

The Skeleton



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
(INC)

Affiliated with WA Genealogical Society (Inc)



WWI Nurses in Egypt (see story p.5)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.australindfhs.org

THE AUSTRALIND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Annual Subscriptions: 1 Jan - 31 Dec

Single Membership \$35
Joint Membership \$45

Single Membership (Senior over 60) \$25
Joint Membership (Senior over 60) \$35

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday 10 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 5 pm
Thursday 10 am - 5 pm
Saturdays by appointment- no extra charge

Non-member Charges
Use of library \$5 per session

A Researcher is available to conduct
research on behalf of the Society

Contact Mr Alan Reynolds via the library on
9796 1050 or email: alindfhs@iinet.net.au

Research

Initial Fee \$10.00 for 2 hrs
Additional \$ 5.00 per hr
Photocopying and Postage extra



Your Contributions . . .

Please email articles for the next newsletter to the Australind website with
'Newsletter' in the Subject line or leave in the tray at the Family History
Library: alindfhs@iinet.net.au . See Disclaimer.

Deadline for the receipt of articles for next edition 'Skeleton'

15th August 2014



Disclaimer

The Society does not hold itself responsible for statements or opinions expressed by authors of papers published in this journal. The accuracy of offers, services or goods appearing here cannot be vouched for by the Society. The Editorial Team reserves the right to condense and edit articles to meet the approved size limits of our Newsletter.

Message from the Editorial Team

Hello Everyone,

Our last issue focussed on the centenary of the outbreak of World War One, and next year will be the anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign, as well as the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two. With interest in our military history at its peak, it seems appropriate for us to pause and reflect on the changing lives of women in wartime.

Attitudes to the role of women and their capabilities have changed drastically during our lifetime. Today we see women enlisting for active service, participating in areas never contemplated in the past.

In these few pages we tell some stories of how women dealt with war at a local level, reflecting the changes in societal attitudes during the period of the two World Wars. As well, we have included some childhood memories from those of us old enough to remember WW2.

Our lovely Marg, who has done so much to lift the standard of our newsletter, is taking a break from the E-Team to work on the 'Australind Ships Project' . Thanks for your efforts over the past few years Marg!

Reminder: Membership fees are overdue.

Irma, Anne & Jayne
E-Team

DATES for your DIARY

Sausage Sizzle: Saturday, 16th August 2014 from 7am - 4pm - at Bunnings, Bunbury. Any help would be appreciated, even if it is for a short time.

On request we can arrange appointments for researchers to come into the library on Saturdays (between 10am and 2pm).

Committee meetings: Last Friday of the month. 10am. AFHSoc Library.

WAGS Library open 1pm - 5pm - 2nd and 4th Sunday each month.
www.wags.org.au

TIP: *Don't forget to bring along your USB thumb drive to save files from your web research.*

AFHS SERVICES


Library visit

Affiliated Societies - no charge (show membership card)

Non-members \$5.00 per visit

Membership: 1 Jan 2014– 31.12.2014.

Computer Use

Internet Access 

(includes Ancestry.com + Find My Past and many more)

All users	\$2.00 hr
Printouts	.30c each
Burn CDs	\$1.00 each

Micro Film/Fiche Readers/ Pro Scan

All users	\$2.00 hr
Printouts	.30c each

Photocopying

A4 B&W single	20c	Doublesided	30c
A4 Colour single	30c	Doublesided	50c
A3 B&W single	30c	Doublesided	60c

Ring Binding

Up to 50 sheets	\$2.00
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Laminating

Please ask at desk

President's Report

Hello to all readers of *The Skeleton*.

The library has been rolling along nicely with old and new researchers coming in to get help with their family history. With this beautiful rain, what else is there to do but visit the library and enjoy the camaraderie? At my place we have had 200mm just this month - no wonder the farmers are happy!

We have an ongoing project for the Bunbury Cemetery, but progress has been slow due to the amount of data to be entered. Librarians are also putting together information about the First Settlers to Australind, another project moving along nicely. Our AFHS website has been upgraded by Chris Riley with the help of her son and is now looking very professional.

Five librarians went to Busselton Family History's new premises for a promised visit and were well received with a delicious morning tea. It's nice to visit other groups to see what they are up to - it makes for good relations.

For Mothers' Day, members brought in pics of their mothers and it was great fun trying to decide who belonged to who.

We have not been happy with some of the changes which have been made to the *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* websites. We have contacted *Ancestry* in the hope that they might go back to the old style format, but have had no response as yet.

The Library's AGM was held on the 10th May and there were about twenty members who attended, which was pleasing. We have recently bought a new printer for the library, making the task of producing the newsletter much easier.

