

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0397

Gould, Ellen Julia (Nellie)

(1860 - 1941)

Born	29 March, 1860, Aberystruth Monmouthshire Wales
Died	19 July, 1941, Neutral Bay New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Nurse

Summary

Appointed lady superintendent of the New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve (NSWANSR), Nellie Gould left Australia on 17 January 1900 with thirteen nursing sisters to serve in the Boer War as part of the British Army. The nursing contingent returned to Australia in 1902.

On 27th September 1914 Nellie Gould enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served in Egypt, caring for Gallipoli casualties, followed by service in France and then England. She returned to Australia in January 1919 and was discharged on 3 March. She was unfit to take up nursing duties again and from 1920 she received a war service pension.

In 1916 Nellie Gould was awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal (1st class) for her war work.

Details

Nellie Gould was born to Henry and Sarah (nee Baker) in Wales, her mother died when Nellie was 18 months old. When she was four the family moved to Portugal where she received her early education. Later the family returned to England and Nellie attended Mildmay Park College. She was a teacher and governess before moving to Sydney in 1884.

On 19 January 1885, Nellie commenced a two-year nurses training course at the Royal Alfred Hospital, Sydney. She stayed on at the hospital for two years after finishing the course. Nellie was then appointed matron of St Kilda Private Hospital at Woolloomooloo and in 1891 she became matron and superintendent of the training school of Sydney Hospital. She resigned in October 1898 to join the New South Wales Public Health Department and was matron of the Hospital for the Insane at Rydalmere in 1898-1900.

In February 1899 Matron Nellie Gould was asked to help form an Army Nursing Service Reserve attached to the New South Wales Army Medical Corps. On 26 May the nurses were sworn in and Nellie Gould was appointed lady superintendent. In charge of 13 nursing sisters, Nellie Gould left in the *Moravian* for the South African War (Boer War) on 17 January 1900. She returned to Australia in August 1902.

Upon their return, Nellie Gould and her friend Sister Julia Bligh Johnston opened Ermelo Private Hospital at Newtown, Sydney. She also organized the Army Nursing Service Reserve in New South Wales and was appointed principal matron of the 2nd Military District. After Ermelo was sold in 1912, both Nellie Gould and Julia Johnston joined the Public Health Department.

On 27 September 1914 Nellie Gould enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served in Egypt, caring for Gallipoli casualties, followed by service in France and then England. She returned to Australia in January 1919 and was discharged on 3 March. She was unfit to take up nursing duties again and from 1920 she received a war service pension.

Nellie Gould was involved in founding the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (ATNA) and was a council member from 1899 until her retirement in 1921. She also initiated the publishing of the ATNA journal in 1903 and served on the editorial committee.

Nellie Gould died at Neutral Bay on 19 July 1941.

Published resources

Book

Guns and brooches : Australian Army Nursing from the Boer War to the Gulf War, Bassett, Jan, 1992

Australian women at war, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1984

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

Nightingales in the mud : the digger sisters of the Great War 1914 - 1918, Barker, Marianne, 1989

Edited Book

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

Resource Section

Australian nurses in the Boer War, Chamberlain, Max, 2002,
<http://users.netconnect.com.au/~ianmac/readroom.htm#nursing>

Gould, Ellen Julia (Nellie) (1860 - 1941), McCarthy, Perdita M., 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090061b.htm>

Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

[Nurses Narratives] Principal Matron Ellen Julia Gould

[Informal portrait of three nurses who accompanied the Second Contingent to the Boer War as members of the NSW Army Medical Corps.](#)

[\[Nursing Services:\] Notes on Australian nursing sisters in the history of the Australian Army Nursing Service, by Matron Ellen J Gould RRC](#)

National Archives of Australia, Various Locations

[Nominal rolls and lists of medals and clasps for New South Wales Military Forces who served in Boer War](#)

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

[Gould Ellen Julia : SERN Principal Matron : POB Monmouth Wales : POE Cairo Egypt : NOK Harley B A Mrs](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 2 December 2002

Last modified 5 June 2009

Digital resources



Title: Gould, Frater and Bligh

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023