

Foreign medical help in Serbian Liberation Wars from 1912 until 1918

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SUMMARY

This work concerns involvement of the foreign medical missions during the Serbian Liberation Wars from 1912 until 1918, the work of their members immediately behind the front lines and in the back, healing of the wounded and the diseased, especially at the time of the great epidemics of typhoid fever, and also the efforts of numerous Serbian friends who collected the funds and material for equipping and sending of those missions. An American mission which came first to Serbia, soon after the beginning of the war operations and which was led by Dr. Edward Ryan, was specially mentioned. For many smaller of bigger missions, it is known that they acted in some of the Serbian war zones. A special attention was paid to the work of The Scottish Women's Hospital, its formation and means of funding, work in war conditions, attitudes towards wounded Serbs and posture during the Serbian retreat before the German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian occupying armies. This text is largely the author's own view of his two books on medical assistance which the Serbs received from their friends from abroad (Medical Missions at Serbian Battlefields 1912-1918 and The Scottish Women with the Serbs 1914-1918). The first of these booklets contains a list with over 1350 names (of which, approximately 700 are the medical doctors), and the other 1230, were based on the author's personal inspection of the available literature and materials, significantly increased the official data of the Serbian Red Cross about the number of medical staff who reached Serbian battlefields: doubles them for the Balkan wars, while in the Great war they were at least five times greater.

KEY WORDS: History of Medicine; History, 20th Century; Medical Missions, Official; International Cooperation; World War I; Famous Persons; Medical Staff; Voluntary Workers; Serbia

MEDICAL MISSIONS IN THE BALKAN WARS

There is not too much data about the participation of foreign doctors and other medical workers, who, at the early beginning of Balkan wars, in response to the call from the Serbian Red Cross or independently, came to Serbia and Montenegro and medically treated the wounded and the sick. According to the data from the Serbian Ministry of Defense, shortly before the Balkan Wars there were in Serbia only 370 doctors, of whom 296 were assigned to the battlefield, so that in the background there were only 74 left. From this number, 6 of the doctors had to be subtracted for working in Central Administration, doctors that were completely incompetent due to their age or illness (8) and doctors who had long left the medical practice (3), for the medical services in background, civilian and military, left only 57 doctors - the number includes 6 women (1).

Of course, for a small country at war it was not enough, and the Serbian Red Cross was forced to turn to foreign countries through the International Red Cross and to ask for assistance in the form of medical staff, medicines and medical supplies. The response was not long awaited, so that the Serbian medical circumstances quickly improved significantly. Adam Stošić wrote that most medical experts were sent from Russia (183), Austria (36), England (20), Holland (42), Germany (12), Hungary (10), Italy (7), Belgium (9), Denmark (4), Norway (3), France (8), and some other countries, also sent their teams. At the end of 1912, in Niš, there were at least fifteen doctors – volunteers from Slovenia, and 17 members of the Italian Red Cross mission in Belgrade. Stošić facts that “total count in Serbia in 1912-1913, was almost 300 members of foreign medical missions” (2), may have originated as a computational error, since only his figures show that there was a total of 334, of whom 120 doctors.

A few data on the participation of foreign medical providers in the Balkan wars, on the Serbian side, we meet in the records of Hranislav M. Joksimović (1878-1959), from the Serbian Red Cross: “In the wars during 1912 and 1913, the Committee of the Red Cross at its own expense employed about 20 doctors, among whom were two bacteriologists. Also came the following foreign missions: 7 missions of the Russian Red Cross, with 32 doctors, 57 nurses and 89 medical orderlies, Belgian, German, Austrian, Hungarian, the Italian Red Cross, the British, French, - one of every (mission - IP) with 34 doctors, 36 nurses and 5 medical orderlies. In 1913, the Russian Red Cross had sent 2 missions, the British and Scottish Red Cross 1 mission, Belgian, Danish, Swedish, Hungarian and Dutch Red Cross 3 missions, of which one for control (suppression) of cholera in Čačak. Each of them had 46 doctors, 66 nurses and 50 medical orderlies” (3).

