

## SHELDON, Nurse C.

Born in Nerring near Bendigo in 1872, Caroline Hannah Sheldon was the eldest of ten children. Her parents were Elijah Sheldon (1841-1910) and Mary Anne McDowell (1828-1931). She completed her three-year nurses training at Inglewood Hospital.

Caroline had been appointed guardian of her youngest brother, Frederick Lawrence Sheldon, born in 1895. She consented to his enlistment in Bendigo in 1914. Frederick was killed in action at Gallipoli, aged just 19 years, and no doubt his death influenced her decision to enlist in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS).

During WWI, 2861 women joined the AANS and served overseas. The nurses were required to be aged between 25 and 40 years, single, and educated, with at least three years training. Although they were given officer rank, they only received half the pay that the male officers received.

Nurse Sheldon was sent to Greece, via Egypt. She served there a year before she was returned to Melbourne and discharged medically unfit for active service, suffering from acute synovitis. Caroline Sheldon died in 1934 at the Caulfield Military Hospital.

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### *AIF Project Entry*

#### **Caroline Hannah SHELDON**

Place of birth	Bendigo, Victoria
Religion	Presbyterian
Occupation	Nurse
Address	Carlton, Victoria
Marital status	Single
Age at embarkation	41
Next of kin	Cousin, Miss A Barrell, 205 Drummond Street, Carlton, Victoria.
Enlistment date	13 July 1917
Rank on enlistment	Staff Nurse
Unit name	Nurses (July 1915 - November 1918)
Embarkation details	Unit embarked from Melbourne, Victoria, on board RMS <i>Somali</i> on 30 June 1917.
Rank from Nominal Roll	Staff Nurse
Unit from Nominal Roll	Australian Army Nursing Service
Fate	Returned to Australia 22 July 1918.

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Family/military connections

**Brother:**

Pte Frederick Lawrence SHELDON,  
14<sup>TH</sup> Battalion, C Company. Killed in action  
30 April 1915, Gallipoli, Turkey.

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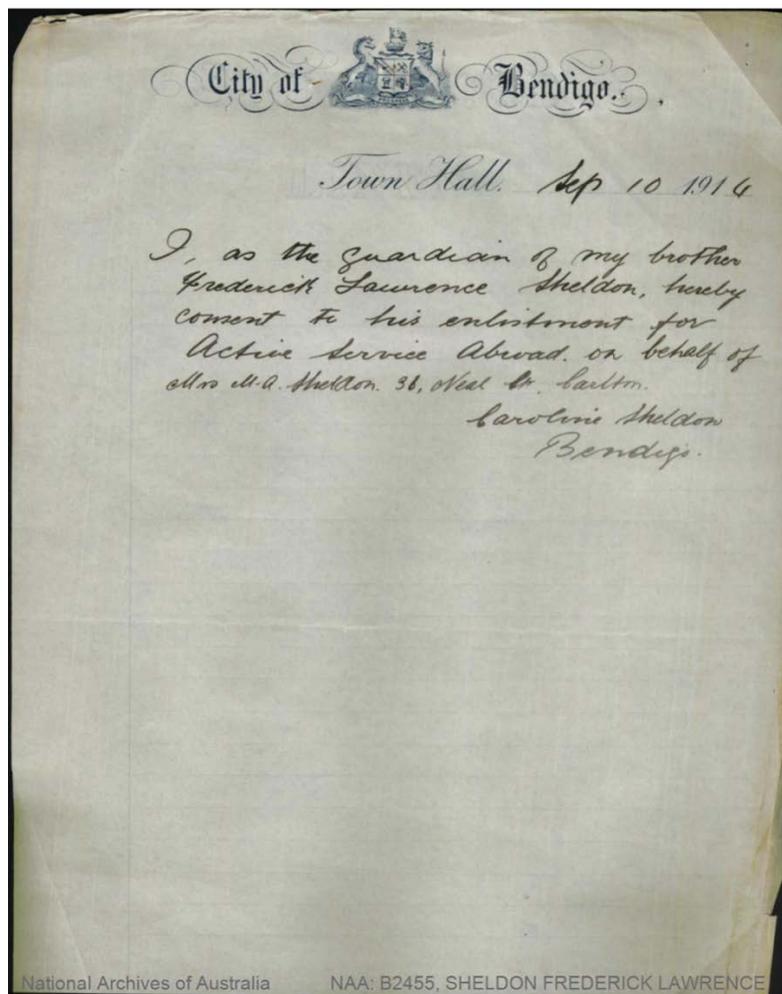
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NAA: B2455, SHELDON C H SERN Staff Nurse.

Australian Army Nursing Service <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/ww1/military-organisation/australian-imperial-force/australian-army-nursing-service> Viewed 03.11.2023.

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Extract from Frederick Sheldon's Service Record, SERN 387, p.14.



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