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ABBHEY QUINLAN
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ELIZABETH KENNY



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P04258.001

Sister Elizabeth Kenny

“A measure of victory has been won, and honours have been bestowed in token thereof. But honours fade or are forgotten, and monuments crumble into dust. It is the battle itself that matters, and the battle must go on. One human life cannot alone encompass the full extent of the struggle.”

- Sister Elizabeth Kenny (*And They Shall Walk*, 1951)

Elizabeth Kenny, born in 1880 in the New South Wales town of Warialda¹, was the “angel from the outback” and “healer from nowhere”². A nurse with no formal qualifications, Kenny fought against social norms and the gendered medical profession to have her method of treatment for victims of polio recognised and adopted. Polio, also known as infantile paralysis, was an epidemic that spread across Europe, Australia and the United States of America from the late 1800s through to the 1970s.³ Severe cases of polio left many patients with deformed limbs, leading to permanent paralysis, and weakened respiratory muscles would often lead to death if untreated. Before the development of the Salk and Sabin vaccines in 1955 and 1961, the orthodox treatment for victims of the disease involved immobilisation, braces, casts, splints and sometimes iron lungs. These treatment methods were highly restrictive and traumatic for children, who were most commonly affected by the disease. Sister Elizabeth Kenny developed an alternative method for the treatment of polio, based on a theory that was contradictory to the accepted medical practice of the time. She had hands “full of healing,” and “could be a saint one minute while treating a child, and two minutes later turn to a doctor and blister him”. She ‘made terrible enemies’ and had ‘devoted followers.’⁴ Her willingness to fight for better outcomes for all polio victims made her the “heroic daughter of the Australian bush”⁵ to those affected by the debilitating disease. The remarkableness of Sister Kenny is not necessarily in her treatment, but in the selfless way she went about improving people’s lives. Though she did fight for change to polio treatment, her ultimate battle was to contest female social standards and provide better care for those with a disability.

Although Kenny was well known for her strong-willed character, perhaps her most valuable qualities were her altruistic and caring instincts. She strived to provide hope for patients with polio: “she believed that every human being, no matter how disabled, had a right to dignity and independence”⁶ and “anyone who [stood] between a child and his chance of a happy earthly existence is guilty of as great a crime as the torturers of the prison camps.”⁷ Elizabeth’s sister, Julia Kenny Farquarson said: “She did worry in those days about what little was being done for all the cripples following polio, especially after my children had polio. She studied and thought and thought out better things to alleviate that pain, that awful pain.”⁸ Elizabeth believed that the orthodox methods for treatment were cruel: “splints are archaic torture devices, braces are medieval contraptions of leather and steel and iron lungs are torture chambers.”⁹ Her lack of formal qualification didn’t prevent her from challenging medical professionals.¹⁰ Ella Morphett, a nurse who worked with Elizabeth said: “she was not afraid to give any doctor her opinion...the patient

¹ **Page 1:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

² **Page 7:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

³ **Page 11:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

⁴ **Page 9:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

⁵ **Page 106:** Kenny, E. 1955, *My Battle and Victory*, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

⁶ **Page 25:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

⁷ **Page 214:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

⁸ **Page 29:** Alexander, W. 2002, *Sister Elizabeth Kenny – Maverick Heroine of the Polio Treatment Controversy*, Central Queensland University Press. [Accessed: 26 Aug 2021]

⁹ **Page 29:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

¹⁰ **Page 12:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

was everything.”¹¹ Elizabeth’s humanitarian nature was beyond admirable, her willingness to care for children and act on their behalf to grant them a life of independence in a time where people with disabilities faced severe discrimination, held huge significance in the lives of her patients and their families.

