
Kathleen (Kaye) Joan Vaux

Kathleen (Kaye) Joan Vaux (nee Faulkner)

Born 25 July 1921 in Narrogin, WA.

My father Austin Faulkner and Mother Gladys Mead Faulkner nee Shute grew up in Albany and met after Dad's return from World War I. He had taken one of the brumbies he had caught in the Stirlings when he went to Egypt in the 10th Light Horse. Dad was wounded in Gallipoli and on his return was in the Rocks hospital Albany where he met my mother who entertained and sang for the soldiers there.

We had a farm at the Porongorups where I grew up until I was seven years old. As Dad developed TB he had to go to Edward Millan Home and we sold the farm and lived in Kelmscott. Dad was in hospital for 2 years. We had 8 acres, 4 of which was orchard. So the War years were spent there.

I went to Perth Technical College and learnt shorthand, bookkeeping and typing, so I was employed in several Perth offices. The accountant I worked for handled all the finances for Luna Park and Scarborough Hotel and when a troop ship came in I had to handle this sometimes "sticky" money and work out the exchange on the New Zealand coins.

Perth was often crowded with soldiers who on the whole caused very little crime. Once they carried an Austin car up the PO steps in Forrest Place.

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, Australia soon became the next target and Singapore families were evacuated to Australia. They were mostly women and children and a number of them were evacuated to Australia. They were mostly women and children and a number of them were sent to Karri Bank at Porongorups. This Guest House was owned by my Uncle Jack Faulkner who had a big responsibility looking after them, as there were several nationalities and their husbands were left in Singapore.

They formed a little school for the children. Two Italian prisoners of war were also sent to Karri Bank and Raphael and Martino were a great help in the vegetable garden. Many Italian prisoners of war were allocated to farmers and became attached to the families.

With the blackouts it was quite scary when I was working back at night for Vacuum Oil in the Terrace. I had to find my way in the dark until I got to Plaza Arcade where there were lights and go down to the station. That was when the white lines on the bitumen roads came as with hoods over the car lights they were able to follow the white lines.

I used to catch the Armadale bus in the Terrace at one time. One afternoon about 10 soldiers were walking towards me. "Oh blondie" they shouted and formed a circle around me. Standing in the middle I wondered what would happen, but they all passed me around and gave me a kiss and let me go in time to catch my bus!!

One afternoon when one of the girls got on the bus, she told us that where she worked, news had just come through that the Sydney had gone down. As we all knew many of the sailors, there was much distress and tears that night. Looking back I now realise how much our parents had to go through.

On the whole there was not a lot of crime with so many soldiers and sailors from England and America visiting our City. I'm sure there were a number of unwanted pregnancies. I do remember one black baby was born, the father obviously had negro blood in him.

I had to leave work as my mother was taken ill and eventually died in the Mount Hospital.

My little sister was 8 and my brother 14 so as I had to take over the home duties as my other sister 13 months younger than me had joined the Army as a nurse. I was not very

domesticated as I'd spent most of my time helping Dad in the orchard while my sister did the housework and cooking. However we all survived!

During that time we had many English and American sailors billeted with our families in Kelmscott where we organised dances and social evenings. The 25th Light Horse were camped at Canning Dam where there was a hall and cottages used by families when the dam was being built. These soldiers would come down on the back of a truck, to Kelmscott and Armadale to our dances, so we girls were never short of partners. They would often contribute with their musical instruments.

Later when a friend came to our home I was able to get a position in the Mines Department at the Royal Naval Depot at Byford. Workers caught the train to Byford where we had a long walk to the Depot. Later a special train for the workers brought us right to the Depot Gate as I think there would have been over 200 working there. All the heads of each section were sent out from England. There were 3 Railway Tracks to each section, the mines, bombs and ammunition. The Mess where we had to go for our lunch was 10 minutes walk from the Mine Department. When VP Day was announced we were all in the train on our way to work when we heard the noise. We all stayed in the train and went home. I was living at Cottesloe at the time and as I got out at Swanbourne Station I had to climb the hill where I could see the ocean. I burst into tears as got a view of the ocean, knowing that the ships out there would now be safe.

My Dad had an old Chev car and enough petrol to get us into Perth and celebrate among the streamers, dancers and paper being thrown from the office windows as we hugged and kissed everyone. The highlight of the day was when a group of RAAF men walked out of the station – there was a great friend who had been a pilot in England and been shot down over Germany but luckily landed in Denmark, so that was a wonderful re-union as he spent the day with us.

