

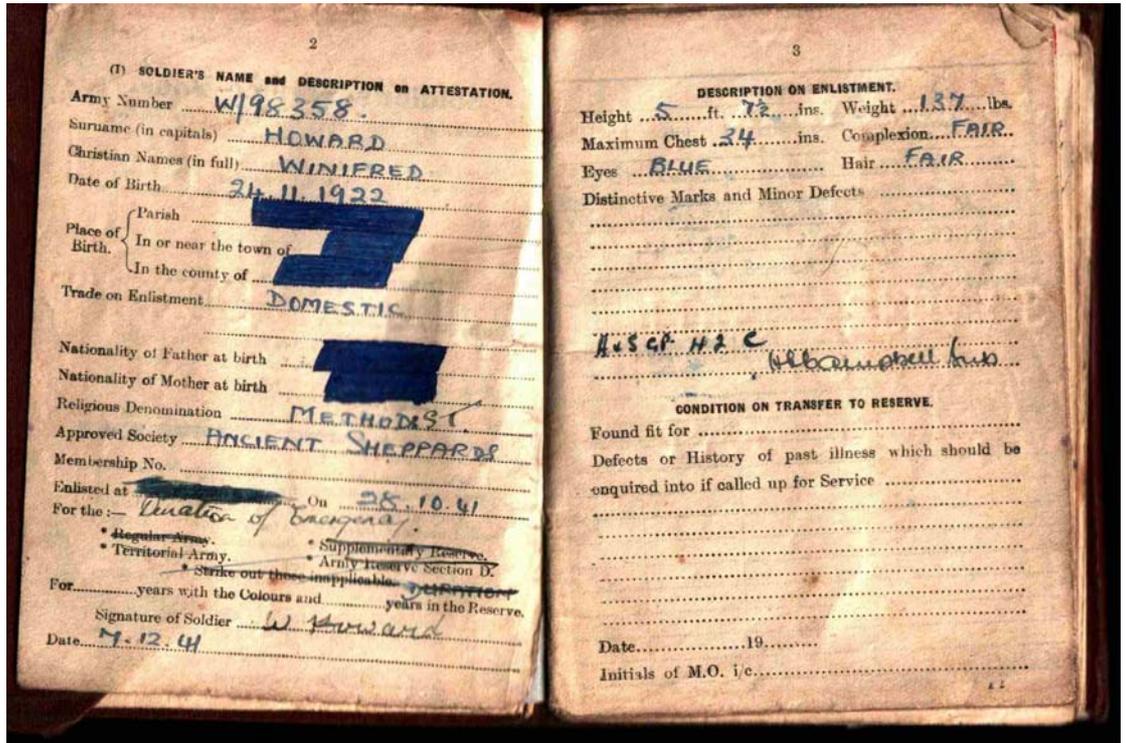
Surname: Taylor	First Name(s): Winnifred	Army Number: W/98358	
Maiden name (if applicable): Howard	Name used during service: Win Howard	Rank: L/Cpl – received 2 service chevrons 30/3/44	
Main base: Grangetown	Training base: Droitwitch, Blanford	Enrolled at: Cambridge	
Platoon/Section: C Section	Company/Battery: 500 H.A.A. Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: A A Command
Year(s) of service: 28/10/1941 to 11/04/1946	Reason for discharge: De-mob	Trade: Spotter Height Finder	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Brass buttons Stockings Shoes Shirts Tie Field cap	Photo: 		

Description of daily tasks:

- 24 hours gun park. When not in action we went down steps to a room under ground, where we amused ourselves. I did a lot of embroidery down there.
- 24 hours fatigues, eg cleaning the N.A.A.F.I. (canteen) then we could go out of camp from 2.00 pm. We did toilet ablutions, which was a big hut, with wash basins and toilets; a wooden seat with a bucket underneath. On that duty we cleaned basins, emptied buckets into a big drum. How I hated the smell. Another duty was cook house were we had to clean up for cooks, the smell of army cooking put me off food. Then we did 24 hours guard duty. You did 2 hours off, 2 hours on. When we stood by the barrier and checked anyone coming in day or night.

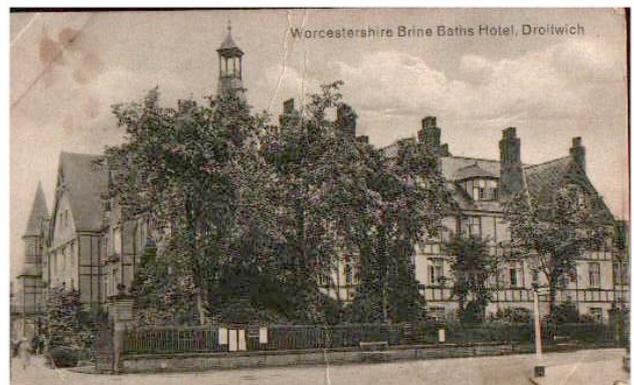
On bath days we could go out of camp at 2.00 pm.

Pay book:



Memorable moments:

- At the age of 18 the War was already on and my friend, Gladys and I wanted to spread our wings, so we decided to join the forces. We joined the A.T.S. and our first three weeks were spent in a lovely hotel in Droitwich. The forces were taking over Hotels and other such establishments. We were fitted out with uniforms, had numerous inoculations, some of which made me ill.



- Then I was sent to Blanford in Dorset for training. There we were formed into what became 500 Heavy Anti Aircraft Battery, the second one to be formed. It was made up of women who worked on instruments which gave the information for the big 4.5 guns to be fired. In each Section 2 girls were plotters, 4 more on height finders, 4 more on a predictor, then a team of girls on GL or Radar plotting.
- After our time at Blanford we went by troop train to North Wales for three weeks firing practice. It was February and snowy. Snow on the beds through broken windows. Soup brought to where we were firing like dirty water. Three weeks later we moved by troop train to Grangetown near steel works, where we were in action every night for 12 months.
- Then we moved to Edinburgh for one year, we were only in action once there. The doodle bugs started flying over the south coast by then. They came in their hundreds. We took over houses in the Cowden Beach area. Then tents for six weeks on Rye Marshes, where it seemed to rain every day. Fresh water was short, we literally had one tin mug of water to wash with.
- Once when we hit a doodle bug, it changed course. We had to get under cover quickly – I thought ‘follow Cpt Heath and I’ll be safe’.
- Next came the V1s. We were posted to Grove Park in London, but the rockets were so fast we couldn’t touch them. They caused awful damage.
- At the end of the war, we were put on different tasks, mine was washing up for 1,000 men. I hated that, so I volunteered for R/C on Military Policy – it took me three months to train in Newcastle. Then six weeks living in Buckingham Palace Road where we went on duty in twos patrolling the streets and railway stations including underground stations. We were keeping our eyes out for A.T.S. girls

Photos:



500 H.A.A. Battery, Royal Artillery

(Win Taylor – first right on first row seated)



Win Taylor – second right