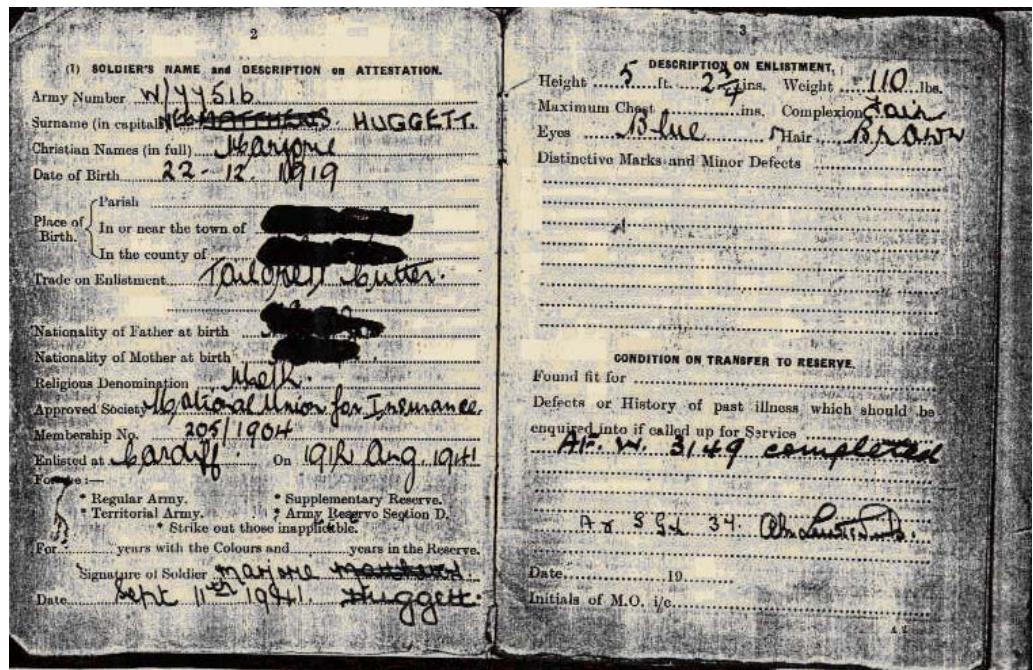


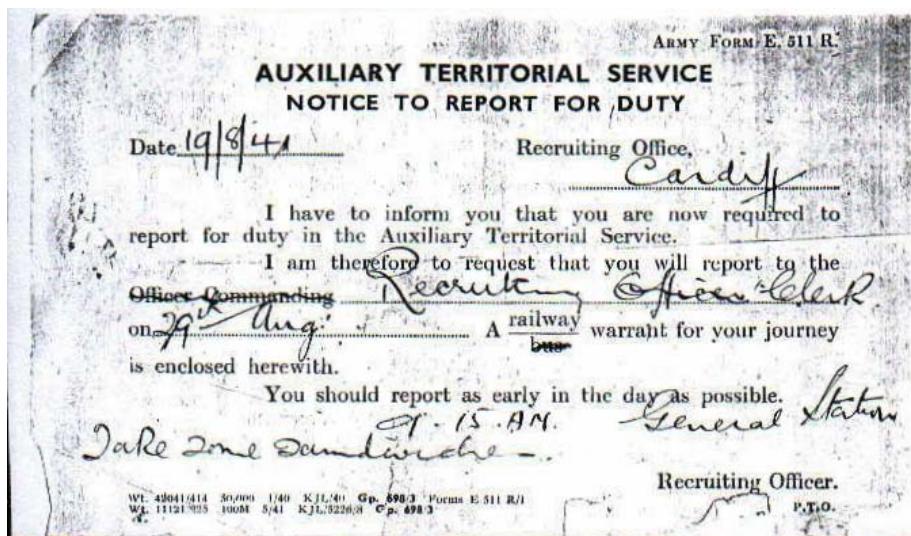
<b>Surname:</b> Huggett	<b>First Name(s):</b> Marjorie	<b>Army Number:</b> W/77516
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Matthews	<b>Name used during service:</b> Matthews (1941 – 1944) Huggett (1944 – 1945)	<b>Rank:</b> Corporal
<b>Main base:</b> London	<b>Training base:</b> Wrexham, N Wales	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Cardiff
<b>Platoon/Section:</b> M Section	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 469 (M) H.A.A. Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> 132 Regt, Royal Artillery
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> 19/8/1941 to 7/9/1945	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> End of War	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b>  S.D.  B.D. Boots and Gaiters Greatcoat Leather Jerkin	<b>Photo:</b> 	
<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predictor Operator No1. Team of six Fire Control Operators. Passing information to guns by cable.</li> </ul>	

