

Discovering Greta – Sister Greta Towner - funeral and remembering

Sister Greta Norman Towner, a First World War nurse ends her life in the USA. What do we know of this ANZAC Nurse's final resting place?

Invoice for Greta Towner Maloney's Cremation

DECEASED: <u>Greta Towner Maloney</u>		Soc. Sec. #	Reg. # <u>45141</u>
Residence of Deceased <u>2595 Washington St.</u>		Casket No. <u>9405 H.P.</u> Make <u>S.F.C. Co.</u>	Card # <u>25</u>
Recommended by <u>Tammy</u>	Orderer by <u>Mr. Harry W. Maloney</u>	Preservation and preparation of remains and professional services	
Address <u>2595 Washington St.</u>	City <u>San Francisco</u> Phone <u>7-2188</u>	Country Taxes	Floral Car
Arranged by <u>S. C. H.</u>	Place of Death <u>Presbyterian Hospital</u>	Casket Coach	Limousine <u>same</u>
Date of Death <u>June 7 1961</u>	Funeral Monday Day <u>6-12 1961 3:30</u> o'clock	ADDITIONAL ITEMS:	
Services at <u>Home</u>	Funeral Home: <u>Woodlawn</u>	Clothing <u>Personal</u>	550
Remains on Floor:	Date <u>6-11-1961</u> A.M. <u>2:00</u> P.M. <u>2:00</u>	Gloves and Boutonnieres	Florist Charges
Personal Effects Brought in	Date of Shipment	Ambulance or Hearse to	Additional Limousines
	Arrival	Floral Car	Transportation
	Shipped by	Limousines Dismissed	Music Selections
	To	Escort	Creations <u>4</u> Vault <input type="checkbox"/> Crypt <input type="checkbox"/> Grave Opening <input type="checkbox"/> Box <input type="checkbox"/>
	Phys. in Attendance <u>Dr. Walter</u>	Phys. Office	Examiner <u>R. 2</u> Chronicle <u>R. 2</u> Call <input type="checkbox"/> News <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Time First Call Received <u>5:15 P.M.</u> Date <u>6-</u>	Men on Call <u>Smith - Organist 6:00</u>	Clergyman <u>Norman</u> Address
	Funeral Directed by <u>Maloney</u>	Embalmer <u>Maloney</u> # <u>4200</u>	Professional Casket Bearers
ARTICLES TO BE REMOVED BEFORE CLOSING CASSET		Telephones/Telegrams:	Service Charge Obtaining Permits and Certificates
		C.C.D.C. <u>5</u>	State Sales Tax <u>8.25</u> S. F. City Sales Tax <u>2.75</u>
			Total <u>712.97</u>
		Rec'd on s/c	
		Limos. to Call <u>2595 Washington St.</u> Time <u>3:00</u>	
		<u>Tammy will call to Crematory</u>	
		REQUISITION <u>1823</u>	

Invoice to Harry Maloney, Sister Greta Towner's husband.



Greta Towner Maloney
bin/fq.cgi?page=g

Harry W Maloney headstone shared with Greta Towner Maloney

Birth: Aug. 22, 1879

Death: Feb. 22, 1967

Family links:

Spouse:

[Greta T Maloney \(1891 - 1961\)](#)

Burial:

[San Francisco National Cemetery](#)

San Francisco

San Francisco County

California, USA

Plot: Section OS Site 139A 3

Imported from: US Veteran's Affairs

Record added: Mar 04, 2000

Find A Grave Memorial# 3534244



Harry W Maloney (Greta's second husband) is buried in the San Francisco National Cemetery.

Comment

On June 9 1961, Greta Towner passes away, one day after her birthday. She shares a headstone with her second husband Harry Maloney who dies six years later in 1967. The funeral invoice makes no mention of the cause of death.

The headstone makes mention of Harry's service as a Captain in the US Army in World War 1, no mention is made of Greta Towner's service in the Australian Army Nursing Service during the First World War. The cemetery guidelines may not have permitted this.

In Blackall, Greta Towner's service is remembered on the town's Roll of Honour where she is recorded as 'Nurse Towner, Greta'.

The Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial Statue to the women and men who served on Lemnos was unveiled in the Victorian City of Port Phillip on August 8th 2015. Sister Greta Norman Towner is represented in the statue as one of the 133 nurses who served on Lemnos during the Gallipoli Campaign and her name is recorded in the Roll of Honour in the memorial booklet produced in association with the statue.



The Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial Statue – Port Phillip, Victoria. Artist Peter Corlett OAM

In 2015, as part of the State Library of Queensland Q ANZAC 100 – Memories for a New Generation, students from Blackall State School are creating their own video on the life of Sister Greta Towner and their association with her today.

Greta Towner’s uniform remains in remarkably good condition, 100 years on and has the potential to be a significant prompt for remembrance well into the future. The conservation of such objects allow connections with stories that can promote understanding.

The sharing of her story in any way may promote more on her life being made available in an effort to create a greater understanding of who Greta Norman Towner was.

Greta’s brother, Major Edgar Towner VC MC FRGSA is well remembered within the town of Blackall through the statue *Towner’s Call*. Into the future what will happen with remembering Sister Greta Norman Towner?

By Avril Fazel