

Bernice Loughrey (1884 - 1945)

Bernice Loughrey was clearly a woman of some determination, sailing overseas with the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) only five days after marrying and despite the protests of her new husband.

In doing so she also circumvented AANS regulations requiring nurses to be either single or a widow.

Her work on the British Hospital Ship 'Guildford Castle' was mentioned in Arthur Butler's official history of the AANS. According to the Matron in charge, "Staff Nurse B. Loughrey was Theatre Sister for nearly 12 months, and did most excellent work, giving great satisfaction to the surgeons".

The 'Guildford Castle' was a former passenger cargo vessel converted first to a troop ship, then a hospital ship with 427 beds and a nursing staff of thirteen. It tended to the casualties from Gallipoli and conveyed them to hospitals at Lemnos, Alexandria and Malta.

Bernice's other postings included the No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield which accommodated 1000 beds at its peak; the No. 2 Australian Hospital Ship transporting casualties back to Australia; and a number of short term appointments in hospitals in Abbassia, Egypt.

Post war, Bernice divorced her first husband and married decorated British war veteran Captain Harold Inglis. Her latter years were spent with her husband in Burma. At her death at age 61 in a jeep accident during World War 2 she was serving as a Lieutenant in the Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma).

Bernice's story is amongst those featured in the history publication *In the Fight: Australians and the War in Burma 1942-45*.

Service summary WW1: hospital ships 'Guildford Castle' and 'Kanowna'; 1 AAH (Harefield, England); 5 AGH (St Kilda Road, Melbourne), 31 BGH (Abbassia, Egypt); 45 IGH (Abbassia, Egypt); 14 AGH (Abbassia, Egypt); 27 BGH (Abbassia, Egypt).

Final rank: Sister

Service summary WW2: WAS(B)

Final Rank: Lieutenant



Graduated SVHM: 1913

Enlisted: 1915

Medals: 1914/15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

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