

**TWENTIETH AWARD**  
**of the**  
**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL**

*On May 8, when the world of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun each year commemorates Henry Dunant's memory, the movement has chosen its universality as a rallying standard for all National Societies in 1966.*

*We find this very universality when considering the place of origin of the twenty-seven candidates who in 1965 obtained the Florence Nightingale Medal. As is known, this award, made every two years by the ICRC on proposals submitted to it by the National Societies, honours nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves, sometimes to the point of heroism, by their exceptional devotion in the humanitarian sphere. The recipients indeed belong to nearly all the continents and each one of them independently of the conditions of culture and civilization inherent in their own country, has accomplished the same acts inspired by the same ideal; that of following in the footsteps and the example of their great predecessor, Florence Nightingale.*

*One is entitled to think that they have chosen this way because it reflects a certain image of life. They have, when often still young, heard the call of a vocation to which they have remained faithful.*

*There are some who risk their lives on the field of battle or who, at times of natural disaster, carry out their duty without thought for*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

*their own safety. There are also others who day by day anonymously accomplish often thankless tasks for the relief of physical and mental suffering. Thanks to them also the red cross has become the symbol of active fellowship.*

*In answer to the request made by the ICRC, a large number of National Societies gave the awarding of the medal an impressive character by inviting leading personalities of governments and the Red Cross. The International Review wishes to thank all those who have sent it the necessary facts to enable it to produce the present article and its illustration. Unfortunately it has not been possible for us to give a complete account of these ceremonies, some of them having had to be postponed to a later date. Further information on this subject will subsequently be published when received.*

## AUSTRALIA

The ICRC recognized the exceptional merits of two nurses whose names had been submitted by the Australian Red Cross. These were *Miss Lucy Wise MacIntosh*, Home Sister-in-Charge at Duntrine, Sydney Hospital Nurses' Home and *Matron Mary Dorothy Edis*, M.B.E., Registered Nurse, Home of Peace, Perth, Western Australia.

Miss MacIntosh received the Florence Nightingale Medal on August 17, 1965 at an official ceremony at the National Society's Blood Transfusion Centre in Sydney. The award was presented to her by the Divisional Chairman <sup>1</sup>. In Perth a similar ceremony took place on August 3, 1965 at Red Cross House in honour of Matron Edis which was attended by the Society's Council members and the President of the West Australian Division who presented her with the award.

From 1904 to 1915, Miss MacIntosh carried out nursing work in various hospitals. In April 1915, she left for England with the Australian Army Nursing Service and was then sent to Northern France in the theatre of hostilities. In 1919, she returned to Australia and was appointed Matron at the Liverpool State Hospital and

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

Home, Sydney. She was also for ten years Honorary Treasurer of the Society's District Branch. Thanks to her efforts, a considerable sum was raised for the Prisoner of War Fund. She resigned from the hospital in 1948 after 27 years service. It should be added that in her capacity as Matron she retained the attachment of all members of her staff who held her in high esteem.

Miss Edis trained as a nurse at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital (Western Australia). She was the first nurse to enlist in the Army Medical Service on the outbreak of war and was responsible for inspecting military hospitals in Australia and recruiting nurses for the Australian Military Medical Service overseas. She served in Egypt in 1915, then in Northern France with the Australian forces. In 1918 she was at the Rouen base hospital and returned to Australia in 1921 when she acted as Senior Repatriation Officer. In the Second World War, she was Principal Military Matron in Western Australia until 1943 when she resigned with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

After working at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, she became, in 1948, Matron of the Home of Peace, Perth. In this hospital for incurables she imbued all with hope and inspired the staff with her enthusiasm. Under her management, the hospital has developed into a model institution and at the present time she is engaged in organizing a hospital of a similar type in another suburb of Perth. She is a Fellow of the College of Nursing and in this capacity has trained hundreds of young nurses.

It should be mentioned that wide coverage was given by the press, wireless and television in Sydney and in Perth to the presentation ceremonies of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

## CHILE

On October 2, 1965, in the Puerto Montt Arts Institute an impressive ceremony took place in honour of the new Florence Nightingale medallist, *Mrs. Ines Yuraszeck de Schmidt*, a volunteer nurse and President of the Puerto Montt branch of the Red Cross. The ceremony, presided over by the Vice-President of the Chilean Red Cross, was attended by a large audience including leading members of the Red Cross, the army, the navy, the air force, the

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

judiciary, public services, private enterprise and delegates from the National Society provincial branches<sup>1</sup>.

A number of speeches were delivered, notably by the Vice-President of the Chilean Red Cross; all praised Mrs. Schmidt's selfless devotion which was at times nothing short of heroism, as can be seen below.

Mrs. Ines Yuraszeck de Schmidt joined the Red Cross in 1955 as a volunteer first-aider. Four years later she became a volunteer nurse and in 1962 was appointed Vice-President and Directress of courses. In 1963, she organized the Child Welfare Service in co-operation with the National Ministry of Health.

During the dual disaster of 1960 she displayed exceptional courage, risking her own life during the tidal wave and earthquake which killed so many people, destroyed towns and villages and reduced more than two hundred thousand people to destitution.

