

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0199

Torney, Vera Alexandra

(1916 - 2006)

Born 19160727, St Arnaud Victoria Australia

Died 20060619

Occupation Servicewoman

Summary

On 12 February 1942 the *Empire Star* sailed from Singapore harbour. The ship which normally had an allocation of space for 20 passengers was carrying over 2100 people. While on route to Batavia, the ship came under enemy fire and received three direct hits. During one of the raids, two of the Australian nursing staff on board, Sister Vera A Torney and Margaret Anderson came on deck to attend to the wounded. They protected their patients by covering them with their bodies. Staff Nurse Vera Torney was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Military) on 22 September 1942 for her work with the Australian Army Nursing Service. Staff Nurse Margaret Anderson received the George Medal.

Published resources

Book

Twentieth-Century Women of Courage, Escott, Beryl E, 1999

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

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

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

Sisters under fire, Burgess, Colin, 2025

Resource Section

Berry, Vera Alexandra, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=470771>

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>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office

[Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists \[Applications for Australian Army Nursing Service \(A.A.N.S.\)\] - V A Torney \[Box 62\]](#)

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

[Honours and Awards - Recommendations for Immediate award Staff Nurse Margaret Anderson and Staff Nurse Vera Torney](#)

Author Details

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Digital resources



Title: Sister Vera Torney

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