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Fonds Description

81 cm. textual records.
603 photographs.
2 audio recordings.

Biographical Sketch

Lyle Morrison Creelman was born in Nova Scotia and earned a Bachelor of Applied Science from the University of British Columbia and a Master of Arts Degree from Columbia University. Within two years of graduating, Creelman had become Director of Public Health Nursing for the City of Vancouver and shortly thereafter she became President of the Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. For the next twenty-four years she established national and international standards for accomplishments in the field of nursing. Some of these achievements included: Chief Medical Office for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the British zone of occupied Germany, where she pioneered specialized nurses’ training programs; Chief Nursing Officer with the World Health Organization, where she won acceptance for a philosophy of improved third world health care through adequate training of local workers; and co-author of the “Ballie-Creelman Report”, which was accepted for many years as the main reference for the preparation of public health professionals in Canada. Creelman’s accomplishments resulted in various forms of recognition including: the Medal of Service of the Order of Canada (1971), the Canadian Centennial Medal (1967) and Honorary Doctorate Degrees from both the University of New Brunswick in 1963 and from the University of British Columbia in 1992. Lyle Creelman died in Vancouver on February 27th, 2007.

Scope and Content

The fonds consists of biographical information, correspondence, publications, news clippings, photographs, awards, reports, diaries and ephemera which belong to or were written/created by Lyle Creelman.

Notes

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

Selected photographs have been digitized and included in UBC Archives’ Historical Photograph Database (UBC 117.1).

For more information see Lyle Morrison Creelman Timeline and Family History in Box 1.
Series Descriptions

15 cm. of textual materials.  
2 audio tapes.  

Series consists of Creelman genealogical information (wills, deeds, death notices etc.); news clippings; awards and corresponding ephemera; diplomas/certificates; and yearbooks.  

Boxes 1, 5(1-2).

14 cm. of textual materials.  

Series consists of journals, logbooks, and miscellaneous notes written by Lyle Creelman regarding her personal life and also documenting her time with W.H.O. and UNRAA, as well as documenting the Baillie-Creelman Survey.  

Boxes 2, 5(3).

**Correspondence series.** – 1915-2000.  
19.5 cm. of textual materials.  

Series consists of correspondence to Lyle Creelman from various people and institutions, and copies of letters from Lyle Creelman to various people including friends and family. Some correspondence is of personal nature, and some are in regard to her services at W.H.O and UNRAA. There is also an envelope of postcards to her mother in the series.  

Boxes 3, 5(4).

2.5 cm. of textual materials.  

Series consists of speeches and reports written by Lyle Creelman, all regarding nursing in some respect- either nursing specifically within a region or institution or nursing generally. Series also includes a list of all publications by Lyle Creelman from the Chief Librarian at W.H.O. There are important reports in this series from different regions pertaining to nursing for W.H.O. in those regions.  

Box 4 (1-5)
**Ephemera series. – 1945-2004.**
19 cm. of textual materials.
78 photos.
Souvenirs.

Series consists of speeches and reports written by Lyle Creelman, all regarding nursing in some respect: either nursing specifically within a region or institution or nursing generally. Series also includes a list of all publications by Lyle Creelman from the Chief Librarian at W.H.O. There are important reports in this series from different regions pertaining to nursing for W.H.O. in those regions. Ephemera part of series (4-6 to 4-17) consists of 78 miscellaneous photographs, of unknown people, subjects, or origin; articles collected by Lyle Creelman; community groups ephemera; and travel souvenirs.

Boxes 4 (6-17), 5(5)

**Photographic series. – [ca. late 1800-ca. 1979].**
525 photographs.

Series consists of photographs relating to Lyle Creelman’s nursing activities, W.H.O and UNRRA experiences, as well as photographs of her family, colleagues and friends.

Selected photographs have been digitized and included in UBC Archives’ [Historical Photograph Database](UBC 117.1).
File List

Box 1

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Lyle Morrison Creelman Timeline and Family History

