

WAS ASSISTANT OF EDITH CAVELL

Jacqueline Van Til Tells of
War Work

Describes Days in Brussels
With English Heroine—
Aided Soldiers to Escape—
Martyr Nurse's Last Letter.

(New York Evening Post.)
Jacqueline Van Til explains that she is not quite certain of her English, acquired in that casual manner which is a mystery to the average American, but to the best of her ability she is ready to describe her experiences as a nurse under Edith Cavell during the tempestuous days which ended in Miss Cavell's imprisonment and execution and which held a similar fate over the band of nurses who were faithful to the cause. One instinctively places Miss Van Til against a happier background than that which existed in Brussels during those first days of the war—until she begins to talk.

But behind the charm of her manner, the delicate beauty of her features, there is a spark of that same spirit that carried her miles through darkness and danger to lead the soldiers of France and England on toward the frontier; that gave her courage to face the German officers when they came in to search the clinic and to make trouble; coolness and poise sufficient to outwit those same officers time and again. As for her English—it had a flavor of the Latin tongues, which made it all the more pleasing and it was used effectively enough to hold the listener under a spell which lasted many minutes, and to send her scenes in the lobby of the Vanderbilt hotel vanishing away into the mists.

"It was in 1910 that I went to the Ecole Bègue d'Infirmières. Diplomes in Brussels," she said. "When the war came we scarcely realized it at first. The armies of the Germans went on and on, toward Paris, and behind them there were homes destroyed, dead and wounded soldiers lying in the streets and in the trenches—suffering everywhere. We used to go out at night to take them food and to care for them and bring them to the clinic. We never thought of the danger of it then but only that we must do all we could—the hospitals in Brussels were not very good, and there were hundreds of wounded, in the streets and everywhere."

Memories of Miss Cavell.
Mlle. Van Til told of the orders issued by the Germans that no allied soldiers should have aid and she told of how these orders were ignored by the directress, whose devotion made her blind to danger and to the limits of human endurance and gave her an almost superhuman power, beneath a cold and unemotional exterior that only those who knew her best could penetrate. This rather frail Englishwoman of forty-five, her hair already streaked with grey, would walk for hours during the night, always on guard and prepared to meet any emergency, and in the morning "you could never know that she had done something so wonderful—she was too well, too English to ever show what she was really like underneath."
"She found out about the secret organization of the Prince and Princess de Croix," Mlle. Van Til continued, "and she said that this would give us our chance to serve." There were a few breaks in the English—words which refused to come quickly enough—as this young French nurse gave a fast-moving picture of the events which followed the alliance between Miss Cavell's clinic and the secret system which was at work in Brussels. The words were not necessary, for the speaker was back in the days when the letter "Z" meant "Help this soldier get to the Dutch frontier," and in her eyes and every motion were the quick changes from fear to courage, from panic to confidence, that she was describing.

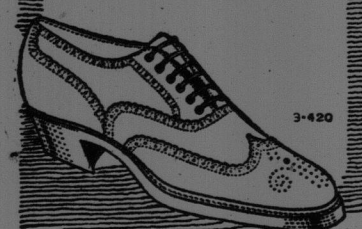
Gaston Quin Luc.
"It was on June 8, 1915," she continued, lapsing into French now and then, "that the Frenchman Gaston Quin Luc

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asked me to direct him to the clinic. He was badly dressed and starving, but he didn't look like a good man—his face was like a spy, and I could see the German, Eynkoff, waiting not far away. I sent him the wrong way, and I told Miss Cavell, but she only smiled and said I could see spies everywhere—she was afraid of nothing." She told how the faithful Frenchman was finally admitted to the clinic, which he betrayed; how he was "very, very attractive," and how he attempted to flirt with the nurses, who would have had no objection to the good-looking soldier except that they were "afraid of Miss Cavell, because she was quite severe with them." It was through the servants in the clinic that he obtained the information he was looking for—given with no wrong intent, but in ignorance of the danger—and from patriotic but indiscreet townspeople. In one cafe particularly, Mlle. Van Til said, "he gave the people a great deal of wine." "That would make them talk too much," she added naively, and all the time the Germans were there taking notes.

She told how German officers soon came to inspect the clinic, at a time when nine French and English soldiers were concealed in one room. She herself gave the warning. She aided the escape of the men through a rear window and was one of the nurses who rushed out of sight any tell-tale objects which had been left, having only time to put on a nightgown before the searching party left the house, only to return later with increased suspicion. This was on July 12, and on Aug. 5 another party came to the clinic and Miss Cavell left it for the last time.

Miss Cavell's Last Letter.
The attempts made to secure the release of the British nurse make a well known story—but this French girl who worked with her and who carried on her hazardous undertaking during the two long months of imprisonment has another way of telling it. The visits made

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by the nurses to the American ambassador were unavailing—his intervention had no effect on Von Bissing, who continued to refuse leniency. Mlle. Van Til has a map of the great prison at Brussels, with a cross to mark 'Cell 23, where Miss Cavell was confined. She has the last letter written by the directress to the nurses of her clinic—a farewell which was at the same time a call to further service and which expressed no trace of regret in making the sacrifice which was demanded of her in the cause to which she had devoted herself.

After Miss Cavell was shot there was received at the clinic a package containing her blue nurse's uniform—pierced with nine bullet holes, eight of them close to the heart—her cap and the seventy francs which were all that she possessed at the time of her imprisonment. In the pocket of the dress was

her letter, written on the eve of her execution.

The page who came to summon Mlle. Van Til to the telephone seemed strangely out of place. He recalled the speaker to the present, although there was much more she could have said regarding her own imprisonment and release and her present plans. She is French by birth. Her mother was an English woman and her father a Hollander. She will soon be an American, for she has already taken up work in this country, but first, by lecturing and by writing, she is going to raise the money which will establish an Edith Cavell Memorial Hospital in New York city.

Minard's Liniment used by Physicians.
MODERN MEXICAN WOMEN
TAKE UP BULL FIGHTING.

(London Answers.)
Since the revolution Mexico, the women have become more emancipated, as a whole, than those of any other country. Thousands of women are actually armed, and fighting in both the federal

and rebel armies. This is not remarkable, as all through history there have been times when women made just as good soldiers as men; but it is surprising that women should excel men in such a cruel sport as bull-baiting.

There are at the present time between 200 and 300 women in Mexico engaged in bull-fighting, either as the slayers of the wounded bulls or as mounted attendants in the ring, or in some other position, and they are immensely popular with the people.

Their earnings vary, but on feast days, when hundreds of thousands of people attend a bull-fight, a woman may be paid as high as £600 for entering the ring.

One cannot help admiring the pluck of these women, for a bull is not a sweet-tempered animal at the best of times, and it is not, if fancy, generally known how the poor creatures are made to suffer from the time they are driven from the ranch—where they are bred from a special strain imported from Spain—until the day they are driven into the ring.

folded and placed in crates, where they are boxed up in such limited space that they cannot turn round, or lie down, and here they stay until they are driven, half crazy with rage, into the strong sunlight of the arena.

Small wonder that the populace thunders loud applause when the women get the best of it, but to the women—and most men—of other countries, the whole thing seems very demoralizing and disgusting.

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