However strong these seemed at the time, those figures were too small, given that one news in Politika from 9-22 December 1912 showed that King Petar Karađorđević (1844-1921) signed a decree on honoring 172 doctors with the Order of St. Sava of various degrees: 40 Russians, 25 Serbs on the side, 19 Czechs, 9 Frenchmen, Germans and Hungarians, 8 Englishmen, Danish and Belgians, 7 Slovenians, 5 Swiss and Austrians, 4 Norwegian, Dutch and Croatian, 3 Romanian and Swiss and 2 Italians (4). Unfortunately, we do not know their names, because we could not “find” an official newspaper in which the decree was published, but from the news itself, it can be concluded that there were many more doctors and other medical staff, particularly “unawarded”. Also, it should be noted that only Belgrade Politika in its news from 18 October to the end of November 1912, recorded that in Serbia and Montenegro there were

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150 doctors and more than 390 medical practitioners, nurses, mercy sisters and other medical staff. Less to save newspaper space, but more because of certain things are taken for granted, with news of the arrival of many doctors and nurses there was no record of the count of the medical orderlies and medical nurses from their entourage; of the accompanying technical and administrative staff, the one that is now called the logistics, there is no word (5).

From Aleksandar Nedok we have learned that, by writing of surgeon dr. Sergey Kvintilyanovich Sofoterov, who has been at that time representative of the Russian Society of the Red Cross on the Balkan peninsula, on the Serbian battlefield, all together, there were eleven military medical missions from Russia "with 28 physicians, 11 intendants, 2 pharmacists, 86 nurses, 160 nurse assistants and 850 beds. The expenses of the expedition were 728 307 rubles, which were collected from the societies and private persons and all the medical material and hospital equipment was given and stayed in Serbia". Mrs. Clara Schturzeneger from the International Red Cross says that one of the Russian hospitals had 400 beds, and that it was transported by train: "everything from bed to operation theatre, plenty of medical and pharmaceutical material, roentgen and kitchen equipment. Medical staff was 70 persons" and that "treatment and nursing were at the highest level" (6).

Upon the arrival of medical mission in Montenegro, reported the Glas Crnogorca, periodically testifying that next to the 50 doctors and medical staff from the Prague Policlinic Institute, on the Montenegro battlefields there were fifty more doctors (in most cases represented only with a last name) and less other medical staff (7). When it is well known, it can be safely concluded that the medical missions in the First Balkan War included no less than seven hundred people.

MEDICAL MISSIONS DURING THE GREAT WAR

Reading Vladimir Ćorović (1885-1941), the historian, we see that during the Great War (1914-1918), hygienic conditions in Serbia "even before the war were not very favorable, during this difficult war, with dispersed houses and destroyed property, with piles of corpses and the wounded, became just terrible." (8).

The most comprehensive and most qualified help in removing the distress was provided by the medical staff, who arrived to the Serbian and Montenegrin battlefields mostly in organized medical missions, but a large number came individually or in small groups; Nikola Pašić (1845 – 1926) was right when he said that this help came from "the noble sons and daughters of a lot of nations, who risked their freedom for well-being and health of Serbian soldiers and Serbian people" (9).

Largest number of English medical missions arrived in Serbia, with the efforts of the Federation of Scottish Women's Societies, which is stated in the book (10), an inspired testimony of Australian Monica Krippner. This alliance resulted in a fairly broad movement for emancipation of women of the world and the acquisition of voting rights, and the experience of Mrs. Florence Nightingale, (1820-1910), who worked as a nurse in the Crimean War (1853-1856), and her medical service standards rose to the level of highly respected calls, and upon her return from the battlefield she dedicated herself to education of nurses and care takers, forming patronage services and nursing, and she prepared the establishment

of the Red Cross. Her example was the role model to the Hospitals of Scottish women. Thanks to her, by honors and recognition experienced in England, and huge popularity among girls, in the largest English hospitals are set firm foundations for training nurses and young ladies from various strata of English society, who, with their charity work in hospitals, found the meaning of their personal and social functioning (10).

