

Jean Hankinson

Did not serve in wartime activities as worked at Mills & Wares Biscuit factory from 1935 to 1942, got married, all boys in uniform. Shortly after, George's Batt went to Darwin 12 months, self went back to work manpowered shifts 7am to 7pm or next week 7pm to 7am. Friends all chasing Yank boys, not my cuppa tea. Got to hate working amongst them, only way out to get pregnant so George returned home on leave in early 1944, decided to change idea of waiting till peace time to start a family. Short time later George sent to New Guinea in advance party but was meant to be New Britain, on learning mistake Army sent them on there twelve months or so then later came home on leave covered in dermatitis. I insisted he report it as 3 of his brothers had been discharged from army with it, so was placed in an Army medical centre, whatever, in South Street. After discharge from there only got as far as Queensland, think was named Atherton, several months later by train back to W.A.

Just bought back those memories to me, also living just up the road from ocean in South Fremantle with Mum, how sister and I had dug hole under house and buried glory chest contents in case Japanese got closer to our part of W.A.