


<b>Surname:</b> Boulsbee	<b>First Name(s):</b> Elsie Mefanwy	<b>Army Number:</b> W/212642	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Holley	<b>Name used during service:</b> Holley	<b>Rank:</b> L/Cpl (Radar) Pte (Driving)	
<b>Main base:</b> Belfast Portsmouth Salisbury	<b>Training base:</b> Droitwich Oswestry Weyborne Wrexham	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Bristol	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b>	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 601 (M) H.A.A. Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> Royal Artillery	<b>Command:</b> AckAck Command
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 2/10/1942 to 23/5/1946	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> No longer needed	<b>Trade:</b> Radar Operator Driver	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b>  Forage cap Dress cap Tunic and skirt Shirt and tie Stockings Shoes Shoulder bag  Battledress: bomber style jacket Slacks Leather tunic Boots and gaiters Lanyard Pocket knife	<b>Photo:</b>  		
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Radar Equipment was known as G.L. (Gun Laying) or O.F.C. (Operator Fire Control). On site were three teams of 6, 2 in the transmitter and 4 in the receiver (the Tx and Rx) with a 3 day rotation – On duty, Reserve and Off duty. The On Duty team would be on 'Stand By' in the Manning Hut ready for 'Call Out'.</li> </ul>		

Pay book:

*Certified true copy of original  
A/S 64 2 P. M. H. A. C. C. S.*

(1) SOLDIER'S NAME and DESCRIPTION on ATTESTATION.

Army Number W/212662  
Surname (in capitals) Howley  
Christian Names (in full) Basil M'HEANWY  
Date of Birth 9.12.20.  
Trade on Enlistment 173-5

Religious Denomination Methodist.  
Approved Society National Amalgamated  
Membership No. 719695  
Enlisted at Droitwich On 2.10.42  
For the:— A/S — Duration of Emergency  
\* Regular Army. \* Supplementary Reserve.  
\* Territorial Army. \* Army Reserve Section D.  
\* Strike out those inapplicable.

For \_\_\_\_\_ years with the Colours and \_\_\_\_\_ years in the Reserve.  
Signature of Soldier Basil Howley  
Date 10 Feb 45

DESCRIPTION ON ENLISTMENT.

Height 5 ft. 11/2 ins. Weight 107 1/2 lbs.  
Maximum Chest \_\_\_\_\_ ins. Complexion \_\_\_\_\_  
Eyes Blue Hair Brunette  
Distinctive Marks and Minor Defects \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION ON TRANSFER TO RESERVE

Found fit for \_\_\_\_\_  
Defects or History of past illness which should be reported into if called up for Service \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_  
Initials of M.O. i/c \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Gp 45 C P. M. H. A. C. C. S.

Memorable moments:

- I lived at Dundry near Dundry Lane on the Bridgwater Road and was called up in October 1942 and told to report to a centre in Bristol. After the initial interview and tests I was sent to the Brine Bathes Hotel, Droitwich Spa for basic training and from there to Oswestry in Shropshire for a course on radar, known then as G.L.
- At the end of the course I was posted to 601 Heavy Ack Ack Battery R.H.A. and the whole Battery was given training at Weyborne in Norfolk.
- I was given my L/Cpl promotion and was No 1 of a team and in the Rx. On 'Call Out' we ran to the equipment, 3 mins being our aim for 'Start Up' – and 'Ready for Action' phoned through to the Command Post. Nos 2, 3 and 4 each sat in front of a Cathode Ray Tube reporting 'Range' 'Bearing' and 'Angle' to the No 1. All targets picked up were checked by the No 1 on a smaller tube, the I.F.F. (identification Friend or Foe) who repeated all the information to the Command Post. We had many exciting On Duty times but less exciting times too when the raids were elsewhere. After one night which had been exceptionally heavy and the deafening noise of the guns had ceased the nightingales in the woods nearby were singing and I wondered if they had been singing through it all.
- Other duties when 'On Reserve' included maintenance and Searchlight duty.
- The next posting for the Battery was to Belfast N.I. and while there I attended another course on Radar and soon afterwards the whole Battery, now considered ready for action was sent to the Portsmouth area, stationed at Gilkicker Camp and we were there until Ack Ack was no longer needed.
- In 1945 when the Battery was disbanded and radar was no longer needed my friend Myrtle Cherret and I were sent to an Army Driving School at Gresford and both passed the test to drive 15 cwt trucks and the Tillys (the utility vehicles). I well remember one occasion when we were out together with no instructor 'gaining experience'. We were both drove the 15 cwt at 60 mph for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, very exciting then !! We were both posted to Salisbury Plain and drove within a certain radius of Salisbury and Winchester etc but even that became less and I asked to be posted if possible and finished my army career at the Officers Pay Corps in Manchester and lived 'Out of Barracks' with relatives in Cheshire. From

there I was finally demobbed in 1946. Later on in the year I married David Bouldsbee who had been the R.E.M.E. S/Sgt i/c of the maintenance of the radar equipment at the Portsmouth site.

**Photos:**



601 H.A.A. Battery (1<sup>st</sup> half) - 1943  
1<sup>st</sup> Posting at Silver Stream, Green Island, Co Antrim, Nr. Ireland. Near Belfast