

# Legacies of the Crimean War

## 1854

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SA Medical Heritage Society  
May 2014

# Where on earth?



# Crimea



## Crimean war - cause

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- Ottoman Empire - (Turkey) included the Holy Land (Israel);
- France & Russia vied for authority of the Holy Land, and Ottomans occupying the territory;
- Disagreement escalated; peaceful negotiations failed...
- Britain & France sided with Turkish Ottomans - war against Russia.

# Crimean war

- **1853**: Turkey declares war on Russia;
- **1854**: Britain & France declare war on Russia;
- Troops from **Britain, France, Kingdom of Sardinia, Duchy of Nassau & Turkey** fight Imperial **Russian** troops in the **Crimea**;
- Colossal loss of life (all nations): of 1 650 000 soldiers, 900 000 died;
- Those who perished - many died from disease rather than wounds.



Kingdom of Sardinia 1815

# Lead-up to 1854

- 1815 Napoleonic wars end - France vs Britain;
- 1837 Somerset House - central UK General Registry for Births, Deaths & Marriages;
- 1847: Florence & Parthenope Nightingale attend British Association for Advancement of Science meeting;
- Actuary (Neison) - counties with better educated people - lower crime rates; higher taxes to finance public education.

Education reduces crime (1847)

	% difference in crime rate from average in counties of:	
	Worse education	Better education
More wealth	+ 9.2	- 29.4
Less wealth	+11.3	- 13.5

Source: F. G. P. Neison, BAAS, Oxford, 1847 (data for 1843/4)

# Crimean War - medical support

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- **Military doctors - surgeons**
- **Nurses**
- **Florence Nightingale ~ 34 nurses, trained in Germany; religious orders**
- **Hospital at Scutari in Turkey**

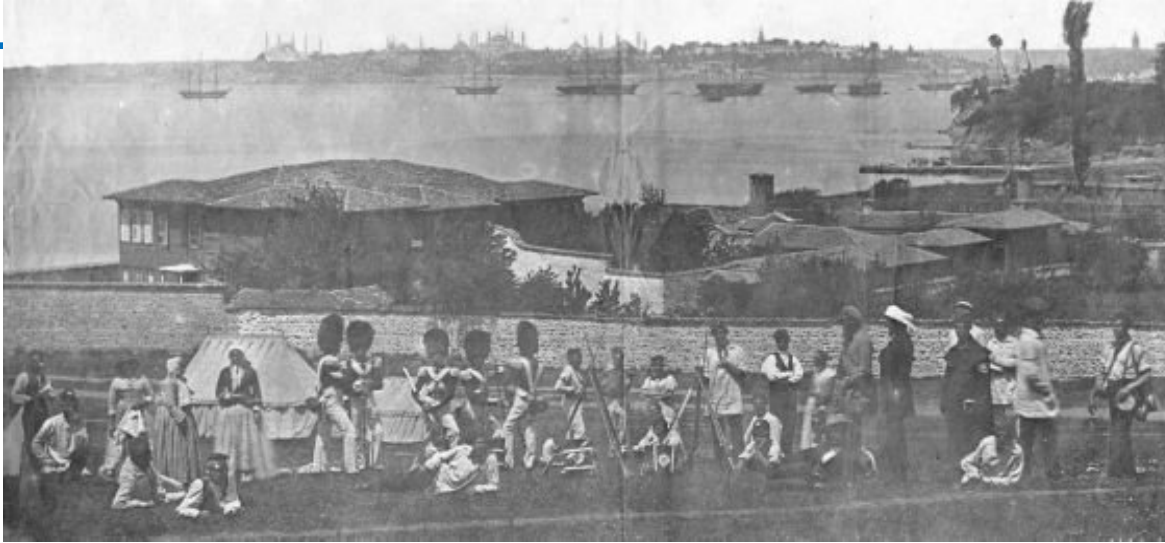
# Crimean theatre of war

To reach the hospital,  
wounded troops - sailed  
across the Black Sea in  
overcrowded transport  
ships





# Scutari



**Coldstream Guards** in front of a wall, with a landing-stage behind. Across the Bosphorus, is the Topkapi Palace in the distance.

