

Surname: Edwards	First Name(s): Morfydd (Morrie)	Army Number: W/111582	
Maiden name (if applicable): Owens	Name used during service: Trebilcock / Owens	Rank: Corporal	
Main base: Various in the South of England	Training base: Guards Depot / Torrington and others	Enrolled at: Unknown (likely to be Bath or Bristol)	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 508 (M) H.A.A. Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: Ack Ack Command
Year(s) of service: 19/12/1941 to 9/3/1946	Reason for discharge: Demobbed	Trade: Predictor Operator	
Uniform Issued: Not known	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predictor Operator and normal Junior NCO duties 		

Pay book:

ALL RANKS.

"REMEMBER—Never discuss military, naval or air matters in public or with any stranger, no matter to what nationality he or she may belong.

The enemy wants information about you, your unit, your destination. He will do his utmost to discover it.

Keep him in the dark. Gossip on military subjects is highly dangerous to the country, whereas secrecy leads to success.

BE ON YOUR GUARD and report any suspicious individual."

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DESCRIPTION ON ENLISTMENT.

Height 5 ft. 8 1/2 ins. Weight 117 1/2 lbs.
 Maximum Chest ins. Complexion Fresh
 Eyes Hazel Hair Brown
 Distinctive Marks and Minor Defects '.....

A+S Gp 38 c *[Signature]*

CONDITION ON TRANSFER TO RESERVE.

Found fit for

Defects or History of past illness which should be enquired into if called up for Service

Date.....19.....

Initials of M.O. i/c.....

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PARTICULARS OF TRAINING.

Courses and Schools, Special Qualifications, Showing result.	Date.	Initials of Officer.
<u>Re-enrolled as Category C.</u>	<u>24.12.41</u>	<u>hh</u>
<u>Command Post School</u>	<u>4.11.42</u>	<u>Ryans</u>
<u>Service Stripes issued</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Course Royal C.N.2. Result 'B'</u>	<u>22 July 1943</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>L.A. Gp. School. Strivington</u>	<u>22 July 1943</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

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RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT AS SPERRY TRADESMAN
 (For men in receipt of tradesman's pay only.)

Trade.	Group.	Class.	Remarks, e.g., Re-qualified, Re-qualified, etc.	Initials of Officer.
<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>hh</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>hh</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>hh</u>

Memorable moments:

- Morrie and her best friend wanted to be drivers. Her friend, in Morrie's words, "thanks to a pair of beautiful legs" made it. When Morrie at 5' 2" got in the cab her feet wouldn't even reach the peddles – "Out" said the Sgt Instructor. It was then that Morrie found herself posted to the Royal Artillery. They must have seen some potential in her initial enrolment procedure.
- Morrie took her parade square training at the Guards Depot. Their instructor started them off by saying "None of my girls have ever let me down – we have always come out tops". Morrie and her squad enjoyed every minute of the drill – and yes, they too, were judged "Best Squad".
- Morrie first trained on the British Vickers predictor and didn't like the later change over to the Sperry which was more complicated and did nothing that the Vickers hadn't done.
- Morrie remembered that the soldiers, especially the officers, were all impressed at

the professionalism of the girls and were proud to be able to work with them. They operated at a team at all times whether operational or not.

