

Surname: West	First Name(s): Doreen Mary	Army Number: W/242400	
Maiden name (if applicable): Myall	Name used during service: Myall	Rank: Private	
Main base: Greenford Donnington	Training base: Northampton, No 1 ATS Training Centre	Enrolled at: Southend	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery:	Group/Regiment: R.O.A.C.	Command:
Year(s) of service: 22/12/1942 to July 1946	Reason for discharge: End of WW2 De-mobbed	Trade: Clerk	
Uniform Issued:	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 		

Pay book:

Memorable moments:

- I was posted in February to the RAOC (Royal Army Ordnance Corp) camp and depot at Greenford Middlesex. The camp was a short distance from the depot and we had to march to work each day. The camp itself was quite nice, we were in Nissan huts, I suppose about twenty girls to a hut. They were cold in the winter months, there being a coke stove in the middle of the hut. The depot was originally a factory owned by Heinz 57 Varieties, before the Government took it over. There were army and civilian personnel working there, the buildings were all numbered, some were offices and some warehouses. I worked in 409, which was an office. Major Bush and RSM Dumbleton were over the army personnel and Mr Melhuish supervised the civilians. We were all a friendly crowd and worked well together. Our main job was to issue stores to various places in Europe, India, Burma and Africa and to make sure that everything was available in the warehouses; it was interesting work.
- Two civilians I remember were Mr Doughty and Jimmy Peach. Mr Doughty lived at Greenford with his son and daughter-in-law; he always seemed to have a supply of peppermints. I was invited to tea at his home one Sunday with a friend and we were made very welcome.
- We had all our meals at the cookhouse in the depot; on the whole they were not at all bad. Sometimes when we were on night work and there were air raids. The air raid shelters were concrete, above ground and not very comfortable. Being near to Northolt aerodrome, we were a target for the Germans. They did bomb the airfield and on one occasion dropped a land mine on one of our warehouses. It was quite frightening; there were casualties, but not anyone that I knew.
- I had another leave in April 1945 and was then posted to Donnington Shropshire Section 92 E Company ATS Camp. Audrey Hale, who was also at Greenford, came too, along with other girls from the depot. The camp at Donnington was mainly a men's camp and we were crowded into Nissan Huts with very little room but later we were transferred to a new housing estate. This was luxury, there were orderlies to keep the houses clean and we only had to worry about our own personal things. I worked in an office on an industrial site the army had taken over and once again there were civilians too and I made many friends. We were about eight girls to a house and we were all good friends, Irene, Audrey, Dorothy, May,

Doris, Joyce, Rene and myself. Whilst posted here at Donnington I attended a Housewifery course, I enjoyed this very much; we were shown how to do everything in the home from window cleaning, polishing, washing-up, cooking; everything you would have to do in your home. We finished the course by cooking a meal. I passed and did get a certificate but cannot find it now. I did get to meet Billy Wright, who played football for Wolverhampton Wanderers; his desk was in front of mine; he later married Joy out of the Beverly Sisters. I could only get home on a long leave as my army pay was 26/- (£1.30) and it would have taken all that for my fare. So on weekends Audrey and I went to Wellington, Shrewsbury or Derby and stayed in YWCA. Audrey had two maiden aunts who lived in Birmingham and we had a weekend with them, which was very nice, on the Sunday we went to Church in the Bull Ring.

- In December 1945 when my boyfriend Charlie came home from Burma, I borrowed Dorothy Stapleton's engagement ring and pretended I was engaged, in order to get twenty-eight days compassionate leave.
- I enjoyed my ATS days and still write to some of my friends.

Photos:



ATS Greenford

Back row – Joan Ridley Eileen, Irene, Louise Bedford Doreen Myall



Doreen Myall and her sister-in-law to be, Ivy Mallet