

Women At War

**The Great War
The European War
The War To End All Wars**

April 6, 1917- November 11, 1918

Mary Lipsey

Before US enters the war

- Woman's Peace Party parade held
August 29, 1914
- 1,500 women paraded in NYC for peace
- January 19, 1915 in DC -3,000 women of the Women's Peace Party met
- Organized by Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt

Woman Peace Party Parade





US enters the war

- Call for service in Navy and Marines
- American Red Cross Nurses and Army Nurses
- American Red Cross Motor Corps
- Salvation Army
- YWCA
- Jewish Welfare Board
- Journalist

March 19, 1917 call to recruit women into Navy and Marines

- Over 13,000 women were recruited- Yeomen, Navy Nurses, Marine Reservists
- Clerical jobs, radio and telephone operators, cryptographers
- Many served in the DC area
- Purchased or made uniform and received small allowance for lodging – Plans for dormitories were abandoned when war ended
- Others were stationed at naval stations, shipyards, munition plants, and hospitals in US

Yeomen Inspection

Photo # NH 53165 RAdm Victor Blue inspects Yeomen (F), Washington, D.C., 1918



US Marines



HELLO GIRLS

- 7,000 apply and 233 are trained and sent overseas
- Must be fluent in French
- Served with US Army Signal Corps
- In height of war connected 150,000 calls a day between front lines and supply depots or military command
- At the end of the war denied veteran status

Telephone Operators



In France



Soliciting Donations



American Red Cross

- SS Red Cross launched September 13, 1914 with 30 doctors and 125 nurses to help casualties on both sides in Europe
- Red Cross mission became to render service to American and French military forces
- Provide aid for Prisoners of War and civilian victims, especially children

Red Cross Nurses



Two Minority Groups faced challenges

African American and Native American trained nurses had difficulties in enlisting in the Red Cross Army Nurse Corps.

African American Frances Davis

- 1) Red Cross delayed assigning African American Nurses- explaining housing issues as one reason.
- 2) Frances was the first African American to be accepted into American Red Cross Nursing Services in July 1917
- 3) She was assigned to Jackson, Tennessee where she treated families of servicemen
- 4) She would go on to nurse blacks and whites during the Spanish flu epidemic and retire from nursing at age 69.



Native American Cora Elm of the Oneida Tribe

- 1) For an education, Cora had to leave the reservation and find financial support.
- 2) Cora was one of twelve identified Native American nurses to have served as an American Red Cross nurse.
- 3) She was one of eight Native American nurses to have served overseas at bases in France.
- 4) “ I saw a lot of horrors of the war. I nursed many a soldier with a leg cut off or an arm.”



American National Red Cross funded the Studio for Masks in Paris

By 1919, artist Anna Coleman Ladd and her assistants had made over 200 masks for disfigured soldiers.

“One man, who came to us, had been wounded years before and had never been home. He did not want his mother to see how badly he looked.”



Examinations required for Red Cross volunteers in the US

- First Aid
- Motor Mechanics
- Patient Transport
- Road Driving

Red Cross Uniforms



American Red Cross Motor Service

- Stateside operated in 300 cities starting February 1918
- Part of its mission was to transport sick and wounded from trains to hospitals
- Deliver supplies from warehouses
- Transport nurses and canteen workers to their posts
- 12,000 volunteers logged 3,500,000 miles

Enlisting Help



Salvation Army

- Estimated 500 volunteer men and women
- Initially operated out of “huts” on the front lines. Each was issued a gas mask, revolver and helmet
- Later would also operate rest areas and canteens
- Became well known for serving donuts
- Salvation Army “Lassies” would fry between 2,500 to 9,000 donuts daily

Salvation Army “Lassies”



YWCA

- Recruited women for war industries in US and assisted with housing
- Responded to emergency situations of the families of soldiers
- Operated Hostess Houses at military bases in US where military families could meet and relax
- Met troop trains

Support Women Workers



Hostess House



Journalist Overseas

Helen Johns Kirtland

- Based in France as war correspondent for *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*
- First and only woman to photograph the battlefield
- Her photos and articles appeared in the magazine

Helen Johns Kirtland



Jewish Welfare Board

- Began April 9, 1917
- Built thirty buildings for recreation and religious purposes for Jewish soldiers at US military camps in US and overseas
- Recruited and trained rabbis for military service
- Obtained government permission to sell Kosher non-perishable food at camps

Supported the faith of Jewish soldiers



Home Front

- Buy bonds
- Conserve Food
- Knit Your Bit and Save Your Pit
- Emergency Service Corps
- Land Army
- Library War Service
- Work in Factories

Joan of Arc Saved France



W.S.S. WOMEN OF AMERICA
WAR SAVINGS STAMPS
DIVISION OF THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT

SAVE YOUR COUNTRY

Buy **WAR SAVINGS STAMPS**

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Citizens asked to conserve and contribute



