Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0436

Anderson, Margaret Irene

(1915 - 2009)

Born	19151211, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	20090417
Occupation	Servicewoman

Summary

Margaret Anderson enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service at Dandenong (Victoria) on 19 September 1941.

On 12 February 1942, three days before the fall of Singapore, the freighter, *Empire Star* sailed from Singapore Harbour. The ship which normally had an allocation of space for 20 passengers was carrying over 2100 people. While on route to Batavia the ship came under enemy fire and received three direct hits. During one of the raids two of the Australian nursing staff on board, Sisters Margaret Anderson and Vera Torney, came on deck to attend to the wounded. They protected their patients by covering them with their bodies.

Staff Nurse Margaret Anderson was awarded the George Medal on 22 September 1942 for her bravery when the ship was attacked by enemy aircraft. Staff Nurse Vera Torney was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Military).

On 4 June 1946 Lieutenant Margaret Anderson was discharged from the Australian Army Nursing Service.

Published resources

Resource Section
Anderson, Margaret Irene, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=470770

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

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Honours and Awards - Recommendations for Immediate award Staff Nurse Margaret Anderson and Staff Nurse Vera Torney

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Digital resources

Title: Sister Margaret Anderson
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