

Marguerite Ousley (1881 - 1971)

Most Australian nurses who served in WWI joined the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS). But some, like Marguerite, made their own way overseas, joining the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve or other, privately funded enterprises.



During the First World War, nurses in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (known as "QAs") looked after casualties "on every front, in every campaign". Marguerite saw service in both England and her birthplace, France. In France she was posted to one of the large base hospitals near the coast, from which casualties could be evacuated to Britain.

At Netley, she served at another large hospital, expanded to 2000 beds during the war. Her record stated "she is an excellent nurse, and is a most conscientious worker. She is extremely kind to her patients and she manages them very well indeed".

On home service she also met her future husband, Robert Mennie, of the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment). Post war the couple had two children and resided in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Service summary: Lord Derby War Hospital (Warrington, England); No. 11 General Hospital (Camiers, France); Royal Victoria Hospital (Netley, England); resigned on account of marriage 1917.

Graduated SVHM: 1912

Joined QAs: 1916

Final rank: Staff Nurse

Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal

Image source: *Table Talk*, 16 December 1909, p. 20

Story: SVHM Archives, October 2024