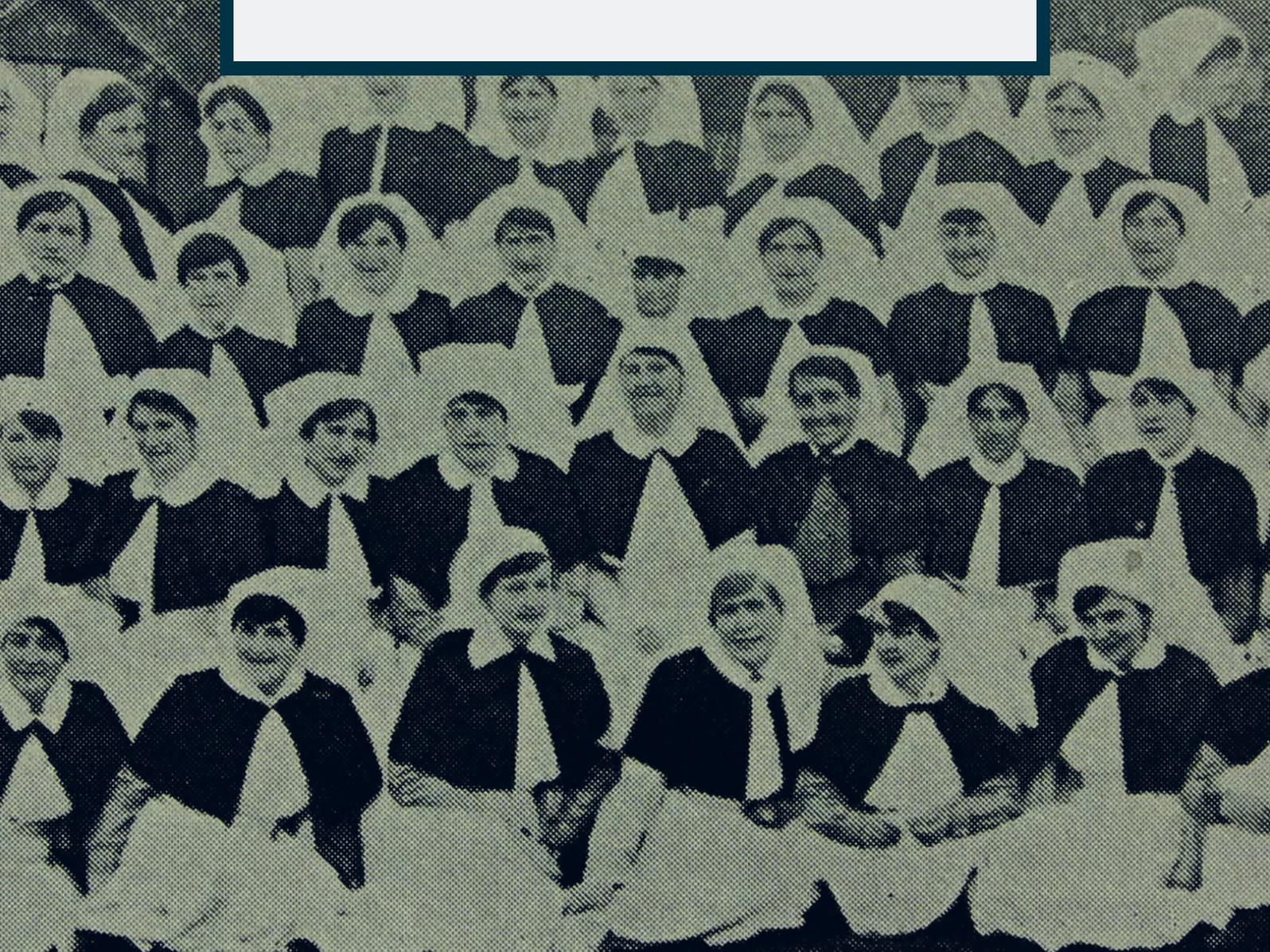




**CITY OF  
PARRAMATTA**

**WORLD WAR ONE  
AND  
PARRAMATTA  
NURSES**



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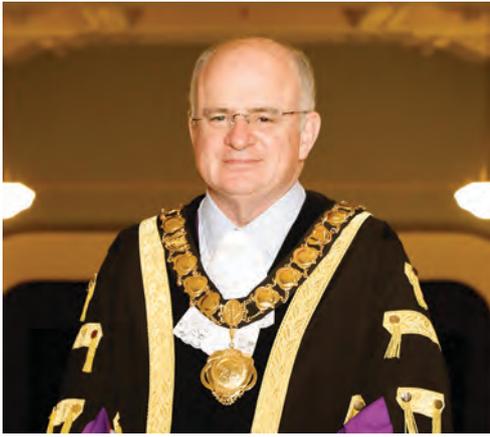


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Cover image: *Nurses of No 1 Australian General Hospital, Rouen, 23rd September 1918* (Source: Charles E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918, Volume 12 Photographic record of the War*).

# CONTENTS

Message from the Lord Mayor .....	4
Message from CEO .....	5
Acknowledgement .....	6
Introduction .....	7
World War One Timeline .....	8
World War One: Financial Cost .....	11
World War One: Parramatta Key Dates .....	13
Australian Nurses in World War One .....	17
World War One: Parramatta Nurse – .....	23
Dorothy Cawood - First Sydney nurse awarded a Military Medal	
World War One: Parramatta Nurse - Pearl Lottie Trayhurn .....	26
World War One: Parramatta Nurse - Daisy Wearne .....	27
World War One: Parramatta Nurse - Edith Danson Rush .....	29
World War One: Parramatta Nurse - Pauline Hyland .....	30
World War One: Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses .....	31
Senior Commandant Julian Lindsay da Silva Waugh .....	33
Commandant Dulce Davies Little .....	36
World War One: Parramatta Nurse – Edith Faber .....	38
World War One: Red Cross Society, Parramatta Branch .....	39
World War One: War Chest Society, Parramatta .....	43
Lady Mary Cook, Dame of the Order of the British Empire .....	47
World War One: War Chest Society and Red Cross Society, Parramatta .....	50
World War One: Welcome Home Committee, Parramatta .....	57
World War One & Peace .....	60



## MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

The City of Parramatta commemorates the Centenary of the World War One, also known as 'The Great War,' which endured from 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918.

Our City honours the thousands of young men and women around Australia who rallied to serve in the war effort, including the 1,962 volunteers from the Parramatta District, who went on to become soldiers, pilots, seamen, munitions workers, transport drivers and nurses, mainly deployed across Europe and the Middle East.

In 2018, the City of Parramatta has compiled hundreds of stories about the involvement of the Parramatta community in World War One, sharing these significant histories in many forms, including this publication, which focuses on the courage of Parramatta's nurses. I hope the experiences of individuals such as Dorothy Cawood, praised as "*a most excellent nurse – one of the very best Australia has sent out*" will help to connect you with our community's history and preserve the contributions and memories of all those brave husbands, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters for future generations.

**Andrew Wilson**

Lord Mayor

City of Parramatta



## MESSAGE FROM CEO

World War One began in 1914 and lasted until 1918. Australia's involvement commenced when Britain and Germany went to war on 4 August 1914, and both Prime Minister Joseph Cook and Opposition Leader Andrew Fisher, who were in the midst of an election campaign, pledged full support for Britain.

During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers).

Throughout 1916 and 1917, losses on the Western Front were heavy and gains were small. In 1918 the Australians reached the peak of their fighting performance in the Battle of Hamel on 4 July. From 8 August they then took part in a series of decisive advances until they were relieved in early October. Germany surrendered on 11 November.

By the time the war was over and the Allied Powers claimed victory, more than 16 million people, soldiers and civilians were dead. There were 60,000 Australian soldiers killed in action. War has touched the lives of all Australians. This publication is a way to shed light on sacrifices made by many soldiers and nurses during World War One.

Many Parramatta soldiers were wounded and died during the war. This book introduces the stories of courage, by the nurses and medical staff during the war.

**Mark Stapleton**  
CEO, City of Parramatta

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This book is compiled from the articles written by the Research and Collections team at the City of Parramatta. Substantial research was undertaken by the team and valued volunteers who compiled hundreds of stories about the involvement of the Parramatta community in World War One.

We would like to acknowledge the following resources for the production of this book:

- *Parramatta and District Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919.* Parramatta, N.S.W., The Cumberland Argus Limited, 1920.
- *The Australian War Memorial (AWM)*
- *The National Archives of Australia (NAA)*
- *The National Library of Australia (NLA) 'Trove'*
- *Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)*

More information and Parramatta Soldier stories can be found on our website  
[www.arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.arc.parracity.nsw.gov.au)

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We thank everyone who has helped in any way to bring about this book.

# INTRODUCTION

Australia's involvement in World War One began on 4 August 1914. Many who joined up believed that the war would be a great adventure, but none could have imagined the scale of the endeavour on which they were about to embark. Sadly, many of these soldiers, sailors, airmen, medical support staff and nurses didn't make it home. Their courage, sacrifice, hardship and losses brought a new maturity to our nation.

Australian women could serve overseas only if they joined the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service or the Red Cross. Across Australia a total of 2,861 women enlisted for duty during World War One and 513 of these were from New South Wales.

The impact of World War One on Australia's economy was significant. At that time, the majority of exports from Australia were wool, wheat and minerals. Exporters were deprived of shipping services and they found it difficult to receive payments for their goods.

For Australia, the World War One remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. Another 6000 veterans died by the 1930s due to war related injuries and suicide.

The team in Research Services have prepared and posted hundreds of biographical stories and accounts of events which relate to the actions of Parramatta servicemen and women during World War One.

We hope you enjoy reading about these amazing people and the terrifying and sometimes awe inspiring events which carried them across the globe to fight against Germany and her allies.

