

A Noble Woman

Συντάχθηκε απο τον/την Χρήστος Μπούμπουλης (Christos Boumpoulis)

Παρασκευή, 21 Νοέμβριος 2014 01:40 - Τελευταία Ενημέρωση Παρασκευή, 21 Νοέμβριος 2014 02:12



Edith Louisa Cavell (/ˈkævəl/; 4 December 1865 – 12 October 1915) was a [British](#) nurse. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers from both sides without discrimination and in helping some 200

[Allied](#)

soldiers escape from

[German](#)

-occupied

[Belgium](#)

during the

[First World War](#)

, for which she was arrested. She was subsequently court-martialled, found guilty of

[treason](#)

and sentenced to death. Despite international pressure for mercy, she was shot by a German firing squad. Her execution received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

She is well known for her statement that "patriotism is not enough". Her strong [Anglican](#) beliefs propelled her to help all those who needed it, both German and Allied soldiers. She was quoted as saying, "I can't stop while there are lives to be saved." 12 October is appointed for her

[commemoration](#)

in the Anglican church, although this is not a "

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[saint's feast day](#)

" in the traditional sense.

Edith Cavell, who was 49 at the time of her execution, was already notable as a pioneer of modern nursing in Belgium.

Early life and career

Edith Cavell was born on 4 December 1865 in [Swardeston](#) , a village near [Norwich](#) , where her father was vicar for 45 years. She was the eldest of the four children of the Reverend Frederick and Louisa Sophia Cavell and was taught always to share with the less fortunate, despite her family's meagre income. After a period as a governess, including for a family in

[Brussels](#)

1890–1895, she trained as a nurse at the

[London Hospital](#)

under Matron

[Eva Luckes](#)

and worked in various hospitals in England, including

[Shoreditch Infirmary](#)

. In 1907, Cavell was recruited by Dr

[Antoine Depage](#)

to be matron of a newly established nursing school, L'École Belge d'Infirmières Diplômées, (or The Berkendael Medical Institute) on the Rue de la Culture (now Rue Franz Merjay),

[Ixelles](#)

in Brussels. By 1910, "Miss Cavell "felt that the profession of nursing had gained sufficient foothold in Belgium to warrant the publishing of a professional journal" and, therefore, launched the nursing journal,

L'infirmière

". A year later, she was a training nurse for three hospitals, 24 schools, and 13 kindergartens in Belgium.

When the First World War broke out, she was visiting her widowed mother in [Norfolk](#) in the [East of England](#)

. She returned to Brussels, where her clinic and nursing school were taken over by the

[Red Cross](#)

.

First World War and execution

In November 1914, after the German occupation of Brussels, Cavell began sheltering British soldiers and funnelling them out of occupied Belgium to the neutral Netherlands. Wounded British and French soldiers and Belgian and French civilians of military age were hidden from the Germans and provided with false papers by Prince Reginald de Croy at his [château of Bellignies](#) near Mons. From there, they were conducted by various guides to the houses of Cavell, Louis Séverin and others in Brussels, and furnished by them with money to reach the Dutch frontier and with guides obtained through Philippe Baucq. This placed Cavell in violation of [German military law](#). German authorities became increasingly suspicious of the nurse's actions, which were backed up by her outspokenness.

She was arrested on 3 August 1915 and charged with harbouring Allied soldiers. She had been betrayed by Gaston Quien, who was later convicted by a French court as a collaborator. She was held in Saint-Gilles prison for 10 weeks, the last two in solitary confinement. She made three depositions to the German police, 8, 18, and 22 August, admitting that she had been instrumental in conveying about 60 British and 15 French soldiers and about 100 French and Belgians of military age to the frontier and had sheltered most of them in her house.

In her [court-martial](#) she was prosecuted for aiding British and French soldiers, in addition to young Belgian men, to cross the border and eventually enter Britain. She admitted her guilt when she signed a statement the day before the trial. Cavell declared that the soldiers she had helped escape thanked her in writing when arriving safely in Britain. This admission confirmed that Cavell had helped the soldiers navigate the Dutch frontier, but it also established that she helped them escape to a country at war with Germany.