Camp of **3rd Grenadier Guards** with the barracks (later Barrack Hospital) in the background



1854 Photographs of soldiers at Scutari by James Robertson, by courtesy of Keith Smith

<http://www.florence-nightingale-avenging-angel.co.uk/scutari.htm>

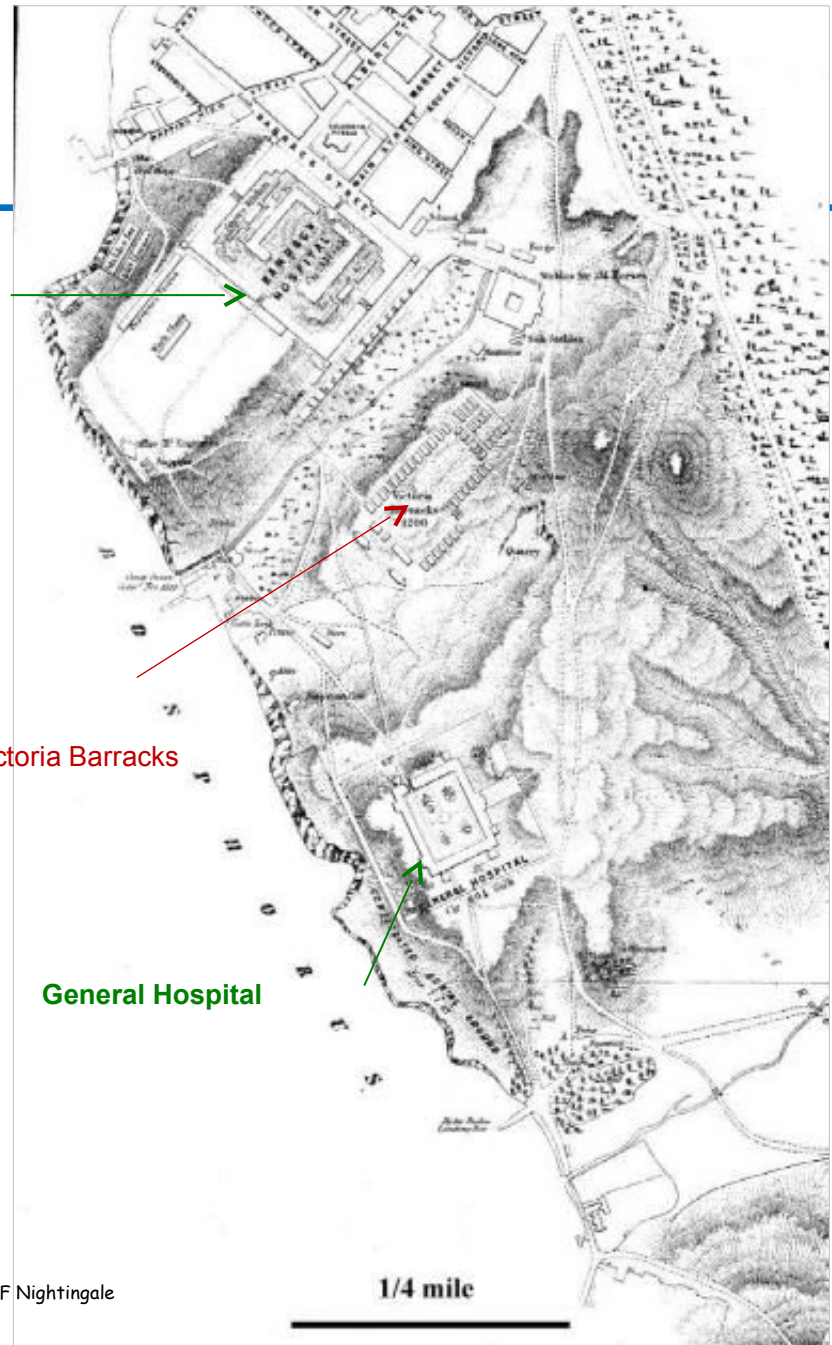
# Scutari

Barrack Hospital



Military Hospital at Scutari. Florence Nightingale Museum

<http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/the-collection/biography.html>



Sketch by F Nightingale

# Crimean War



➤ **The Battle of the Alma** (20 September 1854)

British & French fought Russian forces - Russians defeated.

➤ **Siege of Sevastopol** (September 1854 - September 1855)

Sevastopol - Russian fleet. British, French, & Turkish troops besieged - year: captured.



*Siege of Sevastopol*



The Siege of Sevastopol. Franz Roubaud (1904)

# Crimean War

- **The Battle of Balaklava (25 October 1854)**
  - British, French, Turkish, & Russian armies: inconclusive. Russians suffered heavier losses.

## Remembered for -

- **Thin Red Line** - battle formation;
- Charge of the Heavy Brigade
- **Charge of the Light Brigade**: futile advance under muddled and misinformed orders;
- **Poem** (by Tennyson) - describes bravery of cavalry under incompetent command;

# Balaclava



Looking towards Balaclava, Turkish camp in the distance to the right. Roger Fenton

<http://www.allworldwars.com/Crimean-War-Photographs-by-Roger-Fenton-1855.html>

# Balaclava



Encampment of the 71st Regiment at Balaclava commissariat camp,  
tents and huts of British camps on hillside and valley at Balaklava. Roger Fenton

