

# Passing of Mrs. R. H. Sumner

## A DISTINGUISHED WAR SERVICE NURSE.

With the passing of Mrs. Mary Katherine ("Kit") Sumner a life of service has been closed.

Sister Mary Katherine Curtain was one of four sisters who enlisted for service with the Australian Army Nursing Service overseas. She sailed from Tasmania early in 1915, and was attached to the 1st Australian General Hospital, Heliopolis, Egypt.

Sister Curtain was later attached to the British Base Hospital at Rouon, France.

Returning to Australia in 1918, she was appointed Matron of the T.B. Soldiers' Sanatorium, Launceston, Tasmania.

Shortly after taking up this appointment she successfully applied for a position in New Guinea, and from the end of 1918 to 1926 she was on the nursing staff at Namanula Hospital, Rabaul.

Previous to her resignation to marry Mr. Ron. Sumner, she was acting-Matron of that institution.

Mrs. Sumner was ever ready to help in any movement that had for its object the advancement of the town and district where she resided, or any charitable movement, and Gosford has lost one who can ill be spared.

The funeral, which was one of the largest seen in Gosford for a long while, was conducted by the Rev. Father Donovan, and moved from Our Lady of the Rosary Church to Point Clare cemetery. She was laid to rest, with the birds singing and the sun striking through the trees. Here she would have known contentment and happiness in life. May it still be her lot in death.

Members of the Returned Soldiers' League formed a Guard of Honor at the Church, and followed the coffin to the grave. At the conclusion of the service Bugler Hitchcock sounded "The Last Post." With Mr. Ron Sumner at the graveside were Mrs. Sumner's three sisters and her little niece Pam. The sisters are Mrs. Dr. Arnold (Mayfield, Newcastle), Mrs. J. Keith (Sydney), and Miss L. Curtain (Melbourne).

"Kit" Sumner has gone "West," but a sweet memory remains, and ever there will be many a friend to whisper "Welcome Sister, Rest in Peace."

The mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr. R. H. Creighton. The pall-bearers were returned men in Messrs D. A. Prentice, J. P. Trim, G. Wood, and A. K. Jamieson.