PREFACE: On the 12 October 1915 Edith Louisa Cavell, an English nursing sister living and working in Brussels, together with Philippe Francois Victor Baucq, a local architect, was executed at the Tir National, Brussels having been convicted by a German Military tribunal for espionage.

On the 22 December 1918, L/Cpl William Scotton of the 140th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps wrote to his wife "Emily Dearest This is the Nurse Cavell memorial in Brussels; it’s only a temporary affair in plaster; but a permanent one in Marble will be sculptured later on. Will ".

My grandfather is writing of the memorial erected behind the Brussels’ Grote Markt on 22 November 1918 by Liberation sculptor Jacques MARIN (* 1877 – † 1950).
This was never to be eternalised in stone. Ref: An ephemeral open-air sculpture museum: ten temporary monuments for the festive return of the Belgium Royal Family to Brussels, November 1918. Authors: Engelen, L and Sterckx, M. Sculpture Journal 2017: 26.3; 321-349 Publ: Liverpool University Press

The card above (Postcard-collection Dexia Bank, Brussels. Ref: https://core.ac.uk/reader/34479845), together with a colour image of Cavell on an unbleached silk swatch below (execution date erroneously stated as “October 13, 1915”) and an original 1920 Beagles Postcard (p. 27) carrying a photograph by Alexander Bassano of the Frampton sculpture of Edith Cavell raised at the junction of St Martin’s Lane and Charing Cross Road, London, prompted this essay.
Cast of Characters, Places and Events

Edith Louisa Cavell (* Swardeston, Norfolk 4.12.1865 – † Brussels 12.3.1915)
Post card: Portrait Edith Cavell, ermordete englische Krankenschwester (Portrait of Edith Cavell, murdered English nurse)

*Bartko-Reher-OHG 9.211.514*

photograph: St. Mary's the Virgin, Swardeston.
Norfolk photograph: Memorial stained-glass window, St. Mary's Church by Ernest Heasman (* 1874 - † 1927)

Training in nursing London Hospital, Whitechapel 1896 - 1901 under Matron Eva Luckes.

photograph: memorial plaque London Hospital Whitechapel (aka The London Infirmary, The Royal London Hospital)

IN 1907, Edith Cavell was appointed Matron of the Berkendael Medical Institute (Clinique), Uccle, Belgium (L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées)
Founder Dr Antoine Depage, Belgium Royal Surgeon, one of founders of Belgium Red Cross, Belgium Boy Scouts and International Surgical Society (1902 – 1912).

photograph: Dr Antoine DEPAGE (Dr) (*1862 – † 1925). In August 1914 had it designated a neutral Red Cross Hospital for treatment of soldiers of any nationality.

Led by Prince Reginal Charles Alfred de Croÿ-Solre, Princess Marie de Croÿ-Solre, Philippe Francois Victor Bauq (architect) and others participated in an escape organisation and espionage ring August 1914 - July 1915

photograph: portrait Prince Reginal Charles Alfred DE CROŷ-SOLRE (* 1870 – † 1961)
A visit by Edith Cavell to "La Villa d'Audenarde" Gent (Ghent) in April 1915 was thought to be associated with the escape and espionage activities.

photograph: plaque Gent, inauguration ceremony in August 1924
Edith Cavell was arrested at some point between 31 July - 5 August 1915 by Otto Mayer German Secret Police for "harbouring aliens & helping them to escape". She was imprisoned whilst awaiting court martial in St. Gilles Military Prison, Brussels.

![St. Gilles Prison, Brussels](image)

Charged with treason, 35 persons were taken to trial in a Military Court on (6) (7/8) October 1915; the judgment, 5 sentenced to death, sentences of 3 were subsequently commuted to imprisonment with hard labour; 22 sentenced to imprisonment; 8 acquitted. Originally, the death sentences were confirmed in 3 instances, Edith Cavell, Phillipe Baucq (architect of Brussels) and Louise Thuliez (teacher of Lille) (* 1881 – † 1966) but the sentence for the latter was later reduced to life in prison due to the intervention of Alfonso XIII of Spain. She was imprisoned in Saint-Gilles and finally released on 8 November 1918.

