



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

August 2017

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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BUNDOORA VIC 3083
Telephone : 0419 371 474
Website : www.wraacvic.com



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From the Editor

Dear Members,

I hope you enjoy the latest journal and perhaps it may encourage you to write about your time in service of this great country. We encourage former WRAAC ARA members to share thoughts with our wide and diverse readership.

There is such a need for accurate, first hand history about Australians and their involvement in the defence of this great land. In war or peace, it's so important to have highly skilled people ready when needed.

We all remember the wise words, "To provide a nucleus for fast expansion in time of war"

To think that Australian women such as Elaine (Gunlach) Gallagher (refer Point Lonsdale article) had the shared responsibility of training and

supervising equally young and brave women during WWII, is a classic case in point.

Through the sharing of stories such as ours, may just remind future generations that democracy and freedom always comes with a price tag and it's never cheap, or at a discount price.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar

Correction:

In our last issue the notice for Eveline Hamono, had her surname recorded as Hamon.

Our apologies for this error. Editor.

October 2017 Journal Deadline

*The deadline for all articles to be
included in the next Journal is*

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2017

**Articles can be
posted or e-mailed to:**

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johntreloar1@bigpond.com

— 2017 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
AUGUST	
Thursday 17th	Austin Health Vietnam Veterans Day Service
OCTOBER	
TBA	WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch
Saturday 28th	WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. AGM
NOVEMBER	
Friday 10th	Austin Health Remembrance Day Service
Saturday 11th	Remembrance Day

From the WRAAC President

Dear Members,

Welcome to our mid-year journal.

Our committee has been extremely busy attending different services around Melbourne and it is fantastic to see other WRAAC members attending as well.

Once again, the AWAS/WRAAC Shrine service went well and we had plenty of people attend which was wonderful.

My thoughts are with all members who may not be feeling 100%. You may not let us know, but you are in our thoughts.

We have lost a number of our friends this year, and it's sad, when it happens. We just don't know how unwell people are at times.



We, as a committee are here to give support and as someone to talk to when you may need.

If you have an article for the Journal, contact the Editor, we know she would love to hear from you!

Yours in friendship,

Margaret (Robinson) Jager

Associations Contacts and Addresses

AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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Heather Hyatt
Gai Cooke



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Margaret Jager
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

UNIT 73 / 2 GREMEL ROAD
RESERVOIR. VIC. 3073
Telephone: 408 553 412

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank)

(Surname)

(Given Names)

Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):

Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....

.....

.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Miss Diane Sherry,
73/2 Gremel Road, Reservoir. Vic. 3073
Telephone: 0408 553 412
Email Address: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au



CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer, Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au** and she will post out the appropriate form.

Annual Membership for 2016 / 2017 membership year is now due.

If you are an Annual Member and have not paid your fees yet; please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any membership queries, or are unsure whether your membership is paid, please contact our Membership Officer.



**WRAAC ASSOCIATION
(VIC) INC. AGM
SATURDAY, 28TH OCTOBER 2017
SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE
MELBOURNE AT 11AM.**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1100 hours on Saturday 28th October 2017 at the Shrine of Remembrance. Check in at reception and you will be directed to the meeting area. All Committee positions are declared vacant. (see nomination form)

Unfortunately, we are unable to serve refreshments following the AGM due to restrictions imposed by the Shrine.

For seating numbers please contact Margaret Brown by 29th September 2017 telephone 03 9467 3976 or email maggie.rat@hotmail.com if you intend to join us.

**WRAAC
ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC**

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 28th October 2017

*Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne
Nomination Form*

I (your name).....being a financial member of the Association, nominate..... for the position ofon the committee.

Signed:

Proposer..... Print name.....

Seconder..... Print name.....

I accept the nomination

Signature..... Print Name.....

Returns are to be sent to the Secretary, Margaret Brown, 10 Ledbury Cres Bundoora, 3083 Victoria by Friday 29th September 2017

Only Financial Member's may nominate, second, or be nominated.

Secretary's use only.

Date Recieved.....

All financial Yes/no

*Margaret Brown
Secretary*

Around the WRAAC Pack

ANZAC SPIRIT SET TO KICK ON

Well done to the East Malvern RSL Club for this wonderful idea.



Veterans John Yorseton and Margaret Prowse with Sally Gillieron and Jack Casey.
Picture: Eugene Hyland

From: Progress Leader April 18th, 2017

Young footballers are getting into the Anzac spirit, joining forces for a lightning premiership. Boys' and girls' teams from local clubs, including the Ashy Redbacks and Camberwell Sharks, will take to Darling Park on Anzac Day, for a special day of football and commemoration.

The day will be coordinated through the East Malvern RSL sub-branch.

President Cam Johnstone said the day would start at 6am with a dawn service, followed by the youngsters playing for the East Malvern RSL Anzac Day Cup.

The day will conclude with two VAFA matches between the De La Salle men's and women's team and Old Caulfield Grammarians.

We were thrilled to see our much loved member Margaret (Mathews) Prowse (ESF Liaison AAPC) photographed with fellow veteran John Yorseton.

Our thanks to Eileen (Baker) Gowans for alerting us to the article, Eileen is a long-time friend of the Association. Ed.

Honour Their Memory



By: Madeleine Turner,
Herald-Sun, Melbourne
February 16, 2017

Nurse Bullwinkel pictured after the war, above, in a POW camp, left, and above the Vyner Brooke, the bombed ship the nurses were on before their capture by the Japanese.

ON FEBRUARY 16, 1942, 22 Australian nurses and one elderly civilian woman sat on Radji Beach, Indonesia, awaiting their fate.

Japanese soldiers kept guard, as they cleaned bayonets covered in the blood of British servicemen who, only minutes before, had been marched to a headland on Bangka Island, and murdered by the Japanese.

I wonder what went through those women's minds as their captors motioned for them to

stand and walk towards the water; the fear and pounding hearts as they were marched waist-deep into the sea and ordered to stand in a straight line.

Eyes ahead. Backs to the enemy. Waiting. Waiting. And then the machine gun fire, sweeping back and forth, delivering hammer blows of death followed by the quiet as the red ocean took their lifeless bodies.

