

Kai Tiaki. 1 January 1915 (PP) [16/04/2017]

**New Zealand Nurses who are now at the Front
or who have gone Home to offer their Services**

Miss Margaret Nixon, Timaru ; Miss Bowie, Timaru ; Miss Blackmore, Miss Eleanor Brown, Dunedin. All left in the "Somerset" in January to offer their services.

Timaru Herald. 5 January 1915 (PP) [18/04/2017]

After spending a few days in the country Miss Eleanor Brown left Timaru on Saturday for Christchurch, where she joins Miss Nixon en route for Wellington. Miss Nixon and Miss Brown are leaving this month for England by the Somerset to join the Nursing Staff in London.

New Zealand Herald. 27 April 1915 (Papers Past)

Latest callers at the High Commissioner's office have included:—Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Donkin (Southland), Miss E. L. B. Brown (South Canterbury), Miss Margaret Nixor (Christchurch), Private J. H. Swales (Christchurch), Mr. C. A. **Dunn (Canterbury), Miss S. M. Bowie (Timaru), Miss E. Blackmore (Timaru), Miss A. Holmes (Canterbury), Brother Joseph McAteer (Timaru), Lieutenant H. Seston Elsdale (Wellington), Mrs. Anna E. Westall (Napier), Mr. Robert J. Morgan (Auckland), and Mr. W. S. Lochhead (Dunedin).**

Timaru Herald. 13 May 1915 (Papers Past) [13 August 2019]

TIMARU AND CHRISTCHURCH NURSES.

WHO WENT TO THE FRONT.

One of the Timaru nurses who left with five others for the seat of war to offer their services in the hospitals, writing to friends in Timaru, says that they had a splendid passage Home on the s.s. Somerset and they had a little excitement in passing or meeting other boats, not knowing whether they were friends or foes until signals were exchanged. On one occasion they struck a sand bank, but they soon got clear of it. They played golf on the ship almost every day, and a prize given by the captain, was won by Nurse Bowie (formerly the Plunket Nurse in Timaru). On the voyage they discovered that one of the firemen on the boat was a Timaru boy, a Mr Williams of Woollcombe Street. Sunday services were conducted on the boat by a Quaker lady. The captain and officers, they say, "were just A1."

Though they enjoyed the voyage immensely they were delighted to set foot in London. It was only then that they realised the danger they had been in on the sea. They were told that about an hour before they passed Lands End, a British cruiser had been sunk, and the day after they left Monte Video five boats' crews arrived from vessels which had gone down. Though they had never been in London before they managed to get about without being ...st, and found no trouble in getting about among the traffic. The weather was cold and foggy, and very dark at nights. At first they found a good deal to interest them in the shops, but they had found none better or cheaper than in New Zealand.

Calling on the High Commissioner they found him very nice indeed. They also went to the War Office, and put in their applications to go whenever they might be sent. They had to sign on for one year. Large numbers of wounded were being sent in to London every day and lots of hospitals were being opened including one of 35,000 beds. There was any amount of nursing to do. They all had to be examined by a doctor before they were accepted for service, and they all passed without any difficulty. The authorities were most particular about every little detail. Everybody was very kind and courteous to them and altogether they could not wish to be better treated. The Hon. T. Mackenzie discussed Timaru with them in a very interested way, and seemed pleased to learn that Timaru had buses similar to those running in London. They had seen a good many of the historic buildings in London and meant to see all they could in the time at their disposal.

The writer mentions that they had met Miss Caskey, of Fairlie, in London, where she was teaching, having gone to Canada and then to London under the "hands across the sea" movement. Miss Caskey told them that she liked London and her work there, very much. They had also met the Misses McLaren, of Timaru,, with whom they had afternoon tea, and several other Timaru people,

including Mr Foden, who had taken them all out to his place by bus — a 10-mile journey through most delightful country. Mr and Mrs Foden welcomed them most heartily and entertained them most hospitably at their beautiful country home. They had also met Dr McRae, son of Mr McRae, of Timaru, , and he too, had shown them much kindness in the way of showing them round, and assisting them with their business.

(Since this letter was written the nurses received orders to go to Cairo and take up duty in the big hospital, a description of which was given in yesterday's "Herald.")

Note – known Timaru nurses on this voyage were Lucy Bowie, Eleanor Brown, Margaret Nixon, Emma Blackmore.

