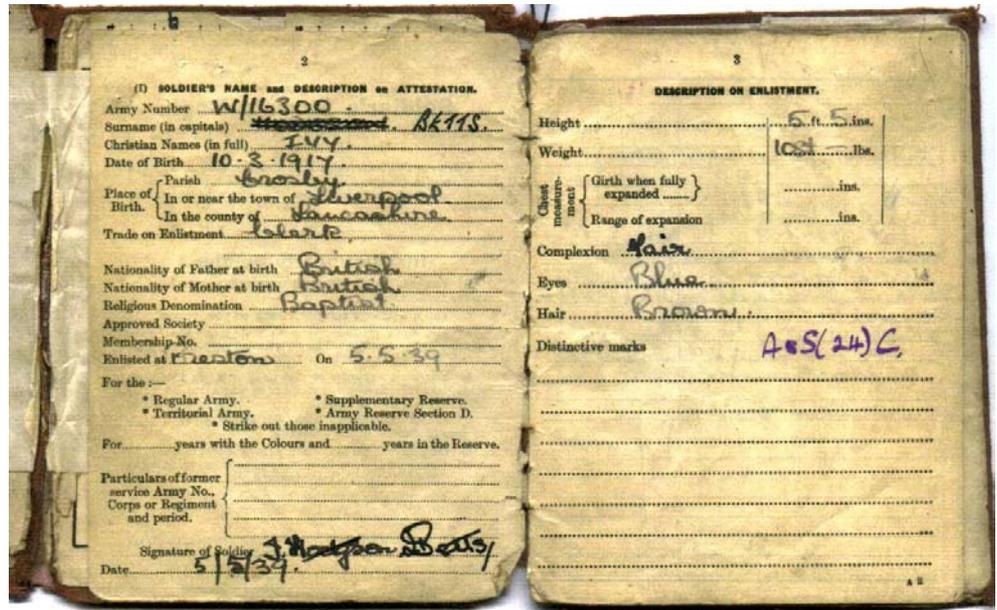


Surname: Betts	First Name(s): Ivy	Army Number: W/16300	
Maiden name (if applicable): Hodgson	Name used during service: Hodgson / Betts	Rank: R.S.M.	
Main base: Lytham Manchester Preston Skipton Liverpool	Training base: Joined too early for basic training	Enrolled at: Preston	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 53 rd A.A. Brigade H.Q. 4 th A.A. Divisional H.Q.	Group/Regiment:	Command:
Year(s) of service: 28/4/1939 to 20/6/1945	Reason for discharge: Released	Trade: Shorthand Typist	
Uniform Issued: (List of items issued)	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Give details of the sorts of things you would do in a day. Include details of shifts, when you did PT, when you did fatigues and what sort of thing you had to do. What tasks did your trade involve.) • • With 53rd A.A. Brigade H.Q. I was one of the S/Typists to the male officers. Having 3 stripes I was also put in charge of the female personnel. • With 4th A.A. Divisional H.Q. I was in charge of A.T.S. stores, parades, discipline etc • In Liverpool I used to visit Liverpool Docks checking the accommodation for 		

A.T.S., Queen Alexander Nurses etc. on board ships taking them abroad, also meeting those returning for various and sorting out their discharge etc.

Pay book:



Memorable moments:

