
Moira Eliza Murray (nee Todman)

Recollections of prewar.

I was born on 11th April 1925 at Northam, WA, we lived in Bayswater from 1930/2, attending Bayswater State School. Moved to Chidlow in 1933 as my father, who was a Master Baker, established a bakery there.

I attended Chidlow State School in 1933, then I went to Victoria Square School in Perth, as my parents were busy establishing the business and building a suitable dwelling, this was in 1934/5, returning to Chidlow School for 1936/7.

Attended City Commercial College in 1938/9 and passed in Business Practices, as a Typist and Secretary. Worked at Craven's Pharmacy in Perth Town Hall, then Private Secretary to Rev Cannon Freeth at Guildford Grammar School 1940/2, then returned home to Chidlow as the school was taken over by the US Army as a Military Hospital.

They arrived in trucks and formed up outside while the Headmaster arranged the moving of the school into Fairbridge Farm School. They actually arrived unexpectedly as we were packing the office equipment, complete with the first portable radios we had seen and music playing, Jazz of course.

What did I do in the War.

When I arrived in Chidlow after Guildford Grammar School, as my parent's did not wish me to go to Fairbridge Farm School, I found it was fast developing into a large military camp.

I was soon involved in helping in my Father's bakery to keep up with the demand created by the influx. I helped my Mother to deliver bread to Northam Military Camp, which was in the stages of being built too, her father had secured a contract to supply this.

I helped on the Chidlow Railway Station as a relief, feeding the troops as they passed through in numerous troop trains to the E.S.

I was one of the 40 local girls, plus the nursing sisters from Wooroloo, who turned up for the dances for the troops at the little Chidlow Hall, often had up to 1000 troops at the dances.

The Don R's regularly called into the Baker and house and we also supplied hot coffee and buttered scones (butter from our own cow) to the troops who called at the bakery opposite the Chidlow Railway Station.

This was a busy time in 1942 to 1944.

Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation on 31/12/2004 for her contribution to the Chidlow Railway Station Project.