

National Ambulance  
LGBT Network



Supporting Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual, Trans staff, patients  
and communities

A partnership of UK Ambulance  
Services

# Celebrating LGBT History Month: Rewind 100 Years

A montage of interesting  
LGBT and Ambulance Service  
facts from the last century

Alistair Gunn  
25 February 2018



# 1. 100 Years Ago



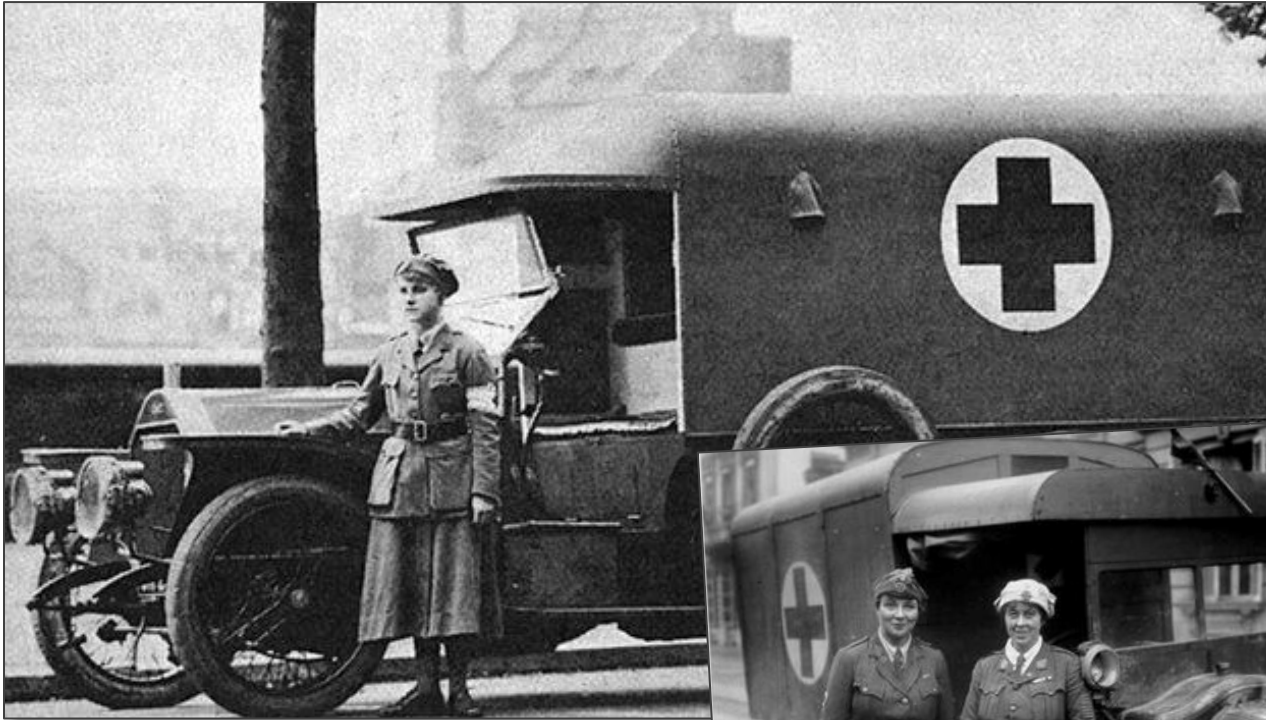
## Rewind to 1918

### The end of World War One

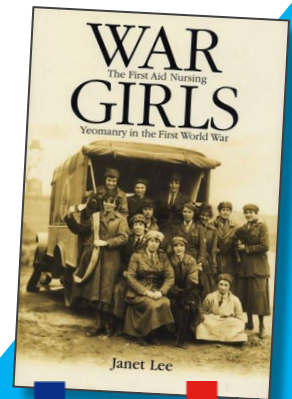
### Representation of the People Act



## 2. 1918

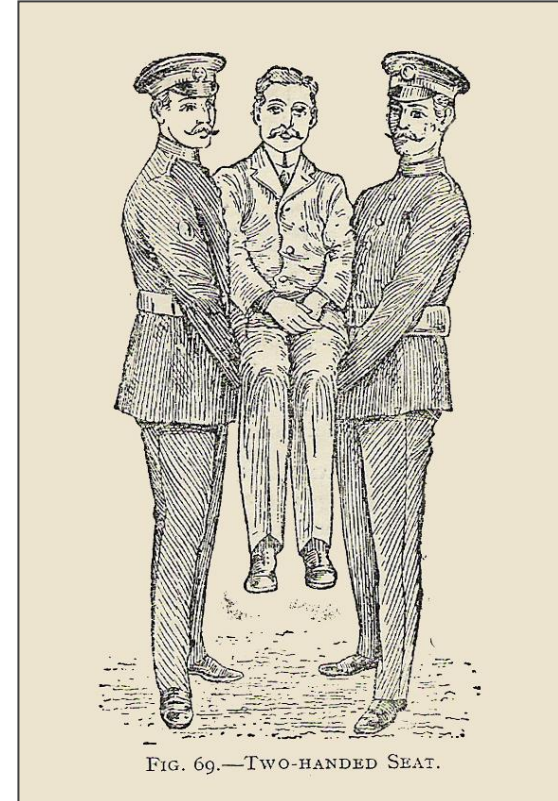
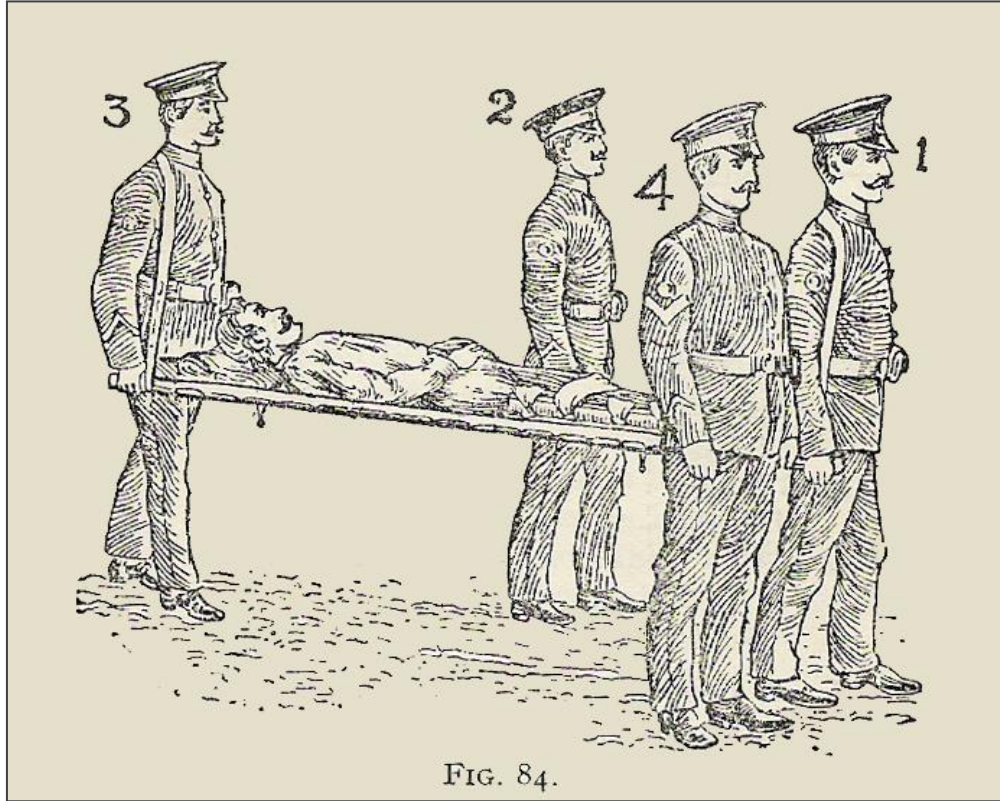


Women driving ambulances in  
World War One



Find out more...

