

TWENTY-FIRST AWARD
of the
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Defining the spirit of the Red Cross, Max Huber once said that "it is to accept to sacrifice oneself to help others". He added that, in order to preserve the essence of this spirit, "there must be spontaneous action . . . there is a kind of silent heroism in the work carried out daily for the sick".

Who can show this better than nurses who devote all their energies to others? It is this disinterested service in a world which is more often than not obsessed by material success, which is the finest of examples given due recognition by the awarding of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

This high distinction, as is generally known, is awarded every two years by the International Committee, on proposals submitted beforehand by the National Societies, to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves by caring for others by devoted service, perseverance and their faithfulness to Red Cross principles.

In 1967 at the request of the ICRC all National Societies gave a ceremonious character to the presentation of the award. They have sent us for the first time all the necessary details for an article, thus enabling the International Review to pay tribute to all recipients without any omissions.

*

AUSTRALIA

Miss Constance Lawson is a Registered State Nurse and Matron. In 1940 she enlisted in the Nursing Service of the Australian Army and served for five years in the South West Pacific, part of that period in the hospital ship "Wanganella". She was mentioned in Despatches for her devotion to the sick and wounded.

After the war she occupied senior posts in various hospital establishments and was appointed Matron of the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne the major maternity hospital in Victoria.

She was one of the first to introduce refresher courses for nurses wishing to resume professional work. She has also been responsible for introducing other innovations with much humanity.

On July 28, 1967, she was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal at a ceremony at the Headquarters of the Australian Red Cross by the President of the Society, Lady Casey, wife of the Governor-General of Australia. There were some fifty guests present, including five previous Australian recipients of the award, leading members of National Headquarters and senior officials of the State of Victoria.¹

BELGIUM

On May 21, 1967, the President of the Belgian Red Cross, H. R. H. Prince Albert bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on *Miss Gabrielle Revelard*.¹ Commenting on the event, the Belgian press stressed the outstanding merit shown by her during the course of forty years devoted to other people's safeguard and their increased well-being.

After studying at a school in Kaiserwerth, which had also once had Florence Nightingale as a pupil, she then, together with Edith Cavell, directed courses for young trainees at the "Maison des Diaconesses" in Brussels where she later opened a dispensary. She was Directress of a Nursing School at Charleroi and founded a similar establishment at Tournai. During the two world wars her spirit of sacrifice was demonstrated on many occasions often in tragic circumstances. In 1914 she installed a Red Cross ambulance

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

where the wounded and the badly burned were collected and treated. She also at the same time trained first-aiders from young boys and girls. She indeed fulfilled the traditional duty of the Red Cross, which is to collect the wounded from the battle-field. She protected and saved many wounded from being deported.

The Second World War found her with the Red Cross Committee of Tournai as Directress of Medical Services. She there carried out her task under bombing, entirely without thought for her own personal safety. Imprisoned in 1944, she shortly afterwards assumed the direction of the military hospital which the occupying forces had just abandoned and which contained 120 wounded.

Thus, for forty years, the recipient of the Medal has lived her vocation fully and with effectiveness. Her conduct during the two world wars was exemplary, although in time of peace she has known how to look towards the future actively in the many spheres of teaching and social work.

CANADA

Miss Alice M. Girard was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal on May 8, 1967 by Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, in Montreal during a visit which he made to Canada.¹ The ceremony was organized by the Canadian Red Cross and took place at the annual meeting of the Central Council of the National Society.

Having started to follow a teaching career, she then turned to nursing and attended nursing courses at the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, Sherbrooke. She has had varied experience in all branches of her profession, then, returning to teaching, she instructed at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Montreal.

Today she is Dean of that Faculty, the first woman to occupy that position in Canada. To attain this stature she continued her studies in different universities in public health, nursing education and hospital administration. In 1961 the Government appointed Miss Girard a member of the Royal Commission on Health Services in Canada, three years before which she had been elected President of the Canadian Nurses' Association. Further recognition was given her when she became President of the International Council of Nurses.

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The Montreal press published photographs of the recipient and articles stressing her high sense of duty and her continuous work, on the international as well as on the national level, to improve the professional status of nurses.

CHILE

There was a festive air about the Aula of the Santa Maria University of Valparaiso on June 23, 1967. With a profusion of flowers it was prepared that day to receive a large gathering come to pay tribute to a Chilean to whom credit was due, *Señora Joaquina Escarpenter de Segeur*, Adviser to the Chilean Red Cross Central Committee, President of the Valparaiso and Aconcagua Red Cross regional Committee.

The Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to her by the National Society President, Dr. Inostrosa, in the presence of the Governor of the province, political, civilian, military and medical notables and all the delegations comprising the Valparaiso Committee.¹ Several speeches were made, particularly by the Society President who mentioned that this Medal symbolized "the true Red Cross spirit of sacrifice, love and self-denial for those who suffer, no matter what their race, religion or political ideology". He said the Government of Chile joined in paying tribute to a nurse whose qualities were well known and who was active in so many spheres.

In her reply, the medalist expressed in moving terms her joy and pride, referring to "the Lady with the Lamp" whose example was a lesson to us all.

Señora Joaquina Escarpenter de Segeur is a voluntary nurse in the Chilean Red Cross. In 1936, she was one of the founders of the Valparaiso Red Cross Regional Committee. She subsequently worked in the city hospital blood bank.

