

Guernsey Women and the Great War

1914 - 1919



Before war broke out in August 1914:

- Few women were educated beyond the age of 14.
- Most did not work outside the home. They helped their mothers until they had a home of their own. If they didn't marry they often worked as live in housekeepers for relatives.
- Those few who did go out to work tended towards caring areas such as domestic service, nursing and teaching.
- Few were financially independent and it was not easy for women to own property or run a business.

Pre war Occupations

A quick glance at the 1911 Channel Islands census shows men working in a wide range of occupations - cab drivers, dockers, plasterers, gardeners, shop assistants, clerks, boot repairers, coal porters, basket makers, tailors, fishermen, blacksmiths...

Sched	Name	Relation	Condition/ Yrs married	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Where Born	Original census image
100	JOMAILLE, Thomas	Head	Married 31 years	M	58	1855	General Carrier	Vale Guernsey	VIEW
100	JOMAILLE, Adelaide	Wife	Married 31 years	F	53	1858		St Heliers Jersey	VIEW
100	JOMAILLE, Lily	Daughter	Single	F	18	1893		St Peter's Port Guernsey	VIEW
100	JOMAILLE, Mabel	Daughter	Single	F	14	1897	Milliner's Apprentice	St Peter's Port Guernsey	VIEW

Those women who were shown as having an occupation were working as domestic servants, dressmakers or laundresses. Mabel Mallet, mentioned here was an apprentice in the millinery trade, one of the few skill areas dominated by women.

What women wore restricted what they were able to do.

Long skirts, tight corsets and wide brimmed hats did not promote an active lifestyle.

These pictures show some of the fashions of 1910 -1912



More pre War fashions – elegant but impractical. Femininity and respectability were the order of the day.



As soon as war broke out things began to change



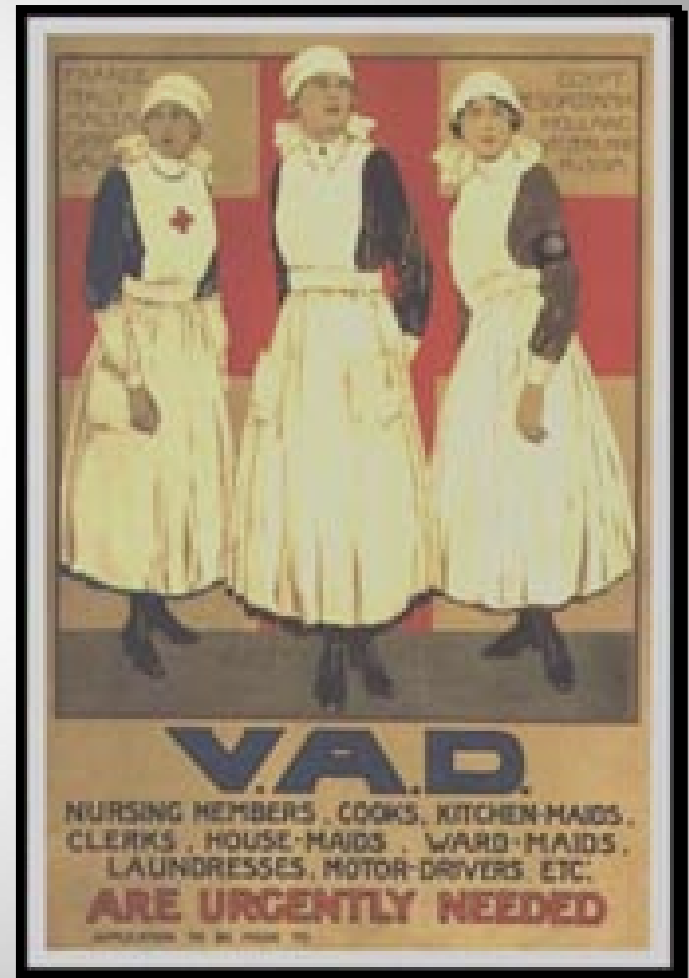
The *Daily Express* of 11th December 1916 summed it up by stating that "Two and a half years ago the general public thought women unsuited for most occupations other than those of a strictly domestic character. Now it is quite commonly supposed that a woman can do anything after six weeks training."

Women who had trained or worked as nurses were some of the first to be involved in war work.

Many went to France. A group of former Ladies' College pupils worked with the French Red Cross at Arc-en-Barrois tending French soldiers who had been injured at Verdun.

Some stayed on the island nursing at the Victoria Military Hospital in Amherst or the Convalescent Hospital at Les Touillets, where a local lady, Miss Lainé was Matron.

Others worked in English military hospitals. Some who were not trained nurses joined Voluntary Aid Detachments.



HOPITAL NOTRE DAME DES GREVES.



Our photographs show the Hôpital Notre Dame des Grèves—to which comforts are sent by the Guernsey Committee for helping the wounded in French Hospitals—and some of the patients and nurses. On the extreme left in the upper picture is Mrs. R. F. L. de Jersey, and standing behind the nurse, Dr. E. F. L. de Jersey, who has worked for a month in the Hospital. In the centre of the small group is Miss Miriam Leale, daughter of Jurat John Leale, who has been engaged for some time as a Nurse in the Hospital.

Mrs De Jersey travelled with her husband when he was working at Notre Dame des Greves, an English hospital for French soldiers in Rocabey in St Malo. Miss Miriam Leale, daughter of Jurat Sir John Leale, also worked there as a nurse during the war years. Nursing was beginning to be seen as a respectable occupation. It also fitted in with the traditional caring role.



