

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT IN AUSTRALIA DURING WW2

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President Roosevelt's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt visited American troops based in camps, hostels and hospitals in Australia during September 1943.



Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt greeted by Mrs Jean MacArthur  
at [Archerfield airfield](#) on the south side of Brisbane on 13 September 1943



Close-up of the above photograph. Note the [American Red Cross \(ARC\)](#) badge on Eleanor Roosevelt's collar. Also note USA-2, Mrs. Jean MacArthur's staff car parked in the background.

Is that Technical Sgt. Clarence E. "Red" Hensley just to the left of Eleanor?



Curtin University Library File ID JCPML00409/10

Prime Minister John Curtin and Eleanor Roosevelt at Canberra airfield on 4 September 1943



[Image Number 104975 - State Library of Queensland](#)

Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt visiting Brisbane.



State Library of Queensland - [Image number: 102789](#)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was welcomed to Rockhampton by the Army Minister, Mr Forde and attended by Lieut.-General Robert Eichelberger.

The [336th Service Squadron](#) arrived in [Townsville](#) in north Queensland on 8 September 1943. After two days in uncomfortable days at [Armstrong's Paddock](#) they started work at [No. 2 US Air Depot](#) near [Mount Louisa](#) where they set up camp. While at [Townsville](#), the men were visited by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President of the USA, Franklin D. Roosevelt. This visit was apparently on the first day that the men of the [336th Service Squadron](#) worked on the "line" at the [Townsville Air Depot](#). In the following month they had a visit from [Lieutenant General George C. Kenney, the Commander of the Fifth Air Force](#).

HEADQUARTERS  
 BASE SECTION 3  
 U.S.A.S.O.S.  
 A.P.O. 923  
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER

7 September, 1943.

ITINERARY FLIGHT 321 PACIFIC  
MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER AT BRISBANE

1145 hours Arrive Archerfield - (10 minutes)  
 Met by Reception Committee:  
 Sir Leslie Wilson;  
 Premier and wife (Q'land.);  
 Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress;  
 Mrs. MacArthur; Colonel Huff;  
 Base Section Commanding Officer;  
 American Consul and wife;  
 Red Cross Representative;  
 Senior Australian General;  
 Senior Australian Navy Officer;

1155 " Depart Archerfield

1225 " Arrive Lennon's Hotel - At hotel (15 minutes)

1240 " Depart Lennon's Hotel

1249 " Arrive Government House - Luncheon at 1300 hours  
 (1 hour 41 minutes)

1430 " Depart Government House

1437 " Arrive Stuartholme - (26 minutes)  
 Visit ward, talk to ambulatory patients and Nurses' quarters, if possible.

1503 " Depart Stuartholme

1525 " Arrive U.S.S. "Fulton" - (15 minutes)

1540 " Depart U.S.S. "Fulton"

1548 " Arrive Red Cross Center - (10 minutes)

1558 " Depart Red Cross Center

1600 " Arrive Town Hall - (1 hour)

1700 " Depart Town Hall

1705 " Arrive Doctor Carver Club - (20 minutes)

1725 " Depart Doctor Carver Club

1730 " Arrive Lennon's Hotel - END OF TOUR

1930 " General MacArthur's Dinner.

Itinerary for Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Brisbane on 13 September 1943.  
 She left Brisbane the next morning from Archerfield Airfield headed for Noumea.



Photo:- Herb Jacobs

Eleanor Roosevelt visiting troops at the [4th General Hospital](#) in Melbourne in 1943.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I'd like to thank Herb Jacobs for his assistance with this web page. Herb was a Technical Sergeant with the [4th General Hospital](#) in Melbourne.

**Can anyone help me with more information?**



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This page first produced ?? ??? 2004

This page last updated 26 August 2015