

# BETTY FREUND: A NURSE IN FRANCE PART V

Compiled and edited by Betty Hugo\*

## BETTY'S LETTERS HOME

**3 July 1916**

... You have no idea how awfully cold it was last week, the poor soldiers, what they must suffer, and the war won't be over this year – Yesterday the South African Ambulance gave a concert in one of the big hotels here. We made 3 000 francs. It is for a poor-hospital we sort of support as well ...

I see the Germans are going as far as Madeira now. I suppose we won't hear from Africa as much.

**4 February 1918**

... I am longing for the summer, as I have quite got to hate the cold. We have had such awful bread lately, quite uneatable. I wonder how much longer we are going to have such bread. Of course we in the hospital are still very well off, but most days we have stew, hardly any beef ...

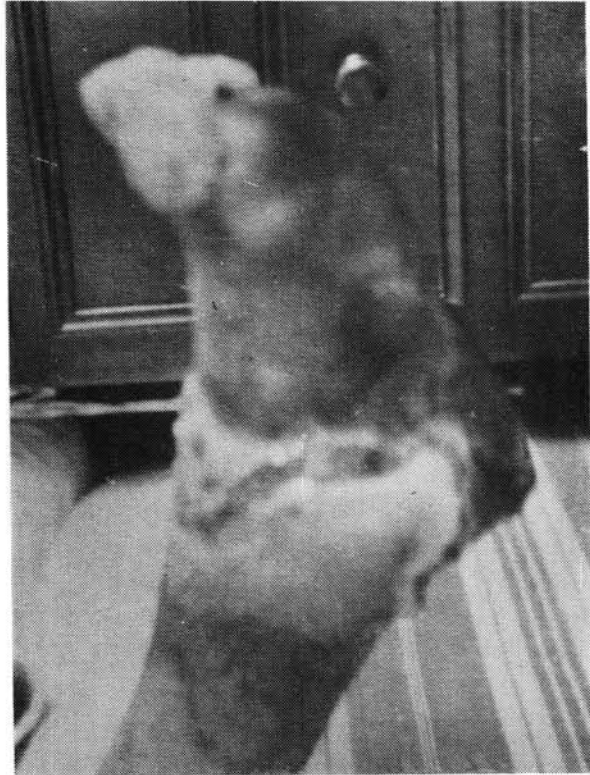
When you go out to tea you get black tea or coffee, no sugar, and only toast or sandwiches, no cakes. In England it is far worse, so we must not grumble...

Vera Brittain says: "Whenever I think of the War to-day, it is not as summer but always as winter; always as cold and darkness and discomfort ... (*Testament of Youth*, p. 372).

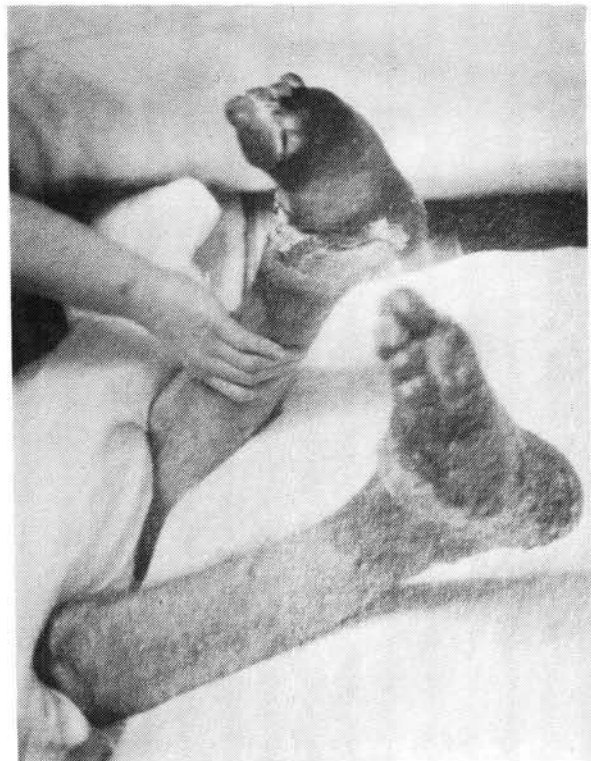
**14 February 1918**

... I wonder where we'll all be next Xmas. The war won't be over ... I don't know how the Ambulance will still last. It is marvellous to think we have lasted over 3 years and that all by public subscription. People are getting poorer, so I don't suppose the subscriptions will come in so freely any more...

Last week we got heaps of wounded in again from Salonika, some very bad indeed – 4 with frozen feet, you have no idea how bad frozen feet can be and how they smell. It is the most awfull smell on earth and it is most fearfully painful, poor men...



