

Group H.
RAAF Darwin
Friday 7-10-



We'll meet again

Australian stories of love in wartime



We'll meet again - Australian stories of love in wartime

Teachers' Guidebook 2011

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Front cover images: main AWM P04243.001 [detail], AWM REL25037, AWM REL/05533, AWM P02316.003, AWM REL34431.001 [detail]

Back cover images: AWM SC00203, AWM P08488.001, AWM P07678.002, AWM REL/18564

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Information is current at date of publication

ISBN: 978-1-877007-58-3

DVA Project number: PO2101

Published by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra in association with the Australian War Memorial.

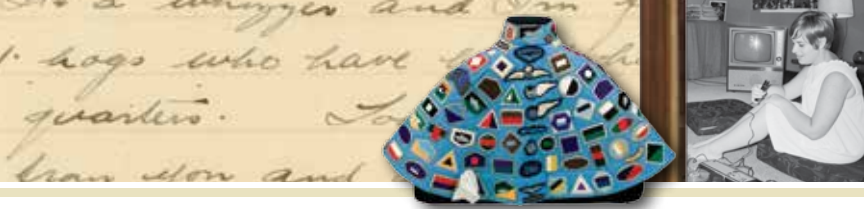
Designed by Brett Hatherly Fivefold Creative, Canberra

March 2011



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs





We'll meet again

Australian stories of love in wartime

An Australian history publication for secondary schools.

**Developed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in
association with the Australian War Memorial.**

Written by Heather Tregoning-Lawrence and Robyn Siers

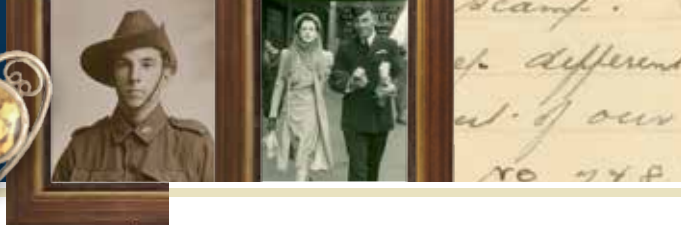


*We'll meet again,
don't know where,
don't know when ...*

Ross Parker, Hughie Charles, 1939



AWM REL25037



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AWM REL3851

Introduction

War shapes lives.

It involves strategies, operations, and technology, but it affects individuals, families, communities, and nations and brings out many emotions in those caught up in it. One of the strongest, most enduring and resilient emotions is love. Many Australians find love in the most unexpected places during wartime, whether at home or while on overseas service.

The need to love and be loved is intensified during wartime, when the future becomes unclear. This intensity, and a desire to make the most of every moment, can lead to impulsive decisions, and a setting aside of prior social conventions and proprieties. Separation heightens feelings between lovers, creating for some a sense of urgency. Romances blossom, and marriages follow soon afterwards as couples take a chance on an uncertain future. Other couples exercise caution, and put passion on hold for fear of possible future heartbreak.

Separation takes its toll on those serving, and on those who remain behind. Mementoes, letters, gifts, and photographs become vital links to loved ones through the months or even years apart. Some relationships falter under the pressure of separation and loneliness, or the trauma of injury. Fears and doubts arise as love is put to the test.

The end of hostilities and the declaration of peace brings a new set of joys and challenges. There is continued sadness for those who have lost loved ones, but for survivors this is a time of new beginnings. Many experience the joy of reunion and the challenges of adjustment into civilian life. For thousands of war brides, who follow their hearts across the world, peace brings them new lives in foreign lands.

While war brings great changes for Australian men and women, the essential nature of love, and its importance in our lives, remains constant. The personal stories of generations of Australians are revealed through the material they leave behind, and in this resource, these stories are told using the vast collection of the Australian War Memorial. Each object, letter, photograph, and work of art chosen, helps to tell the moving stories of love in wartime.



AWM PR04101 [detail]



Information for teachers

History is a story, told by many story-tellers, that links the past to the present. Through an understanding of their own and others' stories, students develop an appreciation of the richness of the past and its implications for the future.

(Shape of the Australian Curriculum: History 2009)

The purpose of this education resource is to provide teachers and senior students with classroom materials and teaching activities about the Australian experience of romance and love during wartime. Personal stories are revealed by exploring some of the beautiful and evocative objects, images, and works of art found in the National Collection of the Australian War Memorial.

The material in the resource is largely drawn from the Memorial's exhibition *Of Love and War*, elements of which can be found online at www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/loveandwar/index.asp and in the book *Stories of Love and War* by Rebecca Britt, published in 2010.

Each image is accompanied by an accession number that refers to the Australian War Memorial's collection. More detailed information about each image can be found on the website: www.awm.gov.au/search/collections/

Components

The education resource comprises two separate publications:

A collection of ten short stories, *Forever Yours: stories of wartime love and friendship*. This book, for younger readers, explores more broadly the notions of love and friendship during wartime.

A teachers' guidebook, *We'll meet again: Australian stories of love in wartime*. This contains three major themes and provides senior students with resources to explore the theme of romantic love during wartime. Each theme includes a rich collection of images and stories, information and evidence, including primary and secondary source material, with accompanying activities and reproducible print resources to give focus to students' investigations.

Theme one

First glance. War provides new and unique ways for couples to meet, and many difficulties have to be overcome when romance leads to deeper commitment and thoughts of marriage.

Theme two

Separation. Long-term separation brings fears and loneliness, so letters, photographs and mementoes become the lifeblood of long-distance relationships.

Theme three

Beyond the battlefield. Peacetime brings its own challenges to relationships shaped by war. Adjustment inevitably follows reunions, especially for those who travel to a new land to be with their loved one, but for some, the end of the war means the continuation of years of loss and loneliness.

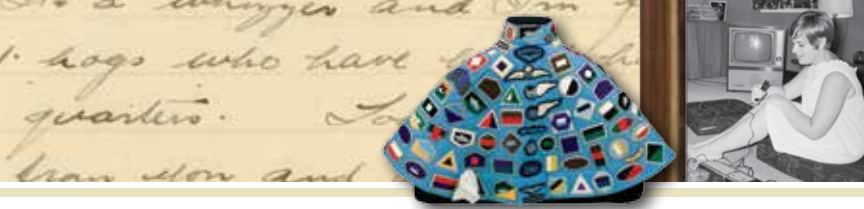
Inquiry methodology

The resource adopts an inquiry approach, with students encouraged to form conclusions and make judgements after critically analysing a variety of evidence and information. It allows students to engage with the stories of Australians during wartime, and to develop an empathy with those who experienced the joys and sorrows, fears, reunions, and loss, associated with wartime romantic relationships.

Disclaimer

The Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Australian War Memorial cannot be assumed to agree with or endorse any content or opinions expressed in websites or other publications quoted or referred to in this resource.

Teachers should note that the outcome of many of the stories contained in this resource is not always a happy one, and references to death and loss are frequent. Care should be taken, particularly with students who have family members currently serving with the Australian Defence Force, to ensure that the emotional needs of students are monitored.



Curriculum links and outcomes

We'll meet again is primarily intended for use in senior History and English classes, and the material has been linked to the Australian Curriculum. It provides an excellent vehicle for developing the skills of historical knowledge and understanding, and is a starting point for depth studies, particularly those which examine the effects and aftermath of the First and Second World Wars on Australian society.

The chronology of wars, historical facts, and campaign strategies can be studied in parallel with the effects of war on individuals and communities. By examining the personal stories, students can relate to the triumphs and difficulties of wartime romance, and discover its relevance to contemporary Australian society.

Australian Curriculum: History

We'll meet again can be used in the teaching of the following history units.

(Statements from version 1.1.0 Australian Curriculum: Modern History 2010)

Unit 1: Investigating modern history

In this unit, students study the causes and consequences of key events, people and ideas that shape the modern era. The time span for this study is predominantly twentieth century but may include significant content from the nineteenth century. Modern history includes significant economic, political, social and cultural movements. The study of modern history involves the investigation of different representations of the past and the use of sources to develop historical judgments.

Unit 4: Asia and Australia, 1937–2000

In this unit, students study the historical significance of World War II in the Asia-Pacific for Australia and Asian nations, developments since World War II, the increasing influence of Asia in the post-war period, and the implications for Australia.

Historical knowledge and understanding

Students will develop knowledge and understanding by investigating the key events, people and ideas.

Historical skills

In their use of *We'll meet again*, students will apply and develop the following historical skills:

Historical questions and research:

- identify and locate relevant historical sources, using ICT and other methods.

Analysis and use of sources:

- identify the origin, purpose and context of historical sources;

- analyse and synthesise evidence from different types of sources;
- evaluate the reliability and usefulness of sources.

Perspectives and interpretations:

- account for and critically evaluate different perspectives and historical interpretations.

Comprehension and communication:

- identify links between events and changes across periods of time;
- use historical terms and concepts in appropriate contexts;
- develop detailed historical texts that use evidence from a range of sources to explain the past and to support and refute arguments;
- select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and technologies;
- use referencing techniques accurately and consistently.

General capabilities

Seven of the ten general capabilities identified in the Melbourne Declaration and the Shape of the Australian Curriculum are inherent in the use of this resource: literacy, numeracy knowledge and skills, information and communication technologies (ICT), thinking skills, creativity, intercultural understanding, and ethical behaviour.

Links to K-10

The senior history curriculum continues to develop student learning through the same strands that form the K-10 history curriculum. In the Year 9–10 Historical knowledge and understanding strand, there is attention to the history of Australia and the modern world, particularly those world events that are of significance in Australia's social, economic and political development. *We'll meet again* contains material that links directly to that strand.

Australian Curriculum: Essential English (Years 11-12)

Literature strand: Understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature: an enjoyment in and informed appreciation of how English language can convey information and emotion, create imaginative worlds and aesthetic experiences.

While studying the material in *We'll meet again*, students will:

- Read, view and listen to a range of texts;
- Appreciate the different ways literary texts may be interpreted;
- Evaluate texts and the ways in which authors construct meaning;
- Create their own literary texts.



Abbreviations and terminology

- AFV Air Force Victorettes: a voluntary organisation of Australian women who entertained troops on a roster basis.
- AIF Australian Imperial Force: The Australian expeditionary force formed at the outbreak of the First World War (First AIF), as opposed to the Second AIF, formed at the outbreak of the Second World War.
- ANZAC An abbreviation for Australia New Zealand Army Corps. The ANZACs first fought together on Gallipoli in 1915.
- AWM Australian War Memorial
- BCOF British Commonwealth Occupation Force
- DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal
- DVA Department of Veterans' Affairs
- HMAS Her (His) Majesty's Australian Ship
- NAA National Archives of Australia
- NATO North Atlantic Treaty Organization: a military alliance of democratic states in Europe and the United States of America.
- RAAF Royal Australian Air Force
- RAF Royal Air Force: the air force of the United Kingdom.
- RAN Royal Australian Navy
- USA United States of America
- WAAAF Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force
- WAAF Women's Auxiliary Air Force: United Kingdom
- YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

Primary sources: documents or physical objects which were created or written during the time being investigated, for example during an experience or event or very soon after. Examples of primary sources include diaries, letters, photographs, pottery and buildings. These original, first-hand accounts are analysed by the historian to answer questions about the past and are not always more reliable than secondary sources.

Secondary sources: refer to accounts about the past that were created after the time being investigated and which often use or talk about primary sources, and have a particular point of view to offer. Examples of secondary sources include journals, history textbooks, and museum exhibitions. These second-hand accounts are often developed by historians to provide an explanation for past events and developments.

The Australian Curriculum: History. December 2010

Basic Australian army structure

Organisation	Strength	Consists of	Commanded by
Army		Two or more corps	General
Corps	30,000 +	Two or more divisions	Lieutenant General
Division	10,000–20,000	Three brigades	Major General
Brigade	2,500–5,000	Four battalions (First World War) Three battalions (Second World War)	Brigadier
Battalion	550–1,000	Four companies	Lieutenant Colonel
Company	100–225	Originally four (now three) platoons	Captain or Major
Platoon	30–60	Originally four (now three) sections	Lieutenant
Section	9–16		Corporal or Sergeant

1. First glance

Love, for many Australians, has blossomed against a background of conflict, often in the most unlikely of places and despite problems of distance and language.

From local dance halls to Egyptian hospital wards, from English air bases to outback camps, the movement of service personnel across Australia and the world created fresh opportunities for young men and women to meet and fall in love.

Some weddings were planned and conducted at a moment's notice amid difficulties peacetime brides can never understand. Other couples waited long years to begin their new lives together. In the absence of family and friends, couples married surrounded by their fellow comrades.

Regardless of the challenging circumstances many Australians found themselves facing during wartime, they still managed to seize opportunities for love, romance, and marriage.





Romance and recruitment

Australia's commitment to war in 1914, and again in 1939, saw the country's military forces increase rapidly. However, after an initial surge of enthusiastic enlistments, the number of recruits began to dwindle. Officials employed a variety of methods to maintain a steady flow of new recruits.

Appeals were made to the sporting nature of young men, to their desire for adventure, and to their ideas of patriotic duty. The magnetism of a man in uniform was also exploited. During both conflicts, posters, songs, and leaflets promised romantic success to the soldier. Civilian men were depicted as less desirable to women; a uniform, and the masculine ardour it represented, were promoted as irresistible to the fairer sex.

Recruitment tactics which employed romance were also aimed at women. Truly patriotic young women were expected to encourage their loved ones to join up and then faithfully await their return.

Married couples were not immune from the vigorous recruiting campaigns. Images depicting threatened women and children appealed to men, as the protectors of the fairer sex, to enlist in order to defend their loved ones from harm, while married women were encouraged to release their husbands to fight for their family and home.

The Eligible has been turned down by his Sweetheart in favour of The Boy who has "done his bit," and who now leads her to the altar. The Recruiting Officer seizes the occasion to say—
"Well, what about it, lad?"



—Only the Brave Deserve the Fair."



Activities

- (a) Use the following recruitment posters from the First and Second World Wars to explore how the authorities used relationships between men and women to encourage young men to sign up.
- Analyse each of these posters to answer the following questions, and complete the table on page 11.
1. What group of people has the poster been designed to target?
 2. What is the intention behind the message in each poster?
 3. How effective do you think this would have been to encourage recruitment?
- Of all of these recruitment posters, which one do you think is the most effective? Why?
- (b) Explore the current Australian Defence Force recruitment site, www.defencejobs.gov.au and compare how they are targeting recruits today.
1. What messages are being used?
 2. Develop a recruitment poster using a theme that would be effective today.



1
Mister, here's your hat! Join the AIF now! R.H. James, 1941.
AWM ARTV06443



3
Join the AIF. How she'll prize your letters from overseas, maker unknown, 1943.
AWM ARTV04340



2
Women of Queensland! Send a man today to fight for you, John Samuel Watkins, c. 1914-18.
AWM ARTV05632



Activities



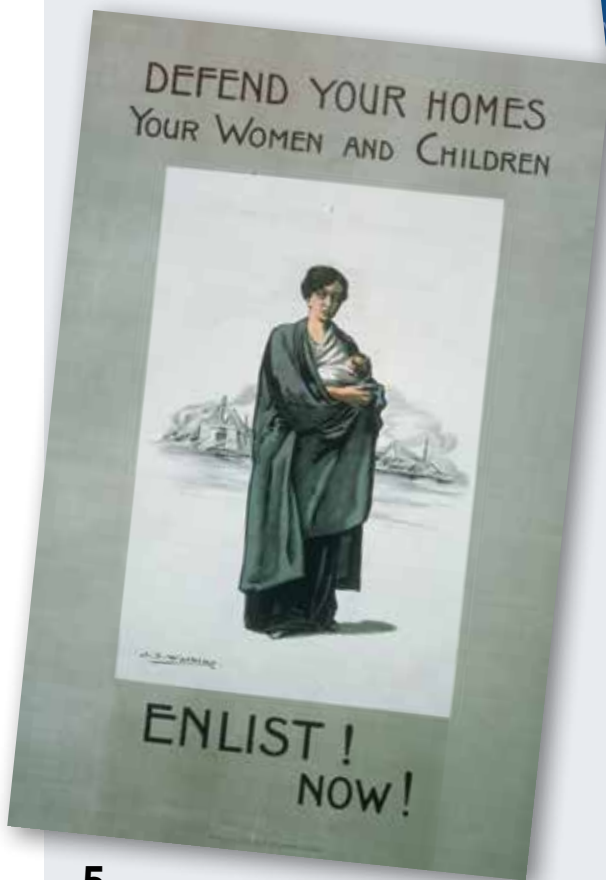
4

Join the AIF now! You love them, fight for them, maker unknown, c. 1939–45. AWM ARTV03921



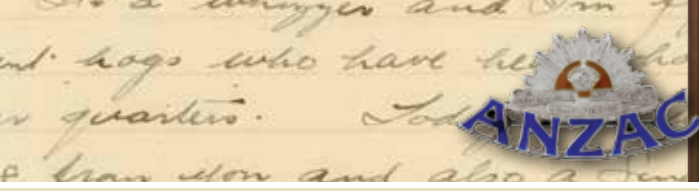
6

Join the AIF now! They'll be proud of you in this, Maker unknown, 1941. AWM ARTV04334



5

Enlist! Now! Defend your homes, your women and children, John Samuel Watkins, c. 1914–18. AWM ARTV00034



Recruitment poster	Who is the target group for this poster?	What is the main message behind this poster?	How effective do you think this poster was? Why/why not?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			



Meetings

Well darling, it's now round about the hour which 4 years ago I timidly approached you and said "how do you do" to the future Mrs C.D. Simper.

Sergeant Colin Simper, 13 April 1945 AWM PR001164

Wartime brings great social upheaval, not only where the fighting takes place but also everywhere that young men and women travel during their wartime service. The movement of young servicemen and women across Australia, and the world, created fresh opportunities for them to meet and fall in love.

While on active service, or enjoying leave, Australian servicemen and women had ample opportunities to meet other serving personnel and civilians. From the dance hall to the hospital, every chance of romance was seized. Liberation from the usual social restrictions, along with travel, new jobs, and a population on the move resulted in unprecedented opportunities for new love. Many embarked on what turned

out to be lifelong commitments. Others found more fleeting moments of affinity and diversion from conflict.

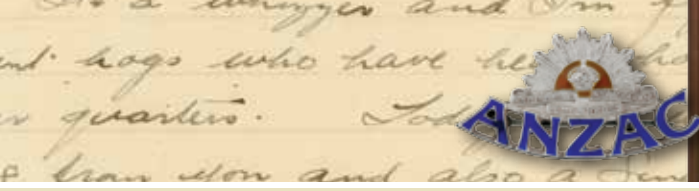
Volunteer organisations provided welcome amenities for servicemen away from home, places that allowed for entertainment and relaxation. Many of these volunteers were women who suddenly found their social circles expanding far beyond the constraints they had faced in their pre-war lives.

War changed the nature of entertainment and social interaction in Australia. During the Second World War cities and towns across the country hosted not only Australian servicemen and women but our allies too. In particular, the arrival of hundreds and thousands of Americans had a profound impact on the Australian social landscape.



The military understood the need for relaxation when the demands of training and duty allowed. Lake Eacham in Queensland was designated as a recreation spot for Australian and American troops stationed on the Atherton Tablelands. Swimming, boating, and sunbathing provided many opportunities for interaction between young men and women in a free and informal manner.

Sunday afternoon, Geoffrey Mainwaring, 1944. AWM ART21257



Meetings: new social opportunities

War transformed social boundaries in Australian cities and country towns alike. A large proportion of the male population were dressed in uniform and on the move. Women ventured out from domestic roles or traditional feminine employment to take on jobs usually filled by these men.

As well as the tensions of a country at war, young men and women were experiencing financial independence and freedom from parental or community supervision. In this heady atmosphere, romance could be found wherever they gathered, from workplaces and dance halls to coffee shops and parks.

Depth study: Golda Ellis and Oliver 'Ozzie' Neall.

Explore the following source material from A – K, and complete the activity sheet, (provided as a template) on pp 110-111. Analyse your findings, and write a narrative account of Golda and Ozzie Neall's story.

SOURCE A

The Advertiser, 13 December 2003

CHEERFUL WORK IN TIMES OF STRIFE

Golda recently presented her late husband's medals to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. She also promised the museum her wedding dress and her Cheer-Up Society cape, decorated with shoulder patches from dozens of army units which passed through Adelaide.

Golda Neall (née Ellis) was just ten years old when she was struck down by polio, which left one of her legs crippled.

But Golda was a fighter and, despite two years in hospital, and months learning to walk again with a calliper on one leg, she fought for an active life.

Encouraged by her sisters and friends, she mastered horse-riding and led a normal country girl's life.

Then came the Second World War, and Golda was determined to take an active part. She became a member of the Cheer-Up Society and one of the young women who cared for soldiers on their way to war, or who had just returned.

It was during those years that she met Oliver "Ozzie" Neall, from Casterton, Victoria. They married in 1943. Ozzie became a war hero, winning the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in the Middle East.



Miss Golda Ellis in her Cheer-Up Society uniform, 1940.
AWM P04243.002



SOURCE B

The Advertiser, 12 August 1940

CHEER-UP HUT APPETITE

I called in at the Cheer-Up Hut yesterday, and gained some idea of the healthy appetites the men who visit it have.

In the past three months, they have consumed more than 10 tons of meat, in addition to gifts

from butchers. The sale of skins, fat, and bones has brought the society £33/8/7.

Since the old hut was reopened on June 15, guests in uniform have eaten free – and freely – 1,224 loaves (18 loaves a day) and 456 rabbits (12 pairs a week).

SOURCE C



At Murray Bridge railway station on 17 November 1940, Golda Ellis stands (second from left) with three other members of the Murray Bridge Cheer-Up Society; five unidentified Australian soldiers are with them.

AWM P04243.005

SOURCE D

They told you about their homes, their children, showed you pictures of their wives and their babies. The just wanted someone to talk to a lot of the time.

Joan Merchant, Cheer-Up Society girl.

... a ...
... hogs who have he ...
... quarters. Today ...
... from ... and also a ...



SOURCE E

South Australian Red Cross label, worn on the uniform of Miss Golda Ellis, member of Cheer-Up Hut Number 2 of the Murray Bridge chapter of the Adelaide Cheer-Up Society.
AWM REL32371.003



SOURCE F

Inside a room at the Cheer-Up Hut. Each weeknight servicemen from all over the world were able to enjoy dancing with a full dance band in attendance.
AWM P04264.004



SOURCE G

Golda Ellis distributing fruit to Australian soldiers with her usherette tray at Murray Bridge railway station. She would exchange fruit for colour patches and badges to sew onto the inside of her cape.
AWM P04243.006



SOURCE H

Casterton News, 7 May 1942

CASTERTON - DCM-WINNER HOME

On Tuesday of last week, Corporal Oliver Neall, winner of the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in action during the fighting in the Libyan desert, arrived unheralded and very unostentatiously in his home town of Casterton.

