

“You really did live for today as tomorrow might never come”



## BIOGRAPHY:

Ethel started work at Priddy's Hard (an important munitions factory located in Gosport) at just 15 years and 10 months. She lied about her age as you had to be 16 to work there.



“The uniform was ill fitting and uncomfortable”



## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT D-DAY

using these primary sources from our online collections portal:

Ethel was one of a large number of women who worked at Priddy's Hard in the years leading up to D Day. This photo shows a group of women who worked there:

<https://collections.nmrn.org.uk/Details/museum/362017>

This oral history from Joyce Cross gives more details about life at Priddy's Hard during the war.

<https://collections.nmrn.org.uk/Details/museum/97082>

A photo of a naval armament vessel being loaded with munitions put together by women at Priddy's Hard

<https://collections.nmrn.org.uk/Details/museum/367625>

## ROLE IN D DAY (OPERATION NEPTUNE):

Ethel was interviewed about her time at Priddy's:

*“Once we filled a landing craft with ammunition and they all had codes on it. They were going off to Normandy, then a couple of days later I was cycling to work and I was behind an Army Ambulance.*

*They had the doors open as there were too many wounded in there to close the doors. On the ambulance it had the same code as that landing craft, it made me so sad to think that those men had been injured. I remember seeing one with his leg in the air all bandaged. I'll always remember that. You never thought too much about how the shells were being used”.*

## TYPICAL DAY FOR ETHEL WORKING AT PRIDDY'S HARD:

7am – Start work. I would have arrived by bike and gone over the bridge or the Hardway road entrance, depending which end of the site I was at. I would have entered the shifting room where I hung up my clothes and got changes in to my uniform, crossed over the red lone into the ‘clean area’ this meant that I had nothing flammable on me and we were often inspected just to make sure. I would then go from here to where ever I was based on that site. The uniform was ill-fitting and uncomfortable. You weren't allowed to take food in but often we snuck it in our tops as lunch was quite a long time off. One lady loved dripping and marmite sandwiches and she got caught during an inspection. Not much fuss was made though. 1.30pm- we had an hour for lunch, we could bring in our own lunch or could go to the canteen. We would sometimes be lucky enough to have lunch time concerts and comedians. You could also take your sandwiches and go to the 'Big House' for lunch if you wished to.

2.30pm – return from lunch and then we would have 20minutes mess around before Ron returned. You would have two look outs each end of the laboratory.

5pm- finish but could do overtime until 7pm and on Saturday mornings sometimes.



Priddy's Hard <https://dday.nmrn.org.uk/>



Ethel and her co workers at Priddy's - (front row far right)