Timaru Herald. 20 May 1915 (PP) [18/04/2017]

The London correspondent of the Christchurch "Press" writes under date March 30 as follows: "Misses Margaret Nixon (Christchurch), Eleanor Brown, Susie M. Bowie (Timaru), and Emma Blackmore (Timaru) are leaving for Egypt shortly under the direction of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service."

Timaru Herald. 19 June 1915 (page 11) [22 November 2015] #

NEWS FROM THE FRONT. LETTERS FROM TIMARU MEN.

Sergeant W. I. Tait, writing to a friend in Timaru, says: "The wounded are just beginning to roll in. I saw the first lot and I can assure you it was a sorry sight. Men with all manner of wounds imaginable, but they seemed quite happy and proud of what they had done. As the news is coming through very slowly, I am unable to tell you much. At the landing the Canterbury and Auckland Battalions were well in the thick of the fight. We are expecting marching orders every minute and are anxious to have a taste of the real stuff. I met Nurses Blackmore, Bowie, Nixon and Brown, who have been to England, and have come out here at the orders of the Imperial authorities."

Press. 31 December 1915 (PP) [13/01/2020]

Otago Daily Times. 8 January 1916 (PP) [13/01/2020]

Sister Eleanor Brown (South Canterbury), who has been attached to the Military Hospital, Citadel, Cairo, is in London.

Kai Tiaki. 1 July 1917 (PP) [July 2021]

To Miss Dunwoodie, the Lady Superintendent of the third circle Queen Alexandra's Imperial Indian Nursing Service, I am indebted for some most interesting information with regard to the huge amount of work going on in caring for our sick and wounded troops in India and from Mesopotamia:

“Although I can only very briefly describe one or two of the splendid hospitals which it was my privilege to be shown over, I would like to convey some idea of the large organisation that is meant by the “third circle” and controlled by Miss Dunwoodie and the matrons under her.

Until last year Bombay itself only contained one military hospital of 700 beds, which was known as “Kolaba.” This had been Miss Dunwoodie's own hospital and the regular military hospital for Bombay. Now Bombay is a hospital base of 8,000 beds, besides other hospitals and numerous convalescent homes up country, and in the hills, which are included in the same “circle.” The patients comprise our own British soldiers and Indian troops, West Indians from Jamaica, and German and Turkish prisoners. Some are from garrison and frontier regiments in India, where there is always more or less fighting going on with border tribes it seems, and tropical illnesses to which the troops succumb. The others come by hospital ships, of which there were five in port while we were there, from Mesopotamia and East Africa, where the struggle is still going on. Four New Zealand sisters, Inglis, Chamberlain, Trask, and Scott, visited us from the “Devanka,” shortly leaving again for East Africa. We also had a visit from Sister Margaret Nixon, who, with Sister Brown, belong to the Q.A.I.A.N.S., and are attached to a hospital in Bombay. Two others known in New Zealand, whom we saw at the Victoria Hospital, were Miss Walshe, a sister of Dr. Walshe, of Thames Hospital, and Mrs. Bill, whose maiden name I cannot recall.

The St. George's Hospital for sick sisters, close by Kolaba, is very nice. It is being added to, and will accommodate fifty. A beautiful circular ward, something like that at Trentham and King George's Hospital, Rotorua, is to be turned into a lounge, when the new pavilion wards are finished. It has a lovely balcony just opening on to the rocky beach. I asked if the sisters indulged in sea-bathing, but was told that the water was too dirty, and no doubt it looked so, and probably the city, with its huge native quarter, drains into the harbour. I saw the sisters who had hoped to travel to England in our ship, but we were unable

to take them on account of the number of officers it was desired we should convey.

Miss Stronghew, the Matron at Kolaba, showed me over the hospital. There is a glorious view across the wide harbour, especially from the upper storey. It is built on a point, and is close by the water's edge. The wards seem cool and airy, and on the main building very nice. There is a very nice officers' ward, where every comfort seems to be provided. A feature of these Indian hospitals is the scarlet blanket quilts; no white ones are to be seen. Linen has not the same nice white appearance that ours at Home has, but much of it is unbleached, and probably the natives are not the very best of washers. Kolaba has a splendidly fitted operating theatre and annexes, and the best X-ray room I have seen, where a very great deal of work seems to be done. All sorts of annexes have been built in the grounds. Every special case that one can think of seems to be dealt with, even to cholera. It must be a most difficult place indeed, to administer. There are plenty of native servants, the nursing done, of course, by Q.A.I.A.N.S. sisters and R.A.M.C. orderlies. I saw a patient from New Zealand at Kolaba (Duane by name). He had been with an Australian unit in Mesopotamia. There is a large part of Bombay known as "Hospital Quarter," at either end of which a notice board requests quietness. The Lady Hardinge Hospital for Indians is here. Unfortunately I could not visit that as Miss Dunwoodie had arranged.