Although his mother and sisters were expecting him home on leave after his recent return from the Middle East, his earlier-than-expected arrival provided them with a welcome surprise.

Since his arrival, Corporal Neall has been busy renewing old acquaintances, and he is looking very fit despite that fact that he went through the campaigns in Libya, Greece, and Crete.

Yesterday, Corporal Neall left Casterton to rejoin his unit.



AWM P04243003

SOURCE I



Cheer-Up Society cape worn by Golda Ellis. Sewn to the inside of the cape are approximately 100 army colour patches, including RAAF embroidered badges, and badges from Canada and the United States. A ribbon for the Distinguished Conduct Medal is also sewn to the cape.

AWM REL33269



SOURCE J

Medal set belonging to Lieutenant Oliver Neall. His Distinguished Conduct Medal is on the far left.

AWM REL31703.001

SOURCE K

Hand-tinted wedding portrait of Lieutenant Oliver Zachariah Neall DCM, of the 2/8th Battalion, AIF, and his wife, Golda, taken on 23 October 1943 at Murray Bridge, South Australia.

AWM P04243.001





Meetings: Americans in Australia

Over-sexed, over-paid, and over here

During the Second World War, Australia hosted over a million servicemen and women from the United States of America. They were a common sight on the streets of Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth, with Queensland hosting the majority of American troops.

To Australian women, the Americans were certainly more glamorous than their Australian counterparts with their well-tailored uniforms and higher pay allowing them to purchase goods in short supply. This ability to 'spoil' young ladies with gifts in a climate of sustained and monotonous austerity helped in their popularity, and more than 10,000 Australian women married American servicemen.

The American Red Cross established a facility in Mackay for American servicemen to use during their scheduled leave. Around 400-500 girls from the Mackay area volunteered with the Red Cross as 'Air Force Victorettes' (AFV). They operated on a roster system to entertain the American servicemen. The rules of conduct for Victorettes state that "each AFV is expected not to dance more than two consecutive dances with the same serviceman."



Mona Byrne was one of many local girls who welcomed the visiting Americans to Mackay and helped entertain them. She is assisted to her feet by Sergeant Theodore Barton of Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, after a fall on the rollerskating rink. AWM P00561.024

American servicemen splash in the sea at Eineo Beach, Mackay, with Air Force Victorettes, 1943. Such activities were organised by the American Red Cross workers who handled all the catering, accommodation and entertainment details. AWM P00561.013





Activities

Use this work of art as a resource to help you investigate interactions between Australians and Americans. Record your observations below.



One Sunday afternoon in Townsville, Roy Hodgkinson, 1942. ART21350

- (a) What are the people wearing and how many different uniforms can you identify?
- (b) List the various activities in which people are participating.
- (c) What evidence is there of wartime and how realistic do you think this scene is?
- (d) From your observations, what conclusions can you make about Australian and American interactions during the war?



Meetings: hospital romance

During wartime, Australian troops benefit from the care and dedication of nurses who risk their own lives to serve alongside them.

In the wars fought last century, Australian servicemen often spent years in the company of other men, living, training, and fighting. Nurses provided a welcome touch of femininity. Their company was frequently sought by officers, and while they were free of many of the moral constraints of home, the sisters still kept an eye on each other's behaviour.

There was no room for game-playing or shyness when injury or illness brought two people together. Stripped of the normal social conventions, nurses and their patients had the opportunity to develop a rapport in an environment of

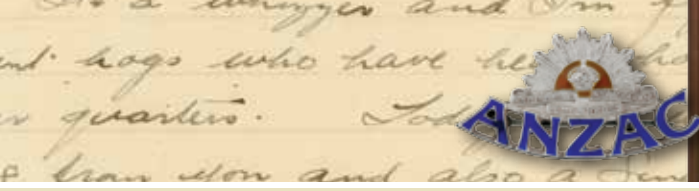
openness and compassion. Many nurses married patients, often caring for them for many years after the war.

During the First World War, over 2,000 Australian army nurses served overseas. To enlist, they had to be unmarried and to have completed at least three years' training in an approved hospital. From the time they arrived in Egypt in 1915, the sisters and the men sought each other out. Unsurprisingly, with the prospect of imminent battle facing them, troops were keen to socialise with these women from home.

One such nurse was Sister Alice Ross-King. She was a keen observer of people, vivacious with a ready sense of humour. Alice kept a diary throughout her service, and her entries tell a story of flirtation, romance, and love.



The operating theatre and staff of No. 1 Australian General Hospital, located in the former Heliopolis Palace Hotel, Sister Ross-King was an experienced theatre nurse and was often rostered on night duty in the theatre. AWM H16961



Depth study: Alice Ross-King

The following diary entries were written during 1915 and 1916. Sister Alice Ross-King was stationed at the 1st Australian General Hospital (1 AGH) in Cairo and later in France. The spelling, punctuation, and syntax remain as it was written, including abbreviations. Square brackets indicate where words have been added to assist the reader.

Use the information given to complete the related activities.

February 19 (1915)

... Passing down the corridor one of the sick officers spoke to me. Seems he was on one of the 2nd contingent boats and for some reason remembers my face. I was very wrath at Amy King who passed some scathing remark because I stayed talking to him for a few minutes. He seemed rather a nice boy & invited me over to the camp. I said I wd go then wondered if I did right. He gives me the impression that he might misunderstand one. Cuthbert was fool enough to give him a snap of myself taken at the convent. However he seems a nice boy.

February 20

Saw F.S. [Frank Smith] this a.m. The Lieut. off the 2nd Contingent boats. Can't quite make him out. Got Cuthbert to ask Capt. Hore about him and he seems to think he is alright.

February 23

... A beautiful bunch of flowers came from F.S. tonight. Such a nice thought. They look as though they might have been picked out too - not just ordered from the florist. I got them just as I was about to go on duty. It cheered me up. I'm beginning to think a good lot about that young man. Expect I shall wake up soon.

Sightseeing trips and other outings were popular throughout the war. They helped provide a sense of normality amid the turmoil and stress, as well as a way for nurses and soldiers to get to know each other. Here Australian Nurses and Officers are enjoying a picnic in Ismalia, Egypt. AWM J05885



Verandah at either the Continental Hotel or Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo. Both hotels were a popular place for Australians to meet for drinks and socialise. AWM PS1361

March 23

... Arrived back in Heliopolis [Heliopolis] 6.30 to find F.S. waiting there ... He took me into dinner at the Continental [Hotel] then as it was only 8.30 we went for a Garry [carriage] drive in the moonlight all around Gazera back to Shepherds [Shepherd's Hotel] at 9.30 sat there on the Piazza & enjoyed light drinks ... Landed home at 20 to 1 am which is really not a bit late for Cairo - I was more than charmed with F.S. & am quite keen to see him again.

April 11

What a sad sad week it has been & today is the worst day of the week ... Went up to the camp at 4 to say goodbye. They were striking camp and were all very busy ... Frank intending to get leave and see me for goodbye. Alas! Orders were changed he could not get away nor could I so all I could do was to watch his regiment march away from the distance. Now he has gone and I'm feeling it very much, but not as much as I thought I would do.

April 18

Very tired today & could have slept later only had promised to meet Capt X on the flat roof at 4 p.m. so went up there and printed some photographs and flirted a little. He is a clever man and has well learnt the gentle art. But my real thoughts are still with dear old F.S.

April 22

... Met X on the roof ... Had not a bad chat. We are going to be playmates. I shall go very steadily though. I am not quite sure if I like the man. But he will fill a gap in the absence of F.S. No word from F.S. yet ...



April 24

... a note from X under the carpet this a.m. We have a little post office. It's the 3rd step under the carpet on the stairs. It's a great way of communication. He is going a little bit too fast though – or else I don't like him enough to be playmates.

April 26

... Met X on the roof. Kissed him but did not mean to do it. Won't let him do it again ...

June 15

... Received a letter from Frank from Alexandria. He is badly wounded in the chest ... My dear boy. It's terrible. Yet I do thank God that he is out of the firing line ...

On June 25 Sister Ross-King was assigned to transport duty, where she and another nurse, Sister Martin, escorted wounded and sick troops home. After delivering the repatriated troops back to Australia, they departed on 26 August on a troop transport to return to Egypt.

August 30

Weather still very rough. Vaccinated 100 men this afternoon. Nobody is standing out of the crowd very clearly yet except for a tall fair man with glasses – Lieut Moffat [Harry Moffitt]. I think he has the common touch but he seems more interested in Martin than myself ...

September 3

... A Lieut Montgomery said to me that he would like to be friends with me. I am so glad ... At present I think he is the most beautiful man I have met & I shall be bitterly disappointed if our Friendship does not grow. There is a man named Moffat who is making a fuss of me. I think he is only out for 'fun' though and does not understand things properly yet. I am terrified that he will spoil my friendship with Montgomery.

September 10

... Sister M tells me that Monty has been talking to her in exactly the way that he talks to me.

September 11

... I am very worried about Monty. He spoke very plainly tonight and wanted me not to spend any more time with Moffat. I have fallen in properly this time and stand to lose a good friend on either hand. However, I have gone too far with Moffat to turn him down – besides I like him too much. Still I am in a nice pickle altogether.

September 13 – 18

I have not written this up for the past 4 days. In that time a wonderful thing has happened. I am really & truly in love. I have never felt like this before for anybody. It is such a great pure love with none of the old smallness in it. I am very very happy because I believe Moffat loves me just as much. He wants me to marry him after the war but I feel I cannot look away ahead to then but I am so happy in the present. I do not know the man or his character and I do not care I only know that I love him wonderfully and that I am no longer interested in other men. I wonder if this is going to last. It is great. He is the only man in the world for me.

October 14

My diary has been neglected for the past long time ... so to fill in briefly what has happened in that time.

[After disembarking] Moff came over next evening and every evening following that he was able to get away from camp. He was only there a week before being sent to the front. During that time we had some delightful days. One afternoon we climbed the pyramid and had tea on top. I shall never forget the glory of the view. The parting was terrible for me. I knew so well what he had to go to, while there was a great glamour over it. All the time he was away my love developed more and more.

A group of soldiers and nurses outside one of the ancient tombs in the vicinity of the Sphinx, Egypt. AWM P00273.001





It was a wonderful time for me and then word came that he was in hospital at Alex [Alexandria]. And that is where I am now. Looking forward to his coming to Cairo to convalesce and dreading that he may be sent over to England without getting up here first.

December 13

Letter from Moff. It is very hard to keep from flirting with other men when there are so many about ...

February 12 [1916]

Met X tonight. He asked me not to become engaged until Xmas time, as he will then know his own position. Felt thoroughly disgusted with him.

France 1917

Harry [Moffitt] and I tried to meet before 1 AGH moved to France. He did get up on duty one day and I managed to meet him and went with him whilst he did the business he had been sent up to do. I sat in the Garry which he had engaged for the day. He finished about 3 pm and we sat on the balcony at Shepherds [Shepherd's Hotel] and talked of our future. There was a wonderful sunset a beautiful apricot glow. Harry said "When we are married I'll give you a dress that colour". He caught the 8pm train to the Canal and I have not seen him since.

April 22 [1916]

One big thing shines out of the day events. A letter from Harry. 4 of them. My love for him is deep and intense, his is evidently the same for me. Oh love of my heart, it seems impossible to live away from you ...

June 13

... was feeling terribly down and had written a hopeless kind of letter to H. I heard that the 53rd has been in France for about 2 weeks and I could not understand why I had not heard. Then I got a cable H. was at Ismailia [Ismailia] on the 10th. It read "53rd Battn Greatest love". How different I am tonight. My heart is overflowing with joy and love. That man has all my inmost soul. Thank God for his great goodness in me. Harry is just all I admire in a man. I adore all his shortcomings. I wonder if I shall have him with me.

I don't know if I want to marry him – but there is no doubt about my love.

July 19

Harry Killed in Action
Fleurbaix, [France – Battle of Fromelles]

July 29

Well, my world has ended. Harry is dead. God what shall I do! Killed on the 19th I heard the news last Tuesday Major Prior sent it up. I have been bowled completely over. Nothing on earth matters to me now. The future is an absolute blank. I have kept on duty but God only knows how I have done so. Everyone has been most kind to me.

Oh my dear, dear love what am I to do? I can't believe that he is dead. My beautiful boy. I'm hoping each day the news will be contradicted.

August 4

I expect I must pick up life again and go on. I do not know how to face the lifeless future though. I feel Harry's presence constantly with me and my love is growing stronger and deeper even since his death. I cannot really believe the news yet and each day I long for a letter telling me he is only wounded. How am I to bear life. AWM PR02082

Sister Alice Ross-King continued nursing in France; she went on to win a Military Medal for bravery when the casualty clearing station she was working in was bombed. Returning to Australia in 1919, she met Sydney Appleford, the senior medical officer on her troop ship. They married in August 1919 and had five children. Each year, on 19 July, Alice would spend some time alone in her room, and after her death in 1968 her children found a shoe box under her bed. Inside, she had kept her most personal possessions, including the last letter Harry had written to her.



This photograph shows remnants of the shrapnel and bullet-torn kits of troops of the 5th Australian Division who were killed at Fromelles during the attack on 19 July 1916. Harry Moffitt's body was never formally identified and he is commemorated at 'VC Corner'. AWM E04037



Activities

Read the extracts from the diary entries of Sister Alice Ross-King, aged 27. She was one of more than 3,000 women who volunteered to join the AIF as nurses during the First World War to 'do their bit'. Unmarried, and mostly aged between 25 and 40, the nurses were well educated women mostly from middle-class families. 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. Answer the questions below with this context.

- (a) Sister Alice Ross-King mentions socialising with several men in her diary entries. How do you think her service as a nurse during the First World War heightened her desire for friendship and love?

- (b) How would her feelings have been typical of those experienced by young women and men of that wartime period? What pressures would they have faced in relationships? Compare this with how young people socialise today.

- (c) How does she feel about the departure of Frank Smith to Gallipoli?

- (d) Alice never reveals the identity of the mysterious X in her diaries. She maintains a friendship with him throughout the war, even meeting him in Britain. What reasons might she have had for keeping his identity a secret? What might his role in the service have been?

- (e) What sort of social activities does Alice describe in her diary? How important would these activities have been to Alice and her colleagues?

- (f) How does the way she refers to Harry Moffitt change throughout her diary, and how does this reflect the changing nature of their relationship?

- (g) One of the diary entries is dated 'France 1917', though it appears in the entries for February 1916. Re-read this entry. Do you think it was inserted after the event, or at the time, and just incorrectly titled?

- (h) As a primary source, discuss the value of Alice's diary entries to our understanding of her wartime experience. How different is this source to other primary and secondary sources of the time?

Further reading

You can read more about the story of Sister Alice Ross-King, and other Australian First World War nurses, in Peter Rees, *The other ANZACS: nurses at war, 1914-1918*, Allen and Unwin, 2008.



Extension Activity

- (a) View the service records of Harry Lowry Moffitt and Alice Ross-King at the National Archives of Australia's website. Go to <http://www.naa.gov.au/> and click on **Search the collection**, then **Begin your search**, then select **NameSearch** from the tab options.
- (b) A Red Cross missing and wounded enquiry for Harry Moffitt was undertaken at the request of Alice. View the files at www.awm.gov.au/research/people/wounded_and_missing/index.asp and use them to answer the following:
 - i How badly was Harry wounded?
 - ii How did he die?
 - iii Understandably, the news of Harry's death affects Alice deeply. Describe how she reacts, and the resilience she shows in being able to keep nursing. What do you think might have driven her efforts?
- (c) Discuss the social values, etiquette, and morals of the period during the First World War.



Balcony of troopers' ward, 14th Australian General Hospital, Abbassia, George Lambert, 1919. AWM ART02815

Imagine ...
That you are either character depicted in the painting above.
The trooper is trying to gather the courage to speak to the nurse. What is he about to ask her?
Write or act out the conversation that takes place next.



Meetings: Foreign affairs

War provides new avenues for people to meet. During the First and Second World Wars, thousands of Australian men and women began travelling across the country and across the world. Volunteers mixed with fellow servicemen and women from a wide variety of backgrounds, as well as with locals from the countries in which they found themselves. Recruits were often far away from family and friends, and the former restrictions of propriety and social conventions. Thrown together in new and exotic situations, with financial freedom and social independence, and facing an unknown future, many Australians found opportunities for romance and love.

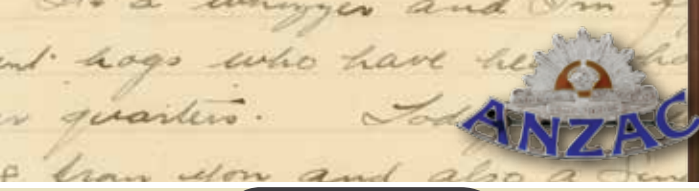
After reading the following stories complete the related activities.

Vera Gilbert's doll

Courtships during wartime could be intense but fleeting. Vera Gilbert was just one of many English women who fell in love with an Australian soldier during the First World War. In 1916 he presented her with a gift of a small ceramic doll which wore a military style outfit, including an Australian slouch hat. Soon afterwards, this unknown soldier asked Vera to marry him, but she declined his proposal, aware that she was her ailing mother's sole support and felt unwilling to leave her alone.

ANZAC flapper, 1916. AWM ART 92253





Activities

(a) Discuss reasons why an Australian soldier would give a British woman a gift in wartime?

(b) What is the significance of the slouch hat on the ceramic doll? (Think about Australia at that time as a newly federated nation, and the development of national myths and symbols.)

(c) What impact do you think the arrival of the Australian servicemen would have had on British society during the First World War? Compare and contrast that with the arrival of the Americans in Australia during the Second World War.



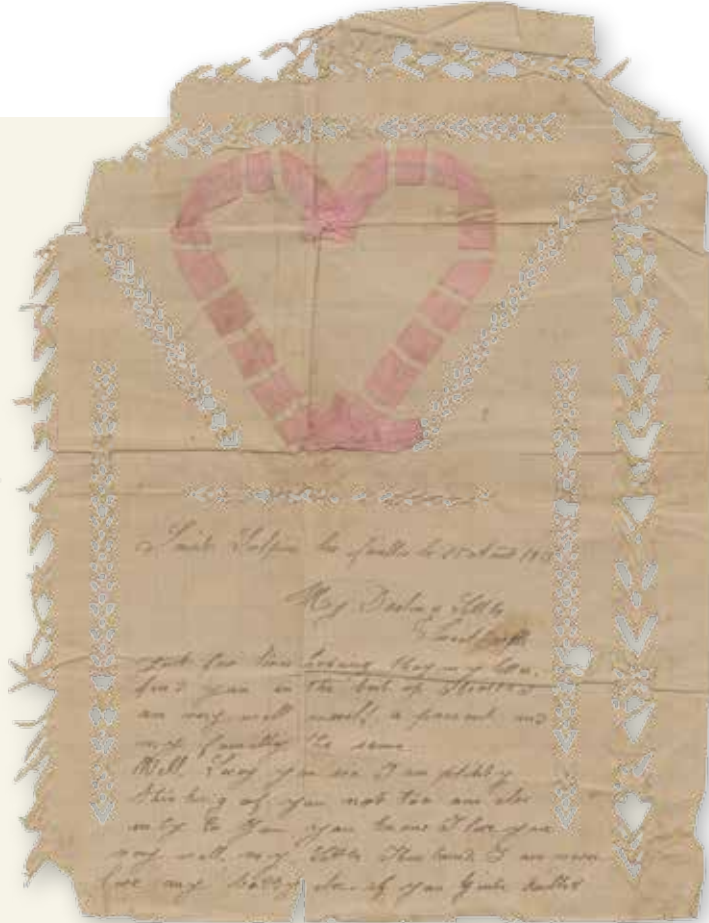
Marthe Gylbert's letter

After arriving on the Western Front during the First World War, Australians were trained in trench warfare near Armentières, on the border of France and Belgium. One local girl fell in love with an Australian soldier there but then left him behind when her family fled to escape

the constant fighting. The decorated love letter she wrote to him in 1918 records the great devotion she felt for her soldier sweetheart. He never returned to her, however, and his identity remains a mystery.

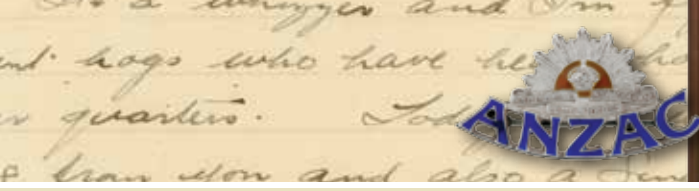
Activities

- (a) What decorative techniques has Marthe used? Why would she go to so much trouble?



The letter from Marthe Gylbert. AWM PR03970

- (b) Design and create your own letter to someone special. Use some of the techniques Marthe used.
- (c) Tell the story of the meeting with Marthe and subsequent romantic foreign affair from the mystery soldier's point of view. Research the activities of the AIF near Armentières, on the Western Front and the types of dangers and uncertainties he would have faced.



Hedley Tucker and Maria Cambre

On 28 May 1945 the war in Europe ended. This event was met with great jubilation and celebration, and became the perfect setting for romantic engagements. Sergeant Hedley George Tucker of Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, married his Belgian sweetheart the very next day.

A civil ceremony, in accordance with Belgian law, was performed at the Flemish village of Herenthout, followed by a marriage ceremony in the Luther Kirke, Brussels. Squadron Leader Vincent Parkin, the RAF Methodist padre officiated.

Activities



Sergeant Tucker and Maria Cambre cut the wedding cake, which was sent from Australia. AWM UK3009

Discuss the significance of:

- (a) What the bride is wearing?

- (b) The trimmings on the cake, including the lack of icing? Why would they not have been able to follow the normal Australian tradition of the time?



Allen Clement and Christine Matthews

In March 1970 Sergeant Allen Clement of Greenacre, in Sydney, and Staff Sergeant Christine Matthews of Chicago, Illinois, USA, were married in Saigon, South Vietnam. They had met while working at the nearby American base at Long Binh. Their marriage was unique at the time, in that it was the first during the Vietnam War between an Australian soldier and an American servicewoman.

Activities

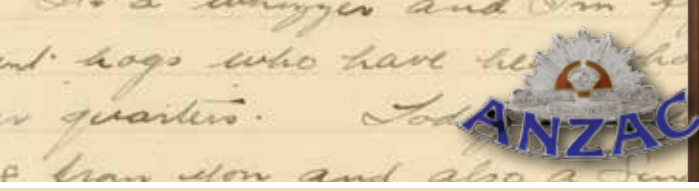
(a) What social difficulties in Australia in the 1970s may Allen and Christine have faced? How have social attitudes changed today?



