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The Evolution of Women's Roles in Modern Warfare

Sarah M. Schroeder

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The Evolution of Women's Roles in Modern Warfare

Presented by Sarah Schroeder

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-

- Dynamic between military women and men
- A step towards equality that has developed over centuries
- Understanding current change
- Realizing the next steps

Importance

- Primary sources
- Official government documents
- Statistics from multiple sources
- Current news sources and culture trends

Methods



A NEW AMERICA

The Revolutionary War



Molly Pitcher. Find a Grave. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015.
<<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=820>>.

Legend:

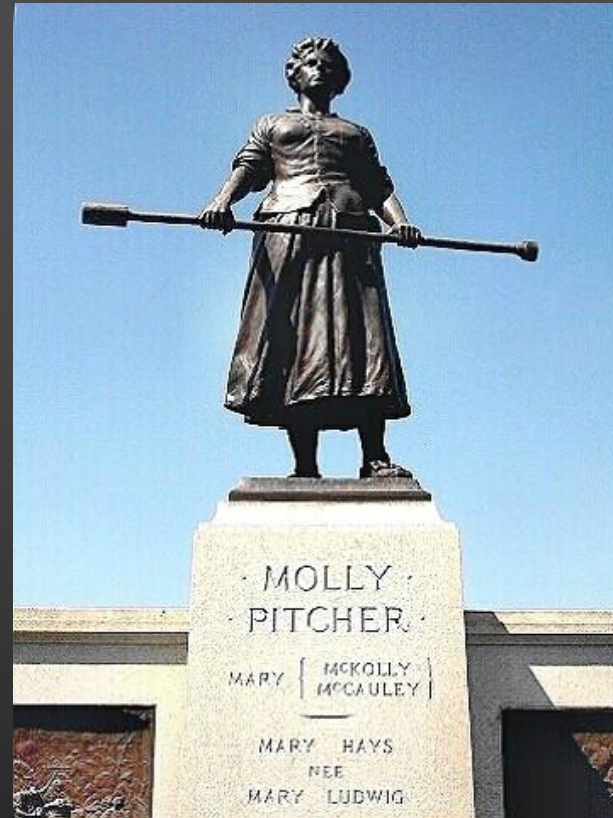
A woman who carried water for the men working artillery, and stepped in when her husband was wounded (Wade 50).

Molly Pitcher

Molly (mol-ee)

The name for women who followed soldier camps and aided the men during battle

(Klaver 35).



"1754 - Molly Pitcher (Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley), Revolutionary War Heroine, Born Near Trenton, New Jersey." Poor William's Almanack. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.poorwilliam.net/al-101310.html>>.

The Real Women



A NEW PURPOSE

The American Civil War

- Opposition of Southern secession
- Unionist Network in Confederate territory
- Recruiting and tracking members
- Men, women, free, and slaves (McCurry 20)

Sarah Thompson

Nurse and Spy

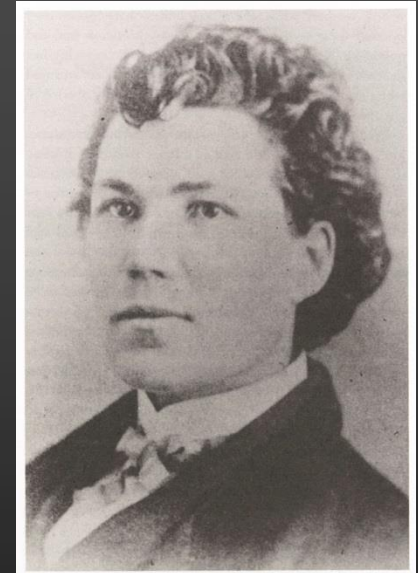
Edmonds created elaborate disguises that allowed her to be perceived as a male because women were banned from combat (Edmonds 107).

"Emma Edmonds in Women's Clothing." Library and Archives Canada. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cool/002027-2104-e.html>>.



Dressed as a woman

Dressed as a man



"Emma Edmonds as a Man." Library and Archives Canada. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/cool/002027-2104-e.html>>.

Sarah Emma Edmonds



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

World War II

- **WAVES** - Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service
- **WASPS** - Women Airforce Service Pilots
- **WAAC/WAC** - Women's Auxiliary Army Corps/Women's Army Corp
- **SPAR** - Sempur Partus Always Ready

(National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics 2)

Females in the Military

- **WAVES** - 86,000
- **WACs** - 100,000
- **SPARs** - 11,000
- **Women Marines** - 18,000
- **Army Nurses** - 57,000
- **Navy Nurses** - 11,000

(National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics 2)

Numbers

Winston Churchill and the U.S. Experiment

The U.S. conducted an experiment with mixed-gender anti-aircraft units while Great Britain used women from its ATS to form similar anti-aircraft units (Campbell Women in Combat 302).



