

## Lyttelton, Canterbury

Lyttelton is approximately 15 minutes drive from the Christchurch city centre via the tunnel. The Lyttelton Cenotaph was recently relocated from near the tunnel entrance to Albion Square on the corner of Canterbury and Lyttelton Streets. The square is a fine example of Lyttelton Township's recovery from the earthquakes.

## Nona Mildred Hildyard 22/125

Nona was born in Lyttelton in 1888. Her parents William and Betsy were originally from Tasmania. Nona trained at Christchurch Hospital, graduating in 1914. She worked as a private nurse with Dr Sandston, Nurse Turner's private hospital in Woolston, and as charge nurse at Akaroa Hospital, Alymers Valley Road.

The first nurse to enlist from Lyttelton, Nona was described by survivors as "plucky", singing "Tipperary" and "Are you downhearted, No, No, No" to keep everyone's spirits up, while struggling for survival in the Aegean Sea.



NURSE NONA M. HILDYARD OF LYTTELTON

## Wainui and Akaroa – Banks Peninsula, Canterbury

The three Christchurch Hospital trained nurses – Nona Hildyard, Margaret Rogers and Lorna Rattray – were all known in Akaroa.

Akaroa is approximately 1.5 hours drive from Christchurch via State Highway 75. En route, visit the Wainui cemetery. Turn right just before Barrys Bay, drive 4km and turn right onto Cemetery Road.

As you drive past French Farm, on the hill to your right is Bantry Lodge B&B, the former private school run by Thomas Southey Baker where *Marquette* survivor, Sir Hugh Acland, was educated prior to attending Christ's College. Bantry Lodge was also the first home of Margaret Roger's sister May after she married Ernest Giddens.



AKAROA WATERFRONT C1916, PHOTO J SHUTTLEWORTH

## Margaret Rogers 22/175

A Scottish farming family who settled in Oamaru, the Rogers moved to Wainui, Banks Peninsula, in 1907. After graduating in 1913, Margaret completed her maternity certificate at St Helen's Hospital, where badly injured *Marquette* survivor Marie Cameron had been Matron. In April 1914 she started district nursing alongside Nurse Sybilla Maude. When the Rogers family's youngest and only son Robert enlisted in April 1916,

the family were forced to give up the farm and move to Akaroa. Margaret is remembered on the family grave at Wainui Cemetery. The grave of her eldest sister, Jeanine Ramsey, who died of tuberculosis in 1912, is close by. Margaret is the sole nurse among those listed on the Akaroa War Memorial. Her sister Flora lost two sons during WWII, Reid and Ian McDonald. Margaret is widely quoted as having written in her last letter home "There is no romance about war; it spells suffering, hunger, filth. How thankful I am every day that I came to do what I could to help relieve our brave boys".



NURSE MARGARET ROGERS OF WAINUI



## Lorna Alymer Rattray 22/160

Lorna Rattray was the sixth daughter of James Rattray, founder of J. Rattray and Son, and Catherine, daughter of the Rev William Aylmer of Akaroa. She was educated at an Armagh Street school for girls and later, along with her sister, joined the staff. The school later became St Margaret's College. In 1911, at the age of 35, Lorna began her nursing training at Christchurch Hospital and graduated in 1914. Seven months later she volunteered for active service. She is remembered in the permanent display, Otago Settlers Museum, 31 Queens Garden, Dunedin.



NURSE LORNA A. RATTRAY OF DUNEDIN

## Linwood Cemetery, 31 Butterfield Avenue, Christchurch

This cemetery has connections to the *Marquette* and Christchurch Hospital. Enter via the main gates on Butterfield Avenue. At the end of the driveway there is a location map. In block 28, a short walk from the map, you will find the graves of Mary Rae's family (plot 83). At the height of the influenza epidemic in November 1918, three staff from Christchurch Hospital died: Grace Beswick, Hilda Hooker and Dr Aubrey Short. At the Rae family grave facing back towards the gate and to your right is the grave of Grace Beswick (plot 64), sister of Mary Beswick a *Marquette* survivor. Grace died on 27 November 1918. Hilda Hooker (Block 35, plot 284) was 22 and a second year trainee nurse. Dr Aubrey Short, (Block 48 plot 105), was 28 years old. Dr Short had served as a Surgeon-Captain with the first contingent landing at Gallipoli. Serving in France he was promoted to Major and Deputy-Assistant Director of Medical Services. He was awarded the Military Cross and returned to New Zealand in January 1918. Then he was senior house surgeon at Christchurch Hospital.