With responsibility for administration of one of the four relief supply stocks set up in the affected regions, Mrs. Yuraszeck de Schmidt, then Vice-President of the local Puerto Montt branch, took charge of the distribution under great difficulties of over ten thousand tons of relief supplies to some of the most remote villages of the Cordillera, across roads which had been destroyed, by light craft and canoe to the many islands, in the midst of storms, rain and snow, taking off or landing by plane or helicopter on makeshift landing strips. This tragedy went on for eighteen months without a break; throughout she was the first-aider who saved, the nurse who restored. By her actions throughout this period she earned the profound gratitude of the Chilean Red Cross.

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The plenary session of the Czechoslovak Red Cross Central Committee on June 6, 1965, took place in an atmosphere of dignified celebration. It was on that occasion that *Mrs. Anna Knapková* received the Florence Nightingale Medal and the accompanying diploma. The presentation was made by the President of the National Society in the presence of many guests from various government ministries<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The public was informed of the high distinction awarded to a Czech nurse in a communiqué issued by the Czechoslovak Red Cross which appeared in the press and in the Ministry of Health Review. The news was also announced by the Czechoslovak press agency and the radio service broadcast a commentary on the plenary session of the Central Committee and the ceremony at which the Medal was presented.

Mrs. Anna Knapcoková, a volunteer Red Cross nurse since her youth, was awarded that institution's nursing diploma in 1965, in other words after many years of service to the community.

Already during the First World War, she worked in various hospitals where she cared for wounded soldiers. Later on she continued her devotion to duty, always ready to give first-aid. When the Second World War broke out, at the time of the Slovak rising, she was at the head of Red Cross volunteer nurses at the military hospital of Tisovce, where she was untiringly dedicated to her task.

Apart from these merits, she has yet another, one which is very important, namely that she was one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Red Cross in 1919.

At the present time she is devoting her services to social assistance and first-aid. In these fields she has acquired great popularity among the local population where she works in exemplary fashion under the sign of the red cross. We would add that Mrs. Knapcoková is the holder of the commemorative medal awarded by the Czechoslovak Republic President to mark the anniversary of the country's liberation.

## FRANCE

Amongst the applications submitted by the French Red Cross to the ICRC, the latter accepted that of *Mrs. Lilia de Vendevre*, Directress of the "Service des infirmières pilotes secouristes de l'air" (IPSA).

On June 22, 1965, at the headquarters of the French Red Cross in Paris, she was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal by the National Society's President, Mr. A. François-Poncet<sup>1</sup>. The

<sup>2</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

ceremony took place in the presence of leading Red Cross personalities, delegations from the Society's air personnel and nurses who are already holders of that high honour.

The Society's President praised the recipient and recalled her outstanding services as a nurse during the two world wars and in Indochina, and above all as the founder and driving spirit of the Corps of Air Pilot Nurses. "She is", he said, "for the French Red Cross, someone who is far above the ordinary level, since she has initiated a new form of devotion to the Red Cross ideal, to which her name will remain attached."

Mrs. de Vendevre is the holder of a senior diploma (1916) and a State diploma. In her one can observe two vocations which meet in the same humanitarian enthusiasm: that of coming to the aid of human lives at the risk of her own and, on the other hand, that of opening up new vistas and blazing a trail for the future. The first found its practical realization in 1944 during the military operations in Normandy, the fighting in Paris and then in Indochina. The second was realized on many occasions, notably in the founding of the first team of pilot nurses in the Union des femmes de France (1933), in the creation of specialized medico-social training at the French Air Club for Air Nurses (1934) in the forming of IPSA (1937) and of the Moroccan State Nursing School (1940), and in the regional direction of French Red Cross Services in various French departments (1945).

In 1947, she became technical adviser to the Red Cross in aviation matters, a post which she still occupies, as well as that of President of IPSA whose development enables the French Red Cross to extend its field of action.

## GERMANY

### FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Amongst the applications submitted by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, the ICRC selected two registered nurses, *Oberin Gertrud Baltzer* and *Schwester Irene von Scheel*.

The former has devoted herself to her humanitarian task for more than forty years. A registered nurse in 1923, the first years of

her work were in Berlin at the Märkischen Hause, from 1933 to 1934 at the Red Cross "Wernerschule" and, until 1939 at the Berlin Free Hospital as Oberschwester where she was outstanding, as throughout her whole career, for her devotion to duty and her strong personality. On the outbreak of the Second World War, she served as "Feldoberin" in the German Army Medical Service until 1941, when she was appointed in charge of the "Schwesternschaft" and Hospital of Maingau. With energy and tenacity she faced all difficulties not only during that period of the war, but also whilst that establishment was being reconstructed and which has now become a modern hospital with 250 beds and also includes a nursing school recognized by the State.

In spite of her length of service, the recipient is still continuing her work in the Red Cross as directress of the Maingau Hospital.

The Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to Oberin Gertrud Baltzer at a ceremony which took place at Frankfurt on May 14, 1965 during the events commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the "Schwesternschaft Maingau" of the local Red Cross. The President of the "Verband Deutscher Mutterhäuser" of the Red Cross, Generaloberin Ilse von Troschke, presented the medal and diploma to the recipient in the Banqueting Hall in front of a large gathering of nurses, members of the Executive Committee, doctors and guests<sup>1</sup>.

