SEARCH ENGINE Resource Pack

Women railway workers

This guide details documents and objects relating to women working on the railways during times of war and peace

*(Reference number for items in bold)*

Bibliography

**Books**

  [Link](http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21212980720001381)

  [Link](http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21211130910001381)

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- Matheson, Rosa. “The fair sex : women and the Great Western Railway”. 
  [Link](http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21224183310001381)

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  [Link](http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21211340380001381)

Journal articles

  http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21192315360001381

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- Great Western Railway. "Women locomotive builders at the Swindon Works.”
  http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS71208727470001381

  http://yorsearch.york.ac.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=44YORK_ALMA_DS21192139110001381

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More titles and information available on our library catalogue:
www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/librarycatalogue

Created 8 May 2014. Revised April
Sounds
Oral history recordings:

- Chalmers, Betty NAROH2000-40

- Lee, Violet Priscilla (nee Davis) NAROH2000-51
  Worked as a guard. Talks about training and conditions; Second World War and other railway women.

- Glassey, Hilda NAROH2000-60
  Worked as an engine cleaner in Bournemouth during the War.

- Lageu, Annie NAROH2001-69
  Shorthand typist in District Goods Office, Leeds. Discusses women's working conditions; affect of marrying on employment prospects and Second World War memories.

- Gregory, Catherine Jane Ellen NAROH2001-145

- Hodgson, Mary (nee Wainwright) NAROH2002-38
  Worked in Goods Agents Office. Discusses male/female relations and unequal pay.

- Kelso, Brenda Nancy (nee Hemingway) NAROH2002-51
  Worked in locomotive manufacturer drawing office during the 1950s. Discusses tasks and male/female relations; use of photography in drawing office.

- Spiller, Elizabeth (Betty) (nee Lambert) NAROH2002-62
  Worked as a porter and signal lamp woman during the War and discusses the difficulties of doing a porter's job as a woman.

- Barrett-Locke, Irene Annie (nee Davis) NAROH2002-98
  Refreshment Room Assistant. Talks about relations with other women staff, football supporters and picnic boxes.

- Bergin, Christine (nee Davies) NAROH2002-99
  First woman station manager, Western Region. Discusses types of passenger traffic, suicides and the Royal Train. Worked on the railways 1979-1995.

- Forsdyke, Nicola Judith NAROH2002-117
  Worked as marketing assistant, promotions manager, sales manager and consultant from 1988 onwards. Discusses railway politics, women's rights, branding and privatisation.

- Hanks, Brenda NAROH2002-118
  Started as a messenger girl and became the first woman president of the Transport Salaried Staff Association.

- Henderson, Ann NAROH2002-142

- Woodfield, Mary NAROH2002-160
  Worked as a linesman’s assistant and was in the Women’s Royal Navy Service during the war.

- Dickinson, Doreen NAROH2003-14
  Junior clerk. Talks about the effect of War on the railways and general working life.

- Garlick, Gladys NAROH2003-23
Worked as a porter and became one of the first women guards. Station run by women during the war. Worked on the railways 1940-1949.

- Brown, Carol NAROH2003-25

Art Work

- Painting, oil on canvas, poster artwork for the London Midland & Scottish Railway, Re-Forming Shell Cases by Norman Wilkinson, about 1946. Depicts women munitions workers in a railway workshop, reforming large, recycled brass shell cases using machinery and hammers. From The LMS at War series. Signed by the artist at bottom left. Unframed. Object no. 1977-5766

- Watercolour with white on board by Cliff Rowe, 1941. St Pancras Cleaning Yard. Woman cleaning locomotive. Finished painting worked from 85/22/41, with head-on view of woman before locomotive smoke box entrance, holding hose apparatus, in protective clothing; to left, shed window; to right, through smoky archway, more locomotives. One of a series of drawings and paintings by Cliff Rowe of St Pancras Locomotive Cleaning and Goods Yard, 1940-1945. Object no. 1985-8908

- Painting, watercolour (?), original artwork for London Midland & Scottish Railway poster, British Industries - Cotton by Cayley Robinson, 1924. Framed and glazed. Object no. 1979-8029

- Watercolour, 'Ticket Collector, Waterloo', by Helen McKie, June 1942. Image size 365mm x 255mm. Frame size 585mm x 505mm Object no. 1977-5853

- Watercolour, 'Woman of Pick & Shovel Gang', by Helen McKie, 1940. No.1 in a series of six small figure sketches. Image size 300mm x 175mm. frame size 475mm x 350mm. Object no. 1977-5843

- Watercolour. 'Waterloo' (Woman porter pushing barrow) by Helen McKie, June 1942. Image size 365mm x 255mm. Frame size 585mm x 510mm. Object no.1977-5851

Some artworks available on [www.ssplprints.com](http://www.ssplprints.com)
Archive documents

- Examination Paper Women Clerks used by the Great Western Railway (GWR) c1930. Questions on wide range of topics including geography, literature, famous historical people, abbreviations and maths with a short head test at the end. Object no. 2002-7537
- Great Western Railway employment papers relating to Miss M Mably, Female Clerk in the Chief Accountant’s Office, Paddington. Includes Great Western Railway Form of Application for Employment - Women and Girl Clerks, references and Great Western Railway contract of employment, 1930. Reference number 1696. Object no. 2002-7538
- Leaflet, British Railways, “Women’s Organizations Sightseeing Day Tour by Rail and Motor Coach for Chester and North Wales”, with photograph of Llangollen and map of the area of the reverse, 31st May, 1951. Object no. 2008-7447
- Leaflet, British Railways, ”Smaller Parcels Quicker Transit” with black and white photographs showing why larger parcels mean delays. Reasons given is railwaymen have gone to war and women can not be expected to lift such heavy loads and showing lighter parcels help with the war effort, dated World War Two. Object no. 2008-8981

Photographs

- Photograph, monochrome, postcard size, showing group of four women ticket collectors on the London Brighton & South Coast Railway at Havant, Hampshire, 1914-1918. Object no. 1995-7859
- Horwich Locomotive Works photographic collection shows images of women at work in the munitions factories Object no. 1997-7059
- Female labour - Photo binder no: 469

Plus images on [www.ssplprints.com](http://www.ssplprints.com) and [http://nrm.mediastorehouse.com/](http://nrm.mediastorehouse.com/) (where you can buy prints).

Related Objects

- Trophy and silver plaque, British Transport Commission, made from German incendiary bomb dropped on the Headquarters Offices of Euston Station, 30th December 1940, awarded to women’s ambulance teams of the Railway Executive in the London area, 1949-1960. Object no. 2001-8485
- White cotton dress with embroidered quotes from women who worked on the railways during the wars. The quote on the front is embroidered in purple thread and the one on the back using various colours. Around the bottom of the dress is embroidered a list of jobs undertaken by women on the railways in various colours. The dress also contains transfers of images of women at work; these have embroidered borders in various colours. Produced for the NRM exhibition ‘Art in Motion: Memory, Meaning and Movement’ by Donna Makey, a student at York St John University, 2007. Object no. 2010-7046
Felt hat, standard pattern; Railwomen; French Navy, red band, red embroidered double arrow badge Object no. **1992-7193**

Beret, BR(ER), Signal woman, 1948-59. Object no. **1977-5343**

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