



# **Women in the British Army: War and the Gentle Sex, 1907-1948 (Women's and Gender History)**

*Lucy Noakes*

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In this fascinating, timely and engaging study, Lucy Noakes examines women's role in the army and female military organizations during the First and Second World Wars, during peacetime, in the interwar era and in the post-war period.

Providing a unique examination of women's struggle for acceptance by the British army, Noakes argues that women in uniform during the first half of the twentieth century challenged traditional notions of gender and threatened to destabilise clear-cut notions of identity by unsettling the masculine territory of warfare. Noakes also examines the tensions that arose as the army attempted to reconcile its need for female labour with their desire to ensure that the military remained a male preserve.

Drawing on a range of archival sources, including previously unpublished letters and diaries, official documents, newspapers and magazines, *Women in the British Army* uncovers the gendered discourses of the army to reveal that it was a key site in the formation of male and female identities.

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