Her relief work was outstanding during the 1939, 1960 and 1965 earthquakes and during the devastating hurricanes of 1965. Her dedication and competence fitted her to meet the tasks to which those dramatic events gave rise.

In the reorganization of the Yungay local committee, with which she was entrusted, she set up new services such as the poli-

¹ *Plate.*

clinic, courses for voluntary nurses and first-aiders, and free dental service. She was later appointed President of the Valparaiso Regional Committee where she devoted her energies to the inspection and reorganization of local sections. As the Central Committee's Technical Adviser she is concerned with the setting up of a blood bank as part of the Chilean Red Cross blood transfusion programme.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Miss Marta Anna Šindlerová received the Florence Nightingale Medal on September 26, 1967 in Prague on the occasion of the session of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, amidst acclamation and expressions of general sympathy.¹ The press as well as the television and broadcasting service fully publicised the ceremony and demonstrated that this was also a tribute to Czechoslovak nurses.

The recipient of the award received the State Diploma in Nursing in 1918 and started as a nurse at the Prague General Hospital. Then from 1922 she worked for the Czechoslovak Red Cross. From 1930 to 1937 she occupied posts in various State organizations: Central Office for the Protection of the Mother and Child, State School of Public Health where she was instructress and then assistant Directress. She was again in the service of the Red Cross until 1940, when she was called to the Ministry of Public Health, Nursing Section. Between 1951 and 1959 she was Head Nurse for the organization of medical care of the young. She is now retired, but still actively serves the Red Cross from her own home.

These are mere facts briefly described. However one should also recall the deep sense of humanity, the courage and decisive spirit shown by Miss Šindlerová in the most difficult circumstances. Thus in 1945, when fighting was in progress, she organized the Red Cross Voluntary Nursing Service, as she had done before the war. Similarly, during the occupation of her country she aided families of persons arrested. Mention should also be made of the high standard of the work she accomplished as Head Nurse in taking part in the creation in 1922 of the first consulting dispensary of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and, after the Second World War, in providing

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

the National Society with training schools for qualified nurses. These two examples are also a testimony to her initiative in serving the humanitarian ideal.

Forty years have thus passed in the service of others. Modesty, devotion and competence, these are qualities of which the recipient has shown constant proof.

FINLAND

At the General Assembly of the Finnish Red Cross on December 2, 1967, a member of the Central Committee, in the President's absence, bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on *Miss Aino Jenny Durchman*.¹

After studies in her own country and in the United States she was Ward Nurse in a provincial hospital, then appointed Matron at the Helsinki General Hospital. Some time later she made study visits to Sweden and Denmark and obtained scholarships of the Rockefeller Foundation and WHO, enabling her to pursue her studies in Canada, France, Poland and in the United States.

In 1936, she became Principal of the Helsinki Nursing School and in 1959 of the College of Nursing. The wide extent of the knowledge she gained during her travels and her steadfast determination to impart this to the benefit of her country enabled her to give fresh impetus to the training of nurses. It is due to her experience and initiative that nursing training has attained the high level it has now reached in Finland.

Miss Durchman has served the Red Cross for the purpose of imparting her knowledge to help in improving the teaching of nursing in her country and she has always shown in a strictly practical sense the reality and the responsibilities required of nurses.

FRANCE

On June 16, 1967, at the French Red Cross Central Headquarters in Paris, two nurses were honoured, namely *Mlle Lucie Roques*, State Registered Nurse and social worker, and *Mlle Marie Loprestis*, State Registered Nurse.

¹ *Plate.*

Mr. François-Poncet, then President of the French Red Cross, pinned the Florence Nightingale Medal on the uniform of each medalist, in the presence of a large audience.¹ His speech recalled the work of Florence Nightingale “ whose noble example brightened the history of nursing in the last century ”; he also spoke on the merits of the two nurses being honoured that day, and whose outstanding services are resumed below.

M^{lle} Roques' career started in hospitals. During the Second World War, as an *infirmière major*, she had responsibility for a light ambulance and subsequently for a hospital for the wounded.

In 1944 she was Director of the *Service Médico-Social de la Maison du Prisonnier* and later Head Social Assistant to the *Service de l'Inspection des Sanatoriums militaires de la Croix-Rouge française en Allemagne*. After returning to France she assumed various major functions. From 1946 to 1956 she was Assistant to the Director of the National Society's Child Welfare Service.

Over the last twenty years she has devoted a considerable part of her time to social work in a district in Paris. She now presides over the district committee of the Red Cross and discharges her mission under our common sign with sensibility and intelligence.

M^{lle} Loprestis has been nursing at the French Red Cross Hospital School, *l'hôpital des Peupliers* in Paris for the last forty years. She gave her service voluntary for twenty years. In 1943, as *infirmière-major* her efficiency and dedication earned her a leading rôle at that hospital and the confidence of the medical profession. She still fulfils this function today, lavishing by day or night the benefits of her presence and her nursing skill. The Red Cross movement would be the poorer without such people who dedicate their lives to charity.

Her service record shows her to be “ in the forefront of her generation for her moral value, intelligence and professional efficiency ”. The younger generation of nurses she trains will be able to deal effectively with the difficult situations which crop up in many Red Cross missions in France or abroad.

