Bibliography and Resources


Jan Bassett, *Guns and brooches: Australian army nursing from the Boer war to the Gulf war*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1992


Catherine Kenny, *Captives: Australian army nurses in Japanese prison camps*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1986

Barbara Orchard, “Florence Nightingale: starting with a lighted lamp”, *Wartime 7*, 1999, pp. 5–6

Richard Reid et al., *Just wanted to be there: Australian service nurses, 1899–1999*, Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra, 1999.


Jessie Elizabeth Simons, *While history passed: the story of Australian nurses who were prisoners of the Japanese for three and a half years*, William Heinemann Ltd, London, 1954
Press

Newspapers and magazines from the era provide direct and interesting articles about many facets of life during the war years. State libraries generally maintain a good collection of newspapers; see particularly Trove on the National Library of Australia website. Wartime issues of the Australian Women’s Weekly provide interesting articles about Australian women, men and children. Through its recipes, patterns and advertisements, the Weekly also provides a good impression of how everyday life was affected by wartime rationing and austerity programs.

Oral history

This project has made use of the oral histories collected in the Keith Murdoch Sound Archives at the Australian War Memorial. Oral history is a fascinating type of history. Its value is debated as it is memory of historic events recorded years later. This memory is filtered by time and other events. Collecting oral histories from women who remember the war would be an interesting project for local schools and communities to undertake.

Private records

The Australian War Memorial has a large collection of private records, including letters, diaries, cards and other recollections. Many women in the local community have similar items and they can provide a valuable snapshot of history.

Official records

Official records from the Memorial’s collection, such as unit histories and diaries, were used in this project. Some official records may be available at the various State Archives offices.

Nurses: from Zululand to Afghanistan exhibition

The Australian War Memorial is paying tribute to Australian military nurses in the exhibition Nurses: From Zululand to Afghanistan, on display until 17 October 2012. Through photographs, objects and works of art drawn from the Memorial’s collection, it tells the story of Australian military nursing from 1879 to the present.