1-1 Family record listing L.Creelman's mothers (Laura Creelman) family names, of birth, date of birth, marriage, and deaths from 1872-1962
1-2 Ephemera from Golden Jubilee of the Royal College of Nursing, 1966: program and ticket (enclosed) to the Reception at Guildhall.
1-3 Folded b/w photocopy of stylized family document showing births/deaths of family of Samuel P. Creelman, including Lyle's birth
1-4 4 deeds/1 wills/1 affidavit pertaining to land and property of Creelman family, 1930, 1913, 1862, 1909, 1928, 1888.
1-5 VGH Diploma/Ephemera from UBC, 1936
1-6 1991 Nursing Award of Distinction: University of British Columbia Nursing Division Nursing Award of Distinction; Typed tribute to Lyle Creelman for UBC Alumnae Dinner [Notes: Award removed from glass frame]
1-10 1936 VGH School of Nursing Yearbook, photocopied news clippings (2 identical) also enclosed of picture of VGH graduating class (the Vancouver Sun, May 16th 1936).
1-11 1992 Commemorative Medal and Ephemera for the 125th Anniversary of Canada Confederation.
1-12 University of New Brunswick Honorary Doctorate & Ephemera, 1963.
1-13 1992 UBC Honorary Doctorate & Corresponding Ephemera including speech by L. Creelman.
Note: Two audio cassette tapes (part 1 & part 2): Verna and Richard Splane interviewing Lyle Creelman for their book on Chief Nursing Officers have been transferred to the Archives Audio Tape Collection -- AT 3165 and AT 3166.

(continued)

Box 2

DIARIES AND LOGBOOKS

2-1  Diary 1936
2-2  1944-1945 Record of Service with UNRAA
2-3  Journals 1939-1952 (4 in file)
2-4  1948 Diary Hamilton Ontario- appears to be her full personal record of the Baillie-Creelman Survey.
2-5  W.H.O. Diary Entries 1949-1952?
2-6  Journals 1969-1983 (3 in file)
2-7  Misc. Notes written by Lyle Creelman

(continued)

Box 3

CORRESPONDENCE

3-3  Correspondence and Postcards 1949-1955: (her WHO years)
     Many of these letters are important in relation to Lyle Creelmanns WHO work and many of them are from exceptional individuals related to nursing and health care (e.g., George Davidson, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare; Olive Bagalley; E. Coackayne, Chief Nursing Officer, Ministry of Health, Great Britain).
3-4  Correspondence 1956-1959: see (3-3) description above.
3-5  Correspondence 1960-1967
3-6  Correspondence 1968-1969
3-7  Correspondence 1970, 1971, 1978
Correspondence 1980-1996
Correspondence (mostly received emails) 1998-2000
Undated Correspondence

(continued)

Box 4

PUBLICATIONS/SPEECHES/REPORTS

4-1 Publications/Speeches by Lyle Creelman:
Nursing in the World Health Organization, 1963
There is No Change Without Challenge, (lecture, 1965)
Quality Care in the Right Quantity (2 copies), 1968
Our Responsibility to World Nursing (2 copies), n.d.
Message from W.H.O.- contains greetings that L. Creelman gave to the 50th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Nurses Association [in 1958]; attached is a hand-written copy of the same message in French, deivered at the same time.
The Relationship Between the World Health Organization and Professional Nursing (lecture, 1953)
How Can Nursing Meet the Challenge of Expanding Health Services, (seminar, 1966)

4-2 Canadian Nurse Articles written by Lyle Creelman, 1950-1953, 18 untitled articles

4-3 W.H.O Reports written by Lyle Creelman:
Script of a tape recording , March 17, 1954. (Three months, around-the-world). Two copies (Draft and carbon of corrected script).
Common elements in in-service training in public health nursing and social welfare: UN Seminar on Casework, Keuruu, undated.
Report on Visit to Ibadan and Lagos, Nigeria, 1968
Report of Visit to African Region, 1968
Visit to Kenya, 1968
Visit to Regional Office- Brazzaville, 1968
Visit to Ghana, 1968
Report of Visit to Congo-Kinshasa, 1968
Visit to Nigeria, 1968
Visit to Niger, 1968
Visit to Dakar, 1968
4-4  Report on Nutrition Conditions in Brandenburg (w/ travel authorization for Germany), 1945
4-5  List from W.H.O. of all publications written by Lyle Creelman

EPHEMERA

4-6  Guest Book containing names of guests to her homes from 1971-1987
4-7  Misc. Photographs
4-8  Misc. W.H.O. Newsletters and Ephemera
4-9  Misc. Articles Collected by Lyle Creelman
4-10 McGill School of Nursing Newsletter, 2001-2004
4-11 Exercises and Notes on Recovering from a Stroke
4-12 Hollyburn House Apartments Resident Council Ephemera, 1998-2000
4-13 Daytime Bridge Card Group Ephemera, 1999-2000
4-14 Bowen Island Historians Club Ephemera, 1979
4-15 West Vancouver University Women's Book Club Notes and Ephemera, 1999-2000
4-16 Atlas belonging to Lyle Creelman
4-17 Misc. Ephemera (travel ephemera & souvenirs, late pass from VGH, Verna Splanes CV, crests, ID cards, birthday card)

(continued)

Box 5

BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES (cont.)

