

Discovery- Friend or Foe

- WC 08.06.20
- This week in Discovery you will looking at the role of women during World War 2.
- Please complete your work for this week in your distance learning booklets

Click on the lesson you would like to complete



[Lesson 1](#)

[Lesson 2](#)

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The Role of Women



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Lesson 1- The change of the roles of women during World War 2

- Read through the information in the next few slides and then complete the work comparing the women's roles.

The Role of Women

Pre-World War II



What do you think life was like before the war broke out in 1939?

What do you think the role of women was like?

What do you think the role of men was like?

How much do you think life in the 1930s differed from life today?



The Role of Women

Pre-World War II



Life for most women before the war was quite different than it is today. Typically, most women stayed at home and did not go out to work.

Some younger women did go out to work but if they married, they had to give up their job. Women were paid less than men and they were generally only employed to do 'women's jobs', such as nursing or working as a shop assistant.

Men and women's roles were very stereotypical and even from a young age, boys and girls were brought up quite differently.

Lessons in school taught girls how to cook, sew and look after the home while boys were taught woodworking and other practical skills to equip them for the workplace.

How do you think men and women felt about their roles?



Changing Roles

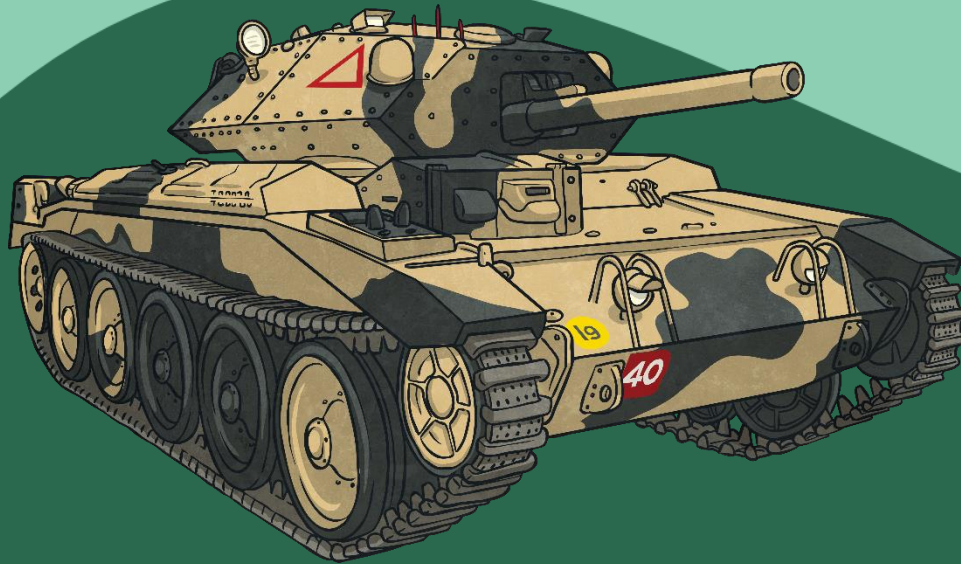


When the war started in September 1939, the role of women was set to change.

Why do you think this was the case?

What do you think would be different and why?

What might women be required to do?



Changing Roles



With men called up for active service, there was a great need for women to undertake the jobs that the men had previously done. Suddenly, women became more than just homemakers and were given the opportunity to become patriotic heroines. They would contribute significantly to the war effort in a variety of ways.



Land Girls working on a farm

Changing Roles



During the war, women were employed in a wide range of jobs. Some became munition factory workers (making weapons); others joined the armed forces (army, navy and air force); many worked as Land Girls; some drove buses or trains; some worked on the canals; they worked as nurses or ambulance drivers; they built ships and worked in other engineering industries; they worked as searchlight operators and some became air raid wardens.

The Women's Voluntary Service also employed women, who assisted with a wide range of duties.



A WVS volunteer running a mobile canteen

Changing Roles



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At the start of the war, the government relied on women to volunteer for work.

However, by late 1941, it became necessary to introduce conscription (making working compulsory).

Initially this only applied to single women between the ages of 20 and 30, but later in the war this was extended to women between the ages of 18 and 50.

In 1943, almost 90% of single women and 80% of married women were in employment.

Changing Roles



- There were over 640,000 women in the armed forces, including [The Women's Royal Naval Service \(WRNS\)](#), the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), plus many more who flew unarmed aircraft, drove ambulances, served as nurses and worked behind enemy lines in the European resistance in the Special Operations Executive.

- The most notable member of the ATS during the Second World War was the then Princess Elizabeth. She trained as a driver and mechanic and reached the rank of Junior Commander. Winston Churchill's youngest daughter, Mary Churchill (later Lady Soames) also served as a member of the ATS.

