

Surname: Harrison	First Name(s): Nora Gladys	Army Number: W/65176	
Maiden name (if applicable): Wilkinson	Name used during service: Wilkinson / Harrison	Rank: Cpl	
Main base: Arbourfield Watchet Aldershot	Training base: York	Enrolled at: Grimsby	
Platoon/Section: 88 S.E. Platoon, E Company E Company D and F Coy	Company/Battery: 206 (M) H.A.A. Training Regiment	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery Somerset and Bristol Group ATS N. Aldershot Group ATS	Command: A.A. Command Western Eastern
Year(s) of service: 3/7/1941 to 5/8/1945	Reason for discharge: Demob	Trade: Cook	
Uniform Issued:	Photo: 		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook – working on rota. 		
Pay book:	Not available		

Memorable moments:

- I was born Nora Gladys Wilkinson on 21 November 1920 in a small village near Grimsby called Keelby. I lived in an old cottage with my grandparents; I went to the village school until I was 14 years old.
- I left school at 14 and went to work as a daily domestic for 7/5p (37p) a week. When I was 16 years old I went to live in at a farmer's house as a domestic servant; I was the housemaid. When the cook left, I took over the cooking and I had a good master and mistress and my wages went up to 12/6 (62p).
- In September 1939 the war came and like many others I joined the services to do our bit for the country, I joined the A.T.S.
- I served from 1940 to 1945 as a cook in the cookhouse. I first went to York to train, then to Arbourfield, then to a little place called Watchet on the Bristol Channel. It was there that the Princess Royal (Mary) came to inspect us and I was one of the girls who spoke to her. I was very proud and thought it was a great honour. I was a corporal and loved my life in the army and made many new friends.
- I was posted to a place called Sunningdale and our cookhouse was the old golf clubhouse, we girls all lived in a lovely big house. It was whilst I was at Sunningdale that I met my husband to be William Harrison. He had just returned to England after being a Japanese prisoner of war from 1942 to 1944.
- William had been taken prisoner when Singapore fell in February 1942, on a diet of rice and water and very little else for 2yrs 7 months. During this time whilst having to bow o the guards, he had all his teeth smashed out with a rifle butt. He was being transported by sea in a ship that the Americans sank and he was in the sea for 5 days without food and water and then picked up by a US sub in September 1944. When he returned to the UK he was sent to a camp where we met. He was sent to the cook in charge to request that his food be minced because he had no teeth. I told him to go away and get an order from the commander or else everyone would want their minced – that was how we met.
- We fell in love and married in 1945, we were married for 36 years and had 10 children, 20 grand children and 8 great grandchildren.

Photos:



William Harrison 1945



Nora Harrison, seated on the left

Form posthumously completed by Thomas Harrison, son of Nora Harrison