A company of ATS recruits and instructors at the Sarafand training depot, February 1943. Jewish Women's Archive. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://jwa.org/media/ats-4-still-image>>.

The British are Firing!

- Hitler proclaimed that women should be housewives and continue the Aryan race (Campbell Women in Combat 314)
- Female Auxiliary Units doing administrative work
- However, 65,000 and 100,000 German women served in AA units with the Luftwaffe (Campbell Women in Combat 316)

The Nazi Struggle



The women of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment, with their aircraft in the background. World of Tanks. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015.

Flintenweiber [flin-ten-we-bur]

A derogatory term referring to Soviet Union women who carried guns and were seen as “unnatural” and “vermin” (Campbell Women in Combat 316).

Feminine Weaponry

Erna was a German woman who transformed the bazooka into a “female” weapon (Campbell Women in Combat 317).

Flintenweiber

- Virtually all recruitment of American women came to a standstill
- Ranks were demobilized
- With the exception of two nurse corps, none of the groups were given veteran benefits immediately after the war
- Integration of women into the military at a time of crisis eventually led to their permanent return in 1948

(National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics 3)

Postwar America



BREAKTHROUGH

The Iraq War

- Technically not legal for woman to be in direct combat
- Situations arose where they would engage in combat
- Precursor to American female military equality

(Schreibersdorf)

Entering the Frontlines



Combat [kom-bat]

Frontline military conflict

Team Lioness accompanied a male team on house searches. Because combat zones were undefined in Iraq, they often participated in military combat. While paving the way for equality, current laws of the time posed many problems (“Lioness”).



"Lioness." PBS.org. ITVS Interactive, n.d. Web. 25 Nov. 2014. <<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/about/credits.html>>.

Team Lioness

- Cultural differences between American troops and Muslim Iraqis often caused issues
- Female soldiers could perform certain tasks with Iraqi citizens that could only be exercised by a woman
- This proved especially helpful when interacting with Iraqi women during house searches
(["Lioness."](#) PBS.org)

Importance of Culture

Lack of:

- Combat training for women
- Professional help for women with PTSD
- Veteran services for women

An Unprepared Nation



FIRST EQUAL STEPS

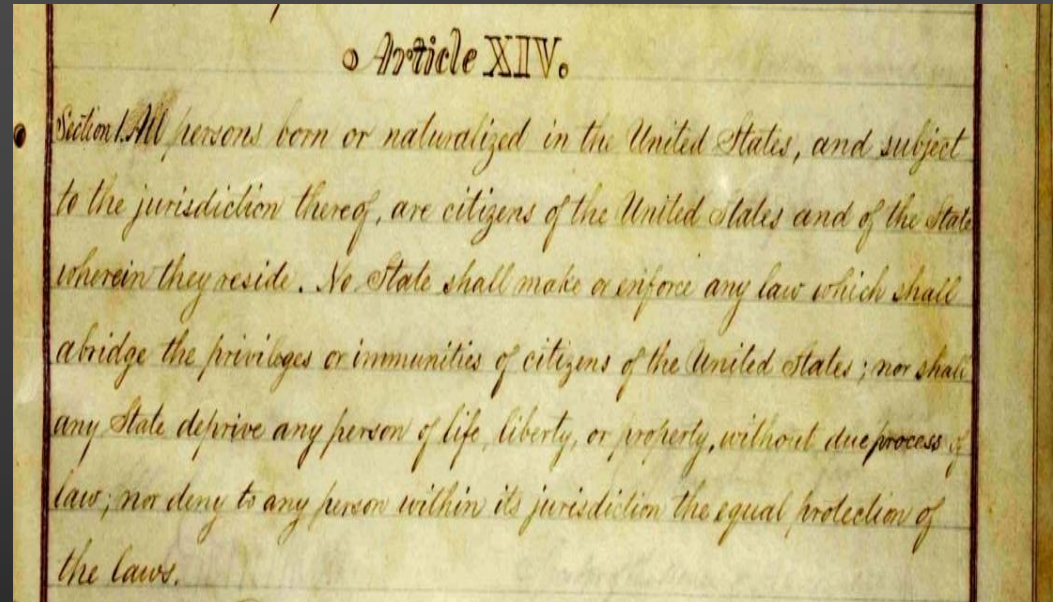
New Government Policy

- **1990s** - combat flying and serving on combat ships are legalized
- **2010** - women could serve in submarines
- **2013** - women are allowed to serve in ground combat
(Satsowitch)

Legalization

January 23, 2013

The ruling of the U.S. government reversed the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Rule. This lifted the ban on female participation in Infantry, Armor, and Special Forces units (Satsowitch).



