

## NEWSLETTER

SIGN UP

## LOOKING FOR WWI CENTENNIAL EVENTS IN YOUR AREA?

Start your search here at the  
U.S. WWI Centennial  
Commission.

FIND EVENTS

The site shares events from  
around the country and  
provides video as well as  
educational materials for  
students.

In **Gettysburg**, the  
**Eisenhower National  
Historic Site** will feature a  
WWI reenactment, guest  
speakers, and ranger  
presentations on **Saturday,  
July 8** from **9:00 am** until  
**4:30 pm**.

## IS YOUR INTEREST PEAKED BY THE SECOND WORLD WAR?

Gettysburg Tours, in  
partnership with Historic  
Leadership Training, is  
offering half-day tours of WWII  
sites and stories of the people  
involved. Scheduled dates are  
May 13, June 3, August 19,  
and September 17.

See a different side of  
Gettysburg, with stops at two  
Prison-of-War camps. Tickets  
may be ordered on-line from  
the Gettysburg Tour Center:

TICKETS

# Saluting Women Heroes of World War I

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S. entry into the “Great War”—World War I. While European nations had been in brutal combat since 1914, the U.S. was not involved until 1917. America had watched the prolonged fighting (and use of poison gas, machine guns, tanks, and flame throwers) for three years before declaring war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

By war’s end, more than 4 million American men and women had served in uniform (including future presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower). When the fighting ended on November 11, 1918, the statistics were staggering: 375,000 American casualties; more than 38 million worldwide casualties (civilian and military), including 17 million deaths and 20 million wounded.

In the midst of war spread across the globe, women from many nations displayed immense courage and stepped up to leadership roles—as spies, nurses, doctors, journalists, and soldiers. Here we share a few leadership role models and their stories.



A British nurse, **Edith Cavell**, ran a clinic in Belgium, a country invaded and occupied by Germany in 1914. Cavell stayed in Belgium, caring for the wounded, regardless of their nationalities. She also smuggled Allied soldiers (British, French, and Belgian) out of Belgium until she was caught and put on trial by the German occupying army. Despite appeals from the Spanish minister and the U.S. minister to Belgium, Cavell was executed by firing squad in October 1915. Her last recorded words were, “Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness toward anyone.”

### American nurse **Esther Voorhees Hasson**

had already served with the U.S. Army on a hospital ship and in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Then in 1908, she became the first Superintendent of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, recruiting, training, and running the new organization until 1911. When WWI began, Hasson joined the war effort as an Army Reserve nurse in Europe. In 1917, when she suffered the loss of an arm, she tried to sew it back on, and failing that, continued to perform surgeries one-handed.



In Russia, **Maria Bochkareva**, after being prohibited from bearing arms, wrote to Tsar Nicholas, who granted her permission to join the Imperial Russian Army. Winning the respect of male colleagues by her marksmanship and courage, she went on to create and lead an all- female combat unit of 300 soldiers named the “Women’s Battalion of Death.”

"I attended WWII Leaders, DISC and You Seminar. Awesome! Very interesting to learn how personality types really affect the decision-making process. Lots to take back and implement at the office. Speakers were engaging - no yawning in the seminar!!"

- Steve Quinley

## NEWSLETTERS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

[Trust and Personal Responsibility in an Era of Change](#)

[Spotlight on the Judiciary - Thurgood Marshall](#)

[The Power of Words](#)

The upper-class American novelist **Edith Wharton**, who lived in Paris, threw herself into relief work during the war. She opened a workroom for unemployed women and set up hostels for refugees, providing food, shelter, and work. She organized the Children of Flanders Rescue Committee, sheltering 900 Belgian children. In recognition of her work, France awarded her the Cross of the Legion of Honor, and Belgium made her a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold.



In Finland, more than 2,000 women fought in the Women's Red Guards during the 1918 Finnish Civil War, when the country came out of WWI seeking its independence from Russia.

The historian A. J. P. Taylor wrote in 1963 that the First World War had done more for the advancement of women than the pre-war women's suffragette movement. In Great Britain, for example, women aged 30 and over were first allowed to vote in 1918, and Britain returned its first female Member of Parliament, Nancy Astor, in December 1919.

In September 1918, U.S. president Woodrow Wilson recognized women's leadership roles when he stated publicly, "We have made partners of the women in this war."

For more in-depth biographies, we recommend *Woman Heroes of World War I: 16 Remarkable Resisters, Soldiers, Spies, and Medics*, by Kathryn J. Atwood.



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