

# Irish Servicewomen in the Great War

STARTER CHART / basic facts for further research for: **CO. ANTRIM**

Sources include : <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/womens-army-auxiliary-corps-service-records-1917-1920/>

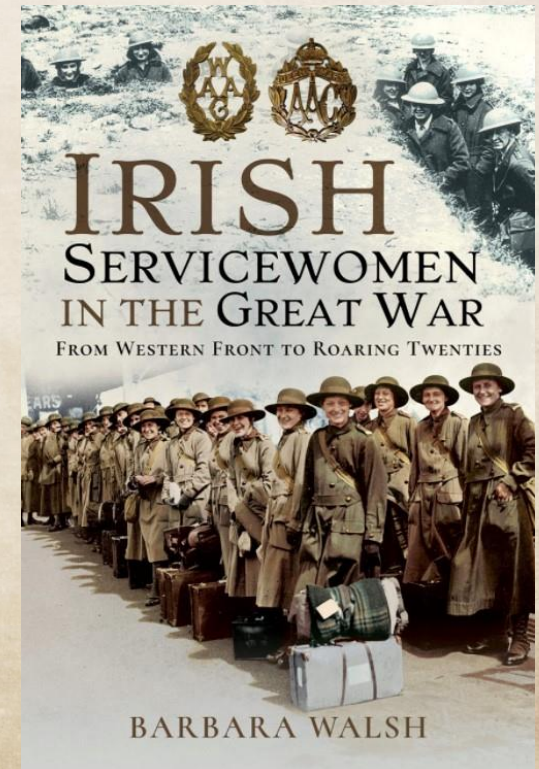
More than 80 percent of the c.60,000 First World War army service records for women who had served from 1917-1921 were completely lost when their archive was later damaged in a German bombing raid on London in the 1940s.

The number of surviving records for Irish-born women who served with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later Queen Mary's Army Corps) consequently only totals just over 500 names, mostly those of lower- ranking young women. Sadly, the memory of the contribution they had made in the First World War continues to be in danger of being completely side lined and forgotten, not only by the historical record and knowledge of the public but even by their own descendants today. It is a topic that local history and / or family history societies can help to redress.

Drawn from every level of society and from every creed and background, these ladies had come forward from all 32 counties of Ireland to offer skills at every level of ability in addition to high-tech expertise in key areas such as the telecommunication networks in France (telegraph and telephone) which linked frontline battlefields to army bases. Their work was categorised into separate sections:

- A = Office Clerks
- B = Catering /Cleaning
- C = Drivers
- D = Unskilled
- E = Telephone & Postal Services / Lines of Communication
- F = Miscellaneous
- G =Technical

The higher-ranking officers (the Officials / Administrators) are marked in the chart as: Off/I.  
A usefully supportive background story of their experiences is published by Pen & Sword Books (2020)



**ANTRIM (excluding Belfast born):DETAILS for 23 identified recruits** Sources: National Archives, Kew, Census1911,& Old Comrades Gazettes

Cat:	Name /birth place and address	Date birth & Address in 1917 if different	Relig.	Previous civilian work	Army work	Applied & Service dates	Where served & post war	Army No.
B	<b>O'BRIEN</b> , Nellie Seamore, Larne Harbour, Co.Antrim	1882 (Note age)  Working in Antrim	Presb	Experienced Cook	Cook	1916 Applied via Women's Legion	Originally accepted but did not serve as Father ill by Jan 1917	No Army No. in her file
B	<b>GRAY</b> , Jeannie b. Capecastle, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim	4/03/1898	Presb	Domestic servant  Father a station- master	Vegetable woman	Feb 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Sept 1919	Dublin, (passed through Ballykinlar) Larkhill UK, Finner and Ballyshannon	36346
B	<b>IRVINE</b> , Martha b. Crumlin, Antrim	21/04/1895  10 Eglington St. Belfast	Presb	Chambermaid  Father a carpenter	Domestic	March 1918 ~ May 1918 to Sept 1919	Randalstown, and Marlborough Barracks Dublin	39013

B	<b>HULL</b> , Sarah b. Lisburn, Co. Antrim	4/01/1891  28 Columbia St., Belfast	Presb	Domestic servant	Domestic Kitchen  Promoted to Assist. Cook	Apr 1918 ~ June 1918 To Oct 1919	Randalstown and the Curragh	39035
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B	<b>WATTERS</b> , Charlotte Emily b. Magheragal, Lisburn Co. Antrim	21/07/1883  53 South Parade, Belfast	Presb	Manageress of boarding house	Proposed hostel Forewoman	March 1918 ~ July 1918 to Aug 1918	Belfast Depot Only (Medical problems / was discharged)	39059
A	<b>HIGGINS</b> , Nancy Farren neé Bedford, Co. Antrim  12 Causeway St., Portrush	1/01/1900	C of I	Clerical work	Clerk	March 1918 ~ May 1918 to Aug 1919	Bristol UK Larkhill and Bostall Heath	39339
B	<b>WILSHAW</b> , Agnes b. Dunrankin, Co. Antrim Cullybackey	20/03/1898	Presb	Waitress in hotel  Father a postman	Cook	May 1918 ~ June 1918 to 4 Aug 1919	School of Musketry, Dollymount Dublin	42386

