

# Women in the Navy WORLD WAR I

BLOCK

YEOMAN (F)

**EXTRA**  
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU  
IN THE  
**U.S. NAVY**  
**YEOMAN (F)**

A Department of the Navy letter dated 19 March 1917 authorized the enlistment of women into the Naval Coast Defense Reserve Class of the U.S. Naval Reserve Force (USNRF). Women served in various ratings including Yeoman, Electrician (Radio), and others. Most women enlisted in Yeoman (F) rating. However, by the time the war ended, women were working as mechanics, truck drivers, cryptographers, telephone operators, and munitions makers. Women generally served within the continental United States. However, a few served in France, Guam, and Puerto Rico. All Navy women that served during the First World War were enlisted--there were no female officers.

When the Armistice was signed, in November 1918, there were more than 11,000 women serving on active duty in the Navy. Nearly all were released from active duty by 31 July 1919 and transferred to the inactive reserve for the remainder of their enlistments. A few remained on active duty beyond that date. The last woman on active duty was released in March 1921. Women did not serve in the U.S. Navy again until July 30, 1942.



1918 Chief Yeoman (F)  
McBride, USNRF

1918 Chief Yeoman (F)  
Daisy May Pratt, USNRF

1918 Chief Yeoman (F)  
Mary Margaret Fitzgerald, USNRF

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/yeoman-f.html>

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