Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0455

Abbott, Joan Stevenson (Judy)

(1899 - 1975)

Born	18991211, Normanby Hill Queensland Australia
Died	19751231, Bethesda Hospital Corinda Queensland Australia
Occupation	Nurse, Servicewoman

Summary

Judy Abbott was awarded the Royal Red Cross, 1st Class on 18 February 1943 for her leadership while matron with the 2/6 Australian General Hospital in the Middle East and Greece. After the war Abbott won the 1946 Florence Nightingale International Foundation scholarship, and studied at the Royal College of Nursing, London for 18 months. In 1948 she returned to her pre-war position on the tutorial staff at the Brisbane Hospital.

Abbott was appointed principal matron of the Citizen Military Forces and served with the 1st Camp Hospital, Brisbane, for a short time during the Korean War. From 1954 until 1956 she was president of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch) and a member of the Queensland State Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board. Nearing the end of her career, she worked as a staff nurse with the Commonwealth Savings Bank for five years and then in a doctors' surgery before retiring in 1970.

Judy Abbott fractured her spine in 1975 and suffered quadriplegia. After her death on 27th November her body was given to the school of anatomy, University of Queensland.

Events

1942 - 1942
2/6 A.G.H. expanded from 600 to 1500 beds

1962 - 1962
Appointed honorary Colonel of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

1948 - 1948
Appointed principal matron of the Citizen Military Forces at the Northern Command headquarters

1923 - 1923
Awarded gold medal for theoretical and practical work

1957 - 1957
Awarded the Florence Nightingale medal

1943 - 1943
Awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal, 1st Class

1944 - 1944
Became principal matron

1899 - 1899
Born: daughter of John William and Isabella (née Stevenson) Abbott

1924 - 1924

Completed general nursing certificate

1925 - 1925
Completed State child-welfare course

1975 - 1975
Died: Bethesda Hospital and her body was given to the school of anatomy, University of Queensland

1941 - 1941
Disembarked with 55 nurses and masseuses to Greece

1929 - 1929
Employed as a tutor sister by the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board

1937 - 1937
Employed briefly by the Canberra Community Hospital

1940 - 1940
Enlisted in the Australian Army at Windsor, Qld. Appointed matron of the 2/6 Australian General Hospital

1955 - 1958
Member of the Queensland State Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board

1948 - 1948
Member of the tutorial staff of the Brisbane Hospital

1942 - 1942
Nursing staff handled 615 admissions and 235 discharges in one day

1924 - 1924
Obtained midwifery certificate at the Lady Bowen Hospital, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane

1941 - 1941
Ordered to evacuate to Alexandria, Egypt

1954 - 1956
President of the Australasian Trained Nurses' Association (Queensland Branch)

1920 - 1920
Probationer at the Brisbane General Hospital

1943 - 1943
Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and posted to the Queensland Lines of Communication Area

1943 - 1943
Repatriated to Australia

1941 - 1942
Temporarily located at Jerusalem

1937 - 1940
Travelled in England

1946 - 1946
Winner of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation scholarship and studied for 18 months at the Royal College of Nursing, London

1926 - 1928
Worked in baby clinics

Published resources

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

Resource Section
Abbott, Joan Stevenson (1899-1975), Fulloon, Gillian, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130003b.htm

ABBOTT, JOAN STEVENSON, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=846167&c=WW2

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

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
ABBOTT JOAN STEVENSON : Service Number - QX6397 : Date of birth - 11 dEC 1899 : Place of birth - Brisbane Qld : Place of enlistment - Unknown : Next of Kin - Lewis, S

ABBOTT, Joan Stevenson; Date of Enlistment - 19 August 1940; Date of Discharge - 21 June 1946

The National Archives, Kew
Recommendation for Award for Abbott, Joan Stevenson Rank: Matron

Author Details
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