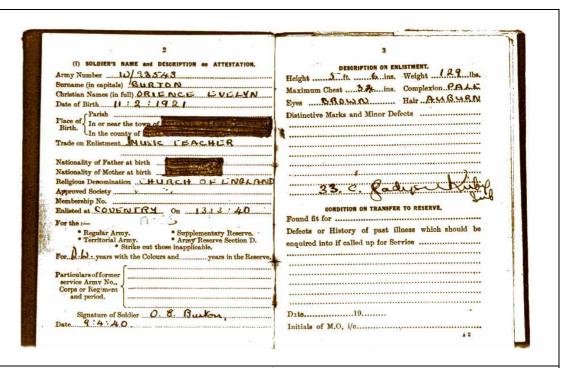
Surname:	First Name(s):		Army Number:	
Burton	Orience Evelyn		W/33543	
Maiden name (if applicable):	Name used during service: Burton		Rank:	
- FF			Corporal	
Main base:	Training base:		Enrolled at:	
Margate Weston-super- Mare Warwick	Aldermaston		Volunteer – Coventry 13/03/1940	
London				
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery:	Group/Re	egiment:	Command:
GHQ 2 nd Echelon	GHQ, B.E.F.	ATS		
Year(s) of	Reason for discharge:		Trade:	
service: 13/3/1940 to 10/1/1946	Demobilised		RO Clerk Group 'C' Class 1	
Uniform Issued:	Photo:			
Jackets Shoes Cap Panties, woollen Gloves, knitted Greatcoat Jersey, woollen Shoes, canvas Stockings Skirts Vests, woollen Pyjamas Knickers silk Brassieres Belts, corset Shirts poplin Collars, poplin Gas mask Tie Kit bag				

Orderly N.C.O.
Take parade every morning (in Warwick).
Polish cap badge and buttons and shoes.
Carry gas mask as part of the uniform.

Description of daily tasks:

Pay book:



Memorable moments:

- The day I will never forget is Sunday 3rd September 1939. As a family we all stood very silently very close together in the doorway of the dining room to listen to the wireless at 11 am when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain stated that "War was declared with Germany" and with very sad hearts and faces we looked at each other in horror. I was preparing for a musical career and already had three jobs to commence that week. Everything in the entertainment world closed down immediately for a long time. Like many other people my career was upset.
- My brother was a Cadet at the time in the CID. Before joining the RAF he was one of two Officers to collect Hess in Scotland and take him to the Tower of London. After 72 operations in the RAF he was killed in action.
- I joined the ATS in March 1940 and trained in Aldermaston, Berkshire.
- I was posted to GHQ 2nd Echelon with the BEF, Queens Highcliffe Hotel, Margate, Kent where we had to produce a Pass to access the building.
- I was employed in the Orderly Room of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and Royal Ulster Rifles with a view to following them over to France had we kept a foothold. Instead there was the evacuation of Dunkirk. The job entailed keeping a record of everything to do with a soldier's army service on his B103.
- Two Officer German spies tried to enter our building and orders were that we walked about in threes, until they were captured.
- May 1940 we were evacuated to Weston-super-Mare travelling overnight by train and taking turns in sleeping on the luggage racks.
- We were billeted in boarding houses in the town and the Winter Gardens were commandeered for Offices.
- About a week later we moved into the Grand Atlantic Hotel where we utilized the ballroom. Three days after the move the first bombing of Bristol took place overnight and a bomb meant for our Offices landed directly opposite on the beach. We were not at all popular in the town for various reasons but I think the main reason was that the local people did not expect the war would reach them.
- We were dealing with all the casualties caused by the evacuation of Dunkirk and worked long hours. The ATS girls together with their respective Orderly Room Sergeant of each Regiment in France were recording the whereabouts of each soldier. It was an extremely sad operation with so many lives lost. One girl was in tears because she lost every single man in her battalion. I can still feel the

