

remembrance ni



Window bearing the crest of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps in Belfast Cathedral. Below the window is a First World War Roll of Honour of Irish Nurses which was relocated from Dublin in 1922.

WW1 Nurses war memorial was relocated in Belfast from Dublin



In 1922 a request came to Belfast Cathedral from the Garrison Church, Arbour Hill, Dublin, to accept the memorial to the Irish nurses who died in WW1. The Cathedral accepted the request and the nurses' memorial was first placed on the War Memorial wall at the west end (where the main doors are located). It was later relocated below the window bearing the crest of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army

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Nursing Corps which was donated and dedicated in 2009.

The WW1 memorial bears the names of those from Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve and the Territorial Force Nursing Service.



The Garrison Church at Arbour Hill was built in the 1840s and was used by soldiers and prisoners to attend Protestant religious services, although much later, in 1897, a small chapel was built next to the church for the use of Catholics. In 1927 the church was renamed Church of the Sacred Heart, and in 1997, with the closure of Collins Barracks, it became 'Church of the Defence Forces', and is now maintained by the Department of Defence



The memorial “had to be removed from the Church”, at Arbor Hill which was subsequently renamed The Church of the Sacred Heart.

The location in Dublin is significant, as Pearse, Connolly and others who died in the 1916 Easter Rising are buried in the grounds of the former garrison church. At the rear of the Church is also a cemetery with the remains of British military personnel who died in Dublin in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The title “Church of the Defence Forces” was given in 1997 with the closure of Collins Barracks, just across the road.

WW1 Nurses from N Ireland named on Belfast memorial

The seven nurses from Northern Ireland named on the memorial are Sister Mary Agnes Doherty from Magherafelt, Staff Nurse Rachel Ferguson from Moneymore, Staff Nurse Emily Gray from Caledon, Staff Nurse Margaret (Maggie) Hessie Johnston from Upper Ballinderry, Co. Antrim, Sister Rose Anne McGibbon from Lurgan, and Staff Nurse Elizabeth Harvey Watson from Dromore, Co. Down.

+DOHERTY, Mary Agnes

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve . Sister. Royal Red Cross. MiD. Died of illness 05/09/1916. Eldest daughter of Philip and Catherine Doherty. She was born in Magherafelt on 10/09/1887. The 1901 census lists Mary Agnes as age 13 living with the family in Meeting Street, Magherafelt. Philip Doherty was a member of the R.I.C. The 1911 census lists Mary working as a nurse in Mohill, County Leitrim.

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She later became a nurse in Dublin. Mary volunteered for service and was stationed in a general hospital in France where she was mentioned in despatched by Sir John French. Afterwards she received the award of Royal Red Cross. Sister Doherty went on to Salonika where she contracted malaria. She had returned to duty when she was struck down with dysentery to which she succumbed on 05/09/1916 in the 29th General Hospital Salonika. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece.



The funeral of an army nurse in WW1

+FERGUSON, Rachel

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 26/06/1918. Rachel was born on 29/12/1886. She was the daughter of John Stewart Ferguson and Annie Ferguson of Lanebrook House, Ballygoney, Coagh. Rachel was educated at Ballygoney National School and Lady's School, Cookstown. She trained at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast where she qualified as a Staff Nurse. Notified of acceptance for service on 10/09/1915, she joined QAIMNS.



Rachel arrived in Salonica on 06/06/1916 where she was posted to No 28 General Hospital. While in service, she became unwell and was admitted to the Red Cross Convalescent Home on 15/06/1917 before being transferred to a hospital ship on 29/06/1917.

She rejoined No 28 General Hospital on 08/07/1917. She was serving in Italy until May of 1918 when she was given leave for fourteen days. She re-joined No: 62 General Hospital on 25th May 1918 but on 26th June she was admitted there as a patient, suffering from bronco-pneumonia. She was by now dangerously ill and died later that day. Bordighera Cemetery, Italy.

