

8 NURSES KNOWN to have a  
POST WAR LINK with the LOCAL AREA

Ruth Allan

Ida Maria Axelsen

Ruby Davina May Brown

Annie Eveline Clarkson

Margaret Ellen Mitchell

Elizabeth Kenny

May Scully

Daisy Wharton Squire



## Ruth ALLAN

Ruth was born in 1877 in Cooktown, North Queensland and completed her General Nurse training at the Cooktown Hospital.

### Service Details:

Ruth was 37 years and 3 months when she enlisted as an AANS Staff Nurse for service abroad on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1915.

Staff Nurse Allan left Australia on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1915 and served in Egypt, London and France.

Returning to Australia on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1920 aboard SS "Marathon" she was discharged as medically unfit.

### Post War Link:

After the war she nursed at the Rosemount Military Hospital Brisbane for some time and later as Acting Matron of the Cairns District Hospital before being appointed Matron at the Emu Park Convalescent Home in Central Queensland, working there for 12 years until it closed in 1941.

The Convalescent Home had been established by Dr. Voss in 1912 and was used for the purpose of improving the health of Mothers, their babies and children. The Rockhampton Women's Hospital Committee was responsible for the running of the Emu Park

Following the closure of the Emu Park Convalescent Home Miss Allan was appointed Matron at the Rockhampton Benevolent Home where she was employed for 18 months.

At one time she was Vice President of the Emu Park Country Women's Association.

The Central Queensland Herald on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1935, Page 20 reported her attendance at a function held by the Citizen's ANZAC Day Dinner Committee for 600 returned nurses, sailors and soldiers at the Palais Royal in Rockhampton.

Miss Allan did not marry and died on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1943 at Rockhampton. She is buried at the South Brisbane Cemetery.



An advertisement in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December 1929

***“CONVALESCENT HOME Emu Park. FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Under Control of Rockhampton Hospitals Board. Close to Station and Beach. Public and Private Wards. First Class Accommodation. People who are Sick are NOT eligible for Admission.***

***Convalescents Only.***

***WRITE, TELEGRAPH, OR 'PHONE TO THE MATRON.”***

## **Ida Maria AXELSON**

Ida was born in 1878 in Maryborough, Queensland. She completed General Nurse training at the Maryborough General Hospital in Queensland and Midwifery training at the Women's Hospital Melbourne. Ida had 5 sisters, all were trained nurses.

The Queensland Electoral Roll 1903 records her as a nurse living in Walker Street, Maryborough. The Queensland Electoral Roll 1913 records Ida as a nursing sister living in Vulture Street, South Brisbane, the same address as her father and sister.

Before the war Ida worked in a Child Health Centre in Brisbane was Matron at St. Mary's Private Hospital, Wynnum, Brisbane and for 8 years as a Nursing Sister at the Brisbane Central Mission.

### **Service Details:**

Ida was aged 37 years when she joined AANS as a Sister on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1915 and enlisted for service abroad. 12 June 1915.

Sister Axelson embarked 2 days later on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915 on HMRT "Orsova."

An article in the British Journal of Nursing 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915 Page 21 records the arrival of the contingent of nurses, including of Sister Axelson:

*"As there were rumours of submarines off the English coast the "Orsova" was escorted up the Channel by two destroyers."*

She served aboard SS HMAT A61 No. 2 Australian Hospital Ship "Kanowna" making 9 voyages between the Middle East and Australia. Returning to Australia on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1918 aboard "Kanowna" her appointment terminated medically unfit 20<sup>th</sup> September 1918.

### **Post War Link:**

Ida was Matron of St. Helen's Hospital Brisbane before being appointed Nursing Superintendent at the Westwood Sanatorium from its opening in August 1919 to August 1923. The 64 bed hospital was built to treat Miner's Phthisis, a lung disease suffered by miners working in dusty conditions. Her sister Clara who had worked for 22 years at the Diamantina Hospital Brisbane, joined her at Westwood Sanatorium.



The opening day of Westwood Sanatorium by the Home Secretary, Mr Huxham.