The penalty according to German military law was death. Paragraph 58 of the German Military Code said; "Will be sentenced to death for treason any person who, with the intention of helping the hostile Power, or of causing harm to the German or allied troops, is guilty of one of the crimes of paragraph 90 of the German Penal Code." The case referred to in the above-mentioned paragraph 90 consists of "Conducting soldiers to the enemy." Additionally, the penalties according to paragraph 160 of the German Code, in case of war, apply to foreigners as well as Germans.

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While the [First Geneva Convention](#) ordinarily guaranteed protection of medical personnel, that protection was forfeit if used as cover for any belligerent action. This forfeiture is expressed in article 7 of the 1906 version of the Convention, which was the version in force at the time. The German authorities instead justified prosecution merely on the basis of the German law and the interests of the German state.

The British government could do nothing to help her. Sir Horace Rowland of the [Foreign Office](#) said, "I am afraid that it is likely to go hard with Miss Cavell; I am afraid we are powerless."

[Lord Robert Cecil](#)

, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said, "Any representation by us", he advised, "will do her more harm than good." The

[United States](#)

, however, had not yet joined the war and was in a position to apply diplomatic pressure.

[Hugh S. Gibson](#)

, First Secretary of the U.S. legation at Brussels, made clear to the German government that executing Cavell would further harm Germany's already damaged reputation. Later, he wrote:

"We reminded [German civil governor Baron von der Lancken] of the burning of [Louvain](#) and the sinking of the

[Lusitania](#)

, and told him that this murder would rank with those two affairs and would stir all civilised countries with horror and disgust. Count Harrach broke in at this with the rather irrelevant remark that he would rather see Miss Cavell shot than have harm come to the humblest German soldier, and his only regret was that they had not "three or four old English women to shoot."

Baron von der Lancken is known to have stated that Cavell should be pardoned because of her complete honesty and because she had helped save so many lives, German as well as Allied. However, [General von Sauberzweig](#), the military governor of Brussels, ordered that "in the interests of the State" the implementation of the death penalty against Baucq and Cavell should be immediate, denying higher authorities an opportunity to consider clemency. Cavell was defended by lawyer Sadi Kirschen from Brussels. Of the 27 put on trial, five were condemned to death: Cavell, Baucq (an architect in his thirties), Louise Thuliez, Séverin and Countess Jeanne de Belleville. Of the five sentenced to death, only Cavell and Baucq were executed; the other three were reprieved.

Cavell was not arrested for espionage, as many were led to believe, but for treason. She may have been recruited by the British [Secret Intelligence Service](#) (SIS) and turned away from her

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espionage duties in order to help Allied soldiers escape, although this is not widely accepted. Rankin cites the published statement of

[M. R. D. Foot](#)

, historian and WW2 British intelligence officer, as to Cavell's having been part of SIS or MI6

When in custody, Cavell was questioned in French, but the session was minuted in German. This gave the interrogator the opportunity to misinterpret her answers. Although she may have been misrepresented, she made no attempt to defend herself. Cavell was provided with a defender approved by the German military governor. A previous defender, who was chosen for Cavell by her assistant, Elizabeth Wilkins, was ultimately rejected by the governor.

The night before her execution, she told the Reverend Stirling Gahan, the Anglican chaplain who had been allowed to see her and to give her [Holy Communion](#), "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone." These words are inscribed on her statue in St Martin's Place, near Trafalgar Square in London. Her final words to the German

[Lutheran](#)

prison chaplain, Paul Le Seur, were recorded as, "Ask Father Gahan to tell my loved ones later on that my soul, as I believe, is safe, and that I am glad to die for my country."

From his sick bed [Brand Whitlock](#), the U.S. minister to Belgium, wrote a personal note on Cavell's behalf to [Moritz von Bissing](#), the governor general of Belgium. Hugh Gibson; Maitre G. de Leval, the legal adviser to the United States legation; and Rodrigo Saavedra y Vinent, 2nd Marques de Villalobar, the Spanish minister, formed a midnight deputation of appeal for mercy or at least postponement of sentence. Despite these efforts, on 11 October, Baron von der Lancken allowed the execution to proceed. Sixteen men, forming two firing squads, carried out the sentence pronounced on her and on four Belgian men at the [Tir national](#)

shooting range in

[Schaerbeek](#)

, at 7:00 am on 12 October 1915. There are conflicting reports of the details of Cavell's execution. However, according to the eyewitness account of the Reverend Le Seur, who attended Cavell in her final hours, eight soldiers fired at Cavell while the other eight executed Baucq.