+GRAY, Emily

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 16/01/1919. Age 35, Daughter of Mary Gray, of Sherries Hill, Caledon, Co. Tyrone. Family headstone Minterburn Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Co. Tyrone

+JOHNSTON, Margaret Hessie

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 05/09/1915. Born on the 19/04/1885 at Clonterriff, Upper Ballinderry,

Co. Antrim, the family home, she was educated at Upper Ballinderry National School and became a member of Lisburn Young Womans Association. She lived for a time at the YWCA Home in Wallace Avenue in the town before beginning her training as a nurse at Staffordshire General Infirmary in April 1905. This lasted for three years before she moved to Essex County Nursing Home, Colchester in May 1908.

Working as a Staff Nurse, she also took on Sisters' duties during holidays and, at least according to the Lisburn Standard, worked at some point as a district nurse. After nearly a year and a half years in Colchester she moved to the Biblewomans and Nurses Mission in Russell Square, London in Sept 1909 working there until July 1911. She then moved overseas as a church missionary working at the International Hospital in Adana in Turkey between January 1912 and January 1914.

With the outbreak of war she volunteered for service and took up duties at Northlands Red Cross Hospital, Emsworth, near Portsmouth. On the March 3 the following year though she applied to join Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, noting in her application that she had considerable experience nursing those suffering from Enteric fever. Not surprisingly for someone of her

experience, her application was quickly approved; she was “warned” for Egypt on the 21st and the following month was posted to R Section QAIMNS at the Citadel Military Hospital, Cairo.

At the time of her application to join the QAs, it was reported that she was “in good health and fit for foreign service”, however, this was not to last. Only a few months after going overseas she fell ill. According to the Standard, Colonel Naggs the CO at the Citadel had her brought to his own quarters and “everything possible was done for her but it was all no good”. She died from enteric fever/paratyphoid in Egypt on 05/09/1915 aged 30. A service was held in the hospital chapel attended by Sir John Maxwell who commanded the troops in Egypt and his ADC Prince Alex of Battenberg. She was buried with full military honours in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, row D, grave 84.

Margaret Johnston’s death is commemorated on the family headstone in Ballinderry Middle church graveyard, and on the Roll of Honour in the Parish Church. The family headstone records that she, “gave her life in the Great War”. Margaret Johnston was the daughter of Edward Johnston, a farmer, and Mrs Johnston of Clonterriff, Upper Ballinderry, Co. Antrim. She

died single and intestate with an estate valued at £85.11.5 gross. Cairo War Memorial Cemetery

+McGIBBON, Rosa Anne

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. RA. Sister. Died 06/03/1919. Sister McGibbon had enlisted on 2nd June 1915 and had embarked from Southampton on His Majesty's Hospital Ship Aquitania on 19/11/1915, arriving in Suez on 29/11/1915. She served in the 18th Stationary Hospital and the 21st General Hospital in Egypt and was invalided home when severe glycosuria was detected following an operation for appendicitis and a subsequent bout of influenza. Daughter of David and Mary McGibbon, of 40, North St., Lurgan. Lurgan (Dougher) Roman Catholic Cemetery

+WATSON, Elizabeth Harvey

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 05/11/1918. Age 30. Daughter of Robert H. Watson, of Hillsborough St., Dromore, Co. Down. Caudry British Cemetery, Nord, France

WW1 Nurses from other areas of Ireland named on Belfast memorial

+BOLGER, Kathleen (Katie)

Staff Nurse. 2/Res/B/1257 died 5th March 1916 aged 30. Daughter of Edward and Margret Bolger, of Tullow, Co. Carlow. At rest in St John Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

+COX, Margaret Annie

Staff Nurse died 7th February 1919 aged 35. Sister of Miss Teresa Cox, Leitrim Road, Carrick-on-Shannon, County. Leitrim. At rest in St. Beo-Aedh's Old Graveyard, Ardcarne, County Roscommon, Ireland.

+DANAHER, Mary

Staff Nurse, died 12th October 1918 aged 26. Daughter of Mrs. A. Danaher, of Glenagore, Athea, Co. Limerick. Gaza War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza)

+ELLIFFE, Margaret

Sister. 2/ResE/20. died 24th May 1916 aged 27. At rest in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey in grave H.177602.

