


<b>Surname:</b> Kealey	<b>First Name(s):</b> Beryl Joan	<b>Army Number:</b> W/150461	
<b>Maiden name (if applicable):</b> Goodfellow	<b>Name used during service:</b> Goodfellow	<b>Rank:</b> Gunner	
<b>Main base:</b> Bristol (Hanham, Mangotsfield and Pill) Plymouth East coast (Newcastle, Hull, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Mapplethorpe, Louth and Spurn point)	<b>Training base:</b> Blandford Anglesey Weybourne	<b>Enrolled at:</b> Exeter	
<b>Platoon/Section:</b> B Section	<b>Company/Battery:</b> 546 (M) H.A.A. Battery 497 (M) H.A.A. Battery	<b>Group/Regiment:</b> Royal Artillery	<b>Command:</b> Ack Ack Command
<b>Year(s) of service:</b> May 1942 to 1946	<b>Reason for discharge:</b> Demobbed	<b>Trade:</b> Predictor in Command Post	
<b>Uniform Issued:</b> Underwear Tights Shoes Helmet Shirts Tie Battledress Boots Gaiters Shoulder bag	<b>Photo:</b> 		

<b>Description of daily tasks:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One day on fatigues, cook house etc, next day on duty on the gunsite or on guard, or standby,</li> </ul>
<b>Pay book:</b>	
<b>Memorable moments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 546 Bty we moved around lot and always had to start building the gun posts again. We girls who were on fatigues, helped the men, carrying bricks, mix cement etc. We enjoyed it, it was so different from sitting in an office, at the Prudential, we were evacuated from the Pru in London in 1939 to Torquay, until I was called up in May 1942 just three days before my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. First to Aldermaston for a fortnight, to be kitted out and to have all our medicals. I was asked if I wanted to be in a factory, a cook, or Ack Ack. Needless to say it wasn't hard to choose; so off we went to Blandford for a month's training on the parade ground, in a very hot June.</li> <li>• Then to our very first site, Netton, Newton Ferrers, Plymouth.</li> <li>• The last site in Plymouth was Home Park, where the football ground is now, up above the town although by then there wasn't much left of the town, we had raids every night. One night another girl and myself were carrying ammunition to the guns, when a German Stuka came down and started machine gunning us. We just lay down and hoped for the best. We certainly had some craters around us.</li> <li>• In 546 Bty we used to go to Anglesey for firing practice.</li> <li>• When 546 Battery was split up in 1945, I was posted with three other girls to 497 Battery on the East Coast, still on the move to sites in the wilds, to Durham, Newcastle, Hull, Sunderland, Grange Town, Cleethorpes, Louth, Mapplethorpe, Beverly to name a few places. We were always on the move and it snowed all the time. We were always cold – at night two of us with men would take a turn on guard. We went to Spurn Point on a narrow piece of land jutting out into the North Sea. It snowed every day. It was freezing when we were on duty. We sat in deck chairs, in full Battle Dress. We seemed to do guard duty always in the dark, the beach on either side of us was a playground for rats!!</li> <li>• In 497 Bty we went to Weybourne in Sherringham, stayed in a Hotel on the front, empty of course, no heating, so another girl and myself in a room at the top of the Hotel slept in our Battle Dress. One night we awoke to hear a guard along the passage calling "Fire – all out!" We got out at 1.30 in the night, and on to the next Hotel where the men were staying. It happened to be faulty wiring in the kitchen. Luckily it was soon brought under control.</li> <li>• When anyone stayed out late on their day leave, or any other wrong, they were put on a charge and escorted to the office. I always seemed to be on escort.</li> <li>• I met my husband in Torquay in 1941, soon after he went to Burma, so didn't see him again until 1946 – we married in 1948.</li> <li>• One thing I remember above all else was the comradeship, something we will never forget. I still write and keep in touch with four girls.</li> </ul>
<b>Photos:</b>	None available.