

Mrs Jean Kotchie, née Norman

WRNS bombe operator, Bletchley Park and Wavendon House, from July 1941.

When we were interviewed during our training at Hampstead for a possible job at Station X, we were told that apart from the extreme secrecy the living quarters were exceptionally good.

Arriving at The Grange North Crawley I was really overjoyed. It is still a lovely house and recently I went to see it again. As it is now flats I just walked around the outside, but a friendly lady tending a flower bed spoke to me and asked me to see her flat and of course the lovely hall and the beautiful curved staircase.

During my stay there in the WRNS I was allocated a bed in the ballroom which housed about sixteen of us. One night when we were all asleep, the lights were switched on and an alarm bell rang. A Petty Officer came and told us there was an intruder in the house! We waited and waited until she returned with a torch and started to search under each bed. With success she found a young man lying under a bed half way down. I think we stood up on our beds and shouted 'Hoorah!!'

After training at the Mansion, I was transferred to Wavendon House, another beautiful building. Here is a picture of three of us by the pillars by the lake.