¹ *Plate.*

GERMANY
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

In October 1967 more than a hundred active members met in the Zwinger Palace in Dresden on the occasion of the anniversary of the foundation of the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic. Amongst them was a nurse of seventy-five years of age to whom the Florence Nightingale Medal had been awarded by the ICRC. The recipient was *Mrs. Toni Stemmler*, Red Cross Voluntary Aid and Nursing Aid.

In the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Health, Professor Werner Ludwig, President of the National Society recalled the often perilous stages of a life entirely devoted to others, and then handed her the medal with the accompanying diploma.¹

After having been a teacher for over twenty years, Mrs. Stemmler decided to devote herself to the sick, as an assistant nurse. In 1941, she was arrested and deported, first to Ravensbrück then to Auschwitz.

At the risk of her own life she treated the internees there and used all her energy to alleviate the plight of the sick and of the victims of pseudo-medical experiments. She assumed, entirely alone, without medical supervision the direction of a section of the hospital situated outside the Auschwitz concentration camp.

On returning home in 1945, although suffering from bad health, she again worked in public health bodies until 1953 when she went into retirement.

Today, she is an active member of her country's Red Cross. In addition, in recognition of her constant devotion and of her experience in matters of hygiene, Mrs. Toni Stemmler was elected, for the period 1950-1954, member of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic. She is also the holder of several decorations.

During the war, the recipient of the award, as so many of her companions, knew how to give entirely of herself, risking her own life the better to save those of others.

¹ *Plate.*

GERMANY

FEDERAL REPUBLIC

The German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany presented the candidatures of three outstanding nurses to the ICRC to whom the Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded. These were: *Matron Henni Thiessen, Sister Anna Kellner, Mrs. Jula Müller.*

Matron Henni Thiessen is at present Matron of the Red Cross (Wuppertal-Barmen Branch). She is a Registered Nurse.

In 1939 she was appointed "Armeecoberin", then "Feldoberin" and since the beginning of her career, her courage and firmness had an invigorating effect on her companions, whether in the appalling conditions on the eastern front, especially during the battle of Kharkov, or when on her return to Germany she worked in a hospital which was destroyed by bombing. Since 1952, she has been Vice-President of the Association of the Parent Establishments of the German Red Cross in Bonn. The Wuppertal-Barmen Branch possesses one large school for hospital care and another for pediatrics. She is responsible for training registered nurses, a task which she carries out with entire selflessness.

Sister Anna Kellner is at present "Gemeinde-Schwester" in Bad Tölz. A Red Cross nurse, she was from 1940 to 1945 a member of German army mobile units in France, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece and lastly as Sister-in-Chief in Russia. In the last mentioned country, her mission was to bring wounded and sick soldiers back to Germany.

After the war, she resumed her duties at Bad Tölz where she is in charge of hospital duties and gives instruction, with official co-operation, in first-aid and home care.

With thirty-eight years of helping others, she still keeps her enthusiasm and gives valuable help to the Bavarian Red Cross.

These two medals were presented at a ceremony in Kiel on May 30, 1967 during the Annual General Assembly of the Branch Associations of the German Red Cross in the presence of a thousand nurses. The President of the Association, "Generaloberin" Ilse von Troschke handed medals and accompanying diplomas to the recipients.¹

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Mrs. Jula Müller is at present "Landes- und Bezirksbereitschaftsführerin" with the Red Cross for all auxiliary aids and nursing assistants in the Rhineland-Pfalz. During the First World War she was a nurse in hospitals and railway stations. From 1918 to 1939 she was in charge of welfare and medical services of the Red Cross.

In the Second World War, she was "Armeeschwester" in France, in charge of all German Red Cross nurses in three hospitals and numerous hospital trains.

On returning to her country, she continued to care for German prisoners of war and the families of those killed in the war and assumed increasingly responsible positions connected with nursing care.

The Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to her on July 19, 1967 in Mainz, on the occasion of the meeting of the Provincial Council of the Red Cross¹. In his speech, the President recalled the recipient's exceptional qualities and how she always demonstrated the "Red Cross spirit". In her reply, Mrs. Müller described all that this spirit means to her and how selflessness is a spontaneous act, not to be gainsaid.

GREAT BRITAIN

At the meeting of the British Red Cross Society's Council held on July 13, 1967, in the presence of H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, Vice-President and Patron of the Junior Red Cross, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Chairman of the Council presented the Florence Nightingale Medal and the accompanying diploma to *Miss Elaine Hills-Young*, M.B.E.¹

Thanks to her numerous qualifications she was able to undertake important tasks, chiefly in the Sudan where she held senior appointments such as Principal of the Midwifery Training School and Supervisor of Midwives and Child Welfare Organizations and of the Sudan Nursing Service. She was thus in direct contact with the local population and closely involved in the establishment and organization of the Branch of the British Red Cross in the Sudan. In addition, owing to her knowledge of the country's language she laid the foundations of training in Home Nursing and in Maternal

¹ *Plate.*

and Child Welfare, which she rendered easier by writing a book in Sudanese Arabic and took every opportunity to extend the Red Cross field of action.

On her return to Europe, she escorted prisoners of war in 1944 from Sweden to England and treated the severely wounded and sick amongst them. She was then Matron-in-Chief to the British Red Cross Relief Commission for North-West Europe and from 1949 to 1965 she was Divisional Director of the Hertfordshire Branch of the British Red Cross (St. Albans). She is still actively concerned with the Florence Nightingale International Nurses Association of which she has been Honorary Editor for many years.

