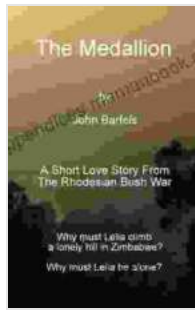


The Medallion Eva Bowen: Unraveling the Mystery of a Forgotten Heroine



In the annals of military history, there are countless stories of bravery, sacrifice, and heroism. However, some of the most remarkable tales are those of women who have fought alongside their male counterparts, defying societal norms and proving their mettle on the battlefield. One such woman is Eva Bowen, a young British nurse who served in both World War I and World War II, earning the prestigious Military Medal for her extraordinary courage and compassion. This article delves into the fascinating life and legacy of Eva Bowen, shedding light on her remarkable contributions and the forgotten story of a true heroine.



The Medallion by Eva Bowen

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 127 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 7 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Early Life and Nursing Career

Eva Madeline Bowen was born on December 25, 1898, in London, England. Growing up in a modest family, she had a strong desire to help others and pursued a career in nursing. In 1914, as the First World War erupted, Eva joined the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). She was initially stationed in Malta, tending to wounded soldiers evacuated from the battlefields of Gallipoli and Salonika.

Service in World War I

In 1916, Eva was deployed to the Western Front, where she witnessed firsthand the horrors of trench warfare. She served at various field hospitals, including the 3rd London General Hospital in Rouen, France. During the Battle of the Somme, one of the bloodiest battles of the war, Eva displayed extraordinary courage and compassion. She worked tirelessly, often under fire, to care for the wounded and dying soldiers. Her bravery and dedication earned her the respect and admiration of both the medical staff and the soldiers she tended to.

The Military Medal

In 1917, Eva Bowen was awarded the Military Medal, one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a non-commissioned officer. The citation for her award reads:

> "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When in charge of a tented ward during a heavy bombardment, she showed the greatest courage and devotion in remaining under constant shell fire to look after her patients, although her dugout was blown in. She was untiring in her efforts, and set a splendid example to all ranks."

Eva's bravery and compassion were not limited to the battlefield. She was also instrumental in establishing a hospital for local civilians in Rouen, France. Her work extended beyond medical care, as she provided food, clothing, and shelter to those who had lost everything in the war.

Service in World War II

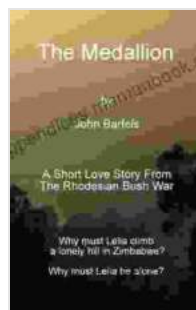
After the end of World War I, Eva Bowen continued to serve in the QAIMNS. In 1939, when World War II broke out, she was recalled to active duty. She served as a nursing sister in various theaters of war, including France, Norway, and Italy. During the evacuation of Dunkirk, she worked tirelessly to evacuate wounded soldiers from the beaches.

Post-War Life and Legacy

After the war, Eva Bowen retired from nursing and returned to civilian life. She lived in London and remained active in veteran's organizations, supporting the well-being of former service members. Eva Bowen passed away on July 18, 1983, at the age of 84. She was buried with full military honors at the Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey, England.

Although Eva Bowen's story has been largely forgotten, her legacy as a courageous and compassionate nurse continues to inspire. She was a pioneer for women in the military, proving that they could serve their country with distinction and valor. Her bravery and selflessness saved countless lives and left an enduring mark on the annals of military history.

The Medallion Eva Bowen was a true heroine, whose story deserves to be told and remembered. Her bravery, compassion, and unwavering determination are a testament to the indomitable spirit of women who have served their country with honor and distinction. As we commemorate the sacrifices and contributions of veterans on Remembrance Day and other occasions, let us not forget the remarkable legacy of Eva Bowen, a forgotten heroine whose life and service continue to inspire us today.



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