Sergeant Allen Clement places the wedding ring onto his American bride's finger.

AWM WAR/70/0166/VN [detail]

(b) How would life in Australia in the 1970's have compared with life in the United States for those in a 'mixed' marriage?



Amanda Hinks and Peter Kershaw

Sometimes Australian servicemen and women found love where they least expected it. Flight Lieutenant Peter Kershaw of the Royal Australian Air Force was deployed to Banja Luka, Northern Bosnia, in 2003. For many years, the region had been caught up in the Balkan wars, and Peter was there to gain experience with the NATO stabilisation force, established after the conflict.

One evening he invited Captain Amanda Hinks, a British army logistics officer, to join him and some friends in the Officers' Mess. Romance blossomed soon after, but the pair maintained their professionalism, mindful of the rules which discouraged fraternisation.

Upon completion of their rotations in Bosnia, Mandy and Peter returned to their homelands, but many phone calls, emails, and visits followed, and in 2004 Peter proposed to

Mandy. They were married in Brisbane on 24 September 2005. Shortly after their honeymoon, Peter was deployed to Afghanistan. Mandy, who had joined the Australian Army, was deployed to Iraq for six months in 2007.



Mandy and Peter in Bosnia, August 2002. AWM P08612.001

Activities

(a) What is 'fraternisation' and why would the army discourage it?



The Kershaws on their wedding day, 24 September 2005.
AWM P08833.001 [detail]

(b) What strains would be placed on the relationship between two serving military personnel?

(c) How has modern technology helped to overcome the difficulties of separation?



Olive Kelso King and Captain Milan Yovitchitch

Olive stamped her foot, and shook her head impatiently. She had not come halfway around the world, transporting her own ambulance and dodging bullets in the Greek mountains, only to be held up by a broken wheel spring. A polite but commanding voice behind her enquired if any assistance was needed, and Olive spun around to meet the eyes of a very handsome soldier.

In the process of ensuring that the ambulance was back on the road as quickly as possible, Captain Milan Yovitchitch and Olive Kelso King became firm friends. His broken English did not hamper communication as Olive was fluent in both French and German. The captain had already heard that Olive was a very heroic woman, having saved many wounded Serbian soldiers from certain death in a dramatic night-time escape from advancing enemy troops in the mountains at Gevgelija. She had been awarded the Royal Serbian Memorial Medal for her bravery.

To fill in the time while waiting for a replacement vehicle to arrive, Captain Yovitchitch assisted Olive with her Serbian language lessons and showed her around some of the ancient historic sites of Salonika. For her part, she told him of her early life growing up in Sydney, her grief and restlessness after her mother's premature death from cancer when Olive was just 15, and her love of adventurous pursuits such as skiing, mountain-climbing and rally car driving.

It was just such an adventurous spirit that had led her to volunteer as an ambulance driver when the First World War broke out. Despite being told it was 'men's business', she bought a second-hand lorry and converted it into a 16-seater ambulance. Because it was so big and cumbersome, she nicknamed it 'Ella the Elephant'.



Olive dressed in her SWH uniform.

AWM P01351.001

'Ella the Elephant', Olive's first field ambulance.

AWM P01352.003



Olive in her Serbian army ambulance driver's uniform in Sydney after the war. She is wearing her Serbian medals and awards, including the impressive Order of St Sava at her neck.

AWM P01351.003

At first Olive had worked for the Allies Field Ambulance Corps (AFAC), and transported wounded soldiers from the front back to British military hospitals. She had enjoyed the friendship of the other female drivers as they shared stories of their exploits over meals hastily thrown together in the deserted chateau near Rouen in France, where they were billeted. At one point, she had been captured by the enemy and had her ambulance confiscated, but because she spoke fluent German and knew a number of influential German families, she was soon released.

In 1915, Olive offered her services to the Scottish Women's Hospital (SWH), which staffed field hospitals and ambulances with female volunteers. She was dismayed to find that their uniform was shapeless, heavy, and grey. Despite her distaste for their rules and regulations – high heels, lipstick, and jewellery were not to be worn – she was keen to get back to assisting the war effort in the best way she could.

Conditions at the Troyes field hospital near Rheims in France, where she was sent, were far from ideal. Wounded men were housed in canvas tents connected by long lines of duckboards set up in the muddy fields adjacent to the Chateau de Chanteloup. Olive's childhood Girl Guide training stood her in good stead when the women were called upon to erect tents in the icy conditions.



The Allies Field Ambulance Corps (AFAC) badge worn by Olive on her cap while serving in France in 1915.

AWM REL/18761

The formation of a new SWH unit in Greece had led to Olive's transfer to Salonika. Here food was scarce, and the volunteers survived on rations: corned beef, hard tack, jam, and sometimes a soup of boiled weeds. When she could, Olive was able to supplement the unit's diet with fresh fruit bought from the local markets. Despite the huge numbers of wounded soldiers from many different countries constantly needing transport, Olive found time to explore the ancient city. She was fascinated by the sight of the local men and women in bright national dress, set against the backdrop of the snow-covered mountains. She revelled in the danger and excitement of service, and in her ability to make a difference, until that fateful day when a large pothole had brought Ella's wheel springs unstuck. That disaster changed Olive's life forever.

Before long, friendship with her Serbian captain turned into romance. She shortened his name to 'Yovi', and he called her 'Olinka' – the Slavic version of her name. Whenever they could, they spent time together, talking, dining, or dancing in one of the local cafes. After long hard days, sometimes driving for 16 hours, surrounded by misery and suffering, Olive drew strength from their time spent together. Could it be that she had found her soul mate at last? She hoped her father back home in Sydney would approve when it came time to tell him about her Yovi.

But a 'happily ever after' ending was not to be. One day, Yovi confessed that he could not marry Olive, as he was promised to someone else. His parents had arranged the match to a girl with ancestral links to the royal family, and the plan was for them to marry after the war.

Undeterred, Olive and Yovi remained friends. The future was very uncertain, and only their immediate situation seemed important. All that mattered was staying alive each day and grabbing some happiness when they could. When some of her colleagues scolded her for her behaviour in public, she promptly resigned from the SWH and, at Yovi's suggestion, joined the Serbian army as a driver. She was given the rank



This engraved sterling silver cigarette case is believed to have been given to Olive by Yovi. Apart from her name, there is a more personal message: “To my dear little pal Jo, Milan, Salonica, 1916-18”. The miniature medals inset into the lid are copies of Serbian awards for bravery. AWM REL/18757

of corporal and a practical uniform much more to her liking: a tunic, breeches, and knee-high boots.

Frequent journeys over steep mountain roads began to take their toll on Ella, however, and the ambulance was in need of almost constant attention. She and Artsa, a Serbian army mechanic, did their best to keep Ella on the road. Eventually, Olive asked her family for help, and enough money was sent to buy a smaller, more modern vehicle, which Olive had converted into a second ambulance that she dubbed ‘Bridget’.

In August 1917, when a large part of Salonika was destroyed by fire, Olive was kept very busy evacuating people, or helping to extinguish the flames roaring through the old wooden buildings. She knew she must keep calm and stay alert to be of most use. At one point, hot winds fanned the blaze toward the store of medical supplies in the army depot. Olive and the other volunteers worked through the night spreading wet sheets over the precious supplies to keep them safe. It was not until two weeks later that Olive had time to write to her father, describing the destruction in the beautiful old city. Thousands of people had died, and thousands more were left homeless. She begged him to send more money so that she could help. Although modest in her description of her efforts during the fire, her courage was recognised when she was awarded the Serbian Silver Medal for Bravery.

Shortly after, Yovi received word that he was to replace the military attaché in the Serbian Embassy in London. Olive put on a brave face and congratulated him on his promotion, but her heart was breaking. Work took them both to a final meeting in Corfu, and it was here that they said goodbye. They were both on duty, and surrounded by their workmates, so farewells were short and formal. Later Olive wrote of wanting to “howl my eyes out”. She had never told her father of the real relationship she had had

with Yovi, but in a letter home she confessed, “Yovi was my constant pal. And Salonika is desolate without him.”

Early the next year, when Olive heard news that Yovi had formally announced his engagement, she turned to her long-time friend, Artsa, for comfort. He confessed that he had secretly loved her for many years, and, as a sign of his devotion, built her a small cottage using the discarded wood from a large shipping crate. Touched by his love, Olive began to consider his proposal of marriage. Her father sent disapproving letters, however, as did her commanding officer, Colonel Derok, and even Yovi himself when he heard the news. Despite feeling very annoyed by these “men lecturing her”, she realised that a marriage with Artsa could never be; the matter was finally resolved when Artsa was posted away from Salonika.

As the war reached its final stages in 1918, Olive became increasingly distressed by conditions in Serbia for the soldiers and their families. Once again, her father came to the rescue and, with over £10,000 raised by him in Sydney, she set up a number of mobile canteens, providing food, clothing, and medical supplies for the people. Often they queued for hours for a bowl of hot soup or stew. For her work establishing 17 canteens, Olive was awarded the Cross of the Order of St Sava in 1920, personally presented by King Alexander.

After six long hard years away from her family, Olive decided to return home to Sydney in 1920. She visited Serbia only once more in 1922, when she and her father and stepmother were invited back for the king’s wedding. Of course, the handsome Captain Yovitchitch was also in attendance, being a long-time friend of the king. As he and Olive waltzed around the dance floor, it was for a moment as if nothing had ever come between them.

They never met again, but she treasured the memory of Yovi in her heart forever. Olive never married.



Marriages

I say Mum, it's really very funny how the girls are bestowing their affections on the ANZAC boys in England; truly they have gone dotty over us, and quite a lot of marriages have taken place lately.

Sergeant Major Norman Ellsworth, Surrey, 6 March 1916 AWM PR001164

Wartime, and the possibility of permanent separation, created an element of urgency for many young people in relationships.

Not knowing when they would see each other again, if ever, many couples hurried to the altar. Determined to seize an opportunity for happiness amid the chaos and uncertainty of war, these weddings brought joy and hope for a better future. They also helped to provide a sense of normality in a changing world.

Other couples decided to wait out the war before making their vows. They were reluctant to make lifelong promises when death was such a real possibility. Long separations followed, and couples waited and hoped that at the end of the war they would be able to start their lives together.

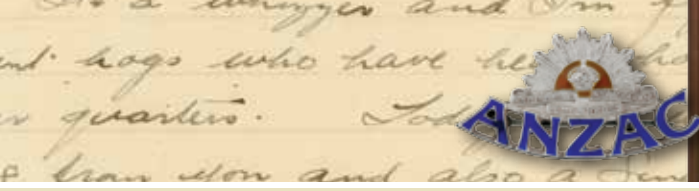
For those who did marry, the war was hard to escape. Makeshift chapels, bridal parties in khaki, and honeymoons snatched between deployments were common elements of matrimony during the war years.

Some couples married away from home, and brides were given away by senior officers or friends rather than by family. Many young men serving overseas fell in love and married local girls, leaving their families at home in Australia to wonder about the young women who had joined their family.



A piece of wedding cake, still in its original tin box, from the 1943 marriage of Staff Sergeant J.A. Whelen and Elizabeth McClure.

AWM REL25352



Marriages: hurried

The outbreak of war and the imminent departure of the troopships provided the catalyst for marriages arranged in haste.

For some servicemen, a loving wife waiting at home promised stability in a life suddenly filled with uncertainty. Other men wanted to care for their sweethearts while they were away: wives were entitled to a portion of a soldier's pay. The exact amount was up to him.

As casualty figures grimly mounted, weddings continued to take place. Advantage was taken of brief respites from the front lines to celebrate new beginnings and reaffirm life.

Read the following stories and complete the related activities.

Clifford Coulson and Janet Pritchard

The Argus Melbourne, Thursday 25 June 1953

CHANCE LED RAAF 'ROMEO' TO BRIDE

London, Wednesday

Australian fighter pilots visiting England have named Leading Aircraftman Clifford Coulson their "jet-propelled Romeo." because he has been in Britain only 12 days and has already found a wife.

The bride is in her teens. He is 21, and belongs to the RAAF No. 78 fighter wing – all Vampire jets.

For a year, Coulson had been a "pen-pal" with Janet Pritchard, a shoe-worker in Norwich, and 12 days ago the jets flew to the RAF station there from Malta.

Coulson said today, "I knew from her letters what cinemas and dance hall she went to and on the evening we arrived I decided to look for her in the city."

Late at night when he had given up hope, he walked into a milk bar, and a girl on the next stool asked him if he knew a Clifford Coulson. [It was Janet Pritchard]

Within two days they decided to marry, and Janet will return to Malta with him in July.

Meanwhile the wing is rehearsing to represent Australia in the RAF Royal review on July 15.



AWM MALTA0780B



AWM MALTA0780D



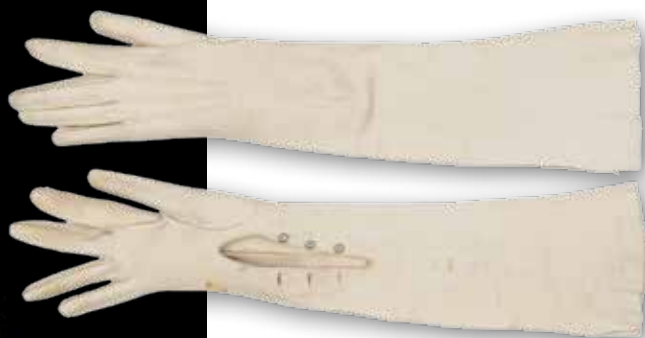
Isabel Platt-Hepworth and Alfred Bell

Isabel Platt-Hepworth married Captain Alfred Bell at Darling Point, Sydney, on 22 December 1939. Bell was a regular army officer from Melbourne who met Isabel in Sydney in the 1930s while he was studying Japanese at university. Bell enlisted in the Second AIF in October 1939 and made frequent trips to Sydney to organise 2/1 Field Company. On one of these trips, knowing his embarkation was close at hand, he proposed to Isabel. They were married on his next visit. Isabel made her own wedding dress in the ten days between Alfred's proposal and their wedding. They took the train back to Melbourne that evening and Isabel moved in with her mother-in-law for the duration of the war.



Wedding portrait of Isabel Platt-Hepworth and Captain Alfred Bell married at St Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point.

AWM P04464.001 [detail]



Kid leather gloves worn by Isabel Platt-Hepworth on her wedding day.

AWM REL32860.003

Throughout the war, five of Isabel's friends borrowed her wedding dress to get married in as they were restricted by clothes and fabric rationing. Sixty years on, the evidence of these six nervous wartime brides can be seen in the sweat stains still visible on the fabric.

AWM REL32860.002



Marriages: intended and delayed

The intense emotions that swept many couples into hasty weddings had the opposite effect on others.

Uncertainty over the length of separation, and the very real fear of widowhood weighed heavily on potential brides and grooms. Many also feared the burden that would be inflicted on a young couple by a permanent and debilitating injury. Parents too, worried about the future, and counselled their children to wait.

These uncertainties could lead to lengthy courtships. For some, their fears were well founded.

Read the following stories and complete the related activities.

Jack Buttsworth and Millie Walker

Jack and Millie were already engaged when he enlisted for service in 1915, and served with the 30th Battalion in France. Jack was badly wounded in 1918 while distributing rum rations to members of his platoon and died shortly afterwards.

Millie who never married, kept several mementoes Jack had sent her until she died in 1967. They were the only reminders she had of Jack's service, as all of his personal effects were lost at sea when the transport ship bringing them home was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine.



Jack sent this decorative knife home to Millie. It was made from a cartridge case, projectiles, a Canadian uniform button, and brass sheeting.

AWM REL31864



Jack bought this decorative brooch, made from silver and rose gold for Millie, while he was in Ypres, France in 1917. This was the scene of some of the worst fighting the Australians experienced that year. AWM REL31862



Studio portrait of Millicent Walker from Gerringsong, New South Wales c. 1915.

AWM P04235.002 [detail]



Studio portrait of Private Jack Buttsworth, of Bourke, New South Wales, taken before he left for overseas.

AWM P04235.001 [detail]

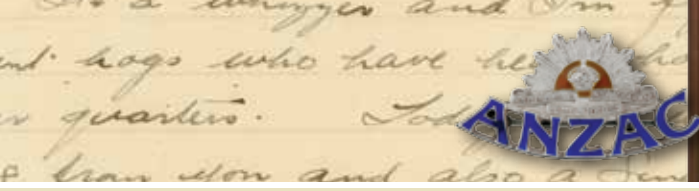


A small silver-plated souvenir notebook and pencil from the troop transport Jack travelled on to England. On the first page of the notebook, Jack wrote, "To Millie with best wishes from (Mizpah) Jack (England)11/10/16" Mizpah is a Biblical benediction: *May the Lord watch between me and thee whilst we are absent one from the other.* AWM REL31863

Jack (front left) digging a mule track on Westhoek Ridge in Belgium 1917. The sunken track allowed pack animals to supply troops without being seen.

AWM E00803





Tom McCann and Edie Franklyn

Tom McCann served in the 30th Battalion, AIF, with Jack Buttsworth during the First World War. A grocer in Sydney prior to enlisting in 1916, he had grown up in rural Victoria working on farms. He met Edie in Sydney at the Campbell Street Church of Christ, and described her as "the only sweetheart I ever had". They enjoyed a sincere courtship until his enlistment, and throughout the war she carefully kept every letter he wrote to her.

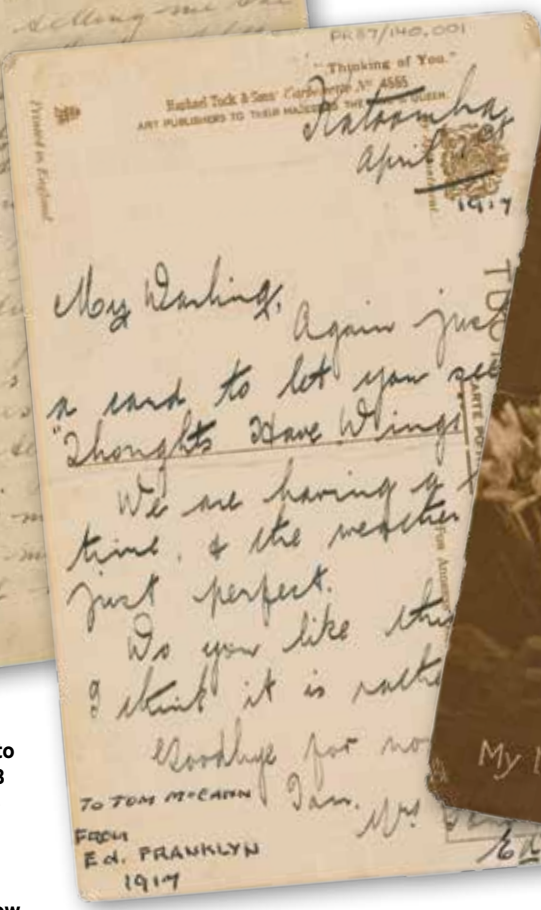
Tom was badly wounded by shrapnel in 1918, and the war ended while he was recuperating. On his return to Australia, he bought land in Melbourne to build a shop and house before marrying Edie in Sydney. Here they raised their family and ran a successful grocery business together.



Lance Corporal Thomas McCann c.1916
AWM P01258.002



The first of an 18-page letter sent to Edie from the trenches in France, 8 April 1918. Frank's letters describe in detail all of the aspects of life in the trenches, such as how terrible the lice were and the joy of having clean clothes. He also speaks of how he hoped he would prove himself in battle. AWM PR87/140



While the letters Edie wrote to Tom are lost, he did keep the postcards she sent him. AWM PR87/140.001





Frank Burchnall and Jean Harvey

Frank and Jean were childhood sweethearts. Having lost touch after attending the same primary school, they reconnected at a community singing evening when Jean was 15 and Frank was 16. Here love blossomed. Although the couple had no car, no phone and not much money between them, they began courting. Frank's family was well known and respected in the community, so Frank was trusted to escort Jean to dances, to the pictures, and to his home – when his parents were present, of course.

Both families assumed the two would marry, and so did Jean and Frank. However, when he enlisted in 1941, the couple decided to postpone their engagement until after the war. Frank's father (also named Frank), who had served in the First World War, lowered his age and enlisted with his son so that they could both serve together.

Only three weeks after they had arrived in Malaya, Frank and his father were both taken prisoner when Singapore fell to the Japanese. Jean was left with only letters, photographs, and the sweetheart brooch Frank had given her.



Jean proudly wore this sweetheart brooch Frank had given her. The brooch is an enamelled version of the colour patch of his unit. She did eventually get married, but never let go of her memories of Frank, keeping this memento and the other few items he had given her.

AWM REL39881

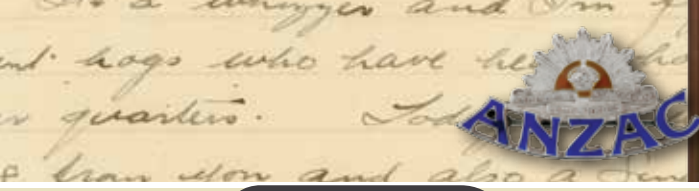
Frank's father died of disease in 1943, and when this news reached Jean and the Burchnall family, the fate of Frank began to look grim. Jean wrote to him every week, but he was only ever able to send one prisoner-of-war postcard, in a format written and printed by the Japanese. It read: "I am well, I am being treated well."

In 1944 Frank's mother thought Jean should start buying furniture in preparation for her wedding. Full of uncertainty for the future, Jean held off, not knowing whether Frank would ever come home.

Frank died on the second Sandakan death march, in June 1945. Two months later when thousands of Australians were joining in peace celebrations, Jean did not. Although still having had no official word about Frank, she feared the worst. The families waiting for news of their loved ones captured by the Japanese still had some months to wait before knowing their fate.



Frank Burchnall and Jean Harvey enjoying a summer picnic at Spring Gully, Victoria, in February 1939. AWM P08312.001



Activities

- (a) Each of these three couples made the decision to wait for the war to end before getting married. Wives of serving men were entitled to receive a proportion of their husband's pay, and widows would have been eligible for a pension. Write down the pros and cons of getting married during the war.

- (b) Millie Walker was 28 when the war ended, but she never married. List some of the reasons why.

- (c) Edie Franklyn faithfully kept every letter Tom sent her, but Tom did not keep the letters she wrote to him. In one of his letters, Tom tells Edie that he regularly burns his correspondence. Why do you think he was doing that?

- (d) Tom McCann describes the courtship he had with Edie as being 'sincere'. What do you think he meant by that statement?

- (e) Frank Burchnall grew up in the post First World War period. What might he have witnessed in that period that influenced his decision not to marry Jean until he returned?

- (f) Edie Franklyn was fortunate to receive long detailed letters from her fiancé, but Jean never received a letter from Frank. Still, she wrote to him weekly while he was a prisoner. What might it have been like for her to write these letters?