![Louise Thuliez](image)
Louis SÉVERIN, resistance fighter & Pharmacien à Bruxelles (apothecary) and Countess Jeanne DE BELLEVILLE (of Montignies-sur-Roc) accused of "treason in the time of war", were sentenced to death later commuted to life imprisonment, and sent to Sieberg concentration camp. Outcome unknown.

German Military Law: Paragraph 58 of the German Military Code says: “Will be sentenced to death for treason any person who, with the intention of helping the hostile Power, or of causing harm to the German or allied troops, is guilty of one of the crimes of paragraph 90 of the German Penal Code.” Later: The case referred to in the above-mentioned paragraph 90 consists of "Conducting soldiers to the enemy." Additionally, the penalties according to paragraph 160 of the German Code, in case of war, apply to foreigners as well as Germans.

Application of the German law was supported by the First Geneva Convention. While the Convention ordinarily guarantees protection of medical personnel, that protection is forfeit if it is used as cover for any belligerent action. This forfeiture is expressed in article 7 of the 1906 version of the Convention, which was the version in force at the time. (…)

Officers Commanding: Prussian Lieutenant General Traugott Martin von Sauberzweig (* 1863 – † 1920 suicide), the Military Governor, warrant was signed by Lieutenant General Traugott Martin von Sauberzweig who wanted to "set a dissuasive example" to suppress the growth of underground movements in occupied Belgium and, therefore, had rejected the last-minute mercy request from the US and Spanish replaced, and ultimately demoralised committed suicide in 1920.

photograph: Prussian Lieutenant General Traugott Martin von Sauberzweig
Reportedly sentence was confirmed again by German Governor of Brussels, Moritz von Bissing who said: "This Cavell woman... had guilty knowledge of much of their work. Such a system of spying assails our very safety and we proceeded to stamp it out".


Bartko-Reher-OHG 9.321.434
Baron Oscar von Lancken-Wakenitz (* 1867 – † 1939) the Head of the Political Department.

There were unsuccessful intercessions by Prince Reginal Charles Alfred de Croÿ (* 1870 – † 1961) Belgium, Brand Whitlock (* 1869 – † 1934) American, Marquis de Villalobar (* 1864 – † 1929) Spanish.
Seiden-AK "I have seen death so often...", Edith Cavell, von Deutschen hingerichtet, 1. Weltkrieg
Silk PC "I have seen death so often ...", Edith Cavell, executed by Germans, World War I
Bartko-Reher-OHG 9.368.334

This satin-finish card was sold for the benefit of the "Daily Mirror Nurse Cavell Memorial Fund".

The words below the picture reportedly are those she spoke to the Anglican prison chaplain on the morning of her execution. Rev Horace Stirling Townsend Gahan (Anglo-Irish Anglican) (* 1870 - † 1959) chaplain Christ Church, rue Crespel, Brussels
photograph: dedicatory plaque to Rev H S T Gahan


AK Brüssel / Bruxelles, le Tir National (National Shooting gallery) was a place of multiple executions during WWI was the Tir National (National Shooting gallery)

Bartko-Reher-OHG 6.470.707
"Mr. Colinet, former Directory of the Tir National, is seen [standing where] the firing party was posted". There is a stool in the foreground upon which "the condemned was placed", the distance between it and Mr. Colinet appears to be about ten feet.

Bartko-Reher-OHG 9.176.149

Witnesses to the execution: Ada Bodart (* 1874 – † 1936) (born Anna Maria Doherty), Dr Gottfried Benn (* 1886 – † 1956), Pastor Paul Le Seur (* 1877 - † 1963) and Cavell's appointed lawyer Sadi Kirschen (* ? – † c 1936)

photograph: Ada Bodart (* 1874 – † 1936)
There are in existence what appear to be a factually correct, detailed reports, one sent to US State Department by Brand Whitlock (reference 10), reportage by Pastor Paul Le Seur (* 1877 - † 1963)
(German Lutheran Military chaplain) and lastly in an autobiography published later by Ada Bodart. The Official German military records have yet to be released [2020].