*The effects of frost-bite*



*Frost-bite*

### 24 February 1918

... Last week we had a fearful accident here. A young soldier of 24 came down on leave to see his parents who live in a little village near here. He took a goods train to arrive sooner to see his mother. At the station here at Cannes he jumped out before the train had quite stopped, his bag fell between the rails and in trying to get his bag his arms were crushed to pulp – the train moved back ... [his] arms were hanging on by some tendons when they brought him in ... had to amputate both arms above the elbows. He is such a nice boy and never says one word...

### 9 March 1918

... Here I am again in bed, this time with a very bad cold. I caught a slight cold 4 months ago, and every month it seemed to get ... a little worse, so at last, last week, I had to give in and come to bed.

I really have bronchitis now, I cough a bit and that is so tiring. Col. Casalis thinks the climate here is not good for me, so I am coming home, if you'll have me back. Over 3 years of nursing has tired me out too, you can't keep on for ever, and the climate here is very tiring. As soon as I am better I am going to the mountains for a little and then I am going home in the Summer. I don't want to leave here before August or September, if I can help it –

Please don't think I am very ill. I had my chest thoroughly examined by 3 doctors and they all say there is absolutely nothing wrong with my lungs, only the bronchial tubes have got inflamed. Last night I even had X-ray examinations of my chest and there is absolutely nothing wrong with me – but I thought I should write and tell you all. I want to come home so as not to spend another winter here, I don't think I could stand that. I can't tell you how fearfully sorry I'll be giving up nursing the soldiers; it seems the only thing that matters these days, just to get the poor soldiers well. And when I think I'll have to give up nursing I almost can't bear the thought of it all. In Luckhoff there is nothing for me to do. I'll be glad of the rest at first, but afterwards –

One is only really happy when you work and you do something for others in life. . .

### 14 March 1918

... I am still taking life very easy but am tired of doing nothing, only they won't let me start work just yet – hardly cough at all ... this year the ... coast towns have had a sort of influenza which settled on your chest and gave you a cough – you should hear Col. Casalis cough, it is much worse than mine...

I thought I would write soon again so that you should not be anxious.

### 16 March 1918

... The French doctor said it was a touch of pleurisy I had and that there was nothing wrong with me. It was catching one cold on top of another that made my cold so bad, and that was only because I am so careless and did not dress warmly enough. Still, I think I might come home by the end of the year...

It will be your birthday by the time this reaches you, so I wish you all happiness dear Mother for the coming year. Next year we will all be with you again I am sure. . .

### 20 March 1918

... I am much better, but of course am not working ... am having a lazy time, in the sun all day, and everybody is so nice to me. I thought I would write and answer your letter at once, although I have written once this week already...

### 25 March 1918

... To-day the wind is blowing a perfect gale, so I am staying in bed, it is cold too –

Last week Col. Casalis took some fluid off my chest, do you remember like Dr Buller did, and that made me better at once. I have been 4 times well examined under the Ray on X and by a specialist too and he says there was only this cold I caught on the chest, could not get rid of it and it formed some fluid. Then they had the fluid very thoroughly examined in the Laboratory and the result is there is absolutely nothing wrong with my lungs – so you need not worry and the rest is doing me good. . .

29 March 1918

... I am feeling very well, specially now that I have had everything examined and I know there is nothing wrong with me, it was a neglected cold which gave me pleurisy. I hardly cough, but

they won't let me go out at all until the weather is quite warm. Next time I have a cold I'll come to bed at once, because I hate being ill. Of course everybody is upset about the war news, and that worries one too, how many thousands of young lives are lost again and it won't be over soon...

Hôpital Beauvoisine.  
Paris, France.  
A.M.

25: III : 1918

My dear Mother -

To-day the wind is blowing a perfect gale, so I am staying in bed, it is cold too - Last week Col. Lavalis took some (off) fluid from my chest, do you remember like Col. Butler did & that made me better at once. I have been 4 times well examined under the Rayon X & by a specialist who says there was only this cold I caught on the chest could not get rid off & it formed some fluid. Then they took the fluid & thoroughly examined in the laboratory & the result is here is absolutely nothing wrong with my lungs - so you need not worry & the rest is doing me good -

I wish you could see all the lovely flowers that every body brought me yesterday was Palm Sunday

Blou. Pwafje  
Hospitaal 156 hrs  
Carmes. A. M.  
France.

3: Apr. 1918

Dear Mother

There was a South - African mail in this week, but I did not get a letter from you, perhaps it is lost -

To-morrow is your birth day - I again wish you all happiness, next year I'll surely be with you all -

I am so much better, & now that the weather is better again I feel quite well too, last week we had 4 awful days rain & wind & it was a bitter day cold, so I had a bad attack of Rheumatism but that is quite better again -

One of my patients died during the night poor man - I'll be glad when I am back in the ward again.