Schwester Irene von Scheel first studied at the Red Cross "Frauenverein" and at its "Schwesternschaft Cäcilienhaus" in Berlin. In 1937, she qualified in the Nursing and Child Welfare Examination and in the same year obtained a State Nursing Diploma at the Augsburg Municipal Hospital where she worked until 1939. When war broke out she cared for the wounded and sick in Germany and other countries. In 1945, she was seriously wounded during the course of a move of a field hospital. Without waiting for her health to be restored, she continued working for the sick at Meersburg. With the arrival of peace she was no longer capable of working. This did not, however, prevent her from serving the Red Cross for nearly twelve years as an instructor in home care and of nursing aids.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

On July 10, 1965 in Munich, in the presence of leading personalities of the Bavarian Red Cross, members of the Executive Committee and representatives of local branches of the Red Cross, Dr. Hans Ehard, the President of the Bavarian Red Cross and a former State Minister, presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Schwester Irene von Scheel <sup>1</sup>. Because of the exceptional character of this award, the Künstlerhaus in Munich was filled with flowers and adorned with Red Cross flags.

Dr. Ehard then delivered an address in which he emphasized the significance and the importance of this award bestowed by the ICRC. The distinction can in fact be considered as being the crowning of a life of sacrifice, a life in which one forgets one's own suffering by only thinking of that of others.

## GREAT BRITAIN

*Mrs. Mary Folke* became a Voluntary Aid in 1957 and was then trained as a Headquarters Field Officer by the British Red Cross. She was shortly afterwards posted to the Cyprus Branch of the British Red Cross, arriving in the island during the Emergency.

The British Red Cross was requested by the Government Medical Department to undertake certain duties normally performed by that Department and was called upon to start a District Nursing and Health Visitor Service. Mrs. Folke was responsible for this and ensured liaison between the Red Cross teams in the field and Government Medical Headquarters. She also organized the Red Cross Home for Sick Children in Kyrenia. In recognition of her outstanding services for the people of Cyprus she was awarded the M.B.E. in 1962.

Two years later she returned to Cyprus with the rank of Deputy Commissioner in charge of the operations of the Joint Red Cross and St. John Relief Commission to organize, in conjunction with the ICRC, the distribution of food and medical supplies and the tracing of missing persons in most difficult conditions. The Commission worked in both the Greek and Turkish sectors. Throughout

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

the disturbances, Mrs. Folke's courage and devotion to duty were outstanding. On one occasion, at the height of the fighting she went into the besieged part of a town ahead of the R.A.F. Medical Unit under fire from both sides and cared for the wounded, bringing them out from the line of fire. She always showed impartiality to the victims of the events and her influence was of incalculable benefit.

Mrs. Folke remained in Cyprus some time after the Commission was withdrawn and then settled in Sweden. The British Red Cross has informed the ICRC that the Florence Nightingale Medal will be presented to her, probably in July, at the Society's next Council meeting.

## HUNGARY

The Hungarian Red Cross was pleased to learn that the candidate it submitted in 1965 was approved by the ICRC; the Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded to *Miss Irene Komarik*.

On July 1 last the medal and the diploma as well as the portrait of Florence Nightingale were presented to her by Dr. Zoltan Szabó, Minister of Health, in the presence of leading members of the National Red Cross Society and many outstanding representatives of the Hungarian Ministry of Health<sup>1</sup>. The presentation was arranged as part of a commemoration ceremony in memory of the great Hungarian doctor, Ignace Semmelweis.

Miss Irene Komarik is the holder of the nursing diploma in pediatrics which she was awarded in 1931 by the "White Cross". She continued her career as head nurse in the Pediatrics Division of various hospitals and clinics in Hungary from 1931 to 1951 and also in Korea where she went as a volunteer nurse to work in Hungarian hospitals in that country where war was being waged. There too she devoted herself to children, nursing them, helping them, often saving them from death.

Upon her return to Hungary in 1953 she resumed her work in the Budapest hospital until 1964. During that time, under particularly critical circumstances and together with her colleagues, she saved the children undergoing treatment at the "Heim Pal" hospi-

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

tal. In 1957 she was appointed Directress of the Zalaegerszeg Centre for infants and also Directress of the town's Nursing School, a function she still fulfils today.

With her qualifications as a nurse, she combines organizing and teaching ability. She has always displayed proficiency in her occupation, and maternal affection for children in her charge. Unpretentious, modest, courageous in exceptional circumstances, she has been a fine example to us all for thirty-three years.

The letter of thanks which Miss Komarik wrote to the ICRC portrays her modesty and vocational integrity: "I think", she wrote, "that I never did more than what was required by the dictates of my professional oath and humanitarian duty. My life's aim is to help to alleviate suffering and to educate the new generations of nurses in a spirit of dedication."

## INDIA

In 1965, the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to a registered nurse and midwife who is at present a Principal Matron with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel.

*Miss Florence St. Claire Watkins* joined the Military Nursing Service in August 1940. In December of that year she was transferred to the Middle East Land Forces and spent five years overseas. Upon her return, she worked successively in various towns in India; at Sialkot, Calcutta and elsewhere. In July 1953, she served at army headquarters, in 1960 at Jubbulpore and since 1961 she has been Principal Matron in a military hospital at Shillong.

Service above self has always been her motto. And it was in this spirit that she carried out her task as a nurse in October and November 1962. During the fighting which was going on at that time the hospital where she worked received some two hundred wounded. At all hours of the day and night, Miss Watkins was ready to receive them and she never left them without first seeing to their assistance and comfort.

