



**THE FEDERAL
REDISTRIBUTION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Comment on objections 15

Angela Boulter

4 pages

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Australian Electoral Commission
Attn: WA Redistribution Secretariat
Australia Place, Level 1, 15-17 William Street
Perth WA 6000

12 July 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to further comment on objections OB5, OB8, OB10, OB13, OB15, OB17, OB18, OB19, OB20, OB21, OB22, OB24, OB25, OB26, OB29, OB30, OB32, OB34, OB35, OB36, OB37, OB38, OB39, OB41, OB43, OB45 and provide evidence of the more appropriate name for the new electoral division to the east of Perth Western Australia.

The AEC guidelines for naming an Australian Electorate after a person include 2 x aspects

- 1) The electorate should be named after a deceased Australian
- 2) The deceased person should have rendered an outstanding service to their country

With the proposed redistribution of the Western Australian electoral division, the names of two women who lost their lives whilst serving as nurses in the second world war shows respect for the ultimate sacrifice of service to their country. What can be more outstanding than the sacrifice of your life as a nurse on duty?

The new Electorate should be Hodgson-Beard, Honouring Sister Minnie Hodgson and Sister Alma Beard, two Western Australian born woman performing nursing duties during the war and lost their lives, as victims of a massacre in an atrocious war crime reported by Vivian Bullwinkel. Both Sister Hodgson and Sister Beard lived near the boundaries of the new proposed Western Australian electorate division. Naming this electorate after these two nurses is more appropriate than after Vivian Bullwinkel who was born in South Australia.

Incorporating the name of two deceased nurses, is more reflective of the ongoing sacrifice all frontline medical personnel provide to their country. It is not only during war that nurses have lost their lives, during the recent COVID pandemic, nurses also lost their lives to care for the sick. Recognising two nurses who died for their country during World War II, not just the one nurse who survived, being Vivian Bullwinkel sends a more powerful message of the high value and respect our community holds for nurses. Vivian Bullwinkel had the opportunity to provide a long life of service to Australia. Remembering those nurses who died in service to their country better reflects the contribution of front-line medical workers. All Australians including the Indigenous are in debt to, and grateful for the service provided by our nurses.

Below is an image of the plaques in King's Park Perth showing Sister Beard, Sister Bates and Sister Hodgson. The connection of the nurses is profound. Together Sister Beard and Sister Hodgson suffered as victims of a war crime. Their Western Australian families and community also suffered terrible heartache and loss. Together their sacrifice and that of others should never be forgotten. This can best be better achieved through the naming of the new proposed electorate in Western Australia as Hodgson-Beard, not just Beard, and not just Bullwinkel.



Sister Minnie Ivy Hodgson of 2/13 Australian General Hospital is the daughter of John and Contrary Hodgson. She was born in Perth on 16 August 1908 and later moved with her family to 'Windstorm', the family farm, near Yealering.

Minnie attended Yealering and West Perth schools and completed her secondary education as a boarder at Methodist Ladies College. Minnie trained at the Children's Hospital, which became Princess Margaret Hospital, and later nursed at King Edward Memorial Hospital. Prior to her enlistment at Swan Barracks on 14 July 1941 she was matron at Kondinin hospital.

Minnie wrote home to her aunty saying: *'I don't think our soldiers have changed since the last war. They're just as cheerful and witty as, from uncle's accounts, they were in the last war.'*

Sister Minnie Ivy Hodgson, service number WFX11174 of 2/13 Australian General Hospital, was shot as a prisoner of war at Bangka Island on 16 February 1942. She was 33.

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Rank

Sister Nursing Corps

Service number

WFX11174

Unit

2/13 Australian General Hospital Australian Army Medical Services

Cause of death

Died as Prisoner of War

Place of death

Bangka Island, Indonesia

Date of death

16 February 1942

Age

33

Plaque number

M262

Co-located plaques

[M262B - SR Alma Beard](#)

[M262A - SR Louvima \(Louvinia\) Bates](#)



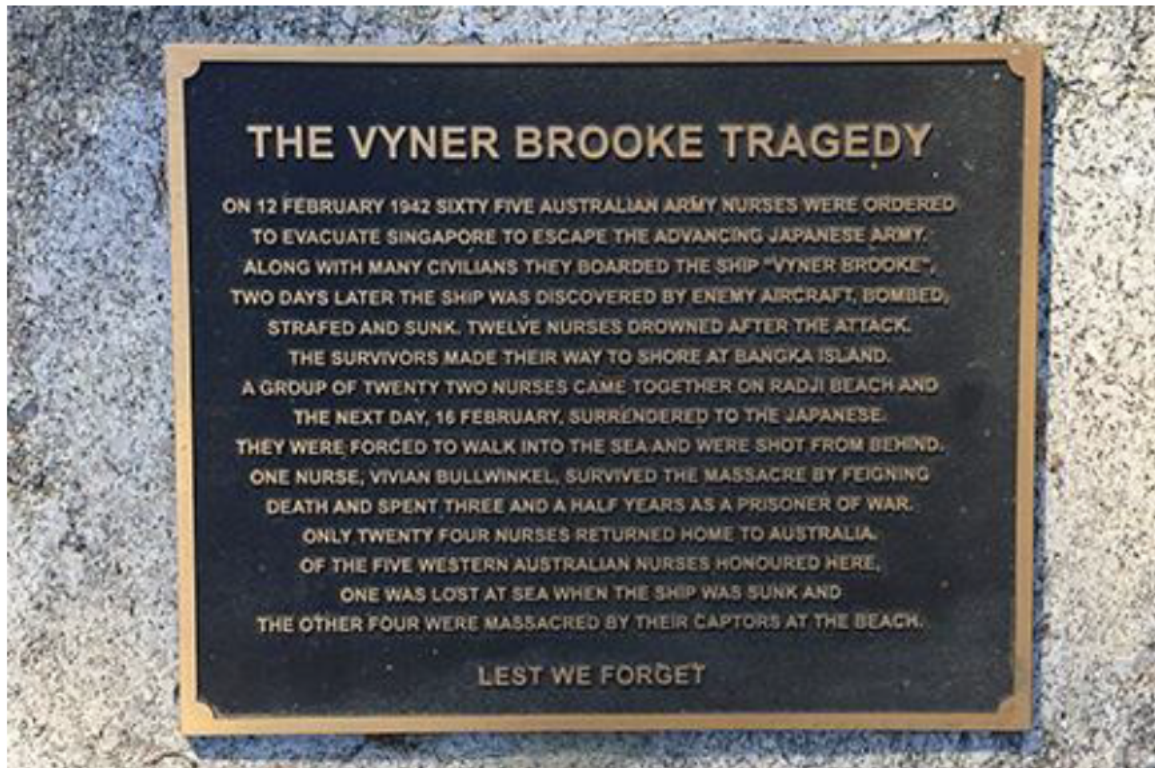
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This plaque tells the fate of two Western Australian Nurses who died serving their country.



Sister Minnie Hodgson and Sister Alma Beard **together** deserve to be remembered for the sacrifice they have made along with many other nurses in the line of duty. The naming of the new electoral division to the east of Perth Western Australia should encompass these two women, **Hodgson-Beard**.

Yours sincerely,

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Angela Boulter