Love to you all

from Betty

**7 April 1918**

... They had the fluid again examined and the doctors say there is absolutely no sign of tuberculosis so you need not worry...

**21 April 1918**

Dear Mother,

Thank you for your letter received this morning - I am sorry to hear Willy is still ill - he used to be so healthy, and now we are always ill and we none of us have turned out any great success in Life, have we? I hope Willy will soon be well, don't be

hard on him, because it is terrible to be ill. This last week the weather has been so bad that I could not get up at all, and have had one or two rather bad days. But now I am much better again, and the Doctors think I'll soon be quite well. They say Pleurisy is always long, and I have Bronchitis with it. I am having a thorough rest, and am so well looked after, so don't worry about me.

If Mina wants to come over to France to do some war work, let her come, it will do her good and will make her more satisfied with South Africa afterwards. I see Miss Fogerty (Mina's teacher)

is teaching in London, she is teaching children to speak again, who have lost the power of speech through air raids. There are ... children of all ages who have lost their speech through shock, isn't it sad?

Thank you very much for the money received last week ... you always need something when you are ill.

Some people from Grahamstown are going to send the Ambulance some jam. I wonder when it will arrive, as letters take from 6 to 7 weeks nowadays to come over. ...

Love to you all at home.

Betty

**27 April 1918**

Dear Mother

I was fearfully upset when we got your cablegram yesterday afternoon. I am so sorry you should have been upset by Col. Casalis letter – I am not at all so ill. I caught a cold and it made me cough and afterwards gave me pleurisy. All Doctors say Pleurisy is not dangerous but it always lasts so long. I hardly cough now and am much better. I have everything done for me here with lots of clever doctors always coming to see me and Col. Casalis and Madame Casalis can't do enough for me. And if I did not get well on the journey out, who could attend to me in Luckhoff ... If I felt at all very ill I would cable to you, but I am looking very well and feeling much better, cough about twice a day and not at all in the night. Please don't think of coming to fetch me, you don't know how fearfully difficult it is to travel. Col. Casalis says he had to write to you as he feels responsible for me, *but* he must have said more than he meant to in his letter, to have upset you so.

I can assure you I am much better. I won't say I am quite well yet, because I am not, as I still cough a little. I have massage, X ray treatment and everything you can think of. One week when the cough was very bad they got oxygen for me. I am spoiled in every way. I could not have been better looked after anywhere else. I am coming home this year, but a few months later. I would arrive in the winter with you, and travelling is so bad now, I want so see whether it won't be better later on –

Please don't worry about me – Cablegrammes always take a week to come and a week to go.

Both the Casalis' and I cabled to you to-day.

Please don't worry about me. Love to all.

Betty

way: I could not have been better looked after any where else. I am coming home this year but a few months later. I would arrive in the winter with you + travelling is so bad now I want to see whether it won't be better later on.

please don't worry about me - cablegrammes always take a week to come & a week to go.  
Both the Casalis' & I cabled to you to-day - please don't worry about

This was the last letter. Casalis's cablegram must have been the one that said: "Come at once".

The final Allied counter-offensive began in July 1918 with three drives against the German salients in Aisne-Marne, Amiens, and St. Mihiel. Then the Allies mounted three converging attacks along the entire front from Verdun to Ypres.

The Armistice was signed on 11 November at 11 o'clock in the morning, six months after Betty had died.

Why did Betty not go home?

She was in capable hands – hands that would be there to help her at the end. To have returned in the condition she was in – if she had survived the journey – would not have softened the blow to her mother.

Nowhere in her letters is there so much as a hint of self-pity, or an appeal for help. She chose rather to reassure others, to minimise her own suffering. In the three years and five months in France she had found fulfilment in her service to wounded soldiers and she chose, at the end, to remain where she had served.

#### Appendix

1. The Deed of Agreement with the Johannesburg Hospital Board, March 1913, with Regulations attached.
2. An Identity Card issued by the French Government, undated, but presumably issued on Betty's arrival in Cannes.
3. A travelling permit issued by the *XVe Corps d' Armee*, Cannes, December 1915, signed by G.A. Casalis de Pury.
4. Certificate and Identity book issued by the French Red Cross, February 1916.
5. A certificate issued by the St John Ambulance Association of England to certify that Betty was qualified to "render First Aid to the Injured", April 1916.
6. Testimonials from Dr. Ackermann; Dr. Griffin, FRCS, Surgeon to S.A.A. Surgeon to Scarborough Hospital.
7. Two letters from Sister Archer-Isaac to Willy Freund, written after Betty had died.

