

THE SAILING OF THE HOSPITAL SHIP MAHENO
ON HER SECOND VOYAGE.

On Sunday evening, January 23, as the sun was setting, there sailed up the Wellington Harbour a vision of beauty in the hospital ship Maheno, in her new bravery of white walls, with green band and large red crosses. She was arriving to pick up her new personnel of medical officers and sisters, who were eagerly looking forward to their work of succouring the sick and wounded. On Tuesday everyone was aboard at 2 p.m., when their Excellencies, the Governor and Lady Liverpool, visited her and held a parade of the ship's staff.

The officers and sisters had been invited the evening previous to Government House to supper, when the Governor decorated each one with the special cord which signified membership of the staff.

After the parade everyone was allowed on to the wharf, where their friends and relatives were awaiting them, and they remained there till 5.30 p.m., when the bugle sounded and all had to come aboard. The ship then moved out to the stream, where she remained all night—in fact, till 5.30 next day, there having been some shortage of the very necessary firemen.

The matron-in-chief, Miss Maclean, was able to visit her again next morning, and to see how comfortably the sisters were accommodated. There have been many improvements made since her last voyage. The sisters of the staff are now all accommodated on the promenade deck. The matron, Miss Bicknell, and **Miss Keddie**, the next in charge, have each a nice single cabin, and Sisters Robins and Sanderson a double one on the deck, while part of the music room has been divided up into very nice two-berth cabins, with a settee in each for the remainder of the staff sisters. These cabins all open into a little private lounge for the sisters, while the remainder of the music room is open to all the staff.

For meals all dine in the saloon, though, owing to the large number there are, two sittings, the travelling nurses going to the first sitting, the officers and staff sisters to the second. The menu and waiting is the same for both sittings.

The travelling nurses are accommodated in A ward, a very nice airy ward on deck, the isolation ward and the sick officers' ward. They are quite comfortable, and pleased with the quarters. They are to have all the necessary attendance and their wards kept in order. There is plenty of deck room and a good supply of deck chairs. As regards the wards, theatre and all the hospital provision, everything is much the same as on the first voyage, and is very convenient and workable. Better provision has also been made for the orderlies. It is somewhat uncertain how long the Maheno will be away on this voyage.

THE "MAHENO" NURSING STAFF

Much to their grief the sisters of the Maheno's first commission have had to be disbanded as a separate unit, though most of them desire to again have the opportunity of rejoining her in the future. Sister Brooke, the matron, is now

matron at Trentham Hospital, where she relieved Miss Keddie, who left with the second commission of the ship.

FAREWELL TO NURSES LEAVING ON MAHENO.

On Friday, January 21, in the Parliamentary dining-room, the Hon. Minister of Public Health entertained the nursing staff of, and the nurses leaving as passengers, in the hospital ship Maheno, at afternoon tea. Her Excellency Lady Liverpool was present, and presented the badges of the Army Nursing Service to the nurses, after saying a few kind words of farewell.

The Prime Minister and Mrs. Massey were present also, and the Prime Minister made a kind speech of farewell, in which he alluded to the splendid behaviour of the nurses in the torpedoed Marquette.

The Hon. Mr. Russell spoke with feeling and also Mrs. Luke, who has done so much to provide comforts, as well as necessaries, for our wounded men.

Among others present were Colonel and Mrs. Valintine, Colonel and Mrs Allen, Colonel and Mrs. Purdy, General Henderson, Colonel Elliott and other officers of the Maheno, and a few relatives of the nurses.

After the presentation of badges tea was served, and Miss Maclean, matron-in-chief, requested Mr. Allen, Minister of Defence, to announce the honour done to a New Zealand nurse in making her the recipient of the Royal Red Cross, the nursing medal of distinction. Miss Bertha Nurse's health was then drunk, with musical honours.