She has in all circumstances shown tireless determination and zeal in her care for the sick and wounded. She has given outstanding service to the Red Cross and its development and the press was unanimous, when commenting on the event, in stressing the high quality of the help given by the recipient of the award to the National Society's work and of her aid to those who were suffering.

GREECE

On September 14, 1967 at the Red Cross School of Nursing in Athens, there took place the inaugural session of the Conference organized by the International Association of Florence Nightingale Nurses.¹

The medal was presented on that occasion to *Mrs. Maria Eleftheriou*, during a ceremony in keeping with the wishes of the founders of this high distinction.² Many notables were present, as well as members of the Central Committee of the Hellenic Red Cross, and nurses from nineteen countries, medalists of previous awards.

Mrs. Eleftheriou graduated from the Red Cross School of Nursing in Athens. She did further training in the Bedford College of London University and at the Royal College of Nursing. She returned to London later and also went to other countries to study hospital methods and new techniques in pedagogy.

She dedicated herself to teaching at the Hellenic Red Cross School of Nursing. From Assistant Instructress, she became Director of Studies and took part in implementing the plan to modernize

¹ See *International Review*, March 1968.

² *Plate*.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

studies. She was later appointed Director of Hospital Services and Inspector of Red Cross Nursing, and in 1961 was elected to her present position of General Director and Inspector.

Mrs. Eleftheriou's record of service, both international—she was Vice-President of the League's Nursing Advisory Committee from 1959-1961—and national, speaks volumes for the important part she took in her country's National Society. Her self-denial and decision enabled her effectively to discharge the many tasks with which she was entrusted.

IRELAND

On January 27, 1967 in Dublin, at the headquarters of the Irish Red Cross, the National Society organized a reception attended by many senior officials, diplomatic representatives including the Swiss Ambassador, as well as Red Cross leaders. The occasion was the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to *Miss Elizabeth Kenny*, the fifth Irish nurse to receive this high award¹.

The Society's Chairman, Mrs. Tom Barry, delivered an address in praise of the medalist: "I am very proud to present you with this splendid award in recognition of your work; your outstanding efficiency as a nurse in helping the wounded and sick at home and abroad brought honour to your profession and credit to those in Ireland who trained you. Your conduct at all times had shed lustre on our country".

The many newspaper cuttings we have received show the interest displayed by the Irish press in the importance of this event and the consideration enjoyed in Ireland by Miss Kenny and the Irish Red Cross in general.

The medalist is a young nurse and midwife who, in 1963, volunteered for service in Vietnam with the Dr. Tom Dooley Fund of Ireland. She first worked in a leprosarium not far from Saigon and later, at the request of the Ministry of Health, also gave her services at the region's maternity clinics and gave training in nursing and midwifery. Later she went to Qui Nhon, North of Saigon to a mission hospital, where she was in charge of the operating theatre, held a clinic for fifty tuberculosis patients daily and helped in the vaccination programme of outlying villages. In 1964,

¹ *Plate.*

Miss Kenny was working for the 12,000 refugees who flowed in from all parts bringing with them typhoid, cholera and the plague. This went on until 1966, when the town became the centre of fighting and the authorities, concerned for her safety, ordered her to cease her work. She then returned to Ireland where she resumed her position as Staff Nurse at St Michael's hospital.

The press paid tribute to the young nurse for her courage and spirit of self-sacrifice.

JAPAN

The ICRC has recognized the outstanding merit of three nurses nominated by the Japanese Red Cross, by awarding them the Florence Nightingale Medal. The medalists were *Miss Shizu Kaneko*, *Miss Iwano Niki* and *Miss Moyo Suzuki*.

Miss Shizu Kaneko is a Japanese Red Cross nurse. Senior Nurse in 1928, Nursing Director in 1949, she is now Head Nurse at the Maebashi Red Cross Hospital.

Like many of her colleagues, Miss Shizu Kaneko, during her forty years of service, has known a period of war, when, in addition to her professional qualifications, she gave proof of calm courage in the face of danger, and a time of peace when she displayed, as she continues still to do, a remarkable talent for organization in her work of improving hospital services, teaching student nurses and in prompt relief work when natural disaster strikes. Thus, in a number of ways, she finds scope for fields of action demanding various skills, having dedication to humanitarian work in the true Red Cross spirit as a common denominator. This is of course a remark which applies equally to the other two medalists.

Miss Shizu Kaneko's war-time activity was that of Head Nurse on hospital ships. She displayed dedication equal to all trials, performing with courage the difficult tasks of her profession and earning the affection of the sick and wounded.

In time of peace, she was first of all a nurse in various Red Cross hospitals and took an active part in training student nurses. When typhoons struck the regions of Kanto and North-East Japan, she organized relief teams and cared for the victims. The reputation she acquired over so many years of service to the community, and her important contribution to the administration of the Red Cross hospital, earned her the consideration of all who came in contact with her work.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Miss Iwano Niki is another Red Cross nurse, a Matron since 1927 and Director of the Komatsushima Red Cross Hospital Nursing Department.

