



# ISD Virtual Learning

# 10th/World History

**April 9, 2020**



Grade/Course

Lesson: April 9, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: Explain the role of women in WWII.**

# Warm Up

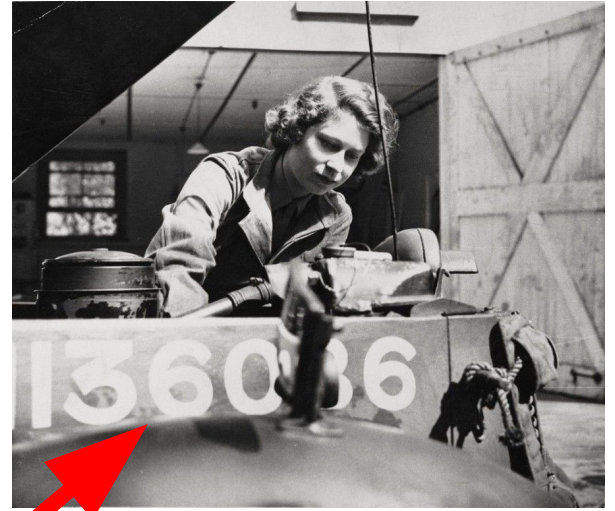
On a separate sheet of paper, write down if you think the following facts about women in WWII are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

1. By mid-1943, 90% of single women in Britain were working in factories, on land (farming), or in the armed forces.
2. Although women could join the armed forces as nurses, they could not fly aircraft or drive ambulances.
3. The current Queen ELizabeth was a Junior Commander in the British Army.
4. Women served in the Special Operations Executive as spies behind enemy lines-some were captured by Nazis.



# Warm Up

1. By mid-1943, 90% of single women in Britain were working in factories, on land (farming), or in the armed forces. **THIS IS TRUE.**
2. Although women could join the armed forces as nurses, they could not fly aircraft or drive ambulances. **THIS IS FALSE-Women could fly unarmed aircraft and drive ambulances.**
3. The current Queen ELizabeth was a Junior Commander in the British Army. **THIS IS TRUE-Queen Elizabeth, then Princess, was an ambulance driver.**
4. Women served in the Special Operations Executive as spies behind enemy lines-some were captured by Nazis. **THIS IS TRUE.**



# Lesson Activity

Before moving on, draw the table (to right) in your notes.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Your Answer</b>
Which number did you pick? Why that one?	
What is the title of the reading?	
Before you read-predict what you think it will be about.	
Two facts/things you learned from the reading.	
How do you think life was different pre-WWII and post-WWII for women in these roles?	

# Lesson Activity

On the next page you will see the images of 5 women and a description of their role. Choose one that you would like to focus on and scroll down to read their contribution to the war effort. You may read others if you wish-but please fill out the notes on at least one.





1

Keeping  
Children Safe



2

Winning the  
War at Home



3

Sustaining  
Industry



4

Feeding the  
Country



5

Serving in the  
Forces

# Keeping Children Safe

Over one and a half million people were evacuated from British towns and cities in the first four days of 1939, as massive German bombing raids had been feared. Eight hundred thousand children, each labelled with a luggage tag, headed for the countryside. (*note: children were sent to the countryside where bombing was less frequent, to keep them safe*) It was a huge social upheaval, with countless stories of urban poverty coming face-to-face with middle class rural life. Many thrived, others – tens of thousands – eagerly returned home while the war was still on.

Rene Smith was living in Coalbrookdale, a small town 20 miles outside Wolverhampton, when she took in two young girls from Liverpool. “They were two of the poorest little scraps of humanity you could imagine. I nearly despaired; none of the clothes they had arrived in could be used again. We had to buy them everything – complete sets of underwear, dresses, coats, macs, socks and shoes. My life became very different from what I had imagined as a new housewife. I had acquired a ready-made family of four, so our life together as husband and wife was severely curtailed. Our social life was practically non-existent.

“On the other hand, it was quite amazing to see how these children blossomed physically. It was most heartening to see them develop into two plump, healthy, well-behaved, really very nice little girls. We both found it very rewarding.”

