

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

A HISTORY OF THE GREENSLOPES HOSPITAL
1942 - 2002



60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
CHRIS STRAKOSCH - CAROLYN DE WYTT

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Greenslopes Private Hospital acknowledges the dedication of Chris Strakosch and Dr Carolyn de Wyt in compiling this history of the hospital. According to American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson, “There is properly no history; only biography”. In this account of the hospital’s sixty-years to date, Chris Strakosch provides us with a ‘biography’ of the hospital based on researching in hospital and military records, and recollections of patients and staff.



Cover

Australian War Memorial
062469 - *Patients of the 112th
Australian Military Hospital enjoying
their morning tea, December 1943.*

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FOREWORD

Since the 1980s, as medical practitioners at the Greenslopes hospital, Dr Carolyn de Wytt and I have been privileged to meet and treat many Australian ex-servicemen and women.

Dr de Wytt and I have also worked together as amateur historians, researching and presenting talks on military history for staff at the Greenslopes hospital. Our aim has been to acquaint newer staff members with the rich traditions of the hospital, its patients, and staff. I was understandably pleased to be invited by Ramsay Health Care to write the book commemorating the hospital's 60th anniversary in collaboration with Dr de Wytt.

In every encounter with ex-service patients – gallant sailors, steadfast soldiers, courageous nurses, and heroic airmen – I am reminded of the sentiment expressed almost 110 years ago by the Matabele General M'Jaan. Speaking after a battle in which a small British horse patrol had chosen to die fighting rather than surrender, he declared:

“They were men of men, and their fathers were men before them”.

For most of the hospital's history, patients were either enlisted or ex-service personnel. Though the hospital now also treats private patients, a large portion of the patient population continues to be ex-service personnel (or spouses who have survived them). Ramsay Health Care, while modernising and expanding facilities, is continuing the service tradition of which the Greenslopes hospital is justifiably very proud.

I would particularly like to thank Carmel Monaghan of Ramsay Health Care for producing this book – Ramsay’s graphic designer, Craig Emery, for his professional design and presentation – and also Ramsay’s photographer, Peter Merry, for his tireless sourcing and archiving of the photographic material. Distilling our ideas and research into a story for this commemorative tribute was achieved with editorial input from Tony Urquhart. I would like to acknowledge Dr Rupert Goodman, who very generously donated his extensive files on the hospital; The Australian War Memorial, which kindly provided most of the photographs from the theatres of war; and The Queensland Maritime Museum, for kind permission to use the photo of *USS Fulton*.

This book is dedicated to the men and women who have offered their lives in the service of their country and those who supported them in desperate times.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Chris Strakosch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Strakosch

1939

THE ULTIMATUM TO HITLER

On 1 September 1939, the National Socialist leader of Germany, Adolph Hitler, believing that Germany had been the victim of an international conspiracy that led to its defeat in World War One, and seeing this as the last chance to save European civilisation from the soul-less forces of rationalism and communism, opened his campaign to impose his will on Europe by sending his forces against Poland.

Britain and France, which were allies of Poland, immediately demanded that Germany withdraw. When Hitler refused, Britain and France declared war on Germany. 'As a consequence,' the Prime Minister of Australia, Rt. Hon. Robert Menzies, announced in a national radio broadcast, 'Australia is also at war with Germany'.

PLANNING FOR THE FIRST CASUALTIES OF WAR

In November 1939, before Australian troops had even left home shores, a conference in Australian Army Headquarters decided to build a major base hospital in every capital city – a decision that was to prove far-sighted. In January 1940, the Melbourne architectural firm, Stephensen and Turner, was awarded the contract to develop plans for the proposed base hospitals.



German forces overwhelm Poland, September 1939. ¹

1940

In February 1940, a committee of Army officers and a representative of the War Service Homes Division inspected several sites around Brisbane thought suitable for the city's base hospital. At Greenslopes was a 13-hectare (32-acre) site on a slope of Mount Stephens. It was part of the Dunellan Estate, which had been reserved, and partly developed, for World War One veterans' war service homes. Favourable aspects of the Greenslopes site were that it was close to the city centre, had nearby tram services, established sewerage, and its north-easterly orientation took advantage of prevailing breezes. Two streets already built on the site – Hunter and Headford Streets – were acquired from State Government.



Looking down Newdegate Street. On the left, the site of the hospital prior to work commencing, 1940. ²

CRICKET MATCHES & MARRIAGE

Peter Foster and Allan Hagerty, both veterans of World War Two and now patients of Greenslopes Private Hospital, were teenagers in the Greenslopes area during the 1930s. They recall that there was a cricket pitch on the site and both played there frequently. Mr Forster joined 2/11 Commando and served in Borneo. Mr Hagerty served in the 2/1 Battalion AIF (Australian Imperial Force). They were admitted to the hospital with malaria during, or just after, the war. Allan Hagerty was sent to convalesce at 7 ACH (Australian Camp Hospital) Redbank, and then to 10 ACH Coorparoo. After recovering, and just days before he was due to be married, Mr Hagerty was posted back to his unit. Fortunately, he managed to wrangle three weeks additional leave.

Greenslopes Hospital 1912-2012

1940

While the hospital site was being selected, Australian troops were embarking for the Middle East. The unit scheduled to occupy the Greenslopes site – 112 Australian General Hospital (112 AGH) – was established at the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds, Bowen Hills, in March 1940. The unit transferred briefly to Enoggera, which was then an outer Brisbane suburb, and set up a training camp. When 112 AGH returned to the Brisbane Exhibition Grounds it was accommodated in the Ernest Baynes Grandstand.



Two members of the VAD & three Nursing Sisters of AANS (with veils) at 112 AGH in the Exhibition Grounds. ³



Embarkation "G", Australian troops sail for the Middle East - March 1940. ⁴

BRITAIN BATTLES - BRISBANE BUILDS

In June 1940, while plans for the Brisbane base hospital were being considered, the German forces launched their Western Campaign with a blitzkrieg on France. France fell within weeks. In Britain, Winston Churchill was appointed Prime Minister.

August 1940 saw the German Luftwaffe attempting to gain control of Britain's airspace in preparation for a seaborne invasion. In the "Battle of Britain", Australian pilots were among the heroic airmen who defeated the German air armadas.

While the Battle of Britain was being fought, Brisbane architects T R Hall & Phillips, were appointed agents for the Melbourne architectural firm of Stephensen and Turner to design the hospital. The estimated cost was £155,000.

Progress towards starting work on the design was impeded by debates in Canberra about how large the new base hospitals were to be and whether they should be under the control of the Repatriation Commission or the Army. It was finally decided to make them military hospitals, largely due to the perceived "undesirability" of having young soldiers from the expeditionary force in the same wards as World War One veterans. A further delay was experienced when it was found that the original plans did not take into account the steepness of the site. The plans had to be substantially redrafted.



Australian Spitfire pilots of No 452 Squadron RAAF, Kenley Airfield, England. ⁵

NEW BOYS ON THE BLOCK

In November 1940, Clem Jones, a recently-graduated surveyor, was appointed to survey the site for the new hospital. This was the first major job for Jones, who would later become Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Thiess Brothers, a newly established building contractor, tendered a price considerably lower than their well-established competitors and was awarded the contract to begin building. The Thiess tender estimated that completion would take five weeks, compared with several months estimated by other tenderers. Clem Jones was to later comment that “the job made Thiess Brothers and I think it made me”.

Thiess Brothers immediately commenced excavations for the Administration Building and used the recovered soil to build the three terraces on which the wards would stand. Work continued around the clock, accelerated by the knowledge that wounded servicemen would soon be returning from the Middle East campaign.



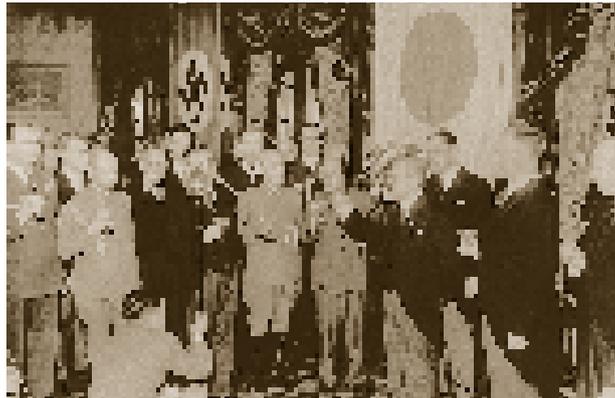
Stephens Hill – also known as ‘Blanket Hill’ because “the nurses used to go up there to meet their mates”.⁶

*Chronology of 1940-1942
Hospital*

JAPAN EXPANDS ITS EMPIRE INTO CHINA

In Japan, during the 1930s, nationalistic citizens and sections of the military became alarmed at what they saw as excessive Western influence in Japanese society. They felt that the West's influence was responsible for the increased social unrest – and that Japan had lost its way. They harked back to the imagined glory of the Shogunate of the 17th and 18th centuries when Japan was pure and uninfluenced by outside forces. They were convinced that, if Japan were able to re-establish a military-led dictatorship like those of the past, the nation would find its true self again. This rise in Japanese nationalism and militarism coincided with the rise of fascism in Europe. By the end of the decade, the fascists dominated Japanese society.

