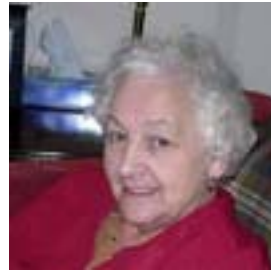


Mary Rose Marsh, a resident of Hambrook



When Mary Rose Marsh, aged not quite seventeen, joined the Timber Corps in 1942, she could not have known just what was in store. Living in Nissen huts with one hundred and eighty other young women, she lived on rations of cocoa, sugar and bacon and slept on “biscuit” mattresses under hairy blankets. The work was hard; she felled trees and made pit props for use in the mines. Later on she harvested potatoes, dug ditches, and learned to milk cows, getting up at 4am. She recalls seeing a doodlebug falling on a farmyard where the only injury was a chicken with a broken leg!

Mary’s work, and the work of many women in the Second World War was finally recognised by the award of a special brooch to commemorate their sacrifice and commitment to the war effort.



Mary and Ginger at work



Mary with her brooch, now a resident of Hambrook