*Miss Elizabeth Marie Freund*

## DEED OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

*Johannesburg Hospital Board*

AND

*Nursing Probationers.*

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*March 31<sup>st</sup> 1963*

2971—22/6/08—500.

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into by and between

*Julius Jappes Esq.*

as representing the Johannesburg Hospital Board, and duly authorised to act on its behalf, hereafter referred to as the Board, of the one part, and

*Elizabeth Marie Freund*

hereafter referred to as the Probationer, of the other part.

1. The Board hereby engages the services of the Probationer, who hereby agrees to render the same as a Probationer in the study and practice of the duties of a skilled Hospital Nurse, for a period of three years, reckoned from the *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *December 1912.*

2. Such services shall be rendered without payment during the first six months, reckoned from the *4<sup>th</sup>* day of *December 1912* during the next ensuing eighteen months the Probationer shall be paid at the rate of £25 per annum, payable monthly; and during the last twelve months at the rate of £42 per annum, payable monthly.

3. The Board also undertake to supply the Probationer during her term of service with indoor and ~~outdoor~~ <sup>*03-*</sup> uniform, in accordance with the pattern approved by the Board, from time to time, to a reasonable extent, and with board, lodging, washing, and medical attendance.

4. The Probationer shall be subject to the following conditions and stipulations:—

(a) All applicants for appointment as Probationers must be between the age of nineteen and thirty, and must furnish to the Nursing Superintendent, in writing, satisfactory testimonials as regards age, education, and moral character, and, if approved, must undergo an examination by the Resident Medical Officer as to health and physical fitness for the duties of the situation. They must enter upon their duties on trial for three months, and if the result of such trial prove satisfactory to the Resident Medical Officer and the Nursing Superintendent, an agreement to serve three years shall be entered into with the Hospital Board on the following terms, viz.: That the person so bound shall serve in the Hospital in the capacity of a Probationer for the term of three years (inclusive of the three months' trial), and shall during that period comply with and obey all the bye-laws of the Hospital; that she shall receive such remuneration as the Board may determine upon, together with uniform, board, lodging, washing, and medical attendance, and be treated in every respect as a junior nurse of the Hospital, the Board on their side undertaking to see that a regular system of training and instruction in nursing be given. On completion of her agreement, such Probationer shall, on receipt of certificate of service from the Nursing Superintendent, be entitled to present herself to the Medical Committee for examination as to proficiency, and on receipt of a satisfactory certificate of proficiency from the Medical Committee, the candidate shall be entitled to receive a formal certificate or diploma from the Board, in proof of her length of service, training, and proficiency, and she shall, on obtaining a certificate, be eligible for promotion.

(b) The lectures in connection with the training and instruction of Probationers given by members of the honorary and resident medical staff shall be divided into a preliminary and an advanced course.

Probationers shall be required to pass two separate examinations before obtaining their certificate of proficiency, and shall not be allowed to go up for the advanced course until they have passed the preliminary : but in the event of any Probationer having attended the necessary course of instruction she may go up for the two examinations simultaneously.

- (d) The preliminary course shall consist of lectures on anatomy and physiology, together with practical work in bandaging fractures, etc. The advanced course shall consist of lectures on nursing proper, with special regard to ventilation and general hygiene, and the nursing of special cases after operations.
- (e) The examination shall consist of at least six written questions, and a *viva voce* examination to be conducted by the honorary and resident medical staff.
- (f) During the term of training such probationer shall perform night duty for at least six months, not necessarily consecutively, and shall obey all the bye-laws of the Board for the time being in force, and shall also obey, conform to, comply with and carry out any proper and lawful order of the Board or any of its staff of officials properly authorised to give such order, and shall also be bound to attend the Board's course of lectures, and to study the subjects prescribed by the Board from time to time for examination.

5. In the event of the Probationer committing any breach of any provision of this agreement, or contravening any provision of the said rules or of the said bye-laws, or failing, to the satisfaction of the Board, to diligently perform the services required of her or to attend the lectures or pursue the studies provided by it, the Board shall be at liberty to cancel this agreement at any time without notice.

Executed at Johannesburg in duplicate original this *3/5<sup>th</sup>*  
day of *March* 19*13*

AS WITNESSES :

1. *C. Botha*  
*Nursing Supt.*

*J. W. ...*  
*Chairman.*

2. *J. ...*

*G. M. ...*  
*Probationer.*



**REGULATIONS**  
FOR THE  
**PROBATIONERS**  
OF THE  
**JOHANNESBURG HOSPITAL.**



1. Women desirous of receiving training as Nurses should apply to the Nursing Superintendent, and if they are suitable, and there are vacancies, they will be received into the Hospital as Probationers. The age considered desirable for Probationers (single or widows) is from 21 to 30. A certificate of age and health, and testimonials of character, according to the forms supplied by the Nursing Superintendent, will be required.