The Queensland Electoral Roll 1934 records her as a nurse living with her father at Windsor Terrace, Brisbane. She did not marry and died in 1967.



Sister Ida Axelson Photograph from the Australian War Memorial



## Ruby Davina Mary BROWN

Ruby was born in 1877 in Brisbane, Queensland.

Prior to enlisting in AANS she conducted Private nursing in Brisbane.

### Service Details:

Ruby was 39 years when she signed The Attestation of Persons Enlisted to Serve Abroad on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1917. She had joined AANS as a Staff Nurse on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916.


Staff Nurse Brown embarked from Sydney on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1916 aboard MHAT A32 "Themistocles." She served in Salonika and England and was promoted to Sister on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1919.

She returned to Australia on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1919 aboard A8 HMAT "Argyllshire" and her appointment was terminated on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1919.

### Post War Link:

Ruby was appointed Nurse in Charge of the Rockhampton Baby Clinic in 1929 and Matron in Charge of the clinic in 1943.

She did not marry and later resided at "Wyuna" Bowen Terrace, Brisbane. Ruby died on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1947 at Tugan, Queensland.

AUSTRALIAN  MILITARY FORCES.

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**

No. S Nurse Name BROWN, Ruby Davina May  
Nursing Unit REINFORCEMENTS, A.N.S., A.I.F.  
Joined on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. Prob 17.8.16  
Brown

**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? ...	1. <u>BROWN, Ruby Davina May</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...	2. In the Parish of _____ near the Town of <u>Wilston, Brisbane,</u> in the County of <u>Queensland.</u>
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ...	3. <u>British Subject</u>
4. What is your age? ...	4. <u>39.</u>
5. What is your trade or calling? ...	5. <u>Army Nurse.</u>
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ...	6. <u>No.</u>
7. Are you married? ...	7. <u>No.</u>
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ...	8. <u>(Mother) Marion Brown,</u> <u>"Wyuna",</u> <u>Bowen Terrace, Brisbane, Q.</u>
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ...	9. <u>No.</u>
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ...	10. <u>No.</u>
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ...	11. <u>A.A.N.S., 1st M.D. since 17.8.1916</u>
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ...	12. <u>Yes.</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ...	13. <u>No.</u>
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mother)— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ...	14. <u>---</u>
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ...	15. <u>Yes.</u>

I, RUBY DAVINA MAY BROWN do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife.\* † wife and children.

Date 9/3/1917. Ruby Davina May Brown  
Signature of person enlisted.

D.377/15.—C.662. \*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

## **Annie Eveline CLARKSON**

Annie was born on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1888 in Queensland.

### **Post War Link:**

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 1930, Page reported:

*“Miss A. E. Clarkson, of Maclean, New South Wales, who has been appointed Matron of the Mt, Morgan Hospital, has a varied career as a nurse. She served with the A.I.F. at the fronts had experience in Tower Clarence Hospital, Enoggera, and Inverell Hospital. Her credentials are of the highest. The committee considers itself very fortunate in securing the services of one so qualified.”*

The Townsville Daily Bulletin on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 1954, Page 2 reported her death:

*“Nurse Passes*

*BRISBANE. August 9. — The cremation of Miss A. E. Clarkson, matron of many Queensland country hospitals took place in Brisbane this afternoon. The deceased, who was a member of a well-known Warwick family, died suddenly at Nanango, where she had recently taken charge of the Nanango Hospital. The late Miss Clarkson served at the Kangaroo Point military hospital during the First World War, and later was matron at Mount Morgan, Cloncurry, Mount Perry, Tambo, Eidsvold, Texas and Taroom.”*



Mount Morgan Hospital

## **Elizabeth KENNY**

Elizabeth Kenny was born on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1880 in Warialda N.S.W

In an article in The Australian Women's Register, it was reported that Elizabeth Kenny who lived in Guyra, New South Wales in 1907 never completed formal nursing training or registered as a nurse, however as was the case with many nurses at this time received basic nursing training from a local midwife.

