



B E L I E V E I N M E
C I C



PRINCESS ELIZABETH

With the outbreak of the Second World War on 3rd September 1939 women were contributing to war and Britain was no exception. Did you know that Queen Elizabeth II was part of the Auxiliary Territorial service, also known as ATS?



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On the 13th September 1940, Buckingham Palace was bombed, Princess Elizabeth and her sister Margaret moved to Windsor Castle whilst King George VI and Queen Elizabeth remained at the Palace in solidarity with the people of London.

In October 1940, Princess Elizabeth, aged just 14 years old, broadcasted a message of hope and courage to evacuees via the radio programme Children's Hour. She shared her experiences of being away from her parents.

As Princess Elizabeth insisted joining the ATS, in 1944, her father King George VI gave his permission. She is the first female member of the royal family to be on active duty and is the last surviving head of state to serve in the Second World War.

Princess Elizabeth trained as a mechanic in March 1945 as well as taking a driving and vehicle maintenance course at Aldershot. Special treatment did apply in some cases, each night she returned home to Windsor Castle and often used the officer's mess halls to eat her meals. Her parents visited her at Mechanical Transport training in Surrey.



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By June 1945, there were an estimated 200,000 members of the ATS serving across the British Empire serving in roles such as cooks, ammunition inspectors and searchlight operators. The war in Europe ended on 8th May 1945. Princess Elizabeth joined her family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, wearing her ATS uniform.

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

