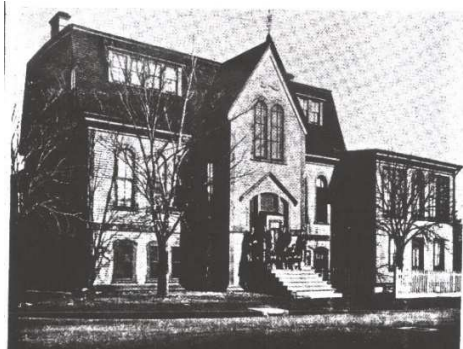


## **#7 DALHOUSIE STATIONARY MEDICAL UNIT WW1 FORMED**

**‘A Nursing Perspective’**

**By Gloria Stephens – May 2014**

The Dalhousie medical faculty made an offer in September 1914 to provide personnel for a ‘Casualty Station’. The offer was not accepted as this type of unit was not a priority at the time. In the spring of 1915 a new offer was made to be a ‘Stationary’ Hospital unit. This offer was accepted and the unit designated as #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit. The unit required a minimum of 12 medical doctors and a minimum of 27 nursing sisters to staff it.



THE ORIGINAL HALIFAX MEDICAL COLLEGE



NO.7 DALHOUSIE STATIONARY MEDICAL UNIT  
– Dr. JOHN STEWART CENTRE

The doctors were selected from graduates of the Dalhousie Medical School and the graduate nurses from the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing and St. Joseph’s Hospital School of Nursing, Glace Bay, NS;



VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL NAMED in 1887  
on Queen Victoria’s Jubilee

Nursing School - 1890



St. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL  
OPENED JULY 1, 1902

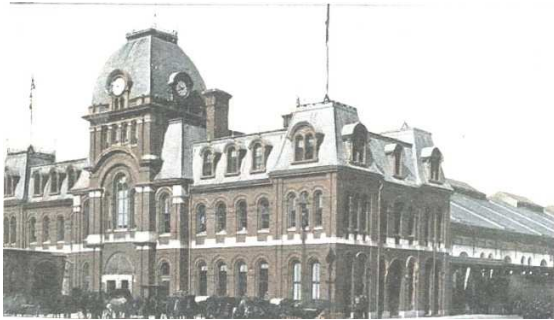
PICTURE 1908

Nursing School -1902

Victoria General and St. Joseph's were the only two hospitals in Nova Scotia with the required number of beds which offered the nurses experiences necessary to meet the nursing criteria set by the medical corps.

The task of putting this unit together, as soon as possible, to meet the challenges of war was Dr. John Stewart (60th year) and who was given the rank of Colonel. By Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> the unit was inspected and was passed with 'flying colours'.

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1915 the unit received orders to proceed to Saint John, NB, for overseas. They left Halifax by train at the North Street Station. The unit sailed to England on the troopship HMS Metagama and landed at Plymouth, England, January 19, 1916. Under Colonel Stewart were 11 medical doctors, 121 other ranks and Matron Laura May Hubley in charge of 27 Nursing Sisters.



NORTH STREET STATION, HALIFAX  
(destroyed- Hfx. Explosion-1917)



LAURA HUBLEY



#### **1915 - 1918 The #7 Stationary Hospital Dalhousie**

Was staffed with Nursing Graduates from the Victoria General Hospital Halifax and St. Josephs' Hospital in Cape Breton. The nurses are named, the Victoria General graduates with their year of graduation.

Back row (L -R) Ms. MacKinnon; Ms. MacAulay; Alice Johnstone; Rose Young 1909; Ms. Churchill; Jessie Davidson 1910; Lillian Fitzgerald 1914; Ms. Cook; 2Row:nd Margaret MacDonald; Sarah Archard 1914; Florence Fraser 1908; Lalia Thomas 1915; Irene Thompson 1914; Mary Chisholm 1915; Jessie B. MacDonald 1915; Ms. Mitchell; Catherine Smith 1914; Sadie MacLeod 1915; 3rd Row: Catherine MacLean 1904; Josephine Cameron 1911; Frances Rice 1912; Matron Laura Hubley 1895; Lela Hamm Donovan 1904; Janet Calder 1909; Mary MacDonald 1911; Front: Emma Walters; Maisie Williams 1911.

Nursing Sisters in the picture above that were from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing were: MacKinnon, MacAuley, Johnston, MacDonald, Mitchell, Churchill and Walters.



**Farewell Message from President MacKenzie, received at St John, N.B.,  
1st January 1916.**

185 Hx. SN. 49 NL.—2.34 A.M.

429

HALIFAX, N.S., 31st December 1915.

Colonel JOHN STEWART, No. 7 Stationary Hospital Unit, sailing "Metagama," St John, N.B.

Allow me to send to yourself, your brother officers, nurses, and men, and especially to all Dalhousians, final wishes for a Happy New Year, a pleasant journey, noble service, and a safe return. Dalhousie is rightly proud of your Unit, but feels that even her highest expectations will be surpassed.

