

CATHERINE 'LOUISA' ROBINSON

More than 3,000 nurses volunteered for service in WW1, a number of which died from injuries or from disease whilst on active service in many different countries.



Catherine Robinson was born to William Robinson and Catherine nee Ross at Pompapiel, Victoria, on the 24th of March 1878. After being educated at Pompapiel state school and ladies college Bendigo, Catherine- also well known as Kate- trained, did private work and sometimes relieving in hospitals, before leaving Australia with her brother to serve in the Boer war, 1902.

The following was stated by Kate, before during her time served in the war: *'I have the honor to apply for membership of Queen Alexandria's Military Nursing Service Reserve. I have been engaged in Private work in Egypt, and am now doing temporary work for a few weeks at the Government Hospital, Suez.'*

In WW1, Kate was a matron in charge of several military hospitals, in Egypt and on a hospital ship anchored off the Dardanelles. Whilst overseas, Kate wrote many long letters to the local Inglewood (Victoria) Newspaper describing the war and what it was like to be a nurse. After the war she was awarded The French Legion Of Honor (presumably for her nursing assistance to the French soldiers).

After the war, Kate worked as a nurse in many different hospitals and travelled a lot. Kate was said to be the first known white women to travel down the Amazon River. During her life, Kate wrote several books on her travels and experiences.

After all her travelling, Kate finally returned to Australia and visited her family and relatives again, for the last time.

Whilst in Brisbane, as a result of a knee operation, Kate developed a blot clot and died of heart failure in the Brisbane hospital, 16th of July 1947, aged 69

Sources:

'Book Reviews', Examiner (Launceston, Tasmania), 17/10/1936, p. 3

<http://ww1nurses.gravesecrets.net/ro.html>

'On Active Service: An Australian at the Front: An Interesting Letter', Bruthen and Tambo Times, 19/08/1915, p. 3