

To CHAIR WOMAN

14-11-11

TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN A.D.F.

DEAR MADAM,

Thank you for asking for advice on the subject of women in the A.D.F.

I am in my eighties and had 29 years in the Naval forces since my teens and always had respect for women of all creeds and colour, and being widowed after 60 years of a happy life with one of the best girls one could have, I joined the navy as they were recruiting girls in W.R.A.N.S to replace those who served in World war II.

The W.R.A.N.S were housed in their own quarters called the WRavenry which was completely isolated from the male recruit, and they spent their whole period of service stationed in depots in sick bays, galleys, pay offices etc and supply Depts and the upkeep of their own quarters.

The W.R.A.N.'s living quarters were out of bounds to all male members of the forces but were under control of the female officers also male officers and N.C.O's in each section they served in.

There were no W.R.A.N.S serving on any ships in peace and war operations, they weren't expected to or volunteer to do so which was the humane thing as it was considered respectfull to their well being and the horror which they could face.

The cry that every one is equal is wrong and any sane person should realise that there is a vast difference in male and female and the tasks they will be asked to perform in action and the effect it would have on the male members if they were to see a girl blown to pieces in front of their eyes because of the respect they always had for their female relatives, family and sweet hearts. I agree that the equal pay and conditions should prevail for all defence force members and the right to senior promotions. The recent reports of serious matters that are occurring in the Naval forces today of several and drug issues have completely shocked and upset us old veterans and that our highly respected service has been brought into such bad repute. If these present conditions in the R.A.N. <sup>CONTINUE</sup> the damage done will be irreparable and the efficiency in the service whilst in action will be disastrous to members and the country and the pride of the navy will no longer be as it was ~~60~~ years ago. Female members on ships will always be a concern.

Best wishes to all in your decision  
Yours etc,

Kevin Davis  
RAN RESID