



# HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

## Sister Christense Sorensen (1885 – 1958)

Sister Christense Sorensen completed her nursing training at the then-known as Brisbane Hospital in October 1913.

At the outbreak of World War I in November 1914, Sister Sorensen joined the Australian Army Nursing Service, and was posted to No 1 Australian General Hospital in Cairo, Egypt.

She then served on the British Hospital ship, Guidford Castle, caring for wounded soldiers being transported out of Gallipoli. In late 1916, she was sent to the British Stationary Hospital in Poona, India, where she was promoted to Sister and cared for soldiers suffering from cholera.

Her dedicated service as a nurse did not go unrecognised, and she was awarded the Royal Red Class (2nd Class) on 3rd June 1918. Eight days later she was mentioned in dispatch for "gallant conduct and distinguished service".

After the war, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross (1st class) in recognition of her "valuable services with the British Forces in the Balkans" and the French Medaille des Epidmies for "conspicuous service in fighting epidemic illnesses". It was said by Major, Dr Lee Abbott, "Quite a number of cases she absolutely dragged out of the grave by her assiduous care".

After the war, Sister Sorensen worked at several hospitals before being appointed Matron of the Brisbane General Hospital where she worked until her retirement in December 1951. Despite being feared by the training nurses for her strictness, she was immensely loved by all. She was a "beautiful white dove".