Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0114

Sage, Annie Moriah

(1895 - 1969)

Born	17 August, 1895, Somerville Victoria Australia
Died	6 April, 1969
Occupation	Nurse

Summary

During Annie Sage's distinguished military nursing career in World War II she introduced the Australian Army Medical Women's Service Training Scheme and was closely involved in the planning and establishment of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps as an integral part of the Australian Regular Army and the Citizen Military Forces.

After the war she took an active and leading role in the establishment of the War Nurses Memorial Centre and the Centaur War Nurses Fund. Through her work with the (Royal) College of Nursing she made a very important contribution to postgraduate nursing education. She was also active in the negotiations that brought about the 1958 Nurses' Act which gave wider power to the registering authority, the Victorian Nursing Council. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross for her war work with the Australian Army Nursing Service in the Middle East in 1942 (for 'exceptional tact and administrative ability') and she was awarded the CBE (Military Division) in 1951.

Events

1943 - 1952
Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces

1895 - 1895
Born: daughter of Edward Arthur and Mary Anne (née Murray) Sage

1936 - 1939
Matron of the Victorian Baby Health Centres Association Training School

1939 - 1947
Member of the Australian Army Nursing Service

1941 - 1941
Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Imperial Forces

1947 - 1951
Lady Superintendent of the Women's Hospital, Carlton, Victoria

1924 - 1924
Registered as a midwife

1926 - 1926
Granted her nursing certificate

1940 - 1940
Sailed for the Middle East and served at Gaza Ridge, Palestine, and at Kantara, Egypt

1942 - 1942
Appointed a member of the Royal Red Cross

1943 - 1943
Promoted to colonel

1945 - 1945
Flew to Sumatra to assist with the repatriation of the 24 Australian nurses imprisoned by the Japanese

1947 - 1947
Awarded Florence Nightingale medal

1946 - 1946
Accompanied the Australian Military Forces to London for the Victory March

1949 - 1950
Founding president of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

1950 - 1952
Treasurer of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

1967 - 1967
Honorary fellow of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

1957 - 1962
Honorary colonel of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

1969 - 1969
Died and was cremated with Anglican rites with full military honours

1969 - 1969
College of Nursing established the Annie M Sage scholarship

1956 - 1956
Became a partner in a grocery shop at Somerville, Victoria

Published resources

Book

Matron A.M. Sage 'Sammie': A Tribute by Betty Jeffrey, Jeffrey, Agnes Betty, 1970?

White Coolies, Jeffrey, Betty, 1954

Revolutions and Rosewater: The Evolution of Nurse Registration in Victoria, 1923-1973, Minchin, Maureen Kathryn, 1977

Founders of the College, Schultz, Bart, 1989

In Pursuit of Nursing Excellence: A History of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia 1949-1999, Smith, Russel G., 1999

Victoria's Living Memorial: History of the Nurses Memorial Centre, 1948-1990, Williams, Jennifer A., 1991

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

The Ever open door : a history of the Royal Melbourne Hospital 1848-1998, Gregory, Alan, 1998

Colonel Best and her soldiers: The Story of the 33 years of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, Ollif, Lorna, 1985

A Woman's war : the exceptional life of Wilma Oram Young, AM, Angell, Barbara, 2003

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

Resource Section

Sage, Annie Moriah (1895 - 1969), Biographical Entry, 2002,
http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P004101b.htm

Sage, Annie Moriah (1895-1969), McCarthy, Janice, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160194b.htm

SAGE, ANNIE MORIAH, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2002,
http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=1204594

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

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

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

Archival resources

Nurses Memorial Centre
Annie Moriah Sage, Portrait

Royal College of Nursing, Australia, Archives
Annie Moriah Sage, Records

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Sage, Annie Moriah (Matron b: 1895 d: 1969)

[Campaign in Malaya and Singapore - Escape before and after capitulation and evacuation of civilians:]

Honours and Awards - Recommendations for New Year Honours List 1946

End of War Awards - submissions by [Quartermaster-General and Director-General of Medical Services]

Group portrait of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) nurses, who were former prisoners of war (POWs), ob board the hospital ship Manunda on its arrival in Australia

National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office
Sage, Annie Moriah, Colonel RRC CBE

SAGE, Annie Moriah - Pay ledger and history cards [4], allotment cards [3], tax deduction cards [1]

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Miss A M Sage - Honour

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Annie M. Sage, Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, 1942-1952, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details
Austehc

Created   16 November 2001
Last modified 28 January 2025