There have been a few empty chairs at the computers recently, so it's a good time to get back into your research again. Our library is a warm & friendly place!

Cheers, Chris Shaw (President)

LITTLE NORA DOES HER BIT



We began hearing a lot about 'the war effort' and people stopped saying the war would be over in six months, or even a year. Whenever I came home from school, the house was full of women clicking knitting needles and manipulating dark wool, and making huge quantities of socks, vests, mittens and mufflers, as well as sewing pyjamas and shirts. Mum ran Red Cross classes with first aid and bandage rolling... Mum, who was a leading light in the CWA (Country Women's Association) as well as the Red Cross, spent more and more of her time on the war effort...Nora Pennington, the good little girl who had written the composition about Gallipoli, was the school's champion sock knitter.

At lunchtime and recess she sat with her ankles neatly crossed and her boots buttoned, turning the heels of the socks very prettily. She eventually won the district record for the number of socks, mufflers, mittens and balaclava helmets knitted by anybody under the age of thirteen; her father made sure that the news reached the front page of his paper, with the heading 'LITTLE NORA DOES HER BIT'. The rest of us longed to grab her knitting, rip the stitches out and snarl the wool for her.

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/homefront/women.html>



NURSES IN WARTIME

More than 3,000 Australian civilian nurses volunteered for active service during the First World War. While enabling direct participation in the war effort, nursing also provided opportunities for independence and travel, sometimes with the hope of being closer to loved ones serving overseas.

The Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) had been formed in 1903 as part of the Australian Army Medical Corps. During the war more than 2,000 of its members served overseas alongside Australian nurses working with other organisations, such as the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Services (QAIMNS), the Red Cross, or privately sponsored facilities.

The women worked in hospitals, on hospital ships and trains, or in casualty clearing stations closer to the front line. They served in locations from Britain to India, taking in France and Belgium, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. Many of them were decorated, with eight receiving the Military Medal for bravery. Twenty-five died during their service.

By war's end, having faced the dangers and demands of wartime nursing and taken on new responsibilities and practices, nurses had proved to be essential to military medical service. (*Australian War Memorial website.*)

Hospitals in Egypt

By the end of 1914, around 300 AANS nurses had left Australia for Egypt. On the long sea voyage, they were kept busy assisting with vaccinations and operations, and training male orderlies. The nurses were posted either to the 1st Australian General Hospital (1AGH), established in the grand Heliopolis Palace Hotel in Cairo, or to 2AGH in Mena House, a former royal hunting lodge.

With the rapid influx of patients from Gallipoli in April 1915, the facilities were soon overcrowded, and equipment and supplies inadequate. Nursing staff worked around the clock. 1AGH took over a nearby amusement park, turning the ticket office into an operating theatre and skating rink, scenic railway, and skeleton house into wards. Within three months it was operating as a 1,500-bed hospital.

Some of the badly wounded were returned to Australia on hospital ships, accompanied by nurses. (*Australian War Memorial website*)



WOMEN IN WARTIME

Apart from the relatively small numbers of women accepted for nursing service, Australian women were generally regarded as the weaker sex and had to be content with involvement on the home front, looking after family farms or performing jobs vacated by their menfolk. Yet despite a labour shortage, a culture of resistance existed in some quarters to employing women in jobs traditionally the province of males.

Women and girls contributed greatly to the war effort as volunteers, through organisations such as the Red Cross, fundraising or providing clothing and comforts for the men in the trenches.

It was not until WW2 that more diverse roles were opened up to women. From mid-1941 they were actively recruited into branches of the various armed forces, where they were trained as signallers, radio operators, drivers, telegraphists, cooks and clerical officers, serving mainly within Australia. At home, civilian women worked in factories or enlisted in the Land Army, undertaking farm work previously done by men. Once again there was resentment on the part of some, particularly trade unions, objecting to traditional male roles being overtaken by women.

Women responded well to the opportunity of employment outside the home, and reluctantly surrendered their newly-won sense of independence when the men came home, though others were happy to return to domestic life.

LIBRARY – LATEST ACQUISITIONS

Many thanks to the generous people who have donated books to the Library.

Early Days - Volume 1 1927-1931	Royal WA Hist Society
The Mary Raine Story. From Putney to Perth	Meg Sangster
Edge of Empire	M & A Webb
Snowtown The First Century 1878-1978	Alan Jones
Hurst/Cain Family History	Alan Reynolds

GIRLS IN THE LAND ARMY

The Land Army was formed under the jurisdiction of the Director of Manpower and was administered in WA by the Country Women's Association. It was formed with the intention of assisting farmers who were short of labour because of the war, and recruited women between the ages of 18-50 years. It was intended as a training ground for mostly unskilled girls from an urban background, excluding those women already living on farms.

