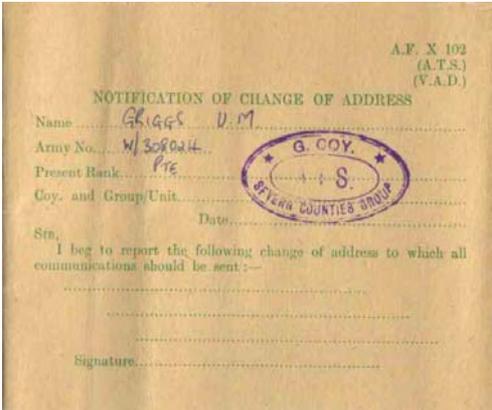


Surname: Woodie	First Name(s): Ursula	Army Number: W/308024	
Maiden name (if applicable): Griggs	Name used during service: Griggs	Rank: Private	
Main base: Douglas, IOM Knutsford, Cheshire	Training base: Yorkshire	Enrolled at:	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: G Coy	Group/Regiment: Severn Counties Group	Command: Western Command
Year(s) of service: Oct 1944 to August 1947	Reason for discharge: Demob	Trade: Clerk	
Uniform Issued: Peaked cap Skirt Underwear Shirts Stockings Shoulder bag Gloves Greatcoat	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Office – typing for the Adjutant. • Filing – helped in Pay Office after going to a course in Chester. 		
Pay book:	Not available. 		

A.T.S. document

Memorable moments:

- I volunteered for the A.T.S. at the age of 18. I had training in Yorkshire – a wet parade ground with an RSM shouting orders and marching us up and down for hours. We all hated him but he got what he wanted and a smart, in step bunch of women.
- Then I went to Douglas I.O.M. which previously was a lovely resort town before being taken over by the army and RAF. I was an office clerk for an O.C.T.U. (Officer Cadet Training Unit). Further up in the bay was an RAF camp and every night TAPS would be played – a sad, mournful sound I've never forgotten. After duty we would run across the road to the beach and take a swim. One day we were marched to the dock where the King and Queen came to inspect us. We didn't even know they were on the island. I have a picture of them somewhere in my treasures.
- One day coming back from the mainland in a small ferry boat we saw a huge black thing in the water of the North Sea. We were told it was a land mine gone astray so we stopped and waited for it to pass us. It gave us quite a scare.
- From the I.O.M. I was posted to No 2 C.R.U. – a civil resettlement unit where our P.O.W.s were helped back to civilian life, physically and mentally. This was a large camp in Knutsford, Cheshire made up of many Quonset huts housing male living quarters, offices and telephone exchange and Sgts mess. Knutsford was a small country community and we often visited a delightful little pub a mile or so away from camp. The women were housed in a large manor house called Peover Hall which was used before we were there, by General Patton and service men from the U.S.A. In the back of the manor there was a small private church for the family. There was a small lake with boats we were allowed to use, also tennis courts. Early one morning about 4 am someone came to wake a cook and found a fire in the library. It was a scary moment but went to the stables and waited till it was put out. Hundreds of books were lost plus our reading room
- On a lower level was a large room with a huge fireplace. That became our Rec room with a pool table and the NAAFI (Navy Army Air force Institute) was there too.
- Down the road from our camp was a P.O.W. camp and the prisoners were brought in to be maintenance men. We weren't allowed to speak to them but we found out they were mostly from countries overrun by the Germans and captured by English and American forces when they liberated Germany.
- This was my last camp before going to Crewe to be demobbed. I was still a private, not having completed 3 years service. I enjoyed my time in the A.T.S. and saw quite a bit of England and made lots of friends – one who was a medic on the I.O.M. and incidentally was a Manx girl – she and I are still friends and she has visited me twice – she lives in S. Australia now.

Photos:



Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU)
Douglas, Isle of Man

Photo taken across from our billets and offices. Hotels taken over by Army and Air force



No 2 CRU (Civil Resettlement Unit)
Knutsford, Cheshire, England

Our billets were in a big mansion taken over by the Army. Before we were there General Patton and men were there. A U.S.A. flag was left there by him in the small chapel.