

Irish Servicewomen in the Great War

STARTER CHART / basic facts for further research for: **BELFAST CITY**

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

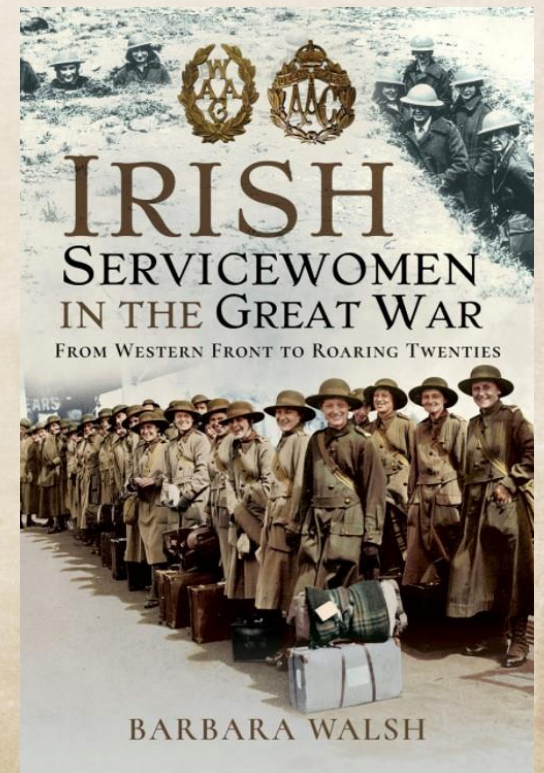
More than 80 percent of the c.60,000 First World War army service records for women who had served from 1917-1921 were completely lost when their archive was later damaged in a German bombing raid on London in the 1940s.

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)



BELFAST: DETAILS for 56 identified recruits. Sources: National Archives, Kew; OCA Gazettes, T&T Gazette and Census 1911

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	HENRY , Jean Pringle b.Belfast 120, Donegal Avenue (Census 1911)	1894	-	GPO Telephonist Father a warehouse assist. In Linen Co.	Signaller Telephonist Fluent French	May 1917 ~ June 1917 to Sept/Oct 1919	Boulogne <i>Source:</i> Telephone Telegraph Gazette 1916-17 p.140) <i>Among earliest GPO to serve</i>	977
E	WELCH , Kathleen b. Belfast	1893 Duncairn, Co Antrim (Census 1911)	-	GPO Telephonist 1 halfbrother killed in France 1917	Signaller Telephonist Fluent French and German	May 1917 ~ June 1917 to Sept/Oct 1919	France <i>Source</i> Telephone Telegraph Gazette 1916-17 p.140) <i>Among earliest GPO to serve</i>	1021
E	LEACH , Victora Ethel b. Belfast (Sister born in Dublin served with her)	7/09/1882 (Note age) 20 Iona Park Glasnevin, Dublin	Presb	GPO Telegraphist	Signaller Assist/ Fore/W Telegraphist	May 1917 ~ July 1917 to Oct/Nov 1919	Havre, Rouen, Etables, Wimereux and Boulogne	1560

B	O'RORKE , Nola b. Belfast Address here illegible	1894 Former workplace 25 Wellington Rd., Dublin	-	Cook in private house	Cook	May 1917 Joined via Womens' Legion in London	Form states she is 'Working at Rest Camp Folkestone'	No Army No.
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B	JENKINS , Gertrude Josephine b. Belfast	9/09/1894 3 Brown St. Hamilton, Scotland	C of S	Drapers shop assistant Father a motor mechanic	House parlourmaid	Feb/Mar 1917 joined in London ~ May 1917 to July 1918	Boulogne and Folkestone	1829
B	ALLEN , Agnes b. Carnmoney, Belfast	23/08/1895 15 Southwell Road, Bangor, Co Down	C of I	Ex Women's Legion army cook	Cook	c. Jun 1917 Joined in London ~ Jul 1917 to Oct 1919	Rouen and Wimereaux	1882

B	CURRAGH , Jeanne Elizabeth b. Belfast Roselyn Villas /or Stranmillis Road	18/03/1892	C of I	Cook via Women's Legion	Cook	Jan 1917 Joined in London ~ Jul 1917 to Aug 1919	Rouen and Camiers (Seeks Free Passage to Australia /New Zealand in Jan 1920 but possible error re. name on application)	1885
B	JOHNSTONE , (Mrs) Annie, nee Aiken b. Belfast	1/01/1874 (Note Age) 90,Whitchurch road, Cardiff	C of E	Domestic work	Hostel Forewoman	Aug 1917 Joined in Cardiff ~ Sept 1917 to Oct 1918	Cardiff and Salisbury	4937
B	CATHERWOOD , Isabella b. Belfast	12/08/1899 Cornwall St., Devenport, Plymouth	C of I	Domestic servant Father a shipwright	General Domestic	Aug 1917 Joined in Plymouth ~ Sept 1917 to Nov 1919	Winchester and Plymouth	5091

