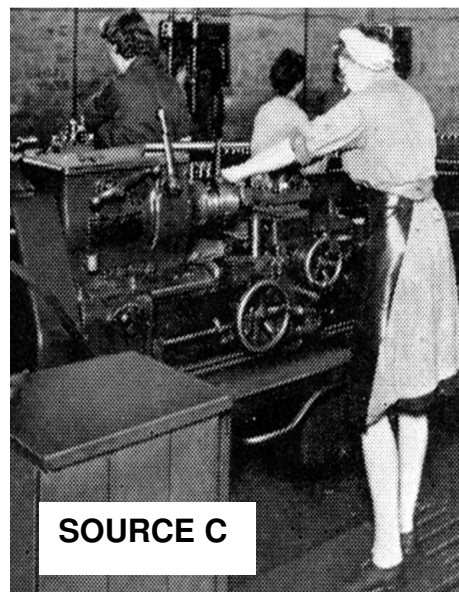


Source 1 – Gas Workers



SOURCE A

De-greasing the plant at WC Holmes



SOURCE C

Milling and drilling shell rings at WC Holmes

There were air raids in which gasworks were a prime target, and several explosions occurred at munitions factories...

In the gasworks women were being employed on heavy work – turning oxide, coke screen attendants, fire rakers and finally at the mouth of the retorts – operating the charging machines and ‘bulling’ the pipes.

Although some tools had to be made lighter in weight, they could still be as heavy as 20lbs. Working gangs consisted of five women as against four men and night shifts were included.

At the Gas Light Company, a Miss Barrett controlled the whole of the motor fleet, rising to the position from that of typist. Florence Burgess took over the running of the Sidmouth gas works for the duration of the war when her husband was called up.

When the men returned from the war, the women were asked to leave or revert to an office job.

Barry Wilkinson: *Historic Gas Times*, June 1991

SOURCE B

<http://www.historytoherstory.org.uk>