



WOMEN AT WAR

What did women in the services do?

Source 1



Photograph of women working on aircraft

**Source 2**

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WAR CABINET

STATUS AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OF THE A.T.S.

MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR

1. For some time I have been considering the question of giving fuller military status to the Auxiliary Territorial Service. This is one aspect of a wide review of the conditions of service of this women's corps, a review which has as its object to attract recruits to the corps in order to make up the serious deficiencies in its establishment. At the same time, I am anxious to tighten up the conditions of enrolment of the corps to something approximating more to the terms of service of the soldier. There is a pronounced shortage, as my colleagues know, in the women's organizations of all three fighting services, and to some extent the remedies which the three Service Departments are seeking are on the common lines suggested by a common problem.

2. The matter has been brought to a head by proposals made in the report of Air Marshal Sir Philip Joubert's Committee on anti-aircraft re-organization, to utilise members of the A.T.S. for duties of an operational nature in connection with the Air Defences of Great Britain. The Joubert Committee, impressed with the need for economising man-power in the period that lies ahead, propose that members of the A.T.S. should be trained and employed in a number of duties in gun operational rôles such as Track Recorders, Plotters, Teleprinter Operators, etc., and also as complete reliefs for soldiers as Fire Control Operators at gun sites; further, the Committee consider women might appropriately be used for complete Searchlight detachments. It is estimated that in this way the services of some 30,000 women could be quickly utilised with advantage, with appreciable easing of our man power problem, which is becoming more and more insistent, and that eventually some 100,000 women would be employed with A.D.G.B. on operational and other rôles.

The W.A.A.F are already largely employed on many similar types of duty in operation rooms, etc., but the suggested employment of A.T.S. members in operational rôles on gun and searchlight sites goes, I believe, further than anything now existing in the women's corps.

War Cabinet report on the Status and Future of the A.T.S., March 1941



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Source 3

1725

The Times - - Sept. 12
Evening Standard " "
The Star - - " "
Provincials.

J.T. 916



IMPORTANT

Government Announcement to Women

Ministry of Labour and National Service

There must no longer be any doubt in anybody's mind that every available woman in Britain will have to serve to win this war.

The Registration of age groups will proceed steadily. But this process, which necessarily involves interviewing, takes up precious time, and thousands of volunteers are needed at this moment in the A.T.S. for work that cannot wait. In the hour of their country's need, the Women of Britain have always responded, unselfishly and most courageously, to the call for service. The hour of need is upon us now.

You are being asked to volunteer to-day ahead of your age group. If you have already registered do not wait for your interview. Come forward, and say you want to help now.

There are many different ways in which you can serve, but the need of the AUXILIARY TERRITORIAL SERVICE is very great indeed. This service demands personal integrity, good intelligence and willingness to maintain a high standard of efficiency.

Members of the A.T.S. are working side by side with men in the Army and are also taking over vital work which releases men for the front line. Come forward now and help to build the mighty army that will lead a great country to Victory.

Post this to-day

Address it to The Auxiliary Territorial Service,
AGSB - Hobart House, Grosvenor Gardens,
London, S.W.1.

Please send me full story of life in the A.T.S. and
details of the opportunities it offers. This does not
commit me in any way.

Mr/Ms/Mrs _____ Age _____
to be confirmed

Address _____

Age limits: (1) 16-41.
Priority classes needed
under (2) 16-30 years
(3) 31-40 years
(4) 41-50 years
(5) 51-60 years
(6) 61-70 years
(7) 71-80 years
(8) 81-90 years
(9) 91-100 years

(Detailed outline, form 1000)

200,000 ATS

urgently needed

★ Please call and have a talk at
any Employment Exchange or
A.T.S. or Army Recruiting
Centre. They are there to help you.

Advert placed in various newspapers asking women to join the A.T.S.



