

handful of people looking to change that by giving all of the individuals who aided the allied troops the equal recognition they deserve.

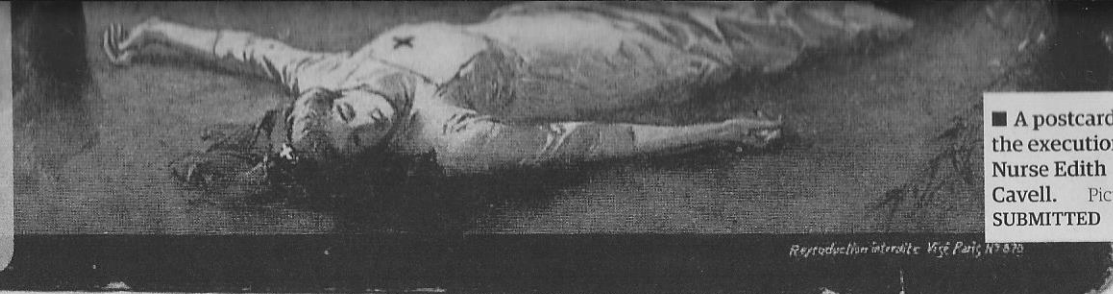


She said: "Edith Cavell was a marvellous lady, but it is a shame that all of the others involved are ignored. That is why I am trying to bang the drum about them all.

"There is this whole story that has been distorted by propaganda, and it is like no one else other than Edith existed. There was a whole network of people who were

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Monica Kendall



■ A postcard of the execution of Nurse Edith Cavell. Picture: SUBMITTED

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working together, which is much more interesting."

Ms Kendall, 61, of London, is the distant relative of Amy Hodson – a British schoolgirl whose family lived in Brussels during the war and

knew Edith Cavell, as well as others involved in the underground network. She used extracts from the schoolgirl's diary to learn more about those who went on trial.

Ms Kendall added: "They were all helping to do what they felt was right. And what was extraordinary, was that all these different people of all different backgrounds were help

to get these guys to safety. "Unfortunately they were eventually infiltrated and that was their downfall."

## Who was Philippe Baucq?

Belgian architect Philippe Baucq was sentenced to death alongside Edith Cavell for his involvement in the escape network.



Earlier in the war the Catholic father-of-two had been a key distributor of the resistance pamphlet *La Libre Belgique*.

The weekly four-page news sheet mocked the German occupation of the country and provided news censored by the invading force.

Baucq also played a key role in assisting allied servicemen escape the country until he was arrested on July 31 and charged with conveying soldiers to the enemy. He was later found guilty and sentenced to death. On October 12 he was executed by firing squad at the Tir National shooting range.

## The woman who helped 800 allied soldiers

Ada Bodart was another member of the underground movement in Belgium.

She was born in Northern Ireland and was one of more than 30 people who eventually went on trial alongside Cavell.

Monica Kendall, who has been researching her life, said the British government eventually recognised that Bodart had helped save 800 allied soldiers and was later made an OBE.

Ms Kendall said: "The past is distorted when we focus on one individual and ignore others who were equally brave and extraordinary. Ada Bodart, born Annie Doherty in Northern Ireland, is one example. She was a colleague and friend of Edith Cavell, but few remember her today."

Using diary notes from Amy Hodson she was able to piece together the life of the Irish national, who went on trial alongside Cavell and was sentenced to 15 years'



hard labour. A diary extract read: "Met Mrs B's (Bodart's) children coming back from the Kommandantur [German headquarters], and they said that they spoke of Miss Cavell being shot.

"They are very much frightened of their mother being shot too."

## A soldier's account of Edith Cavell

Sergeant Jesse Tunmore, of the 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, was one of many soldiers aided by Cavell during the war.

His account describes Cavell in detail, as well as how she helped him during his escape out of Belgium.

He said: "After one night in woodland we split into three pairs and Private Lewis of the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment and I vowed we would stick together. We reached Brussels and got the aid of that wonderful lady nurse Edith Cavell, who was so cool, calm and astute. She was on the slim side.

"She was the Matron at 147 Rue de Culture, Brussels. We decided to travel on the train or tram which ran on the roadside the whole way to Brussels.

"As we entered her office I noticed a picture hanging on the wall and immediately remarked 'that is Norwich Cathedral!'. Nurse Cavell remarked: 'Do you know Norwich?' and I replied: 'It's my home!' So immediately the nurse became interested in me,



both being from Norfolk.

"I am one of the grateful British soldiers nurse Cavell helped and I feel it is up to me to try and get something done to gain her the honour she so rightly deserves. She is a Norfolk woman and I am a Norfolk man. Surely someone will help fight to get something for this wonderful brave woman, who gave all and got nothing."