The names of the nurses who left in the Maheno are as follows: — Staff: J Bicknell, E. M. Clark, M. Fisher, **A. G. Keddie**, **L. F. Kelly**, A. F. Kilgour, Second Contingent: D. M Anderson,, **M. Galloway**,, **Annie Moody**,, **Isabella Y. Scott**,

Oamaru Mail. 19 April 1916 (page 4) [04/12/2015]

Nurse Keddie visited Oamaru today on furlough from the Maheno. She is looking very well, despite the hard work in the heat in the Mediterranean and across the Line. Speaking of her experiences, she says the heat was the worst thing that they had to contend with. The coaling of the ship by natives at way ports was also a trial, by reason of the dirt and noise, the chattering annoying the patients a great deal. At Colombo a welcome relief was afforded the staff, as all the convalescents were taken to the barracks, and all the wounded, with the exception of 12, to the hospital, where they were well cared for. As the vessel stayed two days, the staff had 24 hours' leave in batches. Most of them employed the time in sight-seeing, Kandy, the Gardens, and other points of interest being visited. The lot of nurses out of work in Cairo, said Nurse Keddie was not so unfortunate, as their pay was continued and they were found quarters at good hotels. A batch of 54 New Zealand nurses who went over by the Maheno were landed at Alexandria, but almost at once received orders to proceed to London. Since then they had crossed to France. Nurse Keddie has just received a telegram that her leave has been extended till next Tuesday.

Mataura Ensign. 6 October 1916 (page 4) [05/10/2015]

Matron Alexandra Keddie, whose great services in organising the military hospitals and nursing depots in New Zealand for wounded soldiers, has been mentioned in Parliament and commended by Lord Liverpool, the Governor, and also referred to in terms of the highest praise by the New Zealand press, is at present on a visit to relatives in Helmsdale (states the 'Northern Ensign,' Wick). Miss Keddie is now attached to the New Zealand Hospital Ship Maheno, which is conveying the wounded from France to England. Previous to taking up military work she was matron of the Oamaru Hospital, in Otago. Her mother, formerly Helen Gunn, was born in Helmsdale, and Mrs Daniel Little, of that town, is her mother's sister. This is Matron Keddie's first visit to the Highlands where her parents were born. Matron Keddie is a niece of Mrs William Henderson, Stratford Street, Gore.

Stratford Evening Post. 16 September 1933 (Papers Past) [06/12/2018]

The resignation of Miss A. G. Keddie lady superintendent of the Waikato Hospital, has been received. Miss Keddie was trained at Timaru, and became matron at Oamaru. During the war she served as a nursing sister on the hospital ship Maheno. She was then appointed lady superintendent at the Southland Hospital. Seven years ago Miss Keddie was appointed to take charge of the Waikato hospital nursing staff. Miss Keddie reaches the retiring age on January 31, when she relinquishes her present position.

New Zealand Herald. 15 December 1933 (Papers Past) [06/12/2018]

The resignation of Miss A. G. Keddie as lady superintendent of the Waikato Hospital was received by the Hospital Board yesterday. Miss Keddie has been in charge of the Waikato Hospital staff since January, 1927, and is retiring on superannuation. The board passed the following resolution: "That the board accepts the resignation of Miss A. G. Keddie with regret and places on record its high appreciation of the very efficient and faithful services rendered during her period of office since January, 1927; that Miss Keddie's resignation take effect on April 30, 1934, and that she be granted three months' leave of absence on full pay."

TRIBUTES TO MATRON MISS KEDDIE'S RETIREMENT

WAIKATO HOSPITAL BOARD'S APPRECIATION.

Warm appreciation of the work of the matron, Miss A. G. Keddie, whose resignation, to take effect on 30th April next, was received at Thursday's meeting of the Waikato Hospital Board was expressed by the chairman, Mr J. J. Ryburn, and the medical superintendent, Dr M. M. Hockin.

"Anybody who has the matronship of the Waikato Hospital has a big job," said Mr Ryburn. "There are 120 nurses and an average of nearly 400 patients to look after. Miss Keddie has taken a real, live interest in the welfare of our institution. She is a good disciplinarian and there has been very little friction during her term. She has been an efficient officer and has carried out her work faithfully and well. I feel sure she carries away with her the best wishes of all members of the board."

Dr Hockin said that he considered the outstanding characteristic of Miss Keddie was her loyalty, to the board and to him. He was sorry to lose her. For six years she had managed affairs at the hospital very efficiently.

