

Basic Detail Report



00015082

Title

'Crowds farewell liner' newspaper clipping

Date

1953

Medium

Ink on paper

Dimensions

Overall: 82 x 121 mm

Name

Newspaper clipping

History

During World War II between 12,000 and 15,000 Australian women married American servicemen. Some migrated and lived in the USA, while others returned to Australia in the years following the war, with or without their husbands. These women often encountered public scrutiny and disapproval for their decision to marry, with many Australians specifically men, resentful of Americans 'taking their wives'. For many women, American servicemen filled the vacuum created by Australian men stationed overseas. During the campaign in the Pacific thousands of American troops were stationed in Australia, at a time when many of Australia's young men were fighting in Europe and the Middle East. Audrey Wesley was born in Strathalbyn, South Australia. At the age of 18 she met American Private First Class Angelo "Bob" Capuano (32nd Division Reconstruction Corps, US Army) at one of the weekly dances held in her home town of Strathalbyn, South Australia, in May 1942. They were married at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney in August 1944, but Audrey faced a lengthy delay before getting passage to the US to meet up with her new husband. Departing Sydney on the SS MONTEREY in a group of 410 Australian war brides in April 1946, Audrey was photographed in the Stars and Stripes jumper she had knitted, and 15 days later musical bands and more photographers were out on the wharf to meet the group at San Francisco. Audrey was hailed in the American Press as "Betsy Ross the Second" - after the legendary Philadelphia seamstress who made the first flag during the American War of Independence. Audrey formed the Australian Wives' Club in Pittsburgh for social gatherings and companionship. Audrey and Angelo (Bob) raised four children in Pittsburgh, with Audrey making several visits to see family and friends in Australia. This particular newspaper clipping is annotated by Audrey Capuano with 'I SAILED ON THIS VOYAGE' and it reads as follows: 'Crowds farewell liner More than 2500 people yesterday farewelled the liner Aorangi as she sailed from Sydney on her last trip to Vancouver. Aorangi's owner, the Canadian-Australasian Line, are retiring Aorangi because of her age. Aorangi (17,000 tons) is 28 years old. In January, 1951, her owners withdrew Aorangi from the run because she was costing them more than £100,000 a year. But the following month

the Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian Governments agreed to give the Canadian-Australasian Line a subsidy to reopen the service. The combined subsidy totalled £111,600 a year. In June last year, Aorangi underwent costly repairs to her bow, damaged when she hit a concrete pile in Victoria (British Columbia). Many passengers were Coronation tourists. Among them were the Lord Mayor (Ald. P. D. Hills) and his wife. Ald. Hills will review parking problems in America on his way to the Coronation. Next year the Orient Line's 28,000-ton liner Oronsay will make two experimental voyages on the Canada-Australia run. The Orient Line then will see if the service can be run without a loss.'