

Mac Robertson talks about his parents

Olive Moultrie MacLeod and Robert Alexander Robertson

The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS; popularly and officially known as the Wrens) was the women's branch of the United Kingdom's Royal Navy.

First formed in 1917 for the First World War, it was disbanded in 1919, then revived in 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War, remaining active until integrated into the Royal Navy in 1993. When first formed the WRNS included cooks, clerks, wireless telegraphists, range assessors, electricians and air mechanics,

WRNS officers wore the same rank insignia as their male equivalents, but in blue instead of gold. The "curls" atop officers' rank stripes were diamond-shaped instead of circular on WRNS uniforms.



Mac's mother, Olive Moultrie MacLeod was born in Dunlaoghaire, on 29 July 1892. She died on 3 August 1989.

Dunlaoghaire is in County Dublin in Ireland, and is about 7.5 miles south of Dublin city centre. It is the county town of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Formerly a major port of entry from Great Britain, it was known as **Dunleary** until 1821 when it was renamed **Kingstown** in honour of King George IV's visit that year, and in 1920 was given its present name, the original Irish form of Dunleary.

Olive joined the WRNS in June 1918 and worked as a Shorthand Typist, Chief Section Leader with the commissioned rank of Assistant Principal.

Mac remembers, 'The Great War brought many tragedies but sometimes happiness. In Dunlaoghaire the Assistant Principal of the Women's Royal Naval Service Olive MacLeod met serving Scottish soldier RA Robertson (RA - 'arry to his friends!) based at the Curragh, Eire, and she invited him to her home to meet the family. The Scottish soldier was my Dad & the Naval Officer my Mum. They married on 9 August 1923 and lived a long & happy family life supporting the work of the Church.

After her war service Olive was awarded the Member of the British Empire Military Division and presented with the medal at Buckingham Palace by King George V on 9 May 1919 - 99 years ago.'

Mac's father, R A Robertson, was born on 29 August 1896 went on to be ordained in 1923 as Church of Scotland Minister. During the second World War he was a military chaplain based in Shetland. He died on 17 May 1968.

