Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0448

Burchill, Dora (Elizabeth)

(1904 - 2003)

Born	19040104, Hawthorn Victoria Australia
Died	20031203
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

1981 - 1981
Bachelor Arts from Monash University

1940 - 1946
Captain for the Australian Army Nursing Service, 2nd AIF

1933 - 1933
Certificate in Infant Welfare from the Tweddle Baby Hospital, Melbourne

1930 - 1930
Certificate in Midwifery from the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne

1929 - 1929
Certificates in General Nursing from the Prince Henry Hospital, Melbourne

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

1972 - 1977
Foundation member of the Maroondah Singers

1937 - 1937

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

1972 - 1976
Member, Fellowship of Australian Writers

1938 - 1938
Nursing at Labrador

1930 - 1932
Nursing at the Australian Inland Mission, Innamincka

1958 - 1960
Nursing at Thursday Island

1965 - 1967
Nursing in Europe

1961 - 1963
Nursing in New Guinea

1969 - 1971
Nursing in United States of America and Canada

1938 - 1938
Postgraduate study, diseases of the chest, from the Brompton Hospital, London

1992 - 1992
Publication *Australian nurses since Nightingale: 1860-1990*

1960 - 1960
Publication *Innamincka*

1946 - 1946
Publication *Labrador memories*

1970 - 1970
Publication *New Guinea Nurse*

1981 - 1981
Publication *The Paths I've trod*

1974 - 1974
Publication *Thursday Island Nurse*

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.ww2roll.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
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