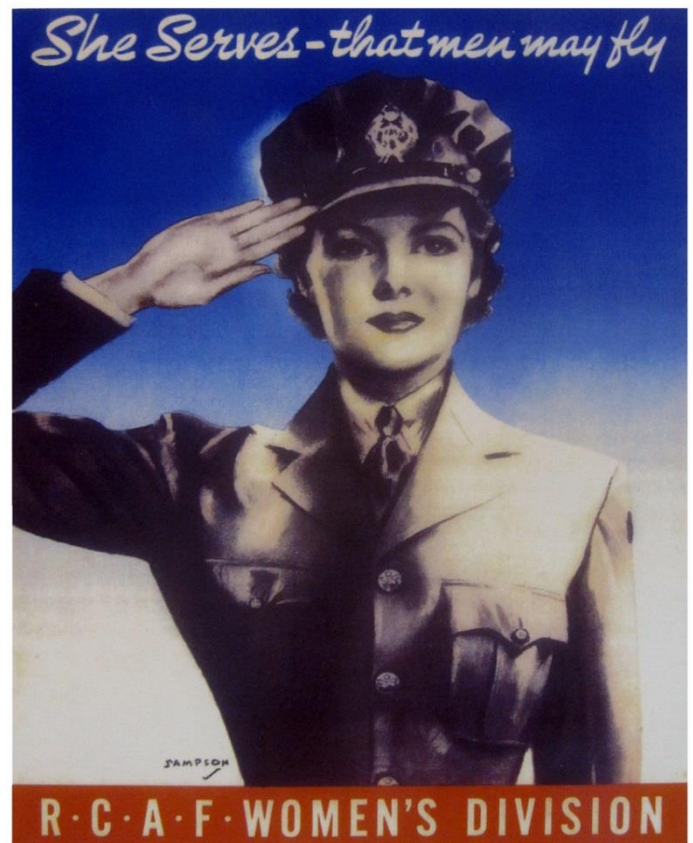
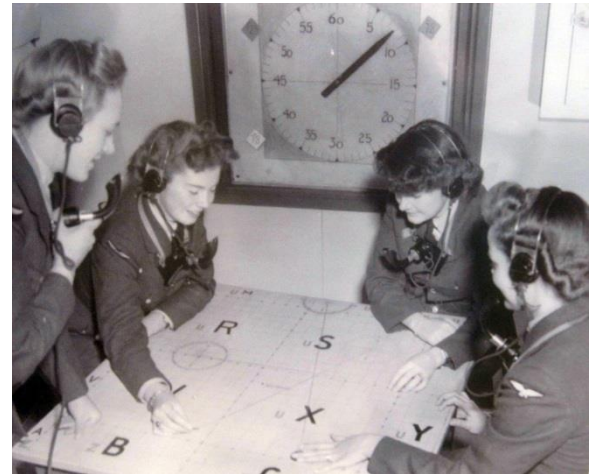


Women - WWII - Air Force - Primary Source

What can you learn by looking at these photos and propaganda posters?



Women – WWII – Air Force

On July 2, 1941 the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) was created, a first for our country. By the end of the war the RCAF-WD totalled some 17 000 members.

The RCAF did not train their female recruits to be flying instructors or combatants. The spirit of their participation is best described by the division's slogan "We serve that men may fly".

These women were initially trained for clerical, administrative, and support roles. However, as the war continued women would also work in other positions like parachute riggers and laboratory assistances, and even in the male dominated electrical and mechanical trades.

Many RCAF-WD members were sent to Great Britain to serve with the Canadian squadrons and headquarters there.

How did women contribute through the RCAF-WD?