

## NURSES AND MEDICS

Please note – this guide is not intended to be exhaustive but to provide some useful resources to start your research. A larger record of website links can be viewed on the FamilyHistoryWA website's Resources>Links page. **You can filter by 'Region' or 'Subject'.**

### **AUSTRALIA**

#### **National Archives of Australia**

<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records>

The National Archives of Australia holds an extensive collection of defence and war service records relating to every conflict Australia was involved in from 1899 to 1975 (including army, navy and air force). This includes the records of nurses and medics who served.

All WW1 service records have been digitised and can be downloaded for free. WW2 service records are in the process of being digitised. If a record has not yet been digitised, it can be ordered (fees apply).

Individuals can be searched for via the [Recordsearch](#) function.

#### **Australian War Memorial**

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

The Australian War Memorial website has a wealth of information including official histories, unit war diaries, military records such as embarkation records, nominal rolls, photographs, red cross files, rolls of honour and some personal items such as diaries. The period covered includes the Boer War through to modern conflicts.

[Understanding the Memorial's collection page](#) provides a number of guides to researching a person, unit or event <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection>.

Search for an individual via '[People](#)' to see what information is held by the AWM.

Use the [search](#) function for all items relevant to nurses and medics who served (e.g. type in 'nurse' or 'medical').

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## **Army Museum of Western Australia**

<https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>

The Army Museum of Western Australia has an archive comprised of both official documents and personal items for individuals (many donated by family members). This includes items related to nurses and medics who served.

The Army Museum is happy to answer any queries relating to information they hold on nurses or medics who served, or the general history of hospitals in war operations. They can be contacted via [info@armymuseumwa.com.au](mailto:info@armymuseumwa.com.au). The Military SIG Convenor can also be contacted with queries or to assist with liaison with the Army Museum.

The records in the Army Museum's archive are in the process of being digitised in order to make them publicly available online. The digital images are being uploaded to the Western Australian Military Digital Library (WAMDL) and can be viewed via [www.wamdl.com.au](http://www.wamdl.com.au). These include individual's records, nominal rolls for Western Australian nurses 1925 – 1946, a scrapbook of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps 1951 – 1972 and autograph albums. New images are being uploaded regularly.

## **State Library of WA**

<https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/>

The State Library of WA has a number of online e-resources that could assist in your research including e-books, e-newspapers and magazines, audio, films and photographs. You will need a current state library card to access these resources from home (if you are a Western Australian resident, you can apply for a library card at <https://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/our-services/membership/join-now>). For example, there are a number of e-book biographies of nurses that can be accessed from home.

## **OTHER WEBSITES**

**Carnamah Historical Society & Museum** - [Western Australian Nurses 1919 – 1949](#) - an index of Western Australian nurses for these years including address, registration date, qualifications, type and year.

**Australian Nurses in World War 1** - <http://ausww1nurses.weebly.com/>

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

Don't forget the value of resources held by libraries! Did you know that the FamilyHistoryWA library has an alphabetical index to photographic portraits of South Australian soldiers, sailors and nurses 1914 – 1919? There are also a number of books in the library relevant to this topic, for example *Just wanted to be there: Australian service nurses 1899 – 1999* by Richard Reid. View the catalogue via the FamilyHistoryWA website. The Murdoch University Library also has a number of military related books that may help you in your research and are accessible for non-students to view <https://www.murdoch.edu.au/library/>.

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## UNITED KINGDOM

### Researching British nurses and medics during WW1 And WW2 (Army, Navy and Airforce) including:

- Royal Army Medical Corps, Army Medical Department Army Hospital Corps, Medical Staff Corps,
- Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Army Veterinary Corps, Veterinary Medical Department,
- Royal Army Dental Corps,
- Army Nursing Service, Territorial Army Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

## UK NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Always go to the UK National Archives guides first. They will tell you what has survived and even if FindMyPast or Ancestry have the records. Each guide has links to take you directly to the section at the National Archives. TIP - downloads may be free if you access the National Archives via the State Library of Western Australia (you will need log in with your State Library card. This is [free](#) to apply for).

### Nurses

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/military-nursing/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-nurses-service-records-1914-1918/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-army-nurses/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-air-force-nurse/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/royal-navy-nurses/>

[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/service\\_records/sr\\_women\\_med.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/service_records/sr_women_med.htm)

The National Archives (UK)- '[British Army nurses' service records 1914-1918](#)' is one of the major collections.

