Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0454

Laidlaw, Annie Ina

(1889 - 1978)

Born	18890123, Lake Wallace Station, near Edenhope Victoria Australia
Died	19780913, McKinnon Victoria Australia
Occupation	Matron, Servicewoman

Summary

Annie Laidlaw devoted her life to nursing and served in both world wars. She completed her nursing training at the Children's Hospital (later Royal), Melbourne. In 1917 Laidlaw joined the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) and served in military hospitals at Bombay and Poona.

After the war Laidlaw returned to the Children's Hospital as ward sister. In 1925 she was granted a year of leave to complete midwifery training at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney. Returning to Melbourne, Annie became assistant lady superintendent (assistant-matron) at the Children's Hospital. In 1930 she was promoted to lady superintendent of the hospital's orthopaedic section at Frankston. She held this position for 12 years.

Selected to head the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service (RANNS) in 1942 she was in charge of the Flinders Naval Depot hospital as well as being in charge of the RANNS. After her discharge from the navy Laidlaw returned to her position at the Children's Hospital until 1950.

From 1951-52 she worked in London. On her return to Melbourne she took the position of Matron at the Freemason's Homes of Victoria, Prahran until her retirement in 1957. Aged 89, Annie Laidlaw died on 13 September 1978 at McKinnon, Victoria.

Events

1926 - 1926
Appointed assistant lady superintendent (assistant-matron) at the Children's Hospital

1889 -
Born: daughter of James Adam and Annie (nee Gilchrist) Laidlaw

1951 - 1952
Home sister at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London

1917 - 1919
Member of the Australian Army Nursing Service

1925 - 1925
Midwifery training at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney

1943 - 1943
Promoted from superintending sister to matron

1930 - 1942
Promoted to lady superintendent (matron) of the Children's Hospital orthopaedic section at Frankston, Victoria

1953 - 1957
Resident matron at the Freemasons' Homes of Victoria, Prahran

1957 - 1957
Retired and lived in the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia's home for nurses at RSL House, St Kilda

1942 - 1946
Served with the Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service

1914 - 1917
Trained as a general nurse at the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic.

1919 - 1925
Ward sister at the Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic.

1946 - 1950
Worked with the orthopaedic division of the Children's Hospital

Published resources

Resource Section
Laidlaw, Annie Ina (1889-1978), Vines, Patricia C, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150059b.htm

LAIDLAW, ANNIE INA, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=N&VeteranID=1192378

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

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

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

Book Section
World War II : Nursing Services, Jacobson, Gwendoline

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
LAIDLAW ANNIE INA : Date of birth - 23 Jan 1889 : Place of birth - EDENHOPE VIC : Place of enlistment - MELBOURNE : Next of Kin - GLASSON P

Author Details
Anne Heywood

Created 7 March 2003
Last modified 28 January 2025