

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0476

## Penman, Alice Maud

(1918 - 2008)

<b>Born</b>	17 March, 1918, Rockhampton Queensland Australia
<b>Died</b>	2 July, 2008
<b>Occupation</b>	Community worker, Servicewoman

### Summary

President of the Women's Services Sub-Branch of the RSL, Alice Penman served with the Australian Army during World War II. She served in the Middle East as a Voluntary Aid Detachment member and then in Far North Queensland. Penman later served with the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) after the Government of the time decided to distinguish between military and non-military Voluntary Aids.

During the 'Australia Remembers, 1945-1995' celebrations Penman participated in a number of functions emphasizing the work carried out by the Voluntary Aid Detachment Red Cross members.

On 13 June 1993 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to veterans particularly through the Returned & Services League New South Wales and to the Friends of the Northcott Neurological Centre.

## Events

### **1937 - 1937**

Foundation member of the Bathurst Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)

### **1939 - 1939**

An Army Camp established at Bathurst and VADs worked in canteens, sewed a garment a week for the Red Cross, sold buttons and worked in local and camp hospitals

### **1941 - 1941**

Selected to join the Australian Infantry Force (AIF) for service overseas

### **1945 - 1945**

War ended

### **1941 - 1943**

Served with the 2/6 Australian General Hospital at Gaza, Palestine

### **1943 - 1945**

Served in Atherton, North Queensland

### **1946 - 1946**

Joined Women's Services Sub-Branch RSL, and has served in a number of offices including being Women's State Councillor on State Council for 2 years

### **1995 - 1995**

President of the Women's Services Sub-Branch RSL

### **1947 - 1947**

Assistant Commandant at Haberfield VAD

### **1952 - 1952**

Brown Owl of the 2nd Beecroft Brownies

### **1993 - 1993**

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia

### **1995 - 1995**

Organised, with the help of Girl Guides, a memorabilia display at St Ives Shopping Centre as part of the 'Australia Remembers, 1945-1995' celebrations

### **1962 - 1962**

Family moved to Gilgandra, NSW. Joined the Red Cross and Country Women's Association

### **1987 - 1987**

Volunteer at the National Artillery Museum at North Fort. Has dressed two static models, one representing the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), whose members served at the Fort during World War II and the other wearing a VAD uniform

### **1995 - 1995**

Along with a number of other Voluntary Aids from World War II, Alice Penman spoke about her wartime experiences at a commemorative luncheon as part of the 'Australia Remembers, 1945-1995' celebrations

## Published resources

### **Resource Section**

PENMAN, ALICE MAUD, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=186314>

### **Book**

[Collection of poetry from the memorabilia of Alice Penman OAM], 1995

Their sacrifice: Australia remembers 1945 - 1995, Linn, Rob, 1995

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

PENMAN ALICE MAUD : Service Number - NX76505 : Date of birth - 17 Mar 1918 : Place of birth - ROCKHAMPTON QLD : Place of enlistment - Unknown : Next of Kin - BURNS ARTHUR

### Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

Alice Maud Penman née Burns, as a corporal, served Gaza Ridge, Palestine and 2/6th Australia General Hospital, Atherton QLD; interviewed by Edward Stokes for The Keith Murdoch Sound Archive of Australia in the War of 1939-45

Corporal Alice Penman, with Private H. E. (Emily) Lewis

Group portrait of members of the first VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) contingent to travel overseas.

Kilo 89 Camp, Gaza Ridge, Palestine. c. December 1941. The four Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) occupants of Tent No. 9 stand in front of their quarters.

Studio portrait of NX76505 Alice Burns, Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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## Digital resources



**Title:** Corporal Alice Penman with Private H. E. (Emily) Lewis

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023



**Title:** AWE0529ga.jpg

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023