+FARLEY, Martha

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Matron. Royal Red Cross. Died 01/06/1918. She served in South Africa during the Boer War, where it is understood that her fiance died. She was presented with the Royal Red Cross Medal [1st Class] by the King in November 1917. Born 27/06/1871, Drogheda. Daughter of Charles Farley and Jane Lemon Farley, who were married in Carlow on 05/07/1859. Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland.

Military Funeral for Hospital Matron - Report in The Irish Times, Saturday, 8 June 1918

The remains of Miss Sabina Farley, late Matron of the Military Hospital, Fermoy, who died on Saturday in the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, were interred yesterday in Mount Jerome Cemetery

with Military Honours. She was decorated with the Red Cross by the King on October 24, 1917 for her services in the present war, and she held the South African Medal and the Silver Badge for previous services. The Chief mourners were: Mr. J.B. Quinnell of "Edenburn" Co. Kerry (brother-in-law) Miss M. Quinnell (niece) Mrs. Farley (Aunt) Miss Farley (cousin) Mr. T. Cullman (cousin).

The Matron and Nursing Staff of Adelaide Hospital lined up in the hall of the hospital while the coffin was being removed and placed on the gun carriage, where the remains were received by the Principal Matron and Nursing Staff of King George V Hospital who formed in Processional Order and marched from the hospital to the cemetery. The pall bearers were members of the R.A.M. and there was a firing party of about forty men of the North Lancashire regiment under the command of Lt Talbot. The burial service was conducted by Reverend Canon Jennings and at its conclusion, three volleys were fired and the "Last Post" was sounded.

Among the general public were Capt. J.A. Batterby, Major W.F. Law, R.A.M.C., Mr. and Mrs. Telford, Miss C.T. Evans, Mr. B. Whitaker, Mr. Lynch. Wreaths were sent by the Nursing Staff -

King George V. Hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Quinnell,
Major T.C. Quinnell K.N.R., and the Misses
Quinnell.

Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin.

+GARLICK, Hilda Mary

Territorial Force Nursing Service. Staff Nurse.
Died 12/08/1917. Age 43. Daughter of William
Thomas and Maria Garlick. Born at Dublin.
Birmingham (Lodge Hill) Cemetery

+O'BRIEN, Moyra

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing
Service. Nurse 2/Res/O/83. Died 21/02/1917.
Aldershot Military Cemetery

+O'GORMAN, Eileen Mary

Territorial Force Nursing Service. Sister. Died
20/11/1914. Age 42. Daughter of Edward and
Margaret O'Gorman, of John's Hill, Waterford.
Bristol (Arnos Vale) Roman Catholic Cemetery

+PARKER, Elizabeth Kelly Donaldson

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Matron. 2/P/193. Died 16/10/1916. Educated at Victoria College, Londonderry. Nurse training was at Warneford Hospital, Leamington Spa from February 1901 to May 1904. She was appointed as a Staff Nurse to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service on 02/07/1907. National Archives refereece - WO399/6450. Born 31/12/1878. Daughter of Joseph Donaldson Parker, J.P., and Elizabeth Kelly Dobbs Parker, of Silvery Dene, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny. Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery. Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot WM. St. Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny WM

+STEWART, Elizabeth Grace

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. S. 2/RES/51. Died 15/02/1916. Daughter of H. L. Stewart, of Limerick. Aldershot Military Cemetery

+WALLACE, Elizabeth (Lillie)

Staff Nurse 2/Res/W/72 died 6th June 1916. At rest in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey. Grave H. 1777644

+WALSHE, Mary Alice

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Staff Nurse. Died 21/08/1915.
Addolorata Cemetery, Malta

The following from Northern Ireland served

ANDERSON, Margaret

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Matron. RRC. Margaret was born in the townland of Ballinran, Kilkeel on 21/12/188. She was the oldest daughter in a family of eight siblings. At just 13, she travelled to Waringstown, Co Down, to work as a medical receptionist before moving to the Leeds Union Infirmary, where she trained as a nurse. At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Margaret started her service with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve. For five years she worked at the Mount Dore Military Hospital in Bournemouth, where despite volunteering to serve overseas, the authorities refused to let her go, so invaluable had she become. She was presented with the Royal Red Cross on 18/12/1919, by King George V at Buckingham Palace. and his mother, Queen