Her praiseworthy conduct was not limited to this devotion to duty which earned her the gratitude of so many wounded and sick. It is indeed through her selfless and untiring efforts that the stand-

ard of nursing is so high in the hospital where she fulfils her important function.

The Indian Red Cross Society has informed the International Committee that the medal and diploma will be presented to Miss Watkins in the near future during an official ceremony worthy of such an event.

## JAPAN

Three nurses proposed by the Japanese Red Cross were awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal in 1965, namely *Miss Kikuyo Uchiyama, Miss Kiyo Ushioda, Miss Kise Makita.*

In the auditorium of the National Society's headquarters in Tokyo, on June 26, 1965, an official ceremony took place, attended by H.I.M. the Empress, the Society's Honorary President, as well as the Crown Princess Michiko and the three Princesses, all four Vice-Presidents. The speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minister of Health, the ICRC delegate to Japan and representatives of the American Red Cross were also present.

The Society's President, Mr. Kawanishi, opened the meeting and the Empress presented the Medals to the three nurses<sup>1</sup>. In her address, Her Imperial Majesty stressed the honour conferred by this award not only on the three recipients but for the country as a whole, "for in the nursing world, this Medal is a symbol of their outstanding merit". She then expressed the hope that the three medallists would continue in their calling, as this would be of great benefit to the young nurses who will be called upon to take over.

After several messages of congratulations from participants, Miss Uchiyama addressed the meeting in the name of her colleagues and herself. There was also singing by the student nurses choir. Later the four Imperial Princesses gave a reception in honour of the medallists.

Miss Kikuyo Uchiyama has given devoted service under our common emblem for 39 years. She graduated as a Red Cross nurse and midwife and became a staff nurse in 1934. During the Sino-

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Japanese war she was assigned to a hospital ship then later to the Tokyo Military Hospital. During the Second World War she tended the sick in a field hospital in China, without ever making any distinction of nationality. Due to her sense of duty and qualifications she was appointed Directress of the Red Cross hospital at Okoyama in 1947, a position she still holds today.

Like her two fellow medallists, she has been honoured by a number of decorations and official citations.

Miss Kiyō Ushioda has been dedicated to the National Red Cross for fifty years. She graduated as a nurse, was appointed staff nurse in 1923 and Assistant Directress of the Mito Red Cross hospital in 1940. In 1950, she was appointed Directress, a position she still occupies today. From 1915 to 1923, she was a health visitor, then served on a hospital ship during the Sino-Japanese war. Upon her return in 1940 she resumed her activities at the hospital, where she distinguished herself by her cool courage during a fire caused by an air raid and which completely gutted the hospital. The hospital was later rebuilt and Miss Ushioda contributed to its resumption of operations. Today she devotes her energies to the training of young nurses and her skill and dedication are highly appreciated.

Miss Kise Makita graduated in 1915 after completing her training at the Japanese Red Cross central hospital. From 1915 to 1934 she was a nurse in the Los Angeles hospital in USA, where, in particular, she devoted herself to the care of some 300 patients during an epidemic of Spanish influenza. From 1934 to 1945, she was head nurse at one of the military hospitals in Shanghai, then at a field hospital in China and later at the Shin-hsiang military hospital, where she nursed not only the wounded but also cholera patients, and also supervised the anti-epidemic campaign. During the Second World War she served aboard a hospital ship and later at the naval hospital at Yokosuka.

When peace was declared she devoted herself to improving the training and living conditions of nurses. She was a member of the examinations commission, taught at the Takayama hospital nursing college and presided over the Japanese Nurses Association. In 1949, she was appointed General Directress of nursing at the Toyama central hospital.

KOREA  
REPUBLIC

October 27, 1965, the day chosen for presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to the two candidates submitted to the ICRC for approval, namely *Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim* and *Mrs. Bo-Shin Lo*, also marked the 16th anniversary of the National Society's foundation. The ceremony took place at the Drama Centre in Seoul in the presence of the wife of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the National House speaker, members of diplomatic missions and some seven hundred guests<sup>1</sup>.

The Prime Minister read a speech on behalf of the President of the Republic who was absent from Seoul, but whose wife herself presented the medals to the successful candidates.

When embarking on her nursing career, Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim responded to a vocational calling which had stirred her in her youth. She graduated from the Severence School of Nursing in Seoul in April 1927 and in 1935 went to Japan for post-graduate training. From 1950 to 1953 she lived in New York where she completed further post-graduate courses.

At the beginning of her career and during the Second World War, when she was head nurse in the Presbyterian Hospital at Taegu—a position she occupied until 1948—all her resourcefulness and courage were directed to overcoming the most difficult situations. When she returned from America in 1953 she was appointed nurse's superintendent at the same hospital, an office she still holds today. She dedicated herself to the indigent sick and refugees during the Korean war; she nursed them, distributed relief supplies obtained thanks to her efforts, and taught them hygiene. In 1963, she distinguished herself during a cholera epidemic. Her example of self sacrifice was a model for nurses throughout her country.

At an early age Mrs. Bo-Shin Lo had a keen sense of justice and humanity; for her, there was no action more noble than helping one's neighbour whoever and wherever he might be. She achieved her ambition in 1934 when she completed her nursing studies at the Shanghai Sanitarium Hospital Nursing School. In 1953, she was

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

awarded the nurse licence of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and in 1955, she was delegated by the Korean Nurses Association to the Lehai T.B. Hospital in Hawaii to further her nursing studies. Upon her return, she was appointed Chief Nurse at the Pusan Sanitarium and Hospital, a post which she still holds today.