It is unnecessary, in such a limited space to deal with the names and origins of different medical missions, which, in Serbia and Montenegro, Dobruđa and the Salonika fronts, and in some sanatoriums in France, took care of wounded and sick Serbs. Their presence in the Serbian army, for who knows what reason, the Serbian military command and medical authorities did not do regular reviews during the war or later, and it implies that the figures offered by some authors are not complete or suitable for an objective evaluation of their appearance. Only for comparison, even if it seems confusing, we will mention here only four domestic and as many foreign sources on the same topic.

According to the notes of already mentioned Dr. Hranislav Joksimović, "in the wars from 1914 until 1915 the following missions were operating: 4 Russian with 16 doctors, 153 nurses and 29 medical orderlies and 6 other missions; 3 Greek, 14 English missions, 3 American missions. Every mission had 82 doctors and 429 nurses, medical orderlies and other. In 1915 also came a large number of French doctors. Each one of those missions came at the request of our Red Cross" (3).

Very good remarks (11) about two Czech – American missions were written by Dr. Đuro Guča, a physician born in Bački Petrovac. The notice written by Joksimović about 16 Russian physicians (1914 –1915) is half gratuitous, as A. Nedok quotes that Serbian ambassador in St. Petersburg Dr. Miroslav Spalajkovic, respecting the attitude of his government, sent between August 20th and October 3rd 1914 to Serbia five groups of Russian physicians, medical students and nurses. In those groups, there were 32 physicians. At the same time "with a help of Mrs. Ana Pavlovna Hartvig, the widow of the late Russian ambassador in Serbia, who collected 100 000 rubles in Russia, hospital equipment, remedies, patient clothes and bedding, Russian mission took charge over the 1st and the 5th Reserve Hospital of Serbian Army. That voluntary work was continued by the spouse of the newly appointed Russian ambassador in Serbia, princess Trubetska, by her personal donation of 100 000 rubles and by founding of the Committee for help to Serbia, which came to Niš on January 25th/February 7th 1915". In the meantime, one Russian hospital came to Zaječar, and "in the ill furnished building of the Niš high school set up Moscow Surgical Hospital with 200 beds" (6).

On the other hand, Adam Stošić gave, mildly said, thoughtless and rude conclusion, of the Serbian Red Cross during the Great War "in Serbia, there were 543 members of medical missions of which 100 doctors." But, such thinking was not a novelty for the Serbian Red Cross, since, in the same way, as we have seen, the contribution of foreign medical missions in the Balkan wars was evaluated.

Dr. Lazar Genčić (1868-1942), Head of the Serbian Medical Corps Supreme Command in the period from 1912 to 1916, offers a somewhat different data, even if quite general: "When the epidemic started to spread rapidly, we had to officially ask for help from our powerful and rich allies in the West, and they immediately decided to send us that aid from their

own military medical corps. French government sent us 100 military doctors, among whom were a lot of experienced bacteriologists and experts in infection control, and the English War Ministry sent a group of 30 military physicians under the guidance of several doctors, who were full of practical experience, gained in the fighting with various epidemics in the British colonies...

In the country in 1915 there were 90 different hospitals, with over 100 000 hospital beds, and only on the battlefield worked, next to our physicians, more than 200 foreign doctors and 500 trained nurses" (3).

Although, the numbers that were mentioned by the historian Dr. Đorđe Stanković, do not easily lead to a logical connection, we are presenting them the way he wrote: "According to available and collected data during the first half of 1914 and 1915, there were about 600 members from fifteen different nationalities, who applied to Diplomatic missions of Serbia in ten different countries, and to various charitable organizations and the Red Cross in Allied and neutral countries about 800 more volunteers applied. Most of the offers were sent from England: 500, Greece: over 400, and Russia: over 300. From that number, during the 1914 war in Serbia we find ...about 250 volunteers... In the first half of 1915, the number of volunteers significantly increased by the involvement of a number of medical missions trained for combat with the epidemic typhoid fever, mainly from England and Russia, so that the total number of volunteers in this period reached an imposing figure of over 800" (12).