During the Sino-Japanese War she was Nurse-in-Charge of Red Cross relief teams aboard three hospital ships, with responsibility for the transport and evacuation of the wounded and sick on which she lavished her care, regardless of danger to herself and the hardships of the climate. Her warm-heartedness, her equanimity even in the face of danger, combined with wide experience of nursing, earned her widespread recognition. She discharged the same duties during the Second World War, again aboard hospital ships, as a member of one of the Japanese Red Cross Society's relief teams.

She occupied managerial positions in various State and Red Cross hospitals and later became *Senior Nurse* at the Tokushima University Hospital Nursing School. She was appointed a member of the Council of Nurses, Social Assistants and Midwives. In 1962 she was appointed to the office she still holds today—Director of the Nursing Department of the Red Cross Hospital at Komatsushima.

As can be seen, Miss Niki has had important responsibilities for forty-five years both in the training of nurses and the improvement of their social and working conditions.

Miss Moyo Suzuki has been a Japanese Red Cross *Senior Nurse* since 1918. She is now the holder of that position at the Shōwa University Hospital.

Most of her work has been for the benefit of Koreans. She was first a *Senior Nurse* on the staff of the General Government in Seoul. She immediately took an interest in local hygiene conditions, which she worked to improve. She put her nursing knowledge into practice with enthusiasm; took a keen interest in the teaching of nursing and spread knowledge of home nursing in mountainous and isolated regions.

In 1921 she assisted Korean refugees. Overcoming material difficulties thanks to her energy and dedication, she accomplished work of such utility that it was quoted in a Korean school textbook as an example. During the Sino-Japanese War she was called upon to serve on hospital ships crossing between Shanghai and Japan. She cared for the wounded and the sick; some she saved by donating her own blood. During the Second World War she worked at the Shōwa University Hospital where she had to contend with a con-

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

TWENTY-FIRST AWARD

GERMANY (Democratic Republic)

The President of the Red Cross, D' Ludwig congratulates Mrs. Toni Stemmler.



GERMANY (Federal Republic)

From left to right: Sister Anna Kellner, Generaloberin Ilse von Troschke, the Honorary President of the German Red Cross, Mr. von Lex, Oberin Henni Thiessen.





GERMANY
(Federal Republic)

The President of the Mainz Red Cross Section presents the medal to Mrs. Jula Müller.

AUSTRALIA

Miss Constance Lawson, Australian Red Cross medalist.



BELGIUM

The President of the Belgian Red Cross, H. R. H. Prince Albert, presenting the medal to Miss Gabrielle Revelard.



CANADA

In Montreal Mr. S.A. Gonard, ICRC President, presenting the medal to Miss Alice M. Girard.

CHILI

Dr. Inostrosa, President of the National Society, pins the medal on Mrs. Joaquina Escarpenter de Segeur.





KOREA (Republic of)

The President of the National Red Cross congratulates Mrs. Kim Ahn Kuy-Boon, who has just been presented with the medal by the wife of the President of the Republic (left).

FINLAND

A member of the Finnish Red Cross central committee presents Miss Aino Jenny Durchman with the medal and diploma.





FRANCE

Mr. A. François-Poncet, President of the French Red Cross at the time, presents the medal to Miss Lucie Roques and...



...Miss Marie Loprestis.

GREAT BRITAIN

The medalist, Miss Elaine Hills-Young, M.B.E., between the Duke of Gloucester, President of the British Red Cross Council, and H.R.H. Princess Alexandra, Vice-President.





GREECE

The President of the Hellenic Red Cross presents the medal and diploma to Mrs. Maria Eleftheriou.



IRELAND

Mrs. Tom Barry, Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, congratulates Miss Elizabeth Kenny (right).



JAPAN

H.M. the Empress, Honorary President of the Japanese Red Cross, presents the medal to the three medallists: Miss Moyo Suzuki, Miss Iwano Niki, and Miss Shizu Kaneko.



PHILIPPINES

In Manila, honorary ICRC delegate, Mr. Calderara, presenting the medal and diploma to Mrs. Socorro Salamanca Diaz.

JAPAN

H.M. the Empress, Honorary President of the Japanese Red Cross, presents the medal to the three meda-
lists: Miss Moyo Suzuki,
Miss Iwano Niki, and Miss
Shizu Kaneko.



PHILIPPINES

In Manila, honorary ICRC
delegate, Mr. Calderara,
presenting the medal and
diploma to Mrs. Socorro
Salamanca Diaz.





SWITZERLAND

Professor von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross, presenting the medal to Miss Héléne Nussbaum.



