BEYOND THE CALL

From Florence Nightingale, through the forgotten history of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, and on to Extreme Nursing Today. The continuing story of exceptional individuals going beyond the call of routine nursing and putting their lives at risk.

AN AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION
(running time 45 – 60 minutes)

This is free of charge, provided we can include an exit collection for voluntary donations. Further details from John Drewry on 020 8650 4515 johndrewry@nursingmemorialappeal.org

BEYOND THE CALL is a collection of anecdotes, brief history, letters, poems, diaries and bulletins, presented in words and pictures.

It includes the extraordinary story of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), largely naive shire girls and vicars’ daughters who’d never done a day’s work and couldn’t even boil an egg. A jolly jape to dress up and become a volunteer nurse turned into the surreal world of mud, blood, lice and mustard gas, a million miles from the Edwardian drawing-room charades they left behind forever.

Above all, though, it is the story of quiet, understated heroism, dogged determination in the midst of impossible odds, and the doughty British character hopefully still glimmering somewhere in the darkness, like Florence Nightingale’s famous lantern.

The Nursing Memorial Appeal (registered charity number 1150276) was inspired by the memory of the VAD, but actually embraced all nurses who gave their lives in both World Wars. The Appeal raised £90,000 for a permanent memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, which was dedicated by our Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO, on 4 June 2018.

The living legacy of the Nursing Memorial Appeal is to continue raising funds for ‘Extreme Nursing Today’, providing grants and bursaries for training and research in humanitarian and conflict nursing. Your support will ensure a permanent link between yesterday’s heroines and tomorrow’s savers of lives.

Medical training exercises at Warcop, Cumbria
Courtesy of the Army Medical Services

Nursing Memorial Appeal / Extreme Nursing Today
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