



# CHESNEY ARCHIVES

JOHNS HOPKINS  
Medicine  
Nursing  
Public Health

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## Alice Fitzgerald Collection

Dates: 1903-1964

Collection Reference Code Element: FitA

The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives  
5801 Smith Avenue, Suite 235  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
4107356800  
<https://medicalarchives.jhmi.edu/>

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Processing Information: The Collection was processed by Phoebe Evans Letocha and Anthony Dellureficio in 2003 with funding from the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association.

## Collection Overview

**Extent:** 4.3 linear feet

**Creator:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

### Administrative/Biographical History:

Alice Louise Florence Fitzgerald  
13 March 1874- 10 Nov 1962.

Alice Louise Florence Fitzgerald was born in March 13, 1874 and raised in Florence, Italy to a Baltimore family. She was educated in France, Switzerland and Germany. She entered the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses in 1902 against her family's wishes. During her training, she was called back to Italy. She graduated from the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses, completing her time of service in 1907 but as a member of the class of 1906. After graduation she remained at Hopkins as a head nurse for a year. In 1908, as a member of the Florence branch of the Italian Red Cross, she assisted in earthquake relief in Messina, Italy. In 1909-1910 she returned to Hopkins as a head nurse. From Dec. 1910 to Aug. 1912 she worked at Bellevue Hospital in New York as a head nurse in order to reorganize its operating room nursing service. From 1912-1913 she was Superintendent of Nurses at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital in Pennsylvania. In 1913 she became the first superintendent of nurses at the Robert Long Hospital at the University of Indiana in Indianapolis. In 1915 she took a summer course at Teachers College, Columbia University. She then was in charge of Health Services at Dana Hall School in Wellesley, Massachusetts. In 1916 she was selected as the Edith Cavell Memorial Nurse from Massachusetts. She served as an American Nurse with the British Expeditionary Forces at Hospital No. 13 in France from 1916-1917. In Dec. 1917, upon America's entrance into World War I, she resigned to join the American Red Cross. She served in France and Italy, at the Paris Headquarters, at zone headquarters in Bordeaux, as chief nurse in the Service de Sante in Paris, and at a Hospital in Rimini for Venetian refugees. She remained in Europe after the war as Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross Commission in Europe. She organized local nursing schools and public health nursing services in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Montenegro, and Albania. In Oct. 1919, she became the first Director of the Nursing Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva. She started the International School for Public Health Nurses for the Florence Nightingale International Foundation

in London. She returned to the United States briefly in 1921. In 1922, she went to the Philippines for 2 years at the request of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation as an advisor on Public Health Nursing to Governor General Leonard Wood, where she organized a public health nursing service. In 1923 she, along with the Filipino nurses she was training, assisted in earthquake relief work in Japan. Starting in 1924 she surveyed the nursing needs in Siam, Hongkong, and Singapore. In 1926 she started a nursing school at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok. This was followed by a survey of nursing in China in 1928. She returned to the United States in 1929. She completed a survey of nursing schools in the state of Maryland for the Maryland State Board of Nurse Examiners. She was director of nurses at Polyclinic Hospital in New York from 1930-1936. She then resigned to write her memoirs and raise marmosets. In 1940 she was awarded a medal for her work with the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China. Her last nursing position was as housemother in the nurses home at Shepard Pratt Hospital in Baltimore. She retired from active nursing in 1948. She lived the remainder of her life at Peabody Nursing Home in New York City, where she died on Nov. 10, 1962.

JHHSON Class of 1906

**Chronology:** 1903-1906 - Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses, student.

**Scope and Content:**

The Alice Fitzgerald Collection consists primarily of diaries, scrapbooks, correspondence, clippings, photographs, certificates and medals, relating to Fitzgerald's nursing service in Europe during World War I and in Asia during the 1920s.

**Accruals Description:** 2000-125, 2000-126, 2001-005, 2001-087, 2001-102, 2004-087, 2016-056

**Custodial History:**

Alice Fitzgerald donated her papers and medals to the Johns Hopkins Nursing Historical Collection in 1943 and continued to add to the collection as late as 1949. The Fitzgerald papers and medals were moved with the rest of the Historical Collection in 1968 to the Nightingale Room in Welch Library. Between 2000-2001, the Fitzgerald materials moved to the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives as part of several accessions of the Nursing Historical Collection.

