

**Welford Road Cemetery,
Leicester, Leicestershire, England**

War Graves



Lest We Forget

World War 1



NURSE

K. A. BRENNAN

AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE

24TH NOVEMBER, 1918

Kathleen Adele BRENNAN

Kathleen Adele Brennan was born on 15th November, 1882 at Woollahra, Sydney, New South Wales to parents William Francis & Elizabeth Mary Brennan (nee Keating).

Kathleen Adele Brennan was educated at Sacred Heart Convent, Rose Bay, Sydney, NSW.

The 1913 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of Bondi, New South Head Road Polling Place, recorded Kathleen Adele Brennan, Domestic Duties, of Edgecliff Road. Also listed at Edgecliff Road – William Francis Brennan, Solicitor, Elizabeth Mary Brennan, Domestic Duties, & Florence Mary, Domestic Duties.

Adele Brennan left Australia in September, 1916 on *Osterley* as part of 30 members of the Australian Red Cross who had volunteered as probationers with V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) for service in British Military Hospitals in England during the First World War.

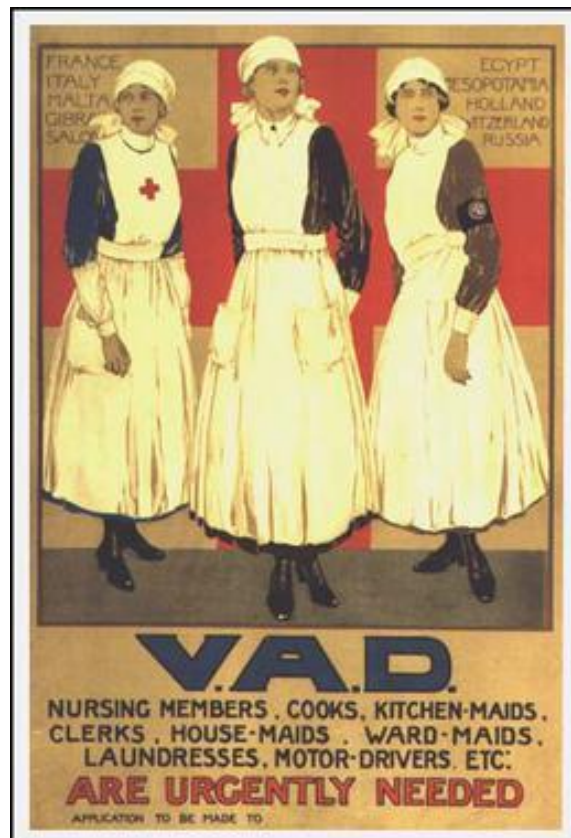
Voluntary Aid Detachment member Adele Brennan was posted to 5th Northern General Hospital at Leicester, England from 18th November, 1916.

Voluntary Aid Detachment

The primary role of a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) member was that of nursing orderly in hospitals, carrying out menial but essential tasks - scrubbing floors, sweeping, dusting and cleaning bathrooms and other areas, dealing with bedpans, and washing patients. They were not employed in military hospitals, except as ward and pantry maids; rather, they worked in Red Cross convalescent and rest homes, canteens, and on troop trains.

At the start of the First World War, Australian VADs were restricted from traveling overseas by the Defence Council. As a result, many chose to travel on their own initiative and join British detachments, often in Australian Hospitals. It is reported that the 1st Australian Auxiliary Hospital included in their nursing staff some 120 VADs, chiefly Australians in the British service, employed through the Australian Red Cross Society. This policy was changed in 1916 after a request from Great Britain, and the first detachment of thirty official Australian VADs to serve overseas left Australia in September 1916.

(Information from The Australian War Memorial)



World War 1 recruitment poster for Voluntary Aid Detachments

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan died on 24th November, 1918 at 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, England from Septic Pericarditis following Influenza. (Note: Some sources state that Miss Brennan died at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.)

A death for Kathleen A. Brennan, aged 30, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Billesdon, Leicestershire, England.

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan was buried on 26th November, 1918 in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England – Memorial Reference – Screen Wall 01. 198. She does not have a headstone but her death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05074.004

The Military funeral procession of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.

Newspaper report – Leicester Daily Post, Leicester, England – 26 November, 1918:

ROUND ABOUT AUSTRALIA

Full military honors were associated with the funeral at Welford-road cemetery, yesterday, of Miss Kathleen Adele Brennan, the Australian V.A.D. nurse, who for two years has been serving at the North Evington War Hospital, and who died on Sunday last at that institution from the after-effects of influenza.

The coffin, which, was covered with a Union Jack, was borne to the cemetery on a gun carriage, followed by a large procession of the R.A.M.C. staff and V.A.D. nurses from North Evington and the Base Hospitals. The cortege was met by the Rev Father Lindeboom, who, with cross-bearer and acolytes led the procession to the soldiers' corner of the cemetery, where the body was interred, close to the graves of some Australian soldiers. Lieut J. Brennan of the Australian Forces (brother) and three of the deceased's Australian V.A.D.'s at the hospital, were the principle mourners, and amongst others present were Col. L.K. Harrison (Administrator 5th Northern Hospital), Capt. Moffat Holmes (North Evington), Major Slight, and Captains Mason, Payne and Hedley of the R.A.M.C., Miss Barrow (Matron at North Evington), and Mr D. Michael, Australian Commissioners for the 5th Northern Hospital district.

