

Gwendoline Margaret Wakeling

Gwendoline Wakeling was born on 1st January 1899 near Westerham in Kent.

She moved to Purfleet at some stage as her father worked on the Garrison.



Gwendoline joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps on 6th October 1917 and was given very precise travel directions. She was instructed to leave Merton Park Station on the 11.56am train to Victoria, where she had to take a bus to Waterloo, before catching another train at 3.00pm to arrive

in Aldershot at 4.27pm. She would then be met at the station and taken to Star Hill Convent.

Precise guidance was given as to what Gwendoline should take with her - underclothing, a small handbag and a rug

R.20. A.F.W. 3630.
WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS.
CALLING-UP NOTICE.

Mrs. G.M. Wakeling
Miss G.M. Wakeling
With reference to your enrolment for service in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps you are hereby ordered to present yourself at Star Hill Convent on 6 October 1917.

Full directions for your journey are given below, and 2 railway warrants are enclosed.

You should bring all necessary underclothing with you, and your luggage should consist of a small handbag or parcel only; it is suggested that you provide yourself with a rug.

If for any unforeseen reason you are unable to travel on the day mentioned you should at once communicate with the Officer below.

C. F. N. MACREADY,
Adjutant General.

DIRECTIONS FOR JOURNEY.

You are to leave Merton Park Station by the train leaving at 11.56 and to travel to Victoria (2.13 P.M.) Station, at which you will arrive at 1.0. Take a Bus from Victoria to Waterloo. Train leave Waterloo at 3.0 to arrive Aldershot 4.27. If not met at the Station you should proceed to Star Hill Convent.

All further communications with regard to this notice should be addressed to the Divisional Officer, MARLETT HOUSE, BOW STREET, (OFFICE STAMP) STRAND, W.C.

* Strike out if no arrangements for seeing off are made.

(14) (24078) Wt. 23345/415 25,000 8-17 W B & L

Gwendoline served for two years and was trained as a carpenter.

She left in September 1919, by which time she had moved to the Women's Royal Air Force.

Army Form Z. 29.
CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT DURING THE WAR (WOMAN.)
(To be completed for, and handed to, each woman.)
A woman is advised to send a copy rather than the original when corresponding with a prospective employer.
It is particularly important that an apprentice, whose apprenticeship has been interrupted by employment with the Army similar to her own on which she has been engaged during such employment.

No. 4926
Grade _____
Names in full (Surname first) (Block letters). WAKELING, GWENDOLINE
Corps W. R. A. F.

1. Nature of employment with Corps:-
(a) Carpenter From 27. 9. 17. To 2. 9. 19.
(b) _____ " _____ " _____
(c) _____ " _____ " _____
(d) _____ " _____ " _____

2. Trade or calling before enrolment.
Home Duties

During her time in service, Gwendoline also sewed the canvas for wings on aeroplanes, this skill led to her becoming a seamstress after the war.



Gwendoline standing at the back, on the left

Gwendoline married Victor Orpin in 1926. Victor had served in the Kings Royal Rifles during the war. They had five children, four boys and one girl.

Gwendoline used her skills to make all their clothes. She was well known locally as a seamstress and was particularly respected for the quality of the wedding dresses she made.

She was kept busy with sewing, and her children could never run around barefoot indoors as there were always pins on the floor!

Gwendoline died in 1989, aged 90 years old.

Story provided by her son, Len Orpin.