- Volunteered to join the A.T.S (with two friends) – met Lady Meadon at Lytham St Annes and enrolled 28.4.39
- Reported to Fulwood Barracks, Preston and enlisted 5.5.39. War declared 8.9.39 and was called up 11.9.39.
- Before the War experienced camp life with male unit in Manorbier, Wales. Slept in Bell tents + earwigs etc. on straw palliasses, the weather was so atrocious that the male-quartermaster Sgt. Issued Rum to us females (for warmth). Washing facilities, W.C.s etc were shielded by canvas walls. I helped to organise female personnel and was given the rank of acting Section-Leader in 3rd West Lands A.T.S.
- First posting was to Lytham where I was taught Drill instruction etc. The next move was to 53rd A.A. Brigade H.Q. and was one of the S/Typists to the male officers. Having 3 stripes I was also put in charge of the female personnel – this was at Alkrington Hall near Manchester. This city suffered terrific bombing, buildings disappeared, air-raid shelters collapsed beneath and people were crushed to death, one of the many jobs I had was to see that the A.T.S. personnel were safely installed in our Army shelters, we also had to wear the Army issued respirators.
- I was posted to 4th A.A. Divisional H.Q. at Cuerdon Hall, Preston i/c of A.T.S. stores, parades, discipline etc (A.T.S. of course) A number of A.T.S. Officers were stationed here, some quite pretty! – although there was discipline, rank didn't stop the comradeship that existed – we all helped each other.
- After a short period at Skipton, Broughton Hall (Lady V. Tempest Home, partly taken over by the Army) and going on a Course I became a C.S.M. moved back to the 4th A.A. Divisional H.Q. and became an R.S.M. when I was finally posted to Liverpool one of my jobs being, with a special pass, visiting Liverpool Docks checking the accommodation for A.T.S., Queens Alexander Nurses etc. on board ships taking them abroad, also meeting those returning for various reasons (some who were pregnant) and sorting out their discharge etc.
- In 1943 I married S/Sgt Betts before he was posted to Egypt – he was away just on 3 years. By 1945, as he was returning, I asked to be released and was

discharged 20.6.45.

- Experiences were many – camping, Manchester bombings, going through various gases (a special chamber) filling bags to protect buildings, being rationed, contact and learning to cope with difficult girls, having to swim in a small lake with 3 others before we could use the rowing boat on the lake, being locked in the bathroom and climbing out of the window, along Broughton Hall roof, down through a window into the typists room, that was hilarious, taking part in mixed football and other outdoor sports, shortage of cosmetics etc.
- The comradeship was wonderful, everyone seemed to pull together – I made many lifelong friends.

Photos:



Ivy Betts 1st left, back row

A.F. X 202/C

RELEASE LEAVE CERTIFICATE

Army No. W/16300 Present Rank W. O. I.

Surname (Block Letters) BETTS

Christian Name/s John

Coy. and Group/Unit E Coy, Infantry School Group, A.T.S.

Date of Last enlistment 11-9-39 *Calling up for military service

(a) Trade on enlistment Shorthand Typist (c) Service Trade

(b) Trade courses and trade tests passed

(d) Any other qualifications for civilian employment

Military Conduct

Testimonial: Example

This man as an officer has given excellent service, and is reliable and conscientious in every way.

Place Liverpool Date 20/6/45

Signature of Officer John Baker Sub

Signature of Auxiliary Member Betts

* Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below) —
 * This Section will not be filed in until receipt of further War Office Instructions.

(a) Type of course. (b) Length. (c) Total hours of instruction. (d) Record of achievement.

(i)*
 (ii)*
 (iii)*
 (iv)*

* 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 had on application to O. I/O Records, accompanied by the applicant's A.B.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 DISPERSAL 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.D. members, will be issued by the Officer in Charge O.I.O. All personnel released are liable to recall if necessary during continuing period of the emergency.

Military Dispersal Unit
 No. 7
 20 JUN 1945
 BUNTON ROAD, LIVERPOOL

Release book

No. H 9030

NOT TRANSFERABLE.

Available only on the date indicated.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.

ADMIT

R. J. Mc. Betts (A.T.S.)

to the Dock Estate (excluding the reserved portion of the Princes Landing Stage, ~~Customs Baggage Examining Rooms~~, Princes Parade, Riverside Station, and Oil Installations, Dingle), on

15 Feb / 15 July 1945

R. J. HODGES, General Manager and Secretary
 Person in Charge of Protected Place.

Issued by A. J. Marshall

Signature of Holder Betts

SECURITY CONTROL OFFICE

This Pass must be shown, on demand, to Naval or Military Authorities, Police and Board's Officials, and must be handed to the Police on expiry. (For conditions see back)

Docks pass