- (g) Why was the prison postcard from Frank Burchnall so short? How do you think Jean felt receiving such minimal correspondence from Frank?

Imagine ...

You have become engaged during wartime – remember, you do not know how long it will be until the war is over. Would you wait, or would you marry? Justify your answer, using information gained from the stories above.



Marriages: far from home

Today we think of weddings as family affairs, to be celebrated with extended family members and friends, but wartime weddings could be very different. For servicemen and women far from home, the family was replaced by friends; fellow sailors, soldiers, airmen or nurses. Far from family and traditional neighbourhood churches, wartime brides and grooms adapted to their changed circumstances.

Read the following and complete the related activities.

Scott Tanner and Connie Koch

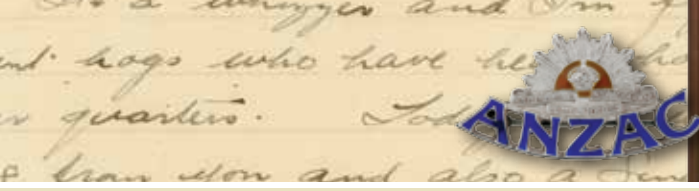
Scott Tanner, from Tasmania, was far from his home when he fell in love with Australian army nurse Connie Koch during the Second World War. They were both serving in the Northern Territory, and when they decided to get married in 1943, it was too far for family to be able to come. An army chaplain described the wedding in the following letter, which he wrote to Connie's parents in South Australia:



Sergeant R.S. Tanner on the right, of the Australian Defence Canteen Services issuing supplies in Alice Springs two months before his wedding. AWM 028448 [detail]



Weddings between servicemen and nurses who were far from home happened all over Australia. Lieutenant Maurice Timbs and his bride, Sister Heather Woodhead, claimed to have had the first army wedding in Western Australia on 17 June 1943. They got married in a typical camp church built of bush timber and bamboo, and like Scott and Connie, spent their honeymoon on a cattle station. AWM014836 [detail]



NX147635
Chaplain The Rev. C.W. Dillon
Area Headquarters
Larrimah
Australia
8.8.43

Dear Mr & Mrs Koch,

Connie has asked me to write and tell you about the wedding, and I am only too delighted to do so.

Connie and Scott paid me the compliment of asking me to perform the ceremony; but unfortunately I only hold a licence for New South Wales, so we got in touch with Padre Leslie who is stationed near Darwin, and he flew down for the ceremony.

I am sure you are wondering what kind of chap is Scott Tanner. He is a particularly fine young man, he is a splendid character and good clean liver, he is extremely popular here, and is most devoted to Con.

I am sure that when you meet him you will immediately love him, and thoroughly approve of Connie's choice.

As you have already heard the wedding took place at Elsey Cattle Station; and a more beautiful setting for a wedding it would be impossible to find.

Mr & Mrs Giles were most kind, and put the Homestead at our disposal.

The ceremony took place on the lawn, with a large bougainvillea bush with huge clusters of flowers as a background; fallen flowers formed a purple carpet on the grass.

The altar was a small table covered with a white hospital bedspread with a red cross hanging down as a frontal.

The bridal party consisted of the Bride, dressed in her grey uniform with red cape; and two sisters as bridesmaids.

The Bridegroom was supported by a bestman and groomsman, all dressed in shirts and shorts.

I assisted Padre Leslie, and standing on the lawn in the background were the guests, Mr & Mrs Giles, Sisters and officers, friends of both Connie and Scott.

Behind these there were the station blacks men, women, and children, all wildly excited at such a great event! Also the Chinese cook!

The Breakfast was held on the grassy bank on the Roper River near the Homestead.

It is a beautiful spot as one looks down on it from the high bank. The river is crystal clear as it flows over the rocks forming the rapids, and huge paperbark trees are growing by the riverside, also tropical palms.

Two tables were laden with pork, fowl, salads and dressing as the first course; ice cream, custard etc as the sweets, all carried down by many willing hands, including the blacks.

The toasts were drunk, and your good selves were remembered, and were very much in our thoughts.

Major Smith proposed your toast (he also gave Connie away) and it was responded to by Captain Thomas. Both spoke very nicely of you.

Telegrams were read by the headlights of a car; and as the new moon rose to light up the scene, we said farewell to the happy couple, leaving them to have their honeymoon in that delightful spot.

I hope that I will have the pleasure of meeting you sometime in the future.

Yours Very Sincerely, C.W. Dillon



Ernest Lawrence and Clarice Daley

On 21 October 1915, in the middle of the Gallipoli campaign, Staff Nurse Clarice Daley of the 3rd Australian General Hospital, and Sergeant Ernest Lawrence, 4th Australian Light Horse Regiment, married at the camp church at West Mudros on the Island of Lemnos. As a married woman, Clarice was unable to continue nursing and so returned to Australia in early 1916. Ernest's homecoming was delayed until late in 1918.

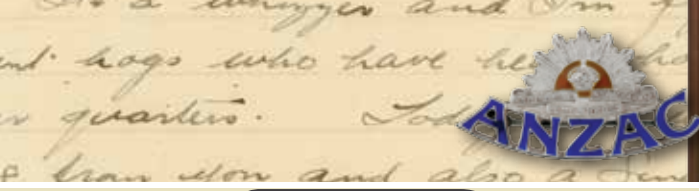
Passing through an archway of drawn bayonets, the bride and groom, Clarice and Ernest, leave the tent in which they were married. Conditions at the main Australian camp at West Mudros were among the most difficult faced by Australian nurses in the First World War. The rocky, windswept island was crawling with scorpions and had poor sanitation and very little water – hardly the most romantic setting for a wedding.

AWM P01360.001



The minister and witnesses gather around the bride and groom. The officiating minister was Chaplain H. Winter; lacking a marriage certificate, he affixed a penny stamp to the corner of a handwritten document and signed it – to make it 'official'.

AWMP01360.002



Activities

- (a) Neither of these couples had family attending their weddings. How do you think they might have felt without family present?
- (b) Why do you think Connie Koch asked a chaplain to write to her parents? Summarise the information he provided.
- (c) In the letter to Connie's parents, what sort of a picture has Chaplain Dillon given of the wedding? Do you think there were any photographs taken? In response to this story create a visual image of the scene (you may use photography, paint or collage).
- (d) Use a map to find Alice Springs, Elsey Station, Larrimah and Darwin. What sort of distances did guests have to travel to attend Scott and Connie's wedding?
- (e) In the First World War, as a married woman, Clarice Daley had to give up nursing. Go to the Second World War nominal roll at www.ww2roll.gov.au/ and look up both Constance Koch and Constance Tanner to investigate Connie's army nursing career. Had rules about married women changed between the two world wars?



Marriages: military influenced and ‘make-do’

No other social occasion reflects current trends more than a wedding. Fashions change, styles come and go, and this influences the choices made by brides and grooms when celebrating their special day.

The First and Second World Wars, more than any other conflicts in which Australians have been involved, deeply affected the entire community, and this impact can be seen in wartime weddings. From the clothes, guests, gifts, and even the cake, the war was ever present.

During the Second World War, rationing and restrictions on clothing, food, and other goods affected every area of Australian life. When choosing their wedding dress, brides found that they were not just restricted by their clothing coupons, but they were also limited with their choice of available fabric. Textile factories turned to manufacturing for the war effort rather than the domestic market, and the importation of other fabrics and clothes was restricted.

Uniforms were a godsend for groomsmen, and bridesmaids faced the daunting task of finding formal attire. From bouquets to banquets, resources were pooled and creativity put to the test.

Examine the following images and captions and complete the related activities.



Image 1 and 2



John Bagot undertook his initial training in South Australia before being transferred to the Light Horse Depot at Broadmeadows Camp outside Melbourne. He left his fiancée Eileen Dubois live behind in South Australia. Determined to marry before his departure, Eileen travelled from South Australia, bringing her family with her. They were married in the muddy Broadmeadows camp in May 1915. John survived the war, and they were reunited in March 1919.

AWM DAX0549; AWM DAX0548



Image 3

Group portrait of Australian soldiers and nurses from the 3rd Australian General Hospital. They were guests at the wedding of Corporal George Laffin (known as Charles) and Sister Nellie Pike in Britain in 1917. Charles served as an orderly at the hospital where Nellie nursed. While his career progressed, Nellie was discharged from service after her wedding. Nellie remained in Britain as a civilian, and when the war ended, Charles found it difficult to secure her a passage home because private Australian citizens living in Britain were not considered to be the responsibility of the Australian government.

AWM P07678.002

Image 4

Private Stanley Anderson enlisted in 1916, a month before his 20th birthday. He served on the Western Front where he was wounded in August 1918, and consequently sent home in the December. When he married Lillian Benchley in May 1920, he wore his uniform, even though he had been discharged from the army the year before. For many men it was the only formal attire they owned.

AWM P08019.003





Image 5

Joyce Davern was determined that ration coupons would not stop her from having her dream wedding dress. She made the wedding and bridesmaid's dresses from French crêpe material that had taken her two and a half years to pay off on lay-by. She married Joseph Cleaves in 1942, but there was no reception after the wedding. Her sister, Gwen, was her bridesmaid, and when Gwen married RAAF Sergeant Robert Webster in 1944 the sisters exchanged dresses.

AWM P02144.001



Image 6

Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) Flight Sergeant Molly Dunlop was the first bride to wear this dress when she married RAAF Flying Officer John Ellis in Cairo 1944. A local resident had come to the rescue of the WAAF girls stationed there by donating two wedding dresses for the use of any brides requiring one. A WAAF officer drew up a number of designs, and two were chosen by a committee of airwomen.

AWM SUK13619

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We'll meet again
Australian stories of love in wartime



Image 7

Getting married in uniform was the only realistic option for many brides who were serving away from home, or facing shortages and rationing. Louisa Lyford, a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, married Private Laurie Mountford of the 2/30th Battalion in 1941. Friends from their respective units made up the bridal party. Laurie was later captured by the Japanese, but survived the war and was discharged in time to spend Christmas with Louisa in 1945.

AWM P04166.002

Image 8

RAAF Sergeant Noel Maginness and WAAAF Corporal Dorothy Chadwick were serving together at No. 2 Aircraft Depot, Richmond, New South Wales, when they married in 1943. Dorothy's mother bought the wedding dress secondhand because the family could not scrape together enough ration coupons for a new one. The dress worn by the bridesmaid, Margaret Armstrong, a fellow WAAAF, was one she had worn as a bridesmaid for another couple before rationing restrictions came into effect.

AWM P05137.002





Image 9

Kathleen McCormack first met a young American sailor, John Heeren, in a milk bar in Perth. A tradesman accidentally split paint on John, and Kathleen came to his aid. He seized the opportunity to ask her out, but she declined his offer. Their paths crossed again, she was a volunteer in a US servicemen's club, and she allowed him to walk her home. They were married the following year in February 1945. AWM P08788.001

Image 10

When Muriel McGlynn married Able Seaman William Richardson in 1946, she used her cloth coupons on a dress she could wear again, rather than a wedding gown. Even though the war had ended the year before, clothing remained rationed until 1948. On his jumper William wore long white silk ribbons known as 'Wedding Streamers' instead of his regular cotton tape. This tradition was borrowed from the British navy and permission was given to RAN sailors and their best man to wear streamers if they married in uniform.

AWM P03246.001



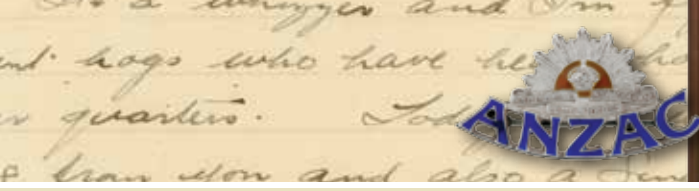


Image 11

On 15 August 1945, the day after Japan agreed to the Allied demand for unconditional surrender, Corporal Jack Rickards married Sapper Ena Townsend in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. They had been serving together with the 2/1st General Hospital.
AWM 095030

Image 12 and 13

Sisters Gladys and Ruth Moll were faced with a dilemma regarding their respective weddings. They had enough clothing coupons to buy a simple dress each, or by combining their resources they could afford a more elaborate one to share. They chose to share. Gladys was the first to wear the dress, when she married Captain Martin Winkler in March 1943, with her sister as a bridesmaid. Ruth's turn came in December, when she married Lieutenant Bert Schmidt. Ruth's wedding was planned at short notice as Bert's leave was not confirmed until November; this meant her cousin, June, had no time to organise a dress, so she wore her uniform.

AWM P08488.001 (Ruth Moll and Bert Schmidt) right
AWM P08617.001 (Gladys Moll and Martin Winkler) below

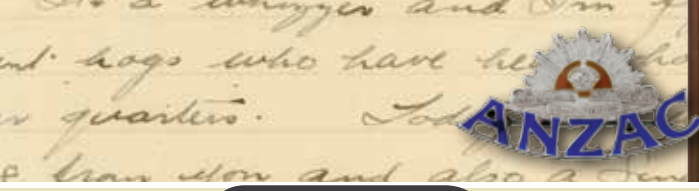




Activities

The preceding 13 wedding photographs are examples of the variety of experiences faced by couples in wartime. They are representative of many of the themes that have been explored in this section. Use the table below to sort these photographs into the relevant themes. (Remember, they may fit into more than one.) Write the number beside the category, and justify your answer.

Themes	Images
New social opportunities	
Australians and Americans	
Hospital romance	
Foreign affairs	
Hurried weddings	
Delayed weddings	
Far from home	
Military influenced	
Make-do	



Activities

- (a) Choose the story of one of the thirteen couples in these photographs. Write a wedding speech for the groom to give after the wedding ceremony. You might like to do some research about wedding speeches. Remember such speeches usually contain some humour as well as some more serious comments about the history and qualities of the relationship. Provide an historical perspective about the wartime experiences, they have had or about to experience.
- (b) Choose one of the photographs and write a set of marriage vows that the bride and groom might make to each other during their wedding ceremony. The vows should take into account the special situation of the couple you have chosen. Do some research, looking at some typical marriage vows that people make today.
- (c) The 'what to wear' question was easily solved for the men: they had their uniforms. For most of the women, though, a traditional wedding dress was essential and obtaining it required sacrifices and compromise. Read about the dilemma faced by Joyce Davern (Image 5). What do you think she 'went without' to realise her dream of a beautiful wedding dress? Why was the dress so very important to her?



(d) Many wedding dresses were secondhand: borrowed, shared or donated. If you were getting married nowadays, would you wear a traditional wedding dress that is secondhand or borrowed? Why or why not? Would you buy a dress with the idea of wearing it again later for other occasions? Give your reasons.

(e) During the Second World War (1939 – 1945) marriages peaked in 1942, when the Australian commitment to the war was intense.

Why do you think so many couples married during this period of the war?

Some couples seem to have felt that marriage would somehow protect them from danger while on active service. Explain why they might feel this way?

(f) Investigate changes in marriage rates in Australia from 1860 to 2008 through the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3105.0.65.0012008
Note down three interesting findings.

Imagine ...

Your best friend has suddenly met and fallen in love with a young soldier who is about to be sent to a dangerous war zone. They plan to marry before he goes. You are happy for her but have strong concerns about the situation. After much thought, you decide you should email her to share your thoughts. What will you write? Will you be supportive? How will you express your thoughts without jeopardising your friendship?

or

Your best mate has suddenly met and fallen in love with a girl just a few months before he is about to be sent to a dangerous war zone. They plan to marry before he goes. You are happy for him but have strong concerns about the situation. After much consideration, you decide you should email him to share your thoughts. What will you write? Will you be supportive? How will you express your thoughts without jeopardising your friendship?

2. Separation

How do you say goodbye when it may be forever? How do you preserve a relationship when separated from your loved one by distance? How do you sustain a strong connection through months or years apart from each other?

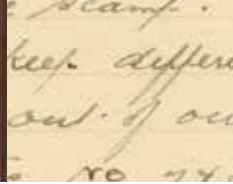
For over a century Australians have been answering the call to arms, leaving their loved ones behind and facing uncertain futures.

Lengthy separation can also bring doubts and fears within relationships as love and devotion are put to the test. Whirlwind romances may not have the depth to last through years of waiting. Long-term relationships are challenged, as couples no longer have daily contact with each other.

Letters, mementoes, photographs, postcards, gifts, and phone calls become the lifeblood of romance and relationships. Post is eagerly anticipated and letters are read and re-read, and cherished. Simple photographs and mementoes are carried through years of conflict, or for some, imprisonment – a constant connection with home and the promise of a warm embrace.



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Farewells

Saying goodbye to you is the hardest thing I've ever had to do.

Ralph James to his wife, Beryl, on 25 August 1942



The departure of the Australian contingent for the Sudan, Arthur Collingridge, 1885. AWM ART16593

Docksides, train stations, and airports around Australia have seen countless farewells, some conducted with fanfare and celebration, but all coloured by sadness. The parting between couples brings sorrow, no matter the length of separation. Some couples make their private farewells to each other at home, hoping to avoid the distress of a public goodbye, while others stay and watch until the troop ships are no longer visible on the horizon.

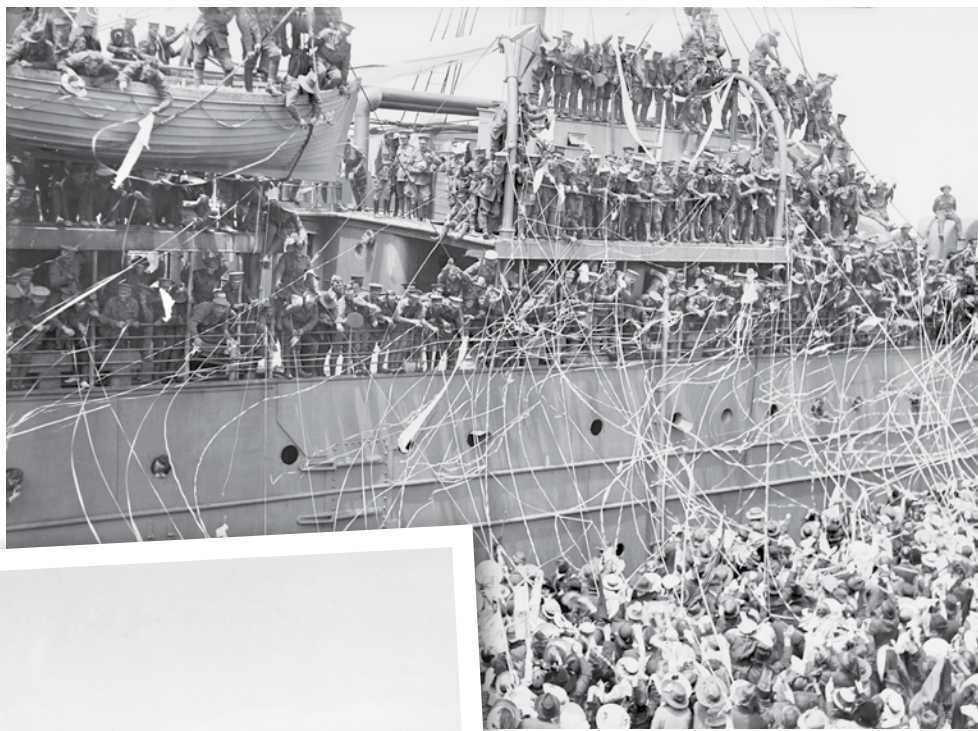
In wartime, the act of saying goodbye takes on added significance and poignancy. For Australian servicemen and women, and the loved ones they leave behind, this parting is also overshadowed by the possibility that it may be a final farewell.

In March 1885 a small New South Wales military contingent was despatched to fight in the Sudan War. This was the first time a British colony had raised, equipped, and funded a force of full-time soldiers to fight overseas in an imperial war. The contingent left Sydney amid much public fanfare, partly encouraged by the fact that a holiday had been declared to farewell the troops. The send-off was described as the most festive occasion in the colony's history. The artist has depicted the excitement and confusion of the comings and goings at Circular Quay, and the intimacy of touching farewells in the painting above.

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... hogs who have been
... quarters. Today
... from you and also



Throughout the First World War, troopships carried thousands of soldiers overseas to fight. Dockside farewells like this one of HMAT *Hororata* (A20) leaving Port Melbourne on 23 November 1916 were common. Paper streamers connect the troops to their loved one below, each holding onto an end as the ship departs. The streamers were the final physical link between couples, and many kept their torn half as a reminder and a symbol of that final contact. AWM PB0459 [detail]

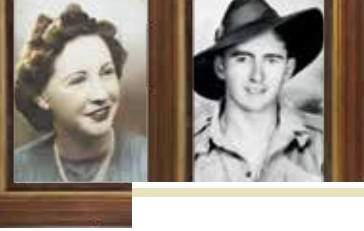


Mrs Doreen Martin stands on the edge of the wharf, holding her hat, as she farewells her husband, Signalman Bernard Vincent Martin, as he sails on the troop transport ship *Strathallan*. He returned safely to her three years later. AWM 000304/01

Activities

Imagine ...

It is wartime and you are farewelling a loved one. What do you think you would say to them? Is there anything you wouldn't want to discuss? Would you exchange gifts? Would you prefer a private farewell at home, or would you rather say goodbye at the docks or airport? Justify your preferences by giving reasons.



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Fears

Couples separated by war faced various fears and anxieties. The prospect of death, disease, or wounding was a realistic possibility. Casualty lists and newspaper reports acted as constant reminders of the dangers faced by servicemen and women.

The separation over great distances endured by wartime couples could lead to fears of another kind. Both men and women faced fears of infidelity and estrangement from their sweethearts and spouses. Women at home worried about their men overseas meeting 'exotic' women, or being welcomed as heroes by local girls. Servicemen also worried about their wives and sweethearts finding comfort in the arms of others during their long absences. There was also the fear that the person you reunited with after years of separation might have changed because of their wartime experiences.

The Japanese understood these fears, and exploited them to develop propaganda leaflets during the Second World War. Leaflets were easy to drop from the air, and were a popular way to deliver propaganda messages.



Japanese propaganda leaflets.

AWM RC02313

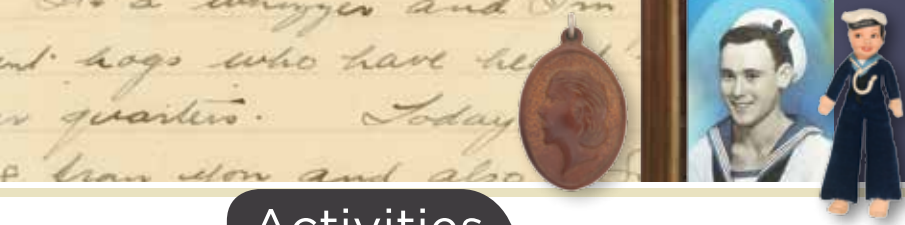


Gunner Allen Lang holding a Japanese propaganda leaflet.