Over 15 000 **WW1** service records for nurses are in Series WO 399. They served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Service (Reserve) and the Territorial Force Nursing service.

The Territorial Force Nursing Service was made up of civilian nurses who would volunteer to work in Military Hospitals in the UK and overseas.

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## **OTHER WEBSITES**

**Royal College of Nursing** – <https://www.rcn.org.uk/>

Has an online collection of scrapbooks compiled by nurses during WW1. They contain photographs, poems, diary entries and drawings. They also hold copies of “The Dump” which was a WW1 magazine.

**The Museum of Military Medicine** - <https://museumofmilitarymedicine.org.uk/>

Tells the story of army medicine from the English Civil War up to the current day. The Museum holds the archives of the four Army Medical corps including diaries, service record details, maps, plans, artworks and photographs.

**British Army Nurses** <https://britisharmynurses.com/>

This is the official site for the history and heritage of the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps and its antecedents (Army Nursing Service; Princess Christian’s Army Nursing Service (Reserve); Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service, Territorial Force Nursing Service, Territorial Army Nursing Service).

## **MALES**

Soldiers who served in the Field Ambulance Units or were in the Army Medical Corps were viewed the same way as any other soldier so their records are muddled in with everybody else. Go to the Long, Long Trail resources first and then come back to the National Archives once you have the name of a particular Unit.

**The Long, Long Trail** is a site for researching all soldiers in WW1 and they have a number of medical sections. Essential reading is their guide to the renumbering of the TF Royal Army Medical Corps.

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/renumbering-of-the-territorial-force-in-1917/renumbering-the-tf-royal-army-medical-corps-in-1917/>

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/hospital-admissions-and-discharge-records/>

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/how-to-research-a-soldier/hospital-admissions-and-discharge-records/>

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/royal-army-medical-corps-in-the-first-world-war/the-territorial-mounted-brigade-field-ambulances-of-the-royal-army-medical-corps/>

## **National Archives**

Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F229765>

Royal Army Dental Corps <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/c/F202362>

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**The National Archives also has 'education resources'.** Their documents are part of the Year 11 and 12 curriculum in the UK and reading through the teachers notes can be very informative. It will certainly give you ideas for record groups to explore.

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medicine-on-the-western-front-part-one/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medicine-on-the-western-front-part-two/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/usefulnotes/g3cs3s9u.htm>

## **Wills**

The wills of soldiers who died between 1850 and 1986 can be searched at <https://www.gov.uk/probate-search> and the wills of Irish soldiers who served in the British Army are online at <http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/search/sw/home.jsp>

**Forces War Records (fees apply)** <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/> - has records for nurses of the Territorial Force Nursing Service as well as soldiers from the Field Ambulance Corps. Also has transcriptions of military hospital records.



[http://cdn3.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/sites/default/files/wounded\\_soldiers\\_623x446.jpg](http://cdn3.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/sites/default/files/wounded_soldiers_623x446.jpg)

## **NEW ZEALAND**

Archives New Zealand - <https://archives.govt.nz/>.

The NZ Archives has a number of [research guides](#) with advice on how to search for Boer War and WW1 personnel files, unit diaries, maps and plans. WW1 service records have been digitised.

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## **CANADA**

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx>

Library & Archives Canada has an extensive collection of records relating to the service of Canadians in a number of conflicts. WW1 personnel files for soldiers, nurses and chaplains who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force have been digitised.

The Canadian Letters and Images Project provides an online archive of the Canadian experience as told through letters and images <https://www.canadianletters.ca/>.

## **USA**

The US National Archives holds Veteran's Service Records from a range of conflicts. Most records are not online but a request for a copy can be made. View this page for information about what the Archives hold, what is online and what is available

<https://www.archives.gov/research/military/veterans/online>.

Unfortunately, there was a fire in a facility holding veteran service records in 1973 that destroyed 22 million personnel folders. For those veterans whose files were destroyed, the Archives have attempted to obtain alternative sources of documents (see

<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/spring/spotlight-nprc>).

Ancestry and its sub site Fold3 hold a number of documents relating to US veterans and servicemen and women from other countries. If you don't have a subscription, many libraries (such as the FamilyHistoryWA library) have subscriptions and you can use their computers to do your research.

For further queries please contact the Military Interest Group convenor on [military.sig@fhwa.org.au](mailto:military.sig@fhwa.org.au).