5-1  Creelman family history/genealogy
5-2  Lyle Creelman’s birth certificate (August 14, 1908)

DIARIES AND LOGBOOKS SERIES (cont.)

5-3  Lyle Creelman’s handwritten journal (1961-1969)
CORRESPONDENCE SERIES (cont.)

5-4 Miscellaneous correspondence (1968)

EPHEMERA SERIES (cont.)

5-5 War Experience of an Army Nurse by Winifred E. Reid (n.d.)
5-6 2 photograph albums – (1) 1963-1968 (134 photographs) / (2) 1970-1975 (53 slides)
5-7 72 Misc. slides (1963-1966)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are stored with Archives Photograph Collection. Those marked with ** have been scanned and added to UBC Archives’ Historical Photograph Database (UBC 117.1).

/1sp Tintype of unknown male likely an ancestor of LC (ca. late 1800s)
/2sp Tintype of unknown male likely an ancestor of LC (ca. late 1800s)
/3sp Tintype of two unknown males likely ancestors of LC (ca. late 1800s)
/4sp Tintype of unknown female likely an ancestor of LC (ca. late 1800s)
/5sp Several photos of family and friends (ca. 193-)
/6sp LCs mother Laura Creelman (rt) with unidentified woman (ca. 193-)
/7sp LC in Steveston (June 1932) **
/8sp LC in front of Mrs. Fultons, Steveston (June 1932) **
/9sp LC in group photograph labeled Affiliation Tranquille Aug. Sept 1934" all students identified; this was a UBC school of nursing affiliation at the TB sanatorium at Tranquille, near Kamloops (September 1934) **
/10sp LC in nursing graduation photograph with Madeline Putman and Lorna Makepeace (1936) **
/11sp Nursing graduation photograph with Margaret E. Kerr (faculty member, centre) and two unidentified women (1936) **
/12sp We five. In front of Nurses Home, VGH; LC second from left; graduation photo (May 1936) **
/13sp LCs UBC graduation class. Margaret E. Kerr (faculty member in black, fourth from left) was the PHN instructor; LC second from right (May 1936) **
/14sp UBC graduation day, LC (left) with unknown classmate (May 1936) **
Three views of UBC Public Health Nursing Students 1935-1936; possibly taken in front of the UBC Science Building; Margaret E. Kerr (PHN instructor) in front of the long line in one photo and in the centre front of another photo (1936)

Photo appears to be a group of UNC nursing students and some faculty possibly taken on the UBC campus; LC possibly fourth from left (1936)

PHN students likely in front of the UBC Science Building. Man in on photo might possibly be Dr. Herbert Hill. head of the department of bacteriology and formal head of the school of nursing (1936)

POSSIBLY this is the executive of the UBC Science Girls Club, fore-runner of the UBC Nursing Alumnae Association; the Science Girls Club usually hosted a tea for the graduating class; Margaret E. Kerr (one of the founders of the club and the honorary president) is on the left (ca. 1936)

Group photograph of three women; LC in centre (possibly nurse classmates??) (July 24, 1936)

LCs mother Laura Creelman, possibly in front of the Creelman home in Steveston (1936)

Lyle Creelman in PHN Uniform possibly while working in Cranbrook/Revelstoke (ca. 1937) **

Saskatoon 1937”; this may be a photo of LC brother Ralph Creelman and family; see the time line; LC and mother took a trip across Canada to visit relatives (1937)

Two photos, one labelled Portaupique 1937”; LC on right in both photos; LC and mother took a trip across Canada to visit relatives (1937)

Six photos all labeled 1937” with one labeled Charlottetown 1937, one labelled Carol, Lorna, Robin 1937, and one labeled Lorna & Robin, Charlottetown 1937; these may be of LCs brother Prescott Creelman and his family; he was a physician in Charlottetown and he had three children, including a boy named Robin; LC and mother took a trip across Canada to visit relatives in summer 1937

Three photos: one of Upper Stewiacke (NB) School, which LC had attended in her early childhood (circa 1910) before the family moved to BC; three photos possibly of her original home (1908-1919) ???.; LC and mother took a trip across Canada to visit relatives in summer 1937

Colored candid camera shots (booth) of LC with a friend (possibly a classmate from UBC 1936) (ca. 1937)

Family photograph; LCs mother in background (ca. 1937)

Group photograph LC (second from right) and friends; person on right is one of LCs UBC classmates (ca. late 1930s)
Two photos dated Xmas 1939" on back; LC mother on right in back row in both photos; possibly these are family members, such as one (or more) of LCs brothers and family (1939)

Possibly LC family; LC mother fourth from left in back row; LC fifth from left back row (194-)