AWM 011303/33



AWM RC07671



Activities

Examine the three images on the adjacent page and answer the following questions.

(a) What are the messages that the two propaganda leaflets are trying to convey? Do you think that they would have been effective? How would the soldiers at the time have reacted to them?

(b) Look at the photograph taken of Gunner Allen Lang holding a Japanese propaganda leaflet. What impression do you have of his reaction to the leaflet? This photograph was taken by the British Ministry of Information. How have they used it to their advantage?

(c) What is infidelity?

(d) Was the fear of infidelity valid? (Consider the following factors in your discussion: time spent apart; average age of those involved; whether they are married or single; whether they are male or female.)



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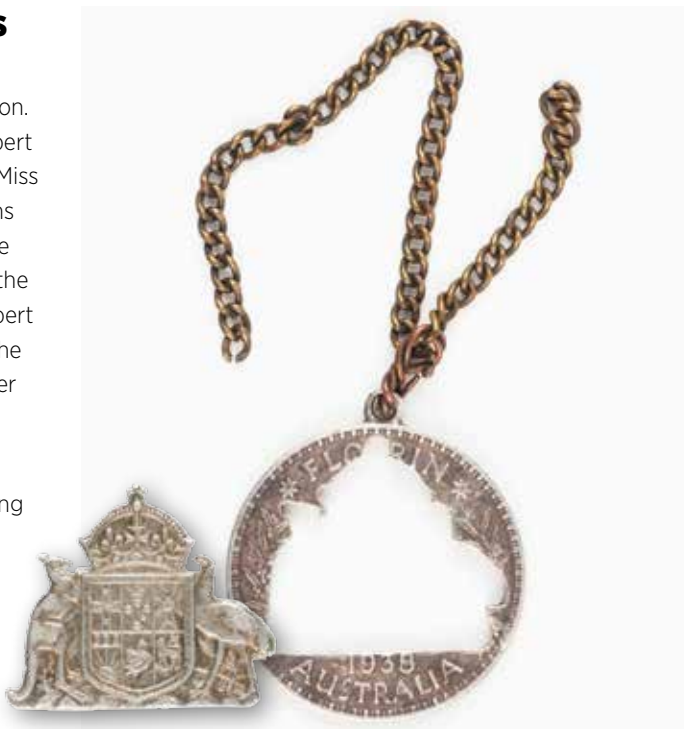
Remember me

Keepsakes and mementoes

Lois Henriksen and Robert Towers

For loved ones waiting at home, a cherished keepsake may be just what is needed to ease the pain of separation. Before leaving for service in Malaya in 1940, Private Robert Towers, from Victoria, made a brooch for his girlfriend, Miss Lois Fay Henriksen. He had carefully cut the coat of arms out of a coin and attached a clasp to its back so that she could wear it; he wore the corresponding outer part of the cut-out coin around his neck with his identity discs. Robert promised Lois that when the two parts were reunited, the war would be over, and he would be home to be with her forever.

In Malaya, Towers was captured by the Japanese, and Lois lost all contact with him. After the war, while working in a hospital treating men who had been prisoners of war, she met a soldier who had been with Robert in the prison camp in Japan. Lois discovered that he had died of illness in November 1943. His personal items were sent home to his mother, and among them was the other half of Lois's brooch.

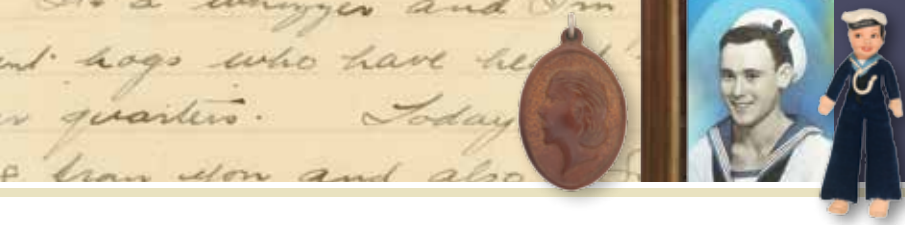


Lois Henriksen's silver brooch cut from an Australian florin. AWMREL27148.001

The pendant worn by Private Robert George Towers during the Second World War. AWM REL27148.002



Private Robert Towers sits in the middle of two of his mates in this studio portrait taken in Malaya in 1941. The cut-out coin can be seen hanging around his neck. Private Sydney Riley (left) and Private Allan Clinch (right), both died in Malaya in 1942. AWM P02846.001



Frank and Audrey Norton

While enjoying a Fijian cruise in 1934, Audrey Horn, an artist from Western Australia, spotted a young man painting on deck. Curiosity overcame shyness and she introduced herself to Frank Norton, a maritime artist from Sydney. Frank was determined to make his career as an artist, and, obsessed with ships and the sea, he took a job with the P&O line and moved to Britain to work. A long-distance courtship followed, with an engagement in 1938 and a wedding in 1940, in Bunbury, Western Australia, when Frank returned after the outbreak of the Second World War.

Unsurprisingly, the couple chose a cruise for their honeymoon, from Fremantle to Sydney, but they could not escape the war. The ship sailed in blackout for fear of enemy shipping, and halfway up the east coast was turned around when the captain received warning of Japanese mines ahead.

Not long after, Frank achieved his dream and was commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy as an official war artist. He spent the rest of the war, and later the Korean War, recording the ships, men, and activities of the navy in action. Audrey and the children were never far from his mind, and he sent gifts, letters and notes from all over the world, expressing his love and affection.



Studio wedding portrait of Frank Norton and his bride, Audrey Horn. AWM P09080.001



Frank sent this box to Audrey for Christmas 1944. He carved her initials into the top of the lid. AWM REL39482



Frank Norton at work as an official war artist, in Antelat, Libya, in 1942. AWM 023241



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No 94



Lance Corporal Thomas William Lupton served in South Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in 1965. He purchased this Vietnamese good luck pendant as a gift for his wife, Betty. AWM REL32702



Staff Sergeant Clive Oliver carried this cameo pendant during his captivity in Thailand and Burma during the Second World War. It shows a profile of his wife Rita, and is hand carved from a betel nut. At the end of the war, Clive returned home to his wife and two children. AWM REL33445



This meticulously made bracelet, using fine twisted wire and seed beads, was sent home as a gift to Clara Hollingsworth from her husband, Private Charles Ashby Hollingsworth, in 1917. Charles had been 41 when he enlisted in the AIF the previous year. He embarked from Melbourne and proceeded to France where he was killed at Passchendaele on 4 October 1917. By the end of the war, his grave was lost, so his name is recorded on the Menin Gate memorial to "the missing" at Ypres. He left behind his wife, two sons, Frederick and Herbert, and a daughter, Beatrice.

AWM REL/04744.001



Husband and wife Phyllis and Gordon Malligan both served in the army during the Second World War. Phyllis was a sapper with the Australian Women's Army Corps, and then a driver with the Royal Australian Engineers; Gordon served with the 1st Australian Corps School of Signals. Phyllis wore this brooch containing both their photographs. AWM REL26881

Private John Charles Arney worked as a motor mechanic before enlisting in the army when war broke out in 1939. He embarked for overseas service on the transport ship *Orcades*, arriving in Egypt in February 1940. Shortly afterwards, he posted a small velveteen souvenir doll home to Ethel May Regan. After the war, John and Ethel were married. AWM REL34431.001



... a ... and ...
... hogs who have ...
... quarters. Today ...
... from ... and also ...



Phoebe Hood's Female Relatives' Badge with 29th Battalion colour patch brooch. AWM REL/02893.002

Souvenir cream silk handkerchief Edward Hood sent home to Australia to his wife, Phoebe, in 1916.

AWM REL/02896.002

Edward and Phoebe Hood

Edward Duncan Hood, from Victoria was married with three children when he enlisted in the army in April 1916. By August he was in France, serving with the 29th Battalion, AIF. His wife, Phoebe, received gifts and letters from him, including a delicate silk embroidered handkerchief. In his pocket, Private Hood carried a small blurry photograph of his family. It showed Phoebe and the children: Pearl, Margaret, and young Edward, with Edward himself inserted in the background. His wife wrote a message on the back:

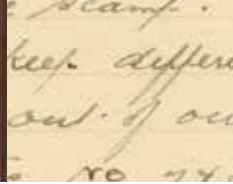
Dear Dunk, I am sending you a photo, don't laugh at it. We have all had a good laugh at it ... Let me know when you get it. I hope you receive it safe and don't get a fright.

She proudly wore her Female Relatives' Badge given in recognition of Edward's service. To it she attached a small 'sweetheart' brooch, given to her by her husband, which represented the colour patch worn by members of the 29th Battalion on their uniform sleeves. Sadly, Edward would never again join them in person. The photograph, along with several other personal items, was returned to Mrs Hood after her husband's death in France on 25 October 1916.



The postcard showing the Hood family.

AWM 3DRL/6467.001



‘Sweetheart jewellery’

Jewellery has often been given as an expression of love, and the wearing of a ring, brooch or necklace from a loved one is a public display of commitment and exclusivity.

The military adopted the tradition of exchanging ‘sweethearts’ in the nineteenth century. Soldiers would give women dear to them a symbol of their regiment to demonstrate their affection. In this way sisters and mothers, as well as wives and girlfriends, became part of the regimental family. Australians have continued the tradition, gifting and wearing jewellery or insignia that declare their love and devotion.

Many were produced commercially, and could be purchased by the women themselves or given as a gift. Some were handmade by the servicemen in the field, from whatever spare material was available.



A colour patch sweetheart brooch of 3 Field Artillery Brigade.
AWM REL38812

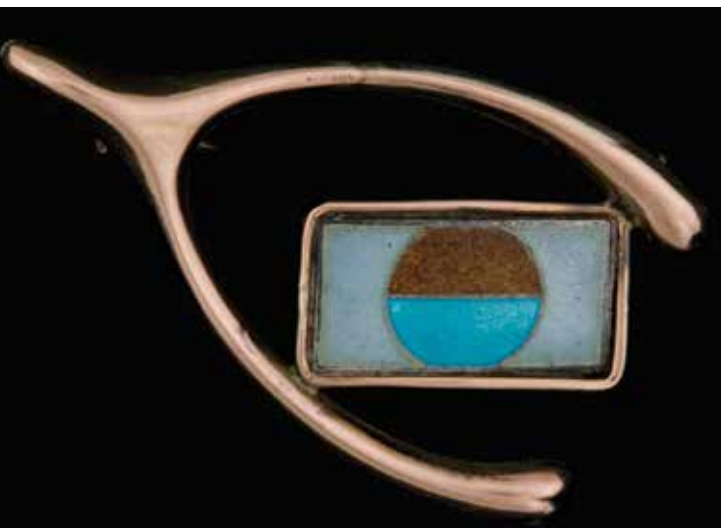


Gilded brass and glass enamel brooch in the form of a boomerang, with the wording 'I go to return'. Suspended from the boomerang is a small red-and-blue enamelled 'rising sun' badge. AWM REL/05581



Gallipoli sweetheart brooch featuring a kookaburra with a leaf in its mouth, engraved with the word 'Gallipoli'. The five bars, each with a gemstone at the end, represent the Southern Cross.

AWM REL38551



A small gold and enamel wishbone-shaped brooch, with an enamelled colour patch for the 51st Battalion, AIF, set in the centre. AWM REL/14411



Circular mother of pearl brooch enclosing a 'rising sun' badge and filigree design, made during the First World War.
AWM REL25099



Silver RAAF pilot's wings sweetheart brooch given to his wife by Flying Officer John Reuben Vowles, who joined the RAAF in September 1941, aged 20. After training as a navigator he served in Bomber Command in Britain, posted to No. 44 Squadron RAF. Vowles was killed in action over the Netherlands on 22 June 1944. He was married to Gwenneth Louisa. AWM REL25037



This sterling silver brooch set with marcasite is an example of commercially produced sweetheart jewellery from the Second World War. It bears a blue-and-red enamel RAAF cap badge. AWM REL/12810



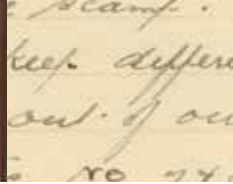
John Andrew Lovatt was born in Scotland and immigrated to Australia. A qualified radio mechanic, he enlisted in the Second AIF in 1942 and served in the 2nd Australian Armoured Brigade Group Signal Squadron in New Guinea in 1944 and 1945. These two sweetheart brooches were given as gifts to his wife Jean who he had married in 1943. They are handpainted and engraved, probably using dental instruments. AWM REL38041 AWM REL38043



This silver brooch, engraved with the words 'Beryl' and 'Tarakan', was found in a charity shop and donated to the Australian War Memorial. Nothing is known of either its maker or its owner. AWM REL23908.001



Jack and Faith Keen were married in Sydney in 1930. Jack worked as a motor mechanic, before enlisting with the Second AIF in 1943, aged 41. During his service in New Guinea in 1944-45, he made many mementos for his family, including this aluminium ring. The 'stone' set into the top is made from a piece of green tooth brush. AWM REL34809



Activities

(a) Choose six of the keepsakes shown on the previous pages, and using the information provided, fill in the table below.

Item No.	Description	Date made	Materials used	Maker-handmade or commercial	Service: army, navy, air force	Recipient

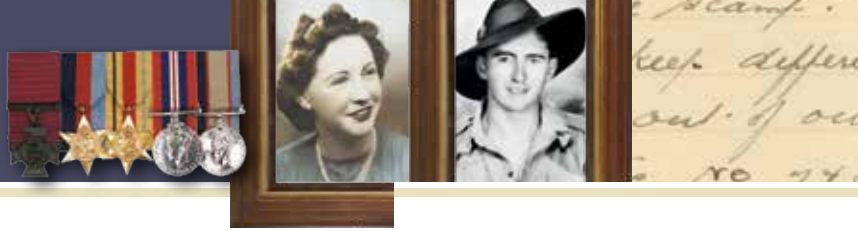
Activities

Discuss the following questions:

- (b) What features do the keepsakes have in common?
- (c) Has this tradition continued today? Has anything replaced the sweetheart brooch?
- (d) Using the information provided for the 'Tarakan' brooch, on page 67, construct a possible story for it. (The Battle of Tarakan was in Borneo. Research Australia's involvement at Tarakan at www.w2australia.gov.au/lastbattles/landings.html)
- (e) "It's not the cost of a gift but the thought that counts". Discuss this statement, stating your opinion and giving examples from your own experience.
- (f) Many of these small items have become lost or their stories forgotten, something that is greatly regretted by later generations in families. Choose one of the keepsakes in this section and design a method for preserving and displaying it, and for telling its story for future generations. For example, you might design a display case, a frame set or an album. Include information about the people, their situation at the time, and what happened to them as a result of the war, with the conserved item.
- (g) All of the items described in this section are held in the National Collection of the Australian War Memorial. When many of them were made they were simple, sentimental keepsakes, with little or no material value. Today they are treasured and preserved for the future. Why are they considered to be of such historical significance? Is it important to have a National Collection of wartime memorabilia? What dimension to Australia's Wartime history do these keepsakes add?

Imagine ...

Choose one of the keepsakes mentioned in this section. Imagine you are the soldier who sent it, and write a letter to the recipient, explaining what the item is and what it means to you. Include some details of your war experience. Then write a reply from the recipient, saying how it felt to receive the gift, what it means, how it will be used. Exchange letters with other students.



Remember me: Letters

In the twenty-first century keeping in touch is simple and immediate. Social networking sites, mobile phones, e-mails, and blogs provide constant possibilities for communication with the people around us. This was not the case for the thousands of Australians serving during the twentieth century: they relied on letters sent from home. The post was eagerly anticipated, and letters could take weeks – even months – to arrive, and then were often received out of chronological order.

Letters allow the writer time to compose and focus their thoughts. They can be open and cheerful and shared with friends and relatives. They can also be deeply personal and private – an avenue to pour out one’s deepest feelings, hopes, fears, and desires. For couples, letters were a means of connection, a way to exchange news, share dreams, and keep relationships alive. Letters formed the basis of many romantic relationships as couples waited, and hoped to be reunited when the war was over.

Private Reginald Dawson of the 17th Battalion, AIF, made firm friends with British soldier Private George Hill during his service overseas in the First World War. Even after his return to Sydney, Reg continued to write to George, and over time, his letters extended to other members of the Hill family, including George’s younger sister, Daisy. Friendship turned to love, and after several years of long-distance

courtship via the post, Reg wrote, asking Daisy to marry him. She accepted his proposal of marriage, and made the long trip to Australia to meet him in person for the first time. They married in 1927.

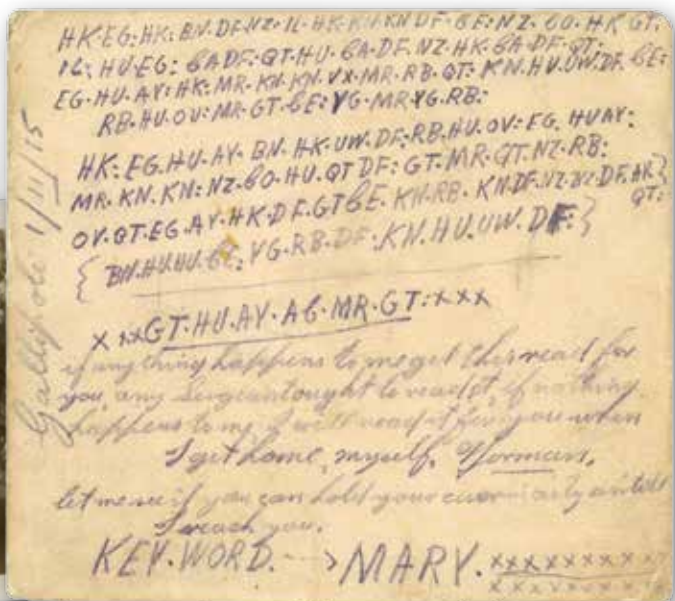
Letters were also the only way that the serious discussions we take for granted in peacetime could take place. In December 1941, Private Norman Senier was serving in the Middle East, and his wife, Iris, was at home in Western Australia, expecting their baby. He wrote:

Regards name of child ... if you really like Francis, it's OK with me. I'm not too keen on it myself. Regards sex dear, either will be very welcome, the whole thing is very wonderful and what more could I ask for than a pretty daughter like you? Have you any idea what time in June it is expected to happen? AWM PR87/227

Mary Craigs and Norman MacLeod got married in their home town of Chopwell in northern England in 1913. By the time the First World War started a year later, Norman was in South Australia; he enlisted in the AIF. While serving on Gallipoli in 1915, he sent Mary a coded letter. Decoded it reads,

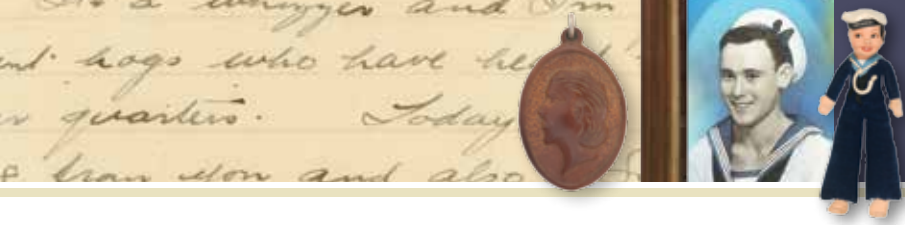
If I get killed think of me sometimes for I always loved you and baby. I forgive you for all those nasty unfriendly letters. Goodbye, Love Norman.

Norman survived the war and brought Mary and their children to live in Australia in 1919.



Reg and Daisy Dawson on their wedding day. (Private image)

Norman MacLeod's coded letter to Mary, 1915. AWM PR87/232



Beth Sheridan and Jack Swift

Jack Swift was a British sailor serving in HMAS *Formidable*. While on leave in Sydney in 1945, he met Beth Sheridan when he was invited to a party at her home. He was smitten, and when he returned to his ship they continued their courtship by letter.

My darling, when I came down [to] the mess a few minutes ago, I was absolutely miserable ... Then the mail arrived with two for me. I could have kissed the chap who brought it. I never knew mail could be so important. Have you ever been extremely happy and very sad at the same time darling? Well that is how I feel just now. I am so very happy to hear from you but I feel very full inside me, I miss you terribly Beth and I love you so very much my dear.

In your first letter you say you hope I don't mind you writing. That is a very funny thing to say dear, since I left you your letters are the only things I'm living for, write a dozen a day if you like Beth.

Please don't ever worry about me Beth; I'm as safe as houses. She's a good ship and it will take more than a few kamikazes to put her under and there aren't any hit and run motorists up here. It's safer than trying to cross George Street anyhow.

Letter from Jack Swift to Beth Sheridan, 20 July 1945, AWM PRO4332



In exchange for the one she sent him, Jack sent Beth this photograph of himself. AWM P08715.001

Jack and Beth married on 5 September 1945. She had only days to prepare for the wedding after receiving the following telegram: 'come home, getting married Friday'. However, Jack had to leave his new bride again to carry out postwar duties.

If you were here just now Beth, I rather think you would enjoy yourself. The sea is calm as a millpond and we're passing between some islands just a few miles either side. Occasionally a native boat appears. It's really very beautiful. I'd swap the whole lot, including this floating mosque, to be in Petersham with you darling, or anywhere else, if you were there. I'm missing you terribly sweetheart and it's getting worse every day that passes.

Last night, as I was feeling pretty shaky, I turned in at eight o'clock. I was still awake at ten-thirty. I can lay with my eyes closed and see you as real as life. I live over again every moment since I met you. Life's a funny thing you know Beth, remember that night we sat in the lounge and you were kicking hell out of the English and

I was trying to back them up, when I could get a word in. What would you have said if someone had told you that we should be married inside three months? I thought to myself "what a girl, she doesn't like the English, she doesn't like the Yanks, and she doesn't like Frank Sinatra". Well you've changed your mind about one of them - I hope.

Are all the chaps in this ship as much in love with their wives as I am with mine? I doubt it, it's not possible. I love you too much, you're my world darling. I wish they would hurry up and demob me, then I can be with you always. This aimless wandering about isn't getting anyone anywhere, It's wonderful to be able to call you my wife, you can sling off at the English or chop at me for drinking, but you're still mine, and I'm holding on with both hands.

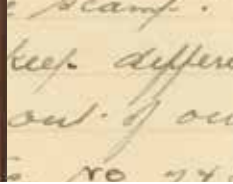
Letter from Jack Swift to Beth Swift, 1 November 1945, AWM PRO4332

After the war, Jack chose to make Australia his home rather than returning to Britain.