A training place was set up at Fairbridge, where the girls were taught the necessary skills. Despite widespread scepticism when the programme was launched, young women responded enthusiastically, and the response from farmers was generally very positive. The girls adapted well to the country life and were treated as part of the farmer's family. Local CWA members had the responsibility of welcoming them into the community, and supervisors were on hand to ensure their safety.

The need for workers in large scale rural production as part of the war effort led to many more positions being advertised, for the harvesting of fruit, hops, vegetables, tobacco and flax. Accommodation needed to be constructed to meet the demand. The scheme reached its peak in 1943, with around 3,500 women employed, either on a permanent basis, or in seasonal positions.

The women received less pay than their male counterparts. As well, they received little recognition for the vital service they provided. It was not until the 70th anniversary of the movement in 2012 when survivors were honoured at a celebration in Canberra, where their efforts were acknowledged by the Prime Minister.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM014929

Australian Land Army girls doing their bit to assist in the war effort. They are harvesting large crops of vegetables which are being canned for the troops.

"Umpty" - Army slang term used in 1917 for the dash, when reading Morse code.

LAND GIRLS - GROWING VEGETABLES AT WATERLOO

In 1942 the Plaistowe company, well-known for its chocolates and confectionery, established a new plant for canning and drying vegetables in West Perth, to fulfill a contract to supply our troops in New Guinea with healthy food. At first they dried cabbages and canned tomatoes grown in Geraldton. In 1943 they rented an irrigated block of 1,000 acres at Waterloo, near Bunbury, where they intended growing mainly tomatoes and beans, since other vegetables such as potatoes, silver beet and beetroot were more readily available from other growers.

The project was highly labour intensive, calling initially for 20 Land Army girls to do the planting and picking. Comfortable cottages and a mess-hall were constructed on the property, and uniforms were provided. Train fares were offered to women as far away as Kalgoorlie, to entice them down to the South-West. Local women also worked there part-time. At one stage when harvesting was at its peak, schoolboys were asked to travel down to Waterloo by train to help with the picking during their vacation.

At the end of the war, the buildings at the Waterloo property were offered for sale. Sadly, the company's managing director Mr. Malcolm Plaistowe, aged fifty, was killed in a tractor accident in 1950, on another block which the firm had purchased at North Dandalup for the purpose of growing vegetables.

TWENTY GIRLS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR WARTIME JOBS

Twenty girls are urgently needed by the Australian Women's Land Army for the war-time job of planting, cultivating and picking on Plaistowe's vegetable farm at Waterloo, ten miles out of Bunbury. This is a 'victory' job, as there is an urgent need to get the maximum output of canned vegetables for the Allied Forces, and girls who volunteer for this service will be contributing in a vital way to the all-out effort of winning the war.

Enormous requirements of the fighting services created a huge demand for vegetables. At times there was an acute shortage, and, of course, inaccessibility prevented other troops from obtaining fresh produce. Then last November Plaistowe's set out to alleviate the position by developing a vegetable canning factory, the whole output from which goes to the Allied forces.

RICH 1000 ACRES

Some vegetables such as carrots, cabbage and silver beet can be readily obtained, but an insufficient supply of beans and tomatoes prompted Plaistowe's to rent 1000 acres of rich, arable land in a well irrigated district, and they now cultivate these two vegetables themselves. Considerable quantities are required each day, and to meet the demands of the services 1000 tons of beans and 3000 tons of tomatoes are needed this season. Their farm is highly mechanised, ploughing by tractor being carried out by men. Skilled supervisors organise and control the work, and the job is made as attractive for the girls as circumstances allow.

Living conditions are good. Four roomed houses are provided with a separate mess hall, which is used also as a common room. Ample laundry facilities are available, hot and cold water is laid on, and spacious verandahs allow opportunity for sleeping out.

Girls willing to do this important job should apply to the National Service Office, or the Australian Women's Land Army, King Street, Perth. (*Mirror*, 25 September 1943)

WANTED: LAND GIRLS FOR FLAX

Fifty Land Girls are now needed to help with West Australian flax production for essentials of war. WA Mill Inspector for flax production R. Saunders said today that the flax which the girls would help produce would make cloth for field stretchers and aeroplanes, parachute harness, fire hose, lifesaving jackets and covers for floating rafts. Our flax would also make canvas for the Army tents, water bags, webbing and thread for Army boots, he said.