Name		Rank	Regt. No.
OZANNE		Private 4th Regt	
Aline H.			
Medal	Rank	Page	Remarks
Victory	FR 101 B	51	
Service	80	80	
Star			
Dates of War first awarded to Date of entry details			
11-16			

Name		Rank	Regt. No.
OZANNE		V.A.D.	Nurse
Ruth			
Medal	Rank	Page	Remarks
Victory	FR 101 B	80	
Service	80	80	
Star			
Dates of War first awarded to Date of entry details			
7-16			

Name		Rank	Regt. No.
OZANNE		French R.X. Cavalry	London
Aline H.			
Medal	Rank	Page	Remarks
Victory	FR 101 B	51	
Service	80	80	
Star			
Dates of War first awarded to Date of entry details			
11-16			

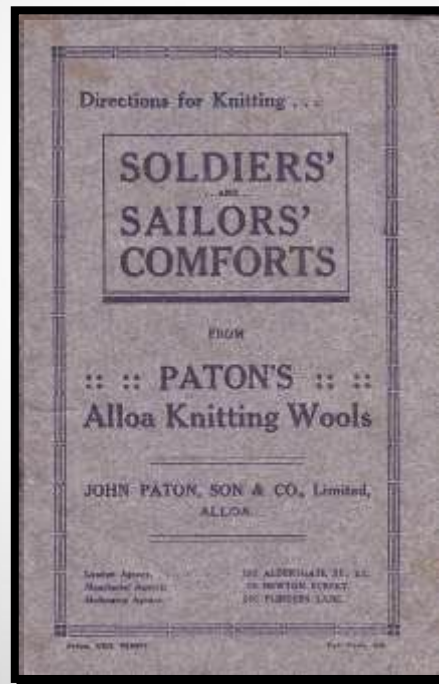
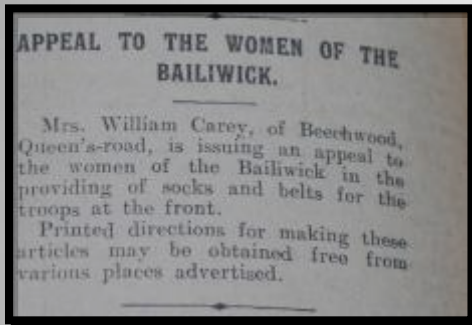
Mrs Frances Ozanne, wife of the Bailiff, nursed in a French Military hospital in St Malo, along with her daughter and daughter in law.

Medal Index cards for Frances, Ruth and Aline Ozanne.

Mrs Ozanne was also actively involved in war work at home, setting up a branch of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild and also starting communal kitchens to provide food for those suffering hardship because of the war. She won several awards for her war service.



Housewives were encouraged to knit for the troops, and to contribute to the National Egg Collection Fund. They also made up food parcels for men at the Front and Prisoners of War



However as the number of men needed for front line fighting increased, women were encouraged to take over jobs at home to free men for active service overseas.

Two Guernsey "conductorettes", who worked during the war years on the trams that ran between Town and the Bridge. This was a job that had always been done by men before.



CAN WOMEN DIG ?



Recently Mr. J. Gilroy, of the Courtil du Roi, Pleinheume, advertised for men but received no replies. He then advertised for women and received 37 replies, four or five of the applicants in his opinion being capable of undertaking the work required. Two have been engaged and are

doing general work on the farm and in the vinerias. Mr. Gilroy has given a substantial rise to his old hands, who do the more arduous work. The girls, however, do digging, and are now employed in wheeling ground into greenhouses, and filling trenches in three houses of 100 feet. They

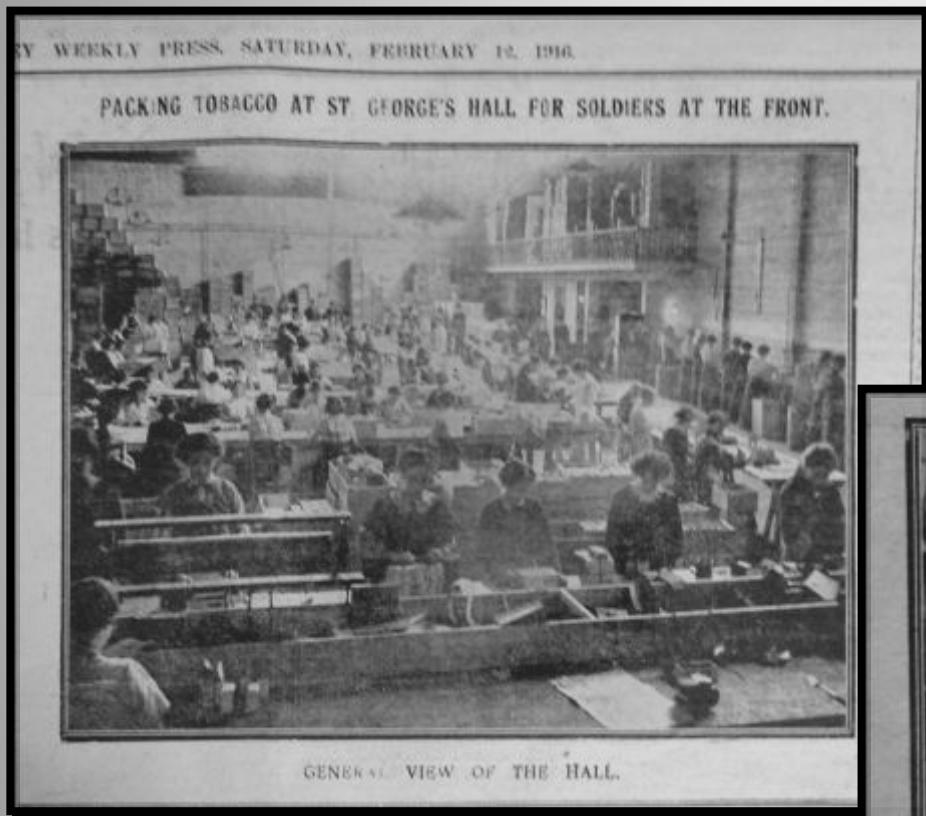
Photo: T. A. Grat.

are only allowed to take from one-quarter to half a barrowful in each load. In the photograph Mr. Gilroy is seen on the left, Miss Laura Le Page in the centre, and Miss Elsie Sebire on the right.

