



# Women in Forestry

## Enid Lenton

### Women's Timber Corps



Enid Lenton just missed a chance to compete in swimming in the 1938 Olympics before the war. She was a competitive golfer and member of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, which is where the origins of the women's fitness movement started. Enid was an incredible athlete and the swing of the golf club probably came in handy with the swing of the axe when she started work in forestry.

Up and down the country women were recruited to fell trees by hand with an axe and saw. Great skill, precision and physical strength was needed when cutting the wedge into a tree with an axe. This was known as 'laying in' or 'dipping' the trees. Some of the axes were heavy, weighing 7 or 14lbs. The women then switched to the crosscut saw with their felling partner, each taking one end of the saw. They would take it in turns to pull to and fro, before shouting "timber!"

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The Lumberjills did exactly the same job as the men felling every size of tree from smaller pine trees to enormous great oak trees. Some women, like Enid, were referred to as Amazon women that could rival the men. But they never gained the job title of skilled fellers, like the men. However, Enid was so natural at felling trees that within a month she was promoted to supervisor and put in charge of training 40 women.