

Jean Nellie Miles WALKER

Jean Nellie Miles WALKER was born on 16 Nov 1878 in Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia, the youngest daughter of Alfred Miles WALKER and Louisa Mary Glover WILKINSON. ((Louisa was my GG'father's ½ sister.))

She was privately educated from 1885 to 1892.

In 1893 she attended St Michael's Collegiate School in Hobart, Tasmania.

She then attended the Hobart General Hospital from 1903 to 1906 where she trained as a Nurse - and remained on the staff in 1907 as a nurse, and later a sister.

She went into private nursing between 1908 and 1913.

Having joined the Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve in 1906, Jean became the principal matron of the AIF's 6th Military District (Tasmania) in 1909.

She also did six months training in obstetrical nursing at the Women's Hospital, Melbourne.

In 1913-14 she was Matron of private hospitals in Tallangatta, Victoria and Darlinghurst, Sydney.

She departed Sydney to Egypt in Nov 1914 with the AIF (one of twenty-five nurses).

Initially, she served with the British Forces between Dec 1914 and Feb 1915 at Alexandria, and then joined her own unit, the 2nd Australian General Hospital at Mena House in Cairo, where she was matron until Sep 1915.

She began working on the British hospital ship "Gascon" as a nursing sister, until Jan 1916.

In Feb 1916 she was temporary Matron to the 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ismailia, Egypt, where wounded from the battle of Romani were treated, and was then transferred as Matron of the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital, which had just opened in Dartford, England.

She was awarded the Royal Red Cross (1st class) in 1916.

By Jul 1917 she was a Matron with the A.A.N.S. staff of the 5th British Stationary Hospital at Dieppe France, and then from Sep 1917 to April 1918 became Matron of the 3rd A.G.H. at Abbeville. ((Abbeville, France - While the allies retreated towards Amiens in April, the hospital was used as a casualty clearing station: its remaining twenty-four nurses cared for some 1800 patients—many of whom were badly wounded—as bombs fell in the area.))

Jean returned to Dieppe in April and served there until Oct 1918.

She was then returned to England and was attached to the 2nd Australian Auxiliary Hospital in Southall, London.

On 25th Oct 1918, while working at the 1st Group Clearing Hospital in Sutton Veny, Jean fell ill during the Spanish influenza pandemic.

She died on 30 Oct 1918 at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, England, aged 39; from Influenza.

She was buried in St John's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.
