

# Land Girls of New Zealand

## Introduction

The Land Girls of New Zealand, were women who took over all the men's jobs while they were away fighting during World War Two. They left their homes and some left their children behind to go and help out with the war efforts. The women did farm work and worked in factories (making ammunition, army uniforms, clothing and lots more). Those are only two of the many, many things women did to help out.

## Did they wear a uniform?

The Land Girls got issued a uniform that they had to wear on all special occasions, as well as boots, leather jackets and three pairs of overalls.

## Did they face any challenges?

Women back then, stayed at home to raise children, cook, clean and do all the other household chores, so they didn't have jobs. It would have been a challenge for women to leave their children and houses, to go and do work that they weren't used to doing on a farm or in a factory. When the men returned at the end of the war, many of these women were then without jobs.



**Land Girls in their work overalls.**

## Have the Land Girls been recognised for all their hard work during World War Two?

The Land Girls have never been formerly recognised for their service to the country during the war years. A couple of years ago, there was a push for government recognition of the contribution of Land Girls during World War Two.

## What jobs did the Land Girls do?

The Land Girls did many jobs that range from farming to factory work. 2700 women served on farms formerly and hundreds more worked on family farms but weren't formerly recognised. On the farms, women would do all the jobs that a farmer would normally do, such as fence making, milking, shearing, crutching, slaughtering, harvesting and lots more. In factories, the women would make ammunition, weapons, uniforms, clothing, tinned food and many more things.

## Bibliography

### Newspaper

-Snowfed, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014, Issue 12, Land Girls of New Zealand.

### Videos

-Land Girls, Overalls and Killing Knife- Tales from Te Papa, episode 22 – from [www.nzhistory.net.nz](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz)

- Women at War- from [www.mhclearningwithmissr.weebly.com](http://www.mhclearningwithmissr.weebly.com)



**A Land Girl milking cows.**



**Land Girls bringing in the harvest.**