If no one had survived, that brutal act of calculated evil would

- Honour Their Memory -

have remained unknown. But remarkably, one Australian nurse, Vivian Bullwinkel, survived that horrific day 75 years ago. Badly injured, she feigned death and eventually washed up on to shore.

For 12 days Bullwinkel hid in the jungle and nursed a wounded British soldier before surrendering to the Japanese and enduring three years in a POW camp.

She was determined to survive so that her story and the lives of those lost would never be forgotten. It is war memories like those - and countless others - that we must preserve for future generations of Australians.

It's one of the reasons war memorials hold such a significant place in our nation's landscape. Their imposing physicality and permanence are hard to ignore. They are tangible symbols of what our nation holds sacred in our collective memory. And yet, extraordinarily, it was only

in the late 1990s - after a hard-fought struggle - that Australian Service nurses were honoured with their own national memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra

Although there is ample evidence that Australian soldiers deeply appreciated nurses in war and their contribution to the war effort, the nation has been slow to make official recognition of that.

For so long, the recognition of Australian Service nurses had been subsumed into memorials that honour male endeavour and sacrifice. No memorial had captured the personal recollections and war memories of Australian Service nurses in a distinct way.

The Australian Service Nurses' National Memorial was established to honour the collective efforts and sacrifices made by Australian nurses in all areas of combat and service life since the Boer War.

- Honour Their Memory -

The memorial spoke the harsh truth that, although nurses were guaranteed protection under the Geneva Convention, many experienced physical danger and were killed. By articulating the danger and deplorable conditions in which nurses worked, the ASNMM effectively dismantles the myths of their "safe" wartime experience that have trivialised their significant role in war. It is a version of history where the activities of men are not more important than those of women. Nor are horrific war experiences memories exclusive to men. Women have shared a part and their memories allow the definition of "hero" to be reworked.

The ASNMM was also about creating a place from which many nurses could publicly reckon with their memories; to remember but also celebrate the distinctive contribution that they made. Their role was to provide medical treatment for Diggers brutalised by the curse of war and to help them in their moment of greatest need.

When the nurses on Radji Beach knew death was coming, having witnessed the massacre of soldiers and civilians before them, they considered attempting to flee. Matron Irene Drummond gently reminded the nurses they couldn't because it was their duty to care for those unable to do so until the end.

When the inevitable came, she called out as they walked into the sea, "Chins up, girls. I'm proud of you and love you all".

Vivian Bullwinkel echoed that dedication to service and care when she nursed the wounded British soldier for 12 days despite her injuries and risked her life to find food and water.

As our nation marks the 75th anniversary of the Bangka Island massacre, we would do well to honour the incredible sacrifice those Australian nurses made, not simply in their death, but in their life-giving service to others.

- Honour Their Memory -

Their compassion, courage and selflessness under fire are inspiring. But their courage and sacrifice did not begin and end on the battlefield. Those who survived returned home to continue serving and nursing their communities.

At a time when comfort, self-entitlement and individualism are the idols of our age, we need to be reminded that true community is built upon a service culture. We can't expect our society to flourish if we are not willing to sacrifice our time and energy in the service of others and our communities.

When those 22 Australian nurses walked towards their impending death, we know from Vivian Bullwinkel's account that not

one of them panicked. Not one cried or whimpered. They stood tall, with their chins up, and marched into that sea, knowing full well there was no escape.

May we and generations to come keep faith with their spirit and example.

Dr Madeleine Turner wrote her history honours thesis on the Australian service nurses' national memorial

Published in:
Herald-Sun Melbourne,
February 16, 2017 - Ed.



Anzac Day 2017



The threat of Terrorism, bad weather and at times a fragmented march plan did not deter family and friends supporting the Marchers as they set off from their designated step off points. This year the Association was fortunate to have a band ahead of us to help us keep in step. We had 13 former members join with us to proudly march behind the WRAAC banner. This is the first time the Association has had a band accompany us as we usually end up singing old Army songs to keep us upbeat and falling over our feet. Jude Pinkerton-Treloar led the Association with

President Margaret Jager, joining Jean (Grenda) Parry (2/7 AGH, 115 AGH, 27c Camp Hosp) in a vehicle.

There was a different feel to the Observance Day March this year as Family appearing to play a significant role with young children visibly engaged in the proceedings.

Margaret Jager's two young Grandchildren (Pictured above with Margaret) were typical of the representation on the day with Hannah (3) and Ryan (6) proudly wearing their Grandmother's and Great Grandmother's service medals.



The Australian Women's Land Army

The children when interviewed by the press and under the glare of TV lighting were able to articulate quite proudly about the medals they were wearing. Well done Hannah and Ryan.

We missed our dear friend Denise (Mitchell) Hodder this year as she was overseas.

Best wishes to Lorraine (Atkinson) Onans who was also on an Overseas holiday, we missed you too.

It is always special when we see our dear friends from the Land Army form up behind us and exchange greetings. This year we were saddened to learn that their President Nancey Ormsby was not well and did not attend the March.

Our love and best wishes to Nancey and all former members of the AWLA. A job well done.



High Lights on ANZAC DAY

We loved the photo of Jean Parry surrounded by her family, Jean is revered by the Veteran Community.

Seeing Jean Kelly marching behind the AWAS Banner, well done Jean.

A big thankyou to all the wonderful Guides and Scouts for their participation on the day, we are so grateful to their Leaders and wonderful Parents.

Catching up with Kathy (Donahue) Murnane who was racing off to join her husband (A Vietnam Vet). Kathy said she would see us at the International for our Luncheon.

A welcome cuppa from the Salvos after the March (Thank God for the Salvos). Meeting up with our Navy friends and embracing the significance of the day, we loved their new Banner. Well done girls.

Getting lots of hugs and warm smiles from the Public as we walked around the City.

Low Light on ANZAC DAY

The disrespectful post from a certain individual to score a Political Point.



Vale



VF 396253

***Kathleen (Kay) (McDonald)
Stark (War Graves)***

*Kay passed away on the
1st December 2016*

Our sincere condolences to Kay's family and friends at this sad time.