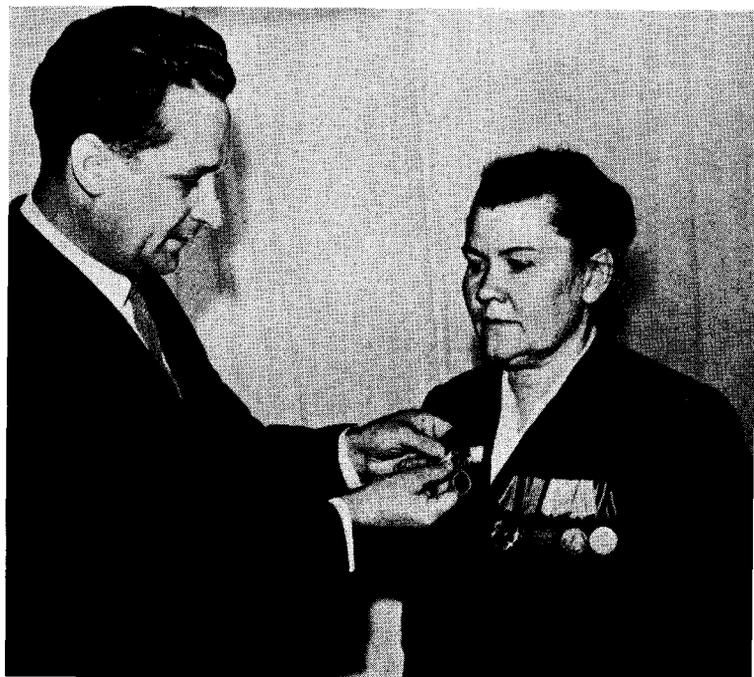
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The late lamented President of the Czech Red Cross, Dr. Stich, pins the medal on Miss Marta Anna Sindlerová.



THAILAND

H.M. the King of Thailand, patron of the National Red Cross, accompanied by H.M. the Queen, the Society's President, presents the medal to Miss Tawinwang Dutiyabodhi.



USSR

The President of the Byelorussian branch of the Red Cross presenting the medal to Mrs. Eugenia Chevtchenko.



USSR

The Vice-President of the Red Cross of the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic congratulating Mrs Irina Klykova.



Mrs. Klaudia Boutova after receiving the medal.

Miss Anna Kousnetzova's friends rejoice over the award to her of the medal.



siderable influx of victims of the intense air-raids on the town. Throughout the forty-four years of her career, Miss Moyo Suzuki has shown, and continues to show, outstanding qualities of generosity and intelligence.

The official ceremony for the presentation of the medal to the three winners took place on July 3, 1967 in the auditorium of the Japanese Red Cross Nursing College at Shibuya. H.M. the Empress of Japan, as Honorary President of the National Society, presented the diplomas and pinned the medals on the recipients.¹ The Crown Princess and the three Imperial Princesses, all four of whom are Vice-Presidents, also attended the ceremony, as did the President of the House of Representatives and the Minister of Public Health. The ICRC was represented by its honorary delegate.

The President of the Japanese Red Cross declared the ceremony open and H.M. the Empress delivered an address in which she stressed the great significance of the award of the medal by the ICRC to three Japanese nurses. Other speakers included the ICRC delegate and one of the medalists who spoke also in the name of her colleagues.

KOREA

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The 18th anniversary of the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea, on October 27, 1967, was the more auspicious for the exceptional importance which the Society attached to the ceremony for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to two particularly deserving nurses, *Mrs. Kim Ahn Kuy-Boon*, and *Miss Kim Eul-Ran*.

The ceremony took place at the Seoul Drama Centre before a large audience and in the presence of many distinguished guests, and the wife of the President of the Republic herself presented the medal to Mrs. Kim Ahn Kuy-Boon.¹ The diploma and medal for Miss Kim Eul-Ran were sent to her in Canada where she now resides.

Mrs. Kim Ahn Kuy-Boon, holding the lighted symbolic lamp passed over to her by a previous medalist, recited the Florence Nightingale pledge, which was repeated by all nurses present. The ceremony was given wide coverage by the press, radio and television.

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Mrs. Kuy-Boon began her chosen career when war broke out in 1937 between China and Japan. She had just completed her third year studies at the Shanghai Sanatorium and Hospital. She was sent to Seoul where she resumed her nursing work at Seoul Sanatorium and Hospital. She later went to Pusan where she served as a nurse, taught and worked in various ways to improve health and hygiene among the population. On her return to Seoul in 1950 she resumed her teaching and practical work in a special ward for war orphans and refugees wandering in the streets, when she became known to patients and colleagues as the mother of orphans. In fact she did adopt two orphans, one of whom with a serious spinal defect was cured after the grafting of a bone taken from her own leg.

Today she continues to serve in organizing and developing the Korean nurses' association; she was appointed President of Seoul City Nursing Association in 1965. Mrs. Kim, during the three wars to which she was a witness, unceasingly displayed a spirit of human solidarity.

Miss Kim Eul-Ran joined the Seoul Red Cross when she graduated as a nurse in 1938. In 1946 she was transferred to Pusan as Head Nurse of that City's Civic Hospital, where she was also in charge of education at the hospital's school of nursing. She soon displayed her outstanding efficiency when, in the summer of 1946, a serious epidemic of cholera broke out. Miss Kim worked day and night with the special medical team sent from Seoul. Through her skill and devotion more than 200 serious patients were cured.

After the outbreak of the Korean War, she was called upon in 1951 to serve as Korean Chief Nurse in a field combat hospital where prisoners of war were hospitalized and where, with complete impartiality, she upheld the principles of the Red Cross.

