

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0455

Abbott, Joan Stevenson (Judy)

(1899 - 1975)

Born	11 December, 1899, Normanby Hill Queensland Australia
Died	31 December, 1975, Bethesda Hospital Corinda Queensland Australia
Occupation	Nurse, Servicewoman

Summary

Judy Abbott was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 1st Class on 18 February 1943 for her leadership while matron with the 2/6 Australian General Hospital in the Middle East and Greece. After the war Abbott won the 1946 Florence Nightingale International Foundation scholarship, and studied at the Royal College of Nursing, London for 18 months. In 1948 she returned to her pre-war position on the tutorial staff at the Brisbane Hospital.

Abbott was appointed principal matron of the Citizen Military Forces and served with the 1st Camp Hospital, Brisbane, for a short time during the Korean War. From 1954 until 1956 she was president of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch) and a member of the Queensland State Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board. Nearing the end of her career, she worked as a staff nurse with the Commonwealth Savings Bank for five years and then in a doctors' surgery before retiring in 1970.

Judy Abbott fractured her spine in 1975 and suffered quadriplegia. After her death on 27th November her body was given to the school of anatomy, University of Queensland.

Events

1937 - 1937

Employed briefly by the Canberra Community Hospital

1937 - 1940

Travelled in England

1940 - 1940

Enlisted in the Australian Army at Windsor, Qld. Appointed matron of the 2/6 Australian General Hospital

1941 - 1941

Disembarked with 55 nurses and masseuses to Greece

1941 - 1941

Ordered to evacuate to Alexandria, Egypt

1941 - 1942

Temporarily located at Jerusalem

1943 - 1943

Awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal, 1st Class

1942 - 1942

2/6 A.G.H. expanded from 600 to 1500 beds

1942 - 1942

Nursing staff handled 615 admissions and 235 discharges in one day

1943 - 1943

Repatriated to Australia

1943 - 1943

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted to the Queensland Lines of Communication Area

1944 - 1944

Became principal matron

1946 - 1946

Winner of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation scholarship and studied for 18 months at the Royal College of Nursing, London

1929 - 1929

Employed as a tutor sister by the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board

1948 - 1948

Appointed principal matron of the Citizen Military Forces at the Northern Command headquarters

1948 - 1948

Member of the tutorial staff of the Brisbane Hospital

1954 - 1956

President of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch)

1955 - 1958

Member of the Queensland State Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board

1957 - 1957

Awarded the Florence Nightingale medal

1962 - 1962

Appointed honorary Colonel of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

1925 - 1925

Completed State child-welfare course

1926 - 1928

Worked in baby clinics

1923 - 1923

Awarded gold medal for theoretical and practical work

1924 - 1924

Completed general nursing certificate

1924 - 1924

Obtained midwifery certificate at the Lady Bowen Hospital, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane

1975 - 1975

Died: Bethesda Hospital and her body was given to the school of anatomy, University of Queensland

1899 - 1899

Born: daughter of John William and Isabella (née Stevenson) Abbott

1920 - 1920

Probationer at the Brisbane General Hospital

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1944, Alexander, Joseph A, 1944

Resource Section

Abbott, Joan Stevenson (1899-1975), Fulloon, Gillian, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130003b.htm>

ABBOTT, JOAN STEVENSON, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
<http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=36440>

Resource

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

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

ABBOTT JOAN STEVENSON : Service Number - QX6397 : Date of birth - 11 dEC 1899 : Place of birth - Brisbane Qld : Place of enlistment - Unknown : Next of Kin - Lewis, S

ABBOTT, Joan Stevenson: Date of Enlistment - 19 August 1940; Date of Discharge - 21 June 1946

The National Archives, Kew

Recommendation for Award for Abbott, Joan Stevenson Rank: Matron

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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