(Signed) A. STANLEY MACKENZIE.

**REPLY.**

ST JOHN, N.B., 1st January 1916.

To President A. STANLEY MACKENZIE, Halifax, N.S.

No. 7 Overseas Stationary Hospital, Dalhousie, all on board and fit. Thank people of Nova Scotia for kindness, and wish all a Happy New Year.

(Signed) STEWART.

**FIRST CANADIAN  
MEDICAL UNIT  
FROM NS**

The first unit mobilized from Nova Scotia for overseas was #2 Casualty Clearing Station commanded by Major F. S. Ford, August 10, 1914, two weeks after war was declared.

**LETTER from Lieut.-Colonel J. A. GRANT, A.D.M.S.**

A.D.M.S., No. 118-15,  
20th December 1915.

From A.D.M.S., 6th D., to Lieut.-Colonel. STEWART.

On the eve of your departure, I wish to express my appreciation of the results you have already achieved in the selection and training of the personnel of No. 7 Stationary Hospital, which you so justly command, after a life-long devotion to the welfare of Dalhousie University, from which the Unit is drafted and to which it is affiliated.

Among your officers are some with whom I have been intimately associated since the commencement of the war.

Would you let me express my appreciation to you of the services of Major Hogan, who, in addition to his regular duties, has rendered invaluable assistance to the records of the Military Hospital by his operative skill, to Major Murray, whose place will be hard to fill in the Medical Ward of the Military Hospital, where he has done such excellent work, and to Captain Woodbury, my D.A.D.M.S., always on duty and willingly responding, day or night, to render efficient service.

(Signed) J. A. GRANT,  
Lieut.-Colonel, A.D.M.S., 6th Division.

HALIFAX, N.S., 20th December 1915.

**NOMINAL ROLL OF No. 7 "OVERSEAS"  
STATIONARY HOSPITAL, C. E. F.**

Rgt. No.	Rank	Name	Occupation	Place of Birth	Next of Kin	Address of Next of Kin	Religion	Former Military Service	Residence at Date of Enlistment
...	Lt.-Col.	Stewart, John	Surgeon	Black River, N.S.	Rev. Thos. Stewart	Halifax, N.S.	Presbyterian	3rd Richd. Regt., Pictou Bat. Art.	Halifax, N.S.
...	Major	Hogan, E. V.	"	Weymouth, N.S.	Mrs Mary Hogan	Weymouth, N.S.	Roman Catholic	1st C.G.A.	"
...	"	Murray, L. M.	Physician & Surgeon	Truro, N.S.	Mrs E. W. Murray	Halifax, N.S.	Presbyterian	A.M.C.	"
...	Captain	MacAulay, M. A.	"	Glace Bay, N.S.	Mrs Juanita MacAulay	"	"	9 yrs. C.A.M.C., Hfx., 1917. 17th F.B., Syd.	"
...	"	MacKay, V. N.	Physician	Earlton, N.S.	John MacKay	Earlton, N.S.	"	A.M.C.	"
...	"	MacKenzie, K. A.	"	Pictou, N.S.	Mrs C. Mackenzie	Halifax, N.S.	"	Nil	"
...	"	MacLellan, E. K.	Physician & Surgeon	"	Mrs H. S. MacLellan	"	"	A.M.C.	"
...	"	MacLennan, S. J.	Surgeon	Sydney, N.S.	Mrs K. C. MacLennan	"	"	94th Regiment	"
...	"	MacLeod, D. Angus	Physician	Boularderie, C.B., N.S.	M. A. MacLeod	Point Tupper, N.S.	"	A.M.C.	New Waterford, N.S.
...	"	Murray, J. A.	"	River John, N.S.	Mrs V. Murray	10 Mile House, Pictou, N.S.	"	"	Halifax, N.S.
...	"	Rankine, John	Physician & Surgeon	Port Glasgow, G.B.	James Rankine	Halifax, N.S.	"	"	"

This unit was composed mainly from Queen's and Annapolis Counties. After concentrated training in rain and mud in England, they were shipped to LeHavre, France, February 3, 1915. (Major Ford was mentioned in dispatches)

Another Canadian Unit- #1 Casualty Clearing Station was in training in England during the fall of 1914. This hospital subsequently became the Duchess of Connaught hospital where thousands of troops were treated.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF MEDICAL UNITS AT THE FRONT**

1. **REGIMENTAL AID POST (RAP)** – this is the most forward unit situated only meters from the front line and where the first documentation of the wounded occurs. The unit consists of a Battalion Medical doctor, orderlies, and stretcher bearers. The location of the unit could be a dug out, trench, bomb hole, ruined abandoned house. The supplies would be for First Aid equipment, blankets, pain medication, anti-tetanus serum, brandy, cocoa, bovril, biscuits and 2-6 bed-like stretchers, for short-term holding. If, there are no casualties then the place was used as a **CAMP RECEPTION STATION (CRS)**
2. **FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT (FAU)** – situated closely behind the fighting front and contained stretcher bearers, stretchers of various sizes, horses and wagons and a few motor vehicles as ambulances, orderlies, doctors, nurses and basic First Aid supplies and equipment.