The execution was embraced by a British patriotic propaganda machine orchestrated out of the Propaganda Bureau, Wellington House, London. The subsequent sinking of the RMS Lusitania 7 May 1915 (thereby killing Marie Depage, Rotes Kreuz) furthered the aims of their programme.

Marie Depage : Croix-Rouge belge

The activities of the "murky" Belgium American Educational Foundation: The Commission for Relief in Belgium C.R.B. (1914) are thought to have further mandated the Germans.

Visite de leurs Majestes le Roi et la Reine d'Angleterre au Memorial de Miss Edith Cavell, Besuch des Könis am Grab (Visit of their Majesties the King George V and Queen Mary of England to the grave of Miss Edith Cavell and Memorial within the Tir National - National Firing Range, Brussels.
17th March 1919
Exhumation from unmarked grave in Tir National, Schaerbeek on 13 May 1919. Body "found to be well preserved and the features still recognizable."

A wooden cross was left to mark the grave of Edith Cavell once her body was exhumed.

Her repatriation began with the removal of body from execution/burial site to Gard du Nord thence to Ostend and Dover, England.

Enlevement du corps de Miss Edith Cavell au Tir National, Beisetzung von Edith Cavell, Rotes Kreuz (Removal of the body of Edith Cavell at Tir National, illustration of Edith Cavell, Red Cross)

On 13th May, a troop of British soldiers escorted the body from the Tir National to Memorial Service in la Garde du Nord, Brussels

photograph: la Garde du Nord, Brüssel / Bruxelles

In Ostend, the coffin is taken on board the HMS Rowena which leaves for Dover on 14 March 1919. Accompanying party: Cavell's sisters Lilane Wainwright and Florence Cavell, husband Willian Wainwright and a nurse

photograph: HMS Rowena
On arrival, her body was housed overnight in St Mary's The Virgin Parish Church, Dover

photograph: St Mary's The Virgin Parish Church, Dover

The next day it was entrained 15 May 1919 in the "Cavell Van" of the Kent & East Sussex Railway

photograph: "Cavell Van" Kent & East Sussex Railway
The arrival of the coffin on 15 May 1919 at Liverpool Street Station, London

photograph: Liverpool Street Station, London

State Funeral: Cavell’s coffin, draped with the Union flag, was carried on a gun carriage through London streets lined with mourners. A wreath of red and white carnations and arum lilies placed on the coffin had been sent by Queen Alexandra, widow of King Edward VII. Attended by George V. Memorial service Westminster Abbey, London 11.15 AM for 12 noon 15 May 1919

Presented together with this is a scarce document: Edith Cavell. The Hospital 1915.5.14; 177-187

photograph: Edith Cavell State Funeral cortege
photograph: Westminster Abbey

Re-interment followed with the body being sent by rail to Thorpe Station, Norwich

photograph: Thorpe Station, Norwich
15 May 1919, her body was reinterred on the eastern side of Norwich Cathedral, Life's Green
Norwich, Edith Cavell's Grab, Rotes Kreuz (Norwich, Edith Cavell's Grave, Rotes Kreuz)

Vandalized by Occupation Forces in 1940 but restored following the Liberation. Transferred the statue to Lechten Square, Belfort on 9 June 2017.

PC photograph: Edith Cavell memorial in front of the Hospices Civils
AK Monument Miss Edith Cavell and Marie Depage, Rotes Kreuz (PC Monument Miss Edith Cavell and Marie Depage, Rotes Kreuz) site: L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées corner of the Edith Cavell hospital Rue Edith Cavell and Rue Marie Depage, Brussels. Inaugurated 15 July 1920.