Miss Kenny claimed in her 1943 autobiography (co-authored by Martha Ostenso) to have treated her first cases of infantile paralysis in 1910 while working alone as a bush nurse in the Clifton district of the Darling Downs region of Queensland.

### **Service Details:**

Miss Kenny enlisted on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1915 as a Staff Nurse in AANS. She embarked on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1916 serving on "Dark Ship" transports and made between 12 and 15 round trips between Australia and Great Brittan that ran with all lights off between Australia and England carrying war goods and soldiers one way, and wounded soldiers and trade goods on the return voyage. Elizabeth Kenny was promoted to Sister on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1917 following her return to Australia and her appointment was terminated on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

### **Post War Link:**

Despite considerable controversy during the 1930s and 1940s with the medical profession over her methods for treating patients with "Infantile Paralysis" later called Poliomyelitis Sister Kenny gained considerable recognition in Australia, establishing several clinics throughout the country including Brisbane and at the Rockhampton Hospital. The Out Patient Department building was named in her honour.

In 1935 Queensland Government called a Royal Commission of doctors to examine her treatments which reported against her in 1938. In 1940 Sister Kenny and her adopted daughter, Mary, who had become an expert in Kenny's method, moved to the United States to present her controversial polio treatment to doctors and although not well received when first arriving she became famous in America

Returning to Australia the "Sister Kenny Rehabilitative Institute" was set up in 1942 and she continued for many years to treat patients with Poliomyelitis.

She developed Parkinson's disease and died on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1952 in Toowoomba Queensland and was buried beside her mother in Nobby cemetery.



Sister Elizabeth Kenny Photograph from AWM.



## **Margaret Ellen MITCHELL**

Searching war records for information can often be confusing. Such is the case in searching the records for AANS Margaret Ellen Mitchell.

Information previously found on *WWI AANS service record* website now unavailable, (<http://www.aans.gravesecrets.net/>), recorded Margaret's birthplace as Rockhampton and that she completed General Nurse training at the Bundaberg Hospital. This is difficult to prove as the Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad signed by Margaret does not detail her date of birth nor her birthplace.

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 1926, Page 8 reporting her successful nomination as Matron of the Rockhampton Hospital announced:

*"M. Mitchell, at present Matron of the Tasmanian Sanatorium, Hobart, was appointed. Matron Mitchell was trained at the Rockhampton General Hospital and became sub-matron. In 1917 she took up duties as a military nurse."* A search of the records in the handwritten Training Register held in the archives of the Rockhampton Hospital Museum failed to confirm this information.

### **Service Details:**

The Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad signed by Margaret on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916 shows she was 37 years and 11 months of age when enlisting as an AANS Staff Nurse.

Information previously found on *WWI AANS service record* website recorded Staff Nurse Mitchell boarding HMAT "Karoola" in Melbourne on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1916, serving in Egypt and returning to Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1917 on HMAT "Karoola." Her appointment was terminated on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1917 as medically unfit.

### **Post War Link:**

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 1926, Page 8 reported Matron Mitchell's nomination as Matron of the Rockhampton Hospital was carried unanimously by the Hospital's Board.

A further article in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1926 Page 8 reported the Sydney Bulletin saying:

*"A chariot of Gold: The wattle decorated car appeared and carried Nurse Mitchell on the first leg of her journey from Hobart to Rockhampton. For six years this sympathetic ex-war nurse had been in charge of the Sanatorium for Consumptives in Hobart, and when she was leaving the patients, they hung her motor with wattle, the emblem under which funds were raised for the chalets.*

*Rockhampton General Hospital now claims the heroine as its Matron."*

The following year the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1927 reported: *"The Internal Management Committee of the General Hospital expressed it was with much regret that the Committee accepted her resignation to become effective from 31 July 1927."*

Several articles appeared in the Morning Bulletin describing a series of presentations to Matron Mitchell including a farewell afternoon tea held in Kirby's Café by the Rockhampton Hospital's Board where she received a cheque, the equivalent of extra holiday pay. Another article described an enjoyable social function held in the new nurse's quarters where the President of the Hospital's Board, Mr. T.H. Renshaw on behalf of the medical officer, nursing staff and friends, presented her with a travelling rug, diamond brooch, gold thimble and gold wristband.

