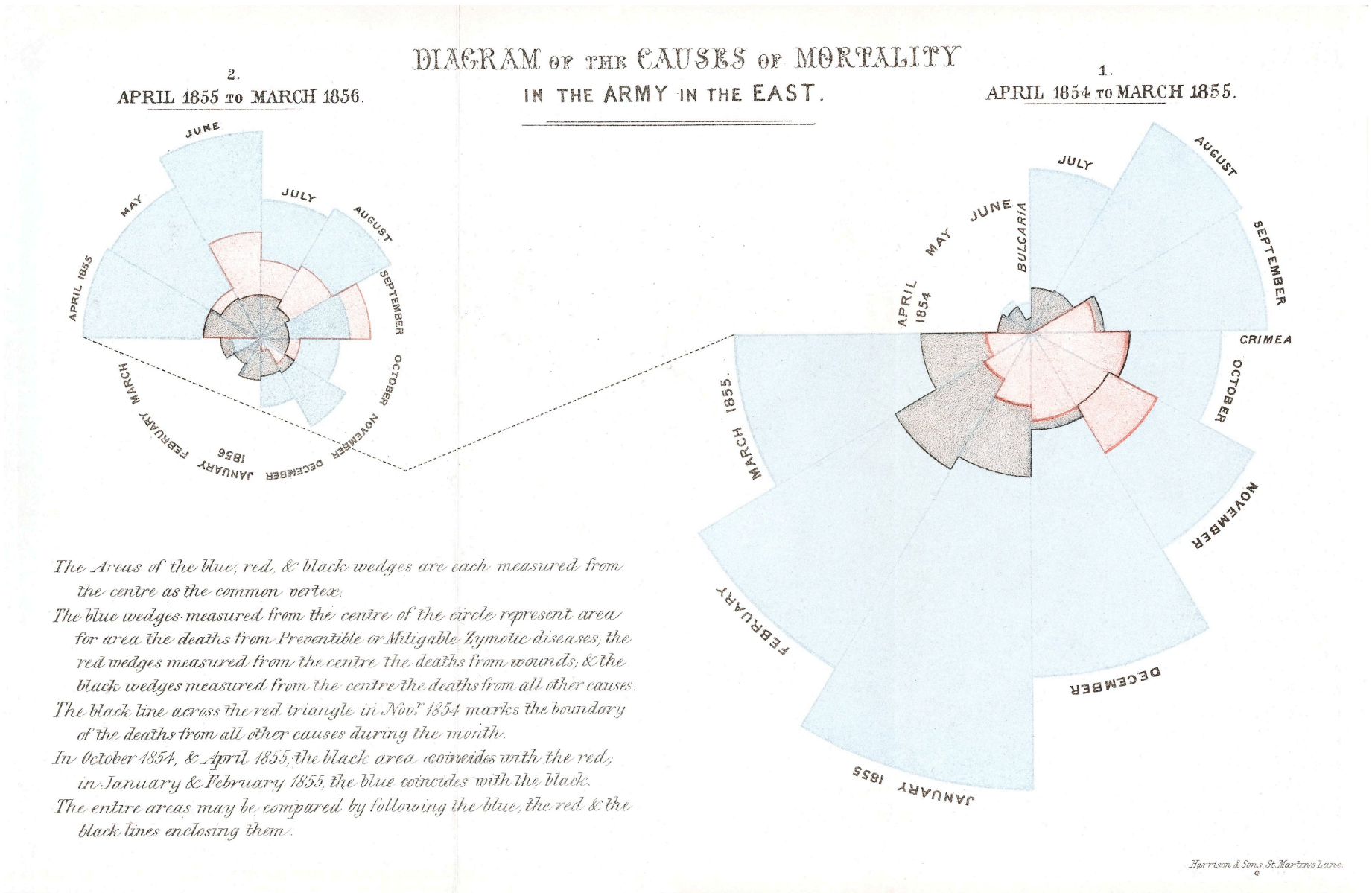
# Diagram of the Causes of Mortality *in the Army in the East*

Florence Nightingale

Plate of *Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency, and Hospital Administration of the British Army*, 1858




*The plate in the copy of the Notes of the Wellcome Library, London (Wellcome Images L0041105).*

## Legend

*As engraved on the plate.*

*The Areas of the blue, red, & black wedges are each measured from the centre as the common vertex.*

*The blue wedges measured from the centre of the circle represent area for area the deaths from Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic diseases; the red wedges measured from the centre the deaths from wounds; & the black wedges measured from the centre the deaths from all other causes.*

*The black line across the red triangle in Novr 1854 marks the boundary of the deaths from all other causes during the month.*

*In October 1854, & April 1855; the black area coincides with the red; in January & February 1855, the blue coincides with the black.*

*The entire areas may be compared by following the blue, the red & the black lines enclosing them.*

## Notice

*A note written for this poster.*

The plate bears the imprint of Harrison & Sons, St. Martin's Lane, who printed Florence Nightingale's *Notes on Matters Affecting the Health, Efficiency, and Hospital Administration of the British Army* in London in 1858. She presented the book by request to the Secretary of State for War, and its List of Illustrations places the diagram at page 315.

Each of the two diagrams covers a year, with a wedge for each month: April 1854 to March 1855 on the right, April 1855 to March 1856 on the left. As the legend explains, the deaths of a month are shown by the area of its wedges, measured from the centre.

Table No. 2 of the *Notes*, on page 315, gives month by month the estimated average strength of the army and the deaths and annual rate of mortality per 1,000 in its hospitals in the East. For January 1855 it records, for an average strength of 32,393 men, 2,761 deaths from zymotic diseases, 83 from wounds and injuries and 324 from all other causes: an annual rate of 1022.8 per 1,000 from zymotic diseases alone. By March 1856 that rate had fallen to 3.9.

Diagram: Florence Nightingale, 1858, printed by Harrison & Sons. Public domain. Photograph: Wellcome Library, London. Wellcome Images, L0041105, CC BY 4.0; converted to sRGB, paper tone whitened.

*The notice is not a period text: it was written for this poster in 2026.*

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