

*Kai Tiaki.* 1 July 1915 (PP) [14/02/2024]

### **Presentation of the Badges**

A ceremony which is becoming quite familiar took place in the Parliamentary Library on July 9th, when the New Zealand badges were presented to the nurses who left on July 10th with the Hospital Ship. There was quite a large gathering of onlookers, as in addition to Mrs. Massey, who pinned the badges upon the nurses, assisted by Lady Bell, there were present several of the Ministers of the Crown, Mrs. James Allen, Mrs. Herdman, Mrs. Pomare, Miss Massey, the Mayoress (Mrs. Luke), several of the members of both Houses of the Legislature and their wives, and Miss Bicknell. Her Excellency the Countess of Liverpool was unable to be present. It was an interesting ceremony, and in his speech the Minister of Defence (the Hon. James Allen) did not lightly pass over the difficulties and trials that our nurses in their care for the soldiers would have to face.

The Deputy-Minister for Defence said that a thousand applications had been received from nurses who wished to go on service — 400 from untrained nurses and 586 from trained nurses. The nurses on the Hospital Ship would be under Miss Brooke, Matron of the Hospital Ship Staff. Those who went on to England from Egypt would be in charge of Sister Willis, from Samoa. The task of selecting those for the Hospital Ship had been carried out by himself and Miss Bicknell, and was a very difficult one, as no fewer than ten hospitals in New Zealand were represented. He felt sure that Colonel Hon. W. E. Collins (Officer in Command) would be pleased with the selection. The Minister also tendered his best wishes to the nurses, and expressed the hope that they would return safely to this Dominion.

Cheers for Miss Bicknell, and the Ministers terminated the proceedings, and as each nurse left the building she was presented, on behalf of Lady Liverpool, with a box of chocolates.

*Lyttelton Times.* 3 November 1915

### **TORPEDOED IN ÆGEAN SEA. NEW ZEALAND HOSPITAL STAFF ON BOARD. TEN NURSES MISSING. SOME CHRISTCHURCH WOMEN IN THE LIST.**

Nurse Hildyard, missing and believed to be drowned, is an old Lyttelton District High School girl and would have been twenty-seven years of age last week. Her father died some years ago, but her mother still resides in old Governor's Bay Road, Lyttelton. She was a most popular lady and a good swimmer, having been an active member of the Lyttelton Ladies' Swimming Club. Nurse Hildyard commenced her career at the Christchurch Hospital and by assiduous study soon became qualified. Later she entered the service of Dr Sandston and also occupied an important post in Nurse Turner's private hospital, Christchurch. On the occasion of her departure with the New Zealand nurses on the Maheno she was given a send-off by several citizens of the port. She was attached to the New Zealand No. 1 Stationary Hospital, Port Said, and in recent letters to her friends she expressed great satisfaction in the work she had undertaken. Nurse Hildyard's sisters are Mrs G. Pitcaithly (Waimate), Mrs T. Turnbull (Wellington) and Mrs E. R. Curtis (Lyttelton). One of her brothers (Sidney) is at the front with the Sixth Reinforcements.

*Sun.* 22 December 1915 [28 June 2016]

### **A PLUCKY NURSE.**

#### **A MARQUETTE VICTIM**

Mrs Hildyard, of West Lyttelton, whose daughter, Nurse Nona Hildyard, was one of the victims of the sinking of the transport Marquette when that vessel was sunk by a German submarine in the Aegean Sea, some time ago, has received the following letter from one of the surviving nurses: —

“ . . . I thought you would like to have a few lines from one of us. When torpedoed we donned lifebelts and Nonie and I were in the same boat, but it heeled over shortly after reaching the water, and I got separated from her. She regained the boat with several others, and was very bright and cheerful, singing “Tipperary,” etc., and helping to keep the others’ courage up. . . . But the poor child eventually died from exhaustion before we were picked up. We were in the water about eight hours, and it was very cold. We all miss her awfully—she was such a good pal, and we had been together all through.”

