Women in the Second World War

**A classroom resource from the CWGC**

**Teacher Notes**

This teaching resource gives teachers and students the opportunity to explore a range of stories from the CWGC database of women casualties from the Second World War.

These stories are set within the wider context of women’s war work, and some of the different auxiliary and military nursing services open to women during this period.

Whilst primarily aimed at KS2/KS3 students, the information could be used with any age group interested in exploring the stories behind women’s roles in the Second World War.

The resource is designed to be used flexibly in a way that best suits your classroom objectives:

* The PowerPoint resource is organised by organisation/category, with two or three supporting stories.
* The ‘Key Facts’ cards are designed to provide an overview of the different auxiliary and voluntary organisations for women, alongside an explanation of other categories of women we commemorate, such as those civilians who died as a result of enemy action in the Second World War.
* The ‘Story Cards’ support these with information allowing students to build up a picture of these individual women, the different roles they carried out during the war, and what happened to them.
* These categories and stories could be used as a group activity, with a possible enquiry-based question such as: ‘What experiences did women have during the Second World War’, or teachers can focus on individual organisations or women that support particular units of work within the Second World War topic.
* To that end, the grid below highlights particular connections to key events and details allowing for easier identification of relevant information such as: the D Day Landings, SOE, different nationalities etc.

Extension activities:

* Use our database to learn more about female casualties: how many? where are they buried/commemorated? ages? etc. Use this link and then search in ‘Regiment’ under name of organisation or under ‘Additional Information’, try searching: daughter of, wife of.

[Find war dead | War graves search | CWGC](https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/)

* Can you find any women we commemorate in or from your local area?
* Using a map, find the places around the world where we commemorate women casualties

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|  | Women’s Service | Key Events | Notes | Nationality | Card Number |
| Pearl Beatrice Mittelheuser | Australian Army Nursing Service |  | Far East Prisoner of War | Australian | E3 |
| Susan Slade | Air Transport Auxiliary |  | ‘ATA girls’ | British | A1 |
| Amy Johnson | Air Transport Auxiliary |  | ‘ATA girls’ | British | A2 |
| Enid Gertrude Line | Auxiliary Territorial Service | Air Raid |  | British | B1 |
| Nora Caveney | Auxiliary Territorial Service | Air raid | Ack Ack girl | British | B2 |
| Lau Tak Oi | British Army Aid Group | Hong Kong Resistance |  | Chinese | F3 |
| Mary Cremin | Civilian War Dead /NAAFI | Battle of Britain | RAF Biggin Hill Raid | Irish | G1 |
| Joan Taylor | Civilian War Dead | D-Day | Home Front death on D-Day | British | G2 |
| Dorothy Field | Queen Alexandria’s Imperial Military Nursing Service | Normandy Campaign |  | British | E1 |
| Mollie Evershed | Queen Alexandria’s Imperial Military Nursing Service | Normandy Campaign |  | British | E2 |
| Yvonne Rudellat | Special Operations Executive | Espionage & sabotage in support of Normandy Landings | First woman agent into France | French | F1 |
| Noor Inayat Khan | Special Operations Executive | Espionage & sabotage in support of Normandy Landings |  | Indian | F2 |
| Betty Stannard | Women’s Auxiliary Air Force | Air Raid | Balloon Squadron | British | D1 |
| Jean Scargill | Women’s Auxiliary Air Force | Accident | D-Day | British | D2 |
| Vera Cowle | Women’s Royal Naval Service | Air Raid |  | British | C1 |
| Florence MacPherson | Women’s Royal Naval Service |  | Cipher Officer  Codebreaking | Canadian | C2 |

Further education and learning resources can be found at: [World War Resources for Learning: Guides and Research | CWGC](https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/outreach/learning-resources/)

Please contact [public.engagement@cwgc.org](mailto:public.engagement@cwgc.org) if you are interested in a free visit from one of our team to support your activities in school.