Here the wounded are given basic treatment, triaged and sent to a Casualty Clearing Station and then to a Stationary Hospital.

### **A CANADIAN FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT**

3. **ADVANCED DRESSING STATION:- (ADS)** – the unit is set-up in tents about 400 yards or more from the front line. Sometimes an abandoned house may be used. The casualties arrive here by foot, stretcher, or a type of ambulance by motor or horse and wagon and often have to go from the front line over muddy, shell-pocked ground or through the maze of the trenches to be protected. The supplies and equipment in the ADS was the same as the RAP stations. The men are treated here to return to the front line or are sent further back for more advanced treatments.

4. **MAIN DRESSING STATION (MDS)**- located another mile or so further back from the front line. This unit is sometimes combined with the ADS station.
5. **DIVISIONAL REST CENTRES (DRS)** – a brewery was used , if possible, where up to 50 men could be bathed at a time in the large 'vats' and the local women were used for laundering and repairing of clothing and uniforms.

6. **CASUALTY CLEARING STATIONS (CCS)**- to facilitate movement of casualties from the 'battlefield' to a hospital. There is always one CCS to a Division and holds about 50 beds, 150 stretchers to treat a minimum of 200 sick and wounded at any time. This unit is situated about 20 miles behind the front line and usually near a train station or a waterway for quick and easy further transport. Nursing Sisters are on staff here and will assist with surgery, give anaesthetics or whatever other duties are required. This is the first line for surgery to get the wounded stable enough for further travel to a larger facility.
7. **STATIONARY HOSPITAL (ST)** – These are set-up at a Base Camp and would be staffed, supplied and equipped as a general hospital with Nursing Sisters, specialty doctors with all the usual departments, and all other required staff to run a hospital. If, possible would be organized near a train station or water-ways for easy access. The capacity was usually 400 beds but could be much larger. There would be two Stationary Hospitals per Division. These units were established throughout France as example; Etaples, Rouen and Camiers

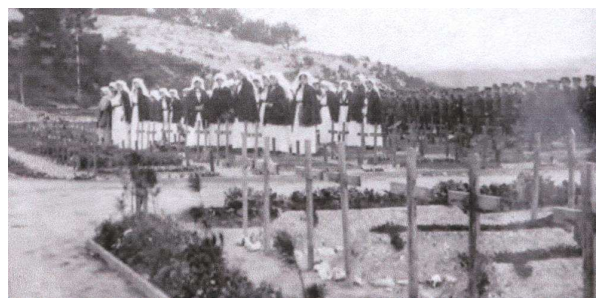
#### **#7 DALHOUSIE STATIONARY MEDICAL UNIT ASSIGNMENTS SHORNCLIFFE, ENGLAND**

The first assignment in England was an 800 bed hospital at Shorncliffe Military Base and at Helens Hospital for officers. Altogether, Colonel Stewart was the administrator for 10,000 beds including the subsidiary hospitals in the Dover area who received the wounded from Europe.



MILITARY HOSPITAL AT SHORNCLIFFE

In the picture at the right, are Nursing Sisters at Shorncliffe Cemetery attending new graves of men who have been buried and the markers are wooden crosses, until the white crosses could be made.



SHORNCLIFFE CEMETERY

The troops called the Nursing Sisters 'Bluebirds' because of their blue uniforms and white veils.

3000 Nursing Sisters served in WW1; 2504 in Europe. Presently, they are not called Nursing Sisters but nurses are still serving Canada in the three military services.



## LE HAVRE, FRANCE

The next assignment for #7 was June 18, 1916 to take over a 400 bed tent hospital at Le Havre near Harfleur, France.

Harfleur was exceptionally busy as all troops arriving in France for the front came through this base. With the medical staff at a minimum the work became a nightmare as the wounded increased and the severe weather continued to be problem with lots of rain, snow and mud



moved to within 30 miles of the trenches in a town called Arques and the sound of gunfire was constant.