A party from Glen Parva Barracks fired volleys and the "Last Post" was sounded by R.A.M.C. buglers. Floral tributes were sent by the four Australian V.A.D. nurses at the Hospital (Miss Enid Armstrong, Mary McAlister, Stevenson),

R.A.M.C. officers and staff, the V.A.D. staff, the maids at North Evington Hospital, Miss Michael and Colonel and Mrs Russell Watson, of Sutton Veney and Sydney.

Extract from letter from the Chairman, Joint Women's V.A.D. Department, to Her Excellency, Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, dated London 28th November, 1918: *"I regret to have to inform you of the death of Miss Adele Brennan, at the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester, on Sunday 24th November, from Septic Pericarditis following Influenza. Miss Brennan was one of the Official Unit of Australians, who came to this country at the end of 1916, and she has been working ever since at Leicester. She was one of our best members."*

A letter was sent by Secretary, Australian Red Cross Society on 25th November, 1921 to Officer i/c Base Records, Melbourne stating: *"In response to your letter of 23rd inst., I beg to advise that in 1916 the British Red Cross Society cabled asking the Australian Red Cross to send a Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment of 30 members to help as probationers in Military Hospitals in England. The Australian Red Cross Society complied with this request, and the late Miss Adele Brennan was one of the members of the Detachment, which went forward some months later. On arriving in England the members of the Detachment were posted to hospitals by the British War Office, and were paid £24 a year by the Government.*

I enclose report in regard to Miss Brennan received by this Society from the Joint Women's V.A.D. Department of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John.

You might like to inform Miss Brennan's father that we understand that all Australian V.A.D. members who served overseas are entitled to the British War Medal, and also that the British Red Cross Society have decided to give a special war service badge to V.A.D. members."

The UK WW1 Service Medal and Award Rolls for 1914-1920 – VAD Official Australian Detachment Roll recorded Adele Brennan who served at 5th Northern General Hospital from 18th November, 1916 to 24th November, 1918, who died on Service, was entitled to the British War Medal only as she had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Adele Brennan's father – Mr W. F. Brennan, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent December, 1922 & Plaque sent February, 1923).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan, of Australian Voluntary Aid Detachment. No family details are listed.

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



Commemorative Roll (Photo from AWM)



Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

Miss Adele Brennan is remembered on St. Paul's Cathedral Nurses Honour Roll, located in St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Flinders & Swanston Streets, Melbourne, Victoria.



St. Paul's Cathedral Nurses Honour Roll (*Photo from Monument Australia*)

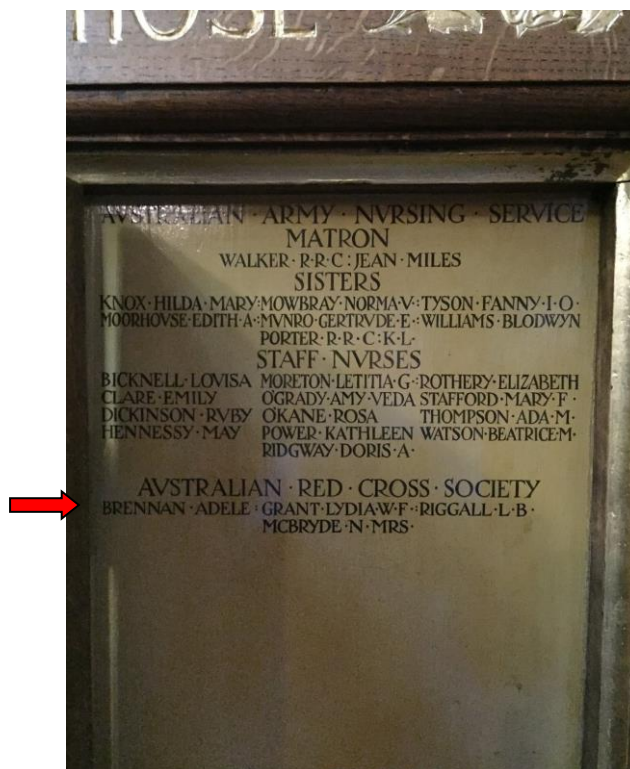
Adele Brennan is one of the names remembered on a panel on the Roll of Honour Tablet that is beside the Five Sisters Window in York Minster, York, England. The Tablet bears the names of representatives of many associations, services and corps, including Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Women's Royal Air Force, Women's Land Army, and the Canadian, Newfoundland, Australian, New Zealand and Union of South Africa Army Nursing Services.



Five Sisters Window in York Minster

The wooden memorial screen (right) is in the North Transept of York Minster. Each door bears the crest of a regiment and written inside are the names of the women who served in that regiment and were killed during the First World War. The doors can be opened by anyone to view the names inside.

The screen also records that the Five Sisters window in York Minster was restored by women in memory of their fallen comrades. The window is now a memorial to the women who gave their lives in both World Wars.