Five photos of friends doing recreational things see diary re biking and hiking trips from this period (194-)

Five photos likely taken in a train station when LC was en route to join UNRRA (1945)

UNRRA years Stephanie & LC on back; Stephanie Skeoch; probably these are UNRRA summer uniforms (1945) **

LC with dog (ca. 1948)

Creelman family; LC mother centre of back row (January 1, 1951)

Three pictures of Laura Creelman (LC mother), one with Lyle (ca. 1950)

LC (left) and Laura Creelman (mother); street photo in Vancouver (ca. 1950)

Laura Creelman (mother) and LC (right) (195-)

Lyle Creelman passport-type photo (195-) **

LC at Champry, Switzerland (October 8, 1954) **

At party at WHO after Dr. C. retired. Mrs. Brock Chisholm, Dr. Howard Jones (ca. 1955)

Two photos of Laura Creelman (mother -- back centre) and friends (February 29, 1956)

Colored photo of Laura Creelman (mother -- back centre) and friends at some party (February 29, 1956)

With happy memories of the Seine Conference, Nov 1956 ... [LC on right] (November 1956)

Eleanor Kunderman [& LC on left] (EK -- top US nsg leader) (March 1962)

Evelyn G -- (possibly Gunderson is the name) with LC on right (March 1962)

Helen McArthur [with LC on right] At Berne [Switzerland] (June 1965) McArthur was president of the Canadian Nurses Association 1950-1954 and may have stayed involved with ICN or WHO

Helene Siddon, Sally Wallace, LC At Kent House (June 1968)

Two photos: WHO, Geneva [Flags in lobby WHO Headquarters building, LC likely on a visit]; WHO [Headquarters building] (April 1978)

Three misc. colour photos (1978)

Geneva [building that may be linked to WHO, likely taken by LC on visit to Europe] (April 1978)

Three photos, some info on back, likely LC friends in England and likely that LC is there on a visit (October 1979)
Four colored views from LCs home on Bowen Island apparently taken by a friend named Agnes no other information (ca. 1986)

Photo of Dr. Brock Chishom, (ca. 1955) **

Two copies of studio photograph of couple, likely late 1800s. Identified on back as Mother died Jan 12, 1901. Father [died] Aug. 20, 1919" Possibly LCs grandparents??? Or great-grandparents. A newspaper clipping (enclosed in the envelope) between the two photographs gives an obituary for a Samuel Creelman who died August 20, 1919 at age 82. Note mention of a son John Creelman who lived in New Westminster (1901)

Studio photograph (by J.E. Sponagh, Truro, NS) of Lyle Creelman (identified Lyle on the back); date based on apparent age (3 years old??) (ca. 1911)

Lyle with two other children, possibly relatives; probably taken (based on her apparent age) while she still lived in New Brunswick (ca. 1915)

Lyle Creelman, centre of back row, possibly with girls from a school class; likely taken in Steveston, B.C. (ca. 1921)

POSSIBLY a photo of the Creelman family home in/ near Steveston, B.C. and POSSIBLY Laura and Samuel P. Creelman (LCs parents) standing on porch (ca. 1925)

Bridgeport (near Steveston, B.C.) High School Graduation photo showing Lyle Creelman (1926)

Possibly a photo of her class from Bridgeport High School in Richmond (ca. 1926) [see also a large photo showing individual classmates]

Two photos: LC with car; Laura Creelman (mother) with car; possibly taken in Steveston, likely a new car for work see time line (ca. 1935/36)

Page taken from a photo album and labeled Lord Byng School Staff 1929-1930" has two photographs; people are listed on the album page; in the top picture, LC is third from right, standing at the right end of the second row; in the lower photos, this shows the same staff taken on a trip to Wigwam Inn on June 30, 1930; LC is third from right, standing with someone’s arm about her shoulders (1930)

Graduation photograph with Lorna Makepeace, Lyle Creelman, Madeleine Putnam (1936) [possibly the two classmates may be reversed]

LC graduation photograph (1936) **

Miss Doherty (left) and LC taken in London in their UNRRAuniforms before leaving for UNRRA duties in Europe (1944)

LC head and shoulders studio portrait (ca. 1945) **

Two copies of Vancouver Province Newspaper photo (Friday, July 22, 1949, p. 27) showing Mrs. C.G. Thompson (left), Lyle Creelman, Mrs. Gordon Wyness [Alison Reid Wyness, UBC nursing class of 1934] and Laura Creelman [LCs mother]. The photo was taken at a tea hosted by
Mrs. Thompson for LC on the occasion of her leaving to take her post with the World Health Organization (1949) **