*Lyttelton Times.* 6 June 1916 [09 June 2026]

### **ROLL OF HONOUR UNVEILED.**

#### **PRESBYTERIAN AND METHODIST SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT.**

A united intercession service, under the auspices of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, Lyttelton, was held on Sunday evening. There was a very large attendance of churchgoers, friends and relatives of men on active service.

Special hymns were sung and prayers offered, and the Revs J. J. Bates and W. C Olliver gave spirited addresses.

During the service a roll of honour containing the following names was read: — On Active Service.

Chaplain-Major A. Mitchell, Lieutenant H. G. Hatchwell, R.N.R., Corporal F. Wilson, Privates G. Vincent, . . . . ., **S. Hildyard**, . . . . .

Died on Active Service.

**Nurse N. Hildyard**, Sergeant W. K. Smith, Gunner G. L. Jory, Private D. M’Murray, Private Waitere Manihera.

*Waimate Daily Advertiser.* 3 November 1915 (Papers Past) [30/06/2016]

### **READY TO DIE.**

#### **WAIMATE NURSES’ SACRIFICE.**

#### **AMONG THE TRANSPORT MAQUETTE’S MISSING.**

#### **A GLOOM OVER THE TOWN.**

The news of the loss of ten nurses by the torpedoing of the hospital transport Marquette, in the Aegean Sea, while removing No. 1 New Zealand stationary hospital staffs from Port Said to a new base — and particularly the fact of so many well-known and highly-esteemed Waimate nurses being in the list — has cast quite a gloom over the town to-day. The flags are flying half-mast out of respect for the memory of the martyred nurses.

No fewer than five out of the ten missing nurses were well-known in Waimate.

Nurse M. Gorman, of Kapua, was trained in the Waimate Hospital, and left here to join the Wellington Hospital staff three or four years ago, and became a sister there, being very well thought of.

Nurse M. S. Brown was in charge of the Shearman Street Hospital,, and was farewelled about six months ago, on the eve of going to the front. She belonged to Waimatuku, Southland.

Nurse Fox belonged to the well-known Studholme family, and was trained in the Dunedin Hospital.

Nurse **Hilyard** was a sister of Mrs G. Pitcaithly, and was frequently in Waimate. She came from Lyttelton, and was trained in the Christchurch Hospital.

Nurse Isabel Clark is thought to be the nurse of that name belonging to this district; but it is known there were two nurses of that name.

Nurse Jamieson is a cousin of Nurse Jamieson, Waimate, and Mr E. H. Jamieson, Waimate. She went from Auckland.

In addition to the above names in the list of missing, it may be stated that that of James Bird, who was trained as a chemist by Mr F. Akhurst, and who was on the staff of No. 1 Stationary Hospital (writing quite recently he says he was in excellent health) does not appear in the list of survivors.

#### AN APPRECIATION

(By Dr. Margaret Cruickshank)

Waimate has suffered a heavy loss in having four, and possibly five, staff nurses well-known here, missing and believed to be drowned, on the torpedoed transport Marquette. Nurses Brown, Gorman, Fox and **Hilyard** are all well-known here, and there is a possibility that Nurse I. Clark is a nurse who received part of her training here. I am sure the whole district tenders its sincere sympathy to the bereaved relatives. In the British Army the nursing staff are kept usually to stationary hospitals, although it is otherwise in Russia, where nurses serve even in field hospitals; but it was evident that No. 1 Stationary Hospital, Port Said, was being moved to another base, on board the transport Marquette. I have been asked to say a little about what I know of these brave nurses, and I do it most gladly. Some, I regret that I do not know in their nursing capacity, but I shall try to speak of those I know.

Nurse **Hilyard**, a sister of Mrs George Pitcaithly, spent a good part of her girlhood in Waimate. She had the happiest and most loveable of dispositions. She served her probationership in the Christchurch Hospital, and I think practically left from Christchurch. I do not know her as a nurse, but I am sure she would be an excellent one. I can speak of Nurse Gorman "in the making," as she was trained for three years in the local hospital; leaving at the end of that time for more experience in Wellington. Her people are old residents of this district, residing at Kapua. As a probationer Nurse Gorman was a favourite with patients and staff alike and I know Dr. Barclay considered her one of the best nurses that Waimate Hospital had sent out, and I know she was appreciated very much in Wellington Hospital, where she had been a Sister for the last three or four years. Nurse Gorman volunteered early, and when she was accepted one knew that any of our "boys" falling into her hands would be well taken care of, while her genial and happy manner would go far in making a cheerful spot all around her.

