



6 Nurses Trained at the  
Mount Morgan Hospital

Grace Ethel Homewood

Martha May Homewood

Myra Alexandra McClelland

Ella Gordon McIlwraith

Annie Norton

Margaret Ayrane Perrier

## **Grace Ethel HOMEWOOD**

Grace was born on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1894 in Rockhampton. She was one of 13 children, eight daughters and five sons, to parents living in Kunwarara, approx. 75 kilometres north of Rockhampton. Five of Grace's sisters were nurses. Grace completed her General Nurse training at the Mount Morgan Hospital and her sister Martha May also an AANS during WW1 trained as a General Nurse at Mount Morgan Hospital.

### **Service Details:**

The Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad shows Grace was aged 23 years when she joined AANS as a Staff Nurse on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1917. She enlisted for service abroad on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1917. Staff Nurse Grace Homeward embarked on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1917 on HMAT A33 "Ayreshire."

Rupert Goodman in his book "Queensland Nurses Boer War to Vietnam," Boolarong Publications records Grace served at the Citadel in Cairo, 31 General Hospital Abbassia and the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> British General Hospitals in Egypt.

Staff Nurse Homewood returned to Australia on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1919 as a member of the nursing staff aboard HMAT SS "Dunluce Castle." Her appointment was terminated 20<sup>th</sup> September 1919.

### **Post War:**

Following her return to Australia Grace worked at the Rosemount Repatriation Hospital in Brisbane and privately in Melbourne.

In 1937 Sister Homewood with her brother Dr. John Homewood went to India and joined the Lady Minto Nursing Association. Grace nursed in India for 8 years.

An article in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1937 informed readers:

*"Miss Grace Homewood, who is visiting Queensland from India, is staying with her relatives in Rockhampton. Miss Homewood, who was formerly a member of Lady Minto's nursing service in India, has recently been stationed with a hospital at a leading aviation centre in Delhi."* It was during this time she was in charge of Air Cadets in Burma.

Sister Homewood returned to Australia in 1947 and joined YWCA. She then again nursed in India and Germany later returning to Melbourne to manage Homes for the Elderly

Grace did not marry and died in 1981 aged 86 years and is buried at Mount Thompson Memorial Gardens Brisbane.



Photograph shows Grace Ethel Homewood while in India standing left front.

<http://search.ancestry.com.au>

## **Martha May HOMEWOOD**

Martha was born on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1888 in Rockhampton. She was one of 13 children, eight daughters and five sons, to parents living in Kunwarara, approx. 75 kilometres north of Rockhampton. Five of Martha's sisters were nurses. Martha completed her General Nurse training at the Mount Morgan Hospital and her sister Grace also an AANS during WW1 trained as a General Nurse at Mount Morgan Hospital.

### **Service Details:**

The Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad shows Martha was aged 27 years when she joined AANS as a Staff Nurse on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1916. She enlisted for service abroad on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1916.

Staff Nurse Martha May Homewood embarked in Sydney on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1916 aboard HMAT A32 "Themistocles" sailing for England. Soon after arriving in England in March 1917 she was sailing again, this time to France where she served in British and Australian hospitals.

She was promoted from Staff Nurse to Sister in December 1918.

Rupert Goodman in his book "Queensland Nurses Boer War to Vietnam," Boolarong Publications records Staff Nurse Homewood attended a 6 week Motor Driving and Maintenance Course in London in 1919 which was most unusual for women in this era.

Sister Martha Homewood returned to Australia on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1919 as a member of the nursing staff aboard SS "Norman." Her appointment was terminated on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1919.

### **Post War:**

Martha married William Mylrea in Rockhampton in July 1920 and died on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1989.



*Martha Homewood, Rockhampton.*

A photograph in Rupert Goodman's book "Queensland Nurses Boer War to Vietnam,"  
Boolarong Publications

Martha wrote several letters home describing the circumstances around her service which were published in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin and the Capricornian newspapers.

## **Myra Alexandra McCLELLAND**

Myra Alexandra was born in Rockhampton in 1881 to parents living in Mount Morgan. Myra was also known as Maria however on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915 she signed the Attestation for Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad as “Myra Alexandra.”

