Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire War Graves



World War 1



NURSE

L. W. F. GRANT

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT

1ST APRIL, 1917 Age 37

Lydia William Falconar GRANT

Lydia William Falconar Grant was born on 22nd January, 1880 at Falcon Hall, Morningside, Edinburgh, Scotland to parents Peter George Grant (Land Surveyor) & Emily Mary Graham Grant (nee Goertz).



Falcon Hall, Morningside, Edinburgh

The Grant family arrived in Brisbane, Queensland on the *Egmont* on 25th November, 1880 with Lydia being 10 months old.

The 1903 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Toowong, Queensland recorded Lydia William Falconar Grant, domestic duties along with Peter George Grant, Police Magistrate & Emily Mary Graham Grant, domestic duties from Norwood Street, Lynton.

The 1905 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Brisbane, subdivision of Toowong, Queensland recorded Lydia William Falconar Grant, domestic duties along with John Macdonald Grant, Engineer's Apprentice & Emily Mary Graham Grant, domestic duties from Norwood Street, Lynton.

The 1908 & 1909 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Cairns, Queensland recorded Lydia Wilhelmina Falconer Grant, Home Duties, along with Peter George Grant, Police Magistrate, Emily Mary Graham Grant, Home Duties, Nancy Florence Letitia Grant, Home Duties & David Grant, Bootmaker - all from Spence Street.

The 1910 & 1911 Australian Electoral Rolls recorded Lydia William Falconar Grant, domestic duties also Peter George Grant, Police Magistrate, Emily Mary Graham, domestic duties & Nancy Florence Letitia Grant – all from Esplanade, Cairns, Queensland.

The 1912 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Herbert, subdivision of Cairns, Queensland recorded Lydia Wilhelmina Falconer Grant, Home Duties along with Peter George Grant, Police Magistrate, Emily Mary Graham Grant, Home Duties & Nancy Florence Letitia Grant, Home Duties – all from The Quarters.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of Cairns, Queensland recorded Lydia William Falconar Grant, domestic duties, along with Peter George Grant, Police Magistrate, Emily Mary Graham, domestic duties & Nancy Florence Letitia Grant – all from Esplanade, Cairns, Queensland.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the district of Toombul, Queensland recorded Lydia William Falconar Grant, domestic duties, along with Peter George Grant, Emily Mary Graham Grant, domestic duties, & Nancy Florence Letitia Grant, domestic duties – all from Whytecliffe, Albion Road, Albion.

The 1916 & 1917 Australian Electoral Rolls for the division of Lilley, subdivision of Toombul, Queensland recorded Lidia William Falconar Grant, Home Duties along with John Mcdonald Grant, Engineer, Peter George Grant & Nancy Florence Letitia Grant, Home Duties – all from Whytecliffe, Albion, Queensland.

Newspaper item – Daily Mercury, Mackay, Queensland – 12 August, 1914:

AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSES CORPS

Advice was received in Mackay yesterday stating that Nurse Grant (matron) and Nurse Chataway (head nurse) of the Emerald General Hospital, had enlisted as members of the Australian Army Nurses Corps. Both nurses received their training in the Mackay District Hospital.

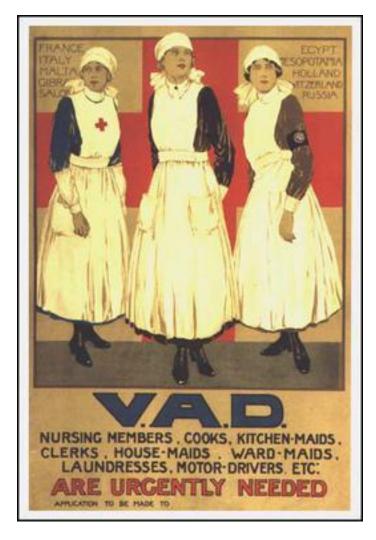
Lydia Grant was one of the first V.A.D.'s (Voluntary Aid Detachment) to leave Queensland in September, 1916 to work in the Military Hospitals in England. She commenced service on 15th November, 1916.

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

Newspaper item – Cairns Post, Cairns, Queensland – 26 March, 1917:

Seriously III

A cable has been received stating that Miss Lydia Grant, who was one of the Queensland V.A.D. girls appointed to work in the military hospital's in England, is seriously ill in England. Her brother, Capt. Grant, who recently won the M.C., is with her. Miss Grant is a daughter of Mr P. G. Grant, formerly Police Magistrate at Cairns.

V.A.D. Lydia William Falconar Grant died on 1st April, 1917 at Ducie Avenue Military Hospital (2nd Western General Hospital), Manchester, England from Measles turned to Septic Arthritis.

