



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	LANGHAM, JESSIE MARGARET
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	1997.0005
<b>CATEGORY</b>	Other, individuals
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Nurses
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1932-1988
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	2 cms. Photographs Certificates
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	Miss Langham was born in 1902 and trained as a General Nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, graduating in 1932. Training as a midwife followed, before she commenced a distinguished career, first as Ward Sister then Night Superintendent at the Royal Melbourne; with the Australian Inland Mission in the Northern Territory; and from Feb. 1940 in the Australian Army, where she reached the rank of Captain and served in England, the Middle East and New Guinea. On return to Australia she served as Matron of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, and after demobilisation, as Matron of the Warrnambool and Ballarat Base Hospitals She was awarded an OBE in 1969, and died in 1988.
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	23/01/1997
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Access: Open
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Miss Langham's nursing certificates, Australian Army commissions; OBE and other awards. Photographs of Miss Langham at various stages of life.
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	After Miss Langham's death in 1988, the records were kept by her younger sister who passed away in 1996. They were then forwarded to the College of Nursing Australia, Victorian Chapter by Mr David Allen for safekeeping. Mr Allen reports that there are no further members of Miss Langham's immediate family surviving. The records were transferred to University of Melbourne Archives in January 1997.
<b>LISTED BY</b>	Suzanne Fairbanks
<b>DATE</b>	04 /02/1997

# UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

## JESSIE MARGARET LANGHAM COLLECTION

### ACCESSION NO. 97 5

#### **HISTORICAL NOTE:**

Miss Jessie Margaret Langham was born in 1902 in Gippsland and educated at the Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne. She trained as a General Nurse at the Royal Melbourne Hospital graduating in 1932. After twelve months as a staff nurse during which she was awarded the hospital Gold Medal she joined the Royal Women's Hospital to complete her midwifery training. Returning to the Royal Melbourne she served as a Ward Sister and after five years became Night Superintendent. Following this she spent two years with the Australian Inland Mission at Victoria River Downs, Northern Territory. In February 1940 she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service 2/3 Australian General Hospital (AGH) and later the 2/11 AGH. War service in England commenced on the Salisbury Plain, then on to the Middle East to an Australian Hospital on the Suez Canal and Alexandria. On her return to Australia, Miss Langham was appointed Senior Sister at the 2/3 Casualty Clearing Station in the Tablelands of Queensland and New Guinea. For her military service she was awarded the Associate of the Royal Red Cross (ARRC) in 1945. Returning to Australia she was appointed Deputy Matron at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

On discharge from the Forces in 1946, Miss Langham was appointed Matron of the Warrnambool Hospital, and in December 1947 was appointed Matron of the Ballarat and District Base Hospital where she served until her retirement in September 1967. She was made a Fellow of the College of Nursing, Australia in 1950. In the 1969 Queen's Birthday Honours she was awarded the Order of British Empire (OBE) for services to Nursing.

On 4 August 1988 the Board of Management of the Ballarat Base Hospital renamed the former Nurses Home 'Jessie Langham House' in her honour. Miss Langham died on 12 November 1988. [Biography from Ballarat Base Hospital Memorial, Item 2/6 below.]

#### **NOTE ON THE COLLECTION:**

The records in this collection consist of Miss Langham's certificates and awards gained over her life of service to nursing. There are also several photographs of Miss Langham from a variety of sources for which copyright should be observed.

After Miss Langham's death in 1988, the records were kept by her younger sister who passed away in 1996. They were then forwarded to the College of Nursing Australia, Victorian Chapter by Mr David Allen for safekeeping. Mr Allen reports that there are no further members of Miss Langham's immediate family surviving. The records were transferred to University of Melbourne Archives in January 1997.

**TRANSFEROR:** College of Nursing Australia, Victorian Chapter.

**DATE OF TRANSFER:** 23 January 1997

**ACCESS:** Open

**DATE RANGE:** 1932-1988

**LISTED BY:** Suzanne Fairbanks, 4 February, 1997

**Archive No. Description**

---

**Series 1 Certificates awarded to Miss Langham**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1/1  | Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, Melbourne, Certificate of attendance at lectures on invalid cookery, n.d.   |
| 1/2  | Nurses Act Victoria 1928, Certificate of registration as a General Nurse in Victoria, 27 May 1932.   |
| 1/3  | Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital for Women and Children, Melbourne Obstetric Department, Certificate of passing examination, 1933.                                   |
| 1/4  | Certificate of Registration issued by the Nurses Board, Victoria, Certificate as a Midwife, 28 June 1935.  |
| 1/5  | Certificate from Governor General of Australia appointing Miss Langham as an officer of the permanent military with the rank of Captain, 6 January 1944.             |
| 1/6  | Australian Military Forces, 2 August 1945, appointing Captain Langham as Associate of the Royal Red Cross (ARRC).  |
| 1/7  | Government House Canberra, correspondence inviting Captain Langham to her Investiture as ARRC, 25 September 1946. Includes Citation read at her investiture as ARRC. |
| 1/8  | Australian Military Forces, Certificate of Service of an Officer, presented on her ceasing full-time war service, 21 February 1946.                                  |
| 1/9  | College of Nursing, Australia, Certificate admitting her as Fellow of the CNA, 16th May 1950.  |
| 1/10 | Commonwealth of Australia Certificate of introduction of Miss Langham to overseas governments [?] signed by the Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, 22 March 1957.       |
| 1/11 | Certificate of Order of the British Empire, and three pieces of  |

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES  
Jessie Margaret Langham Collection

---

**Archive No.    Description**

---

- correspondence regarding the investiture at Buckingham Palace, 22 July 1969.
- 1/12            The Royal Melbourne Hospital Auxiliary, Certificate presented to Miss Langham, OBE in recognition of ten years service, 8 August 1977.
- 1/13            Biography from framed memorial to Miss Langham originally held at Ballarat Base Hospital, c.1988.

**Series 2        Photographs of Miss Langham**

- 2/1            Photograph in uniform of Australian Army, c.1940s.
- 2/2            Photograph outside Scots Church, 22 February 1975
- 2/3            Photograph as young nurse, n.d., taken from newsprint.
- 2/4            Photograph possibly on retirement, n.d., photograph by Ballarat Courier Press.
- 2/5            Photograph of framed memorial to Miss Jessie Margaret Langham, at Ballarat Base Hospital, n.d., but post-1988.

Langham.doc