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A.T.S. DRIVER MECHANICS TRAIN IN CIVILIAN GARAGES

A.T.S. women are to be trained in civilian garages in order to speed up the output of qualified driver mechanics. The first batch of 45 A.T.S. trainees are now taking a six weeks' course at a South London motor works. They are all recent recruits who have already done a driving course at an A.T.S. M.T. Training Centre.

The girls have a week's basic training during which they work at a bench learning to handle tools and do elementary operations such as filing, soldering and brazing. They also have lectures and learn to sketch the parts of a car.

The next three weeks are spent studying the chassis, engine and electrical wiring. Dismantled cars are used as models and the girls crawl underneath them to see how everything works. By this time they can adjust and mend tyres, retrack wheels, repair brakes, do all lubrication, clean plugs and remove and instal carburettors.

Finally, the instructors set faults on cars and the girls have to find out what is wrong and get the car into running order. Oral examinations are given during the second and fourth weeks and a written test is held at the end of the course.

During their course the A.T.S. live in civilian billets and use a drill hall as their headquarters. They mess in the hall and upstairs they have a writing room where they can do their "home work" and a recreation room where they can play games, knit or read.

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WAR OFFICE