

<b>Surname:</b> Newbould	<b>First Name(s):</b> Emily	<b>Army Number:</b> W/85274	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b>	<b>Name used during service:</b> Newbould	<b>Rank:</b> Private (Gunner)	
<b>Main base:</b> With 513 Battery	<b>Training base:</b> Pontefract 7 <sup>th</sup> Heavy Oswestry	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Leeds	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b> B Section	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 513 (M) H.A.A. Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> 135 Regt	<b>Command:</b> Ack Ack Command
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 4 and three quarter years	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> End of engagement (relegated to the unemployed list)	<b>Trade:</b> Clerk Records Class III Operator Fire Control	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> S.D. B.D.	<b>Photo:</b> 		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On gunsite I operated height finder, predictor, all command post plotting jobs and gun direction, searchlight.</li> <li>• Office work was in the records office.</li> </ul>		
<b>Pay book:</b>	Not available		
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joining first training centre</li> <li>• In Heavy Ack Ack R.A. Oswestry, there was a regime of first parade. Marching, drill, respirator and instrument drills. Lectures on aircraft recognition, theory of the instruments, map reading, first aid, gunnery, P.T., fire drill and how to use heavy equipment. Our days were full. On site we marched every morning to the gun park, here we did maintenance of the instruments, cleaned them, ordered that they were ready for action and signed a book. Then we had fatigues, but action took priority over everything. We also fitted in, lectures, P.T. games and many practise sessions as complete unit.</li> </ul>		

- We always had first parade. The only ones not there were guards, spotters, cooks, officers and mess personnel. Action preceded everything.
- We played games of football, hockey, netball, softball, basket ball sometimes with the gunners.
- On evening pass, from two o'clock, cookhouse fatigues started and after concluding them usually after six pm we were then free to go to the nearest town. Had to be back in camp by nine thirty on a Saturday night.
- Our first take post was a Birtley Co Durham at night. The gun crews running up there were struggling to get their pants up if they dropped down. The girls running up there, had nightdresses which they were struggling to get into their trews so you won't be surprised to find we were very quickly issued with pyjamas.
- We fired at the enemy many times, only once were we not allowed. This was at Blyth when the German aircraft was extremely low we could see the men quite clearly without instruments. After a few bursts of machine gun fire he went on his merry way. It was afterwards explained to us, as we were all annoyed and bewildered at not giving him a go. We would have taken out the coastal guns in front of us on the coast and anything else in the way.
- We were also taught in 1942 to fire a rifle and the sten gun. Orders also came through all A.T.S. were to be evacuated in the event of an invasion. The rumour was they were trying to land on the northeast coast
- Later in the war, the new instruments were being used with Radar to try and beat the very fast V2 so we were on the instruments all night so had an extra hour in bed.
- I played the piano so was co-opted to play at our concerts which we held in the evening and also Church parades.
- V.E. day was spent at Goffs Oak, we went down to London but had to be back by six in case of any emergency, so we were allowed to go into the village where, as usual I ended up tinkling the ivories. I remember a crowd of us dancing in a line across the village green singing "When the lights go on Again" and "I'm going to get lit up when the lights go on in London". Back at camp we had a dance.
- My great friend and I always had long leave together on this occasion we arrived back to find one or two left in the barrack room and told not to unpack as we were to go to B.H.Q. at six thirty the next morning. The Battery was disbanded. Friends all gone. We had at the other site, kit to be handed in (boots and jerkins) then to the M.O. and to the station to Leicester, where I worked at R.A.O.C. Records. Sitting at a desk all day after a very physical life was to say the least, purgatory. Couldn't wait to get my discharge which because we were working at a record office and discharging the men, was the last of my group.
- Had a final medical and was sent to York for my discharge. We were given our final papers and told to hand in our greatcoat at, in my case, Leeds. We were told it was public property and had to be returned at the end of our leave and so started my life as a civilian.

Photos:



The uniform we wore on site on fatigues – Tyne King



On Guard at Tyne King



Collecting Holly at Christmas at Oswestry  
Emily Newbould far right