A resolution was passed accepting her resignation with regret and placing on record the board's appreciation of the very efficient and faithful services rendered during her period in office since January, 1927. The board granted Miss Keddie three months' leave of absence on full pay, including any accrued leave due to her.



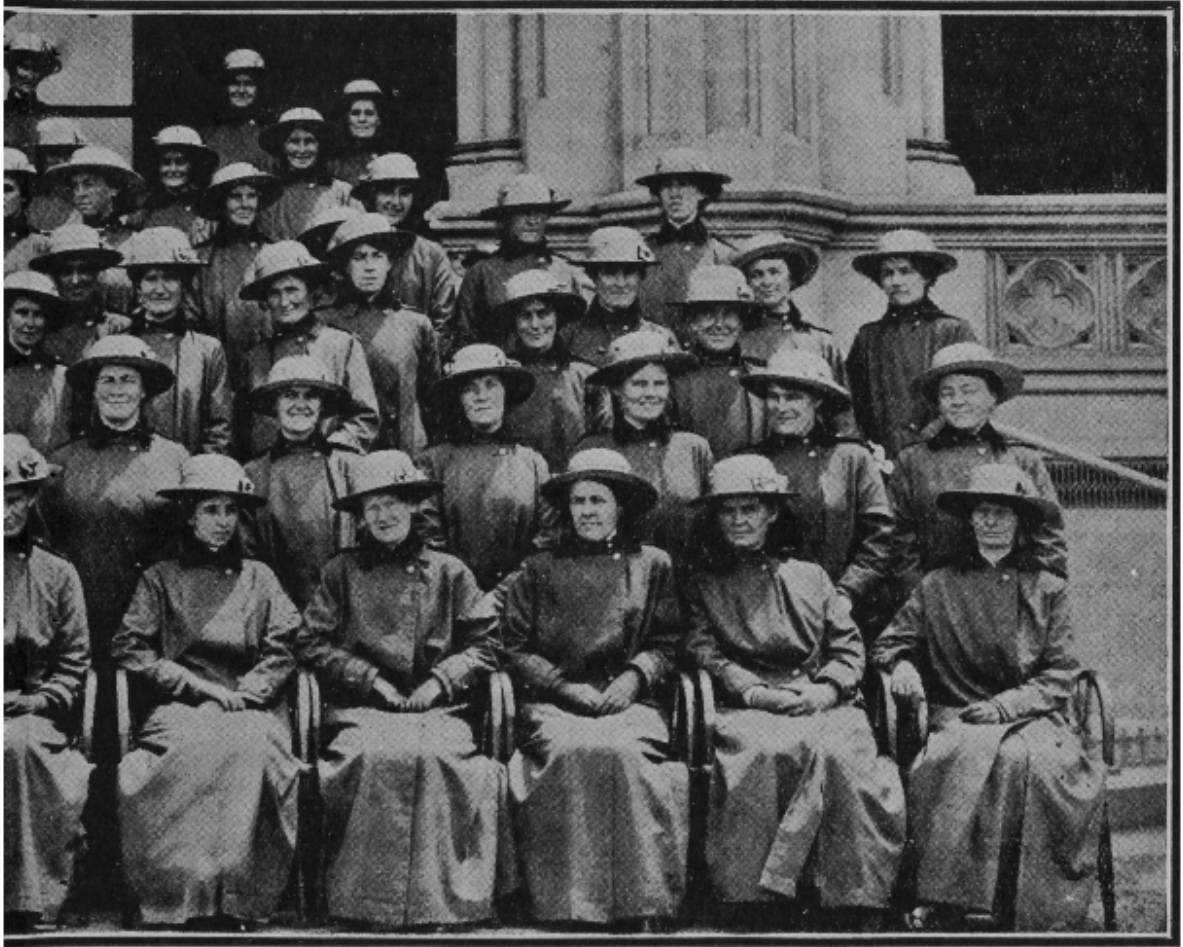
WAIKATO HOSPITAL MATRON
Miss A. G. **Keddie**, matron of the
Waikato Hospital, who retired
yesterday.



Sisters Upton Maclean, Kelly, Brookes, Keddie, Miss

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Leonora Kelly?#



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