

NANCY WAKE



In her old age with her Companion of the Order of Australia from WWII.

Nancy Grace Augusta Wake

8th August 1912 Wellington New Zealand

14th August 2011 Kingston upon Thames England

aka White Mouse

New Zealand, Australia

Category: Social reformer

Nancy Wake was born in Wellington, New Zealand, but moved to Sydney, Australia, when she was two years old. After she finished school she travelled to Europe as a journalist. In 1933 she went to interview Hitler and saw Jews chained to big wheels being whipped by Nazi troops. She saw the danger of Hitler and from here on she devoted her life to stopping the evil she had seen. In 1939 when WWII broke out she joined the French Resistance as a courier smuggling messages, food or anything else to underground groups in Southern France. Soon she became an asset to the British and French and became a saboteur and spy.

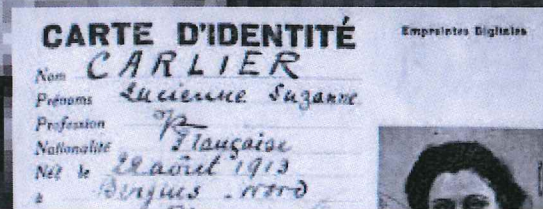
From this point on her life changed forever.

Where did she lead?

Nancy Wake led in WWII in France in the French Resistance. It was easy for Nancy to travel around and make it through check points undetected as she was a woman so the Nazis never suspected that she was a spy. She was also the wife of a very wealthy businessman so she could move around easily and could also obtain fake identification papers so she looked like any other citizen.

Why did she lead?

Nancy Wake led for one main reason. To do anything and everything she could to stop the Nazis from winning the war. She hated the Nazis and thought that Hitler was a bad man from the minute she saw what he was doing to the Jews the day he went to interview him before the war. Nancy was such an inspirational person because she led so many people for a cause that she truly believed in and fought hard for freedom.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL REL22576.006

All of the medals Nancy Wake won during WWII.

How did she lead?

Nancy Wake was a person that a lot of people would aspire to be like. She was a great leader and had passion for what she did. She believed in her cause and led the people around her to do the same. Nancy couldn't do enough to stop the Nazis and hated them strongly. She helped the people around her to do all they could to stop the Nazis and fight for their country. Nancy was such an inspirational person not just in because she was a spy in the war but the way she fought for what she believed in.

When did she lead?

Nancy Wake led in WWII. She led the French Resistance in the war which started in 1939. Nancy was one of the most decorated women in the war so she really was courageous, brave and fought hard for Britain when they needed her.



Nancy Wake being given flowers when she returned home after the war as everyone said she was a hero.

Awards

Nancy Wake won 11 medals from WWII including:

- ❖ George Medal
- ❖ Companion of the Order of Australia
- ❖ Medal of Freedom