**Neera Sahni**

# World War One Timeline

Neera Sahni

## 1914

- 28 June 1914** Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia
- 5 July 1914** Kaiser William II promised German support for Austria against Serbia
- 28 July 1914** Austria declared war on Serbia
- 1 August 1914** Germany declared war on Russia
- 3 August 1914** Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Germany implemented the Schlieffen Plan
- 4 August 1914** Britain declared war on Germany
- 23 August 1914** The British Expeditionary Force started its retreat from Mons. Germany invaded France
- 26 August 1914** Russian army defeated at Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes, East Prussia
- 9 September 1914** Battle of the Marne, France commenced
- 18 October 1914** First Battle of Ypres, Belgium
- 29 October 1914** Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front

## 1915

- 19 January 1915** The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place
- 19 February 1915** Britain bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardanelles
- 25 April 1915** Allied troops landed in Gallipoli, Turkey
- 7 May 1915** The 'Lusitania' was sunk by a German U-boat
- 23 May 1915** Italy declared war on Germany and Austria

## 1915

- 5 August 1915 The Germans captured Warsaw, Poland from the Russians
- 25 September 1915 Start of the Battle of Loos, France
- 19 December 1915 The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli

## 1916

- 27 January 1916 Conscription introduced in Britain
- 21 February 1916 Start of the Battle of Verdun, France
- 29 April 1916 British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia (now Iraq)
- 31 May 1916 Battle of Jutland in the North Sea
- 4 June 1916 Start of the Brusilov Offensive
- 1 July 1916 Start of the Battle of the Somme, France
- 10 August 1916 End of the Brusilov Offensive
- 15 September 1916 First use en masse of tanks at the Somme
- 7 December 1916 Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister

## 1917

- 1 February 1917 Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started
- 6 April 1917 United States of America declared war on Germany
- 16 April 1917 France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Western Front
- 31 July 1917 Start of the Third Battle at Ypres, Belgium
- 24 October 1917 Battle of Caporetto, now in Slovenia – the Italian Army was heavily defeated
- 6 November 1917 Britain launched a major offensive on the Western Front
- 20 November 1917 British tanks won a victory at Cambrai, France
- 5 December 1917 Armistice between Germany and Russia signed
- 9 December 1917 Britain captured Jerusalem from Turkish forces

## 1918

3 March 1918	The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between Russia and Germany
21 March 1918	Germany broke through on the Somme
29 March 1918	Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front
9 April 1918	Germany started an offensive in Flanders, Belgium
15 July 1918	Second Battle of the Marne started. The start of the collapse of the German army
8 August 1918	The advance of the Allies was successful
19 September 1918	Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo, Palestine
4 October 1918	Germany asked the Allies for an armistice
29 October 1918	Germany's Navy mutinied
30 October 1918	Turkey made peace
3 November 1918	Austria made peace
9 November 1918	Kaiser William II abdicated
11 November 1918	Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – the official date of the end of World War One

## Post war:

## 1919

4 January 1919	Peace conference met in Paris, France
21 June 1919	The surrendered German naval fleet at Scapa Flow was scuttled
28 June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles was signed by the Germans

# World War One: Financial Cost of WW1

Neera Sahni



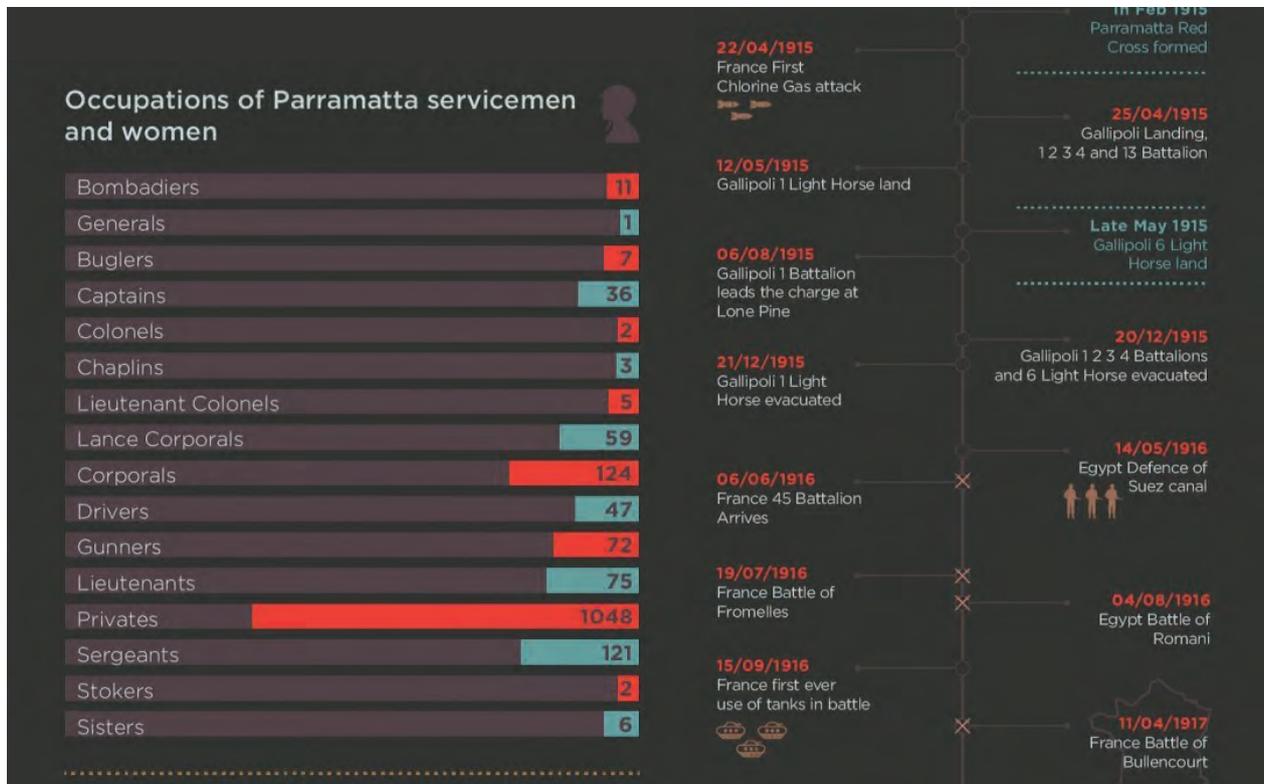
Bullecourt, From A Sunken Road near Noreuil  
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918*,  
*Volume 12 Photographic record of the War*)

<b>Allied Powers</b>	<b>Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18</b>
United States .....	22,625,253,000
Great Britain .....	35,334,012,000
France .....	24,265,583,000
Russia .....	22,293,950,000
Italy .....	12,413,998,000
Belgium .....	1,154,468,000
Romania .....	1,600,000,000
Japan .....	40,000,000
Serbia .....	399,400,000
Greece .....	270,000,000
Canada .....	1,665,576,000

<b>Allied Powers</b>	<b>Cost in US Dollars in 1914-18</b>
Australia .....	1,423,208,000
New Zealand .....	378,750,000
India .....	601,279,000
South Africa .....	300,000,000
British Colonies .....	125,000,000
Others .....	500,000,000
<b>Total of all Costs .....</b>	<b>125,690,477,000</b>

# World War One: Parramatta Key Dates

Geoff Barker



World War One 1914-1918 infographic (Source: Parramatta Heritage Centre)

While the Research and Collections Team at the Parramatta Heritage Centre has been researching World War One servicemen, servicewomen and volunteer organisations, we have uncovered a number of key dates which relate to Parramatta. Some cover broader events of the war, but we also decided to include dates that were very specific to Parramatta at home and abroad, as well as dates which relate to the broader demographic of the current local government area.

Some relate to the actions of army and naval units in which the soldiers or nurses from Parramatta served. Some to the heroic endeavours of individuals while others have been included to mark an individual's contribution. Furthermore, it should continue to provide food for thought as we highlight the contribution of Parramatta and surrounding district's to this major world event.

<b>3 August 1914</b>	Pennant Hills Wireless Station, and all other Australian wireless stations placed under the control of the Naval Board.
<b>11 August 1914</b>	Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) ' <i>Parramatta</i> ' and ' <i>Warrego</i> ' enter Simpson Harbour, German New Guinea – Australia's first action of the war
<b>22 August 1914</b>	Richard (Dick) John Cutter became the first Parramatta man to enlist
<b>September 1914</b>	The Home Front – Parramatta Soldiers Wives and Mothers Centre commences
<b>26 September 1914</b>	First Indian troops arrive in France
<b>30 September 1914</b>	Action at Wytschaete, France and First Indian Victoria Cross
<b>1 November 1914</b>	First Australian troops embark from Albany, Western Australia
<b>9 November 1914</b>	Sinking of the His Majesty's Ship ' <i>Emden</i> ' (SMS ' <i>Emden</i> ') by Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) ' <i>Sydney</i> '
<b>15 November 1914</b>	Former Parramatta man, Billyard-Leake, owner of Harefield Park, in Middlesex, England offers his house to the Australian military authorities for use as a hospital
<b>24 November 1914</b>	Sister Edith Faber accepted into 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service
<b>1 December 1914</b>	Parramatta Woman, Dorothy Cawood, first Sydney nurse to be awarded a Military Medal, selected to work in the 1 and 2 Australian General Army Hospitals
<b>18 December 1914</b>	Parramatta Dentist, Arthur James Mills, Commander of the 4 Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) British Imperial Camel Corps, enlists
<b>19 January 1915</b>	First Zeppelin attack at Yarmouth, aerial warfare comes to England
<b>December 1914</b>	1 and 2 Battalions arrive in Egypt
<b>14 March 1915</b>	Gallipoli campaign outlined to Sir Ian Hamilton by Lord Kitchener
<b>22 April 1915</b>	First successful gas attack, Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium

<b>25 April 1915</b>	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion – ANZAC landing 2 and 3 waves
<b>25 April 1915</b>	13 Battalion – lands in late afternoon
<b>26 April 1915</b>	Victoria Cross won by Mir Dast, British Indian Army
<b>2 May 1915</b>	Parramatta soldier, James Durrant involved in fighting at the 'Chessboard', Gallipoli, Turkey
<b>12 May 1915</b>	1 Light Horse – ANZAC landing
<b>17 May 1915</b>	Private Cecil George 'Curly' Eather from Parramatta, killed in action at Gallipoli
<b>Late May 1915</b>	6 Light Horse – ANZAC landing with Colonel Cox
<b>3 July 1915</b>	Maori Battalion lands at ANZAC Cove, Gallipoli
<b>6 August 1915</b>	1 Battalion leads charge Lone Pine, Gallipoli
<b>20 August 1915</b>	17 and 18 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
<b>21 August 1915</b>	19 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
<b>22 August 1915</b>	20 Battalion landed at ANZAC Cove
<b>27 August 1915</b>	Privates Ernest and Alfred Currell of Baulkham Hills enlist
<b>20 December 1915</b>	1, 2, 3 and 4 Battalion and 6 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
<b>21 December 1915</b>	1 Light Horse – Evacuation at ANZAC Cove
<b>14 May 1916</b>	1 Light Horse defend Suez Canal, Egypt
<b>19 July 1916</b>	Battle of Fromelles, France
<b>4 - 5 August 1916</b>	1 Light Horse, Battle of Romani, Egypt
<b>6 June 1916</b>	45 Battalion arrives France made up of half Gallipoli veterans and new recruits
<b>11 April 1917</b>	13 Battalion – First battle of Bullecourt, France
<b>21 July – 6 Nov 1917</b>	3 Battle of Ypres, Belgium also known as Battle of Passchendaele
<b>26 September 1917</b>	54 Battalion – Battle of Polygon Wood, part of the Passchendaele, Belgium engagement
<b>31 October 1917</b>	1 and 7 Light Horse Battle of Beersheba, Palestine now Israel

<b>27 - 31 March 1918</b>	ANZAC Mounted Division and Camel Corps – First Battle of Amman, Palestine
<b>30 Mar – 5 Apr 1918</b>	54 Battalion – First Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
<b>14 July 1918</b>	Engagement Abu Tulul, Jordan Valley
<b>11 November 1918</b>	Armistice declared

# Australian Nurses in World War One

## Compiled from Arthur Butler (1943)

Compiled from Arthur Butler (1943) *Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services, 1914–1918*, Volume 3, Special Problems and Services, 1st edition.



Medical and nursing sisters of 3 Australian General Hospital in the tent lines with patients, 1915.  
(Source: *Australian War Memorial*, J01438)

When the call first went out in 1914 for nurses to help the Australian war effort their sphere of operation was confined to serving in General Hospitals at the base of operations. As a result, nurses did not get to work on the wounded until the first bandaging and treatments had already been performed near the front lines.

By the end of the war this role had changed drastically and female nurses were regarded an essential element in the whole process of evacuation of wounded from the war front. By then, they provided major therapeutic intervention in the field, at casualty clearing stations, then throughout the course of treatment until the soldier's discharge, and finally once they had returned home in convalescent hospitals.

Technically however, these nurses were civilians, 'attached' to the Army for special duties, and not soldiers, like the members of the Army Medical Services. This strange division of duties

was a legacy from the earlier years when the nursing of the sick in peace time and to some extent the wounded in war, remained a religious or semi-religious calling for women working in institutions like those founded in the 1600s by St. Vincent de Paul.

The modern system of nurses evolved in the Crimean War in 1854, when Florence Nightingale combined the existing religious devotion and discipline with scientific analysis and hygiene standards. From the close of the Crimean War, the history of the nursing of the sick is one of educating every part of the community to new ideas regarding the status and capacity of women as trained nurses. In 1860, the Florence Nightingale Memorial Training School was established at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. The civil nursing profession and military nursing service grew side by side, and it is from them that the Australian nursing system, civil and military, derived.

The first nursing sisters to arrive in Australia were French members of a religious order. After working for a time in Parramatta, they established themselves in Sydney in 1857 where they founded the Free Hospital of the Sisters of Charity which evolved into St. Vincent's Hospital. In the 1860s, the improvement of the nursing staff was taken up by Sir Henry Parkes who wrote to Florence Nightingale to enlist her sympathy, and help establish a training school. On 4 October 1866, she approved the scheme, and in March 1868 a Lady Superintendent and five sisters arrived in Sydney. Miss Lucy Osburn was the Lady Superintendent; she was addressed as 'Mam' by the nurses, and to others was known as 'The Lady'.

The development of the profession was then taken up by the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association which originated in New South Wales and the Royal Victorian Trained Nurses' Association in Victoria. By 1914, the training of nurses was precisely organised and the standard rigidly controlled. By any comparison, its scientific and practical standard was as high as any in the world.

When the First World War broke out, notices were sent to all efficient and reserve Sisters asking them whether in the event of the Nursing Service being required they were prepared for

(a) Home Service (b) Overseas Service. By the second week in September, arrangements were almost complete and in addition to the Efficient Sisters and Reserve Efficient Sisters, more than a hundred fully qualified members of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association were eagerly awaiting enrollment.

The occasion did not at the time arise for the general employment of the reserve as such, but with very few exceptions the members of the reserve at once volunteered for service abroad in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). For a time, preference for positions in the A.I.F. was given to members of the reserve and from which the principal matrons, matrons, and most of the sisters that left Australia early in the war were selected. The resolution that trained female nurses should accompany the A.I.F. was determined directly by the request of the British.

The First and Second Australian General Hospitals left after the first convoy of soldiers from Albany, Western Australia, although an advance contingent of nurses was taken on board to carry out duties on the troop transports. When the first General Hospitals left Australia in December 1914, one hundred nurses were sent in excess of the number needed for establishment. With the great expansion of Australian Hospitals and other Medical Units in Egypt to cope with the evacuation of casualties from the Gallipoli Campaign further large numbers of nurses were sent overseas.

During the Gallipoli Campaign, the sufferings of the wounded from the landing in the 'black ships' on the voyage to Alexandria, Egypt deeply impressed itself on the Australian public mind and led to the establishment of a quota of trained female nurses who became responsible for the ordering and oversight of all arrangements for the care of the wounded, and for the nursing and 'dressing' of serious cases.

The following nurses were attached for duty on the Hospital Ship (H.S.) '*Guildford Castle*' on 5 July 1915: Sisters V. Woinarski, M. Brown, A. King, E. Vierk, C. Sorensen and Lyons B. Loughrey.

Sister E. R. Collins' comments show her appreciation of their work.

*Their devotion to duty was most marked, they are splendid medical and surgical nurses, and proved loyal and willing workers. Their discipline was good - they never once questioned an order given - and they are able to rise to emergencies and proved adaptable under varied conditions.*

With the reduction of Australian Army Medical Corps (A.A.M.C.) Medical Units in Egypt, there were many nurses in excess of the establishments. Instead of returning those who were not wanted to Australia, they were placed at the disposal of the Imperial Authorities where they worked in many Imperial Hospitals in Egypt and elsewhere.

In May 1915 and in August 1916, Numbers (Nos.) 3 and 14 Australian General Hospitals each of 1,040 beds were sent overseas. Each was organised and staffed for the normal reception of patients.

In April 1916, Nos. 1 and 2 General Hospitals and Nos. 1 and 2 Casualty Clearing Stations went with the Infantry to France. During the process of settling in, the nursing staffs were distributed among various British hospitals. Australian medical affairs in Egypt were for a time administered by Major D. S. Mackenzie, from General Howse's staff. In August 1916, on the initiative of the War Office, fifty of the surplus nurses in Egypt were sent to Bombay, India. Another one hundred were sent from Australia to meet the needs of the sick and wounded from the operations in Mesopotamia, now Iraq.

Since May 1915, the centre of activity for Australian nurses in England was at No. 1 Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield and with the arrival of the Australians on the Western Front the Nursing Service in England gradually increased. No. 2 Auxiliary Hospital at Southall received five hundred patients and its nursing staff soon grew to forty nurses. No. 1 at Harefield had accommodation for nine hundred and a nursing staff of fifty nurses, while No. 3 Auxiliary, which was opened at Dartford, soon extended to take 1,200 patients and employed sixty-three nurses. Smaller hospitals were also opened for officers and nurses.

The flow of casualties after the Pozieres, France operations was so great that many partially fit had to be accommodated in the Command Depots, No. 2 Command Depot at Weymouth, England grew to accommodate 8,000 patients and its nursing staff included eleven Australian Army Nursing Service (A.A.N.S.) nurses. The most important nursing work was carried out in the General Hospitals at the Expeditionary bases where work embraced every variety of surgical and medical nursing.

The change in the military status of the Casualty Clearing Station from a clearing house to the forward centre for scientific treatment was another significant change in the way nurses worked. Initially these clearing stations did not employ nurses but soon their expertise was recognised as being invaluable and work was intimately bound up with the surgical team. The sort of work that the sisters were called upon to do varied very greatly.

The following account is from the diary of Sister Belstead ...

*...the Matron took me to some huge marquees and said she wanted all the patients dressed before 10 a.m. 'Can you get them done Sister,' she asked. I looked at the stretchers-in long rows everywhere, 'I'll try' I murmured. But in spite of trying I was not able to do it and another sister came along to help me...The next few days was a continuous stream of wounded each one seemingly as bad as could be. Eight theatre teams working day and night yet it seemed impossible to cope with things; and the men were such bricks, lying on their stretchers waiting for their turn on the operating table One realised this was war indeed. If one had time to think we would have just been weeping hysterical women but we'd only time to do. It was only afterwards that one thought and realised how as a matter of necessity we had done little or nothing for those who had died.*

At the battle of Bullecourt, France the No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station had seventeen nurses and by the Third Ypres battle this increased to thirty-four, including twelve team sisters. Six surgical tables were kept constantly going and the hospital included English, Canadian, American and Australian teams. The following statement by Sister B. Belstead probably puts the general point of view of the nursing service ...

*I am strongly of the impression, from my own experience, that sisters are required at Casualty Clearing Station (C.C.S.). The cases will not get the treatment they really require from orderlies, who have not the training required. The cases would bleed, for example, and not be looked after really well. The boys when on their own, or the majority of them, are helpless for really bad cases, which would often get into a serious condition without this being noticed. It is not men's work unless specially trained; and they feel it so. Of course we could not have done without orderlies ... I was at 'Nine Elms' (No. 3 A.C.C.S.) first, till we left in a hurry when the place was badly shelled. We had a very comfortable time at the C.C.S. I found things much more comfortable at C.C.S. than at No. 3 Australian General Hospital (A.G.H.), Abbeville. We had plenty of coal, etc. You could get things so much easier; get anything you wanted; the nearer the front the easier to get things. Work was very heavy in patches, worse than in a General Hospital but at times almost empty. I was in the theatre a good lot of the time, and at busy times we had a day and part of the night without stopping.*

The A.I.F. nurses attached to the British served chiefly (in order of numbers) in India, Salonica in Greece, and France. The first batch of nurses who reached India from Egypt in July 1916 were distributed to the various garrison hospitals. By the end of October 1916, some one hundred and forty-eight A.A.N.S. nurses were serving in the various hospitals in India. On 6 October 1917 the War Office cabled to the Defence Department for trained nurses for the expansion of units in India. The Minister for Defence approved and by December 1917 five large war hospitals were staffed entirely by Australian nurses.