Beth gave Jack this photograph of herself, taken at her sister's wedding, after he asked for a picture of her. AWM P08635.001

Separation - Remember me

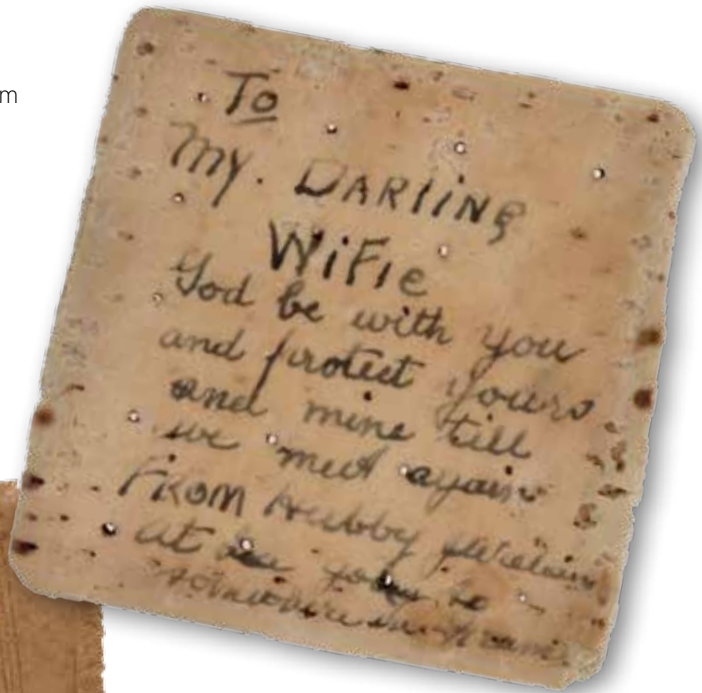


Sometimes soldiers had to use whatever material they could find to send letters home. In 1901 Lance Corporal Edward Charles Barnes wrote a poem on a scrap torn from a khaki uniform and sent it home from Pretoria in South Africa to his wife, Elizabeth:

Good luck from LC CPL Barnes

*On a piece of khaki from an old coat I have worn
Discarded because it was all tattered and torn
Tis not a gold edged or highly priced card
Still it conveys my best wishes and kindest regards
Pretoria*

AWMREL34553



Not all letters sent home were written using conventional means. Sergeant James Williams sent his wife a note written on a ration biscuit. That it has survived being posted, and has remained intact since 1917, says something about the robust nature of these hard biscuits.

AWM REL/11968



As technology has changed, so too have the means of communication. During the Vietnam War Lieutenant Diane Lawrence of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps was able to tape letters on a reel-to-reel recorder to send home, while stationed in Vung Tau, Vietnam 1969.

AWM COM/69/0476/VN

Beryl Williams and Ralph James

Beryl Williams and Ralph James married on 21 February 1941. Three months later, Ralph joined the Royal Australian Air Force and was stationed in Darwin, flying Hudson bombers. The pair exchanged intimate and honest letters throughout their separation.

Always dear I'll owe you the world for the happiness you have given me since I met you and especially since we've been married. With all my heart I can say they've been the happiest years of my life to date and all because you are such an adorably maddening, passionately tender and altogether perfect wife and lover - I'm sure you understand me better than I do myself so perhaps you understand what I'm trying to say - that I love you body and soul, now and always, so much that the thought of you with me is just torture because we're apart.

¼ of our time gone and before you know it I'll be snuggling you up each night with your soft warm skin close against mine; but first I'll have to warn the fairies so that they can hide every nightie and pair of jamas you have. Sometimes when I dream dear, I seem to feel your marvellous lips pressing against mine and smell the perfume that is you; but as soon as I reach out to hold you you're gone and I sit up cursing away - failed again.

Letter from Ralph James to Beryl James, 9 September 1942. AWM PR00661

Ralph also tried to alleviate Beryl's fears for his safety:

I'd sure like to have snuggled up in your cot with you on Sunday 27th dearest heart. Wouldn't it be grand if it were cold outside with the rain beating on the roof and you cuddled up close to me so's we could keep warm. Your letters sounded awfully worried dear over that week-end. Please don't worry will you scamp because the Nip just isn't built who could stop me coming home to you and if I ever were shot into the sea I guess I could swim all the way home to you dearest. You're the most marvellously modest person there ever was and in case you still don't know it I'm completely and utterly tragically in love with you and will never be any other way.

Letter from Ralph James to Beryl James, 7 October 1942, AWM PR00661

During their separation, Beryl lived with her family, who owned a hotel in Queensland which was a popular place for rest and recreation with Australian and American troops. It played on Ralph's mind that Beryl was in frequent contact with hundreds of men.

Darling seriously is there anything wrong? Your letters have sounded strange lately as [if] there was something wrong on your mind. If there is anything at all worrying

you I'd prefer you'd tell me, no matter what is was dear. With the hotel full of army coves and so many airmen and other servicemen calling in I guess you're meeting more men than you ever have before. I know you don't throw yourself at people as Joan does dear and that if you have met someone you like an awful lot, that is jolly serious. I know I'm no casket prize and that there are a lot of jolly fine chaps around. That's why if you have fallen in love with someone else I'd prefer you say so and we'll see what can be done. One thing though I'll be damned if I'll give you up easily - I've grown to love you so much in these last two years that somehow I just can't imagine a life without you. It would be pretty bloody awful.

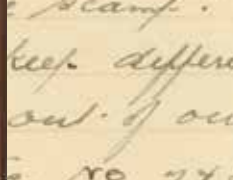
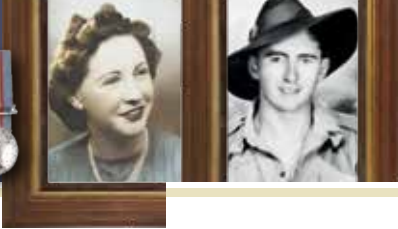
Letter from Ralph James to Beryl James, 29 January 1943, AWM PR00661

Beryl hadn't fallen in love with anyone else. But just three months after writing this letter, Ralph's bomber suffered from engine failure, and he was killed when it crashed into the Arafura Sea. After Ralph's death, Beryl went on to marry twice more, but never had any children.



Beryl and Ralph walking arm in arm in a Sydney street shortly before he was posted to No. 2 Squadron, RAAF, at Darwin.

AWM P02316.003



Activities

LITERAL STATEMENTS: read closely through the text supplied in Remember me: Letters.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Place a tick or a cross next to each statement. Explain your answers.

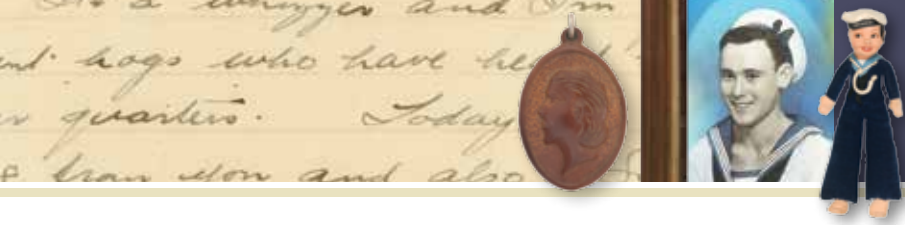
X ✓

- 1 Troops in the front line during the Second World War could depend upon simple and immediate contact with loved ones or friends via telephones or the internet.
- 2 Private Reginald Dawson survived the First World War and married Daisy. It was a long-distance courtship that was continued by post.
- 3 In December 1941 Private Norman Senior was serving in the 17th Battalion in the Middle East. His wife, Iris, was back home in Western Australia.
- 4 In his letter to Iris, Norman is very concerned about the health and wellbeing of his son, Francis.
- 5 Mary Craigs married George Hill in their hometown of Chopwell in Northern England in 1913.
- 6 Norman Macleod enlisted in the AIF and served on Gallipoli in 1915.
- 7 Norman wrote an encoded letter to his wife in which he never forgave her for “all those nasty unfriendly letters”.
- 8 Jack Swift was on leave in Sydney when he met Beth Sheridan in 1945.
- 9 Jack wrote to Beth while he was serving in HMAS *Formidable*. He was concerned that she was in danger of attack from kamikazes.
- 10 Jack and Beth were married on 5 September 1945.
- 11 While Jack served for months at sea, Beth was incredibly lonely, but at least she had plenty of time to prepare for the wedding.
- 12 In 1917 Sergeant James Williams sent his wife a letter written on a ration biscuit.
- 13 By 1941 Ralph James was serving in the RAAF. He was part of a bomber crew stationed in Britain. He often wrote to his wife, Beryl.
- 14 Beryl would have met many Australian and American servicemen when she stayed at her family’s hotel in Queensland. The hotel was a place where these servicemen would come for rest and recreation.
- 15 Ralph was killed in 1945. Beryl never remarried.

INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENTS: Examine the text to ascertain the author’s intent and the possible subtext of the source.

Do you agree or disagree with each statement? Does the text give you this idea or impression? Provide words or phrases from the text that support your answer.

- 1 Letters exchanged between servicemen and their loved ones back in Australia were always deeply personal. Men didn’t take the time to write about trivial or unimportant matters because they were often fearful of dying in combat.



2 Ralph James's letter, dated 29 January 1943, provides an example of a commonly held fear of servicemen overseas in this period. Many men were deeply anxious, fearful that their wives and girlfriends would 'fall in love with someone else'.

3 The story of Private Reginald Dawson and Daisy is a typical example of a courtship during the First World War.

4 The letters provided in the example are generally 'upbeat'. The men do not wish for their wives or girlfriends to worry about the dangers faced by them on the frontline.

5 The letters between the lovers occasionally hint at trouble in the relationships. Some of the women back home were anxious, afraid and occasionally angry with their husbands or boyfriends.

APPLIED STATEMENTS: Consider how the sources fit within a wider context. Provide detailed arguments in support of your ideas.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Provide a detailed written response.

1 The letters of Jack Swift and Ralph James prove that Australian men during the war years were much more passionate and romantic than modern Australian men.

2 Modern forms of instant communication – such as text-messaging, email, and blogging – have removed romantic correspondence from our lives. Handwritten letters are much more meaningful and romantic than a text message or email.

3 The importance of written correspondence in wartime has been overstated and romanticised in war films and television. The reality was that most men were trained to fight and serve, and that the men would have continued to do so, even without letters or correspondence from home.

Further research

By logging on to the Australian War Memorial's website www.awm.gov.au, you can trace further details of some of the people included in this article, particularly the details of the Australian servicemen and women who have died in war.

- 1 Locate the details of Ralph James; for example, date of birth, age at the time of death, place on the Roll of Honour. www.awm.gov.au/research/people/roll_of_honour/
- 2 Where is the Arafura Sea? What sort of mission might the men of Ralph's bomber been undertaking there?
- 3 Did any other men die in the plane crash that killed Ralph? List their names and details. In particular, provide the panel number/location on the Roll of Honour for any who did die.

Imagine ...

You write for the Australian Women's Weekly during the Second World War. Write a detailed 'Top Ten Dos and Don'ts for Women with Husbands or Sweethearts Serving Overseas'. Try to think about the expectations not only that the men would have regarding these women but also the wider society as well.

You may wish to design a magazine-style piece, with pictures from the era to accompany your text.



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Remember me

Depth Study: Irene and Colin Simper

Colin Simper met Irene Bean in the middle of the Second World War; they fell madly in love and got married.

Explore the following source material from A – K and complete the activity sheet (provided as a template) on pp. 110-111. Analyse your findings and write a narrative account of Irene and Colin Simpers's story.

SOURCE A

Letter from Colin Simper to Irene Bean, 28 August 1941.

AWM RC02280

Thurs Aug 28

Dear Rene,

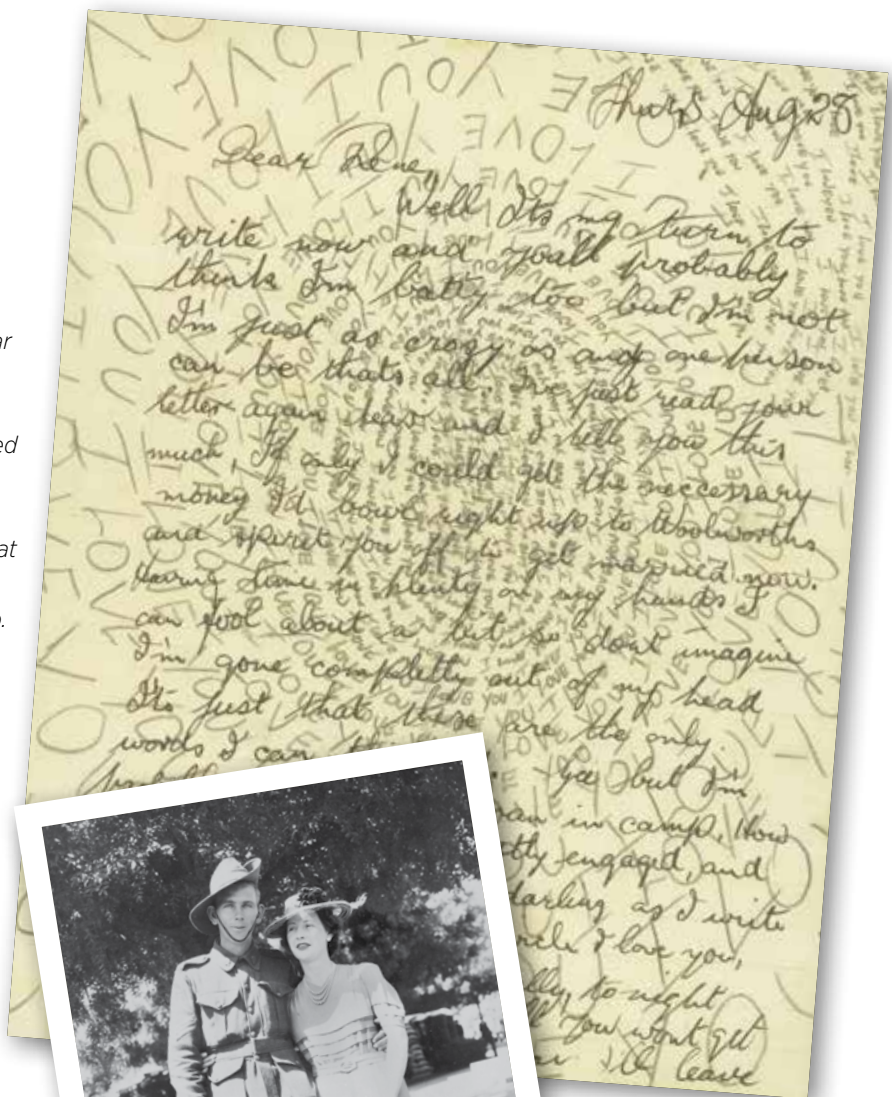
Well it's my turn to write now and you'll probably think I'm batty too but I'm not. I'm just as crazy as any one person can be that's all. I've just read your letter again dear and I tell you this much, if only I could get the necessary money I'd bowl right up to Woolworths and spirit you off to get married now. Having time in plenty on my hands I can fool about a bit so don't imagine I'm gone completely out of my head it's just that these are the only words I can think of. Gee but I'm probably the happiest man in camp. How will it be when we're firstly engaged, and then married. Picture me darling as I write around and around in a circle I love you, I love you, I tell you personally, tonight you'll hear nothing also still you won't get this until tomorrow. Well dear I'll leave the remainder until I see you and I'll be in early Friday night.

A big kiss to you darling and I love you

Yours All the time

Colin

P.S. I love you



SOURCE B

Irene Bean and Colin Simper on their wedding day, Adelaide, December 1941.

AWM P04215.001



SOURCE C

Good luck horseshoe worn by Irene on her wedding day.

AWM REL31824.002



SOURCE D

Colin gave Irene this sweetheart pendant with the colour patch from his unit. AWM REL33681



SOURCE E

Lieutenant Colin Simper, letter to Irene Simper, 25 December 1942. AWM PR001164

Xmas day 42

Darling Rene,

Hullo beautiful wife, yes today is Xmas day & I have received the best Xmas Present of all, having received two letters from the bestest little wife in the world ...

Yes there's no doubt about it I know for a fact that the twelfth is much more important to me than practically any other date. My birthday the 28th April is just another day so far as I'm concerned alongside the 12th Dec, and when it's getting round that date I remember I was very careful to note each day nearer to the day of all days when my luck came in. Yes by next anniversary we will be a couple of old married people, in truth though we will still be young, but old I suspect in experience.

Gosh am I waiting for this war to end, or am I, when we can settle back into the job in hand and put our whole heart & mind into the task ...

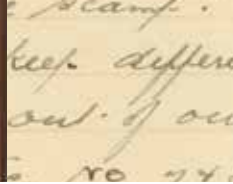
I think that anyone that doesn't get married (providing they're in love) are nuts. They don't know anything about life or living, a man knows little of love before he is married. Being married changes the whole angle of love. It seems to make a love definite & lasting. A common understanding, companionship develops and both become as one living thinking person. That's my idea of it and although I may selfishly say that none is a love such as ours, I know that there are many couples that are in love, they are foolish if they don't get married ...

How I love! you honey! It's so strong within me sometimes I could burst, yep honey I am pretty close to you all the time, I think if anything were to happen I'd know if you were alright instantly.

Well honey wife I shall close now, hoping and praying that soon I'll be with you so that next Xmas may be more than a symbol - a living real celebration with those we love & those we cherish & long for, I love you truly honey and reading your letter today I realize more and more how much you love me and it makes me very happy darling & confident.

Thank and Bless you all at home for I love you so

Forever Colin



SOURCE F

Lieutenant Colin Simper, letter to Irene Simper, 15 August 1943.

AWM PR001164

To mother, darling Rene,

Well honey today is the day of days and I don't really know where to begin, I have millions of things to say and my heart is so full I feel I could cry with happiness, darling I only can say, thank you! I only wish I could send this uncensored, so as I could really write the words of my heart, I know too well that what I do write will not be repeated, but somehow it's not the same, but somehow I feel that to a certain degree I'll have to let go somewhat, darling love you, love you. Well that hardly describes it, it's something bigger than love something akin to a Godly worship of you, darling you, who has for me, done the most wonderful thing that ever woman ever did for a man, to suffer and strive for my sake in the light of God, darling forever I'll remember and be grateful.

When I think back over my life today I marvel at the unearned luck, the wonderful joy that you, that married life has brought me.

I want nothing but to tell you of my feeling. Firstly, honey, to read "Rene and baby both well" to know what your trials, well the heaviest of them anyhow are over, the thought of

knowing that at last you lie peaceful quiet and happy on your bed, knowing that you have pulled through!!!

Darling all the time every minute of today since I received the telegram I have been realizing how many things have now ended in joyful smoothness.

At about 11.30 this morning I was walking over toward my tent, when I was intercepted by a runner with an urgent telegram. Honey, my whole heart rose in my throat ... you should have seen my hands. Somehow I opened it and was glued to the ground, honest it knocked me skyhigh, after a thunderstruck moment I let out a holy whoop & bounded over to the first group of fellows I saw, I've read the telegram to everyone backwards sideways until I could recite the wording like the Lord's Prayer, I reckon I've, up to now read it fifty times.

I've been utterly useless. Today I know I've been running everywhere and that telegram hardly left my hand all day ...

So cheerio my darling little wife I will be in bed soon, and as you say in your last letter I will write very often, believe me darling no man ever was happier no man ever was so full of elation darling forever I'll love you yes, forever

Colin



SOURCE G

Postcard drawn and sent by Colin Simper to his wife, Irene.

AWM RC02279

SOURCE H

Lieutenant Colin Simper, letter to Irene Simper, 13 April 1945.

AWM PR001164

Well darling, it's now round about the hour which 4 years ago I timidly approached you and said "how do you do" to the future Mrs C.D. Simper ... I can honestly say from then on, from that Sunday night onwards I started to grow, right from my boots upwards, until today, Friday 13th, I have enough heart for 50 lions, enough confidence as a thousand cats, and ample love to supply a nation.

SOURCE I

Lieutenant Colin Simper, letter to Irene Simper, 18 May 1945.

AWM PR001164

I don't think you understand my position here honey, admittedly I see a lot of dead and a lot of killing but it's only the man who has it day and night for months on end that is liable to be affected by it, no I think you may rest assure it won't affect me any unless it's to make me love you more, and look forward to peace and our life together.

SOURCE J

Lieutenant Colin Simper, letter to Irene Simper, 6 June 1945.

AWM PR001164

Tender thoughts written in haste

6 June

Darling Wife,

Well honey things have moved along since I wrote last I have moved forward a bit and my pl [platoon] now sits on a fairly high feature further inland. Our task here well it's merely hold this feature, the nips are only a few hundred yards away but they don't come near us.

We do a little patrolling though just to keep him away.

At present I'm underground in a dug-out and am quite safe should he send any shells over which isn't likely ...

Best regards to everyone home, by the way, providing I don't stay here too long in this possie, I hope to have a little parcel for your birthday. I have been collecting for it this past 2-3 weeks and I think she'll be ready in a few days.

Cheerio again and lots of love from your loving CD

Yours forever Col.

SOURCE K

The Advertiser, Adelaide, Saturday 8 June 1946

HEROES OF THE EMPIRE

Simper – In loving memory of Colin, died of wounds, Tarakan, June 9, 1945. May the pleasures he missed on life's Journey be found in God's garden of love – inserted by Auntie Jean.

Simper. Lt C. D., 2/48th, died of wounds, June 9, 1945, Tarakan. His heart was true and tender, he gave his life for those he loved – Always remembered by Lil and Keith Simper.

Simper – In proud and loving memory of Lt Colin Douglas Simper, 2/48 Bn. 9th Div, who died of wounds at Tarakan, June 9, 1945. Loved husband of Irene, dear daddy of Eleanor and Douglas, beloved son-in-law of Mr. And Mrs W. Bean, of Blackwood – Always lovingly remembered by his sisters Gwen, Jean and May and brother Lytton (A.I.F. returned). Greater love hath no man.

Simper, C.D. Lieut. – In remembrance of Colin, killed in action, Tarakan, June 9, 1945. He was not spared to share the peace with the loved ones he helped to save, but he made of himself a hero, and we treasure the life he gave – Inserted by his brother Lytton, Lily and children.

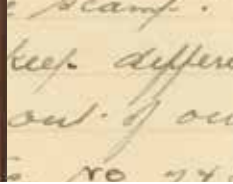
Simper. Lieut. C.D. 2/48th Bn – Cherished memories of our loved son, Colin, died of wounds, Tarakan, June 9, 1945. We have you in our memory. God has you in His care – sadly missed by his loving mother, father.

Simper – In proud and loving memory of Lieut. Colin, 2/48 Btn, killed in action, Tarakan, June 9, 1945 – Loved brother Tom and Joyce. Uncle of Kenneth. Not just today but every day, in silence we remember.

Simper, Lieut. Colin, 2/48 Btn. – God in His great care will guard my dear brother resting there – Proudly remembered by his loving sister and niece, Gwen and Carlien.