VF 397860

Eveline May Stewart

*Eveline passed away on the
8th December 2016*

Our thoughts are with Eveline's family and especially Lin Hodgens on the loss of her two dear friends, Kay and Eveline

Our sincere condolences to Lois (McLean) Morrison on the passing of her dear Husband, Rob on the 11th March 2017.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family

VF 397860

Eveline Hamono (Signals)

Our sincere condolences to Eveline's family and friends on her passing (8th December 2016)

VF 396677

***Melva Dorothea Clark
(nee Constable)
formerly Bassett***

Australian Special Wireless Group(ASWG)

*Melva passed away on the 3rd
June 2017*

Sincere Condolences to Melva's Family and Friends at this time.



VF 509215

***Winifred (Win) (Johnson)
Arelette (RAA)***

*Win passed away on the
14th May 2017*

Our sincere condolences to Win's family and friends.

On behalf of the Association, President Margaret Jager attended Win's service.





**NFX 205885 Mary Evelyn
(Lulla) Robinson.**

*21st October 1917 –
21st April 2017*



Lulla served at Concord Hospital as a nurse during World War 2. This is where she met the love of her life and married him. Of course, at that time you couldn't continue to serve if you were married.

Lulla lived life to the fullest and loved every minute of it. She had many trips overseas and around Australia. You would say to her, "We are going somewhere" and she would say, "That's a beautiful place but be careful of ____."

She knew everything and I think that's because she has been a lot of places in her 99 ½ years with us.

Lulla is survived by her 3 children, her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

***Doreen (Huxley) Smith
(WRAAC)***

30 WRAAC Bks

We sadly report the passing of Doreen in February 2017 and convey our sincere condolences to her family and friends. Doreen was of great assistance to the Association when we were organizing the WRAAC History Exhibition at the Shrine several years ago. Her knowledge of Mt Martha House was extensive as she had written a book about its history several years ago. Doreen also organized a reunion at Mt Martha House in 1991.

Our thanks to her friend Lyn Board for advising the Association of Doreen's passing.

Lest we forget.



***Sergeant Hugh Donald Fry
(3167621)***

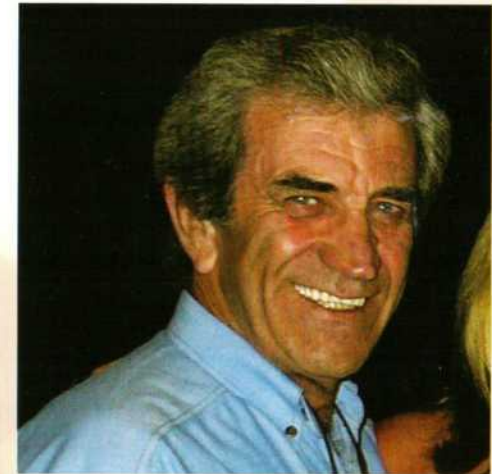
Hugh Donald Fry joined 7 Transport Company Coburg in 1963 and qualified as a driving and drill instructor. In March 1969 Hugh attended a 7 Transport Company Camp at Puckapunyal, with 3 WRAAC Company also on a camp at the same time. Hugh was a welcome guest at the WRAAC Sergeant's Mess with the girls entertained by his singing. So much for the Non-Fraternization order!

In recent years Hugh has been the "Car Park" attendant at our Annual Luncheon. Hugh was very much respected by all who knew him. Sergeant Hugh Donald Fry was discharged in 1971 leaving lots of great memories of a job well done

The Association extends its sincere condolences to Heather on the passing of her husband Hugh on the 9th June 2017.

Our thoughts are with the Fry family at this sad time..

Vale dear Hugh.



CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Jude Pinkerton-Treloar, Marilyn Bartlett and the Schuyler family on the recent passing of Harold Schuyler (National Serviceman) on the 12th May 2017. A gentle soul at rest.

Lest We Forget

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
Our memory becomes a treasure*



SICK PARADE

To all our members who are not feeling well, at this time, our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member or our Chaplain Rev.

William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

Thinking of our dear friend Ethel (Calvert) St John 2AABP (Postal)

Association Honorary member, Ella (Brown) Burton is on the mend after a recent hospital stay. Best wishes to you Ella, we look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

COMMUNICATION BOOK

Hello to our dear friend Kate Doran from your mates at the Association and thank you for your support of the Journal.

It means a lot to us. Editor.

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Cheryle (Howes) Brown and Husband Ron who recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary at the wonderful San Remo Hotel, Phillip Island. Cheryle and Ron's former service mates together with family and friends ensured a great day was had by all.

BABY NEWS



Left to Right Giselle, Matilda, Brenda holding Freya, Ashton and Isla

Brenda (Ruby) and Rod Walters welcomed another beautiful Granddaughter to the family with the arrival of Freya. Congratulations to the Walters family.

Congratulations to Carol and Grant King on the arrival of their fourth Grandchild, Jake Rolland.

Born a month early on 25th May weighing 2.1Kg to Carol's daughter Shannon and Jimm.



You May Have Missed This

THE WAR AT HOME



ALMOST one million Australians served in World War II, but what of the lives of those left behind?

During the war, Victorians struggled with rising costs and unemployment, women took on traditionally male roles (picture above), civilians were enlisted to undertake voluntary work and factories were repurposed to serve the war effort.

After Japan joined the war in 1941, many Australians feared an invasion was imminent

Blackout restrictions and air raid warnings were introduced, many families dug air raid shelters in suburban backyards (inset) and barbed wire was strung across many beaches along the east coast.

The government strictly censored the media and many overseas-born Australians, mostly from Germany, Italy and Japan, were treated as "enemy aliens" and placed in internment camps.

By June 1942; rationing was introduced in Australia, covering meat, tea, butter, sugar and even footwear.

But it wasn't enough to enable the government to pay for the war effort. So, it called on citizens to lend money to the government by purchasing bonds called "Victory Loans".

