# Mary Agnes McKenzie The Nursing Sisters

Arden Innis and Leah Malcolm



## **Brief Life Overview**





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Mary Agnes Mckenzie was born on April 28th, 1880 in Toronto, Ontario to Thomas C. and Mary B. McKenzie.



### **Education**

McKenzie graduated from the nursing school at Rochester General Hospital in 1902.



### **Military Service**

She enlisted in the war in 1916, and was assigned to the Ontario Military Hospital, as a Nursing Sister (military rank).



### Death

Mary Agnes McKenzie was presumed dead after a torpedo hit the Llandovery Hospital Ship on June 27, 1918.

## Who is Mary Agnes McKenzie?

Mary Agnes McKenzie is a Nursing Sister, one of the many brave women who enlisted in WW1 to help serve their country. Belonging to the Canadian Army Medical Corps regiment, McKenzie served on the Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle as a nurse.



## Who are the Nursing Sisters?

Military nurses in World War One were also known as the "Nursing Sisters". Belonging to the Canadian Army Medical Corps, the Nursing Sisters treated both soldiers wounded in combat overseas and soldiers at home in Canada. Over 2,800 women enlisted with the Canadian Army Medical Corps.



## **Important Dates**

### **April 8th**

Mary Agnes McKenzie departed Canada to serve in the war

### June 28th

Presumed dead, following torpedo attack on hospital ship.



### **January 31st**

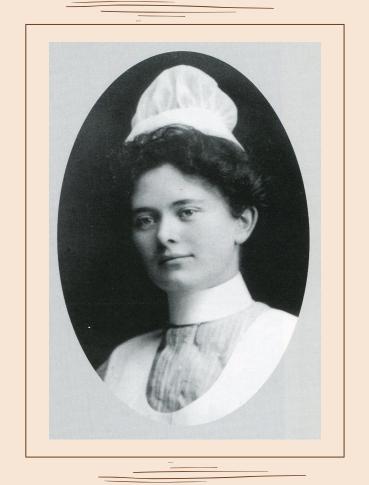
Mary Agnes
McKenzie enlists in
the Canadian Armed
Force and is
medically cleared..

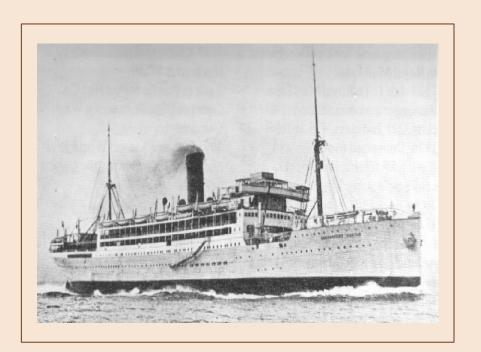
### June 11th

Date initially "Taken On Strength" - added to the military.

### Pre-War Life

Born on April 28th, 1880, Mary Agnes McKenzie was the daughter of Thomas C. and Mary B. McKenzie. The family lived in Toronto, Ontario, where Mary Agnes went to school. In 1903, Mary Agnes graduated from the Rochester General Hospital nursing program. Mary Agnes McKenzie was single at the time of her enlistment, never married.





## **Military Service**

Mary Agnes McKenzie served in the Canadian military from January 31st, 1916 until June 27th, 1918, when she presumably drowned in a torpedo attack of Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle.

## Locations of Service



**Toronto, Ontario - Location of Enlistment** 



Orpington, England - Ontario Military Hospital



Off Coast of Southern Ireland - location where hospital ship sunk



Sir John Moore Barracks, Winchester, UK - Military Hospital



## **Notes from Military Service**

### **Medical Clearance**

Cleared medical exam on 01/31/1917, deemed fit for service.

### Leaves/Discharge

Placed on leave to Canada on 07/19/1916, granted an exception to extend leave until 07/14/1917.

### Medical Notes/Concerns

Diagnosed with pyorrhoea on 07/11/17, deemed fit for service.

### **Location of Service**

Served as nursing sister on Llandovery Hospital Ship for majority of service.

### **Transfers**

No notable transfers documented.

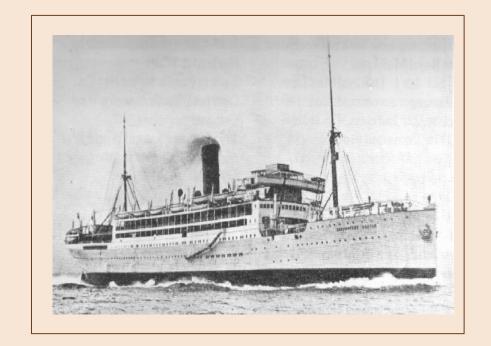
### **Serious Injury/Death**

Presumed drowned following attack on hospital ship.



## **Death in Line of Duty**

Shortly before McKenzie's death, she was on route to Liverpool, England, from Halifax, Nova Scotia. The hospital ship was deliberately torpedoed, despite the Red Cross lights, and any survivors of the torpedo were shot dead with machine guns. Red cross lights which meant "don't shoot" - the ship was provided impartial and necessary medical assistance. The enemy disregarded the Red Cross lights and deliberately killed all on board the Llandovery Hospital Ship.



A plaque was placed at Queen's Park in Toronto, honouring the Nursing Sisters, including Mary Agnes McKenzie.

"To the Undying Memory of the Nursing Sisters of the Ontario Military Hospital who gave their lives in the service of their Country during the great war, 1914-1919...Their names shall live forever."



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