Further research

Go to www.wa2australia.gov.au, click on Last Battles, and read about the battle of Tarakan where Colin Simper was killed.



Loneliness

Today I was out for 7 ½ hrs and when I came back, here was your mail and the parcel. I had a shower and lay on the bed reading and re-reading your letters and gosh I felt awfully lonely for you.

Letter from Ralph James to Beryl James, 7 October 1942, AWM PR00661

During the First World War Miss E. Quirk wrote to Base Records asking if they would be kind enough to pass on the name of a lonely soldier with whom she could correspond (she specified someone aged between 23 and 27). They passed on the name of Francis Jay Heathcote, who was listed as having no next of kin. Whether or not they corresponded is unknown, but a friendly letter sent by a girl from home would have been welcome in the muddy trenches on the Western Front. But we do know that Miss Quirk would never have been able to meet her lonely soldier - Heathcote was killed in France in 1918.

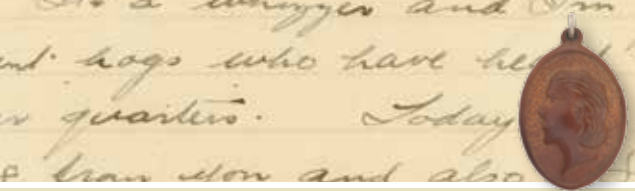
Servicemen and women are surrounded by people most of the time, and while close friendships develop between them, separation from loved ones can be an isolating experience. Letters and mementoes can help alleviate loneliness, but for some, communication is limited. Some of the Australians captured by the Japanese during the Second World War, for example, waited years before being able to contact wives, sweethearts or family.



Wedding anniversary card for Cyril and Esme Davis.
AWM RELAWM31317



National Service Office advertisement encouraging recruitment into Victory jobs. AWM RC08545



When Cyril Davis was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore in 1942, he lost contact with his wife, Esme. The following year he was sent to Japan to work in the Osaka shipyards. In 1944 Cyril's friend, Robert Ingram, known as 'Shorty', made a card to mark Cyril and Esme's third wedding anniversary. It would be another year before Cyril was reunited with his wife, but Shorty died in captivity.

Women left at home also faced loneliness due to separation and erratic post. 'Victory Jobs' – work that directly benefited the war effort – were promoted as a means of alleviating loneliness and bringing husbands and lovers home more quickly.

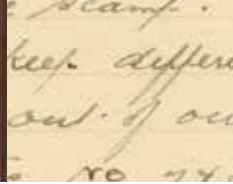
For men separated from their wives or sweethearts, or for those without a partner, the 'pin-up' could play an extremely important role. For men deprived of the company

of real women, 'pin-up' girls became a focus for dreams of a life beyond the battlefield. The lack of normal opportunities to socialise with women that would have naturally occurred in peacetime led to connections being formed with these women.

One pin-up who discovered this was Linda Browne, whose photograph was published in *Pix* magazine in August 1944. She was inundated with letters from lonely, hopeful men stationed all over the world, almost all asking her to write to them. Linda was already married when her photograph was published, and she had reservations about writing to all these men. However, her husband, who was serving in the navy, encouraged her to do so, knowing only too well how much a friendly letter from a pretty girl would mean to the men.



Letters and photographs sent and received by Linda Browne during the Second World War. AWM PR04101



Activities

A lonely soldier

Find out more about Private Heathcote referred on page 80. What happened to his family? You can view the original First World War Australian army records for **Private Francis Jay Heathcote** at the National Archives of Australia website: www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch/index.aspx Click on, **Search now**, and select **NameSearch** from the tab options.

- (a) Where was he born?
- (b) Who did he state as his next of kin?
- (c) Page 33 of his digital record tells us about Private Heathcote's mysterious childhood. How did he come to be in the Australian Army?
- (d) Do you think he was more likely to suffer from loneliness than other soldiers? Why?
- (e) Give a description of his physical appearance. What was the distinguishing mark on his right arm? What does this tell us about his sense of belonging?
- (f) What offences did he commit in the army? How was he punished?
- (g) Private Heathcote seems to have been a troubled young man. Explain why this might be the case.
- (h) When and where was Private Heathcote killed? Where are his remains?
- (i) Read the letters from the army to Mrs Allison on pages 27 and 30 of the digital record. What was it she wanted after his death? In what way was the army being cautious?
- (j) In what ways is Private Francis Heathcote's sacrifice commemorated today?

Imagine ...

That you are serving somewhere in the South-West Pacific Area during the Second World War. Your unit has just nominated pin-up Linda Browne as their mascot, and it is your task to write to her on their behalf. What would you say? What are you hoping to achieve by writing to her? Remember, your letter would have to pass the censor. Write the letter, and then swap with someone.

Imagine now you are Linda and Browne and you have just received this letter. Write your response back to them. Be thoughtful in your reply: remember you are married and must be careful not to give the wrong impression.

3. Beyond the battlefield

Peacetime brought servicemen and women from around the globe home to be reunited with their loved ones, and to begin their postwar lives together. For thousands of war brides who followed their hearts across the globe, peace brought them new lives in foreign lands.

Peacetime brought its own challenges to relationships shaped by war. Some couples suffered from the absence of the thrill and passion of wartime romance. Glamour and fatalism gave way to the ordinary activities of domestic life, and some found that the diverse experiences of war had built barriers even the closest lovers could not breach.

For some, the end of war – particularly the First and Second World Wars, which affected vast numbers of Australians – brought a wealth of new opportunities and new beginnings. But for others the coming of peace meant the beginning of lonely years and the unenviable status of widow, often with the added burdens of the single parent.



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Reunions

Eventually, wars end. The uncertainty and stress endured by couples is finally over as homecomings and reunions with loved ones take place around the world. Each one symbolises the community's collective relief, and celebration of peace. The much longed for, often dreamt of, embrace finally becomes a reality, and pent-up emotions are released. Many couples unashamedly express their deepest feelings in public.

Conflict places great emotional demands on those who serve, and those they leave behind. Months or years of tension and fear at the front, anxiety over pain and suffering, the despair and loneliness of separation, the exhilaration of survival and the relief of homecoming – these all combine to make the moment of reunion an intense time.

Examine the following images closely and complete the related activities.

ANTICIPATION



There was an air of giddy excitement in the streets all over Australia when 'our boys' returned from the war. Huge community gatherings offered opportunities for celebration, the renewing of old friendships, and the start of new relationships. Melbourne, September 1918.

AWM J00350

Members of the 8th Division arrive in Sydney following their release from captivity as prisoners of war, 11 October 1945. Friends and family wave banners of welcome in the hope of catching their loved ones' attention. Private Len Day served with the 2/10 Field Ambulance. Here his wife, Mavis, (third from the left, holding up the middle banner), is joined by various members of her husband's family to welcome him home. AWM 122084



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Miss Myra Harvey (with camera) waits with great anticipation at the Anzac Buffet in Hyde Park, Sydney, as returned soldiers arrive in June 1919. AWM H11576



Unidentified friends and family members awaiting the arrival of sailors from HMAS Darwin and HMAS ANZAC at Victoria Quay, Fremantle, Western Australia, 17 May 2003. AWM P04192.169



ARRIVALS



This First World War soldier is welcomed home in Sydney, safe at last after years of separation and anxiety. AWM H16140



Driver Alfred Floate of the 9th Division kisses his wife, Nancy, on his return from the Middle East, Melbourne, 23 March 1943. AWM 138252 [detail]



Mathew Morris, one of the survivors from the sinking of the Australian hospital ship *Centaur* by a Japanese submarine, receives a welcome home in 1943 from not one, but two married women: Mrs Irene Young on the left, and Mrs S. Dixon, neither of whom appears to be his wife. AWM 138921



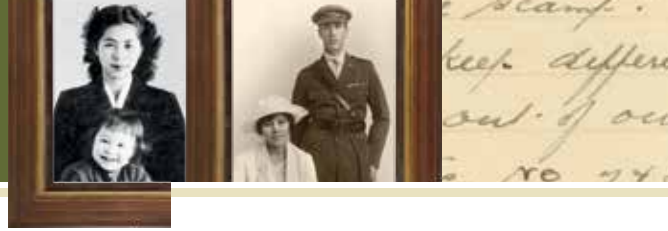
Returning from service in Vietnam, Able Seaman Bruce Skipworth greets his wife, Elaine, and meets his seven-week-old daughter for the first time in Sydney, 11 October 1968. AWM NAVY18156

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Activities

- (a) Reunions have always been a popular subject for journalists and photographers. Choose one of the images in this section and write an accompanying newspaper or magazine article. Include an appropriate headline.
- (b) Choose an image and discuss: What is happening? What may have happened before it was taken? And what might happen next?
- (c) Write a poem, or song lyrics to portray the feelings and emotions felt by couples on the day of reunion.
- (d) With changes in technology and methods of communication, how has the impact of reunions changed over time? Discuss, by comparing the return of soldiers at the end of the First World War, to those returning during and after the Vietnam War, or modern day peacekeeping duties.
- (e) How might reunions have adversely affected some couples, families, and communities? Give reasons why negative emotions may have been felt.



Changed lives

Widowhood

Margaret and William Hindley

While the end of war brought great joy and the promise of reunion to many, those women who had been widowed faced a difficult future. Throughout most of the twentieth century, women were dependent upon their husbands, or male members of their family for financial support. Job opportunities for women were limited, and often did not offer decent wages, and for women raising a family there was the additional burden of child care. Some women remarried, a new partner providing not just happiness, but financial security.

Margaret Hindley's husband, William, had served in the Boer War, and enlisted again to serve in the First World War. He sailed in November 1915, leaving behind a pregnant Margaret and a four-year-old daughter, May. Margaret named her new baby son after his father, but William

would never live to see him; he was killed on 24 July 1916 at Pozieres, France. Margaret's wartime sorrows were not over, however, for her infant son died in 1918.

After the war, Margaret met returned soldier Private Samuel Donaghy. He had been captured by the Germans at Fromelles, just a few days before William's death, and had spent the remainder of the war as a prisoner.

Margaret and Samuel were able to find happiness together, but William's legacy would have a bearing on their lives. They raised William's daughter together, and Margaret remained in regular contact with the AIF, drawing a pension. In 1923 when she was required to sign a receipt for the Memorial Scroll to commemorate William, Samuel countersigned as her witness. In this difficult moment, someone who understood the sacrifice and pain of war only too well was there to support her.

Private William Hindley, c. 1915-16.
AWM P06371.001



Mrs Margaret Hindley and her children, May and baby William, c. 1915. AWM P08796.003



Next-of-kin plaques, nicknamed 'the dead man's penny', were issued to every family who lost someone in the First World War. Many years after William's death, Margaret Hindley received this plaque in memory of her husband. AWM REL40723.001



Private Samuel Donaghy, c. 1915.
AWM P08796.001



Margaret was issued with a Mothers' and Widows' Badge, which she wore in memory of her husband. This cloth badge was issued to all Australian mothers and widows who lost their sons or husbands in the war, as an acknowledgement of their loss. AWM REL40724

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Jessie and George Vasey

Major General George Vasey, who served in both world wars, was passionate about the plight of war widows. With the help of his wife, Jessie, he devised a plan as to how to help these women. George was killed in 1945, but Jessie continued with the work they had started, and formed the War Widows' Guild in late 1945.

The Guild passionately lobbied government and eventually had the widows' pension raised to a liveable sum. It could not ease the grief of losing a husband, but the Guild continues to offer support and companionship to women to this day.



Members of the War Widows' Guild were presented with this badge as part of their membership.

AWM REL30599



Lieutenant Colonel George Vasey with Jessie (centre) on the troop transport *Strathallan*. Jessie was widowed when George was lost in an air crash in 1945 on his way to take command of the sixth division in New Guinea.

AWM 000304/09



Skills such as weaving and embroidery were taught to members of the War Widows' Guild, providing companionship as well as a way to earn money. This place mat was made by Molly Shrimpton, who joined the Guild soon after her husband, Ronald, died of wounds in New Guinea. Molly later served as president for 20 years. AWM REL25983



Ruth Jillard at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, with her three children John, Lois and Neill, on an Anzac Day in the early 1950s. Her husband, Able Seaman Alfred Jillard, was killed when his ship was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Atlantic in December 1942. Anzac Day became an important day for many widows and their children. Her War Widows' Guild badge can be seen on her coat. AWM P02830.002



Hilda Rix and George Nicholas

Hilda Rix was an Australian artist living in France with her mother and sister during the First World War. She had a studio in Étapes, but fled to London when war was declared, leaving behind her beloved paintings. Major George Nicholas, an officer with the AIF, found her abandoned works and, determined to return them to her, tracked her down in London. They fell in love, and married in London on 7 October 1916, only spending three short days together before George returned to the Western Front. He was killed on 14 November 1916. The devastated Hilda slept on his greatcoat each night for years after his death, and her grief played itself out on her canvas. She began painting images of patriotism, which emphasised the strength and virility of the Australian soldier. Her paintings also captured the sacrifice and death associated with war. She eventually married grazier Edgar Percy Wright in 1928, with whom she had a son.



A man, Hilda Rix Nicholas, 1921. AWM ART19613



Widows of Australian First World War soldiers attend a millinery class at a vocational training school. Their new skills were intended to help them find work. AWM H13035

John Bubb, from Beechworth, Victoria, married Mary Prowse from Adelong, New South Wales, before he departed to the Western Front. He became a father while he was overseas, but never met his infant son. John was killed at Passchendaele, France on 4 October 1917. Mary became one of the thousands of war widows left bereft after the First World War.

AWM P04518.001

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Violet Lloyd and Alan Glover

Alan Glover enlisted in the Second AIF on 2 June 1941; less than a week later, on 7 June, he married his sweetheart, Violet Lloyd. They were able to enjoy a ten-day honeymoon before Alan had to begin his basic training. They saw each other for the last time on 27 July 1941, when he embarked for Malaya.

Alan was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore in February 1942, but Violet did not receive official word that he was missing, presumed captured, until 1 July.

Alan, along with seven other men, attempted to escape, but they were betrayed and recaptured the next day. They were all executed on 6 June, on the eve of Alan and Violet's first wedding anniversary.

Violet continued working in a munitions factory, unaware of her husband's fate. She spent a few months with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) before returning to a more senior position at the munitions factory. At the MMTB she had been in one of the first intakes of women trained as tram conductresses; these women were the first in Australia to be paid the same amount as their male colleagues.

Violet received word of Alan's death in December 1944 from a group of prisoners who had been rescued by the US Navy. She had a number of jobs after the war, but never remarried. Her wedding dress remained packed in the original draper's box until she died in 2003.



Wedding portrait of Violet Lloyd and Alan Glover, Melbourne, 7 June 1941.
AWM P04254.001



Alan and Violet presented each of the guests with a piece of wedding cake in a small box. AWM REL32410



Violet's wedding dress.
AWM REL32405



The draper's box that stored Violet's wedding dress.
AWM REL32416

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- (c) Look at Hilda's painting, *A man*. Do you think the painting represents George? What characteristics of an Australian soldier are depicted in the work? How would Hilda's ability to paint have helped her to cope with her grief?

'Dead man's penny'

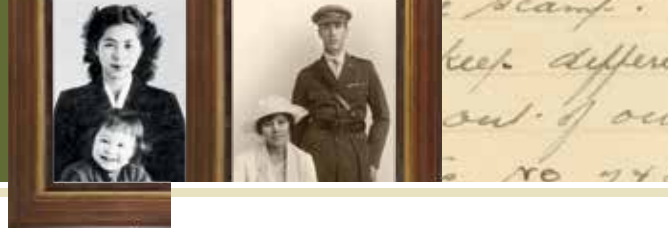
These memorial plaques were 12 centimetres in diameter and heavy. A few years after the end of the First World War, the British government sent them to the next-of-kin of all British and empire soldiers who had died in the war. Some families cherished them and had them mounted for display. Others detested them, sometimes children played with them, and many were thrown away. List, discuss and explain the range of reactions loved ones might have had when they received these 'dead men's pennies'.

Violet and Alan Glover

For many widows, the trauma of their sudden loss prevented them from being able to move on into new relationships once the war was over. To complicate matters, there were many other widows and a shortage of available men, owing to the unprecedented losses resulting from the war.

- (a) Discuss the emotional, social, and financial challenges faced by war widows.

- (b) Consider Violet's life after her marriage to Alan. She spent two years not knowing his fate and then had to deal with the knowledge of what had happened to him and that she would never see him again. What is the significance of the items in the photographs accompanying this story?



Changed lives: Adjustment

The return home from combat brings a new set of challenges for couples, after the initial relief and elation of reunion has subsided. Those whose relationships have survived the separation try to pick up where they left off, resuming normal life as a married couple, or fulfilling their dream of a wedding and life together. For some, however, the dream is shattered as they face the effects of postwar trauma, and possible long-term physical and emotional impairment.

Military life requires different attitudes and behaviours from those in civilian life, and military units become a society in themselves, with particular codes of honour, chains of command and use of language. When military personnel return home it can be hard for them to shut the door on their battlefield experiences. Adjusting to civilian life, in communities where there is a mixture of gender, age, and relationships sometimes proves very difficult for these men and women.

On the other hand, those waiting at home can find life difficult when loved ones return. Some have been out in the workforce living independent and fulfilling lives, often raising children single handedly. Friendships, and relationships with extended families have changed, and despite years of longing, some never manage to settle back to life as it was before the war.

The adjustments are not just emotional. War can cause enormous physical changes as well, and wounds, disease, and the effects of gas and shell shock, often sent men home from war vastly different from when they left. Once discharged, they were handed over to families, and the bulk of care for a severely damaged man was borne by loved ones, most often wives and mothers. The daily physical and emotional burden of bathing, dressing, feeding, and caring could take its toll on even the most committed of couples.

Ena and Claude Stubbings

In the later stages of the First World War, Captain Claude Stubbings was wounded several times. The last, a gunshot wound to his left leg on 10 August 1918, saw him evacuated to Britain for treatment. Though peace was declared shortly after, it would take many more months of treatment before he was stable enough to return home. After arriving in Australia in early 1919, he was transferred to a military hospital in Melbourne, where he underwent eight operations on his leg. It was

here, during the course of his rehabilitation, that he met Catherine Campbell Bothroyd, known as 'Ena'.

Ena was a masseuse, or in today's terms, a physiotherapist. The couple fell in love, but her parents were not happy about their daughter's relationship with an apparently incapacitated man, and refused to give their blessing. They feared that Claude might not recover sufficiently from his injuries to support a wife. Despite this, Ena and Claude were married in 1921, after Claude's discharge from the AIF.

The Stubbings proved the Bothroyds wrong, as Claude, with his wife's care, continued to regain his strength. He took up a soldier-settlement block in Red Cliffs, Victoria, where they produced citrus fruits. Claude died in 1950, aged 58.



Wedding portrait of Miss Ena Bothroyd and Captain Claude Stubbings, Melbourne, 2 May 1921. AWM P08930.001

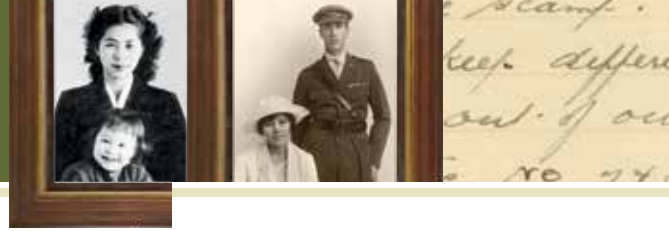
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Captain Claude Stubbings, 52nd Battalion, receives his Military Cross while confined to his mobile hospital bed on 5 September 1919. The award was given for the bravery he displayed as he led his men into battle at Messines in June 1917. AWM P05139.002



HMS 'Terrible', Harry J. Weston, 1914-18,
AWM ARTC00037



Imagine ...

The tension that would have existed in Ena's family as her relationship with Claude deepened. Write the dialogue for a short scene portraying the opposing views of Mr and Mrs Bothroyd, and the young couple.

Activities

(a) Explore the origins and work of post war veteran support organizations and schemes such as:

The Soldier-Settlement Scheme

The Returned and Services League (the RSL)

The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans' Association

The Department of Repatriation and Compensation (now the Department of Veterans' Affairs)

What assistance did these groups offer? Who was eligible for assistance? How long did the support last? What problems did veterans face in accessing assistance?

(b) What problems do current military personnel face upon return to Australia from overseas deployment? How does the Australian Defence Force assist them?

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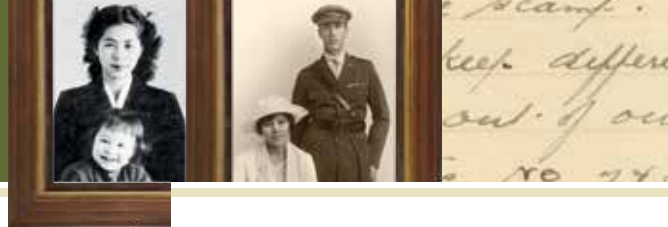
We'll meet again

Australian stories of love in wartime

(c) Although humorous, cartoons illustrate some of the difficulties of readjustment to domestic life. Go to the Australian War Memorial's website and find Peter Moore's *Army daze: Home sweet home*. (cas.awm.gov.au/item/ART45059)

Analyse this cartoon, and Harry J. Weston's *HMS 'Terrible'* on page 95. Discuss the message the cartoonists are conveying. Is humour a good avenue to use in a discussion of this topic? Why or why not?

(d) Choose an aspect of life that couples or families may face when one of their members return from war. Draw your own cartoon to satirise this aspect.



New beginnings

War brides

It takes extraordinary bravery to serve during a war, but also great courage to give up family and citizenship to sail across the world to an unknown land and take a chance of love and happiness with a virtual stranger. The First World War saw well over 12,000 Australian servicemen marry women overseas. During the Second World War, about 15,000 women left Australia, bound for new lives abroad. Women from all over the world, including Britain, Ireland, America, Canada, Belgium, France, Japan, and Vietnam, have followed Australian men home. They sailed to an unknown country to live among new families, and start an extraordinary adventure.

Explore the following source material for each of the three depth studies. Complete the work sheet on pp. 110-111.

Note to teachers: These are a sample of different opinions and experiences of war brides. Some are positive and others negative, and the reaction of each woman is a personal reflection of their experience. You may wish to talk about stereotypes and how this may impact on students' opinions.



Corporal James Matthews served on Gallipoli with the 7th Battalion and was later transferred to the Pay Corps in London. He married Caroline in London on 13 April 1918, and she sailed to Australia with him ten months later. AWM P04219.001



Sergeant Henry Freeman married Dorothy Wilson in London in 1917. He brought his bride to Australia in the 1920s. AWM P02098.001

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Depth study 1. British war brides of Australian servicemen

During the Second World War, Australians were posted all over the world. Everywhere they served there were opportunities to meet and fall in love with local girls. Inevitably, marriages followed, and at the end of the war thousands of women, many with children, travelled to Australia, to join their husbands.