In 1917 Mr Gilroy of Pleinheume advertised for men for farm and greenhouse work but received no replies.

He then advertised for women and received 37 replies, four or five of whom "were considered suitable for this kind of work."

Some completely new jobs were created for local women as a direct result of the war. St George's Hall became a major cigarette packing factory, providing "Smokes for the Troops"



It was a large scale operation which employed many local women.



The women were employed alongside men, something that would have been frowned on in the past.

THE EXIGENCIES OF WAR



GIRLS AT WORK IN A VINERY AT ST. SAMPSON'S.

Women were starting to do jobs that we all take for granted nowadays,

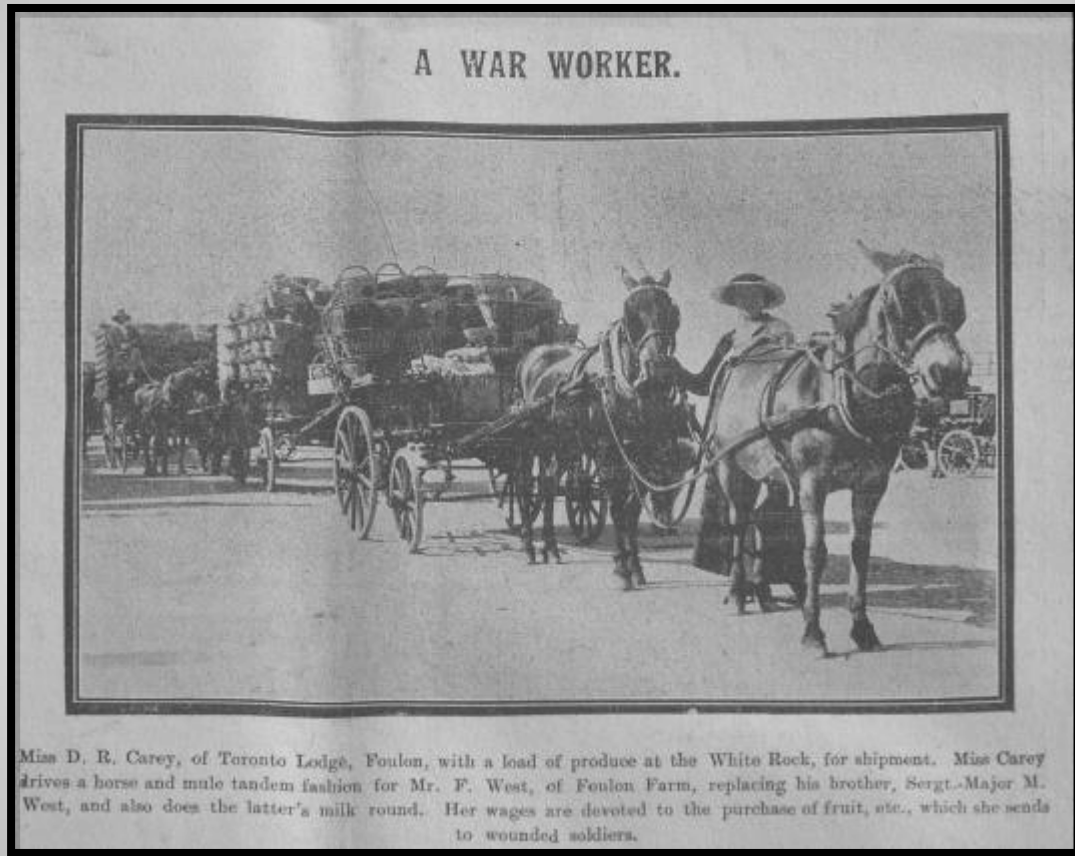
But then they were still unusual enough to make newspaper headlines.

VALE LADY BELL-RINGERS.



A CLASS OF LADY BELL-RINGERS PRACTICE EACH FRIDAY EVENING AT THE VALE PARISH CHURCH. THEY ARE BEING INSTRUCTED BY MR. ADOLPHUS OZANNE, THE VERGER, WHO IS SEEN SEATED IN FRONT.

However there were concerns about “respectability”



Miss Carey's work, though generally considered to be very worthy, attracted letters to the Press about whether it was “unfeminine” and “dangerous.”

A number of local women went to England to do war work of various types.



Miss C. Le Marinel worked for the government propaganda department, where she described her work as "... to supply the Diplomatic and the Cabinet with information on the political conditions in the different countries of Europe and America, and to regulate to some extent the foreign political news that appears in the press."

Many local women worked in munitions. In July 1914, only 212,000 women nationwide were working in engineering and munitions, but by 1918, the total was nearly a million.

The work was dangerous and unhealthy but it paid well.

Also the women felt they were really doing something to fight back- they were making the weapons that their brothers, sons and husbands would use to fight the enemy.

This is backed up by the fact that many "munitionettes" started work after the loss of a family member.



Some joined the newly formed women's branches of the Armed Services.

A group of Women's Legion members went to France in May 1917. They were described as "the first girls to cook for "Tommy" in France." One of them was Miss Beatrice Hamblen of Forest Lane, St Peter Port. She had previously been employed in the bakehouse at Le Riche's Stores. She eventually became a forewoman in Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps.



Let's now look at the war work of a few local women in a little more detail.....

Miss Violetta Thurstan was a pupil at the Ladies' College. She trained as a nurse at the London Hospital and was working as a nurse in the Isolation Department of the Town Hospital when war broke out. She immediately volunteered for overseas service and went to Belgium and was there when it was occupied. After escaping overland she worked in hospitals in Belgium and Russia then with a Flying Column ambulance train in Serbia. Her books sold in vast numbers, especially "Field Ambulance and Flying Column."



During an air raid at the Rouen hospital where she was matron she was knocked down by a falling roof . She immediately got up and helped stretcher-bearers to carry the wounded to the next line ambulance. For this she became one of the few women to win the Military Medal. She also won the Russian Order of St George and the Belgian Order of La Reine Elisabeth.



