

Surname: Chandler	First Name(s): Helen Shirley	Army Number: W/122879	
Maiden name (if applicable):	Name used during service: Chandler	Rank: L/Cpl	
Main base:	Training base: Guildford Kingston	Enrolled at: Volunteered Chichester	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery:	Group/Regiment:	Command:
Year(s) of service: 30/01/1942 to 3/6/1946	Reason for discharge: Demobbed. Release certificate MEF 3/6/1946. Final demob South Mimms. Release leave expired 17/8/1946	Trade: TSBO (Telephone Switchboard Operator)	
Uniform Issued: ATS uniform Shirts Tie Shoes Stockings Cap	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only things I can remember from Guildford were the intense cold, cleaning and marching. • Later we were separated out according to ability. 		
Pay book:	Not available.		

Memorable moments:

- After signals training, much to my disappointment, I was sent to Chichester, my home town. I lived 5 miles from the city so my mother was delighted to see me on occasions. I was billeted in the YMCA and with my colleague was attached to a RAF plotting unit and we had to pass on any relevant information of enemy aircraft to the artillery.
- I stayed in this job until volunteering for overseas duties.
- All my colleagues were sent to Germany – I was the only one who went to the Middle East. I still remember leaving Liverpool after a long overnight train journey and as our ship left port another one arriving filled with soldiers shouting “You are going the wrong way love”.
- There was one scare in the med form German subs but we reached Port Said safely to searing heat and young boys diving all over the water wanting money. One of the instructions we received on arrival was not to sunbathe. If we ignored that and got burnt we were put n a charge!
- The best years, once we adapted to the heat, were the 15 months I spent in Egypt. We worked days and nights on a multi board switchboard. Off duty we went swimming, dancing, eating out occasionally.
- Best memory was the Sergeants mess gave me a party for my 21st birthday. I still have the writing case the girls in my hut gave me for a present.

Photos:



Outside Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem Sept 1945



Helen Chandler and Dorothy Brandy (nee Smith)
Ismailia Gardens, June 1945