Alexandra also presented a book to Margaret, with a signed message of thanks for her service. She travelled overseas in 1919, leaving for Mesopotamia where, until the end of 1922, she continued in the nursing service with the British Expeditionary Force. She was later appointed assistant matron at the Royal Infirmary, Truro, Cornwall but in 1925 returned to Kilkeel to become matron at the temporary Silent Valley Hospital, which had been established during the building of the reservoir. Margaret later returned to England, but at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, she rejoined the nursing reserve despite then being in her 50s. She took part in several sorties across the English Channel during the evacuation of Dunkirk. She eventually retired home to Kilkeel, where she died in 1956 at the age of 75. Her remains were interred at Mourne Presbyterian Church, the church where she was baptised and had attended. A Blue Plaque was erected by the Ulster Historical Society at the church in February 2018.

BRYANS, Gertrude

Queen Alexandra's Nursing Corp. She helped evacuate British wounded during retreat from

Mons and later was in charge of hospital ward in a military hospital in England. - Armagh Guardian

DEVENISH-MEARS, Ethel Isabella

QAIMNS Reserve. MM. RRC, ORC. Born in Newry in 1876, she entered QAIMNS(R) in 1909. She served throughout the war as Sister and Matron in hospitals in France and Belgium. She was appointed an Associate of the Order of the Red Cross 01/01/1917, and a member RRC on 03/06/1919. She was awarded the Military Medal for bravery and conspicuous duty when in charge of a Casualty Clearing Station in Flanders, in October 1917. Post war she became a health visitor for Kent council. She is the only woman listed on Newry's Roll of Honour.

EDGAR, Mabel

Queen Alexander's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. Sister. Armagh Gazette dated 17/03/ 1917, "Sister Mabel Edgar of the Queen Alexander's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve who has been nursing in France since the out break of war, is the daughter of Mr & Mrs Edgar Mountpleasant."

HERRON, Evelyn Maud

From Armagh Gazette dated 01/12/1917, "Mrs Herron, wife of Major R.T .Herron R.A.M.C. has like her respected husband rendered valuable services to King and country. She is now senior sister in the Military hospital for officers of the Royal Flying Corps at Hampstead, London and has been recommended for valuable services. Major Herron is in charge of the Scottish Command Depot at Randalstown Antrim."

Evelyn's father was Frederick Augustus Brice, Naval Surgeon. He died 19/12/1885 at Hill Side, Dartmouth.

The 1901 Census records an Evelyn M Brice (19) employed as a Nurse at Bromley Cottage Hospital. Her husband was Robert Thomas Herron, a Doctor of Medicine, of Victoria St, Armagh. They were married on 04/06/1907, in St Michael & All Angels, Ladbroke Grove.

Their son, Robert Alexander Crosthwaite Herron, served as a Surgeon Lt-Commander in the RN. He married Anita Thomas at Newton Abbott on 18/05/1946. At the time of the marriage Evelyn was living at 'Revagh', Monkstown, Dublin.

RAFFERTY, Margaret

QAIMNS Reserve. Sister. From Newry. Nursed in a Belfast hospital when she was called up for duty. She left Liverpool in a Hospital ship and travelled to the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign. In 1916 she embarked on another Hospital ship to Egypt and India. From June 1916 until she was demobbed in March 1919, Sister Rafferty was in Mesopotamia, primarily based in a hospital for wounded officers in Basra (now in Iraq).

TRIPP, Dorcas Douglas

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Sister. Served throughout the Boer and First World Wars. Died aged 70 years on 30/12/1937 at 7 Upper Crescent Belfast. She was unmarried and described as "a lady of private means" on her death certificate.

Remembrance Ni would be grateful to receive names and details of people from N Ireland who served as nurses in WW1 or WW2

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC)

by Joan Thompson

Following her experiences during the Crimean War Florence Nightingale worked for the introduction of nurses into army hospitals. Eventually, in 1881, an Army Nursing Service was established under Regulation in Army Order 113. Nurses in this Service worked in Egypt, the Sudan, India, Africa and Ireland.

Under Reorganisation, and with the signing of a Royal Warrant, 27th March 1902, the Army Nursing Service with its Indian Nursing Service counterpart, was reformed into The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS).