Elizabeth Kenny went on to develop an alternate method of treatment for polio, demonstrating a clear non-compliance to social norms and typical female stereotypes of the time. While working as a bush nurse in 1911, Elizabeth had her first encounter with polio. She wired Dr Aeneas McDonnell to seek advice. He responded with: “Infantile paralysis. No known treatment. Do the best you can with the symptoms presenting themselves.”¹² Using her experience from working in the small maternity hospital at Guyra, Elizabeth used strips of woollen blankets dipped into boiled water to wrap around the patient’s limbs. This treatment provided instant relief from the pain and muscle contractions. The deformities she treated by moving the limbs and encouraging the patient to remember how to move them. Six more patients with polio responded well when treated with the same method. After hearing what she had accomplished, Dr McDonnell warned Elizabeth: “Your ideas go against all orthodox ideas. You are succeeding where they have failed but you will not be able to convince them for years.” His belief was that the gendered medical profession would resist new ideas from an unqualified female. Elizabeth continued to improve her treatment and in later years the American Doctor Pohl released a report in 1945 that revealed, during the period 1937-1939: “...178 children 14 years or under afflicted with the disease, 57 of them had to be... enrolled at the Dowling School [for crippled children]... 45 of the 178... had fixed gross deformities present at the time of entrance... and... 12... had surgical operations,”¹³ in comparison, during 1940-1944: “it has not been necessary to admit any of the [146] Kenny treated patients to the crippled children’s home. None have gross deformities and none have had operations.”¹⁴ Elizabeth said: “it was a terrible calamity when I went out to make my own living. I was supposed to get married like the rest to justify my existence.”¹⁵ Elizabeth, through her patent on the Sylvia Stretcher was self-supported. Elizabeth adopted eight-year-old Mary Stewart from a foster home in Brisbane in 1926, which was also atypical for a single woman of that era.¹⁶ Sister Kenny’s work to develop a new treatment that was less traumatic for polio victims held great importance in the history of treatment advancement for this disease, however, her willingness to challenge female social standards so boldly holds even greater significance.

With her alternate treatment in hand, Elizabeth tasked herself with telling the world. At the time, this was not easy for a woman of no authority. The doctors’ attitudes were that of condemnation for ‘anything that smacked of reform or that ran contrary to approved methods of practice.’¹⁷ On multiple occasions, she was asked to leave after demonstrating her work and suggesting the discontinuation of splints and casts to treat polio. Response from the doctors was often ‘cold silence followed by jeering laughter’.¹⁸ Sister Kenny “always loved to fight. She would sail in with all guns firing”¹⁹ however support from doctors was hard to come by. In October 1935, a Royal Commission was established to inquire into ‘the Elizabeth Kenny method of treating infantile paralysis... and to compare the results of the Kenny method and the results of orthodox treatment.’ Elizabeth saw this as an opportunity to ‘prove the fallacy

¹¹ **Page 60:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

¹² **Page 15:** Kenny, E. 1955, *My Battle and Victory*, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

¹³ **Page 170:** Alexander, W. 2002, *Sister Elizabeth Kenny – Maverick Heroine of the Polio Treatment Controversy*, Central Queensland University Press. [Accessed: 26 Aug 2021]

and

Page 100: Kenny, E. 1955, *My Battle and Victory*, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

¹⁴ **Page 11:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

¹⁵ **Page 5:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

¹⁶ **Page 70:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

¹⁷ Hansen, A. 2018. *Sister Elizabeth Kenny – pioneering nurse who took on the establishment*. [online] Australia’s Science Channel. Accessed: 20 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://australiascience.tv/sister-elizabeth-kenny-pioneering-nurse-who-took-on-the-establishment/>>.

¹⁸ **Page 20:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

¹⁹ **Page 21:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson’s Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

of the orthodox conception' of the polio disease.²⁰ However, when an eleven-month-old baby was brought to the clinic, Elizabeth was refused a bed for her patient by the senior orthopaedic surgeon, who said: "Doctors are not going to be taught by a nurse. Surely you do not think you can teach anything to the Commission!"²¹ Sister Kenny's methods and opinions were continuously condemned by doctors who claimed her success was likely due to the preceding 'neglect' and 'misdiagnosis' of doctors, as well as the 'effect of her personality – including her powers of suggestion.'²² Elizabeth eventually found support outside of Australia, in Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Poland, Russia and Slovakia where forty-eight doctors agreed, about her work, that: "An entirely new weapon had been given them to fight the ravages of a dreadful disease."²³ In 1944, as Elizabeth's work gained publicity, American parents who had children with polio would demand that doctors administer the Kenny method to treat them.²⁴ Doctors attempted to discredit Elizabeth out of 'professional jealousy'²⁵: "How would you feel if your patient, after seeing Miss Kenny, bitterly accused you of having caused his crippled condition?"²⁶ She received the most support from the United States of America who praised and acknowledged her work and where she became a highly popular, public figure and the subject of a Hollywood film. The leading actor in the American Television Series M*A*S*H, Alan Alda, was treated for polio by the Sister Kenny method: "I owe my life to Sister Kenny, who invented this treatment for polio that saved me... I owe my life... not just to the inventiveness of a woman – and women are not supposed to be inventive – that's supposed to be the province of men. But here was a woman who wouldn't listen when the medical community made up entirely of men told her to be quiet... My life was saved by somebody who won a battle against sexism."²⁷ Elizabeth faced continuous setbacks when it came to publicising her method, but her fighting spirit eventually led to her acknowledgement on a global scale.

