

Irish Servicewomen in the Great War

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

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

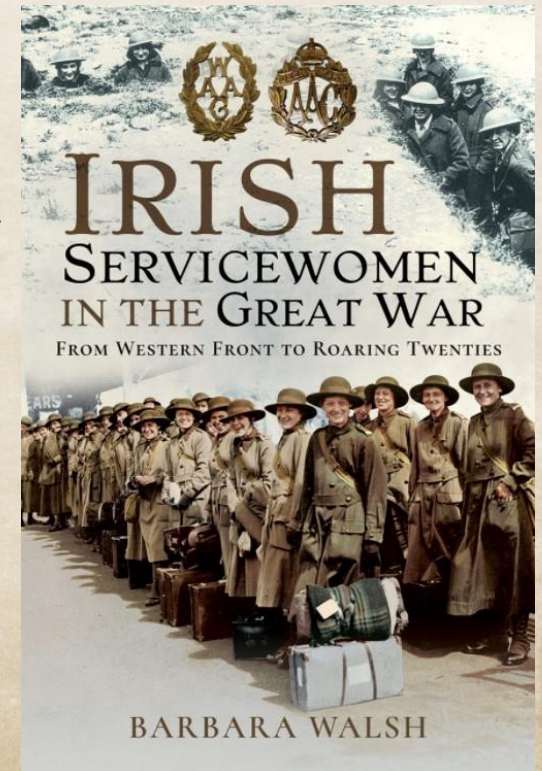
More than 80 percent of the c.60,000 First World War army service records for women who had served from 1917-1921 were completely lost when their archive was later damaged in a German bombing raid on London in the 1940s.

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)



ARMAGH DETAILS for 15 identified records. Sources: National Archives, Kew; OCA Gazettes and Census1911

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.
E	HANNA , Martha Anne b. Poyntzpass	9/06/1891 12 Woodland Villas, Ranelagh, Dublin	Presb	GPO Telegraphist	Signaller Telegraphist	May 1917 ~ July 1917 to Sept. 1919	Havre	1630
E	TANNER , Dorothea b. Portadown	01/06/1892 Hanover Place, Coleraine Co. Londonderry	Episc	GPO Telegraphist Father a Land Agent and former RIC Head Constable (Census 1911)	Signaller Telegraphist	May/June 1917 ~ Aug 1917 to Oct 1919	St Omer, Havre, Boulogne and Abbeville	2058
B	FANNING , Mary b. Crossmaglen	31/10/1893	RC	Parlourmaid Father a farmer	Waitress	April 1918 ~ Sept 1919 to Apr 1919	Bostall Heath	38856

A	AIRD , Eliz. Margaret b. Charlemont c/o Bank of Ireland, Portadown	4/05/1893 Cavehill Road, Belfast	RC	Clerical work Father a retired Tea Planter	General Clerk	March 1918 ~ May 1918 to June 1919	Etaples and Calais (Requested a discharge in April 1919 to be married to a French citizen.)	39008
A	GALLAGHER , May b. Lurgan	1710/1899 22 Avoca St., Clifton Park Ave., Belfast	RC	Clerk in business firm Father an Agricultural Inspector	General Clerk	Dec 1917 ~ May 1918 to Nov 1918	Aldershot (Discharged as unsuitable. Applied for a Free Passage to Canada in Oct 1919)	39024
B	DUNVILLE , Bessie b. Lurgan	7/09/1899	C of I	Worker in Linen Mill	Domestic	Mar/Apr 1918 ~ May 1918 to Feb 1919	The Curragh (Applied for a Free Passage to Canada in Dec. 1919)	39032

B	HUBBARD , (Mrs) Mgt. nee Dunville	9/04/1891 6, Charles St, Belfast	C of E	House and parlour maid Father a Power Loom Tenter	Domestic	March 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Apr 1919	Randalstown and the Curragh	39033
B	THOMPSON , Franciss b. Portadown !4 Railway St., Armagh Town	30/11/1896	C of I	Flax spreader	Housemaid	April 1918 ~ June 1918 to Oct 1919	Londonderry	42388
B	REID , Mary Elizabeth b. Portadown Drummond , Portadown	10/09/1894	Meth	Hem stitcher Father a farmer	Pantrymaid	Dec 1917 ~ June 1918 to Oct 1918	Belfast (No further info)	42868
E	SIMMONS , Marjorie Kathleen. b. Portadown	21/02/1896 Northgate Street, Athlone	C of E	GPO Telegraphist	Signaller Telegraphist	May Sept 1918 ~ July 1918 to Nov 1919	Rouen and Wimereux	45375

B	McGAUGHEY , Jane b. Lurgan	16/11/1893 37 My Lady's Rd., Belfast	C of I	Hem stitching in factory Had training as a cook Father a soldier	Assist. Cook	May 1918 ~ July 1918 to Dec 1919	Londonderry, Dublin school Musketry, Ballykinlar and Dublin HQ (Received a Free Passage to Canada in 1920)	45930
B	McLERNON , Maggie b. Newtownhamilton 1, English Street, Armagh	8/09/1899	RC	Mother's Help Father a Labourer	Domestic	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Oct 1919	Tipperary and School of Musketry Dublin	45941
A	WILSON , Elizabeth b. Portadown Ulster Bank House	21/05/1893	C of E	Governess Father was Town Clerk (deceased)	General Clerk	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	Bostall Heath	45945

A	BLEAKLEY , Anna Alberta. b. Lurgan	19/10/1896 51 Stranmillis Rd., Belfast	Presb	Sh/ typist & bookkeeper Knowledge of French and German. Father a cycle and Motor Agent	Sh/typist	June 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept/Oct 1919	London HQ	45949
A	SPEERS , Masie Frances b. Cullyhanna	1/03/1899	Presb	Clerical Father a farmer	Copying clerk	Aug 1918 ~ Sept 1918	Did not serve Released from application/	48875