

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

TWENTY-FOURTH AWARD OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

In its May 1973 issue, the International Review published a list of thirty-six nurses who had been selected as recipients of the Florence Nightingale Medal. This medal is awarded by the ICRC every other year, on the proposal of National Societies, and the chief aim is to honour nurses or voluntary aids for exceptional devotion in providing care for the wounded and the sick. The award is made at a ceremony which, as a rule, is held with fitting solemnity in the recipient's country. An account of such ceremonies is given below.

* * *

COLOMBIA

On 31 August 1973, in the Presidential Palace at Bogotá, Dr. Misael Pastrana Borrero, President of the Republic, presented the medal to *Miss María de Jesús Tovar Bermeo*, a nurse and head of the national relief services of the Colombian Red Cross Society. "All my memories of fifteen years work are tragic", she said in her address, "floods, fire, storms and other disasters: thousands of people in need of relief".

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

At a meeting of the Presidency of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, on 7 June 1973, the medal was presented to *Mrs. Ilona Ryskova* and *Mrs. Maria Bizikova*.

FRANCE

On 27 June 1973, Maître Carraud, President of the French Red Cross, presented the medal to *Mme Jacqueline Mallet*, *Mme Béatrice de Foucaud* and *Mme Yvonne Deschamps*.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

On 15 June 1973, on the occasion of the general assembly of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Walter Bargatzky, President of that Society, presented *Generaloberin Ilse von Troschke* and *Oberin Mathilde Verhall* with the Florence Nightingale Medal and the accompanying diploma.

GREECE

On 19 February 1974 the medal was presented to *Mrs. Virginia Zanna*, at Hellenic Red Cross headquarters, by Professor Theodore Garofalidis, President of that Society, in the presence of members of the Presidency, nurses who had previously received the medal, senior nurses, administrative officers and other outstanding figures. He spoke of the great services rendered by the recipient and of her courage, altruism and devotion to duty during dangerous missions carried out in 1940 and 1941.

JAPAN

Miss Shima Yano, *Miss Ryu Saga* and *Miss Masae Yukinaga* were presented with the medal at the Prince Hotel, Tokyo, on 28 June 1973, in the presence of Her Majesty the Empress, H.I.H. the Crown Princess and four princesses who are Honorary Vice-Presidents of the National Society.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The medal was solemnly presented to *Mrs. Keum Bong Lee*, *Mrs. Kwi Hyang Lee* and *Mrs. Soon Bong Kim*, on the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the National Society, on 27 October 1973. Premier Chong Pil Kim pinned the medal on the uniform of the three nurses.

NIGERIA

The ICRC award was presented to *Mrs. Kofoworola Abeni Pratt* on 21 December 1973, by Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, President of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

PHILIPPINES

At a ceremony held on 8 December 1973, on the occasion of the sixth national convention of the Philippine National Red Cross, *Mrs. Angelita F. Corpus* received the medal from Dr. Manuel Lim, a member of the Committee and President of the Society's Committee of International Relations.

POLAND

On 3 October 1973, the medal was presented to *Mrs. Helena Dabrowska* and *Mrs. Elzbieta-Klementyna Krzywicka-Kowalik* by Professor Jan Rutkiewicz, President of the Society. Numerous officers of the Red Cross and authorities attended the ceremony. In his address the President emphasized the importance of the role of Red Cross nurses, while Dr. Ryszard Brzozowski, Vice-Minister of Health and Social Welfare, pointed out that the distinction awarded by the ICRC was a tribute to all Polish nurses.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

The Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded to five Soviet recipients, *Mrs. Vera Sergueevna Kachtcheeva*, *Mrs. Matrena Semienovna Netchiportchukova*, *Mrs. Maria Petrovna Smirnova*, *Mrs. Djulietta Vartanovna Bagdasaryan* and *Mrs. Salipa Koublanova*, at ceremonies held in different towns.

Mrs. Bagdasaryan received the medal at a meeting held in Erevan, at the Ministry of Public Relations of the Republic of Armenia. She said that she was proud to receive the high distinction she had been awarded by the ICRC.

At the Nukus paediatric policlinic where she is now working, *Mrs. Koublanova* received the medal from the President of the Red Crescent of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with his congratulations and good wishes.

The Vice-President of the Russian Red Cross Society presented *Mrs. Netchiportchukova* and *Mrs. Kachtcheeva* with the insignia of the distinction they had been awarded. *Mrs. Smirnova* was presented with the medal and the accompanying diploma by the Minister of Health of Kazakhstan, who conveyed to her a message of esteem from the authorities.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

UNITED KINGDOM

The two British recipients, *Miss Helen Joyce Cholmeley* and *Miss Sonia Lenie Stromwall*, received the medal from H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh at an assembly of the British Red Cross Council, on 19 July 1973.

URUGUAY

On 22 August 1973, at the Ministry of Public Health, the medal was presented to *Mrs. María Juana Marchesi de Podesta*, the first nurse to receive that distinction in Uruguay.

In a letter to the ICRC, she declared that it was an honour which should serve as an example and incentive to new generations of nurses.

YUGOSLAVIA

Mrs. Dina Urbancic, *Mrs. Cita Lovrencic-Bole* and *Mrs. Ruza Stojanova* were awarded the medal, on 24 December 1973, at a well attended meeting of the Assembly of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia, while *Mrs. Yugoslava-Polak-Bregant's* son received it in her stead.

The medals were presented by Dr. Nikola Georgievski, President of the Society, who, after evoking the memory of Florence Nightingale, dwelt on the meaning of the distinction and on the merits of the recipients.

On behalf of her fellow nurses, Mrs. Cita Lovrencic-Bole said that this was an honour for all nurses in the country. She stressed the importance of the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross, which was to rally and lead young generations in the spirit of Red Cross principles and to ensure that all should fulfil duties which might be summed up in a few words: " may man act with humanity towards man ".
