



HISTORY OF SIGNALLING IN 100 OBJECTS THE BADGE OF FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY (FANY)



The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) was founded in 1907 by Captain Edward Baker, who having being injured himself in battle, defined their role as providing a first aid link between front-line fighting units and the field hospitals. FANY was given the title of yeomanry, as its members were originally mounted on horseback. Baker envisaged that the women in the unit were not just trained with first aid skills, but would have the ability to reach and survive on the battlefield so that they could recover casualties safely. The original members were trained with cavalry, signalling and survival in the field. During WW1 FANYs

ran field hospitals, drove ambulances, set up soup kitchens and canteens, all under extremely dangerous conditions. By Nov 1918 they had been awarded many decorations for bravery, including 17 Military Medals, 1 Legion d'Honneur and 27 Croix de Guerre. Driving had become a key skill requirement for all serving members.



FANY units were activated during the re-armament period prior to the start of WW2. In order to qualify you had to be over 23 and interviewed at the FANY HQ in London with members providing their own uniform. It was during this period that they developed a link to Royal Signals, since communications skills became much more relevant to modern warfare. Their spirit of independence led several members to join the Special Operations Executive (SOE). 3 of the most courageous women members, including Odette Hallowes, were awarded

the George Cross for service in occupied France. Their names are recorded on the FANY memorial in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge.



Today FANY still specialises in communications skills, paramedic skills, navigation and shooting. The Corps supports the Army, the City of London Police and the MET.

FANY were renamed the Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps in 1999, but are referred to as FANY (PRVC). The Corps is open to volunteers between the ages of 18 to 45, who work or reside near London (within the M25) - See www.fany.org.uk.