About 5000 tons of flax would be retted here this season, and it was this work for which the girls were needed. Retting consisted of spreading the flax in the fields in rows, turning it occasionally, picking it up later and retying it. Land girls helped to harvest flax last year at Donnybrook and Boyup Brook, Women's Land Army Supervisor Mrs S. Carlton added.

The accommodation offered is very good and will be inspected before the girls are sent down. They will work in groups with matrons in charge. Fifty girls will be needed for the first two groups.

(Daily News, 20 February 1943).

[Note: The first WA flax mill was built in Yarloop, and operated from 1940-45. Flax production in the South-West peaked in 1943. By 1945 interest in growing flax in the Donnybrook area dropped off, due to problems with rust, cut-worms, as well as manpower difficulties. The mill was closed by the Federal Government at the end of the 1946 season. The Boyup Brook Mill continued to operate until 1965.]

**Sorry Boys...
no Veg's today
supplies short!**

**Women of W.A.
Your *HELP* is needed
URGENTLY**

Will YOU let the boys go short of essential food?
In New Guinea, because of a shortage of vegetables, they are trying to grow them for the troops. They can only grow enough for hospitals.

Your help is needed badly . . . urgently . . . Land Army Girls are wanted at once to work at Plaistowe's Vegetable Farm at Waterloo, where they are growing tomatoes, beans and other vegetables for the forces.

As fast as these vegetables ripen they are picked daily and rushed to Plaistowe's Canning Factory, which is canning vegetables exclusively for the fighting forces. This work is a National war-winning service. Uniforms and good quarters are provided and medical attention is free. Apply as soon as you can at the Australian Women's Land Army, 88 King-st, near Wellington-st, Perth, between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm daily. You can call, write, or phone B9263, or apply to the National Service Office in your district.

(West Australian, 24 December 1943)

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LAND ARMY has proved its worth. More and more demands are being made upon it to reinforce the front-line workers of the Food Front. 2,500 women over the age of 18 are still required for one month or more of service, and for one year's service or "for the duration". Will you give one month or more, of your time to this urgent work?

PAY AND CONDITIONS:

Minimum of £1/10/- plus keep (£1) (more can be earned); fares to and from employment paid, working uniforms provided, (plus dress uniforms for full-time members).

WHERE TO APPLY:

For details, see your local National Service Officer or Secretary of the District War Agricultural Committee today, or call or telephone B6157, Australian Women's Land Army Headquarters, 88 King Street, Perth.
(West Australian, 26 October 1943)

**Gather
THE NATION'S
FOOD!**

The Australian
Women's Land
Army

MANPOWERED!

Since Japan's entry into the war the position had become even more grave for it was now more difficult to arrange for the release of manpower. Many avenues had been exploited and women had filled many vacancies on the land. Indeed the organisation of a women's land army had materially assisted the man on the land, particularly with regard to apple packing, hop picking and tobacco picking and grading. But there was much of the work on the land that was too hard for women. This applied particularly to potato digging, in which occupation there were many aliens, naturalised and unnaturalised, of enemy and friendly origin. He knew of Italians who had refused to work for less than three times their normal contract rates, struck out on their own and refused to work for others. The place for men like those was in an organised land army paid at the rate of a soldier's pay.

(*West Australian*, 15 May 1942)

Combing Country For Women

National Service officers will leave for Kalgoorlie at the end of the week to interview young married and unmarried women not gainfully employed, said Deputy Manpower Director H. T. Stitfold today.

Accompanying them will be representatives of the Service units in the hope that a number of much needed recruits will be secured.

Later visits will be paid to Geraldton, Albany, Northam and Bunbury.

"In Albany," said Mr Stitfold, "the main object will be the increase of the number of female employees in the woollen mills."

(*Daily News*, 13 May 1943)

THE SOUTH WEST WOOLLEN AND TEXTILE MILLS

Bunbury expressed interest in establishing a woollen mill as far back in the early 1920s, but Albany was chosen as the site. The Second World War was the impetus for the Bunbury mill's establishment in Stirling Street in 1941, with Government assistance. It produced socks, jumpers & underwear for the troops, as well as swimwear and cardigans for locals. Cotton from the Eastern States was also spun and processed into pyjamas, nightgowns, etc. Their products were sold under the 'Morwear' label in the Eastern States as in WA.



Under the National Manpower scheme, local women were called up to work in the mill, including some Greek girls, whose fathers were reluctant to see them signed up. The South West Woollen and Textile Mills continued to operate for some time after the war ended.

BUTTER OUTPUT. SOUTH-WEST SUCCESS.

Women's Work Praised.

