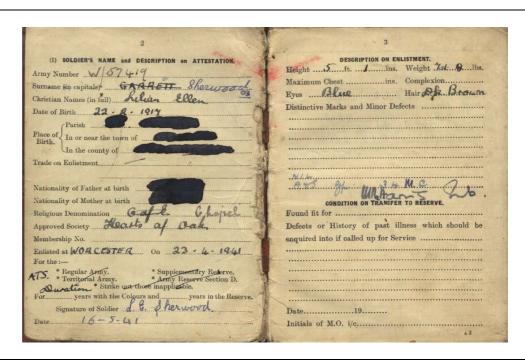
Surname:	Fi	First Name(s):		Army Number:					
Sherwood	Lili	ian Ellen		W/57419					
Maiden name	_	ame used during service:		Rank:					
(if applicable):	Ch	nerwood		Corporal					
Garbett	Sn	ierwood		Corporal					
Main base:	Tr	aining base:		Enrolled					
Stratford-on-	D <sub>C</sub>	agumarie Wales		at:					
Avon	De	eaumaris, Wales		Norton Barracks, Worcester					
Platoon/Section:		Company/Battery:	Group/Re	egiment: Command:					
		515 S/L Battery	D B Grou	n					
Year(s) of	Re	eason for discharge:		Trade:					
service:		Š							
16/5/1941 to				Plotter					
28/6/1945									
Uniform	Ph	noto:			_				
Issued:									
Stockings			10.3	12					
Cap		100	William .						
Brassieres									
Corset belt									
Gloves									
Jersey		7.000							
Jacket				5					
Shoes – brown Shoe – canvas				mass (mass)					
Skirt									
Knickers			f	11					
Panties									
Shirts									
Steel Helmet									
Description of	•	Whilst at Stratford-on-Avon	during the d	lay – telephonist.	during the night – plotting				
daily tasks:		searchlights, homing damaged aircraft and practising for being bombed at Biggin							
		Hill. Dover to Folkestone – plotting to our own guns. The area was known as Hell							
		Fire Corner. Planes were be			n guns. If they came in				
		low, it was impossible to get a plot on them.							
	•	<ul><li>Daily P T</li><li>Testing weather</li></ul>							
	-	Todalig Woulder							

## Pay book:



## Memorable moments:

- I was 22 years old when war broke out. I was an apprenticed tailoress living and working in Worcester. My husband-to-be was in the second intake. He completed his training and was sent to France in the British Expeditionary Force, escaping through Dunkirk. We decided to marry on 2 May, 1941, and then discovered I was to be called up on the same day. Luckily, I was able to postpone the induction for two weeks. My initial six-week training took place at Beaumaris in Wales. I was them posted to the 515 Search Light Battery in Stratford-on-Avon. We relieved the men of telephone and plotting duties so they could man the lights. I was stationed at Stratford for about two years, receiving three promotions form Lance Corporal to Corporal to Plotting Instructor.
- We lived very well in the manor house. Near the main building was an old malt house. The soldiers, who lived in nissan huts in the grounds, converted it to a canteen complete with murals. One private was a good pianist. He had a signature tune for each of us. Mine was "Lily of Laguna".
- We had some great friends. Mr and Mrs Keely had a small tea shop on the road between Alvechurch and Stratford. We called it home and were treated like their own daughters.
- During the first few months, my husband was stationed nearby in signals. His overseas posting was delayed by there being insufficient shipping available. Finally, he was posted to India, and then Burma.
- In 1943, when things were hotting up on the coast, the battery was sent down to cover the area between Folkstone and Dover. We had no operations room, and had to dig trenches for our own accomodation. We could see the Germans on the French Coast.
- We were then sent to Biggin Hill working with the RAF outside Bromley. We lived
  in an evacuated home with and air raid shelter in the garden and had some hairraising times. We commenced our duties by taking over in the middle of a raid.
- I was lucky in having a friend who was with me for the entire four years of my
  enlistment. Lance Corporal Edna Peak who came from Lowestoft. I am still in
  touch with her. We shared some good times an some harrowing ones too. Soon
  after the buzz bombs started, we were bombed out of our billets. Glass was all
  over our beds. Fortunately, we were on duty. We were then placed in the barracks

right on the aerodrome. The air raid shelter was right across the other side!
Barrage balloons were tethered at the base, but we were still bussed from billets, to meals to work because we were not allowed to stay near the operations room when off duty. Once the buzz bombs started, they came over constantly on their way to London.