**Pay book:**



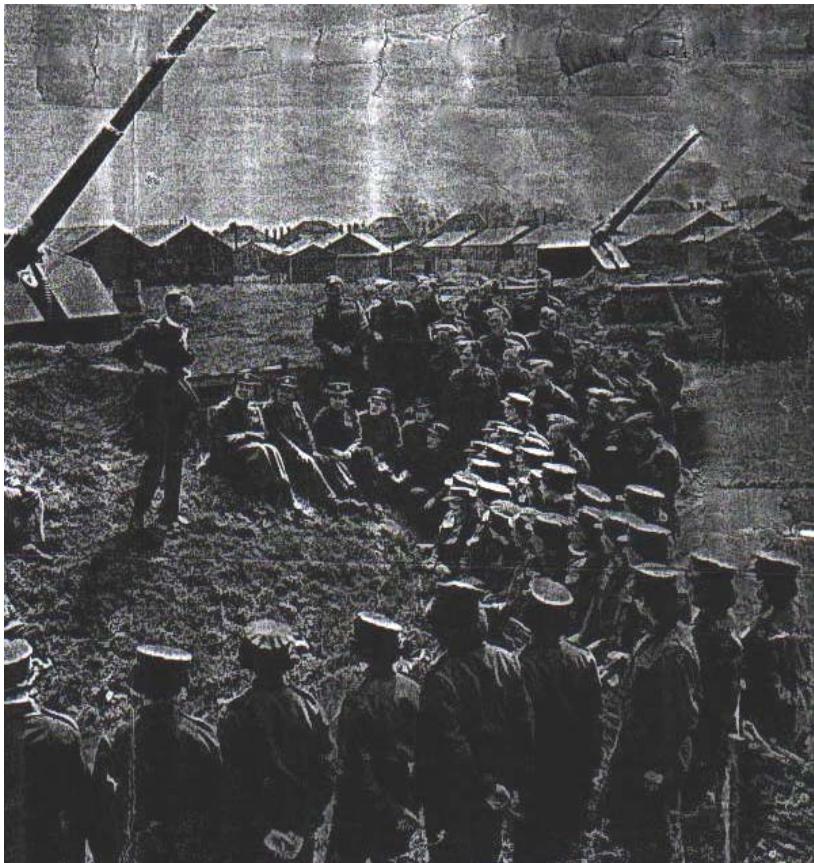
**Memorable moments:**

- I volunteered for the ATS. I had registered for the services, as we all over 18 years had to, but on a visit to Cardiff with a friend, on a Saturday afternoon in a store was a recruiting campaign for the ATS and I suddenly decided I'd join up. A shock for my parents when I arrived home and told them, in under two weeks I'd left and was in barracks in Wrexham (The Royal Welch Fusiliers). Among the ATS the volunteers had a better attitude to army life, most of the ex-ATS I've met since our service days have said we wouldn't have missed the experience, and there is still a comradeship between us.



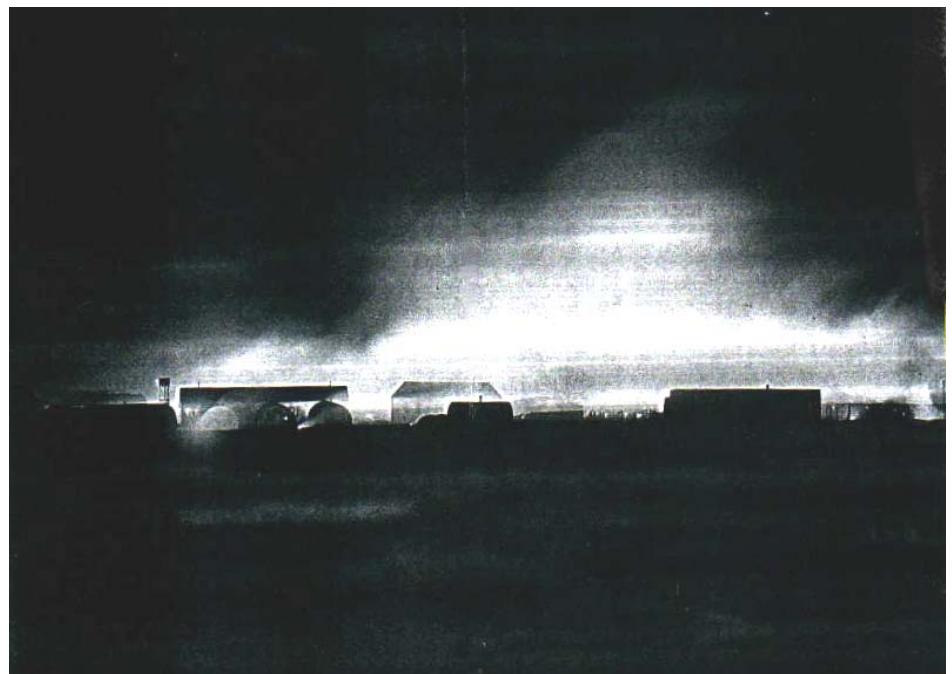
- Training was one month at Wrexham, inoculations, learning army regulations and ranks, being kitted out with uniforms etc and learning how to march, and route marches (quite a few miles) and getting adjusted to army life. We slept in high bunk beds, the men had used, a ladder the only way to get up and down from the top bunk. We did have sheets and pillow cases which the men didn't.