It was Queen Alexandra's wish that the badge should incorporate the Cross of the Order of Dannebrog - an ancient Danish order of chivalry, indicating her own Danish origins. The chivalry motto 'Sub Cruce Candida' which means 'Under the White Cross' was adopted as the Service motto. The design for the window includes this.



HRH the Countess of Wessex, Colonel in Chief of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, with Dame Mary Peters, HML, at the Service of Dedication of the Corps window in Belfast Cathedral on October 14, 2009.

At the outbreak of WW1 there were fewer than 300 nurses in the Service. By the end of the war there were, including Reserves, over 10,404 serving. Fifty five nurses were awarded the Military Medal.

During WW2 army nurses served in France, North Africa, India, Ceylon, Greece and the Far



**Joan Thompson lately Lt. Colonel,
QARANC(V) on duty at Service of
Remembrance**

East. More recently nurses working in our hospitals in Northern Ireland and who are members of the Territorial Army in the QARANC(V) served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosova. The QARANC also had an established presence in the Duke of Connaught Unit at Musgrave Park Hospital. On 1st. February 1949 the name of the QAIMNS was changed to The Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC) and the Corps became an

integral part of the Army. Queen Mary agreed to be Colonel in Chief and was a devoted Patron until her death in March 1953. In September 1954 Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon became Colonel in Chief and followed the work of the Corps with great interest. The present Colonel in Chief is The Countess of Wessex who also maintains a keen interest in the Corps.

There were windows honouring The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in Cathedrals in England, Wales and Scotland. There were none honouring the QARANC. The QARANC Association, based at RHQ, Camberley took great interest in the proposal to erect this window in Belfast Cathedral and gave it enthusiastic support.

The window is a fitting link with the Memorial which the Board of the Cathedral accepted in, 1922, from the Regimental Chapel of Mount Arbour Barracks, Dublin.

*Joan M. E. Thompson, lately Lt. Colonel,
QARANC(V)*

Other Irish Nurses in World War 1

During the war many Irish women worked as nurses. The exact number of Irish women who took on nursing roles is not clear. Some were professional nurses like those recorded on the memorial described above.

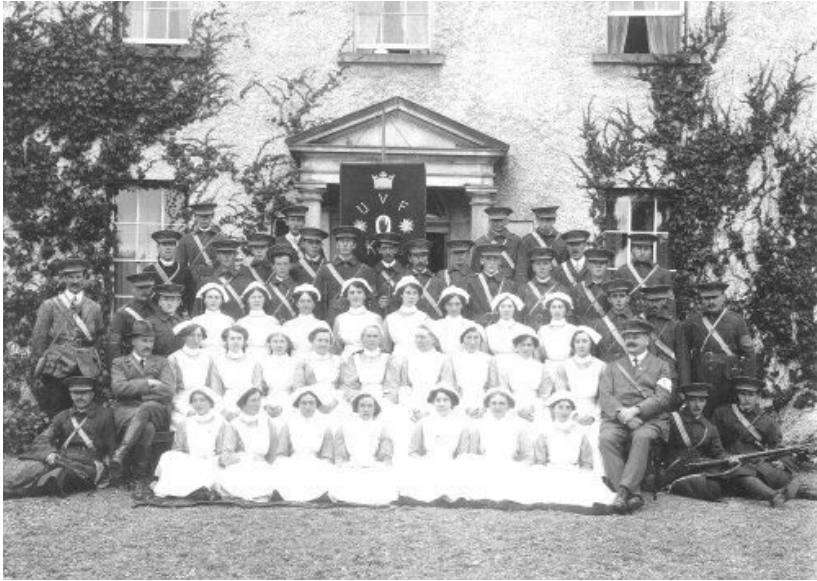
Others volunteered for the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), the Red Cross and other organisations which in Northern Ireland included the nurses of the Ulster Volunteer Force. It has been suggested that at least 4,500 Irish women served as VADs.

Nurses served at the fronts, in some cases losing their lives, and in Britain and Ireland looking after injured soldiers. One soldier of the 36th Division, fighting in the Battle of the Somme, described how he watched '... our women workers, nurses and drivers, working at terrific speed, under fire, but working, and doing their job magnificently.'