## Mary Helen Rae 22/161

Mary's Scottish family settled at Raes Junction in Central Otago. Her mother Isabella took over as licensee of Raes Junction Hotel in 1887, before moving to Christchurch in 1903 after the death of her husband. Mary returned to Dunedin Hospital, completing her nursing training in 1911. At the time of enlisting she was

Operating Theatre Charge Nurse at Dunedin Hospital. Her mother died in 1912. At the time of Mary's death her war gratuity was sent to her siblings whom she had been supporting. Mary is remembered on the family grave at Linwood Cemetery and on the war memorial at Lawrence in Central Otago.



NURSE MARY H. RAE OF CHRISTCHURCH



## Sources include:

Past Papers online including Akaroa & Banks Peninsula Advertiser, Otago Witness, Christchurch Press, Sun, Kai Tiaki and Dominion.

Auckland Museum Cenotaph database

*Cloud over Marquette* by John Meredith Smith

*The Other ANZACs and ANZAC Girls* by Peter Rees

*Nurse Maude – The First 100 Years* by Vivienne Allan

*While You're Away* by Anna Rogers

NZ Post–1915, The Spirit of ANZAC

Diaries and letters – Nurse Fanny Abbot; William Tennent; Nurse Charlotte Le Gallais (folders 7 & 8); and Marion Sinclair Brown

*The Baker Boys* by Clinton mhic Aonghasis

*The Roses of No Man's Land* by Lyn MacDonald



Printing funded by CCC  
Beca Heritage Week.

# Commemorating the centenary of the sinking of the *Marquette* on 23 October 1915

## NURSES' MEMORIALS AND OTHER CONNECTIONS

### Nurses' Memorial Chapel and Garden, Christchurch Hospital, Riccarton Ave

This beautiful chapel, which opened in 1927, is nationally and internationally significant as New Zealand's only chapel built specifically to commemorate women who died in any war or the 1918 influenza epidemic. Architecturally significant, the late Gothic Revival structure has an extensively timbered interior. It features carvings by Frederick Gurnsey and Jake Vivian, and important stained glass windows by English artist Veronica Whall (1887-1967). The chapel was damaged during the earthquakes, and is closed. After extensive restoration work, it is expected to re-open in 2017. Visitors can use the two hour car parks, located behind the Antigua Boat Sheds on Cambridge Terrace, or a "park and ride" service operating from the old brewery site in St Asaph St. to Christchurch Hospital.



"Class Act" is a *Floribunda* modern rose that grows to approximately 1 metre in height. The rich creamy white flower has reliable repeat flowering from October to May each year. The charming simple rose has been selected to mark the centenary of the sinking of the *Marquette*.



In 2015 a commemorative ANZAC series stamp and a Christmas stamp feature two of the chapel windows.

### Nurses' Memorial Window (2nd issue of ANZAC stamps)

This was designed and constructed by Stephen Belanger-Taylor to commemorate the contribution and sacrifice of nurses who served in the World Wars. Depicted are seven nursing medals and two nurses in uniforms of the era. Below the WWI nurse is the *Marquette* in the Aegean Sea and below the WWII nurse are pyramids of Egypt.

### Poppy's Remembrance (Christmas 2015)

Chosen by NZ Post for the Powhatakawa flowers, this window on the west side was designed by Suzanne Johnson and constructed by Ben Hanley. The flowers in the rose window represent the nationalities of the soldiers fighting in France. The window was dedicated to Inez (Poppy) Blathway, the Home Sister during the 1950s and 1960s.



Compiled by Cheryl Jenkins, Friend of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel.