Elizabeth's early nursing knowledge developed as she began working alongside other doctors and nurses in her unit during the first world war. Dr McDonnell provided her with a reference to use in place of a formal qualification. She joined the Australian Army Nursing Service in Europe where she anticipated they would be more desperate for recruits and was sent to work with a Red Cross unit. She nursed wounded troops on the dark ships travelling from Europe, home to Australia. She made twelve voyages, and more time in the danger zones than any other Australian nurse. In 1916, Elizabeth was promoted from Staff Nurse to the rank of Sister '...the title she was to use tenaciously for the rest of her life.'²⁸ In 1935, a Sydney newspaper spoke of Sister Kenny: "The story ran through the ship of a soldier shot through the shoulders and completely paralysed in both arms, who, through some treatment by a sister, had been able to carry off his pack at Melbourne, and...came back to the ship to tell his mates that he had reenlisted."²⁹ Often, other doctors and nurses neglected the posture of their patients because of the overwhelming number of injured, the consequence of this being that men would be 'seriously disabled'³⁰. However, Sister Kenny would frequently correct the posture of her patients so that when they recovered they'd have functional limbs.

²⁰ **Page 112:** Kenny, E (Sister), in collaboration with Ostensio, M. (1951) *And They Shall Walk – The Life Story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny*. Great Britain, Western Printing Services, LTD., Bristol. [Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021]

²¹ **Page 113:** Kenny, E (Sister), in collaboration with Ostensio, M. (1951) *And They Shall Walk – The Life Story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny*. Great Britain, Western Printing Services, LTD., Bristol. [Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021]

²² **Page 22:** Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson's Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

²³ **Page 102:** Kenny, E. 1955, *My Battle and Victory*, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

²⁴ **Page 160:** Alexander, W. 2002, *Sister Elizabeth Kenny – Maverick Heroine of the Polio Treatment Controversy*, Central Queensland University Press. [Accessed: 26 Aug 2021]

²⁵ **Page 186:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

²⁶ **Page 183:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

²⁷ Halliburton, S. (2021) *'M*A*S*H': Alan Alda's Near-Death Experience with Polio is Why He Became a Feminist*. [online] Outsider. Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://outsider.com/news/entertainment/mash-alan-alda-near-death-experience-polio-why-became-feminist/>>.

²⁸ **Page 58:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

²⁹ **Page 57:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

³⁰ **Page 59:** Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors*, University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

While she was in France, Elizabeth's 'left knee and leg managed to get in the way of some enemy shrapnel'³¹. But even this could not stop her. Despite also being diagnosed with acute myocarditis inflammation of the heart wall in 1918, Elizabeth continued to treat patients back home in Australia claiming: "If I have only six months to live, I'd better get busy."³² Sister Kenny was awarded the 1914/15 Star medal, the British war medal, and the Victory Medal for her service in the First World War. Even when Elizabeth was in danger or ill health, her first instinct was to help others, and her contribution to the war effort is confirmation of her bravery and determination to care for people.

"Elizabeth Kenny has never taken a single cent of compensation for her work. She wasn't fighting for money – she wasn't fighting even for recognition. She was fighting for *children!*"³³ Elizabeth dedicated her life to liberating victims of polio from the fear of permanent disability, dependence and discrimination. She was a humanitarian, with rare skills and a fighting spirit. Sister Elizabeth Kenny was not a saint, and she was not the best spokesperson for her ideas, but her battle against gender prejudice is not unlike the battles for parity in the workforce fought by women and other minorities today. She fought to promote respect and civility for females within the medical profession. One could say her significance has been overshadowed by the invention of the polio vaccine, but it was her fight to be heard and her absolute, unconditional care for her patients that makes her story important to the history of social and medical advancement.

³¹ **Page 34:** Kenny. E (Sister), in collaboration with Ostenson, M. (1951) *And They Shall Walk – The Life Story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny*. Great Britain, Western Printing Services, LTD., Bristol. [Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021]

³² Stevenson. D. R. *Kenny, Elizabeth (1880-1952)*. [online] Encyclopedia.com. Accessed: 23 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/kenny-elizabeth-1880-1952>>.