68p The opening session of the Quadrennial Congress of Northern Nurses Association, Göteborg, Sweden, (July 2, 1950); LC, the Crown Princess of Sweden, and the Vice-President of the local [Swedish] association are seated on the carpet at the front of the photo; see also same large photo

69p The opening session of the Quadrennial Congress of Northern Nurses Association, Göteborg, Sweden (July 2, 1950); LC, the Crown Princess of Sweden, and the Vice-President of the local [Swedish] association are seated on the carpet at the front of the photo; see also smaller photo from same event

70p Unlabeled photographs, probably taken in Europe and likely with a group of nursing leaders; this was given to PLR and GZ with WHO photographs (in October 2005) but it appears to be from an earlier date than the WHO years; Lyle Creelman POSSIBLY (GZ not sure) is second from right (late 1940s/early 1950s)

71p Three photos of friends and colleagues apparently all from a Fête De Geneva see back of photos (ca, 195-)

72p LC (left) and Olive Baggallay (of Great Britain) who preceded LC as WHO Chief Nursing Officer; LC also worked with Baggallay in UNRRA (ca. 1953) **

73p WHO photo: (l to r) Olive Baggallay, LC, Telemi Adrianvola (CNO, India (ca. 1952)

74p Two photos of WHO staff meeting see back for ID; LC is in one photo on extreme left; several of these women are international nursing leaders (ca. 1952)

75p Laura Creelman and LC (ca. 1950s) **

76p Studio portrait of LC, Bentley Studios, London (ca. 1953) **

77p Studio portrait of Dr. Brock Chisholm, first Director-General of WHO (1948-1953); he hired LC (ca. 1953) **

78p Studio photograph of LC (ca. 1956) **

79p Three photos from University of Lagos probably from an LC visit; LC not in any of them; one shows a class of medical and nursing students; one likely of the college itself; photos stamped: Medical Illustration Unit, College of Medicine of the University of Lagos (ca. 196-)

80p Seven photographs from an official visit of LC to some part of Africa; she is accompanied by Alice Girard (ca. 1958-1963)

81p Six unlabeled photographs showing Lyle Creelman (given to GZ later, in October 2005) probably during a visit to an African nation (See also preceding group of photos); five of the photographs show Alice Girard, who was president of the International Council of Nurses from 1965 to 1969
(Girard also was dean of the school of nursing at the University of Montreal during those years, and she was president of the Canadian Nurses Association from 1958 to 1960; she served in various other executive positions for ICN between 1960 and 1965) (ca. 196-)

/82p Four unlabeled photographs none of them showing Lyle Creelman probably taken during a visit to an African nation; all four appear to be from the same visit based on individuals in the photos; it probably would be possible to identify some of the western nurses in the photos, but GZ did not find anyone who could. See also preceding two photos (ca. 196-)

/83p Photo of Mt. Blanc (identified in an interview with LC, September 2005), but she could tell us nothing else; LC lived in an apartment in Switzerland (Geneva) and took frequent skiing or hiking trips during those years (ca. 196-)

/84p At U.S.A. Delegation Cocktail Party (W.H.O. Assembly (17 May 1965) ; [LC - left] talking with Dr. W. Kidane-Miriam from Ethiopia, the only woman doctor in the country. In the background is Mrs. F.E. Nguty from West Cameroons, chief of (???..), Ministry of Health

/85p Three photos of WHO delegation to Russia (1966). LC and Helen K. Mussallem in all three photos. Daisy Bridges of Great Britain is also in all three photographs (IDd by Verna Splane). This mission was reported in The Canadian Nurse by HKM. See also Creelman WHO Reports PA/70.65, PA/66, D65.397

/86p WHO delegation to Russia. LC third from right in front row, Helen K. Mussallem second from right in front row (1966). This mission was reported in The Canadian Nurse by HKM. See also Creelman WHO Reports PA/70.65, PA/66, D65.397

/87p Four photos and one letter from Helen K. Mussallem; photos show the two at LCs home on Bowen Island (1986)

/88p LC (left) and Joan Bentley (apparently now working with WHO); She visited with LC in North Vancouver (June 18, 2003) **

/89p Two copies of LC head-and-shoulders; Macko Studio, Toronto, (ca. 19451949)

WHO Photographs

It is highly probable that most of these photos date from the early 1950s when she was the WHO Nursing Consultant, Maternal and Child Health, rather than from her later years in WHO (some of the later photos were in other files and are sorted with the separate photos. LC is in a number of them, and I met with Verna Huffman Splane, who helped to identify some of the others in the photos. Information has been placed onto the acid-free folders. Note that
these photographs are extremely interesting and important for nursing history, even when LC is not included; they represent some of the most powerful and senior international nursing leaders from what has been termed the golden age of international nursing (Splane & Solane, 1994, p. 116). For example, international nursing leaders such as Lucille Petry (later Petry-Leone) of the U.S.A. and Olive Baggallay of the U.K. are in several of the photos. Some of the photographs have information on the back. Brock Chisholm (WHO Director-General 1948-1953) is in some of them. Some additional information on the top leaders is given in LC's Time Line. For more information, see Splane and Splane, 1994.

