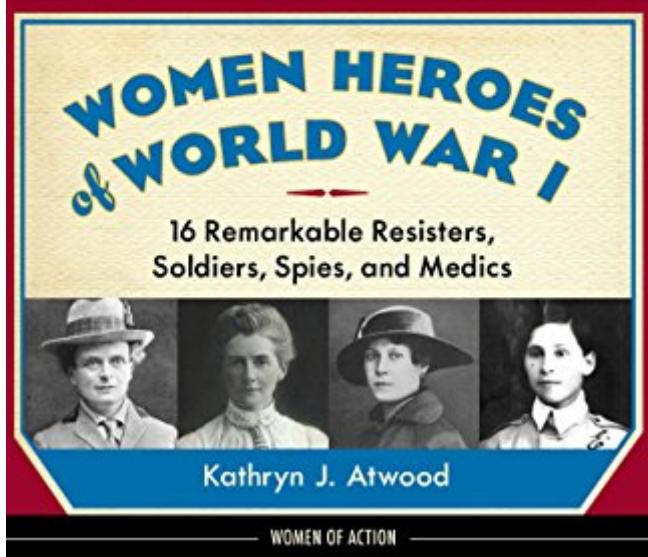


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# Women Heroes Of World War I: 16 Remarkable Resisters, Soldiers, Spies, And Medics (Women Of Action)



## Synopsis

A commemoration of brave yet largely forgotten women who served in the First World War. In time for the 2014 centennial of the start of the Great War, this book brings to life the brave and often surprising exploits of 16 fascinating women from around the world who served their countries at a time when most of them didn't even have the right to vote. Readers meet 17-year-old Frenchwoman Emilienne Moreau, who assisted the Allies as a guide and set up a first-aid post in her home to attend to the wounded; Russian peasant Maria Bochkareva, who joined the Imperial Russian Army by securing the personal permission of Tsar Nicholas II, was twice wounded in battle and decorated for bravery, and created and led the all-women combat unit the "Women's Battalion of Death" on the eastern front; and American journalist Madeleine Zabriskie Doty, who risked her life to travel twice to Germany during the war in order to report back the truth, whatever the cost. These and other suspense-filled stories of brave girls and women are told through the use of engaging narrative, dialogue, direct quotes, and document and diary excerpts to lend authenticity and immediacy. Introductory material opens each section to provide solid historical context, and each profile includes informative sidebars and "Learn More" lists of relevant books and websites, making this a fabulous resource for students, teachers, parents, libraries, and homeschoolers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Disclaimer: I have been Goodreads friends with Kathryn Atwood prior to the publication of her first book. Additionally, a few weeks ago, she asked if I would like a review copy of this book. The question came after I had ordered this copy. The only thing wrong with this book and it is a small quibble, is that in the section on Mary Reinhart, her burial place in Arlington Cemetery is not mentioned. There, that's out of the way. Atwood's Women Heroes of World War I is an excellent companion volume to her first book, Women Heroes of World War II. This is in part because she makes connections to that book in her epilogue as well selecting a few women who were active in both World Wars. World War I, along with a degree the Korean War, is a forgotten War in America. It tends to be dealt with quickly in American history books, and this largely because it did not affect Americans in the same degree it destroyed many European lives. Usually it is used simply as the launching board to a discussion about the League of Nations and the long term causes of World War II. True, the famous assassination is dealt with but that is usually given as the only spark, at least in pre-college, non AP courses. Atwood draws largely, for understandable reason, on non-American women, gathering various women from not only Britain and France, but the Eastern European countries as well, not only Russia, but Serbia and Romania as well. The women cover spies, resistors, nurses, and reporters, showing that bravery comes in the different shades. The book opens with a good introduction, detailing the start of the war. This is done very well, progression beyond the assassination and tying the sparks of the war into a global view. This structure is repeated in each section's introduction where background is given to such roles as nurse and reporter. The women range across social levels and ages, and their fates are varied. It is to Atwood's credit that she uses non-English sources, and includes women who also represent a variety of politics. The information about what happened to them after is particularly interesting, and at times heart-breaking. All of those women should be the focus of a bio pic. Like the previous book, this one includes boxes that give edition details about various subjects, from the difference between a battalion and a regiment to a brief (and well done) biography of Mata Hari (who does not get her own chapter. These women would so kick her butt). It's also nice to see quotes as well as some paragraphs about women who did not get their own chapter in the book. Such inclusion allows for a fuller picture and shows readers that the 16 women detailed were

not unusual. As a quick note, I love this series and am so happy that it exists.