This summary of her professional career would be incomplete without mentioning the events which bear witness to her unflinching courage. In 1931, when she was still only a student, she nursed the many wounded who came from the battle-fields of Manchuria. During the Korean war, she took under her protection thousands of refugees, especially orphans, which earned her the name "mother of orphans". In time of war as in time of peace, Mrs. Lo is always ready to serve the injured and the sick.

## NEW ZEALAND

On the occasion of the XXth Distribution, the New Zealand Red Cross had one of its nurses selected by the ICRC to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This was *Miss Muriel Jessie Jackson* who is at present Advisory Director at the Auckland Red Cross Centre.

Miss Jackson is a State Registered Nurse, holder of a Midwifery Diploma and of a Nursing Diploma of Victoria University, Wellington. She attended a three months' course at the Royal College of Nursing in London. From 1940 to 1946, during the Second World War, she served in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Middle East, then in 1943, in Italy, she was with a mobile medical unit where surgery was carried out and casualties were received direct from the forward areas. Miss Jackson did much to maintain the morale of her nursing team at the highest level. She showed outstanding devotion to duty throughout her time on active service with the Middle East Forces and as Matron of their General Hospital.

On her return to New Zealand, she continued and still continues her task with selfless devotion which is in keeping with the high traditions of the Red Cross. We would also mention her work for

# FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

TWENTIETH AWARD

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

Mrs. V.M. Freeman,  
recipient of the  
award in 1965.



## **GERMANY (Federal Republic)**

In Frankfurt, Oberin G. Baltzer receiving the medal.





**GERMANY (Federal Republic)**

In Munich, Dr. Ehard, President of the Bavarian Red Cross, presenting the medal to Schwester von Scheel.

**AUSTRALIA**

The Chairman of the Red Cross, Sydney Division, presenting the medal to Miss L. Wise MacIntosh.





### **CHILE**

At Puerto Montt, Dr. Bahamonde, Vice-Président of the Chilean Red Cross, awarding the medal to Mrs. I. Yuraszeck.

### **KOREA (Republic)**

In Seoul, Mrs. Chung-Sun Kim and Mrs. Bo-Shin who have each just received the award and diploma.





## FRANCE

The President of the French Red Cross, Mr. François-Poncet, presenting the medal to Mrs. L. de Venduvre.

## HUNGARY

In Budapest, the Minister of Health, Dr. Szabó, congratulating Miss I. Komarik and presenting the medal and diploma to her.





### JAPAN

H.I.M. the Empress, Honorary President of the Japanese Red Cross, presenting the medal to Miss K. Uchiyama (**on left**) Miss K. Ushioda and Miss Makita, also recipients).

### PHILIPPINES

In Manila, in 1965, Mrs. Macapagal, wife of the President of the Philippines (**on right**) with the recipients of the award, (**left to right**) Mrs. Seraspi, Mrs. M. Meñez Concepción and Miss B. Hernando.





## **POLAND**

*Mrs. Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross, presenting the medal to the recipients, Mrs. W. Steffen and Mrs. L. Blum-Bielicka.*

## **CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

*Professor Stich, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, presenting the medal and diploma to Mrs. A. Knapcoková.*





**U.S.S.R.**

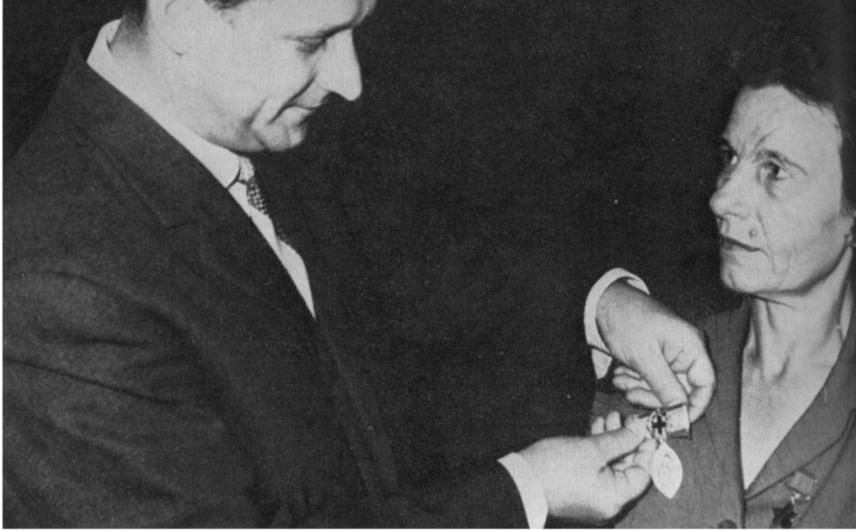
The medal being presented to Mrs. F. Tchanychéva by the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tatary.

**U.S.S.R.**

In Leningrad, the President of the city's Red Cross Committee, presents medal and diploma to Miss A. Khablova.



**U.S.S.R.**



At Polotsk, the President of the Red Cross of Byelorussia presenting the medal to Mrs. Z. Toussnolobova-Martchenko.