WWII also strengthened Australia's relationship with the US. When British prime minister Winston Churchill said if forced to choose he would use troops to protect his own land rather than protect Australia from the Japanese, prime minister John Curtin turned to the US for help.

America responded and from early 1942, US troops began arriving in Australia.

By 1943, 250,000 American troops were stationed in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Armed with manners and money, many won the hearts of Australian women.

While the Germans surrendered on May 8, 1945, the war continued until Japan's surrender on August 15. Authorities, worried celebrations would get out of hand, closed all pubs on that day, but crowds gathered in the streets and strangers danced together.

Melissa Meehan

More stories and photos from the archives at heraldsun.com.au This article was published in Herald-Sun Melbourne on March 9, 2017 - Ed

Our Women Heeded Call to Serve Country in Time of War



On a cold, wet night in June 1940 about 10,000 women braved the weather to attend a public meeting at Sydney Town Hall. It was called to discuss allowing women to contribute to the war effort as official members of the military.

Lady Margaret Wakehurst, wife of Baron Wakehurst the governor of NSW, gave a speech saying: "Every woman has come here tonight with just one steadfast purpose in

her heart; how she can best serve her country". Her speech, and the huge attendance at the meeting, was a crucial moment leading to the formation a year later of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS).

Formed 75 years ago tomorrow, the AWAS played a vital role in the war effort and paved the way for women to join the armed forces after World War II

After war was declared in September 1939, Australian men volunteered for military service, while women were urged to contribute at home or fill jobs left vacant by the men going to war. But many wanted to do more. Before the war, Britain had formed several women's auxiliary military forces. By the time war was declared there were already 20,000 British women trained and ready to serve.

Denied any official role, Australian women joined existing voluntary forces or formed new ones. Among the newly formed civilian forces was the Women's Emergency Signaling Corps (WESC), formed in 1939 by Florence Violet McKenzie, which trained women in telegraph and signals. McKenzie had been inspired by the Australian Women's Flying Club, formed in 1938 by pioneer aviatrix Nancy Bird-Walton who gave women a level of training that would "make the corps a valuable asset to Australia".

While many politicians disagreed that women trained in military skills would be of use to the war effort-arguing that it was not a woman's

"normal role" - women continued to join voluntary organisations. Lady Wakehurst was one of many prominent women who tried to force the issue by conducting public meetings. Following the huge turnout at Sydney in June 1940, a centre for Women's Australian National Service (WANS) was opened in July 1940 and 4431 members immediately signed up.

Their cause found strong support from prime minister Robert Menzies who visited Britain early in 1941, and saw the important work that women were doing there. In March 1941 a Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force was formed, but the army still lacked female auxiliaries. Persistent lobbying and invitations for politicians to come and see WANS training convinced Percy Spender, minister for the army, who said in July 1941 that "in time of war, women's services should be used to the greatest extent possible".

Spender's comments resulted in a flood of phone calls from women wanting to know more. But there were still details to be sorted. The war cabinet asked the military to

- Our Women -

recommend jobs that women could perform, and they suggested they could be drivers, postal workers, switchboard operators and fill roles in canteens and on training bases. The army was adamant that, "women should not be trained to shoot, but many of them had already acquired that skill."

Finally, on August 13, 1941, the government created the AWAS. Many of the first recruits were from WANS, who were already trained in useful skills and quickly took on roles as telegraph operators, typists, telephonists, cooks, signallers, canteen workers and clerks. The government invited Sybil Howy Irving to head the AWAS. She had been a nurse in WWI and was serving with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (a medical auxiliary service). She held that post up until 1946. Although initially prevented from serving overseas, in 1944 permission was given for some AWAS members to serve in New Guinea. A total of 385 would see service there.

By the time the AWAS was disbanded in 1947, 24,026 women had served in its ranks. These

women had pioneered the role of women in the armed forces.

When more people were needed during the Korean War, a new Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) was formed that remained in existence until 1985, by which time the process of integrating women into the regular armed forces was completed.

Acknowledgement to You'll Be Sorry: How World War II Changed Women's Lives by Ann Howard (Big Sky Publishing).

By: Troy Lennon - History Editor
Sydney Telegraph (August 2016)

Thank you to our dear friend Dorothy (Edwards) Holmquest (AACS) and her fellow AWAS mate (for over 75 years) in Queensland for alerting us to this article. Editor



The Australian Women's Army Service is a part of the A.M.F. and is administered according to the provisions of A.M.F. 5 (1).

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Personnel are selected for the duration of the war for service within the Commonwealth.

UNIFORM

All necessary uniforms and accessories are provided on enlistment. The members who have complete sets:

SUMMER UNIFORM
WINTER UNIFORM
GREATCOAT
SHIRT AND COLLAR
UNDERWEAR
STOCKINGS
SHOES
GLOVES
HAT

and other articles according to the type of work to be undertaken. There is, in addition, an initial allowance of £5/- and a weekly zero allowance of £2/- per person and an allowance of 35 coupons per week for wireless and gas money.

A.W.A.S.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE

Further particulars from THE ASSISTANT GOVERNOR OF THE A.W.A.S. AT YOUR SERVICE

EVERY WOMAN WHO ENLISTS IN THE A.W.A.S. RELEASES A FIT MAN FOR FRONT LINE SERVICE

The Australian Women's Army Service has been established to provide personnel to perform many duties which hitherto have necessarily been done by men, thus releasing fit men for service in forward areas. Women who are physically fit and between 18 and 45 years of age, are enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service for full time military duty.

GROUPING OF OCCUPATIONS

- GROUP I.:**
Wireless Telegraph Operator, Remington Machine Operator, Draughtswoman, Photographer, Photowriter.
- GROUP II.:**
Clerk grade 2, Cook, Stenographer, Storekeeper grade 2, * Instrument Operator, including Plotters for Battery Plotting Rooms and Predictor Operators for Anti-Aircraft Batteries, Seamstress, Transport and Motor Driver, Tailoress, Signaller-woman.
- GROUP III.:**
Typist, Teletypewriter Operator, Clerical Assistant (Clerk grade 1), Storekeeper grade 1, Canteen Attendant, Textile Refitter, Equipment Repairer.
- GROUP IV.:**
Telephonist, Waitress, Orderly, Salvage Worker.
- * This occupation is subject to reclassification.