I regret that I know little of Nurse Fox, but her relatives live at Studholme Junction. Nurse Fox was trained in Dunedin Hospital, with some relatives of my own, and I know she was considered a most capable nurse. Lately, I think, she has been nursing in Auckland.

I said that I knew Nurse Gorman "in the making," but I only knew Nurse M. S. Brown as the "finished" nurse. Nurse Brown was trained in Riverton Hospital, and afterwards went to Palmerston North Hospital for a time. Her people come from Waimatuku, Southland, and are an old Scotch pioneer family. Nurse Brown nursed for about one year in Waimate — six months as a nurse with Miss Shanks and six months in charge of Shearman Street Private Hospital. Like the rest of the Sisters, Nurse Brown volunteered for active service early, and one could but further her going, because one felt that she was an ideal nurse for military or any kind of service requiring dependability and good judgment. Where all have given themselves so freely, it is invidious to particularise; and I want to speak only of what I know; but I feel, because I knew them so well, that I have suffered a personal loss in parting from

Nurses Gorman, and **Hilyard**. Nurse Brown embodied all the qualities of the ideal nurse and the good woman. If you ask me what qualities stood out prominently, they were dependability, womanliness, readiness to sacrifice her own comfort for the good of her patients. Those who were closely associated with her loved her, and her probationer and helpers served her, oh so willingly. Amongst her nurse friends, her regard stood just as high. It was only yesterday that I heard how much her services at Port Said were appreciated by men and officers alike.

We are glad that New Zealand women serve so gladly, that they are proving themselves worthy to be on the Roll of Honour beside their brothers, and though we mourn the separation of their bodily presence from us, their spirits will never die, but will ever urge us to more unselfish service.

We stand one with the men that died;  
Whatever the goal we have these beside,  
Living or dead we are comrades all,  
Our battles are won by the men that fall!  
He who died quick with his face to the foe.  
In the heart of a friend must needs die slow;  
Over his grave shall be heard the call,  
The battle is won by the men that fall!  
For the dead man leaves you a work to do: -  
Your heart's so full that you fight like two;  
His share in the fight is your own withal —  
And the battle is won by the men that fall!  
Oh! lads, dear lads, you were loyal and true,  
The worst of the fight was borne by you;  
So the word shall go to the cottage and hall —  
Our battles are won by the men that fall!  
When peace dawns over the country side,  
Our thanks shall be to the lads that died;  
Oh! quiet hearts, can they hear us tell,  
How peace was won by the men that fell?  
— Laurence Hausman

*Press.* 9 March 1917

#### MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SISTER HILDYARD.

The Lyttelton Council Chamber was crowded yesterday afternoon on the occasion of the unveiling of a life-size portrait of the late Sister Hildyard, who lost her life in the Marquette disaster. Her Excellency the Countess of Liverpool performed the unveiling ceremony in the presence of the nurses from the hospital ship, and a large gathering of citizens, mostly women.

The Deputy-Mayor (Mr J. T. Norton) said he was sure they all regretted that the Mayor (Mr W. Radcliffe) was unable to be present on account of his illness. They had gathered that afternoon to honour the memory of a woman who had paid the final sacrifice in the execution of her duty. Having given her noble life in their cause, they were in honour bound to pay their small tribute to her memory.

Mr M. J. Miller, chairman of the Lyttelton Harbour Board, said that the large gathering was present to do honour, not only to the late Sister Hildyard, but also to the noble army of women workers that were playing their part, a part characterised by unselfishness, so well. Medical science had made great strides since the Crimean war. Records showed that 75 per

cent. of our total losses during that war were due to disease, but in the present war 25 per cent. was the average. The splendid service rendered by our nurses at the front was in a great measure responsible for this gratifying result. We should thank God that the efforts of our boys at the front were so well backed up by the noble band of women represented by Sister Hildyard, whose work should be an inspiration to all to make greater efforts in order to successfully terminate the war.