Japan's army occupied Manchuria in 1931. In 1937, the army sought to expand the empire – and increase its influence within the Japanese government – by invading China. In September 1940, Japan signed the Tripartite Pact, bringing it into an alliance with Hitler's Nazi Germany and Mussolini's fascist Italy. This alliance heightened anxiety in Australia, the bulk of whose forces were in the Middle East and Britain fighting the new allies of Japan.



General Tojo proposes a toast at the signing of the Tripartite pact in Tokyo, September 1940. ⁷

1941

By January 1941, the Australian 6th Division had arrived in North Africa and, under the command of the British General O'Connor, launched a very successful campaign against the Italians in Libya. The Italian fortress of Bardia fell and many thousands of Italian soldiers were taken prisoner.



Australian troops inspecting Italian fortifications at Bardia, January 1941. ⁸

HOSPITAL PLANS ARRIVE IN BRISBANE

Meanwhile, in Brisbane, the first plans for the base hospital arrived from Melbourne architects, Stephensen and Turner. The hospital was to comprise an Administrative Block and three single-storey pavilion-style ward blocks, one on each of the newly built terraces. The plans also included two brick buildings, each of two storeys. One was to house the officers of the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) – mainly, but not exclusively, doctors – and the other to house sisters (nurses) of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) and officers of the Women's Services.

By March 1941, Australian troops had been sent to reinforce the British fortress island of Singapore. In Brisbane, C & H Heaven and Sons were awarded the contract to construct the main ward blocks, which were to become Wards 1 to 6 and the sisters' quarters. The contract to build the doctors' quarters, a mirror image of the sisters' quarters, was awarded to the firm of J W Green, which was also responsible for construction of the boiler house.



Construction of the wards on three terraces. ⁹

1941

GERMANY ATTACKS THE SOVIET UNION. IN BRISBANE, 112 AGH SHOULDERS NEW RESPONSIBILITY

In June 1941, Hitler launched his third and most significant campaign with an invasion of the Soviet Union. Initially, the attack was very successful.



German forces storm into the USSR city of Kharkov, Ukraine, June 1941. ¹⁰

On 25th April 1941 (Anzac Day), 112 Australian General Hospital assumed responsibility for all military personnel in the Brisbane area who required medical care beyond the capabilities of the camp hospitals. On 5th July, the 112 AGH moved from the Exhibition Grounds (which were needed for the annual agricultural exhibition) to the buildings and grounds of the mansion, “Yungaba”, overlooking the Brisbane River at Kangaroo Point – a site once occupied by 6 Australian General Hospital (of World War One fame).

“Yungaba” was in the shadow of the Storey Bridge and next to the Evan Deakin Shipyard - both likely targets for enemy bombers. One nurse remembers being given little maps showing the way to the Greenslopes site in case patients had to be evacuated during an aerial attack.

By December 1941, work was continuing at the Greenslopes base hospital site. The German invasion of the Soviet Union had been halted at the gates of Moscow by the freezing conditions of the lethal Russian winter.



A pavilion ward of 6 AGH Kangaroo Point, in the grounds of Yungaba, World War One. ¹¹



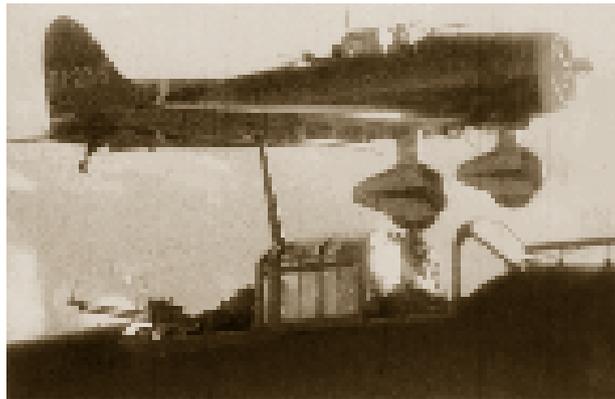
Sister Wallace shakes the hand of the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robert Menzies, on his visit to 112 AGH at "Yungaba". ¹²

1941

JAPAN PUSHES SOUTH IN ASIA & BOMBS PEARL HARBOUR

In 1941, Japan occupied French Indochina (now Vietnam), bringing its military forces very close to the Philippines, an American possession. The United States responded by placing an embargo on the export of oil and other strategic goods to Japan. The embargo threatened Japanese military operations in China, not to mention other campaigns Japan planned. Japan needed oil and the closest supply was in Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). However, any move south would be challenged by the US from bases in the Philippines and at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii.

Japan decided to force the United States government to sue for peace by destroying the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in a surprise attack. Such a tactic had been successful in 1904 against the Russian Pacific fleet at Port Arthur, Manchuria. But, instead of suing for peace, the Americans responded to the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour with outrage and declared war on the Japanese Empire. Five of the eight US battleships in the harbour were sunk. However, the era of the battleship as a decisive naval weapon had passed. This was the era of the aircraft carrier. The vital US aircraft carriers were at sea and survived.



Japanese Navy pilots in carrier-borne Val's. ¹³



Japan attacks Pearl Harbour, December 7th, 1941. ¹⁴

1942

SINGAPORE FALLS. DARWIN BOMBED

Japan's occupation of French Indochina had also given it convenient bases to attack Malaya and, in February 1942, the British fortress island of Singapore fell. The Australian 8th Division was captured by the Japanese forces.

Up till then, Brisbane was half a world away from the theatre of war in which Australian forces fought with British forces in North Africa. Almost overnight, Brisbane became the most important Allied operations base in the South Pacific, where the war was now on Australia's doorstep.

Later in February 1942, the Japanese bombed Darwin.



*Allied POW's in the Selerang Barracks,
Singapore 1942. ¹⁵*



Darwin is bombed, the munitions ship Neptuna blows up, February 1942. ¹⁶

1942

THE NEW GREENSLOPES HOSPITAL IS COMMISSIONED

On 1 February 1942, an advance party took over the recently constructed hospital at Greenslopes and, the next day, the first group of thirty-five patients were moved from 112 AGH “Yungaba” to Ward 1 at Greenslopes. Major A.W.I. Roe, AAMC, was the acting Commanding Officer and Sister J.E. Weaving, AANS, was in charge of the nursing staff. Over the next two months, all the patients were transferred and the hospital at “Yungaba” was closed.

The first block at the Greenslopes hospital was used for reception and medical wards, the second block for surgical patients and the third block for orthopaedic patients. Headquarters of 112 AGH moved to Greenslopes on 14 March 1942 and, by 9 April, the hospital’s entire complement of staff was in place. In March 1942, Sister G.R. Sheehan was appointed the first matron of the hospital, a position she held throughout the war. By the end of August 1942, the pavilion blocks on the second terrace were completed and ready to receive patients. The RAAF Section occupied Block 6. The last three pavilion blocks, the final components of the original scheme, were not completed and occupied until the end of 1944.



Patients & nurse in ward, 1942. ¹⁷



A view of the new Greenslopes Hospital, circa 1942. ¹⁸

1942

ĚMAGICÍ NEW HOSPITAL IS OFFICIALLY OPENED

The opening of the hospital was reported in the Brisbane daily papers as “Sunshine, light, fresh air, colour, friendliness and peace! That’s the first impression of ‘Grand Hotel’, Greenslopes Military Hospital”. The articles marvelled at the mechanical dishwashers, the rubber-covered floors, the electrically heated food trolleys and the marble fountain. “Some magician or good fairy has waved a wand and drudgery has been banished to outer darkness and oblivion”.

The first occupants of Ward 7 were wounded Japanese prisoners of war (POWs). A marquee was erected at the back of Ward 7 to accommodate other wounded enemy POWs.



