

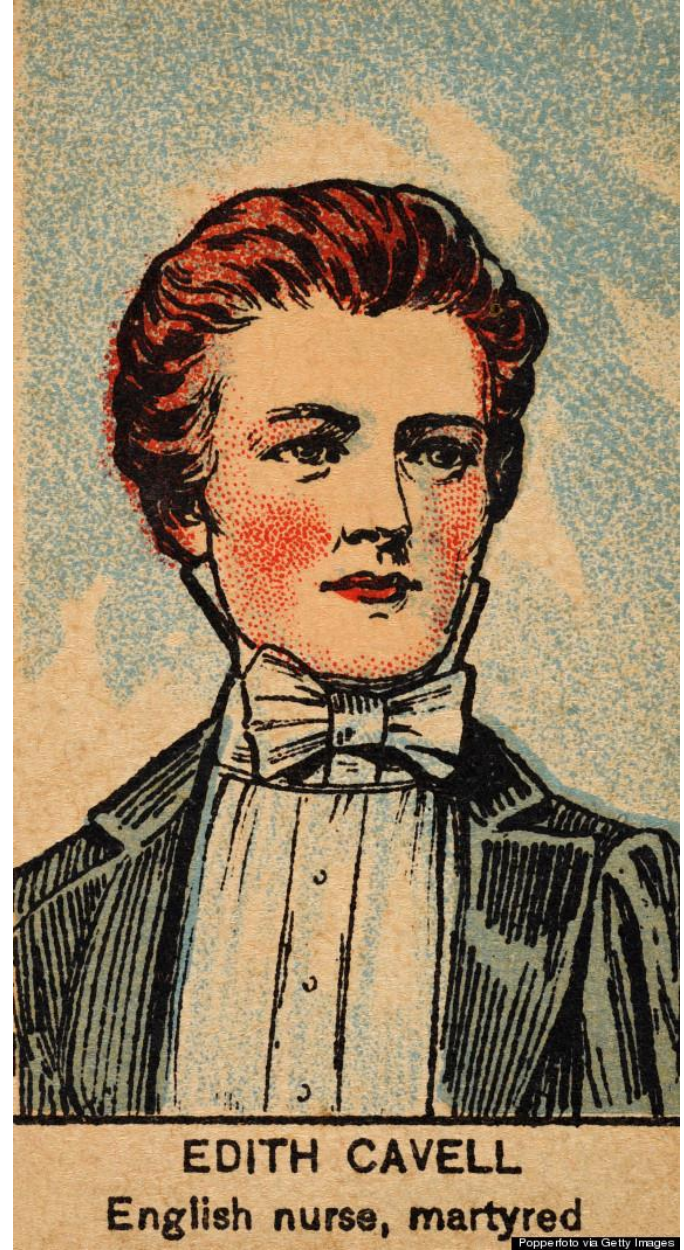
Edith Cavell

1865-1915

Edith Cavell was a British nurse, working in German-occupied Belgium during the First World War. She helped hundreds of British, French and Belgian soldiers escape the Germans. She was later arrested, tried and executed in 1915.

Edith was born in Norfolk and started her career as a governess in Belgium, before training to be a nurse in London. She worked in hospitals in London and Manchester before accepting a position in Brussels as Matron in Belgium's first training hospital and school for nurses. At that time there was no established nursing profession in Belgium so her pioneering work led her to be considered the founder of modern nursing education in that country.





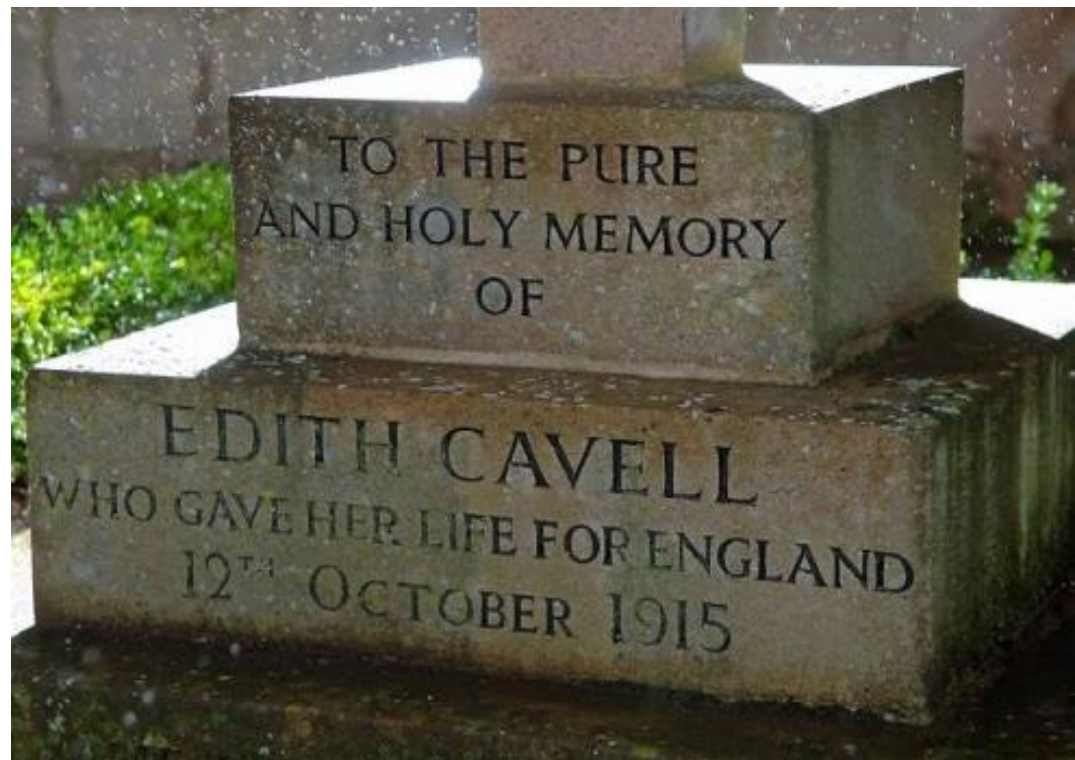
In 1914, Edith was in Norfolk visiting her mother when the First World War broke out. Realising the threat to Belgium, she immediately returned to Brussels.