2. Probationers will be under the authority of the Nursing Superintendent, and will be subject to such Rules of the Hospital as may be in force from time to time. In cases of misconduct or inefficiency, they may be suspended at any time and discharged with the approval of the Committee.

3. Candidates are taken on trial without salary, and if approved they will be engaged for a period of three years. The course for training lasts for three years, and Probationers will be required to sign an Agreement to that effect. The Agreement thus made in consideration of the training she receives can only be terminated by consent of the Committee, on proper application being made, and on grounds which appear to them sufficient.

4. Probationers will be supplied with board, lodging, washing, uniforms, and medical attendance, and will receive the following remuneration:—First six months, nil; for the following eighteen months, at the rate of £25 per annum; third year, £42. Should any Probationer leave without the sanction of the Committee, she shall forfeit her Certificate and the value of the uniform supplied.

5. The Nursing Superintendent may retain the services of any Nurse willing to stay after the expiration of the three years' training, and to such Nurse a salary of £60 per annum will be given.

6. Probationers are to keep the apartment allotted to their use, neat, clean, and in proper order. They will be allowed a yearly holiday of one month, subject to the convenience of the Institution, and to the Regulations which may at any time be in force.

7. A Register will be kept in which will be entered the names of all women joining the Hospital, and a record of their conduct and qualifications. This record will be submitted to the Hospital Committee. On the completion of the engagement, and upon passing the necessary examinations, a Certificate of Proficiency will be granted by the Hospital Committee.

8. In case of sickness or indisposition, a Probationer must report herself to the Nursing Superintendent, who will, if necessary, procure medical advice and attendance. If at any time during the period of her engagement a Probationer shall be absent from duty through sickness or ill-health, or if it shall appear to the Medical Staff that she is physically unfit to perform her duties, it shall be in the discretion of the Committee to terminate her Agreement.

9. Probationers will be required to pay a premium of £10 on entering the Hospital, such premium being refunded in full to Probationers failing to pass an Examination in General Knowledge (Fifth Standard) to be held within a fortnight after admission. Probationers who, in the opinion of the Nursing Superintendent after three months work in the Wards are found to be unsuitable, will be discharged - half their premium being returned to them on leaving the Hospital.

EXTRAIT DU RÈGLEMENT

ART. 8. — Le personnel des Sociétés d'assistance employé dans la zone de l'arrière des armées y est soumis aux lois et règlements militaires; il est justiciable des tribunaux militaires par application des articles 62 et 75 du code de justice militaire.

ART. 9. — Les membres du personnel de ces sociétés portent le brassard de neutralité dans les conditions prévues par les conventions internationales.

Il est délivré en même temps une carte nominative d'identité qui est signée par le délégué régional ainsi que par le chef du service de santé.

Tout porteur de brassard doit être constamment muni de cette carte

Dubois et Hueber - 1714-12-16

Ministère de la Guerre

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE  
—  
MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE  
—  
SERVICE DE SANTÉ

SOCIÉTÉS D'ASSISTANCE  
aux Blessés & Malades des Armées de Terre et de Mer  
(DÉCRET DU 2 MAI 1913)

Croix-Rouge Française



CARTE D'IDENTITÉ

du Personnel appartenant

Handwritten details on the identity card, including a stamp and various fields.

Stamp: Ambulance Sud-Africaine  
Cannes 156 bis  
Hopital Beau Rivage

Association des Dames Françaises

CARTE D'IDENTITÉ

Mademoiselle Freund  
Prénoms: Elizabeth Marie  
Fonctions: Secrétaire

Domiciliée à Rickhoff  
Canton Orange Freslats  
Département Ariège du Sud

PHOTOGRAPHIE



Numero du Brassard de neutralité

Le Directeur du Service de Santé.  
Le Délégué régional.  
Handwritten signatures and stamps.

xv<sup>e</sup> Région  
Croix-Rouge  
Association  
des Dames  
Françaises  
Le Délégué  
Régional

15<sup>e</sup> Région Service De Santé  
Le Directeur

XV<sup>e</sup> CORPS D'ARMÉE

Ambulance Sud - Africaine

Place de Cannes

HOPITAL BEAU-RIVAGE N° 156bis

1 - Permission, congé ou pro-  
longation; en indiquer la nature  
et inscrire en toutes lettres le  
nombre de jours.