Sculptor Paul DU BOIS (*1829 – † 1905)

Two bronze statues - an angel and a young lady - drop flowers while a French inscription on the base reads as follows: "Passer-by, tell to your children: they killed them"

EDITH CAPELL / A MARIE DEPAGE / 1915 / PASSANT DIS-LE A TES ENFANTS / ILS LES ONT TUEES
AK Brüssel / Bruxelles, Monument Philippe Francois Victor Baucq, Place de Jamblinne de Meux (PC Brussels, Philippe Baucq Memorial, Place de Jamblinne de Meux, postally used 1925). Sculptor unknown Bartko-Reher-OHG 6.470.627

This monument raised to Baucq’s memory on Place Jamblinne de Meux was destroyed by the occupying Germans in 1940.

To replace the destroyed memorial, the Central Society of Belgian Architects commissioned a simple, very moving monument by Jacques Marie NISOT (*1931 – ?) Belgian architect, painter and sculptor. This was inaugurated in Parc Josaphat, Schaerbeek on 12 March 1974.
“La face sombre du Tir National-Archiviris” (The dark side of Tir National-Archiviris)
The Enclos des fusillés is a cemetery where those executed at the Tir national are buried.
Plaque commémorative érigée après les exhumations des corps des fusillés, carte postale, vers 1919-1920, Fonds iconographique, Archives communales de Schaerbeek. (Commemorative stone monument slab erected after the exhumations of 35 bodies of those shot, circa 1919-1920, Iconographic fonds, Municipal Archives of Schaerbeek). Memorial NOW in Rue Colonel Bourg, Schaerbeek.

photograph by Alexander Bassano of the Frampton sculpture of Edith Cavell
Alexander Bassano (* 1829 – † 1913)

Monument to Edith Cavell is at the junction of St Martin’s Lane and Charing Cross Road, London
Monument erected at Norwich Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Erpingham Gate, Tombland Lane unveiled by Queen Alexandra 12 October 1918

Bronze bust of Edith Cavell surmounts tapering stone plinth. Plinth bears relief of soldier with one arm on rifle and other arm reaching upwards towards laurel wreaths. Carved inscription on base. Extraordinarily the sculptor is unknown.
Lord Roberts Memorial Fund Sheet 9 No.3

1915 Fawcett & Co., Strand London:
The Lord Roberts Memorial Fund for Disabled Soldiers and Sailors

Ref: https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=13571
Winox Ltd 1914/5 : British Propaganda Labels „Zeppelin Triumph“, Nurse Cavell

Ref: 1/ Lewis Campbell-Johnston, Chairman of Winox Ltd
Collected Propaganda and Commemorative stamps
https://www.abps.org.uk/who-was-who-in-philately/#_CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON
2/ https://alphabetilately.org/ZeppCinds.html

Belgium 1916: Great War Cinderella Edith Cavell ("Buy Nothing German")
BELGES SOUVENEZ-VOUS  RIEN D’ALLEMAND!.. DES ALLEMANDES
Presented as a complete pane of 8 labels in charity booklet to raise Belgium Red Cross Funds.
Canada 15 December 1930, definitive issue, 1$ olive green : Mount Edith Cavell

Costa Rica 27 December 1945, airmail, 1C black/red
The 60th Anniversary of National Red Cross Society: Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell

Costa Rica 29 August 1949, airmail, 50/1C black/red
cancellation authentic typically used with parcels (black) and airmail post (purple)
The 125th Anniversary of Annexation of Guanacaste: Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell
Belgium 23 November 1957, 30C, wine red: The 50th anniversary of the Nursing school

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES and REFERENCE GUIDANCE

   Clinique Edith Cavell-Ziekenhuis, Rue Edith Cavellstraat 321180 Bruxelles / Brussel
   "La Villa d'Audenarde", de Kortrijksesteenweg 128, Gent (Ghent)

   Postcard collection

   Postcard collection

   Postcard collection

   Edith Cavell Funeral Service


7. https://firstworldwarhiddenhistory.wordpress.com

   Belgium American Educational Foundation: The Commission for Relief in Belgium C.R.B. (1914)
   The Belgian American Educational Foundation (1920)


