

J S Battye Library of West Australian History
Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN 2625
Acc. 7121A

DEAN-WILLIAMS, Irene, 1903-1946

Irene Dean-Williams was born Selina Irene Schmidt in Warracknabeal, Victoria on 12 July 1903, the third daughter of John August and Selina Matilda Schmidt. John August Schmidt died in 1904 and Selina Matilda married Harry Dean-Williams in 1910. The three daughters of Selina Matilda adopted their stepfather's surname, Dean-Williams.

Irene Dean-Williams obtained her private pilot's licence on 30 May 1931, after her mother bought her a bi-plane and the renowned Harry "Cannon-Ball" Baker gave her flight instruction.

In 1932, Dean-Williams was sponsored by the Berlei Clothing Company on a flight from Maylands Aerodrome, Perth to Sydney, New South Wales.

After returning to Western Australian, Dean-Williams obtained her commercial pilot's licence. She married William McGushion in 1942 and died from cancer in July 1946. She is buried with her parents at Northam, WA.

Source: "Irene Schmidt (Dean-Williams) – Our Forgotten Aviatrix". E.G. & P.C. Ridley. Typescript, filed at 7121A/2 in this collection

The Papers

The papers were donated to Battye Library by Joan and Norma Bruce on 11 November 2008 (7121A)

Holdings = 0.10m

Access

The J S Battye Library provides access to original material. In some situations, this may not be possible and alternative formats such as microfilm, microfiche, typescripts or photocopies are supplied for researchers' use. Where alternative formats are available, these must be used.

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SUMMARY OF CLASSES	
CERTIFICATES HISTORIES LOG BOOKS SCRAP BOOKS TELEGRAMS	

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ACC. NO.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
		CERTIFICATES	
7121A/1		16 and 30 September 1940 St John Ambulance Association certificates of competency	2 certificates
		HISTORIES	
7121A/2		Post-1989? "Irene Schmidt (Dean-Williams) – Our Forgotten Aviatrix". Brief history of Irene Dean-Williams, with rubber-stamp signature at end of document, 'E.G. & P.C. Ridley"	Typescript 3p.
		LOG BOOKS	
7121A/3		3 February 1931 – 30 September 1934 Pilots log book. Includes pilot's certificate and licence and list of passengers	
		SCRAP BOOKS	
7121A/4		Including newspaper clippings, letters of congratulation, photographs. Scrapbook inscribed on inside cover "with the compliments of Berlei Limited, Adelaide", who sponsored Dean-Williams' flight	
		TELEGRAMS	
7121A/5		1932 To Dean-Williams, from family, friends and well-wishers, offering good wishes and congratulations on her flight.	20 telegrams

23 January 2009
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