<http://www.allworldwars.com/Crimean-War-Photographs-by-Roger-Fenton-1855.html>

# Crimean War

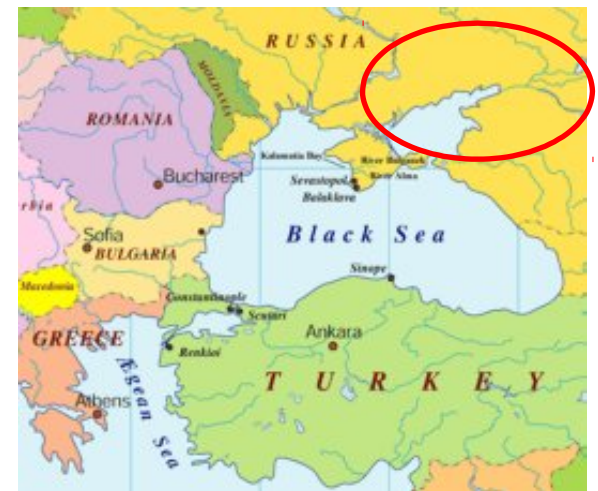
- **The Battle of Eupatoria** (17 February 1855)
  - Eupatoria, occupied by Turks: Russian forces attacked and repelled.
- **Sea of Azov naval campaign** (25 May 1855 - 22 Nov 1855)
  - British & French war ships attacked Russian ports - six months;
  - Ports bombarded: allies unable to land;



# A little guerrilla warfare...

## ➤ Sea of Azov naval campaign

- In **July 1855**, an allied squadron - through Mius River to River Don;
- **H.M.S. Jasper** grounded - canny local fisherman repositioned buoys into shallow waters;
- The Cossacks captured the gunboat - blew it up.





# Crimean War



- In military terms, the Crimean war - recognised in Britain by introduction of the highest decoration for gallantry;
- Unlike other medals, the **Victoria Cross** was awarded to officers and men without distinction;
- Victoria Crosses - made from a captured Russian bronze gun, seized at Sevastopol;
- The cannon was probably Chinese.

# Balaklava

## Battle of Balaklava (25 October 1854)

- standing defence - 93rd Highlanders
- two cavalry charges
  - Heavy Brigade
  - Light brigade



# Battle of Balaclava 1854



The **Thin Red Line**: The 93rd Highlanders

<http://www.britishbattles.com/crimean-war/balaclava.htm>



# Thin lines...

Politics & policy


## The thin grey line

New legislation in New South Wales highlights the eroding distinction between how police deal with terrorism and how they deal with other crimes.

Session Summary: Thin Grey Line: State vs. Corporate Roles and Responsibilities in the Mining Principles  
Business and Human Rights

## Mining and politics - The thin grey line

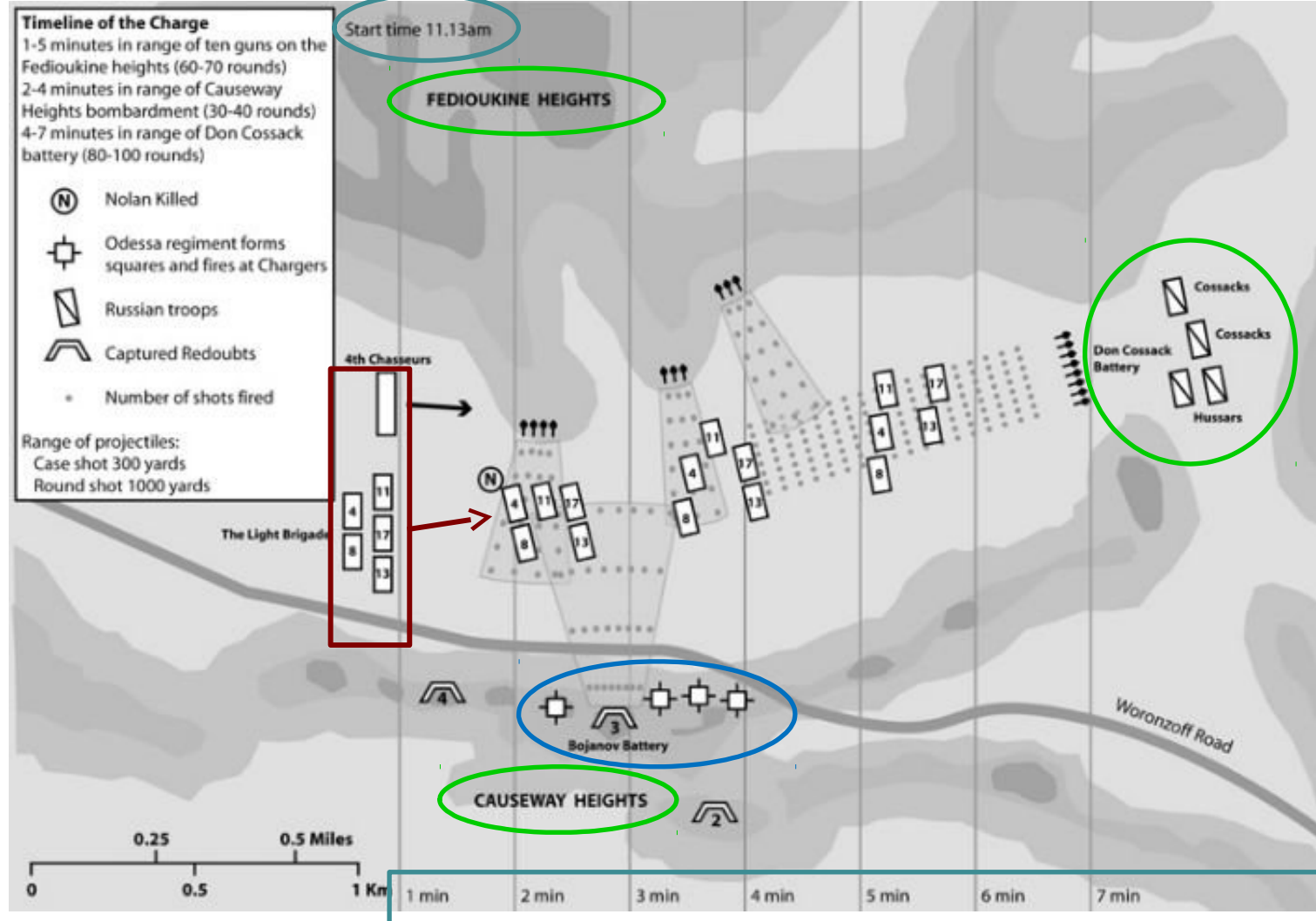
The Thin Red Line (Sunday, 5 January 3, 2014 by [miningleaks](#) · 2 comments  
adaptation of James Jones's *The Thin Red Line*

