CREWE TOWN COUNCIL

CREWE

Daisy Haywood

1914

Rachel Hathaway Illustrations

Meet Daisy Haywood

Hi, my name is Daisy and I work in a factory making munitions in World War 1.

I was born in 1888.

A munitions worker makes bullets and bomb shells packed with explosives to be used in wars.

All the munition workers are women! We all work 12 hours a day to make everything.

I only have 10 minutes to have my lunch and go to the toilet- it's a very busy job!

It's also a dangerous job! There are a lot of accidents.

It is also very noisy and crowded. All day I can hear heavy machines and people shouting over the noise to each other.

Take a look at the pictures of me and my team below- that's me in the middle at the front!

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- **What adjective would you use to describe how Daisy might feel in the factory?**

Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Infirmary Nurse

I also have a friend called Olive Alexander who works in a hospital at The Webb Orphanage in Crewe.

The orphanage has opened up as a British Red Cross hospital treating wounded soldiers.

She said that it was a really busy role and she has to see a lot of injuries.

Her job as a nurse involves:

- washing the beds in soap
- washing the clothes
- helping with bandages
- giving out medicine
- giving baths to the wounded soldiers

- **Take a look at the pictures of the nurses below from The Webb Orphanage Hospital.**
- **What adjective would you use to describe how Olive might feel in the hospital?**

- **Take a look below at some of the nurses at The Webb Orphanage and their jobs.**

Miss Olive Alexander

Olive started at The Webb Orphanage on the 11th January 1916 and she volunteered 4 hours every week. She was in charge of helping with the soldiers during the hospital dances.

Mrs Isabella Baguley

Isabella started at The Webb Orphanage on the 6th January 1915 as a nurse volunteer. Her record showed she worked very hard and was popular.

Mrs Beatrice A. Bailey

Beatrice started at The Webb Orphanage on the 26th May 1918, about 6 months before the end of World War 1. She worked part- time in the kitchens.

Mrs Lena Bullock

Beatrice started at The Webb Orphanage on the 20th May 1916 and worked part time in the kitchens and the wards treating the soldiers wounds.

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Credit: Cheshire Image Bank

Women's roles during World War 2.

When World War 1 ended in 1918, we hoped it would never happen again.

But just 20 years later, Britain was getting ready for World War 2.

Women took on a lot of roles again to help Britain stay as normal as possible.

Let's take a look at some of these jobs.

The Land Army

Lily Dimelow is in the Land Army and lives in Groby Road in Crewe.

She works delivering milk for Micklewright's farm!

The Land Army is a group during World War 2 where women worked on the fields growing fruits and vegetables. All the men who usually did this job have gone off to fight in the war, so women have stepped into this job.

It is an important job to make sure Britain had enough food to eat during the war! Women also work in Queen's Park in Crewe growing vegetables there. They have grown 35,000 onions and 512 cucumbers!

But Lily is paid a lot less than a man for the same amount of work. She receives 28 shillings a week and a man receives 38 shillings a week!

It's not all bad though. She gets to do things that she couldn't do before like riding a bicycle and driving a tractor!

Take a look at the pictures below of Lily in her uniform.

- **How do you think Lily felt being paid less than a man?**
- **Take a look at the posters below which were used to get women to join. Would you join the Land Army if you could?**

Credit: Susan Chambers

Credit: 'Eveline Fletcher and Hilda Dison, WW2 People's War
'WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar'