Catherine Clara Sturcener (1854-1929) from Switzerland, who was also at the Serbian front in 1912-1913, wrote that during the epidemic of typhus in 1915 "the support came from all over". France has sent more than 200 physicians, Britain over 100, and Russia sent a large mission that brought all the equipment and took over the whole hospitals (13).

Dr. A. Nedok mentioned just two Russian missions: the first, Hospital for infective diseases in Niš, with 150 beds, set up "in cholera barracks from the previous war, near railway station...which in the chaos of the typhoid epidemics... was famous for a very low mortality rate thanks to the excellent care and activity of the personnel, who mostly also were cured from the same disease", and the second, "contemporary equipped with 400 beds" came a little bit later from Russia with eight physicians and 40 nurses (6).

Speaking about French, a large medical mission came to Niš, just about one hundred persons, and that they were not all physicians.

University of Toronto organized hospitals in Thessaloniki and Bitolj, and their capacity was 1040 beds. In both hospitals, there were 50 doctors and professors, 73 nurses and 173 persons in the support services. It should be mentioned, that all the missions were equipped with the necessary tools for the work with patients – from beds to beddings – sponsored by humanitarian organizations, states or private persons. Many countries have sent help in money and drugs: France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, Argentina, Chile, even Turkish Red Crescent". From Australia came at least 60 medical personnel in small groups or individually. Slavica Popović Filipović says that only with Mrs. Jessie McHardy White came a group of 364 military nurses as a help to the British hospitals on the Thessalonica front. It is not noted down how many of them had worked with Serbian wounded and sick soldiers in the Unit "America" in Ostrovo. Anyway, from everything mentioned above, the Serbian Red

Cross concluded unappreciatively that "in Serbia there were 543 medical personnel, of whom there were 100 physicians" (2).

In Vrnjačka Banja there was a great, excellently equipped hospital of the Red Cross of Great Britain and the second Red Cross hospital was in Skoplje. In Belgrade, there was a British hospital for typhus and all across Serbia there were clinics – in Arandelovac, Smederevska Palanka, Rekovac, Kraljevo and other places. During the summer 1915, in the staff of the hospitals, there were more than 600 female physicians, nurse and nurse assistants, mostly from Scotland. This number does not count the persons who belonged to the other missions or who came individually by personal initiative (14).

Dr. Agnes Lloyd Bennett (1872-1960), a woman doctor from Australia, was managing the SWH Unit, at Ostrovo, at the Salonika Front. There is evidence that there were around 60 medical workers from Australia and New Zealand, working in Serbia and for the Serbs at the Salonika Front hospitals. Stimulated by the news that only Lady Elsie Maud Inglis (1864-1917) "with her own example, encouraged more than six hundred nurses to come to Serbia", this author has searched and, thanks to the efforts invested in, by Dr. Izabela Petrović, a dentist from Novi Sad, then with "the temporary residence" in Belgium and Germany, Mr. Henry Sullivan and Mrs. Barbara McLean, the archivists of the City Archives in Glasgow (Scotland), obtained the lists stored in the Glasgow City Archives and Special Collections, Mitchell Library (15). These lists covered the period from October 1919 to March 1920, containing a total of 1032 names (in units, with a note indicating the kind of work and time that each of them had spent in service), testifying about the work of the Scottish Women Hospitals from 1914 until 1918, and the Serbian battlefield and sanatoriums in "the deep background", as follows:

- a. The First and Second Serbian Units, on the battlefield in Serbia, 193 members;
- b. The Corsican Unit (Third Serbian unit), which looked after the Serbian refugees and soldiers during the recovery in Corsica, 127 members;
- c. The American unit (Fourth Serbian unit), called thus because it was funded by voluntary donations from the United States of America, 204 members;
- d. The London unit (Fifth Serbian unit and Transporting Column II), so called because it was organized and it covered its costs by the London committee of the Scottish Women's Hospital, acted with the Serbian Volunteer Division on the Dobrudža battlefield and in Odessa, 158 members;
- e. The Sixth Serbian unit, located in the Salins (France, Haute- Savoie, below Mont Blanc, west of Chamonix) as The Elsie Inglis Hospital for Serbian male refugees (soldiers), 53 members;
- f. The Girton and Newnham unit (second French unit), since October 1915 as a part of the French Expeditionary Force stationed first in Thessaloniki and in 1919 moved to Belgrade, named after the Girls College "Girton and Newnham" at the University of Cambridge, which gave the unit the largest part of staff and financial resources, 297 members.

