



Edith Kirwan Ward – Trained Nurse

Reg No: 943

Date of Registration: 2 May 1890

Born 16 June 1858 at Marlborough.

Died 13 Mar 1955, at Woking, Surrey.

Father: Rev. John Henry Kirwan Ward; Mother: Mary Coleman Kirwan Ward, nee Hallowes.

Served in South African War. Nursed the Duke of Clarence during his final illness; Was King George V's favourite nurse, and Miss Ward was recalled from the hospital barges at Antwerp and the Seine in order to nurse the King. George V had been badly injured when his horse rolled over him when he was visiting the troops.

Field Nurse (Sister) 1900-1901

Register of Trained Nurses 1892 and Register of Nurses (RBNA 4/1) - Royal British Nurses' Association Records, King's College London Archives

The 1871 census at Marlborough St. Mary records:-

Edith K. Ward, 10 born in Marlborough with Father, John H. K. Ward, Curate, 39, born Chester, his wife, Selina Ward, 36, children, Mary K., 15,, Louisa K., 15, both born in Saxony [Germany] and Norman F. K., 9, born at Tisbury plus 2 servants.

The 1881 census at St. Mary's Priory, Coggs, Oxfordshire records:-

Edith K. Ward, 20, with parents John H. K. Ward, 49, Curate in charge, M. A., his wife Selina, 48, sister Louisa K., 25 and 3 servants.

The 1891 Census at Spring Street, Paddington records:-

Edith K. Ward, Trained Nurse, as a boarder, with her brother, Norman F. K. Ward, 29, also boarding, and her sister, Louisa K., 35, born in Germany, is a visitor.

The importance which the public, now a days, take in Nursing matters, is well evidenced by the stress which the daily papers have laid upon the Nursing of Prince George of Wales. It is needless to say that two of the best Nurses obtainable in London were immediately procured. Our contemporaries are a little

at fault in their description of these ladies, however. Miss Hallam, the sister of the Victoria Ward at St. Mary's Hospital, and Miss Edith Ward, are nursing His Royal Highness. I have had so frequently to chronicle the fact that newly appointed Matrons of Hospitals were members of the Royal British Nurses' association, that it will surprise none of my readers that both these ladies are members and Registered Nurses. From the Register I learn that ... Miss Ward was a Special Probationer at the Children's Hospital, Nottingham, and at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, then passed through the two year's course of training at St. Mary's Hospital, and has since been engaged in Private Nursing in Nice and London.

The Nursing Record, 26 November 1891.

Miss Edith Kirwan Ward, M.R.B.N.A., who helped nurse the late Duke of Clarence and Prince George, has gone abroad with the Prince and Princess of Wales to attend Princess Maud, who has been in delicate health for some time past. It is hoped that this beautiful young Princess will be much benefited by her stay on the Riviera. She will probably go to some bracing place in Switzerland or the Tyrol early in the summer, and in August she is to take the baths at Vichy.

The Nursing Record, 24 March 1892

The Casualty List (South Africa):

The Casualty list issued by the War Office last night reports 27 deaths from disease, chiefly enteric, some minor casualties at various places, and few additional casualties at Modderfontein on January 30th, the latter being seven men killed and five wounded, one of whom has since died. Forty-seven patients, nearly all enteric, are returned as dangerously ill, among them being Nursing Sister Edith Ward, who, it will be remembered, has once previously been reported ill, suffering from the terrible malady.

Western Daily Press, Thursday, 7 February 1901

Progress Reports:

Sister Edith Ward (dangerously ill), Pretoria, Jan 16. **London Daily News, Saturday, 19 January 1901**

Feb 9: Sister Edith Ward, still seriously ill, Pretoria. **London Daily News, Tuesday, 12 February 1901**

Nursing Sister Edith Ward (improved, out of danger), Pretoria, Feb 20. **London Daily News, Saturday, 23 February 1901**

Sister Edith Kirwan Ward has returned home from South Africa, and we are hoping for the pleasure of seeing her again. **St. Mary's Hospital Gazette, July 1901**

In an account of the return of the King after his injury from his arrival by hospital train at the station at Victoria, to the Palace by special ambulance:

Some indication of the extent of the Empire is supplied by the circumstances connected with the journey to the Palace. The ambulance, a perfectly new one, never used for any purpose before, was presented by ladies of Burmah to the British Red Cross Society, and was attended by the British surgeon, and English nursing sister, and a nurse from the Dominion of Canada. The English nurse was Sister Edith Ward, who attended the late King Edward during his attack of typhoid.

Birmingham Daily Post, Wednesday, 3 November 1915

The King personally decorated yesterday forty naval and military officers, and bestowed upon Miss Edith Ward, a sister of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (Reserve), the Royal Red Cross, first class.

Birmingham Daily Gazette, Thursday, 20 April 1916

Obituary

Edith Kirwan Ward - born at Marlborough on 16th June 1858. Trained as a nurse at St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's Hospitals. She attended the Duke of Clarence during his fatal illness, and the future King George V in 1891 and 1892; she became his preferred nurse, and while serving on hospital barges at Antwerp and on the Seine, was recalled to nurse him in 1915 after he had been badly injured when his horse rolled on him. She had earlier served in the South African War. She never married, and died in a nursing home in Woking, on the 13th March 1955.

Hallowes Family Genealogy