

## **WW1- GRADUATE NURSES OF THE VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL of NURSING, HALIFAX NS**

**G Stephens, Nov., 2017**

Sixty-eight Victoria General nursing graduates served as a Nursing Sister during the Great War in various capacities and assignments. Four gave the ultimate sacrifice and one was a Silver Cross Mother.

The VG School of Nursing opened in 1890 and closed in 1995. Nurses able to serve in WW1 started from the class of 1895, that being Catherine Graham, a Haligonian. She was a Nursing Sister during WW1, who served in England, Cogswell Street Military hospital, Halifax, Matron Pine Hill Convalescent hospital for veterans, in Halifax. The Convalescent hospital was demobilized in 1919. Catherine served with the Massachusetts Health Commission in Halifax and was involved in directing nursing and medical care of those injured in the Halifax Explosion, December 6, 1917. At the time she was working at the Victoria General hospital.

After graduation from nursing school, Catherine took post-graduate courses in Public Health at Dalhousie University and Pediatrics in Blossom St. Infants Hospital, Boston. She was Matron at Rainbow Haven, Camp for Poor Children and Staff Nurse at the Camp Hill Military Hospital, Halifax.

After wars end, Catherine was very much involved in the advancement of the Graduate Nurses' Association of NS, (GNANS), who was a 'Founding Member' in 1909. Catherine was President of the Halifax Branch of the Association and then held the position of Provincial President three times 1917,1918 and 1921, when the Graduate Nurses Association name changed to Registered Nurses Association Nova Scotia (RNANS), Catherine was President from 1928-1930. As a Charter member of GNANS she was 'active in the formation and incorporation of this organization. Catherine worked tirelessly until a Bill of Registration was secured. It is reported that "... her interest and activities were unceasing in the raising of standards and the promotion of anything that may mean qualified nurses and better service for the patient". She fostered professional training, including the scientific teaching of nurses. She was involved in the establishment of the first Provincial Examining Board for nurses and the first exam was written in 1920. Her record is one of "devotion and an earnest desire to maintain the highest ideals of her profession." Catherine died in 1959 in Halifax.

In 2009 the College of Registered Nurses of NS, (CRNNS) awarded Catherine with the Centennial Award of Distinction

## THE UTIMATE SACRIFICE

NEIL MacLEAN, Neil hailed from Big Island, Pictou County, Nova Scotia. After graduating from the VG Nursing School, class of 1911, he was a medical student at Dalhousie University. Before finishing his degree he joined the Canadian Army Corps as “Sergeant” in the 25<sup>th</sup>



Nova Scotia Rifles Battalion as a stretcher-bearer. He probably choose this field as he could then use his nursing skills. At the time he had to join as a soldier

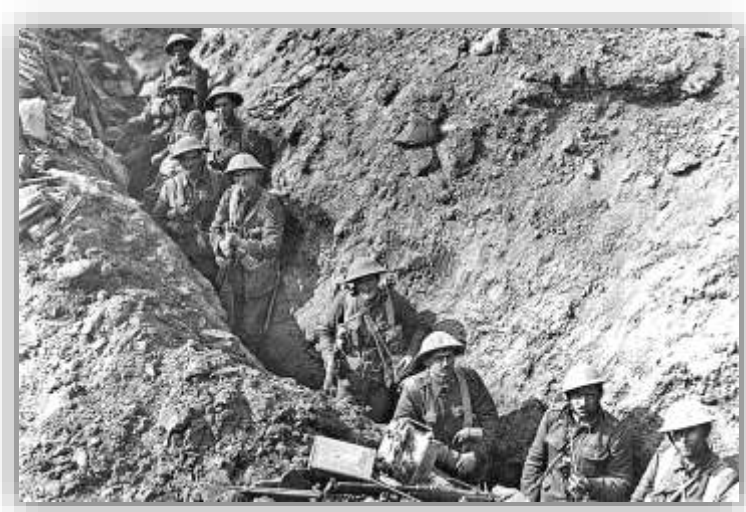
and not as a nurse. Neil’s duty at the front was to transport the wounded as quickly as possible to a Casualty Clearing Station and administer First-Aid as deemed necessary. Neil was supposed to return to Canada in December of 1916 to receive more training. Instead, he was killed in action at Courcellette in the “Battle of the Somme”, September 16, 1916.



*The Battle of Flers-Courcellette was a battle within the Franco-British Somme Offensive which took place in the summer and autumn of 1916. Launched on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1916 the battle went on for one week. Flers-Courcellette began with the overall objective of cutting a hole in the German line by using massed artillery and infantry attacks. This hole would then be exploited with the use of cavalry. It was the third and final large-scale offensive mounted by the British Army during the Battle of the Somme. By its conclusion on September 22, the strategic objective of a breakthrough had not been achieved; however tactical gains were made in the capture of the villages of Courcellette, Martinpuich and Flers. In some places, the front lines were advanced by over 1.2 miles by the Allied attacks.*



*The battle is significant for the first use of the tank in warfare. It also marked the debut of the Canadian and New Zealand division on the Somme battlefield. Between September 15*



*and 22, 7000 Canadians were either killed or wounded in this battle. It is noted as one of the most bloody military operations of WW1. Also, to note that following this battle, Plastic Surgery was pioneered here.*

According to a note located in the VG School of Nursing Archives, Neil's obituary was written in the Dalhousie

Gazette. Neil's body was never recovered and his name is engraved on the Vimy Memorial. Neil's two brothers, James and Hector fought in the 85<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and unfortunately both were killed. Neil's sister Elizabeth was a Nursing Sister during the war and fortunately she survived.



REGINA TRENCH CEMETERY, where the heaviest fighting occurred



CANADIAN MEMORIAL - Courcelette



Elizabeth MacLean, Neil's sister, was a graduate of the VG School of Nursing in the class of 1910 and Neil 1911. After graduating Elizabeth was Supervisor of the Operating Room at the VG hospital and nursed here for fifteen months. She resigned to sign up as a Nursing Sister and served in the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit and was posted to England and France. On return to Canada, Elizabeth became a 'homesteader' in Western Canada.

MINNIE ASENATH FOLLETT, VG graduate of class 1909 who joined the Army Medical Unit as a Nursing Sister in 1914. She was born November 11, 1884 in Port Grenville, NS, the eldest daughter of Oscar and Lydia Abigail (Hatfield) Follett.



*(Abigail, Minnie's mother was a trained nurse and she spent her life traveling the country roads in all kinds of weather, nursing the ill. She attended many mothers, helping with births. When the diphtheria epidemic broke out, she went beyond the 'call of duty' nursing the sick and preparing the dead for burial. She died, 1912. Minnie's father was a Master Mariner)*

After graduating from the VG School of Nursing, Minnie joined the Permanent Forces # 2 Army Medical Corps hospital in 1911. She then enrolled into a special military hospital nursing course in 1912. Sometime after this she worked

for a time in a Typhoid Emergency hospital in Halifax.

When war was declared, 1914, Minnie was the first of seven nurses to join the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Expeditionary Force, October 3, 1914. She was sent to England, sailing from Quebec City.



1<sup>st</sup>. CANADIAN CASUALTY EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

In England she was posted to # 2 General Hospital in Salisbury Plain. By 1915 she was posted to #1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) in France, (CCS are at the front lines). She was here for two years. Her experiences were horrendous and she suffered in time to a breakdown and was sent to England for treatment, April 6, 1917. She recovered in three months. She was returned to service to #9 Stationary hospital in Bramshott for 2 months. She was then posted to HMS Letitia in which she had several voyages across the Atlantic, bringing the wounded to Halifax.

Minnie's first shipwreck was on the Hospital ship Letitia. The ship was carrying a crew of 137, 84 medical staff, and 564 wounded soldiers, August 1, 1917. The pilot lost direction in very thick fog approaching Halifax Harbour and the ship struck rocks at Portuguese Cove and sank in 10 minutes, leaving one dead, a stoker who drowned. Everyone else escaped safely. The stern section sank in deeper water and currently the wreckage is a popular diver's site.





Minnie returned to England and worked at #10 General Hospital, Orrington, Kent. During March of 1918, Nursing Sister Follett was posted to HMHS Liandover Castle. The ship



was built by Barclay, Castle & Company in Glasgow and launched in 1913. When WW1 was declared the ship was commissioned to the Canadian Forces as a hospital ship, July 26, 1916, with 622 beds and a medical staff of 102. It was a ship of 11,200 tons.

The ship was used to transport the wounded from England to Halifax, NS. June 17, 1918 the ship arrived in Halifax with 644 military patients.

