

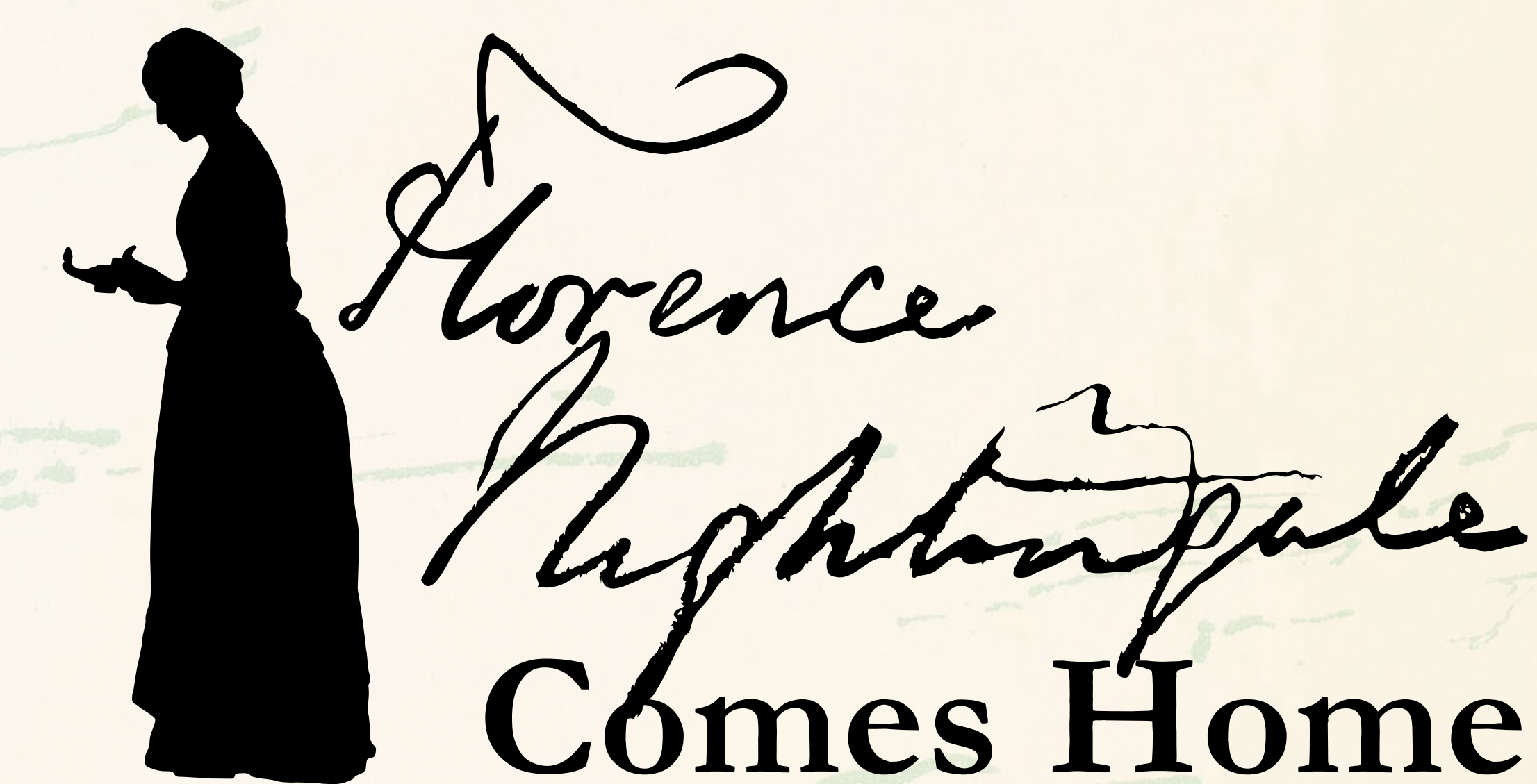


Above: Printed map entitled 'Seat of War in the Krimea' [Crimea], 1855. MS 405

Below: Plan of Scutari showing the barrack and the hospital from *Despatches and Papers Relative to the Campaign in Turkey, Asia Minor and the Crimea* by Captain Sayer, (1857). Florence Nightingale Collection, DK215.9.S2



Nightingale in the Crimean War



In March 1854 Britain and France joined the Ottoman Empire in declaring war on Russia.

Despite early victories at Sebastopol and Alma, the British public became dissatisfied with the army command and its neglect of ordinary soldiers' health. From Lea Hurst, Nightingale read about 'the unhappy wounded', and the lack of nurses and basic supplies, in *The Times* on 9 October 1854. By the 21st, she was leading a group of thirty-eight nurses under 'authority from the Government' in the British hospitals at Scutari (modern-day 'Üsküdar', part of Istanbul).

The British press famously represented Nightingale as the Lady with the Lamp, tending to the needs of sick or wounded soldiers on 'solitary rounds' along miles of hospital corridors. Such depictions appealed to the sympathies of readers at home and galvanised them to

take action to address the crisis sweeping the British army. The public supported the soldiers through a series of fundraising campaigns and by sending out homely comforts: everything from linen sheet bandages to velvet smoking-caps were sent for Nightingale to distribute to the thousands of men in her care.

Nightingale's Crimean War experiences shaped her subsequent campaigns for domestic reform. Overseeing a large team of nurses with varying qualifications and experience led her to devise new forms of training and management. The terrifying mortality rates in the army hospitals prompted her later involvement in sanitary reform and education. Her frustration over the incompetence of the upper-class military command drove her call for meritocratic reforms of the armed forces.



Engraving, Burial Ground at Scutari. From *Scutari and its Hospitals* by Rev. Sydney Godolphin Osbourne, (1855). Florence Nightingale Collection, DK215.95.07



Photograph of the Camp of the 97th Regiment in front of Sevastopol [Ukraine], by James Robertson or Felice Beato; n.d. [c. Sep. 1855]. Newcastle (Clumber) Collection, Ne C 10884/2/13