

Elsie Louise Winwood

Elsie Louise Winwood (nee Jardine) worked at Kynoch explosive factory on Corringham marshes.

Prior to the war Elsie lived in Newbury, Berkshire, where her mother taught the piano. The family home was a billet for soldiers and Elsie had to learn to cook for the men as her mother was busy teaching the piano. Elsie's daughter says that she was a very good cook.

Later, Elsie moved to Thurrock where she worked at Kynoch. She walked down a rough dirt lane (now Whitehall Road, Grays) and caught a bus to work. Walking down the lane was not pleasant early in the morning and at night shrapnel was sometimes falling from the sky.

She worked in a corrugated shed, where the women filled shells with gunpowder. Most of the women slept at Kynoch overnight, but Elsie did not want to do that and always returned to her own home in the Broadway.

After a while, Elsie was promoted to forewoman.

Elsie married and her surname became Winwood.

Her husband was a lot older than her and a foreman on the roads, which meant he was often away from home.

Elsie ran a corner shop on the Broadway, which was a chemist although it did not dispense prescriptions. Her daughter remembers the corner shop had coloured jars in the window.

Elsie died aged 93

Story provided by Elsie's daughter, Mrs B C Spencer.