

**AN EXTREMELY FINE GROUP TO A HIGHLY DECORATED NURSE IN THE INDIAN MILITARY NURSING SERVICE ROYAL RED CROSS 1ST AND 2ND CLASS AND MID GROUP WHO ALSO RECEIVED A RARE BURMA DECEMBER CAMPAIGN 1941 - MAY 1942 CERTIFICATE FOR THE CAMPAIGN FROM THE GOVERNOR OF BURMA; COMMENDED FOR REFUSING TO LEAVE HER PATIENTS DURING A BOMBING RAID.**



Royal Red Cross 1st Class *London Gazette* 6 June 1946. The recommendation from 31 December 1945 states:

*“Acting Principle Matron MRS ANNE ISOBEL SANDERS (NEE HOOD)*

*This nursing Officer came with this unit in the early days of the reoccupation of Rangoon and was one of two nursing Sisters who formed the nucleus of the nursing Staff. Within 100 days, she was instrumental in recruiting over 100 civilian nurses, without who the hospital could not have functioned. After the opening of the hospital she worked as principle Matron and latterly as Acting P/Matron. During the 7 months she held these appointments, she rendered most invaluable service to the hospital, which had been responsible for treating the whole of the civil population of Rangoon and surrounding districts. By hard work and patient perseverance she overcame the innumerable obstacles and difficulties which confronted the hospital in the early days, and by her example of her character and personality inspired the whole nursing staff. This had a noticeable effect on the morale and efficiency of the staff generally. No word of praise could be too high for her services and I wish to make the strongest possible recommendation that these servicers be suitably recognised.”*

Royal Red Cross 2nd Class (A.R.R.C.) *London Gazette* 17 January 1946

Mentioned in Despatches *London Gazette* 19 September 1946

Anne Isobel Hood was born on the 7th of March 1916. Her father was an English serviceman, and her mother was Burmese. During the Second World War, Anne served in Burma and India with the Indian Military Nursing Service and distinguished herself on a number of occasions. Given a special mention by the Governor of Burma for the campaign between December 1941 and May 1942 (certificate with group).



The superintendent of Rangoon Hospital wrote the following letter:

*'Miss Anne Hood was a Staff Nurse in the Rangoon Dufferin Hospital when the bombing took place on 23rd and 25th December; after the second raid, only five nurses remained at their posts, Nurse Hood was one of them. On the 26th of December, she was promoted to Sister, and the manner in which she carried out her duties as Sister was amazing; she gave one the impression she had been doing nothing else for years. She handled the staff who had deserted and later returned with tact and understanding. She is an excellent nurse, tireless and sympathetic'.*

In 1943 she married an NCO in the Royal Engineers and took her husband's surname, Sanders. For her services during the War, Anne was awarded the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class (A.R.R.C.), which was announced in the London Gazette 17 January 1946. Five months later, she was awarded the Royal Red Cross 1st Class, this announced in the London Gazette on the 6 June 1946. Additionally Mentioned in Despatches on the 19th of September 1946, she passed away in 1993. Whether Anne would have actually received the A.R.R.C., with the 1st Class Award coming so soon after, is unknown.



**GROUP CONSISTS OF:**

- 1) Royal Red Cross 1st Class G.VI, dated 1946 to reverse, in case of issue, with Buckingham Palace enclosure and card box of issue (missing inner packaging)
- 2) 1939/45 Star, Burma Star, British War Medal with MID emblem.
- 3) Two Ribbon bars for above
- 4) A scarce 1927-43 Indian Military Nursing Service Cape badge
- 5) Two scarce 1927-43 quality unmarked silver Indian Military Nursing Service badges



6) MID Certificate 'Sister (Mrs) A. I. Sanders Indian Military Nursing Service', dated 19 September 1946.

7) War Office Letter, dated 15 April 1948 detailing the delivery of her Royal Red Cross 1st Class. Sanders address then as Principle Matron, Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Durham

8) A rare Burma December Campaign 1941 - May 1942 certificate for the campaign from the Governor of Burma. 'Miss A Hood'

9) Letter from Director General Indian Medical Service, dated 27 August 1942, explaining her gallant actions in Rangoon during an air raids on 23 and 25 December 1941

10) Second War Medals entitlement slip

11) 9ct gold bracelet , named, with nursing number 'Anne Hood N.11359', chain clip broken

12) A folding framed wedding photograph from 1943 of Anne and her husband.

