HSTCMP 202

**Primary Source Readings on Nursing (for *Civilians* lecture)**

**GROUP A STUDENTS:**

The following 3 primary sources are accounts written by British nurses in the years immediately following the end of the First World War.

These documents were written in response to a request made by Dame Maud McCarthy, Matron- in-Chief of British and American nursing services in Europe (from France to the Mediterranean) during the First World War. McCarthy, who was born in Australia, had been a British Army nurse during the South African War.

In 1919, she was asked by the Women’s Work Committee to collect “interesting articles on the work of Army nurses.” McCarthy wrote to many of her friends and colleagues asking them to contribute. I have selected 3 accounts from the 30 responses McCarthy received – these documents are held by the Museum of Military Medicine in Aldershot, UK.

* Doc. 43.1985.12.4 – “A Sister’s Experience on a Hospital Ship,” Report from A. Meldrum Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (3 typed pages)
* Doc. 43.1985.12.23 – “It was with somewhat mixed feelings...” Report from S.M. Sbatton[?], a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse, on work at a base hospital (7 pages typed)

Think about these questions as you read: Are nurses civilians? Why or why not? What definition of civilian would you write?