Mrs Newall said that the term "Fallen in action," had time and again been used in reference to a soldier, but they were to-day honouring the memory of a woman who had fallen in action; a woman who had given her life for her country just as truly as any soldier. They were paying but a small tribute to her noble services. Such services as hers only moved us to higher endeavours.

Her Excellency said that she congratulated Lyttelton on honouring the memory of a woman who had given her life in her country's service, and then unveiled the memorial, a bugler playing "The Last Post."

*Greymouth Evening Star.* 28 October 1919 (Papers Past) [03 February 2023]

## **MEMORIAL SERVICES.**

NEW ZEALAND NURSES.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

Holy Trinity Church was crowded to the doors on Sunday afternoon, when a memorial service for New Zealand nurses who gave their lives during the war and the recent influenza epidemic was held. The nurses from the local Hospital and returned Sisters occupied the front pews, while a number of the centre seats were occupied by a detachment of returned soldiers, territorials and cadets. The choir seats were occupied by the combined choirs of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Holy Trinity churches. The service was in charge of the Rev. J. W. Bloyce, assisted by Rev. T. J. Wallis and Rev. T. N. Cuttle (Chaplain E.F.). The choir, under the conductorship of Mr C. Staffan, led the singing and rendered the anthem "What are These?"

The Rev. T. N. Cuttle, chaplain to the N.Z.E.F., and who is at present acting as Minister of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Greymouth, delivered the address. He spoke in eloquent terms of the devotion to duty and the cheering influence of nurses on active service. Referring to the 40th Reinforcements he stated that no less than 800 cases of influenza were attended to by the faithful but small band of nurses on the ship. Assisted by the soldiers who were not stricken by the scourge, the nurses showed a spirit of tenacity and devotion worthy of the highest traditions.

A substantial sum was raised by collection in aid of the Nurses' Memorial Fund, the service concluding with the "Dead March," "Last Post," Reveille," and the National Anthem.

### **AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH. MEMORIAL SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH.**

Address to the Nurses at the Memorial Service held at Christchurch for the nurses lost in the **Marquette**, by the Bishop of Christchurch : Nurses, I wish to speak to you especially. We are gathered here in this Church with the names before our eyes of those whom many of you knew and loved, and who were closely bound up with you in the community of your calling, of discipline and of service. What was the character of the worship that morning? It was first to consider the solemnity of death, for death was very solemn, and it was not right to make light of it. We had not come to grieve, or to mourn, or to pity, but rather we had come to give God thanks and to rejoice at His servants' deliverance from the pains and sorrows of this world. There was, he thought, no more blessed thing in all the world than a life spent in service, such as theirs had been, with an ending as swift as theirs. What should we pray for ?

We turned to the prayers of early days, so very real and so very simple, prayers for rest, place and refreshment for the souls of those who had passed away. In our prayer that gathered round our earthly life even lest and we entered into the spiritual presence, praying in the language when soul met soul, and even altogether filled with the presence of God. Thirdly we thought and meditated on the examples shown by those who had passed. Christ did much for women in the early days. He lifted them up from their bondage, and He found in them a power of service. Women came to the front in so many gifts of mercy. But afterwards women, like the men, fell away. Women's work for the Church died, with infinite loss to the Church. He could remember the day when it was thought to be a terrible and dreadful thing for women to take up nursing, but all that was now changed. The women had now their place and work in the Church, and their guild of service throughout the world. And so with those few who had gone out on active service at the front, with their lives suddenly cut short. They stood as an example to all, as to what our lives should be. The Church was still making much of the All Saints' festival, and the saintliness of the Church was largely composed of the heroic unknown. Nurses should not be ambitious of preferring such work, like that of whom they were thinking, nor regret that they could not go to the front, or be drowned in the Aegean Sea, nor think they could not do their work unless they died the death of the martyrs. St. John, living in his old city at Patmos, was just as great as his brother St. James, slain early in his ministry. MEMORIAL CHAPEL. It is purposed to erect a chapel at the Christchurch Hospital in memory of the nurses, three of whom belonged to the staff of that Hospital, who were lost in the **Marquette**, and for this purpose a collection was started at the memorial service in Christchurch. At Kumara two beds were recently dedicated to the memory of Helena Isdell, who was matron there when she left on active service, and of Mabel Jamieson, who belonged to that district.