On the return voyage to England, June 20 with a crew and hospital unit of 7 medical officers, 14 Nursing Sisters and other ranks, the ship was torpedoed by a German Submarine on the evening of June 27, 1918. The ship was 116 miles off the coast of Ireland and the night was clear and all lights burning bright with the large Red Cross painted plainly against the pure white hull of the ship. Without warning the ship was torpedoed just aft of the engine # 4 hold. It was 9:30pm. Immediately on being hit there was a terrific explosion and all lights went out. All alive were taken off in 10 minutes and the ship sank at the bow end, in 20 minutes. The Captain's life boat picked up survivors from amidst the floating wreckage. All 14 Nursing Sisters were put into # 5 lifeboat along with crew of 8 men under the command of Sergeant A. Knight. "Our boat was quickly lowered into the sea. We were carried towards the stern of the ship, when suddenly the poop-deck broke away and sank.



The suction drew us quickly into the vacuum. The lifeboat tipped over sideways and every occupant went under. They were together in the lifeboat about 8 minutes. All Nursing Sisters were wearing life belts and their uniforms except two who were clothed only in night wear. The Sergeant did not see them again. He clung to a piece of wreckage until being picked up by the Captain's lifeboat". Minnie was 33 years old at the time.

DRAWN AND PUBLISHED BY E.E LOCKWOOD, DERBY.

The submarine steamed at high speed through the wreckage ramming life boats and running down survivors. They fired more than 12 rounds into the area of the life boats and swimmers, & massacred nearly 200 troops. The Captain and crew of the submarine were not punished because of technicality in the law at the time.

Minnie received several honours; Mons Cross, British War Medal, Victory Medal. Her Memorial Plaque and Scroll were sent to her parents. She and Matron 'Pearl', Margaret Fraser (from Halifax, daughter of Lt. Governor Fraser) were commemorated with their names on panel #2 of the Halifax War Memorial in Point Pleasant Park. Their names being given to the Fraser-Follett chapter of the IODE; a plaque was placed in St' Paul's church to honour Sister Follett and a picture of Follett is on display in the "Age of Sail" Heritage Centre in Port Greville about two miles from her birth place.



BRITISH WAR MEDAL

ALLIED VICTORY MEDAL

THE MONS STARR (one had to receive the first two medals before being eligible to receive the MONS)

For the HMHS Llandovery Castle, a Memorial Plaque is in Stadacona, Halifax and the Children's Hospital (now IWK), Halifax and another plaque in the Montreal General hospital. For the Anniversary of WW1 at Citadel Hill, Halifax, 2017, Minnie was featured. The above picture of Minnie is displayed in the VG School of Nurses Archives, Bethune building, Halifax.

NOTE: There were five Canadian hospital ships during WW1 in total made 42 trips across the Atlantic returning 28,238 wounded and sick troops; Araguaya- 20 trips with 15,324, Essiquibo 9 – 5106, Llanddoverly Castle 5 – 3223, Letitia 5 – 2635, Neurialia 3 – 1950 and additional ship with 1 trip carrying 2369.

REBECCA McINTOSH, – Rebecca was born June 12, 1892 in Pleasant Bay, Cape Breton, NS, the daughter of Peter O. and Christine Ann McIntosh. Rebecca was a graduate of the VG Hospital School of Nursing, class 1915. A picture of Rebecca as a student. Rebecca enlisted April 5, 1917 in Halifax, NS, and served as a Nursing Sister during WW1 with Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces. She sailed to England April 27, 1917, on the ship



Letitia. (This ship went aground, because of thick fog, off Nova Scotia's coast, August 1, 1917 and sank in 10 minutes leaving one drowned. Currently a popular diver's site.)



In Liverpool she was assigned to Kitchener Military Hospital, later known as #10 Hospital, receiving, only wounded Indian soldiers from the front. This was a 2000 bed training hospital, especially adapted to treat the Indian soldiers. While nursing here Rebecca was admitted



to hospital and had surgery for an Appendectomy, November 19, 1917. Rebecca was then transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Canadian General Hospital in Kinmel Park, at Rywl, on the northern coast of Wales. She remained for the duration of the war. February, 1919 she became ill with influenza nephritis and after two weeks she died

March 8, 1919, as a result of complications caused from the war conditions. (Influenza killed more troops than war injuries.) Rebecca was buried at Bodelwyddan, St. Margaret's church yard in Flintshire, Wales, #508. Rebecca's friend Nursing Sister Daisey Morrison also contacted influenza but survived. Daisy wrote in her diary: "Mac died at 9:00 PM today. It seems terrible. Friends went out to get flowers". Daisy took a picture of Mac's grave site.



SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH YARD

(The Memorial "To honour 85 Canadian troops, four Americans troops and a Nursing Sister, age 26) This would be Rebecca. Most of the victims died of the flu.



MEMORIAL





(Photo – Paul Henderson)

*Rebecca's medals and Memorial Plaque and Scroll were sent to her brother, Reverend J. P. McIntosh in Brookfield, NS. Her Memorial Cross was sent to her mother, Mrs. Christine 'Christie' McIntosh.*

*Kinmel Park was a 'trench warfare training camp' and later served as a 'transit' camp after the war end. Areas of trenches can still be found in and around the area of Bodelwyddan, Wales.*



*Not well known and in fact reports were locked for many years, concerning a Canadian mutiny at Kinmel Park, March 4 and 5, 1919. Both Rebecca and Daisy, along with other Nursing Sisters were present at the time of the riots. Rebecca was ill in hospital but Daisy cared for some of the victims. At the time there were 15,000 Canadian troops stationed at Kinmel waiting to be repatriated. Conditions were not the best, to say the least; food shortage so troops on half-rations, no coal to heat the huts which were cold at the best of times, 42 assigned to a hut for 30, so the soldiers took turns sleeping on the floor with one blanket each and no pay for a couple of months. When these troops heard that ships were leaving England for Canada with American troops, some of whom never saw action, this was the boiling point, because these Canadians were detained here for four months after wars end. Five soldiers were killed, 41 Court Martialed, 24 were tried and convicted, from 90 days to 10 years penal servitude. Legend has it that on some nights you can hear soldiers marching.*

**DAISY DEAN MORRISON, (H. P. Davies) – Daisy, a VG hospital School of**



*Nursing, graduate of class 1916. She joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force #2 as a Lieutenant Nursing Sister and took her early military training at Aldershot.*

#2CANADIAN  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE





She was posted to Eastbourne, England with the 14<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospital on March 3, 1918. *The hospital, opened April 8, 1915, was known as Summerdown Camp, the largest hospital during WWI, with the main objective to nurse the soldier back to health as fast as*



SUMMERDOWN CAMP- EASTBOURNE, ENGLAND

*possible in order to return to the fighting. It was set up to treat those suffering from 'shell shock' and effects of 'gas attacks' and became most successful in that 80% of the soldiers recovered and returned to the front to once again face the horrors of war. 150,000 troops*

*were treated here. The success was attributed to the use of occupational therapy, keeping the patients busy and occupied. When the soldiers went to town they wore blue uniforms so that the public knew they were from Summerdown and not avoiding joining up. They were known as 'Blue Boys'. The morale here was reported as being 'excellent' despite the heavy medical demand and constant aerial bombardment. The Matron was Nursing Sister McIsaac. She also was the Matron at #9 and #8 Canadian Stationary Hospitals. Other Matrons of this hospital were: Nursing Sisters J. Cameron-Smith and B.J. Willoughby.*

December 21, 1918 Daisy was posted to 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Hospital in Rywl, Wales. Unfortunately, by February 10, 1919, she was admitted to this hospital with the dreaded influenza, after taking care of her friend, Rebecca McIntosh, who died. Fortunately Daisy survived. Daisy's next posting, #13<sup>th</sup> Canadian General Military Hospital in Hastings, England, on June 16, 1919. Matrons here were: Nursing Sisters A.C. Strong and J. Cameron-Smith



#13 CANDIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL



She returned to Canada July 17, 1919 on the ship SS Carmania.

Daisy then lived in Vancouver for a short time. When she returned to Halifax she worked at the VG hospital. She married Henry Percy Davies, a private who developed Meningitis during the war. He was nursed back to health in the emergency hospital set up specifically to treat such cases, in Halifax, on Victoria Rd. (Evageline MacDonald was one of his nurses) In 1919, Daisy and he moved to Montreal. While living in Montreal, Daisy worked as an operating room nurse and a special duty nurse until her retirement in 1949. Daisy died August, 1965.

In the large picture, the person standing in the middle is Daisy. The



other picture is



Daisy in her uniform when she enlisted. (Pictures submitted by granddaughter, Barbara Savage)

### **MARGARET CHRISTINE MacLEOD –**

Margaret was born January 2, 1887 in Donkin, Cape Breton. She enlisted as a Nursing Sister at Quebec in 1914 with #2 Canadian General Hospital Unit. She served in England and France. Margaret died of Tb complications which she contacted while serving in Europe, December 20, 1919. Her body returned to Canada and she is buried in St. Luke's cemetery, Donkin, Cape Breton. Margaret had married Reverend E. S. Fraser..



