



**SUPPLY
LINE**

Frances Emma Caddy

Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps

Frances was a devoted nurse. Joining the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps when she was 31, she served in England and Sicily.



Nursing Sister Frances Emma Caddy in uniform at a train station.
George Metcalf Archival Collection
Canadian War Museum 20110200-007_15

Before the War

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in 1911, Frances trained as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Sudbury, Ontario during the early 1930s. In 1937, she went to the United States, where she worked at a women's hospital in New Jersey.

After the war began, she returned to Canada. Her father's family had a tradition of military service, and Frances decided to enlist with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1942.

Service with No. 5 Canadian General Hospital

Frances' wartime service began in Toronto, Ontario, at the Chorley Park Hospital. Some of her patients included German prisoners of war who had been sent to Canada.

In 1943, she was posted overseas. Her first stop was England. Later that year, she learned that she would be part of a detachment of nurses being sent to Sicily to reinforce No. 5 Canadian General Hospital.

Women in the Canadian and British military were non-combatants, but nurses like Frances Caddy – posted to active theatres of war – came very close to the action. No. 5 Hospital had been hit by an anti-aircraft shell a couple of months before her arrival, and 12 nurses had been wounded.

She served in Sicily until January 1944, when the hospital moved to mainland Italy. As the Allied armies advanced through Europe, Frances and her hospital unit moved as well. They travelled from Italy to France, then to Belgium. The hospitals, and the nurses who worked in them, were often within range of enemy fire as they cared for soldiers with serious wounds.

In June 1945, just weeks after the end of the war in Europe, No. 5 Hospital disbanded, and Frances returned home. Back in Canada, she worked at a convalescent hospital in Ontario until she was discharged from the army in 1946.

A Lifetime of Nursing

Frances Caddy was devoted to her profession. She remained a nurse after the war, working at several hospitals as well as the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

After retiring in 1974, she spent the next 20 years travelling extensively, sometimes visiting areas she had seen during the war. She died in 1994, at age 82.