The memorial services for the nurses on Sunday included those at St Patrick's Church, where the 10 o'clock Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Campbell for the eternal repose of the souls of the Sisters and Nurses who sacrificed their lives during the war and the influenza epidemic. There was also an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the evening service, and Father Campbell made appropriate reference to the occasion, and mentioned that a silent but beautifully fitting tribute to the noble women, whose self-sacrifice they commemorated, had come from the Mayor (Mr. J. D. Lynch), Councillors and Citizens in the form of a magnificent wreath that reposed on the altar. What the heroic nurses had done was the practical work of Christianity. Charity was of two kinds — the inspired virtue that he was a master motive in the life of the true Christian and the practical charity of the individual, which sprang from repeated acts of helpfulness towards others. Charity was a necessity in this world just as it was an essential virtue of the supernatural life. They had Christ's life for an example, in healing the sick and restoring the maimed, and the Church had ever made that feature of its Founder's life a primary and outstanding principle in its work for humanity. The Nurses and Sisters went about doing good on the battlefields, in the hospitals, ships, and homes of the sufferers from wounds and disease. It was well, indeed, that their good lives and heroic deaths should be commemorated; and while recollecting their good deeds they could make them the return of praying to God for their souls' eternal repose.

#### HONOURS LIST.

Those who died whilst on active service were: —  
Sister Marion Sinclair Brown, drowned (Riverton).  
Sister Isabel Clark, drowned (Oamaru).  
Sister Catherine Anne Fox, drowned (Dunedin).  
Sister Mary Gorman, drowned (Waimate.)

Sister Ada Gilbert Hawken, died (Auckland).  
Sister Nora Mildred Hildyard, drowned (Christchurch).  
Sister Helena Kathleen Isdell, drowned (Kumara and Napier).  
Sister Mabel Elizabeth Jamieson drowned (Palmerston North).  
Sister Mary Helen Rae, drowned (Dunedin).  
Sister Lorna Aylmer Rattray, drowned (Christchurch).  
Sister Margaret Rogers, drowned (Christchurch).  
Sister Esther Maud Tubman, died (Dunedin).  
Sister Ella Kay Cooke, accident (Auckland).  
Sister Lily Lind, French Flag Corps, died (Wellington).

The place mentioned in each case is that of the training school.

The memorial service is also in honour of the 33 nurses who died in New Zealand during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Matron Kitto, of the Grey River Hospital, on behalf of the N.Z.T.N.A., desires to thank all those who assisted in the services. The wreaths sent to the services at Holy Trinity and St. Patrick's churches will be placed on the graves of the two nurses in the Greymouth cemetery.

*Evening Star*. 23 May 1925; *Manawatu Standard*. 23 May 1925 (Papers Past) [03/06/2026]

#### OVERSEAS NURSES WHO FELL IN THE WAR.

##### MEMORIAL IN LONDON.

The Dowager-Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava is chairwoman of a committee set up in London, whose aim is to provide a memorial to overseas nurses who fell in the Great War. The memorial is to take the form of an extension of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, 144 Euston road, London. Twenty-one qualified women (matron, sister and nurses) and three voluntary workers from Australia died or were killed in the war, 13 from South Africa, two from India, 15 from New Zealand and from Canada 39. The Colonial Nursing Association lost three. The New Zealand roll of honour is: Marion Brown, Isabel Clark, E. M. E. Cook, Catherine A. Fox, Ada Gilbert, **Mary Gorman**, A. G. Hawker, Nora M. Hildyard, Helena K. Isdell, Mabel E. Jamieson, Mary Lind, Letitia Moreton, Marv H. Rae, Lorna A. Rattray, Margaret Rogers.