OFFICIER

(1) *Congé* de *Un mois*  
valable du *Deux Décembre 1915* au *Deux Janvier 1916* inclus  
accordé à *Mlle l'Infirmière Freund*

pour aller à *Londres*

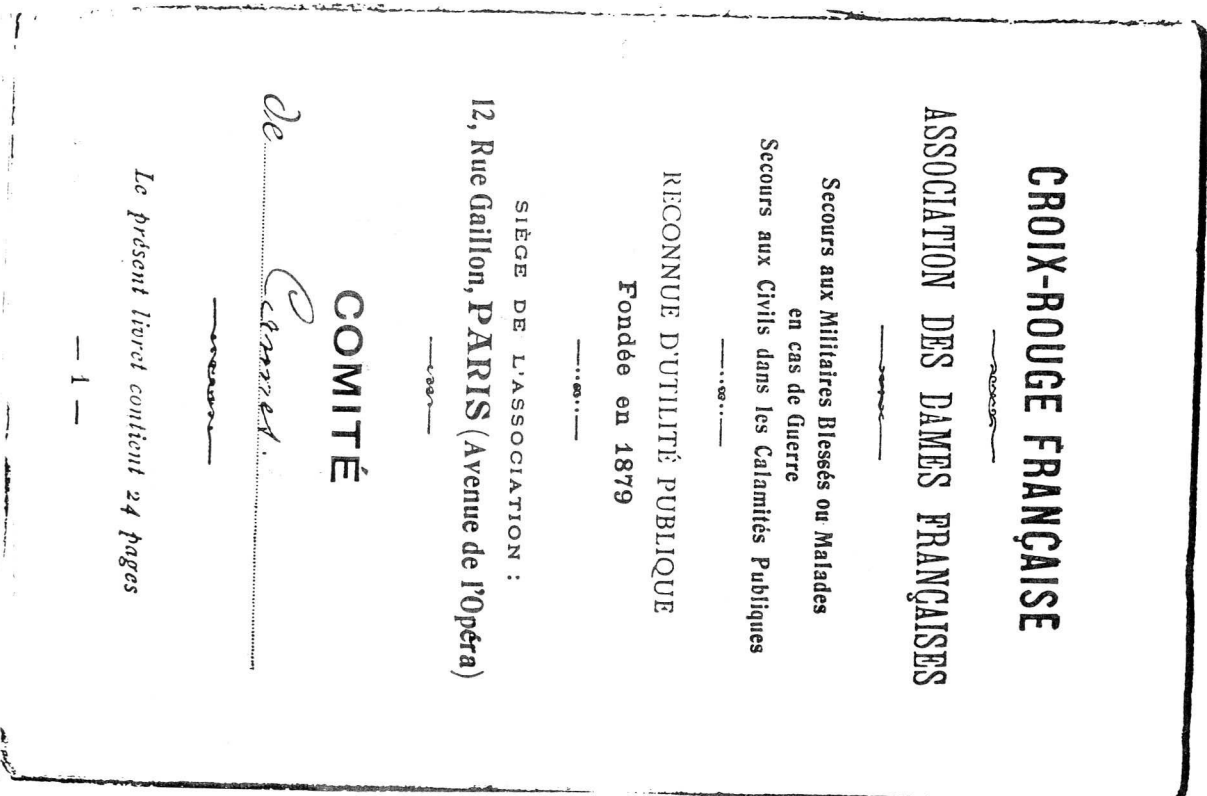
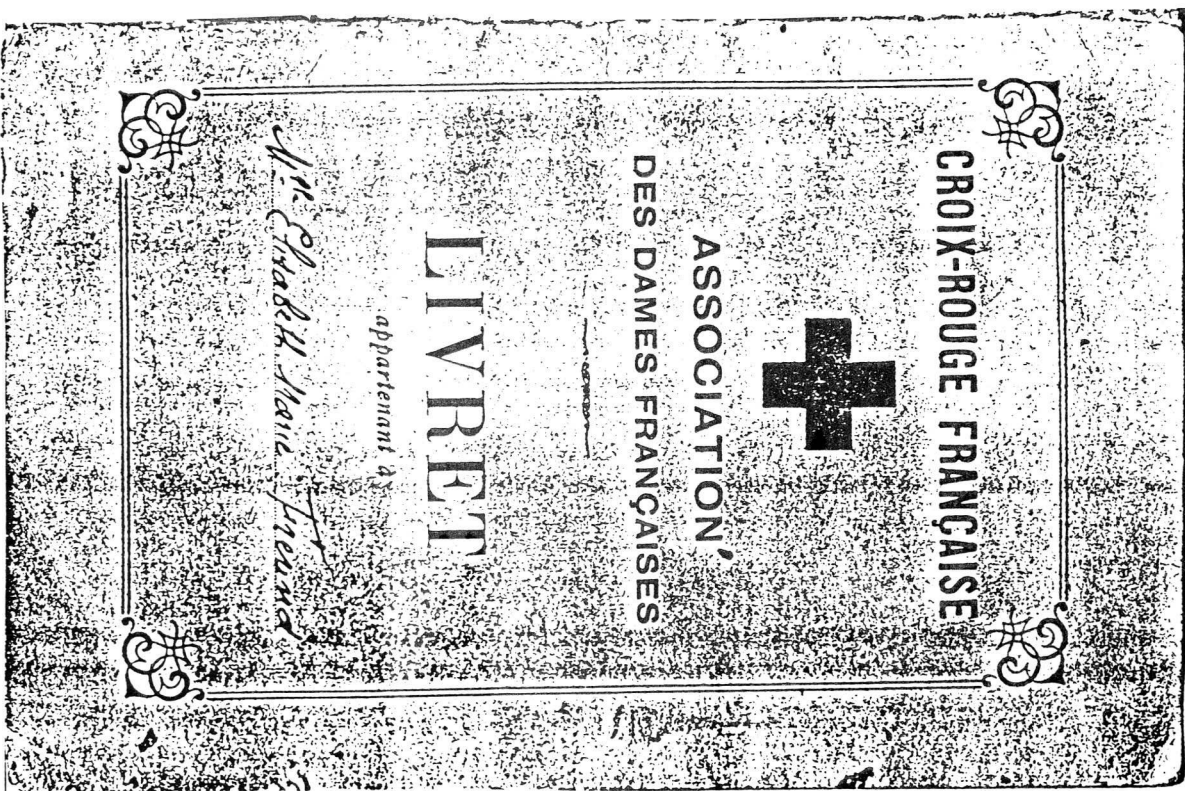
A CANNES, le *2* *Décembre* 1915

