



[World War One Centenary : Continuations and Beginnings \(University of Oxford / JISC\)](#)

The She-Soldiers of World War One

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To many, the idea of women in combat was abhorrent during the First World War, far removed from the picture of the 'ideal woman' as gentle, nurturing and pacifist. Summed up in a popular 1916 pamphlet allegedly written by A Little Mother which sold 75,000 copies in less than a week. The pamphlet stated women were 'created for the purpose of giving life, and men to take it'. Feminists also argued that 'women were not warriors' their job was not to 'bear arms' but 'bear armies'. Engaging in combat would undermine the argument that it was not only those who fought for their nation (men) who a right to the ultimate gift of citizenship and right to vote.

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