(Photo courtesy jonrb – Great War Forum)

K. A. Brennan is remembered on the Memorial to the Nurses and Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses who died during both World Wars. The Memorial lists almost 1,300 names & is located at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxwall Road, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



K. A. Brennan is also remembered on the newly installed Nurses' Memorial located in Edinburgh's Central Library.

REMEMBRANCE

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

ARMSTRONG, E Sister
 ARMSTRONG, ERR Staff Nurse
 ALLEN, MA Staff Nurse
 BATES, FM Probationer
 BEAUFAY, K Matron
 BENNET, HS Staff Nurse
 BERESFORD, RR Staff Nurse
 BERRIE, C Sister
 BIRD, E Staff Nurse
 BLAKE, E Staff Nurse
 BODE-BLANDY, SR Sister
 BOLGER, K Staff Nurse
 BOND, EM Sister
 BRACE, F Staff Nurse
 BROWN, EL Sister
 BUCKINGHAM, MA Matron
 BUCKLER, AE Staff Nurse
 BUTLER, SE Sister
 CALLIER, EFM Sister
 CHALLINOR, EA Staff Nurse
 CHANDLER, DM Sister
 CLOUGH, M Staff Nurse
 COLE, EH Sister
 COMPTON, FD Sister
 CONSTERDINE, VC Staff Nurse
 COOKE, EK Staff Nurse
 COOPER, A Sister
 CORFIELD, AB Sister
 CROWTHER, L Sister
 CROYSDALE, M Sister
 CRUICKSHANK, I Sister
 DALTON, JG Sister
 DANAHER, M Staff Nurse
 DAVES, AE Sister
 DAWSON, EM Matron
 DEWAR, MS Staff Nurse
 DOHERTY, MA Sister
 DONOVAN, B Staff Nurse
 DUCKERS, ME Staff Nurse
 DUNGAN, ILM Sister
 EDGAR, E Staff Nurse
 ELLIFFE, M Sister
 EVANS, J Sister
 FARLEY, M Matron
 FEARNLEY, E Staff Nurse
 FERGUSON, R Staff Nurse
 FOYSTER, EL Sister
 GARNER, AEC Sister
 GLADSTONE, EM Sister
 GLEDHILL, AE Sister
 GORBUTT, M Sister
 GRIFFITHS, JL Sister
 GROVER, AJ Sister
 GURNEY, ES Staff Nurse
 HALL, FM Matron
 HANNAFORD, ID Staff Nurse
 HARRISON, WM Sister
 HAWLEY, F Sister
 HAWLEY, N Probationer
 HENRY, CE Staff Nurse
 HETTERLEY, H Staff Nurse
 HILLING, S Sister
 HOBBS, N Sister
 HOCKEY, JO Sister

HODGSON, EM Sister
 HOOK, FML Assistant Nurse
 HUGHES, GC Staff Nurse
 JACK, C Sister
 JOHNSON, AM Sister
 JOHNSON, MJ Staff Nurse
 JONES, BI Chief Matron
 JONES, GE Sister
 JONES, LH Sister
 KEARNEY, IM Sister
 KEMP, CH Staff Nurse
 KENDALL, RE Sister
 LEA, HL Staff Nurse
 MACBETH, MA Sister
 MACGILL, MM Matron
 MACKENZIE, I Sister
 MANN, AG Staff Nurse
 MARMION, M Staff Nurse
 MARSHALL, MB Staff Nurse
 MASON, F Staff Nurse
 MCALISTER, C Staff Nurse
 MCGIBBON, RA Sister
 MCROBBIE, JE Sister
 MEIKLE, C Sister
 MILNE, H Sister
 MORETON, A Sister
 NICOL, C Sister
 O'BRIEN, M Sister
 OXLEY, EM Sister
 PARKER, EK Matron
 PARTRIDGE, CH Staff Nurse
 PEARSE, PA Sister
 PEPPER, ED Sister
 PHILLIPS, J Sister
 PILLING, DE Probationer
 RADCLIFFE, EB Sister
 REID, AC Staff Nurse
 RITCHIE, J Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, AL Sister
 ROBERTS, E Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, J Staff Nurse
 ROBERTS, MD Staff Nurse
 ROBINETTE, CA Sister
 ROBINS, MJ Sister
 RODWELL, M Staff Nurse
 RUSSELL, AM Staff Nurse
 SAW, N Staff Nurse
 SEYMOUR, CE Probationer
 SHORE, FN Sister
 SMITH, FE Staff Nurse
 SMITH, JB Sister
 SMITH, SM Staff Nurse
 SPINDLER, N Staff Nurse
 STACEY, DL Sister
 STALKER, MB Sister
 STEPHENS, GA Sister
 STEVENS, LH Staff Nurse
 STEWART, EG Staff Nurse
 STURT, KR Staff Nurse
 TEGGIN, EE Staff Nurse
 THOMAS, L Staff Nurse
 THOMSON, ER Sister
 THOMSON, L Staff Nurse
 TINDALL, M Staff Nurse
 TULLOCH, ES Sister
 TURTON, AM Staff Nurse
 WALLACE, L Staff Nurse

WORLD WAR ONE

Dedicated to the memory of the Scottish, Irish, Welsh, English and Dominion Forces' nurses who lost their lives as a direct consequence of their war service.