[www.cnmc.org.nz](http://www.cnmc.org.nz)

Nurses' photographs courtesy of Auckland Museum Cenotaph, Friends of Chapel, Canterbury DHB, J Shuttleworth Collection, Jamieson Gravestone photo courtesy Chris Busson, Other photos D English, B Dodds and C Jenkins.



Friends of the Chapel

## Waimate, South Canterbury

Located on Queen Street in Waimate are the WWI memorial gates to Victoria Park gardens. The sinking of the *Marquette* impacted several families. The memorial commemorates three nurses; Catherine Fox, Mary Gorman and Marion Brown, as well as chemist James Bird. At the time, Mabel Jamieson's cousin was on the nursing staff at Waimate Hospital, and Nona Hildyard's sister was the District High School Headmaster's wife. The local museum has a wealth of WWI history including information about Dr Margaret Cruikshank. The first New Zealand woman to register as a Doctor, Dr Cruikshank organised the Waimate Red Cross and worked tirelessly to continue Dr Barclay's practice while he was away at war. She died of pneumonia on 28 November 1918 during the influenza epidemic.

### Mary Gorman 22/73

Nurse Gorman's family farmed at Kapua in the Waimate Gorge. Mary nursed at the Waimate Hospital where she had trained, and was a well-known figure biking to Waihao Forks on her days off. She was a Sister at Wellington Hospital for over four years. Mary was in the earlier contingent of 31 nurses that sailed from Wellington on 21 May 1915.

As the *Marquette* was sinking, Mary Gorman's legs were crushed when the lifeboat she was in was smashed by another lifeboat falling from above. Deciding that her injuries would not allow her to survive in the water long enough to be rescued, she gave her lifejacket to her fellow nurses, asking that they give it to someone else who could use it.

*From NZ Army's ethos, or The Way of the New Zealand Warrior.*



NURSE MARY GORMAN OF WAIMATE

### Catherine Anne Fox 22/118

Born in Central Otago, Catherine was the daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fox of Studholme. Staff Nurse Fox was Mary Gorman's close friend. After training at Dunedin Hospital for four years, she nursed at Waimate, Christchurch and Auckland. She was nursing privately in Auckland at the time of her enlistment. Catherine was anxious to serve and, fearing she might not be accepted, she made arrangements to pay her own passage to England to volunteer for service in France. However, she was accepted by the New Zealand Government and sailed in the hospital ship *Maheno*. The name Sister C.A. Fox also appears on the **Wanaka War Memorial** on the Upper Clutha District plaque.



NURSE CATHERINE FOX OF CENTRAL OTAGO

### Riverton, Southland

The New Zealand novel "*Lives we leave behind*" by Marie Alterio and edited by Anna Rogers, weaves two fictional characters from Riverton and Tuatapere into the story of these WWI nurses.

**WWI Riverton Memorial** stands at the end of the bridge. It is best to turn left towards Riverton Rocks and park along the water front. A short walking track will lead you to the memorial.



### The Te Hikoi Southern Journey Museum

on the main street of Riverton has items on display including survivor Nurse Annie Johanna McKay's nursing cape and the watch that she was wearing when the *Marquette* sank, along with photos of Nurse

Marion Brown. The Riverton Cemetery is located on the Riverton-Otatau Road, approximately 1km before the township. Turn right off the Wallacetown-Riverton Highway and the cemetery is 500m on the left. Take the second entrance and six rows from the road, plot number 6, is the Brown Family grave.



### Marion Sinclair Brown 22/104

With her parents John and Margaret, Marion and three siblings emigrated from Lanarkshire Scotland in 1884 and settled in Waimatuku, Southland. Ten more siblings were born in New Zealand and three brothers served during WWI. Trained at Riverton Hospital in 1908, Marion nursed on the staff of Palmerston North Hospital and was later in charge of Dr Barclay's Private Hospital in Waimate and nursed at Waimate Hospital. Her photo, now in the Riverton Museum, was in the entrance to the Fjord (Riverton) Hospital for a number of years. Marion Brown's name appears on the **WWI Riverton Memorial**. She is also remembered on the family grave at Riverton Cemetery.