B	ARCHER, Susan b. Belfast 127, Walmer Street (sisters)	29/06/1895	Meth	Machinist in clothing factory	Domestic	Sept 1917 ~ Mar 1918 to Dec 1919+	Dublin and Moore Park Fermoy (Applied for Free Passage to Canada 1920)	33665
B	ARCHER, Matilda Wallace b. Belfast 127, Walmer Street (sisters)	2/03/1899	Meth	Machinist in clothing factory	Domestic	Sept 1917 ~ Mar 1918 to Dec 1919	Dublin and Moore Park Fermoy (Applied for Free Passage to Canada 1920)	33666
B	BALLANTINE, Madeline b. Belfast 21 Walnut Street	9/02/1892	C of I	Machinist (Stitcher) in Linen factory Father a stoker	Waitress	Oct 1917 ~ Apr 1918 to Nov 1919	Larkhill, Etaples, Camiers	33667
B	SHAW, Margaret b. Belfast	15/09/1895 165 Merrion Road, Merrion, Co. Dublin	C of I	Laundress Father a Builder's foreman	Waitress	Sept 1917 ~ Mar 1918 to Apr 1919	Only passed through Ballykinlar route to Larkhill UK	36220

G	BUTLER, Annie b. Belfast	1/04/1986 19 Cedar Grove, FallowfieldManchester	C of I	Shop Assistant	Storekeeper	Joined in Manchester ~ Apr 1918 to Jun/Jul 1919	Etaples, Havre and Calais	36417
B	ANDERSON, Annie Grey b. Belfast 49 Osborne Street/rd. Belfast	08/08/1899	Presb	Domestic servant Father a fitter	Domestic	Jan 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Mar 1919	Randalstown and Dublin	39010
A	McMILLAN, Lottie b. Belfast 30 Annalee Street, Cliftonpark Avenue	30/12/1895	Presb	Stock & ledger clerk Father a postman	Gen Clerk	Nov 1917 ~ Apr/May 1918 to Mar 1919	Aldershot and Woking	39012
B	MARTIN, Jessie b. Belfast 1, Wellington Park Ave., Malone Road	25/08/1899	C of E	Domestic servant 23 years old	Waitress	Oct 1917 ~ May 1918 to Nov 13 1919 + leave	Randalstown Ballykinlar	39019

B	BRADY , Sarah Jane b. Old Port Road 136 Ardilea street	6/01/1898	RC	Munitions worker Father a soldier	Waitress	Feb 1918 ~ Apr/May 1918 to May1919	Tipperary	39025
B	BOYD , Margaret Anne b. Belfast 14 Suncroft Street	4/05/1891	C of I	Linen weaver	General Domestic	June 1917 ~ Apr 1918 to Nov 1918	Tipperary	39026
A	BLAIN , Gladys b. Belfast 1, Sandhurst Drive, Stranmillis	14/12/1887 (Note age)	C of E	Clerk and Draper's saleswoman Father a clerk	F/W Clerk	Feb/Mar 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Dec 1919	Randalstown, Dublin. London, Camiers and Calais (No medals for O/S service as after 11/11/18)	39027
B	BOLTON , Sadie b.44 Blythe Street 36, Virginia Street 2 Egeria St.	17/12/1899	C of I	Worker in Linen Mill (Lappers) Father an Inspector of Postmen	Cook	Feb/March 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to Nov 1919	Randalstown and Ballykinlar	39028

B	KINNAIRD , Jeanie b. Belfast 54 Ambleside Street	15/07/1899	Presb	Employed in printing trade Mother a shopkeeper Father an Army sergeant	Domestic	Mar 1918 ~ Apr 1918 To Nov 1918	Randalstown (Applied for Free Passage to Canada in 1920)	39038
B	McKEE , Mary b. Belfast 116, Euston Street	28/09/1897	C of I	Showcard finisher in a Belfast firm Father a labourer	Orderly transferred to Waitress / later pantrymaid	Apr 1918 ~ May 1918 to Dec 1919	HQ London, Randalstown, (Fined here for AWOL) Dublin, Ballykinlar and Bostall Heath	39043
B	NICHOLL , Annie Amelia b. Belfast 3 Leggagh street, Ballysillan	25/05/1896	C if I	Worked in Flax spinning mill Father deceased plasterer	General Domestic	Mar 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Oct 1918	Tipperary	39045