**Language:** English

**Subject - Name:**

Johns Hopkins Hospital. School of Nursing. Class of 1906  
Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:**

Nurses and Nursing  
World War, 1914-1918

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- Series 1 Personal and Biographical Materials
- Series 2 Correspondence
- Series 3 Diaries and Scrapbooks
- Series 4 Alice Fitzgerald Photographs
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[Series 1: Personal and Biographical Materials - 1903-1964](#)

**Folder : Alice Fitzgerald Johns Hopkins Hospital Diploma - 1907**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item : Awards Certificate for Alice Fitzgerald in Chinese**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item : Certificate awarding Alice Fitzgerald for her service with the Red Cross from the Russian Red Cross - September 22, 1921**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Item : Certificate of Medal of Honor from France - December 6, 1918**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/1: Biographical File - 1919-1964**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/2: Articles in the Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumni Magazine - 1907-1959**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/3: World War I Clippings - 1916**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/4: Nursing Certificates - 1915-1930**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Related Archival Materials Element:** see also oversized certificates

**Folder 1/5: NLNE Calendar - 1931**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Calendar images chosen by Alice Fitzgerald

**Folder 1/6: Iris Noble, Nurses Around the World, Clippings and Correspondence - 1964**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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**Series 2: Correspondence**

**Folder 1/7: Correspondence and Notes regarding Fitzgerald's service in World War I - 1916-1918**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/8: Correspondence from Families of Soldiers - 1916-1918**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/9: Correspondence, Departure from Expeditionary Forces - November-December, 1917**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/10: Correspondence, Investiture - 1918-1920**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/11: Correspondence regarding Certificates and Medals - 1921-1940**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Folder 1/12: Correspondence with Anna Wolf regarding the donation of a collection - December 5, 1943; 1949**

**Extent:** 1 folder

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**Series 3: Diaries and Scrapbooks - 1903-1940**

**Folder 1/13: Clippings Scrapbook photocopies - c. 1903-1907**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Photocopies of Bound volume 2/1.

**Folder 1/14: Scrapbook (Use copy) - 1910's-1940**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Photocopies of the contents of the scrapbook including photos.

**Bound volume 2/1: Clippings Scrapbook - c. 1907-1959**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Bound volume 2/2: World War I Diary with clippings - 1916**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** This bound volume contains a handwritten account Fitzgerald's service as a nurse with the British Expeditionary Forces in Europe from February to November, 1916. The account begins with a description of her journey to the hospital, but later describes the layout and condition of the wards, the weather for the day, and descriptions of troops, patients, ward books, and personal experiences. It also contains numerous sketches illustrating ideas mentioned in the account including sketches of a nurse's uniform, hospital beds, cabinets, ships, tents, building and camp layouts, maps, and a scheme of hospitals and care. Newspaper clippings are glued into the volume and integrated with the handwritten account chronologically. Most of the clippings are of captioned pictures. A program from "Wash your Kneck" is glued onto the front pastedown-end paper. A typed paper indicating hymns to be sung at a memorial service for Lord Kitchner is folded and glued onto the recto first front free-end paper. An envelope containing three letters from the War Office in England to Fitzgerald and a pressed cloth flower are glued onto the verso first front free-end paper and the recto second front free-end paper. A postcard of a casino and jetty in Boulogne is clipped onto the verso second front free-end paper. The recto third front free-end paper contains the handwritten statement "In case of our death please send this book to" followed by three addresses and a newspaper clipping. The diary account, sketches, and integrated newspaper clippings begins on the verso third front free-end paper which is lined. 370 [pages] of hand-written account, sketches, hand-drawn maps, newspaper clippings, and inserted letters follow. The recto first rear free-end paper is also lined and contains part of the handwritten account. The verso second rear free-end paper, recto third rear free-end paper, and rear pastedown-end paper contain photographs clipped from newspapers.

**Item 226593: [Postcard of Casino in Boulogne-sur-Mer] - circa 1916**

**Extent:** 1 postcard ; 3.5 x 5.5 in.

**Subject - Topical:** Casinos--France--Boulogne-sur-Mer--1910-1920; Postcards

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Bound volume 2/3: World War I Diary - 1916-1917**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Bound volume contains diary entries of Alice Fitzgerald's experiences as a nurse for the British Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I. Diary entry dates range from November, 1916 - December, 1917. Entries contain a description of weather for the day, personal experiences and feelings towards the war, conditions in the wards, descriptions of patients, cases (particularly trench feet), and day to day activities of nursing on the front. The final entry is dated 2 months after the previous entry and contains information about what happened after Fitzgerald's resignation. She notes that this entry was written in Paris. On the recto third front free-end paper are drawings of a soldier in a trench with a tank and a building behind him. The verso third front free-end paper has a swatch of cloth pinned to it. There is another piece of cloth pinned into the body of the diary.

