



SISTER ISOBEL CHLOE McEWAN MACKENZIE Australian Army Nursing Service

Isobel 'Bobbie' Mackenzie was born in Scotland and emigrated in 1908. She had taken her nursing training over 3 years at Melbourne Hospital. In 1914 she was living at Yuille Street, Brighton Beach, Victoria with all her family except for her brother Daniel. Isobel completed the 'Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad' on 23 May 1917. She listed service with the A.A.N.S. as previous military service and named as her Next-of-Kin her mother, Mrs. J. MacKenzie of 'Weadak', Grenville Street, Hampton, Victoria.

Staff Nurse Isobel Mackenzie embarked at Melbourne on board R.M.S. *Mooltan* on 12 June 1917 with A.A.N.S Reinforcements, disembarking at Suez on 19 July 1917.

Australian War Memorial Image ID A01240 dated June 1917 is captioned: 'Group portrait of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) sisters from Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas, and SA, bound for Salonica, Greece on the RMS Mooltan.' Isobel is numbered (186) on the identification image A01240K.

War Diary – Australian Army Nursing Service, Salonica Units – June – December 1917:

On the 19th July the 273 Nurses arrived at Suez on the "Mooltan" and proceeded direct to Cairo and Alexandria under the charge of Matron McHardie White. They were accommodated at the following hotels at special rates:

Cairo Continental Hotel at 50 piastres per head per day

Alexandria

Savoy Hotel at	50 Piastres per head per day
Regina "	45 " " "
Windsor "	45 " " "
Majestic "	45 " " "

Isobel embarked at Port Said for Salonica on 25 July on board the *Gordon* and joined the 66th General Hospital on 30 July 1917. She was transferred on 10 November 1917 to the 42nd General Hospital, Salonica.

She was admitted to the Red Cross Convalescent Home on 20 April 1918, rejoining the 42nd Hospital on 5 May. On 19 December 1918 Isobel was transferred for duty to the 52nd General Hospital. She embarked at Salonica on board HMT *Indiana*, arriving in England on 13 March 1919 and marching out on 21 days leave the next day.

On 7 April 1919 Isobel was granted an extension of her leave until 7 June to undertake Non-Military Employment. She was granted pay and subsistence and fees amounting to £6-4-6 to attend Motor Training at 'Mansions Motor Training Garage', York Street, London. She was granted a further extension of her leave until 7 July, with pay and subsistence and fees of £1-7-3, to continue her training at Mansions Garage.

Isobel was granted 14 days leave from 8 July following which she was attached for duty to the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital on 21 July 1919. She had been promoted to Sister on 12 July 1919.

She left London on 3 August 1919 as Nursing Staff on H.T. *Ceramic*, disembarking in Melbourne on 27 September 1919. She was discharged from the A.I.F. in Melbourne on 4 December 1919, entitled to wear the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Isobel continued her nursing career and the 1924 Census records her as such living at 'Lisbury', Irving Road, Toorak. Her sister Elizabeth, also a nurse, was living at 'Thurloo', Irving Road, Toorak.

The 1931 Census records Isobel living at 25 Queen's Road, Fawkner. In 1937 she is recorded as living at 439 Victoria Parade, Melbourne and in 1943 her address is 1 Spring Street, Melbourne.

In October 1958 Isobels' military service records were forwarded to the Repatriation Commission, Melbourne.

Isabel Chloe McEwan Mackenzie died in Melbourne, Victoria in 1962 aged 79.

Isobel is mentioned in the book 'More Than Bombs and Bandages: Australian Army Nurses at Work in World War I', by Kirsty Harris, as working at Melbourne Hospital.