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British Actress Madeleine Carroll Dies in Spain

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MARBELLA, Spain (AP) — Actress Madeleine Carroll, a cool, blond beauty who starred in such movie classics as Alfred Hitchcock's "The 39 Steps" and "Secret Agent," died Friday. She was 81.

The British-born actress died at her home in this Mediterranean resort after a long illness, her lawyer, Francisco Cruz Conde, said Saturday.

Her career spanned the 1930s and 1940s. "The 39 Steps" in 1935 won her international fame and was followed by "Secret Agent" the next year.

Other movies she appeared in included "The Prisoner of Zenda," 1937, of John Cromwell; "Honeymoon in Bali," 1939, of Edward Griffith; "The Scarlet Tunic," 1940, of Cecil B. De Mille; "An Innocent Affair," 1948, of Lloyd Bacon, and Otto Preminger's 1949 film, "The Fan."

The Countess of Llanos, Maria de Salamanca Larish, a friend of Ms. Carroll's, said Saturday that the actress was recently released from a Marbella hospital, where she was treated for a month for gall bladder cancer.

"She was very thin and pale, but still quite beautiful," she said.

Born Feb. 26, 1906 in Birmingham, England, the daughter of a professor at the University of Birmingham and a Frenchwoman, Ms. Carroll received a university degree in French and taught junior high school in Hove, south of London on the English Channel.

Her father opposed her taking up acting, but with her mother's support she quit teaching and traveled to London to look for acting jobs.

She won a small role in a traveling company in London in 1929, and received better parts by actor Seymour Hicks.

By 1934, she had received an offer to work in Hollywood and the following year shot to stardom in "The 39 Steps."

In 1940, after a divorce from her first husband, Philip Ashley, Ms. Carroll met American film actor Sterling Hayden. They were married for six years before divorcing.

Ms. Carroll also was married to Henry Lavorel and Andrew Heiskell. Both marriages ended in divorce. She moved to Spain and had lived in Marbella since 1968, according to her lawyer.

Cruz Conde said Ms. Carroll's daughter, Anne Madeleine Heiskell, died in 1983.

Ms. Carroll served as a nurse in Europe for the U.S. Red Cross during War II. She earned the rank of captain and received the Medal of Freedom for her nursing service.



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"Miss Carroll ministered to sick and wounded military personnel under U.S. command in two theaters of operation and also gave extraordinary assistance to the U.S. Army in its relationship with the government and people of France," the citation read.

In 1946, France awarded her the Legion of Honor for her work as a liaison between U.S. Army forces and French Resistance forces.

The Countess of Llanos said that Ms. Carroll led a peaceful life in her later years and actively supported charity causes and the Red Cross.

"She had a small gr said a Roman Catholic funeral Mass for Ms. Carroll was to be said Monday in Marbella with burial to take place immediately afterward in a cemetery in the nearby town of Fuengirola.

The British-born ...

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