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**Cecile Elsie Hinton (nee Baptiste)**

Date of Birth: 13<sup>th</sup> June 1925

Place of Birth: Allahabad, India.

Service: Women's Auxiliary Corps (India)

Number: W/4723 Staff Sergeant

Migrated to Australia: Perth (Fremantle) 10<sup>th</sup> October 1948

I had commenced the Pre-Medical Course at Rangoon University in Burma where my father worked, when Pearl Harbour was bombed in December 1941 and Japan entered the war.

We were subjected to bombing and with my mother; I escaped from Rangoon in the hold of a ship that was taking refugees to India. Singapore fell while we were on board the ship. (Feb '42)

On the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1942 I joined the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) in Lucknow where my parents had made their home after my father trekked out over the mountains from North Burma to India.

He joined the Royal Indian Engineers and was awarded the M.I.D. during the war. I became a Cipher Operator and served four and a half years and was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours in 1945.

When Burma was re-occupied by the Allies I volunteered for Active Service there. After my demobilisation I worked with the RAF at the Base in Mingaladon near Rangoon until independence when the RAF left the country. (1948)

After Independence conditions were not good politically and with my parents I immigrated to Australia in October 1948, settling in Perth.

I soon joined the R.S.L. and have been active in that body which is primarily involved in welfare of Veterans. I was awarded Life Membership of the R.S.L. in 1991.

Soon after arriving in Perth I commenced employment with the Repatriation Department (now Department of Veteran's Affairs). I ceased employment when in August 1962 I married Richard Hinton a member of the Royal Australian Air Force. We have a son and three grandsons.