

Frances Emma Caddy (1911-1994) Papers

Early Years

Frances Emma Caddy was born on 20 December 1911 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Her father was Francis William Caddy, descended from a British Army family and Mary Maude (Bissell) Caddy, descended from United Empire Loyalists.

In 1917, Frances began public school at Alex Muir School. She finished at Alex Muir in 1925. In 1925 and 1926, she attended Central. From 1926 to 1929, she attended Soo Collegiate. In 1929 and 1930, she attended Tech.

Frances began her training as a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Sudbury in the fall of 1932. In 1936, she was issued a license as a registered nurse in Ontario. In 1937, she started work at the St. Barnabas Hospital for Women and Children in Newark, New Jersey. She finished working there in 1940 and returned to Sault Ste. Marie in August of that year.



Frances Caddy circa 1927

Army Service (1942 – 1946)

In February 1942, Fran joined the Medical Corps in the Canadian Army, and started work at Chorley Park Hospital in Toronto. Her work there included care for German prisoners of war. She ceased working there in October and began working at a hospital in Hamilton. She worked there until July 1943. She then travelled to England where she began working at Hospital Number 13 in the south of England, where she worked for three months.

In November 1943, Nursing Sister Caddy travelled on a British Navy Hospital Ship, the *Vasna* to Catania in Sicily as part of reinforcement for No. 5 Canadian General Hospital. Some of the nursing staff was returning to Canada, thus the need for reinforcement. No. 5 Canadian General Hospital was based in Winnipeg.



Frances Caddy goes to war in 1943

The *Vasna* stopped at Gibraltar but the passengers were not allowed off. After ten days of sailing, the ship docked at Algiers in North Africa where the nurses boarded a smaller hospital ship for a very rough ride to Sicily. They arrived on 12 November 1943.



His Majesty's Hospital Ship *Vasna*

In January 1944, as the Allied armies advanced, No. 5 moved to Italy and Nursing Sister Caddy flew there where she was stationed at Andrea and Canello before going to Rome where she spent 9 months. In March 1945, she sailed to Naples and Marseilles and travelled north from there to Oost Dunkirk in Belgium where she was stationed from April until June 1945 when No. 5 Canadian General Hospital was disbanded and she returned to England before she came home.



Frances and Colleague in Rome on 27 February 1945

On 4 September 1945, she began working at the Melton Convalescent Hospital in Ontario. On 31 July 1946, she ceased working there and was discharged from the Army.

Post-Military Nursing Service

From July 1946 to July 1948, Frances worked for a dentist in Medical Arts in Toronto. From July 1948 to July to January 1951, she worked for a hospital in Marathon, Ontario. From January 1951 to August 1955, she worked for a hospital in Thunder Bay. In August 1955, she returned to Sault Ste. Marie and worked at the Davey Home for the Ministry of Community and Social Services until she retired in 1974.



Frances and Colleague in Marathon, Ontario

Retirement

Frances had a long enjoyable retirement, during which she travelled extensively, including trips to places she had seen during the war. She passed away on 8 February 1994 at the age of 82 in Sault Ste. Marie.