In September 1914, Edith was asked to help two wounded British soldiers. She treated them in her hospital and then arranged to have them smuggled out of Belgium into the Netherlands. She then became part of a network who sheltered Allied soldiers and Belgians and arranged their escape.

Over the next eleven months she helped around 200 British, French and Belgian soldiers, sheltering them in the hospital and arranging for guides to take them to the border. On 5 August 1915, she was arrested for this activity.

Edith was tried on 7 October 1915, along with 34 others connected to the network. She was found guilty and sentenced to death. She was then shot by a firing squad in Brussels on 12 October 1915.

Although her execution was legal under international law, it caused outrage in Britain. She became a symbol of the Allied cause, and her memory was invoked in recruitment posters in Britain and around the world.



There is a 40ft marble, memorial statue of Edith Cavell at St Martin's Place in London designed by Sir George Frampton.

It reads:

Edith Cavell

Brussels

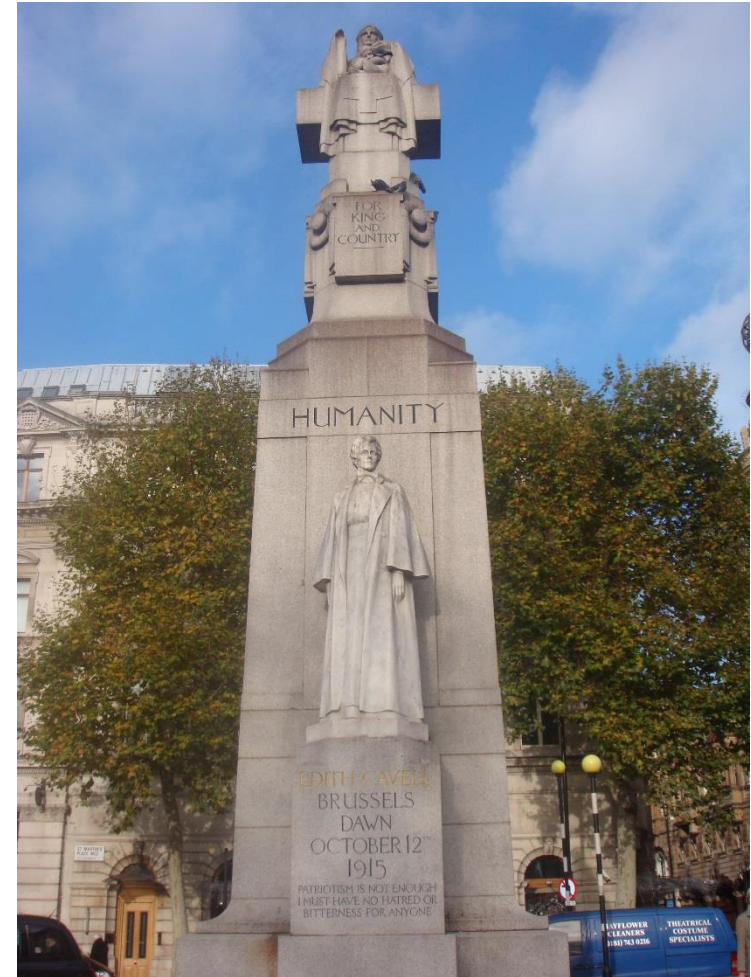
Dawn

October 12th 1915

There is also a quote from the comment she made to the Anglican Chaplain who gave her Holy Communion the night before her execution:

“Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone.”

These words were added in 1924 at the request of the National Council of Women.



MISS EDITH CAVELL
MURDERED

October 12th 1915

REMEMBER!



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