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Source 4



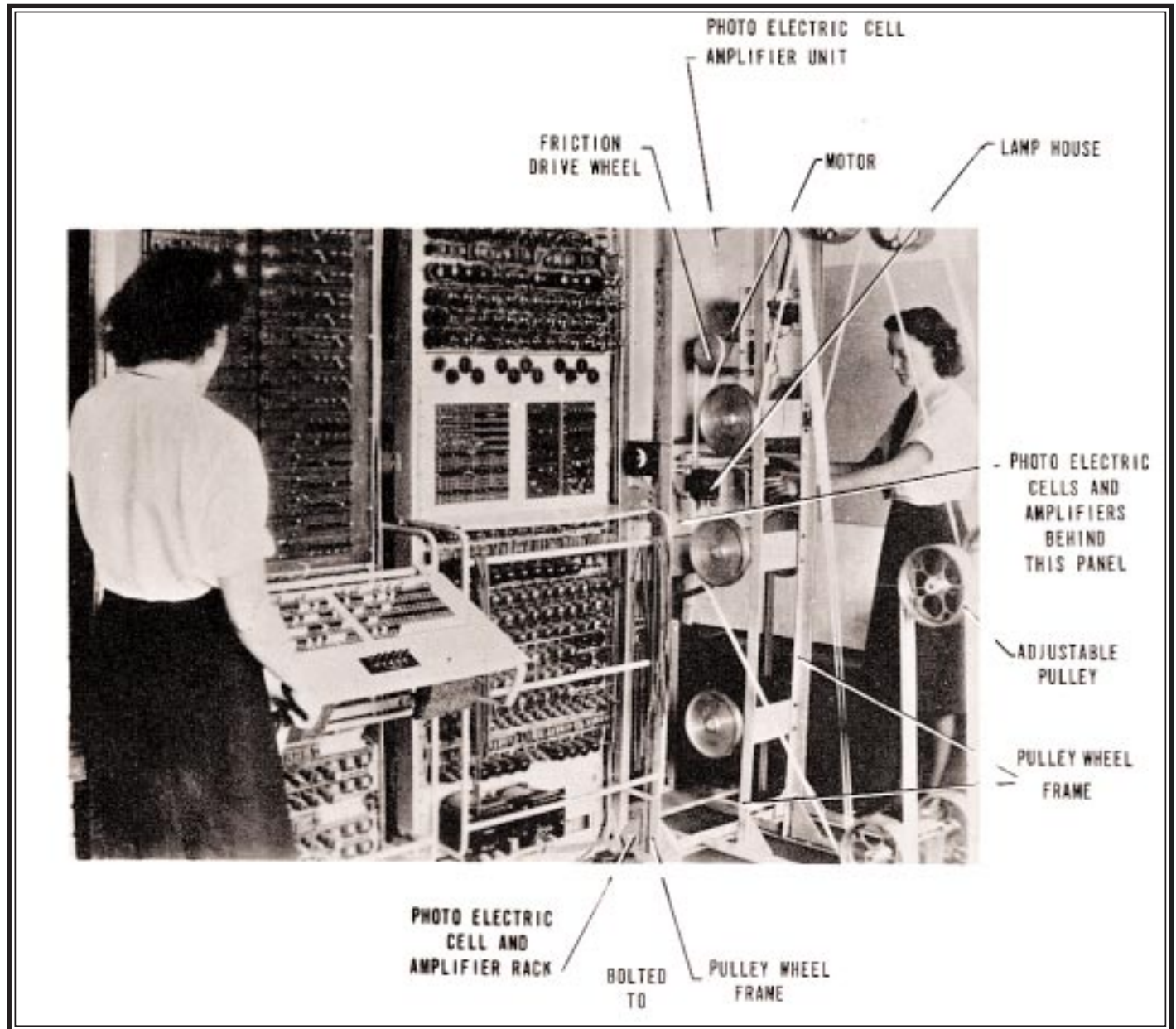
Photograph of women working as 'spotters' (spotting enemy aircraft)



WOMEN AT WAR

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Source 5



Women working with Colossus (a prototype computer) at Bletchley Park