- At first the ATS at gunsites were commanded by male officers, but later on female ATS officers were posted to all gun sites. At Morrie's unit this did not go down well, mainly due to two causes – first, these women had no gunnery background and so couldn't communicate well and second, and more important, they tried to establish that the girls came under their command – In truth they were little more than social workers. For Morrie the truth of all this came in a very painful way. In 1944 she married her fiancée, a Sergeant in the Welsh Guards Armoured Division. A short leave to get married and two short leaves followed before he was back on the continent. He was killed a short time later at the Battle of Arnhem. The first that Morrie knew what had happened was a very hurtful letter from his father to say that some of the men from his troop had come on leave and had extended their condolences. He took it for granted that Morrie would have been officially informed and couldn't understand why she hadn't told them. Morrie then requested formal word through her unit. A few days later she was in the mess hall when one of the ATS Officers beckoned to her from the doorway – when Morrie got to her she said, "Yes, it's true – your husband was killed" and walked away.
- Morrie also remembers with pride the change from wearing the area Command badge to the Royal Artillery Anti-Aircraft flash of a fully cocked cross-bow aimed at the sky. A true emblem of their purpose.
- When Morrie's Battery was stationed at Southampton the beds in their barracks were the old cast iron type – they came in two halves – one could telescope inside the other. In the daytime they were pushed together and made up for the day with the kit laid out and barrack box in front. In pushing her bed together (it took two girls to move the heavy iron) a finger on Morrie's left hand got caught and the end hung on with a bit of skin. The M.D. looked at it and said, "You can stay here and lose it or go to Netley (Netley was just east of Southampton and had a military hospital). So, off to Netley accompanied by her Sergeant Major who couldn't help saying, "Oh! Corporal – it would be your ring finger". To make a long story short, the doctors managed to connect the tissues and then one of the nursing sisters said she should stay over night and, would she like to have tea. Morrie was just going to say yes, when the Sister said, "We're going to have sardines on toast". The sardines did it. Morrie declined politely and then returned to the gunsite where her Sergeant Major insisted she sleep in her room that night. Meant as a kindness but for Morrie, still in great pain, it meant a night of trying to stay quiet and not bother the Sergeant Major.
- Morrie always looked back on those years with happy memories, aside from her own personal tragedy. If there was one unpleasant period. It was a posting of her battery to Foulness Island – just east of Southend – and guarding the entrance to the Thames for the Island was just one great mud-flat.
- After her discharge in 1946 she moved to Canada where she settled in Ontario quickly making friends and trying to put her personal loss behind her. In 1953 she made the trip back to England to visit family – I was on the same ship, R.M.S. Scythia, as part of the advance party for my battalion, the 2nd Bn Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, being posted to Germany. We were introduced by a lady from Victoria B.C. who knew many of the officers in my unit. We quickly became friends and on reaching Southampton, while her family waited on the dock, we said our goodbyes and that's when fate stepped in. We found a five dollar bill on the deck. Tearing it in half we said if we ever met again we would put it back together and buy some champagne. Well letters, then visits followed and a year later, accompanied by a number of my fellow officers, I travelled to England where we were married. I often teased her that she only married me to

get my half of that five dollars – her answer was “It bought over 50 years of happiness” – How true!

Photos:



Course at Torrington, Sussex
August / September 1944
Morrie is the Corporal – Rear rank – Extreme right



Rhyl, North Wales 1945
Morrie second from left next to their P.T. instructor

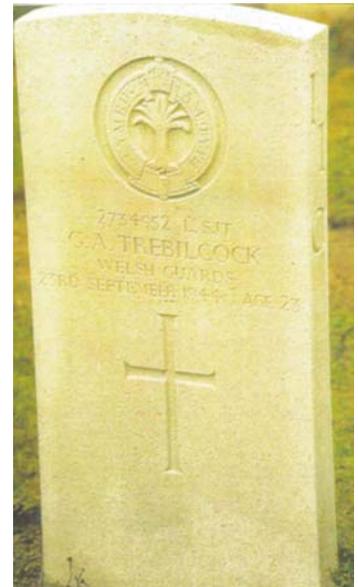


Morrie with her brother, Seth. At one point he was the youngest WOII in the infantry. He went on to Sandhurst where he won the Sam Brown as best cadet in his class.

Joined the Regular Army after the war and retired as a Major.



Morrie on her marriage to L/Sgt G. A. Trebilcock
From happiness to tragedy in a few short weeks



Form completed posthumously by M.C. Edwards, the late Morrie Edward's husband