BUNBURY, Jan 13.—"Despite the manpower difficulties of farms the South-West Co-operative Dairy Farmers, Ltd, is facing an all-time record year, due largely to the magnificent efforts of women, many of whom practically without help had to carry the burden of the farms," said the chairman of directors of the company (Mr R. H. Rose) in an interview today.

Mr Rose said that for the eight months ended December 31 last the output of butter by his company's factories was 2,805½ tons, which was 417 tons above the production figures for the corresponding period of last year and 78 tons above the corresponding period of the record year in 1942. The company's year ends in April.

Mr Rose said that his company was also gaining on the State's output, as in November last it made 467½ tons of butter, being 51.8 per cent of the total output of the State.

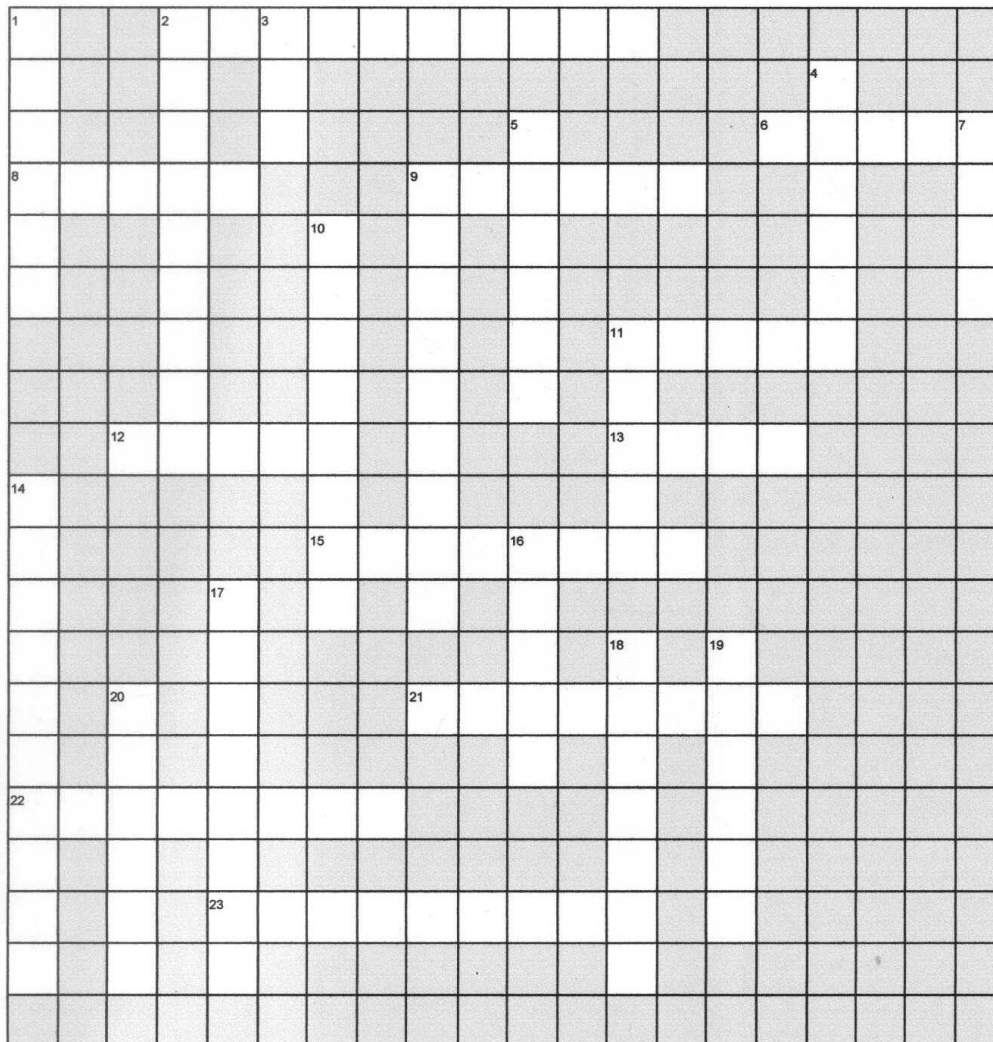
He said that he was particularly appreciative of the efforts of women on the groups where they had had to carry on practically unaided and did so with undiminished cheerfulness and courage.

Mr Rose said that the question of the future was a different matter. The cessation of rain had interfered with the conservation of hay and future production would be greatly retarded unless some improvement could be made in the superphosphate position. He added that there was an urgent need for more men to be released from the army for essential production.

(*West Australian*, 14 January 1944)

Military Puzzle

Use the clues to fill in the puzzle.