#2 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL, LeHAVRE, FRANCE



#2 Canadian General Hospital at LeTreport, France, 1916. The Commanding Officers there were: J. W. Bridges, K. Cameron and G.S. Renne. The Matrons who served there were Nursing Sisters: E.C. Rayside, H.E. Dulmage, M.M. Goodeve and F. Wilson.

(Picture – Library A Canadian photo MIKAN 3603392)

## THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER

EVAGELINE McDONALD, “Eva” (E. Haliburton) – She was the daughter of Hugh and Mary (Cameron) and was born in Iron Ore, Pictou County. Eva was a member of class 1914 at the VG School of Nursing. After a short time as staff nurse at the VG she left to work at the Emergency Hospital on Victoria Road, Halifax, which had been opened for service men suffering from an epidemic of cerebrospinal meningitis. She joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps during WW1 and worked in Halifax and Aldershot. Evageline took courses and worked at the Wesson Maternity Hospital, Springhill, Massachusetts and



was granted a Certificate in 1913. She married Alfred F. Haliburton and they had three sons, all of whom served during WW2. Her son, Flight Lieutenant Bill (RCAF) was lost in the bombing of German shipping over the North Sea. Her husband predeceased her. She was the first Vice President of the VG Nurses Alumni Association and a charter member of the Association. Eva was granted a Honourary Life member of the VG Nurses Alumni in 1961. She also worked as Director of the Nurses Official Directory (Registry), Halifax for 25 years. Her memberships included: RN Association of NS; Red Cross Society; member of the Silver Cross Women of Canada and the NS Association of Canadian Nursing Sisters, Halifax Unit. January 14 1918 she was granted a Life Membership in the Canadian Red Cross Society. Eva was given a Honourary Membership Certificate of the RNANS by the President, Mrs. Hope Mack in 1963. Eva died May 16, 1966, in Camp Hill hospital after a three month illness at the age of 77.



SILVER CROSS

## HIGH LIGHTING VG NURSES WHO SERVED in WW1 & WHO RECEIVED MEDALS

MARGARET ELIZABETH MacKENZIE,— Margaret was born May 24, 1883, in Middle



River, Cape Breton, the daughter of Christopher and Annie (MacDonald) Mackenzie, Yankee line. Margaret a graduate of the VG hospital, class 1908. After graduating from the VG she was Night Supervisor of Nurses at the VG Hospital for three years, starting June, 1908 and resigned June, 1910. Following this she was the Superintendent of Nurses at All Saints Hospital, Springhill, until 1915 when she became Nursing Sister in the Canadian Army Medical Corps WW1, with the #7

Dalhousie Medical Unit.



Margaret served for one year on the Island of Lemnos in the Mediterranean, where the sick and wounded from Gallipoli were transferred. She was among the 70 Canadians who served in Lemnos. Gallipoli was not a Canadian battle area but over a thousand in a Newfoundland Regiment fought there. (At the time Newfoundland was not part of Canada, only joined in 1949.) Most of the troops

fighting were from Australia and New Zealand and the nurses were called Anzac Nursing Sisters, for Australia. The doctors and nurses were confronted daily with poor sanitation conditions, illness and injuries as well as the wounded. The tremendous heat, poor diet and scarce water caused illness and death of the soldiers and the medical staff. More often than not the nurses had to look after the ill and wounded on



FILTERING FOR WATER

the ground and fighting the elements, heat and then the freezing cold.



Flies just about drove everyone crazy and it took two nurses to change dressings, one for the dressing and one to move the flies away.

Nursing Sister MacKenzie survived all this and was evacuated along with the rest of the troops, January, 1916.



*The Gallipoli campaign was a complete failure and not recognized nor written about as the other fronts like Somme, Vimy etc. but in September of 1915- 16, were troops dying by the thousands in the trenches of Gallipoli, a brutal battle. There is a Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee formed by an Australian, Jim Claven, 2011, through the efforts of a Canadian diplomat, Mr. Peck, a memorial to the two nurses and troops who died or were killed in this battle has been erected at Lemnos.*

*Matron Jessie Jaggard, born in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, the daughter of John L. and Elizabeth W. (Brown) Jaggard, died September 25, 1915 at age 44 of dysentery. She was serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Canadian Hospital Unit. (Another Canadian Nursing Sister died while serving in Lemnos, Nursing Sister Mary Frances Munro, of Ontario, a few days before Jaggard of dysentery.) A well-known Haligonian doctor served in Gallipoli and received the Military Cross for that service, Dr B. Atlee. After the war he was known as the 'Father of Modern Obstetrics'.*

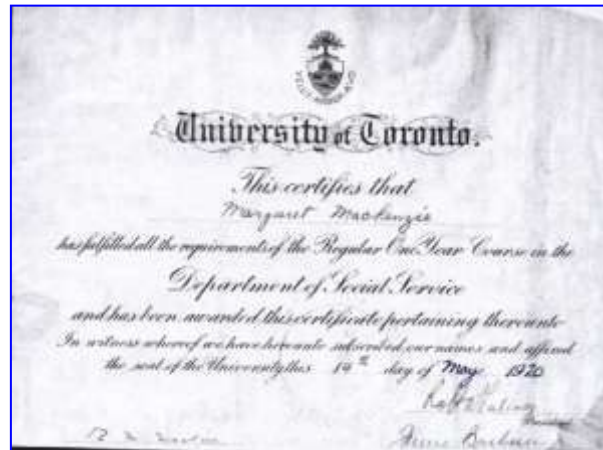


For two and a half years, Margaret served in France and then until 1919 in England. In 1915 she was awarded the Mon's Star, the King George V Jubilee Medal, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal with Bars . The medals in the picture are: (left to right) 1914 Mon's Star; British War Medal; Allied Victory Medal with Bars. (These three medals had a nickname; Pip, Squeak and Wilfred. King George V sanctioned a Bar to be added to those who

*served under fire in France or Belgium)*

On return from Europe, Margaret spent a year at the University of Toronto, School of Medical Social Services. In 1920 she was appointed the first Director of Public Health Services for the Province of NS from which she retired in 1954.

September 9, 1954 she was awarded the Canadian Public Health Association membership Emerita for outstanding service in the field of public health.



She was awarded Honourary Membership in the Atlantic Branch of the Canadian Public Health Association (1912) and the Canadian Nurses Association. Margaret was a Honourary Life Member of the VG School of Nurses Alumni and a Honourary Member of the Overseas Nurses Association. She was President of the Registered Nurses Association of NS (RNANS) 1930 – 1932 and as well a Honourary Life Member of RNANS. She was President when the name changed from Graduate Nurses Association to RNANS, in 1941. Margaret died December 12, 1969, at home in Halifax, at the age of 87. She was cremated and buried in Middle River cemetery. In 2009 the College of Registered Nurses of NS



awarded her with the Centennial Award of Distinction for her contribution to nursing. Margaret's Head Stone in Middle River cemetery, Cape Breton.



Margaret's uniform with her medals, on a mannequin, stored in the VG Alumni Archives, Bethune building, VG Site, Halifax, NS.

ELIZABETH CECILIA BRENNAN, Elizabeth hailed from Dartmouth, NS, a graduate from the VG School of Nursing, class of 1899.

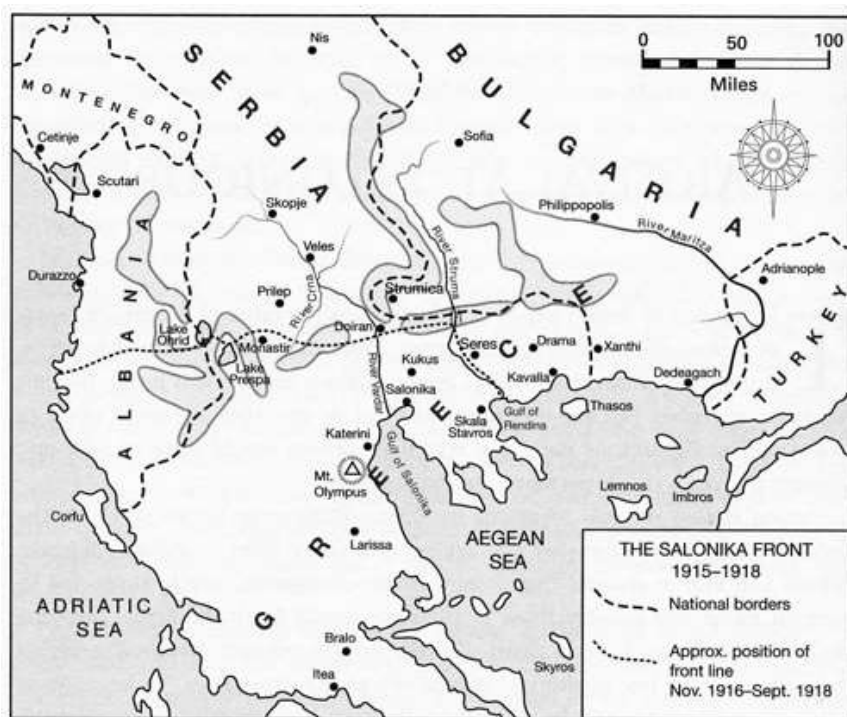


Elizabeth was a Nursing Sister during WW1 and served in England and Salonika.