/90p Six group photographs (ca. 1950). #1 LC front row left. # 3 LC is 4th from left.
/91p Expert Group on Prematurity group photograph, Geneva (April 1950)
/92p Expert Committee on Nursing group photograph, Geneva (October 1951). [Left to right: Mary Robinson, Lucile Petry, Tehmina Adranvala, Olive Baggallay].
/93p Four group photographs from unidentified meeting (ca. 1952)
/94p Dociah A.N. Kisseih (ca. 1952)
/95p Reception line at unidentified event. Man in front of LC is Dr. Layton, Director of International Affairs, Health and Welfare Canada (ca. 1952)
/96p Group photograph in front of WHO headquarters in Geneva (ca. 1952). Left to right: Mrs. Brock Chisholm, Helen Martikainen, Brock Chisholm, LC. **
/97p LC and others in group photograph at unidentified meeting (ca. 1952)
/98p Group photograph at unidentified meeting (ca. 1952). Left to right: Brock Chisholm, Venny Snellman, LC, Miss Lambie, Olive Baggalay.
/100p Three photographs from trip to Iran (n.d.)
/101p Group photograph from a different Iran trip (n.d.)
/102p Two unidentified photographs (n.d.)

UNRRA Photographs

Lyle Creelman served with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (UNRRA) from August 1944 through until sometime after February 1946, she resigned and returned to Canada. After a stint in Britain (at Coventry) in 1944, she was appointed the Chief Nurse in the British Occupied Zone of Germany. These photographs from the UNRRA are important both from a perspective on Lyle Creelmanns life but also from a perspective of work being done on
Canadian contributions to UNRRA. During an interview in early June 2005, Dr. Creelman was not able to identify all those in the photographs, but did confirm some names and faces. Assistance in identifying some of the individuals in the photos was obtained in June 2005 from Dr. Susan Armstrong-Reid (SAR), an historian from Guelph, Ontario, who is doing work on Canada’s contributions to UNRRA and who interviewed Lyle Creelman in Spring 2004. Creelman gave verbal permission to Susan Armstrong-Reid at that time to use the photos if they could be found.

From anecdotal discussions at a history of nursing conference (June 2005) related to photographs taken by nurses during World War II, it was stated that military personnel were not supposed to carry cameras, although officers (and nurses were officers) apparently could do so if they could manage these in their personal packs. This may have been the same with UNRRA personnel. Furthermore, censorship of mail was done during the war and this may have continued during the UNRRA occupations. It would appear that most of these photographs (exceptions are the official photographs included) were taken only when LC was off duty and possibly mailed from outside Germany.

The UNRRA photos (in envelopes identified LC-UNRRA # in top right corners) are these:

LC-UNRRA Envelope #1.

Group of photos apparently showing classroom activities for students taking a nursing aide course in Lubeck, Germany.

These 5x7-inch black-and-white photos (seemingly official -- that is, taken by an official photographer) show what appear to be classes for nurses aides. At this time, the UNRRA nurses under LC’s direction were giving classes to young women in the occupied zone because there were severe shortages of staff for hospitals and in the DP camps. In all these photographs, the young women wear gowns rather like OR scrub gowns or isolation gowns from the 1940s. These gowns have high necks, a back closing with ties, long sleeves. These uniforms completely cover the street clothes of the young women. In some of the photographs are UNRRA staff (wearing military-looking uniforms). Only one photo has identification on the back (see first item below).

Two views of 10 young women in white overall gowns with two UNRRA instructors in uniform. On the back is written: Graduating group of first nursing aide course at Lubeck (??sp) Feb 1946. Mary Slotsholm (??sp),
Instructor N. Mackenzie SAR gives first name for Noreena Mackenzie, a Canadian UNRRA worker.

104p One photo of 17 young women (different from the ones in the photo above) with two instructors; the instructors also appear to be different from the ones in the photo described above, although one might be the same but with a slightly different hairstyle

105p Two views of posed shots of an instructor (probably the same instructor that was in photo B) bandaging an ankle of one of the students; the instructor and the patient are the same in both photos, but the young women have been moved around. Likely the photos were taken at the same time.