Indian princes of quite fabulous wealth have given or lent their palaces and furniture, and equipped them with unsparing generosity. One of these has lent his house for the sisters' quarters.

Kai Tiaki. 1 October 1917 (PP) [July 2021]

Army Nurses' Work

"Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Service, the Territorial Force Nursing Service, and their vast reserves, might well share with the Royal Navy the description of being 'the Silent Service'. Over the splendid work and devotion of the 19,000 or so of trained, skilled women there has hung a veil of reticence and reserve that has barely been lifted. An investiture by the King will include the names of a few of those who are called up to receive the decoration of the Royal Red Cross, who up to February 1st had numbered 850, or possibly of one or two of that distinguished company of women upon whom the Military Medal — some fifteen at the present time — has been conferred.

"Queen Alexandra, as its head, to whom the entire service owes reconstruction, is wont to receive the nurses at Marlborough House after these ceremonies, and is deeply interested in the honours that they have earned. It can be stated, too, upon the most direct authority, that the Queen herself follows the work of the nurses with the closest attention. None, in fact, is prouder or more appreciative of their noble labours than Queen Mary, whose knowledge of all that they

accomplish is full and complete. But of the special grace and untiring labours, of the calm courage that gave steadiness and self-control to men in agony who were called upon to suffer the further terrors of bombs falling in the very wards where they had hoped for haven, no indication is given to the nation at large. In trains under Zeppelin attack, despite the blazonry of humanity for which the Red Cross stands, on hospital ships and in open boats, the work that British nurses have done constitutes a chapter that will stand in the proudest annals of the Empire.

It is a well understood tradition of the service that nurses do not talk of what they have done. If they did more would have been heard of the general tale of ordered efficiency since that first call-up on August 5th, 1914, when, quietly and without the least fuss, the whole nursing personnel of general hospitals were mustered and slipped away quietly over to destinations unknown, but 'somewhere in France.' No woman has ever carried upon her shoulders a burden of higher responsibility than that which Miss Becher, R.R.C., the Matron-in-Chief, has borne. She has, of course, been magnificently supported by those women whom her own 'right judgment in all things' has selected to be principal matrons in France, in Salonika, in Egypt, and Mesopotamia. And the matrons-in-chief with the Australian, the Canadian, the New Zealand, and the South African armies have been worthy daughters of the Empire in conjunction with them. All of them regarded signal acts of long-sustained attendance as when convoy after convoy brought down its loads of men needing instant attention and hours of labour, or sheer disregard of shell-fire on the part of the sisters and nurses, merely as part of the duty to be done. Certainly such deeds were not to be bruited about as conferring honour on those who did them above that belonging to those to whom the opportunity came not.

"That is the attitude that has kept stories gloriously heroic from any sort of publicity. And even when, as a tribute that many now feel should be rendered to the nurses, some little glimpses are officially permitted into the obscurity, it was on the understanding that individual names save where the supreme sacrifice of all has been made should not be mentioned. To the plain, unvarnished facts so simply told those concerned can supply this hiatus. Others are held to have no concern in this detail.

"We shall never know the whole epic, for those who made it keep back the personal element and emphasise rather the bravery and endurance of the men — in suffering even as in the fierce grip of battle. To all the highest qualities of womanliness — the gentleness, the patience, the sympathy — and the lore of surgery and medicine, the matrons and sisters and nurses of the Military Service have added an heroic disdain for personal danger that throws into yet blacker shame the attacks of the enemy on the helpless and the wounded, over whom (to civilised peoples, at least), the Red Cross floats as the symbol of protection." —
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Timaru Herald. 23 November 1918 (Papers Past) [26/04/2017]

A military wedding of much interest to many New Zealanders was celebrated at Naini-Tal, India, on September 9th, when Sister Eleanor Lawson Brown was married to Major Philip Fell Pope, 2nd Battalion, Indian Army. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Chapple-Hall. The bride was given away by General Gray, while the bridegroom was attended by Captain Adams as best man. After the ceremony, Mrs Ireland, wife of the Commissioner, Sitapur, held a reception for the wedding party. Sister E. L. Brown was one of four nurses who left New Zealand for England in January 1915, and volunteered for service. She went first to Egypt in April 1915, and has been on active service ever since: latterly, and till the time of her marriage, as acting-matron at various stations in India.