NURSE MARION SINCLAIR BROWN OF SOUTHLAND

### North Otago, Oamaru

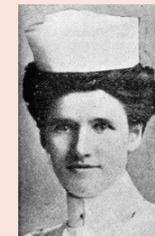
Oamaru is home to New Zealand's largest War Memorial, some 400 oak trees with commemorative plaques remembering the fallen. The North Otago Museum has produced a book *The Home Front, North Otago 1914-18* and has a wealth of research data on local WWI history.

### Isabel Clark 22/108

Born to Scottish parents, Hugh and Christina, Staff Nurse Isabel Clark followed her older sister Elsie into the nursing profession. She trained at Oamaru Hospital, where a plaque in the corridor of the new hospital leading to maternity and inpatient wards remembers her sacrifice. She nursed privately at Waimate, Dunedin and Auckland where she resigned in order to volunteer for service abroad.



Educated at Waitaki Girls High School, she is remembered on the WWI service memorial board and by a large oak framed portrait hanging in the school library. Nurse Clark's memorial oak tree and plaque is located on the corner of Alamein Terrace and Towey Street. She is also remembered on the family grave in the Oamaru Cemetery, located by entering from the top section on Perth Street. The grave is towards the far end before the exit onto Test Street.



NURSE ISABEL CLARK OF ARDGOWAN

### Kumara and Greymouth, West Coast



KUMARA WAR MEMORIAL HALL PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BUSSON, KUMARA



KUMARA CEMETERY PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BUSSON, KUMARA

These memorials include the names of the two West Coast nurses, Mabel Jamieson and Helena Isdell.

### Mabel Jamieson 22/133

Mabel was born in Kumara, a granddaughter of Irish born gold mining pioneer Thomas M. Jamieson.

She is remembered on the **Kumara War Memorial Hall** memorial board window, and on a family grave in the **Kumara Cemetery, Greenstone Road**. To locate the grave, enter via the main gates and follow the path to the back fence.



Mabel followed her family to the North Island and trained at Palmerston North Hospital, graduating in 1908. Well thought of throughout the district, she is remembered on the **Palmerston North War Memorial** and the old **Rewa School Community Centre**, 40 Rangitikei Valley Road – approximately 45 minutes from Palmerston North. Mabel was engaged to be married at the time of enlisting.



NURSE MABEL E. JAMIESON OF KUMARA

### Helena Isdell 22/130

When Helena enlisted, she was Matron of Kumara Hospital where she had completed her training in 1912. On the day that would have been Helena's 27th birthday, memorial plaques were unveiled in the Plunket Ward at Kumara Hospital in memory of Nurse Isdell and Nurse Jamieson. She had been a pupil of Greymouth District High School. The memorial gates that stood at the entrance to Grey Main School were removed by developers in 2008 but were restored and relocated at the entrance to **Dixon Park, Greymouth**. Helena's sister enlisted in April 1916 and was due to embark on the *Marama* when she was called away and discharged because her mother was ill. Helena is also commemorated on the **Greymouth War Memorial** and the **Kumara War Memorial Hall window**.



NURSE HELENA K. ISDELL OF KUMARA

### Overseas Memorials

A memorial panel in **York Minster Cathedral, United Kingdom**, names the nurses who drowned. A visit to the chapel is well worth while to view the Five Sisters Window which is a memorial to the many women who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

At **Westminster Abbey** in London is the Florence Nightingale and Nurses Chapel. It remembers nurses from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth who died during the 1939-45 war.

**Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Thesoloniki in Greece** is located just off Konstantinou Karamanlis Street. The memorial is for those whose grave is the Aegean Sea. Nurse Margaret Rogers who was identified by her watch, was buried with full naval honours in a marked grave No. 1833. In the same row is Grave No 831, marked "A Nursing Sister of the Great War – Known unto God" Survivor Susan Nicoll believed it to be the grave of Helena Isdell whose recovered body could not be formally identified.



NEW ZEALAND WAR GRAVES TRUST AND A NURSING SISTER OF THE GREAT WAR PHOTO CREDIT - E BATCHELOR

