

## War album collated by Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell who served with the « First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps » [F.A.N.Y.] during World War I in the area surrounding Calais, France.

### The album

Album of original photographs and reminders collected by Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell from 1914, when she joined the F.A.N.Y. until 1916

The album is a quarto volume, landscape format, 255 x 305 mm (10 x 12 inches). There are 184 pages of strong thick black paper, some of them mounted on strong thick dark grey paper, on which have been stuck:

- 277 original photographs, of which 27 are octavo or large octavo format (six signed « Alfieri », from Alfieri Picture Service, London, which appears to have been a Press picture distributor) 51 duodecimo format and 199 in 16 mo, 18 mo or 24 mo format. Most have handwritten legends.
- 12 original documents, including an autograph letter, dated and signed by Lieutenant Grace Ashley Smith, an official Restricted Area Pass etc..
- 63 press cuttings (or sets of press cuttings), some with annotated photographs.



A printed booklet presenting the F.A.N.Y. has been inserted (4 pages in small duodecimo format).

The album is in its original edition Bradel binding, covered with blue cloth with the word "Album" in gold on the front cover.

Most of the photographs are beautifully printed, well contrasted in black and white or sometimes in Sepia, and are well conserved. Most have handwritten annotations by Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell, with the location, name of the persons etc.

The binding of this album which "went to war" is worn (the spine is missing,

the corners are ragged, the quires are partly unstitched), the inside, despite unavoidable traces of wear, remains fresh. We recommend that, after re-sewing the quires, the document is kept in a slipcase or a folder, as it reached us. Should the binding be restored, the work must be perfect in order to avoid further damage.

### The FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY (F.A.N.Y.)



The FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY (F.A.N.Y.), now Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps, "was created in 1907 as a first aid link between front-line fighting units and field hospitals. During the First World War, FANYs ran field hospitals, drove ambulances and set up soup kitchens and troop canteens, often in highly dangerous conditions". (<http://www.fany.org.uk>). "The objective of the Corps was to assist the Royal Army Medical Corps in time of war by providing mounted detachments with horse ambulance wagons, to

take the wounded from Clearing Hospitals or Dressing Stations and convoy them to Base Hospitals or to the nearest railhead" (<http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk>). The F.A.N.Y. was headed by Lieutenant Grace Mc Dougall [born Grace Ashley Smith]. "Mc Dougall was the first member of the F.A.N.Y. at the

front lines in 1914, she began as a nurse in Antwerp (Belgium). In the allied retreat from Antwerp, she fell behind German lines but she succeeded in escaping German capture. Back in England, Mc Dougall unsuccessfully petitioned the War Office to get F.A.N.Y. unit accepted for service. She finally offered the unit to the Belgians. In October 1914 she established the first F.A.N.Y. hospital at Calais as well as a dressing station at Ooskirke, one mile behind the trenches. She later established a typhoid hospital, a convalescent camp for British soldiers and a convoy of ambulance drivers for the British red cross". (*Women and War: A Historical Encyclopedia from Antiquity to the Present, ABC Clio, 2002*). The F.A.N.Y. corps based in Calais was active in a relatively large area from the North of France to the South of Belgium [as shown by the original photographs taken in Boulogne, Calais, Dunkerque, Dixmude, Ypres, etc..]. The F.A.N.Y. were the first and only women at the front, until they were joined by Red Cross nurses. They were also the first to wear a Khaki uniform, including trousers, which stupefied the people and soldiers they met.

### Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell

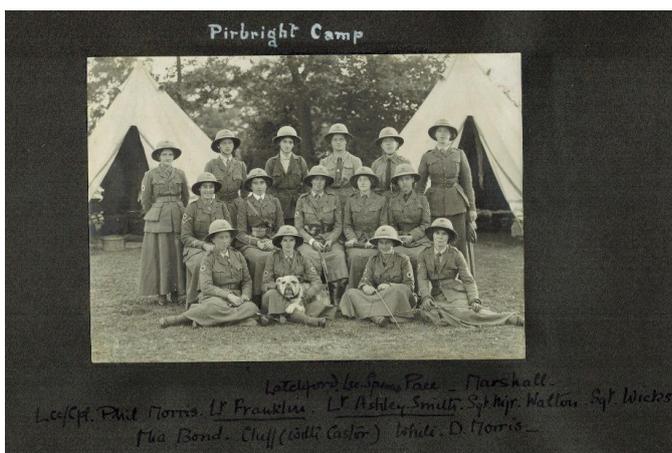


The album illustrates the memories of Patricia Beauchamp Waddell (1892-1972) that she relates in her book «Fanny goes to war» published in 1919 by John Murray (London) with an introduction by Major-General H.N. Thompson. This book is still very popular as shown by the number of on-line versions (for example in the Internet Archive of the Canadian Libraries)

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16521/16521-h/16521-h.htm>.

The album that we propose is in synchronous chronology with the book and recounts the first two years of the F.A.N.Y.'s commitment in the war. P-B Waddell enrolled in the F.A.N.Y in July 1914 for a military training camp in Pirbright (Surrey) but she only joined the corps at the Lamark hospital in Calais in January 1915 where she worked in care and logistics. In 1916, after being trained in driving and mechanics during a leave, she worked as an ambulance driver in the British Red Cross convoy based near Calais [« Cumberland lady motorist at the front »]. The main part of the album stops when Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell was amputated following an injury, then repatriated after being awarded the "Croix de guerre" by Général Ditte (May 1916).

### Documents and photographs



The album begins with a manuscript letter by Lieutenant Grace Ashley Smith for the recruitment of Patricia Beauchamp Waddell in the F.A.N.Y. The opposite page is illustrated by a colour drawing of the F.A.N.Y. emblem. The first pages (2 to 32) illustrate the F.A.N.Y. training camp in Pirbright in July 1914, with horse riding and first aid exercises under the direction of a medical officer (immobilization with splints and use of stretchers), life under canvas, group photographs with the Bulldog mascot « Castor » and a very beautiful portrait (large format photograph) of

Grace Ashley Smith exercising. Some press cuttings are included which reproduce the original photographs of the album.

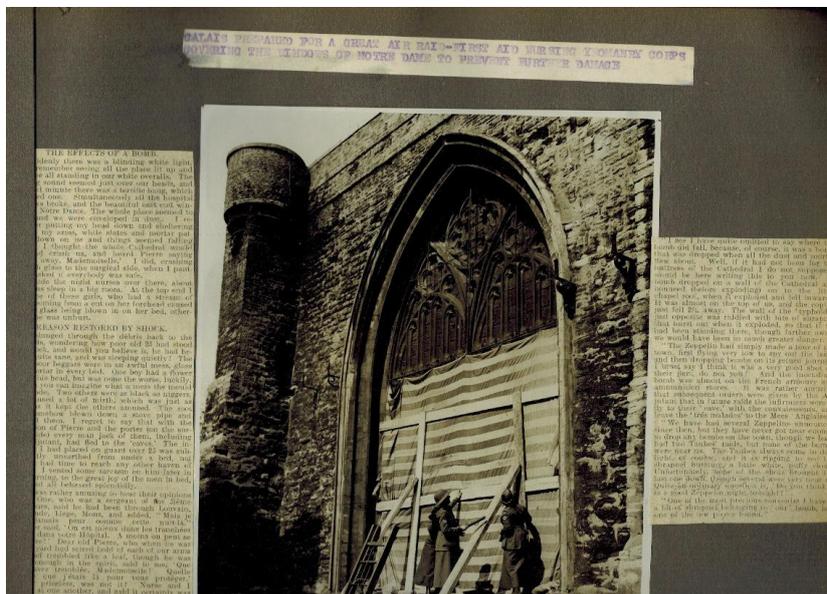
The activity of the F.A.N.Y. on the war front in 1914, is presented with press cuttings and a few photographs (p 33 to 50). A manuscript list enumerates the eight young ladies of the first F.A.N.Y. detachment who established the Lamarck hospital in a school near the cathedral.