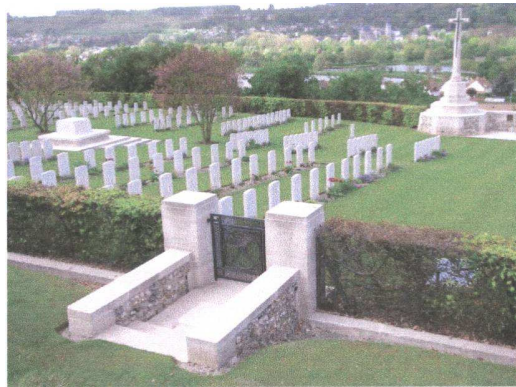
Le Havre Tent Hospital

everywhere as well as coping with the day and night bombing raids. The hospital had several near misses. The unit had to be 'on the ready' to move as the battlefield line changed, either backward or forward. By May, 1915, the unit

## ARQUES



CHATEAU IN THE BACKGROUND ARQUES



BRITISH CEMETERY – ARQUES

The unit took over an old chateau, once owned by the Duke of Wellington, after the campaign of Waterloo, and converted it into a hospital. Interesting, it has been noted, that the first group of patients were German prisoners of war. The arrival of wounded never ended as they came by horse, motor ambulance, train or barges. The stress on the medical staff was tremendous. To help with a release was the very occasional "party" or an athletic event. These events released the tensions and staff could see and think of something else besides the suffering of the wounded. July 1, 1917, to celebrate 'Dominion Day', such an athletic event took place.

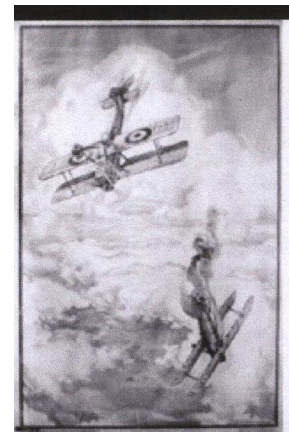


THE NURSING SISTERS RACING IN REGULATION FULL UNIFORM, AT ALL TIMES



BILLY BISHOP

For a special event Matron Hubley invited the Canadian Air Ace, Billy Bishop to attend the celebration/party. He arrived by air and before putting down, did a series of aerobatics that delighted the crowd. The next day another surprise, the unit had a visit from King George V and the Prince of Wales. Matron Hubley was heard to say "It was a most outstanding day in my memory."



ARQUES near St.OMER, FRANCE - 1917



T.- Sadie MacLeod, Cook, Mary MacDonald- (standing), Josie Cameron, Frances Rice, Lillian Fitzgerald, Chisholm, (siting) **Laura Hubley (third standing from rt.- MATRON)**, Alice Johnson, Young, Sarah Churchill, Margaret Macdonald, Jessie MacDonald, Emma Walters, Lorinda McAuley, Smith, Irene Thompson, (on Ground), Lelia Thompson( turned from camera),

Colonel Stewart outside his tent -Arques



March, 1918 Colonel Stewart was posted to England and he was replaced by Major E.V. Hogan who was then promoted to Lieut.Colonel. (Dr. Hogan married (1921) Elizabeth Brennan, a VG graduate, class 1898, who was a Nursing Sister, WW1, in Europe). The wounded flowed in like a river and sometimes the nursing staff was looking after 800 men in a 400 bed unit. The fighting was so vicious with the German attacks that the hospital unit was moved by train to Etaples on April 18, 1918, to a large tented hospital.



COLONEL JOHN STEWART

### ETAPLES

May 18, 1918, the district of Etaples was bombarded by an air raid creating about 2000 wounded including medical and nursing staff. Lt. Colonel Hogan was wounded during this raid. He was eventually awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).



#7 DALHOUSIE MEDICAL STATIONARY UNIT- ETAPLES, FRANCE 1918

During the German air raid of May 1918, three Nursing Sisters were killed. One named was Margaret Lowe. Picture shows the destruction after the raid and Nursing Sisters clearing up. During WW1, nurses experienced the horrors war first hand and dealt with injuries never before seen.



of





Unloading a convey of wounded at Etaples, France, 1918



OPERATING ROOM- ABOUT 100 OPERATIONS DAILY-

During the raid of May 18, 1918, the hospital completed 104 operations in one 24 hour period and admitted about 1000 patients.



Nursing Sisters visiting the grave of co-worker, Margaret Lowe who was one of the three killed during the raid.



The funeral procession following the May bombing at Etaples. The #7 unit was moved from Etaples to Rouen, which was the largest hospital base in France and remained here from May to September 1918.

## **ROUEN, FRANCE**

Rouen had the largest Base hospital in France. The #7 unit staff were distributed and attached to various British hospitals in the area.

The picture on the right shows a hospital hut with sandbags used as protection against the German raids.



## **CAMIERS, FRANCE**

A few months before November 11, 1918, the #7 unit was again reassembled and moved to a 1000 bed hospital at Camiers. All the patients here were Canadian. The # 7 unit was at Camiers from September 1918 to February, 1919. The condition of the wounded was not easy to describe, some having literally flesh torn from bone.