10. https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1914-20v01/d49


12 https://belgiansrtw.wordpress.com/category/southborough/st-thomass-church/
Alison Sandford MacKenzie's - Belgian Colony of Royal Tunbridge Wells and Southborough 1914-1919

13 http://richardshistorybytes.ca/the-20th-century/christian-spy-edith-cavell/
Richard White: Richard's History Bytes - Christian Collaborator, Edith Cavell

14 Book: Perspectives on European Film and History
mentions the witnesses to execution

15 http://www.newulsterbiography.co.uk/index.php/home/viewPerson/2141
biography Ada BODART (1874 - 1936), chief assistant to Edith Cavell

16 https://www.geni.com/people/Sadi-Kirschen/60000000003686783510
Sadi KIRSCHEN

17 https://www.historytoday.com/archive/feature/poet-who-saw-edith-cavell-die
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21680/gottfried-benn
The Poet Who Saw Edith Cavell Die : Dr Gottfried BENN wrote Morgue und andere Gedichte

Tir Nationale, Bruxelles / National Shooting Gallery, Brussels

https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/721e41bc-8e73-4e7b-82be-314907401efb

Booklet titled "Souvenir of the Civilians Martyrs of the Great War, 1914-1918." (details at link)

Whitlock Family One-Name Study
Dr Tollemache J Bull brother to Frances Ann Warin (Bull) Whitlock & The American minister BrandWhitlock
Capiau : he named the "grand chef", that is the controller of espionage networks, as Dr. Bull, a person about whom little was known until recently
(see new biographical details below : this role is confirmed by historical documents.)

Photo-journal

21 https://www.familysearch.org/en/
London Gazette 30 March 1920; 3779
Dr. Thomas Tollemache Jackson Bull (Dr) (*Greenwich 1848 – † Brussels 13 May 1940) senior British intelligence officer in charge of several spy networks.

Dr. Tollemache J. Bull L.D.S., O.B.E., appointed an Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Venerable Order of the British Empire for Valuable Services to British Prisoners in Belgium.

Herman Capiau (*1884 – †1957), a young mining engineer in the resistance, is quoted as saying of TTJB: "His cover was perfect; a dentist as the link between several spy networks, a carefully managed intelligence organisation that lead directly to London".

Horace Stirling Townsend Gahan (Anglo-Irish Anglican chaplain) (*1870 – †1958) MBE, MA.

Most likely Maître Gaston de Laval, a Belgian lawyer originally assigned to act as Edith Cavell's counsel. Gaston de Laval (*1871 – †1944)

Albert Libiez (*1877 – †1943) apolitical activist & resistance fighter in WWI and WWII. Lawyer of Wasmes, JP at Pâturages and from 1927 at Canton of Dour. Arrested 8 August 1915, sentenced to forced labour. WWII published the underground newspaper "La Liberté" etc. On 25 June, as a member of Cavelle group, he was denounced, captured & deported to Esterwegen concentration camp, Saxony where he died.
26 New York Times Saturday, September 6, 1919
"CAVELL BETRAYER CONDEMNED TO DIE; Georges Gaston Quien Convicted by French Court Martial of Treasonable Dealings", a collaborator.

Georges Gaston QUIEN (* ? – † ?) described by Otto Meyer, German investigator, as "a filthy repulsive beast", a collaborator, captured in Algiers, tried in France for collaboration with the enemy (1918 Feb 08-1919 Sep 17) sentenced to death commuted to 20 years and serving 15 years.