ACROSS

- 2 company that grew vegetables in Bunbury
- 6 British soldier (slang)
- 8 German submarine
- 9 small artillery piece
- 11 object detection system
- 12 award
- 13 fibre for making parachutes
- 15 bomb fragments
- 21 German airship
- 22 name of women's brigade
- 23 Australia's baptism of fire

DOWN

- 1 surprise attack
- 2 aid for soft landing
- 3 outstanding pilot
- 4 very good (slang)
- 5 dugout
- 7 American soldier (slang)
- 9 military exercise
- 10 make ready
- 11 gun
- 14 to hide
- 16 on Flanders Fields
- 17 military action
- 18 enlist
- 19 Australian soldier (slang)
- 20 protected flotilla

(See Answers back page)

** WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS **

MEMBERS' INTERESTS

613	Georgie Gardner	Roelands
614	Judith Gartrell	Australind
615	Bridget Green	Bunbury
616	Joy Day	Leschenault
617	Terri Keeble	Bunbury
618	Denise Tillman	Australind

Surname	Place	State/Co	Country	Period	Member No.
VINE	Holdenhurt	HAM	ENG	1898	613
ADAMS	Blaby	LEI	ENG	1899	613
SANSOM	Mile End	LND	ENG	late 1800s	613
GEORGE	Mile End	LND	ENG	late 1800s	613
GARDNER	Hammersmith	LND	ENG	late 1800s	613
LAMBERT	Hammersmith	LND	ENG	late 1800s	613
MACDONALD	Old Kilpatrick	LKS	SCT	late 1800s	613
WILSON	Hammersmith	LND	ENG	late 1800s	613
SONNEMAN	Perth	WA	AUS	1940s	616

If you would like to contact any of our new members please ring the AFHS library on 9796 1050

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OUR WARTIME MEMORIES

IRMA'S STORY

I remember - clothing coupons; wearing pyjamas with buttoned-on pants due to the shortage of rubber for elastic; a provisioned air-raid shelter in the neighbours' yard, and evacuation drills into trenches which were dug across the school playground.

Fear of a Japanese invasion led to some families, including ours, fleeing Geraldton. We spent part of a year at my grandmother's small farm near Northampton. My older sister commenced school there, travelling in a horse and cart with our cousins to the local one-teacher school. (Irma Walter)

TERRI'S STORY

I was born near London during the war, my father was away fighting with the army, and my mother and I slept under the stairs in the broom cupboard. She thought it was the safest place with the bombs dropping all around us. My grandmother was worried about us living alone in an upstairs flat in the high street and we moved to her house. One week later a bomb hit the flat and my mother lost everything from looters, but we were alive! (Terri Keeble)

MAUREEN'S STORY

During the war years we lived in Kalgoorlie. I was born in September 1939. My Dad was an engineer, he went to war as an engineer in 1942 when I was 3 years old. The troops had been on training in the Eastern States somewhere. My Mum had word that my father would be passing through Kalgoorlie on a troop train on a particular day. The train would stop at Parkston (just outside east of Kalgoorlie) but would only slow down to the allotted speed while going through Kalgoorlie and the Kalgoorlie station. The public were not allowed at Parkston, so my mother, elder sister and I went off to see our Dad go through Kalgoorlie on the train. There must have been not one but three thousand others with my Dad on that train and I can still remember it distinctly - of course we didn't really see him. But there was a letter dropped off in Parkston and it had been delivered by the time we had walked home. When we were home back in Kalgoorlie, Mum spent time with us; we would sit on the floor, we

would brush her hair and rub her feet and she would tell us stories about our Dad . She had a folder that had his letters in them. We weren't allowed to know his address, he had some silly address like behind the back of nowhere.

I remember the war years quite vividly especially when we were living in Perth with our mother and grandparents. There was an air-raid siren when my Mum was out shopping with my aunties but we were at home with my grandmother, who was nearly blind. My elder cousin and sister and I went to the air-raid shelter built under the house. I was more frightened of the creepy, crawly things my cousin had told me about that lived down there than the air-raid. It was a memorable day, if not, for all the wrong reasons. (Maureen Relph)

TRESNA'S STORY

Being born on the first day of the war, I wasn't a 'woman' but was a small child during wartime and living in Victoria Park. With a shortage of rental accommodation we lived in a vacated shop a few shops down from the Victoria Park hotel. My mother was a very pretty woman and was fearful of the attentions of the intoxicated soldiers who gathered around outside the hotel. For that reason we kept the front door shut most of the time. I vividly remember the first time I heard an air raid siren. My mother had warned me about the possibility of air raid sirens and the reason for them. I was standing in line at a nearby lolly shop when the siren went off. I was so frightened I turned and fled for home, not waiting to buy the chocolate I wanted. (Tresna Shorter)