CAMIERS BASE CAMP

## **VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL & ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL NURSING SISTERS WHO SERVED WITH #7 DALHOUSIE STATIONARY MEDICAL UNIT AND RECEIVED RECOGNITION**

### **MATRON LAURA M. HUBLEY - #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit**

VG - class of 1898



- \*Royal Red Cross Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Class, December 1916
- \* Allied Victory Medal
- \* British War Medal
- \* Mentioned in Dispatches

Laura served continuously with the #7 Unit until April, 1918. She then was attached to #3 General hospital and then #8 Stationary Hospital. March 1919, she returned to Canada and was Matron of Cogswell Street Hospital, Halifax. She participated in the designing of the Canadian Nursing Sisters Memorial, WW1, Ottawa; President GNANS 1923-1926 & responsible for changing GNANS to RNANS & participated in designing the first RN exam in NS. She raised the 'standards of Training Schools in the province. 2009, the College Registered Nurses NS awarded her the Centennial Distinction Award.



**Nursing Sister ARCHARD, SARAH – VG Class 1914**



- \*Royal Red Cross 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Medal
- \*Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Medal
- \*British War Medal
- \*Allied Victory Medal
- \*Mentioned in Dispatches
- \*King George V Jubilee Medal
- \*QMNG Medal (Queen Mary's Needlework Guild)

Sarah served continuously with the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit overseas. On return, she was Superintendent of Nurses, Camp Hill hospital; President Overseas Nurses Club; Supervisor Private Pavilion, VG for 22 years; executive of RNANS and charter member of VG School of Nursing Alumni; responsible for the funding of the "Sarah Memorial Fund" of the VG Alumni.

**Nursing Sister LANDRY, JOSEPHINE – VG Class 1906**



- \*Member of the Order of British Empire (MBE) for Red Cross work during WW1
  - \*King George V Jubilee Medal
  - \*King George V1 Coronation Medal
- OR Supervisor VGH, installed the first steam sterilizer in NS; reorganized the Tb Society of NS; Provincial Chair of the Red Cross during WW2; after WW2 promoted 13 Red Cross Outpost hospitals in NS

**Nursing Sister CALDER, JANET – VG Class 1909**



- \*Royal Red Cross Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> class
- \*Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Medal
- \*Mentioned in Dispatches
- \*Allied Victory Medal
- \*British War Medal

She was invalided to England from France in October, 1916. She served with the Canadian Hospitals in England during the rest of the War. On return to Canada she did Private Duty and then was a Supervisor in a New York hospital.

**Nursing Sister COOK, GERTRUDE –VG Class 1904**



- \*Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Medal
- \*Mentioned in Dispatches
- \*Allied Victory Medal

**Nursing Sister FRASER, ANNA – VG Class 1914**



- \*King George V Jubilee Medal
- \*Allied Victory Medal

On return to Canada she worked at Camp Hill hospital; Super visor of a Private Clinic in Yarmouth, NS; private duty in Western Canada & USA ; 1967 Honourary Life Member Canadian Nursing Sister Association.



**Nursing Sister MacKENZIE, MARGARET – VG Class 1908**

- \*Mons Starr 1914
- \*British War Medal
- \*Allied Victory Medal
- \*King George V Jubilee Medal
- Night supervisor VG Hospital
- Superintendent All Saints Hospital, Springhill, until 1915
- Joined Nursing Sisters
- Served on the Island of Lemnos for one year & 21/2 years in France, then

England until 1919

On the left- Margaret's actual uniform on a model in the VGH Alumni/ Archives, Bethune building, Halifax.

On return to Canada: Diploma from University of Toronto , Medical Social Services; first Director of Public Health in NS, retired 1954; 1912 Honourary Member Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) and CNA; President RNANS 1930 – 1932; 1954 special





award from CPHA for her outstanding services to public health in Canada; 2009 CRNNS award- Centennial Distinction. She died at age 87.

**Nursing Sister E.A. COOKE** (Graduate of St. Joseph's hospital) – served continuously with the #7 Unit in England and France. She returned to Canada with the Unit.

\*Mentioned in dispatches

\*Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Medal

**Nursing Sister A.M. JOHNSTON** (Graduate of St. Joseph's hospital 1911) –

\*Mentioned in Dispatches

**Nursing Sister MARGARET MacDONALD** (Graduate of St. Joseph's hospital 1912)

\*Mentioned in Dispatches

\*Royal Red Cross Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

**Nursing Sister F.A. RICE** Graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital)

\*Royal Red Cross Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> Class



Colonel Stewart and Lt. Colonel Hogan of #7 Dalhousie Medical Unit were both awarded the “Commander of the Order of the British Empire” (CBE).

NOTE:

(OBE – an acronym for the Officer of the Order of the British Empire

MBE- refers to Member of the Order of the British Empire)

## **SUPREME SACRIFICE (representing the sacrifice of other Nursing Sisters)**



Two members of the VG School of Nursing who were Nursing Sisters during WW1 and gave their lives for ‘freedom’; Neil McLean, VG class of 1911 was killed during the Courcellette battle, 1916.