Donations are being solicited from all parts of the Empire to defray the cost of the memorial. "The names of all these noble women are honoured and known, and it is felt that it would be a fitting memorial to their patriotism and love for the Mother Country to help their suffering sisters here through the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital," state the promoters of the scheme.

*Evening Post*. 22 June 1925 (Papers Past) [03/06/2026]

#### A MEMORIAL

##### TO OVERSEAS NURSES WHO DIED IN THE WAR

(FROM ODR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, 6th May.

Invitations are being issued by the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin, Chairman, and the Committee for the Overseas Memorial of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, for a reception on Empire Day, at the Conference Hall, Wembley, to be followed by tea at the Garden Club.

The gathering is in connection with the proposal to erect the new Nurses' Home of the hospital as a memorial to the ninety-seven members of the Overseas Nursing Services who

died in the Great War. The memorial will be the first to be raised in this country to those nurses, and the committee feel that it may appropriately be associated with the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, which was the first women's hospital in our Empire. £15,000 is required, and it is hoped that the foundation-stone of the new building may be laid this year — exactly thirty-five years after the opening of the present hospital building in Euston road, by Queen Alexandra.

The Overseas Memorial Committee includes the High Commissioners for Newfoundland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, British India, and Southern Rhodesia, and the Agents-General for Victoria and Nova Scotia. The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, as chairman, appeals to the men and women of Britain to associate themselves with this Empire Memorial. All subscriptions sent to her at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, 144, Euston road, London, N.W.1, will be gratefully acknowledged.

Members of the Overseas Nursing Service who gave their lives in the war totalled 97, of whom 39 were Canadians, 24 Australians, 15 New Zealanders, 14 South Africans, while three were members of the Colonial Nursing Association, and two belonged to the Indian Military Nursing Service.

The New Zealand names are: Marion Brown, Isabel Clark, E. M. E. Cook, Catherine A. Fox, Ada Gilbert, Mary Gorman, A. G. Hawker, Helena K. Isdell, Mabel E. Jamieson, Mary Lind, Letitia Moreton, Mary H. Rae, Lorna A. Rattray, Margaret Rogers, and **Nora M. Hildyard**.

Many people interested in the movement are raising funds by holding what have become popularly known as “vanishing tea parties.”

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital is the first institution of its kind in the British Empire founded and staffed by women, for women and children. — During the fifty-nine years of its existence it has had a unique record, and the demand for its services increases and grows more insistent year by year.

Those who are interested in the Extension Appeal Fund need not feel that any subscription will be too small. One shilling will buy a brick, two shillings will pay for slates. £1 will pay for a door lock and handle. Those who are better off may like to give £500 to name a cot, or £1000 to name a bed; £2500 will provide a small ward, and £5000 an X-Ray Department.

*New Zealand Herald*. 30 July 1925; *Otago Daily Times*. 4 August 1925 (Papers Past) [03/06/2026]

### “THE FIVE SISTERS.”

This, as all travellers and lovers of English cathedrals know, is the name of one of the loveliest five-light windows in York Minster. It is on the north wall or the north transept, and history tells that each light was copied in stained glass from designs in needlework done many years ago by five sisters. Hence the name. There is much 13th, 14th and 15th century glass in the cathedral, but this Lancet window has always been the object of special admiration; noted for its grace of tracery, beauty of design, and delicacy of colouring. During the war York had realised the need for protecting its precious glass, for the city was not free from the risk of damage by bombs. It was accordingly removed for safety, and then came the discovery that the lead and the glass of the Five Sisters were in urgent need of repair. The inspiration came from a lady well known in York, Mrs. Blakeway Little, that as in all the Empire there was no single memorial to all the women of the Empire who gave their lives during the war, the repairing and replacing of this window might be done to their memory. The machinery to raise funds was set going by the Lady Mayoress of York. Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, sent a donation, and sums large and small came from all sources, including the Dominions. In the space of nine weeks the £3000 asked for had been received.