DEATH SHALL NOT SILENCE THEIR STORY



WALSHE, MA Staff Nurse
 WATSON, EH Staff Nurse
 WATSON, M Staff Nurse
 WELFORD, A Sister
 WILLIAMS, K Staff Nurse
 WILLSON, N Staff Nurse
 WILSON, CM Sister
 WILSON, ME Sister
 WRIGHT, HE Staff Nurse

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service

AINSWORTH, GG Sister
 BEARD, EG Sister
 CHAMBERLAIN, LC Sister
 EDWARDS, CM Sister
 ELVENS, EM Sister
 GRISSON, ME Sister
 PREVOST, AM Sister
 ROBINS, MJ Sister
 ROWLETT, OK Sister
 WILSON, A Sister

Territorial Force Nursing Service

ANDREW, E Sister
 ASTELL, FE Sister
 BLACKLOCK, AM Sister
 BLENCOWE, ME Sister
 BRETT, NV Staff Nurse
 BRINTON, MG Staff Nurse
 CAMPHACK, EB Staff Nurse
 CARLEY, B Assistant Matron
 CLIMIE, AM Staff Nurse
 COLE, DH Staff Nurse
 COX, MA Staff Nurse
 ELLIOTT, E Staff Nurse
 ELLIOTT, LM Staff Nurse
 FLINTOFF, A Staff Nurse
 FORBES, BG Staff Nurse
 GARLICK, HM Staff Nurse
 GOLDSMITH, AAV Staff Nurse
 GREATORIX, JM Sister
 GRIFFIN, L Sister
 HASTINGS, HM Sister
 HENSHAW, I Sister
 HILLS, ME Staff Nurse
 HOWARD, FG Staff Nurse
 HUMPHREY, EM Sister
 IRWIN, WH Staff Nurse
 JAMIESON, JS Staff Nurse
 JINKS, M Sister
 KEMP, EM Sister
 KERR, MT Staff Nurse
 LANCASTER, AH Staff Nurse
 MACKINNON, M Staff Nurse

MCCOMBIE, C Nurse
 MARK, HD Probationer
 MARLEY, GM Staff Nurse
 MARNOCHE, MB Sister
 MELDRUM, I Sister
 MILNE, ML Sister
 MURRAY, M Sister
 NODDER, RM Sister
 O'GORMAN, JJ Staff Nurse
 PATERSON, EM Sister
 ROBINSON, E Sister
 ROWLANDS, HM Staff Nurse
 SAXON, E Sister
 SHIPSON, E Staff Nurse
 SMITH, C Staff Nurse
 SMITHS, EL Staff Nurse
 STANLEY, A Staff Nurse
 STEWART, VVB Staff Nurse
 SWAIN, LM Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, MB Staff Nurse
 TREVETHAN, R Staff Nurse
 VINTER, B Staff Nurse
 WAKEFIELD, JE Staff Nurse
 WHEATON, D Staff Nurse
 WILLS, FA Sister
 WILLS, ME Staff Nurse
 WOODLEY, AA Sister

Joint War Commission British Red Cross Society and St John's Ambulance Brigade Voluntary Aid Detachment

ARNOLD, MT Nurse
 BAILLY, W Staff Nurse
 BAIN, AV Sister
 BALL, C Sister
 BARKER, EF Nurse
 BARON, MA Nurse
 BARRETT, SV Nurse
 BATES, ME Sister

BOLTON, G Nurse
 BOUSFIELD, MC Nurse
 BOWSER, IT Sister
 BROWN, WM Sister
 BYTHEWAY, G Sister
 CHADWICK, ME Nurse
 CHADWICK, H Nurse
 CHAPMAN, MD Nurse
 COLES, DKM Nurse
 CONSTERDINE, VC Staff Nurse
 CRAGGS, MO Nurse
 CREWDSON, DML Nurse
 DICKSON, MC Nurse
 DUNICANSON, UM Nurse
 FAITHFULL, FM Nurse
 FRASER, MN Nurse
 HACKETT, VCH Nurse
 HALLAM, AV Sister
 HARDING, IL Nurse
 HARTMAN, E Nurse
 HERITAGE, A Nurse
 HOGG, F Nurse
 HORRELL, DM Nurse
 INGRAM, E Nurse
 JONES, LK Nurse
 KINNEAR, KF Nurse
 LAMBARDE, BA Nurse
 LANGDALE, MA Nurse
 LEE, JS Nurse
 LEVER, Lady BH Nurse
 LIDDELL, L Nurse
 LLEWELLYN, GV Nurse
 MALTBY, PM Nurse
 MAUNSELL, MJ Nurse
 MIDWOOD, L Nurse
 PALMIERI, AE Nurse
 PARROTT, AMA Sister
 POPE, CML Sister
 POWERS-PEEL, A Nurse
 RICHARDS, E Nurse
 ROGERS, HA Nurse
 ROSKELL, GL Nurse
 RYLE, MC Nurse
 SAMUELSON, Lady LM Nurse
 SMALES, FE Nurse
 SMYTH, PJ Nurse
 SYLOR, HB Nurse
 THOMSON, E Nurse
 'WARNOCK, EM Nurse
 WILLIAMS, J Nurse
 YOUNG, AE Nurse
 YOUNG, MAE Nurse
 YOUNG, MC Nurse

Scottish Women's Hospital

EARL, AK Sister
 GRAY, M Sister

CUIMHNEACHAN

JORDAN, L Sister
 MINSHULL, A M Sister
 SUTHERLAND, B G Sister
 TOUGHILL, C M Sister