Pages 71 to 149 correspond to the year 1915 when the F.A.N.Y.'s activity was centered at Lamarck hospital which received injured soldiers and typhoid patients. Many small format photographs were probably taken directly by Beauchamp Waddell. A particular set of photographs illustrates the



bombing of the Calais cathedral and the hospital by a Zeppelin raid (18 March 1915). One photograph, marked with a cross, indicates the place where Miss Beauchamp Waddell stood when the bomb fell. This attack, described in her book, is also related in a large press cutting signed by P. Beauchamp Waddell. The photographs describe other actions of the F.A.N.Y. on the front (canteen work, mobile baths etc.), and concerts that the F.A.N.Y. gave under the name of FANTASTIK). There is also a photograph taken in Paris during a leave. Pages 150 to 160 correspond to the year 1916, during which Patricia Beauchamp Waddell worked as an ambulance driver. She drove a Mors Lorry then Napier 4 cylinders called « Susan ». The convoy participated in the evacuation of injured soldiers, brought by train or barges to the Fontinettes station, to hospitals surrounding Calais and from there, to the Boulogne harbor, to return them to England. There are few photographs since personal cameras were forbidden.

However, two large photographs inserted show the destruction of the Sussex ferry torpedoed on the 24th of March 1916 by a German submarine, then brought to Boulogne harbor (we know from the book that these photographs were taken by an "official for France"). Two horse hairs are stuck on a page (she used to ride a grey horse during her few moments of rest). Patricia Beauchamp Waddell was injured when driving a lorry that she drove for a few days. Pages 160-179 are empty. The last pages of the album (180 and onwards) present later documents; some were probably inserted when she returned to France to visit the F.A.N.Y. corps in 1918 or after the end of the war.



Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell appears to have been a "war correspondent" for several newspapers, mainly British [see the press cuttings from the French magazine "Miroir", and from the "Daily Mail", "Daily Mirror", "The Daily Chronicle", "The Star", "The Windsor Magazine", etc]. Some of the photographs included in the press cuttings are reproductions of the original ones presented in the album, with the legends written on strips from a teleprinter. Some press

cuttings present the text of "letters" sent from the front signed by Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell or by Lieutenant Grace Ashley Smith (the later ones may have been written by Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell, as suggested by her handwritten corrections)].

All these documents together form a unique account with an exceptional documentary interest [particularly considering the lack of preparation of the French army health services].

This is a unique historical document, of which the importance speaks for itself.

First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps.

Commanding Officer: Colonel F. C. Richards, C. V. O.

Temp. Headquarters: 192 Earls Court Rd

83, Lecham Gardens,  
South Kensington,

Telephone: Weymouth 7574

London, S. W.



12<sup>th</sup> July 1914

Dear Madam,

Miss Patricia Beauchamp Waddell has referred us to you as she wishes her name submitted to our Commanding Officer as a recruit for this Corps.

Will you kindly say whether you consider Miss Waddell to be a gentlewoman & possessed of good nerves & common sense. Thanking you in anticipation of a reply

I remain,

dear Madam

Yr. faith fully

J. Ashley Smith

Trust

To  
Mrs Scott  
10 Upper Woburn Place  
W.C.







Grace Mc Dougall Ashley-Smith at Pirbright

A WOMAN IN WAR TRIM.



A woman who is ready for the war runs with a stretcher. She is one of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps in training at Pirbright Camp, Surrey. They take their duties seriously.







The ambulance in the photo  
 was used in the hospital at  
 Camp de la Chapelle

The ambulance in the photo  
 was used in the hospital at  
 Camp de la Chapelle



After a Taube raid



Belgian 3<sup>rd</sup> line trenches



cranking!