Le *Chirurgien-Chef.*

*G. Casalis de Pury*



The above document was signed  
by G. A. Casalis de Pury  
and the stamp in bottom, right corner  
issued by the Commissariat Spécial  
de Dieppe

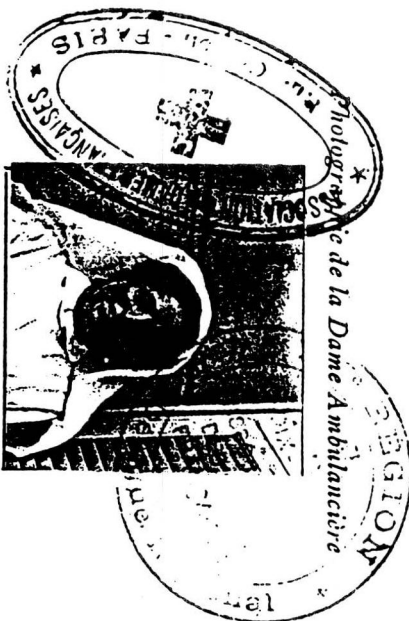


# NOTA

Nous rappelons que les diplomes delivrés dans nos Ecoles ne donnent pas le droit d'exercer une partie quelconque de la Médecine; ils attestent seulement *une capacité* pour les fonctions d'ambulancière ou de garde-malades.

C'est ce qu'il faut bien comprendre soit pour éviter l'exercice illégal de la Médecine, soit pour prévenir les conflits de prééminence dans le fonctionnement des hôpitaux auxiliaires.

Le grade d'Ambulancière-Major ne donne pas un droit absolu d'en exercer les fonctions dans les hôpitaux de l'Association; toute ambulancière, quels que soient ses titres devra accepter les fonctions qui lui seront désignées.



Signature de la Dame Ambulancière

*M. F. Renaud*



Le Délégué Régional

Timbre officiel du Ministère de la Guerre



Comité de Cornet  
N° 23

**Livret de Dame-Ambulancière**

Appartenant à M<sup>lle</sup> Elizabeth Marie Fremont  
Née à St. Louis, Orange-Ste. Marie, Louisiane  
d'origine Anglaise le 14 Fév. 1857

Nationalité } par mariage avec  
par décret de naturalisation en date  
du

Demurant à Delkroff (Nouveau-Orléans)

Profession Infirmière

N° du brassard 4745

Ayant obtenu le diplôme d'Ambulancière le

3 Février 1876

Le Directeur de l'Enseignement : Marie Frenaud

Carlier

Ayant obtenu le diplôme d'Ambulancière-Major

le \_\_\_\_\_  
Le Directeur de l'Enseignement : La Présidente :

M<sup>lle</sup> Elizabeth Marie Fremont s'est engagée  
à la date du 24 Mars 1864  
à remplir en temps de guerre les fonctions de  
Dame-Ambulancière dans l'un des hôpitaux de  
l'Association.

