

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0448

Burchill, Dora (Elizabeth)

(1904 - 2003)

Born 4 January, 1904, Hawthorn Victoria Australia

Died 3 December, 2003

Occupation Author, Historian, Nurse

Summary

The daughter of Alholstane Chase and Rosina (née Sherrin), Elizabeth Burchill completed her education at the Camberwell State School and the Ladies Business College, Melbourne, as well as at Melbourne and Monash Universities.

Before World War II Burchill worked at the Australian Inland Mission, Innamincka, Labrador, Grenfell Mission, and was a member of the British Ambulance Unit, caring for refugee children during the Spanish Civil War. She enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service on 21 December 1939 and was one of the first nurses from Victoria to go to the Middle East with the 2nd Australian Imperial Force in 1940. After the war she combined nursing with writing – particularly about the area in which she had nursed. Her publications include *Australian Nurses since Nightingale: 1860-1990*, a largely biographical history published in 1992.

On 8 June 1998, Sister Elizabeth Burchill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to nursing, particularly as an historian, author and philanthropist. Also she has won the Jessie Lichfield Annual Award and the Veterans' Affairs Writers Award.

Events

1930 - 1930

Certificate in Midwifery from the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne

1933 - 1933

Certificate in Infant Welfare from the Tweddle Baby Hospital, Melbourne

1981 - 1981

Bachelor Arts from Monash University

1938 - 1938

Postgraduate study, diseases of the chest, from the Brompton Hospital, London

1946 - 1946

Publication *Labrador memories*

1960 - 1960

Publication *Innamincka*

1970 - 1970

Publication *New Guinea Nurse*

1958 - 1960

Nursing at Thursday Island

1952 - 1956

Charge sister and nursing sister for the Department of Health, Darwin, Northern Territory

1946 - 1947

Chief woman announcer at 3SR Radio, Shepparton, Victoria

1940 - 1946

Captain for the Australian Army Nursing Service, 2nd AIF

1938 - 1938

Nursing at Labrador

1937 - 1937

Member of the British Ambulance Unit, caring for refugee children during the Spanish Civil War

1930 - 1932

Nursing at the Australian Inland Mission, Innamincka

1969 - 1971

Nursing in United States of America and Canada

1929 - 1929

Certificates in General Nursing from the Prince Henry Hospital, Melbourne

1965 - 1967

Nursing in Europe

1961 - 1963

Nursing in New Guinea

1974 - 1974

Publication *Thursday Island Nurse*

1981 - 1981

Publication *The Paths I've trod*

1992 - 1992

Publication *Australian nurses since Nightingale: 1860-1990*

1972 - 1976

Member, Fellowship of Australian Writers

1972 - 1977

Foundation member of the Maroondah Singers

1975 - 1975

Winner Short Story Award from the Army Repatriation Project

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Resource Section

Burchill, Dora Elizabeth, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
<http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=416942>

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 2003, De Micheli, Catherine and Herd, Margaret, 2003

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

Book

Innamincka, Burchill, Elizabeth, 1960

The paths I've trod, Burchill, Elizabeth, 1981

Australian nurses since Nightingale 1860-1990, Burchill, Elizabeth, 1992

Thursday Island Nurse, Burchill, Elizabeth, 1972

Newspaper Article

A dedicated nurse who practised around the world, Hudson, Susan, 2004

Archival resources

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Sister Elizabeth Burchill, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 26 February 2003

Last modified 4 May 2009