The new light-filled wards. ¹⁹

MEDICAL MAGGOTS CAUSE MAYHEM

Norman Connors, 24th Line of Communications, was one of the first two switchboard operators at the new Greenslopes hospital. He recalls that he was initially billeted in the same huts as the nurses, sharing the middle of three rooms in a hut with the other male operator. However, as his residence was in the not-too-distant suburb of Coorparoo, Mr Connors decided to live at home and ride his horse each day to the hospital. His horse spent the day in a yard in nearby Denman Street, which was owned by the engineer in charge of the hospital powerhouse. Mr Connors recalls that a friend from the Lytton military camp, who suffered from an infected leg, was one of the first patients to be admitted to 112 AGH (Greenslopes). The leg was treated with maggots, which removed diseased tissue while leaving healthy tissue to grow. This odd form of treatment is known by the more agreeable medical terms, miatic therapy (from the Greek word for fly) and biodebridement. It was used again recently in Greenslopes Private Hospital to treat a patient suffering from a chronic diabetic leg ulcer. After a few weeks at Greenslopes, Mr Connors was transferred to Townsville and replaced by a member of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS).

Cyril Gayland also recalls miatic therapy being used on a patient with a compound fracture of the leg (femur), which required a full-leg plaster. That patient used a long piece of wire to scratch under the plaster and ease the irritation of the maggots. Sometimes the maggots would crawl out during the night and then "all hell would break loose" in the ward.



Nurse Edna Stanley & patient. ²⁰

Greenslopes Hospital 1912-2012

UNITED STATES FORCES IN BRISBANE: SUBMARINE BASE AT NEW FARM & HOSPITAL AT HOLLAND PARK

It is not widely known that Brisbane was one of the major US submarine bases during the early part of the Pacific campaign in World War Two. The submarine tender, *USS Fulton*, was moored at the New Farm wharves, often with six to eight submarines alongside. Sick and wounded US Navy and Army personnel were cared for at 112 AGH (Greenslopes) until US hospitals were organised. In March 1942, thirty-eight US military personnel were admitted to Greenslopes where US medical specialists were working part-time. A United States navy hospital was not available until Mobile Number 9 was established at Camp Hill in June 1943 and, eventually, expanded to care for up to 2200 patients. This hospital was renamed US Naval Fleet Hospital 109 in June 1944 and continued service until early 1945, when it was moved to the Philippines.

The US Army also built the very large 42nd General Hospital on Logan Road at Holland Park, which had capacity for more than 2000 beds. When this hospital unit moved north, the facilities were taken over by 102 AGH, which was previously located at Ekibin – south of Greenslopes – just across a gully that now carries Brisbane’s South-East Freeway.

After the war, the US Navy Officers’ barracks at New Farm - a wooden building on the corner of Ann Street and Commercial Road - became a barrack for nurses working at Greenslopes. Cars from the Government Motor Pool in McLachlan Street, Fortitude Valley, transported the nurses to work.



The submarine tender USS Fulton moored at New Farm with at least 3 submarines alongside. ²¹

1943

By December 1942, sixty-four nursing sisters of the Australian Army Nursing Service were stationed at 112 AGH (Greenslopes).

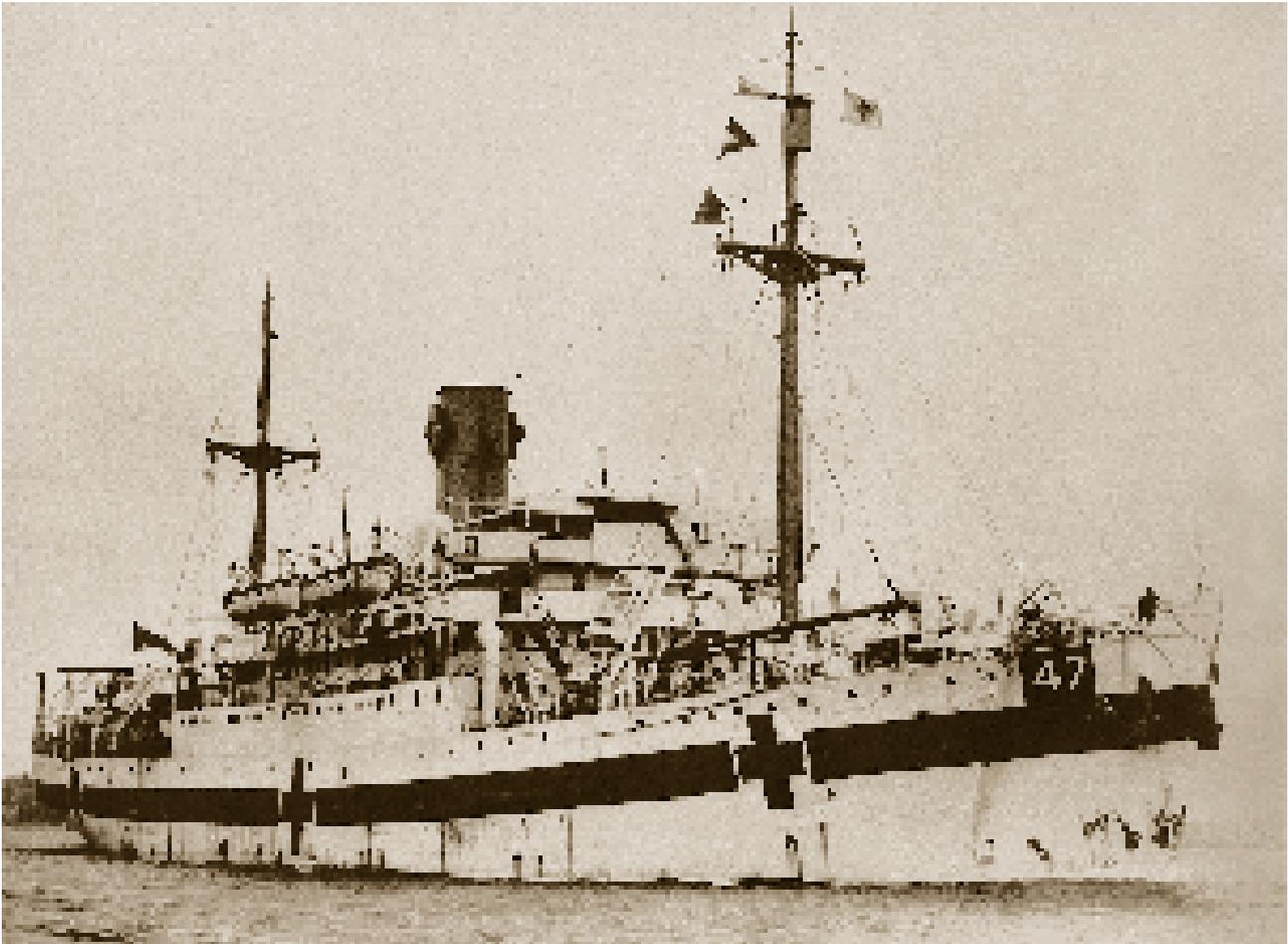
The official name of the Hospital was changed to 112 (Brisbane) General Military Hospital on 20 October 1943.

AHS CENTAUR TORPEDOED OFF BRISBANE. HEROIC NURSE HONOURED

In May 1943, the Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur* was steaming north to New Guinea, carrying the 2/12 Field Ambulance for disembarkation at Cairns. No wounded were aboard. The *Centaur*, designed as an Australian coastal steamer, was a fairly small ship. Interestingly, it was the *Centaur*, in the time before she was converted to a hospital ship, that had picked up the survivors of the German commerce raider *Kormoran* – the ship that sank the Australian cruiser, *HMAS Sydney*. Early on the morning of 14 May 1943, *AHS Centaur* was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off the southern tip of Moreton Island, near the southern Queensland coast. Sister Ellen Savage was the only one of eleven nurses to survive. A. Pettiford, a member of 2/12 Field Ambulance, wrote that although Sister Savage had broken bones and was in a lot of pain, she led the small party of survivors on a life raft in songs and prayer until rescued. She was taken to 112 AGH Greenslopes to recover. For her gallantry she was later awarded the George Medal.