The following sources all relate to the experiences of wartime brides from Britain who married Australian servicemen and started a new life in Australia.



SOURCE B

Warrant Officer Calton Younger, from Melbourne, was captured by the Germans when he was forced to bale out of a Wellington bomber over Paris in May 1942. He was released in April 1945 and three months later married Margaret Gilby in Britain, who had written to him during his imprisonment.
AWM UK3102



SOURCE A

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was on hand at the wedding of Australian Leading Aircraftman John Batterham and his English bride, Joyce, to record the happy couple's greetings to John's family in Corio, Victoria. The following year the radio service was back to record the christening of the couple's son, Perry. AWM SUK10342 [detail]



SOURCE C

Wing Commander Jack Davenport, from Sydney, was fortunate to have his two brothers with him when he married Sheila McDavid in Scotland on 8 January 1944. He would end the war with a Distinguished Service Order, a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar, and a George Medal. Jack, along with his two brothers, Flight Sergeant Keith Davenport and Flight Lieutenant Philip Davenport, were all serving in Britain with the RAAF. AWM SUK11659



SOURCE D

The Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 26 November 1945

ENGLISH BRIDES' GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA

by a staff correspondent in London

The Australian News and Information Bureau in London is preparing an illustrated booklet, 'English Brides' Guide to Australia', for issue to more than 2,000 English brides of Australian Servicemen.

In general, the average Englishwoman's knowledge of Australia is limited to vague historical details from half-forgotten school books.

She is not alone in this, for Englishmen, too, think of Australia as inhabited by Bradmans and Oldfields [cricketers], kangaroos, boomerang-throwing sheep-farmers led by Ned Kelly, and Bondi beach-bathers harried by voracious sharks ...

English schoolchildren hold firmly to the conviction that their Australian counterparts ride horses to school, are coached individually by Test cricketers, and go fishing at weekends on the Great Barrier Reef.

The arrival in England in 1940 of Australian army and RAAF units tended to confirm the legend of a race of fit giants living under the Southern Cross, while British servicemen meeting the Australian soldier in Palestine and the Western Desert continue to speak admiringly of his fighting and thirsting and extraordinary skill in tossing pennies.

So it is high time that English brides received some instruction on how to live with an Australian mother-in-law.

The Information Bureau will outline Australian geographical and political details in its booklet, and give advice on clothes and climate, education, maternity endowments and social services. Housekeeping hints will be given, with notes on cookery, rationing, sports and entertainments.

SOURCE E

The Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 16 April 1946

Brides will march again

London, April 15 (A.A.P.) – Mrs. Barbara Jungwirth, local organiser of the Kangaroo Club, for brides of Australian servicemen, told members attending a dinner at Brighton that most of them would have no hope of leaving for Australia before June.

She called for volunteers to stage a protest march in London on Wednesday from Australia House to the home of the Australian Resident Minister, Mr Beasley, in Kensington.

The Mayor of Brighton, Councillor W. Clout, emphasised the need for more shipping, but told the brides, "You girls must be patient. There is still a lot of food to cross the ocean."

Earlier, Councillor Clout, when farewelling members of the club who are to sail shortly, warned them they were going to a new life, and urged them to do their utmost to settle down.

"You will not find a theatre and a public house at every street corner," he remarked.

Members have decided to continue the Kangaroo Club for reunions after they arrive in Australia.

SOURCE F

The troopship *Stirling Castle* steams into Sydney Harbour in 1946, carrying many young English war brides, excitedly looking forward to their new life 'down under'. AWM P02526.013



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SOURCE G

The Argus, Melbourne, Saturday 9 February 1946

ANOTHER BRIDE SHIP ARRIVES

There were many happy reunions yesterday morning when the *Rangitiki* carrying 146 war brides and 16 children arrived at Prince's Pier. Long before the ship berthed husbands were to be seen pacing impatiently up and down the wharf, and when eventually the vessel came alongside the pier there was another tedious wait while gangways were raised. Wives and husbands waved and shouted to each other across the gap between ship and pier, and when at last it was bridged there was a wild scramble, and it was some time before couples could find each other.

Goodbyes among shipboard companions were almost cursory in the excitement of meeting husbands whom wives had not seen for months, and years, in some cases. Clutching a large bunch of gladioli, Mr Lloyd D'Alton, ex-AIF, waited for his wife whom he had not seen for more than five years. After their marriage in England he was transferred to the Middle East and thence to Australia. He and his wife will settle in Adelaide.

Many of the brides came from Scotland, so it would seem that Scottish girls had a special allure for Australian servicemen, and everywhere could be heard a broad Scottish accent.

"Like London"

Grey sky and sea and a drizzle of rain made Port Melbourne reminiscent of home for many of the girls. "Well, this looks just like London!" was the comment of one bride.

From Oban, in Scotland, came Mrs Dewar, wife of Warrant Officer J. Dewar. Mr and Mrs Dewar have been married five years, and their son, Robert Andrew, was born just after his father left for Australia. Clad in a green woollen suit and cap he looked like a bonnie baby.

Although the majority of the brides will settle in New South Wales, 31 of them who have married Victorians will remain here. Some of them will go to the country districts, including Shepparton and Ballarat.

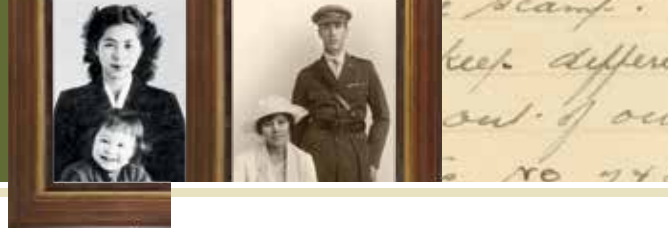
Although the brides looked sunburnt – quite a number of noses were peeling – it was obvious that they had had rather a lean time. Faces were a little pinched and worn. This is understandable when one recalls how meagre has been Britain's food supply, and it is to be hoped that Australian food and sunshine, as well as the joy of being reunited with their husbands, will quickly restore good health and spirits.

Repatriation and Red Cross had a fleet of cars and buses to take interstate brides to their overnight billets, and this transport organisation helped considerably to make the arrival comfortable and cheerful.

SOURCE H

Flying Officer Kirkpatrick meets his wife and son, Roger, who have just arrived from Britain with other war brides in 1945. AWM 087905





SOURCE 1

Story of an English war bride

Eileen Lakeman, known as Val to her friends, was one of thousands of British girls who married Australian servicemen during the Second World War. She joined the WAAF, where she met and married Roy who was serving in the RAAF. Their daughter, Karel, was born in 1945, shortly before Roy returned to Australia. Val and Karel remained in Britain and waited until there was a ship available to take them to their new home on the other side of the world. Val tells the story of her journey to her new home:

I got my papers to board the Stirling Castle in January 1946 and that was exciting. I didn't think about Australia or Roy or what was going to happen, just the adventure. Then the day came and my family all took me up to the station and it wasn't until then that I realised that I was actually going away permanently to a place that was on the bottom hand corner of the earth, about which I knew hardly anything. By the time I got on the train I was absolutely beside myself with sadness and I couldn't stop crying. All I knew was that I had left my mother and father and my two sisters and my aunts and I maybe wasn't ever going to see them again.

The trip to Australia took seven weeks and Val and her baby daughter disembarked in Melbourne, and travelled to Sydney by train.

Eventually we arrived at Central Station; it was the last day in February and it was without exception the hottest day that I remember. I could see Roy was there and I was waving

and he was waving and it was all very exciting except of course he didn't have his uniform on so he was different from what I expected but he had beautiful curly hair. He was so excited to see us and of course Karel had grown a lot. Roy's mother was standing beside him and she welcomed me and kept on saying how lovely Karel was, and then there was Roy's aunt and uncle. I was just excited to be there and to see Roy and we couldn't stop hugging each other and he couldn't stop looking at Karel and cuddling her. We went to Auntie Effie and Uncle Eric's at Bronte where they had a big family luncheon with food that was just unreal. They were all excited at meeting an English war bride or their new relative.

After the Second World War, houses were in very short supply across Australia. At first the couple stayed with Roy's family at their home in Bronte, before they moved into a small flat that they initially shared with friends to save on rent.

I was desperately home sick, and around 1948 I realised there were a lot of other people, probably feeling the same way, so I had started an overseas brides club. I found a whole group of women with children, and we started going on a weekly basis into the YWCA. On looking back although it was a lifeline for us, we were a miserable bunch of girls. We complained, we were all bitten by mosquitoes, we hated the heat and we talked about the down-side of things. We had got over the initial joy of being with our husbands. The YWCA was a lifesaver and that is where we went and our children went to the crèche. Gradually over the years we did assimilate.



Val in her WAAF uniform. Image courtesy of the Australians at War Film Archive



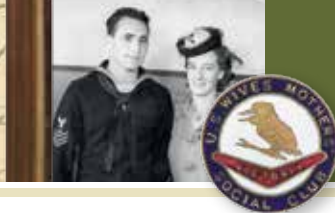
Val and Roy exiting the church on their wedding day. Val's fellow WAAFs provide the guard of honour.

Image courtesy of the Australians at War Film Archive



Roy Lakeman in his uniform. Image courtesy of the Australians at War Film Archive

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Depth Study 2: Australian war brides of American servicemen

During the Second World War, Australia hosted over a million US servicemen and women. Many Australian families opened their homes as a gesture of friendship and welcome, and volunteer organisations were established to entertain these servicemen on leave. Thousands of young Australian women married, or became engaged to American servicemen. The introduction of the US congressional act eliminating visa requirements for foreign wives and dependants of American servicemen made travel for these women much easier. After the war about 15,000 Australians crossed the ocean to join their fiancés and husbands in the United States.

SOURCE A



Joan Armstrong, from Sydney, became a US war bride when she married Major William Whittaker from Detroit, Michigan, in August 1944. AWM P02018.254

SOURCE D

Four members of the US Servicemen's Wives and Fiancées Association gather with their children in the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne 1945. In just two and a half years, more than 10,000 marriages and 2,000 engagements between Australian women and US servicemen occurred. AWM P00561.033

SOURCE B

Detroit Free Press, Monday 24 January, 1944

BOY MEETS GIRL

American army officers and Australian officials have failed to keep Aussiettes from marrying Yanks at a rate of 200 a week. When the war is over, and the Yanks are returned from 'down under', those war brides who have not already come to America do so. Australia needs population, and views with concern this drain on its potential mothers. Against that, it set the advantage of having thousands of its daughters circulating in the United States as ambassadors of good will.

The boys and girls probably don't give a whoop for either consideration. They want to get married – and they are doing it on a grand scale, in spite of international consequences.

SOURCE C



US Wives and Mothers Social Club badge. This club had branches in all the state capitals. AWM REL34259





SOURCE E

A group of Australian war brides and babies about to depart for new lives in America from Melbourne in 1945. AWM P00561.036



SOURCE F



Members of the Sydney US Servicemen's Wives and Fiancées Association seen here waiting to attend classes, in Sydney 1943, to prepare them for life in America. However, they were also taught about their own country to become better ambassadors for Australia. AWM P00561.018

SOURCE G

The Argus, Melbourne, Monday 28 January 1946

FLOATING CRÈCHE COMING FOR US WAR BRIDES

Fitted out as a floating nursery, the liner and troopship *Mariposa* sailed from New York bound for Australia to pick up 1,200 wives and 400 children of American servicemen.

The surgery and medical wards have been converted into nurseries with special baby equipment, including 500 toys, 18,000 safety pins, and 20,000 paper diapers. It has playpens, bassinets, and baby bathrobes. The brides and babies will be looked after by the army until they are delivered right to their husbands.

The army has created an organisation to handle every detail of transport of dependents of Americans from overseas – estimated to total 50,000 wives and 20,000 babies worldwide. The first big batch of Australians is expected at San Francisco early in March. The army will take charge of the girls on arrival, getting their baggage through the Customs, then putting them in special trains under train commanders, with Red Cross girls and medical enlisted to help. Telegrams at government expense will be sent to the waiting husbands advising the date and time of wives' arrival. All the husbands have to do will be to meet the train and take delivery of his wife after signing for her.

Thirteen special bride ships are expected to dock at New York during February.

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SOURCE H

Story of an Australian war bride

Hazel Holloway met American sailor Jack Smith at Sydney's Trocadero nightclub in 1942. What followed was a whirlwind romance. The couple wanted to get married, but before they could, Jack had to get permission to marry her, or risk punishment. Hazel, along with her family, employers, and friends were interviewed to make sure she was 'suitable' to marry an American. After a rigorous investigation, a US naval chaplain approved Hazel, and the couple married in December 1942.

Jack remained in Sydney before being deployed to the Pacific in 1945. Hazel was told in June that year that she could sail to America, but she needed to get to Brisbane in a week to meet the ship. An added complication was that Hazel was eight months pregnant, and according to regulations, not able to travel. Trying her luck, she got on the train to Brisbane. When Hazel arrived at the dock, the shipping officials had just had an embarrassing moment



Jack and Hazel Smith arrive back in Sydney in April 1953 with their five children. They were met by Hazel's grandmother.

AWM P08500.002



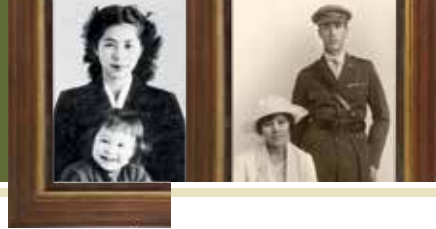
Hazel and Jack on their wedding day in December 1942. They got married at St Aiden's Church in Maroubra, and Hazel wore an aqua day dress that she purchased using clothing coupons. AWM P08500.001

trying to reject an overweight bride based on what they had believed was her advanced pregnancy. Not willing to risk another tirade from an angry and insulted woman, they accepted Hazel's word that her pregnancy was not too far advanced. She sailed on 9 June 1945 for her new country.

Jack remained on active service until 1947, so Hazel initially lived with his sister in San Francisco. Her new family was welcoming, but had trouble accepting her independent nature. She had been sleeping with her two small children on the lounge of her sister-in-law, and when she moved out ready for Jack's return, they were suspicious. Some Australian war brides were considered to be 'good time' girls with questionable morals. When Hazel moved out, her family was concerned she was being unfaithful to Jack. That suspicion was soon dispelled, and when Jack returned the couple made their home in Utah.

By the early 1950s, the family had added another three children, making five altogether. Hazel was missing home, and they decided that country life in New South Wales would provide a better future. They arrived back in Sydney on Easter Monday, 1953. Wasting no time, Hazel took her family to the Royal Easter Show the very next day.

The family eventually moved to a farm in the Bega valley, on the south coast of New South Wales. Their last two children were born in Australia. With a large family of seven, Hazel was thankful that she had brought with her some of the benefits of postwar America: her washing machine and refrigerator.



Depth study 3: Japanese war brides

After the Second World War, Australians served in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). Their main role was to enforce the terms of Japan's unconditional surrender, disarm the Japanese forces, and demilitarise depots and various establishments in the occupied area. The main body of Australian troops arrived in February 1946, and they were mostly stationed around Kure, which had been a major Japanese naval base. About 16,000 Australians served in BCOF, with the last group of Australian servicemen leaving in November 1956.

In Japan the Australians were forbidden to socialise with the local women; however, as they often worked with Japanese civilians, many relationships inevitably blossomed. Eventually the army recognised the marriages which had taken place and allowed Australian soldiers to bring their wives home. In all, 650 Japanese war brides made their way to Australia in the 1950s. With Japan having been 'the enemy' for so many years, some Australians found it difficult to accept the idea of these women living alongside them.

SOURCE A

Corporal Allan Chick in a letter to his mother, Evelyn Chick, 2 June 1952 AWM PR85/189

I married the girlfriend here last December ... the ceremony was in both English and Japanese. So far no one knows, not the Army even. My wife sends her best wishes, not without certain misgivings however.

SOURCE B



The transition to a new culture could be difficult for war brides, particularly when they were faced with learning a new language. These Japanese women, who have married Australian servicemen, are receiving English lessons and learning about Australian culture to prepare them for their new lives. AWM 148580

SOURCE C

The Argus, Melbourne, Friday 11 July 1952

“THIS IS MY HOME,” SAYS CHERRY

Cherry Parker, Australia's first Japanese war bride, never wants to go back to Japan.

“I'm an Australian now. This is my country,” she said last night.

She was home, at last in Ringwood, after many months of anxiety and worry.

As she spoke, she gazed unbelievably round the bright, crowded room, filled with members of the Parker family, friends, and well-wishers.

Her eyes filled with tears as she said, “I thought I might be lonely. But this is my family. I have never had so many friends.”

For Cherry, (the name is a literal translation of the first part of her Japanese surname, Sakuramoto) yesterday was the end of a three-year wait, and three enforced separations from her husband.

An orphan – her close relations died in atom-bombed Hiroshima – she had to stay in Japan with her two baby daughters while Gordon Parker, her husband, fought for permission to bring her to Australia.

At Essendon airport, Mr and Mrs Parker, Gordon's father and mother, two sisters, a brother and dozens of friends were waiting.

Plain-clothes and uniformed police were on duty there in case of any hostile demonstrations. They were not needed.

And at the Parker home at Ringwood, last night, visitors thronged the house and the phone rang continually.

Cherry, low-voiced and shy, did her best to answer the barrage of questions from press and radio representatives.

She spoke perfect but hesitant English. She said: “I am more than glad that we are here. Especially for the children's sake ...”

Husband Gordon Parker said: “It cost £2,000 to get Cherry here. But it was worth it.”

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SOURCE D



Sergeant Charles John Franklin married his Japanese bride, **Setsuko Morita**, in **September 1952**. They married in the **Garrison Chapel**. Many couples had **two weddings – one Christian and one Buddhist**. AWM 148123

SOURCE E

The Argus, Melbourne, Friday 9 January 1953

CLUB TO AID JAP BRIDES

Australia isn't going to be such a lonely, strange place for Japanese brides of Australian servicemen.

Brides and husbands are forming themselves into an association, and those settled in here are going to take newcomers under their wing.

Keen members are Mr Gordon Parker and his wife, Cherry, first Japanese bride to settle in Australia.

Mr Parker said last night, "The club aims to help the brides over the first few weeks, and to have picnics and evenings, say, once a month. Then the girls can swap experiences. For instance, they can put each other right on Western cooking. Everything here is so different. Or if a husband gets sick and has to go to hospital the wife can go and stay with another couple in the club."

The club was being formed in Japan, he added. Names and addresses of newcomers would be forwarded from there to members already settled in.

Two more

Two more Japanese war brides, meanwhile, are on their way to Melbourne with their husbands in the steamer *Taiping*, which reached Townsville yesterday.

They are Mrs H. Dean and Mrs L.R. Oates, wives of Australian ex-servicemen.

At Mr and Mrs Les Oates's Heidelberg home last night everything was ready for the arrival of their son, Les, and his wife, Tsuyako.

Les's brother, Laurie, said last night, "We plan to give them a very warm, but a quiet welcome. The first few weeks will be spent mainly in driving them around, showing her the countryside, and meeting relatives. They are to stay with us, and we've got their room all fixed up."



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SOURCE F



Wedding of Sergeant Gerald McCaughey to Miss Fumiko Isumizawa in Kure, Japan, on 25 October 1952.

AWM 148137

SOURCE G

The Argus, Melbourne, Monday 20 April 1953

JAP GIRLS' REUNION

Ringwood members of the RSL believe a communist "trying to cause discord" began a local rumour that Japanese wives would attend the Anzac Day service there.

Fourteen Japanese wives, with their husbands and six children, met yesterday for their first reunion at the home of Mrs Cherry Parker, the first Japanese war bride to arrive in Victoria.

The wives drank afternoon tea, ate cakes and biscuits, and talked of home.

Mrs H.E. Parker, mother-in-law of Cherry, attended both the nearby Anzac service and afternoon tea.

Mrs Parker senior said later that "most of the Japanese brides were only schoolgirls during the war".

"They have done nothing more wrong than falling in love with an Australian," she said.

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SOURCE H

Story of a Japanese war bride

John Clifford met Fumika Itoh in 1947, when he was serving in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). Despite the anti-fraternisation policy the army had imposed between BCOF and the local population, John and Fumika started a relationship.

Under the policy marriages were banned but, undeterred, the couple held a commitment ceremony. Australia eventually lifted its ban on Japanese nationals migrating to Australia, and Fumika and John were formally married in October 1952. Fumika wore a traditional silk kimono that she had made in 1949 for special occasions. The Kimono was deep purple, and was tied with an embroidered turquoise *obi* (sash) when she married John.

John served in the Korean War during this period, and the couple's daughter, Mary, was born. When John's tour

of duty ended in 1953, Fumika and Mary prepared to sail to their new home on the *New Australia*. Mary was not recognised on any official documents, and shared a passport with her mother. The government set Fumika's residency for five years, even though she was married to an Australian.

When they arrived in Australia, John remained in the army and was posted to Canberra. He left Fumika and Mary with his father in Sydney, but his lonely and determined Japanese bride followed him.

Fumika had challenges adjusting to life in Australia; she had to learn to speak English and cook Australian food, and worked hard at being fully welcomed by neighbours.

Despite these difficulties, Fumika led a productive life in Australia, raising another daughter, Julia. She worked as a language tutor at the Australian National University, and as a library assistant at the National Library of Australia.



Studio portrait of Fumika and John shortly after their marriage.

AWM P08339.002



Passport photo of Fumika and Mary Clifford.

AWM P08339.003



Fumika and John (left) socialising with friends at the park at Miyajima, near Hiroshima in 1952. The park was a popular place for BCOF servicemen to spend free time, often with their girlfriends.

AWM P08339.004



Despite the official chilly reception, some Australians made the Japanese brides welcome: Fumika fondly remembers one steward on board the *New Australia* who ensured the children enjoyed the voyage to their new home in Australia.

AWM P08339.008



Depth study worksheet

Examine each piece of historical source material and use the following questions to guide your investigation. Note down your findings in the table below, then analyse the depth study as a whole. Using the evidence given, and a range of technologies and communication forms (oral, graphic, written), develop a creative response.

Historical questions and research:

- What is the origin, time frame, and purpose of the source?
- How historically reliable and useful is the source?
- What does the source add to the depth study? (key events, people, and ideas)

Depth study name

Section

Source (A, B ...)	Type (letter, relic ...)	Primary or secondary source	Notes and findings





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| National History Challenge winner 2009
(Alix Biggs: <i>Triumph over adversity: the obstacles overcome by Australia's Japanese war brides.</i>) | www.naa.gov.au/learning/schools/national-history-challenge/winning-entries.aspx |
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