

Extracted from: Drew, M. G. (1928). *Canada in the Great War* (pp. 36). Toronto: Maclean's.

### Canadian Nurses

ANOTHER branch which could not be omitted from even the most casual summary is the nursing service, which, as an integral part of the Medical Service, played such a wonderful part in alleviating suffering and reducing the mortality from wounds and disease. Two thousand five hundred and twenty-nine Canadian nurses served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and of these, 2,002 went overseas and served in England, France, Belgium, Egypt, Greece and Russia. Fifty-four gave their lives, of whom seven died by shell fire or bombs and thirteen were drowned in the sinking of hospital ships. Three hundred and forty-two women who were not nurses went overseas with the Voluntary Aid Department to assist in the hospitals. Three hundred and forty-six nursing sisters received Imperial decorations for conspicuous conduct. Eight received the military medal for bravery and the remainder received the Royal Red Cross medal. A Canadian nurse, Miss Tremaine, had the distinction of nursing King George after he was thrown from his horse and injured while visiting the Canadian troops in Belgium.

At home as well, Canadian women played an immense part in Canada's effort. Within the scope

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of their opportunity they worked as hard for victory as the men, and it is impossible to imagine what the condition of the soldiers would have been without the constant stream of small necessities supplied by the Red Cross Society and its numerous associated organizations. Some 30,000 women worked in the munition factories relieving able-bodied men for military service.