RATES OF PAY

The rates of pay for adults and for minors during their first 12 months' service are as shown in the following table. Minors are paid adult pay on attaining the age of 21 years, or upon appointment to non-commissioned, or commissioned rank, or after completing 12 months' service, whichever is the earlier.

In addition, Subsistence allowance is paid at the following rates to personnel NOT rationed and quartered:

3/- per day when living at home.

4/6 per day when, for service reasons, members are NOT living at home.

Personnel, not rationed and quartered, are issued with ration

RATES OF PAY

ADULT

	DAILY PAY RATES	WEEKLY RATES OF PAY		
		PAY ONLY	PLUS 3/- PER DAY SUBSISTENCE	PLUS 4/6 PER DAY SUBSISTENCE
Sergeant	8/-	2/16/-	3/17/-	4/7/6
Corporal	7/-	2/9/-	3/10/-	4/-/6
Group I.	6/8	2/6/8	3/7/8	3/18/2
II.	6/-	2/2/-	3/3/-	3/13/6
III.	5/-	1/15/-	2/16/-	3/6/6
IV.	4/4	1/10/4	2/11/4	3/1/10

MINOR

	DAILY PAY RATES	WEEKLY RATES OF PAY		
		PAY ONLY	PLUS 3/- PER DAY SUBSISTENCE	PLUS 4/6 PER DAY SUBSISTENCE
Sergeant	8/-	2/16/-	3/17/-	4/7/6
Corporal	7/-	2/9/-	3/10/-	4/-/6
Group I.	5/4	1/17/4	2/18/4	3/8/10
II.	4/10	1/13/10	2/14/10	3/5/4
III.	4/4	1/10/4	2/11/4	3/1/10
IV.	3/10	1/6/10	2/7/10	2/18/4

Members of the
A·W·A·S

ON THE JOB



A·W·A·S

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE

AWAS / WRAAC Commemorative Service 8th May

Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne

A large crowd gathered within the Sanctuary of our revered Shrine of Remembrance to remember the past and embrace the future. We were welcomed to the Service by Shrine Governor, Major Maggie More RFD with our President Margaret Jager, MC. This year we welcomed WRANS Association Victoria President, Jenny Mc Gowan who recited the Ode to our honoured dead with our dear friend, Margaret Hattersley (NAVY) saying the beautiful wreath laying psalm. WRAAC Association member Maxine (Turner) Pettingill read the Ex-Service woman's prayer which is always reflective and timeless.

Ms Kelli Brogan sang "I am Australian" and the National Anthem to an appreciative audience.



Photo: Ms Kelli Brogan

Our Chaplain, The Reverend Bill Pugh led us in a prayer of Remembrance as we thanked the Servicewomen of Australia for their service to the Nation.



We thought of our Service personnel far away from home and loved ones. We remembered those we have lost and the sadness we feel at their passing.

The wreath laying ceremony reflects the bond we share with our former sister services as wreaths were placed in their honour with our Piper, Mr David Cretney playing the Lament. All present were then invited to place a poppy in remembrance as our Piper played the melodic, Greensleeves.

Following the service, we gathered in the Gallery area of the Shrine for morning tea and a chance to catch up with dear friends.

It was wonderful once again to catch up with the late Rhonnie (Quirk) Penaluna's son Kenneth, at the Service. Rhonnie served with the AWAS in Western Australia.

As we left the Sanctuary the sun miraculously appeared and spread its warming rays over the Shrine Forecourt and in turn seemed to spread its glow over the AWAS and WRAAC



Flags flying proudly overhead. It was a magnificent sight.

Ms Emma Jager-Willey placed the AWAS wreath this year in memory of her late Paternal Grandmother, a former member of the AWAS.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar (WRAAC) placed the Land Army wreath on behalf of the AWLA.

Heather Fry (WRAAC) placed the Nursing wreath.

Brenda Walters (WRAAC) placed the WAAF wreath.

Jenny McGowan (WRANS) placed a wreath in memory of the WRANS.

Sincere thanks to our WRAAC Association President Margaret Jager, who designed and made the beautiful wreaths for the service.

Next year the AWAS/ WRAAC Service will be held on the 6th May at 10am.



Repat News

The 70th Anniversary of the Army Handover on 19th May 2017, also on this day Brigadier Neale Bavington RFD ED (RTD) Chairman, Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic) Inc unveiled a plaque that will be placed in the memorial garden along with all the other unit plaques.

Following the service there was a get together and refreshments where we caught up with Margaret Handte, Iris Petrass, Maxine Pettingill and Heather Fry (I am sorry if I missed anyone else who was there).

It was a great turnout.

Margaret (Robinson) Jager



WRAAC members in attendance with Jenny Macklin (local member)



Brigadier Neale Bavington RFD ED (rt) with the plaque after the unveiling



It was a very sad and sombre day as Matron Hanrahan (ex Army) stood on the steps of the South Wing of the administration building, looking regal in all her starched whites with Matron Bowes (AANS) at her side, to commence the ceremony to mark the passage of time when our Military Hospital would become the Repatriation Hospital Heidelberg

Terri (Lombe) Lessels
NFX 479894
Nurse Training School number 4
113th AGH Concord
115th AGH Heidelberg
130th AGH Ita Jima Japan

The 70th Anniversary of the Handover from the Army
will commence in the Acacia Room at

11.00am on Friday 19 May 2017
Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

RSVP to Robert Winther by 12 May 2017
Email: robert.winther@austin.org.au Phone: 9496 2324

