

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0488

Savage, Ellen

(1912 - 1985)

Born 17 October, 1912, Quirindi New South Wales Australia

Died 25 April, 1985

Occupation Servicewoman

Summary

For lifesaving after the ship *Centaur* was attacked by a Japanese submarine, Lieutenant Ellen Savage was awarded the George Medal on 22 August 1944.

Details

Ellen Savage joined the Australian Army on 18 November 1941. She was one of 12 nurses posted to the hospital ship *Centaur*. At dawn on 14 May 1943, while sailing between Sydney and Port Moresby, the ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the Queensland coast. Only having time to grab a lifejacket, Lieutenant (Lt) Savage jumped into the sea before the ship went down. Managing not to be sucked into the whirlpool, she found a piece of debris to help her stay afloat. She and other survivors drifted until they were able to tie-up with other rafts. During the thirty-four hours that they floated, before being picked up by the US destroyer *Mugford*, Lt Savage attended to the wounded without disclosing the extent of her own injuries.

For her courage Lt Ellen Savage became the second Australian woman to be awarded the George Medal.

Published resources

Resource Section

Sister Ellen Savage GM AANS, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2003,
<http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2003/centaur/ellen.htm>

SAVAGE, ELLEN, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=186373>

Book

Twentieth-Century Women of Courage, Escott, Beryl E, 1999

Australian women at war, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1984

Guns and brooches : Australian Army Nursing from the Boer War to the Gulf War, Bassett, Jan, 1992

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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Digital resources



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