Honneurs et Distinctions.

Médaille Militaire.

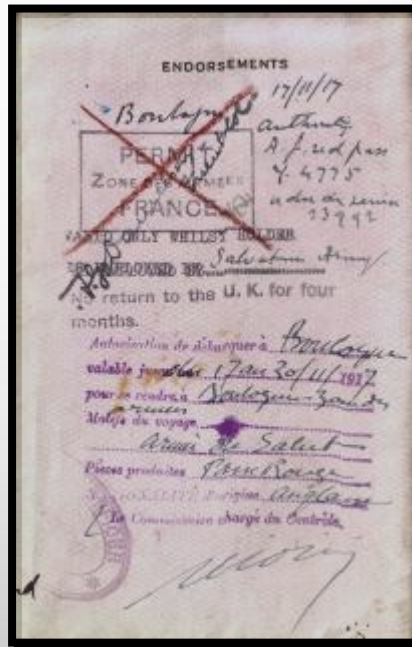
MDLLE. VIOLETTE THURSTAN.

Mademoiselle Violette Thurstan, la courageuse Infirmière de la Croix-Rouge Britannique, dont nous avons déjà parlé, vient de se voir récemment décerner la Médaille Militaire pour sa belle et vaillante conduite. Toutes nos félicitations pour une décoration si bien méritée.

Ada Le Poidevin – Salvation Army Worker

Many women who had no special training volunteered to work in canteens and hostels run by voluntary organisations. Here they could use their domestic skills to provide home comforts for the troops. Ada

Le Poidevin was born in St Sampson's in 1895, the daughter of a quarryman. The family were Salvationists and in 1917 Ada answered an ad in the "War Cry" for volunteer workers. She worked first on Salisbury Plain then at Boulogne and Arras in France.





Camp and hostel work in France



War Graves Visitation

Ada stayed on in France until 1923, taking parties of bereaved relatives to visit the graves of their loved ones. These visits were called "Pilgrimages of Remembrance"



WREATHS.
placed on graves at Christmas, Easter, or, at a cost of 25c. per wreath, payable in advance, includes a small photograph to show that wreath carried out. It must be remembered that photographic work very often entails long and hard work. For wreaths on other occasions, can be made.
of the grave, and at least 14 days' rest.

PILGRIMAGES, 1924.
has been made this year for taking out limited to 7 Hobart Place, S.W.1, for special books.

DEATH REGISTER.
of £2 and upwards to the St. Barnabas in this register, and wreaths will be placed on every grave without further notice. When all the grave is ready and sent to each

PHOTOGRAPHS OF WAR GRAVES & CEMETERIES.

GRAVES (Headstones or Crosses)	£ s. d.
One negative and two prints (prints postcard size)	3 6
Hand-painted enlargements, about 5" x 9", on Art Mounts with suitable margin	1 1 0
Black and white enlargements on art mounts with suitable margin	8 0
12" x 10"	9 6

CEMETERIES.	£ s. d.
Black and white views (postcard size or 5" x 4")	1 0
Hand-painted enlargements, about 6" x 9", on Art Mounts with suitable margin	2 2 0
Coloured views, reproduced from original paintings:	
1. Showing prominently the Cross of Sacrifice	3 6
2. Showing prominently the Stone of Remembrance	3 6

These coloured views (about 30 sq. in.) are on Art Mounts, with suitable margin, the name of the Cemetery being printed on each mount. Ypres (Southern, Calais Southern, Les Barraques, and Forceville) are most ready. Other Cemeteries, including Etaples and Lijssenthoek, will be taken in hand early this year.

The above prices include postage.
Photographs of special views of Cemeteries can be supplied by arrangement (also views of particular spots in the Battlefields). It should be noted, however, that views showing a particular grave are very often unsatisfactory, and give little idea of the Cemetery.

Orders must be accompanied by remittance, and will be executed as received. They should be sent to Calais Headquarters.

GALLIPOLI, PALESTINE and ITALY will be visited late this Autumn or early in 1925. Orders for photographs of Graves and Cemeteries can now be booked. Owing to heavy transport expenses the price will be 12s. 6d. for Graves (1 negative and 2 prints) and 2s. each for Cemetery photos.



