was to cover engraving the name, company, and regiment, mounting of the cross bar with pin, soldering the rollers to cross bar and shield, connecting the latter with a ribbon, purchase of medal boxes, and postage and handling.

One of the illustrations depicts part of the Association's imprinted stationery in use around 1888. It appears that a badge without ribbon was offered for sale and that an "old pattern" is available in gold and silver. It states that a "new pattern" is available in gold, silver, and bronze with an adjustable pin. It is not certain that this type of medal is of the same size as the original and most commonly found issue, which is quite large.

The annual report of the National Association dated February 22, 1877 indicates a total membership of 4629 veterans with 3097 having applied for medals. The report goes on to say that there were an estimated 8800 survivors out of 105,000 individuals who served in the Regular Army and Navy or were volunteers from the various states.

In view of the number of variations which have appeared over the years, the help of other collectors is solicited in identifying and cataloging the different styles, including medals issued by certain state organizations which may or may not have been affiliated with the National Association.

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The Mexican War Badge

58 mm. top to bottom, 54 mm. wide
A FAMILY GROUP TO NEW ZEALAND NURSING SISTERS
STEVEN M. CRAIN AND JOHN PAUL DEMEURÉ

As more and more is written about the two World Wars, increasing interest is being devoted to some of the less obvious characters who appeared in the drama of war - whether as actors on center-stage or as those who, through their support, made the activities of those on center-stage possible.

Certainly prominent in both World Wars would be the Anzac - Australians and New Zealanders who proved themselves every bit the equal of their British counterparts in places such as Gallipoli, Palestine, and North Africa, as well as on the "center-stage" in Europe.

Another group whose contribution is being given increasing attention is women, whether as nurses, N.A.A.F.I., spies, or at home as Women's Land Army, Auxiliary Territorial Service, or whatever. Certainly, fine presentations such as "Testament of Youth," by Vera Brittain, recently shown on the Public Broadcasting System, have made us increasingly aware of the contributions made and the horrors endured by women at war.

Given all of the above, we were particularly fascinated when what has to be a unique family group of medals came to our attention. The medals consisted of a World War I British War Medal and Victory to one recipient, and a Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class, M.B.E., and associated World War II medals and badges to another. What makes these medals unique is that both groups were to Nursing Sisters from New Zealand who served in the main theatres of war!

The World War I pair was awarded to Sister E. M. O'Callaghan, N.Z.E.F. Unfortunately, although this young lady was the aunt of the World War II recipient, relatively little is known about her service, though for a young woman in those days to leave home and travel half way 'round the world to the scene of what was certainly the most horrible war in history took a remarkable amount of courage in itself.

Fortunately, rather more is known about the recipient of the World War II medals.

Miss Nellie Eileen O'Callaghan was born in 1906. She trained as a nurse at Auckland Hospital and graduated with distinction in 1925, being awarded the class's gold medal. Until the outbreak of World War II she served as "theatre sister" or surgical nurse.

Joining the Royal New Zealand Army Nursing Service, she soon sailed on the S.S. "Empress of Canada" for the Middle East, where she became "charge theatre sister" (head surgical nurse) of "No. 2 N.Z. General Hospital" - a field surgical hospital not unlike a M.A.S.H. unit. With the hospital she served throughout the Middle East and Egypt and functioned as a part of the famous British 8th Army. During this time she was twice Mentioned in Dispatches for her outstanding dedication to duty, on August 20, 1942, and on March 9, 1943.
Ultimately, along with the 8th Army, Nursing Sister O'Callaghan went to Italy, making her contribution to the capture of Naples. This area remained her post for the rest of the war. For her outstanding services, Nurse O'Callaghan was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class, or "A.R.R.C." in 1944.

When discharged at the end of the war, Miss O'Callaghan returned home to New Zealand where she became the first Matron of Auckland's St. Dunstan's Hospital for the War Blinded. She stayed involved with and dedicated to the war blinded throughout the remainder of her career, though eventually she retired to become part owner and Charge Matron (head nurse) of a smaller surgical hospital where she continued until her death - perhaps the closest she could stand to retirement out of a lifetime of truly remarkable service.