

Surname: Leach	First Name(s): Ruby Winniefred Constance	Army Number: W/208981	
Maiden name (if applicable): Jackson	Name used during service: Jackson	Rank: Private	
Main base: Various	Training base: Oswestry	Enrolled at: Wrexham Barracks	
Platoon/Section:	Company/Battery: 631 (M) HAA Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: AA Command
Year(s) of service: 1941 to 1945	Reason for discharge: Demob	Trade: Cook	
Uniform Issued: 3 bras 3 pants 2 shirts 2 pairs of stockings 1 tie 2 shoes 2 skirts 1 shoulder bag 2 caps 2 overalls 1 tunic	Photo:  Betty Mead and Ruby Leach		
Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would work in two shifts one early morning 6 o'clock and the other afternoon 2 o'clock, preparing meals for 200 or more. I did this until I went to Ireland where I then worked in Officers' Mess, which I did until I left the army. 		

Pay book:	Not available
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I joined in 1941 as a volunteer (my father had to sign the papers over me as I was not 18 at the time I enlisted). • From enlisting at Wrexham I moved on to Oswestry where we were formed up to 631 Ack Ack Mixed Battery with the duty of cook. From there I was posted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Wales</u> Wrexham Oswestry Anglesey <u>Scotland</u> Glasgow Dumbarton <u>Ireland</u> Bangor <u>England</u> Cricklewood Cannock (where I met my husband) Clapham Common Walton on the Hayes Romford Yeovil Kent Ravensbourne Bromley Erdington Warwick Worcester Reading • In Scotland we were under canvas on groundsheets with snow on the ground. • In Ireland I got promoted to the Officers Mess which I did enjoy because all my friends were with me there. In Ireland there was not a lot of action so we all asked to go back to England. • In England we were stationed mainly around the south coast and our last postings together was at Bromley and Ravensbourne Kent. That was where most of the V1 and V2 rockets came over, which caused a lot of damage. We would go out on a leave pass to London and when we went back many streets would be bombed and flattened. We would get on the tube (underground) and there would be so many people (adults and children) sleeping there for safety. So many people do not realise how badly England was bombed during the war. Soldiers, sailors, airmen would return home to find their homes and family gone. • After the war was over we were all sent to be demobbed at Reading. • I have only one service medal and that's for being in Kent. When the V1 and V2 came over. I was ordered on advanced parties at times which was a sad time to see so many of our soldiers with lost arms or legs and many more injuries. We often say "Was it all worth it?"

Photos:



My ATS friends at Warwick