### 3. 1920s



St John Ambulance Brigade Training Manual, 1928

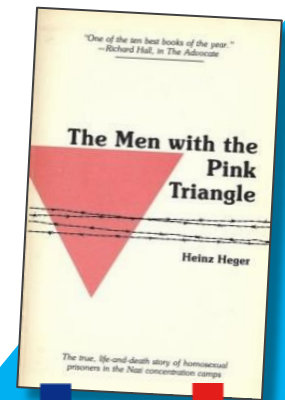
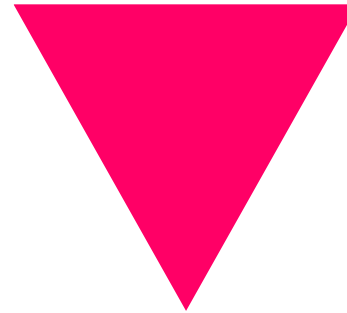




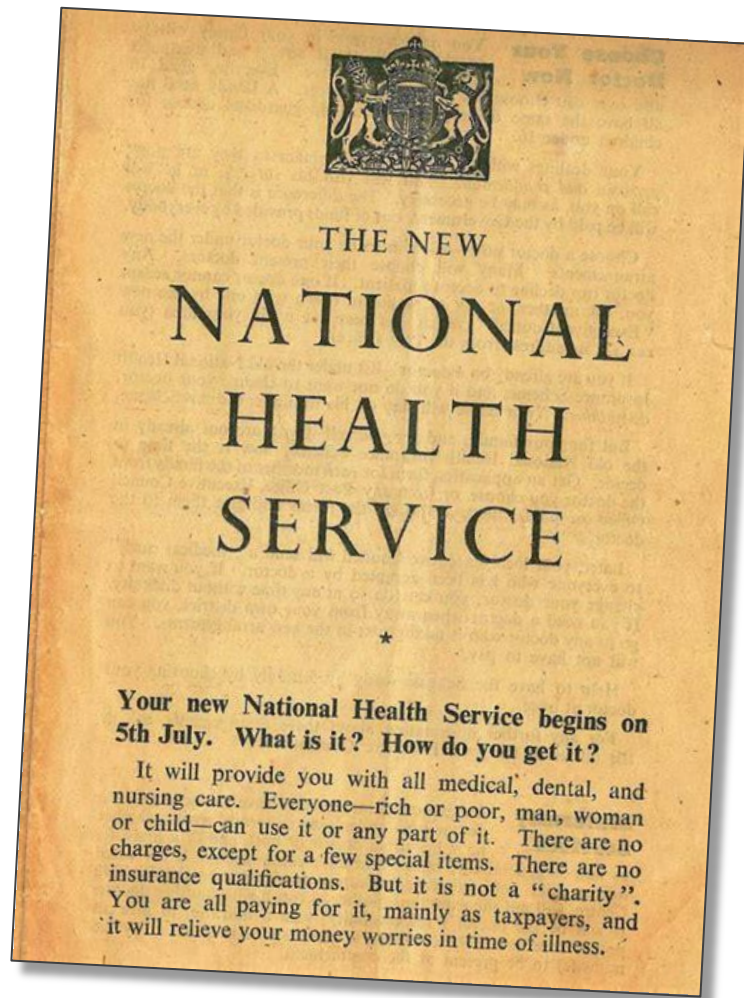
# 4. The Pink Triangle



It is estimated that  
100,000 gay men perished  
in concentration camps in  
the 1940s



Find out more...



## The new National Health Service

It will provide you with all medical, dental and nursing care. Everyone – rich or poor, man, woman or child – can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items.



## 6. 1950s



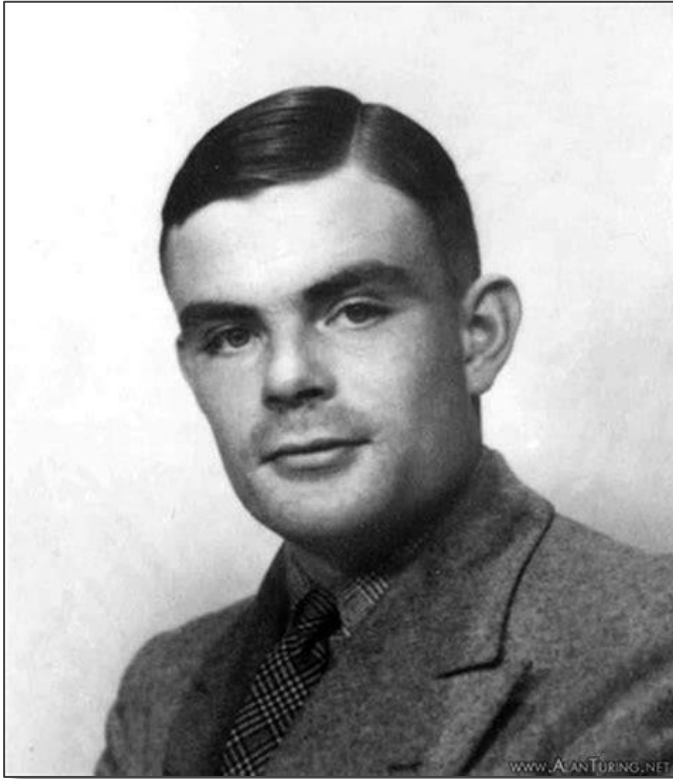
Prosecutions of gay men reached an all time high in the late 1940s and 1950s.

