

The Role of Women During the Second World War

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

34 When the war started in September 1939, the role of
37 women changed rapidly.

49 With men called up for active service, there was a need for
59 women to undertake the jobs that the men had previously
67 done, giving them the opportunity to become patriotic
76 heroines. During the war, women were employed in a
83 range of positions including: munition factory workers
91 (making weapons); working in the armed forces (army,
102 navy and air force); working as Land Girls; driving buses or
110 trains; working as nurses or ambulance drivers; building
113 ships; becoming searchlight
116 operators and becoming
119 air raid wardens.

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



Quick Questions



1. Find and copy two words related to 'working'.



2. What percentage of married women were working by 1943?



3. How did life change for women during the Second World War? Give two examples.



4. Why does the author use the phrase 'patriotic heroines'?