- The Spitfire pilots used to perform a trick that I have had people refuse to believe. They would touch wings with the buzz bombs and send them off course.
- Eventually, we were bombed off the aerodrome and were sent to a former private school at Chislehurst. We made ourselves very comfortable, but not for long.
   Above-ground accommodation was not considered safe enough, so we slept in the Chislehurst caves after night duty. Our section belonged to the school and was relatively civilised. A larger section however was being used by civilians who had been bombed out of their homes in the Battle of Britain. They lived in squalor. Children were suffering from malnutrition. There were no shops in the area so the families had to wait for dad to come home with food.
- I have spoken to many Londoners since who were not even aware of the Chislehurst caves. They were damp and frighteningly dark when the lights were off. We begged to come out, and were eventually allowed back into the school.
- Then came the V2s. There were no counter-measures for these terrible weapons. There was no warning of their approach, just a massive explosion. To avoid panic, the authorities encouraged the fiction that they were gas main explosions.
- We still managed some pleasures. After a night on duty, instead of going straight back to our billets in the bus, we would walk back, calling at a truck stop where a dear man would cook us a lovely breakfast.
- On one occasion, we went to the pictures in the afternoon. We were due on duty, but walked out into a typical London pea-souper. We felt our way along the street, our task hampered by the lack of railings, which had gone to the war effort. By a stroke of luck, we ran into a fireman who was going the same way. It was a miracle we got to the "ops" room on time. Luckily, the fog had brought air activity to a halt, so we were saved.
- By this time, we were practising for what turned out to be D Day.- June 5, 1944.
   When it came, we were on duty and plotted one great mass of armaments moving across the Channel. Our excitement was tempered by orders that we must return directly to our billets in the bus and not speak to outsiders for 24 hours. By then, the news was out.
- As the invasion of Europe continued, the V1 and V2 sites were progressively captured. So our work was coming to an end. Things began to relax. The authorities let it be known that we had done our job and granted us extra leave and theatre tickets until our discharge time. My husband had returned from Burma with a tropical disease called sprue. He was lucky to have had bad weather at Portsmouth, and been disembarked at Glasgow where there was tropical diseases hospital. During his six-month stay, I was granted leave to visit him. I collapsed myself and was advised that four years of duty every third night had taken its toll.
- As a married woman, I was discharged in one of the first groups on 28 June, 1946 at Hereford.
- No-one in their right senses would wish for war, but my time in the army was the
  greatest experience of my life. It stood me in good stead for the challenges to
  come.



## W/57419 War Substantive Corporal Lilian Ellen SHERWOOD nee GARBETT Auxiliary Territorial Service

Enrolled into the Auxiliary Territorial Service	23.04.41
Embodied and joined	16.05.41
Posted to Auxiliary Territorial Service Wing, Infantry Training Centre	16.05.41
Posted to 'G' Company 11th Anti-Aircraft Command	11.06.41
Attached to 515/83 Searchlight Regiment for all purposes	12.06.41
Posted to 12th Warwickshire Platoon 'B' Company 11th Anti-Aircraft Group	13.06.41
Posted to 'D' Company, 11th Anti-Aircraft Group	29.03.42
Attached to 11th Anti-Aircraft Divisional School for all purposes	08.06.42
Ceased to be attached to 11th Anti-Aircrast Divisional School and attached to	
515/83 <sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery	01.07.42
Appointed Acting Lance Corporal	21.09.42
Posted to 'B' Company 54 Anti-Aircraft Brigade Group	01.10.42
Posted to 1/83 <sup>rd</sup> Searchlight Platoon 'D' Company 54 Anti-Aircraft Brigade	04.10.42
Appointed Lance Corporal	13.10.42
Promoted Acing Corporal	21.12.42
Granted rank of War Substantive Corporal	21.03.43 - FOUKSTONE
Attached to 'B' Company 27th Anti-Aircraft Group	21.03.43 - FOLKSTONE 07.06.43 BIGGIN HILL
Posted to 515/83rd Searchlight Battery Platoon, 'F' Company 27th Anti-Aircra	aft
Brigade ATS group	18.08.43
Posted to 'D' Company 27th Anti-Aircraft Brigade Group ATS	21.06.44
Redesignated to 'H' Company 71 Anti-Aircraft Brigade Group	19.01.45
Posted to 'C' Company 71st Anti-Aircraft Brigade Group	05.06.45
Proceeded to No.8 Dispersal Centre	28.06.45
Relegated to Unemployed List	24.08.45
Discharged:	01.04.54
Cause of discharge: Services no longer required on termination of Engagement	nt