Learn how to use wheat substitutes

food

- 1- buy it with thought
- 2- cook it with care
- 3- use less wheat & meat
- 4- buy local foods
- 5- serve just enough
- 6- use what is left

don't waste it

U. S. FOOD ADMINISTRATION



Pits were crushed to make filters for gas masks



Emergency Service Corps

- Military preparedness for women camps in New Jersey and Maryland to defend the Home Front
- Participated in physical training and attended lectures by military officers
- Learned to shoot, ride horses, flag signaling, marching and drilling
- Camped in tents

KATH. DAHLGREN

ELIZ, HARRISON

3873-7



MISS HEWITT'S CAMPERS

3873-4



Woman's Land Army (WLA)

- Female led and female staffed
- Organized first in California
- 15,000 – 20,000 women workers
- In 33 states by the summer of 1918
- Secured labor contracts, equal pay as males, minimum wage \$0.25 an hour, and an eight hour work day
- Farmers had to provide safe and clean living quarters



**The Girl on the Land
Serves the Nation's Need**
apply **Y. W. C. A.**
Land Service Committee.

“Farmerette”

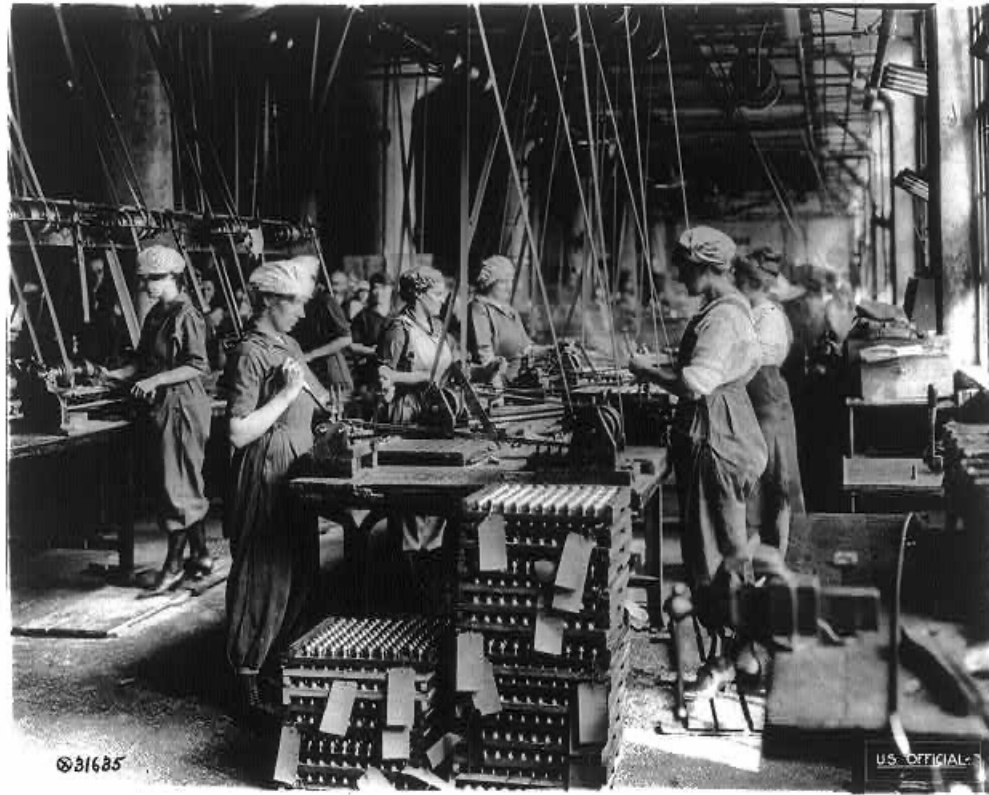




Work in the factories

- Nearly three million women entered the work force for the first time during World War I
- Many of them worked in the war industries
- Others took traditional men jobs-
Police officers, Railroad conductors, Postal Workers, etc.

Ordnance Plant



Examining Colt Pistols



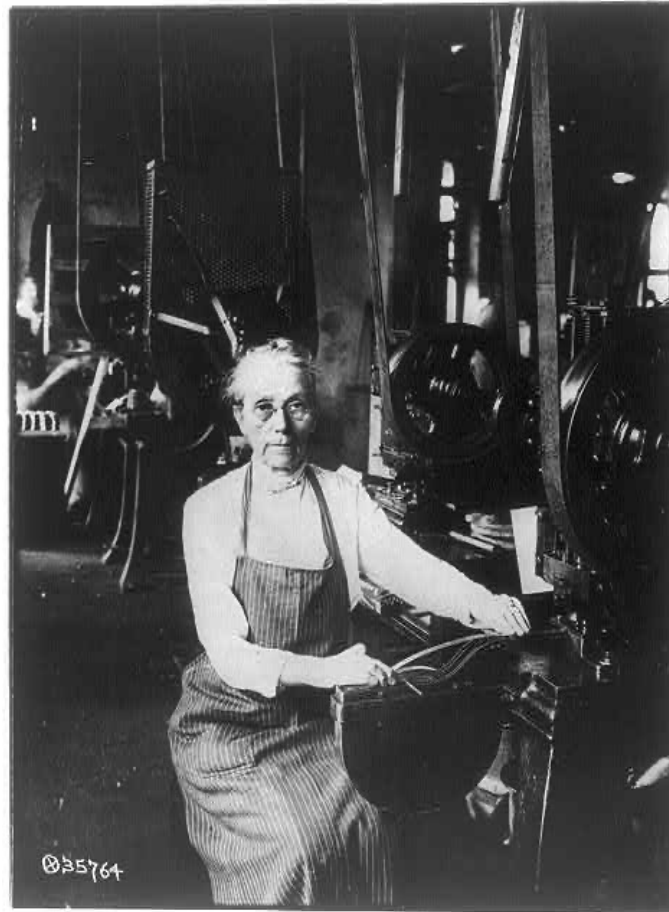
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9084

