

# Dorothy Gregory (1886 – 1923)

**Dorothy Gregory worked at several postings in the very harsh conditions of Salonica, and surrounding outposts, in Greece. Like many others she fell ill and was invalided home. Her premature death four years later was attributed to the conditions she had contracted while on overseas service.**

Dorothy Gregory was born Sarah Richards Gregory in Rochester. Her mother died in the same year and her father remarried and moved to Western Australia. Sarah remained in Victoria and attended the Convent of Mercy School in Kyneton.

Dorothy's father was elected a Member of the Western Australian State Parliament and subsequently a Member of the Federal Parliament, then based in Melbourne.

Henry Richardson, Dorothy's 18 year old half-brother, enlisted in 1916, perhaps motivating Dorothy to enlist the following year.

Dorothy commenced her overseas postings in Salonica, now Thessaloniki, in Greece, where Australian nurses provided care to British soldiers and Bulgarian prisoners of war from the Balkans campaign. She was then transferred to the No. 66 British General Hospital, a tent hospital at Hortiach, high in the hills around Salonica and then to the nearby No. 52 British General Hospital at Kalamaria.

Conditions for the nurses in this region were difficult. Fresh food was limited and water of poor quality. There were temperature extremes both in summer and winter, including heavy falls of snow. In summer there was intense heat and the many ravines and streams made ideal breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Dorothy, like many other nurses, fell ill. Following admission to hospital and a convalescent home, she was found to be unfit for duty with the diagnosis of dysentery and invalided back to Australia.

Upon returning home, Dorothy continued to work as a nurse but her health did not recover. At one point she gave her address as Mount St Evin's Private Hospital, a precursor of St Vincent's Private Hospital in Fitzroy. She may have been working at the hospital, or she may have been a patient.

Dorothy died at Mount St Evin's Private Hospital in 1923. Newspaper death notices submitted by family and friends stated she died from an illness following the effects of malaria and other conditions contracted while in Salonica.



RIAL

**Service summary:** 66 BGH (Hortiach, Greece); 52 BGH (Kalamaria, Greece); 42 BGH (Kalamaria, Greece).

**Graduation St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne:** 1915

**Enlistment:** 1917

**Final rank:** Staff Nurse

**Medals:** British War Medal and Victory Medal

**Image:** A group of Australian Army Nursing Service nurses at the No. 52 British General Hospital at Kalamaria ready for night duty wearing headaddresses provided for protection against mosquitoes, c. 1918.

**Image source:** Australian War Memorial, H15761.

**Story:** SVHM Archives, November 2024.