*Sister Ellen Savage recovering in
112 AGH Greenslopes.* ²²

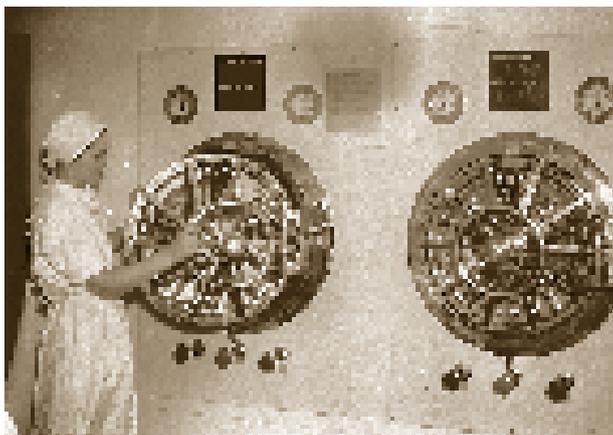


AHS Centaur. ²³

1943



The state-of-the-art laundry. ²⁴



The autoclave unit. ²⁵



An example of the simple nurses quarters. ²⁶

1944

GREENSLOPES HOSPITAL REGISTERED FOR NURSING TRAINING

During the war, the hospital was staffed by nursing sisters of the AANS, assisted by members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) – which was later became the AAMWS. The Probationer Nurse Training Scheme was inaugurated in March 1944 and the first Greenslopes trainees were sent to AAMWS Training School. The Greenslopes hospital was registered as a training school with the Queensland Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board on 16 May 1944. A lecture and demonstration room was equipped and a tutor sister appointed. The nurses were to occupy this area for twenty-five years, until 1969, when they were moved to a modern facility in the new Allied Health Block. The University of Queensland's Departments of Medicine and Surgery then took their place.



Allied nurses at 112 (Brisbane) GMH 1944. Two United States nurses at left with three Australians on the right. Sister Alvina Harding is the Australian Army Nurse in the centre.²⁷



Christmas Day, 1944: Driver D. Dixon entertains staff of 112 (Brisbane) GMH with his ukulele. ²⁸

1944



Nurses quarters viewed from the Administration Building construction, 1944.²⁹



Main gate, on Newdegate Street, with the newly constructed Administration Building in the background - 1945.³⁰



The Chapel was unusual in its design as it had altars at both ends of the building, one for Protestant & one for Catholic services - 1944. ³¹

JAPAN SURRENDERS. AUSTRALIAN POWs RETURN HOME

Following Japan's surrender, Australian prisoners of war liberated from places such as railway camps in Burma and coalmines in Japan were repatriated and admitted to 112 (B) GMH Greenslopes for assessment and treatment.

Many ex-POW patients were so emaciated it was sometimes difficult for their families to recognise them, even after care and convalescence in hospital. At Greenslopes, when patients were ready to be discharged, a roll was called. One by one, the patients emerged to be greeted by loved ones waiting outside the ward.

Many Australians felt that the sinking of the Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur* and the inhuman treatment of POWs was typical of the Japanese, reflecting a callousness and cruelty inherent in Japanese culture. Japan, it should be remembered, was a founding nation of the Red Cross and, at the beginning of the 20th century, the Japanese Red Cross Society was by far the largest in the world. Japanese treatment of Russian POWs in the war of 1904 had been exemplary. The Japanese treatment of Allied POWs in World War Two was the result of the atavistically motivated attempt by the Japanese military and fascist civilians to re-establish the mythical glories of the Shogunate of centuries past and reject institutions of European origin.

Immediately following the end of the war, the Greenslopes hospital worked at maximum capacity with some 900 staff caring for up to 1120 patients – returning servicemen recovering from wounds and tropical illness, and POWs who were malnourished and gravely ill.

Up to 1945, all the hospital's patients had been enlisted servicemen. By early 1946, an increasing proportion of patients were discharged men and women suffering service related wounds or illness. In April that year, the Repatriation Commission took over a ward at 112 (B) GMH. More patients were transferred from the old Repatriation General Hospital, Windsor, and the Greenslopes wards were progressively taken over for ex-service personnel. It was decided that, when the patient population at the hospital reached a ratio of six repatriation patients to four enlisted servicemen, the hospital would be transferred to the Repatriation Commission. The transfer was finally effected on 1 April 1947. The hospital was renamed Repatriation General Hospital (Greenslopes).



*Amputees in a camp hospital on the Burma Railway.*³²



*An ex-POW of the Japanese recovering in Greenslopes.*³³

A SURPRISE BATH - & A CLOSE SHAVE

At about this time, Allan Draydon, 2/25th Battalion AIF was admitted to Ward 12, Greenslopes, with malaria. He recalls the ward Sister directing one of the orderlies to bath a dishevelled looking man in a wheelchair and make him “presentable”. The man, who suffered from a severe stammer, did his best to resist. It wasn’t until he had been bathed and was dressed in clean pyjamas and dressing gown that he was able to explain that he wasn’t a patient of Greenslopes at all, but a visitor. Mr Draydon was also a patient when it was decided to have the pubic shaves done by nursing sisters rather than male orderlies. Asked if he minded, he readily agreed, but was a little taken aback when the first demonstration pubic shave of the new system was performed on him in front of six female student nurses.



*Patients & nurses on ward verandah.*³⁴

1947

After the Army transferred responsibility for the Greenslopes hospital to the Repatriation Commission in 1947, Dr W.H. Steel and Matron C. Monkton of Repatriation General Hospital Windsor were transferred to Greenslopes to assume control. Dr Steel was a capable and well-liked administrator who, it is said, had the rather unusual habit of ashing his cigarettes into his trouser cuffs.

The Greenslopes Occupational Therapy Department, which was then called Educational Therapy, was training patients in skills (such as carpentry) that would enable them to resume productive roles in post-war society.



Patients at Greenslopes being trained in carpentry & joinery. ³⁵

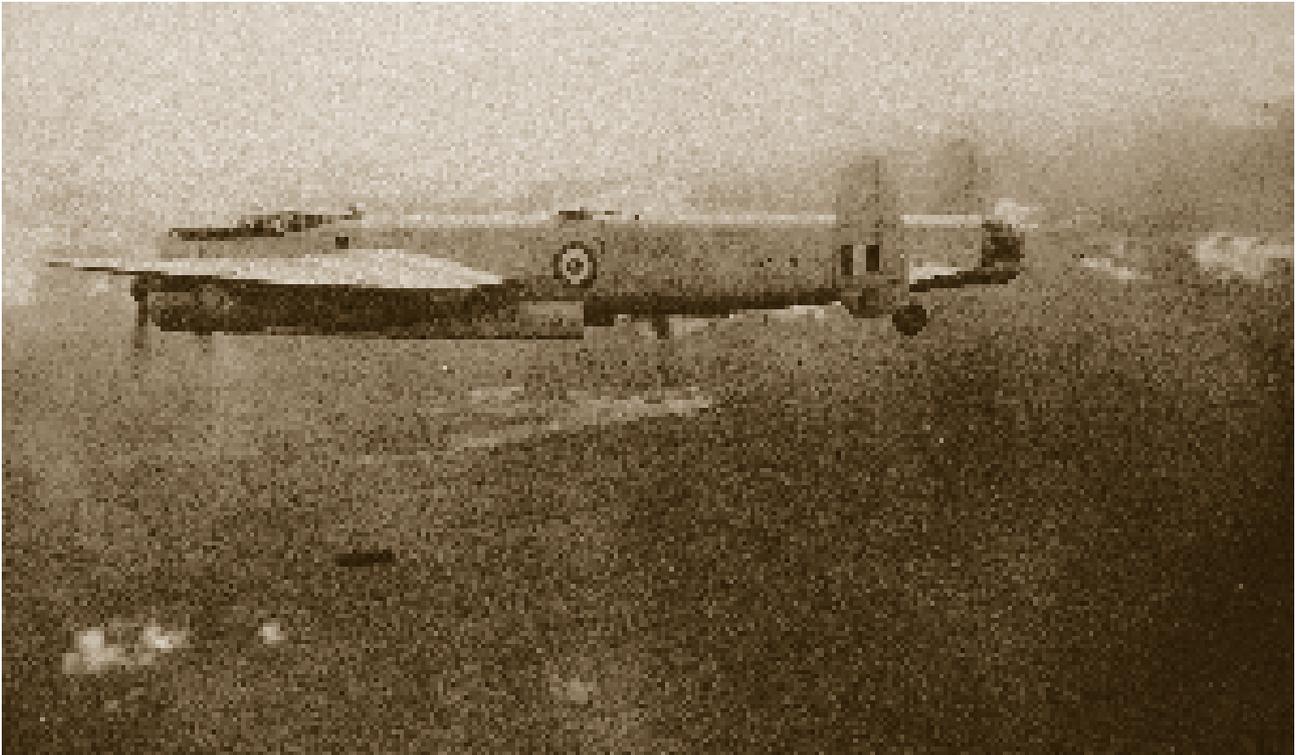


Sir Laurence Olivier visits RGH Greenslopes April 1948. Another of many well-known entertainers of the 1940s, Gracie Fields, visited Greenslopes in 4th June 1945 to entertain the patients. ³⁶

1948

THE MALAYA CAMPAIGN

In 1948, in Malaya, communist guerrillas (mainly ethnic Chinese who had been allies of the British against the Japanese) launched an insurrection against the British colonial administration. Units of the Australian Regular Army and RAAF were sent to Malaya to support the British administrators until an orderly transfer could be made. In 1957, the Federation of Malaya became independent of Britain.