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Credit: Imperial War Museum

Rolls Royce Merlin Engines

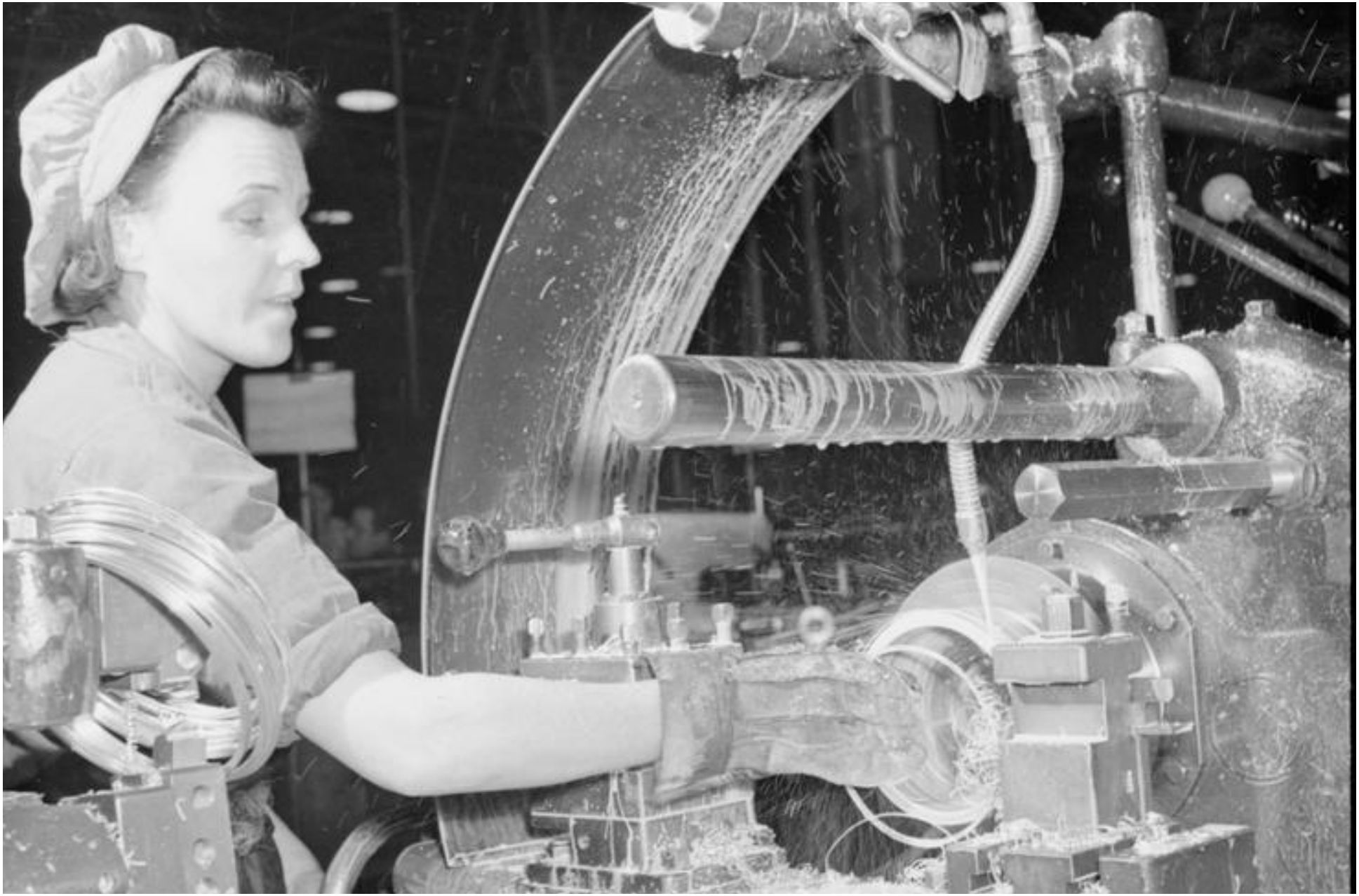
Women also work in the Rolls- Royce factory making Merlin engines for the war aircraft.

The factory is disguised so that it is not bombed. They make important engines for two planes called the Spitfire and the Hurricane! The powerful engine makes the plane go over 400mph- that's really fast!

Once, they refused to work for 2 weeks because she was being paid less than the men- maybe I should do that too.

