



IWM

Kendrick School teacher was one of the first women to be awarded the OBE

Edith Pratt had an extraordinary First World War and a direct impact on the lives of women helping to fight it – it was for services to the war effort that she was rewarded with this honour.

She was part of the female factory inspectorate and served in the Ministry of Munitions (National Filling Factories) from 1915. She then became Deputy Chief Controller of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (Overseas) in 1917 and Deputy Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force in 1918.

Edith Pratt was born in 1882 and educated at Southlands School in Exmouth and at Girton College, Cambridge where she studied Modern Languages.

She became a teacher at Kendrick School in 1910.

At the outbreak of World 1 she became Welfare Officer at the Bourneville Munitions Factory and was soon made the Staff Inspector of National Filling Factories.

Her work at the Ministry of Munitions coincided with the expansion of factories and the female factory inspectorate. Her role included the assessment and improvement of women's working pay and conditions. It was claimed that one million women were working in munitions in 1918.

Edith moved to the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) in 1917. She served as the new force's Deputy Chief Controller (Overseas) before joining the Women's Royal Air Force (as Deputy Commandant) in 1918. Her contribution was recognised by King George V in the very first O.B.E. list (the picture was taken at this time).

Edith Pratt was one of the very first women to be awarded the OBE.

Most Excellent
Order of the British Empire



An **OBE** is a Queen's honour given to an individual for a major local role in any activity such as business, charity or the public sector. **OBE** stands for Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.