Australian Army Nursing Service

BICKNELL, LA Staff Nurse
 BRENNAN, KA Nurse
 CLARE, E Nurse
 DICKINSON, R Sister
 GLADSTONE, EM Sister
 GREYAR, GA Sister
 HENNESSY, M Staff Nurse
 KNOX, HM Sister
 MCPHAIL, I Staff Nurse
 MOORHOUSE, EA Sister
 MORETON, LG Sister
 MOWBRAY, NV Staff Nurse
 MUNRO, GE Sister
 O'GRADY, AV Sister
 O'KANE, R Staff Nurse
 PORTER, KAL Sister
 POWER, K Sister
 RIDGWAY, DA Staff Nurse
 ROTHERY, E Staff Nurse
 STAFFORD, MF Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, AM Staff Nurse
 TYSON, JIC Sister
 WALKER, JM Matron
 WATSON, BM Staff Nurse
 WILLIAMS, BE Sister

Canadian Army Medical Corps

ALPAUGH, AE Nurse
 BAKER, ME Nurse
 BAKER, ME Nurse
 BALDWIN, DMY Nurse
 BOLTON, GE Nurse
 CAMPBELL, C Sister
 CHAMPAGNE, E Nurse
 CHUMMING, JK Sister
 DAGG, AS Sister
 DAVIS, LA Sister
 DONALDSON, G Sister
 DOUGLAS, CJ Sister
 DUSSAULT, A Sister
 FOLLETTE, MA Sister
 FORNERI, A Sister
 FORTESCUE, MJ Sister
 FRASER, MM Sister
 FREDERICKSON, C Sister
 GALLAHER, MK Sister
 GARBUTT, SE Sister
 GRANT, GM Sister
 GREEN, ME Sister
 HENNAN, VB Sister
 HUNT, M Sister
 JAGGARD, JB Matron
 JARVIS, JA Sister
 JENNER, LM Sister
 KEALY, IL Sister
 KING, JN Sister
 LOWE, M Sister
 MACDONALD, KMM Sister

MACINTOSH, R Sister
 MACLEOD, M Sister
 MACPHERSON, A Sister
 MCDIARMID, JM Sister
 MCDUGALL, A Sister
 MCEACHEN, R Sister
 MCGINNIS, MG Sister
 MCKAY, EV Sister
 MCKENZIE, MA Sister
 MCLEAN, RM Sister
 MELLETT, H Sister
 MUNRO, MFE Sister
 PRINGLE, EL Sister
 ROBERTS, JO Sister
 ROGERS, NG Sister
 ROSS, AJ Sister
 ROSS, EG Sister
 TAMPSON, MB Sister
 SARE, GI Sister
 SPARKS, E Sister
 STAMMER, AJ Sister
 TEMPLEMAN, I Sister
 TRUSDALE, A Sister
 TUPPER, A Sister
 WAKE, GHM Sister
 WHITELY, AE Sister

New Zealand Army Nursing Service

BROWN, MS Staff Nurse
 CLARK, I Staff Nurse
 FOX, CA Staff Nurse
 GORMAN, M Staff Nurse
 HAWKEN, AG Staff Nurse
 HILLYARD, NM Staff Nurse
 ISDELL, HK Staff Nurse
 JAMIESON, ME Staff Nurse
 LUMLEY, C Nurse
 RAE, MH Nurse
 RATTRAY, LA Staff Nurse
 ROGERS, M Staff Nurse
 THOMPSON, MH Staff Nurse
 TUBMAN, EM Staff Nurse
 WHISHAW, MH Sister

Nyasaland Nursing Service

SALVATOR, M Sister
 SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY NURSING SERVICE
 BAKER, EA Staff Nurse
 BEAUFORT, K Nurse
 BERNSTEIN, D Staff Nurse
 BUNTE, HM Sister
 DUNN, GE Staff Nurse
 EDMEADES, CA Sister
 FITZHENRY, DA Sister
 FLANAGAN, MC Probationer
 HEARNIS, B Staff Nurse
 MURRO, AW Staff Nurse
 WARDLE, J Staff Nurse
 WATKINS, JK Staff Nurse

Russian Red Cross

RYLE, MC Sister

(24 pages of V.A.D. Member Adele Brennan's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05074.003

Informal portrait of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment which left Australia for United Kingdom aboard HMAT Osterley, on 27 September 1916, in a VAD outdoor uniform. The uniform includes dark blue skirt and jacket, bonnet like cap, white shirt and black tie, black stockings and black lace up shoes. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P05074.002

Informal portrait of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment which left Australia for United Kingdom aboard HMAT Osterley, on 27 September 1916, shown wearing a VAD ward uniform. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.



Newspaper Notices

SOCIETY DOINGS IN SYDNEY

One cannot help feeling surprised at the disappointment evinced by the many voluntary girls' aids who were not selected to go to England on military duty. The work and its conditions do not sound alluring. But it is no doubt a sign of the times that so many gently nurtured girls should be not only willing but anxious for such arduous tasks in hospitals far from home. The ten girls who left by the Osterley were entertained by Lady Edeline Strickland at afternoon tea on Friday, and given a kindly "God speed." Mrs J.C. Fairfax and Mrs Bennett were also of the party. Mrs Bennett is head of the voluntary aids of New South Wales, Miss Bruce Smith is acting commandant of the little squad of probationers, and the others are Misses E. Stevenson, Enid Armstrong, Louie Black, Gibling-Macalister, **Adele Brennan**, W. Hill, Leary, and Steed.

