

2/ResB/1788 (Aged 60)

(A.M.D.4)

16, Buckhurst Road,
Bexhill-on-sea,
Sussex

May 4th 1937

To the Matron-in-Chief – QAIMNS

Madam,

I am sending in my Permanent Reserve papers for 1937 and must apologise for them being so late.

I was in the P&O Nursing Service as Nursing Sister from Oct. 1929 to Feb. 19th 1937. Almost directly I left the R.M.S. "Narkunda", I was called to a case of severe cancer which I nursed for 5 months, then remained to nurse a Miss Agnes Thornycroft who was crippled with rheumatoid arthritis and with whom my previous had lived as friend and secretary.

Miss Thornycroft died after 5 days illness on March 6th but I remained on to help her nephew Col. CM Thornycroft with her numerous effects as he was unable to be in Bexhill himself. I remained till April 9th in charge of the maids and the house.

I am getting pretty ancient, as I went out with (Miss) Dame Maude McCarthy and Miss G. Richards in August 1914 from No2 General Hospital, but I could still do as much work as most Nurses of the present day.

Colonel Kennedy CBE, of the P&O Medical Service at 122 Leadenhall Street asked me to come back as Sister on the "Rawal-pindi" sailing on Feb 25th for China and Japan and I was terribly sorry not to go, but my patient, Miss Thornycroft, was very frail and nearly 84 and I could not leave her.

I am a very good sailor having been from Dec 1914 to June 1916 in H.M.H.S. "Asturias" & H.M.H.S. "Nervasa" at the Dardanelles etc & never sea sick.

I returned on Saturday last in the "Prince Bandorm" from Ostend (?) having been all over the Ypres salient, Zeebrugge again. Nearly all were sick but I wasn't.

This is a dreadfully long letter, but I mislaid my Permanent Reserve papers and only found them yesterday.

I am , Madam,
Your obedient servant,

Ethel Bray

I enclose my Annual Report signed by Kenneth Stokes M.D. B.S. who was Medical Attendant to my two patients Miss M.P. Wilborn and Miss Agnes Thornycroft.

As it is "Permanent Reserve" I thought it would be all right to ask to be employed if there should be another war.
I should not care to be a W.A.A.C. or a W.R.E.N or anything of that description.