**World War One:  
Parramatta Nurse – Dorothy Cawood  
First Sydney nurse awarded a Military Medal  
Geoff Barker**



Portrait of Dorothy Cawood  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

On the 1 July 1919, Nurse Dorothy Cawood returned home to Parramatta after 4 years' continuous service. A year earlier she had been mentioned in dispatches by Sir Douglas Haig for her conspicuous service in Egypt, France and Italy. Just before leaving England to return home, she had been awarded a Military Medal by the King at Buckingham Palace for her bravery during the action at Messines, France. She was the first Sydney woman to receive this award.

Dorothy left with the first contingent of Australian nurses and after working in France was transferred to Genoa, Italy, with the 38 Stationary Hospital where again her fine service called forth the highest praise from military officers there. It was at this time that her matron wrote the following letter of appreciation to her mother:

38 Stationary Hospital, A.P.O.L. 3, B.E.P., Italy, 31/1/18.

Dear Mrs. Cawood,

*You may have received a notification from the Defence Department that your, daughter, Dorothy, is sick in hospital; so I am writing to tell you not to worry – it's nothing serious – just tonsillitis. I hope to have her back on duty long before this letter reaches you. I want to take this opportunity, Mrs. Cawood, of congratulating you upon having such a good daughter as Dorothy. She is a most excellent nurse – one of the very best Australia has sent out. 'When I told my O.C. that I had sent Dorothy to the Sisters Hospital, he said, 'I'm sorry; I like that little girl. She does her work well, and gives no trouble to anyone. I will take care of her for you, and not let her work too hard'.*

*Kindest regards. Yours sincerely,*

*Ethel S. Davidson, Matron, A.A.N.S., 38 Stationary Hospital.*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 5 July 1919, page 4.

Her parents John and Sarah Cawood lived in Hunter Street, Parramatta but when Germany declared war in August 1914, Dorothy was attached to the Coast Hospital at Little Bay in Sydney's Eastern suburbs. In December 1914, it was announced she would be one of the one hundred and eighty-six nurses selected to work in the Nos. 1 and 2 Australian General Army Hospitals and soon after she was on her way to Egypt. While based at the No. 2 Australian General Hospital at Mena and Ghezireh, on the outskirts of Cairo, she also did some work on the hospital ships ferrying soldiers between Gallipoli and Alexandria, Egypt.

But the great test of her courage came while on duty in France. On 2 July 1917, she was under fire at No. 2 casualty clearing station in France when the Germans attacked and killed many of the patients and some hospital staff. This station had been operating as usual for nearly a year when around May 1914 the work became heavier and more staff were added. By July they had three operating tables in use and performed around 2,000 operations between July

and August. In addition, many of the soldiers coming in needed intensive care as they were badly affected by mustard gas which had caused large blisters to form on the body and created temporary or even permanent blindness.

To make matters even worse, the unit was bombed on the 2 July, and Sister Cawood, along with three others, remained at their post. Afterwards she brought many of the wounded to a place of safety. The Military Medal was an official recognition of her courage and coolness under fire.

When she returned home she was greeted by the Parramatta Welcome Home Committee, family, friends and even the Mayor. (see Chapter 18)

In 1943, she retired and a year later, she returned to Parramatta where she lived until her death on the 16 February 1962. She had never married and was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, New South Wales.

## World War One: Parramatta Nurse – Pearl Lottie Trayhurn Neera Sahni



Portraits of Pearl Lottie Trayhurn

(Sources: (left) *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War, 1914–1919* and (right) *Australian War Memorial*)

Pearl Lottie Trayhurn was born on the 29 August 1886 in Inverell, New South Wales. Her parents were Edwin John Trayhurn and Kejia Charlotte Trayhurn nee Maddy of Bingara, New South Wales. Prior to her enlistment on the 19 June 1915 at the age of 29 years, she worked as a Matron at the Parramatta District Hospital, whilst living in Darlinghurst. As a staff nurse of the Unit 1 Hospital Ship 'Karoola', she left Australia several times throughout her service. Her first journey was from Sydney on the 14 July 1915. She embarked on board 'Karoola' throughout the course of the war and she returned to Australia on the 28 June 1919.

After returning to Australia, she married Henry Vernon Jackson on the 14 December 1919. She died at the age of 58 years and was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, New South Wales.

# World War One: Parramatta Nurse – Daisy Wearne Neera Sahni



Portrait of Daisy Wearne  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

Nurse Daisy Wearne was born in 1887 in Sydney, New South Wales. She was 28 years old when she enlisted on the 12 June 1915 for the front with the Australian Red Cross Unit. At the time, she was head nurse of the Parramatta District Hospital. Her father was Joseph Henry Wearne and her mother was Mary, of 'Caerahayes', William Edward Street, Longueville, New South Wales. One of her brothers was also serving overseas. According to her father she had received 2 offers - "one of marriage and the other of going with the Red Cross Hospital, and he felt that she chose the nobler".

She embarked from Sydney on 14 July 1915 aboard HMAT 'Orsova' as staff for No. 1 Australian Hospital Ship 'Karoola'. Upon her arrival in London, she wrote to *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate* of her journey as an article 'An Anxious Voyage' published on the 16 October 1915, page 6.

*We arrived here safely, after a very rough and anxious trip. We sighted a submarine two miles astern, and just at that time two destroyers came along. It was a glorious and most welcome*

*sight. Only a couple of days before four ships had been sunk, and we saw a lot of wreckage, which made us all feel very miserable. I am well, and expect to leave tomorrow, with wounded, for Australia. Kindest regards to all.*

On 12 April 1916, she became Matron-in-Chief at the 3 Australian General Hospital.

On 25 February 1919 she married Karl Frank Thompson in Hampstead, England and retired from active service. After marriage, Daisy and her husband moved to the United States of America and were living in Cleveland, Ohio until 1951.

# World War One: Parramatta Nurse – Edith Danson Rush Geoff Barker



Australian Hospital Ward, Egypt, by A. W. Savage (Source: *State Library of New South Wales*)

Edith Danson Rush was 34 years old when she joined the No. 3 Australian General Hospital the day after the Gallipoli landing in Turkey, 26 April 1915. She was born in Glebe, New South Wales, and her father was listed as living in Nelson's Bay, Port Stephens, New South Wales. She had worked at the Parramatta Hospital before being stationed with the No. 3 General Hospital at Mudros, Lemnos, Greece on the 1 January 1916.

Edith was awarded the Royal Red Cross (2 Class) on the 1 January 1917 and after a spell as a patient in hospital in England, she was detached for duty with the 2 Australian Army Hospital on the 8 May 1917. She also served in France with the 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station from the 18 February 1918. She returned to Australia on the 24 January 1920 and later that year, the Army sent her the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

# World War One: Parramatta Nurse – Pauline Hyland Neera Sahni



Group photo of Australian Army Nursing Service (Source: *Australian War Memorial*)

Pauline Olive Hyland was born in 1889 in Granville, New South Wales. She was the daughter of Luke and Rose Mary Hyland. Prior to her enlistment on the 10 August 1916, she worked as a nurse in the Parramatta District Hospital. At the time of her enlistment, she was living in Harris Park and unmarried. She left with her Unit the Australian Army Nursing Service as a Staff Nurse from Sydney on board RMS. 'Kashgar' on the 2 September 1916. She returned to Australia on the 18 April 1919. After returning, she married James McMahon in 1935, at the age of 46 years. James was a widower and was working as a farmer and carpenter. She died at the age of 77 years in Parramatta.

# World War One: Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses Lyndall Linaker

The Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) which was the second detachment formed in New South Wales, was an organisation which helped with cooking, sewing, mending and fund raising for invalid soldiers. Many Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachments worked in hospitals, hospital ships and blood banks. They received first aid and home nursing training from Saint John Ambulance Association but many of their primary duties were unskilled work such as domestic duties and washing patients.



**Lucy Readett**

Miss Lucy Readett was a Commandant in the Parramatta V.A.D.. Lucy is also mentioned as an office bearer for the Girls' Realm Guild, an organisation founded for the purpose of encouraging girls to help other girls who were not in such fortunate circumstances as themselves.

Lucy Readett (Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

## V. Morse

Sister Morse's appointment as Matron at Parramatta District Hospital was reported in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate* on the 22 March 1919. She also headed the Parramatta V.A.D. unit for a time.



## Inez Saunders

Before her marriage, Mrs Inez Saunders, nee Hill was a Commandant in the Parramatta V.A.D. Her father was Alderman Hill from Parramatta Council.

Inez Saunders (Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

The following women were all members of the Parramatta V.A.D.:

Alexander, E. Betts, J. Brown, Bruntnell, Burns, Carrick, Cavanaugh, Colls, Copeland, Cotterell, Coutts, Crase, Creagh, Crouch, Curtis, Drummond, Eades, Earp, Funnell, F. Fyall, R. Fyall, Gregory, F. Harvey, L. Harvey, Hill, Hines, Holt, Hopkins, A. Hume, P. Hume, Hunt, R. Husband, Jackson, Kaylock, D. Little, Luckey, Lumly, Morgan, Napper, F. Noller, O. Noller, Paterson, K. Pearce, Porter, A. Readett, M. Readett, Richardson, Ross, Rossiter, Amy Summons, Margaret Summons, Thompson and Thorpe.



**PARRAMATTA V.A.D.—1918.**  
Back row: Misses Eades, Funnell, Ross, Harvey, Sherlock, A. Readett. Second row: Misses Holt, R. Brown, M. Sammons, Paterson, Artlett. Third row: Misses Rossiter, Luckey, F. Fyall, Burns, Earp, Coogan, Thompson, J. Brown, A. Summons, Kaylock. Front row: Misses Crase, Lumley, R. Fyall, D. Little, L. Readett, Napper, Thorpe.