The unveiling of the window — now again in place and releaded with 13th century lead taken from Rievaulx Abbey, also in Yorkshire — is to be performed by the Duchess of York. This



war memorial is unique among war memorials, for it is to the memory of all the women who gave their lives, and the work has been paid for entirely by women of the Empire.

A correspondent wrote to the Times in a special article: "Once more we shall be able to see, instead of the deal boards that have tantalised us these past ten years, the graceful, somehow very feminine design, with its prophetically appropriate ivy leaves for love and its maple leaves for victory. We shall see also, in the chapel of St. Nicholas close under the window, a new and simple screen in York Minster's own oak (designed by the Minster architect, Mr. Tupper, and carved in the Minster workshop), on the panels of which are painted the names of the more than 1400 women of Britain and the Dominions, who are thus held in memory and honour. The list of the bodies in which they served is too long to give in detail here. There are the titles once so familiar — 'Waacs,' 'Wrens' and the like; there are doctors and nurses and V.A.D.'s, munition workers, stewardesses, motor drivers, canteen workers, land workers. The names on the screen are divided up under services; each panel will be protected by a door, bearing the badge of the service; and all along the top runs the inscription: 'This screen records the names of women of the Empire who gave their lives in the war, 1914-1918, to whose memory the Five Sisters Window was restored by women.' The success of the enterprise needs no comment. It tells its own tale of an inspiration that pierced to a powerful spring of proud and loyal feeling."

*Press.* 29 March 1926 (Papers Past) [28/06/2016]

### **Methodist Church.**

The Methodist Church was crowded yesterday morning, when a memorial tablet bearing the names of all those members of the Church or Sunday school who saw active service in the Great War was unveiled. Lyttelton Territorials, Cadets, returned soldiers, Sea Scouts, and members of the Borough Council paraded at the Drill Hall prior to the morning service, and, headed by the Marine Band, marched to the church.

The tablet, which is beautifully carved in oak, was presented to the church by the late Mr William Brown and Mr J. T. Norton. Mr Norton performed the unveiling ceremony. There are ninety-one names inscribed on the tablet, including the following who made the supreme sacrifice: — Whitford K. . Smith, Waitari Manihire, Herbert L. Edman, **Nona M. Hildyard**, George L. Jory, Percy Jory, Dorie M. Stewart, Roy Stewart, Oswald Olliver, John Powley, Percy E. Holst, and J. D. Lindsay.

The service was conducted by the Rev. S. Bailey. During the service the hymns "Onward Christian Soldiers," "O, God, Our Help in Ages Past," "For All Thy Saints," and "Abide With Me" were sung; Miss C. Bailey sang the Hymn of Peace, and Miss Alma Shuker sang "O, Rest in the Lord."

*Auckland Star.* 26 October 1932 (page 11) [22/08/2015]

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE.**

### **SINKING OF THE MARQUETTE.**

A great tragedy of the war was recalled by the memorial service held in Wellington on the seventeenth anniversary of the sinking of the troopship Marquette, in which ten New Zealand nurses, including several Aucklanders, lost their lives. The Marquette was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea on the morning of October 23, 1915. The service was held also on the occasion of the fourteenth anniversary of the second last battle in which the New Zealand Division participated, resulting in its capture of Beaudignies and the forcing of the passage of the

Escaillon River. Special numbers were played on the National War Memorial Carillon by the carillonist, Miss Gladys Watkins:—

The New Zealand Army Nursing Service was established in August, 1914, during the early days of war, the sisters wearing coats of grey and scarlet, so well known as the, British Army Nurses' uniform, varied somewhat to distinguish their special unit and adorned with a silver badge of fern leaf and the Red Cross to represent New Zealand. In various detachments its members served in virtually all the theatres of war and on all the Seven Seas ministering to the sick and wounded of their fellow countrymen and of the Allied armies with an unfailing spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty. Of the 579 New Zealand nurses who served, 15 gave their lives (including the ten lost in the Marquette disaster), twelve were decorated with the R.R.C., first class (one with bar), and 64 with the R.R.C., second class, while many were mentioned in dispatches.

