



Women Veterans

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During the outbreak of the Second World War men were needed to serve at the front. This radically changed the stereotype that "a women's place is in the home". In Quebec the Catholic Church prevented many women from working in factories because it felt that this reversal in traditional gender roles would harm family values. However the government realized women were indispensable to the war effort. Munitions were continually needed at the front so women would now have to work in factories in order to supply the war effort. This led to a serious problem seeing as women traditionally took care of children. To enable them to work the first government run daycares in Canada were created.

In June of 1941 the Canadian Women's Army Corp (CWAC) was established. Women who enlisted became drivers of light trucks, cooks in messes, typists and telegraph operators. In time their duties extended to more male dominated roles such as driving trucks, ambulances, and radar mechanics etc. By the end of the war CWAC had more than 21,000 members and three companies were posted overseas in 1943. Women also played a vital role in the Women's Royal Canadian Naval service as well as in the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division. Furthermore women played a central role in nursing in which 4,079 served in Europe.

Unfortunately, even though women had proven very skilled in their tasks they were expected to go back to their traditional roles once the veterans returned home from the war.



*Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, N.D., n.d. May 2014.

*Website Title: WarMuseum.ca Article Title: Life on the Home Front: Women and the War on the Home Front

*Conrad, Margaret, and Alvin Finkel. History of the Canadian Peoples: 1867 to the Present, Vol. 2 (5th Edition)(2008)