Service with the Colours: 16.05.41 to 24.08.45

Military Conduct: Exemplary

Your Testimonial on discharge states the following:- A most conscientious and hardworking NCO who has been employed for a period of 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years on operational duties. Plotting and maintained the very high standard of speed, accuracy, mental agility and responsibility necessary throughout the period, although frequently working under direct enemy air attack.

Medals issued: Defence Medal

War Medal 1939/45

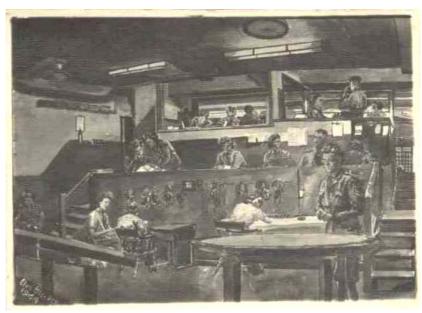
Photos:



Stratford-on-Avon 1943



Lily Sherwood second from left



Operations room - Biggin Hill

Watercolour painted by a friend. Lily Sherwood is seated in her normal position on the far left of "the podium". Leaning over her is her friend Edna Peak. Lily's duties were to relay information gained from the plotting room floor to the ten gun sites situated from Dover to Folkestone. Lily also posed as the plotter standing at the table in the right foreground. The raised booths at the rear were know as "the fishbowl". Army officers faced towards Lily's area, Airforce officers faced towards an identical plotting room on the other side of the booths.

	Army No. 14/57/4/9	Present Rank	LEASE LEAVE THEFTICA	TE	A.F. X 202/0
	Surname (Block Letters)				208 AUG 19
	Christian Name/s	V . 10	86-14		
	Coy. and Group/Unit	16 5 47	M. Kathana and Landary		
		* Sfrike out whichever		De at-	
	(a) Trade on enlistment	ulver	(c) Garage Tradel	lours.	
10	(o) armoe courses and trade tes	a passa	(d) Any qualific	ations for civillan employment	
	Military Conduct:	do			
	Testimonial:	April 12 years			
	Amad to a me	conferentions of	and hard worke		Coy, and Group/Unit
ha.	and tained the w	By high standay	d of speak, acc	theo, Plotter, and	Overseas or United Kingdom Stamp.
1.	reponsibility hece	esary Wenghow		Whough treough	DISPENSAL BALL
W	orking under o	liver enthy	an attack.	0.0	NO. 111 1945
200	Place	K	Date AT Jus	e 45°.	= 4800
		Si	gnature of Officer BAL H	acceler J. Com	MEREFOR
			gnature of Auxilla Member	0 0 0 00	OTT.
	* Army Education Record (inc	duding particulars under (a), (b),	(c) and (d) below);-	The state of the s	M.Wa.
	(a) Type of course.	* This Section will not (b) Length.	(c) Total hors of Instruc-		of achievement.
199	(i)* (ii)*			(u) mocura	or somerament.
	(iii)*				
	* Instructors will insert the	letter "I" here to indicate that	in their case the sound refers	to courses in which they have	atal as Tabasas
300		Signature of Unit Education (	Moer		and the restrictors.
100	NOTES: (1) Further details of	service and of medals to which			
		I. s lost or mislaid, no duplicate car		www. so or sto records, accompa	nica by san applicant's
	THE ABOVE-NAMED PRO	CEEDED ON RELEASE LE	AVE ON THE		MUU
	N.BA certificate (A.F. X 202	(D) showing the date of transfer t	a the Unampland	ECECTED 1	NO. 8
100		auxiliaries, and the termination bers, will be issued by the Officer	Ho Record Office	DOFFICE	L 28 JUNIBAR
	All personnel released continuing period of the	are liable to recall if neces	sary during the	M 107	HEDDON
			- Contraction	The state of the s	CHEFOR
					The second second