

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0488

## Savage, Ellen

(1912 - 1985)

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<b>Born</b>	17 October, 1912, Quirindi New South Wales Australia
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<b>Died</b>	25 April, 1985
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<b>Occupation</b>	Servicewoman
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### Summary

For lifesaving after the ship *Centaur* was attacked by a Japanese submarine, Lieutenant Ellen Savage was awarded the George Medal on 22 August 1944.

### Details

Ellen Savage joined the Australian Army on 18 November 1941. She was one of 12 nurses posted to the hospital ship *Centaur*. At dawn on 14 May 1943, while sailing between Sydney and Port Moresby, the ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the Queensland coast. Only having time to grab a lifejacket, Lieutenant (Lt) Savage jumped into the sea before the ship went down. Managing not to be sucked into the whirlpool, she found a piece of debris to help her stay afloat. She and other survivors drifted until they were able to tie-up with other rafts. During the thirty-four hours that they floated, before being picked up by the US destroyer *Mugford*, Lt Savage attended to the wounded without disclosing the extent of her own injuries.

For her courage Lt Ellen Savage became the second Australian woman to be awarded the George Medal.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Sister Ellen Savage GM AANS, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2003,  
<http://www.dva.gov.au/media/publicat/2003/centaur/ellen.htm>

SAVAGE, ELLEN, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=186373>

#### 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

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Author Details

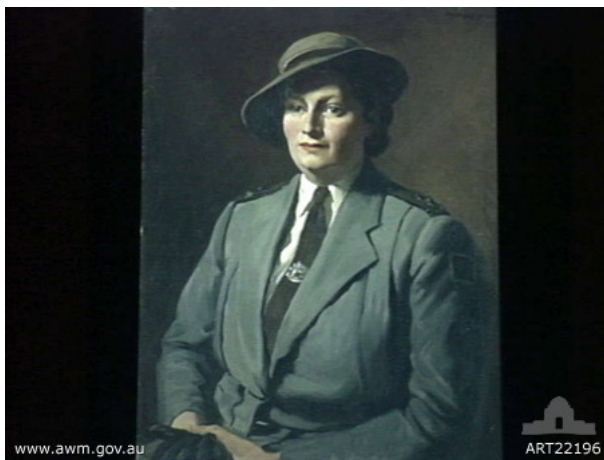
Anne Heywood

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## Digital resources



**Title:** Sister Ellen Savage  
**Type:** Image  
**Date:** 3 May, 2023



**Title:** AWE0488gb.jpg  
**Type:** Image  
**Date:** 3 May, 2023