

Surname: Chilton	First Name(s): Dorothy	Army Number: W/44143	
Maiden name (if applicable): Moore	Name used during service: Moore / Chilton	Rank: Volunteer Lance Corporal Corporal Cadet Subaltern	
Main base: Lancaster	Training base: Ripley, Lancaster, Western Command	Enrolled at: Liverpool	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: ATS Company	Group/Regiment:	Command: Western
Year(s) of service: 29/08/1940 to August 1943	Reason for discharge: Pregnancy	Trade: Clerk	
Uniform Issued: 1 cap 1 jacket 1 skirt 1 pair shoes 1 greatcoat 2 pairs stockings 1 pair khaki gloves 2 vests 2 pants	Photo:  1940 on Morecambe Promenade		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initially I was a filing clerk and general clerk in HQ Company writing up details of new recruits in longhand and often interviewing them. At ATS Reception Depot, Lancaster, we did not have P.E. but we paraded regularly under the orders and tuition of Sergeant Major Marjorie Last who was commissioned in 1942 and posted to Squires Gate Camp. A Junior Officer Mary Stott and I produced concerts in the small theatre on the site. She and I played popular songs of the time on two pianos. I had been trained for the stage and tap-danced at the concerts. We practiced parading most days and appeared on a number of newsreels of the time (shown in cinemas). The Princess Royal, Princess Mary; Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Head of the ATS were two visitors who inspected us. Daily tasks; clerical work, air raid precautions, fire watching. 		

<p>Pay book:</p>	<p>Not available – surrendered at OCTU – Edinburgh 1941</p>
<p>Memorable moments:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I really enjoyed my time at Ripley – much more than when I was commissioned. The Commanding Officer of the ATS Reception Depot was the Honourable Mrs Kemp and the Adjutant was Miss Bryony Johnson. I believe we had the only bugler in the ATS at that time – Sergeant Quarm. She blew the last post, reveille and cookhouse calls. She was good. • Early in 1941 my father told me that my only sibling, my brother, Bill who had joined the Territorial Army in 1938 had been killed. My father had given his permission for my brother to go overseas as he was only 19. He had been sent to Africa and later to Greece. When the evacuation from Greece took place my brother boarded a ship in the port of Athens and a bomb was dropped down a funnel. Survivors were picked up and taken to Crete. He was not one of them. My mother was heart-broken and died after an operation for gallstones in 1943. • My first posting was to the men’s OCTU at Heysham Towers in Morecambe. The Company Commander was Berthe Tansley-Witt. We joined with the male officers for dances, a choral society and concerts. In the production of Priestley’s play “Laburnum Grove” I took the part of Elsie. We did not have many air raids. I don’t think the port at Heysham was of great importance. Liverpool was usually the target. • I used to go to the Tivoli Theatre at Morecombe, and was introduced to Thora Hird who was in the repertory company there. • At Carlisle Transit Camp the ATS commanding officer was Joan Godolphin. Many of the convoys were driven by women. When they arrived exhausted some had to be lifted out of their vehicles. My father, who used to drive on the same route, said that he preferred overtaking women convoys as <u>they</u> kept regular spaces between their vehicles. • At Squires Gate Camp I.T.U. the ATS Company Commander was Emily Tyrrell. It was there that I met Lieut Cecil William Chilton whom I married on 31 October 1942. I had a platoon in Blackpool. The girls did domestic jobs generally – looking after the billets, pay clerks and cooks at Squires Gate. We had many girls who came for short periods between postings. We were housed in the holiday chalets which were very cold in winter, our Sergeant Major (whose name I cannot recall) had been a serving WAAC in the First World War and was stationed on the Somme. She had several mementos from British and German Soldiers at that time. We were really in awe of her! • After my marriage I was posted to the Pay Office in Preston for about three months. I spent my entire time signing documents. • My final posting was to the Eastern Command ATS Reception Depot at Queen Ethelburga’s School, Harrogate. I spent most of my time giving talks to the new recruits – mainly on rules and regulations. • I was discharged in August 1943 when I became pregnant with my first child, Penelope.

Photos:



Ripley in September 1940
Dorothy Moore far left, back row



1941

The flash on my shoulder was red and showed I was in the HQ Company of the Western Command Reception Depot in Lancaster until I went to OCTU in Edinburgh



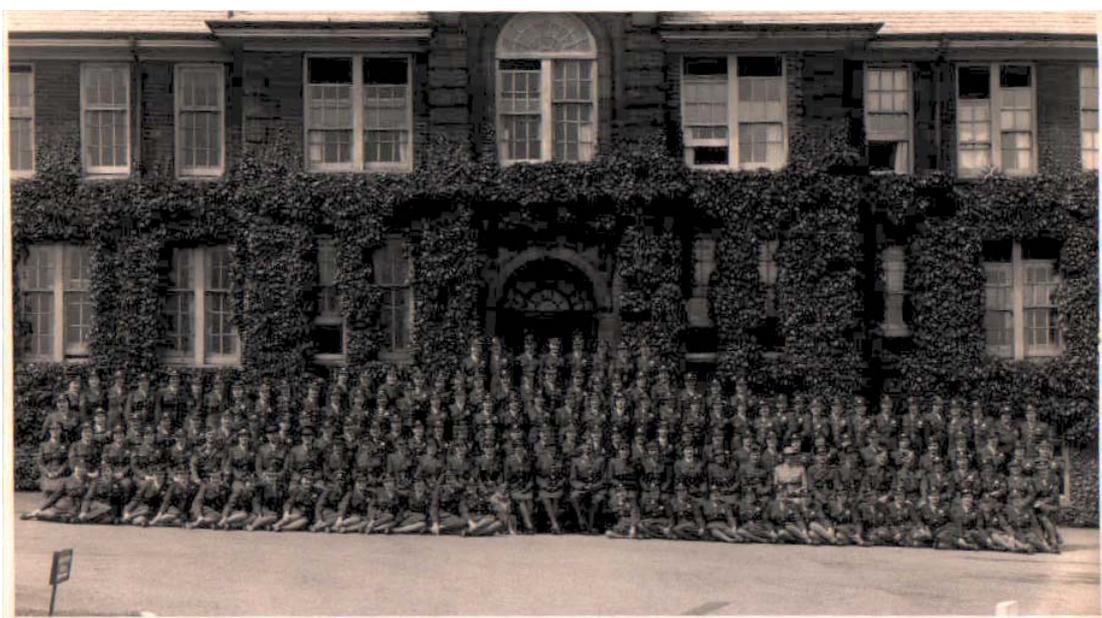
1941 – First promotion to LCpl



Self-portrait –OCTU Craigmillars,
Edinburgh 1941



Spring 1942



Officers and permanent staff at Queen Ethelburga's School Harrogate, 1943