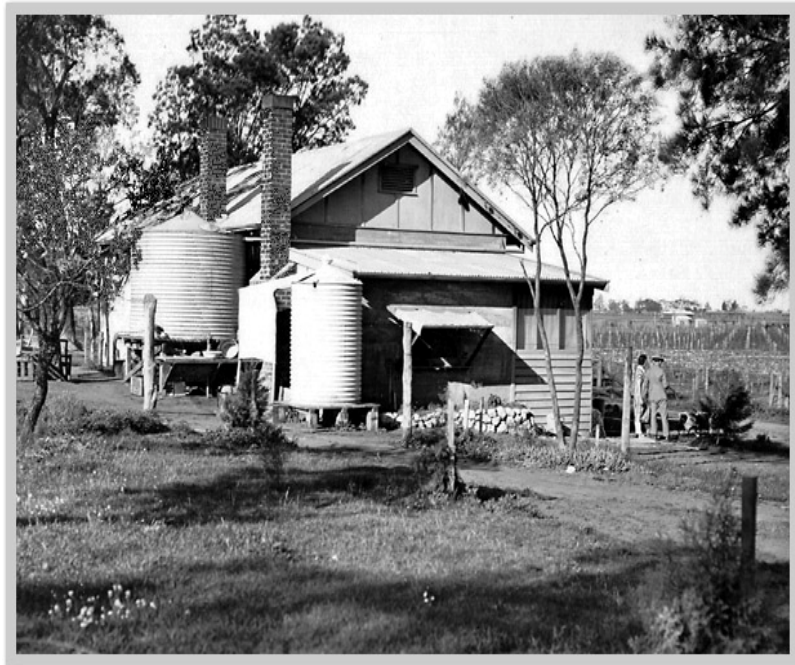


**‘NOT OPENLY ENCOURAGED’ -
NURSE SOLDIER SETTLERS
AFTER WORLD WAR ONE**



**This thesis is presented for the
Degree of Master of Arts with Honours
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A settler's home at Red Cliffs – c1926
(Dept. of Primary Industries, Victoria)

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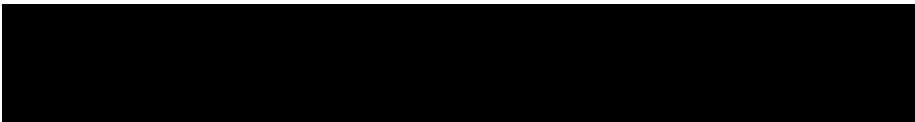
ABSTRACT

Australian women who served overseas as nurses were entitled to apply for land under the Returned Soldiers Settlement Scheme after World War One. Land settlement as a method of repatriation was to become central to the rehabilitation process in Australia, and nurses were included in the Repatriation Act (1917-1918) under the broad category of 'soldier'. Central to the soldier settlement scheme was the philosophy of providing for returning soldiers, 'land for heroes'. This philosophy focused solely on the soldiers who fought, rather than the women who served as nurses. Only a very small percentage of the 37,500 people who took up the offer of land were indeed women.

This thesis seeks to highlight the neglected and little known history of Australian nurse soldier settlers focusing on a small sample from New South Wales and Victoria. It will examine their stories, their applications for land, their struggles as farmers and the difficulties they had obtaining pensions and repatriation benefits. This thesis will show that many nurse soldier settlers were discharged as medically unfit after the war which had a significant impact on their ability, not only to work their farms profitably but also to lead peaceful happy lives in the aftermath of war. The thesis will reveal that although a score of women did take up the challenge and did attempt to make a go of it on the land, they were never actively encouraged and acknowledged.

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not currently being submitted for any other degree or qualification.

I certify that any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.



12 February 2010

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AANS	Australian Army Nursing Service
ACP	Additional Conditional Purchase
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
ANZAC	Australia and New Zealand Army Corps
APMMC	Almeric Paget Military Massage Corps
AWM	Australian War Memorial
AWNL	Australian Women's National League
CL	Conditional Lease
CP	Conditional Purchase
CSP	Closer Settlement Promotion
HF	Homestead Farm
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NAUK	National Archives of the United Kingdom
NLA	National Library of Australia
NSWBDM	NSW Registry of Birth Death and Marriages
NZNS	New Zealand Nursing Service
PROVIC	Public Record Office of Victoria
QAIMNS	Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service
QAIMNSR	Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve
RSS	Returned Soldiers Settlement
RSSILA	Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia
SHHFS	Scottish Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service
SLVIC	State Library of Victoria
SLNSW	State Library of New South Wales
SL	Special Lease
SP	Settlement Purchase
SRNSW	State Records of New South Wales
VADs	Voluntary Aid Detachments
WAAC	Women's Auxiliary Army Corps
WLL	Western Land Lease