When most people think of World War I, (if they even know what it is) the first things that come to mind are trenches and the famous picture of the Archduke and his wife moments before their (accidentally-on-purpose) assassination. Unfortunately, no ones thinks about a young French teen who gave food and information to British soldiers, a young nurse helping gas victims, or female soldiers. As a major (WWII) history buff, I believe history should be taught with people, not boring dates and facts in history books. After all, the entire war wouldn't have existed if it wasn't for the men and women during that time, and studying people's stories bring life to history, and allow it to be presented in the interesting way it is. I became a huge fan of Kathryn Atwood when I read her first book, *Women Heroes of World War II*, and was also impressed with the WWII memoir she edited, *Code Name Pauline*. Although WWII remains my primary area of interest, I decided to give WWI a try and was quite happy I did. I can now officially say I know 16 amazing women from the time period! Part of the "Part of the "Women of Action" series written for teens and young adults, *Women Heroes of World War I* is a collection of 16 short biographies about women from World War I. The biographies are divided into four parts; Resisters and Spies, Medical Personnel, Soldiers, and Journalists. The women featured are: Edith Cavell, Louise Thuliez, Emilienne Moreau, Gabrielle Petit, Marthe Cnockaert, Louise de Bettignies, Elsie Inglis, Olive King, Helene Gleichen, Shirley Millard, Maria Bochkareva, Flora Sandes, Marina Yurlova, Ecaterina Teodoroiu, Mary Roberts Rinehart, and Madeleine Zabriskie Doty. Very few books are both interesting and factual. But, Atwood, a great storyteller and historian, manages to do just this by drawing stories from key sources. Each woman is well-researched, and instead of just boring facts about the person's life, includes stories about the person, which makes each story more personable, instead of just another great random person in a history textbook. There is nothing graphic, making this most ideal for teens but appropriate for mostly anyone. A lot of background information is included for each part, making the book a lot more understandable and easily read, without complicated jargon. The writing is simple, making it more interesting. Pictures are included for every single woman, so we can easily associate a face (and living person) with the name and story. One of the main things I enjoyed about *Women Heroes of World War II*, was additional resources after each story, the series' biggest perk. This allows me to look more into the women I found most interesting. (My favorite stories were the resisters and spies, of course! I'll definitely have to check out some of the additional resources listed) Although WWI isn't nearly as interesting in WWII, that doesn't mean WWI's brave heroines

should go overlooked. I can't say I enjoyed this one as well as I did Atwood's earlier works, but that's simply because Irena Sendler and Diet Eman (and a lot of the other women who I love) will always be my heroes. :) But, for a subject I'm not really interested in, I really did enjoy it and would highly recommend it for anyone looking for well-researched but interesting alternatives to boring textbooks!Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. This in no way effected my review.

World War I is always overshadowed by World War II. I always thought that this was because the size and scale of the devastation of WWII lent itself to easier study and more dramatic opportunity. This book clarifies that in fact it's because WWI played against the backdrop of a lost world: a world where women weren't allowed to participate in most countries: not to vote, not as surgeons, not even as nurses at the start. This was a world where people fought for royal bloodlines, and were eager for a war in order to prove themselves. WWI is skillfully presented here as a catalyst for the democratic age, which had been unfolding slowly, but the extreme deprivation and brutality of this war suddenly imploded older concepts of social order. In order to make the accomplishments of the 16 women portrayed in this book, the book needed to underscore this other world. It does this without overwhelming the reader, and that's quite an accomplishment.

Fascinating to me even though I was born after World War I. Or maybe it's fascinating \*because\* I was born after World War I. Love to learn about heroes in all areas of life. Even children 10 and up would enjoy this I believe, not just a young-at-heart senior like me.

Very enjoyable short essays about a variety of women who were in the thick of the war in various countries. The book can be read by young people; unusual words are defined. Each sketch includes further sources for additional reading.

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