Alice, Eleanor and Mary Gallin were three sisters who enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS), Alice and Eleanor in 1915 and Mary in 1917.

Brought up near Bendigo in a family of seven daughters and one son born to Patrick Gallin (railway line repairer) and his wife Mary (railway gatekeeper)

Followed their eldest sister into nursing training at the Melbourne Hospital in the early 1900s

Lived before the war at Elmore, 1101 Hoddle Street, East Melbourne, a Trained Nurses Home run by another sister, Mrs Annie Kelly (nee Gallin).

Alice
Left Melbourne in May 1915, aged 40; served in Egypt nursing troops wounded and ill from the Dardanelles campaign, then on the Western Front where she worked in surgical hospitals and casualty clearing stations
Hospitalised with anaemia, weight loss, measles and respiratory illness
Returned to Australia on transport duty in 1917, then served in India for the duration of the war
Nursed invalided and incapacitated soldiers at 11 Australian General Hospital, Caulfield after the war; lived for a time at 14 Powlett Street, East Melbourne
Died in Sandringham in 1966, aged 90.

Eleanor
Left Australia in August 1915, aged 42; served with her sister Alice in Egypt
Hospitalised with scarlet fever in 1916; was sent to India where she nursed troops with malaria
Transferred to England, then to the Western Front where her hospital treated waves of bomb blast and gas casualties, sometimes under air raid attack and in bitter winter cold
Joined by her sister Mary in 1918; both nursed through the influenza epidemic which claimed the lives of many of their patients
Returned to Australia in 1919, lived with Mary in rooms at Collins Place, Melbourne and continued nursing
Died in 1950 in East Melbourne, aged 78.

Mary
Enlisted during Alice’s temporary return to Australia in 1917
Declared her age to be 45, not 48, to avoid AANS age restrictions
Served in England, then in northern France in the same hospital as her sister Eleanor
Nursed wounded Australian troops in England again before returning to Australia in 1919
Lived with her sister Eleanor in rooms at Collins Place in the city and continued nursing
Died in 1940 in Melbourne, aged 75.

Alice Gallin, pictured in Table Talk, (27.5.1915)
Alice and Eleanor Gallin served in Egypt with 1 AGH, Cairo, 1915, (AWM H16957)
Eleanor Gallin (mid row, 2nd left) served in France with 2 AGH in 1918, (AWM E02112)