Parramatta V.A.D. - 1918 (Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

**Senior Commandant  
Julian Lindsay da Silva Waugh  
Emma Stockburn**



Portrait of Julian Lindsay da Silva Waugh  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

**New South Wales Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D)**

*I have always been so enthusiastic about the Red Cross training for girls; for not only do they learn such vitally important subjects as first aid and home nursing; but their training includes a certain amount of discipline.*

Extract: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 August 1937, page 3.

Commandant Julian da Silva Waugh was born in Balmain, New South Wales, in 1880 to John and Julian Waugh. Her father was Mayor of Parramatta from 1909 to 1910. Her mother, as Mayoress organised the embroidering of the flag presented to the Captain of the His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) '*Parramatta*' when it arrived on the Parramatta River in 1911.

She was one of the best known Red Cross workers who was appointed to the position of Commandant of the Parramatta branch in 1916. She served in this position for two

years before she went to Egypt in July 1918. Some of her experiences were relayed in local newspapers:

*The greatest number of dishes I cooked in any one day in Egypt was 1270 jollies, custards, milk puddings and so forth. Everything was cooked in kerosene stoves, and I found them excellent. The greatest boon was that I had nothing to do with that house hold bugbear — washing-up. A couple of native boys always did the cleaning up, and they did their work well, even if they did need constant watching.*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 10 September 1919, page 2.

*I was the voluntary cook at the 14th Australian General Hospital, Port Said and Abbassia, and later opened a Bengers Food kitchen at the Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp, on the beach at Port Said. I prepared as many as 1270 dishes in one day at the hospital, and part of my duty, while I was in Egypt was to take 70 of the men out every afternoon in a boat on the canal. They had afternoon tea and enjoyed what was a great treat, sandwiches of bread which had been made with Australian flour. I returned to Australia in the last hospital ship to leave Egypt, the Dunluce Castle.*

Extract: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 August 1937, page 3.

After being in Egypt for two years, she returned home and resumed her former V.A.D. position. In 1937, she became Senior Commandant of the New South Wales V.A.D. She continued her work for and support of the Red Cross during the Second World War and she saw the importance of girls being a part of this service. Miss da Silva Waugh spent a great deal of time travelling New South Wales giving talks to girls who wished to join the Red Cross, telling them many details of life as a member of the Detachment at home and abroad.

*There are lots of things girls can do in detachments. Quite apart from first aid and home nursing, there are all sorts of odd jobs. The training is a tremendous asset to you, even in your own home.*

Extract: *The Sun*, 5 May 1918, page 5.

*Miss Waugh: Sister Relf has asked if there is anything else I can tell you. I just want you girls to realize that in the event of any hostilities arising here you may get a message at any time to do all manner of things. For instance, get beds, ready – say, 200 or 300- and it is your job to do it. ...you might be called upon to take over a school or a show ground and convert it into a hospital. Various people in the country during the last war offered their homes The Mill at Moss Vale, was offered, the girls set to work and cleaned it out, collected beds, chairs and linen from all over the countryside, and in no time it was ready for occupation by twenty men and a staff. Such things as these you may be call upon to do.*

Extract: *The Scone Advocate*, 30 April 1940, page 2.

Julian da Silva Waugh died on the 5 December 1942 after a short illness at the age of 62 years. Her funeral was held at St. Thomas's Church in North Sydney and was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, Lidcombe, New South Wales.

## Commandant Dulce Davies Little

Caroline Finlay



Portrait of Dulce Davis Little  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

Miss Dulce Davies Little, who lived in Alice Street, Harris Park, New South Wales was born in Parramatta on the 11 April 1894 to Thomas and Mary Little. Her baptism was registered at St. John's Church, Parramatta, on the 21 April 1894.

Miss Little was the Commandant of the Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) On the 12 April 1919, Miss Little wrote a letter to the editor of *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, defending the work of the Parramatta V.A.D. workers. The accusation was that not enough work had been done to help influenza patients in Granville during the epidemic after the war. She responds in her letter by explaining that her staff was already overwhelmed by the work required in Parramatta and in their own homes:

*I, as commandant, was asked indirectly to undertake 'flu work in Granville'. My reply was that owing to, having so many girls on duty this month, and already having been requisitioned for the Red Cross Hospital, as well as for Parramatta, that as a body I could not undertake any duties in Granville for the detachment, but if any aids are residing in Granville (there are three,*

*two of whom are business girls) would do anything locally they could do it, unless required at Parramatta. Though we fully realise the need for assistance during this epidemic, they must also remember that our first duty lies with the Red Cross, of whom we are one section, and that our ordinary work has to go on just the same, and this month more Parramatta girls are on duty, that is monthly or longer, than on any previous occasion in its history ...Then several girls' have influenza in their own homes, and a very large per cent are business girls, and as much as we would like to help wherever, required, we cannot be in two places at once.*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 12 April 1919, page 12.

In May of that year, Miss Little fell ill with the flu whilst caring for patients at the Dame Edith Walker Hospital, in Concord West, New South Wales. Her work was commented on by Miss Gladys Owen, joint honorary secretary of the Red Cross:

*On behalf of the Red Cross executive I am instructed to thank you very much indeed for your splendid voluntary services at the Walker Hospital during the time it was used as an influenza hospital. The wonderful services of the V.A.'s [Voluntary Aid Detachments] undoubtedly contributed to the success of the hospital, and we wish to thank all those who volunteered for the work and carried it out so efficiently.*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 31 May 1919, page 6.

On the 17 November 1923, Miss Little married Arthur Raeburn Sharp, an engineer, at St. John's Church, Parramatta.

Dulce Davies Sharp died on the 23 June 1982 at the age of 88 years. She was living at the time, in the Northern Beaches area of Sydney.

**World War One:  
Parramatta Nurse – Edith Faber  
Geoff Barker**



Portrait of Edith Faber  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

Edith Faber was one of the first volunteers to be accepted into the 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service on the 24 November 1914. At the time of her acceptance, she was 31 years old and living at Hillier Street, Merrylands, New South Wales. She was stationed on one of the hospital ships, the '*Grantully Castle*', which was moored off the coast of the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. Edith was promoted to Nursing Sister in December 1915.

# World War One: Red Cross Society, Parramatta Branch Alison Lykissas



Photograph of Prime Minister Joseph Cook (second from left) and Mary Cook (right) meeting the people of Parramatta, New South Wales on 2 November 1913 at a stone laying ceremony commemorating the 125 anniversary of its foundation. (Source: *National Archives of Australia*, NAA: M3614, 8)

The Australian Red Cross was established in 1914 by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson when she formed a branch of the British Red Cross. The Parramatta branch was formed in early 1915 when a meeting was called in the local newspaper.

**M**UNICIPALITY OF PARRAMATTA.  
RED CROSS LEAGUE.

A MEETING of LADIES will be held in the Council Chamber, Parramatta, at 4 o'clock p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 10th instant, for the purpose of taking steps to FORM a BRANCH of the RED CROSS LEAGUE in Parramatta.

M. J. GRAHAM,  
Mayoress.

Town Hall, Parramatta,  
5th February, 1915.

(Source: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 6 February 1915, page 12)

Many prominent people were involved in organising assistance for the war effort. Mary Cook, wife of Joseph Cook (Prime Minister of Australia, 1913-1914 and Leader of the Opposition 1914-1917) was very active in the Red Cross and in Cook's electorate of Parramatta. She was elected

President of the Parramatta Red Cross at the inaugural meeting, and continued to be active throughout the war and afterwards.

*She spoke at meetings there in the 1919 election campaign, and also deputised at ministerial events, such as the unveiling of an Honour Roll dedicated to the 1914–18 servicemen and women ... In 1918 Mary Cook and Mary Hughes attended events in London for the Imperial War Conference and the Cooks made a triumphal return to their home towns in Staffordshire. Both women represented their Red Cross branches. With Margaret Fisher, wife of Australia's High Commissioner, they were also involved in work for Australian troops in France, and their families in Australia. During Joseph Cook's term as High Commissioner, Mary Cook played a key role for the Australian Red Cross Society, including representing the Society at a meeting of the International Red Cross Board of Governors in Paris in 1923.*

Extract: National Archives of Australia.

Other branch members included Mesdames Moxham and Graham, Vice-Presidents; Mrs W Atkins, Hon Treasurer; Mrs Evans and Mrs Thomas, Joint Hon Secretaries; The Executive Committee were Mesdames W.S. Brown, Griffin, Granger, Cook, Moxham, Graham and Atkins.

The Parramatta branch was very active during the war, helping to organise much needed supplies and fundraising. One of the first activities they held was in Parramatta Park where they raised money to send to Egypt for sheepskin waistcoats. They also provided many items needed at the front and for injured soldiers and their families. Items such as clothing, bed linen, towels, chairs, soaps, candles, cards, tobacco, magazines, nibs, bandages, wool and slippers were provided by the Parramatta Society of the Red Cross. It was regular practice to advertise events and fundraising opportunities in the local paper and to thank community members who were active and contributed their time and/or services.

One of their first initiatives was to manage a field hospital in Liverpool. This was established in July 1915. The hut had 14 beds and the Parramatta Red Cross helped to fit it out with all the required furniture and supplies. They assisted in raising money, made personal donations and visited the

patients. Some other typical services included a linen department where Red Cross workers made bandages, the spinning group and the knitting circle all contributed much needed items.

*The Knitting Circle, under the supervision of the late Mrs W.S. Brown, assisted by Miss Houison, produced many comforts for our soldiers, in the form of socks, mufflers, caps, etc.*

Extract: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919.*

Other methods of assistance involved the whole community and one such example is illustrated in an article in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 24 April 1918 (page 3), when the Red Cross organised a fund-raising day called Big Parramatta. It is indicative of the nature of their work and appeal to the broad community.