14th Amendment. HISTORY.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015.
<<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fourteenth-amendment>>.

Overturnd

An issue with the newfound equality is the lack of previous training to prepare for it. Women were not trained to pass the male-standard combat entry test. There is much controversy on how this issue should be treated (Seck).



"Female Marines Take on Challenges in Afghanistan." today.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <http://www.today.com/id/33676655/ns/us_news-marine_corps_base_camp_pendleton>.

Standard Separation

- Men and women must become accustomed to working side-by-side as equals in all matters
- Pregnancy may be treated as a “disability” or “injury”
- Possibility of sexual abuse
- Rumors stating that women are only in a given position because someone in command favors them
(Simons 451)

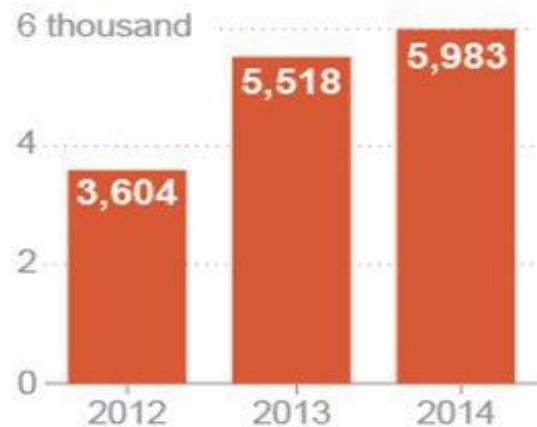
Physical Barriers

Reading the Numbers

According to a Rand corp. survey, in 2012 only 1/10 victims reported assault, but in 2014 about 1/4 victims reported assault (Baldor). While this may increase the statistics of assaults, the real importance is the number of assaults still occurring.

Military sex assaults

Victims who reported sexual assaults to the Defense Department in the past three fiscal years:



SOURCE: Defense Dept. AP

"Military Sex Assaults." wane.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015.
<<http://wane.com/2014/12/04/ap-sources-military-sex-assault-reports-up-8-pct/>>.

Sexual Assault

- Necessary programs for PTSD
- MST - Military Sexual Trauma
(Thompson 131)
- Equal access to veteran services

A Medical View

Female veteran unemployment is:

- Greater than civilian women unemployment
- 20% higher than male veteran unemployment
- ("Why Homecoming Can Be Particularly Hard for Female Veterans.")

Further Obstacles

Simple Beginnings

Because women were not seen as true combat veterans, there was a severe lack of veteran clothing for females (O'Connor).



Nadine Noky's Lady Brigade Line



Little Steps

O'Connor, Ema. "This Veteran Realized There Was No Vet Apparel For Women, So She Made Her Own." BuzzFeedNews. N.p., 12 Feb. 2015. Web. 13 Apr. 2015.
<<http://www.buzzfeed.com/emaconnor/lady-brigade-women-veterans#.kapy60Z92>>.

Political Office

Both the military and the government have a way to go before they become equal parts male and female. This year eleven female veterans ran for seats in Congress in an attempt to change this inequality (Chang).

Chang, Ailsa. "Female Vets Say They'll Put Country First, Even on Capitol Hill." National Public Radio. N.p., 15 Oct. 2014. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.npr.org/2014/10/15/356302515/female-veterans-aim-for-washington-while-navigating-campaign-trail>>.



Wendy Rogers

Wendy Rogers. Wendy Rogers for Congress. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://www.wendyrogers.org/about-wendy/>>.

Big Steps

Though combat has been legalized, many obstacles still exist that must be overcome in order for women to truly be seen as equals. However, each change in social status and acceptance brought women closer to equality, and this progress will continue into the future.

In Conclusion:

I would like to give a special thanks to Professor Tammy Berberi for all her help and motivation throughout the creation of my project.

A Special Thanks

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The women of the 588th Night Bomber Regiment, with their aircraft in the background. World of Tanks. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Apr. 2015. <<http://worldoftanksxbox360edition.com/en/news/news/women-in-world-war-ii/>>.