Article rank  | 10 May 2014 | *The Weekend Australian*  
ADDITIONAL REPORTING: MICHAEL OWEN

The Thin Red Line (MA15+)  
Saturday, 8.30pm, Showtime Action  
4 stars

# A thin grey line divides pension haves and have-nots

# The Charge of the Light Brigade



# Battle of Balaklava 1854



17<sup>th</sup> Lancers: **Charge of the Light Brigade**

<http://www.britishbattles.com/crimean-war/balaclava.htm>

View of the Charge of the Light Brigade from Russian positions on the Fedioukine Hills.

<http://www.britishbattles.com/crimean-war/balaclava.htm>



# The Charge of the Light Brigade

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death, **Rode the six hundred.**

"Forward the Light Brigade!  
Charge for the guns!" he said.  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.



<http://www.britishbattles.com/crimean-war/balaclava.htm>



*Ravine on Balaklava Plain with spent cannonballs*

**"Valley of the Shadow of Death"**

photograph, Roger Fenton 1855

# Casualties

## Charge of the Light Brigade

- 110 killed,
  - 130 wounded,
  - 58 captured,
- loss 40%

## Casualty return 22-26 Oct 54 (including Battle of Balaklava)

- 142 killed
- 199 wounded
- 381 horses killed

Return of Casualties from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Oct  
both days inclusive

Regiments	Officers		Sergeants		Privates		Rank & file		Horses killed	
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded		
Cavalry	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		
Staff	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.		
4 <sup>th</sup> Lt Dragoon	2	2	5	1	3	.	24	21	50	
8 <sup>th</sup> Hussars	1	2	3	2	.	1	33	14	38	
11 <sup>th</sup> "	1	3	2	3	.	.	30	20	72	
10 <sup>th</sup> Lt Dragoon	3	.	3	2	1	.	19	12	75	
17 <sup>th</sup> Lancers	2	3	4	1	1	.	2	32	31	99
4 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Regt	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	3	1	
1 <sup>st</sup> R. Dragoon	.	4	.	1	.	1	2	5	10	
2 <sup>nd</sup> N. B. Dragoon	.	4	.	5	.	.	2	48	14	
6 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon	.	.	.	3	.	.	2	10	2	
5 <sup>th</sup> Dragoon Regt	.	2	.	.	.	.	2	9	19	
Royal Artillery	1	2	2	1	.	.	4	33		
Royal Engineers & Sappers & Miners	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3		
	10	27	16	21	4	4	142	199	381	



# Post - Battle of Balaklava



British army camp at Balaklava

Albumen silver print by "Robertson & Beato", 1855



EVACUATION OF THE SICK AT BALKLAVA.

Conditions of the sick and injured in Balaklava

tinted lithograph by William Simpson

# Hospital at Scutari



Florence Nightingale Museum

<http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/the-collection/biography.html>

# The hospital at Scutari

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- On cesspool - contaminated the water & hospital building;
- Throughout hallways, patients lay on stretchers - own excrement;
- Rodents & bugs;
- Basic supplies (bandages & soap) - increasingly scarce as ill & wounded increased;
- Water - rationed;
- More soldiers - dying from infectious diseases - (typhoid & cholera) than battle injuries.