Some of the ships visiting Fremantle were the "London", "Queen Mary", "Empress of Japan", "Britannia", "Canada", "Mauritania", "Aquatania" and "Andes". I would write to the parents of the sailors who stayed with us to let them know how their sons were. One sailor and his family still keep in touch after 60 years!

Extracts from my diary in 1940 – 41

1940 Kelmscott

January 18	A number of Troop Ships came in, mostly French and New Zealand. They over-ran Perth at night, directing traffic, hopping on trams and cars and making a real nuisance of themselves.
January 19	The New Zealand soldiers marched from Fremantle to Perth and around the streets. It was a fairly hot day and one man fainted in the Terrace. Someone rushed out with a waterbag and handed it to one of the soldiers who looked at it in amazement and wondered what it was.
January 22	Our office boy was called up for the navy so we have to get someone else.
February 7	It was 105° today. Many offices closed because of the heat.
February 9	It didn't fall below 90 last night and went up to 110 by 2.00 PM.
Saturday 17	We played tennis – the two Jewish Refugees came along for a game. In the evening we went along to a Red Cross Bus trip to South Beach.

Monday 19	We went to a meeting in the Scouts Hall in aid of the Soldiers Comfort Fund; we all took a gift for a hamper.
March	Mr Mutton came home today. He is stationed on Mt Melville signal station Albany. I gave a photo of the first signal from Mr Melville being sent by flag to the Historical Society Melville. It was given to me by signaller Mr Mutton.
Thursday 28	We went up to Rosewanes and packed 8 hampers for the soldiers
Friday 29	We gave a send off for the local soldiers and the hall was packed.
Feb 29	Quite a number of people are seeing the search lights in the sky.
May 10	We had to entertain a number of NZ, Queensland and SA soldiers this evening. There are about 7,000 NZ. The "Queen Mary", "Empress of Japan" "Britannia", "Canada", Mauritania" Aquatania" and "Andes" are taking the troops.
Sunday 26	World Day of Prayer. All churches in the suburbs areas were packed.
Wednesday 29	King Leopold has turned traitor to his country and therefore leaving British soldiers in Holland in an awkward position.
June 15	Dave (one of our staff) has left for the A.I.F. Jean and I are knitting him a pair of sox!
June 20	I received a letter from one of the soldiers. It was quite interesting. In reply I am sending him a bundle of magazines. France has surrendered and England is preparing for battle over the country.
July 8	Applications for evacuees from England closed today as they had so many offers to take children.
Saturday 29	Eight of us went to a dance for Red Cross in Government Ballroom. It was all old time. There was a large crowd there.
September 2	I finished off the sox Jean and I have been knitting for Dave.
September 3	The War has been going for one year today. I wonder what will happen this time next year.
September 4	A convoy of troops are again in port. Town was packed with NZ.
September 9	I received a letter from Frank Hall who is a soldier in Egypt. He also sent his photo.
September 12	London is having some heavy bombing.
October 9	We went to a dance at Armadale. There were a lot of soldiers from the 25 th Horse from Canning Dam so we had a good time.
October 11	Dulcie and I went up to the Canning Dam with a concert party. We had a very appreciative audience. After the concert we went to the Officers Mess and had supper, then danced to the bagpipes. The water in the dam is about 1foot below the wall.
November 20	A raider has been reported not far from Fremantle.
December 6	There was a good march through town.
December 18	We went to the Military Ball at Armadale. It was the break-up of the

	Canning Weir Camp (25 th Light Horse). We came home on Martin's truck as did not end till 1.30 am.
1941	Spending Christmas at Cottesloe
January 3	Muriel and I went to the beach and as we got to the railway line (Victoria Street) a troop train went by. It was packed with boys going away and they had written their names all over the carriages. We saw that a convoy was in. The "Queen Mary", "Aquatania" "Mauritania" and "Canberra" were some of the boats. In the evening we went to a dance at the Sailor's Rest.
January	Had a few visits from local soldiers throughout January. The weather was so hot we had most of our meals on the lawn as it was too hot inside.
Sunday 26	It was 106°.
February 1	Kelmscott YP Club hired a bus to Scarborough. Home by 12 am. Had a lovely time.
February 2	Two 25 th Light Horse boys came. We all went off to City Beach and caught the 10.15 bus home.
February 12	We had various visits from local soldiers.
February 19	Received a letter from a SA boy in Egypt.
February 25	I sat at the typewriter all day. In the evening we could see the search lights picking out planes.
February 26	The other Friday there was a march through town of the boys who had marched from Northam.
March	There was a march of 3,000.
April 25	Anzac Day. We decided to go to town. They had a service in Kelmscott. It was held in the shade instead of in the sun around the Memorial.
April 29	This morning everything began to shake and sway. We all thought we'd gone mad and then found it was an earth tremor.
April 30	I was informed today that I would be going out auditing while the boys were in camp.
May 5	Did the audit of Pearce Air Force today. Each accounting firm has to do various military books free.
Sat May 8	I added for 2 ½ hours today. No adding machine.
May 12	There has been great excitement this week as Hess (3 rd in command in Germany) flew to Scotland.
May 16	Uncle Alfred came in to say goodbye as he is going in the AIF to the east tomorrow.
May 22	I was sick for 3 days and when I got back to work our shorthand typist had an hour's notice to start with the Defence Department.
May 23	We went to Bankers and Traders auditing.
Sunday	Dad went down to a meeting of the Emergency Defence Corp.