Amongst those from Northern Ireland were the following -

+ BAILEY, Wilhelmina nee Charley

The youngest daughter of the late William Charley D.L. and sister of Mr. E.J. Charley both



A pre-First World War picture of Annaghmore K Company of the UVF, with soldiers and nurses.



of Seymour Hill, Dunmurry, she was married in Los Angeles to Mr. S. Baily, “an English Gentleman”. During the war she joined the Dunmurry VAD, serving in the UVF hospital in Belfast in 1915 and in York Military Hospital in 1916. She volunteered for foreign service in 1917 and was posted to Salonica and later Italy, serving at 38th Stationary Hospital, Voluntary Aid Detachment, Genoa. She died in Italy on 23 / 09/1918 and is buried in Staglieno Cemetery, Genoa, Italy. The Italians entered the war on the Allied side, declaring war on Austria, in May 1915 and Commonwealth forces were at the Italian front between November 1917 and November 1918. Rest camps and medical units were established at various locations in northern Italy behind the front, some of them remaining until 1919. From November 1917 to the end of the war, Genoa was a base for Commonwealth forces and the 11th General, and 38th and 51st Stationary Hospitals, were posted in the city.

+De WICHFELD, Monica

Born Monica Massy-Beresford in 1894. Her family were prominent landowners in Co. Fermanagh. She participated in the UVF Larne

gun running of 1914 as her father was a Co. Antrim commander. She went on to serve as a Nurse in WW1 and married Jorgen de Wichfeld, a Danish aristocrat. Monica was a member of the Danish resistance in WW2. She was caught by the Germans in 1943. Sentenced to life imprisonment by the Germans she died of disease on 27/02/1945. She inspired her daughter Varinka to join the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (F.A.N.Y) during WW2.

DUFFIN, Emma

Belfast Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse. The diaries of Emma Duffin, born in Belfast, educated at Cheltenham Ladies College, vividly



Emma Duffin during WW1

describe her experiences as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse caring for wounded soldiers brought directly from the battlefield. Sent initially to Egypt 1915 - 16, where she tended soldiers, many Irish and Australian, invalided from Gallipoli, she served in northern France from immediately prior to the Battle of the Somme to the Armistice in 1918. She served in the military hospitals of Le Havre and Calais. There she tended the wounded brought straight from the Western Front and who were too seriously injured to be shipped to Southampton. She had spent a year in Germany just before the war and what makes her observations all the more poignant is her ability to communicate, more sympathetically than her colleagues, with hospitalized German prisoners. Emma Duffin's journals remain an honest yet caring record of the human cost of an unparalleled conflict in which millions died and millions more were wounded. Her final entry reflects tenderly on the soldiers she unceasingly nursed – 'I was their sister in both senses'.

She renewed her VAD service when World War Two broke out. She was appointed commandant of the VAD nurses, based at Stranmillis Military Hospital. She resumed her diary-keeping and provided a searing account of the impact of the Easter Tuesday blitz on Belfast, in which over

800 people were killed. Most gripping is the day she spent in St George's Market, which was used as a morgue for the many unidentified bodies. There, she helped stricken families search among the coffins for their loved ones. Appalled by what she saw, she wrote in her diary: "I had seen many dead [in WWI], but they had died in hospital beds, their eyes had been reverently closed, their hands crossed on their breasts; death had been glossed over, made decent... Here it was grotesque, repulsive, horrible ... Death should be dignified, peaceful. Hitler had made even death grotesque". Emma died in 1979, aged 95, and is buried in Newcastle, Co Down. On March 8, 2017, a Blue Plaque provided by the Ulster History Circle was unveiled on International Women's Day by her great-niece, Emma Makin. (Belfast Telegraph report 07/03/2017).

FERRIS, Helena

Helena Ferris from Armagh was a cook with the Girton Newnham Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospital in Salonica between June and December 1918.

+GAILEY, Laura

Laura Gailey was born and brought up in Derry. During the First World War she was a nurse with

the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and was based in Liverpool. While treating soldiers wounded on battlefields throughout Europe, Laura caught pneumonia and died in March 1917.

