Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0591

Berry, Margaret Maude

(1906 - 2000)

Born	19060927, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Died	20000916, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Occupation	Kindergarten Principal, Servicewoman

Summary

Margaret Berry's distinguished career in the Australian armed forces began in October 1941. She was one of the original officers of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and was in charge of the first AWZS training school at Mt Lofty. Other posts included being Assistant Controller with the Tasmanian Line of Command Area, the Second Australian Army and the 4th Military District.

Upon leaving the AWAS in 1947 with the rank of major, Berry travelled to Britain and joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC). Commissioned with the rank of captain, she is thought to be the only Australian woman to have achieved this. Her experiences in the WRAC included:

> company command in Northern Ireland,
> commanding officer in Kent,
> promotion to lieutenant-colonel with a posting to Egypt where she commanded a WRAC battalion of 400 women,
> service as adviser to the Commander-in-Chief on matters relating to women,
> a tour of duty to Cyprus, including the 1956 transfer of the WRAC to Cyprus.

Margaret Berry returned to Australia in 1958 and devoted much of her time to caring for her mother and then her brother. She died in the same North Adelaide street she was born in, in September 2000.

Her family remembers her as 'an incredibly worldly woman, always up to date yet timeless.'

Details

Margaret Berry was educated at Yoothamurra Private school, Adelaide School of Art, Adelaide Kindergarten Training Teaching College and Medway School of Art, Rochester, England. She worked as a Kindergarten Director in Australia, India and England before joining the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during the Second World War.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia, 1947, Chisholm, Alec H, 1947

Author Details
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