- From Wrexham to Arbourfield Barracks (206 H.A.A. Training Regt R.A.) when 469 (M) H.A.A. Battery R.A. was formed. We were there for a month. This is where we learned our different jobs, predictors, height finders and spotters and the men the guns. We learned all the jobs on the predictor so could perform all tasks. We took intelligence tests at basic training, which decided what we were best suited for, which is how I became to be a predictor operator. We again slept in barrack rooms, bunk beds as at Wrexham
- From Arbourfield we travelled overnight, troop train, to Ty-Croes, Anglesey, North Wales to Firing Camp, where we put our training into operation and heard and saw the guns fire for the first time, at a sleeve attached to a plane. We were there for one month. We had seven days leave at the end of practice and met up as a battery at Euston Station London to go to our gunsites. The battery was halved, four guns to each site, 4.5 ins guns as in the photo of a raid in the last section of this form. Our half was at Whetstone, Friern Barnet and the other half at Chase Side Enfield where after about six months we changed over.
- I was chosen to represent the Regiment at the Parade for Queen Elizabeth (the Queen mother) in 1942 in Hyde Park. We were all kitted out with completely new uniforms and had three rehearsals before the actual parade; we travelled on the tube there.
- Mary Churchill was an officer in a Battery in Hyde Park, but before that in 1941 was stationed with 469 (M) H.A.A. Battery and as L/Cplls we were both sent to 1<sup>st</sup> A.A. Division School on a Predictor No.1 course. We both got our 2<sup>nd</sup> strip from that – she also became a Sgt before leaving for Officer training.
- At Whetstone we slept in wooden huts, single beds, a large box to keep our kit in, which was inspected for tidiness and a few nails or hooks behind the beds to hang our uniforms on. We only wore battledress around the gun site and service dress when out of camp. About 20-30 girls to each hut. The N.C.O.s in charge had a small room divided off at the end of the hut. Very cold in winter, the fire buckets froze solid. At Enfield we had a wooden spider, all huts joined and connected by passages, superior accommodation, built just before the war I believe. We also had a small cupboard on the wall for personal possessions, which was also inspected.
- We only got 2/3rds of the pay of a soldier, although we actually were doing the jobs the men had previously done before we arrived and they were posted overseas etc. One concession we were given was we got mess food rations, not A.T.S. because of the work and hours we did, including guard duty at the gate and even through the night at the Command Post. Outside in all weathers, two girls on their own, 1 or 2 hours at a time.
- We went under canvas June 14<sup>th</sup> 1944 the day after the V1s first appeared. We were on duty all night when they arrived and saw and heard them – rather scary. We packed up and left in lorries and arrived about one mile up the road from Gatwick Airport, just a field in the middle of nowhere. No water, tents from WWI hastily collected. The one I was in leaked badly, my ground sheet didn't help and I woke to find I was lying in a pool of water, as it rained all night. Eventually I had pylitus (inflammation of the kidneys) and landed up in hospital, very high temperature etc and got sick leave from it.
- We went to peoples houses to have a bath, previously arranged by Battery, the house holders were given extra fuel ration because of it, some people very nice and friendly a cup of tea sometimes, others were very snooty! The water wagon came with drinking water etc, we put our face flannels out at night to get damp from the dew so we could at least wash our faces etc but there was a good atmosphere and we all pulled together. The lavatories were the worst!! A long line of buckets under wooden seats which a couple of gunners emptied every morning, when we all had to disappear. The smell was revolting, the weather was

	<p>hot and if possible you tried not to have to use them. At night a lot of girls would just go in the woods nearby. We were in tents until October when the V1s eased up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In empty houses at St Leonards, Marine Court, Hastings. Guns were on Hastings Sea Front. Also under canvas that summer along the coast of Sussex.</li> <li>• Saw quite a lot of action on gun sites Enfield and Friern Barnet 1942-1943.</li> <li>• Enfield site bombed and incendiaries on site. The raid was about 10.00 pm (see photos) and a press photographer was there to take photos of the Homeguard trainees when the raid happened. The training stopped and we manned posts. The photos were published in the daily papers and we were allowed copies. The papers said a gunsight somewhere in Southern England. Civilians in nearby houses were killed. The guns were 4-4.5 ins and the ATS on duty were down in the Command Post where we always were after dark. I was on fire piquet that night.</li> </ul>
<b>Photos:</b>	 <p>The Glass House Gun Site 469 (M) Battery R.A. Friern Barnet – 19 September 1942</p>



Chase Farm, Enfield  
469 (M) Battery R.A. – March 1944



Chase Farm, Enfield – Incendiary Fire  
469 (M) Battery R.A. – March 1944