She was buried with full military honours and after a campaign by her family in Derry her name was added to the city's war memorial at the Diamond. Laura is the only woman to have her name on the local war memorial.

When Mountjoy Women's Orange Lodge found out that Laura's grave in Liverpool did not have a headstone, the members raised the money needed to buy a headstone which was erected in March 2017. Prior to that, her grave was only recognisable by the number 1433. The new headstone was dedicated during a ceremony which was organised to mark the 100th anniversary of Laura's death. Members of the Mountjoy lodge travelled to Liverpool for the ceremony.

To mark the unveiling ceremony, the vice chairman of Merseyside Royal British Legion, Bill Sergeant, assisted with organising a memorial service which was attended by six Standard

Bearers from the branch. Based on a Derry Now report

GETTY, Jessie

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). Jessie was a Protestant and a fiercely loyal unionist yet, to her dying day, one of her most treasured belongings was a Rosary, passed on to her for safe keeping in the direst of circumstances. On September 28, 1912 she'd been among the 471,414 men and women who had signed the Solemn League and Covenant in Belfast City Hall pledging to use "all means which might be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule parliament in Dublin." Just a couple of years later, however, Jessie Getty was working in a hospital in northern France, close to the First World War battlefields.

Still only in her early 20s, she was a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). Essentially the role was that of an auxiliary nurse and she had been told to sit with patients who were not going to survive and to give what help she could. Late one evening a young soldier gestured over to Jessie. She had never set eyes on him before and, far beyond speech, he never spoke a word to her. But he had something he had to give her. He handed her his Rosary beads. He was dead

before dawn. Jessie Getty never forgot the young soldier and carefully packed the Rosary into her suitcase. Nearly 90 years later, in a drawer in her home in Holywood, Co Down, she still had it. She still thought of him. War changes everything.

Jessie Getty remembered. She recalled the men carried into her hospital whose feet had been blown off. She remembered the German prisoners who were used in the hospital to clean up the wards. She collected old shells as souvenirs and one German offered to engrave them for her. Her colleagues scorned her for giving him a shell, saying she'd never see it again. He handed it back with a little floral design on it. She kept it, too.

Jessie married a soldier she had nursed just after the war at a military hospital. The Whitla Hall beside Queen's University now stands where it stood. Before the war her husband had been training to be a Presbyterian minister. When he came back, he went into law. Jessie didn't say as much but there is a sense that perhaps he felt what he had seen and done in battle was perhaps incompatible with a life in the Church. He "had a shell all to himself" and lost a leg. His forehead was pounded with shrapnel and he put mud in the wound to stop the

bleeding. Jessie remembered how until his death in the 1960s the shrapnel was coming out of his body. She kept it in matchboxes and when he died she buried them with him.

After the war married nurses were sent on immediate leave. Single ladies, as Jessie was then, were kept on. Finally, making her way home through London, she stumbled upon the funeral of the son of George V. The cortege was leaving Buckingham Palace. He was an epileptic and for a long time the lad's existence was kept secret. When she told her family what she'd seen, they refused to believe her because they had heard nothing about this prince or his death. But, like everything else, Jessie knew it was real because she was there.

Jessie lived to be 106. She was interviewed by Paul Clarke of UTV with the condition that the material would not be broadcast until after her death. Based on report in Belfast Telegraph by Gail Walker 29/10/2002.

GORDON, Olive

Sister. Attached to the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service. She served in Serbia and was honoured with a Serbian military

decoration. Listed on Donaghmore Parish Church's Roll of Honour.

+MAYNE, Margaret

Sister. Associate Royal Red Cross Medal. Served in the Great Eastern Hotel Hospital, Harwich where she died 20/04/1917. A British Red Cross Society list dated 1915, describes it as a Military Hospital staffed by Essex VAD, with Mr. Etherden as the Commandant. It provided beds for 110 other ranks. Margaret passed the qualifications of the Central Midwives Board in 1914 at Belfast Union Maternity Hospital. She worked as a Staff Nurse in the North Staffordshire Infirmary from 1907 until the outbreak of WW1. The London Gazette dates her ARRC as 23/02/1917. She died soon after in the second quarter 1917 in the Colchester registration district. Her award was sent on 22/05/17 to a woman who was presumably her mother, a Mrs. Mayne, Ballinamallard. A plaque to the memory of Margaret, who was awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross Medal for her work, was placed in the Chapel of the North Staffordshire Infirmary. Since 2015, this plaque has been situated in the Atrium at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, UK.