Friday 30	Dulcie and I started Home Nursing classes.
Sat 31	Jean and I went around collecting money for the Red Cross from 2.30 – 4.00pm.
June 2	Dulcie and I went to Armadale to the Womens Emergency Corp.
Friday 6	We went to Home Nursing
Saturday 7	In the afternoon we went to the Armadale Womens Emergency Corp.
June 12	Doug Keyho, Teal Fancote and Geoff Benson were reported missing.
June 13	We went to Home Nursing.
Mon 17	Went to AWEC where we had an Air Raid Precaution lecture.
June 19	I made my morse flag.
June 20	Home Nursing
Sat 21	A lovely day. AWEC had a lecture on musketry and did morse code and marching.
June 22	Dulcie and I have been practicing signalling.
June 28	The AWEC held a dance at Armadale and invited the 25 th Light Horse. We arrived home at 2.30 as the last bus left at 11.30 so we walked the 7 miles home.
July 20	Mother and I went to Anzac House to help entertain and serve teas for the soldiers. In the evening we went to Wesley Church. As it was conducted by the college boys it was packed. After Church we went to the rest room to entertain any of the boys who wanted to stay for a social hour and supper. Dulcie and I sang a duet.
Mon 21	We went to Armadale First Aid.
July 25	My birthday. There was a march of the 25 th Light Horse today.
July 28	We went to AWEC.
August 2	It was the first Friday we had been home for tea for 9 weeks. We both passed our Home Nursing.
August 3	Did bandaging at AWEC.
August 11	Our last First Aid lecture.
August 16	Went to AWEC. In the evening we saw “Forty Thousand Horsemen”. It was very good.
August 19	First Aid Exam – we all passed except 4.
August 25	Went to Armadale as we had to practice our act as Parachute Troops for the Home Guard. We were shown our position.
Sunday 26	Left home 9.30 bus to Armadale and by 10.15 we were in our scattered positions on the hill above the Narrogin Inn. Jan Clare and I were among the rocks, others were in quarries and among bushes. It was a beautiful day and everything was so quiet. We each had to take down anything we saw and the time.

	<p>Once Clare and I were just going to get something to eat and we had looked around but there was not a sound or sign when suddenly a man appeared from behind the rocks – we thought it was one of the Home Guard and lay as low as we could until he had nearly passed then we realised he was only the umpire. We were there for over an hour, during which time Mrs Harris was touring around to see from which side of the hill we were to be attacked. Save from several picnickers we did not see anything. Muriel and Trisha were kept amused while they were hiding as a couple decided to picnic just near them. It was as much as they could do to keep from laughing.</p> <p>At about 11.30 am the Home Guard appeared over the top of the Hill and made their attack on our base, but as we nearly all saw them first from our hiding places we said they were all shot before they got there. Altogether we had quite a bit of fun. We all marched back through Armadale and caught the 1pm bus home.</p> <p>It was said the attractiveness of the enemy made the Home Guard rush in!!</p>
October 1	I went to Armadale to an instructor's course on the machine gun.
October 2	Clare and I had to act as ushers at Armadale for the picture "We of the AIF".

H. R. P.

Essential Services

1. Police
2. Fire Brigade
3. Medical
4. Transport.
5. Communication
6. Repair
7. Wardens.

Non Essential Services

1. First aid
2. Light Reserve Party
3. Heavy clearing squad.
4. Decontamination
5. Aux. Fire Service
6. Gas detection
7. Cleansing centre
8. Unexploded bombs

