

British people In WWII - by Adrian and Lewis

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Introduction

In this document we will be looking at how life was for the civilians of Great Britain. Specifically a person named Beryl James, she did her part to serve her country during the World War. This report will also show how the general population of England lived throughout the war and also how Beryl James ventured throughout WWII.

Job Categories -- Civilians (men)

- Clerk
- Vehicle Driver
- Fitter
- Farm worker
- Engineer
- Coal miner
- Shop owner
- Railway worker
- Others



Job Categories -- Civilians (women)

- Shop owner / Worker
- Clerk
- Machinist
- Typist
- Incapacitated
- Housekeeper



Clerks--

This job was the most common job during WW2 in Britain. Clerks are generally people who work in offices or banks to undertake administrative duties. Jobs like these were seen as jobs suitable only for men, but during the war,

lots of women started working as clerks. The clerks would often manage accounts and keep records. They were mostly stationed at their own table with a typewriter. Being a clerk used to be considered as a job only suitable for men until women eventually started working as clerks.



Vehicle Drivers --



Being a vehicle driver could mean many things. Some jobs during this period of time would be : Ambulance drivers, Firetruck drivers, Tank drivers, Transport drivers and Unarmed aircraft drivers. Most of these jobs were also mostly taken by women. Women played an essential role during the world war and besides being a clerk, being a vehicle driver was very common for women as well.

Fitters--

Fitters were essentially people who put together parts to make machinery. These jobs were essential to the war as they were the people who were fixing machinery and building machinery. These included planes, tanks, weapons and bombs. This job was dominant to the male gender.



AUSTRIAN WAR MEMORIAL

1918/1919

Farm Workers --

Farm workers contributed to the nation by planting crops for the army who needed the appropriate nutrients to fight for the nation. This was crucial because in the previous world war, food was one of the key reasons why Germany surrendered as their men could not fight on. Both Men and Women could take up this job.



Engineers --

Engineers were used for many things, increasing mobility on the field, building trenches and many others. They were usually left to constructing structures whether for war or not. Engineers were mostly used in war however they didn't fight much. They usually prepared the trenches like fitting turrets and digging out the trenches.



Coal Miners --

Coal miners were important and played a key role in the war. They fueled railways, shipping, some other transportations and also they kept people warm. A lot of men were forced to leave their jobs as coal miners to do military services, this created some problems for the nation as they didn't have the people which led to shortage of coal and higher demand of labourers. This job was primarily for men.



Biography on Beryl James during the war.

Beryl James was a clerk who worked in the military. She came to be a clerk



by her father who was a Regular Officer. At first she was stationed in Q branch NID HQ in Victoria Barracks and was a Shorthand typist. Her branch was left to taking care of troops, eg. moving troops and providing troops



shelter and food. To take part of her job she had to sign the Official Secrets Act which provides the main defence against losing information in the UK. Her army number was "W\23613". To War Officers she had to start her letters with "Dear Sir, I have the honour to refer to" and always had to end it with "Honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant" to show respect. During the 1940's she was stationed in Victoria Barracks for her own safety. It was a new experience for Beryl James but she didn't stay for long. Towards the end of the 1940's she was posted in Leicester which was because her father had



moved there for job purposes and he also wanted her to be there. She was in a branch of a sub-district HQ and that branch dealt with mostly administrative and legal affairs. Every morning she had to go for Roll Call

and she lived in flats during that time at Leicester. She had to go and shelter during air raids which were very frequent. She was there when Coventry was bombarded by the Nazi's and she remembers it very

clearly. She describes the bombing as ,”The procession of aircraft seemed endless”.

She was also there when the Cafe De Paris was bombed in London and she described the bombing as “a noisy air raid”. In February 1942 she was transferred to an HAA training unit in Oswestry which she described as a “Huge Camp”. In this camp she doesn’t recall much but what she does recall is that fact that she had to march all over



the place endlessly in Battle Dress Trousers, Gaiters and heavy boots. In this particular AA Training unit the ATS(Auxiliary Territorial Services) personnel was part of the military unit. From that point on Beryl was transferred/posted to Chester as an assistant adjutant to the Chester and the Lichfield ATS groups. She described the experience of being an assistant adjutant as being “enjoyable”. She was later married and demobbed in 1946 and was sent to live with her parents in Caversham.



Information from:

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/nostalgia/world-war-two-names-occupations-10384987>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/93/a5302793.shtml>