

Surname: Two	First Name(s): Dorothy M	Army Number: W/59529	
Maiden name (if applicable): Finlay	Name used during service: Finlay	Rank: Sgt	
Main base: Kempston Barracks	Training base: Kempston Barracks, Bedford Glen Parva, Leicester	Enrolled at: Cambridge (Volunteer)	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery:	Group/Regiment: R.A.M.C.	Command:
Year(s) of service: 1941 to January 1946	Reason for discharge: Demob as did not re-enlist in 1946	Trade: P.T. Instructor Switchboard Operator	
Uniform Issued: Greatcoat Jacket Skirt P.T. Kit Khaki Stockings Khaki Knickers Shirts Tie Shoes Forage cap Gas mask (which at first we had to carry with us everywhere). Later issued with side cap and shoulder bag.	Photo:  Dorothy Two at 19 years		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I took 2 classes for P.T. in the morning, one at the Barracks and one at Grange Camp. • The afternoons and evenings, I was on the switchboard. As Anne and I were the only two in there we worked our off duty hours between us. We never did fatigues. • At night we would have a fry up – whatever I could scrounge from the cookhouse – our favourite was fried onions. We had to open the windows those nights • Before going to bed we had to switch the alarm bell on the board. 		
Pay book:	Not available		

Memorable moments:

- I joined up from Cambridge in 1941. I think it was January, but I wasn't 18 until December, but I didn't declare that.
- I was posted to Kempston Barracks, Bedford to do my training and when that was done I went to Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester to train as a P.T. instructor.
- After our initial training we had to fill in a form to say what job we could do. I said driver or P.T. Instructor. Hence my departure to Glen Parva. As we had no P.T. Instructor at Kempston I was reposted there.
- When I returned to Kempston I took P.T. In between lessons I ran the switchboard with my friend Anne. We stayed friends for over 60 years.
- There were two or three American bases around Bedford and when they had dances they would send a lorry to pick us girls up. There were sweets and cigarettes on the tables round the hall and we were told to help ourselves. We all had a good time and were safely returned by midnight.
- Before going to bed we had to switch the alarm bell on the board. One night I forgot to do this and at 6.00 am next morning a very irate Police Sergeant told me he had been ringing for 5 hours to speak to the Officer Commanding. I begged him not to report me and he did not. I never forgot again.
- I was in private billets to start with but as the influx of girls increased we all had to move into barracks. Anne and I had a large room at Grange Camp which was a little further up the road, that housed recovering sick soldiers. We had two beds in there and the switchboard, as the phone had to be manned 24 hours a day.
- The Salvation Army ran a canteen in one of the Nissen huts at the Barracks and you could not move in there the day they had a sweet and chocolate delivery.
- A few months before the end of the war I was posted to an army base on Lord Lilford's estate at Oundle Northants. It was originally as American hospital (Nissen huts) and was taken over by the English to house returning PoWs from Germany.
- I thoroughly enjoyed army life.

Photos:



1941

Dorothy Two with a hockey stick – just finished a game and made it to the photo call.
No time to change!



Dorothy Two at 17 on P.T. course, Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester
Second row back, third from right