



Peter Dowling

Sister Edith Moore's War – A Reconstructed History

Edith Moore was a young nurse in Hobart General Hospital when World War One broke out. Like many nurses in Australia at the time Edith saw it as her duty to join the First Australian Imperial Force and go to help the wounded Australians as best she could. Edith served in the Australian Army Nursing Service in Europe until 1918. But like so many nurses there is little evidence of her times and experiences during the war. She left no diary or personal account of her service during the war and while she would certainly have written to her family, friends and loved ones these letters appear not to have not survived. There are a few photographs, and she did speak to her family relating some of her experience, but these accounts are now few, and little understood within her living family. So, can we leave her and what she did slip away in memories like so many other young nurses who served during WW1 and find no space for them in our history?

Her story needs to be told. Using an interpretive methodology of Microhistory her movements and postings can be ascertained through her military service record which documents a time and place during her period of war service. From there we can begin to build a picture of her times and an understanding of the conditions in which she served by considering the events of the war that surrounded her. By these means Edith's story can be told to a considerable extent.