*Red Cross day in Parramatta is going to be a very big thing. Arrangements are practically complete. The local Red Cross executive and members have been working very assiduously and the utmost attention has been given to every detail, no matter how minor. The joint honorable secretaries, Mrs B.N. Dunn and Mrs K. Burnell have a fine band of energetic workers around them each vying with the other to seize every opportunity and means of increasing Parramatta's contribution to a fund the claims of which are such that they scarcely need reiteration. But at such a time as this the claims of the noble Red Cross cannot possibly be too appealingly placed before the public. The significant, world-wide, humanitarian work of the organisation is exemplified every day of our existence at present and those who are placed in the unfortunate position of having to use the Red Cross are loudest in their praises of what that organisation is doing. Just at present, whilst the big offensive in Europe is raging with awful violence, with scores of thousands of noble soldiers, friend and foe alike, calling out for assistance and succour, this mighty Red Cross is even more hard-put-to-it than ever before. Their splendid deeds in the past have been made a possible achievement only by the generous and noble response in money and kind from the people, but despite that generous response still more money is needed. And to get that money is what 'The Day' has been promoted for.*

*It is hoped that in Parramatta there will be a really good response. These districts have perhaps used the Red Cross organisation as much as other centres, and with our big population and large*

percentage of suffering soldiers, it would surely not be expecting too much to hope for the community to band themselves together in enthusiastic cooperation and unison in an endeavour to make the result one worthy .... Let us hope that all petty squabbles and bickering will be dropped locally, if only just for 'The Day,' out of respect, love and admiration for the soldiers of all classes and creeds and opinions who are banding together as one man at the present time on the other side of the world, so that we will now and hereafter have a free world to live in.

Eleven Street Stalls have been arranged for Friday, and will be located as follows: — St. John's Church, at Railway Bridge, Church-street. Red Cross in front of the Town Hall, Refreshment Rooms, by the Methodist Church in Jubilee Hall; South Public School at Fountain Bowling Club, at Ferrier's corner (Church and Macquarie streets); St. Andrews in front of St. Andrew's Church; War Chest, at Terry's corner; St. Patrick's at Bank of NSW (corner Church and George streets); All Saint's, at Alfred Park (Church and Pennant streets). North Public School, at North Parramatta Post Office; Rosehill Public School at Harris Park railway station. Each stall will have six collectors with Red Cross boxes, and the public is asked to fill and re-fill these as rapidly as possible.

Special attention has been paid to the amusement side of the business. From 12 noon until 9pm several bands (for which Lieut. Howe is arranging) will discourse enlivening music from the vicinity of the different stalls. In addition, high-class concerts are being arranged by Miss Lucy Brutnoll. The performers (all leading artists) will be mounted on a moving lorry, and will travel about among the different stalls, and perform in their best style to the crowds which are sure to gather around there from 7 till 9 pm.

It has been suggested that local owners of motor-cars might add to the effect and success of the function by decorating their cars and lending assistance in the collections, whilst the business people are asked to be unsparing in the decoration of their premises. Private houses should also display bunting. The attention of the members of the local Red Cross branch is directed to their secretaries' notice in our advertising columns, which alters the night of this week's meeting from Wednesday to Thursday.

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 24 April 1918, page 3.

## World War One: War Chest Society, Parramatta Alison Lykissas



Sydney school children knitting for the soldiers  
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918,*  
*Volume 12 Photographic record of the War*)

In 1917, Mayor Alderman Francis John Thomas called a meeting to discuss the establishment of the Parramatta branch of the War Chest Society. Fifty local women attended to work out ways of providing comfort for Australian soldiers in Egypt, France and other war zones. On 24 April 1917 the Parramatta Branch of the War Chest society was established.

The officers appointed at that meeting were: Patron Mrs. F.J. Thomas, President Mrs. T. Moxham, Vice Presidents Mrs. Joseph Cook and Mrs. Bruntnell; Honorary Secretary Mrs. H.E. Haddrill, Honorary Treasurer Mrs. J.H. Saunders, and a committee of seven. Other women who held positions as President were Mrs Jago, Mrs. Artlett and Mrs. E.K. Burnell.

*The members of the society met twice each week in the Parramatta Town Hall to knit socks and make clothing to be forwarded for dispatch to "Our Boys" at the front. During the time the Society*

*was in operation our members made 6874 pairs socks, about 500 flannel shirts, 200 Balaclava caps and mufflers, and many pairs of mittens. Besides these we forwarded several cases of goods, such as tinned fruit and condensed milk which were received at gift evenings organised by three of our members, Mrs. R. Telfer, Miss Forsythe, and Miss Hosford. Though working hard for our own society we were not unmindful of the needs of other patriotic bodies and by means of street stalls, etc, we raised over £1000 for such objects as Red Triangle Day, France's Day, Red Cross Day, British Red Cross Day, AIF Day etc. while for the two big War Chest Days, with the cooperation of other local patriotic workers, we were able to forward to head office over £1800.*

Extract: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*, page 260.

A report titled *Our Good Patriotic Workers* details other methods the Parramatta War Chest Society employed to help the war effort. This article in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 6 March 1918, page 1 also indicates the social status that came with being involved in the war effort and the results of their fundraising.

*At the half yearly meeting of the Parramatta War Chest organisation, presided over by Mrs. Thomas, there were present Mrs. Haddrill and Mrs. Reid (joint hon secretaries). Mrs Saunders, (hon treasurer) and many other ladies well known in local patriotic services.*

The meeting summarised their results and methods of fundraising. It details exact amounts raised from members' sales, donations, spinning (wool) classes, scarf classes, and proceeds from various concerts that were held. Including a 'Snowball Supper' held in Parramatta Park for soldiers from the Australian Medical Corp who were about to depart for the front.

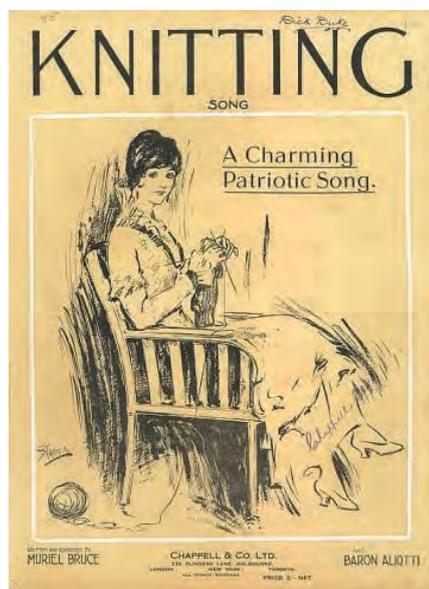
*The report stated that 2825 pairs of socks had been prepared and obtained in connection with the May appeal. During the last six months 419 pairs had been secured (120 from members of our society). Apart from that, large quantities of mittens, caps, shirts and mufflers had been prepared for the soldiers.*

The War Chest members used wool winders and spinning wheels to create the donations of socks and mittens for the soldiers. And resources were shared between the community organisations, as illustrated by the following observations:

*Members had done good work too, with the spinning wheels (three of which had been donated by the Red Cross Society). Now that wool has become so expensive it behoves members to get busy right away and spin the wool we have in hand.*

Although the War Society had a core group of members, they called on all members of the Parramatta community to assist in their efforts.

Knitting needles around Australia were brought out in force at the beginning of the war and knitting groups were established in schools and community groups. "A total of 1,354,328 pairs of socks were knitted for the Australian Comforts Fund during the Great War, and there were even patriotic songs about Knitting for 'Our Boys' in the trenches."



"The knitting song  
Soldier lad, on the sodden ground,  
Sailor lad, on the seas.  
Can't you hear a little clickety sound  
Stealing across on the breeze?  
It's the knitting needles singing their song,  
As they twine the khaki or blue,  
Thousands and thousands and thousands strong.  
Tommy and Jack, for you."

(Source: National Library of Australia)

It is evident that The War Chest Society was very active throughout the war years and although it was established a few years after war began, its members were very involved and spent a lot of time assisting in the war effort. In 1919, the War Chest Society was wound up and

newspapers, written at the time, illustrate the effort that had gone into making the society a success.

The great range of needs caused by the war has had lasting effects in many other ways also. The creation of the War Chest Society, and many other community organisations, resulted in the quick development of fund raising methods which are still relevant today. It demonstrated that large amounts could be raised through community action and many churches and various non-profit organisations still raise much of their revenue this way today.

*The fact that churches, colleges, and hundreds of other organizations adopted this plan of securing their finances and still continue such a plan indicates clearly that war chests made a contribution to methods of raising money by popular subscription.*

**Lady Mary Cook,  
Dame of the Order of the British Empire  
Emma Stockburn**



Vice President War Chest Society  
President of the Red Cross Society Parramatta  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919*)

Lady Mary Cook (nee Turner) was born in Staffordshire, England in 1863. She came from a mining family where her brothers had left home to work in the mine. Mary became a school teacher at Chesterton Girls' School and by 1885 was assistant mistress there. It was that year, at the age of twenty-two that she married Joseph Cook and the couple decided to immigrate to Australia where Joseph Cook began his political career and Mary began her role with the Red Cross.

In 1891, Joseph had become a member of the New South Wales parliament, and was a father of three sons. In 1901, he was the Federal Member for Parramatta and the couple then had six children. Much of their time was spent apart as Joseph stayed in Melbourne for parliamentary sittings and Mary lived in their house in Lithgow, New South Wales with their children. By 1906 they had nine children.

It was when the children were older and with the start of World War One that Mary began her work with the Red Cross. She would later become Vice President of the War Chest Society and President of the Parramatta Branch of the Red Cross Society in 1915.

Members of the War Chest society met regularly to knit socks and make clothing to send to the front for the war effort. They also sent food packages. While members of the Red Cross Society were very active in Parramatta organising supplies and fundraising for the war effort, they assisted soldiers overseas and helped with their families back home as well.

As President of the Parramatta Red Cross in 1915, Mary along with her daughter Mary Moxham and the Mayoress of Parramatta Mrs. Jane Graham (nee Erwin) organised a sewing circle which was held at the Jubilee Hall. At first, Mary and her ladies started with eleven sewing machines and by the end of a month they had had sent away 107 mosquito nets, 100 pairs of knitted socks, 67 pairs of pyjamas, cholera belts, bandages and supplies such as soldiers' kits to Red Cross headquarters. The work was done by many ladies and girls including students from Parramatta High School and Parramatta Convent and other local schools. Within a few years the Parramatta Red Cross sewing group had over 50 members and was producing close to 3,100 items a month.

Mary kept on supporting and working with the Red Cross in Parramatta as well as overseas. She accompanied her husband, Joseph Cook in his new role as a Navy Minister and in 1918, Mary Cook attended events in London for the Imperial War Conference. While there, the Cooks visited their home towns in Staffordshire, with much fanfare.

