

Surname Lyons	First Name(s): Florence	Army Number: W/198810	
Maiden name (if applicable): Marshall	Name used during service: Florence Marshall	Rank: Lance Corporal. Private on leaving	
Main base: Various	Training base: Warrington	Enrolled at: Bolton, Lancs 1941	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 633(M) HAA Battery and 2 nd Echelon Egypt	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery Army Records	Command: A.A. Command 2 nd Echelon
Year(s) of service: 1941 to 1946	Reason for discharge: Returned from Egypt	Trade: Aircraft Spotter	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Duty: B.D. Boots Greatcoat Gaiters Oilskins and Steel Helmet Cold weather Top Coat (Teddy Bear coat – imitation fur)	Photo:  1944 Dumfries – getting ready for posting to Co Armagh, N. Ireland		

Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty rota command post • PE • Lectures • NAAFI Breaks • Staggered Meals • Hut duty • Practice and check instruments • As a spotter – 24 hour cover (shifts)
Pay book:	Not available - lost
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I joined at the age of 17 years and was trained as an aircraft spotter. I was posted to 633 (M) HAA Battery and remained with them until we were disbanded in 1945. • 633 Battery was a relief battery to allow other Batteries to go to Firing Camp. We moved on average every 12 days for many months. • Stationed at Dale in Pembrokeshire and watching all the boats assemble along the coast for 'D' day. I was on duty when they all moved out – it took hours and the Red Cross Ships went last. Very impressive. • Stationed in Ireland very different rules, especially going out. Many streets out of bounds in Belfast. • For a short time in Saltash, Cornwall 633 was on a decoy site. There was only a skeleton number of men left, the rest had been sent to other theatres of war. We had wooden guns and the radar was unmanned • Worked as a clerk to the R.S.M. of an ordnance depot in Melton Mowbray when many of the A.A. Batteries were disbanded. • Posted to Egypt in 1945, I was sent first to Abbassia, worked in Cairo 7.30 am to 1.30 pm. Then when the Egyptian Army took over our garrison, under canvas at the Bitter Lakes near Ismailia. • Some of my spare time was spent playing cricket with the ATS Egypt team and most of our games were played at the Alemain Club, Cairo. I must say we were never short of spectators – mostly male! I suspect they really came to laugh at us expecting, perhaps, that we would bowl underhand – silly boys. <div data-bbox="443 1438 1228 1930" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="555 1937 1117 2027" style="text-align: center;"> ATS Cricket Team 1945-1946 Skipper Capt R Eccles (bottom row centre) Florence Lyons – bottom row extreme right </p>

Photos:



Gladys and me – Abbasia Barracks, Egypt – 1946



Egypt 1945 – “Mad Dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun” – Very true



This is where I spent some of my leave – Alexandria Egypt 1946