There is also a dispute over the sentencing imposed under the German Military Code. Supposedly, the death penalty relevant to the offence committed by Cavell was not officially declared until a few hours after her death.

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On instructions from the Spanish minister, Belgian women immediately buried her body next to Saint-Gilles Prison. After the War, her body was taken back to Britain for a memorial service at [Westminster Abbey](#) and then transferred to Norwich, to be laid to rest at Life's Green on the east side of the cathedral. The King had to grant an exception to an [Order in Council](#) of 1854 which prevented any burials in the grounds of the cathedral, to allow the reburial.

Memorials

-

a dedication on the war memorial on the grounds of Sacred Trinity Church, [Salford, Greater Manchester](#) , UK

-

a marble and stone memorial in [Kings Domain](#) in [Melbourne, Australia](#)

-

a memorial by [Henry Alfred Pegram](#) outside [Norwich Cathedral](#) , UK

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a memorial in [Peterborough Cathedral](#) , England

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a stone memorial in [Paris](#) , one of two statues that [Adolf Hitler](#) ordered destroyed on his 1940 visit (the other being that of [Charles Mangin](#))

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a [stone memorial, including a statue of Cavell](#) by [George Frampton](#) unveiled in 1920, adjacent to [Trafalgar Square](#) in London

-

an inscription on a war memorial, naming the 35 people executed by the German army in Tir National in [Schaerbeek](#), Brussels, Belgium

-

Monument to Edith Cavell and Marie Depage by [Paul Du Bois](#) in Brussels

Medical and nursing facilities

-

A ward in the [Basildon University Hospital](#), Basildon, Essex

-

A building at the [Medical School, University of Queensland](#), Australia

-

A ward in the [Whittington Hospital](#) in Archway, London

-

A wing of [Homerton Hospital](#), Hackney, London

-

A wing of [Toronto Western Hospital](#), Canada

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Cavell Gardens Care Home, [Vancouver](#) , Canada; the site was Edith Cavell Hospital from 1955 to 2000

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Cavell House Care Home, Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 6GS

-

Cavell Ward at the former Digby Hospital Exeter (Exe Vale Hospitals group)

-

Edith Cavell Care Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

-

The Edith Cavell Home, Hospital, and Village (a retirement village) in [Sumner](#) , [Christchurch](#) , New Zealand

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The [Edith Cavell Clinic](#) in the Brussels borough of [Uccle \(Ukkel\)](#) , Belgium

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[Edith Cavell Hospital](#) , in Peterborough, England, where she received part of her education

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Cavell Building, Quinte Children's Treatment Centre, [Belleville, Ontario](#) , Canada (demolished in 2013)

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Edith Cavell Regional School of Nursing, in Belleville, Ontario, Canada (demolished in 2013)

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Edith Cavell Surgery in Streatham, London

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Sanatorium Edith Cavell, Obourg, Belgium

-

[University of East Anglia](#) , Norwich, named its School of Nursing Sciences building the Edith Cavell Building (ECB), when it opened in 2006

Streets

-

Rue Edith Cavell, in Brussels (where there is an hospital named Edith Cavell, next to previous "Rue de la Culture" where was her first nurse school)

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Avenue Edith Cavell, [Hyères](#) , France

-

Avenue Edith-Cavell, in [Nice](#) , France

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Rue Edith Cavell, [Cannes](#) , France

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Avenue Miss Cavell, [Saint-Maur-des-Fossés](#) , France

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Cavell Avenue in [Etobicoke](#) , Ontario, Canada

-

Cavell Avenue in [Guelph](#) , Ontario

-

Cavell Avenue in [The Danforth](#) neighbourhood of Toronto, Ontario

-

Cavell Avenue, in [Trenton, New Jersey](#) , USA

-

Cavell Avenue, [Twin Cities](#) , [Minnesota](#) , USA

-

Cavell Close, [Woodbeck](#) , Nottinghamshire, England, (this has been demolished)