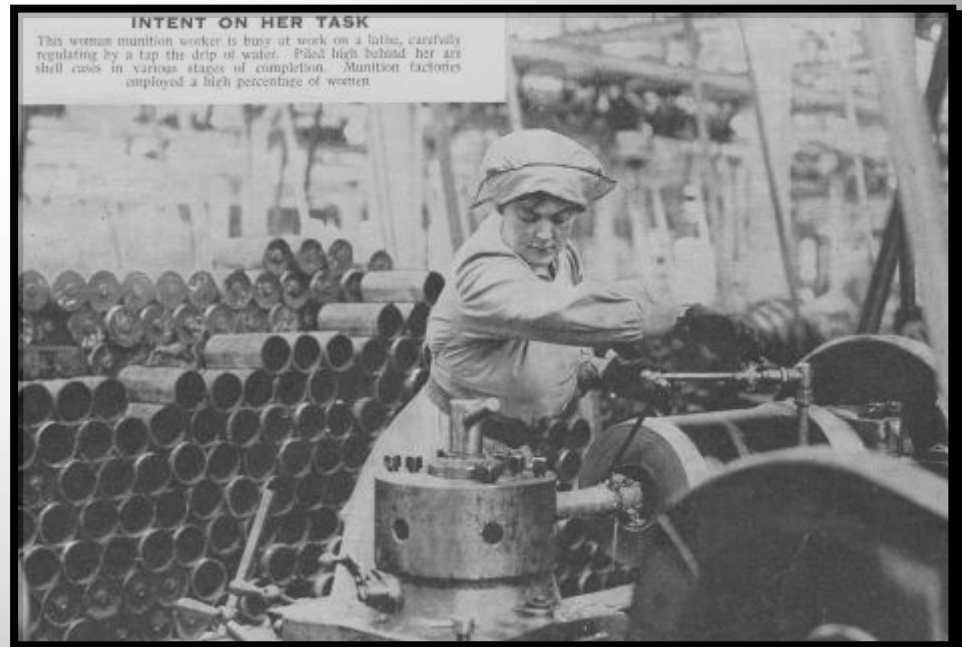
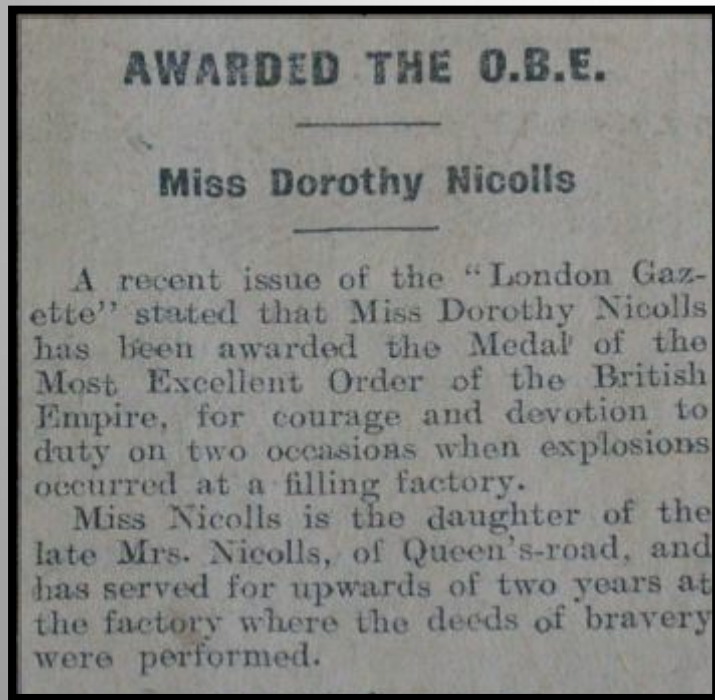
Headstone - Les Barraques H.C.

Miss Dorothy Nicolls

Dorothy Nicolls was 32 years old and living with her widowed mother in St Peter Port when war broke out. The Ministry of Munitions appealed for mature, "better class ladies" to work as supervisors, as their experience of running a household and dealing with servants would stand them in good stead. Dorothy Nicolls volunteered and went to the National Shell Filling Factory at Chilwell in Derbyshire.



On the 1st of July 1918 there was a massive explosion at Chilwell which killed 134 people. The *London Gazette* of 1st January 1919 records that Miss D Nicholls (sic) had been awarded the O.B.E. " ...for courage and devotion to duty on two occasions when explosions occurred at a shell filling factory". She also won the Medal and Decoration of King Charles I and was the first woman to receive this honour.



Miss Mabel Grut

Mabel was the third daughter of Thomas Grut, the well known "Photographic Artist" who had a studio in Victoria Road then in the Pollet. She studied at the Ladies College and became a teacher in 1911. When war broke out she joined a VAD and nursed in Brighton, Salonika and in Italy from 1914 to 1918. She was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for her war service overseas. She returned to teaching in 1919.



Miss Marie Randall

Marie Louise Randall was the second daughter of Robert Randall of Vauxlaurens Brewery. When war broke out she volunteered as a nurse in Guernsey then went to Rouen with the VAD in August 1915. She also worked at the First London General Hospital in Camberwell and did YMCA Canteen work in France. She was awarded the full trio of service medals.



Miss Lilian Galliot



Nurse Galliot's service record is available from the National Archives Online. It shows that she was privately educated at home. Then after training in Jersey from 1912 to 1916 she worked first at Edmonton Military Hospital in London then became a Staff Nurse at No. 71 General Hospital in Egypt from 1917 to 1919. Both were specialist orthopaedic units. The hospital was near Cairo in a area where malaria was rife. She was hospitalised with pneumonia whilst serving there.

Sadly, some local women never came back after the war:

Phyllis O'Donnell is the only local woman found so far to be commemorated by the CWGC. She died of Spanish flu in December 1918, at the WRAF's 12th Training Depot Station at Netheravon in Wiltshire.

Educated at the Ladies' College, she had been a Dispatch Driver for most of the war. Her mother is buried in the Vale cemetery whilst Phyllis and her father share a grave in Brighton's Bear Road cemetery.

WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE		
AITKEN · MARY	GRAY · FLORENCE · A	PIGOTT · ANNIE · L
ALLEN · LOVISA	HARPER · LILLIAN · F	PIGOTT · ALICE
AMBROSE · BLANCHE · A	HARRIS · LUCY	PLANT · LILLIAN
ANDERSON · HASTIE · J	HARRIS · MARIANNE · B	PORTER · VIOLET · M
ANSCOMBE · DAISY · M	HIBBERD · IVY · M · P	PURDY · PHYLLIS
ARMER · ALICE · RUTH	HOLIDAY · ELIZABETH	RAMSDEN · CLARA
ASHLEY · DORA	HORTON · AMY	RICHARDS · ETHEL
BADDOCK · DOROTHY · HOWELL · E	NICE · ROBERTS · ANNIE	
BLACKBURN · ELIZABETH · H	VIDSON · DAISY	ROBERTS · ELIZABETH · H
BRIGNELL · ALICE	VIDSON · FRANCIS · L	ROE · ANNIE
BROAD · NETTA · ELLEN	VUGHES · ADA	STYLES · SCAMMELL · LILY
CHALMERS · M · H	KENNARD · FANNY · A	SHAW · MAY · ELIZABETH
CHURCHROSE · MARIA	LAMBERT · EMMIE	SILLITOE · ADA · F · V
CLARKE · ELLEN	LAPISH · MARIAN	SIMMONS · ANNIE
COLLINS · GRACE · Z	LLEWELLYN · MONESE · M	SMITH · ANNIE · G
CONNOR · ANNIE	LOOKER · NESTA · MARY	SMITH · FANNY
COOME · AGNES · HILDA	MACKENZIE · HELEN	SMITHERS · DOROTHY · M
CRAIK · ANNIE	MARSH · LILLIAN · M · W	SPARKES · FLORENCE
CROSS · ANIELIA	MARTIN · ADA · E	SPOONER · ISABELLA · F
DALY · ALICE	MCKEIL · CATHERINE · M	STANLEY · MARY · ANN
DAVEY · VIOLET · E	MCTAGGART · JESSIE	STOKES · EMILY
DAVIS · MARIORIE · E	MOORE · EMILY	TAYLOR · LILLIAN · A · M
DAY · CHARLOTTE · A	MURRELL · E · I	TOWNSEND · F
DYE · MABEL	NEAL · ROSE · EDITH	TVCKER · M · ANNIE
ELLIS · F · MARY	NICHOLSON · M · P	TYRMAINE · ROSE · J
EVANS · NELLIE	NVTLEY · MAY · A	WALTER · GLADYS
FITZGERALD · M · L	ODONNELL · P · E	WATFORD · NELLIE
GIBSON · SVSAN	PAYNE · M · G	WILLIAMS · E · O
GOODSELL · LILY · S	PHILLIPS · ETHEL · A	WILSON · ALICE · F
GOODWIN · B	LYALL · ANNIE	WOODCOCK · M
BACKHURST · K · A	PARRATT · B · L	STENNING · ANNIE
CALDER · MARY · M	REEKS · EDITH · JANE	VASS · LILY · F
HOLMES · LILY · C	SELBY · LILY	WOOD · ANNIE · E
	SISSENS · LILY	



Miss Molly Parks

Molly Parkes was a passenger on the RMS Leinster when it was torpedoed by a U boat on the 10th of October 1918 off Ireland. She had just graduated and was taking a holiday before starting work. Her brother Captain Theodore Parkes of the South Staffs Regiment had been killed near Ypres almost exactly a year earlier. They have a joint memorial in the Foulon Cemetery.



Miss Rose Edwards

Rose Edwards left Guernsey to work as a "Munitionette" at Woolwich Arsenal. In early February 1917 in icy weather she was walking home with a group of workers across one of London's bridges when two girls slipped and fell. One girl broke her hip, the other her leg. Miss Edwards stayed with them until an ambulance arrived but caught a chill from which she died on the 13th of February. She was buried in Plumstead cemetery in London.

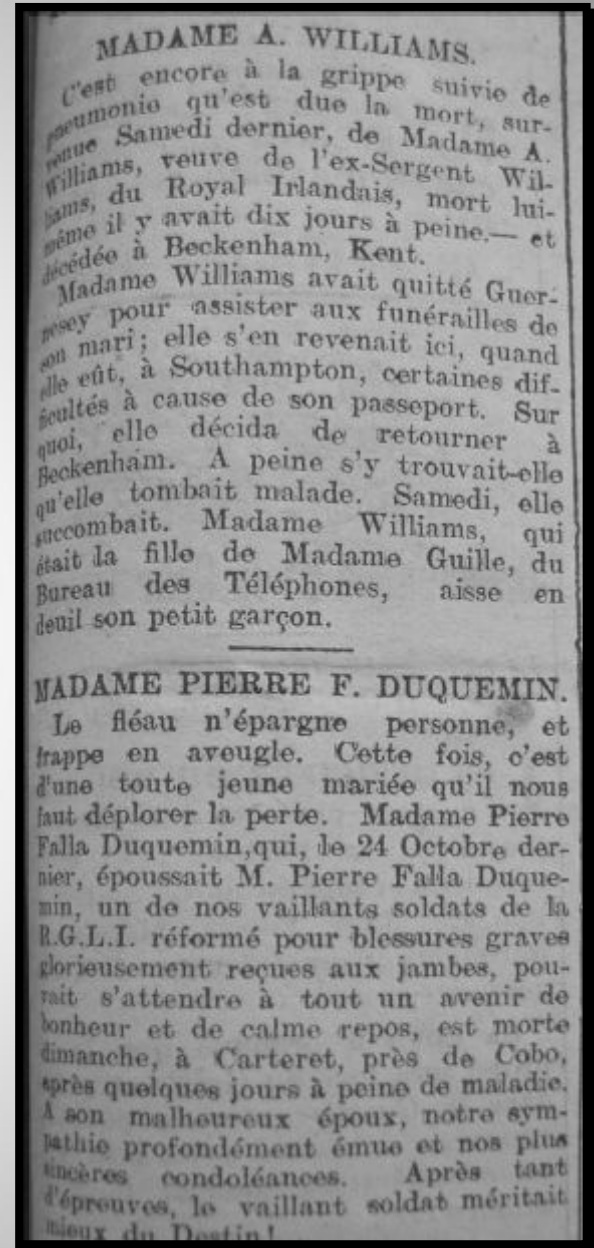
Interestingly the 1901 census shows her aged 16 working as a domestic servant in the home of Violetta Thurstan's aunt at La Herronière along the Banques.

Spanish Flu

The end of the war saw the rise of "Spanish Flu", a new strain of the disease which had very high mortality rates.

There were some tragic cases. Private Pierre Duquemin survived a severe war wound only to find that his young wife had died of Spanish Flu after an illness lasting only a few days.