#### 'A FORGOTTEN FRONT'

*The Salonika Front 1914 – 1918 where British troops were sent to the region to help the Serbians facing the Bulgarian Army has not received recognition as the Western Front like Vimy, but by the end of the campaign over 10,000 died. Many from malaria as the troops would not wear the mosquito netting. The troops called the area "Muckydonia", a play on the region's other name- Macedonia.*



Here because of the extreme heat the troops wore Khaki Drill uniforms instead of the usual Khaki woollen tunics and wore Wolseley Helmets



Salonika, now called Thessaloniki, was then known as 'a

jewel' of the Ottoman Empire, having a port which served the Balkans. Outside the city was a different story, very poor living, no roads to speak of, just trails, rough mountain terrain. This and the muddy conditions, heat, mosquitoes, mountain terrain, made fighting almost impossible. There were many different battles fought in this area over the years. One being the Battle of Kosturino where the troops retreated across the Albanian

mountains. Then the French and British put a barbed wire fortification around Salonika and occupying the plains. The area then was given the name –“Birdcage”. The Bulgarians then established themselves into the mountains and this situation became a 'stalemate' for two years. Unfortunately the troops were given the name “Gardeners of Salonika”, because of the in-action during the 'standoff'.



CASUALTY CLEARING STATION -SALONIKA



*This stand-off ended in September 1918 with the Battle of Doiran as British, Greek and French managed the impossible task of driving the Bulgarians out of their mountain top position. It was a 'slaughtered' front assault as the first two battalions were annihilated but the Welsh Brigade made the successful assault, in some cases 'hand to hand' fighting while advancing up a hillside.*

*Troops lined up on a raft to be taken to a hospital ship. Nurses were posted on the hospital ships or were stationed at Clearing Stations to administer aid as required, Elizabeth served in both situations. Nurses also died from malaria as well as the troops.*



This picture was taken in 1915, showing Major Dr. E.V. Hogan in the middle and to the right, Nursing Sister Elizabeth Brennan.

After returning to Canada from Europe Elizabeth worked at Cogswell Street military hospital, Halifax, and became the Matron. She was one of the first eleven nurses directly involved in the formation of the Graduate Nurses

Association of NS (GNANS) in 1909 and was President 1920. She first married Dr. Joseph J. Doyle, who accidentally drowned in 1911 leaving her with two sons, 3 and one year old.

In 1920 it was announced in the Canadian Nurse that she married Dr. E.V. Hogan, who replaced Col. Stewart as Commanding Officer of the #7 Dalhousie Hospital Unit, when Stewart's position was changed. Both Colonel Stewart and Colonel Hogan were awarded the "Commander of the Order of the British Empire" (CBE). Dr. Hogan was also a surgeon in Halifax and Long Island, NY.



Dr. H. V. HOGAN



Elizabeth had a growing interest in the subject of public health and child welfare work on her return to Canada. Elizabeth died September 10, 1952 at age 78. In 2009 she was awarded for her nursing work by the College of Registered Nurses NS with the Centennial Award of Distinction.



JANET CALDER, – Janet hailed from Springhill, NS, the daughter of Frank and Christy (MacLean) Calder. Janet lived for a while in Chicago, IL., after graduating from the VG School of Nursing program, class 1909. She died October 27, 1979 at the age of 96, at the Glen Haven Manor, New Glasgow. She was predeceased by her husband, J.H. Campbell. Janet was a Lieutenant Nursing Sister in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. She served in France & England with the #7 Dalhousie Medical Stationary Unit. This unit treated 60,000 troops in total.



She was decorated with the Royal Red Cross Medal, 2nd Class and Medal of the Queen of Belgium and she was 'mentioned in

Dispatches' for her 'outstanding and courageous' actions during the fighting in Etaples, France, while administering care to the injured troops during and after German air raids. During the raids many troops were killed and wounded along with three Nursing Sisters who were killed.

On her return to Canada she worked as Supervisor of Nurses in New York, Michigan, and Sydney, NS.



RRC 2<sup>ND</sup>. CLASS BELGIUM MEDAL

LAURA MAY HUBLEY, RRC– a native of Seabright, NS and a daughter of Robert and Jennie Hubley, born 2 June 1875. After graduating from the VG Hospital School of Nursing, class 1898, she did Private Duty nursing until 1912. She joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps and in 1914 was made a permanent Nursing Sister during WW1. She soon became a Matron of the #7 Dalhousie Medical Stationary Unit and served in England and France.



Most of the nurses in this unit were graduates from the VG hospital School of Nursing, Halifax and St. Joseph's hospital, Cape Breton, because these hospital trained the nurses to deal with severe injuries and disease. The Unit was first established for a stint at Shorncliffe Military hospital in England.

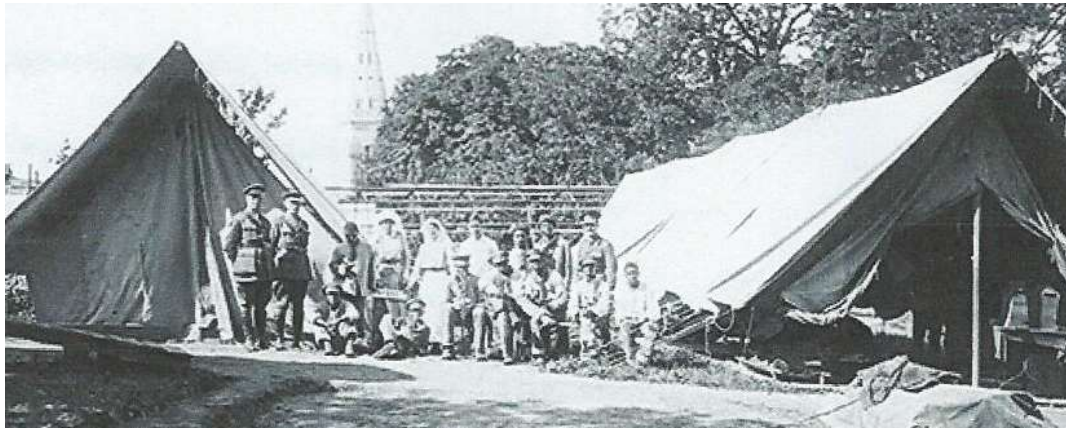


SHORNCLIFFE MILITARY HOSPITAL



While the # 7 Stationary Unit was in France, 'home' was a tent to the nurses which often became rain soaked and muddy.

Here are nurses and Army Guards with German prisoners of war. The nurses gave care to all patients under the direction of Matron Hubley and the Commanding Officer Colonel Dr, John Stewart. After Colonel Stewart was reassigned, the #7 Unit was under the leadership of Colonel Dr. H. V. Hogan.



A TYPICAL TENTED HOSPITAL

The # 7 Stationary Unit was sent to LeHavre, near Harfleur, France. It was a 'tent hospital' near the fighting and conditions were less than 'good' with several near-misses from German bombings, weather a real problem with lots of rain, cold, snow and mud everywhere, including their sleeping quarters.

Arques, only 30 miles from the front trenches was the Unit's next assignment. "The wounded never ended coming, like a flooded river. They arrived in all means of travel, by horse drawn wagons, motor ambulance or barges. The nurses nearly worked around the clock in a most unfavourable condition, in a unit staffed and equipped for 400 and instead there would be at least 800 at all times.





The stress level was so high, impossible to relate” stated Matron Hubley. Matron Hubley tried to relieve the stress by planning special events but this was not too successful as everyone was so over-worked and tired.

MATRON HUBLEY STANDING THIRD FROM LEFT

The bombing became worse and so the Unit was moved again, this time to Etaples

Etaples was no better as the bombing continued day and night. At one bombing 2000 troops were wounded including Colonel Dr. E. V. Hogan and six Nursing Sisters killed. 1000 were admitted and in a 24 hour period and 104 operations were performed.



NURSING SISTERS MARCHING TO CEMETERY TO BURY FELLOW NURSES

(46 Nursing Sisters lost their lives during WW1, either were killed or died from disease)

While in Etaples, Matron Hubley did manage to organize one small event to hopefully relieve a bit of the stress that everyone was suffering from, it was a visit by Canadian Air Ace, Billy Bishop who put on an air show. The next day there was a visit from King George V and the Prince of Wales, to everyone's delight.