-

Cavell Drive in [Bishops Stortford](#) , [Hertfordshire](#) , England

-

Cavell Drive in [Winnipeg, Manitoba](#) , Canada

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Cavell Drive, Portsmouth, UK (Queen Alexandra Hospital)

-

Cavell Place, Whanganui, New Zealand

-

Cavell Road, [Billericay](#), Essex, England

-

Cavell Road, [Dudley](#), [West Midlands](#) (formerly [Worcestershire](#)), England

-

Cavell Road, [Norwich](#), England

-

Cavell Street (formerly known as Bedford Street), running next to the [London Hospital](#) in [W](#)
[hitechapel](#)
, London, where Cavell trained

-

Cavell Street, [Dunedin](#), New Zealand

-

Cavell Street, Reefton, New Zealand

-

Cavell Street, [West Hobart, Tasmania](#), Australia

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Cavell Street, Westland, Michigan, USA

-

Cavell Walk, [Stevenage](#) , England

-

Cavell Way, [Maidenbower](#) , [Crawley](#) , [West Sussex](#) , England

-

Cavell Way, [Pendleton](#) , [Salford](#) , Greater Manchester

-

Edith Cavell Boulevard, a road in [Port Stanley, Ontario](#) , Canada

-

Edith Cavell Close, Openshaw, Manchester

-

Edith Cavell Court, [Kingston upon Hull](#) , England

-

Edith Cavell Drive [Steeple Bumpstead](#) , England

-

Edith Cavell Street in [Hillbrow](#) , Johannesburg, South Africa

-

Edith Cavell Street in [Port Louis](#) , Mauritius

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Edith Cavell Way, [Shooters Hill](#) , London

-

Edith Cavellstraat, a street in [Ostend](#) , Belgium

-

Nurse Cavell Lane, Paparoa, Northland, New Zealand

-

Rua Edith Cavell, a street in [Lisbon](#) , Portugal

-

Rue Edith Cavell / Edith Cavellstraat, a street in [Uccle \(Ukkel\)](#) , Brussels, Belgium

-

Rue Edith Cavell, [Le Havre](#) , France

-

Rue Edith Cavell, [Vitry-sur-Seine](#) , France

-

Rue Miss Cavell, [Arques](#) , France

-

Rue Miss Edith Cawell, [Creil](#) , France

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Cavill Avenue The hub of Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast AUS

Schools, houses and school buildings

-

Cavell House, Crosslee Primary School, Blackley, Manchester, England

-

A middle school in [Windsor, Ontario](#) , Canada, which closed in 1987

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An elementary school in [Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario](#) , Canada, which was later renamed to S.F. Howe

-

Cavell, a house at [Stamford High School](#)

-

Cavell House, blue house at [Sheringham High School](#) , Norfolk, England

-

Cavell House, dark blue house at [Jersey College for Girls](#)

-

Cavell House, green house at [Pratt Memorial School](#) , Kolkata, India

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Cavell House, green house at [Queen Mary School, Mumbai](#) , India

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Cavell House, Northlands School (founded 1920), Olivos, Argentina

-

Cavell House, red house at [Cliff Park Junior School](#) , Gorleston

-

Cavell House, the fourth, blue house of [St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School](#) , [Brisbane](#) , Australia

-

Cavell Primary School, [Norwich](#) , England

-

Edith Cavell Elementary School, [St. Catharines, Ontario](#) , Canada

-

[Edith Cavell Elementary School](#) , [Vancouver, British Columbia](#) , Canada

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Edith Cavell House, green house at Barnes School, Deolali, India

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Edith Cavell [Lower School](#) in [Bedford](#) , UK

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[Edith Cavell School](#) , [Moncton](#) , [New Brunswick](#) , Canada

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[Wymondham College](#) in Norfolk has a boarding block named after her

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Cavell House at 26, College Road in Norwich is where her parents lived in retirement

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Edith Cavell Secondary School, Hackney, London, England

-

Cavell House, at Abbeydale Grammar School for Girls, Sheffield

Other

-

A car park in [Peterborough](#) 's [Queensgate shopping centre](#) (until November 2011 when it was renamed as a colour)

-

[Cavell Corona](#) , a geological feature on [Venus](#)

-

Cavell Gardens, [Inverness](#) , Scotland

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Cavell House, a guest house in [Clevedon, Somerset](#) , UK, where she spent some of her childhood

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Cavell Park, a playground in Northeast Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

-

Edith became a popular name for French and Belgian girls after her execution. The French chanteuse [Édith Piaf](#) , born two months after Cavell was executed, was the best known of these

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[Edith Cavell bridge](#) over the [Shotover River](#) in the [Otago Region](#) of New Zealand

-

Edith Cavell Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire in Houston, Texas, United States

-

[The Edith Cavell Nursing Scholarship Fund](#) , a philanthropy of the Dallas County Medical Society Alliance Foundation providing scholarships to exceptional nursing students in [Dallas, Texas](#) , USA, and the surrounding area

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The Edith Cavell [public house](#) , Tombland, [Norwich](#) , England

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The Edith Cavell Trust was established by the [New South Wales Nurses' Association](#) to provide scholarships to nurses in

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[New South Wales](#)

, [Australia](#)

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The [Cavell Van](#) was the prototype passenger luggage van that transported her remains from Dover to London during her repatriation.

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[Miss Edith Cavell](#) , a variety of rose first bred in 1917

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[Mount Edith Cavell](#) , a peak in [Alberta](#) in the [Canadian Rockies](#) , named for her in 1916

-

[Radio Cavell](#) broadcasting to the staff and patients of the [Royal Oldham Hospital](#) in [Oldham](#) ,
[m](#)
England

-

YWCA Camp Cavell in [Lexington, Michigan](#) , United States

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Edith Cavell Projectile Factory in Overnewton, [Glasgow](#) , Scotland

In popular culture

Films, plays and television

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The first film made of the story was the 1916 Australian silent film [The Martyrdom of Nurse Cavell](#) soon followed by [Nurse Cavell](#)

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In 1918 [John G. Adolphi](#) directed *The Woman the Germans Shot*, starring [Julia Arthur](#) as Cavell

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[Herbert Wilcox](#) made a 1928 silent film based on the story called *Dawn* with [Sybil Thorndike](#). He remade it as [Nurse Edith Cavell](#) (1939) starring [Anna Neagle](#) and [George Sanders](#)

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[Nurse Cavell](#), a 1933 play in three acts, by [C. S. Forester](#) with [C. E. Bechhofer Roberts](#)

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In the second episode of the 1980 television series [To Serve Them All My Days](#), Cavell is mentioned in a speech to the school's [Officers' Training Corps](#)

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In the final episode of the 2014 BBC drama series [The Crimson Field](#), Cavell is mentioned as having been executed, during the interrogation of Sister Joan Livesey.

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In [Les plus grands Belges](#) ("The Greatest Belgians"), a 2005 television show on the Belgian French-speaking public channel RTBF, the audience voted Cavell the 48th greatest Belgian.

Music

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The song "Que Sera" on the album [Silent June](#) by [O'Hooley & Tidow](#) was inspired by the execution of Edith Cavell.

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The song "Amy Quartermaine" by [Manning](#) from the 2011 album [Margaret's Children](#) is also based on the life of Cavell.

[[wiki](#)]

The time when, still, there was nobility, heroines like nurse Edith Cavell were risking their own lives for rescuing, not only the lives of their own people, but, also, the lives of those who were, then, labeled as their "enemies".

Noble people do actively realize how invaluable are, the human life, the human freedom and the peace.

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Today, how much do we value, the human lives of both, the “others”, as well as, the human lives of our own “friends”?

How much do we value our own freedom? How much, the freedom of our friends? How much, do we respect the freedom of the “others”?

How much do we value peace?

Nurse Edith Cavell - Feature Film (1939)

{youtube}ABuLbuWZrRo{/youtube}

A Noble Woman The Life-Story of Edith Cavell (FULL Audiobook)

{youtube}ROtUyUsEg8k{/youtube}

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Que Sera

{youtube}Z57qPFQBqhg{/youtube}

Note: the photo was found [here](#) .