RAAF Lincoln supporting ground forces in Malaya. ³⁷

THE KOREAN WAR

The Korean War broke out in June 1950 when forces of the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) invaded South Korea. The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling on all members of the UN to assist in repelling the North's forces. The Soviet Union, a communist ally of North Korea, had the power to veto the resolution. But, at the time the vote was taken, the Soviet Union was boycotting the Council to protest the UN's refusal to grant membership to another communist ally, The People's Republic of China. Australia sent a volunteer force to assist the United States-lead war effort.

In 1952, with the Korean campaign coming to a close, the first nursing graduation ceremony was held at the Greenslopes hospital. Prior to this, nurses had to complete their training elsewhere. Two years at Greenslopes (or 21 months, if the patients nursed by student nurses were RAAF personnel!) was counted towards a General Nursing Certificate. Male nursing students were being accepted at Greenslopes – almost twenty years before males were accepted into the state nursing system.



*An Australian Soldier of 3 RAR in Korea,
a casualty of shellfire. ³⁸*

1954

In 1954, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, visited Brisbane on her Australian tour. The patients at the Greenslopes hospital watched the official welcome in Parliament House live on television - the first microwave transmission of television in Queensland. The equipment had been brought from London by special arrangement between transmission equipment manufacturer, AWA, and *The Courier-Mail*. Also in the 1950s, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein visited patients in the hospital.



Royal Tour 1954. ³⁹



*Viscount Montgomery with nursing staff at
RGH Greenslopes.* ⁴⁰



Virginia Paris singing to patients, 1957. ⁴¹



Aerial view of RGH Greenslopes, circa 1950. ⁴²

1960

In 1960, Dr Bill Exton was appointed Medical Superintendent of Greenslopes and remained in that position until 1976.

THE VIETNAM WAR. A NEW ARTIFICIAL LIMB CENTRE FOR GREENSLOPES

In 1962, Australian military advisors were sent to South Vietnam. At Repatriation General Hospital (Greenslopes), a major extension was added to the central administration block. In 1966, Central Sterilising moved into this extension. Greenslopes was one of the first hospitals in Australia to centralise its sterilising facilities. In 1967, an Australian battle group was sent to assist the American and South Vietnamese forces suppress the communist revolution gaining momentum there.

Also in 1967, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Greenslopes hospital, the Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre, was transferred from Repatriation Hospital, Windsor, (“Rosemount”) to Greenslopes. This continued a fifty-year tradition, which began when medical services were provided to World War One veterans at “Rosemount” in the 1920s.

In 1968, the war in Vietnam continued with the Viet Cong launching the Tet (New Year) Offensive. At RGH Greenslopes, a major advance in intensive care was made when an eight-bed intensive care ward was opened under the direction of Dr Tony Morton. Dr Morgan Windsor, a senior surgeon at Greenslopes, commented that this made a great difference to the surgeons, who, up till then, had also had to act as intensive care specialists.

In August 1968, the paramedical (or allied health) building was opened. It housed the departments of physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and social work, as well as the library. The following year the School of Nursing was also housed there.



An Australian soldier, injured in a booby trap explosion in Phuoc Tuy province, Vietnam, is evacuated by helicopter. ⁴³



Eight-bed intensive care unit opened in 1968. ⁴⁴



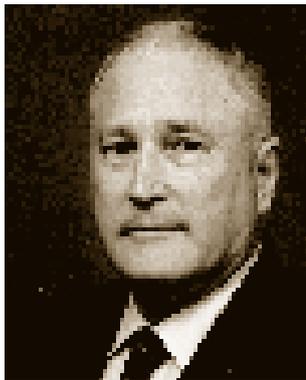
Allied Health building, 1968. ⁴⁵

1970

In 1970, the hospital looked much the same as it did in 1942, although the wards had been repainted, covering the dark and unwelcoming “Mission Brown” colour with an attractive light green.

Another major change to the hospital’s role occurred in 1970 when it was designated a university teaching hospital. Dr Richard Gordon was appointed as Reader (Associate Professor) in Medicine and Dr John McCaffrey as Reader in Surgery. Dr Gordon was later promoted to Professor (a personal chair) in recognition of his major contributions to understanding the causes of hypertension (high blood pressure). He demonstrated, among other things, that adrenal tumors – previously thought to be rare and of little significance – were quite a common and treatable cause of elevated blood pressure. Professor Gordon developed a precise clinical and laboratory protocol for locating these elusive tumours.

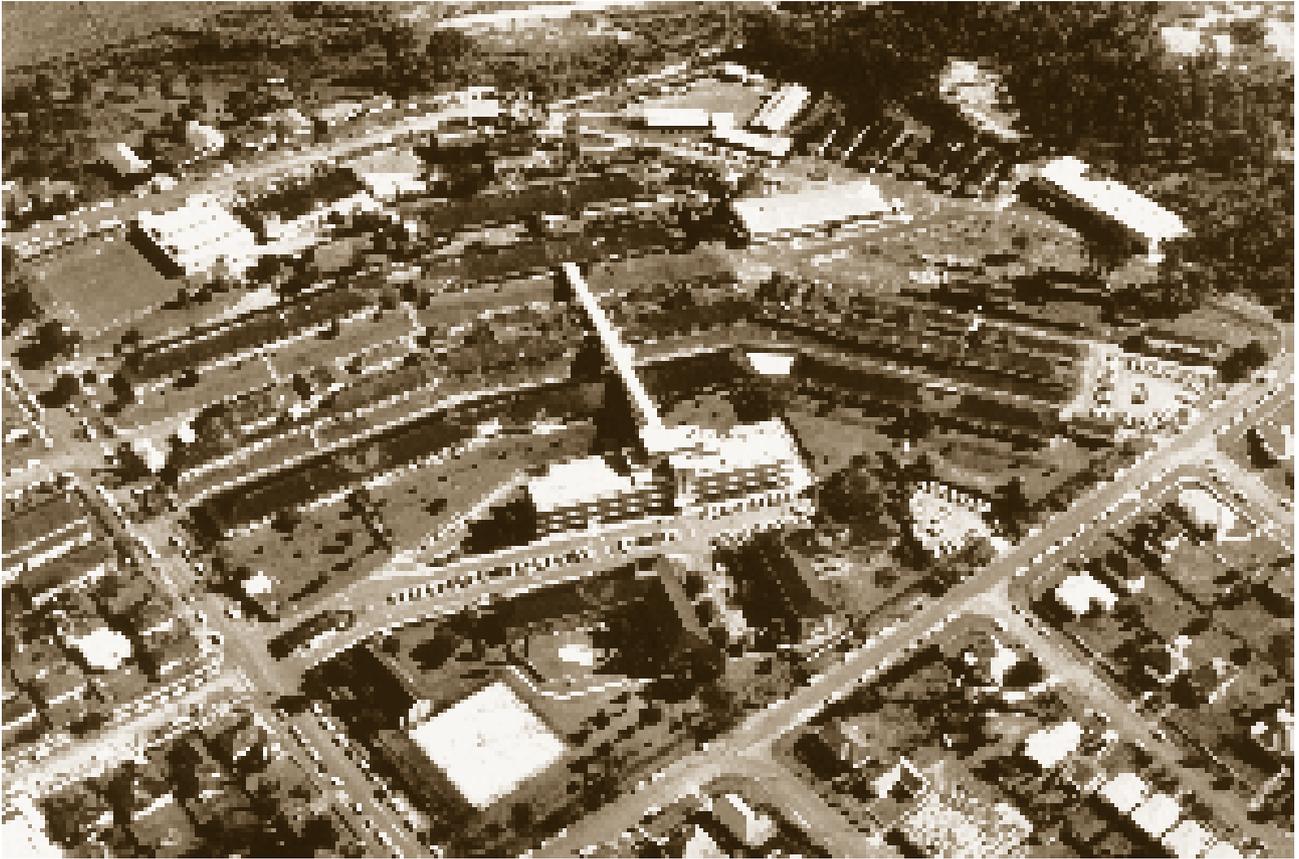
In 1972, The University of Queensland’s Departments of Medicine and Surgery were accommodated in the Clinical Sciences Building, recently vacated by the School of Nursing. The departments were to remain there until a further extension to the administration block provided them with modern accommodation in 1992.