**Item 239317: [Drawing of soldier in trench] - circa 1916**

**Creator:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Extent:** 1 drawing : pencil on paper ; 8.75 x 7.25 in.

**Subject - Topical:** World War, 1914-1918--Trench warfare; Portrait drawings

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 239320: [Page from diary showing capacity and layout of wards] - 1916-11-26**

**Creator:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Extent:** 1 diary page : pen on paper ; 8.75 x 7.25 in.

**Subject - Topical:** World War, 1914-1918--Medical aspects

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Bound volume 2/4: Scrapbook - 1910s-1940**

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope and Content:** Scrapbook of articles and photos dating from 1919-1939. Scrapbook contains a biography of Alice Fitzgerald from the American Women's Club; newspaper and newsletter articles about her life, achievements, and functions at which she was a guest speaker; a letter from Mabel Boardman regarding Fitzgerald's appointment as chief nurse of the Red Cross Nurses; a letter from the Red Cross requesting that Fitzgerald take a position as representative of the nursing service in France; photos of Fitzgerald and photos of her with other nurses; a thank you card with an angel, nurse, and patient on the front given to Fitzgerald for service to the British troops during World War I; photos from Siam and the Philippine Islands; maps indicating countries adhering to Red Cross standards, countries visited due to nursing, cities visited on the Philippine Islands; photos and articles related to the Nightingale Medal; a photo of the Staff of Medical Bureau League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva, 1922; papers, letters, and orders related to her orders of service as a reserve member to the British Expeditionary Forces; articles and photos related to her service to China for which she was awarded a medal; and a photo of the 2nd Public Health Nursing Course in London.

**Item 238635: [Students in the 2nd international public health nursing course, Bedford College, London] - 1922**

**Creator:** Press Photographic Agency (London, UK)

**Extent:** 1 photographic print mounted on board : gelatin silver ; 12 x 8.5 in.

**Scope and Content:** Seated left to right, Marie Anzenbacherova, Czechoslovakia; Edith Webster, New Zealand; Masayo Tabuchi, Japan; Miss Margaret Tuke, Principal of Bedford College; Mrs. Reid, Director of Social Studies; Marianne Danko, Austria; Venny Snellman, Finland. Standing left to right, Elizabeth Deuchler, Mexico; Nora Moore, Canada; Margaret James, England; Boiana Christova, Bulgaria; Gizi de Hodossy, Hungary; Elsa Grivan, Latvia; Anna Erma, Estonia; directed by Florence M. Waters. 1922.

**Subject - Topical:** Nursing students--United Kingdom--London--1920-1930; Group portraits; Portrait photographs

**Digital Content:** Yes

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**Series 4: Alice Fitzgerald Photographs - 1915-1919; 1915-1940**

**Extent:** 16 photographic prints

**Scope and Content:** This series includes portraits of Alice Fitzgerald, a small photograph from her scrapbook diary of World War I, and a series of photographs taken from another scrapbook, including a portrait of Alice Fitzgerald in British Expeditionary Forces uniform, a postcard of Alice Fitzgerald with class, a photograph of the Florence Nightingale medal, photographs of

Hopkins medical and nursing staff, and a group portrait of the League of Red Cross Societies, in which Fitzgerald served as its Director of Nursing.

**Subject -- Name:** American Red Cross--People  
Dana Hall School  
Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962  
Great Britain. Army. No. 13 General Hospital (Boulogne-sur-Mer, France)  
League of Red Cross Societies

**Subject -- Topical:** Nurses; Military nursing; World War, 1914-1918--Medical aspects; Portrait photographs;  
Group portraits

**Folder 1/16: Alice Fitzgerald photographs - 1915-1919; 1915-1940**

**Extent:** 16 photographic prints

**Location & Availability of Copies:** File contains some copy negatives and copy prints produced for the Johns Hopkins Nurses' Alumni Association for display purposes.

**Item 104989: [Alice Fitzgerald, portrait photograph, 1915] - 1915**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ; 6 x 8 in.

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** Dana Hall School  
Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Nurses--Massachusetts--Wellesley--1910-1920; Portrait photographs

**Location & Availability of Copies:** 1 copy negative and 1 copy print filed with the described original print.

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 104990: [Alice Fitzgerald with members of the League of Red Cross Societies in France, 1920] - 1920**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ; 6 x 9 in.