A death for Lydia W. F. Grant, aged 37, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Chorlton, Lancashire, England.

V.A.D. Lydia William Falconar Grant was buried on 4th April, 1917 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number Q. CE.285 and has a Private Headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Nurse Lydia Grant contains a telephone report from Matron, 2nd Western General Hospital on 28th March, 1917: "Being treated at 2nd Western General Hospital for measles which turned to Septic Arthritis – latest news – improving – Brother were sent for from France." Another telephone report was given by the Matron on 30th March, 1917: "Became unconscious on Thursday – fear there is very little hope." A telephone report from the Matron on 5th April, 1917: "Died on Sunday 1-4-17 – one brother was with her and has cabled."

Newspaper item - Cairns Post, Queensland - 16 May, 1917:

THE LATE MISS LYDIA GRANT, V.A.D.

A few months ago we announced (says the "Red Cross" Journal") the departure from Australia of Miss Lydia Grant, V.A.D., and others, with high hopes, of serving her country in any work to which she might be called, in the relief of suffering caused by the war. To-day it is our sad task to record her death from illness incurred in the path of duty. Concerning Miss Grant, we have a few notes from Mrs. Darvall, in which she says:-"Hers was a fine personality and character, and everyone who came in contact with her felt better for doing so. I am sure no girl went forth with a higher sense of duty than she did, and she has given her life for her country, just as much as any soldier has done."

Lydia William Falconer Grant, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. P. G. Grant, was born in Falcon Hall, Edinburgh, the home of her father's family. Her parents came with her to Australia when she was quite a small baby, and the greater part of all her too brief life has been lived in Queensland. Miss Grant was educated at the Ladies' Methodist College, Melbourne, and was living with her parents and her sister, Miss Nancy Grant, in Brisbane, at the time the call came to her for service abroad with the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Miss Grant left Queensland in September 1916, for England. On arrival in London, she found that the Queensland girls were already allotted to a military hospital in Manchester. After spending four days in London getting uniform, equipment, and sight-seeing, she went on to the scene of her labours, where she remained at work until her fatal illness overtook her. Accounts already received show that the cold had been very intense, and she felt it much, though always very happy, and keenly interested in her work. Her letters showed also that she had met with great kindness from those with whom she came in contact, and found both in sisters and nurses engaged in the same hospital much congenial comradeship.

The first cable message reporting Miss Grant's serious illness from measles was received by her parents on 15th March. A fortnight later came news that she was improving; but at the end of the month another message came, showing that her condition was very bad, and she died on 1st April. Both her brothers, Captain John Grant, M.C., and Private Chestbrough Grant, who are on active service, were sent for, and were with her for some time; but it is

thought that after the season of improvement, Captain Grant returned to France, whilst the younger brother remained until the end. A wide circle of friends sympathise with Mr. and Mrs. Grant and their family in the sad loss they have sustained, and Queensland is the poorer for yet another young and promising life, cut off in its early morning.

An urgent telegram was received by Lady Goold-Adams from Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, as follows:-"So grieved to hear of death of Miss Grant, V.A.D., in England; please convey message of sympathy from me to her family."

Newspaper item – Cairns Post, Cairns, Queensland – 29 October, 1917:

The Late Nurse Grant

The following extract is from "The Searchlight," the monthly publication of the Second Western General Hospital, Manchester, May 1917: "It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of V.A.D. Nursing Member Lydia Grant, which took place on April 1st. Miss Grant was one of the contingent of Australian Probationers who came to us last November, and during her short period of work here, and also during her illness, bravely and patiently borne, had greatly endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact. She was laid to rest in the Southern Cemetery, on April 4th, close to the grave of V.A.D. Nursing Member Pearce, whom we buried only a few weeks ago. At the request of the friends, the funeral was a private one, and the service, which was very impressive, was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Aspinall, assisted by Cap. Worseley. It was attended by Sergt. C. Grant, 1st Australian Division, Capt Brentnall, R.A,M.C. (T.F.), the principal matron, matrons, and a large number of Sisters and nurses of the Second Western General Hospital staff, including the seven other members of the Australian contingent."

V.A.D. Lydia William Falconar Grant was entitled to British War Medal only as she had not entered a Theatre of War.

