

## Book review

### *100 years New Zealand military nursing: New Zealand Army nursing service: Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps, 1915-2015*

by Sherayl McNabb

Reviewed by Dr Gay Williams.

As a registered nurse myself, with an aunt a prisoner in Changi, Singapore during WW2, I welcomed the opportunity to review this amazing book.

This is a big book in many ways – 500 pages, 390 images and probably not easy to read in bed!

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps, wrote the Foreword, acknowledging 2015 marks the centenary of military nursing in New Zealand.

I was surprised to read about just how many wars the New Zealand Army Nursing Services had been involved with. It started with the Boer War, through WW1, WW2, Vietnam, and many active and peace keeping roles in the Gulf War, Rwanda, Bougainville, East Timor, and Afghanistan.

The author, Sherayl McNabb, co-authored a first book on the history of the Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps

25 years ago. Her commitment to bringing this history up-to-date is truly commendable.

Sherayl outlines the struggle by nurses to care for soldiers in war, where there are often greater losses from sickness and disease than from the soldiers' wounds.

Sherayl begins the book with the role of Florence Nightingale in the 1850s and nurses from the Crimea who made New Zealand their home, through to the Royal Nursing Corps in 2015.

It is important to remember that New Zealand was the first country in the world to have a full Nurses Registration Act in 1901 – a proud follow-up of our leadership in the world women's suffrage movement.

I cannot do justice to this excellent record of interest to many of us with nursing links in our families.

It is a great read, and during this time we are commemorating WW1 a wonderful addition to our Library resources.

This book is also available from the author.

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<http://www.nzans.org/2015-100yrs/Orderform.pdf>.