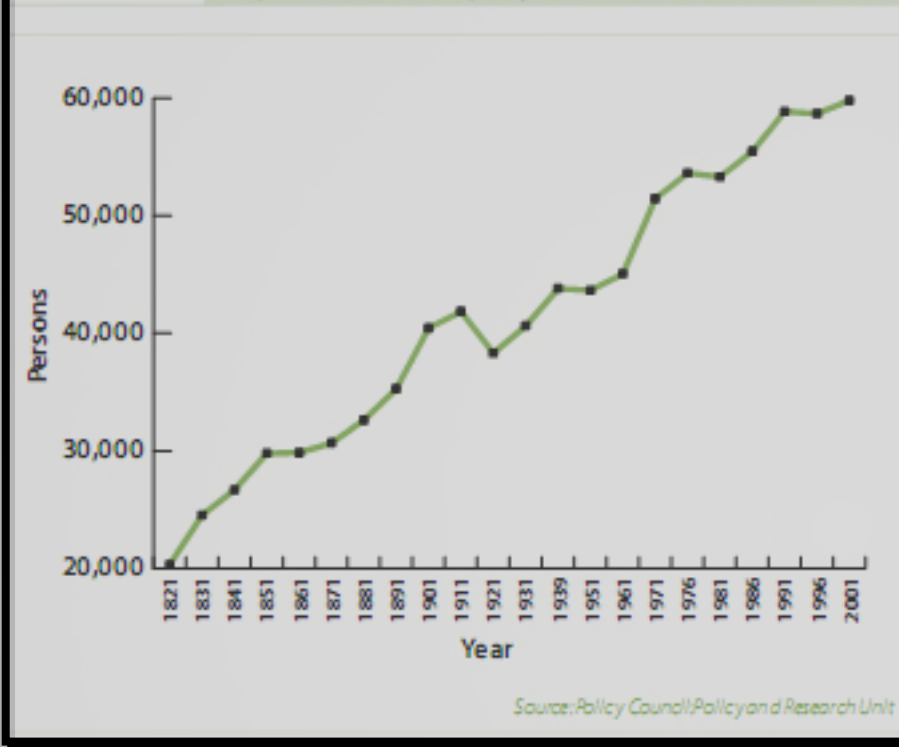
Sergeant Williams of the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment died of wounds in England on the 9th of November 1918. His wife travelled over for the funeral, but died of Spanish Flu on her way back.



Those who did come back and those who had stayed at home could not return to their pre-war lifestyle.

- Many men had been so severely wounded that they would need to be nursed for the rest of their lives.
- The fate of some men was still unknown - they were simply listed as "Missing" so relatives could not grieve properly, and widows could not draw a pension.
- Some men who weren't physically wounded were mentally scarred by what they had experienced, putting great strains on family life.
- Women themselves had experienced a degree of freedom and been able to make their own decisions. They were not happy to return to domestic service or living under the "rule" of a father, husband or brother.

Figure 5.1: Guernsey Population Growth, 1821 to 2001



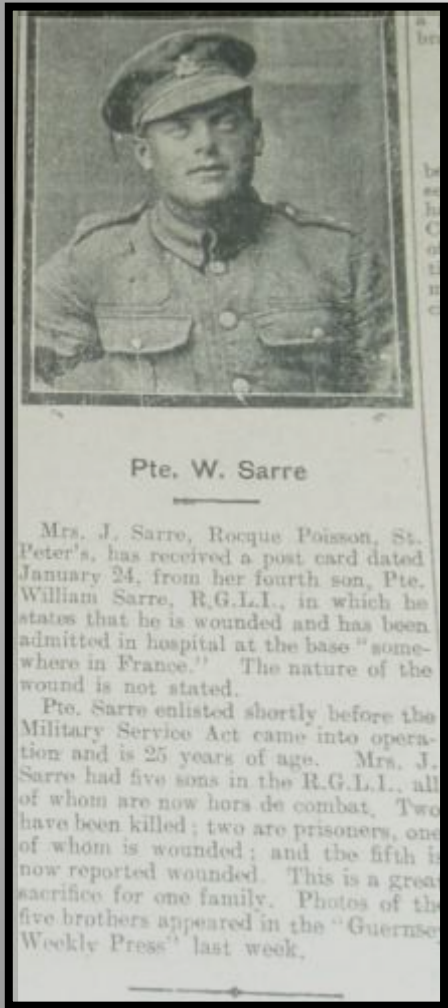
CENSUS STATISTICS : BAILLIWICK OF GUERNSEY											
Census -		1981	1982	1971	1961	1951	1941	1931	1921	1911	1901
Total		55,719	56,565	55,668	55,227	57,719	63,542	65,041	66,028	62,745	
Males		28,448	28,980	28,607	28,490	28,217	29,756	30,470	30,400	28,387	
Females		27,271	27,585	27,061	26,737	29,502	33,786	34,571	35,628	34,358	
Totals		55,719	56,565	55,668	55,227	57,719	63,542	65,041	66,028	62,745	
Married men											
Age 15 to 19		0	4	5	2	7	0	0	3	24	
Age 20 to 24		201	211	120	241	295	341	373	303	318	
Age 25 to 29		1,204	1,209	1,140	1,202	1,733	2,201	2,509	1,484	2,037	
Age 30 to 34		2,682	2,749	2,648	2,714	2,596	3,254	4,117	3,259	4,122	
Age 35 & over		4,250	4,273	2,940	4,264	4,901	6,201	6,401	6,438	6,481	
Total		8,337	8,446	7,653	8,431	9,497	12,007	13,702	13,583	14,368	
Married women											
Age 15 to 19		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Age 20 to 24		447	389	374	478	577	635	594	489	64	
Age 25 to 29		1,714	1,583	1,477	1,430	1,803	2,237	2,521	1,777	2,204	
Age 30 to 34		2,021	2,042	2,703	2,700	2,796	3,511	3,479	3,500	4,199	
Age 35 & over		4,000	4,047	4,253	4,073	4,897	6,430	6,846	6,418	7,189	
Total		8,182	8,061	8,807	8,683	10,073	12,813	13,440	13,205	14,206	
Widowers											
Age 15 and under		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Age 20 to 24		197	195	177	164	180	219	195	201	179	
Age 25 & over		374	419	418	471	516	472	551	589	621	
Total		571	614	595	635	696	691	747	790	800	
Widows											
Age 15 and under		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Age 20 to 24		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Age 25 to 29		304	342	340	430	495	440	309	446	481	
Age 30 & over		1,014	1,100	1,213	1,253	1,600	1,354	1,270	1,417	1,540	
Total		1,318	1,442	1,553	1,683	2,095	1,804	1,619	1,863	2,021	
Bachelors											
Age 15 to 19		1,271	1,480	1,480	1,418	1,794	2,209	2,290	1,704	1,294	
Age 20 to 24		1,209	1,249	660	1,249	1,402	1,629	1,733	1,402	1,214	
Age 25 to 29		803	996	760	1,070	1,030	1,180	1,319	914	1,084	
Age 30 to 34		464	470	484	505	525	710	530	735	670	
Age 35 & over		180	201	190	175	201	221	295	306	404	
Total		4,178	4,480	2,729	4,028	4,952	6,949	6,400	4,721	3,256	
Spinsteres											
Age 15 to 19		1,200	1,240	1,207	1,202	1,202	2,002	2,004	1,701	1,290	