# Crimean War - mortality

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Allied army – British, French, Turks

## British troops: mortality

- 2,755 killed in **action**
- 2,019 died of **wounds**
- 16,323 died of **disease**

# Disease - pre Pasteur

➤ William Farr coined the term **Zymotic** in 1842 for -

- **epidemic,**
- **endemic, and**
- **contagious diseases**

1. Air or water-borne
2. Contact/inoculation
3. Diet
4. Parasitic



**Florence Nightingale**

# Florence Nightingale

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- Born 1820 - to William and Frances Nightingale;
- Grandfather: Member of Parliament (46 years);
- Father (Cambridge) supervised education - Latin, Greek, history, philosophy, mathematics, modern languages & music;
- surrounded by social change, liberal & reforming ideas;
- Natural academic - travelled, wrote prolifically.

# Florence Nightingale

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- 1836: Germany, deaconess motherhouse, Kaiserswerth
- 1850: Florence Nightingale - student
- Published booklet, anonymously; critique of women's education;
- 1851 and 1854, visited hospitals - United Kingdom & Europe; collected information.
- 1853 Lady Superintendent - Institution for Sick Gentlewomen, Upper Harley Street in West End;



# Florence Nightingale

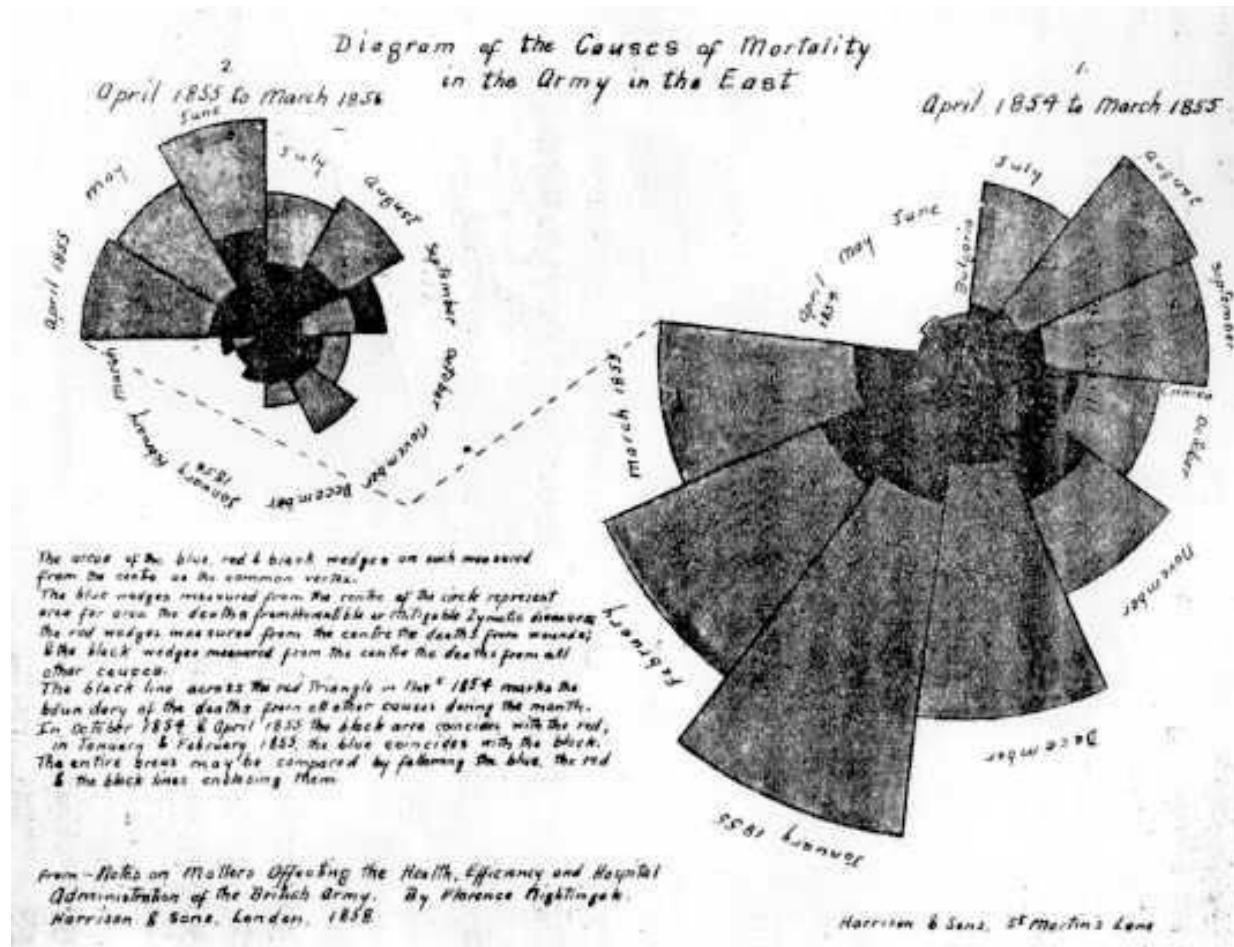
- At outbreak of Crimean War, (unprecedented) appointment to superintend a group of nurses;
- Sisters of Mercy - aseptic nursing techniques
- First, placed nurses under doctors orders, and established a hospital laundry;
- Improvements - upkeep of wards, new bedding, & clothing for soldiers, hospital diets;
- Scutari - supervised nursing,
  - wrote letters, instituted remittance money to families, provided reading rooms & games for convalescents.