106p Two students making the bed, with a third student acting the role of patient

107p One student brushing the teeth of a classmate acting as patient

108p One student taking temperature and pulse of another acting as patient

109p One student changing the diaper of a doll (learning baby care)

110p Two views of students around a table in a classroom with the instructor at the head of the table and a blackboard in the background

111p Two views showing three students around a tea table

LC-UNRRA Envelope #2.

Photos of Lyle Creelman during the UNRRA years.

112sp Three head and shoulder shots of LC in uniform (ca. 1945) **

113sp Photo of Lyle Creelman standing on a path near a tree. She is wearing her UNRRA uniform. Two are identified on the back as Taken at Belsen last fall. On a sunny am before breakfast. Identified on the back as At Dageford (??sp) Oct/45. **

114sp Lyle Creelman in a light weight summer-type uniform standing outside a building with Ziekenboeg labelled on door. This was possibly taken at the same time as a group photograph (see LC-UNRRA #3) that was labeled Bagenton (??sp) Fields, March 9/45. **

115sp Lyle Creelman on a snowy balcony or parapet labeled on back At Osterode Feb/46. **

LC-UNRRA Envelope #3.

116sp Two views of a man lying on a beach edge. Identified during an interview with Lyle Creelman on May 24, 2005 as Sir Raphael Celento, who was the doctor in charge of the British Occupied Zone in Germany. He was an Australian.
Four views of group of seven (apparently) UNRRA staff identified on back in list as: Miss Domen (?sp), Stephanie Szloch, L.C. [Lyle Creelman], Dr. Tanbec (?sp), Mrs. Monchin, Miss Bowman, Miss Neuman (?sp). Bagenton (?sp) Fields, March 9/45

Two view of six (apparently) UNRRA female personnel standing on a parapet, identified on back in a list as At Osterode Feb/46 Margaret Lapustrom (?sp), Winnifred Harnett (?sp), Frances Pearl, Myrtle Cross, Helen Gleason, Lilian Rankin. SAR identifies Frances Pearl, Helen Gleason, and Lilian Rankin as Canadians and says this may have been taken at a field supervisors meeting at Osterode Assembly Camp.

Two views of a group of three women (nurses?) in UNRRA Uniforms outside a brick building (similar shots). Identified on the back of first photo as Miss Watt, Miss Wade, Miss Lindsay Jan/46. SAR identifies two of them as Canadians Jean Watt and Mary Wade.

Miss Bowman & a patient in sick-bay

Two views of unidentified man At Dogford (October 1945)

LC_UNRRA Envelope #4.

Photos (roughly 5.5 x 3.5 inches) all with typed captions on back. In top corner of each is typed: UNRRA Team 13. Scharnhorst D.P. Assembly Centre, Hameln July 1945 (possibly official photographs).

Polish teachers. Group of 11 teachers with two UNRRA (?) personnel (a male and a female, not Lyle Creelman) standing in the centre of the group.

Chapel in the Scharnhorst-Barracks. Two children and a young Woman standing at the alter and a male and female UNRRA personnel sitting near the wall watching.

Polish school. Two adults standing near a blackboard, with two rows of children at long desks watching and another adult standing near a wall.

Warsaw anniversary. Polish open air Mass.

Polish childrens school dinners. Cafeteria or mess hall with many children at two long tables with a group of adults standing at the back.

LC-UNRRA Envelope #5.

Group of snapshots with deckle edges, all 2.5 by 3.5 inches, and apparently all shot on the same trip. These photos show scenes in Germany, and several are identified on the back with LCs handwritten notes.
Bagenton Fields in the winter-time Jan/45.

Photo of bombed ruins. Identified on back as Typical of the bombed cities. This is in Cologne. At the rate they are going it will take years to clear away the debris.

Two views of a Viaduct showing several arches. Identified on back of on as One of the viaducts which was sabotaged by the Germans. There are six in a ten mile stretch of the Autobahn just east of here, all of which had one arch blown. There are temporary bridges over all the blown arches now. Beautiful country around this spot, especially in the fall. Identified on the back of the other as A part of one of six viaducts which the Germans sabotaged in a 10 mile stretch of the Autobahn just east of here. Goes through very beautiful country. A riot of color in the autumn. The wrecked arch to just to the left of the picture, you can see some of the debris on the ground. All these bridges now have temporary spans. The Royal Engineers are OK!

An arch of the same viaduct The arches of bridged here are very beautiful and finished in their construction.

The front of the Cathedral in Cologne. Damage is from blast.

A corner of the Baronial Hall which is the residence of our H.Q. staff in 30 Corps District at Weenstorf (??sp) near Hanover.