Unfortunately, the City Archive in Glasgow does not have the complete list of medical, technical and other staff of the medical missions which were sent to Serbia by the Scottish Women's Hospital, and to other places

(the Salonika Front and in exile) in which they treated Serbian wounded soldiers and common people; for instance, it has no mention of the Berry Unit with 57 members and two missions of Lady Paget (1881-1958) with 154 members, and there are not many names mentioned by Ishobel Ross (1890-1965) in her diary entries entitled *Little blue quails*, Belgrade 1995 (16), and Isabel Emslie Hutton in *With a Woman's Unit in Serbia, Salonika and Sevastopol*, London 1929 (17). Missing, too, is the list of sixty and more names of highly educated members of the Scottish Women's Hospital who came from the United States to the Thessaloniki front, in autumn 1916...

Therefore, the lists from Glasgow are only a weak attempt to find out how much the medical missions from United Kingdom and Northern Ireland had contributed to Serbian military victory in the Liberation War from 1914-1918.

All in all, when one bears in mind that all those units were mixed, and that in the medical and other teams were also men, that they mostly went to the battlefield by contract for a definite period, that with the shift came new persons, that some people had to withdraw due to illness or other reason, and that quite a number of members of certain missions died in epidemics (also twenty physician among them), it can be said that 1500 British citizens from the British Islands, worked in Serbia. If we add the Russians, Americans, Greek, Swiss, French, Canadians, and many other, then we can certainly conclude that not less than 2500 people participated in the medical missions (maybe even three thousand), who were mostly women.

HAVE THE SCOTTISH WOMEN HOSPITALS AND OTHER MEDICAL MISSIONS BEEN FORGOTTEN?

Are the Scottish women forgotten? There is no doubt that the Scottish women had invested tremendous effort in the treatment of wounded Serbian soldiers and civilians, but the Serbian world is not familiar with all the names of those brave, devoted and determined women. It is likely that, in subsequent decades, the Serbian lack of concern for that almost incredible phenomenon, later created a resistance towards the Serbian people, in even greater measure from the support that those forgotten Serbian friends expressed with their arrival at the Serbian battlefield. Whenever we talk about the participation of foreign medical missions in the Serbian Liberation Wars 1914-1918 (this author also, in his books, sticks to the same "rules", but is trying to "justify" himself with Pomenik), almost regularly there are: Lady Paget, Elsie Inglis, Edward Ryan (1883-1923), Miss Mabel Annie Saint Clair Stobart (1863-1946), Flora Sandes (1876-1956), Emily Louise Simmonds (1888-1966), Elizabeth Ross (1878-1915), Frances May Dickinson Berry (1857-1934), James Berry (1860 -1946), Mabel Dunlop Gordon Grujić (1881-1965), Izhobel Ross, Olive Kelso King (1885-1958), Agnes Augusta Minshall, Katherine Stort Mac Phail (1887-1974), dr Lilian Mary Chesney, Alice Marion Hutchinson (1874-1953), Eveline Haverfield (1867-1920), Flora Scott, Kathleen Burke (1887-1958), William A. Hunter (1861-1937), and maybe some other. More or less, this is the list of doctors, but nurses, medical orderlies and other supporting staff is nowhere to find.

In fact, there were so many other supporting staff that their role in the treatment of Serbian wounded and patients, greatly exceeded the

individual performance of any of those whose names were on the list of famous. The writer of this booklet, has "found out" that only Dr. James Berry, after whom the Berry Unit was named, after returning home from Serbia, published a book on the activities of his mission; as the author of the book, entitled *The story of a Red Cross unit in Serbia*, London 1916, he listed all the members of the Unit: James Berry, May Dickinson Berry, L. Walter Blease, and other members of the unit (18).