So many men had been killed in the Second World War that emphasis was placed on 'family values' and rebuilding the nation.



Find out more...

## 7. Genius or criminal?



### Alan Turing

1912 – 1954

Creator of Britain's first modern computer.

Alan Turing was sent to trial after police discovered he was gay whilst investigating a burglary he reported.

He committed suicide.



Find out more...

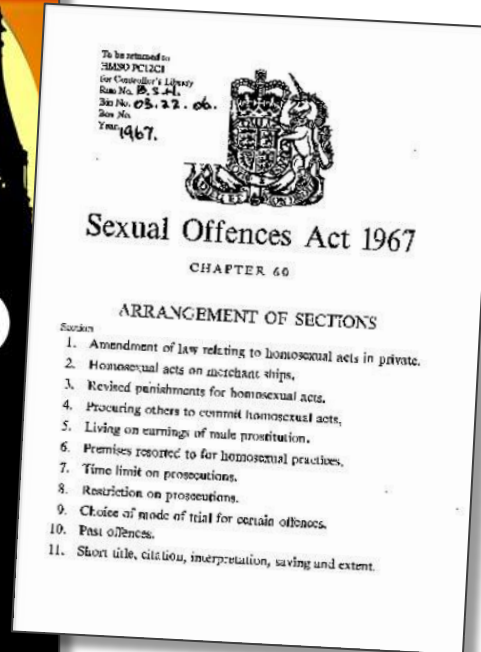


## 8. 1960s



Ambulances in the 1960s  
were pretty basic!





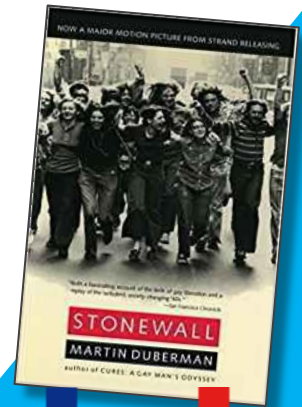
In 1967 the Sexual Offences Act was revised to decriminalise homosexual acts between men.

It has taken ten years to get this legislation passed.

# 10. Stonewall



After months of persecution by the New York Police Department, the Stonewall Riots came to a head on 27 June 1969. Stonewall is the name of a pub in New York which still exists today.



Find out more...

# 11. Gay medics in film and television



## **Dr. Kildare**

1961 to 1966

Richard Chamberlain  
played the lead role



## **Carry On films**

1958 to 1992

Kenneth Williams starred  
as Dr. Tinkle



## **Christian Jessen**

Starred in Embarrassing  
Bodies and is an active gay  
rights campaigner





# 12. 1972



The first Pride march took place in London in 1972, and saw lesbians and gay men protesting about unequal rights. The number of people attending increased over subsequent years, almost bringing the centre of London to a standstill.



Find out more...

# 13. 1970s



## AMBULANCE MAN

Must be fit and strong

Under 30

Height and weight restrictions

Advert for ambulance personnel, around 1970's



# 14. Role of the Ambulance Woman



## CHAPTER 67

### THE ROLE OF THE AMBULANCE WOMAN

FEMALE ambulance attendants are employed by some Authorities, but obviously the duties which they can perform normally have to be of a limited nature. Their true value comes in the daily transportation of the more mobile out-patients, using the sitting-car type of vehicle, and in dealing with old people and children.