*Professor Richard Gordon,
1990. ⁴⁶*



*Clinical Sciences Block, home of the University
Departments until 1992. ⁴⁷*



Aerial view of RGH Greenslopes, 1972. ⁴⁸

1974

1974 was rather a wet year for Brisbane with the Australia Day flood inundating large areas of the city and suburbs. That year, the Greenslopes hospital introduced diagnostic ultrasound and instigated the service that was to become the Commonwealth Car Transport system. In September 1975, a control centre was established at the hospital with the patient transport requirements of the Repatriation Department being met by a fleet of radio-controlled cars.

In the Brisbane city centre, the Repatriation Commission was keen to move from the old Taxation Building into the new Commonwealth Government Building. Outpatient clinics had been held in the old building, but it was decided to build a new Outpatient Clinic Block at the Greenslopes hospital. The clinic was opened in May 1976 by the Minister for Repatriation, the Honourable K. Newman.

In 1979, "Rosemount", the old repatriation general hospital of World War One fame, closed and its patients were transferred to Wards 17 and 19 at Greenslopes.



*Outpatients Clinic construction, 1974.*⁴⁹



*The new Outpatients Clinic, 1976.*⁵⁰

À AUX HEROS AUSTRALIENS! FRENCH ACCOLADES FOR WW1 DIGGERS

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the Greenslopes hospital treated increasing numbers of World War One veterans before their health finally failed them and they slipped away. One veteran was the last surviving Australian resident pilot to have flown the famous World War One fighter aircraft, the Sopwith Camel. He recalled attaching steel armour plate to the belly of the machine (to protect the pilot from ground-based fire) and going on strafing runs along enemy trenches. The aircraft involved in these actions were known to the Australians as “sharks”, no doubt because of the similarity they had to sharks cruising off Australian beaches looking for a meal. Another patient had been an airship mechanic. Another, in the Light Horse, was part of General Allenby’s bodyguard when he led his forces into Jerusalem – the first Christian soldiers to enter the Holy City since the Crusades. Many of them had fought in the desperate battle at Villers-Bretonneux in 1918 when four Australian divisions prevented the Germans capturing the vital rail centre of Amiens. The Bishop of Amiens said that the Australians were the “Greatest army in the history of the world”. Later the French Marshall, Ferdinand Foch, said to them: “You saved France. You saved civilisation”. There are very few of them left now, but these were typical of the servicemen who had spread Australia’s fame around the world.



*Australian gas casualties await treatment
in a field outside Villers-Bretonneux,
April 1918.⁵¹*

Greenslopes Hospital 1912-2012

1980

THE NEW MULTISTOREY WING. OLD SPIRIT GOES OUT THE WINDOW

It had long been apparent that the hospital required more space with more up-to-date facilities. A new high-rise block had been suggested as far back as the 1960s. Finally, in December 1974, the Minister for Repatriation and Compensation, Senator the Honourable John Wheeldon, announced that a modern \$11.5 million ward block would be built on the site occupied by Wards 12 and 13. The medical superintendent, Dr W. Exton, suggested the design – based on the Scottish Falkirk Hospital model. The new high-rise block was built by contractors, McDougall and Ireland. It opened in 1980 and was known as the Multistorey Wing. A modern, air-conditioned building, it was cool in the Brisbane summer and warm in the winter. But many patients felt it lacked the character of the old wards, which had large, floor-to-ceiling windows (French doors) that opened wards to the outside. Something of the old spirit of Greenslopes, it was thought, was lost in the modernisation.



Multistorey Wing construction, 1980.⁵²



The new Multistorey Wing.⁵³

The last nurses' graduation ceremony at Greenslopes hospital took place in 1988, after which nursing became a tertiary degree course based in universities. Student nurses from several universities now visit the hospital for their practical training. 1988 also saw the opening of the Social Services complex.



Final Nurse Graduation Ceremony, Repatriation General Hospital Greenslopes, 1988. ⁴³

PRIVATE CARE FOR VETERANS AT GREENSLOPES

By the late-1980s, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) found its national system of repatriation hospitals had become very expensive to maintain and was looking for a more efficient and effective method of meeting its commitment to provide quality veterans' health care. Over the next few years, several options for the future of Repatriation General Hospital, Greenslopes, were explored.

One was for the Queensland Government to absorb the hospital into the state system, as was done in New South Wales where Concord repatriation hospital became part of the government's Westmead Hospital Group. Another option was for the hospital site be subdivided into housing blocks and sold – as was the intention in the 1930s. War veterans would be cared for in several existing private hospitals in Brisbane.

A committee of The Returned Services League (RSL) and DVA representatives engaged in vigorous debate about the future of RGH Greenslopes.

Representing the RSL were 'Digger' James AO, J.C. (Sam) Jordon AO, and the vice-president of the Queensland RSL, Cyril Gilbert. According to Mr Gilbert, the RSL's initial preference was for the hospital to be absorbed into the state system – the model in all other States except Western Australia. However, after the Queensland Government indicated that it was not interested in taking over the hospital, the RSL endorsed the privatisation option.

THE PRIVATISATION AGREEMENT

Greenslopes would continue as a university teaching hospital while the majority of its clientele would continue to be veterans. This arrangement would keep veteran patients together in a dedicated hospital where their special needs would continue to be met, following a tradition that went back more than half a century. The significant difference being that Greenslopes would become a privately owned hospital – the first private teaching hospital in Australia.

The successful tenderer for privatisation contract was Ramsay Health Care, which assumed responsibility for the hospital on 24 January 1995. Under the ten-year contract between Ramsay Health Care and the DVA, the hospital would become Queensland's first Tier One facility for veteran patients, which meant veterans would not require DVA approval to be treated at the hospital. Under the contract, Ramsay Health Care would retain many of the unique features existing at the hospital, such as special veterans services, outpatient clinics, and university teaching. The DVA would continue to partly fund the cost of teaching and research.



*Signing of the privatisation agreement. From left to right:
Keith Lyon, Deputy President Repatriation Commission (seated);
Richard Bear, Sales Process Manager; Robert Glynn, GPH General
Manager (standing); Paul Ramsay, Ramsay Health Care Chairman.*

RAMSAY HEALTH CARE

Ramsay Health Care, one of Australia's largest private hospital operators, was founded by Paul Ramsay in 1964. A year prior to taking over the RGH Greenslopes, Ramsay Health Care had successfully privatised Hollywood Hospital in Perth – also formerly a repatriation hospital. Ramsay Health Care's success in maintaining high standards of patient care under the efficiencies of a private system is widely acknowledged.

The RSL, ever watchful in the defence of veterans' interests, has been very satisfied with the new arrangements. Regular meetings of hospital administrators and ex-service organisations are held to address any problems that arise. Ramsay Health Care is mindful of the service veteran character and spirit of the Hospital. New wards have been named after veterans (Keith Payne Unit and the Florence Syer Unit). A special memorial has been built to host the annual Anzac Day dawn ceremony. Veterans' fears that the hospital's privatisation would mean the end of the special care that they had been receiving were not realised.

Though the Hospital has been privately operated since 1995, veterans continue make up a large proportion of the total patients and many veterans still consider the hospital as theirs. This is borne out by the experience of Robert Glynn, first general manager of the privatised hospital. He recalls being astonished when, at the first indication of cool weather, veterans would arrive at the hospital's front door with their luggage and declare: "I am here for winter".



*Visitors to the opening of the
Hall of Remembrance, 1996. ⁵⁶*



Anzac Day dawn service. ⁵⁷



A young supporter at an Anzac Day service. ⁵⁸

NEW FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Ramsay Health Care has continued to develop the hospital campus, adding and improving facilities and services. These include the Keith Payne Unit, a 30-bed psychiatric unit opened in 1996; a 40-bed rehabilitation unit (1997); a cardiac catheter laboratory (1997); and the Florence Syer Unit, a 30-bed sub-acute unit (1999).

