

Irish Servicewomen in the Great War

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

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

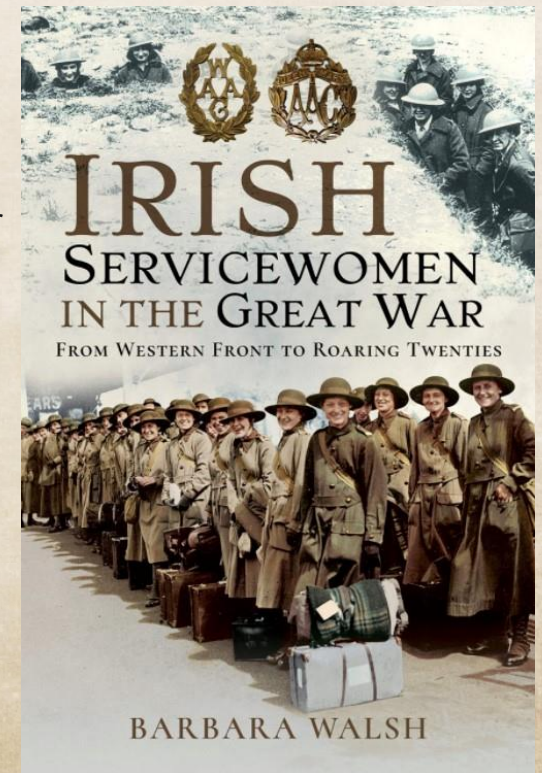
More than 80 percent of the c.60,000 First World War army service records for women who had served from 1917-1921 were completely lost when their archive was later damaged in a German bombing raid on London in the 1940s.

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)



LONDONDERRY / DERRY DETAILS for 19 identified records. Sources: National Archives, Kew

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	ANDERSON , Margaret b. Toberhead Toberhead House	27/02/1898	Presb	Father a farmer	Cook	Oct 1917 ~ Feb 1918 to Dec 1918	Moore Park Fermoy Officer Cadets	33660
A	SCOTT , Kathleen Dorothy b. Coleraine	20/03/1894 5, Leixfort Villas, Kingstown, Co.Dublin	C of E		Clerk Typist	Missing Files ~ Feb 1918 to Oct 1919	Clerical section HQ Dublin Castle	36087
D	McCABE , Elizabeth Josephine b. Londonderry	14/04/1892 38 Moscow Drive, Stoneycroft, Liverpool	RC	Store-keeper Father a telegraphist (disabled)	Storekeeper	Mar 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Nov 1919	Calais Etaples Vendroux	36437
B	GILMORE , Jemina b. Creggan	16/10/1891 Drumbarnett Bogay, Co. Donegal	C of I	Domestic Father a labourer	Vegetable woman	March 1918 ~ May 1918 to Oct 1919	Randalstown, Dublin	39332

B	NEVIN , Tillie Reid, b. Portstewart Mullaghacall, Portstewart	26/11/1897	Presb	Cook	Cook	Mar 1918 ~ May 1918 to Oct 1919	Randalstown	39334
B	DIVERS , Tillie Josephine b. Derry Streadreach Farm, Enagh Lodge.	30/03/1898	RC	Waitress Father a farmer and a caretaker and coachman	Waitress	May 1918 ~ June 1918 to Aug 1919	Randalstown and Ballykinlar (Interesting problems over her discharge pay)	42839
B	DONAGHEY , Annie b. Londonderry Asylum, Strand Road and 27 Donegal Street, Londonderry	21/10/1895	Presb	Assistant Nurse and Laundress	Cook	April 1918 ~ June 1918 to July 1918	Permitted to withdraw. Needed at the Asylum	42840
B	CAVANAGH , Susan b. Londonderry 3 Foxes Lane, Londonderry (Sisters)	26/01/1898	RC	Fabric machinist in shirt factory Father a Dock Labourer	General Domestic	April 1918 ~ June 1918 to Aug 1919	Ballykinlar Officers' School, Dublin and Beresford Bcks the Curragh	42841

A	McREYNOLDS , Ellen Jane b. Drum, Co. Londonderry Drum, Dungiven Co. Londonderry Also/ Fincairn Feeny	11/04/1880	RC	Shop assistant and book-keeper in retail shop Father a farmer	Forewoman Ledger Clerk	Mar 1918 ~ June 1918 to 14 Nov 1919 plus furlough to 2 Jan 1920	Fermoy, Kildare and Ballykinlar (the latter posting only from 27 Sept to 14 Dec 1919)	42848
B	McCOMBE , Emmeline b. Londonderry 7, Ewing Street, Londonderry	9/12/1891	C of I	Cook / housekeeper Father a gardener (deceased)	F/W Cook	Mar 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Oct 1919	Londonderry and Dublin	42849
B	McLAUGHLIN , (Mrs) Mgt. nee DOHERTY b. Co.Londonderry Lower Campsie	8/12/1891	RC	General servant Father a Railway Man	Cook	Mar. 1918 ~ June 1918 to Oct 1919	Randalstown, the Curragh and Dublin	42850

B	CAVANAGH , Mary Josephine b. Londonderry 3 Foxes Lane, Londonderry (Sisters)	7/05/1899	RC	Fabric worker apprentice sail making Father a Dock Labourer	General Domestic	April 1918 ~ June 1918 to Mar 1919	Randalstown and Ballykinlar	42860
B	WATSON , Lizzie b. Moneymore Asylum, Strand Road, Londonderry	28?01/1897	C of I	Nurse attendant and Laundry Supervisor Father a labourer	Cook	April 1918 ~ June 1918 to Oct 1919	Dublin and Finner, Ballyshannon	42926
B	McGOWAN , Kathleen Mary Kincaid Co. Londonderry	14/10/1899 Station House Rossnowlagh, Co. Donegal	C of I	At home Father a Dock Master	General Domestic	May 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Mar 1919	Tipperary Barracks	42947

A	McGARVEY , Florence Dunne b. Co Londonderry 13, McDonald Tce., Coleraine	3/05/1900	C of I	Shop Assistant Father a Mason	Clerk	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	London HQ, Dublin and the Curragh	45920
A	STEWART , Marguerite Elizabeth Finlay Co. Londonderry 9, Waverly Terrace, Coleraine	18/02/1898	Presb/	General Clerk Father a Tea and Provision Merchant	Clerk	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Dec 1919/Jan 1920	Boulogne, Camiers and Wimereux	45921
E	LAIRD , Sarah b. Kilcronaghan, Toberore Murmail,	13/11/1893	Presb/	GPO Telegraphist	Signaller telegraphist	May/June 1918 ~ Aug 1918 to Jan 1920	Boulogne	48431
A	RODGERS , Nora b. Desertmartin	25/01/1897	Presb/	Copy clerk Father a farmer	Copying Clerk	Aug 1918 ~ Sept 1918 to Jan 1920	Boulogne, Calais and HQ London	48871

B	<p>ARMSTRONG, Martha b. Tobermore</p> <p>Tobermore</p> <p>Also at The Rectory, Fahan</p>	27/04/1893	C of I	<p>Assistant Cook</p> <p>Father a Labourer</p>	Cook	<p>Sept 1918 ~ Oct 1918 to Nov 1918 (1 month)</p> <p>Allowed to withdraw before taking up duties</p>	<p>One of the discharge orders in this file is for another cook called May Agnew, Army no 52542, born in Scotland, who lived in Cavan with her mother. Agnew served in Ballykinlar from Jan 1919 up to 14 Nov 1919.</p>	52543
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