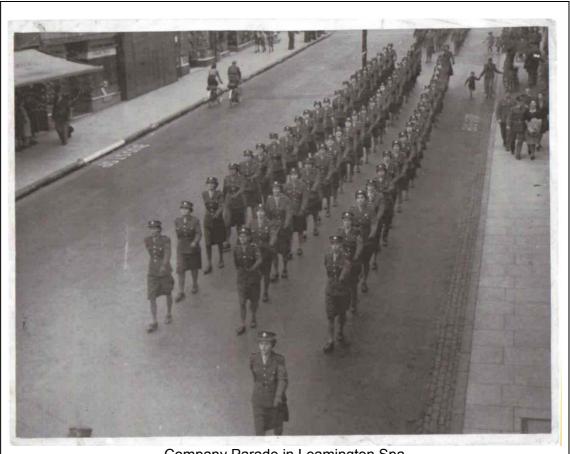
- intenseness of horror of what we were about to record.
- Later, I think about August time, after this duty was complete we were told to put our names down under the nearest Record Office to our homes. The Government thought it would not be long before we would be recalled to GHQ 2nd Echelon and open a second front.
- I was attached to the Record Office in St Johns Warwick. I was employed as a statistician where I recorded information received from the Orderly Rooms of the Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment and later I moved to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Each soldier was represented by a card it recorded every detail of a soldier's army life ie personal details, rank, theatre of operation, trade, admission to hospital etc. At the end of each month a Return was completed showing the numbers of men in their locations whether they were at home, in training, on the high seas, theatre of operation hospital etc. This return was consolidated with other regiments within the compound and forwarded to the War Office so that they knew how many men were in the theatre of operations etc.
- I took sick parade each morning with the MO and dispensed medicines. Still retaining my job, I occasionally was in charge of the Sick Bay in Royal Leamington Spa.
- There was a patient named Larna Turner who confided in me. She said that she
 put her age down in order to join the ATS because she had no one to look after
 her in her old age and did not wish to be alone. She died and I attended the
 Military funeral.
- As an NCO I had other duties to perform such as night duty on the switchboard in the office and night duties in the Billets.
- I was in Warwick when a bomb was dropped very close to our house which turned out to be a dud. The Germans were on their way to Coventry. We lived on the main road to the south and the following morning a friend who lived in Coventry came to the door. I went to the road and was horrified at what I saw. My friend and her family with a car and a caravan were completely dazed and refused any help, I have no idea as to what happened to them. There were refugees walking along the road for further than I could see some with shoes, some without shoes, some in night clothes and others in anything they could pick up. They had walked 8 miles at that point. Worse was to come when they reached the river bridge not far from us when some of them committed suicide. There was utter silence.
- I went to Coventry that morning to find that it was heap of rubble as far as one could see except for the three towers of the cathedral. A new department store provided an air raid shelter in their basement where 700 people took shelter, it had a direct hit.
- My parents' home housed 11 billettees mostly policemen and army personnel. My father was fetched away from the work he was doing and put on war work. We each went our own way and lived day to day. Through the church Mother accepted 2 each of Australian, Canadian and New Zealand airmen when they were on leave.
- There was an occasion when I was in the Stores and Orderly Room for a short period. Having had experience in the Regimental Orderly Room, life in the ATS Orderly Room seemed very tame. The stores entailed a variety of things, shoes, uniforms etc visiting billets and camps. An army lorry from Budbrooke Barracks R. Warks. Regt. and two soldiers collected me for various jobs some of which had its funny side, ie when we were driving along we were leaving a trail of mattresses lying in the road. They had slipped off but the soldier in the back of the lorry could not save them. Coal had to be measured in the billets and camps this was done by eyeing up the remaining pile. Another time I furnished Alveston Manor, Stratford-upon-Avon for the ATS to inhabit, it is now an hotel.
- During my service as a statistician we had to record on to a Hollerith card as well,

- which was passed to another office to be tested on what we now know as a computer. The machine could not be used until it had been tested for reliability.
- As a musician and independently of my service I accompanied an ATS girl who
 was a trained opera singer, played solos and accompanied artists in Workers
 Playtime in factories and from my pre-ATS days gathered together a dance band
 to play for a company of soldiers.
- Basil Dean visited my home asking me to join ENSA (Entertainment National Service Association) but the ATS Officers would not release me because in their opinion I was doing a more important job where I was. Unfortunately, ENSA was not formed for a long time after war was declared otherwise this is where I should have been.
- 1944/45 I was posted to RAMC Barons Court, London, opposite St Paul's School
 where General Montgomery was planning the second front. We were billeted in
 Gloucester Road near the Albert Hall. Here my duties were to prepare the
 administration for the return of the prisoners of war for leave or rehabilitation or
 hospitalisation.
- Early in 1945 my sister Olive Mary Goode nee Burton was posted to GHQ 2nd Echelon in Florence, Italy in time for the last big push.
- I was demobbed on 10 January 1946 in Guildford.
- There was a job to do and we got on with it. There were sad as well as happy times but one tends to think of the happy ones. We enjoyed ourselves as much as was possible.

Photos:



Flight/Sgt Douglas Burton, RAF (brother killed in action 1944) Orience Burton Olive Burton



Company Parade in Leamington Spa