



**WOMEN AT WAR**

*What contribution did women workers make?*

*Source 1*

*London & National Society for Women's Service*

*(Formerly London Society For Women's Suffrage. Dating from 1866)*

*Non Party. Affiliated to the National Council of Women*

*President—The Rt. Hon. Viscount Cecil of Chelwood K.C.*

*Hon. Treasurer—The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves*

*Chairman of Executive—Miss Ethel Watts*

*Secretary—Miss Philippa Strachey*

*29 Marsham Street,*

*Westminster, S.W.1.*

*Telephone: Abbey 1542.*

*28th November, 1938.*

If it were to become necessary to send an expeditionary army abroad the women would be called on to supply the greater part of the reserve energy required to maintain the national life.

Taking the figures of the 1931 Census for England and Wales (leaving the numbers in Scotland out of account) there are over fourteen and three-quarter million women between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five whose powers, mental and physical are to be drawn on. Of these about five million are already engaged in paid employment, and the real reserve of energy lies with the remainder - something under ten million, of whom roughly about seven and a half million are married.

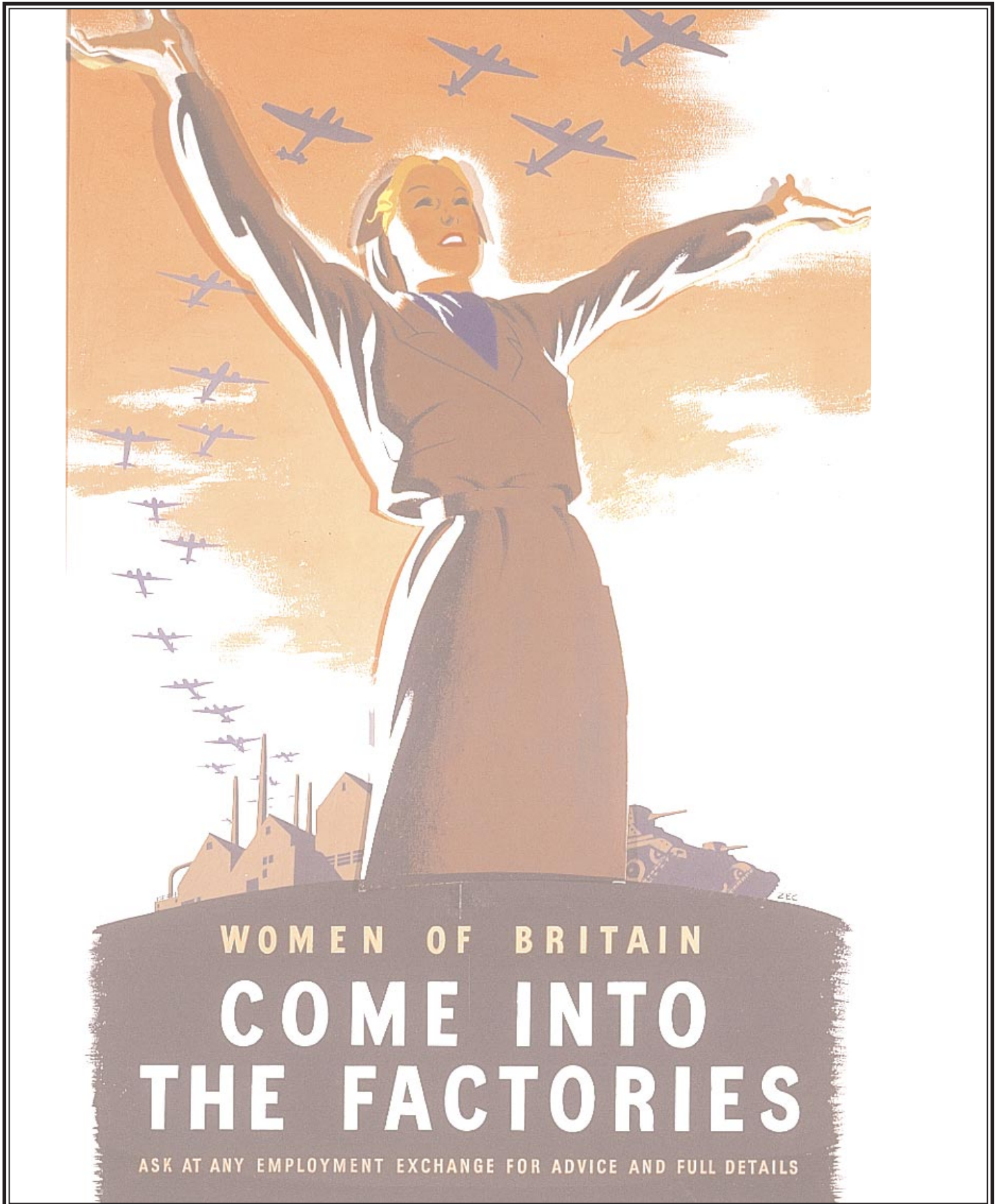
*Letter to the Prime Minister from the London & National Society for Women's Service, 1938*



# WOMEN AT WAR

What contribution did women workers make?

Source 2



Poster encouraging women to work in factories

**Source 3**

To all Local Offices.

RECRUITMENT OF WOMEN.

In view of the shortage of women's labour in many areas it is becoming increasingly necessary to tap potential sources of supply from amongst women who do not normally work. One way to do this is through women's organisations and the Ministry has lately obtained the promise of help from a number of such organisations whose local branches throughout the country are prepared to co-operate with Local Offices on the following lines:-

- (1) In assisting to make known through their members both the urgency of the need for women workers and the ways in which the Ministry is endeavouring to meet it.
- (2) In bringing to the notice of their members the urgent need for women to volunteer for employment, particularly those outside the registered age groups and those who do not normally work.
- (3) In stressing the importance of mobility and adaptability amongst women who volunteer.
- (4) In urging upon employers the need for utilising the services of older women; and of women who can only work part-time.

**Notice issued by the government to all labour exchanges (job centres)**



# WOMEN AT WAR

What contribution did women workers make?

Source 4



BRITISH GUNS: No. 1



THE WOMEN BEHIND THE GUNS

This photograph was taken during the final assembly stages in a British ordnance factory which is turning out large numbers of guns. In Britain's Royal Ordnance Factories, 80% of the employees are women, 32% semi-skilled or unskilled women, and only 7% skilled men. In the newest Royal Ordnance Factory, now engaged in making 6-pounder guns, women form 88% of the labour on the production side. A great proportion of these women had never been in a factory two years ago. Now they are working fifty-six hours a week at the machines. They are doing skilled men's jobs and doing them well.

Ministry of Information photograph showing women at work



# WOMEN AT WAR

*What contribution did women workers make?*

*Source 5*



*Photograph showing two women working on a steam locomotive*