The island has changed too. The period just after the Great War was the only time that the Bailiwick population showed a significant drop in overall numbers, and, more specifically, in the number of young men.



- The total population of the island was about 40,000.
- There are 1388 men listed on Bailiwick's Roll of Honour .
- If we allow for two men badly wounded for each one who died that gives us over 4,000 men missing from the island's workforce.
- They would also have been the future husbands of local women and fathers of the next generation.

There were some tragic individual stories behind these losses



Some women lost several family members. One of the saddest cases was that of Mrs Sarre from L'Eree. She lost three sons on 1st December 1917, and a further two were wounded in the war. Her husband was a patient at the Castel hospital so she had to deal with all this alone.

Mrs de la Mare of Torteval lost her two sons on the same day at Cambrai, as did Mr and Mrs Queripel of Les Reveaux in St Peter's.

Mrs Emily Salmon lost four sons in the course of the war. She was widowed before the last son was killed in action.

Mrs Marriette lost three sons and was widowed in less than two years:



The Channel Islands and the Great War

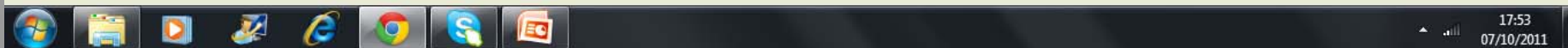


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- War at Sea
- War in the Air
- PoWs
- Women at War
- Home Front
- Medals & Memorabilia
- Links
- Contact Us

Bailiwick of Guernsey Roll of Honour Search Results

Click on a name or cemetery for more information - Number of results=3

Surnames	Forenames	Rank	Number	Service	Died	Awards	Age	Cemetery	Memorial	Memorial2	Memorial3	Memorial4	Memorial5	Memorial6	Details
Marriette	Frederick	Rifleman	3551	4th Bn., Rifle Brigade	08/06/1915		25	Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, nr. Armentieres, II. F. 4.	Bailiwick Memorial, St Peter Port, Guernsey.	St Sampson's Parish Memorial, Guernsey.					Photograph needed Son of John & Ann Marriette of St Sampson's. Born, lived and enlisted at Guernsey. Killed in action.
Marriette	John William	Private (Bandsman)	760741	102nd Bn, Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment)	09/04/1917		35	Givenchy Road Canadian Cemetery, Neuville St Vaast, Pas de Calais. B. 36.	Bailiwick Memorial, St Peter Port, Guernsey.						Son of Mrs A Marriette. Born in St Sampson's, Guernsey. Canadian resident. Enlisted at New Westminster, B.C. on 06/01/1916.
Marriette	William Henry	Lance Corporal	3559	3rd Bn., Rifle Brigade	18/08/1916		25	No known grave	Thiepval Memorial, France Somme. Pier and Face 16 B and 16 C.	Bailiwick Memorial, St Peter Port, Guernsey.	St Sampson's Parish Memorial, Guernsey.				Son of John & Ann Marriette of St Sampson's. Born, enlisted and resident at Guernsey. Killed in action.



The island saw much social upheaval in the immediate post war years:

ON RELIEF WORK



A party of road-menders on the Banks. The road from the Longstore to the Half-Way has been opened, and recovered. Incidentally this work has provided employment of a relief nature to many men. It is an unfortunate sign of the times that so many of the men should be so young at work which is palpably relief work.

Unemployment levels were high and many women had to give up the jobs they had done in the war years. Some had to look after relatives disabled by the war, others had to raise a family single handed. However society had changed and very few went back into domestic service.

For some, traditional family values were undermined by the experiences of the war years



Private Atkinson was a Londoner drafted into the RGLI. He married the widow of fellow RGLI man Stephen de Carteret who had been killed at Cambrai, despite the fact that he had a wife and several children in London. His motive was said to be that she had a widow's pension.

There were also many cases of drunkenness, neglect of children, assault etc. in the immediate post war years.

Many men who returned couldn't settle into the old way of life. Some went back into the armed forces and many emigrated to places like Canada and Australia.

These postcards show how islanders celebrated the end of the war. One immediate change that came into being was that women could have their own passports and travel freely on their own.



Then in 1920 the franchise in Guernsey was extended to all men aged over 20 and all women over 30.

Many women who had been brought up to believe that marriage was the "normal mode of life" were deprived of the opportunity because there simply weren't enough men to go round.

Many had enjoyed the freedom of earning their own money and living outside the parental home. Changes in fashion reflected this new freedom and practicality with shorter skirts, short haircuts and looser fitting styles.



Life for women in the Bailiwick, and in the wider world, changed as a result of the Great War.

The 1920s brought more changes for local women as many men, unsettled by the war years and post war problems emigrated to Canada and Australia.

Many women of that generation never married, as they significantly outnumbered the men.

This meant that for the first time women were not necessarily expected to take on a domestic role.

Many obtained jobs in the Post Office, in States Departments, banks and in teaching and had long and successful careers.

These women started the changes that allow women nowadays to lead independent lives.

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