

SOURCE F: This is an extract from information gathered by the Mass Observation Archive on soldier's attitudes to the ATS. The Mass Observation Archive is a social research organisation and studies the everyday lives of ordinary people in Britain. They do this by asking people their opinions on certain topics. On this occasion they asked soldiers what they thought of women in the ATS. The date at the top of the report is 18 October 1941.

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Soldiers' Attitudes to ATS

Conditions vary ^{considerably} from camp to camp + from station to station, but generally speaking the average ^{male} soldier does not seem to think much of the average ATS girl. Typical attitudes are that they are rather a joke (12, 14), good for dancing with (2, 3, 7, 12, 23), mainly 'sleep + tickle girls' (13, 17, 20, 25). On the other hand it is widely recognised that they are ^{often} alert, vivacious + efficient (1, 4, 12, 20), + some confers to a sneaking respect (7) or soft spot (8, 23) for them. There is also a widespread feeling that the presence of women humanises or has a "civilising" effect on an all male community (1, 2, 5, 8, 16, 21).

Opinions of the value of the ATS as workers are very varied. The majority seem to think they are not much good, or even no good at all (2, 12, 27, 28, 28) + mainly out for a good time (1, 4, 11, 20). Others, however, admit ~~consider~~ they cannot ~~could not~~ stand up to the work done by male soldiers, e.g. P.A (8, 24). It is recognised, on the other hand, that many are hard workers (20) + will to keep the war effort as much as they can (8). ~~but it is thought~~ It is also thought. There is considerable opposition by male soldiers to women taking over messes, etc (10, 18, 23).

It seems to be generally held that the ATS attracts a low class of girl (1, 2, 4, 20, 28) + that it causes

NB – the numbers in brackets refer to the number of the soldier being questioned

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