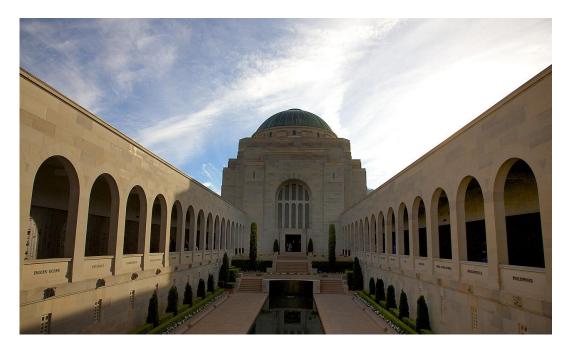
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Nurse Lydia William Falconar Grant, aged 37, of 2nd Western General Hospital, Voluntary Aid Detachment. She was the sister of Chesborough Grant, of Whytecliffe, Albion, Queensland, Australia.

Lydia Grant was accepted for commemoration as a casualty of the Great War on 26th January, 2017.

Lydia William Falconar Grant 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)

Nurse L. Grant is remembered on the Cairns & District Roll of Honour, located at Cairns RSL. 115 Esplanade, Cairns, Queensland.



Cairns & District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia)

Miss L. Grant is remembered on the Cairns Sailors and Soldiers Memorial (Digger), located at The Esplanade, Cairns, Queensland.



Cairns Sailors and Soldiers Memorial

(Photo above from Monument Australia; below from Queensland War Memorials)



Lydia Grant's name is on the Remembrance of Souls List for use on Anzac Day & Remembrance Day at St. John the Evangelist Parish Church, Cairns, Queensland.

The Parish Church of Cairns

St John The Evangelist (Cnr Lake & Minnie Streets)

The Anglican Diocese of North Queensland

Rector: Fr. Wayne Corker PO Box 52 Cairns Q. 4870 (07) 4051 2342. Fax. (07) 4051 4333.

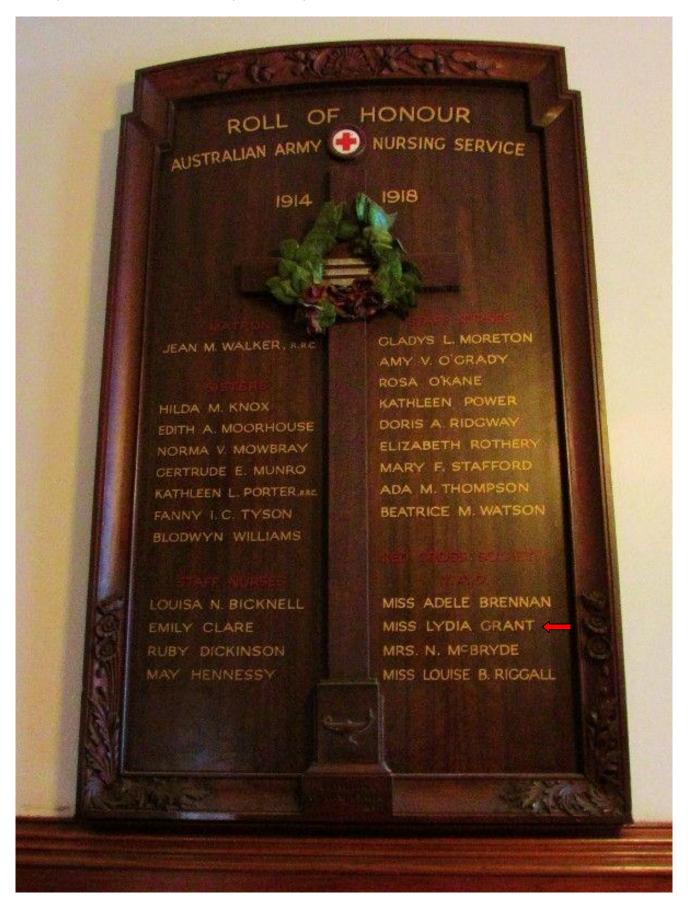
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(List donated by the Rev. Wayne Corker to Marjorie Earl & used with her permission)

Miss Lydia Grant 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)

Miss Lydia Grant is remembered on the Memorial Board / Roll of Honour for 1914-1918, located in the Army Reserve (Territorial Army) Centre, Stretford, Manchester, England.



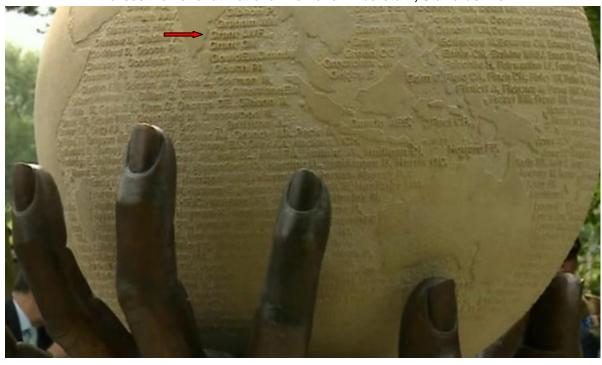
Territorial Army Memorial Board, Stretford (Photo courtesy of jonrb – Great War Forum)



L. W. F. Grant is remembered on the Memorial to the professional 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.



Nurses Memorial at National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire



Lydia W. F. Grant 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.

