Scottish Women's Hospitals (SWH) was founded in 1914 with the financial support of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the American Red Cross.
When war broke out in 1914 SWH founder, Dr Elsie Maud Inglis, approached the War Office with the idea of either women-doctors co-operating with the Royal Army Medical Corps, or women's medical units being allowed to serve on the Western Front. The authorities were less than helpful and it is reported that an official said to her "My good lady, go home and sit still".

Undeterred, Scottish Women's Hospitals opened its first 200 bed Auxiliary hospital at the 13th century Abbaye de Royaumont, France, under the French Red Cross. Elsie Inglis, Ishbel Ross and Cicely Hamilton were among the team at Royaumont.

Throughout the First World War Scottish Women's Hospitals arranged 14 medical units to serve in Corsica, France, Malta, Romania, Russia, Salonika and Serbia. They provided nurses, doctors, ambulance drivers, cooks and orderlies.

During 1915 several women were captured by the Austro-German army while running a series of field hospitals, dressing stations, fever hospitals and clinics in Serbia on the Balkan Front. Amongst those captured was founder and unit leader Dr Inglis. Aided by American diplomats, the British authorities were eventually able to secure their release.

In August 1916 the London Suffrage Society financed a group of 80 women to support Serbian soldiers fighting in Russia. Another leader in the suffrage movement, Evelina Haverfield, was recruited as head of transport. A Serbian official who saw the work of the women in Russia said "No wonder Britain is a great country if the women are like that".

After the First World War the unit disbanded and their affairs were wound up in 1922 with the remaining funds used to build the Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh.

**A National Memorial to Dr Elsie Inglis**

Realising that the deeply regretted death of Dr Elsie Inglis touches a wide section of the public and that socially, professionally and politically her influence has spread further than she could have anticipated, her friends and co-workers are united in feeling that although the loss of her active service is great, the spirit she infused into her work survives and calls them to further effort.

A joint Committee appointed by the three Societies, The Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children and The Hospice, The Scottish Federation of Women Suffrage Societies, The Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, representative of the chief activities to which Dr Inglis devoted her life, has been formed to appeal for a Fund for the two-fold object of advancing the work that lay so near to her heart, and of commemorating her wonderful personality for generations to come.

The Committee feels that no Memorial would be an adequate tribute to Dr Elsie Inglis' life and work, which did not take cognizance of her work at home before the
War and her work abroad during the War.

It is therefore proposed that this Memorial shall take the double form of 1. The enlarging and endowing of The Hospice founded by Dr Inglis in the High Street of Edinburgh, making it a Teaching and Training Centre for Women Medical Students in Midwifery and Infant Welfare. 2. The establishing of a General Hospital in Serbia after the war, as a Training School for Serbian Nurses, and during the war, the support of The Elsie Inglis Hospital for Serbs in France.

We submit a brief sketch of these objects and earnestly commend them to your consideration.

The Hospice, Edinburgh
to be
The Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital

The history of The Hospice is the history of Dr Elsie Inglis' work in the High Street of Edinburgh.

She began in 1899 with the idea of a Nursing Home for poor women in close touch with their daily life and needs.

In the heart of the old city, almost under the shadow of St Giles, The Hospice grew and flourished, and the women of the High Street and Canongate came to know and appreciate what they found there of sympathy and help.

As the years went on, Dr Inglis felt more and more the need of linking up The Hospice work with a maternity service both outdoor and indoor. Always cramped for room, the only way The Hospice could provide maternity beds was to send all other work to the Hospital at Bruntsfield. This was agreed to by the Bruntsfield Hospital Committee, and from that time, Dr Inglis devoted herself to laying the foundation of a Maternity Hospital to which she confidently looked forward as already assured.

It was this work which she left in the hands of her medical friends when she was called to military service abroad. It is this work that her medical friends commend to you as worthy of permanent endowment to her name.

It represents fifteen consecutive years of Dr Inglis' professional life, a legacy of mutual understanding and loyalty to all women.

Today The Hospice is a recognised training centre for Midwifery Nurses.

It is linked up with the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme in Edinburgh.

It has full scope under the Ordinances of the Scottish Universities to train women medical students in Clinical Midwifery.

Lack of room handicaps and hinders the development of The Hospice in these directions.
We ask you to enlarge and equip it and endow it as a Memorial to Dr Elsie Inglis and as a teaching and training centre for women medical students.

Because today no greater service can be rendered our country than that of raising the standard of Maternity training and maternity care, we ask you to make The Hospice an unique opportunity for the young medical woman to learn her responsibility towards the problems of infantile mortality and unnecessary maternal suffering.

In this way will you cause to endure the evidence of Dr Elsie Inglis’ unwavering enthusiasm for her chosen profession, her unstinted sympathy for all women in their hour of need, preserving for medical women the perpetual memory of her clear vision of service.

DR ELsie Inglis
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN SERBIA

The fine work for the wounded and sick of our Allies initiated and shared in the uttermost by Dr Elsie Inglis, the founder of the Scottish Women’s Hospitals, is known the world over.

From the Autumn of 1914 the work has never slackened.

Hospitals in France, Serbia, Salonika, Corsica, Russia, and Roumania, followed in quick succession all officers by Doctors and Surgeons selected from the number of medical women who gladly enrolled under the leadership of Dr Elsie Inglis.

The tragedy of Serbia aroused the chivalrous hearts of Dr Elsie Inglis and her committee who, with great promptitude, despatched units successively to Kraguevatz, Voljeva, and Mladanovatz, with a further staff to Lazarovatz. These units continued to work in Serbia until late in 1915 when obliged to retreat with the Serbian Army. The story of the trek in mid-winter over the mountains of Montenegro is known to all.

Dr Elsie Inglis and a large number of her followers stayed at their posts until the last moment and were made prisoners by the Austrians for many weeks.

After her release and a brief rest at home, Dr Inglis, with indomitable energy, once more gathered a Unit together and started for the Dohruja to join the Serbian division of the Russian Army, and it was with our brave Serbian Allies that Dr Elsie Inglis was destined to end her noble work of love.

The ship that bore her safely to the British shore was her last earthly home. Tenderly cared for by loving fellow workers her bright spirit passed on to higher spheres of work some twenty-four hours after port was reached.

As was truly said by one who knew well her yearning to succour a brave nation in its agony, "She loved the Serbs and she has died for the Serbs".
We ask you to join in preserving this work by helping to provide funds for the establishment by the Scottish Women’s Hospitals of a General Hospital in Serbia, as a permanent Memorial after the war and which will become a training school for nurses, and will be called The Dr Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital in fulfillment of Dr Inglis’ suggestion that Serbia has no need more pressing than that of trained nurses among her own people.

During the war, we ask you to help it maintaining the Hospital in France which the Committee of the Scottish women’s Hospitals is equipping for Serbians, and which is called The Elsie Inglis Hospital for Serbs in France.

**Donations, Large or Small,** will be gratefully acknowledged by Mrs Wallace Williamson, Hon Treas., Room 5, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

Donations may be ear-marked for either purpose; if not so designated they will be divided between the two objects.