Upon her return to Seoul a year later she devoted her time and efforts to caring for refugees and war orphans. She was transferred in 1956 to Incheon Red Cross Sanatorium where she tended consumptive war orphans. In 1959 she was transferred to the National Kongju Hospital for consumptives. She took part in the struggle against epidemics of typhoid, encephalitis and diphtheria. She was, with her team, always one of the first on the scene in concerted action with the Public Health authorities. In 1964 she was again transferred to Seoul Civic Southern Hospital, of which she is today the Nursing Director, with undiminished dedication. Throughout her life, in a ceaseless struggle against disease and suffering, she has drawn strength from her noble calling.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Red Cross availed itself of the occasion of its National Convention on December 10, 1967, to pay tribute to its voluntary workers and particularly to *Mrs. Socorro Salamanca Diaz*, who was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal during a ceremony which took place in one of Manila's large hotels, and in the presence of senior government officials including the Vice-President of the Philippines. A message from the President of the Republic recalled the significance of the Red Cross principles which, he said, must be the concern not only of members of the Red Cross but of all Filipinos. The medal was presented to Mrs. Diaz by Mr. Calderara, honorary ICRC delegate to the Philippines.¹ The medalist wrote to the International Committee expressing her gratitude and pride at being given this distinction which—as may be seen below—is a token of recognition of service to mankind.

Mrs. Socorro Salamanca Diaz graduated from the Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing and is Bachelor of Science in Nursing of the University of Santo Tomas. For over fifty years she has been assuming responsibility in nursing. As early as 1918 she was First Superintendent of the Social Service Unit of the Bureau of Public Welfare, responsible for the organization and administration of infant welfare centres, maternity homes and schools of midwifery throughout the Philippines. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Bureau of Public Welfare became the focal point for relief distribution. Mrs. Diaz undertook the difficult task of extending relief to the countless displaced persons. In 1944 Mrs. Diaz was appointed Administrative Officer of the Veterans' Bureau, in which she did pioneer work, for it was under her guidance that vocational activities were initiated for the disabled, particularly the manufacture of artificial limbs and Braille-writing instruments. She visited sick prisoners of war and arranged for their transfer to convalescent homes and hospitals; she assisted repatriates from Hong Kong, improvised a mail service between prisoners of war and their families, and generally contending effectively with situations calling for great courage. After the war, Mrs. Diaz was appointed to further important functions which she still discharges today in nurse training and the administration of her country's major humanitarian institutions.

¹ *Plate.*

SWITZERLAND

By awarding the Florence Nightingale Medal to *Miss Hélène Nussbaum* the ICRC paid tribute to a nurse whose exceptional merits can be summed up in two words: determination, efficiency. Mention must also be made of her intelligent understanding for all problems.

She began her career as a volunteer nurse with the Italian Red Cross during an earthquake in Sicily. After obtaining the Swiss nursing diploma, she worked from 1932 in various hospitals in Switzerland and later devoted herself for many years to humanitarian tasks in Greece.

In 1946, with UNRRA, she was assigned the reorganization of sanatoria for consumptives in Greece and the setting up of a school to train nursing aids specializing in the care of consumptives. In 1947, WHO commissioned her to reorganize in Greece certain hospitals which had been damaged during the war.

In 1951, she joined the ICRC, serving it in Greece, where she undertook the difficult task of tracing tuberculosis cases in detention centres and among the population. She spent three years visiting the larger detention centres, distributing relief sent to Athens by the ICRC and negotiating with senior civil servants, prison superintendents and prison doctors. In addition, after an earthquake in the Ionian islands, she organized and directed a camp for the homeless.

From 1951 to 1954 she dedicated herself entirely to this outstanding work. But her task in Greece was not finished and she continued working in that country from 1955 to 1958, after writing a "Preparatory Course for Red Cross Volunteers". She founded and directed a kindergarten and the country's first school for pediatric nursing.

In 1961 she was appointed Secretary and later Executive Director of the General Secretariat of the International Council of Nurses, then in London and since 1966 in Geneva. Until 1967 she held a very important office calling for wide knowledge. Once again, she displayed the highest moral qualities and practical experience.

The Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to Miss Hélène Nussbaum during a Swiss Red Cross management committee meeting in Berne on October 26, 1967.¹ The National Society President, Professor A. von Albertini, bestowed the medal on the recipient. The Swiss press mentioned the significance of the medal and the importance of the award which does credit to the land of Henry Dunant.

¹ *Plate.*

THAILAND

The presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to *Miss Tawinwang Dutiyabodhi* took place at Chitrlade Palace on August 23, 1967.¹ She had been selected by the ICRC for the outstanding services she had given in carrying out her duties.

The presence of H. M. The King, Patron of the Thai Red Cross and of the Queen, President of the Society, added to the splendour of the ceremony. The award was presented to the recipient by the King himself after the Executive Vice-President of the Society had reported on the significance of the distinction and the merits of the person receiving it. Members of the Royal suite, of the National Society and nurses in their white uniforms were present and the highlight of the event was the address given by the King in which he expressed his satisfaction over the award, saying that it was an honour for the National Society as well as for his country's nurses. Not only was it a tribute to the recipient, it was also an encouragement to continue efforts in the cause of humanitarian service.

Miss Tawinwang Dutiyabodhi received the Red Cross Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery in 1929 and started graduate nursing training in obstetrics. After a period as Supervisor of Midwifery, then Head Nurse of the Obstetric Department and assistant Directress of the Chulalongkorn Hospital School of Nursing, she subsequently became Directress of that establishment. She is at present Directress of Nursing Services and of the Red Cross School of Nursing. Miss Dutiyabodhi was able to assume these important administrative duties owing to the thorough and extensive knowledge she had acquired. Thanks to a fund provided by the Red Cross of her country she was able to follow a course of study and further education in the United States and a few years later she went to London under the Florence Nightingale Scholarship. She was thus fully qualified to organize in Thailand courses in Home Nursing for volunteers and, showing considerable initiative, to develop instruction in the field of nursing.