(The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria – 30 September, 1916)

IN THE WINTER GARDEN

SOCIAL CHAT

Friends of the first detachment of V.A.D.'s who left Sydney recently by the Osterley, were glad to hear the cabled news of the safe arrival of that vessel at Gravesend, London, which came through on Saturday. The Misses Adele Brennan, Leary, Nancy Hill, and Enid Armstrong were some of the "aids" from Sydney who went over to work for the soldiers in the big smoke.AT

(Freeman's Journal, Sydney, NSW – 16 November, 1916)

DEATH

BRENNAN – On the 24th inst, at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, of influenza, Kathleen Adele, youngest daughter of W. F. and E. M. Brennan, Floradel, Edgecliff-road, Woollahra. Requiescat in pace.

(The Sun, Sydney, NSW – 26 November, 1918)

DEATHS

BRENNAN – November 24, at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, of influenza, Kathleen Adele, younger daughter of W. F. and E. M. Brennan, Floradel, Edgecliff-road, Woollahra. Requiescat in pace.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 26 November, 1918)

DEATHS

BRENNAN – November 24, 1918, at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, of influenza, Kathleen Adele, beloved sister of Frank and Florence Brennan, Niara, Pennant Hills.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 27 November, 1918)

DEATHS

BRENNAN – On the 24th inst, at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, of influenza, Kathleen Adele, beloved sister of Frank and Florence Brennan, Niara, Pennant Hills. Requiescat in pace.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 27 November, 1918)

All About People

By cable has come the announcement of the death of Kathleen Adele Brennan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.F. Brennan, of Woollahra. Miss Brennan went to England some two or three years ago; she was one of the V.A.D. who offered their services to the military authorities, and because of their special efficiency were accepted. Prior to leaving Sydney she had been doing work in one of the military hospitals, and had proved herself very capable in nursing. It was while doing duty in the North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, that she succumbed to influenza. Much sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs Brennan, who have already been sufferers by the war, their second son having been killed about two years ago. Miss Adele Brennan, who was educated at the Sacred Heart Convent, Rose Bay, was very popular amongst her old convent friends. – R.I.P.

(The Catholic Press, Sydney, NSW – 28 November, 1916)

CURRENT NEWS

DIED ON SERVICE

Miss Kathleen Adele Brennan, sister of Mr and Mrs F. Brennan, of Pennant Hills, died on the 24th inst. in North Evington War Hospital, England, of influenza. The young lady was engaged in war work at the time of contracting her fatal illness.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

ROLL OF HONOUR

BRENNAN – November 24th, at North Evington War Hospital, Leicester, England, of influenza, Kathleen Adele, younger daughter of W. F. and C. M. Brennan, "Floradel", Edgecliff Road, Woollahra. Requiescat in pace. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, at 9.30 am on Wednesday, Dec. 4th.

(The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 30 November, 1918)

LATE MISS ADELE BRENNAN

A cable message has been received to the effect that Miss Adele Brennan, who died from influenza, while serving in Leicester Military Hospital, as one of the voluntary aids despatched by the Australian Red Cross in 1916, was buried with military honours on November 26. Her brother, Lieut W.K. Brennan, 12th Light Horse, was killed at Gaza (Palestine), in April, 1917, while the second brother, Lieut Jack Brennan, was recently wounded in France.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – 10 December, 1918) & (The Daily Telegraph, Sydney, NSW – 7 December, 1918)

IN THE WINTER GARDEN

There were not many dry eyes in the Cathedral on Wednesday morning of last week when the Rev. Father Bartley, O.F.M. (a returned army chaplain), paid such an eloquent tribute at the Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul to the splendid work done by Miss Adele Brennan. People are inclined to sneer at the Voluntary Aids, said Father Bartley, but the true appreciation of the fine work done by these women will be found amongst the wounded soldiers. These men, whilst realising the debt of gratitude they owe to the doctors and nurses, will always remember that it was to the Voluntary Aids they owed the little touch of home, brought with them into the great hospitals. A detachment of St. Vincent's V.A.'s.— of which Miss Brennan was a member — attended as well as the following representatives of the Red Cross Society: Mesdames Gordon, Wesche, and Bennett, Misses Egan, Marjorie and Veronica Mort and Mr Hanbury Davies. Members of the Rose Bay Association, of which Adele Brennan was a popular and devoted member, were also present, and a large number of prominent citizens, including Mr and Mrs F. W. Brennan (parents), Miss Florence Brennan (sister), Mr Holdsworth, Mrs Mills, Mr Justice and Mark Sheldon, Miss Sheldon, Mrs Holdsworth, Mrs Mills, Judge and Mrs Heydon, Dr and Mrs Kenna, Dr and Mrs Conrick, Mrs Herbert Kendall, Mrs T. Lipscombe, Mrs Larkins, Misses Pearl and Muriel Sheldon, Mr and Mrs Andrew Madden, Miss Kenna, and many others.