Nursing Sister Minnie Follett, VG class of 1909, was drowned along with 14 other nursing sisters in the sinking of the HMS Liandover Castle, June 27, 1918 which was torpedoed by a German submarine just at the end of the war.

She served in France, at the front with #1 Casualty Clearing Unit. Then July 7, 1917, she was posted to HMS Lelitia and crossed the Atlantic with the wounded, landing in Halifax. March, 1918, she was posted to the HMS Liandoverly Castle. June 17, 1919 she arrived at Halifax with 644 military wounded. On the return trip to England, just 16 miles off the coast of Ireland, the ship was torpedoed. The Nursing Sisters were put into #5 lifeboat with a crew of 8 men under the command of Sergeant A. Knight.



The lifeboat was sucked under when the ship sank taking all the Nursing Sisters. The submarine steamed high speed through the wreckage, ramming lifeboats and running down survivors. More than 12 rounds was fired into the area of the lifeboats and swimmers. A plaque in honour of Follett has been placed in St. Paul's church, Halifax, a picture of her is on display in the "Age of Sail" and there is a 'Follett/ Fraser' chapter P. Fraser

of the IODE in Halifax. Nursing Sister Matron M. Pearl Fraser of Halifax was also drowned in this sinking. She was the daughter of Lt. Governor of NS, Duncan C. Fraser.

#### **WW1 MEDALS AS MENTIONED ABOVE (that were awarded to the VG & St. Joseph's Nursing Sisters, who served with #7 Unit)**



#### **ROYAL RED CROSS 1<sup>ST</sup>. CLASS ROYAL RED CROSS 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS**

The award was established on April 27, 1883 by Queen Victoria with a single class of member, a second and lower class, Associate, was added during World War 1 in 1917.



The award is made to a fully trained nurse who has shown exceptional devotion and competence in the performance of actual nursing duties over a continuous long period of time and who has performed a very exceptional act of bravery and devotion at his or her post of duty. This decoration had the distinction of being conferred exclusively to females until 1976. Holders of the first-class who receive a further award are awarded a bar. The words "Faith, Hope and Charity" are inscribed on the upper limbs of the cross, with the year 1883 in the lower limb. The reserve is plain except a circular medallion bearing the Royal Cypher of the reigning monarch. The recipients of the Royal Red Cross are entitled to use the post-nominal letters "RRC" for first class and ARRC for 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

#### **THE STAR "MONS" 1914**

The Star medal was approved by King George V and instituted in 1917. This medal had a 'nickname' the "Mons" medal after the Germans retreated from Mons. Before receiving this medal the recipient had to have received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The reverse is plain with the recipient's service number,





rank, name and unit impressed on it. Inscribed on the metal is; "AugNov1914". All three medals are worn together when awarded; Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The recipient's must have served in France and Belgium between August 5 and November 22, 1914 in active service. The medal was the first of a series between 1917 & 1919 to recognize service of WW1, 1914 – 1918. The three medals together had 'nicknames' after cartoon characters in a child's book and called Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred, as the book was launched at the same time as the medals.

### **BRITISH WAR MEDAL**



The British War Medal awarded for distinguished service and gallantry to commemorate the successful conclusion of the war and awarded to those who had served in a theatre of war up to and including the official end of war in 1920. This medal was approved by King George V in 1919. This medal had another nickname other than 'Squeak' it was 'Mutt'. This medal along with the Victory Medal can be commonly found in family heirlooms

### **ALLIED VICTORY MEDAL**

The Allied Victory Medal was awarded to commemorate the allied victory and given mostly to those who served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war between August 5th and November 11, 1918. This medal also had a second nickname of 'Jeff' as well as 'Wilfred'.



### **QUEEN ELIZABETH OF BELGIUM MEDAL**



The Queen of Belgium Medal was instituted on September 15, 1919 for Belgium's and foreigners who had given valuable service to Belgian civilians and soldiers in connection with the war, especially in nursing and care of the sick and wounded, for a period of not less than one year prior to September 30, 1919.

## **KING GEORGE V JUBILEE MEDAL**



This medal was produced to celebrate the King's 25<sup>th</sup> year as monarch and allocated as local governments saw fit. The medal was generally distributed to the military, emergency services and to those who made a significant and outstanding contribution to the welfare of others.

## **KING GEORGE VI CORONATION MEDAL**

To commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey in 1937. The medal was given at the discretion of local governments who were free to decide who received the medal and why, so in Canada the medal was awarded for different reasons but always for outstanding contributions to the welfare of others



## **ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL**



The Order of the British Empire was established in June 1917 with only one level. In December 1918 military and civilian divisions were added by King George V and five levels were added to the Order. The recipient of level 1 and 2 would then be conferred a Knighthood; 3-5 levels divided into Commander, Officer and Member. The 1 & 2 levels have not been available to Canadians since 1935 but levels 3-5 may be awarded.

The Order was created mainly to award non-combatant services and to include women as most existing Orders excluded women. The medal is usually awarded for gallantry as well as service. The criteria is the responsibility of each country.



