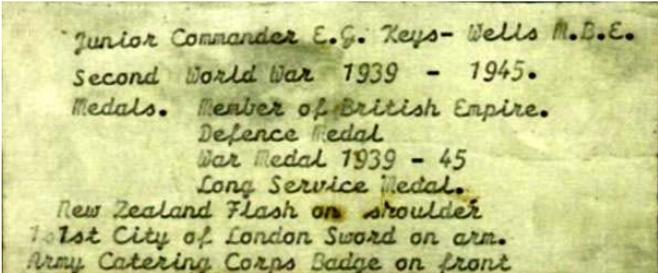


Surname: Keys-Wells	First Name(s): Ethel Grace	Army Number: W/	
Maiden name (if applicable): Keys-Wells	Name used during service: Keys-Wells	Rank: Junior Commander (Captain)	
Main base:	Training base: St Omar Barracks, Aldershot	Enrolled at:	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 1 st City of London	Group/Regiment: A.T.S.	Command:
Year(s) of service: 1939 to 1946	Reason for discharge: End of war and to join a Catering Company	Trade: Catering Corps	
Uniform Issued: Service Dress etc	Photo: 		
			

Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up Field Kitchens and have food ready at any time, day or night for troop movements. • Train staff for these purposes.
Pay book:	Not available.
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethel Keys-Wells was born in New Zealand in 1907 and stayed there until 1933 when she returned to England. Her parents had gone to New Zealand from Malvern before she was born. She enlisted on the day that war was declared and joined the 1st City of London Company ATS. • She attended an OCTU at Sandhurst and after commissioning was attached to the Army Catering Corps as one of the first members and certainly the first female officer with the Corps. • She was employed at the Army Catering Corps Training Centre, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot as an Instructional Officer from August 1940 until October 1946, when she resigned to take up a partnership with a Hotel Company. During this time, under the direction of Liet Col E. H. Atkins, Chief Instructor at the Centre she was Officer i/c of A.T.S. Students who received training in cooking and catering subjects. She supervised the training of Potential Instructors, ATS Specialist Messing Officers as well as potential tradeswomen cooks. • Jnr Commander Wells also played a large part in the general social activities for both Officers and Other Ranks and received the MBE (military Division) for her services to the Forces in 1946. • Her reference from her commanding officer stated that she carried out her duties to his entire satisfaction – she had a strong sense of duty and loyalty and a strong personality. He noted that whatever she tackled she was determined to make it successful. • In 1990 she attended the ACC Jubilee celebrations, she was the oldest survivor of the original founders, but sadly died on 25 May 1993, aged 86 years.
Photos:	<p style="text-align: center;">First Staff at A.C.C. Training Centre. 1940.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">E.G.Keys-Wells back row 4th. from left.</p>



Army Catering Corps Training Centre October 1943



Jnr Commander Keys-Wells showing the Princess Royal a Field Kitchen



*1st City of London
Sword . Presented by
the Lord Mayor to
the first thousand
women who joined
within the City.*



Her Majesty Queen Mary on a visit to A.C.C. Training Centre.
J/Comd Keys-Wells in attendance 10/9/1941

Form completed posthumously by Ethel Keys-Wells' niece Mrs Bet Godfrey.
Information about Ethel Keys-Wells is held at the Cheviot Museum in North
Canterbury, New Zealand, together with her father's medals.