## **FAULKNER, Amy Louise**

Amy Faulkner was born 2nd June 1880 at Hersham, Surrey, England, the daughter of William Thomas (1852-1923) and Fanny (nee Elderfield; 1849-1940) Faulkner.

In 1881 the family were residing at Melrose Cottage, Walton on Thames, Surrey, England.

They arrived in Sydney on 22nd April 1882 on board the ship *Hereford* which had departed from Plymouth.**1**

Amy was appointed as a probationary nurse on 18th July 1907.**2**

In 1913 her parents, William Thomas, plumber, and Fanny Faulkner, were living at The Glade, Mary-street, Beecroft.**3**

In 1914 Amy was living at Montrose, via Croydon, Ringwood, Victoria, occupied with home duties.**4**

Amy enlisted for war nursing duties in June 1915 – Occupation: Nurse, Age: 25, Single, Height: 5’ 4”, Weight: 8 stone 8lbs, Address: Mary-street, Beecroft. She was assigned to the No. 1 Australian General Hospital, and was, within weeks, embarking from Fremantle on board the ship *Wandilla*.**5**

In February 1917 she would write home to her mother the following letter:

“I have three wards, with two orderlies to assist, at night, and as soon as I come on I go round to each patient (46 in each ward), and have a word, and some nights I get enough funny little sayings and happenings to keep me from brooding all through the night. You would never guess that the laughing, cheeky face belongs to the same body as that horrible mutilated, painful leg which the bed clothes hid. I hadn't the faintest idea what a noble, grand lot of men the real Australians are, only having rubbed up against townies and immigrants, but the bushmen are wonderful, as honest and upright as the day. Even the back blockers, whose grammar is like 'Dads' in Steele Rudd's books, are splendid, when you know them, as we do. They say, 'Fine,' 'Not too bad,’ 'Bonser,' when we say, 'How are you to-night,' and the poor kids never let on how ill or dreadfully wounded they are. My word, you would love them as we sisters do, if you knew how cheerfully and good-naturedly they face miseries and fatigues and sickness, and most of them, boys, who have not been used to it, and who came out thinking only of the excitement and danger, and not of the long, weary, fatiguing, misery that war really is. They do not even think they are heroes and martyrs of their country. They joke about ghastly things, and make us laugh, but all the time it is to prevent ourselves letting them see how pathetic we find it.”**6**

In February 1920 ‘Sister Amy L. Faulkner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Faulkner, of Beecroft, returned to Sydney yesterday, as matron-in-charge of the *Cape Verde*. Sister Faulkner was on active service for nearly five years, serving in turn In Egypt, Lemnos, Malta, France, and England. She was twice mentioned in despatches.**7**

On 12th March 1923 her father William Thomas Faulkner, of Mary-street, Beecroft, died.

His obituary reads as follows:

‘Mr. W. T. Faulkner, a well-known resident of Beecroft, died yesterday at the age of 71 [70 years, 10 months], after a short illness. He was born in England, and coming to Australia with his wife and a young family about 40 years ago settled in business in Marrickville, where he became well-known. He was a prominent member of the Marrickville Congregational Church in the time of Rev. Dr. Roseby. About 18 years ago, Mr. Faulkner removed to Beecroft, where he was associated with the founding of the Beecroft Bowling Club, in which he was a leading player. Mr. Faulkner has left a widow and two daughters—Mrs. B. Cathcart [?], of Melbourne, and Miss Faulkner— and four sons— Rev. F A. Faulkner, of Canowindra; Mr. H. V. Faulkner, now in the United States; Mr. H. Faulkner, of Marrickville; and Mr. C. C. Faulkner, of "The Daily Telegraph" literary staff.’**8**

In 1927 Amy was living in Beecroft when she applied for general medical duties, which was approved, however there is no evidence that she returned to nursing.**9**

For 1930 & 1932 Amy was no longer in nursing and was performing home duties, along with her mother, at *Sunnymead*, Copeland-road, Beecroft.**10**

For 1933 to 1937 Amy and her mother were occupied with home duties at 5 Mary-street, Beecroft.**11**

On 27th November 1940 Fanny Faulkner, at her residen 5 Mary-street, Beecroft, mother of Rosalie (Mrs. A. J. Collocot), Amy, Harold, Sydney, David, and Clarence, died at the age of 91 years and 11 months. She was privately interred at the Methodist Cemetery, Pennant Hills West.**12**

From 1949 to 1958 Amy was living at 33 Willoughby-road, Crow’s Nest, Sydney, her occupation referred to as ‘home duties’.**13**

In 1963 Amy was living at 4/19 Ivy-street, Wollstonecraft, where she died on 19th February 1964.**14**

**Bibliography**

1 Ancestry.com

2 1908 Public Service Lists

3 1913 Electoral Roll

4 1914 Electoral Roll

5 WWI Service Records

6 Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser (NSW: 1886 - 1942), Friday 16 February 1917, page 8

7 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Monday 1 March 1920, page 3

8 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Tuesday 13 March 1923, page 8; Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Tuesday 13 March 1923, page 6; Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Saturday 17 March 1923, page 14

9 Ancestry.com

10 1930, 1932 Electoral Rolls

11 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 & 1937 Electoral Rolls

12 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 29 November 1940, page 8

13 1949, 1954 & 1958 Electoral Rolls

14 1963 Electoral Roll; Sydney Morning Herald