

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Organisation

**Entry ID:** AWE0415

## Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS)

(1942 - 1951)

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<b>Born</b>	1 December, 1942
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<b>Died</b>	31 December, 1951
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<b>Occupation</b>	Armed services organisation
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### Summary

The Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) was established in December 1942. At that stage it was decided to distinguish between Voluntary Aid Detachments, whose governing body was the Joint State Council in each State and the Joint Central Council (the Commonwealth authority), and Voluntary Aids who were serving at Military Hospitals on a full-time basis under Army control. [1]

Author Patsy Adam-Smith, herself a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) who joined the AAMWS, states in *Australian Women at War*:

From that date [December 1942], the Service's officers and soldiers were subject to military law and to the provisions of the Defence Act, the Army Act and the Rules of Procedure...'The majority of the original recruits for the AAMWS were drawn from the ranks of the Voluntary Aid Detachments, and the experience they already had was of great benefit in their work in military hospitals, both home and overseas.'

In July 1949 the Australian Army Medical Women's Service became part of the Regular Army. Two years later The Service was disbanded and its duties were incorporated into the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

[1] *Australian Women at War* p. 194 and *From Blue to Khaki* p. 50

### Events

#### 2049 - 2049

AAMWS approved to become part of the Regular Army

#### 2042 - 2051

The Australian Army Medical Women's Service established to distinguish between full-time military Voluntary Aids and those attached on a voluntary basis to the aid organisations

#### 1946 - 1946

Served in Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF)

#### 2051 - 2051

Australian Army Medical Women's Service was disbanded and incorporated into the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps

## Published resources

### Book

Our kind of war, Critch, Mary, 1981

Soldiers of the Queen : women in the Australian Army, Bomford, Janette, 2001

Australian nurses since Nightingale 1860-1990, Burchill, Elizabeth, 1992

The Australian Army: A History of its Organisation 1901-2001, Palazzo, Albert, 2001

Colonel Best and her soldiers: The Story of the 33 years of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, Ollif, Lorna, 1985

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

From blue to khaki: The enlisted voluntary aids and others who became members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and served from 19421-1951, Mount-Batten, Betty J, 1995

Australian women at war, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1984

### Resource Section

Australian Servicewomen's Memorial, Southwell-Keely, Michael, 1999,  
<http://www.skp.com.au/memorials/pages/00018.htm>

Voluntary Aid Detachments, Australian War Memorial,  
<http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/vad.htm>

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **Australian War Memorial, Research Centre**

Captain W. J. J. McGee, assisted by Major A. R. Appleford, member of the Red Cross, MM

The leaders of the Australian Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)

Major A.R. Appleford, RRC, MM, with Captain P. Williamson, Australian Army Medical Women's Service

Major A.R. Appleford, RRC, MM, Assistant Controller, Australian Army Medical Women's Service, Victorian Lines of Communication Area

Officers at the conference of Assistant and Deputy Assistant Controllers, Australian Army Medical Women's Service

Officers at the Conference of Assistant and Deputy Assistant Controllers, Australian Army Medical Women's Service.

Major A.R. Appleford, RRC, MM, Assistant Controller conducting a kit inspection of members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service on draft for northern areas

Her Excellency, Lady Zara Gowrie, wife of the Governor General of Australia, inspecting members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service at the 115th Heidelberg Military Hospital

Major A.R. Appleford, RRC, MM, Assistant Controller, Australian Army Medical Women's Service inspecting the kits of members who are on draft to northern areas

Captain W. J. J. McGee, assisted by Major A. R. Appleford, member of the Red Cross, MM

Studio portrait of NF482322 Lieutenant (Lt) Elva Baikie, Amenities Officer for the Army women's services

Join the AAMWS

Army Women's Services

Herring, Enid Jessie, Assistant Controller, AAMWS, b: 1912

Lila Stocks (née McKenzie), Voluntary Aid Detachment and Private Australian Army Medical Women's Service, interviewed by Angie Michaelis for the Keith Murdoch Sound Archive of Australia in the War of 1939-45

Jill Edith Linton (née Oliver), as a Private, Australian Army Medical Women's Service, interviewed by Angie Michaelis for the Keith Murdoch Sound Archives of Australia in the War of 1939-45

Australian servicewomen's memorial

### **National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office**

Change of title from VAD [Voluntary Aid Detachment] to AAMWS [Australian Army Medical Women's Service] [Box 69]

Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists [Applications for a Commission in the A.A.M.C. Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.)] - J M Snelling [Box 69]

Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists [Applications for a Commission in the A.A.M.C. Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.)] - J L Christie [Box 69]

Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists [Applications for a Commission in the A.A.M.C. Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.)] - A R Appleford [Box 69]

### **Author Details**

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## Digital resources



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**Date:** 3 May, 2023



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