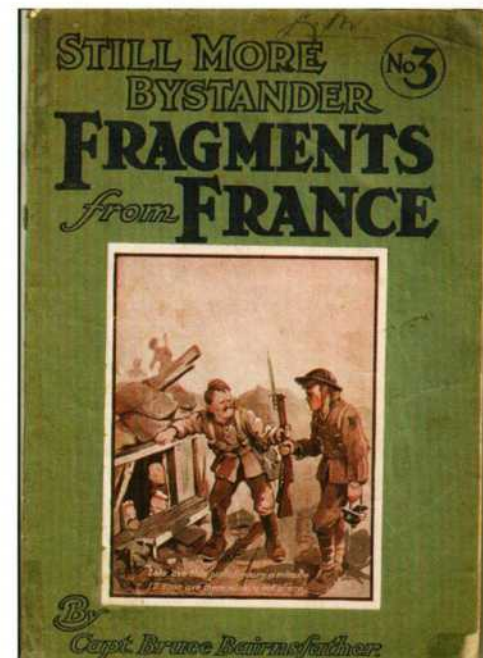
Enter via gate 9 Waterdale Rd, free parking at Ash Grove

Loved This Very Old Magazine

My son recently found this priceless book in some discarded papers and passed it on to me. It's the brainchild of Captain Bruce Bairnsfather, an Officer in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who arrived in France in 1914. Bairnsfather appears to have been an illustrator prior to the outbreak of war and had some success designing posters for Beechams and Liptons (Tea)

During the darkest days of the war his drawings decorated the dugouts and certainly boosted morale. Recalling his time in the trenches, Bairnsfather said he frequently "saw the satire" in trench-fighters finding themselves "in such macabre and pathetic predicament of mutilated landscapes, primitive trench life, ceaseless wearing drudgery and the ever-present danger of the final nuisance"

Bairnsfather later said, "The first of my war drawings materialised during November 1914, in the neighbourhood known as 'Plugstreet Wood' and this



same section was the inspiration for many more to follow.

[We had] the honour of defending a series of waterlogged slots in the flat ground, in the shattered village of St Yvon. On starting to draw, I had no idea of deliberately making sketches through the war, and had not the faintest idea of their coming popularity.

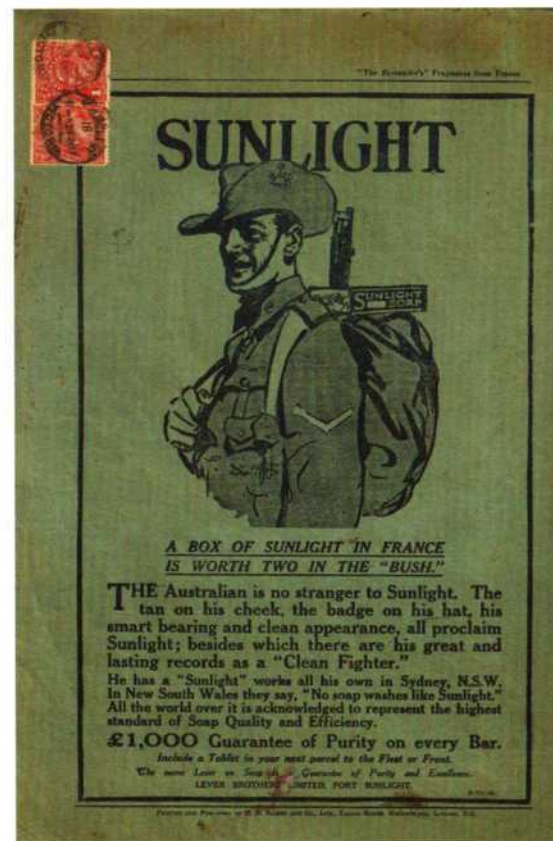


soldiers peering out of a dugout as a shell exploded behind them. The caption read; "Where did that one go to?" Bruce Bairnsfather's cartoons started to appear regularly in the Bystander and realising he was a talented artist, it gave him an exclusive contract. In February 1916, the Bystander published 43 of his cartoons in magazine form under the title of "Fragments from France." It cost one shilling. Selling over 250,000 copies, it was followed by seven more volumes of his work.

Recalling his time in the trenches, Bairnsfather said he frequently "saw the satire" in trench-fighters finding themselves "in such a macabre and pathetic predicament of mutilated landscapes, primitive trench life, ceaseless wearing drudgery' and the 'ever-present danger of the final nuisance." The stolid humour and relentless endurance of soldiers living and fighting under such appalling conditions appealed to him with such force, he said that, "the drawings emerged as my only means of being articulate about what I felt."

They began by being trench-scribbled efforts which I found an irresistible urge to put down."

Bairnsfather's first sketch was accepted by the Bystander and was reproduced in the issue dated 31st March 1915. The magazine paid a fee of three Guineas for it. Bairnsfather first saw the cartoon in print in May 1915 when a fellow patient at a convalescent hospital pointed it out to him. The drawing showed a group of



Due to the immense popularity of Bairnsfather's illustrations, it was inevitable they would soon appear on postcards - and they did!

Published by the Bystander as 'Fragments from France', fifty-four of the artists best cartoons

- printed in sepia on soft card - were released in nine sets of six cards each. Many of them depicted "Old Bill", the "Tommy's favourite wartime character." These are collectors' items today.

Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Find



Note: The two AWAS
in this photo are GNR
M.I. Thomson and
GNR J.M. Alchin

As a follow up to our article, Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Find, we have a wonderful story to share with you. As you recall from the November 2016 article, a concrete slab was discovered by local Historians as they walked around the Lighthouse site. The names etched into the concrete were, Gunner Royals, Gunner Alchin and Gunner Thomson. History tells us that during the war, members of the AWAS were stationed there to participate in the defense of Australia. The AWAS (Coastal Arty) were highly skilled and motivated

women who worked arduous 8 hour shifts, watching for signs of enemy shipping as the threat of a Japanese invasion was very real. The AWAS role was significant and should not be forgotten.

In early March 2017, the Association was contacted by Elaine (Gundlach) Gallagher who served at Point Lonsdale and as a member of the AWAS knew the girls. Elaine tells us she joined the AWAS in June 1943 and said she was billeted at Whitehall, Queenscliff until Army huts were constructed for them. The AWAS

appeared to enjoy the training which consisted of Drill and small arms training. The women were equally proficient in operating Battery Observation Post Range Finders. (Refer to left photo)

Elaine wrote this summary of her service.