(Freeman's Journal, Sydney, NSW – 12 December, 1918)

NURSES' MEMORIAL

LONDON APPEAL

Twenty-four members of the Australian nursing service either died or were killed on active service during the war. Their names are included in a list of Dominion nurses who made the supreme sacrifice, forwarded by the Committee of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital Extension Fund in London to the Premier. The extension is to be a memorial to those women of the Dominions.

The committee suggests that if 10,000 hostesses in the Empire give a gift tea party—a dance, bridge, whist, or competition tea—to a few friends, asking them to do the same, a large proportion of the sum required to complete the extension of the hospital would be found.

The Australian nurses whose names are on the list are:- Matron J. M. Walker, R.R.C; Sisters H. M. Knox, E. A. Moorhouse, N.V. Mowbray, G. E. Munro, K. L. Porter, F. I. C. Tyson, B. Williams; Staff Nurses L. A. Bicknell, E. Clare, R. Dickinson, M. Hennesey, L. G. Moreton, A. V. O'Grady, R. O'Kane, K. Power, D. A. Ridgway, E. Rothery, A. M. Thompson, M. F. Stafford, B. M. Watson; and **Voluntary Workers A. Brennan**, Rignall, L.B., and L. Grant.

On the same list are the names of 60 Canadian women, 15 New Zealanders, four South Africans, one woman from India and three members of the overseas nursing association.

(The Queenslander, Brisbane, Qld – Saturday 9 May, 1925)

MEMORIAL SERVICE

EMPIRE ARMY SISTERS

The women of Melbourne yesterday paid a tribute to the memory of the women of the Empire who laid down their lives in the great war at a service held in St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday. This service was arranged to coincide with the service at which the Duchess of York would unveil after restoration the Five Sisters Window in York Minster. A roll of honor tablet has been placed beside the window bearing the names of representatives of many associations, services and corps, including Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Women's Royal Air Force, Women's Land Army, and the Canadian, Newfoundland, Australian, New Zealand and Union of South Africa Army Nursing Services. A panel of the tablet contains the following names of the Australian Army Nursing Service, Australian Imperial Forces: — Matron Jean Walker., R.R.C.; Sister Hilda Knox, Sister Edith Moorhouse, Sister Norma Mowbray, Sister Gertrude Munro, Sister

Kathleen Porter, R.R.C; Sister Fanny Tyson, Sister Blodwyn Williams, Staff Nurse Louisa N. Bicknell, Staff Nurse Emily Clare, Staff Nurse Ruby Dickinson, Staff Nurse May Hennessey, Staff Nurse Letitia Moreton, Staff Nurse Amy O'Grady, Staff Nurse Rosa O'Kane. Staff Nurse Kathleen Power, Staff Nurse Doris Ridgway, Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery, Staff Nurse Mary Stafford, Staff Nurse Ada Thompson, Staff Nurse Beatrice Watson; **Miss Adele Brennan**, Miss Lydia Grant, Miss L. B. Riggall, V.A.D.'s.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – Thursday 25 June, 1925)

CWGC REMEMBERS THE BRAVE NURSES LOST DURING THE WORLD WARS

ON INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Tomorrow, 12 May, is International Nurses Day which is held on the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday every year to celebrate the contribution that nurses make to societies around the world. The CWGC commemorates more than 900 nurses who died during the First and Second World Wars. Nurses served in all the major theatres of war and the Commonwealth home fronts. From tented hospitals within the sound of the guns, to busy base hospitals, hospital trains and ships, nurses were exposed to many of the same dangers as the fighting men they nursed. Here are the stories of some of the brave nurses commemorated by the Commission.

.....

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan was born in Sydney on 15 November 1882, the eldest of five children. On the outbreak of the First World War, it was agreed that while all five children wanted to serve, one girl and one boy would need to remain in Australia to look after their elderly parents.

Kathleen was able to go and enlisted with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) with the Australian Red Cross. She left Australia in September 1916 on the SS *Osterley* and on arrival in England was posted to the 5th Northern General Hospital in Leicester. She served there until November 1918, when she died from Septic Pericarditis, following Influenza.

She was buried in Leicester (Welford Road) Cemetery.

Her coffin, which was covered with a Union Jack, was borne to the cemetery on a gun carriage, followed by a large procession of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) staff and VAD nurses from North Evington and the base hospitals. Her body was interred in the soldiers corner of the cemetery.

(Commonwealth War Graves Commission – 11 May, 2018)



Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials in 23,000 locations, in 153 countries. In all 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces from WWI and WWII have been honoured and commemorated in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as part of its mandate, is responsible for commemorating all Commonwealth war dead individually and equally. To this end, the war dead are commemorated by name on a headstone, at an identified site of a burial, or on a memorial. War dead are commemorated uniformly and equally, irrespective of military or civil rank, race or creed.

Not all service personnel have a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. In some instances the relative chose to have their own memorial/headstone placed on the deceased's grave. These private headstones are not maintained by the CWGC as they have no jurisdiction to maintain them.

Nurse Kathleen Adele Brennan has a numbered flat memorial stone & is remembered on the CWGC's Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester.

Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England

Between 1914 and 1919, the 5th Northern General Hospital, with more than 2,600 beds, occupied several buildings in Leicester and North Evington. More than 95,000 officers and men were admitted to the hospital, which recorded 514 deaths before its closure. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force operational training station near Leicester. Leicester (Welford Road) Cemetery contains 286 First World War burials, more than half of them forming a war graves plot with a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. The 46 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, which also contains eight Belgian war graves, 1 of which is unknown.

