

PEGGY PACEY

Rob Forsyth



Peggy joined the Territorial Reserves in 1938 and transferred to the RAF in 1939 until war end. She worked her way up through the ranks via administrative duties then trained in vehicle maintenance. She took a more advanced course while a Corporal to become a fitter and an instructor. She recalls frequent air raids and, on one occasion, of diving into a trench with a couple of friends. An unexploded bomb fell into the far end of the trench and one of her friends said 'I think it must be a gas attack bomb' but the other friend said 'the gas is entirely human and let's get out of here!' She then became a staff car and despatch motorcycle rider while with 3 Group Bomber Command in East Anglia.



**Escorting (l) and meeting (r) HRH The Duchess of Gloucester
on a visit to RAF Feltwell in 1941**



Peggy in a DUKW amphibious vehicle crossing the Severn

Peggy also helped with the water testing of the DUKW¹ which was a British design that had been rejected by the UK armed forces; however a prototype, while being displayed to US forces, rescued some coastguard men from a sandbank in bad weather and was instantly put into production in the USA and then supplied to the British under the Lend-Lease agreement.

On another occasion she was required to collect Flying Fortress spare parts on her motor cycle from London and deliver them to an air base in East Anglia in February - a trip she remembers very clearly. On arrival she was called in to meet Winston Churchill who was visiting the base and had heard of her winter journey. She was later appointed as Transport Officer in command of a large depot at Hartlebury in Worcestershire. Peggy's sister, Elizabeth Maud, was also in the WAAF and became a cypher officer stationed in Washington, USA, for most of the war.

Peggy has lived on Park Farm since she bought it in 1961 and is well known as a breeder of thoroughbred horses as was her uncle, John Bletsoe of National Hunt fame, who farmed it as a previous owner.

¹ DUKW is not an acronym but the manufacturer's code for a type of Military wheeled amphibious landing-craft: D means 1942, U means utility (amphibious), K means all-wheel drive, W means two powered rear axles.