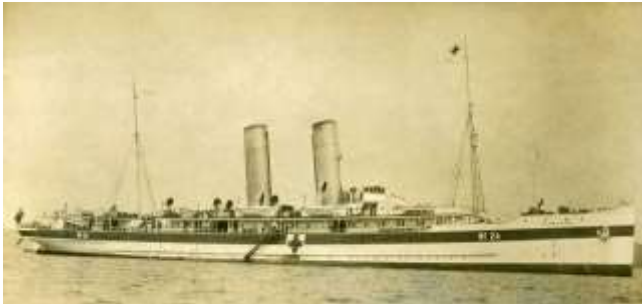
(Other Canadian Medical Units served at Etaples, such as #1, #2 and #5)

The #7 Unit was again moved, this time to Rouen, a large supply depot and base hospital situated on the Seine River. The following pictures are of the Rouen Military Hospital.





The patients within this hospital unit were not all of the wounded at the battlefield, as many were treated for sexually transmitted diseases. These patients were labelled 'Client of Rouen', a slang for venereal cases. A brothel was established at Rouen and within the first year of opening 171,000 men visited.



The picture is St. Andrew Hospital ship and was the first to cross the English Channel with the wounded from Rouen.

The next assignment for #7 Unit was Camiers, France, a 1000 bed hospital, most of the wounded here were Canadians. The last move to England when the Unit was returned to Canada on the ship HMS Belgie, April 17, 1919. They disembarked at Pier 21, Halifax.







Laura was awarded the Royal Red Cross 1st. Class Medal. She represented the Canadian Nursing Sisters at the ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England in 1917 when Her Royal Highness Princess Louise placed the American flag on the alter, at the time that the USA entered the war in 1917.



RRC 1 ST. CLASS

When Laura returned to Canada she joined the staff of Cogswell Street Military



Hospital, Halifax and later transferred to London, ON. She was Matron at this hospital, until she retired in 1938.



Laura was a member of the committee for the planning of the National Memorial to the Canadian Nursing Sisters who lost

their lives in WW1 (1926). She was a former Regent and Life member of the Princess Louise Chapter of the IODE. Laura was a President (1923-1926) and Honourary Life Member of the Graduate Nurses Association of NS (GNANS) when revisions were made to the Act to change the name of the organization from Graduate to Registered Nurses Association of NS. In her first year as President there was much activity regarding the curriculum of training schools for nurses: an Education committee; Standards of Training Schools committee was established. Also Superintendents were invited to participate in raising the standards of nursing education. The report was presented to the Executive in 1925. Laura was President when the first nursing RN exams were written in NS in 1925. Laura retired in 1938 at age 62. She was also a charter member and Life Member of the VG Nurses Alumni. She died in April 15, 1964, at age 88, 10 months, 28 days, following a short illness with Myocardial Failure. Interment, Camp Hill Cemetery. She had lived at 6515 Geldert Street, Halifax. In 2009 the College of Registered Nurses of NS awarded Laura with the Centennial Award of Distinction for her contribution to nursing. (Informant

– 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Mr. D. W. Myers per L.F. Sentner, 1628 Cambridge St)  
This picture was taken in 1958 in a group of charter Alumni members.

For the Anniversary of the WW1, Laura was featured in a display at Citadel Hill, Halifax, 2017.



ANNA T. YOUNG – Anna was born in Dartmouth, the daughter of Joseph and Mrs. Young. She was educated at Sacred Heart Convent, Halifax, NS, before graduating from the VG School of Nursing, class of 1916. During WW1 she served in France with the St. Francis Xavier Nursing Unit #9 Stationary Unit. This Unit first settled on Bramshott Common, Hampshire, England. The hospital was established by the Canadian Army and functioned in WW1 and WW2.



Many soldiers and medical personal died at Bramshott of influenza. The picture below are Nursing Sisters putting crosses for those who died at Bramshott.



Also a picture of # 9 Stationary Unit's cap badge and the CAMC Nursing Sister cap badge

The next posting for #9 Stationary Unit was to Saint Omar, France



SAINT OMAR HOSPITAL WWI



REGIMENT AID-POST

After Saint Omar the Unit was posted to Etaples and then to Caraius for over a year, leaving in May, 1919. The Commanding Officers of this medical unit were: Lt. Colonel R.C.

McLeod and R. St. J. MacDonald. The Matron was Nursing Sister S.C. McIsaac.



After the war Anna was on staff of the Camp Hill hospital and later went to New York to work in Private Duty nursing. She returned to Canada and lived with her brother in Yarmouth. He was Monsignor Young in Yarmouth. Anna moved to Halifax in 1952. She died in 1961 in Camp Hill hospital. A Requiem Mass was held for her at St. Thomas Aquinas church, Halifax. Anna received the D.S.C. R. (Distinguished Service Cross Retired) for her services as a Nursing Sister during her time in France.

DSC MEDAL

### *Saint Francis Xavier University and the GREAT WAR*

*Nova Scotia raised three complete medical units: No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station and two Stationary hospitals; # 7 and #9- #7 was the Dalhousie and #9 SFX. It was a bit more difficult for SFX to organize as the college did not have a medical school but in the spring of 1916 authority was granted to form. Graduation was early that year so that degrees were granted before proceeding overseas. #9 was mobilized in Halifax with 14 officers, 26 nursing sisters and 118 men and about 60 of the total were SFX graduates. The unit landed in northern France in December at St. Omer where it opened a 400 bed hospital. Receiving 100 wounded from the front. By February the unit was expanded to 900 beds as the casualties kept pouring in. The raids were increasing and the unit had to withdraw rearward to Etaples (British called it 'eat apples'). So another tented hospital was set up with 600 beds. On May 18 there was a two hour raid causing heavy casualties several killed and many wounded and hospital equipment destroyed. After the Armistice #9 took over a special hospital from the Dalhousie #7 unit for 900 venereal disease patients in February which soon increased to 1100 –probably an uncomfortable assignment for a*

*hospital associated with a Catholic college. Finally #9 was ordered to return home and the unit sailed on the Olympic and arrived in Halifax July 8, 1918.*

*To left is Rev. Dr. Hugh P. MacPherson, president of St. F.X. who offered the medical unit to the government.*

*In the middle is the commanding officer to #9 unit- Lieut.-Colonel Roderick McLeod. A bizarre incident took his life - one morning while shaving, he contracted anthrax poisoning from infected hairs of his shaving brush which entered his body through a small razor cut on his face and he died within 24 hours.*



**IRENE THOMPSON** — Irene was the daughter of James and Linda R. Thompson, a native of Pictou County. Before she entered nursing she taught school. Irene as a student nurse at the VG School of Nursing and Irene as a graduate nurse; class of 1915.



During WW1 she served in the Canadian Medical Corps with Dalhousie #7 Stationary Units in England and France.



One assignment was at Arques near St. Omer, France, under the command of -Colonel Dr. John Stewart. He was a native of Black River, Cape Breton. Stewart was responsible for the organization of #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit. The Matron was Nursing Sister Laura Hubley.





The unit consisted of Nova Scotians; they trained in Halifax and sailed from Saint John, Dec. 31, 1915, after travelling there by rail on the troopship Metagama. On June 18, the Dalhousie Unit arrived in LeHavre, France. The unit took over a 400 bed tented hospital at Harfleur. Most of the wounded were Germans while the subsidiary hospital served the British and Canadians.



Following are excerpts from Irene's wartime diary and personal recollections as recorded in her son's book "Ashore & Afloat", by Stanley T. Spicer, 1993.

*While we were at Harfleur, my buddy and I – we always traveled in twos – did a spell of duty in the Somme area during the awful carnage there. We served in an Australian Casualty Clearing Station. (Casualty Clearing Station, at the front line, the first units to administer any type of aid or surgery to the wounded who were to be moved any further back from the lines) This being the case, Irene would have been involved in seeing the most disturbing sights.*

December of 1916 the hospital at LeHavre was turned over to the Royal Corps and the Dalhousie Unit was joined together under canvas at Harfleur. Conditions became worse with snow, heavy frost and indescribable deep, tenacious and slippery mud.

*"At Harfleur many of our old friends found us on their up or down the line – so many went up who never came down. That was Vimy winter and we lost brothers and sweethearts and friends. Smoky tents, lantern light, mud and heartbreaks were our lot there".* Irene and the other Nursing Sisters in the Unit, had experience taking care of the numerous wounded and dying from the Battle of Vimy Ridge. She stated, this caused her many sleepless nights.

After a stint at LeHavre and surrounding areas, the unit was dispatched to take over a hospital at Arques near the city of St. Omar, France. The Unit was only 30 miles from the fighting front lines and the rumble of artillery was clearly heard and the sky was lit up like 'fireworks' all the time. This time the hospital occupied an old chateau that was once used by the Duke of Wellington after the Battle of Waterloo. Tents were still used as additional space was required for the wounded.

