

Staff Nurse. Rosa O'Kane

Born Charters Towers, Qld. 14th April 1890
Died Woodman Point Quarantine Station 21st December 1918



Image from group photograph on board SS WYREEMA



The house in Deane Street, Charters Towers, where Rosa was born.

First World War Embarkation Roll
Rosa O'Kane Rank: Staff Nurse Unit: Australian Army Nursing Service
Roll title: Nurses (July 1915 - November 1918) Service: Australian Army
Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918
Date of embarkation: 14 October 1918 Place of embarkation: Sydney
Ship embarked on: SS Wyreema
Date of death: 21 December 1918 Place of death: Woodman Point Quarantine Station, Western Australia
Cemetery or memorial details: Quarantine Station, Woodman Point, Western Australia

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 5129 Name (Surname) O'KANE, in full (Christian Name) Rosa. Unit Reinforcements, A.E.S., A.I.F., (Salonika) Joined on 7th October, 1918.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a willfully false answer to any question set forth in this Attestation Paper, you will be liable to be tried for the offence.

- 1. What is your Name? PAY BOOK No. 1103975 1. Rosa O'Kane
2. In or near what Town were you born? 1103975 2. In or near the Town of Charter Towers In the State or Country of Queensland.
3. Are you a natural-born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) 3. British Subject.
4. What is your Age? (Date of birth to be stated) 4. 28, (14th April, 1890)
5. What is your Trade or Calling? 5. Nurse
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, state to whom, and for what period? 6. No
7. Are you married, single, or widowed? 7. Single
8. Who is your nearest relative? (Specify relationship, name, and address.) 8. (Mother) Mrs. Jennie Elizabeth O'Kane Ryan Street, Charter Towers, N.Q.
9. What is your permanent address in Australia? 9. C/o Mrs. J. E. O'Kane, (same address)
10. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge. 10. Yes, A.A.E.S., 1st M.D. since 27/11/17
11. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? 11. Yes
12. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? 12. No
13. Have you ever suffered from: 13. 1. No 2. No 3. No 4. No 5. No
14. (For married men, widowers with children, and soldiers who are the sole support of widowed mothers.— Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?) 14. -
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? 15. Yes

I, Rosa O'Kane, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children. Date 11th October, 1918. Signature of Person Enlisted: Rosa O'Kane



AANS on the Wyrema 1918. Sister Rosa O'Kane, second row from back, second from right. V. Hobbs.

L.I. COPY.

CONFIDENTIAL

"WILL"
 A.I.F. Order 30A (Vide M.O. 1917/135)
 No..... Rank... Staff Nurse.....
 Name.. Rose O'Kane.....
 Unit.... Reinforcements, A.N.S. A.I.F. Halesowen.....
 My Will is lodged with Mrs J. R. O'Kane.....
 Ryan Street.....
 Charters Towers.....
 R. O'Kane.....
 Signature of Soldier?

Date 11th October, 1918 Verified by
 G.W.H.C. Douglas, Major
 for P.M.C. 1st Military District

Certified to be a true copy of the Certificate of the Will of No.... Staff Nurse R. O'Kane, A.N.S. lodged with the Officer in Charge Base Records upon embarkation for active service abroad.

William Priddy
 W.O.

Checked by :-

R. Hughes
L. ...

18 8 1918
 SIGNED

QUARANTINE STATION,
 WOODMANS POINT.
 4/2/19.

This is to certify that Staff-Nurse O'Kane R. of 1st, M.D. of Queensland, died at Quarantine Station, Woodmans Point, at 1.45 p.m. on December 21st, 1918. The cause of death being Pneumonic-Influenza. Next of kin, Mother, ~~Mrs J. R. O'Kane~~ Mrs J. R. O'Kane, Ryan St. Charters Towers, Queensland.

J. ...
 R.M.C. Quarantine Station,
 Woodmans Point.

Pneumonic influenza: World War I Nurse O’Kane, Rosa [28 yrs]

d 21 Dec 1918 pneumonic influenza bd WPQS S/Nurse, Army from Charters Towers, Qld.

GRM plaque for Rosa is located at PWC: Wall 6 A.

The road leading to the former quarantine site is named O’Kane Court in her honour.75 [FRE8F/19]

3m high granite memorial:

For Valour/In honoured and revered memory of Sister Rosa O’Kane, A.A.N. Service/late of Charters Towers, Queensland died here 21st December, 1918 of/Pneumonic influenza./Only daughter of Mrs J.G. O’Kane and sister of Frank and John G. O’Kane/R.I.P.

Erected by the Patriotic Committee, Charters Towers, Comrades, Nurses and Queensland Friends.

AWM Roll of Honour, Panel 188



Rosa O’Kane’s Memorial at the Military Cemetery Woodman Point. Photograph by Earle Seubert

We acknowledge the generous assistance given by Cathy & Stephen O’Kane, and Ms. Donna Baldry, with regard copies of photographs and historic information, they kindly gave for use on this website.



Compiled by *Earle Seubert*