the Foresters Hall in Barnstaple on March 24<sup>th</sup> 1942, my friend Iris Brown and I were called up for service in the A.T.S. We were told to report to a training camp at Honiton in South Devon.
- Huts accommodating 20 girls, plus a corporal in charge, had to be kept spotlessly clean and were inspected daily. The first two days involved more medical and dental checks and inoculations followed by lining up in the Stores to be issued with uniforms. We had a lot of fun parading around like models on a cat walk before being called to order. We staggered back to the hut with a 'tin hat' on our heads and almost collapsing carrying a heavy load consisting of groundsheet, greatcoat, three tunics, three skirts, three shirts, two pairs of shoes, cap, gloves and an assortment of pyjamas, and underwear including khaki knickers usually referred to a passion killers! Plus kit bag and canvas bag containing a gas mask. The six week basic training mainly consisted of drilling, marching and lectures on ABCA, aircraft recognition and army discipline. For one minor misdemeanour, Iris and I were put on a charge and given 7 days C.B. with kitchen duties. Wearing khaki overalls over our uniforms, we were set to work. I shall never forget scraping the layers of cold grey slime from the insides of the porridge cookers. Finally, we all received our postings and Iris and I set off for Portsmouth on a 6 week shorthand typing course.
- I had no problems with the shorthand, but fought a losing battle with that wretched typewriter, constantly jamming the keys. At the end of the course, we were posted to the Royal Army Pay corps at Failsworth near Oldham. There were no barracks available and I was billeted with a Mr and Mrs Butler at 152 Broadway who were exceedingly kind to me. Iris was billeted just along the road. The Pay Corps office was housed in an old dis-used mill alongside a canal – an immense dark, gloomy building. Whilst serving there, the C.O. called me in one day and gave me news of my brother's death in the Western desert – he was a tank driver – and I was given seven days compassionate leave.
- After other postings, I finally ended up in M Coy, No: 2 London District group based in Grosvenor Square in the heart of Mayfair! During the period before posting to London, Iris had married and subsequently expecting an infant, was discharged from the Service. Sadly, her husband Charles was killed on D day and never saw his daughter Tina; born three months later. The R.A.P.C. offices were

in the City and every morning we caught the tube from Marble Arch to Liverpool Street – the fare was threepence. Sometimes, before going to our desks we would have to fall in to columns of three in the road outside for half-an-hour's P.E. Imagine doing that in today's traffic! Church parades to the Guards Chapel were on a rota as there were many units stationed in the vicinity. On June 18<sup>th</sup> 1944, we fell in on the road outside No 7 Grosvenor Square – then our H.Q., but now a block of flats – only to be told that the Guards chapel had been double booked and we were dismissed. Later that day the C.O. informed us that the chapel had had a direct hit from a rocket during morning service. My two special friends at this time were Lesley and Frances – if you are still vertical, hello!

- Apart for the nuisance of V1 and VII rockets we thoroughly enjoyed our life off-duty. One of our favourite ports of call was the Stage Door Canteen in Piccadilly and I was passionately fond of dancing. V.E. day was completely unforgettable. No kind of celebration can ever again reach that height of euphoria.

**Photos:**



Iris Brown, Charles Gualdi, Eileen Ward  
1942/43 at the wedding of Iris and Charles

A.F. X 2020

RELEASE LEAVE CERTIFICATE

Army No. 47145777 Present Rank Private

Surname (Block Letters) WARD

Christian Name(s) William Lily

Coy. and Group/Unit M. Coy. No. 2 LG Group A.T.S.

Date of Last Enrolment 04.3.42 \* Calling up for military service

(a) Trade on enlistment None \* Striker out wherever is inapplicable

(b) Trade scores and trade tests passed RAPC CLK. Gp. C.

(c) RAPO CLK. Gp. C. C.I.

(d) Any other qualifications for civilian employment

Military Conduct: Very Good

Testimonial:

*Excellent clerk intelligent & keen quickly  
his work has always been accurate and speedy  
of a cheerful disposition popular with  
fellows working out standing personality who should  
make a success of any undertaking in which he is  
engaged*

Place 56 Green Street Date 1/1/43

Signature of Officer Thomas Lee King

Signature of Auxiliary Member Charles Ed.

\* Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below)

(a) Type of course (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

(b) Length

(c) Total hours of instruction

(d) Record of achievement

\* 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 found on application to G. (c) Records, accompanied by the applicant's A.R.64, Part I.

(2) If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

THE ABOVE-NAMED PROCEEDED ON RELEASE LEAVE ON THE DATE SHOWN IN THE MILITARY DISPENSAL UNIT STAMP OPPOSITE.

N.B.—A certificate (A.F. X 202/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.I.V. members, will be issued by the Officer in Charge O.L. All personnel released are liable to recall if necessary during an outstanding period of the emergency.

Military Dispensal Unit Stamp  
MILITARY DISPENSAL UNIT STAMP  
8 FEBRUARY 1943

**PASS** VE DAY

REGT. M. Coy. No. 2 LG. A.T.S. (with unit or formation identification number or letter blanked out).

No. 47145777 Rank Private

Name WARD

has permission to be absent from his unit from 2400 hrs. 7.5.45. to 0200 hrs. 10.5.45.

\* William Lily M. Coy. No. 2 LG. A.T.S.

1. From London District

2. To London

3. Through London

4. Reporting Centre LONDON DIST. LONDON

5. Eire/N Ireland Destination

6. Nearest Hospital or Medical Unit

7. Ration Card Issued

8. For use of C.M.P.

9.

ARMY FORM B. 295  
(pads of 100)

D.O. "M" COMPANY,  
A.T.S. No. 3, LG. A.T.S.,  
LONDON DIST. LONDON

Valid only with A.B. 64

\* Items not applicable to be deleted and initialled by issuing officer vide leave manual 1943 and any subsequent amendments. (P.T.O.)