



FEATURE STORY

Women in the War: Nursing the Night of the Breakout

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During WWII men were persistent and content to enrol and serve in the war even after the devastation WWI had caused in several countries, as well as families. As a high percentage of the male population left to fight, a major hole in the working industry had risen. This was an opportunity for women to step up and take a role through working in factories, on farms and with vehicles; doing tasks such as mail runs. Women such as Coralie Delboux contributed to the war efforts through nursing careers, while others such as Elvine Elliott - Horsfall did voluntary work for the Red Cross and other organisations.

Coralie D elboux was a local resident of the Cowra region throughout the Second World War. She was a nurse at the Cowra Hospital and cared for Japanese and Italian Prisoners of War. She worked for 55 years and was a specialist nurse with children having chemotherapy. In Cootamundra Hospital she was in charge of operating theatres and was on call with the ambulance to assist with accidents.

Coralie was one of a number of nurses who were working the night of the breakout in Cowra. This experience would have been both frightening and intense. Throughout her years of service in Cowra during WWII she did everything in her power to save the wounded soldiers and did not treat them any differently for being from different cultures, or on the other side other war effort. Her support and the years of hard work has led to the council acknowledging her efforts. On the 16th September, 2016, Coralie's descendants planted a rose named "Mother and Daughter" in the Cowra Hospital Memorial Rose Garden.

Coralie is one of the many who supported the war in various ways, either by living and working on the Homefront or on the battlefield. Her inspirational story provides a glimpse of what the lifestyle was like for women nursing in Cowra on the Homefront.



Christmas Dinner at the Military Training Camp 1943
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