Horrendous fighting occurred around Arques with many wounded, including Nursing Sisters. The first patients received were Germans prisoners, thirteen officers and 379 soldiers.

*"I was given the officers' section. Most spoke English. Busy all day dressing wounds. My German Colonel is rather sulky. He was a rather important personage and several very important papers from the Kaiser himself were found on him". Later the wounded came by various ambulance means – horse drawn, motor or pushed by soldiers, hospital trains and barges down the canal.*

July 3, 1917 while celebrating Colonel Stewart's 69th birthday, the Major, Matron Hubley and myself were cutting the cake, someone rushed into the tent and shouted that the King was at the gate. The Matron stuttered and said; "Put your cuffs on Sister" and out we went. Sure enough, King George V, the Prince of Wales and Sir William Robertson visited the unit. The King was actually enroute to general headquarters when he noticed the NS flag and ordered the group to stop as he recalled the hospitality that he received when he was stationed in Halifax. After the party and when leaving the unit's one piper in full dress played 'Will Ye No Come Back Again'. All summer the Dalhousie unit was subjected to repeated attacks from the air.

*"We were raided again last night. The shrapnel was falling on the roof in showers and a German plane was in sight for a few minutes in the searchlight. The Hun came over about 8:30 pm and stayed until midnight. A very critical operation on at the time. Two doctors operating while the bombs were dropping all around us. Four Sisters killed at the Scottish hospital. One bomb dropped just outside our ward. The men in my ward very calm".*

*We received word of the Halifax Explosion on December 8, 1917 and everyone full of anxiety even more on top of what we were dealing with here. March Colonel Stewart was appointed Surgical Consultant to hospitals in England and he was replaced by Major E. V. Hogan who soon was promoted to Colonel.*

*As spring approached conditions did not improve, we were equipped for 400 beds but often twice that number of badly wounded men had to be treated. The German army were moving closer and closer and we were shelled constantly as well as dealing with the bombing raids at night. Schools were used as shelters for the refugees who kept coming in droves, many suffered from shell-shock. Convoys and convoys of wounded kept coming and we operated all night. Vehicles filled with Nursing Sisters who were 'shelled out' from working in the Casualty Clearing Stations went through on their way down the line.*

The area had become untenable for the hospitals and the Dalhousie unit was moved to Etaples as the Germans were coming closer. On May 18, the unit was heavily bombed by 60 planes. The casualties among officers, Nursing Sisters and patients were over 1000.



*"We were bombed steadily from 10 pm to 1 am. Many Sisters killed and wounded, including Major Hogan, the Commanding Officer. All Sisters not on duty were sent to sleep in the woods about three miles from here". The picture shows Nursing Sisters putting up crosses for their comrades who were killed.*

Etaples had to be abandoned and the Dalhousie unit was sent to Rouen, the largest base hospital in France. Next the Unit dispatched to Camiers and took over a 1000 bed hospital. The casualties here were all Canadians.

February 11, 1919 the unit was ordered to England.

Shorncliffe Military hospital was located in England and the nurse to the right in the picture, is Irene.



Shorncliffe Military Hospital, Nursing Sister Irene Thompson at right.

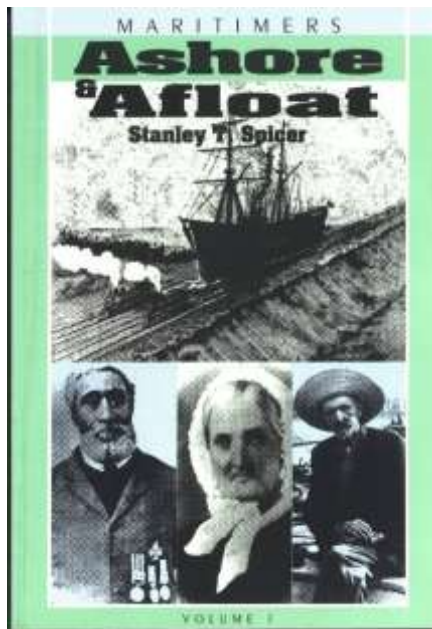
Irene's brother was killed at Vimy Ridge and she then wrote a poem in his honour.

This is from her Diary:

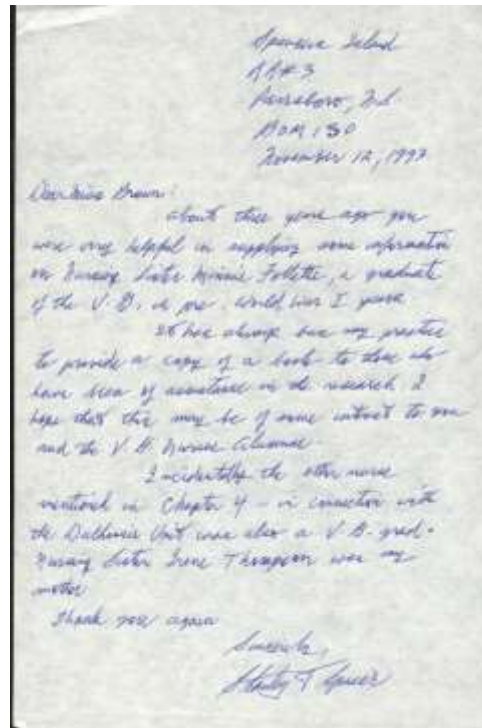
*"Soldiers running up a slope,  
Hearts all gay and full of hope  
One that stood before his men  
Waved them on and on again  
One that fought so well his fight-  
These are what we have tonight.  
Flowers growing by a grave  
And a cross where grasses wave  
One that walks with God in white  
These are what we have tonight.*



When Irene returned to Canada she worked at Camp Hill hospital in Halifax and then the NS Sanatorium in Kentville. She married a Dentist, Dr. S.W. Spicer from Spencer's Island in 1923 and they lived in Canning and Kentville. He died in 1956 and then Irene moved to Spencer's Island. Irene was a long-time member of the Royal



Canadian Legion; the VG School of Nursing Alumni and the Halifax Unit of the Canadian Nursing Sisters Association. Irene died April 24, 1975 and her



interment was in the Advocate cemetery.

Irene's son Stanley, while writing a book, did research in the VG Nurses Archives, Bethune building, VG Site. Elizabeth Brown, VG class 1950 and VG Archivist, helped him with the research, hence this enclosed letter.

**CATHERINE SMITH** – Following graduation from the VG School



of Nursing in class 1914, Catherine worked as a staff nurse at Brooklands hospital in Sydney, NS. She was overseas with the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Unit of Canadian Medical Corps during WW1. For a time she was stationed at Arques, near St. Omer, France.



On return to Canada she lived in Vancouver, BC, and did Private Duty there.



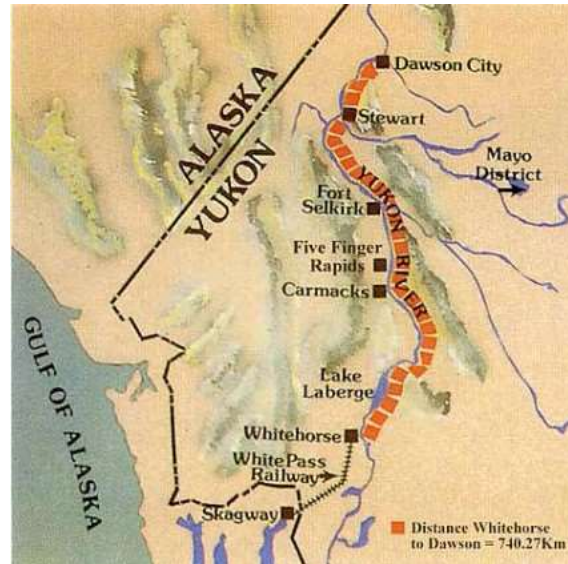
In 1924 she was Superintendent of Mayo Landing hospital in the Yukon. The hospital was built in 1903 by the Territorial Government and governed by a local health board. It was a 25 bed hospital. Catherine was responsible for every aspect of managing this hospital as well as administering patient care. While in



Corporal (later Inspector)  
William John Dempster

Mayo, she married John Dempster who was a famous RCMP officer in the area. Mayo Landing, now known only as Mayo, was named after Alfred Henry Mayo, a captain of a local river boat.

MAP



SHOWING MAYO –TOP RIGHT, located on the north bank of the Stewart River.

*John Dempster –born in Wales, 1876. He found his way to the Yukon and became a member of RNWMP in 1897. He served thirty seven years in the Yukon running a dog-sled from Dawson City to Fort McPherson, NT. His famous trek was in February 27, 1911 when as a Cpl. he and a few others set off to find ‘THE LOST PATROL’ of*



WJD DEMPSTER CIRCA 1934

*the Fitzgerald’s party. They had to cover about 800 kilometers in freezing temperatures and unsafe conditions but they discovered the patrol in a short time. Unfortunately all had perished with one committed suicide, the rifle still in his hand. Dempster became an Inspector of the RCMP.*

The highway that cuts through the Wright Pass in the Yukon is named after him – THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY.