27 New York Times Friday July 14, 1922
"SPY'S SENTENCE COMMUTED; Armand Jeannes, Who Betrayed Edith Cavell, Gets a Life Term".
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armand_Jeannes

Armand JEANNES (* 1889 – † ?), Belgium agent-provocateur paid by Germans. Captured 1919, 1922 convicted of treason sentenced to death commuted to 20 years. As was the case for all Belgian citizens Belgium tried for intelligence with the enemy, King Albert I granted him royal pardon. 1940 freed by Nazis.
War Memories: Princess Marie DE CROY-SOLRE
https://archive.org/stream/warmemories00croyuoft/warmemories00croyuoft_djvu.txt
Otto MEYER (* ? – † ?) German Military espionage investigator

World’s War Events (Complete): e-book
https://belgianbeershrimper.wordpress.com/tag/jeanne-de-belleville/

https://www.lemonde.fr/archives/article/1953/01/14/la-comtesse-jeanne-de-belleville-heroine-de-la-guerre-1914-1918-est-mort_1971483_1819218.html (access to article reserved)

Louis SÉVERIN, resistance fighter & Pharmacien à Bruxelles (apothecary)
Harman CAPIAN, resistance fighter and Civil engineer of Wasmes

World War Records: First Division, A. E. F., Regular, Volume 5 By United States. Army. 1st Division

Georges DERVEAU resistance fighter & Pharmacist of Pâturages
François CRAPEZ resistance fighter & miner of Montignies-sur-Roc tried and sentenced to eight years hard labour.

The New York Times Magazine, Page 82, 11 May 1919
Condemned with Edith Cavell; Story of Louise Thuliez, Belgian School Teacher Who Was Saved from Death by the King of Spain, Now Told by Herself.
Louise THULIEZ (* 1881 – † 1966), teacher of Lille,

German Military Authorities
Colonel General Moritz Ferdinand Freiherr VON BISSING (* 1844 – † 1917)
Lieutenant General Traugott Martin VON SAUBERZWEIG (* 1863 – † 1920 suicide)
Baron Oscar VON LANCKEN-WAKENITZ (* 1867 – † 1939)

Executed by firing squad
Edith Louisa CAVEILL (* Swardeston, Norfolk 4.12.1865 – † Brussels 12.3.1915)
Philippe Francois Victor BAUCQ (* 1880 - † 1915)

Witnesses to the event
Paul LE SEUR (German Lutheran Military chaplain) Le Seur (* 1877 - † 1963)
Ada BODART (* 1874 – † 1936) (born Anna Maria Doherty) of Brussels
Sadi KIRSCHEN (Maître) (* ? – † c 1936)
Gottfried BENN (Dr) (* 1886 – † 1956)

Diplomatic Interventionists
Prince Reginal Charles Alfred DE CROY-SOLRE (* 1870 – † 1961)
Diplomat to London, Stockholm and the Holy See, and Leader of the Belgian resistance during WW1; son of Prince Alfred Emmanuel de Croy-Solre
Brand WHITLOCK (* 1869 – † 1934)
American journalist, attorney, politician, wartime ambassador to Belgium
Rodrigo de Saavedra y Vinent, Marquis DE VILLALOBAR (* 1864 – † 1926)
diplomatic representative of Spain to Belgium from 1913 to 1926.

Other Principal players
Louise THULIEZ (* 1881 – † 1966), teacher of Lille, member of Belgium resistance
Princess Marie DE CROY-SOLRE (* 1875 – † 1968) Belgium aristocracy, member of Belgium resistance
Georges HOSTETLET (* 1875 – † 1960) Belgian chemist, sociologist, mathematician, and philosopher; member of Belgium resistance
Louise Marie Jeanne Henriette DE BETTIGNIES (aka. Alice Dubois) (* 1880 – † 1918) French espionage, sentenced to hard labour for life, died during lung surgery St. Mary's Hospital in Cologne

Vernon Lyman KELLOGG (* 1867 – † 1937) American entomologist, evolutionary biologist & science administrator. 1915 and 1916 spent in Brussels as director of Hoover's humanitarian American Commission for Relief in Belgium. Experiences caused him to campaign for American intervention in the war.

Albert I, King of the Belgians (* 1875 – † 1934)
** Albert Léopold Clément Marie Meinrad of Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha
Edward GREY (Sir) 1st Viscount Grey of Fallodon (* 1862 – † 1933)

Eustace Sutherland Campbell PERCY (Lord) 1st Baron Percy of Newcastle (* 1887 – † 1953)