A	PATTERSON , Jessie b. Belfast 74 York Road	28/06 /1895	C of I	Bookkeeper and typist for painter & decorator Father a plater	Typist	Nov 1917 ~ Mar 1918 to Jun 1919	HQ London and St. John's Wood	39047
B	THOMPSON , Sarah b. Belfast 6, Majestic Street	23/05/1897	Presb	Turner in clothes factory Father a baker	Domestic promoted to Clerk	Jan 1918 ~ May 1918 to Oct 1919	Londonderry, HQ London, and the Curragh	39055

A	THOMPSON , Adeline, Edith b. Belfast 67 Cedar Avenue	1/04/1895	Presb	Sht/h typist / bookkeeper / accountants	Ledger Clerk	Mar 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Aug 1919	Boulogne	39056
A	TAYLOR , May b. Belfast South Parade	21/09/1890	Meth	Knowledge / bookkeeping	General Clerk	Mar. 1918 ~ Apr/May 1918 to Oct 1919	Biggleswade Signals Depot and Bostall Heath	39057

B	DONNELLY , Mary Jane b. Belfast 81 Gracehill Road	13/04/1899	RC	Weaver Father a shoemaker	Domestic	Feb 1918 ~ Apr/May 1918 to May 1919	Tipperary (Many letters re. back pay)	39058
B	WRIGHT , Norah Sandford	25/01/1883 (Note age) Presbytery, Ballyholme Esplanade, Bangor, Co. Down	Presb	Former VAD	Hostel F/W	Apr 1918 ~ May 1918 to Jul/Aug 1919	Belfast Marlboro Bks., Dublin	39061
B	MACAULAY , Maria b. Belfast 6, Pakenham Street Later / Gracehill St., off Old Park Road	20 /07/1882 (Note age)	C Of I	Supervised Child Care Homes	Hostel F/W	May 1918 ~ Apr 1918 to Nov 1919	Beresford Bcks the Curragh (Letters re. hard times in 1920 + Free Travel to Canada)	39062
B	CLARKE , Elizabeth b. Belfast 7 Collingwood Avenue, Belfast city	28/05/1897	Meth	Ex Women's Legion	Waitress	Aug 1918 (joined in Buncrana) ~ Apr 1918 to Probably Apr 1919	Buncrana and Belfast	39063 Mixup over army No.)

B	McELVEE , Jane b. Belfast	24/11/1893 68a Holt Road, Kensington Liverpool	C of E	Shop Assistant	Pantry Maid	Mar/Apr 1918 Joined in Manchester ~ May 1918 to Sept 1919	Tidworth Wiltshire, Officers' School	39404
B	SCOTT , Mary Anne b. Belfast 75 Pine Street	18/02/1898	C of I	Piece-work in Factory Father a Shoemaker	Domestic	Feb/Mar 1918 ~ May 1918 to Jul 1919	Londonderry	39537
A	MURRAY , Violet b. Belfast 120 University Avenue	15/04/1899	Presb	Office Clerk / messenger Father a Naval Pensioner	Clerk (Enrolled in WRNS as a waitress / no experience/ transferred to QMAAC Dublin)	Mar 1918 Joined in Edinburgh ~ May 1918 to Feb 1919	Edinburgh and Dublin (Unusual case of member's protest over the transfer)	42245
B	LEEMAN , Mary Ellen b. Belfast 66 Upper Canning Street	17/10/1895	RC	Father deceased	General Domestic	Apr 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Sept 1919	Dublin	42389

B	HOLLOWAY , Christina b. Belfast 4 Ruth Street	18/01/1900	C od I	Factory work packing Father a fireman	Domestic	Mar 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Jun 1919	Dundalk	42390
B	KENNEDY , Minnie b. Belfast 42 Coolfin Street, Off Donegal Road	5/02/1896	C of E	General servant Father in ship-building	Cook	Mar 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Mar 1919	School of Musketry Dublin (Discharged to get married)	42397
B	KELLY , Annie b. Belfast 13 Craigmore Street	14/01/1892	RC	Stitcher in clothing factory Father a Labourer	General domestic and Cook	Apr 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Nov1911	School of Musketry Dublin	42863
B	REID , Maude b. Belfast Murdock Street, Grosvenor Road	18/11/1894	Presb	Linen Weaver Father a linen worker	Domestic	Apr 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Mar 1919	Salisbury and Bristol (Applied for Free Passage to Canada in 1922. By then married)	42865

