



Helen Ruth (Batten) Gosse
World War II
Canadian Women's Army Corps
CWAC

Born: 28th July 1924

Place of Birth: Coleys Point, Bay Roberts

Parents: Kenneth and Olive Batten

Although little is available on individual personnel files, what is known is that since the CWAC was formed in late 1941, it is undoubtedly about that time or later that Helen joined. In order to enlist, she would have had to travel to Canada and be nineteen years old, the legal age to enlist.

Helen did enlist in the CWAC, and the medals awarded her are pictured here.

These original medals are on display at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 32, Bay Roberts where she was a member.



Following discharge from service, Helen married Winston Gosse of Bay Roberts on October 20th, 1945.

After almost 50 years together, Winston passed away in 1995 and Helen in 2013 at age 88. They are buried in the Grace United Church Cemetery at Coleys Point.

Here is the obituary for Helen published at the time of her death:

GOSSE, Helen Ruth - Passed peacefully away at Carbonear General Hospital on Monday, February 25, 2013, Mrs. Helen Ruth Gosse, aged 88 years, of Coley's Point. Predeceased by parents Kenneth and Olive Batten (nee Evans), husband Winston Gosse, sister Margaret Thurlow (nee Batten). Leaving to mourn, brother Roy Batten (Edmonton, Alberta), cousins Rev'd Kenneth B. Abbott, William J. Abbott, many special caregivers and a large circle of other friends. Cremation has taken place. Resting at Moore's Funeral Home, Bay Roberts. Visitations Thursday, 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service to take place on Friday, March 1, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. from the Grace

United Church, Coley's Point, with inurnment at the Grace United Cemetery, Coley's Point. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association.

The CWAC was formed in August 1941 with its main function fill support roles within the Canadian Army. Initially it was not formerly part of the army but that changed in May of 1942 when the unit was integrated into the army. At first, the CWAC was restricted to support roles in Canada. In 1943 three companies were posted to London, with additional ones at Aldershot, England, followed by companies posted in Rome, Italy and Antwerp & Brussels, Belgium. The CWAC was officially disbanded in September 1946.



From Bay Roberts Guardian 20 Jan 1945

Globe Barracks, Ottawa,
Jan. 11, 1945.

The Editor,
The Bay Roberts Guardian.

Dear Sir,— I wish, through your paper, to express my thanks and appreciation to the War Comforts Committee of Bay Roberts. At Christmas I received a money order from them and just yesterday I received some more money. The money sure comes in hand, especially at Christmas. On Sunday last I was waiting for train connection in Toronto on my way back from Detroit where I spent my New Year's leave, and while I was waiting I visited Vern Ploughman at Christie Street Military Hospital. Vern, as you all know, was wounded in France where he was serving with the Canadian Army. He looks fine and the day I went to see him was his first day up. He really looks none the worse for his trying experience. Yours truly, Pte. RUTH BATTEN, C.W.A.C.