KAY'S STORY

My Mum, Dad and I lived in Lane Cove in Sydney with my aunt and uncle when the war started. I was born in February 1939 so as I said, quite young. My Dad drove the double- decker buses at the time and was at work the night Sydney was bombed. I can still remember the house in almost total darkness, with sheets on the windows and the air-raid sirens constantly sounding and the searchlights going across the sky. My Mum was doing her best to keep me quiet and lying on the lounge with a dummy in my mouth, but being an inquisitive 2-year old I kept going to the glass doors and trying to look out at the pretty lights. I remember Mum was a total nervous wreck because my Dad was out driving buses while all this was going on. He arrived home in the early hours of the morning, thankfully unharmed and quite unconcerned, but I don't know whether he realised at that time just what damage had been done in Sydney Harbour. That shock came later. My next recollection was when peace was declared in 1945 and I was then at kindergarten so we were given the day off. Mum and Dad took me into Martin Place in the city and stood on the steps of the G.P.O to watch the celebrations with all the ticker-tape and rejoicing. (Kay Coughlan)

MEG'S STORY



My friend Val, who is now 91, talked often to me over the years about her service as a driver in the WAAF's during the Second World War. She was stationed at a base in South England, and it was there that she met and fell in love with a pianist named Dave. Val had the most beautiful "Vera Lyn" singing voice, so the evenings in the mess hall, were filled with their music and it was inevitable that they fell deeply in love.

He was married though, and so, despite the depth of their feelings for each other, and the heartache of denial, they parted, and the few trinkets and love tokens he gave to her were destroyed by her very moral and upright mother, so nothing but memory was left.

That Val spoke to me of him, on almost every occasion of our meeting, over the next sixty years, despite having made a good marriage later on, and having a wonderful family, speaks volumes of the depth of emotions, wartime and its accompanying heartache must have had on so many young people, who were taken out of their normal life and thrust into so much that was unreal and life changing. ((Meg Lane)

GLENICE'S STORY



Early memories of the war, was my Mother joining the Voluntary Aid Detachment - the VAD's. The organisation was formed in England by the British Red Cross and the Order of St John in 1909.

Women volunteered to learn St John's First Aid and home nursing skills. Mum went off to lectures and hospital training at night (I was left with godparents who happened to live opposite) and my Dad had been called up as he was already a member of the CMF.

We lived in Melbourne at the time so training was carried out at St Vincent's Hospital. It was hard work on the wards as VAD's carried out normal nursing duties of the day - this allowed trained nursing Sisters to enlist for work overseas and at home in Army hospitals. The examinations were strict with a high bench-mark for passing. Mum received her Bronze Medallion on the 9th December 1940. I still have her medal and certificate and the two textbooks used for study. Mum never forgot her lessons learnt or her bandaging skills throughout the rest of her life.

[The novelist Agatha Christie, famously known as an English author of detective stories, was once a VAD nurse. The new spirit of war brought volunteer after volunteer to do what they could for the war effort. VAD's also became fundraisers, cooks, kitchen maids, clerks, ward-maids and ambulance drivers.]

A little giggle! My Dad was in Darwin at the time of the bombing, so suggested to Mum she move out of Melbourne as she might be better off in the country if invasion were to happen. We moved to a small country town on the Victorian-South Australian border - Kaniva.

Two years passed and at long last Dad would be home for two days over Christmas, before being shipped to New Guinea. The train was to come through Kaniva carrying troops from Adelaide to Melbourne anytime after midnight. Mum and I decided to wait up.



Well, on a hot December night in Mallee country both of us nodded off. Mum awakened to singing (she thought was angels!) She soon realised it would be time for the train. Knock, knock! It must be Dad!

She raced out in her nightie and there he was at the doorway in uniform with his cap on (Dad was an officer) - Mum threw her arms around his neck and kissed him....Well I never did know who was the more embarrassed - the local Salvation Army captain collecting for the carol singers or Mum!
(Glenice Stamp)

Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell.
(Louisa May Alcott)

JENNY'S STORY

Captain George Henry Killey MC and his dearly loved wife, Thora Alice Killey were reunited on the day of his return after fighting for Australia and the UK during World War II.

Captain Killey was away from Australia for five years fighting in mainland Greece and Crete and as a prisoner-of-war in Germany



Husband and wife meeting again
after five years apart

My mother, Thora Alice Killey, was twenty three years old and pregnant and I was almost three years of age when World War II was declared.