Somewhat frugal were the Serbian authors of the book *Spomenica ledi Paget* (Commemorative volume of Lady Paget) Melbourne, 1959 (19), who numbered all members of two missions, but almost all the names were reduced to the first letter or, in case of mercy nurses, mostly left out. About the make-up of the medical missions, for instance, also did not worry Ishobel Ross, who in her diary notes mentioned only some of the names (16). She, of course, would have known all who were in her mission, but did not consider that it was important for the topic.

It is understood that neither, previously mentioned, Monica Krippner, could act otherwise. In her extraordinary hard work at the Scottish Women's Hospitals, their activities with the Serbian army, mutual relationship between Serbian wounded and nurses, doctors and mercy nurses, all names could not have been mentioned, because most likely, the interlocutors did not know all of the names, or were long forgotten. But, because, in her book she again, in a very serious form, illuminated the characters of those who had already been famous, and the "other" ones she could mention only in general. She started writing her book during a random encounter with a doctor, Frances Daisy Wakefield, during a tourist trip to North Africa, with "real revelation about the duty of so many female- surgeons, nurses, caregivers, and drivers in the field hospitals and the Front treatment room". That discovery could be refined with new data only on the basis of subsequent discussions with those remembered by Mrs. Daisy - she could only remember some "important" names. And so on, famous about famous and the "others" are just a spice that is assumed. The Volunteer Gazette does not care about the truth. In the first and preliminary investigation of health conditions in Serbia during the liberation wars from 1912-1918, the author completed the list of about seven hundred names of medical providers from outside, which was sent to Dr. George Stanić on January 17th, 2005, the former president of the Publishing Committee of The Volunteer Gazette in Belgrade. It was to be published in Number 25 in June 2005, but it was done poorly, only the introductory text was published (pages 80-86) without the names, although those names were the key part of the whole work. Instead, before the text (20) there was an explanation given, why such actions were taken: "Carefully exploring the participation of medical personnel from abroad, which, during the Balkan and the First World War, performed very difficult and complex tasks in the outpatient clinics, hospitals and, mostly, on the battlefields, Mr. Ilija Petrović from Novi Sad, has collected a large amount of data that accurately reflect the importance of the role and contribution of people in the treatment of sick and wounded Serbian soldiers and citizens. Studying domestic and foreign sources, many of which date from the war days, the author has managed to sublimate all that men and women "in white" have done for the people and the Serbian army. Sourced listed at the end of this article and the names of their authors, do not leave any doubt on the authenticity of the presented data. With this

article, the author has submitted a list with the names of nearly seven hundred doctors, nurses, medical orderlies and other medical personnel who came from different countries of Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries, worked in the medical units of the Serbian Army during the Balkan and the First World War. Due to limited space, unfortunately, we were unable to publish the list on this occasion, but please note that the same list is in the documentation of the Association and is available to all those who are interested.

It was not told that the members of the editorial committee opposed the attitude of its president, that in *The Volunteer Gazette* should be found also what was published. The Association of War Volunteers 1912-1918, their descendants and followers from Belgrade, Sava Square No. 9, with all means resist the truth about the Serbian volunteer movement during the liberation wars from 1912-1918, which includes the silence about the activities of medical personnel from outside in the Serbian wars.

If it was not so, it would not have happened that the Association still has not tried to sign and somehow obtain, partly by Internet (not to mention the translation), numerous books on the activities of foreign medical mission in the Balkan Wars, which were published in English language (in England, the USA and Australia), especially during the last fifteen years. The author, being skillful in research of historical material and literature, and with excellent knowledge of English language, spent at least fifteen days in some libraries and archives on the British Islands, particularly in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London. It could be that the access to their books and archives is more valuable for the Serbs than for the English, even if someone like Dr. Erik Web comments with the American mission of the Red Cross and Dr. Edward Ryan, who says for the Serbs that they are fascists, that is, the Nazis, that they were guilty for the First World War, that they oppressed all neighboring nations, and alike. The other authors attempted to review the same topic, as an echo of the mentioned discriminatory process by *The Volunteer Gazette*, which was the book of *Medical Missions in the Serbian Liberation Wars 1912-1918* (21) in which, 1370 of these precious people could be found.