During Sir Joseph Cook's term as High Commissioner (1921-1927) in London, his main role was to encourage immigration to Australia and bolster Australian produce and trade. As the wife of the High Commissioner, Mary saw to the organisation and assistance of many social and political gatherings. She attended to many Australians visiting London, as well as being present at every public event and was interviewed and photographed at most of these. Mary took a particular interest in supporting British women who wanted to live in Australia, as well as promoting Australian produce and cooking as a benefit for the Empire. She was quoted as saying that the "popularisation of Australian dried fruits as light refreshments would be a real service to the empire" and that "raisins and sultana's between bread and butter make delightful sandwiches for at home, tennis teas and bridge parties."

Mary continued her work with the Australian Red Cross while in London for those six years. In 1923, she represented the Society at a meeting of the International Red Cross Board of Governors in Paris. For her work with the Red Cross since 1915, Mary was awarded the Dame of the Order of the British Empire in 1925.

The couple returned to Australia in 1927. Mary had an active retirement working with Newington College, Stanmore to help raise funds for the school's students and facilities.

Sir Joseph Cook, former sixth Prime Minister of Australia (24 June 1913-17 September 1914) died on the 30 July 1947, aged 86 years. Mary's death occurred three years later on 25 September 1950 at her home in 'Silchester', Trahlee Road, Bellevue Hill, New South Wales.

# World War One: War Chest Society and Red Cross Society, Parramatta Neera Sahni



Parramatta Red Cross at work  
(Source: Charles E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War, of 1914-1918,*  
*Volume 12 Photographic record of the War*)

The following were members of the Parramatta War Chest Society which met regularly to knit socks and make clothing to send to the front for the war effort. They also sent food packages. Some were also members of the Red Cross Society, Parramatta which was very active in the district organising supplies and fundraising for the war effort. They assisted soldiers overseas and helped their families back home as well.

**Miss Artlett** - Miss Arlett held a position as President of the War Chest Society.

**Miss Blumer** - Miss Blumer was the Quarter Master of the Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment, and was succeeded by Miss Dulce Little.

**Dr. Mary Booth** - With Mrs. Thomas, Miss Fairclough and Mrs. Griffin, Dr. Mary Booth was one of four women whose idea it was to set up the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre. Women were visited in their homes or could participate in monthly meetings at the Parramatta Town Hall

which included a variety of activities including afternoon tea, a musical program and lectures on cooking.

**Dr. Keith Brown** - Keith Sigismund Macarthur Brown was born at Brislington, Parramatta in 1890. Prior to his enlistment on the 1 March 1916 at the age of 26 years, Brown worked as a medical practitioner and lived in Walcha, New South Wales with his wife Annie Cameron Brown. He enlisted with the rank of Captain and left with his unit, the Australian Medical Corps from Sydney on board HMAT '*Boorara*' on the 19 August 1916. He returned to Australia on the 23 September 1919 on Medical Discharge. Dr. and Mrs. Brown had at least three daughters: Ruth Macarthur Brown, Isabel Brown, and Mrs. Keith Docker nee Brown.

**Mrs. Bruntnell** – Mrs. Bruntnell held the position of Vice President of the War Chest Society.

**Mrs. E.K. Burnell** – Mrs. E. K. Burnell held a position as President of the War Chest Society. She died on the 20 December 1919.

**Miss Coogan** - Miss C. Coogan was a member of the Parramatta Voluntary Aid Detachment and was a major contributor to the Welcome Home Committee.

**Dame Mary Cook** - Lady Joseph Cook was Vice President of the War Chest Society and also the President of the Red Cross Society, Parramatta.

**Mrs. Margaret Davidson** - Lady Davidson was the wife of the Governor of New South Wales. She was President of the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Division of the British Red Cross and actively supported organisations in Parramatta involved in the war effort, particularly the work of the Red Cross.

**Mrs. Dunn** – Mrs. Dunn was the Honorary Secretary of the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Ms. Edith Attwater Faber** - Edith Attwater Faber was a 31-year-old nurse living at Hillier Street,

Merrylands, New South Wales, and was one of the first volunteers to be accepted into the 2 Australian General Hospital Nursing Service the 24 November 1914. She was stationed on one of the hospital ships, the '*Grantully Castle*', which was moored off the coast of Gallipoli, Turkey. Edith was promoted to Nursing Sister in December 1915.

**Ms. Emert** - Sister Emert was the Matron of Randwick Hospital, Randwick, New South Wales.

**Miss Fairclough** - With Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Thomas and Dr. Mary Booth, Miss Fairclough was one of four women whose idea it was to set up the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Mr. Fairclough** - Mr. W. Fairclough was a major contributor to the Welcome Home Committee which supported the soldier's returning from the war.

**Lady Helen Munro Ferguson** - Lady Helen Munro Ferguson established the Voluntary Aid Detachments in Australia at the beginning of World War. She initiated a nation-wide appeal to the women of Australia. She was responsible for the establishment of the Red Cross in Australia and they closely followed the policies of the British War Office and the British Red Cross.

**Mr. William Charles Grey** - William Charles Grey was born on the 27 March 1875 in Balaklava, South Australia. Prior to his enlistment on the 19 October 1914 at the age of 39 years, he worked as a medical practitioner and lived in Victoria Avenue, Lidcombe, New South Wales with his wife Louisa Fanny Grey. He enlisted with the rank of Major and left with his unit, the 2 Australian General Hospital on board '*Kyarra*' on the 28 November 1914. He was later promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on the 19 October 1914, and returned to Australia on the 12 November 1916.

**Mrs. Griffin** - With Mrs. Thomas, Miss Fairclough, and Dr. Mary Booth, Mrs. Griffin was one of four women whose idea was to set up the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre. Mrs. Griffin was a Committee member of the Parramatta District Red Cross Society and Vice President of the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Mrs. Haddrill** - Mrs. H. E. Haddrill acted as the Honorary Secretary of the War Chest Society.

**Mr. Frank Hosford** - A hero of the Gallipoli campaign, Mr. Hosford was the first returned soldier to be afforded a "Welcome Home" at the Parramatta Bowling Club. He received an address and a wallet of notes from Parramatta's Welcome Home Committee which continued to organise celebrations for soldiers returning from duty overseas until "the last boy" was home.

**Sister Pauline Olive Hyland** - Pauline Olive Hyland was born in 1889 in Granville, New South Wales. Prior to her enlistment on the 10 August 1916, she worked as a nurse in the Parramatta District Hospital and lived in Harris Park, New South Wales. She left with her unit, the Australian Army Nursing Service as a staff nurse from Sydney on board RMS 'Kashgar' on the 2 September 1916. She returned to Australia on the 12 April 1919.

**Mrs. Jago** - Mrs. Jago held a position as President of the War Chest Society.

**Miss Jones** - Miss E. L. Jones was the Secretary of the Welcome Home Committee which was formed specifically to ensure that soldiers returning from the front were acknowledged in some way when they returned home.

**Mr. Mason** - Mr. H. Mason was a major contributor to the Welcome Home Committee which was formed specifically to ensure that soldiers returning from the front were acknowledged in some way when they returned home.

**Mrs Mathews** - Mrs. W. Mathews acted as Honorary Treasurer of Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Mr. Morphett** - Mr. W. Morphett was the Secretary of the Welcome Home Committee.

**Mr. Phipps-Waugh** - Richard Andrew or Arthur Phipps-Waugh was born in 1877. Prior to his enlistment on the 1 May 1915 at the age of 38 years, he worked as a medical practitioner at the

Parramatta District Hospital, and was a member of its board. He lived with his wife in Marsden Street, Parramatta, New South Wales. He was previously a member of the Parramatta Squadron of Lancers and took part in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 1897. Phipps-Waugh enlisted with the rank of Captain and left with his unit, the 3 Australian General Hospital from Sydney on board RMS *'Mooltan'* on the 15 May 1915. He was later promoted to Major during his service, and returned to Australia on the 8 December 1916. He later served in World War Two as the Area Medical Officer for Parramatta, and was an alderman of Parramatta Council from 1930-1941. He passed away on the 22 September 1948 at the age of 71 years after a long illness and was survived by his wife and three children: Brian Waugh; Dr Peter Waugh and Mrs. David Ross.

**Mr. Charles Pym** - Charles Brownlow Pym was born on the 6 January 1864 in Sheerness, England to Major-General Frederick George Pym and his wife. Prior to his enlistment on the 17 May 1915 at the age of 51 years, he worked as a medical practitioner at the Hospital for Insane, Parramatta, and lived with his wife, Rose Pym Stevens in the Parramatta area. Pym enlisted with the rank of Major and left with his unit of medical officers from Adelaide on board HMAS *'Botanist'* on the 2 June 1915. During his service, he was in charge of the safe return home of mentally affected soldiers from hospitals in France, Belgium, Holland, England, and South Africa. He returned to Australia on the 30 January 1918, where he set up the facility known as Broughton Hall, and managed a number of city and country practices in places such as: Braidwood, Penrith, Parramatta, Marrickville, and Sydney. He was considered a specialist in phrenics, and retired in 1926. He passed away on the 1 September 1948 at the age of 84 years.

**Mrs. Saunders** – Mrs. J. H. Saunders was Honorary Treasurer of the War Chest Society and the Red Cross Society.

**Mrs. Smythe** – Mrs. Smythe was the President of the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre after Mrs. Cotter Williamson.

**Mrs. Thomas** - With Miss Fairclough, Dr. Mary Booth and Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Thomas was one of four women whose idea was to set up the Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Mrs. Thomas** - Mrs. F. J. Thomas was a Patron of the War Chest Society and the Honorary Secretary of the Parramatta Branch Red Cross Society.

**Ms. Pearl Lottie Trayhurn** - Pearl Lottie Trayhurn was born in 1886 in Sydney, New South Wales, the daughter of Kejia Charlotte Trayhurn and her husband. Prior to her enlistment on the 12 June 1915 at the age of 29 years, she worked as a Matron at the Parramatta District Hospital and was living in Darlinghurst, New South Wales. As a staff nurse aboard the 1 Hospital Ship '*Karoola*', she left Australia several times throughout her service from 1915 to 1919. Her first journey was in July 1915 from Sydney. She returned to Australia on the 4 May 1919.