On my 18th Birthday I joined the AWAS (Australian Women's Army Service) enlisting at Swan Hill. It was there I met my lifelong friend Evelyn Burns (nee Davidson)

We did rookie training at Darley (near Bacchus Marsh) before being posted to the Coastal Artillery at Queenscliff. We used to travel daily via Army trucks to work until new women's barracks were built at Point Lonsdale. I was promoted to Corporal, known as Bombardier in the Artillery. Duties included BOP (Battery Observation Post) duty and battery observation at the Lighthouse overlooking the heads searching for enemy ships.



Bombardier Elaine Gundlach

From 1943 to 1946, I was stationed at Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. I worked in an office and was in charge of the AWAS Barracks at Point Lonsdale. I was eventually promoted to Bombardier (Corporal) in the Coastal Artillery. When the war ended in 1945 I was transferred to Melbourne Head Office at 339 Swanston Street awaiting discharge which eventuated in 1946.



Life time mates
 EV (Davidson)
 Burns and Elaine
 (Gundlach)
 Gallagher

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STANDING ORDERS FOR CAMP

13 May 44

UNIT BOARD

LEAVE HOURS	TRADES
0600	Mrs Reville
0605	Roll call
0615	Commence cleaning of site
0700	Breakfast
0810	Sick Parade
0855	School Parade
1035	Showering time
1230	Lunch meal
1730	Get & New units report for retreat
1740	Sick. Actual
1800	Evening meal
2130	Quid post
2145	Tattoo
2230	Lights Out.

PLATOON LEADERS

Outis from retreat to retreat.
 Responsible for punctuality of platoon.
 & see that outis are carried out.
 If any member is admitted to Camp Hospital,
 Platoon leader is responsible for packing members kit
 and take it immediately to laundry room.

Elaine has kindly given us a copy of Standing Orders for Camp we thought you may wish to peruse and reflect. We also have a copy of the Subjects covered during her training.

We sincerely thank Elaine and her son Derek, who kindly assisted us with photos, memorabilia, copies of AWAS posters and recruiting information.

With Elaine and Derek's permission we have passed this information to the Historical Society.

- Editor

Dame Vera Lynn

Celebrated her 100th Birthday on the 20th March 2017



Happy 100th Birthday Dame Vera, lovingly known as "The Forces Sweetheart" and thank you for the music that has remained close to the hearts of so many Australian families. Memories can be enhanced instantly by listening to an ageless song by this inspirational

woman. Post-war babies all seem to know a Vera Lynn song as they were so very popular into the early 50s at any family gathering. Enjoy your 100th year Dame Vera and well done on the release of your compilation album, the first centenarian to do so.

VE Day

On the 7th May 1945 the German High Command authorized the signing of an unconditional surrender on all fronts, the war in Europe was over. The following day

was declared VE Day (Victory in Europe). However, the Australian population had their focus on the Pacific and a battle that had to be won.

City: Morning mist or drizzle; fine later.

The Sun
NEWS - PICTORIAL

No. 7057 Melbourne: Tuesday, May 8, 1945 (16 Pages) 2d.

Largest Net Daily Sale In Australia 336,376

**UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER BY
GERMANS TO ALL ALLIES**

**WAR ENDS IN
EUROPE**

**GERMANS
BREAK
NEWS**

**GERMANS
TOLD
ON RADIO**

LONDON, MONDAY. AAP.--GERMANY SURRENDERED ALL HER FORCES UNCONDITIONALLY TO THE WESTERN ALLIES AND RUSSIA EARLY TODAY.

LONDON, Monday, AAP.—Von Krosigk, in his broadcast statement said: As leading Minister of the Reich Government, which Grand Admiral Doenitz appointed to deal with war

As pictured, a copy of the front page of The Sun on the 8th May telling of the Germans surrender. This year as every year,

commemoration services are held Australia wide to reflect on the war in Europe and the sacrifice of many. Lest we forget.

Battle Of The Coral Sea

4-8 MAY 1942

"Momentous weeks ahead" PM warns.

"MOMENTOUS WEEKS AHEAD," P.M. WARNS

CANBERRA, Friday.—"The next few weeks might be among the most momentous in history," the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) declared in a national broadcast tonight.

Earlier, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Curtin announced that the great naval battle raging in the Pacific would "vitaly influence the immediate threat confronting Australia."

He added: "The action, whatever its result, must be of crucial importance to the whole conduct

of the war in the South-west Pacific, but it will not decide the war."

No move has yet been made to call an emergency meeting of the War Cabinet, or to hold Cabinet members in Canberra over the week-end.

Cheers greeted Mr. Curtin's announcement of successes achieved by Allied forces in the naval and air action on Monday.

Rumors of momentous war news had spread in the lobbies a few minutes before the official announcement. Mr. Curtin addressed a tense House, although many members had already left Canberra for Sydney.

Mr. Curtin said: "The Commander-in-Chief has informed me that a great naval battle is proceeding in the South-West Pacific area, and that it arises from the operations which began on May 4.

"What is taking place as I speak is of crucial importance to the whole conduct of the war in this theatre.

"I have no information as to how the engagement is developing, but I would like the nation to be assured that there will be, on the part of our forces, and no the part of the American forces, all that devotion to duty which is characteristic of the naval and air power of the United States, Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

"Nobody can tell at this moment what the result of this en-

gagement will be. If it should go advantageously, we will have cause for great gratitude. Our position will be a little clearer. But if we should not have the advantages which we hope for, then confronting us is a sterner ordeal and a greater responsibility.

"This battle will not decide the war; it will determine the immediate tactics which will be pursued by ourselves and by the common enemy.

"I ask the people of Australia, having regard to the grave consequences implicit in this engagement, to take a sober and realistic estimate of their duty to the nation.

"Men are fighting today for Australia; those who are not fighting have no excuse for not working."

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The battle of the Coral Sea was a significant turning point in the war as Australia's freedom depended on a victory over the Japanese. If the Japanese had won control of the Coral Sea we would have been isolated and eventually taken over.

A frightening thought: Editor

Kokoda and the "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels"

The villagers who lived in remote communities along the Kokoda Track possibly knew little about the war as they went about their daily tasks. This abruptly changed when the Japanese began dropping bombs on their villages and a sudden influx of Aussies arrived to repel the impending invasion.

