

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0455

## Abbott, Joan Stevenson (Judy)

(1899 - 1975)

<b>Born</b>	11 December, 1899, Normanby Hill Queensland Australia
<b>Died</b>	31 December, 1975, Bethesda Hospital Corinda Queensland Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	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

#### 1937 - 1937

Employed briefly by the Canberra Community Hospital

#### 1937 - 1940

Travelled in England

#### 2040 - 2040

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

#### 2041 - 2041

Disembarked with 55 nurses and masseuses to Greece

#### 2041 - 2041

Ordered to evacuate to Alexandria, Egypt

#### 2041 - 2042

Temporarily located at Jerusalem

#### 2043 - 2043

Awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal, 1st Class

#### 2042 - 2042

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

#### 2042 - 2042

Nursing staff handled 615 admissions and 235 discharges in one day

**2043 - 2043**

Repatriated to Australia

**2043 - 2043**

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

**2044 - 2044**

Became principal matron

**1946 - 1946**

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

**1929 - 1929**

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

**2048 - 2048**

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

**1948 - 1948**

Member of the tutorial staff of the Brisbane Hospital

**1954 - 1956**

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

**1955 - 1958**

Member of the Queensland State Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board

**1957 - 1957**

Awarded the Florence Nightingale medal

**1962 - 1962**

Appointed honorary Colonel of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

**1925 - 1925**

Completed State child-welfare course

**1926 - 1928**

Worked in baby clinics

**1923 - 1923**

Awarded gold medal for theoretical and practical work

**1924 - 1924**

Completed general nursing certificate

**1924 - 1924**

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

**1975 - 1975**

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

**1970 - 1970**

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

**1920 - 1920**

Probationer at the Brisbane General Hospital

## 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,  
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=36440>

### 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

Anne Heywood

**Created** 19 March 2003

**Last modified** 29 October 2018