³³ **Page 266:** Kenny. E (Sister), in collaboration with Ostenson, M. (1951) *And They Shall Walk – The Life Story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny*. Great Britain, Western Printing Services, LTD., Bristol. [Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021]

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Cohn, V. 1975, *Sister Kenny: The Woman Who Challenged the Doctors, the University of Chicago on behalf of Minnesota University Press*. [Accessed: 16 Aug 2021]

This biography by Victor Cohn, a science and medical reporter for the Washington Post, provided a detailed insight into the life of Elizabeth Kenny. In his writing, he created a clear representation of Elizabeth's influence, character, dedication and values. This book voiced opinions from both her admirers and adversaries, which helped me to better understand her character.

Craig, J. (1995) *Elizabeth Kenny – Healing Hands – Fighting Spirit*. Carlton, Australia: McPherson's Printing Group [Accessed: 02 Aug 2021]

Halliburton, S. (2021) 'M*A*S*H': Alan Alda's Near-Death Experience with Polio is Why He Became a Feminist. [online] Outsider. Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://outsider.com/news/entertainment/mash-alan-aldas-near-death-experience-polio-why-became-feminist/>>.

Hansen, A. 2018. *Sister Elizabeth Kenny – pioneering nurse who took on the establishment*. [online] Australia's Science Channel. Accessed: 20 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://australiascience.tv/sister-elizabeth-kenny-pioneering-nurse-who-took-on-the-establishment/>>.

Kenny, E (Sister), in collaboration with Ostenso, M. (1951) *And They Shall Walk – The Life Story of Sister Elizabeth Kenny*. Great Britain, Western Printing Services, LTD., Bristol. [Accessed: 22 Aug. 2021]

This biography, 'And They Shall Walk', helped me to understand Elizabeth's point of view and provided information on her struggle to fight to be heard. Stories about her experience in the war helped me to better understand her character and fighting spirit.

Kenny, E. 1955, *My Battle and Victory*, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

This autobiography provided an in-depth summary of Sister Kenny's life work. It offers a convincing account of her method of treating polio and its success. It shows her passion for children and healing, and also reveals her motifs for devoting her life to this cause.

Stevenson, D. R. *Kenny, Elizabeth (1880-1952)*. [online] Encyclopedia.com. Accessed: 23 Aug. 2021, from: <<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/kenny-elizabeth-1880-1952>>.

Images:

1923, Studio Portrait of Elizabeth Kenny, photograph colour – film original transparency, Australian War Memorial. Accessed 21 Aug 2021, from: <<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1036051>>.

National Archive of Australia: A1501, Photographic negative: B&W, acetate. 1959; A1903/3, Philippino orthopedic surgeon favours Australian treatment methods. Dr Jose A Tiongson, of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Manila, is spending six months at the Spastic Centre, Mosman, New South Wales, studying cerebral palsy treatment methods under the Colombo Plan. With the aid of Miss Julian Wileman, a physiotherapist, Dr Tiongson examines a full control brace on a small patient at the Spastic Centre, Mosman, NSW. The braces are made at the Centre [photographic image]. Accessed: 23 Aug 21 from:

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8888173>

Iron lungs for polio victims, 1930s-1950s – Unable to breathe, patients entered iron lungs, which made use of negative pressure ventilation to compress and depress the chest, simulating respiration. [Image]. Rare Historical Photos. Accessed: 23 Aug 21, from: <<https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/iron-lungs-polio-1930s-1950s/>>.

National Archives of Australia: Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office; B2455, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossier, 1914-1920, KENNY ELIZABETH, KENNY Elizabeth: Service Number – Sister: Place of Birth – Warialda NSW: Place of Enlistment – N/A: Next of Kin – (Mother) KENNY M, 1914-1920. Accessed: 24 Aug 2021 from: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4420559&S=58&R=0>

1950, *Illawarra Daily Mercury (Wollongong, NSW: 1950 - 1954)*, 27 January, p. 3., Accessed: 25 Aug 2021, from: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page15909600> >.

1943 'Sister Kenny Meets 'Sister Kenny'', *The Daily News (Perth, WA: 1882 - 1950)*, 5 March, p. 15. (HOME EDITION), Accessed: 25 Aug 2021, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article78463910> >.

APPENDIX:



34 The image on the Cover Page: Studio portrait of Elizabeth Kenny with her three WWI Medals. (From the Australian War Memorial)



35

Figure 1 – A small patient is treated for cerebral palsy with a full control brace. (From the collection of the National Archives of Australia.)



