

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0473

Christie, Joan Lora

(1918 - 2001)

Born	4 November, 1918, Dubbo New South Wales Australia
Died	31 December, 2001, Dubbo New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Educator, Local government councillor, Servicewoman

Summary

Joan Christie was promoted to the rank of Major during the Second World War. In 1943 she worked in New Guinea supervising members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service.

Joan is acknowledged as the driving force behind the establishment of both the Orana Community TAFE College and the Dubbo campus of Charles Sturt University.

Details

Major Joan Christie was selected to act as an Assistant Commandant to go to the Middle East with a second draft of Voluntary Aids in 1941. The operation was cancelled due to Japanese military activity in the South West Pacific area.

Based at 113 Australian General Hospital as a Company Commander Joan Christie became a full-time Voluntary Aid in November 1941. She transferred to the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (A.A.M.W.S.) when it was formed in December 1942, and was promoted to the rank of Major on the 1st March 1943. That same month she was appointed Deputy to Lt Col. Kathleen Best who was, at the time, the Adjutant-General of the Women's Services.

Having relinquished her command at 113 A.G.H. in March 1943, Major Christie went to New Guinea in charge of the first draft of A.A.M.W.S. in December 1943, and shortly after her arrival she was appointed Assistant Controller, South West Pacific Area. She was responsible for over 400 women in the Pacific region.

When she returned from New Guinea in 1944 Major Christie resumed her command at 113 A.G.H. In May 1946 she represented the A.A.M.W.S. as part of the Australian contingent in the Victory Pageant.

She married in 1947 and raised four children, along with having an active life in the local community, serving as a local councillor. She was a great supporter of adult education and the Technical and Further Education system.

Events

1966 - 1980

Co-founder and Chairperson, Dubbo Educational Association

1972 - 1972

Member, National Urban & Regional Development Authority | Cities Commission

1968 - 1980

Inaugural Member, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

1971 - 1977

Alderman, Dubbo City Council

1973 - 1974

Member, Open University Committee – Karmel Report

1974 - 1980

Deputy Chair, Management Board, Orana Educational Association

1975 - 1977

Member, Macquarie Regional Library Committee

1975 - 1979

Member, Board of Continuing Education, University of New England

1978 - 1983

Member, TAFE Council NSW

1979 - 1983

Member, Board of Adult Education NSW

1984 - 1984

'Joan Flint Park' (adjacent to Dubbo TAFE College) named by Dubbo City Council

1989 - 1989

Awarded the Inaugural National TAFE Gold Medal | Mayoral Civic Reception, Dubbo

1990 - 1990

Joan Flint Building' – Opening at Orana Community College, Dubbo campus

1994 - 1994

Awarded Doctorate of the University (honoris causa), Charles Sturt University

2001 - 2001

Died in Dubbo

1972 - 1979

Deputy Chairperson, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

1979 - 1979

Chairperson, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

1918 - 1918

Born to Wilfred and Beatrix Christie in Dubbo

1934 - 1935

Captain of Coolabah House, Dubbo High School

1935 - 1935

Captain and Dux of Dubbo High School

1940 - 1940

Ladies Doubles Hardcourt Tennis Champion, NSW

1939 - 1940

Co-founder and Commandant, Dubbo Voluntary Aid Detachment, No. 226

1941 - 1942

Officer-in-Charge, Australian Army Medical Womens Service, 113 AGH

1943 - 1943

Aide-de-Camp to Lady Zara Gowrie, wife of Governor General of Australia

1943 - 1943

Officer-In-Charge, AAMWS, New Guinea force

1943 - 1943

Assistant Controller, AAMWS, South West Pacific Area

1943 - 1943

Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Women's Service, Australian Army

1944 - 1944

Officer-In-Charge, AAMWS 113 AGH Concord Repatriation Hospital

1946 - 1946

Representative AAMWS Officer, London Victory March, June 1946

1947 - 1947

Married Robert Ellice-Flint, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Dubbo

1947 - 2001

Mother of four boys – Gordon '47-, Ken '49-'52, Wilfred '53-, David '55-'79

1965 - 1980

Member, Dubbo Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Committee

1980 - 1983

Chairperson, Orana Community College Council

1984 - 1984

Awarded Medal of the Order of Australia – for services to Education & Community

Published resources**Resource Section**

CHRISTIE, JOAN LORA, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=186379>

Edited Book

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

Book

From blue to khaki: The enlisted voluntary aids and others who became members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and served from 19421-1951, Mount-Batten, Betty J, 1995

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

Honours and Awards - Recommendations for New Year Honours List 1946

Lieutenant G. Mainwaring, war artist, painting Major Joan Christie, AWAS, on board HMAS Shropshire

Swimming carnival

Members of the Australian Victory Contingent on a visit to Berlin, in front of Frederick the Great's Palace, 'Sans Souci', Potsdam

Members of the Australian Victory Contingent on a visit to Berlin

Winners of the nurses and Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) championships chat together after their victories

Squadron Officer Doris Carter, Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force; Squadron Leader P. Swan DFC; Flight Lieutenant J. Hooke DFC, RAAF, and Major Joan L. Christie of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

CHRISTIE JOAN LORA : Service Number - NX76591 : Date of birth - 04 Nov 1918 : Place of birth - DUBBO NSW : Place of enlistment - NSW : Next of Kin - CHRISTIE WILFRED

National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office

Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists [Applications for a Commission in the A.A.M.C. Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.)] - J L Christie [Box 69]

Author Details

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