Myra completed her General Nurse training at the Mount Morgan Hospital. As a certified nurse with the Australian Trained Nurses Association she worked as Matron of the Rockhampton Children’s Hospital and nursed in North Queensland.

### **Service Details:**

Myra was aged 33 years and 2 months when enlisting as an AANS Staff Nurse for service abroad.

Staff Nurse McClelland embarked from Sydney on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1915 aboard RMS “Morea.” The Light Horse website records Myra was soon promoted to Sister.  
<http://www.lighthorse.org.au/forum/index.php?topic=664.0>

Sister McClelland served at No1 AGH Heliopolis in Egypt before accompanying wounded soldiers back to Australia and serving at No6 AGH Kangaroo Point Hospital Brisbane. She returned to Egypt at 14 AGH Abbassia before being lent to the British in 1917 and saw service in France at 2 BGH Le Havre, 38 BGH Calais, 38 British Stationary Hospital in Genoa, 9 CCS in Italy and at Dartford Hospital London.

Sister McClelland returned to Australia on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1919.

### **Post War:**

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1919 on Page 10 describes her being welcomed home at a function held by the President of the Red Cross Society where she gave a graphic account of a hospital in France where she was nursing being bombed every night for a week by the Germans. She went on to mention she had ridden in an ambulance in London with a sign *“Presented by the citizens of Mount Morgan, Queensland.”*

The Brisbane Courier Saturday on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1921 announced Myra’s engagement to marry James Dundee Aitkin stating the marriage was to take place in Rockhampton in early March.

The Morning Bulletin on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1938 on Page 11 reporting on the Presbyterian Fete held on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Mount Morgan said:

*“In connection with the sale of work conducted by the Presbyterian Women's Guild on Thursday last, later details supplied by the secretary (Mrs. J. D Aitken) show that the objective of £100 was achieved by the arrival of a further 7s. This is a source of great gratification to the committee which worked very hard to achieve such a financial result.”*

Myra died on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1962 aged 81 years and is buried in the Mount Morgan Cemetery. The Mount Morgan Cemetery recorded her name as *Maria Alexandra*.



Photograph shown on The QARANC Association. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1163821).of Sister Myra Alexandra McCLELLAND

## **Ella Gordon McILLWRAITH**

Searching war records for information can often be confusing. Such is the case in searching the records for AANS Ella Gordon McIlwraith.

While most records list her name as Ella Gordon, the Ancestry genealogy website lists her as *Janet Ella Gordon McIlwraith*.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gordon/gordonfam/pafn15.htm>

Ella was born in Maryborough, Queensland on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1893 to parents living in Childers. She completed her General Nurse training at the Mount Morgan Hospital.

An item in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April on 1910 on Page 3 reported:

*“Mount Morgan Hospital. Nurse J. McIlwraith applied for a month's leave of absence. It was pointed out that Nurse McIlwraith was away owing to the serious illness of her father, and the matter was referred to the visiting committee with authority to deal with it.”*

Aged 24 years she joined AANS as a Staff Nurse on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1917 and while working at the Kangaroo Point Military Hospital Brisbane she then enlisted for service abroad on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917.

### **Service Details:**

Staff Nurse McIlwraith embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board RMS “Somali” on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1917. She served with 44 British General Hospital, Deolali, India.

Few details are available on her return to Australia or discharge from AANS.

### **Post War:**

The Brisbane Courier Mail Newspaper on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1918 on Page 8 reads:

*“RETURNED HEROES. AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION. OYFUL WELCOME IN THE STREETS.*

*Another contingent of returning soldiers numbering in all 132 returned from the front shortly after 9 o'clock on Saturday night and notwithstanding the lateness of the hour they were accorded a most enthusiastic welcome by one of the biggest crowds that were yet assembled in the streets of the city for this purpose.*

*The train which was 20 minutes late was greeted with cheer after cheer as it steamed into the station. There were also on board Staff nurse E.G. McIlwraith.”*

The Maryborough Chronicle dated Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1920 reads:

*“Miss E. McIlwraith, daughter of Mrs J. McIlwraith of Childers, who has resigned her position as Matron of the Kilcoy Hospital, left Brisbane on Monday by the "Osterley" on a holiday trip to Sydney.”*

