

<b>Surname:</b> Smith	<b>First Name(s):</b> Eileen	<b>Army Number:</b> W/93056	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Boulton	<b>Name used during service:</b> Boulton	<b>Rank:</b> Private	
<b>Main base:</b> My postings were mainly to coastal areas:  Isle of Sheppey Maidstone Sidcup Gravesend Chatham Orpington Bude Clapham Common Hyde Park Oswestry Kinnegar Halt-near Belfast	<b>Training base:</b> Glen Parva Barracks, Leicester	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Recruitment Centre, Surrey Street, Sheffield, Yorks	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 499 Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> Royal Artillery	<b>Command:</b> Ackack
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 1941 - 1947	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> Demobbed	<b>Trade:</b> Cook	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> Jacket Skirt Trousers Greatcoat Cap Glengarry Shirt Tie PE kit Shoes Shoulder bag Underwear including lisle stockings and khaki bloomers with knee elastic Cutlery Housewife Button stick	<b>Photo:</b>		

<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P.T. was at 6 am each day</li> <li>• 2 shifts 6 am – 12 &amp; 2 pm – 8 pm</li> <li>• Fatigues were usually 7 or 14 days, peeling sacks of potatoes. I did this once for not wearing my cap and once for being 5 minutes late back to camp.</li> <li>• A typical menu we'd have to prepare and cook was:  Breakfast – Porridge, bacon, tomatoes, fried bread  Lunch – Meat and potato pie, cabbage, carrots, spotted dick and custard  Supper – Spam fritters, salad, fruit cake.</li> <li>• We were supplied with some ready-made foods, such as slab cakes. One was made with dried egg, it was a yellow colour and quite hard and dry. The men didn't like it at all &amp; christened it 'yellow peril'!</li> </ul>
<b>Pay book:</b>	<p>Not available</p>
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1940 I was living in Sheffield when the city was badly blitzed. I'd had jobs in service and in a steel factory. In 1941, I decided to enrol in the ATS, rather than go to work in a munitions factory. I was a few months short of my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was quite frightening leaving home for the first time and travelling alone by train to Leicester.</li> <li>• There were girls from all walks of life and some of them were very home sick, but I settled in quickly and really enjoyed the life. There was a great sense of camaraderie and despite the times, we had a lot of fun and laughter together.</li> <li>• When we were stationed in the Isle of Sheppey (under canvas) a few of us were coming back from an evening out and I managed to fall in a stream and get drenched. There was nowhere to dry my clothes and one of the girls had to rescue my cap, which was floating off!</li> <li>• I loved going to the local dances in our time off. At one of these, in Gravesend, I met a young sailor and we started writing to each other. I had no replies for a while and one day, my letters to him were returned to me. He was serving on HMS Hood and had gone down with the ship when it was sunk. It was very upsetting.</li> <li>• When we were stationed at Kinnegar Halt in Ireland, we used to go swimming in the sea from there. We often saw sailors' hats floating in on the tide from the ships that had gone down, it was really sad.</li> <li>• I also remember when the siren used to go off in the early hours of the morning, warning of an air raid. We take it in turned to get up and make huge buckets of cocoa for the men operating the guns. I'd have my 'dinky curlers' in my hair, with my tin helmet on top!</li> <li>• I look back on my ATS years with great fondness and happy memories of the friend I made and the times we had. I am proud to have served my country in time of war.</li> </ul>

Photos:

