

JOINING THE A.T.S. WITH A SMILE.

856

1 P.M.  
17/3/42 Mr. Simms

It looks just another picture --- but it's part of the history of our war-effort --- the first girls called up for service in the A.T.S. The fainthearts who doubted how women would react to compulsion may here be convinced that Britain's girls react with a smile.

In the past thirty years, women have progressed from the stage when they were regarded as just a rather helpless dependent of men; they have their own very definite individuality; and these girls are able to play their part in winning the war alongside their brothers in the Spitfires, the destroyers and the tanks.

We owe these girls our gratitude; we owe it to them to see that their efforts are not wasted. The authorities must make sure that each girl is given the job in the A.T.S. for which she is most suited. She's in the army now --- and she'll do a grand job of work if she knows she's doing some good. But of course, she still remains very much a woman.

Soon these raw recruits turn into smart and efficient units of the army; proof of how good they can be is in this parade attended by the Princess Royal; and that's a reminder to all girls who've been called up that Viscount Lascelles is now a private in the guards; that's as tough a job as anybody could ask for --- and it shows what we mean by democracy. So we'll wish good luck to the latest girls in the A.T.S.

~~we've asked that even the independent British girls can do what she's told --- if it means speeding the war.~~