



## INVENTOR &amp; MAKER OF THE WEEK

# Marie Curie

## INVENTOR OF THE PORTABLE X-RAY

By the start of World War I in 1914, Marie Curie had already won two Nobel Prizes for her scientific work on radiation.

When the war started Marie wanted to use her scientific skills to save lives. She realised that radiation in X-rays could help army surgeons see broken bones and bullets in soldiers bodies. This could guide them in their surgeries.

At that time X-ray machines were only in hospitals and were too big to transport. Curie collected smaller machines and put them into vans and cars which could be driven right up to the battlefields. She raised the money to build these herself and even offered to melt down the gold in her Nobel prizes to pay for them!

Curie and her 17-year old daughter Irene learnt how to use the x-ray vans, nicknamed 'Little Curies'. They also had to learn to drive, to change tires and even basic car mechanics for when they broke down. They trained 150 nurses to drive around in them and help wounded soldiers in the battlefields too.

Marie Curie's scientific brain and her courage to look after others saved countless lives in World War I and in the time since.

