

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service



Reference and contact details:

GB 779 RCSEd GD/31 and GD/100/1 (related)

Location: RS N2 and RS O1

Title: SWH Scottish Women's Hospital

Dates of Creation: 1914-1918

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent: Papers from 3 donated collections of glass slides, albums, photographs and papers

Name of Creator: SWH

Language of Material: English.

Date(s) of Description: 2010

Administrative/Biographical History:

In 1914 at the outbreak of the First World War, a large number of the existing suffrage societies put their administrative skills at the disposal of the war effort. The Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, at the suggestion of Dr Elsie Inglis, Licentiate of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh and Glasgow, put forward the idea of female medical units to serve on the front line. The War Office rejected the idea, but nonetheless private donations, fundraising by local societies and the support of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies financed a number of units staffed entirely by women. The organisation's headquarters were in Edinburgh throughout the war, with committees also in Glasgow and London. One of the first units mobilised established a 200 bed Auxiliary Hospital at Royaumont Abbey in December 1914. In April 1915, Dr Inglis herself was at the head of a unit based in Serbia. The Austrian offensive of that summer led to their camps being overrun and a number of the staff including Inglis herself being taken prisoner, only to be released after negotiations. By the end of the war there were fourteen Scottish Women's Hospitals in France, Serbia, Russia, Salonica and Macedonia. Inglis herself was ill with cancer by 1917 while working in Russia. She and her unit were part of the retreat of forces to Archangel and she was evacuated to Newcastle on the 25th November of that year, only to die the following day. The Scottish Women's Hospitals' work continued until the end of the war.

Source: *Archives Hub & The Mitchell Library*

GD 31/1 (RS N2) Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service.

Private collection of papers including 42 glass slides. [Presented by Ms M Street in 2006.](#)

These slides had belonged to the **Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service** and were used by members giving lectures to raise awareness and funds for the organisation.

A similar set is in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

Description: In a wooden box Length 29 x height 10.5 x breadth 10.75 with a brass handle. Paper label on box top "The Secretary, Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital, Bruntsfield Crescent Edinburgh." over another label "Lantern ...Scottish Women's Hospital" Newspaper 'The Glasgow Herald' padding inside bottom of box, dated, Monday October 25th, 1915. Paper label inside box lid with "Notice! These slides to be returned to: Miss Lindsay Suffrage Society, 202 Hope Street, Glasgow, at once after use carefully packed."

Slides 1-26, and 39, of 42



1 Frances Ivens; Cecily Hamilton and others At Royaumont Hospital door. (In French on slide) N.U.W.S.S. 8550 on vehicle.
2 Group of 9 wounded patients at Royaumont: 3 nurses and 2 orderlies



3 Possibly Corsica? "Entertainment for patients"
4 Camp kitchens. Miss Jack, Administrator, at right of picture.



5 11 Refectory Royaumont. "Frémont edit. Beaumont sur-Oise. Abbaye de Royaumont"
6 Opening of Fontai...L'acir



7 Fountain at Donaratz
8 Mending soldiers' uniforms. 4 women



10 Poplar Avenue, Royaumont. « L'Avenue de paupiers. Frémont edit Beaumont sur Oise



11
Mcllroy and Dr Sanderson.

Troyes

202 Hope Street



12
? British and French officers.
Flag. Camera + tripod



13
Wounded Serbs in marketplace.

JB Watson. 202 Hope St



14
Village smithy [Serbia]



15
Serbian officer

Watson, 202 Hope St



16
Serbian patients dancing.
SWH Salonika

[Cracked slide]

Newton, 37 King St., Covent Garden



17
British corner of Serbian cemetery



18
Doctors at Royaumont

JB Watson, 202 Hope St.



19
Troyes Scène Vèques pendant la guerre de
1914 – 1915. SWH
Group de maladies et blessés soignés a
l'Hôpital
[ill and wounded being cared for at the SWH
hospital]



20
Original Unit Serbia 1914

[Cracked slide]

202 Hope St.



21

Orderlies + nurses at (Kragentz?)

202 Hope St.



22

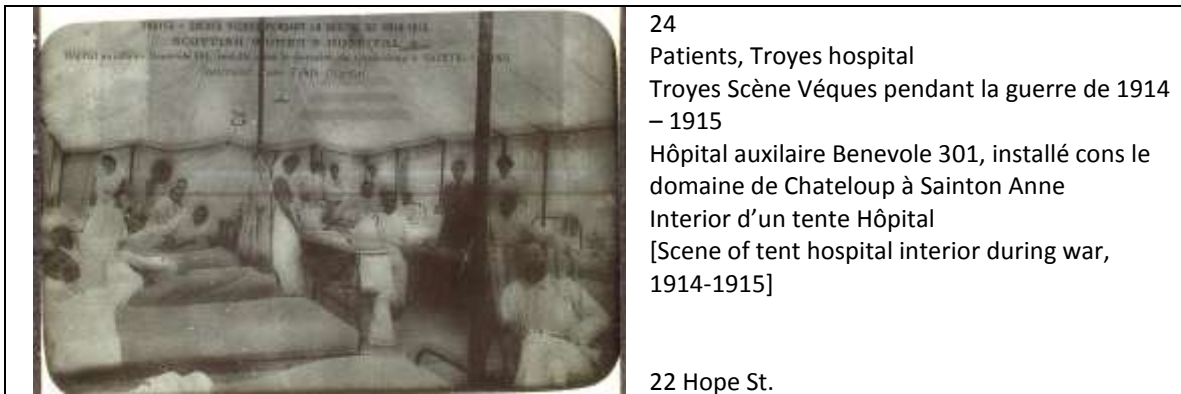
View of hospital grounds (Corsica?)