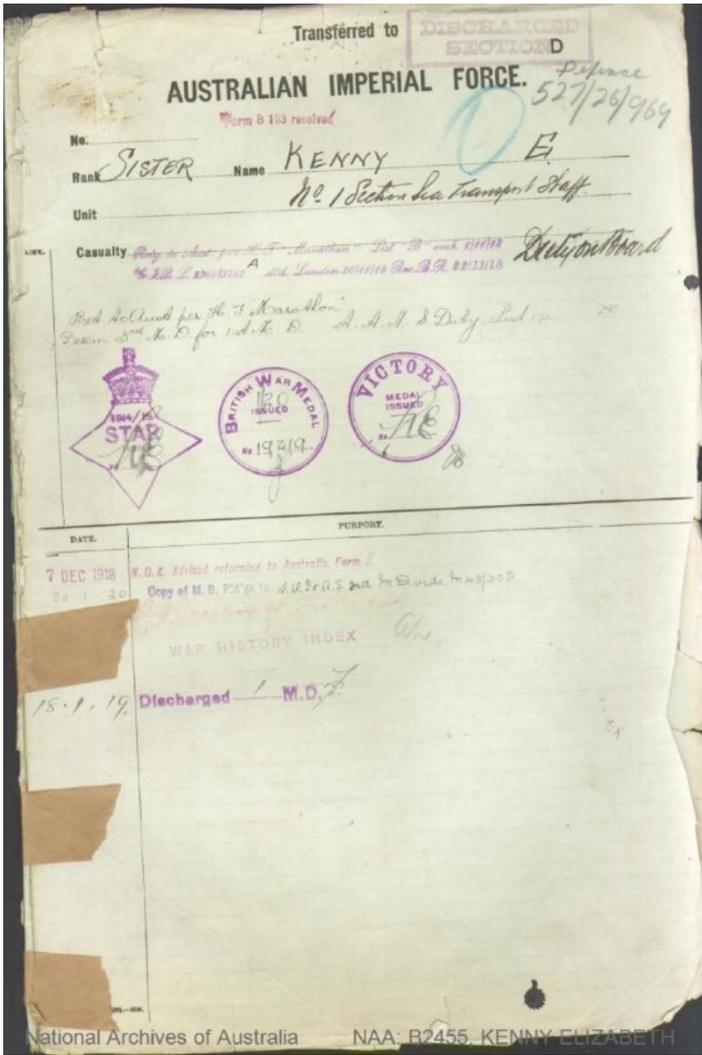
36

Figure 2 – Iron lungs for polio victims, 1930s-1950s. (From Rare Historical Photos)

³⁴ 1923, Studio Portrait of Elizabeth Kenny, photograph colour – film original transparency, Australian War Memorial. Accessed 21 Aug 2021, from: <<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1036051>>.

³⁵ National Archive of Australia: A1501, Photographic negative: B&W, acetate. 1959; A1903/3, Philippino orthopedic surgeon favours Australian treatment methods. Dr Jose A Tiongson, of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Manila, is spending six months at the Spastic Centre, Mosman, New South Wales, studying cerebral palsy treatment methods under the Colombo Plan. With the aid of Miss Julian Wileman, a physiotherapist, Dr Tiongson examines a full control brace on a small patient at the Spastic Centre, Mosman, NSW. The braces are made at the Centre [photographic image]. Accessed: 23 Aug 21 from: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8888173>

³⁶ Iron lungs for polio victims, 1930s-1950s – Unable to breathe, patients entered iron lungs, which made use of negative pressure ventilation to compress and depress the chest, simulating respiration. [Image]. Rare Historical Photos. Accessed: 23 Aug 21, from: < <https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/iron-lungs-polio-1930s-1950s/> >.



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Figure 3 – Documentation of the issue of Sister Elizabeth Kenny's three war medals. (From the collection of the National Archives of Australia)

³⁷ National Archives of Australia: Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office; B2455, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossier, 1914-1920, KENNY ELIZABETH, KENNY Elizabeth: Service Number – Sister: Place of Birth – Warialda NSW: Place of Enlistment – N/A: Next of Kin – (Mother) KENNY M, 1914-1920. Accessed: 24 Aug 2021 from: <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4420559&S=58&R=0>

