

## Sister Alexina Donald.

Alexina was born in Woodside, Aberdeen on 31.3.1893 and at an early age emigrated with her family to South Africa. In 1913 she returned to Dundee where she trained as a nurse and at the outbreak of war she joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Medical Nursing Service (Reserve). She began her war service in a Scottish Military hospital but soon was sent to France where she served until 1917 when she was posted to East Africa.

She worked as acting Matron in the former German hospital in Dar es Salaam & she was mentioned in Dispatches by General Sir J L van Deventer. She was also awarded the Royal Red Cross.

On her return to Britain she was made Acting Matron at Fovant Military hospital. Here in May 1919 she received a telegram instructing her to attend Buckingham Palace where she was to receive the Oak Leaf to her Royal Red Cross.

This is the highest award for the Military Nursing Service.



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Office Stamp  
26 MAY 1919  
SALISBURY

Buckingham Palace Charges to pay) s. d.

8/4ms Handed in at 7.25 PM Received here at 8.50 PM

TO } Sister Alexina Donald  
Truly Hopfl Fovant with  
your attendance is required at  
Buckingham Palace on Saturday next  
the thirtyfirst inst. at ten  
thirty ock am Indoor Uniform  
with gloves please telegraph acknowle  
ment Lord Chamberlain London

When Fovant Camp was demolished in 1919 she returned to South Africa where she married and settled in Durban. When Prince George of Kent paid a state visit to South Africa in 1934 Sister Donald (Mrs Rogers now) was presented to him.



Photo taken by Dr Clay, Fovant's GP. who worked in the Military hospital as well as tending the sick in the village.  
Sister Donald is in the middle of some of her nurses and VADs.

*Many thanks to Alexina's Great nephew Donald Davies, in South Africa for information and documents.*

**M.McKenzie 2021**

