

Elsie Maud Inglis

LRCSEd LRCPEd LFacPhysSurgGlas 1892



Reference and contact details: GB 779 RCSEd GD/43

Location: BS O6

Title:

Dates of Creation:

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Extent:  

Name of Creator:

Language of Material: English.

Level of Description:

Date(s) of Description: 2009

Notes: **ON LOAN**

Administrative/Biographical History:

Medals, album, loose letters of Elsie Maud Inglis LRCSEd LRCPEd LFac Phys Surg Glas 1892 are here in the College on loan from Mr Malcolm Macnicol FRCSEd

Dr Elsie Inglis (1864 – 1917) was a surgeon (a Licentiate of the three Scottish royal medical colleges) and a suffragist. Born in India, she came to Edinburgh with her parents when very young. She trained in Edinburgh and at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, working to improve maternity facilities and healthcare for women. She founded a maternity hospital in Edinburgh (1901) staffed only by women. During the First World War, she founded the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service setting up hospitals for the troops in Serbia and Russia. Dr Inglis was the first woman to be awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest honour given by Serbia. This medal is amongst the set on loan to the College currently. Elsie Maud Inglis died in Newcastle while returning from the war, en route to Edinburgh. Her mortal remains are buried in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh.

GD43/1/1-5. Medals of Elsie Inglis

Mounted in glazed frame

Left to right:

GD43/1/1 From the British Committee of the French Red Cross. Figure mounted on horseback. Blue, black, white and yellow striped ribbon

GD43/1/2 " Medal struck to commemorate the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and presented to the next of kin of their Beloved Founder and Leader, Doctor Elsie Inglis, who died on active service, 26th November 1917" . 2 standing, one kneeling figure. Blue, black tartan ribbon

GD43/1/3 "Order of the White Eagle. V. Presented to Dr Elsie Inglis in April 1916, by the Crown Prince of Serbia. Dr Inglis was the first woman decorated by this Order, which is the highest in the power of Serbia to bestow. White 2 headed eagle, white cross on chest, surmounted by blue ribbons and a white crown

GD43/1/4 The Great International War Medal"

GD43/1/5 "Given by the Russian Government under the late Czar". Inscription: 1914 1918

GD43/2. Album of obituaries and tributes

Scrap book belonging to the family of Elsie Inglis. Obituaries and tributes to Elsie Inglis in the press, following her death in November 1917

29 cm x 25 cm x 3 cm. Cover: Green spine and corners. Mottled red and yellow. "Scraps" on spine.

GD43/3/1-6 Letters 1915-1917

GD 43/3/1

April 27th 1915. Grand Continental Hotel, Rome.

“Dearest Amy. This isn’t a letter – just a note- to thank you ever so much for your sweet telegram which I got at Royaumont. It was so dear of you to think of sending it.Ever so much love, Your loving sister Elsie”

GD43/3/2

April 28th [1915] Brindisi. En route to Serbia. “Dearest Amy, I sent you off a little scribble from RomeEver your loving sister Elsie

GD43/3/3

May 30th 1915. Headed paper “National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies. Scottish Women’s Hospital for Foreign Service. Headquarters 2 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh” Scottish Women’s Hospital, Krushievatz.

“ Dearest Amy, I feel a perfect witch for not having written sooner – especially as it has been such a delight to get your letters, & Mary’s & Evelyn’s. So ... regiment is ordered out and we may meet – out here! Dear Amy I know how anxious you will be, & poor little Minnie. But you are both plucky. I hope ... has got my address. Well, this is a perfectly lovely place & the Serbians are delightful. I am staying with a charming woman – Mmme Milankovitz – she is a Vice President of the Serbian Women’s League, formed to help the country in time of war. ... were dropped out of aeroplanes. I am afraid it is too good to be true! There are many things here like India – the little wooden carts drawn by bullocks Ever, dearest Amy, Your loving sister Elsie

GD43/3/4

November 6th 1915. Headed paper “National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies. Scottish Women’s “Hospital for Foreign Service. Memoranda re Transport Equipment” Krushievatz?.

My dear dear Amy, I am longing so for news of you all. I was before – for it was ages ago since your last letter but now it seems awful.....Your loving sister Elsie

GD43/3/5

November 30th 1915. Headed paper “National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies. Scottish Women’s “Hospital for Foreign Service. Memoranda re Transport Equipment [scored out]” Krushievatz?. Serbian Military Hospital. “My dearest Amy, I have already written you a postcard.....Elsie

GD43/3/6

November 30th 1915. Typescript. “Private & Confidential. Letter from Dr Elsie Inglis from Krushievatz...Dear Miss Mair, We are told we may send letters home – ope of course so this is to tell the Committee that Dr Holloway’s Unit, and mine, are here working here in the Serbian Military Hospital. I enclose a list of the people here so that you may tell their friendsWe are well and very busy and doing the work the Committee sent us out to do....Yours affectionately Elsie Maud Inglis

GD43/3/7

June 12th 1917....”Scottish Women’s Hospital. Rene[?] “Darling Eve, Thank you so much for your letter. The one ... after missing three weeks. You can imagine how much I appreciated it.....So the vote has come!

The Library also has related :

- a set of glass slides in a collection of material related to the **Scottish Women’s Hospital (SWH)** *presented by Ms Street (RCSED GD 31: RS O2)*
- an album of photographs of the Scottish Women's Hospital, Salonika (RCSEd GD100/1: RS O2) *Presented by Dr G M McAndrew, Physician, Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, January 1976*
- Elsie Inglis’ TQ 1892 schedule

The **Scottish Womens' Hospitals** were founded in World War I by Dr. Elsie Inglis LRCPEd., LRCSEd. & LRFPSGlasg., 1892, to show that British women could serve their nation in wartime, which would then (it was hoped) prove them worthy of the vote in peacetime. The hospitals were in France, the Mediterranean and in Serbia for the 1st Serbian Division serving on the Russian Front. The archives here are of the hospital at Salonika. The hospitals closed in 1918 and women in the UK were granted the right to vote.

1917

Photograph album with snaps of the Scottish Women's Hospital, Salonika, showing the barracks, patients, staff and troops; the unveiling of Mrs Harley's monument by the Archbishop of Serbia; S.W.H. concert parties and entertainments; Turkish refugees; the great fire of Salonika, August 1917; the peasantry haymaking, threshing corn, ploughing, watering horses and leading brushwood; Bulgar prisoners; St Dimitri and Sta Sophia; the convalescent camp at Hortiach; the barracks, garage and field kitchen of the new camp; the hospital train; the Seaforth Highlanders; Belgrade and the Lister Hostel of the S.W.H.; on board the hospital ship; Divona; collection of black and white and hand coloured local post cards.

1916, September - 1917

Typed copy of a journal and letters written by a member of the Scottish Women's Hospitals giving an account of life behind the Serbian lines, of the shelled and battered Turkish towns, the dilapidated plaster and mud Macedonian villages, the mountainous terrain and the poor roads. The writer describes treating the wounded at the first hospital behind the lines; the advance of the Russian steamroller; the French and Senegalese forces; their camp by Ostrovo; Mrs Harley's ambulance in which the wounded were conveyed; the hospital consecration service attended by Prince George and Prince Alexander and Generals Vassich and Troubridge and the heroism of the wounded and dying Serbian soldiers.

1918, January

Scrapbook of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, American Unit, Ostrovo, with poems, prose, photographs and drawings.
