

# Elsie Janis Dies at 66

Retired Singer, Dancer  
in Hearts of Soldiers  
in Two World Wars



ELSIE JANIS

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Feb. 28 (AP)—Death has taken Elsie Janis, who sang and danced her way through the hearts of New York, Hollywood, and the boys of World War I. She succumbed Sunday night, quietly as she had lived during the past decade, in her home. Friends disclosed her passing in an announcement yesterday. She would have been 67 next Tuesday. Miss Janis spent nearly 50 years on the stage and in films. Her last few years were spent fighting illness.

### MOVIE IN 1940

For 20 years she was a top name on Broadway and on screen. In 1940 she made her last movie, "Women in the War," and retired. But she remained the same effervescent Elsie, trim of figure and still able to do cartwheels, until her health failed. She lived simply and passed up many a party to entertain for veterans in the soldiers' home not far from her own dwelling.

During the past few years she occupied the Beverly Hills house with a servant-chauffeur, Frank Remé, and her nurse-secretary, Elaine Lamb.

### PRIVATE SERVICES

Mary Pickford, one of her old friends, was there also when death came. Private funeral services will be conducted Thursday.

Elsie, born Elsie Janis Bierhower in Columbus, O., went on the stage at 8. She was a Broadway hit soon afterward as "Little Elsie," and at 11 she was a headliner in vaudeville.

During World War I she was "the sweetheart of the A. E. F.," appearing in hazardous advanced areas to entertain troops. She was the only woman entertainer permitted to visit front lines, and received several honorary citations.

Her service to soldiers was repeated in World War II.

### BROADWAY HITS

On Broadway she was a hit in "The Vanderbilt Cup," "The Fair Coed," "The Slim Princess" and other productions. Her films included "Close Harmony," for which she wrote the original story, and "Dark Victory," for which she wrote one of the songs, with Edmund Goulding, titled "Give Me Time for Tenderness."

British actor Basil Hallam, her fiance, was killed early in World War I. After her mother's death she became the wife of Gilbert Wilson, in 1932. They resided in Tarrytown, N. Y., until a few years ago. Wilson, 16 years her junior, is now a Tacoma, Wash., businessman.

"Elsie Janis was a valiant person, a great trouper, a great soul," Miss Pickford told a reporter yesterday. "She was certainly one of the greatest entertainers of all times . . . She had a beautiful career, a beautiful life."

Total	768
MOVING COUNTY:	495
Ash	7
Bedford	2
Berlin	
Dundee	
Erie	
Exeter	
Frenchtown	
Ida	
LaSalle	
London	
Milan	
Monroe	
Raisinville	
Summerfield	
Whiteford	

\*Population figures by wards not available.

1924

363

768
495
7
2
7
2
151
110
552
403