

Military Research: Women at War

We'll take a look at the role of Women in Wars and their service to their countries. It is as diverse as the circumstances that required their participation. We'll look from the earliest to modern society.



Typically, the man of the house went off to fight wars, but not always. Women have contributed since early times to protect their homes and country. Their reason for doing so may be patriotic, but generally, they felt the need to contribute to the war effort be it providing care for the wounded, taking care of the farm while their men were away or picking up a weapon and joining the fight. Since WW1, women are becoming more integrated into the modern armies around the world. Some mainly out of necessity due to low population in their country. Other's feel it is time to eliminate the stereotypical image of a women's place as in the home. Their contributions cannot be ignored.

See the "List of women warriors in folklore" Wikipedia article.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women_warriors_in_folklore#American_Civil_War

Famous Women

Joan of Arc: Martyr, saint and military leader Joan of Arc, acting under divine guidance, led the French army to victory over the British during the Hundred Years' War.

<http://www.biography.com/people/joan-of-arc-9354756>

Margaretha Geertruida "Margreet" MacLeod (née **Zelle**; 7 August 1876 – 15 October 1917), better known by the stage name **Mata Hari**, was a [Dutch exotic dancer](#) and [courtesan](#) who was convicted of being a [spy](#)^[1] and [executed by firing squad](#) in [France](#) under charges of [espionage](#) for [Germany](#) during [World War I](#). (Wikipedia)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mata_Hari

10 Amazing Women of the Revolutionary War: The involvement of some of these women has not been as recognizable as others but they all had one thing in common, patriotic passion. These women were steadfast, dependable and assisted in every way imaginable, many even risking their own lives and fearing for their personal safety. **Mary Ball Washington, Martha Custis Washington, Lucy Flucker Knox, Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren,**

Catherine Moore Barry, Sybil Ludington, Nancy Hart, Esther DeBerdt Reed, and Margaret Cochran Corbin. <https://allthingsliberty.com/2013/10/10-amazing-women-revolutionary-war/>

Deborah Sampson Gannett (December 17, 1760 – April 29, 1827), better known as **Deborah Sampson** or **Deborah Samson**, was a woman who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the [Continental Army](#) during the [American Revolutionary War](#). She is one of a small number of women with a documented record of military combat experience in that war.^[1] She served 17 months in the army under the name "Robert Shurtleff"^{[2][3]} of [Uxbridge, Massachusetts](#), was wounded in 1782, and was honorably discharged at [West Point, New York](#), in 1783. (Wikipedia) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deborah_Sampson

Women in the Civil War: There were over 400 documented cases of women who fought as soldiers in the civil war. Disguised as men, they fought alongside others for their cause. Read our featured article below on [Women Soldiers in the Civil War](#) (HistoryNet). *Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman, Mary Todd Lincoln, Lucretia Mott, Clara Barton, Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Louisa May Alcott, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton.* <http://www.historynet.com/women-in-the-civil-war>

World War 1

World War 1 saw a dramatic shift of women into the industrial complex with so many men conscripted or joining the armed services. Although some women did serve at the front, most were taking the place of men in the factories to help the war effort.

Women and WWI - Women at the Front: Been There, Done That:

http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/womenww1_one.htm

12 Things you didn't know about Women in WW1 <http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/12-things-you-didnt-know-about-women-in-the-first-world-war>

Women in World War One <https://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/progressiveera/worldwarI.html>

World War I: Women and the War

[http://www.womensmemorial.org/H&C/History/wwi\(war\).html](http://www.womensmemorial.org/H&C/History/wwi(war).html)

World War 2

The United States was just beginning to climb out of the worst economic crisis in its history when WW2 broke out in 1941. The United States entered WW2 with a war on two fronts, Japan in the Pacific and Germany/Italy in Europe. Large numbers of men were enlisted or drafted into the Armed Services. As a result, opportunities opened up for women again in the factories providing for the war effort, but also opportunities in the Armed Services.

WOMEN IN WWII AT A GLANCE (The National WWII Museum)

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/at-a-glance/women-in-ww2.html>

11 Women Warriors of World War II <http://mentalfloss.com/article/29219/11-women-warriors-world-war-ii>

15 badass women of World War II you didn't learn about in history class.

<http://www.upworthy.com/15-badass-women-of-world-war-ii-you-didnt-learn-about-in-history-class>

Korean War

In 1950, fewer than five years after World War II had ended; the United States found itself once again confronted by a war for which it was unprepared. As before, a downsized military establishment rushed to call up, draft and recruit manpower, but recruitment numbers fell short of military requirements. And just as in previous wars, the services turned again to American women to meet personnel needs, asking them to leave their homes, jobs and families to serve their country. (History and Collections Website)

<http://www.womensmemorial.org/H&C/Collections/collectionsarkorea.html>

Vietnam War

Though relatively little official data exists about female Vietnam War veterans, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation estimates that approximately 11,000 military women were stationed in Vietnam during the conflict. Nearly all of them were volunteers, and 90 percent served as military nurses, though women also worked as physicians, air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, clerks and other positions in the U.S. Women's Army Corps, U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines and the Army Medical Specialist Corps. In addition to women in the armed forces, an unknown number of civilian women served in Vietnam on behalf of the Red Cross, United Service Organizations (USO), Catholic Relief Services and other humanitarian organizations, or as foreign correspondents for various news organizations. (History.com)

Women in the Vietnam War <http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/women-in-the-vietnam-war>

Women who served during the Vietnam War

<http://www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org/women.php>

Vietnam Southeast Asia 1963-1973

<http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/femvetsnam.html>

Desert Storm and the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars

Desert Storm, Iraq/Afghanistan created a whole other situation where there were no battle lines.

Women's Combat Roles Evolving in Iraq, Afghanistan

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/military-july-dec07-women_07-05/

American Amazons: Hiding in Plain-Jane Sight

<http://nation.time.com/2013/01/28/american-amazons-hiding-in-plain-jane-sight/>

Women at war: How Women wound up on the front line in Afghanistan.

<http://ideas.ted.com/women-at-war-how-women-ended-up-on-the-front-line-in-afghanistan/>

Albuquerque Library

Author [Sim, Kevin.](#)

Title **Women at war : five heroines who defied the Nazis and survived / by Kevin Sim.**

Publisher New York: Morrow, 1982.

Author [Holmstedt, Kirsten A.](#)

Title **Band of Sisters: American women at war in Iraq / Kirsten Holmstedt ; foreword by L. Tammy Duckworth.**

Publisher Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, c2007.

Author [Morris, Robert V.](#)

Title **Black Faces of War : a legacy of honor from the American Revolution to today / Robert V. Morris ; foreword by Julius W. Becton.**

Publisher Minneapolis, MN : Zenith Press, 2011.

Epilogue

Women have never shied away from Wars, given their sense of duty or helping with the effort. More and more barriers are being broken that put women on the same level as men. War is a messy business and should be avoided if possible; however, do not discount women when it comes to doing their share as we have seen through history.