**U.S.S.R.**

At Lougansk, the head of the hospital for the disabled congratulating the recipient, Miss M. Serdiouk.



refugees and in teaching. She has in addition been most active in the Nurses Association and in various Government sponsored organizations. As Supervising Tutor Sister she was awarded a special service medal.

A ceremony took place some time ago at Red Cross House in Auckland at which many nurses and members of the Red Cross were present. Tribute was paid to Miss Jackson, and Mr. Eardley Button, Dominion President of the New Zealand Red Cross Society, presented her with the Florence Nightingale Medal on behalf of the International Committee.

### PHILIPPINES

The ICRC has recognized the exceptional merit, displayed particularly during the Second World War, of the three nurses whose names were submitted by the Philippine Red Cross: *Major Honorata P. Seraspi, Miss Basilia Hernando, Mrs. Maria Meñez Concepcion.*

The presentation of the medals took place in a large hotel in Manila on December 5, 1965, in the course of an impressive ceremony organized to coincide with the Society's National Convention <sup>1</sup>. The many people who attended the ceremony included some of the country's high officials, foremost among them being the President of the Philippines and his wife, the Chairman and members of the National Red Cross Board of Governors, and Mr. Calderara, ICRC delegate. The President of the Philippines spoke on the merits of the candidates and on their noble spirit and efficient sense of duty in their country's times of crisis. It was, he added, the true Red Cross spirit, particularly when their duty called these nurses to work among prisoners of war.

Mrs. Maria Meñez Concepcion graduated from the San Juan de Dios Hospital Nursing School, in Manila, in 1938. She was employed by the Manila Health Department as a public health nurse assigned to schools.

When war broke out she was called upon to exercise her profession in the capital's southern district Health Centre, where she worked with dedication until 1945. Her work was particularly

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

praiseworthy during the enemy retreat, in a nightmare situation. The Centre was bombed and Mrs. Concepcion and some of her companions dug an air-raid shelter in the courtyard where they gave refuge to some thirty wounded. In addition, they went each day to the scene of fighting, with their kits, seeking for victims, tending the military and civilian wounded. In one such operation she was herself wounded and her companions killed. She was taken to the emergency station then to the hospital from which she was discharged two months later. She resumed her nursing activities with the Manila Health Department and is still there today.

Mrs. Honorata P. Seraspi, who retired from the Philippine army with the rank of major, is a graduate of the St. Paul Hospital Nursing School in Manila. It was during the Second World War that she demonstrated her outstanding qualities. She took an active part, as a Red Cross nurse, in the evacuation of prisoners of war at the height of the fighting. At the risk of her life she carried out this mission with devotion to duty, disregarding the dangers which threatened her. In 1942, the misfortunes of war made it necessary for her to go to the prison camp at Cabanatuan. She managed to enter, with several companions, and she observed that the state of health of the prisoners was alarming and that relief was urgently required. With great difficulty she managed to smuggle medical supplies into the camp. When a diphtheria epidemic broke out there, she was among the immediate volunteers who went to the city to obtain the needed antitoxin. In addition, she bolstered up the morale of the prisoners by bringing them news of their families. Upon completion of her mission at Cabanatuan, she attended to the evacuation of thousands of sick prisoners until 1945.

Miss Basilia Hernando obtained her nursing diploma from the Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing in 1922. She then worked under the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner. In 1929, she went to the United States and worked for several years in various hospital services. Upon her return to the Philippines she was appointed representative and supervisor in various local Red Cross committees, where she was responsible for the training of nursing instructors for home nursing. She was also active in disaster relief.

The outbreak of World War II saw Basilia Hernando discharging the duties of Nurse-in-Charge in the Manila Port Area first-aid

station. Following the closure of the first-aid station due to intensive air-raids she was assigned to a Japanese concentration camp then, due to unexpected circumstances, she had to perform her nursing duties aboard a Red Cross hospital ship which was taking on the wounded collected around the bay by volunteers of whom she was one of the first. This vessel was overcrowded and constantly in danger of being bombed. Miss Hernando nevertheless continued her heavy task as senior nurse, tending the wounded, helping them with exemplary courage and devotion to duty until the vessel finally arrived in the United States after several calls in Australia. She later returned to the Philippines where she is at present in a senior position with the health authorities.

## POLAND

The Polish Red Cross, on the occasion of the XXth Distribution, saw two of the nurses, whose applications had been submitted to the ICRC, selected to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. These were *Mrs. Wladislawa Steffen* and *Mrs. Luba Blum-Bielicka*.

Mrs. Steffen is a State Registered Nurse (1939) and holder of the Diploma of the Senior Nursing College of the Polish Red Cross (Poznan, 1939). She started at the Poznan Military Hospital as a member of the Red Cross nursing staff. When war broke out, she was placed at the disposal of the Military Medical Service and then posted to an Army hospital train (September 1939) until its bombing and total destruction at the battle of Kutno. Then there began for her a life of suffering but which was illuminated by the sacrifices she made in the service of others. Indeed, she was spared nothing, fierce fighting throughout while she continued her work as a nurse. In one action she was wounded, then arrested and imprisoned, but was finally able to escape. She endured all these ordeals through her faith in humanity, risking her own life to save others both under fire and in the camps. It was this ideal which constantly sustained her, so demonstrating how vocations are inspired by the Red Cross spirit.