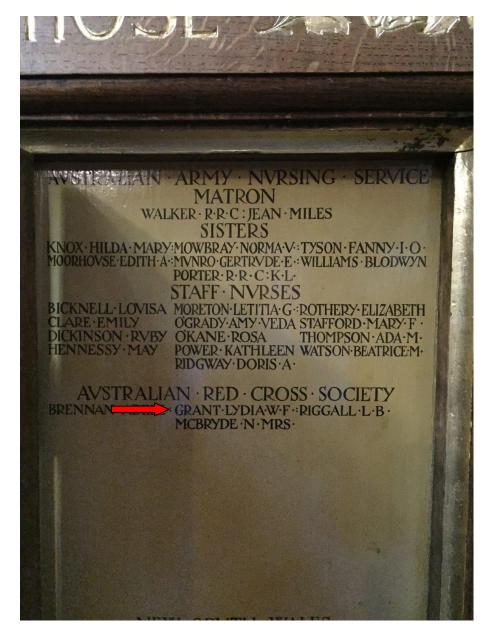


Five Sisters Window in York Minster

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.





Memorial Screen, York Minster (Photo courtesy of jonrb – Great War Forum)

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Commemorative Roll & Red Cross Wounded & Missing)



Lydia William Falconar Grant

Newspaper Notices

DEATH OF MISS LYDIA GRANT

The sad news was received in Brisbane yesterday, by cablegram to her parents, of the death in England if Miss Lydia Grant, one of the two V.A.D. members who were selected to proceed to London for hospital work. Miss Grant was a daughter of Mr P. G. Grant, formerly police magistrate at Cairns.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 4 April, 1917)

Lydia Grant, V.A.D. - By M. Forrest

The first V.A.D. to go from Queensland, who died at Manchester last Sunday.

A SOLDIER she,

Who faced twin foes, Exhaustion and Disease,

And all the active horrors brought by war

To our great Motherland across the seas,

And faltered not where she her duty saw.

SO young

To lay aside life's riches, with the cup

Scarce at your lips. Brown hair and stead-

fast eyes,

You look to-day from gates of paradise,

While we weep and look up.

DARE we

Beat at the outer ramparts of heaven's bars

bais

To send our wailing thro' your radiant

chant?

Your white feet find their homeland in the

stars,

The girl who died for England—Lydia Grant.

(Sydney Mail, NSW – 18 April, 1917)

"HER VOCATION"

(In Memory of the Late Miss Lydia Grant.)

Feeling compassion for the sick and

the wounded - caused by the nations at strife.

Brought ardent desire to be up and

doing her share in the battle of life.

Seeing no longer a reason why she

should indolent be,

Announced she had found her vocation -

War work as a V.A.D.

© Cathy Sedgwick 2019

Oft times her work became strenuous and sometimes irksome, too: But she was ever ready patriotic work to do: For had she not two brothers fighting "somewhere in France," She felt she could not be idle and miss so ennobling a chance. She was one of the V.A.D.'s chosen the wounded and sick to attend; Did she flinch when she knew 'twas in England? No! to ask it was but to offend. Thoughts flew to her home and her mother, had fears lest she'd not give consent; This was the answer: "God bless you and the mission on which you are bent" That duty on the _____ when they parted, her tender emotions were stirred. Though not regretting the step, she was taking, she mingled her tears with theirs; Then reminding them of the dear ones, at the war who were doing their part, She whispered, "Good-bye, mother darling," the boat was preparing to start. Then after anxious weeks of waiting a cable came to tell: "Safe arrival, uneventful journey, happy and well." Then letters followed, telling of the wounded and dead, but "The sorrows of life are teaching a lesson, for which I am thankful," she said.

News of her serious illness came,

brothers sent for by doctor's request;

"O, God"! cried the mother in anguish,

grave fears it had stirred in her breast.

In vain was the skill of the doctor,

and the nurses who all did their best;

"Thy will be done," sobbed the

mother, when she heard they had laid her to rest.

L.E.R.

"Caringa," Townsville.

(Cairns Post, Queensland - 1 May, 1917)

DEATHS

GRANT – On the 1st April, at Ducie-avenue Military Hospital, Manchester, England, of arthritis, the result of measles contracted whilst in the performance of her duties, Lydia William Falconar Grant, V.A.D., of the Brisbane Branch of the Red Cross Society of Australia, and elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. G. Grant, Brisbane.