Prior to 1996, psychiatric inpatient services at Greenslopes were housed in one of the old pavilion ward blocks. Ramsay Health Services built a modern, air-conditioned facility that now provides inpatient, outpatient, and day-hospital services. Opened in 1996, this facility is light and airy with excellent recreation areas. It was named in honour of Warrant Officer Keith Payne.



Ramsay Health Care Chairman, Paul Ramsay, with Keith Payne VC at the opening of the Keith Payne Unit, 1996.⁵⁹



A new 40-bed rehabilitation unit, 1997.⁶⁰

WARRANT OFFICER KEITH PAYNE, VC.

Warrant Officer Keith Payne, VC, was a member of the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam – the most highly decorated Army unit ever to leave Australian shores. On 24 May 1969, a large force of North Vietnamese attacked a South Vietnamese battalion commanded by WO Payne. Although wounded several times, Payne organised a fighting withdrawal and saved the lives of many of his men. In Brisbane in 1970, onboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, Queen Elizabeth presented WO Payne with the Victoria Cross.



*WO Keith Payne, circa 1969.*⁶¹

*Memories of 1912-2012
Hospital*

1998

In 1998, Associate Professor Richard V. Jackson was appointed Head of the Greenslopes Campus of the University of Queensland Southern Clinical School and Head of the Department of Medicine at Greenslopes Private Hospital. He brought with him an international reputation for outstanding research into the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, the mechanism by which the brain controls the stress hormones of the body. Under his guidance, the Neuroendocrine Research Unit continues this research, focusing on patients with muscular dystrophy – a congenital disorder of muscles that also involves dysfunction of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. He and his team have produced valuable insights into the operation of this vital axis of brain and glands.



*Associate Professor
Rick Jackson,
Head, Greenslopes
Campus, University of
Queensland Southern
Clinical School.⁶²*

1999

In 1999, Ramsay Health Services undertook an assessment of patients' needs and hospital resources at the Greenslopes Private Hospital. The assessment found that, among veteran and war widow patients, there were a number who no longer needed the acute care facilities of the teaching hospital, but were not well enough to be discharged. Finding places in nursing homes for these patients often took quite some time – as they already had accommodation in a care facility, nursing homes gave a higher priority to accommodating people who did not. Ramsay Health Services decided to recommission one of the pavilion wards as a step-down, or interim ward. Staff would provide general care; general practitioners would attend to ward residents' medical needs, as is the practice in nursing homes off campus.

The refurbished and recommissioned unit was opened on 6 June 1999 and named the Florence Syer Unit. Mrs Syer (nee Trotter) was present at the opening ceremony. The naming of the ward commemorates her remarkable war service.



Florence Syer & Barbara Phillips NUM at the opening of The Florence Syer Unit, 1999.⁶³

FLORENCE SYER (NEE TROTTER)

In 1942, Sister Florence Trotter, AANS, then in her mid-twenties, was one of sixty-four nurses evacuated on the *SS Vyner Brooke* from Singapore before the island fell to the Japanese. The ship was bombed and sunk off the southeast coast of Sumatra by Japanese aircraft. Eleven nurses were killed. Sister Trotter stayed in the water for eighteen hours before being captured and interned by the Japanese.

One group made it ashore. The Japanese separated the nurses from the group, drove them back into the sea and opened fire on them with machine guns. (Sister Vivian Bullwinkle was the only nurse in the group to survive.)

Mrs Syer died in Greenslopes Private Hospital in July 2002 at the age of 86.



*Sister Trotter
(Florence Syer) AANS,
World War II. ⁶⁴*



*Florence Syer before her
death in 2002. ⁶⁵*

Greenslopes Hospital 1942-2002

MAJOR CARDIAC FACILITY

In 1999, the range of new services Ramsay Health Care introduced included cardiac surgery. Until then, veteran patients needing cardiac surgery had to be treated elsewhere. The introduction of cardiac surgery positions Greenslopes Private Hospital as the major provider of cardiology services on Brisbane's southside.



*Cardiac surgery unit.*⁶⁶



*Catheterisation laboratory unit.*⁶⁷

2002

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST PRIVATE HOSPITAL

In 2001, with 437 beds, Greenslopes was the largest private hospital in Queensland. The multistorey wing, the main accommodation area of the Hospital, was shared by veterans and private patients. With increasing demand for private hospital accommodation in Brisbane, it was essential that the state's largest private hospital move towards meeting this demand.



Panorama of the new development under construction, viewed from Newdegate St, at time of printing.⁶⁸

In December 2001, the Board of Ramsay Health Care approved the most significant new development on the campus since the multistorey wing was built in 1974. The new facility brings the total number of beds to 527, making Greenslopes Private Hospital the largest private hospital in Australia. Within the new facility are ninety private rooms, four operating theatres, and thirty-two onsite medical consulting suites. Construction began in early 2002 under the direction of John Hollands Pty Ltd, with the opening scheduled for March 2003.



LEST WE FORGET

Though the proportion of veterans in the Greenslopes Private Hospital's patient population is likely to decline as aging takes its toll, the spirit of Australia's serving men and women remains an indelible part of the hospital's heritage. They will forever be remembered for their heroic contributions to defending Australia, and for writing important chapters in the nation's history – of which the Greenslopes hospital is proud to be a part.



Greenslopes Hospital 1912-2012

GLOSSARY

ACH	<i>Australian Camp Hospital</i>
AAMC	<i>Australian Army Medical Corps</i>
AANS	<i>Australian Army Nursing Service</i>
AAMWS	<i>Australian Army Medical Women's Service</i>
AGH	<i>Australian General Hospital</i>
AIF	<i>Australian Imperial Force</i>
(B)GMH	<i>(Brisbane) General Military Hospital</i>
NUM	<i>Nurse Unit Manager</i>
RALAC	<i>Repatriation Artificial Limb & Appliance Centre</i>
RGH	<i>Repatriation General Hospital</i>
RSL	<i>Returned Services League</i> <i>– previously the Returned Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen's Imperial League of Australia.</i>
VAD	<i>Voluntary Aid Detachment – later to become the AAMWS</i>

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS



1
Australian War Memorial
P02018.003 - Warsaw, Poland 1939.
German motorised troops reconnoitre the outskirts during the "Blitzkrieg".



6
GPH Archive - *Stephens Hill*, also known as 'Blanket Hill' because "the nurses used to go up there to meet their mates".



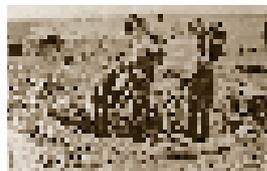
2
GPH Archive - *Looking down Newdegate Street*. On the left, the site of the hospital prior to work commencing, 1940.



7
Australian War Memorial
P02223.001 - *General Tojo proposes a toast at the signing of the Tripartite pact in Tokyo, September 1940.*



3
Rupert Goodman: QLD Nurses, Boer War to Vietnam - *Two members of the VAD & three Nursing Sisters of AANS (with veils) at 112 AGH in the Exhibition Grounds.*



8
Australian War Memorial
041688 - *Australian troops from the 6th Australian Division inspecting Italian fortifications at Bardia, January 1941.*



4
Australian War Memorial
004320 - *Embarkation "G", Australian troops sail for the Middle East - March 1940.*



9
GPH Archive - *Construction of the wards on three terraces.*



5
Australian War Memorial
128183 - *Australian Spitfire pilots of No 452 Squadron RAAF, Kenley Airfield, England.*



10
Australian War Memorial
P02018.035 - *German forces storm into the USSR city of Kharkov, Ukraine, June 1941.*



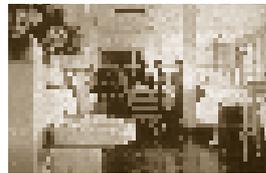
11
Australian War Memorial
H02245 - *A pavilion ward of 6 AGH
Kangaroo Point, in the grounds of
Yungaba, World War One.*



16
Australian War Memorial
042895- *Darwin is bombed, the
munitions ship Neptuna blows up,
February 1942.*



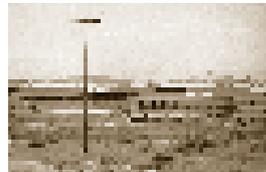
12
Rupert Goodman: QLD Nurses, Boer
War to Vietnam - *Sister Wallace
shakes the hand of the Prime Minister,
Rt. Hon. Robert Menzies, on his visit to
112 AGH at "Yungaba".*