A	<b>GREGG, Mary</b> Constance b.Ballymena Co. Antrim  29 Wellington Street, Ballymena	17/01/1892	C of E	Saleswoman  Father a carpenter	Clerk	Apr 1918 ~ July 1918 to Dec. 1919  Kept on as civilian clerk until early 1920	Musketry School Dublin Tf to London HQ & Bostall Heath UK (In May, 1920 applied for Free Passage to Canada)	42391
B	<b>LAVERTY, Mary</b> b. Cullybackey, Co. Antrim	1/05/1897	Presb	Waitress in hotel	Cook	May 1918 ~ July 1918 to Aug 1919	Musketry School Dublin	2392
B	<b>MacFARLANE, Nancy</b> b. Ballycastle Co. Antrim	17/03/1895	Presb	Cook General  Father a farmer	Cook Promoted to F/W cook Sept 1918	Mar 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	Belfast and Bombing School Dublin	42393

B	<b>ADAMS</b> , Ellen McCrea b. Ballyclare Co.Antrim	23/08/1898  7, Waveney Ave., Ballymena	Meth	Cook / housekeeper  Father a mechanical engineer	Cook	May 1918 ~ June 1918 to Aug 1918	Belfast  (Swift discharge Medical grounds)	42394
B	<b>DAVIDSON</b> , Mary b. Carrickfergus Co.Antrim	19/05/1898  30 North Queen St Belfast	RC	Spinner at Mill  Father a labourer	General domestic	May 1918 ~ June 1918 to Feb 1919	School of Musketry Dublin	42864
E	<b>NEVIN</b> , Jane Matilda b. Ballymoney Co.Antrim  Brookvale, Ballymoney	18/07/1896	Presb	GPO Telegraphist	Signals Telegraph	June 1917 ~ 26 Jul 1917 to Nov 1919	Boulogne, Rouen and Wimereux	45374
B	<b>MILLS</b> , Mima, b. Larne Co.Antrim	4/06/1898  67 Roclan tce., Belfast	Presb	Machinist  Father a Railway labourer	General Domestic	May 1918 ~ July 1918 to Feb 1919	Ballyvonare, Co. Cork	45908

B	<b>McKINLEY</b> , Edith b. Glenarm Co.Antrim  Castle Street, Glenarm	25/12/1895	Presb	Housemaid at Antrim Castle  Father a Harbour Master	Housemaid	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Oct 1919	Ballyvonare and Beresford Barracks the Curragh	45918
A	<b>SIMPSON</b> , Gertude b. Cullybackey, Co.Antrim	14/11/1898  22 Lavinia St., Belfast	Presb	Clerk  Father a solicitor's clerk	Telephone Clerk	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to October 1919	Belfast, Dublin and the Curragh  (No civilian work found by May 1920 – was considering a Free Passage to Colonies by 1921)	45923
B	<b>WALLACE</b> , Sarah Matilda  Front Lodge, Antrim Castle, Co. Antrim	6/07/1899	C of I	Weaver  Father a carpenter	Waitress	May 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	Ebrington Barracks, Londonderry	45925

B	<b>O'NEILL</b> , Lucy b. Greencastle, Co.Antrim	04/04/1897	C of I	Waitress  Father a Labourer	General Domestic Kitchen	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Apr 1919	Londonderry	45937
B	<b>McAULEY</b> , (Mrs) Martha, nee Boyd, b. Ballymena Co.Antrim	5/10/1891  85 Greenhill Street, Belfast	RC	Flax spinner	General Domestic	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	Marlboro Barracks Dublin, and Bombing School Dublin  (Free Travel to Canada sought)	45950
A	<b>BRYSON</b> , May b. Whiteabbey Co.Antrim	22/03/1899  Longwood Crescent, Whitehouse, Belfast	Presb	Clerk in Flax Spinning Co Father a Yarn Dresser	F/w Clerk accounts	April 1918 ~ July 1918 to 31 Aug 1919	Ballykinlar	45969
B	<b>McATAMNEY</b> , Sarah b. Co.Antrim  Taylors Row, Carrickfergus	23/05/1900	C of I	Domestic worker	General domestic	July/Aug 1918 ~ Sept 1918 to Sept 1919	Cavalry Cadet School Dublin	48868

?	<p><b>TWADDELL, Maude Elizabeth</b></p> <p><i>Source:</i>  <a href="https://astreetnearyou.org/person/661114/MemberMaude-Elizabeth-Twaddell">https://astreetnearyou.org/person/661114/MemberMaude-Elizabeth-Twaddell</a></p>	(Possible Twaddell famly in Antrim)			'Member' might indicate higher rank	<i>From her service No. it seems she may have only served a short time.</i>	DIED 17 Oct 1918 Carnmoney Cemetery, Co.Antrim	50290
A	<p><b>QUA, Norah</b> Possibly b. Templecorran, Co.Antrim</p> <p><i>Source: Census 1911 and QMAAC Old Comrades Gazettes, July /August 1946. The OCA has also details of her career in the Second World War</i></p>	No service records Post war married name Mrs Hughes.	Presb	Father a Land Steward	Probably Clerk or AA		Post war joined A.T.S. in c.1939 and served in Training Units in N.I. She died in Belfast March 1946.	Not known