(The Brisbane Courier, Queensland – 1 June, 1917)

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 whoso 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)

Cairns Cenotaph recognises two nurses of WWI from Australian Army Nursing Service and Voluntary Aid Detachment



COMPASSION: Cairns woman Lydia Grant joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1916, following her brothers Captain John Grant and Private Chestbrough Grant into the war. She later passed away while working at Ducie Avenue Military Hospital in Manchester. PHOTO: CLARE MAXWELL, BRUCE GRANT, ANCESTORY.COM

Two names etched on the Cairns cenotaph represent the unsung heroes of World War I – the nurses who witnessed the worst of war's bloody reality.

Lydia Grant joined the Voluntary Aid Detachment in 1916, following her brothers Captain John Grant and Private Chestbrough Grant into the war.

The daughter of Cairns magistrate Peter George Grant, Sister Grant was born in Edinburgh but moved to Melbourne as a baby.

She was living in Brisbane when she became a "VAD" and was deployed to the Ducie Avenue Military Hospital in Manchester.

Six months later, in March 1917, her parents in Cairns received a letter saying she'd contracted measles.

Her brothers left the battlefront to be by her side, but her infection soon developed into septic arthritis and she died a fortnight later, aged 38.

A friend of Sister Grant, to whom *The Cairns Post* referred on May 16, 1917, as "Mrs Darvall" likened her sacrifice to that of soldier.

"Hers was a fine personality and character, and everyone who came in contact with her felt better for doing so," Mrs Darvall was quoted as saying.

"I am sure no girl went forth with a higher sense of duty than she did, and she has given her life for her country, just as much as any soldier has done."

The other nurse recognised on the Cairns Esplanade war memorial is Pearl Stella Goodman, who resigned from her job as a matron at the Cairns Hospital to serve in the war.......

(Cairns Post, Queensland - 17 April, 2015)

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.

Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension Manchester General Cemetery Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

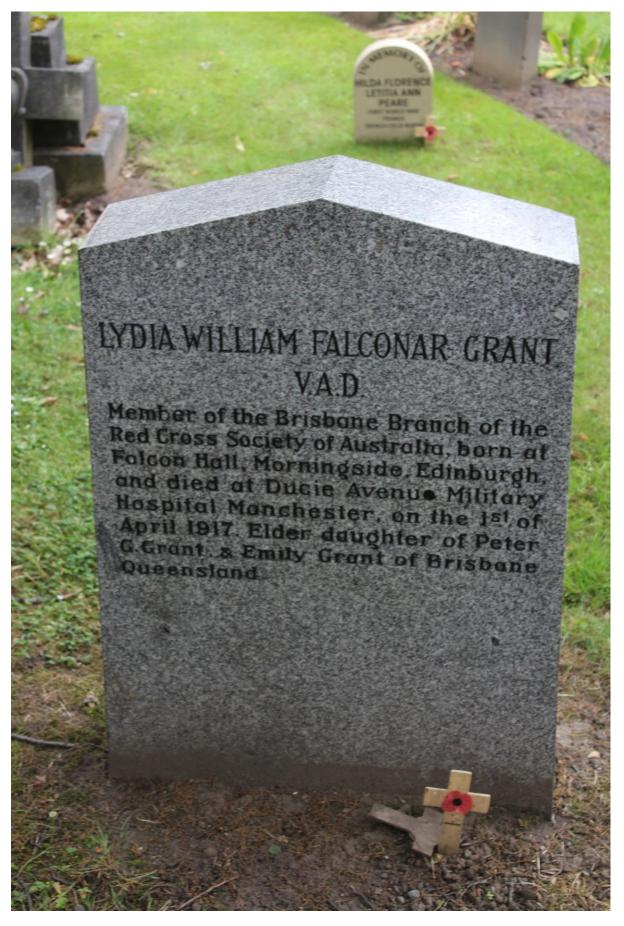
(Information & photos from CWGC)





Southern Cemetery, Manchester – showing the 14 Australian War Graves from WW1

Photo of Lydia William Falconar Grant's Private Headstone in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



(Photo by Elviskline – Find a Grave)

LYDIA WILLIAM FALCONAR GRANT

V.A.D.

Member of the Brisbane Branch of the
Red Cross Society of Australia, born at
Falcon Hall, Morningside, Edinburgh,
and died at Ducie Avenue Military
Hospital, Manchester, on the 1st of
April 1917. Elder daughter of Peter
G. Grant & Emily Grant of Brisbane,

Queensland



Remembrance Day Ceremony 2019 (Photo courtesy of David Harrop)