Star. 2 December 1918

Lyttelton Times. 3 December 1918

A military wedding of interest to New Zealanders was celebrated at Naini Tal, India, on September 9, when Sister Eleanor Lawson Brown, second daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Faber Brown, Timaru, was married to Major Philip Fell Pope, Second Battalion, Indian Army. The Rev Chapple Hall was the officiating minister. The bride was given away by General Gray, and Captain Adams attended the bridegroom as best man. After the ceremony Mrs Ireland, wife of the Commissioner at Letapur, held a reception. Sister E. L. Brown was one of four nurses who left New Zealand in January, 1915, for England and volunteered for active service. She left England for Egypt in April, 1915, and has been on active service in many places since, latterly at Colaba, India, and up to the time of her marriage she was acting-matron at Lahore.

Lyttelton Times. 3 December 1918

Tuesday 3 December 1918

Wedding in India -

POPE - BROWN - on 9 Sept. at Naini Tal, India, Sister Eleanor Lawson, 2nd dau. of Mr and Mrs H.Faber Brown, Timaru to Major Philip Fell Pope, Second Battalion, Indian Army. ----- more ----

Evening Post. 31 December 1918

LONDON PERSONALS

News has come from Naini Tal, India, of the marriage of Major Philip F. Pope, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pope, Okefield, Crediton, Devon, to Eleanor Lawson Brown, daughter of Mr. H. F. Brown, of Timaru. The ceremony took place on 9th September, at the Church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness.

Press. 1 January 1919

News has come from Naini Tal, India, of the marriage of Major Philip F. Pope, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. William Pope, Okefield, Crediton, Devon, to Eleanor Lawson Brown, daughter of Mr. H. F. Brown, of Timaru. The ceremony took place on September 9th, at the Church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness.

Kai Tiaki. 1 July 1919 (PP) [July 2021]

Hospital Work in Egypt

On arrival of a portion of the N.Z.A.N.S. in Egypt early in 1915, work was at very high pressure. Many British hospitals were being opened and partly staffed by sisters from various Colonial units, namely: Canadian, Australian and New Zealand. Needless to say some of those of the N.Z.A.N.S. were disappointed in not being attached to their own respective hospitals — others rather glad because of experience in method of treatments and organisation — while others felt rather nervous and wondered how they would be received into these military hospitals, and felt sure they would many times err from the path of military discipline. However, a few days duty in these hospitals soon removed all fear. The kindness of the regular matrons and sisters of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to come in contact with them. In July, 1915, a number of sisters arrived at a hospital in Alexandria and were so well received by the matron and sisters that they at once felt at home.

Timaru Herald. 15 May 1920 [22 July 2021]

Major and Mrs Pope, India, are the guests of Mrs Faber Brown, Wai-iti Street.

Timaru Herald. 11 June 1930 [22 July 2021]

Mrs **P. F. Pope**, of Crowborough, Sussex, England, is on a visit to New Zealand, and will arrive in Timaru today to stay with her parents, Mr and Mrs Faber Brown.

Timaru Herald. 9 December 1932 [22 July 2021]

Major and Mrs P. F. Pope, of Crowborough, Sussex, England, are passengers by the Ionic, which is due on December 14. They will be the guests of Mrs Pope's parents, Mr and Mrs H. **Faber Brown**, Wai-iti Road, Timaru.

Timaru Herald. 30 November 1933 [22 July 2021]

Major and Mrs P. F. Pope are motor-ing to Timaru on Saturday and will be the guests of Mrs **Faber Brown** for a few days before leaving for England early in December.

Timaru Herald. Thursday, June 9, 1966 [28/04/2017]

POPE: On June 3, 1966, at Tunbridge Wells, England, Eleanor Lawson, beloved wife of Philip Fell Pope, and daughter of the late Henry Faber and Catherine Annie Brown, of Timaru. Dearly loved sister of all the family.