

# Women in Forestry

## Kathleen Houghton

### Women's Timber Corps



Kathleen Houghton worked in the milk bar at Woolworths in Blackpool before the war. She joined the Women's Timber Corps in 1941 and trained as a lorry driver, even though she had never driven a car before. She spent the war in Lanhydrock and Lostwithiel, Cornwall, delivering urgent lorry loads of pit props for the coal mines to the station in Plymouth.

On one top secret mission, she had to deliver wood that was destined for the floating Mulberry Harbours through the heavily bombed area of docks. The Mulberries were constructed in secrecy and floated into position immediately after D-Day landings to unload thousands of tons of vehicles and supplies to the Normandy beaches.

Kath was injured when her lorry was hit by an American tank transporter on the wrong side of the road, but continued working until the end of the war. She had very fond memories of her fellow Lumberjills, was proud of the Women's Timber Corps and keen to point out that it was not the Land Army!

She finally got her car licence in the late 1950's. The examiner asked if she had ever driven before. When she explained she'd been on timber haulage during the war, he passed her straight away.