Drawing of RCMP OFFICER’S RESIDENCE by Jim Robb- The house was built in 1922 and became known



as Sgt. Dumpster's house as he commanded the Mayo detachment from 1922 to 1932.

**SARAH ANN ARCHARD- RN, RRC.** – Sarah was born February 5, 1882 and died December, 1964 at home in Halifax. Sarah was the eldest daughter of Alfred and Margaret Archard.



Sarah's class at the VG hospital, was the first to receive the three year training which included for the first time a maternity course of three months at the Martha Wesson Maternity hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts.

After graduating in 1914 she worked as Night Supervisor at the VG hospital for a year, here with her night staff:

Jessie B. MacDonald, Florence McQueen, Irene Thompson, Maude Taylor. Mr. Murie, Sarah Archard-RN, Rebecca McIntosh, Beatrice Smiley, ?

Sarah was Night Supervisor December 6, 1917, during the Halifax Explosion and worked a double shift in order to attend to all the injured and back on duty for the night shift.



Sarah was a Nursing Sister with the #7 Stationary Hospital Dalhousie Unit, and she nursed in England, France and Canada during WW1. In 1919 she was awarded the Royal Red Cross Second class for services overseas, she was 'mentioned in Dispatches' and awarded the Queen of Belgium Medal. ("under pressures of our professional duties while putting up with totally unacceptable conditions in mud, gore and aerial bombings, was legendary).





Sarah was a member of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, her medal to the left.



Sarah, is in both pictures above and she is the person on the right. The picture was taken in a hospital ward in England.

After discharge, 1919, she joined the staff of Camp Hill hospital in the Department of Soldiers Civil Reestablishment and became the Superintendent of Nurses. She was an active member of the Nursing Sisters Association of Canada: NS Historical Society; the Halifax Fortnightly Club; St. Andrews's United Church and the United Church Women. She was President of the Overseas Nurses Club. In 1922 she was Supervisor of the Private Pavilion of the VG for 22 years. She retired from here due to illness in 1944.

In 1935 Sarah was awarded the George V Jubilee Medal. She served on the Executive of the Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia and was President of the Halifax chapter. She was a charter member of the VG Nurses Alumni. A memorial fund was established in her name in 1965, known as the Sarah Memorial Fund. This fund was to assist VG graduates who found themselves in financial need. The fund was active from 1965 to 2006. At this time the need for financial assistance to nurses seemed to diminish so the funds left were deposited into the "general " funds of the Alumni and a computer was purchased for the VG Nurses Archives. In 2007 a plaque was hung in the Archives to honour the memory of Sarah Archard and all her many accomplishments. Inscribed on the plaque: "esteemed by all who ever knew the efficiency and gentleness of her administrations". In 2009, she was awarded, posthumously the CRNNS (College Registered Nurses NS) the Centennial Award of Distinction for her past involvement in nursing



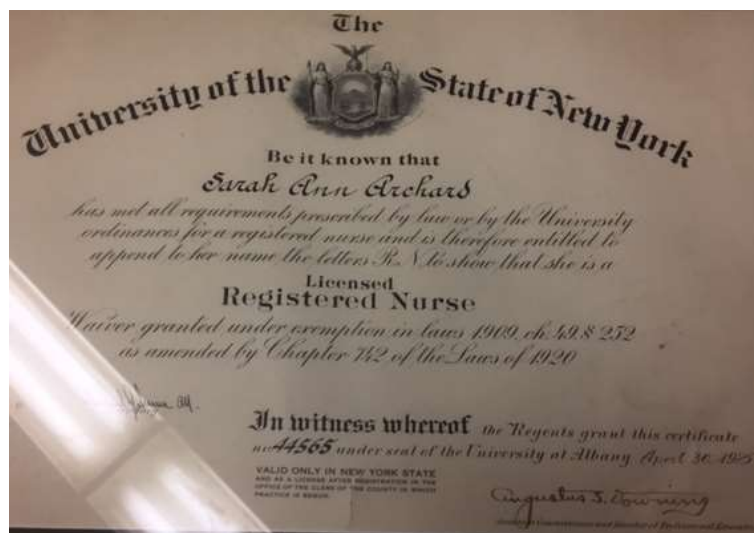
This picture was taken in 1958 in a group of Alumni charter members



From Sarah's collection when serving overseas WW1, this was in Bovril in a make-do hospital. Sarah, middle and left.



Certificate from the 'State of New York' for License as a Registered Nurse for Sarah Ann Archard, 1909. Sarah had to write her exams in New York as in Canada there was no means of obtaining the designation RN at the time. Not until 1925 in Canada.





**JOSEPHINE LANDRY** – Josephine came from Eel Brook, NS. Josephine graduated from the VG School of Nursing in 1909.



Shown in the picture on the right, is the newest OR table which was bought in 1904. In 1907 Josephine became the Operating Room Supervisor. She was responsible for installing the first steam autoclave in the Maritimes, in the OR at the VG hospital. This was the only sterilizer in the whole building so therefore the OR Head Nurse was responsible for all the sterile items



used in the hospital which she had to do in her 'spare time'. Steam was generated by lighting a gas-jet under the water- drum under the sphere. This is the round object in the right side of the picture. The dark part of the picture to the left is the gallery where the medical students could observe surgery. She also was acting Superintendent of Nurses until 1908. She married J.A. Hanway, Barrister, and they lived in Amherst, NS until 1938. She was active in Red Cross work at the local, provincial and national levels from the outbreak of WW1. She was President of the Amherst Red Cross Branch for many years promoting many welfare measures such as Public Health Clinics, Community Nursing Services, VON, and teaching Home Nursing classes during WW1 which were continued as Red Cross Home Nursing courses in Canada after WW1.



She was presented with the OBE for her organization and work with the Red Cross during WW1 and WW2. She reorganized the TB Society in Cumberland County, which resulted in the building of a sixteen bed TB Unit to Highland View Hospital in Amherst. She served 15 years as a member of the Board of Management of Highland View Hospital and as President of the Ladies Aid, she organized braches in the County. She was also active in the Children's Aid Society and the Catholic Women's League since 1928 as local and diocesan president; she also served on National committees of the latter organization.

OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire)

At the outbreak of WW2 she moved to Halifax where she was appointed Provincial Chairman of the Red Cross Women's War Work Committee and she assisted in reorganizing the society in the province. She was in charge of the Red Cross Emergency Hospital Units and supplies during the war and at the close of the war she organized and

chaired the committee promoting 13 Red Cross Outpost hospitals in Nova Scotia. She was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Maritime School of Social Work and the Ladies Auxiliary of the School for the Deaf. She was awarded the George V Jubilee Medal in 1935 and the George VI Coronation Medal in 1937 for work in Amherst; she was made a Member of the “Order of the British Empire” (MBE) in 1943. She had four children. Their two sons served in WW2. The elder son, Squadron Leader, J.A. Hanway AFG made the supreme sacrifice. She died Jan.22, 1968 at the age of 84, in Montreal. Her husband predeceased her. She was Honourary Life Member of the VG Nurses Alumni.

MAUDE LILIA TAYLOR – Lilia was born in Upper Cunard. NS and later lived in Saint John, NB, Truro and then Halifax. Lilia graduated from the VG School of Nursing, class 1915.



She enlisted, right after graduating, as a Nursing Sister with the #7 Dalhousie Military Stationary Unit in WW1 and served overseas in France. For one assignment she served at Arques, near St. Omer, France.



Lilia received the Distinguish Service Cross for her efforts during the war while serving in France.



This is the railway station in Arques where wounded troops would arrive to be transferred to the #7 Dalhousie Medical Stationary hospital.

This picture shows ambulances arriving at #7 Dalhousie Stationary Hospital.



On return to Canada in 1916 she worked at the Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax. Then moved to be Superintendent of the Infant's Home on Tower Road, in Halifax. Lilia was in charge here during the Halifax Explosion of December 6, 1917 and received many injured and orphaned children. The Infant's Home was 'a beacon of hope' for unwed mothers and orphaned children for many years. (The building eventually was owned by Saint Mary's University and demolished, replaced with a plaque indicating its importance to Halifax' history)



Lilia resigned and was replaced as Superintendent by Sibella Barrington, a 1904 graduate of the Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow, NS. *Sibella's name is recorded with the CNA'S Memorial Book in Ottawa. Her chief contribution to nursing was through the Red Cross organizing 'Out-Post Hospitals' in isolated areas in New Brunswick and started the first 'Port-Nursery' in the world in Saint John, NB.*

**FANNY MYRTLE HOWE** - Fanny was the Granddaughter of Joseph Howe, the renowned Nova Scotian. She was the daughter of Sydenham Howe who was the son of Joseph Howe. She died in Victoria Hall, Halifax, October 27, 1966 at the age of 83. Her only known survivor was a cousin, Mrs. Helen Howe of Calgary, AB who was the daughter of William Howe and he died in Ottawa in the 1880's. Following graduation from the VG School of Nursing in 1916, Fanny served as a Nursing Sister during WW1 and went overseas with the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Services (QAINS). This organization





was founded in 1902 by Queen Alexandra. 10,000 Nursing Sisters of the QAINS served in France, India, East Africa, Italy, Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Salonika and Russia during WW1. Their uniform dress is significant as shown in this picture. The stripes on the sleeve indicates the rank obtained by that nurse and the solid band indicates the Matron.