17
GPH Archive - *Patients & nurse in
ward, 1942.*



13
Australian War Memorial
P02886.001 - *Two Japanese Aichi
D3A Navy Type 99 Val bombers from
the Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft
carrier Shokaku.*



18
Australian War Memorial
062471 - *A view of the new Greenslopes
Hospital, circa 1942.*



14
Australian War Memorial
P02018.053 - *Pearl Harbour, Honolulu,
7/12/1941. Flames & black smoke billow
from US battleships West Virginia,
Tennessee, & Arizona, several hours
after the Japanese attack.*



19
GPH Archive - *The new 'light-filled'
wards.*



15
Australian War Memorial
132933 - *Allied POW's in the Selerang
Barracks, Singapore 1942. 17,000
Australian & British troops wear
confined in a small area.*



20
Courier Mail 1942 - *Nurse Edna
Stanley & patient.*



21
Queensland Maritime Museum - *The submarine tender USS Fulton moored at New Farm with at least 3 submarines alongside.*



22
Australian War Memorial
044428 - *Sister Ellen Savage recovering in 112 AGH Greenslopes.*



23
Australian War Memorial
043235 - *Australian Hospital Ship Centaur.*



24
GPH Archive - *The state-of-the-art laundry.*



25
GPH Archive - *The autoclave unit.*



26
GPH Archive - *An example of the simple nurses quarters.*



27
Rupert Goodman: QLD Nurses, Boer War to Vietnam - *Allied nurses at 112 (Brisbane) GMH 1944. Two US nurses at left with three Australians on the right. Sister Alvina Harding is the Australian Army Nurse in the centre.*



28
Australian War Memorial
085384 - *Christmas Day, 1944: Driver D. Dixon entertains staff of 112 (Brisbane) GMH with his ukulele.*



29
GPH Archive - *Nurses quarters viewed from the Administration Building construction, 1944.*



30
GPH Archive - *Main gate, on Newdegate Street, with the newly constructed Administration Building in the background - 1945.*



31
GPH Archive - *The Chapel was unusual in its design as it had alters at both ends of the building, one for Protestant & one for Catholic services - 1944.*



36
GPH Archive - *Sir Laurence Olivier visits RGH Greenslopes April 1948. Another of many well-known entertainers of the 1940s, Gracie Fields, visited Greenslopes in 4th June 1945 to entertain the patients.*



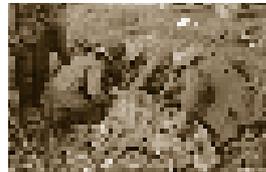
32
Australian War Memorial P00761.012 - *Amputees in a camp hospital on the Burma Railway.*



37
Australian War Memorial P01616.003 - *RAAF Lincoln supporting ground forces in Malaya.*



33
GPH Archive - *An ex-POW of the Japanese recovering in Greenslopes.*



38
Australian War Memorial 146962 - *An Australian Soldier of 3 RAR in Korea, a casualty of shellfire.*



34
GPH Archive - *Patients & nurses on ward verandah.*



39
GPH Archive - *Royal Tour 1954.*



35
GPH Archive - *Patients at Greenslopes being trained in carpentry & joinery.*



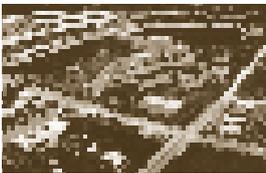
40
GPH Archive - *Viscount Montgomery with nursing staff atRGH Greenslopes.*



41
GPH Archive - *Virginia Paris singing to patients, 1957.*



46
GPH Archive - *Professor Richard Gordon, 1990.*



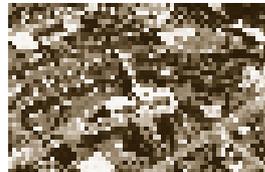
42
GPH Archive - *Aerial view of RGH Greenslopes, circa 1950.*



47
GPH Archive - *Clinical Sciences Block, home of the University Departments until 1992.*



43
Australian War Memorial COL/67/0140/VN - *An Australian soldier, injured in a booby trap explosion in Phuoc Tuy province, Vietnam, is evacuated by helicopter.*



48
GPH Archive - *Aerial view of RGH Greenslopes, 1972.*



44
GPH Archive - *Eight-bed intensive care unit opened in 1968.*



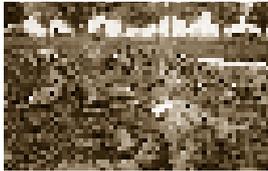
49
GPH Archive - *Outpatients Clinic construction, 1974.*



45
GPH Archive - *Allied Health building, 1968.*



50
GPH Archive - *The new Outpatients Clinic, 1976.*



51
Australian War Memorial
E04851 - Australian gas casualties
await treatment in a field outside
Villers-Bretonneux, April 1918.



56
GPH Archive - Visitors to the opening
of the Hall of Remembrance, 1996.



52
GPH Archive - Multistorey Wing
construction, 1980.



57
GPH Archive - Anzac Day dawn
service.



53
GPH Archive - The new Multistorey
Wing.



58
GPH Archive - A young supporter at an
Anzac Day service.



54
GPH Archive - Final Nurse Graduation
Ceremony, Repatriation General
Hospital Greenslopes, 1988.



59
GPH Archive - Ramsay Health Care
Chairman, Paul Ramsay, with Keith
Payne VC at the opening of the Keith
Payne Unit, 1996.



55
GPH Archive - Signing of privatisation
agreement. L to r: Keith Lyon, Dep. Pres.
Repatriation Commission (seated);
Richard Bear, Sales Process Manager;
Robert Glynn, GPH Gen. Man (standing);
Paul Ramsay, RHC Chairman.



60
GPH Archive - A new 40-bed
rehabilitation unit, 1997.



61
Australian War Memorial
LES/69/0593/VN - WO Keith Payne,
circa 1969.



65
Kindly supplied by Florence Syer's
family - Florence Syer before her death
in 2002.



62
GPH Archive - Associate Professor Rick
Jackson, Head, Greenslopes Campus,
University of Queensland Southern
Clinical School.



66
GPH Archive - Cardiac surgery unit.



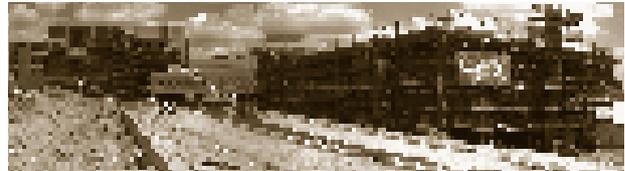
63
Florence Syer & Barbara Phillips NUM
at the opening of The Florence Syer
Unit, 1999.



67
GPH Archive - Catheterisation
laboratory unit.



64
Kindly supplied by Florence Syer's
family - Sister Trotter (Florence Syer)
AANS, World War II.



68
GPH Archive - Panorama of the new development under construction,
viewed from Newdegate St, at time of printing.

A HISTORY OF THE GREENSLOPES HOSPITAL

The story of the Greenslopes hospital is a slice of Australian national history in the 20th century. Since it was opened in the darkest days of World War Two, the hospital has provided a special quality of care and convalescence for the serving and discharged military personnel. Its first patients were servicemen from battlefronts in the Pacific, Europe, and North Africa and the Middle East.

In 1946, the hospital had 900 staff and cared for up to 1,120 patients. Among those returning were men disfigured by the brutality and deprivations of Japanese POW and slave labour camps. The staff at Greenslopes helped to rekindle the faint sparks of life left in their bodies.

Here, many 'Diggers' who served in the legendary World War One battles of Gallipoli, France, and the Holy Land came for treatment in their latter years and spent their final days.

Through Asian conflicts in Malaya, Korea, Vietnam, the Greenslopes hospital continued to expand the range of facilities and services to care for those who, literally, risked life and limb for their country.

Now a private hospital, Greenslopes continues to provide care to veteran service Australian men and women.

In this short history to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the hospital, Dr Chris Strakosch and Dr Carolyn de Wytt, tell how 'Greenslopes', as it is most commonly known to veterans, came to be and how it expanded to meet the demands of the day. The authors both work at Greenslopes and are keen military medicine historians.

GREENSLOPES |
PRIVATE HOSPITAL |

www.gph.ramsayhealth.com.au

Greenslopes Hospital 1946-2012