The nurses of the UVF

In Northern Ireland there were also the U.V.F Nurses formed in 1912 as an auxiliary to the Ulster Volunteer Force. Their main role was to support the U.V.F should Civil War occur in Ireland. Though their main role was in Nursing, some nurses trained in military drills. This included using a rifle and participating in both the Larne and Donaghadee gun running's. Some ladies even smuggled rifles from England under their skirts!

Many U.V.F Nurses went onto serve with the Red Cross in France in WW1 (1914-1918). They were in charge of a hospital near Lyons, France. This hospital was funded by the Ulster Unionist Women's Council.

After the outbreak of the First World War the Ulster Women's Unionist Council offered the UVF Nurses assistance to the British War Office, but they declined the offer. The French accepted this offer and fund raising began.

A UVF hospital was established at Pau is in the Pyrenees, close to the border with Spain. It was a long way from the Western Front. When wounded soldiers arrived by train from the front

to Pau, the nurses would collect them from the station and bring them back to the hospital.

The nursing staff were billeted in the luxurious Palais d'Hiver and had to walk back and forth between the two sites. In the early twentieth century Pau was a popular winter holiday destination for affluent British and Russians, and as well as being a safe distance from the front, it also had dry mountain air that helped soldiers to recover in 'a haven of rest'.

One of the UVF nurses wrote a letter back home describing how the soldiers spent their recovery time knitting and crocheting, attending the local cinema, and making decorative items in metalwork.

UVF Nurses leave Armagh for Red Cross duty

From Armagh Gazette dated 20-8-1915: More ladies, members of the St John's Ambulance classes in connection with the UVF, have left for hospital training, were taking up Red Cross duty in military hospitals. Miss Whitsett, Miss Eva Watson, Miss Eva Bedford, Mrs Lawless. Have all left Armagh. A later report in the Armagh Guardian 24/08/1918. "The name of Miss N.E. Whitsitt V.A.D. nurse in the 1st Western General

Hospital Liverpool, has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for valuable nursing services rendered in connection with the war. Miss Whitsitt is a daughter of an esteemed Armagh citizen, Mr William Whitsitt. All the members of this family have done and are doing their bit for King and Empire.” - Armagh Guardian 24/08/1918. St Mark's C of I, Armagh RH records the names of Nannie E. Whitsitt and Emily M. Whitsitt

UVF hospitals in Northern Ireland

At home In November 1914 the Ulster Volunteer Force made an offer to the War Office that a complete military hospital could be built and furnished in Belfast. The War Office accepted the offer and the military hospital was initially established in the Exhibition Hall in the Botanic Gardens.

The hospital soon needed to expand and the War Office approached Queen's University with a request that the hospital be extended into the University grounds. The University Senate agreed to the request in November 1914 and a series of wooden huts were built near the university's boundary with the Botanic Gardens. The UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) hospital, as it

was known, was extended again in 1915 and 1917. In February 1917 the University Senate also agreed to a request from the Committee of the UVF Hospital to hand over part of the Students' Union and in July 1918 the whole of the Union building was handed over for the use of the hospital.

In the early years of the war, the UVF hospital treated injured soldiers who had fought on the French and Belgian fronts and as the war progressed the injured from other fronts and theatres of war such as Gallipoli, Salonica and the Middle East were also treated there. In the hospital there was a workshop which made tailored artificial limbs for those servicemen who had lost limbs during the fighting.

Acknowledgements

The Price of Peace - the War Memorials of Belfast Cathedral

The First World Dairies of Emma Duffin, edited by Trevor Parkhill, Four Courts Press, 2014

Friends School Lisburn - Lisburn in WW1 website

Derry Now

Newry and Mourne Council

Armagh Guardian

Newry Reporter

The Belfast Telegraph

The Irish Times

The News Letter

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The **remembrance ni** programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain

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to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen's University Services Club. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

