

# Catholic Heroes OF THE WORLD WAR



*By D. J. Ryan*

(Director, N.C.W.C. Historical Records Bureau, Central Depository of Catholic War Data)

## BEATRICE MARY MACDONALD

The first nurse wounded in the A. E. F., and incidentally the first woman to receive the American Distinguished Service Cross, was Miss Beatrice Mary MacDonald of New York City, a Catholic.

On August 17, 1917, Miss MacDonald was a member of a surgical team from U. S. Army Base Hospital No. 2, sent to Casualty Clearing Station No. 61 of the British Forces. This station was then operating near St. Sixte's Convent, Belgium.

The citation records that "during an enemy air raid she continued her post of duty, caring for sick wounded until seriously wounded

Miss MacDonald lost the sight of one eye. She was returned to duty at Base Hospital No. 2. and remained there until after the Armistice.

The *Catholic News* of New York brought out the fact, at the time of the D. S. C. award in March, 1919, that Miss MacDonald was a Catholic and that several of her relatives were priests and religious.

Miss MacDonald is a native of Prince Edward Island. Before the war, she was engaged in nursing supervision work in New York City. She joined a hospital unit which went overseas in 1916, and when America entered the war this unit was taken over as U. S. Army Hospital No. 2.

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