13) Two Ghurkha knife sweetheart brooches

14) Two Royal Engineers sweetheart badges

15) 1914/15 Star '1200 Pte C. W. Russell W. York: R.' Polished NVF, This belonging to a relative.

An extremely fine group to a highly decorated nurse in the Indian Military Nursing Service



## BURMA CAMPAIGN

December 1941—May 1942.

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*This is to certify that*  
*Miss. A. Hood*

*displayed exceptional devotion to duty in  
circumstances calling for loyalty and forti-  
tude during the Burma Campaign, December  
1941—May 1942.*

*By Order of His Excellency the  
Governor of Burma,*

*J. Preston*  
*Head of Department.*

C/O D.G.I.M.S.

New Delhi.

27/8/42

Miss Anne Hood was a Staff Nurse in the Rangoon Dufferin Hospital when the Bombing took place on the 23rd and 25th December, after the second raid only five nurses remained at their posts, Nurse Hood was one of them. On the 26th December she was promoted Sister, and the manner in which she carried out her duties as Sister was amazing, she gave one the impression that she had been doing nothing else for years. She handled the staff who had deserted and later returned with tact and understanding. She is an excellent Nurse, tireless and sympathetic.

Arnold McRobert  
M.C. 1111

late  
Medical Superintendent Rangoon Dufferin Hospital  
Professor of Obstetrics Gynaecology  
University of Rangoon

J/A 196

Tel. No. Whitehall 9400

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
The Under-Secretary of State,  
The War Office  
(as opposite)  
and the following number quoted.



THE WAR OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

15 April, 1948.

C.2. Investitures.  
Your Reference.....

Madam,

I am directed to inform you that in accordance with the general press notice of 18th December, 1945, your R.R.C. (1st Class) will be forwarded to you in due course under cover of The King's letter.

I am to request that any subsequent change of address should be notified immediately to this Department.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient Servant,

*N.M. Lued*

Principal Matron,  
Miss A. I. Sanders, R.R.C.,  
47, Sydney Street,  
SPOCKTON-ON-TREES,  
Co. Durham.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

I greatly regret that I am unable to give you personally the award which you have so well earned.

I now send it to you with my congratulations and my best wishes for your future happiness.

*George R.*

MRS. A.I. SANDERS, R.R.C.,

Campaign Stars, Clasp and Medals  
instituted in recognition of service  
in the war of 1939-45

NUMBER OF STARS, MEDALS,  
CLASPS OR EMBLEMS ENCLOSED **4**

| Order of Wearing          | Description of Ribbon  | Clasp or Emblem (if awarded)  |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 1 1939-45 Star            | Dark blue, red and light blue in three equal vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.  | Battle of Britain   |
| 2 Atlantic Star           | Blue, white and sea green shaded and watered. This ribbon is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.  | Air Crew Europe or France and Germany                               |
| 3 Air Crew Europe Star    | Light blue with black edges and in addition a narrow yellow stripe on either side.   | Atlantic or France and Germany                                      |
| 4 Africa Star             | Pale buff, with a central vertical red stripe and two narrower stripes, one dark blue, and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.    | 8th Army or 1st Army or North Africa 1942-43                        |
| 5 Pacific Star            | Dark green with red edges, a central yellow stripe, and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder. | Burma   |
| 6 Burma Star              | Dark blue with a central red stripe and in addition two orange stripes.  | Pacific   |
| 7 Italy Star              | Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in red at either edge and one in green at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.  |   |
| 8 France and Germany Star | Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in blue at either edge and one in red at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.   | Atlantic  |
| 9 Defence Medal           | Flame coloured with green edges, upon each of which is a narrow black stripe.  | Silver laurel leaves (King's Commendation for brave conduct. Civil) |
| 10 War Medal 1939-45      | A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. A broad red stripe at either edge, and two intervening stripes in blue.   | Oak leaf  |

KING'S LETTER  
ENCLOSED BELOW







By the KING'S Order the name of  
*Sister (Mrs.) A. I. Sanders,*  
*Indian Military Nursing Service,*  
was published in the London Gazette on  
*19 September, 1946,*  
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.  
I am charged to record  
His Majesty's high appreciation.

*J. J. Lawson*

Secretary of State for War

