



Colonel (COL) Nellie Jane Espie AM, RRC, FRCNA

The Soldier

COL Espie was born in Oatlands, Tasmania.

She trained as a nurse through the 1940s and after several years she was able to fulfil her ambition to be an Army nurse.

Commissioned as a Lieutenant in the RAANC in 1951 she transferred to the BCOF serving in Japan, Korea & Malaya as a Ward Sister and Charge Sister. In 1969 she served as Matron of the Australian Field Hospital, Vung Tau in South Vietnam.

After almost 30 years of service, Colonel Espie retired from the Army as Matron in Chief of the RAANC, Director of Army Nursing and a Queen's Honorary Nursing Sister.

After retirement, she continued to take a very active role in the RAANC Association establishing a state branch in Tasmania, serving as National President from 1990 to 1994 and becoming a Life Member in 1997.

Colonel Espie received many awards during her career and since her retirement. These included the National Medal, Royal Red Cross, Member of the Order of Australia, and the Centenary Medal. Plus, her long-time involvement with the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) was recognised, when she was made a Life Member of the RSL.

Col Espie died in 2016.

Lest we Forget