In 1945, she resumed her nursing work at the Pruskov hospital near Warsaw where she is today.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

Mrs. Luba Blum-Bielicka is a State Registered Nurse of the Jewish Hospital Nursing College in Warsaw. From 1926 to 1928 she held the posts of section head nurse and instructress at the Nurse-Instructress School for the training of welfare workers. After attending a course abroad, she returned to her own country and in 1938-1939 was appointed Vice-Directress then Directress of the Jewish Hospital Nursing College in Warsaw. She was holding this post when war broke out.

During the siege of Warsaw, aided by her students, she cared for the military wounded and sick. In the bombing of the capital her nursing college was destroyed and as soon as the fighting was over, Mrs. Blum-Bielicka worked in its reconstruction. In 1940, the College with its students and staff found itself in the Warsaw ghetto area. For her this was the beginning of a struggle to keep her establishment running, a struggle which she pursued with great determination and courage. Furthermore, in spite of the death penalty threatening her, she succeeded in leaving the ghetto several times in order to obtain aid outside for her college. In August 1942, she was able, again thanks to her courage and resolution, to escape death with twenty of her students. When the hospital in the ghetto in which she was working was destroyed and the sick exterminated, she devoted herself to the Jewish children entrusted to her care. She managed to save the lives of five of these and hide them. Having only just been able to save herself before the ghetto's total destruction, she was appointed, on Warsaw's liberation, Directress of the Children's Home at Otwock (1944-1949). Since then, she has been Directress of a Nursing College in Warsaw.

The two nurses were presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal and the accompanying diploma by Mrs. Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross, at an impressive ceremony which took place in Warsaw in September 1965<sup>1</sup>. Many officials were present, including the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, the Director of the Health Department in the Ministry of Communications, the Vice-President of the Health Service Workers Trades Union and leading members of the Polish Red Cross' Central Committee.

In her address, Mrs. Domanska stressed the deep significance of that medal, whilst the Minister of Health, expanding on the subject,

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

paid tribute to the nursing corps and drew attention to the importance of their work within the Health Service.

This particularly moving ceremony was also notable for the words of thanks expressed by Mrs. Luba Blum-Bielicka on her own and her colleague's behalf. We would quote one sentence for its fine sentiment as a pledge for the future: "During the dreadful years of war, years of degradation for human dignity, my work as a nurse enabled me to recover my faith in mankind."

The bestowing of this distinction to two nurses of exceptional merit was given wide and due publicity in the press. A large number of Warsaw and provincial newspapers published articles, often in great detail, describing the careers of the two recipients and on the joyful character of the ceremony amply illustrated by photographs.

### SOUTH AFRICA

On August 13, 1965, in the Sharley Cribb Nursing College of Port Elizabeth, filled with flowers for the occasion, a large number of nurses and guests who had come from far afield were present at a ceremony for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal. This was awarded to *Miss V.M. Freeman*, R.R.C., whose name had been submitted by the South African Red Cross<sup>1</sup>.

Mr. Swart, President of the Republic and Honorary President of the South African Red Cross, together with his wife, took part in the ceremony. After being introduced by Dr. L.B.B. Birt, President of the National Society, Mr. Swart then presented the medal to the recipient amid loud applause.

The event was widely reported in the press to which many newspapers as well as the official Red Cross organ devoted several columns with photographs, giving detailed accounts of her service and of the ceremony itself.

Miss Freeman is a Registered General Nurse and Registered Midwife. She also possesses a certificate as a Medical and Surgical Nurse and as Midwife. She started nursing in East London (South Africa), then became Matron at the Provincial Hospital (1925-1938) and of the Frere Hospital (1938-1940). During the Second World

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

War she served with the Military Nursing Service in East Africa, Egypt, Libya, Italy and South Africa (1940 to 1945). On the cessation of hostilities she assumed duty with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel (Principal Matron) at the Provincial Hospital. In 1956 she relinquished this post on reaching retiring age, but continues to interest herself actively in the training of nurses as a member of the Nursing Council. Thanks to her, the South African Military Nursing Service has become an institution of which her country can be justly proud.

Of an outstanding personality whose work has been both wide and effective, Miss Freeman has devoted her life to the cause of suffering humanity, irrespective of race, religion or opinion.

## U.S.S.R.

On a proposal by the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the ICRC awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to five nurses, namely: *Mrs. Marie Saveliyevna Chkarletova*, *Miss Marie Dmitrievna Serdiouk*, *Miss Agnia Ivanovna Khablova*, *Mrs. Faina Khoussainovna Tchanycheva*, *Mrs. Zenaïde Mikhaïlovna Toussnolobova-Martchenko*.

Mrs. Chkarletova, a nurse who graduated from the Koupiansk School of Medicine, first started her activities as a voluntary front line nurse (1943-1945). With never-failing courage, she took care of the wounded during the height of battle then led them behind the lines. In this way, in the course of one action, she saved the lives of more than one hundred wounded men, at the risk of her own.

Since 1950, she has been a nurse in the Koupiansk hospital. She takes an active part in hygiene education in schools and business undertakings and also in the teaching and development of home nursing. In addition, in co-operation with the Koupiansk local Red Cross Committee, she takes part in the blood donor recruiting campaign, in which she has been very successful.