**Stacy Waddy** - Percival Stacy Waddy was born on the 8 January 1875 in Carcoar, New South Wales. Prior to his enlistment on the 16 July 1916 at the age of 41 years, he was a Clerk in Holy Orders serving the Church of England and was the headmaster of The King's School in Parramatta, living with his wife in the Parramatta area. He had previously served as a Chaplain for the Citizens Military Force for seven years, and held the rank of Chaplain 4th Class. He left with his unit, the Chaplains' Corp from Sydney on board HMAT '*Wiltshire*' on the 22 August 1916, and served in Palestine. He returned to Australia on the 3 August 1918, and was discharged on the 24 October 1918. He died at the age of 61 years on the 12 December 1936.

**Ms. Daisy Wearne** - Daisy Wearne was 28 years old when she enlisted with the Australian Red Cross Unit on the 12 June 1915. At the time, she was head nurse of the Parramatta District Hospital. Her parents, Joseph Henry and Mary lived in 'Caerahayes', William Edward Street, Longueville, New South Wales. One of her brothers was also serving overseas. According to her father she had received two offers..."one of marriage and the other of going with the Red Cross Hospital, and he felt that she chose the nobler".

**Ms. Wearne** - embarked from Sydney on the 14 July 1915 aboard HMAT '*Orsova*' as a staff nurse for the 1 Australian Hospital Ship '*Karoola*'. Upon her arrival in London, she wrote to *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate* with news of her journey. On the 12 April 1916, she became matron-in-chief at the 3 Australian General Hospital, however on the 15 March 1918, she was diagnosed

with having a debility of the chest. On the 25 February 1919 she was married and retired from the nursing service.

**Mr. Little** - Alan Weedon Little was born in 1892 in the Cumberland area to Mr. T.D. Little and Mary Jane Little. Prior to his enlistment on the 20 September 1915, he was a linotype operator living in Alice Street, Parramatta, New South Wales. He was assigned the rank of Driver with the 20 Army Service Corps, 1 Reinforcement leaving from Sydney aboard HMAT '*Persic*' on the 18 November 1915. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Sergeant during his service and returned to Australia on the 12 May 1919.

**Mrs. Whiting** – Mrs. Whiting was the Honorary Secretary of Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

**Mr. Whiting** - Keith Moore Whiting was born on the 5 June 1882 in Randwick, New South Wales. Prior to his enlistment on the 1 March 1916 at the age of 34 years, he worked as a medical practitioner and lived with his wife, Mary Grant Whiting at Marsden Street, Parramatta. Whiting enlisted with the rank of Captain and left with his unit of medical officers from Melbourne on board HMAT '*Medic*' on the 16 December 1916. During his service on the Western Front, he was promoted to Major on the 1 July 1918, and returned to Australia on the 1 April 1919. He was discharged at his own request on the 10 July 1919. He passed away on the 20 December 1938 at the age of 46 years and was survived by his wife, and five children: Dr. Terrence Whiting; Philip Whiting; Rosamund Whiting; Sybil Whiting; and Ivan Writing. His brother, Cedric William Whiting was also a Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps.

**Mrs. Cotter Williamson** – Mrs. Cotter Williamson was the President of Soldiers Wives and Mothers' Centre.

Other members include - Bingham, Forsyth, Gazzard, Garrett, Hughes, Leckie, Little, Lynch, Thomas, Moxham, Muston, Saunders, C.T. Smith, Smith, R. Telfer, A. Thompson, Veitch, Mrs. Moxham, Miss Hosford, Dugald Bowman and Miss Sherlock.

- 18 -

## World War One: Welcome Home Committee Parramatta

Alison Lykissas



Group of women at an ANZAC buffet in Hyde Park welcoming home returned soldiers  
(Source: Australian War Memorial, H11576)

Many community organisations assisted with the return of soldiers from the war but the Welcome Home Committee, as the name suggests, was formed specifically to ensure that soldiers returning from the front were acknowledged in some way when they returned home. They ensured there were regular functions held to welcome soldiers home and made arrangements for each soldier to be greeted by someone when they arrived at the local railway station. Community members who owned cars provided transport and others decorated their homes with banners or bunting to provide a festive welcoming atmosphere.

*When the heroes of the Great War commenced to return it appealed to many that the time was ripe to form an association that would interest itself in giving the boys just as enthusiastic welcome home as they had received a send-off. It caught on. The first welcome home of any note was that accorded to Frank Hosford, one of the heroes of Gallipoli, and organised by the Parramatta Bowling Club. Frank received an address and a wallet*

*of notes. Then Mr. W. Morphett took a hand, and, through his efforts, in June 1917, the Parramatta Citizen Soldiers' Welcome and Farewell Association was formed. Mr. W. Morphett and Miss E. L. Jones were the first secretaries. Afterwards the position was taken by Mr. H. Mason who continued on until the end of the war, and the association was wound up, after doing much praiseworthy work.*

*Farewell socials were held to bid God-speed to the recruits still going forward to fill the gaps caused by those who had given their lives to the great cause, and at intervals 'welcome home' functions were held. Besides this it was seen to that every returned boy was given a fitting welcome as he stepped on to the railway platform. Cars were always in readiness to convey him and his relatives home. These latter arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. H. Mason and W. Fairclough and Miss C. Coogan, and how they succeeded is now a matter of history. No hour was too early and no hour was too late. The glad hand was always there. They even arranged to deck the homes with bunting for any who so desired, and thus, they won, not only the appreciation of the citizens, but also the gratitude of the returned boys and those near and dear to them. This work of love was carried on faithfully till the return of the last boy, and, be it said to their credit, the citizens, owners of motor cars, were always found ready and willing to supply the cars necessary for each and every occasion, and by this means, boys have been joyfully returned to their homes, even though far distant from Parramatta itself. In appreciation of this work there was a great final function, when the returned soldiers, combined with the citizens, gracefully acknowledged the splendid work of Messrs. Mason and Fairclough and Miss Coogan by presenting them each with an illuminated letter of thanks and appreciation, and gold watches, suitably inscribed.*

*Extract: Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914–1919, page 261.*

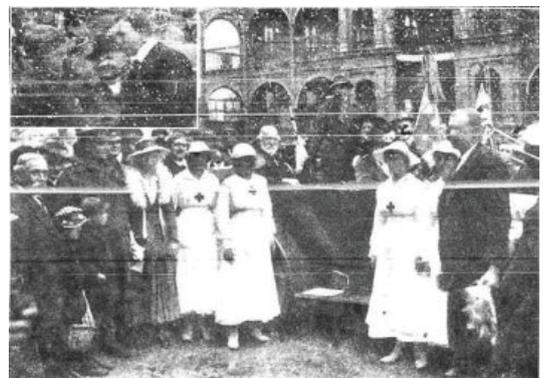
It was not only soldiers who were given a great welcome home – nurses were also subject to the same treatment, as evidenced by an article in the local Parramatta newspaper. This article, with attached photo, describes the welcome home that a local nursing sister – Dorothy Cawood from chapter 5 received.



Miss Coogan and Messrs. W. Fairclough and H. Mason.  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

*Welcome home to Sister Dorothy Cawood. Nurse Cawood's father, Mr. John Cawood is on the front seat of the car. Miss Coogan and Mr. Fairlough of the Parramatta Welcome Home Committee can be recognised, as also may the VAD's (Voluntary Aid Detachment). The Mayor, Alderman H. A. Simpson, on whose right is Mrs. J. Cawood, saying 'Welcome back,' to Sister Cawood. Welcome home, thrice welcome to a brave and devoted Sister, whom shot and shell could not turn from the path of duty and heroism. Her bravery and devotion, both in Gallipoli and France, make us all proud of her, and we feel honored in that the King and Empire recognised such heroism, and let us not pause at that, but tender our sincere congratulations to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cawood (the former a staunch old volunteer of many years' standing).*

Extract: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers' Advocate*, 12 July 1919, page 10.



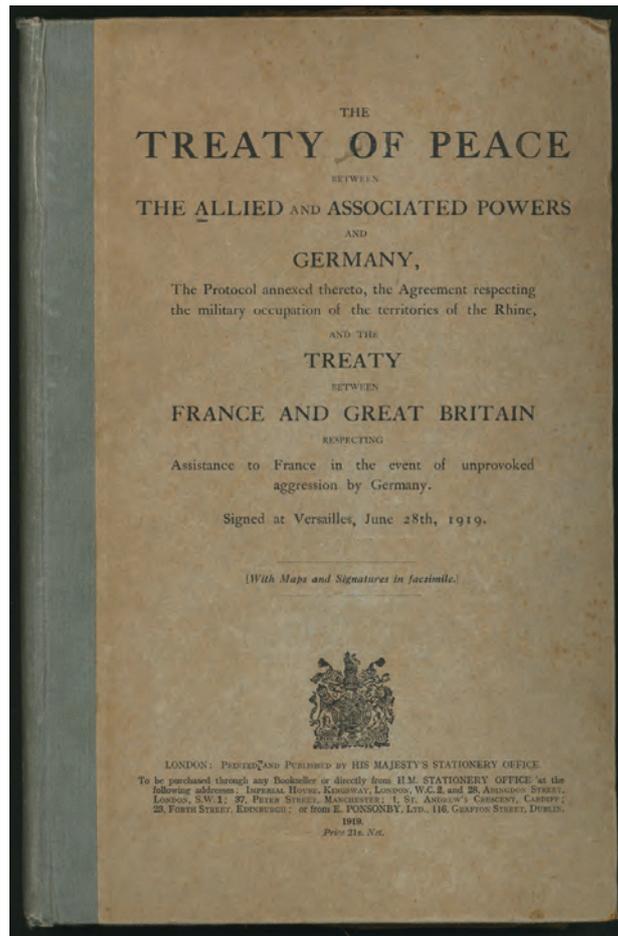
Welcome Home to Sister Dorothy Cawood, M.M  
(Source: *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*,  
12 July 1919, p. 10.)

- 19 -

# World War One and Peace

Neera Sahni

World War One was declared over on the 4 August 1914, the Armistice was signed on the 11 November 1918 and peace was declared on the 28 June 1919.



Treaty of Peace  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties that brought World War One to an end. The Treaty ended the state of war between Germany and the Allied Nations (including Britain, France, Italy, Russia and USA). It was signed on the 28 June 1919 in Versailles, a city 10 miles outside Paris in France.



VAD's in the "Peace Day" celebrations in Sydney.  
The Second Section is the Parramatta Detachment  
(Source: *Parramatta Soldiers in the Great War. 1914-1919*)

