

# Obituary

It is with regret that we report the death, at the age of 90, of Miss Beryl Conyngham who was a foundation member of the Black Sash.

Beryl Conyngham was educated at Durban Girl's College and trained in medical and surgical nursing at Addington Hospital, Durban, and in midwifery at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Johannesburg.

After qualifying she nursed at the Boksburg Hospital, and later at Grey's Hospital, Pietermaritzburg.

She nursed privately in Cape Town from 1913. At the outbreak of the First World War she joined the SA Nursing Services and in 1915 was stationed at the Alexandra Military Hospital, Maitland. Later in the year she went overseas with the SA Nursing contingent and served in military hospitals in England and France, being mentioned in despatches during the battle of Paschendale.

In 1919, she was awarded the RRC (Royal Red Cross) for her war services. Following her demobilisation in the same year, she became Matron of Eskotene Nursing Home (now Harrowgate Hall) in Essenwood Road, working under Dr. Rabagliato from 1922 till 1926.

In 1927 Dr. Rabagliato went to Nairobi where he established another Eskotene Nursing Home again with Beryl Conyngham as Matron.

On his death, she returned to South Africa and was appointed Matron of the Taylor Bequest Hospital in Matatiele, East Griqualand. This hospital she equipped and ran for two years.

In 1936 she returned to Natal and the following year she took the post of house mistress of College House at Durban Girls' College and remained there until in 1940 she joined the military services in Kenya and was appointed Matron-in-Chief, with the rank of Colonel, in East Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius. She was awarded the RRC for the second time in 1942. On her return to South Africa at the end of 1943, she resumed her position at Durban Girls' College. On her retirement, she lived for a while at Botha's Hill and then at Resthaven where she died on July 6.

Miss Conyngham and her elder sister, Bertha, who died a few years ago, were both staunch members of the Black Sash and until she went to Resthaven, she attended Black Sash meetings regularly.

Miss Conyngham was greatly honoured in her profession having Hon. Life Membership conferred on her by Addingtonians in August, 1964 as well as Hon. Life Membership of the South African Nurses Association at its Golden Jubilee congress in October, 1964.

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We record with regret the deaths earlier in the year of Mrs. O. Clough and Mrs. S. E. Winnearls. Both had been long-standing and faithful members of the Black Sash in the Cape Western Region although they had been unable to attend meetings regularly for some time.

## Let the children decide

by  
DON MATTERA

LET US halt our quibbling  
of reform and racial preservation  
saying who belongs to what nation  
let the children decide  
for it is their world

Let us burn our uniforms  
of old scars and grievances  
recede our spent and battered dreams  
and remove the relics of crass tradition  
that hand on our malignant hearts  
and give the children a better start  
to decide for it is their world  
we are destroying  
Let us halt our quibbling . . .