

Chapter 15

Front Lines and Frontiers: War as Legitimate Work for Nurses, 1939-1945 Cynthia Toman



Questions for Critical Reading

1. How were civilian nurses transformed into military nurses?
2. How did nurse's work during the war open up new legitimate spaces for women's work?
3. Why were nurses given a certain amount of autonomy during the war?
4. Women were permitted to be nurses due to their stereotypical role as mothers, but men were not allowed to be nurses in the military until 1967. What was the relationship between men and women in the medical service and how was this role impacted by gender roles of the time?

List of Primary Sources

- “Private M. Robinson in Christie St. Hospital, Toronto, Undergoing a Stomach-Hand-Leg Skin Graft with Nursing Sister Sadler.” Jaques, Ronny. Photograph. 1945.
http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4295796&rec_nbr_list=4295796
- “Miss Geraldine McClelland, Director of Nursing at Grace Hospital in Windsor, Interviewing Miss Barbara Hockney...” Photograph. 1930-1960.
http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4365893&rec_nbr_list=4365893
- “Nursing Sister Galt, Nursing Sister McNicol, RRC, and Nursing Sister Lyall.” Photograph. 1914-1919.
http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3395709&rec_nbr_list=3395709
- “Nursing Sisters of No. 15 Canadian General Hospital.” Row, Terry F. Photograph. 1943.
http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3599960&rec_nbr_list=3599960
- “Nursing Sister Modelling a Nursing Sister's Uniform.” Photograph. 1943.

http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3583106&rec_nbr_list=3583106

- “Nursing Sisters of Princess Mary’s Royal Air Force Nursing Service...” Duberville, Frank L. Photograph. 1944.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3524151&rec_nbr_list=3524151
- “The First Nursing Sisters of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.” Duberville, Frank L. Photograph. 1944.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3579992&rec_nbr_list=3579992
- “Nursing Sisters and Patients in a Ward Aboard No. 2 Canadian General Hospital Ship Letitia...” Richer, Charles H. Photograph. 1942.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3398523&rec_nbr_list=3398523
- “Unidentified Nursing Sisters and Surgeon Lieutenant Riddell.” Photograph. 1942.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lan=eng&rec_nbr=3524719&rec_nbr_list=3524719
- “Nursing Sister Waterman Giving a Lecture at the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital.” Photograph. 1942.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3524714&rec_nbr_list=3524714
- “Five Canadian Nursing Sisters in North Africa.” Photograph. 1943-1945.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4232816&rec_nbr_list=4232816
- “Nursing Sisters Having Tea at the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital.” Photograph. 1942.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3524716&rec_nbr_list=3524716

Multimedia Resources

- “Angels of Mercy”: Canada’s Nursing Sisters in World War I and II
<http://pw20c.mcmaster.ca/case-study/angels-mercy-canada-s-nursing-sisters-world-war-i-and-ii>
- Heritage Minute: Nursing Sisters
www.historicacanada.ca/content/historica-canada-releases-new-nursing-sisters-heritage-minute
- Brief History of Nursing in Canada
www.historymuseum.ca/cmhc/exhibitions/tresors/nursing/nchis01e.shtml

- In Uniform – Nurses
www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/people/in-uniform/nurses