

The 'White Mouse'

10 Read the introduction to the text about Nancy Wake.

1 Who was she? 2 What nickname did the Gestapo give her?

11 Read the full text. Underline the correct form of the verb.

Nancy Wake – soldier and spy

Nancy Wake was a World War II soldier and spy. During the war the Gestapo gave her the nickname the 'White Mouse' because she was so difficult to catch.

Nancy was born in New Zealand, but she *'was growing up / grew up* in Australia. At the age of 20, she left Australia and travelled to London, New York, and Paris. She settled down in France and married a Frenchman, Henri Fiocca. They *'were living / lived* in Marseille when the war started. Nancy joined the French Resistance and helped a lot of people escape the country. The Gestapo *'was finding / found* out about Nancy and she *'was becoming / became* their most wanted person. They looked for the 'White Mouse' everywhere, but she managed to escape from France to the UK. Her husband *'was preparing / prepared* to join her in London, but unfortunately, the Gestapo *'were finding / found* him and shot him.

When Nancy got to England, she joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE) and became a fully trained agent in only eight months. After her training, she went to France on a mission. Soon, Nancy *'was fighting / fought* with the men in some of the fiercest battles. 'I liked that kind of thing', she said.

Nancy was a cool character. One day, while she *'was eating / ate* her breakfast, she *'was ordering / ordered* a soldier to shoot an enemy spy. 'It didn't put me off' my breakfast', she said!



After the liberation of France, Nancy *'was returning / returned* to London. She received nine medals from the British, French and American governments, including the George Medal, the Croix de Guerre, and the Médaille de la Résistance.

She died on August 7, 2011, three weeks before her 99th birthday.

put somebody off make somebody dislike something

12 Complete the questions and write the answers.

1 Where / Nancy / born?

Where was Nancy born?

In New Zealand.

2 When / leave / Australia?

3 Where / live / when the war started?

4 Why / the Gestapo / want to find her?

5 Where / go / after the liberation of France?

6 How many / medals / receive?