# Florence Nightingale

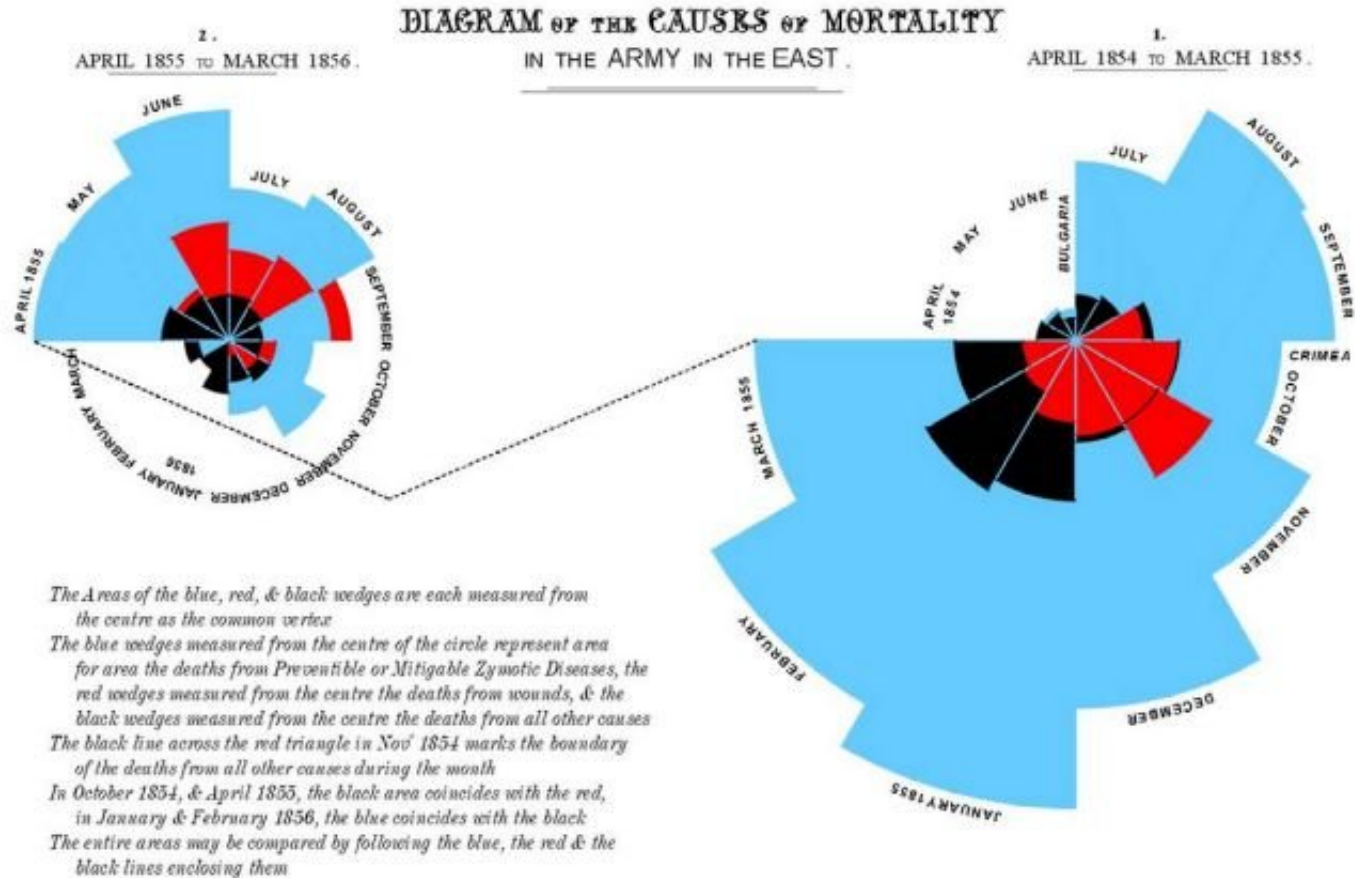
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- Kept records - number of deaths, causes of death;
- Britain, campaigned - full commission of enquiry & better living conditions for army;
- prepared an report for the "*Royal Commission on the Health of the Army*", military medical education;
- created graphs - demonstrate causes of deaths;
- advocated statistics for decision making.