My father, George Killey, then 25 years old, was actually in military army camp in Perth when it was announced that England was at war with Germany. Almost all the men in camp volunteered for service immediately.

My sister, Diane, was born three weeks after our father sailed for England with the 2/3rd Regiment, Royal Artillery Division, and it was several weeks before news of her birth reached Dad.

Dad was so sorely missed as the months passed but our little family were fortunate in having loving support from my maternal grandmother, with whom we lived throughout the war years, and from our mother's sisters and our father's family.

And then a telegram was brought to the door informing our mother that "Captain George Killey is missing in action, believed dead." The man who delivered that telegram delivered a second telegram to another young woman in our street that day. She was told her husband was dead. Devastation printed on a small piece of paper. The man who had to deliver the telegrams resigned.

It was many weeks before news came that Dad was alive and had been taken prisoner-of-war Crete. Later news came that he was imprisoned in Germany.

In letters home Dad suggested that Mum write to the wives of men who were imprisoned with him and other prisoners wrote with similar suggestions to their wives. As the months turned into years these women shared news from the letters arriving from Germany and news of family in Australia. The friendships developed meant that the women, knowing the concern and pain and of having a husband or son imprisoned in a foreign country in war time, were able to support one another in maintaining a positive attitude through their anxiety.

Those friendships proved invaluable too, after the war, when visits followed and wives met one another and shared in talking of their earlier trepidation and now the joy in peace.

We were so blessed to have Dad return - and so fortunate to have such a precious photograph of his return. (Jenny Golding)

DAPHNE'S BOX BROWNIE



Our life member, Daphne Foulkes-Taylor had an unusual wartime career, joining up in 1944 and serving in both the Air Force and the Army.

Brought up on the family farm at Mooliabeenee, near Gingin, she was given a Box Brownie camera, and loved taking photos. Imagine her surprise in 1944, on joining the Air Force, to be offered the chance of training as an aerial photographer!

Her initial training took place near Busselton, where they were accommodated in Nissan huts. Daphne remembers sleeping on hessian mattresses stuffed with hay, on an iron bedstead, but no-one complained about the primitive conditions, it was such a great adventure.

Next she was posted to South Australia, first to Port Pirie, and then to an airport at Malala. Daphne vividly remembers the day she was offered her first flight, in an aeroplane called an 'Aggie', sitting next to the pilot. As well as aerial photography, she occasionally had to take photographs of the damage done to planes which 'pranged'.

Daphne found her work so interesting that she was almost sorry when the war ended. After returning to Perth, she soon found employment with the *West Australian* newspaper, where she worked for a time in the photography section. Still missing her life in active service, Daphne then decided to enlist in the army. She was immediately accepted as a sergeant, employed doing technical work at Army Headquarters at the Francis Street Barracks in Perth, and was accommodated at Karrakatta.



She loved the work, but became concerned over her future, due to the fact that the retirement age for women was set at 47 years, ten years less than men. This led to another change of career, this time into teaching, where she remained until her retirement.

That little Box Brownie camera opened a doorway to an interesting military career!



WEB CORNER

*** Remember to visit our own AFHSoc Website administered by Chris Riley***

www.australindfhs.org

What you can expect to see on an historical BDM Australian birth, death and marriage certificate -
<http://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html>

Some new WA titles are in the process of being added to Trove newspapers at:
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>.

- The Great Southern Herald for the period 1901 to 1954.
- The South-Western News for the period 1903 to 1949.

Australian WWI Records Finder - NAA, AWM and CWSGC databases at:
wraggelabs.com/ww1-records

Australian WWI photos - soldiers and nurses from all over Australia:
www.gravesecrets.net/ww1-pictorial-honour-rolls

Australian Asylum records throughout Australia: <http://www.coraweb.com.au/asylum.htm>

First World War Unit War Diaries online - provide insight into the daily events on the front line -
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

The most visited genealogy websites in the world are searchable at:
<http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2014>

ANSWERS TO MILITARY PUZZLE (on p.11)

Across

- 2 Plaistowes
- 6 Tommy
- 8 uboat
- 9 mortar
- 11 radar
- 12 medal
- 13 flax
- 15 shrapnel
- 21 zeppelin
- 22 Land Army
- 23 Gallipoli

Down

- 1 ambush
- 2 parachute
- 3 ace
- 7 Yank
- 4 bonzer
- 5 trench
- 9 manoeuvre
- 10 mobilise
- 11 rifle
- 14 camouflage
- 16 poppy
- 17 campaign
- 18 recruit
- 19 Digger
- 20 convoy