SISTER EDITH CLARE CAMERON RRC



Cameron's childhood home at 87 Powlett Street, East Melbourne. EML



Commemorative plaque, Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne.

Military Nurses Returning

Included in the list of those returning shortly to Australia after being on active service are four Victorian nurses.

Miss Edith Clare Cameron, who has been attached to the 1st Australian General Hospital, was a staff nurse in charge of a ward at the Melbourne Hospital at the time of her enlistment. She is a daughter of Mrs E. Cameron, 87 Powlett street, East Melbourne.

Newspaper report of Cameron's return. *Weekly Times*, 2 February 1918

Grew up at 87 Powlett Street, East Melbourne and educated at Presbyterian Ladies' College in nearby Albert Street

A parliamentarian's daughter, trained as a nurse at the Melbourne Hospital while her sisters went to university

Joined the Australian Army Nursing Service shortly after war broke out … the only one of her immediate family to enlist

Sailed on HMAT *Kyarra* on 5 December 1914 with other nurses from East Melbourne and the personnel of the 1st and 2nd Australian General Hospitals

In Egypt, nursed the deluge of casualties from Gallipoli in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel

Served in various hospitals in northern France from early 1916

With the 1st Australian General Hospital on the Rouen racecourse when Queen Mary paid an official visit on 9 July 1917



Edith Cameron AANS. *Punch*, 10 December 1914

In the terrible winter of 1916–17, nursed dying sick and wounded soldiers from the Somme and Arras offensives at the 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station near the front lines

Awarded the Royal Red Cross (2nd Class) 'in recognition of her valuable services with the Armies in the field'

In late 1917, nursed at the 1st and 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospitals near London

Arrived in Australia on nursing duty with repatriated troops in January 1918

Returned to Egypt in November 1918, where she nursed in British hospitals in Abbassia and was hospitalised herself

Returned to Australia on nursing duty on HMAT *Ceramic* in February 1919, and was discharged on 23 May 1919

After the war, worked with the Victorian Bush Nursing Association promoting infant and maternal health … then the Victorian Red Cross, promoting community readiness to meet epidemics

Died in 1969 aged 80

Commemorated in Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne and St Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, with her name inscribed on the Great War Honour Roll.



HMAT *Kyarra* loading at Port Melbourne, November 1914. AWM P00356.002



1st Australian General Hospital, in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel, 1915. AWM H16957



Queen Mary visiting 1st Australian General Hospital, Rouen, 9 July 1917. AWM K00019