Bank with destroyed buildings. Identified on back as Clearing the debris in Cologne. The major part of Cologne, Hamburg, Essen, Munster & several other places is just like this.

Ravensberger Turm [tower], Nov/ 45.

Two views of Cologne (March 1946)

Two identical photographs identified on back as The Fish Wife in the fish-market at Copenhagen. The tall one is a statue & not real. (Same caption on back of second copy.)

Boats in the Canal at Copenhagen. These boats are just like the Fish Wife shown in the other picture.

In Copenhagen at the end of Sept. On the Kings birthday, Sept. 26 a boquet [sic] or wreath of flowers was placed on every spot where a Dane was shot by a German. This one was on a safety zone by a street-car track.

Note: SAR advises (June 2005) that LC made a trip, accompanied by Florence Udell, to recruit nurses for UNRRA.

LC-UNRRA Envelope #6.

Snapshots (roughly 2.75 x 4 inches) glossy.
Note that it is not always easy to decipher LC’s handwriting. These photos likely were taken at Coventry, England, where there was a large camp of Dutch children being cared for under UNRRA auspices. LC was working at Coventry when she was assigned by UNRRA and waiting for orders to transport to Germany. The Queen mentioned is likely Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands.

/139sp Group of 17 or so personnel sitting at a long dining table (mess hall or cafeteria). Identified on back as Staff table.
/140sp Crown of children with one girl presenting flowers to an elderly lady in a hat accompanied by men and women in suits. Identified on back as The Queen getting some flowers.
/141sp The Queen in the dining hall. Same elderly woman sitting at a table with two boys with several other tables full of children in the background.
/142sp Large group (about 50) of young men and women identified on the back as One of the groups. The woman in the centre wearing a hat and a plaid shawl MAY be the Queen shown in some of the other snaps
/143sp Queen Whilimina [sic] (in hat & scarf) at Hotel Mar 9/45"
/144sp Lyle Creelman portrait in nursing uniform (n.d.) **
/145sp Lyle Creelman at breakfast in Holland (n.d.) **
/146sp Lyle Creelman portrait (n.d.) **
/147sp Lyle Creelman portrait (n.d.) **
/148sp Lyle Creelman portrait (n.d.) **
/149sp Lyle Creelman portrait (ca. 1956) **
/150sp Lyle Creelman portrait (n.d.) **
/151sp Lyle Creelman passport photo (May 15, 1980) **
/152sp UBC honorary degree receipt Lyle Creelman with Chancellor Leslie Peterson (May 29, 2002) **
/153sp UBC honorary degree receipt Lyle Creelman (May 29, 2002) **
/154sp Lyle Creelman at National Nurse’s Week event (January 2, 2002) **
/155sp Golden Jubilee recipient Lyle Creelman at ceremony (2002) **
/156sp Golden Jubilee recipient Lyle Creelman at ceremony (2002) **
/157sp Unidentified group photograph (n.d.)
/158sp Lyle Creelman with dog and unidentified women (n.d.)
/159sp Lyle Creelman posing with dog (n.d.)
/160sp Lyle Creelman with dog and unidentified women (May 1970)
/161sp Lyle Creelman posing with dog (1981) **
/162sp Lyle Creelman posing with dog (1999)
/163sp Lyle Creelman in group photograph (n.d.) **
/164sp Lyle Creelman with “Fernada” (May 1977)
Lyle Creelman sitting on doorstep of her former home in Upper Stewache, Nova Scotia (September 1985)

Lyle Creelman visiting China (1980)

Harry Forse and Lyle Creelman at Kona Surf Hotel (November 1980)

Lyle Creelman (ca. 2001)

Lyle Creelman (1999)

Lyle Creelman with walker (2001)

Lyle Creelman in group photograph (199-)

Lyle Creelman on unidentified beach (n.d.)

Lyle Creelman serving refreshments to unidentified women (1973)

Lyle Creelman (seated) with unidentified woman (2003)

Lyle Creelman in group photograph on Bowen Island (Aug.14, 1979)

Lyle Creelman in group photograph on Bowen Island (Aug.14, 1979)

Lyle Creelman with dog (June 1977)

Lyle Creelman posing with van (n.d.)

Aunt Laura, Lyle’s mother, (n.d.)

Lyle Creelman at birthday party, 1999

Lyle Creelman at birthday party, 1999

Lyle Creelman and others at School of Nursing, Ibadan (March 1968)

Six photographs from Africa (February – March 1969)

Creelman family group photograph? Lyle Creelman seated on floor third from the left (n.d.)

Group photograph at Lyle Creelman birthday party, 1999