A. R. P

Organisation

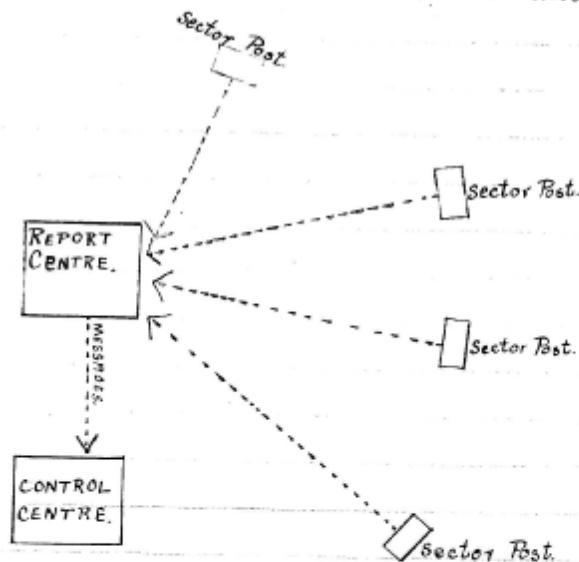
Civil Defence Council

Chief Warden

Divisional Warden

Armadale Helmscott
Head Warden

Message to the Services



A. R. P.

Warnings

1. Preliminary Caution } (these are for organisations & confidential)
2. Council Caution } Whistle
3. Action — Rising & falling note in siren.
4. Raiders Passed — continuous siren or whistle. "Wait for all clear."
5. Local Gas — a loud rattle
6. All clear — ringing of bells. *
- * Do not go into other sections until they give the "all clear" as your sector may be free of gas but others not.
7. Fire Brigade does not answer calls from individuals — but waits for word from Head Warden.

District responsible for:—

First Aid	Heavy clearing squad
Light Rescue Party	Decontamination
Fire Brigade	Gas Detection
Probably cleansing centre	Unexploded bombs.

A. R. P.

War gasses.

<u>Non Persistent</u>		<u>Persistent</u>	
come in sheets etc. Wind will blow the cloud of it away.		liquid or solid stays & gives off perfumes.	
1.	2.	3.	4.
<u>TEAR</u>	<u>NOSE IRRITANT</u>	<u>LUNG IRRITANT</u>	<u>BLISTER</u>
B. B. C.	D. A.	PHOSGENE.	MUSTARD
Non Persistent	Non Persistent	Non Persistent	Persistent
C. A. P.	D. M.	CHLORINE	LEWISITE
Non Persistent	Non Persistent	Non Persistent	Persistent.
K. S. K.	D. C.		
Persistent.	Non Persistent.		

Divisions

Greenmantle

Gottesloe

Perth

Midland

Railways

Armadale is in
Division of Perth
District of Victoria Park

<u>A. R. P.</u>	
	<u>Personel in order of Rank</u>
confidential)	1. Civil Defence Council
	2. Chief Warden
	3. Divisional Warden
	4. District Warden
not for all char.	5. Senior Warden
	6. Warden
give the but	<u>War Gasses.</u>
individuals -	Release:- bombs or shells - nose gasses may be dropped in generators from parachute
used	Protective measures:- Respirator will give complete protection against tear, nose & lung gas. (A respirator will last 72 hrs when in contact with gas but if only used at odd times they last indefinitely.) Protection against blister gas is an oil skin coat, gloves etc.
obs.	<u>Detection of Gasses.</u>
	1. Smell
	2. Irritant effects.
	3. Visible signs (bombs etc.)
	4. Chemical detection.

A. R. P

Smell:- ^{BBC.}
^{K.S.K.} } smell like pear drops or duco.

^{C.A.P.} } floor polish.

^{DM.}
^{D.C.} } no definite scent.

Phosgene - musty hay.

Phosgene - lime.

Mustard - mustard, garlic, radish. (mustard
can only be smelt for the first inhalation
as it kills the sense of smell.)

Lewisite - scent of geraniums

Irritant:- ^{BBC} - faint smarting, can be rubbed off.
seriously effects the eyes.

Nose gas. - causes sneezing & coughing.

Lung gas - effects the throat first & then the lungs.

Blistet gas. - smarting & later blisters.

Visible signs:- When dropped in bombs it make a
small explosive sound. If it is a persistent
the place will be shattered with liquid.
Generators - small tins - the gas may be
seen near the tin as it escapes.
It can also be fired in balls from guns.

More tear gasses are invisible.

Chlorine - slight greenish cloud. clearly seen when escaping.

Phosgene white cloud.

Blister liquids - colour of straw. the purer the gas the lighter it is.

More liquid - dark brown oily liquid.

Chemical Detection : a disc of yellowish colour resembling blotting paper is used. Whenever a blister gas alights on it a red mark is made. Tear gasses are more of a pinkish colour. There is also a yellow paint used on letter boxes & tram & bus hoods for the public's use.