I would not in any way decry the worth of female ambulance attendants, because they do most certainly ease the out-patient work-load, allowing more double (male) crews to be available for emergency work.

The female ambulance attendant would be advised to undergo a period of training similar to that of her male counterpart, especially *comprehensive first aid, kinetics, the handling of the elderly, and good road-craft*. But perhaps some special emphasis might be placed on those more sedentary aspects of the service, i.e., work in Control, preparation of work, etc., in case relief should be required in that department.

From 'A Complete Handbook for Ambulance Personnel' (Morris, 1970)





# 15. Ambulances got better!



Ambulances in South and West Yorkshire





## 16. 1998



The appearance of Hayley Cropper in Coronation Street rocked the nation when she first appeared in 1998.

Hayley, played by actress Julie Hesmondhalgh, was the first trans character in a soap opera. She continued to star in the show until 2014.



## 17. 1997 to 2010



Under the Labour government more LGBT rights were challenged and equalised.





Legislation was passed in 2000 which meant gay and lesbian people could no longer be banned from the Armed Forces.

# 19. 2006 to 2012



Ambulance services were reformed into twelve larger regional organisations.

Most of these services have since set up LGBT staff networks.

Originally created by the Yorkshire Ambulance LGBT Network in 2012, this symbol was later adapted as the logo for the National Ambulance Network in 2015.





## 20. [Date]



[Suggest including information about your own LGBT Network here]



21. 2015



The start of the  
National Ambulance  
LGBT Network?

Brighton, August 2015



# 22. 2016



Many ambulance services have decorated vehicles for Pride events. Yorkshire Ambulance Service was the first service to have a decorated vehicle in service, briefly in 2016.



23. 2018



Launch of the trans  
star of life badges in  
January 2018





# Serving Our Communities with Pride



# Bibliography



## Books and Films

A number of books and films are shown in the presentation and provide a further insight into the subject matter outlined. The complete references are:

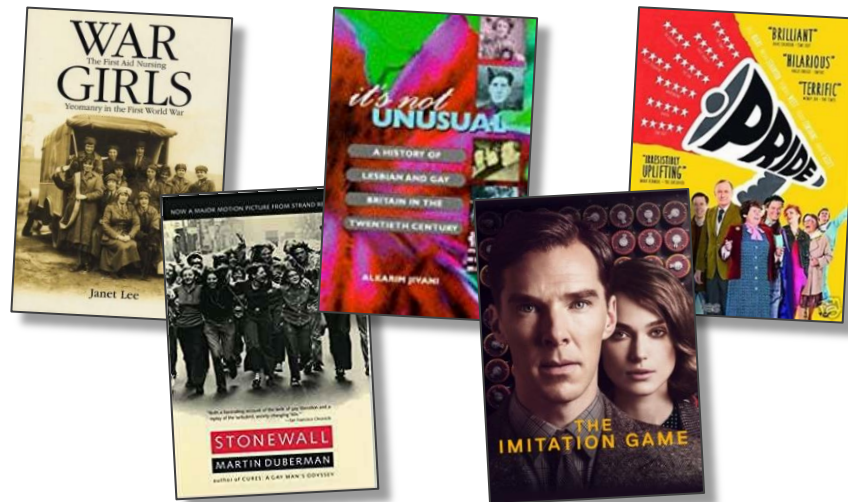
### Books

- **War Girls: The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in the First World War**  
By Janet Lee  
Published in 2012
- **The Men with the Pink Triangle**  
By Heinz Heger  
Published in 2010
- **It's Not Unusual: A History of Lesbian and Gay Britain in the Twentieth Century**  
By Alkarim Jivani  
Published in 1997
- **Stonewall**  
By Martin Duberman  
Published in 1994

### Films

- **The Imitation Game**  
Starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley  
Released in 2015

- **Pride**  
Starring Matthew Warchus and Bill Nighy  
Released in 2014



## Further Information

This article was first put together by Alistair Gunn at Yorkshire Ambulance Service in 2018 as part of the LGBT History Month celebrations. Other resources can be found on our website at: [www.ambulanceLGBT.org/resources](http://www.ambulanceLGBT.org/resources)

Permission is granted for this information to be used to promote LGBT History Month in Ambulance Services.

