

Who was Mary Seacole?

War stories usually remember men fighting battles but there are also brave women in wars like Mary Seacole.

Mary Seacole lived more than 150 years ago and had an adventurous life travelling across many lands to run businesses and help people in need.



Early life

Mary was born in **Kingston, Jamaica**. Her dad was a Scottish soldier and her mum was Jamaican, so Mary was mixed race.

Mary's mum ran a hotel where wounded soldiers sometimes stayed. She taught Mary how to use plants to help care for them.

At that time a disease called cholera spread across Kingston. Mary helped those who were sick. Cholera was a terrible disease.

The Crimean War

When Britain sent soldiers to war in Crimea, disease was more dangerous than the enemy. Thousands of soldiers died from it.

Because Mary knew how to treat cholera she wanted to go to Crimea as a nurse, but she wasn't chosen. Mary went anyway, using her own money to pay for her journey.

When she reached Crimea, she set up a hotel right on the battlefield. She sold hot meals and looked after wounded and sick soldiers. The soldiers liked Mary so much that they called her '**Mother Seacole**'.

But helping the soldiers cost so much money that when the war ended Mary was very poor.

Later life

To pay her debts, she wrote a book called '*The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands*'.

After she died, people forgot Mary Seacole, but we remember her today as a woman of mixed race who lived an exciting and unusual life.

She owned a business, travelled to many places and went to a war zone, bravely helping others.