Margaret died in Townsville and is buried in Bundaberg as "Mrs. H.G. Pass 1948."

*The golden wattle was unofficially accepted as the national floral emblem to mark Federation in 1901.*



## May SCULLY

May was born in Belfast, Ireland.

At the time of her retirement in 1935 it was reported in The Australian Women's Weekly on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1935 Page 21:

*"Miss Scully, Notable Queensland Nurse to Retire. Matron Scully trained at Charters Towers and served as matron at Richmond and Gladstone before the war"*

The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin on Thursday 5 June 1913 reported:

*"Matron Herbertson (later an WW1 AANS) halted overnight in Gladstone as a guest of Miss Scully who was Matron of the Gladstone Hospital"*

### Service Details:

Miss Scully enlisted in AANS for service abroad as a Sister on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1914. She was 34 years.

Sister Scully embarked aboard HMAT A55 "Kyarra" in Brisbane on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

She served in Egypt and England returning to Australia in August 1916 on the Hospital Ship HMAT A14 "Euripides." Her appointment was terminated on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1916.

After returning to Australia Miss Scully became Matron of the Enoggera Hospital and later the Rosemount Hospital in Brisbane.

The Brisbane Courier on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1918 on Page 11 reported Matron Scully's attendance at a tea party held at the Military Hospital Kangaroo Point in honour of the nurses who returned from the war.

The guest speaker, Mrs. Stodart spoke of a 5000 pound fund being invested for the future provision of the nurses under control of the Australian Trained Nurses Association (ATNA). *"Miss Chatfield, President of the ATNA, told the nurses that any military nurse in need of temporary funding could apply to the ATNA. She assured the nurses the matter would be handled confidentially. Mrs. Stodart also made mention of a medal to be given to the nurses by returning soldiers as their own tribute."*

### Post War Link:

Miss Scully was appointed Nursing Superintendent of the Westwood Sanatorium in Central Queensland in 1923. Her farewell was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1935.

Matron Scully followed Matron Axelson (AANS WW1) the first Matron at the Westwood Sanatorium from 1919 to 1923.



Photograph held in The Country Hospital Museum archive and printed in the ACHHA Newsletter April 2012 Page 4 shows Matron Scully with nursing staff at the Westwood Sanatorium in 1932.

Matron Scully Back row 4<sup>TH</sup> from left



## Daisy Wharton SQUIRE

Daisy was born on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1892 in Springsure, Central Queensland.

The Queensland State Nursing Examination Results 1915-1925 stored by Queensland State Archives show Daisy successfully passed the final nurse examination on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1916, and shows she completed her General Nurse training at the Brisbane General Hospital.

### Service Details:

Daisy joined AANS as a Staff Nurse on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1917 and enlisted for service abroad on 2nd June 1917.

Staff Nurse Squire aged 24 years embarked aboard RMS "Mooltan" on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and sailed from Sydney to serve in Salonika. Returning to Australia in March 1920 aboard SS "Megantic" her appointment was terminated on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1920.

### Post War Link:

Rupert Goodman in his book "Queensland Nurses Boar War to Vietnam" Boolarong Publications, shows a Certificate from the Mayor of Rockhampton, Mr. Hartley on behalf of the Citizens of Rockhampton, was presented to her for:

*"Services you have so nobly rendered in this the most cruel of all Wars, The Great War"*

The Brisbane Courier Mail on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1941 on Page 3 reported:

"Electrocution of a Soldier still a mystery."

This related to the matter in which a returned soldier died while receiving treatment with a diathermy machine at the Brisbane General Hospital. Daisy Wharton Squire had been temporarily in charge of the massage department.

The Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens in Brisbane records the death of Daisy Wharton Squire as "Passed away on 1 March 1975 aged 83 years."