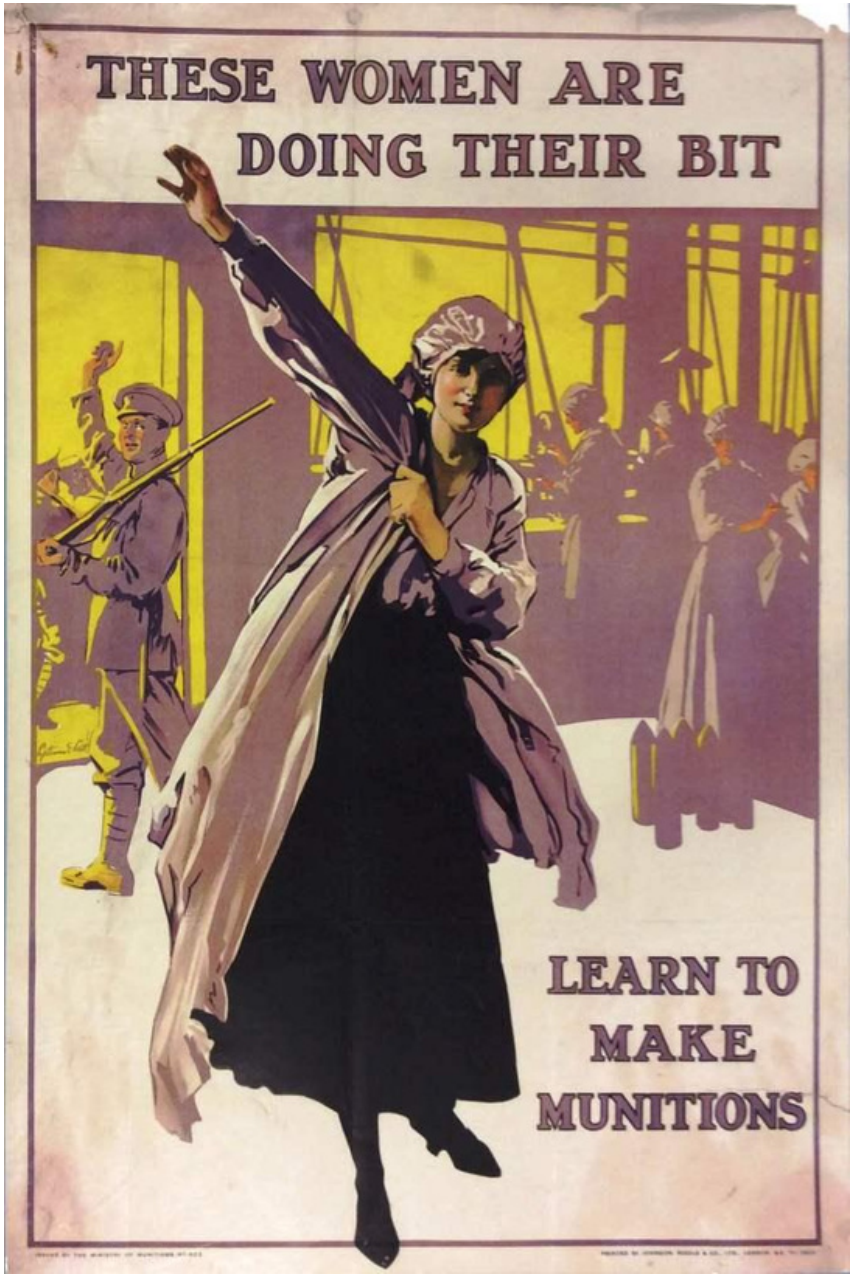
They make sure that everything fits into the engine- it's a really important job.

- **Take a look at the pictures of them below hard at work.**
- **Look at the poster which encouraged women to start work in the factories.**
- **Do you think you might have been treated differently when you went to work as a women?**
- **Why?**



Credit: Imperial War Museum

Credit: Ann Black



Credit: Imperial War Museum

Railway Porters

Women could have also worked as a railway porter at Crewe Railway Station. A porter has the really important job of moving heavy items across the station like parcels and trunks.

They also has the special job of making sure the blinds go down on the train during a blackout.

A blackout is when everyone in Britain is ordered to turn off all their lights and close their blinds so that enemy planes can't see where they are flying.

They might earn £5 a week which is a lot more money than they might have made before.

But women aren't allowed to drives the trains- this is seen as a man's only job.

For women, it is exciting- a higher pay and a new, challenging but rewarding job.

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- **Would you like to be a railway porter?**
- **Do you think it is fair that women were not allowed to drive the trains?**
- **Why?**
- **Take a look at the images of the Crewe railway porters below. It shows 'LMS' which stands for London, Midland and Scottish Railway. This was the railway company in Crewe during World War 2.**

Credit: MirrorPix

Credit: MirrorPix

Air Raid Wardens

They could have also been an Air Raid Warden.

It's a very dangerous job and they might have been in a lot of accidents.

They run kitchens and shelters for people whose houses have been bombed and makes sure people are safe.

They might have to work before the fire engine and ambulance arrives and makes sure people are ok.

They also has to walk around during a blackout.

Do you remember what a blackout is?

They have to walk down the street making sure everyone's lights are turned off.

Take a look at the bomb damage below from 1940 that she had to help out in.

This is what one Air Raid Warden wrote a letter:

The clouds of war were gathering over Europe when my mother, my sister Irene and I joined the ARP as Air Raid Wardens. I was seventeen years old and my sister was fifteen. We attended lectures in a police station near Old Swan in Liverpool and learned of the various gases that we might encounter; mustard gas (the smell of musty hay); phosgene gas and others that I have now forgotten, and we wore respirators in a special gas chamber filled with tear gas. Later, we went to houses in our neighbourhood fitting gas masks on the local inhabitants, and inquired about babies in their homes for they would need special respirators. It was a very exciting time albeit rather frightening. What lay ahead for all of us?

'Eveline Fletcher and Hilda Dison, WW2 People's War
'WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar'

- **What do you think it would have been like to be an Air Raid Warden?**
- **Can you describe how you might have felt using adjectives?**

Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Credit: Imperial War Museum

- **Watch the short video about these different jobs.**