


Surname: Mills	First Name(s): Marian Rose	Army Number: W/159841	
Maiden name (if applicable): Wakeling	Name used during service: Wakeling	Rank: Private	
Main base: Dartford Heath, Kent Petts Wood Ireland, Dundonald Romney Marsh	Training base: Honiton, Devon – Basic Devizes – Ack Ack Firing Camp: Cleave Cornwall	Enrolled at: Dorchester	
Platoon/Section: GL (Radar)	Company/Battery: 490 Heavy Ack Ack Battery	Group/Regiment: Royal Artillery	Command: Anti-Aircraft Command
Year(s) of service: 30/04/1942 to 12/04/1946	Reason for discharge: De-mob	Trade: Radar Operator GL Mk 1 919420 GL Mk 2 SCR 584	
Uniform Issued: S.D. Tunic, Skit, Forage cap, ATS soft cap On site: B.D. Leather jerkin Greatcoat Boots Gaiters Steel helmet Denim overalls for maintenance and fatigues	Photo: 		

Description of daily tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gun laying. Gun laying team consisted of 6 or 7. <p>No 1 = Cpl/Sgt supervisor who communicated with Command No 2 = Range finder (distance) No 4 = Bearing point (compass) No 5 = Assessed angle of target.</p> <p>(each position 2, 4, 5 had a spare)</p> <p>Predictor, Height Finder and Spotters (aircraft recognition) were separate teams.</p>
Pay book:	<p>Not available</p>
Memorable moments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21/08/1941 the first mixed battery was deployed in Richmond Park • Used Mk 2 Radar in 1943. 1944 was trained on American Radar SCR 584 to deal with flying bomb. Rotating Arial/static cabin • 1944 – Ack Ack gun area moved to coast against flying bombs. Gun belt Beechy Head to Dover 5000 yds deep firing 10,000 yds into the sea. Move of heavy guns completed in 3 days. Another 2 days light guns also in place. • Some batteries were fixed and some were mobile. • The generator for the radar was started by the Girls at night. • RAF planes transmitted a signal (IFF – Identify Friend or Foe) – if not received by radar, girls tuned into best signal and shouted ‘on target; - guns would immediately fire. • Rotating radar huts would move through 180 degrees to follow target • Girls maintained the equipment – mended the mat (wire area placed around the receiver to counteract uneven ground) 1 acre or more in size. • Girls knocked on doors asking for rags – known as ‘ragging’ • At the back of an army notebook market SECRET containing directions for the operation of GL Mk III and full of now meaningless scientific terms, are notes on lectures given at the end of the war on HOME MANAGEMENT, in a hurried attempt to re-orient our minds towards women’s traditional role. They included detailed instructions for daily cleaning, also for shopping and home nursing. (The nurse must be reliable, conscientious, observant, loyal. She must exercise perfect self-control and tact.) What they did not tell us was how to achieve the state of Superwoman and remain sane. Never thought to ask what lectures they gave to the men.

Photos:



Platoon 1, 2 Coy, No 3 A.T.S. T.C., Honiton, April 1942

Hilda Vowles M.R. Mills Rene Chick Paddy White Audrey Cock Kathleen
Gaunt
Cpl Gibbs Sgt Williams Sub Munro Cpl Bamsley Cpl Tremayne Cpl Krafft
Violet Lock
Hilda Bloomfield Peggy Lynes Hilda Sansom Lily Symonds Marjorie Board
Winnie Wickett Betty George Joan Carnall Madge Brunger