It should be added that during the Second World War she cared for the wounded and sick with the greatest solicitude and looked after their families.

¹ *Plate.*

U.S.S.R.

The four candidates whose names were submitted by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR were deemed worthy of the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal. Each was a heroine of the Second World War who carried out the duty of saving lives on the battle-field, namely *Mrs. Evgenia Maximovna Chevtchenko*, *Mrs. Anna Romanovna Kousnetzova*, *Mrs. Irina Ivanovna Klykova* and *Mrs. Claudia Vassilievna Boutova*.

After graduating as a nurse from the Vitebsk State Medical College, Mrs. Evgenia Maximovna Chevtchenko began her nursing career in a polyclinic in the Minsk region.

In 1941 she decided to join the partisans. Faithfully carrying out the duties of her profession, she worked without regard for herself, seeking the wounded on the battle-field, removing them and tending them. She displayed not only courage but complete disregard for her own safety for three years in which she saved many wounded at the risk of her own life.

One incident in this eventful life deserves particular mention. In April 1944 she went to the help of a casualty who had had arms and legs blown off by a mine. As he lost consciousness he murmured "leave me comrade I am lost". All about her bullets whined through the air but little by little she managed by supreme effort to remove the wounded man from the battle-field to safety.

For her courage and her exploits for the benefit of the wounded, Mrs. Chevtchenko was honoured by the award of the country's highest distinction, the Order of Lenin.

Today she works in a policlinic in the Grodno region, exerting herself indefatigably to improve public health. She is an active member of the Red Cross and promotes blood donation.

She was presented with the medal on October 10, 1967, in the course of the ceremony which took place in Union House in the town of Grodno in Byelorussia. A large attendance of notables from the town and of nurses was present, and it was the President of the Central Committee of the Red Cross of the Byelorussian Republic who presented the medal.¹

Mrs. Anna Romanovna Kousnetzova is a graduate Red Cross nurse. As one of the Society's nurses accredited to the army she

¹ Plate.

was, from the beginning of the Second World War, well fitted to help the population exposed to enemy air-raids: in addition, she was a duty nurse in hospitals to look after the wounded.

In August 1941, eager to play a more direct part, she volunteered for duty at the front and served with the army until the end of the war, first as a nurse and later as Senior Nurse. Being constantly in the front line she was always active throughout the fighting near Moscow, Rjev, etc. and thanks to her exceptional courage under fire she saved more than one hundred wounded soldiers and officers. She was herself severely wounded in 1943 and though she could have returned to the rear when she recovered she resumed active service with the army at her own request and once again displayed bravery in her task as a nurse.

She is an active member of the Red Cross and President of a Red Cross section in one of Moscow's industrial districts. In addition she gives courses in schools on the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross and the work of female doctors and nurses attached to the army.

In Moscow on October 4, 1967, in the forecourt to the " House of Friendship with Foreigners " Mrs. Kousnetzova received the Florence Nightingale Medal from the Deputy President of the Central Committee of the Alliance, to the applause of an audience consisting of members of the capital's medical profession and many comrades.¹

Red Cross graduate nurse Mrs. Irina Ivanovna Klykova was appointed Head of the Orenburg Red Cross army medical unit. Under her guidance, this unit, the regional Committee's first, was outstanding for efficiency in first-aid.

At the beginning of 1942, she went to the front at Stalingrad as a volunteer with the army medical corps. She conducted herself remarkably. During violent fighting, under artillery fire, she conveyed wounded soldiers across the Volga, aflame with burning petroleum, and at the risk of her own life saved hundreds of wounded soldiers.

After the war, Mrs. Klykova resumed her functions with the Orenburg Regional Committee of which she has been President since 1963. Under her guidance, this Red Cross section renders useful service to the Public Health Department and is extending its activities, particularly in the fields of nursing, home nursing, first-aid training, prevention of infectious diseases.

¹ *Plate.*

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Mrs. Clavdia Vassilievna Boutova is a specialized operating theatre nurse, at present working in the Red Cross hospital at Sebastopol.

During the Second World War, she was active in assisting the victims of the fighting. On the battle-field, she displayed extraordinary courage in saving many wounded.

In one battle she was seriously wounded but after her recovery she returned to her army duties, continuing from 1945 to 1946 her heroism on the Far East front where on the battlefields she again exerted herself to treat the wounded.

Since the end of the war she has played an active part in Red Cross activities. As a Deputy for the President of the Sevastopol Red Cross hospital she is concerned particularly with the training of nurses for service with the army and as health visitors.

The Central Committee of the Alliance has informed the ICRC that the presentation to Mrs. Klykova and Mrs. Boutova took place in the homes of the medalists and were events of great solemnity. Red Cross workers were in attendance as well as representatives of the medical profession, and the ceremonies were given wide publicity by the press, radio and television.¹

¹ *Plate.*



Nsukka, Nigeria: A Finnish Red Cross nurse on the ICRC relief programme issuing pills.



Achi hospital in the secessionist state of Nigeria (Biafra) : ICRC doctor-delegates tend the wounded and sick.