La Présidente de la Société :

Mary S. Carlier

Signature de la Dame-Ambulancière

Et M. Frenaud

Le Comité de *Comet*

désigné M<sup>re</sup> *Eloueth Marie Fressard*

pour remplir les fonctions de *Infirmière*

à l'hôpital n° *16 bis*

à l'embarcadere *Fort Infirmerie (Comet)*

La Présidente du Comité :

*Mary Jimmy*

M

a quitté son service le

Causes

La Présidente du Comité :

Le Comité de

a désigné M

pour remplir les fonctions de

à l'hôpital n°

à

La Présidente du Comité :

M

a quitté son service le

Causes

La Présidente du Comité :





The Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.  
AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT.  
The St. John Ambulance Association.  
(A part of the Red Cross Organization of the British Empire.)



**PATRON :**  
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE KING.  
(Sovereign Head and Patron of the Order.)

**President :**  
FIELD-MARSHAL H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, K.G.  
(Grand Prior of the Order.)

**Director of the Ambulance Department and Chairman of Committee :**  
The RIGHT HONOURABLE The EARL OF RANFURLY, P.C.(I) G.C.M.G.



This is to Certify that Elizabeth Freund  
has attended a course of instruction  
at the Garnock Branch of the Association,  
and is qualified to render "First Aid to the Injured."

W.O. Richard.  
Chief Secretary.

E. Wightman Ginner  
Surgeon Instructor.

G.A. Casalis de Puy  
Surgeon Examiner.

NO. 24987 REGISTERED AT ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL, LONDON, E.C. April, 1916

## Certificate

This is to certify that Nurse B. Freund was in charge of my ward of 42 beds at the military hospital Beaumont, Capetown, during the period of her tour of duty with the same.

She proved herself by her most excellent work and strict devotion to duty to be a nurse of the highest ability. Her trustworthiness and kindness to the patients reflected themselves in the high opinion of her medical officers and in the universal respect and thankfulness of the soldiers. Her ward was always an object lesson in cleanliness & neatness and its preparedness in dressings etc. etc. was exemplary. Her behaviour was beyond reproach.

M. W. Schuman M.D.

London

23. 11. 1915

I have much pleasure in stating that  
 Miss E. Burchard has had charge of  
 surgical ward in the hospital from  
 21<sup>st</sup> November 1914 to the present day.  
 During this time her work has been  
 of the highest standard and I can  
 recommend her with confidence as  
 being a most competent, conscientious and  
 thoroughly reliable nurse.

D. S. Burchard

Major

30 November 1915

Staff Officer Ambulance  
 & Nurses  
 Orange.

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBULANCE.

Nov 30 '16

I am very glad to be able to write of the high opinion I hold of the capabilities of Miss Freund as a nurse:  
She has been Sister in charge of a surgical ward in this ambulance for over two years & has devoted herself to the care of her patients.  
Miss Freund has every qualification to be in charge of a ward, having had much experience of the dressing of wounds, many of which have been left to her entire care.  
I can confidently recommend Miss Freund for any surgical nursing appointment for which she may apply

Walter S. Griffin F.R.C.S.  
Surgeon to the South African Ambulance  
Surgeon to the Scarborough Hosp.

Dear Willie,  
 It is 10 years since I last  
 heard from you - I wonder if you  
 still remember me.  
 I feel I must write to you  
 to tell you how sorry I am for  
 you. I have had a great friend  
 Betty has gone and miss her very  
 much - Betty was liked by  
 everyone & so greatly missed.  
 I write to your mother on the  
 4<sup>th</sup> telling her everything. I am so  
 very very sorry for her; she must  
 feel it very much, especially being  
 so far away. He did everything  
 possible for Betty.  
 By this mail I am sending six  
 photos to your mother & which I  
 thought she might like - of the house  
 for more, I will send them.  
 I hear you have been ill - I  
 sincerely hope you are better now.  
 With love, & my sympathy,  
 Yours very sincerely  
 G. C. Kelly

Walter Evans  
 James A. M.  
 1/1/81  
 21/6/81

Hôpital Beau Rivage  
Cannes. A. M.  
France.  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>/18.

My dear Willie.

Just a short note.-  
The Ambulance closes on March  
15<sup>th</sup> - I hope to be able to  
leave for South Africa about  
May - so I ought to be back  
by the beginning of June - And  
I shall be glad to be home  
once more.

But I feel so sad at having  
to return without dear Betty -  
We had so often discussed the  
great day of our return together,  
& had looked forward to it so.  
If she had lived we would have  
been back by now as I had made  
her promise to return with me  
in October, because of her health  
she would not come sooner.

I hope your health is better &  
My best wishes to you all - Yours sincerely  
E. Lindley

### Author's Note

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\*A biographical sketch re the author of this article, who is a senior lecturer Dept of English, University of Pretoria, appears at the end of part 1 of the article, in *Militaria* 15/1 of 1985.