With villagers helping to support the Australian troops by carrying supplies they also formed teams to carry the sick and wounded. With their compassion and care the Australians referred to these wonderful men as "Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels"

Our Chaplain, the Reverend Bill Pugh writes;
Face to Face with an Angel.
On a recent Saturday, we went to the Shrine of Remembrance to

meet Havala Laua, the last of the wonderful Fuzzy Wuzzy angels who helped and saved the lives of many of our soldiers at Kokoda in WW2. Now in his 90's, then aged 15 years. Four of those veterans, also well into their 90's, were there too. It was a moving experience. One incident stood out, a digger, alone off the track, who had collapsed on a rise, was found by a villager. Delirious from dehydration. A small white basin of cool drinking water, replenished many times from the village, kept him alive till help arrived, and he was carried to the Regimental Aid Post. A small gift, a simple basin of cold water was a lifesaving miracle. Indelible in the veteran's memory, for which he was forever grateful.



Havala Laua - Photo courtesy of ABC

The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels survived mud, terrible conditions, privation. They carried super human loads, saved many lives. And shared one blanket between two on the journey.

We must never forget our debt to those wonderful Angels of Kokoda and villagers who risked so much and gave so much to our brave men on the Track.

Sadly, too little recognition too late. What a privilege to meet Havala Laua!

Bill Pugh

Thankyou Bill for your thought provoking article.

Lest we forget. – Editor

JUNGLE FIGHTER (NEW GUINEA WWII)

WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY

Jungle fighter

Australian soldiers fighting in New Guinea had to battle the conditions as well as the Japanese. Equipment had to be adapted. The soldier's best friends were his Lee Enfield .303 and later the trusty Owen gun

Graphic: Steve Short

EQUIPMENT

HADGEAR Slouch hats, usually worn with slouch turned down to guard against the sun. Troops carried tin helmets, which they wore in combat or during bombing or shelling attacks.

WEAPONS Most troops carried a .303 rifle. Each section had a Bren gunner and a Thompson sub-machinegunner. Each soldier carried two grenades and two two-inch mortar bombs.

PACKS Webbing knapsack on back, containing essentials such as a groundsheet, spare shirts and socks, two webbing pouches were carried in front, containing rations (tins of bully beef and powdered milk, and hard biscuits), and perhaps two two inch mortar bombs.

UNIFORM Khaki shorts and shirts. Attempts were made along the track to dye the uniforms green, but the dye washed out. Some reinforcements late in campaigns wore jungle-green fatigues.

WATER Carried in enamel canteens, usually obtained from streams along track.

FOOTWEAR Standard Australian army boot with American-style gaiters.

WALKING STICKS Most diggers found sticks in the bush to help them on the difficult climbs of the trail.

(Source: Akshata veteran Stan Bisset)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF JUNGLE FIGHTING

1. Fight to win. Use all your strength and cunning. Surprise and defeat your enemy.
2. Learn your job. Then do it. Sluggers and hardships can't stop a jungle soldier.
3. Use cover skillfully. The jungle is your friend.
4. Guard your health. Without health you are useless in the jungle.
5. Protect your arms and equipment. Never leave them. You can't fix without them.
6. Keep calm. Keep silent. Keep mobile. Keep alive.
7. Make every shot count. Never fire blindly. Save ammunition.
8. Use teamwork. Do your part, especially when you're never surrender.
9. Never surrender. Withdraw into jungle cover. Or kill one more enemy.
10. Strike when it hurts most, where it hurts most.

From the *Soldiering in the Tropics* pamphlet distributed to all ranks in the southwest Pacific.

SMLE NO.1 MKIII

THE rifle most used by Australian troops was the venerable SMLE .303, introduced just before World War I as a replacement for the Lee-Metford rifle used in the Boer War, the Short Magazine Lee Enfield was a heavy but rugged weapon that could survive the appalling conditions. In the hands of a well-trained soldier, the SMLE - known almost universally as the "three-oh three" - could fire 30 shots a minute.

Including the time need to fit five-round clips of fresh ammunition into the 10-round magazine. The heavy, metal-jacketed bullet from the rifle was not easily deflected by leaves and twigs and had good stopping power. Although rugged, it was not really effective at 1000m; the rifle proved to be equally useful in the 100m skirmish on the Kokoda Trail. It could be fitted with a 44cm bipod that turned it into a fearsome close-quarters weapon.

SPECIFICATIONS
Calibre: .303 inch Length: 112.7cm
Magazine: 10 rounds Effective range: 3000m
Rate of fire: 30 shots a minute

OWEN SUB-MACHINEGUN

The Owen sub-machinegun was the most successful military weapon invented in Australia. It was a rugged and reliable close-quarters weapon, beating all other contenders - including British and American weapons. The production version fired three pistol ammunition and was used by soldiers, particularly those fighting in New Guinea. More than 50,000 were



SPECIFICATIONS
Calibre: 9mm
Length: 81.3cm
Magazine: 4.4kg
Rate of fire: 200 rounds a minute

produced by 1945. At the bullets travelled at subsonic speeds the Owen was one of the few weapons that could be successfully fitted with a silencer. It remained in use in the Australian army until the Vietnam war.

Top-mounted magazine including cartridge ejector
Barrel-removal plunger
Firing pin, recoil spring and trigger housing all sealed to unaffected by dust, mud and water
Butt: often a folding metal frame

VETERANS SCARVES



At LMB Knitwear P/L... we've been knitting for 50+ years, also specialising in 2D/3D embroidery applications for 20 years!

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www.flexfit.com

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www.instagram.com/lmbknitwear
www.facebook.com/lmbknitwear
www.twitter.com/lmbknitwear

Following our Chaplain's article, my thoughts turned to our Service Personnel and how they dressed for jungle war fare in such horrendous conditions. Correct

clothing and equipment would be essential for survival in New Guinea. We acknowledge Stan Bisset, a Kokoda veteran for this article with graphics by Steve Short. - Editor