Automatic 45,
U. S. Pistol -
Inspection of
small parts of
pistols - Colt's
Patent Fire Arms
Plant, Hartford,
Conn.

1914/18

Operating Punch Press to make holes in material



Steel Plant in Pennsylvania



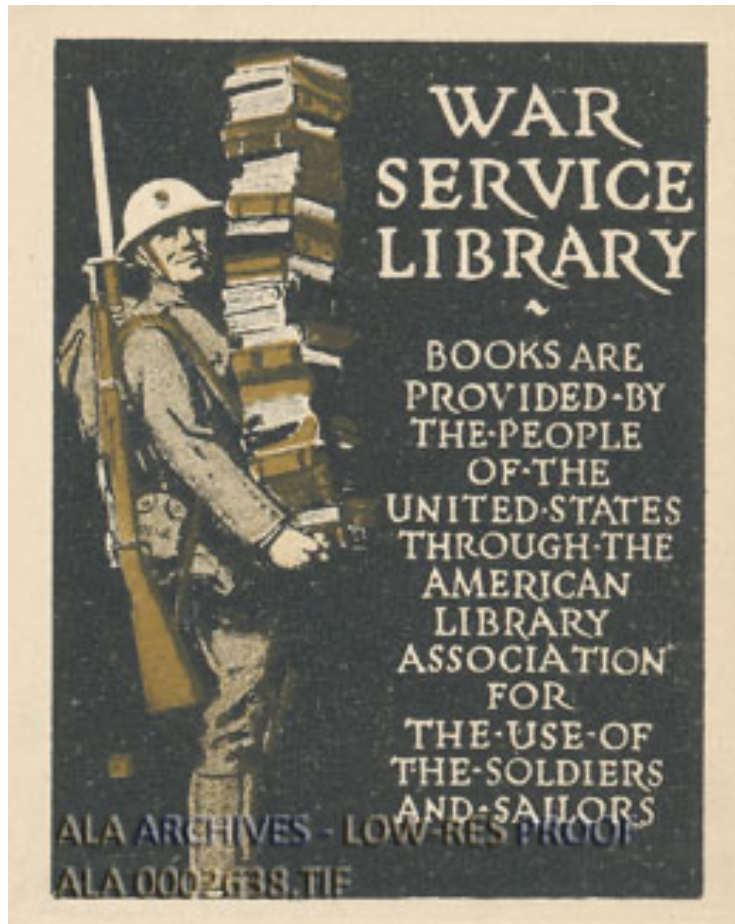
Doing a “man’s job” Police officer and reserves in NYC



American Library Association Library War Service

- Established in 1917
- Provided 7-10 million books and magazines to US military bases, military hospitals and soldiers overseas
- Provided books in braille for those soldiers blinded in gas attacks
- Managed 36 camp libraries

American Library Association



SUBJECT:

165-WW-26A-4

NUMBER

AU

165-WW 26A-4

PHOTOGRAPHER Int. Film Ser. (C)

REC'D Apr. 1918 TAKEN 1918.

DESCRIPTION:

THEIR ANSWER TO THE APPEAL
FOR BOOKS FOR MEN IN OUR
FIGHTING FORCES.

Girls from Hunter College
delivering books at the
Public Library, New York,
for distribution to soldiers.
They contributed 3500 books
to the fast growing pile.
1918.



ISSUED:

NOTES:

3-5055

ALA ARCHIVES



MAGAZINES FOR MARINES
AT QUANTICO - PHOTO
BY HARRIS & EWING

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

May 1918 President Wilson approved relatives wearing a black band with a “gilt” star in honor of deceased soldiers

- Gold Star Mothers Organization started by Grace Darling Seibold of Connecticut whose son George, a pilot in the British Royal Flying Corps, had died in combat
- After his death Grace visited hospitals and reached out to family members of deceased American soldiers
- National organization of 25 mothers began in DC on June 4, 1928



Grace Darling Seibold



Women at War

GAINED

- VISIBILITY
- EXPERIENCE
- SKILLS
- CONFIDENCE
- MOTIVATION

STAY TUNED

LLI May 26 -CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

JUNE 15 -SECRETARY OF LABOR
FRANCES PERKINS

Interested in Mary's latest book?
Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday's Headliners?

Check out her website
At www.mlhbooks.com