**Scope and Content:** Seated, from left to right: 1) Prof. G. C. Whipple; 2) Dr. G. C. Shattuck; 3) Miss H. Bailey; 4) Miss A. Fitzgerald; 5) Dr. R. P. Strong; 6) Miss G. Cowlin; 7) Dr. Lina Potter; 8) Mr. H. E. Scarborough.  
Standing, from left to right: 1) Mr. C. R. Hewitt; 2) Dr. W. Francis; 3) Dr. M. I. Banus; 4) MR. M. Balfour; 5) Dr. W. Pitt; 6) Dr. T. R. Brown; 7) Mr. W. Clarke; 8) Mr. A. E. Weaver; 9) Dr. O. Monod; 10)Mr. K. Stouman; 11) Dr. F. O. Ducasse; 12) Prof. M. Sella.

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962  
League of Red Cross Societies  
Whipple, G. C.

**Subject - Topical:** Group portraits; Portrait photographs

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 105206: [Alice Fitzgerald receiving medal from Dr. F.C. Yen at luncheon of the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China] - 1940-10-24**

**Creator:** Standard News Picture Service

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ; 10 x 8 in.

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** American Bureau for Medical Aid to China  
Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962  
Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962--Commemoration

**Subject - Topical:** Nurses

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 198203: [Alice Fitzgerald with graduates and student nurses of Zamboanga General Hospital, Philippines] - 1923**

**Creator:** Aurora Studio (Zamboanga, Philippines)

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ; 3.5 x 5.5 in.

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Nurses--Philippines--Zamboanga--1920-1930; Nursing students--Philippines--Zamboanga--1920-1930; Graduation ceremonies--Philippines--Zamboanga--1920-1930; Group portraits; Portrait photographs

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226141: [Oval portrait photograph of Alice Fitzgerald, 1916] - 1916**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226144: [Alice Fitzgerald and unidentified nurse in front of a wooden cottage] - 1914-1918**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions.

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs; Group portraits



**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226145: [Men and women from the British Expeditionary Forces in front of a theater] - 1916**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions .

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs; Group portraits

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226146: [Men from the British Expeditionary Forces] - 1914-1918**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions .

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs; Group portraits

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226149: [Two women with blankets and medical supplies] - October 1938**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions .

**Subject - Name:** Neagle, Anna

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs; Group portraits

**Digital Content:** Yes

**Item 226224: [Alice Fitzgerald with a monkey around her neck]**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions .

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs; monkeys

**Item 226231: [Portrait of Alice Fitzgerald wearing a cloak] - circa 1915**

**Extent:** 1 photographic print : gelatin silver ;

**Use/Reproduction** Photograph may be subject to copyright restrictions. Contact the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives for reproduction permissions .

**Subject - Name:** Fitzgerald, Alice Louise Florence, 1874-1962

**Subject - Topical:** Portrait photographs

**Digital Content:** Yes

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### **Series 5: Material Evidence - 1889-1940**

**Scope and Content:** Wood box case containing 13 medals from Poland, Great Britain, Italy, and France. Black wood case containing 10 medals from France, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Louisiana, International Congress on Tuberculosis, International Council of Nurses, Red Cross, and her Edith Cavell medal (some may not be Fitzgerald's medals). Marie Dapage, Edith Cavell medal in frame. 3 medals from Alice Fitzgerald wood and glass display box from China, Russia, and Serbia. Miniature Red Cross Florence Nightingale Award in green leather case.

#### **Artifacts**

American Nurses Memorial  
708A

Aux Dames de la Croix Rouge  
710A

British Royal Red Cross, second class  
1601A

British War Medal  
1593A

Chinese Medal  
1802A

Edith Cavell Medal Frame  
1800A

Edith Cavell Memorial Nurse  
1595A

For Miniature Red Cross Florence Nightingale Award  
700A

French Medal of Recognition  
1603A

Inter-Allied Victory, British Issue  
1596A

Inter-Allied Victory, French Issue  
1602A

International Red Cross Florence Nightingale Award  
1804A

Italian Red Cross  
1600A

Italian Red Cross Calabrian-Sicilian Earthquake  
1598A

Johns Hopkins Hospital 50th Anniversary  
709A

Maltese Cross  
717A

Marie Depage and Edith Cavell

718A

Marie Depage and Edith Cavell

712A

Medal Commemorative of the Great War

1599A

Medal of the Ministry of War

1597A

Merit Cross of the Hungarian Red Cross

1594A

Miniature Red Cross Florence Nightingale Award

1801A

Order of the Serbian Red Cross

1805A

Polish Red Cross Nursing Education

1592A

Russian Red Cross

1803A