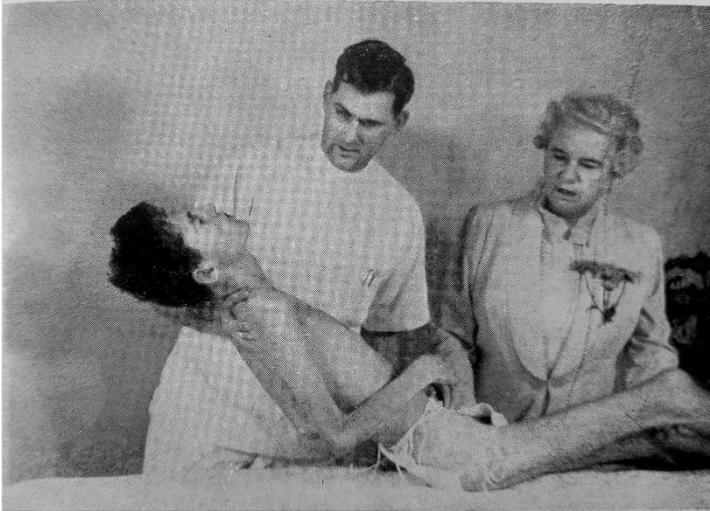


Figure 4 – ‘Patient John MacArthur after six months’ treatment for central nervous system involvement. Contractures may be noted by prominent tendons in the elbow and knee. He could not hold his head up or be pushed into a sitting position and could not feed himself.’

(From ‘My Battle and Victory’ by Sister Elizabeth Kenny Page 80-81).

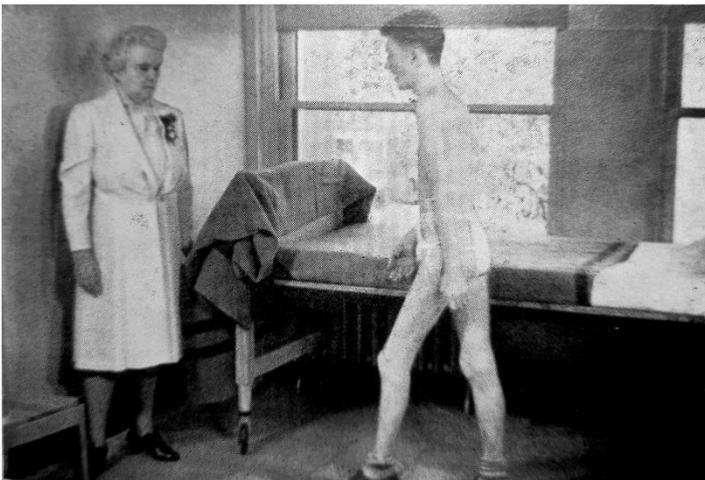


Figure 5 – ‘After six month’s treatment for peripheral involvement he was discharged from the Kenny Institute at the end of one year. He attended Yale University and is now a practising attorney and an ordinary useful citizen.’

(From ‘My Battle and Victory’ by Sister Elizabeth Kenny Page 80-81).

Mrs. Roosevelt And Sister Kenny Top List In Admiration Poll

PRINCETON (New Jersey), Thursday, (A.A.P.). — Eleanor Roosevelt and Australia’s Sister Elizabeth Kenny are the two women most admired by the American public, according to a survey just completed by the Gallup Poll.

Third was Clare Boothe Luce, then Helen Keller, Madame Chiang Kai Shek and Margaret Truman.

Figure 6 – Article from Page 3 of the Illawarra Daily Mercury, Wollongong, NSW: 1950-1954. Published Friday the 27th of January 1950.

The article describes Sister Kenny as the most admired woman in America, along with the former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

(Sourced from Trove)

³⁸ Kenny, E. 1955, My Battle and Victory, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

³⁹ Kenny, E. 1955, My Battle and Victory, Robert Hale Limited, London. [Accessed: 11 Aug 2021]

⁴⁰ 1950, Illawarra Daily Mercury (Wollongong, NSW: 1950 - 1954), 27 January, p. 3., Accessed: 25 Aug 2021, from: <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page15909600>>.

Sister Kenny Meets 'Sister Kenny'

SISTER Elizabeth Kenny, whose treatment for infantile paralysis has brought her prominence in American medical circles, meets Rosalind Russell, who will play the part of Sister Kenny in the motion picture on the life of the noted Australian nurse.

U.S. Office of War Information
Photo



Figure 7 – Article from page 14 of *The Daily News, Perth, WA: 1882-1950*. Published Friday 5th of March 1943.

Rosalind Russell plays Sister Kenny in the 1946 film 'Sister Kenny'.

(Sourced from Trove)

⁴¹ 1943 'Sister Kenny Meets 'Sister Kenny'', *The Daily News (Perth, WA: 1882 - 1950)*, 5 March, p. 15. (HOME EDITION), Accessed: 25 Aug 2021, from <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article78463910>>.