

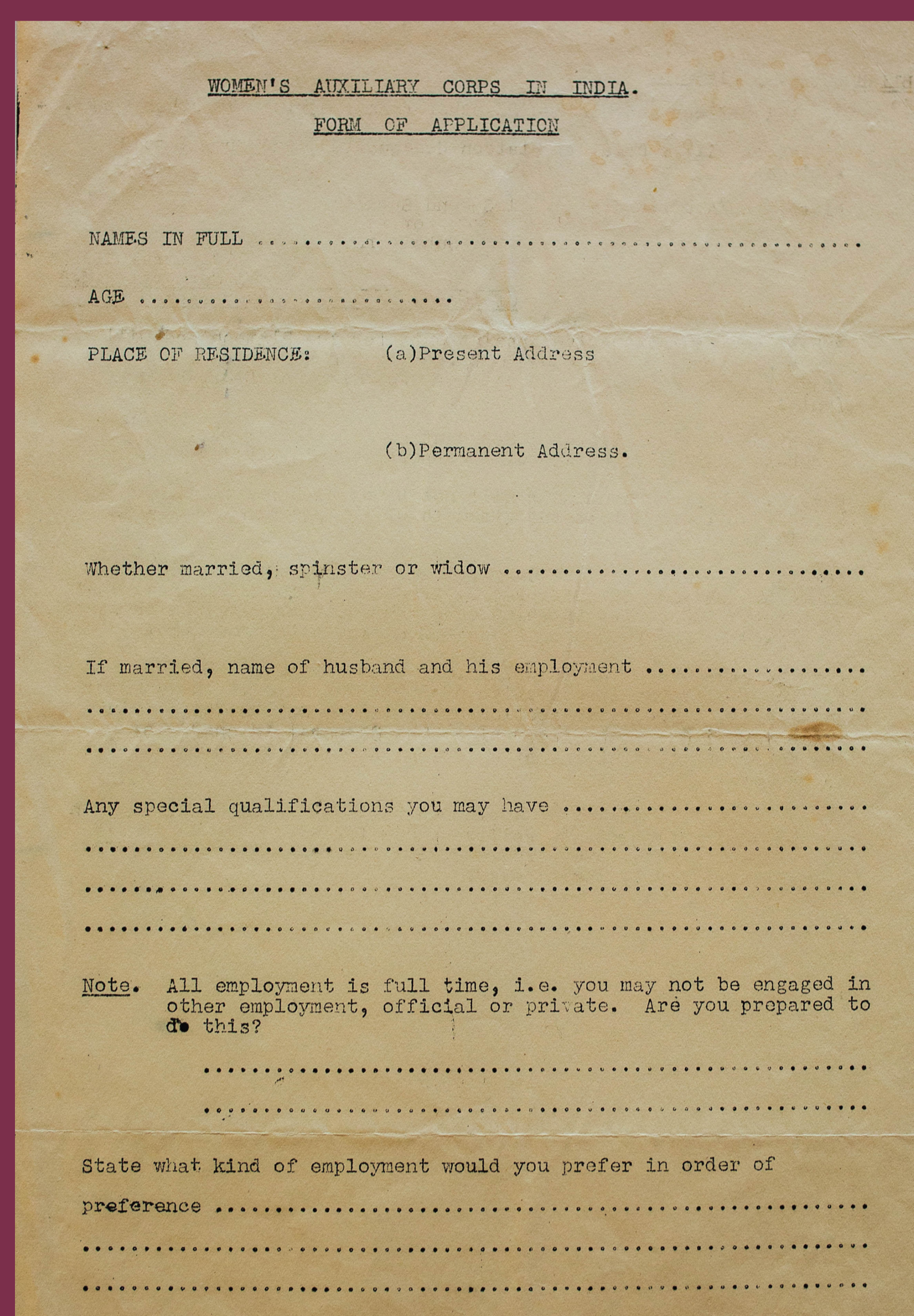


WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS INDIA

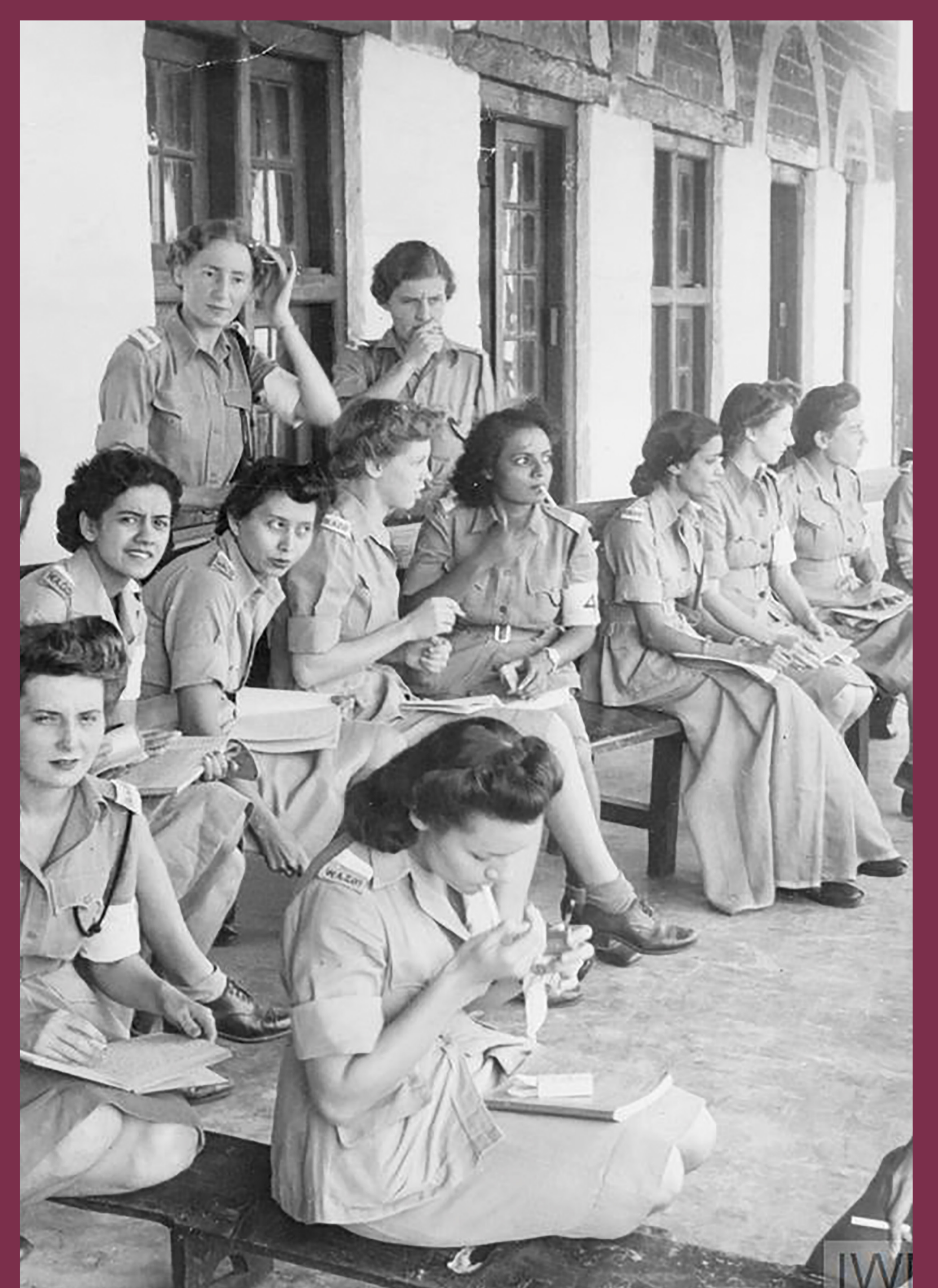
We do not hear much about the contribution Indian women made. The purpose of the Women's Auxiliary Corps India (or WAC (I) as they were often referred to) was to undertake clerical duties as the men were joining the war. The Women's Auxiliary Corps India was modelled on the Auxiliary Territorial Service (A.T.S) of Britain.

With the King's permission the WAC (I) was set up in 1942 to support the war effort. It was the first time that women in India were able to contribute outside of non-medical roles. The first women to join were the wives and daughters of British officers sent to India.

The government, both in the UK and India spent a lot of time discussing how the WAC (I) should be set up. The men did not women having the same 'titles and ranks' as them.



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"Out of every eight auxiliaries one is European, three Anglo-Indian, three Indian Christian and only one a non-Christian Indian"

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Recruitment was open to women aged 18-50 and then later dropped to 17 years old. To join women were asked to complete an application form which was different to the application men had to complete. Jobs included clerks, signallers, drivers. This meant only women in India who could speak, read and write English were accepted. This ruled out the 'everyday' Indian women from the villages as they were not educated to this level.

Indian women who were joining had the option to wear military saris. This had never happened before.



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The WAC (I) was disbanded in 1946 as the war had come to an end.

You can find out more on the website www.bimcic.com

