

boarded a small ship called the "Andes"... sailing with a large convoy on March 3rd/44....the trip across the Atlantic took fourteen days as we zig-zagged back and forth to avoid the German U-boats."

Disembarking I Liverpool, they were taken by lorry to Farnborough, where Billy worked in the Postal Corps.

"Twenty girls were selected to go to Normandy with Montgomery's 21st Army group....I will never forget climbing up the huge cargo nets, carrying our full packs as we boarded the small ship that took us across the English Channel....we landed in Normandy on July 28th, 1944...the devastation on the beaches and the buildings close to the beach was a terrible sight to behold...I must say that we were pretty nervous."

The women were moved inland by lorries in a large convoy. This was quite an experience for twenty girls with hundreds of men. *"You can imagine all of the jeers and cat-calls when we had our 'pit stops'....we arrived at an old apple orchard in France, where tents were erected, and this was to be our home and workplace for a couple of months....we soon lost our modesty, as the latrines and showers were all outdoors...Showers consisted of empty 50 gallon drums with perforated bottoms and placed on a platforms....one girl would be under the shower, while two others held up towels to provide some privacy..another girl ran back and forth to the pump to get water and dump it into the drum...Boy! was that water cold!"*

Assigned to the Postal tracing section, Billy and her co-workers were responsible for getting letters and parcels from home to the front line troops. *"Mail from home was a real morale booster for our boys.....we sorted mail to the various regiments...in the tracing section, we had filing cards on every soldier (no computers then)....these cards were kept up to date with information about whether he had been transferred, wounded, taken prisoner or killed in action...if mail was returned to us we could take the appropriate action."*

In early September 1944, the Posties were once again on the move, this time up to Antwerp, Belgium. *"During this trip we once again saw how the towns and cities suffered so much destruction..in most areas nothing was left but the bombed out skeletons of homes and large buildings...the City of Caen, France, stands out in my mind..where large apartments and office buildings were nothing but rubble....during our trip we saw lines of refugees, with all that was left of their possessions, either carried on their backs or in baby carriages and wheelbarrows.....we were sickened when, after our meals, these poor people would fight over the scraps that we threw into the garbage."*

While in Antwerp, the Germans counter attacked in what became known as

the "Battle of the Bulge". Antwerp was a port city, and was of strategic