

Surname: Hannafor	First Name(s): Estelle Alice Selina (called Stella or Stony)	Army Number: W/115257	
Maiden name (if applicable): Emptage	Name used during service: Emptage	Rank: Private	
Main base: London	Training base: Cheshire Arbourfield	Enrolled at: London	
Platoon/Section: C Section	Company/Battery: 530 (M) HAA Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: Ack Ack Command
Year(s) of service: 4 years	Reason for discharge: End of hostilities	Trade: Height Finder Trade changed to Clerk once they found out I could type	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Jacket Skirt Cap B.D. Tunic Trousers	Photo:  Estelle Emptage W/115257 530 (M) HAA Battery		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Office duties – answering phone, typing reports etc. 		
Pay book:	Not available		
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a gun site at Edmonton and then at De La Rue Plastic Walthamstow. It was opposite the Factory and we would often walk into Walthamstow. • The Salvation Army were excellent and would come round every night to the camp with tea and buns which were always appreciated. • I enlisted as a height finder, but I must admit that I wasn't very good and once the Major found out that I could type, I was transferred to the Battery Office, although I was allowed to keep my sleeping quarters with C Section operational girls. 		

- It was particularly scary when the Doodlebug or V2 came. I remember we were all watching a Doodlebug and thinking it would come down on our camp, when it seemed to change direction and landed on a Council Estate at the rear of the camp. Fortunately, there weren't too many casualties.
- It was quite a walk to Turnpike Station and when we had an evening pass we would walk there and then go to Piccadilly Station – there was a Service Club on the corner at Piccadilly Corner which was situated down some stairs and we would meet up with friends and have a drink. Normally we only had enough cash for one drink – 7/6d a week seems to stick in my mind.
- Most of the gunners were much older than the A.T.S., although there were a few young ones.
- Our sleeping quarters were in a long hut with two round stoves at either end which you were not allowed to light until 6.00 pm. Our beds were a metal spring with 3 biscuits – 3 square cushions – and 3 blankets, and the biscuits and blankets had to be in 'apple pie order' every morning.
- When the air raids were particularly heavy, we were told to sleep under our beds on the biscuits – when you think, that metal bed frame would not have given you a great deal of protection!
- When the guns were fired the noise was quite frightening and I can understand why many of the male gunners are now deaf.
- One memory that doesn't fade is of the comradeship that existed then and continues now when you speak to an ex-ATS member.

Photos:



Some of C Section, 530 (M) HAA Battery



C Section 530 (M) HAA Battery
Outside Grand Hotel Sheringham, Norfolk, our Firing Camp