

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: IMP0157

# Lawrence, Marjorie Florence

(1909 - 1979)

Born	17 February, 1909, Dean's Marsh Victoria Australia
Died	14 January, 1979
Occupation	Singer, Soprano

## Summary

Opera singer Marjorie Lawrence contracted poliomyelitis in 1941 and was almost crippled in both legs, but continued to perform using a wheel chair placed on stage. During World War II she entertained the troops and was awarded the cross of the Legion d' Honneur (1946) by the French government. On 31 December 1976 Marjorie Lawrence was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for her services to the performing arts.

## Events

### **1945 - 1945**

Entertained troops in Europe

### **2041 - 2041**

Married Dr Thomas King, New York

### **1960 -**

Professor of Voice and Opera Workshop, Southern Illinois University

### **1971 - 1971**

Opera Theatre Southern Illinois University named for Marjorie Lawrence

### **1942 - 1942**

First public appearance as Venus in *Tannhauser* at the Metropolitan

### **1944 - 1944**

Entertained troops in Australia and South West Pacific (50,000 miles wheel concert tour)

### **1928 - 1928**

Winner of the *Sun* Aria Competition

### **1932 - 1932**

Debut with Monte Carlo Opera Company as Elisabeth in *Tannhauser*

### **1932 - 1932**

Performed with the Paris Grand Opera Company as Ortrud in *Lohengrin*

### **1935 - 1935**

Performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company New York as Brunnhilde

### **1939 - 1939**

Completed a concert tour of Australia, performing at Winchelsea, Victoria first

### **1941 - 1941**

Contracted poliomyelitis while in Mexico

## Published resources

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Edited Book**

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

Who's Who in Australia, 1971, Legge, J S, 1971

### **Book**

Women Make Australian History : Women in Wartime 1914-1918, 1939-1945, Dugan, Michael and Gunter, Anne, 1996

### **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 Section**

Lawrence, Marjorie Florence (1907 - 1979), Griffin, Helga M., 2006,

<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100013b.htm>

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection**

[Papers of Marjorie Lawrence, 1938-1968 \[manuscript\]](#)

### **National Library of Australia**

[Great Australian women of the 20th century \[electronic resource\]](#)

## **Author Details**

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