(Information from CWGC)



(Photo by daglish – Find a Grave)

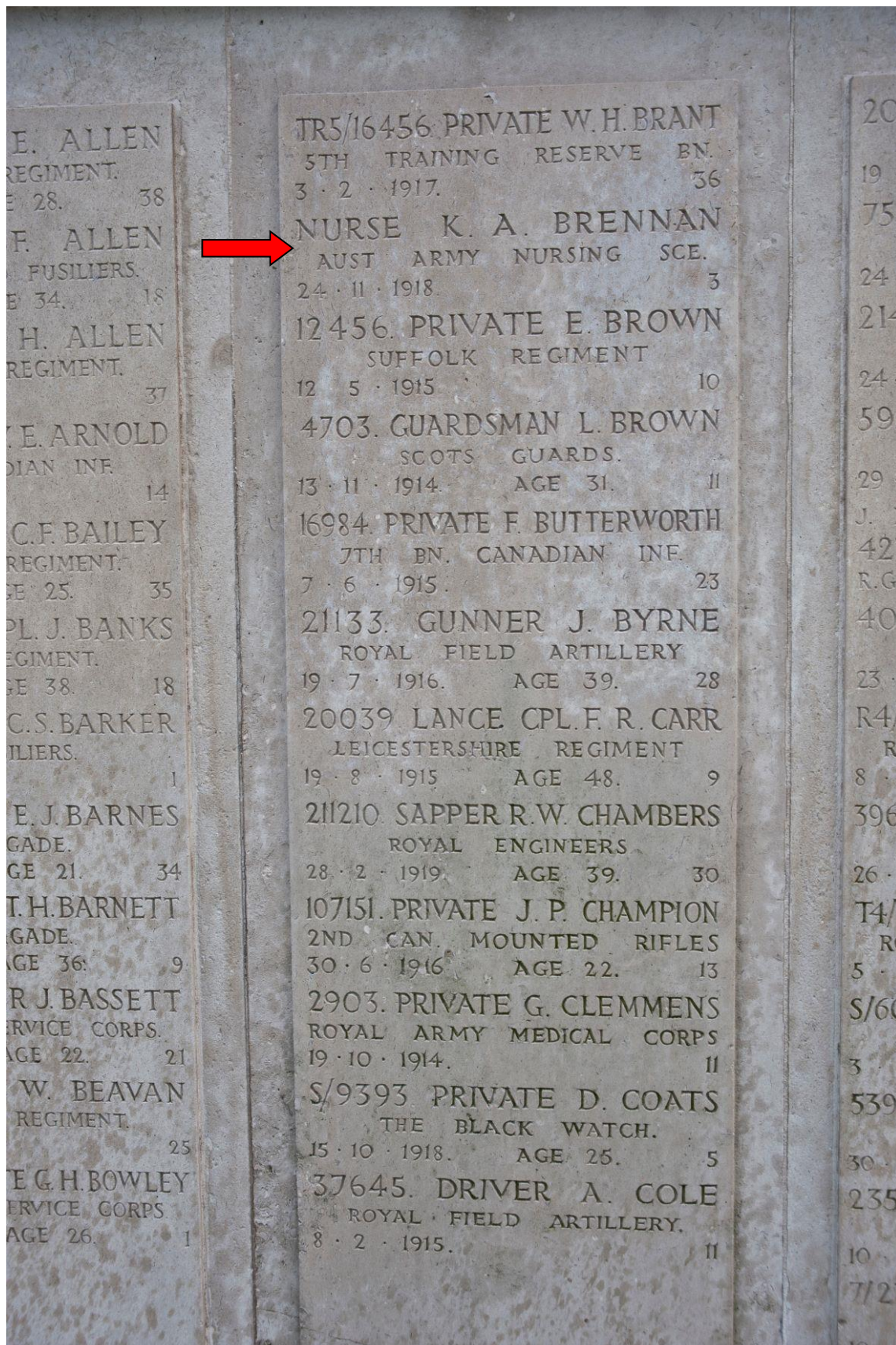


Cross of Sacrifice & Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester *(Photo from CWGC)*



(Photo by Jackie March – Find a Grave)

Photo of Nurse K. A. Brennan's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Michael Doyle)

Photo of Nurse K. A. Brennan's numbered Memorial Stone in front of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, Leicestershire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Michael Doyle)



Original Cross which marked Nurse Brennan's grave



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J00731

Mr and Mrs A T Sharp visiting the graves of seven Australians at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, including the grave of Kathleen Adele Brennan, Australian Red Cross Society, member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment. Brennan died of influenza at Leicester, England on 24 November 1918.

From the collection of Mr Alfred Thomas Sharp. Mr Sharp was the Commonwealth Immigration Officer of Victoria and was based in the London Office during the First World War. He and his wife hosted and visited many soldiers, particularly those from Victoria, who were recuperating in London. He also photographed many Australian graves in English cemeteries. His photograph collection relating to this period in London was bequeathed to the Memorial in 1922 after his death. During his time in London he was a member of the British Volunteer Regiment, serving with the Willesden Battalion, Middlesex Volunteer Regiment.