March 9, 1937, the insignia and ribbon were changed. After January 1, 1958, gallantry awards were recognized with silver oak leaves. There have been 1671 issued in Canada; 599 were civil and 1072 for military service.



#### QMNG- QUEEN MARY NEEDLEWORK GUILD

The letters QMNG are in the white top area and just above the crown; 1914 in the red band signifying the year presented; hanging from a ring is the crown then bold letters over one another RV; rosette at the bottom.

This Guild was formed in England titled 'The London Sewing Guild' in 1882, when the Matron of an orphanage asked Lady Wolverton to donate two dozen knitted socks to the children. In 1885, Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck (mother of future Queen Mary) became Patron and the Guild renamed to "London Needlework Guild".

HRH Duchess of York, who had worked with the guild since childhood, became Patron in 1887 on the death of her mother. 1914 was again renamed "Queen Mary Needlework Guild" and received a charter. The objective of the Guild was to assist in any civilian disaster or any situation where clothing, blankets etc. were needed. The idea spread throughout the commonwealth. (The President in British Columbia at one time was Evaline Pemberton who was the first Registered Nurse in Canada). During the Halifax Explosion of 1917 the Guild was very active and the contribution of help was mentioned in many articles. Sarah Archer served on the executive of the Halifax Guild for many years and received this medal for her dedication. Her medal is stored in the VG Nurses Archives, Bethune building, Halifax.

#### RETURN HOME

The last phase of the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit was to hand over to the #9 Canadian Stationary Unit which was the Saint Francis Xavier Unit (SFX). The Unit was under the command of Lt. Colonel Roderick C. McLeod and the Matron was Sadie Catherine MacIsaac, a graduate of St. Joseph's hospital, Glace Bay, CB. MacIsaac was mentioned in dispatches twice and awarded the Royal Red Cross medal 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> class. (Anna Young, A graduate of the VG, class 1916, served with the SFX Unit in France & England. After the war she worked at Camp Hill hospital, then Private Duty in New York).



On March 17, 1919, the #7 Dalhousie Unit sailed from LeHavre and arrived at Southampton, England. The Unit then had a much deserved break after three years of continuous service during their gruesome tasks in France. The unit returned to Canada April 17, 1919, on the ship HMS 'Belgic' and disembarked in Halifax at pier 2. A crowd and bag pipes welcomed them home. That evening the officers were honoured with a

dinner at the 'Green Lantern', as a farewell banquet to the #7 Stationary Medical Unit. The #7 Unit had treated about 60,000 sick and wounded; 10,000 in England and 50,000 in France.

No decoration could really reward such devotion to the wounded. A frontier padre was quoted as saying: "Only the wounded know what the presence of a Nursing Sister can mean to a man in pain". His words epitomized the role of the Canadian Nursing Sisters. The #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit was disbanded by General Order #211, November 15, 1920.

## **#7 DALHOUSIE STATIONARY MEDICAL UNIT WW1 REMEMBERED**

### **THE MEDICAL STAFF**

The deeds of the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit is remembered by a plaque in the Founders Room at Dalhousie University with the simple words: "*WE SERVED WITH PRIDE*". This plaque was to honour the Dalhousie medical graduates and nursing graduates of the two hospitals who supplied the nursing sisters; Victoria General, Halifax and St. Joseph's, Glace Bay, Cape Breton.

### **THE NURSING SISTERS**

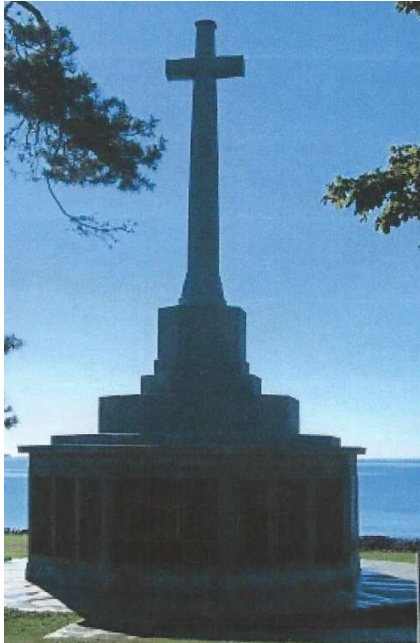
There is no specific public plaque or monument in Nova Scotia to mention and honour the nursing sisters of Nova Scotia. Was enough done to honour these providers of nursing care during WW1?