In this booklet you can find this statement of Lady Paget: "My admiration and respect for the Serbian soldiers was boundless. They never accepted defeat, never complained, were incredibly patient, and in the fight, they were the best. Many people have good fighters, but I doubt that there are a lot of those who can fight so great, living with only two breads a week" (19). A few days before she died (25th September 1958), she confided to her Orthodox friend: "Let all forget me. Never mind. But it will be hard for me if my Serbs forget me" (19).

In the same booklet, and in many books on the same subject matter, no names could be published of any of the ones who respected Serbs, and spent more than a year with them two or three times, for instance:

- Miss Mabel Maud Green, clerk, December 1915- July 1916, and November 1916 – 15th July 1919;
- Miss Jenny Andrew, orderly, 4th May - 25th July 1916 and November 1916-21st December 1918;
- Miss Irene Howard Smith, orderly, 20th April- October 1916 and 18th January- July 1919;
- Miss Alison Mary Hunter, physician, December 1915- September 1916 and 11th September 1918- 2nd April 1919;

- Miss Edit Ethel Florence Hore, orderly, August 1916- July 1917 and 10th January – 4th August 1919;
- Miss Elizabeth Gertrude Gouf Arbuthnot, orderly, 13th June – 24th September 1917 and 20th February 1918- 21st January 1919;
- Miss Gladys Ward, physician, 26th June- 24th November 1917 and 2nd March 1918- April 1919;
- Miss Cecilia Mary Douglas, orderly, 2nd April- 24th November 1917 and 20th February – 9th December 1918;
- Miss Isobel Lewis, orderly, 30th August 1916- 25th November 1917 and 20th February- September 1918;
- Miss Agnes Maud Murphy, orderly, 30th August 1916- 24th December 1917 and 20th February- 4th December 1918;
- Miss Ethel Moir, orderly, 30th August 1916- February 1917 and 20th February 1918- 15th January 1919;
- Miss Daphne Gertrude Persee, orderly from France, 21st April – 24th November 1917 and 20th February 1918- 21st January 1919;
- Miss Margaret Wright, orderly, 21st April – 24th November 1917 and 2nd March 1918- March 1919;
- Miss Frances Elinor Rendel, physician, 30th August 1916- October 1917 and 3rd August 1918- March 1919;
- Miss Geraldine Hedges, chauffeur, laundry s/int , transport officer, 30th August 1916 - April 1917, 13th July- 24th November 1917, and 20th February- November 1918;
- And many others (22).

And since the lists arrived from Glasgow, the author could have put together a book entitled "The Scottish Women with the Serbs 1914-1918", Novi Sad 2010, in which, on 123 pages, 1243 names of these women who helped the Serbs (39-117) could be found, and to whom the Serbian people have not paid enough respect yet.

Not counting the message written by the medically treated captain Mihajlo L. Dimitrijević, who wrote in October 1918, from Niš, to Miss Izobel Ross: "Without your effort ... anywhere behind our fighting lines, the Serbs would not be able to achieve what they achieved...we all have...to take a bow... to dear and brave British ladies who helped Serbs to recover for new victories. May the God bless all of them and let He redeem our debt" (16).

We do not count, of course, even when we know how much they were true, the words of Miss Dorothy Dot Newhall, an orderly from England, whose name and work are known only to the "dedicated" ones, that it was "an anonymous work, with no trumpet or fanfare, no songs or blazonry, forgotten. But, I am convinced, it was worth."

It was worth it, indeed.

However, "the cobwebs of oblivion and ingratitude", as it was written (21) by Dr. Milan Breberina, "covered the names and work of the greatest friends of Serbia. Our flippancy and conceit, superficiality and laziness, have led to the fact that these heroes, and the list says they were heroes, are fully and thoroughly forgotten ... Should we even wonder why many turned their back to us, the ungrateful ones.

Conflict of interest

We declare no conflicts of interest.

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