



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Beatrice Ball

U.S. Park Police
Policewoman, 1942

- Born Beatrice Vivian Ball on December 2, 1902 in Garden Valley, Idaho.
- Passed the police exam and was a policewoman with the Metropolitan Police from c. 1931-1941.
- Newspaper accounts from 1941 describe her as "an expert pistol shot, a rodeo rider, a professional basketball player and coach, a physical director, a schoolma'm, a law school graduate, and a trained detective."
- Became the first woman police officer with the U.S. Park Police on January 1, 1942.
- Hired to take charge of all cases involving women and children and as a decoy for "mashers."
- Left the Park Police in the summer of 1942 to enlist in SPARS, U.S. Coast Guard's Women's Reserves branch during World War II.
- In 1943-1944, was an assistant intelligence officer in Washington, D.C. and was the first SPAR to be assigned intelligence work in New York and Miami.
- Rose to the rank of Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves.
- In 1945, went to Ketchikan, AK as a personnel officer.
- Released from active duty in 1946 but was recalled in 1951 as assistant to the chief of the special services division at USCG headquarters.
- Retired on May 24, 1961.
- Died of cancer on October 21, 1963, aged 60.
- Buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

This research was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation.