

Grace Jemmett and Pauline Randall – their later years - new information 2025

Recent searches in the British Newspaper Archive and information coming to the Archive provide accounts of the lives of these two young British women whom Edith Cavell befriended and had living with her in her Brussels Clinique. What happened to them both after Edith Cavell's execution?

Pauline Randall (born 1899 – died December 1992)

A brief account of her life is included in the 2024 *Encounters with Edith Cavell* transcript (pp 2 and 3). See <https://edithcavell.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/encounters-website-txt-final-271124-4082820639-e1733406335110.pdf>

Pauline went to live with Edith in 1911 when she was only 13. She left Edith after her imprisonment in August 1915 – and worked as a maid in a Brussels household. After Edith's execution Pauline returned to England... she worked for a Dr Broadbent caring for his children in Hertfordshire. She was discovered in Hertfordshire by the Daily Mirror in 1919. There is some evidence that Pauline joined up with the Salvation Army but she vanishes from public view in around 1919...

A year ago, In our seminar on *Encounters with Edith Cavell*, a member of the audience said she had more of the story. This is still being checked out with Salvation Army records. But a newspaper article (Hertfordshire Mercury – December 31 1992 p 12-13) tells of the end of Pauline's life. After times with the GP's family and working for the Bishop of St Albans, she was, for over 40 years, cook to the Savory family, living in a cottage in a cottage adjoining their home at Bengo Hall.

She died in a Hertfordshire nursing home on December 13 1992, after 20 years in care homes aged 92. Robert Savory, one of the three Savory children said: "*She was the cook but really part of the family. I will always remember her laughter and her kindness. She only occasionally talked about Nurse Cavell, but when she did it was with great reverence - the impact she made on her was never forgotten. She was very much a Christian and spent a lot of her spare time with the Salvation Army*".

Grace Jemmett (born 1888 - died October 1931)

In early 1909, Grace Jemmett, a 23 year old from Kent, came to live at Edith's Clinique in Brussels, referred from England by Edith Cavell's brother-in-law who was a doctor. Edith had agreed to care for her and to manage her morphine addiction and associated depression. In keeping with her early nostrum of 'doing something useful for people', she took Grace on (with regular payments for her care). Edith must have wondered how she would find time

for this new 'charge' – life in the nurses training school and the hospitals was already packed enough!

After Edith's execution Grace left Brussels with Sister Wilkins, Edith's deputy, to return to England. We lose sight of her till the Tonbridge Free Press (October 9 1931 p5) announced her death *aged 47* "*in a London nursing home following an illness extending over a long period*". At 35 she had been well enough to attend her father's funeral in November 1923 with her mother and two sisters. He had been a Deputy Lieutenant of Kent and was lord of the manor of Ashford. (Folkestone Herald 17.11.1923 p 5)