Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0576

Docker, Betty Bristow

(1920 - 2001)

Born	19200326, St Kilda Victoria Australia
Died	20011231
Occupation	Matron, Nurse, Servicewoman

Summary

The funeral service for former Group Officer Betty Docker, aged 81, was held at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Director of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) Docker trained at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. She then joined the hospital staff before enlisting with the RAAFNS in 1944. During her time in the service she fought for change so married women could continue on as nurses and women could reach the highest ranks – something not allowed previously. After 28 years with the RAAFNS Docker retired in 1975 having been awarded The Royal Red Cross (2nd Class), 1968; Royal Red Cross, 1970; the Florence Nightingale Medal, 1971 and the National Medal in 1977.

Events

1965 - 1967
Assistant to the Director of Nursing Service

1971 - 1971
Awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal for distinguished service

1977 - 1977
Awarded the National Medal

1968 - 1968
Awarded the Royal Red Cross (2nd Class) Medal

1970 - 1970
Awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal

1939 - 1939
Commenced nursing training at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

1969 - 1975
Director of Nursing Service

1944 - 1944
Joined the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS)

1967 - 1969
Matron of No 4 RAAF Hospital, Butterworth, Malaysia

1944 - 1950
Posted to Aeromedical Evacuation Duties and Japan Occupation Force

1969 - 1969
Presented with the Queen’s Honorary Nursing Sister (QHNS) Award

1975 - 1975
Retired from the RAAFNS, after 28 years of service

1943 - 1944
Staff member at the Alfred Hospital

1967 - 1969
Supervised the flight nursing staff to and from Vietnam

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia, 1971, Legge, J S, 1971

Newspaper Article
A true Nightingale in a shining uniform, Glendinning, Lee, 2001

Book
Story of the RAAF nursing service : 1940-1990, Halstead, Gay., 1994

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Commandant Janice Webb (later Hilton), Australian Red Cross (ARC) (left), and Wing Officer Betty Docker, Matron of 4 RAAF Hospital at Butterworth, Malaysia

Author Details
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Digital resources



Title: Commandant Janice Webb (later Hilton), Australian Red Cross (AR
Hospital at Butterworth, Malaysia
Type: Image
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