# Plot of deaths over time



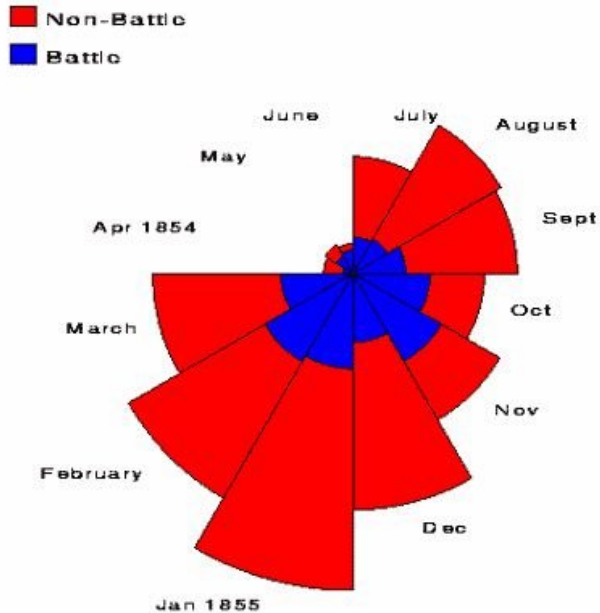
# 'Flower'/ Wedges chart



- Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic Diseases
- Deaths from wounds
- Deaths from all other causes

# Florence Nightingale's chart

Causes of Mortality in the Army in the East  
April, 1854 to March 1855



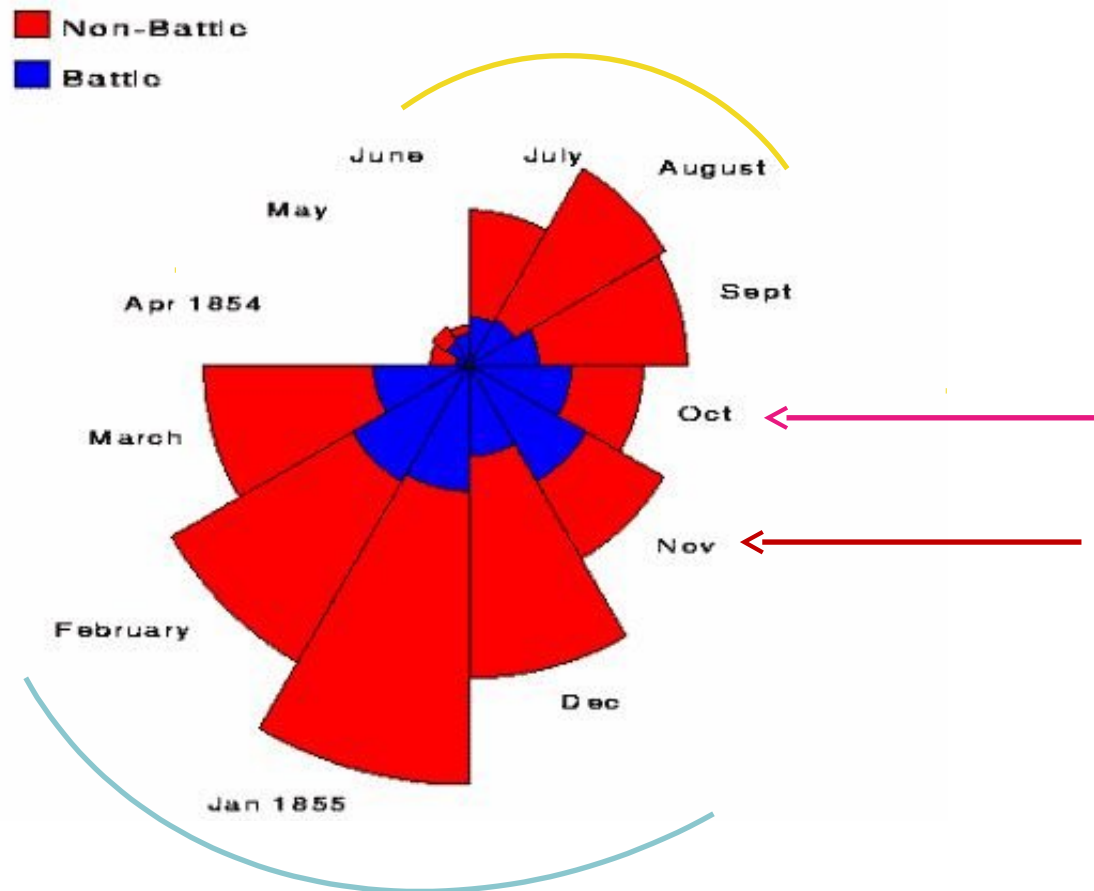
From: F. Nightingale, "Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army", 1858

