

<b>Surname:</b> Adams	<b>First Name(s):</b> Eileen	<b>Army Number:</b> W/178322 & W/305380	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> McBryde	<b>Name used during service:</b> McBryde / Adams	<b>Rank:</b> Sgt Subaltern	
<b>Main base:</b> Manorbier Glasgow Winchester Exeter S.E. England Germany	<b>Training base:</b> Harrogate Manorbier Leicester Windsor	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Harrogate	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 491 (M) A.A. Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> Royal Artillery 305 Regiment	<b>Command:</b> AckAck Command
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> May 1942 to Nov 1947	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> Marriage. Served for 2 months after marriage	<b>Trade:</b> Kinetheodolite Operator Plotting Officer	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> 1 Jacket 1 Skirt 1 Battledress 1 Cap Shirts Tie Boots Gaiters Shoes Socks (grey) Stockings (thick Khaki) Underwear Leather Jerkin Overcoat Pullover P.E. Shorts and shirt	<b>Photo:</b>  <p style="text-align: center;">Manorbier June 1943</p>		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Manorbier we became a demonstration detachment. We demonstrated the use of the plotting table, predictors and height finders to a succession of batteries that came to the school on refresher courses.</li> <li>• Once commissioned, I was responsible for the efficiency of the ATS on the various instruments, training and well being of the ATS as well as being elected messing officer. I also did all the admin for about 50 girls, so life was fairly busy.</li> </ul>		

<b>Pay book:</b>	Not available.
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I was a young civil servant in 1939 and volunteered to go into one of the services in 1940. However, it was a reserved occupation but in 1942 it was agreed that three young women ages 21/22 could be released for service. By that time we had survived the blitz in London and been evacuated to Harrogate.</li> <li>• I underwent initial training at Harrogate although I can't remember a great deal about the month spent there. I know we had a punishing drill session every day. We had health checks, did P.E. about twice a week, went on a route march, collected our uniforms and learned a little military history. We were assessed as to our suitability for various trades. I was selected for my trade on the basis of a reasonable competence in maths, as it was necessary to be able to cope with some elementary trigonometry.</li> <li>• Two of us finally left Harrogate early one morning en route for Manorbier, to the school of anti aircraft artillery, on the coast of Pembrokeshire to train as a Kinetheodolite Operator. This was our first experience of long distance train travel as members of the services. It was quite difficult boarding the train, encumbered as we were with all our worldly goods. These consisted of kit bags, carried precariously on one shoulder, holdalls carried in the other hand and gas masks and water bottles slung about us. The ATS were later issued with more user-friendly kit bags equipped with two handles. We also acquired shoulder bags later on. At this time AB64s, travel documents, cash and make up all had to be stuffed into our pockets. At midnight the train finally ground to a halt in Carmarthen. We were contemplating a night in the station waiting room but were swept along by our travelling companions to the local YMCA. They kindly carried our kit bags as we groped our way along the dark street, guided by the noise from the building, which increased when we entered and found ourselves the only females in the place apart from the kind lady behind the tea counter. She kindly found us beds for the night and we continued our journey next day.</li> <li>• Twenty of us started the course but only twelve finished and it was decided that instead of being posted to training camps as we had anticipated, we should remain at the school as a demonstration detachment. We demonstrated the use of the plotting table, predictors and height finders to a succession of batteries that came to the school on refresher courses.</li> <li>• Manorbier was a marvellous place in summer. The cliffs were magnificent and we swam most days when our work was finished. Initially we had an ATS Corporal instructor and an army CSM but it was decided that we should have our own NCO's and when I left in August 1943 I was the Sergeant in charge of the unit. It was a sad moment when I had to remove my stripes en route for Leicester and pre-OCTU.</li> <li>• I went to Windsor for OCTU training. Our passing out parade was inspected by Prince Olaf of Norway, who later became King. We were given a grant towards the cost of our uniforms. Tailors appeared in numbers towards the end of our OCTU course. Mine was made by Weatherills and I was very pleased with it.</li> <li>• I was posted to a Mixed A.A. Battery in Glasgow as plotting officer. As the only ATS officer on site I was responsible for the efficiency of the ATS on the various instruments, training and well being of the ATS as well as being elected messing officer. This latter job seemed to be handed on to the newest arrival wherever I</li> </ul>

went. I also did all the admin for about 50 girls, so life was fairly busy. We had many practice runs and were, of course, on 24 hour alert, though we saw very little action.

- I was billeted in a variety of accommodation though largely in Nissen huts. Shortly before D day we were posted as a unit to a site under canvas outside Winchester. It was quite an exciting time but after the successful landings air activity faded to be replaced by V1s and V2s. I applied for a course as a liaison officer with the RAF, the liaison being between searchlights and fighters. This led to a posting to Exeter airfield, but it was too late in the war and I was there for only three months. However, we were encouraged to fly and I had trips on several different RAF planes and was issued with my own log book – as a passenger!
- One day I was dropped at the end of Ryde pier as I had to go to Portsmouth for a meeting, and was most impressed by HMS Warspite, anchored right in front of me. I sent a message from the naval station at the end of the pier, asking permission to take a mixed party to the ship and was delighted, on my return to my unit, to find a cordial agreement to our visit. We had a memorable afternoon being conducted round the ship. She had been damaged in Italy and though still on the active list, never fought again. She had a very sad ending on the Cornish rocks.
- From Exeter I became a general duties officer and had several postings in the South East of England and finally in Germany. Our accommodation was various; on the Isle of Wight we had taken over the Chaplain's house in one of H.M.'s Prisons. I shared a semi in Fareham with my Sergeant and in Germany I had a lovely room in a small hotel and a flat in a Panzer barracks.
- At this time I played hockey and table tennis for the service and enjoyed our matches against the WRNS and the WAAF. I suppose the highlight was a hockey trip to Brussels, where we played the Belgian team and to Germany to play the Combined Services team.
- I remember my years in the ATS with great pleasure, and I still have a few friends from that period with whom I keep in touch.

**Photos:**



Kinetheodolite course, later demonstration detachment 1942



Section 3, 491 Battery Glasgow 1943



Plotting detachment, Winchester 1944