*Edited extract from War Wives: A Second World War Anthology by Colin and Eileen Townsend. © Copyright Colin and Eileen Townsend 1989.*





# Winning the War at Home



All through the war women had to juggle family life, coping with food shortages, supporting the war effort, and facing the uncertainties of conflict.

Philippa Gould had celebrated her first wedding anniversary the year that war broke out. "The day war was declared, I was three months pregnant. My husband Nigel was on the reserve of the Sherwood Foresters and would be called up. Before the war, my grandmother had a housekeeper, a house, a cook, a kitchen maid, two parlour maids and two chambermaids. Very shortly after war broke out they all left for wartime work. We had to grow vast quantities of potatoes for the war effort.

"Eventually we heard that there had been a raid to Norway and the Sherwood Foresters were involved. The next thing was a telegram from the War Office to say that my husband was missing.

"On 7 May I received another telegram from the War Office, to say that he was a POW (POW=Prisoner of War, captured by the enemy)."

*Edited extract from the BBC People's War archive*

# Sustaining Industry



The government introduced conscription in 1941, the first time women had been ordered into wartime service. They were ‘doing a man’s job’ but were invariably paid less.

Eugenie Balderstone was one of millions brought into Britain’s wartime factories. “I went to work on munitions at British Mark. My job was filling shells with TNT powder. This was, I thought, my contribution to the war effort.

“There was black powder for tracer bullets and yellow powder for filling the shells. I only ever worked on the high explosive (yellow) powder. This stained our hair and skin yellow. It used to burn and sting. We got skin rashes, even though we wore masks and overalls. We worked 12 hour shifts; a fortnight on days then a fortnight on nights. Despite there being a war on, the long hours and dangerous work, I made some good friends. I enjoyed many a night out in the social club singing and dancing.”

*Edited extract from the BBC People’s War archive*

# Feeding the Country

Every week, women queued (*note: stood in line*) for hours, clutching their precious ration books: permitting one egg, 2oz tea, 4oz of bacon, 2oz butter, 2oz cheese per person, per week. The German U-boat blockade shrank the supply of meat, sugar and cereals. Gardeners were urged to 'Dig for Victory' and women were sent to join the Land Army.

Mabel Ogilvie was one of 80,000 women working in the WLA by 1943. "As a preference to working in a munitions factory, I decided to join the Women's Land Army. It seemed to offer the healthy outdoor life which appealed to me. We were taken daily by lorry (*note: bus*) in all kinds of weather, complete with our beetroot sandwiches (which I came to loathe), to work on different arable farms in the area – potato picking, hedge trimming and corn threshing in its season, which was very dirty and horribly uncomfortable work.

"Over the days I became very unhappy, leading a life far from that depicted on the recruiting posters."

Edited extract from the BBC People's War archive



# Serving in the Forces

Half a million women joined the services – but were unarmed. Public opinion – and Prime Minister Winston Churchill – considered women should be protected and not called upon to fight like men.

Compared to the cooks, cleaners and clerks of the WW1 women's forces, many more trades and skills were available in WW2. The WAAF had flight mechanics and welders. The WRNS worked on radar stations and in meteorology. The ATS drove army transport and manned anti-aircraft batteries, one of the most dangerous but most popular areas of employment.

After her conscription in 1942, Mary Latham was among those women who chose to work on the anti-aircraft batteries. "I was a hairdresser in Chorley, Lancashire. As hairdressing was considered to be a luxury trade in wartime and I was 18 years old, I was given the choice of munitions work or joining the forces. My friend May and I travelled to Preston to sign up in the forces and received the King's Shilling. How my life changed in the next four years. We moved to Arborfield, where we did six weeks of intensive training.

"When our turn came [to demobilise at the end of the war] I didn't know whether to be glad or sad. I had made some good friends in the ATS. I returned home in February 1946 and took up my old job as a hairdresser – older and wiser." *Edited extract from the BBC People's War archive*



# Practice

Now that you have learned about roles women took in WWII, let's decide if women's roles in society changed after WWII.

Read [this article](#) from The History Channel and fill out the table to the right.

<b>Struggles for Women post-WWII</b>	<b>“Victories” (advancements) for women post-WWII</b>

Once you are done reading-summarize women's experiences in WWII in 3-4 sentences using the information you learned today.