Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00124

Banner, Esma Mavis

(1910 - 2001)

Born	19100728, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	20010630, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Refugee support worker

Summary

Esma Banner worked in Europe for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) as an employment officer (c. 1945-50) and a welfare officer in a displaced persons camp (c. 1950-51).

Details

Esma Banner left school at fourteen to look after her sick mother. She attended a business college for one year in 1926. She then found a position as a shorthand writer and typist for a business and moved quickly through the ranks to the position of secretary to the Director. She worked there for thirteen years. When her mother died in 1940 she worked with her father in his haulage business as well as for a Sydney solicitor.

Esma Banner started work with United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in 1944 in its Sydney office. From 15th to 20th February she attended the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Council for the Far East at Lapstone Hotel, Glenbrook, NSW. She then worked in the Melbourne office of UNRRA for a period of three months. Whilst there she was selected to work in Germany with the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) and left Sydney for London on 28 June 1945. Her position as Area Employment Officer involved travel to places such as Munich, Nellingen, Ludwigsburg, Pforzbeim and Traunstein. Her final position in Germany was in a Displaced Persons' Camp in Pforzheim.

She returned to Australia in 1951. A few years later Ms Banner applied to the University of Sydney for a Diploma Course in Social Work and was accepted. On completion of her course she worked for the Department of Social Security for eighteen years at which point she retired.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, New South Wales Office, Sydney
Papers of Esma Banner

Museums Victoria
Esma Banner collection

Author Details
Cath Styles

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