	Before World War II	During World War II
Number of women in paid employment		
Women's job status compared to men		
Women's pay and working conditions		
Attitudes to women working		

Lesson 2- Propaganda and women during World War 2

- Read through the information in the next few slides and then create your own propaganda poster encouraging women to join the war effort.
- Create your poster in your distance learning booklet.

Propaganda Posters

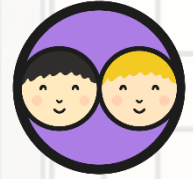


During the war, propaganda posters were commissioned to encourage thousands of women to volunteer for work.

The posters were designed to make working look glamorous and to appeal to women's sense of duty to their country.

Look at each propaganda poster and discuss the questions with your partner. Be ready to feedback your ideas to the rest of the class.

Propaganda Posters



What job is this poster encouraging women to volunteer for?

To work in Air Raid Precautions (ARP) as a warden or one of the other listed roles.

What features does it use to persuade them?

- It features a person appealing directly to the reader through the use of a speech bubble.
- It shows lines of women already walking along to sign up to encourage other to follow suit.

Would you like to volunteer for this job?
Why/why not?



Propaganda Posters



What job is this poster encouraging women to volunteer for?

To work for the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

What features does it use to persuade them?

- Capital letters and exclamation marks are used in the slogan to suggest that women would help Britain be victorious in war if they join.
- The picture used depicts the transformation from a civilian to an employee. The woman shown looks strong, useful and happy.

Would you like to volunteer for this job?
Why/why not?



Propaganda Posters



What job is this poster encouraging women to volunteer for?

The Women's Land Army.

What features does it use to persuade them?

- The slogan suggests that the work will be enjoyable and promote good health.
- It uses an image of a glamorous woman showing that they wouldn't lose their femininity.

Would you like to volunteer for this job?
Why/why not?



Lesson 3- You're hired!

- Imagine you are a women living during World War 2 who has just been given a job.
- Read through the offer of employment letters and then choose one.
- Then complete the job description activity to describe the details of your job.

Elstow Ordnance Factory,
Elstow,
Bedford,
Bedfordshire,
England.

8th December 1940

Dear _____,

Thank you for volunteering as a munitions factory worker. I am pleased to confirm your appointment at Elstow Ordnance Factory where you should attend next week for training. Your duties at the factory will include: fitting shells; repairing machinery; working on the production line.

You will be issued with protective clothing on arrival that must be worn at all times. You will receive one day off per week.

I look forward to seeing you next week,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Harper

Elstow Factory Manager.

WLA Headquarters,
Balcombe Place,
Sussex,
England.

10th September 1941

Dear _____,

Thank you for volunteering to join the Women's Land Army. I am pleased to confirm your appointment at Cherry Hill Farm, Cambridgeshire, working under Mr. William Jollaner. You should attend the farm next week for training after which you will be shown your accommodation. Your duties at the farm will include: milking the cows; planting and growing crops; driving the harvester.

You will be issued with a uniform consisting of brown dungarees, hat and overcoat. The wearing of which is at the discretion of the farmer. You will be housed in a hostel in the nearby village of Willingham with sixteen other girls. You will receive £1.85 per week from Mr. Jollaner and in return you will be expected to complete 50 hours of work in this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Grace

(on behalf of Lady Gertrude Denman)

ARP Centre,
Rossendale Street,
London,
England

11th November 1940

Dear _____,

Thank you for volunteering to join the Air Raid Precautions. I am pleased to confirm that you have been appointed as an ARP warden in central London. You should attend the Rossendale Street ARP Centre next week for training. Your duties will include: patrolling streets after nightfall to ensure blackout; directing civilians to the nearest air raid shelter in the event of the siren sounding; extinguishing fires and clearing debris.

You will be issued with a metal hat and armband that should be worn whenever you are on duty. You will also be provided with a one-piece 'siren suit'. You will be expected to work three nights a week and in the case of any emergencies which may arise.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. James Falkirk

Rossendale ARP Centre Officer

Queen Anne's Chambers,
41 Tothill Street,
London,
England.

10th January 1941

Dear _____,

Thank you for volunteering to join the Women's Voluntary Service. I am pleased to confirm that you will be undertaking the running of a mobile canteen in London. You should attend the London WVS Rest Centre next week for training. Your duties will include: preparing food; promoting the health and wellbeing of APR staff; ordering and organising stock; assisting as directed with the safe housing of those affected by bombing.

You will be issued with a uniform consisting of a hat and overcoat that should be worn whenever you are on duty. Your hours of work will vary, depending on the needs of your area.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Enid LK Fitton

Centre Organiser

After reading the letter which outlines your new job, complete the following table:

Job title and location	
Uniform and pay	
Working conditions	
Key duties	
Do you think you will enjoy this job? Explain why/why not.	

Lesson 4- Write a diary entry

- For the job that you have just been offered, write a diary entry all about a day in your new role.
- Think about how you may have felt throughout the day.
- Write your diary entry in distance learning booklets.