



Women in Forestry

Doris Stanyon

Women's Timber Corps



While there was prejudice against the women at the beginning of the war. Towards the end of 1941, praise started to come from some of the men in charge, especially in Scotland. With attitudes beginning to change and a new confidence in the girls, who had proven that they could do the job, there was strong evidence that a Women's Timber Corps could be established officially.

In 1942 for the first time in history women were recruited in their thousands into forestry work. Newspaper reflected the growing support for the women with headlines: "Shopgirls Shine as Lumberjills" and "They are jolly good fellers!"

By the end of the war the number of workers in forestry had risen from 14,000 to 73,000 at its peak. As many as 15,000 to 18,000 were women and they may have accounted for one in five forestry workers. The measurers had some power as they were in charge of the money and timber supply figures, so they were often promoted to supervisors, then to foremen, and sometimes put in charge of whole forestry operations and even the men. One such woman was Doris Stanyon.

Doris Stanyon was put in charge of forestry operations to fell a 300-acre wood at Castle Howard in the North Yorkshire Moors. She worked with the Forestry Commission and not only managed a large group of women from the Timber Corps. But she also managed a sawmill, which was set up for the purpose, and was put in charge of 29 men. Back in the early 1940s, most men did not take kindly to being given orders by a woman.