In the VGH School of Nursing Alumni/Archives, within the Bethune building, Halifax, there is a large bronze plaque with the following inscription:

*1914* *1918*  
*In proud and loving memory of the graduates of the  
Victoria General Hospital Training School  
who gave their lives for their country in the Great War:*  
**Sgt. Neil MacLean 1914-1916**  
*Killed in action Battle of Courcelette  
Sept. 16, 1916*  
**Nursing Sister Minnie A. Follett**  
*Lost in the sinking of Liandover Castle  
June 27, 1918*  
**Nursing Sister Margaret MacLeod 1914 – 1917**  
*Died Dec. 20, 1919*  
**Nursing Sister Rebecca McIntosh 1917-1919**  
*Died March 7, 1919*

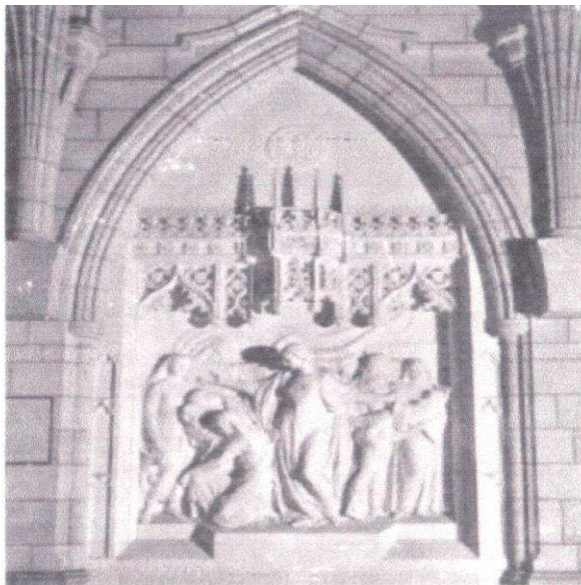
*This tablet erected by the Alumni Association of the*

### *Victoria General Hospital*



#### ***“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOREVER MORE”*** **HALIFAX WAR MEMORIAL**

The Halifax War Memorial was erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and was rebuilt in 1967. Panels are placed around the monument to recognize those who have no known grave. Panels number 1-3 list casualties of WW1 and panel number 2 list Nursing Sisters who served and were killed in WW1 or lost at sea. Follett and Fraser are among those listed.



#### **CANADIAN NURSING SISTER WW1 MEMORIAL – OTTAWA**

This memorial is located in the Hall of Honour in the Centre block on Parliament Hill, Ottawa. The sculptor was G.W. Hall of Montréal. It is made of marble from Carara, Italy. The right side is a nurse in New France caring for a native child; the centre represents ‘humanity’; the left side features two uniformed nurses of WW1.

The Memorial was presented by the Canadian Nursing Sisters Association to commemorate the work and sacrifices of the nurses from the beginning to the Nursing Sisters of WW1.





Nursing Sisters, who served overseas, on the steps of the of the Parliament Building, Ottawa, 1926

(The above picture was donated to the VG School of Nursing Archives by Helen Joncas)

Front row: 5<sup>th</sup> from the left-



Dame Maud McCarthy  
Matron -in- Chief of the  
Territorial Army  
Nursing Service of  
Great Britain, **1920-  
1925**

*A close-up of Dame  
McCarthy's medals and  
uniform design*



Dame McCarthy was born in Australia. She obtained her nursing from London hospital. Her active service included the South African war and WW1 where she served in France and Flanders. She died April 1, 1949.

*4<sup>th</sup> from left* – Margaret C. MacDonald; Matron –in- Chief Canadian Army Medical Corps Nursing Sisters (CAMCNS) 1914 -1923.



Margaret was born in Bailey Brook, Nova Scotia, 1873 and she died 1948. She served in the Boer War and in France during WW1 with the #7 Stationary Medical Unit. Margaret then became Matron-in-Chief of CAMCNS. At any given point she was responsible for 2500 Nursing Sisters. She was the first woman in the British Empire to reach the rank of Major. She received the Royal Red Cross first Class medal and the Florence Nightingale medal in 1920, among other medals.

The Canadian Nursing Sister War Memorial was unveiled August 24, 1926. 800 nurses from across Canada assembled for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of the Canadian Nurse Association (CNA) and attended the unveiling.

A preliminary ceremony was held first in front of the Central Block as speeches were made. The President of CNA presented the memorial to the Acting Prime Minister, Sir Henry Drayton. The assembly then proceeded inside and Dame Maude McCarthy unveiled the memorial and Margaret C. MacDonald read the 'Roll of Honour' of 39 Matrons and Nursing Sisters of CAMCNS who were killed or died from wounds or illness during WW1.

Following this, there was two minutes of silence, the Last Post played and then the National Anthem. Many tears were falling by now, as it was reported.

## REFERENCES

- \* VGH School of Nursing Alumni/Archives, Bethune building, Halifax
- \* "Nova Scotia's Part – the Great War"; M. Stuart Hunt, The Nova Scotia Veteran Publishing Co., LTD. , Halifax, 1920
- Pictures- VGH School of Nursing Alumni/Archives, Bethune Building, Halifax

FOOTNOTE: The writer's Grandmother is noted in the book above, page 364, as President Red Cross Chartered Branch in Westchester.