F. Nightingale (830 pages):

"Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army",  
1858

# Crimean War mortality data

Causes of Mortality in the Army in the East  
April, 1854 to March 1855



- relative proportions
- no scale

# Sanitation

- Dr Sutherland: Sanitary commission investigated Scutari, reported 1858;
- Dr Hall, military, rebutted (42% to 2% death rate **not** due to improved sanitation);
- Dr Sutherland rebutted;
- Dr Hall rebutted;
- Nightingale published 830p report -  
    Drs Hall & Sutherland "ganged-up" on her!
- Chief Medical Officer, Dr Simon - supported anti-sanitation view - '...great mortality from [ ] zymotic disease is practically unavoidable'.

**1858 dispute** with Simon - **most important battle of the sanitary revolution**, [...] perhaps the whole century, has not received much attention...

(H Small. Royal Statistical Society, London, 2010)

# Education

- Education - every area of Nightingale's life;
- Educational methods - practical & reflect purpose;
- **1860**: established St. Thomas' Hospital and the Nightingale Training School for Nurses - Fund
- Particular concern - effect of schooling on health of children;
- **1863**, conducted statistical survey of 143 colonial schools -Australia, Canada, South Africa & Ceylon;
- Her concern: European educational methods were not suited to teaching native populations.



# Education

THE  
ORGANIZATION OF NURSING  
IN A LARGE TOWN  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES  
BY  
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE  
2/6

*Suggestions, in regard to sanitary works  
required for Improving Indian Stations...*

- 1865 – Introduction and Notes on *The Organization of Nursing in a Large Town*  
– *Note on the Aboriginal Races of Australia*
- 1866 – *Suggestions on the Subject of Providing, Training, and Organizing Nurses for the Sick Poor in Workhouse Infirmarys*
- 1868 – *Una and the Lion (Good Works)*
- 1869 – *A Note on Pauperism (Fraser's Magazine)*
- 1870 – *Indian Sanitation (Transactions of the Bengal Social Science Association)*
- 1871 – *Introductory Notes on Lying-in Institutions*
- 1872 – *Observations on Sanitary Progress in India*  
– *Address from Miss Nightingale to the*

# "Founder of modern nursing"

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- 1887: 520 nurses had completed training; 42 Nightingale school trainees were hospital matrons;
- Nightingale - continuing education important;
- Migrations of Nightingale nurses -
  - Australia, Canada, India, Finland, Germany, Sweden & the USA
  - network of Nightingale-system training schools.

## A realist's view of the audience...

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In a letter of Christmas Day 1857 to Sidney Herbert, after some niceties, **Nightingale commented** -

*“... also the proof of the Appendix copy of it for your report.*

*In this form, printed Tables, and all in double columns I do*

*not think anyone will read it. None but scientific men ever*

*look into the Appendix of a Report. And this is for the vulgar public. The only good of having it in the Appendix*

*at all is for the sake of the last line on the cover of the coxcomb: “Reprinted from ...”*

- The 1857 “coxcomb” booklet referred to was published early in 1858.

# In 2010...

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- One person can change the world, but it takes the world a long time to appreciate it...

(H Small. Royal Statistical Society, London, 2010)

# Legacies of the Crimean war

- The thin red line, damning poetry, Victoria Cross
- Data collection - health statistics in hospitals
- Astute display of data for politicians
- Use of sound data to inform good policy
- Lobbying to achieve changes in policy
- Practical nursing, development of nursing school
- Notion of continuing professional education
- Linking of health - education, nutrition & housing...

Public health - Determinants of health

# References

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H Small St. Thomas's Hospital, 18th March 1998
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<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/body-mind/health/health-sciences/the-joy-stats-the-lady-data-visualisation>

# The Charge of the Light Brigade

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward,

All in the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.

"Forward the Light Brigade! Charge for the guns!" he said.

Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.

Forward, the Light Brigade!" Was there a man dismay'd? Not tho' the soldier knew

Some one had blunder'd. Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon in front of them

Volley'd and thunder'd; Storm'd at with shot and shell, Boldly they rode and well,

Into the jaws of Death, Into the mouth of hell Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare, Flash'd as they turn'd in air Sabring the gunners there, Charging an army, while All the world wonder'd. Plunged in the battery-smoke

Right thro' the line they broke; Cossack and Russian Reel'd from the sabre-stroke Shatter'd and sunder'd. Then they rode back, but not, Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon behind them Volley'd and thunder'd; Storm'd at with shot and shell, While horse and hero fell, They that

had fought so well Came thro' the jaws of Death, Back from the mouth of hell,

All that was left of them, Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade? O the wild charge they made!

All the world wonder'd. Honor the charge they made!

Honor the Light Brigade, Noble six hundred!