JB Watson

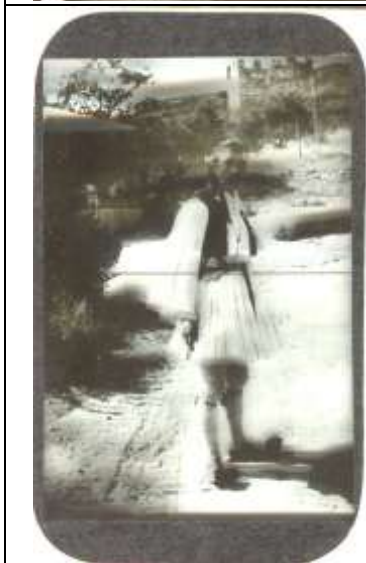


23
Cloisters, Royaumont

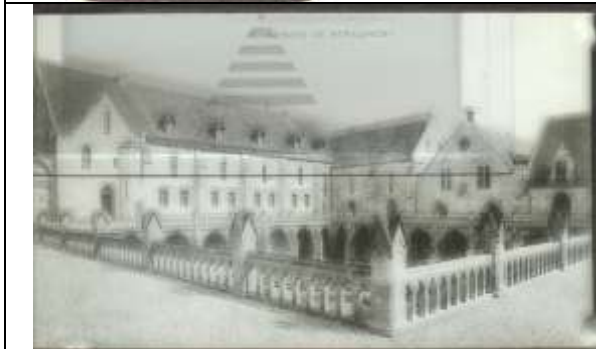
2 stretcher bearers + wounded



24
 Patients, Troyes hospital
 Troyes Scène Vèques pendant la guerre de 1914 – 1915
 Hôpital auxiliaire Benevole 301, installé cons le domaine de Chateloup à Sainton Anne
 Interior d'un tente Hôpital
 [Scene of tent hospital interior during war, 1914-1915]
 22 Hope St.



25
 Grecian Royal Bodyguard




26
 10 Abbaye de Royaumont

 Glass only, no cover

Not yet scanned:

27 Turkish (?) woman and child	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
28 Zeppelin brought down near Salonique 196	Newton, King St., Covent Garden
29 Reed hut inhabited on Lake Tangaza (?)	
30 2 French clergy. SWH doctor? Civilian.. Tents + bed background (Troyes?)	Glass only, no cover
31 De la guerre de 1914 – 1915 SWH Vieux de bureau de Madame la Director Hôpital auxiliaire Benevole 301, installé dans de Chanteloup à Sainté Savise Badly cracked esp. top right hand corner. Calendar + map in office with orderlies and field soldier	
32 Women's ward, Corsica. 2 patients, 1 nurse	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
33 Staff of nurses, Royaumont (10 in total)	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
34 Bodyguard king in Greece	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
35 Uskub (?) Turkish children [Crack top left hand side]	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.

36 Villers cotleret (?) 6 nurses	
37 Dr Elsie Inglis and a patient at Reins (?)	
38 Decoration of French soldier. Troyes Scène Vêques pendant la guerre de 1914 – 1915 SWH Hôpital auxilaire Benevole 301, installé dans de Chanteloup à Sainté Savise Une cérémonie imposante dans sa simplicité Le Général X decore de l [Croix de Guerre?]	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
	39 X-ray. Wrist showing safety pin. Glass only no mount
40 Dr. Ivens receiving visitors (3 French officers, 3 civilians)	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
41 No markings. 2 orderlies, 12 civilian men. Possibly outdoor kitchen in France.	JB Watson, 202 Hope St.
42 King of Serbia	

See also

GD31/unallocated 2010 addition: Dr Katherine MacPhail's album of photographs (Green with gold emblem of horse and plough on front cover) Research in progress K Galloway.

GD/100/1 (RS O1)

Albums, letters and journal from the Scottish Women's Hostel, Salonika

Presented by Dr G M McAndrew, Physician, Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, January 1976

The journal, albums

and other items give insight into the lives of these brave and determined women





Friday, 8th September, 1916.

We left Mikra at 7.30 a.m. in 30 motor cars, on Tuesday, 6th September. The cars were the Ambulance supply kind, Ford, covered in; we added other 7 or so for luggage and oddments, so we were a long tail. We are 80 miles up and west from Salonique behind the Serb lines. We hear firing in plenty and have seen star shells. How to tell you of that indescribable journey beats me. The first part was quite flat, and fen-countryish, great mountains in the distances. We passed French and British bases and every kind of thing on the road, including camels wending their way over a sandy plain which would do for a desert, heaps of sand in some places, motors, motor lorries in ten thousands, mules and horses in what seemed millions, and driven by men of every race and colour, including Senegalese and Chinamen. The driver and I agreed as we went along that the people who were staggered at the War costing 6 millions a day should come here and they would wonder how it was being done so cheaply! The road we travelled on was broad and really good; every bit of it I believe made since last October. We passed steam rollers, &c. engines on the quay at Salonika and the carriages I've no doubt are at hand. There was barbed wire of 4 years ago and barbed wire of today with splendidly made dugouts with sand bags &c. The road got more and more interesting till we came to a genuine Turkish town shelled and battered last war but quite the most picturesque and interesting thing we had yet struck---there was another later. We pulled up for lunch on the far side of it and the children came out. I was much struck with the prettiness of their voices. I asked a boy if he were "Turque", he replied "No-a Turque".