B	MARTIN, Mary b. Belfast 7 Southwell Street	20/01/1900	C of I	Factory Mill worker Father Deceased	General Domestic	Apr/May 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Nov 1919	Londonderry, Victoria Bcks Cork, and Dublin	42866
B	McCULLOUGH, Tilley b. Belfast 7 Southwell Street	3/02/1900	C of E	Factory Mill Worker Father a labourer	General Domestic	Apr/May 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Sept 1919	Londonderry and HQ Dublin	42867
B	LYNN, Madge b. Belfast 131 Rugby Avenue, Ormeau Road	15/07/1893	C of I	Domestic servant Father an engineer	Vegetable woman	Apr 1918 ~ Jun 1918 t Sept 1919	Dundalk, Fermoy and Dublin	42869
B	CRAWFORD, Ellen b. Belfast Saltfield Court	24/12/1898	RC	General servant	General Domestic (kitchen)	Jan/May 1918 ~ Jun 1918 to Sept 1919	Tipperary and Finner camp Ballyshannon	42871

A	CRONIN , (Mrs) Jeannie, nee MGratt b. Belfast	6/11/1878 (Note age) 20 Russell Place, Plymouth	RC	Clerk and Supervisor	General Clerk	Jun1918 Joined in Plymouth ~ Jul 1918 to Sept 1919	Devonport	45406
A	McLACHLAN , Lily b. Belfast 51 Vernon Street	2/09/1895	Presb	Cashier in a firm of merchants Father a compositor	General Clerk (accounts)	May 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to Apr 1919	Ballyvonare	45910
B	AUSTIN , Emily Hamilton b. Belfast Old Post Office Row, Whitehouse	27/11/1898	C of I	Domestic servant (Girl guide etc.) Father (blind) formerly a shipyard foreman	Domestic	July 1917/ ~ Feb/Mar 1918 to Feb 1919	Ballyvonare	45914

B	ROWAN , Susanna b. Glasgow Street 5, Collyer Street	04/03/1895	C of I	Reeler (linen factory?) Father deceased	Domestic	May/June 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to Nov 1918	Londonderry	45919
A	SMYTH , (Mrs) Annie, nee Reynolds b. Belfast 86 North Queen Street	19/05/1895	Presb	Hospital worker Father a cabinet maker	Promoted to Clerk	May 1918 ~ July 1918 to Sept 1919	London (As a married member her pregnancy was cause for a discharge)	45922

B	MATEER , Edith b. Belfast 28 Argyle Street, Shankill Road	28/02/1900	Presb	Mill worker Father serving with Royal Marines	Domestic	Apr 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to Sept 1919	Ballyvonare, Dublin and Cahir (Fined for insubordination)	45931
B	HAWTHORNE , Elizabeth b. Belfast 47, Ewarts Row	1/09/1899	of I	Linen factory work Father 'tree dresser' Linen factory?	General Domestic	April/May 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to	Marlboro Bombing School Dublin (Applied for Free Passage to Colonies 1919)	45932

A	MARKS, Emily Ada b. Victoria Barracks	6/06/1900 English St., Downpatrick , Co. Down	C of I	Trained as a typist Father a soldier	Shnd/ typist	June 1918 ~ Jul 1918 to Jan 1920	HQ London	45935
B	MAGNES, Aggie b. Belfast 59 Tyrone Street	4/12/1899	Presb	Factory work Father a discharged soldier	General Domestic	Jun 1918 ~ July 1918 to Oct 1919	Londonderry, Dublin HQ and Victoria Barracks Cork (fined for AWOL)	45936
B	SKEANE, Margaret Elizabeth b. Belfast 4 Isaac Court, Sandy Row	11/06/1897	C of I	Laundress Father (deceased) was a labourer	Laundress / later pantry maid	May 1918 ~ Sept 1918 to Sept 1919	Victoria Bcks Cork, Beresford Bcks the Curragh, and Finner Camp Ballyshannon (Unsuccessful in seeking a Gratuity in 1927)	48873
B	WADDELL, Nora b. Belfast 7, Frome Street, Newtownards Road	29/11/1898	C of I	Domestic servant Father a Labourer	General Domestic	Aug 1918 ~ Nov 1918 to Apr 1919	Dublin and Ballykinlar	49531

A	KELLY, Queenie, Born or lived in Belfast <i>Source: OCA Gazette July 1924, p.6</i>	No information <i>Source is a report by Ms Pattenden in OCA Gazette</i>	-	Army file not found	Clerk who Served with Gladys Blain	Served until 1919	Calais (No medals for O/S service as after 11/11/18)	Unknown
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