

## **Edna Bullen Belford (nee Watson)**

My World War II effort to contribute to the home front

Born in Midland Junction, Western Australia, on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1914 and christened Edna Bullen Watson, I grew up in West Midland surrounded by music – my father being a church choir conductor, singer, and during World War I in a military band.

Whilst enjoying a working holiday in the Eastern States, in addition to earning my daily bread as a bookkeeper, etc. highlights were as a Sydney Conservatorium School of Opera student and touring throughout New South Wales and Queensland as secretary with George Sorlie's touring vaudeville show.

We were in Queensland when war broke out, the show disbanded, and I returned to W.A., immediately becoming a member of the Swan Concert Party, visiting campsites to entertain troops on a weekly basis. Soon after I formed "The Cheerios", continuing to visit and entertain until the end of hostilities.

When the forthcoming opening of the Welshpool Ammunition Factory was announced I decided that making bullets could be another part of my war effort, but when interviewed I was pronounced the one they were looking for to be supervisor of the incoming typing pool and that, along with being secretary to management and continuing to entertain at the camps, became the pivot of my life for the remaining war years.

One event which needs to be recorded is the Popular Girl competition amongst the factory workers to raise money for the Children's Hospital. It was a great morale booster and resulted in the "Bullet Bang Bangs" show being presented to a capacity audience in the Capitol Theatre, William Street, Perth, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1943, when the winner was crowned. Along with Steve Bevan I was privileged to be joint-producer.

Finally the war came to an end and this fabulous band of workers returned to ordinary, everyday living, feeling, I would think, happy that their contribution had been focused on "doing their bit". I married Alan Roy Belford (ex RAAF) and even though I nursed him through many illnesses (ultimately cancer) until his death in 1987, we were to enjoy forty happy years of a very close relationship. This year I celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## APPRECIATION.

The President and Committee of the "Ammo" Factory Children's Hospital Cot Club, extend their very sincere thanks to the following persons for their assistance in the production of this evening's entertainment.

Mesdames Bevan, Fremantle, Misses Heeds, C. Burrows, L. Wood.

Messrs. B. Fixter, V. Willie, H. Palmer, K. Murdoch, W. Borrmann, C. Woodgate, W. Robinson, S. Williams, A. Mardon, J. Otto.

FULLER'S THEATRES PTY LTD., for the use of the Capitol Theatre.

LEVINSON & SONS, for the Crown and Regatta used in the Crowning Ceremony.

Mr. BERT WATTS, Manager Capitol Theatre, for his generous assistance and co-operation.

Messrs. DOYLES, for Costumes used in the production, and all those countless others who have willingly co-operated directly or indirectly with services or properties and have by their efforts, helped materially towards making the function a success.

## "BULLET BANG BANGS"

Directed by . . . . . THEO. BARRYMORE  
 Joint Producers . . . EDNA WATSON, STEVE BEVAN  
 Musical Director . . . . . DAVE GILLARD  
 Ballet Mistress . . . . . MONA STRONGMAN  
 Wardrobe Mistresses . . NAN HOLMAN, MURIEL BRAY  
 Stage Manager . . . . . STEVE BEVAN  
 Treasurer . . . . . RON DOUGLAS  
 Secretary . . . . . JOY BAKER

"Ammo" Children's Hospital Cot Club

EDNA WATSON STEVE BEVAN  
 PRESENT

# Bullet Bang Bangs

Crowning Ceremony

OF

Factory Children's Hospital Queen

Proceeds to assist Children's Hospital

Sunday, 19th December, 1943

CAPITOL THEATRE, PERTH

PRICE 6D.

J. Lazen & Sons, Printers, 607 Albany Rd., Victoria Pk.