#### **A Nurse's Letter.**

The story of the sinking of the Marquette, one of the most tragic incidents of the war, is told in a letter by one of the nurses who survived. There were 36 New Zealand nurses on board, and they were attached to No. 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital, which, after serving in tents amidst sand and flies at Port Said, was being transferred to Salonika. The transport had almost reached Salonika when it was torpedoed, with the loss of 10 nurses and 20 medical orderlies. Many were left struggling in the water from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., when they were rescued.

"At 9 a.m. on October 23," wrote the nurse, "I was on the top deck of the Marquette, walking with Captain Isaacs and Sister Sinclair. The morning was cold, and we had our coats on. He exclaimed, 'I wonder what that is coming toward us.' I said, 'It looks like a torpedo, does it not?' Surely enough the crash came then, and we realised what it was (it was just a straight, thin line in the water, and the swish could be heard distinctly). I should think it was only about 50 yards away when we saw it. We donned our lifebelts and got to our stations; everyone seemed to be doing the same thing.

"All realised what had happened, and were calm and collected—no panic, no sound, in fact, save of orders being given. Luckily the steamer took quite seven minutes to go down. The launching of the boats was a decided failure. On the port side one was launched on top of the other, crushing and injuring some; also, the ship by this time had a huge list to port side. On the starboard side (I was there) the first boat launched tipped, and those who were not shot out into the sea then had to get out as soon as it touched water, as there was a huge hole in it. People clambered round her from all sides until she finally submerged. Then we all ducked for our lives.

"I swam about for hours, but as I had crushed my right arm between the boat and the ship somehow or other I was feeling very sick and sore. I really did not mind much what happened. After I realised what was going on, I saw some men hanging on to wreckage, and called to them to ask if I might also hang on, and they said it was no good, there were already too many there. Then one of the crew saw me and came along to me with piece of board, to which I clung for some time.

#### **In a Submerged Boat.**

We got out of a shark's track, and made for a submerged boat in the distance, where already several men were. We got into this, and immediately it turned turtle, and continued to do so every five minutes of the remaining number of hours we were in the water. My rescuer died soon after this from, cramp or exhaustion. I was sorry I could do nothing for him. Sister Rae came up afterwards, hanging to the lifebuoy of one of our New Zealand boys. She asked me if she could come into the boat. I said, 'Yes, Sister, but you had better be hanging on to something else, as this boat keeps turning turtle, and it is such hard work clambering over and into it again.' She held out for a while, but soon after showed signs of exhaustion and died. I

wondered if I should be the next. Men died .on all sides. Some lost their reason and went away from us all. We could see ships pass and repass in the distance, but they took no notice of us. They could neither see nor hear us, but we could not realise that, and thought that because they were neutral they would let us die! Late in the afternoon one stopped and seemed to look at us, turned back, and steamed away, then stopped again and lowered a boat, but .picked it up and steamed, away.

"Luckily for us our own English patrol boat saw her movements and became suspicious, journeyed over to see, and caught sight of one of our boats in the distance (we were about seven miles from all this). She then informed two French destroyers, and all three came to our rescue, and soon we were all picked up and looked after well by these kind men who patrol the danger zone every day. Many died even after the boats were in sight; it seemed too much for them."

### **Splendid Heroism.**

Long after, the fate of two Sisters was learnt. A boat in which were the bodies of several soldiers and two Sisters was found by a British warship and brought into Salonika, where the dead were given a naval funeral. These Sisters were Margaret Rogers and Helena Isdell. The other Sisters who were lost were Marion Brown, Isobel Clark, Catherine Fox, Mary Gorman, Nora Hilyard, Mabel Jamieson, Mary Rae and Lora Rattray.

All accounts of the disaster emphasise the splendid heroism and quiet obedience of the Sisters. A medical officer wrote: "Of their conduct as a whole no words can express our admiration. They mustered quietly and quickly at their alarm posts, and cheerfully, and without the least confusion or panic, passed along the deck to their boats, and never once during the long day did I hear any of these Sisters who were able to stick it out make any complaint."