The 1922 Queensland Electoral Roll shows “*Ella Gordon McIlwraith, nurse, Rosemount Hospital, Lutwyche, Brisbane.*”

The Brisbane Courier dated Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 1924 announced:

*“Marriage Notice - GRAVES - MCILWRAITH*

*October 8th, at St Paul Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, by the Rev. J. Walker, M.A. B.D.,*

*Robert Norman (late A.I.F.), eldest son of Mr and Mrs. J. B. Graves, "Stanleigh,"*

*Goondiwindi, to Ella Gordon (late A.A.N.S.), youngest daughter of Mrs. McIlwraith and the late Jas. McIlwraith, "Dunreath," Childers.”*

## **Annie NORTON**

Annie's sister, Ellen Agnes, was also an AANS Nurse having completed her General Nurse training at Mount Morgan Hospital.

The Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad signed by Annie on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1915 shows she was born in England and her parents were now living at Capella in Central Queensland.

An article found in the National Library of Australia records Annie was:

*"Matron of the Proserpine Hospital for several years, which position she resigned, to the regret of the Committee and people, owing to ill- health. After six months rest she took of the duties of Matron of the Emerald Hospital and was there when called to active service."*

### **Service Details:**

Annie was aged 37 years and 10 months when she enlisted for service abroad as an AANS Sister. Sister Annie Norton embarked on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1915 aboard HMAT A67 "Orsova." Her overseas service commenced in December 1915 at 1 AGH Heliopolis which opened for cases at the Heliopolis Palace hotel, where it became the centre of medical activities. The rush of sick and wounded from the Dardanelles necessitated the adjoining Luna Park, "Atelier" and Sporting Club being taken over for beds as auxiliary hospitals.

From here Sister Norton served in several hospitals in France. Annie returned with her sister Ellen Agnes to Australia on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1919 aboard SS "Zealandic." Her appointment was terminated on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1919.

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1917 on Page 7 published a letter written by Annie's sister Ellen to her relative in Capella.

The following are extracts from letters received by Mrs. M. Hansen, of Capella.

*"When I tell you that both Annie and I are in France, I guess that you will think that we have reached the height of our ambition. But our ideas have changed with the cold weather, and now we feel as if we would love to have a good hot day in Capella. We have seen a good deal since we left; but if we had taken this trip for pleasure, we would have been home long ago. Still, if we find the cold awful, we have to remember the boys in the trenches. Their sufferings must be too cruel for words to express.*

*Since our arrival we have been broken up and scattered about in all directions. Annie, three others, and I are working at the same hospital. It is for officers only and is fixed up very comfortably. The matron and sisters are very nice. Of course, we felt a bit strange at first. I learned what chilblains were like in London and was driven nearly frantic with the itching of my hands; but they have not worried me much here. It is not so cold now."*

### **Post War:**

Matron Norton died in Emerald Hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1920 following an operation the previous night, only 4 months after leaving military service and 2 months after returning to the position of Matron at the Emerald Hospital. She did not marry.



Photograph held by State Library of Queensland. 1 179143

## **Margaret Ayrane PERRIER**

Margaret was born in Rockhampton and completed her General Nurse training at the Mount Morgan Hospital.

Her successful completion of General Nurse training at the Mount Hospital appeared in the The Brisbane Courier Mail on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December 1909 on Page 7:

### *“WOMAN'S WORLD TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION*

*The following Queensland candidates for membership of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association passed the recent examination of the association:-*

*Mt. Morgan Hospital: Misses J. McIlwraith and M. Perrier.”*

### **Service Details:**

Margaret enlisted in AANS as a Staff Nurse on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1917 at the age of 30 years.

Staff Nurse Perrier embarked on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1917 from Sydney aboard HMAT SS “Canberra.”

She served in Egypt and Suez and returned to Australia on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1919 aboard SS “Burma.” Her appointment was terminated on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1919.

Margaret did not marry and died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1971 aged 84 years. She is buried at the North Rockhampton Cemetery.



The Mount Morgan Hospital was opened by Mrs Wesley Hall,  
Mayoress of Mount Morgan in 1890  
Photograph courtesy of Rockhampton Country Hospital Museum