

# The Australian Women's Register

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Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: IMP0114

## Sage, Annie Moriah

(1895 - 1969)

Born	17 August, 1895, Somerville Victoria Australia
Died	6 April, 1969
Occupation	Nurse

### Summary

During Annie Sage's distinguished military nursing career in World War II she introduced the Australian Army Medical Women's Service Training Scheme and was closely involved in the planning and establishment of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps as an integral part of the Australian Regular Army and the Citizen Military Forces.

After the war she took an active and leading role in the establishment of the War Nurses Memorial Centre and the Centaur War Nurses Fund. Through her work with the (Royal) College of Nursing she made a very important contribution to postgraduate nursing education. She was also active in the negotiations that brought about the 1958 Nurses' Act which gave wider power to the registering authority, the Victorian Nursing Council. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross for her war work with the Australian Army Nursing Service in the Middle East in 1942 (for 'exceptional tact and administrative ability') and she was awarded the CBE (Military Division) in 1951.

## Events

### **1943 - 1952**

Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces

### **1895 - 1895**

Born: daughter of Edward Arthur and Mary Anne (née Murray) Sage

### **1936 - 1939**

Matron of the Victorian Baby Health Centres Association Training School

### **1939 - 1947**

Member of the Australian Army Nursing Service

### **1941 - 1941**

Matron-in-Chief of the Australian Imperial Forces

### **1947 - 1951**

Lady Superintendent of the Women's Hospital, Carlton, Victoria

### **1924 - 1924**

Registered as a midwife

### **1926 - 1926**

Granted her nursing certificate

### **1940 - 1940**

Sailed for the Middle East and served at Gaza Ridge, Palestine, and at Kantara, Egypt

### **1942 - 1942**

Appointed a member of the Royal Red Cross

### **1943 - 1943**

Promoted to colonel

### **1945 - 1945**

Flew to Sumatra to assist with the repatriation of the 24 Australian nurses imprisoned by the Japanese

### **1947 - 1947**

Awarded Florence Nightingale medal

### **1946 - 1946**

Accompanied the Australian Military Forces to London for the Victory March

### **1949 - 1950**

Founding president of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

### **1950 - 1952**

Treasurer of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

### **1967 - 1967**

Honorary fellow of the College of Nursing, Melbourne

### **1957 - 1962**

Honorary colonel of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

### **1969 - 1969**

Died and was cremated with Anglican rites with full military honours

### **1969 - 1969**

College of Nursing established the Annie M Sage scholarship

### **1956 - 1956**

Became a partner in a grocery shop at Somerville, Victoria

## Published resources

### Book

Matron A.M. Sage 'Sammie': A Tribute by Betty Jeffrey, Jeffrey, Agnes Betty, 1970?

White Coolies, Jeffrey, Betty, 1954

Revolutions and Rosewater: The Evolution of Nurse Registration in Victoria, 1923-1973, Minchin, Maureen Kathryn, 1977

Founders of the College, Schultz, Bart, 1989

In Pursuit of Nursing Excellence: A History of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia 1949-1999, Smith, Russel G., 1999

Victoria's Living Memorial: History of the Nurses Memorial Centre, 1948-1990, Williams, Jennifer A., 1991

Australian women at war, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1984

The Ever open door : a history of the Royal Melbourne Hospital 1848-1998, Gregory, Alan, 1998

Colonel Best and her soldiers: The Story of the 33 years of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, Ollif, Lorna, 1985

A Woman's war : the exceptional life of Wilma Oram Young, AM, Angell, Barbara, 2003

Guns and brooches : Australian Army Nursing from the Boer War to the Gulf War, Bassett, Jan, 1992

### Resource Section

Sage, Annie Moriah (1895 - 1969), Biographical Entry, 2002,  
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P004101b.htm>

Sage, Annie Moriah (1895-1969), McCarthy, Janice, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160194b.htm>

SAGE, ANNIE MORIAH, Department of Veterans Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=1204594>

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

### 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

### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

## Archival resources

### **Nurses Memorial Centre**

Annie Moriah Sage, Portrait

### **Royal College of Nursing, Australia, Archives**

Annie Moriah Sage, Records

### **Australian War Memorial, Research Centre**

Sage, Annie Moriah (Matron b: 1895 d: 1969)

[Campaign in Malaya and Singapore - Escape before and after capitulation and evacuation of civilians:]

Honours and Awards - Recommendations for New Year Honours List 1946

End of War Awards - submissions by [Quartermaster-General and Director-General of Medical Services]

Group portrait of Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) nurses, who were former prisoners of war (POWs), on board the hospital ship Manunda on its arrival in Australia

### **National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office**

Sage, Annie Moriah, Colonel RRC CBE

SAGE, Annie Moriah - Pay ledger and history cards [4], allotment cards [3], tax deduction cards [1]

### **National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra**

Miss A M Sage - Honour

### **National Library of Australia**

[Biographical cuttings on Annie M. Sage, Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, 1942-1952, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

## **Author Details**

Austehc

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