Miss Serdiouk is a graduate Red Cross nurse and during the war was a member of the auxiliary medical personnel. In this capacity, from 1942 to 1945, she was a medical instructor for the Soviet army.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

She carried out a task demanding courage, caring for the wounded, conveying them behind the lines under enemy fire, and also taking care of civilians in the fighting areas. Thanks to her fearlessness, more than 150 wounded were saved. On one occasion when tending seven seriously wounded soldiers whom she conveyed to the nearest field station as night was approaching, she herself was wounded.

Since the end of the war she has devoted herself to the families of soldiers killed in battle and to the war disabled. In 1957 she completed the Red Cross nursing course. At present she is Chairman at the Lougansk local Red Cross Committee which co-operates with the Health Service committees and establishments for the provision of medical training.

Miss Khablova, a graduate Red Cross nurse, is at present the Chairman of the Red Cross first-aiders at the "Electroforce" factory in Leningrad.

From 1938 to 1941, she helped that town's Red Cross Committee in its medical and social scheme for elderly people. When war broke out, she volunteered for the army as a nursing instructor. During the fighting she gave first-aid to the wounded, removed them from the firing lines, and displayed a spirit of human fellowship with remarkable courage under fire. She was wounded twice, the second time severely, but she resumed her station as soon as she recovered.

After the war she carried on her activities, first in a nursery (1945-1959), then at the "Electroforce" factory in Leningrad. Thanks to her ability, the Red Cross organization in this factory is one of the best in the town. The first-aid unit in the factory receives the necessary training to enable it to tend the personnel. In addition, it was she who originated the blood donor recruitment campaign and she herself often sets the example by donating her own blood.

Mrs. Tchanycheva is a State registered nurse and is at present working at the Kazan Secondary School as a senior nurse.

She started nursing in that town in the infectious diseases hospital (1939-1941). The war took her away to the front lines, where she displayed the full extent of her courage and dedication. As a member of a field mobile surgical unit she tended the wounded under fire, disinfected their clothing, several times gave her blood

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

for emergency transfusions, and in every way endeavoured to alleviate the suffering of the victims. During the course of the war, not only in her own country but as far afield as East Prussia, she saw action on the battle-fields where, thanks to her zeal and fearlessness, she was able to save hundreds of soldiers.

After the war, with a sense of humanity which is so typical of her, Mrs. Tchanycheva turned her attention to other victims of the war. As a staff nurse, she undertook an enormous task: the care of war orphans and the medical protection of the rising generation.

Mrs. Toussnolobova-Martchenko graduated from the Red Cross rush courses in nursing. She served in the front lines for eight months: there on the front her nursing days began—and ended; there she shed her blood and was severely maimed. She shared with her colleagues the ardent desire to save lives at any price, and for her the price was high. She was on the battle-field already at the beginning of the war; she tended and evacuated 128 wounded officers and other ranks. When she learned that the head of her unit had been seriously wounded during a battle, she hastened to his help in spite of the danger to herself, urged on by her will to serve; but a bullet shattered one of her legs and wounded the other. In spite of her pain she crawled to the head of her unit, but he was dead. She recovered his documents, and crawled away from the firing without knowing whether she would be able to find her own people. It was only two days later that she was found among the dead. She was taken to hospital where she had to undergo eight operations and several amputations which made her at 23 years of age seriously disabled in all four limbs. She was treated at the Moscow Artificial Limb Institute. At present she can use her left hand to take hold of objects with two fingers which the surgeons managed to save and she can write with her right hand.

The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has kindly sent us many newspaper cuttings which enabled us to observe that the award of the Medal to five nurses has been widely acclaimed, particularly in the towns where these nurses live. Four of the presentation ceremonies have been described to us and it is a pleasure for us to give a brief account.

The award to Miss Serdiouk was presented on October 27, 1965, by the Chairman of the Red Cross Regional Committee in the

Institute of Technology of Lougansk in an atmosphere of dignity and in the presence of the active members of that Committee, the head of the Regional Health Service and the head of the hospital for war disabled congratulated Miss Serdiouk<sup>1</sup>.

In another town of the USSR, Kazan, Mrs. Tchanycheva received the Florence Nightingale Medal and diploma on November 6, 1965. The presentation was made by the Vice-Chairman of the Mari Republic Council of Ministers<sup>1</sup>. On that occasion were gathered the members of the Red Cross Central Committee and officials of the Ministries of Health and Public Affairs.

On September 21, 1965, in Leningrad, took place the Conference of blood donors and municipal and regional medical personnel. On that occasion, the Medal was presented to Miss Khablova<sup>1</sup>. The ceremony was broadcast by radio and television and Miss Khablova addressed the meeting.

In Polotsk, on August 31, 1965, at an official public meeting attended by senior officials, a member of the Executive Committee Presidium of the Alliance, presented the high distinction awarded by the ICRC to Mrs. Toussnolobova-Martchenko, whose exploits have inspired poets and musicians<sup>1</sup>.

A periodical—"Modern Woman"—in an account of the ceremony said of those who attended: "all these people of widely differing occupations and ages were moved by friendship, sympathy and profound respect for a woman known to all the town. This official meeting of workers in the town of Polotsk was for the presentation to their fellow citizen Zenaïde Toussnolobova-Martchenko, Heroine of the Soviet Union, of the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest award by the International Red Cross . . . A number of speakers addressed the meeting. A group of pioneers bearing a flag and carrying bouquets of flowers entered the hall in close ranks . . . Young girl members of the Red Cross branches in the town's industries came to pay tribute to Toussnolobova . . .".

---

<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*