This is a medal of Fanny's representing the QAINS service.

**FLORENCE 'Flora' FRASER** - Florence graduated in the class of 1908 from the VG hospital School of Nursing. Florence was the third President of the VG School of Nursing Alumni from 1924 to 1926.



She served overseas, with the # 7 Dalhousie Stationary hospital during WW1.

Below, the #7 Dalhousie Military Stationary Unit in France.



Returning to Canada, Florence was Matron of Camp Hill hospital for a time. Following this she worked as a VON nurse in Montreal. Then in Halifax doing Private Duty nursing. Florence participated in the early meetings to the formation of the Graduate Nurses Association of NS (GNANS) and was the organization's first Executive Secretary. She also served as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Florence was the Registrar for twelve years from 1922 to 1934 for the RNANS. The ACT of 1910 amended in 1922, which gave authority to the Association to establish branches and the amendment also provided for the creation of a Registra, and the ability of nurses to append the letters "RN" after their names.



Flora was the first Registra in Canada and issued the first certificate of registration in 1923 to two founding members; Evaline Pemberton was #1 and Catherine Graham was #2. At the time registration was not compulsory. Flora was involved in the committees to raise the 'Standards' of nursing education and the development of a new curriculum for training schools. The first exams were written in 1925 and the name of the organization changed to Registered Nurses Association of NS in 1926. Florence was President of the VG School of Nursing Alumni 1924 to 1926. In 2009 the College of Registered Nurses NS (CRNNS) awarded her with the Centennial Award of Distinction for her contribution to nursing.



This picture was taken in 1958 with a group of VG Alumni charter members. Florence died in 1961 at her home in Bermuda.

JENNIE MABEL 'Jane' HUBLEY - Jane was from Halifax, NS. Following graduation in 1908, Jane went to Bar Harbour where she worked for one year as she was called home due to illness in the family. She later entered the Atlantic City hospital where she was Night Supervisor for one year. Sickness at home once again brought her back to Nova Scotia.



Jane then joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps, nursing at the Cogswell Street Military hospital, Halifax. From here she was sent overseas for 18 months. She served with the #7 Dalhousie Medical Stationary Unit in



England.

On her return from Europe she worked at Camp Hill Hospital. Jane then took a course in Public Health Nursing at Dalhousie University. This was the first class given in Public Health and was the beginning of Public Health work in Halifax, started by the Massachusetts Health Commission. Classes and clinics were held at the Admiralty House for three years – later continued at our present Dalhousie Clinic on University Avenue. Jane stayed with the Public Health Clinic for twenty years. During her last four years at the Clinic she accompanied the fourth year medical students on calls to homes throughout the city. Jane was honoured by Dalhousie by having her name in the year book under Preventive Medicine- making her a member of the staff of the Dalhousie Medical School. Jane was both President and Secretary of the Halifax Branch of the Registered Nurses Association NS. She was also a charter member of the VG School of Nursing Alumni Association and a Honourary Life member. She was also granted life-long membership in the Canadian Nursing Sisters Association for service in World War 1 and her volunteer work during WW2. Jane died July 10, 1970.

**ANNA OLIVE 'Annie' PIERCEY** – Annie was born on Dutch Village Rd. (now Joseph Howe), Halifax County, March 7, 1884, the daughter of Charles Edward and Eleanor Jane (Drysdale) Piercey. She wanted to be a



nurse from an early age since having her appendix removed, was so impressed with the nurses. After graduating from the VG School of Nursing, class of 1915, Annie worked in the

Infectious Disease hospital in Halifax.



Annie joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC) as a Nursing Sister, WW1. May 5, 1917. She was sent overseas where she served in the Duchess of Connaught



General view of H.R.H. Duchess of Connaught Hospital, 1914-18  
(Sgt. J. B. Howe)

Red Cross hospital, in Maidenhead, England. 24,000 troops were cared for in this hospital during WW1. Anna also served in Red Cross hospitals in France.

Until the original building was replaced during the Second World War, this plaque was on the wall

honouring the Canadians' contribution in caring for the sick and wounded troops of WW1.

*(Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia became the Duchess of Connaught when she married Arthur William, Duke of Connaught, 1850 - 1942, he was the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Queen*



*Victoria and was Governor General of Canada. He was the first Royal Family member to have this position, considered to be a*

*great honour. During the war, the Duchess was President of the Red Cross Society.)*





Annie, with a bicycle in France, the usual method of getting around by some of the nurses.

Annie's graduation pin from the VG hospital School of Nursing on the left and her Canadian Medical Corps Bracelet to the right.



Annie resigned her commission on July 7, 1918, four months before WW1 ended. For her war time service she received several medals including one for Honourable Service.

When she returned to Halifax, she worked at the VG Hospital for a time and then in Dr. Ivan Mader's private hospital on Coburg

and Edward Street, Halifax. The building is still at this location, 2917.



Annie was an active member of Bethany Presbyterian United church in Armdale. Also an active member of the VG School of Nursing Alumni. Annie died at the home of her niece, Bessie (Mont) Redmond in Middle Musquodoboit December 31, 1959, at age 75. She is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Fairview.

Annie's

younger brother, Lieut. Col. John George Piercey, sailed overseas in October 1914 with the 1<sup>st</sup>. Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery. He went "over the top" at Vimy Ridge, April 1917. He survived the war but one week after Armistice he died as a result of an ulcerated tooth. He is buried in Auberchicourt British Cemetery, Nord, France. He received the Distinguished Service Cross.

FRANCES RICE – After graduating from VGH School of Nursing in class 1912, Frances



was a Head Nurse at the VG hospital. In 1915 she went overseas with the #7 Dalhousie Stationary hospital during WW1 at Arques near St. Omer, France. Frances was 'mentioned in Dispatches' and she was awarded the Queen of Belgium Medal. After returning from Europe, Frances did Private Duty nursing in Halifax. (Queen of Belgium



Medal was initiated on September 15, 1919 for Belgium and foreigners who had given valuable service to Belgium civilians and soldiers, especially in nursing care, for a period of not less than one year.)

The following three received the Distinguish Service Cross for their services in the Canadian Army Medical Corps during WW1 as Nursing Sisters:

**JESSIE DAVIDSON-** Jessie hailed from Halifax. She graduated from the VGH School of Nursing in class 1910. Jessie replaced E. MacLean as Operating Room Supervisor in September, 1911 at the VG Hospital, Halifax.



Jessie then served with the # 7 Dalhousie Stationary hospital units, overseas, during the WW1, in England & France. She remained with the Canadian Medical

corps. She married Dr. J. Collie in London, England. Jessie died in 1964. She received the Distinguished Service Cross, Retired. She lived in Halifax, NS.



**JOSEPHINE 'JOSIE' CAMERON-** Josie hailed from Bridgewater, NS. After graduating in the class of 1911, she was on staff of the Dominion Iron and Steel company emergency hospital of Sydney, NS. When war was declared she volunteered for service overseas and joined Number 7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit and served in France at Arques, near St. Omer. For her services there she was awarded the Distinguish Service Cross.



On her return to Canada she was on staff of Camp Hill Hospital with the Department of Soldiers Civil Reestablishment, which later became the Department of Veterans affairs. She was Assistant Matron. She retired after 28 years of service at Camp Hill hospital. "Josie" lived in Bridgeville, Pictou Co., NS. She died June 30, 1971.

She was a Honourary Life member of the VG Nurses Alumni.

**LILLIAN M. FITZGERALD** – Lillian graduated from the VGH School of Nursing in class 1914. She joined the #7 Dalhousie Stationary Medical Unit as a Nursing Sister and served overseas, in England and at Arques near St. Omer, France. For her services at Arques she was awarded the Distinguish Service Cross.



On return from the war she lived in Portuguese Cove and in Halifax. She was a member of the Registered Nurses Society of Canada and the



Nursing Sisters Association of Canada. She was on staff of Camp Hill hospital for 30 years. Halifax, NS. Lillian died May 13, 1965, at home, Halifax, NS.



