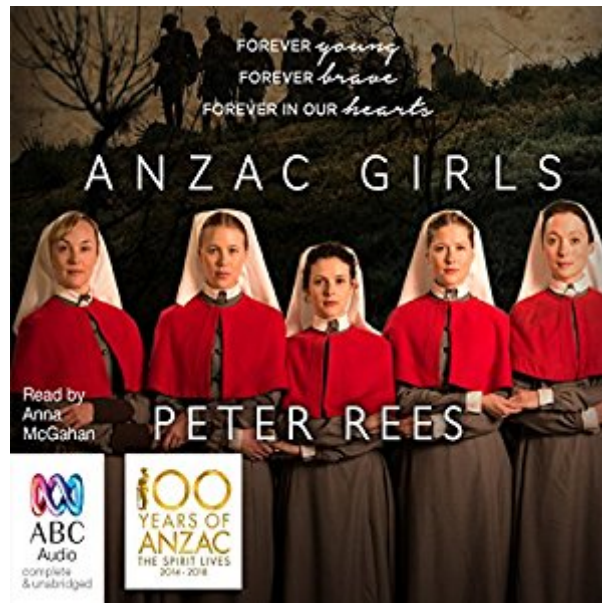




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Anzac Girls: The Extraordinary Story Of Our World War I Nurses



Synopsis

The harrowing, dramatic and profoundly moving story of the Australian and New Zealand nurses who served in the Great War. Now a major six-part television series. By the end of the Great War, 45 Australian and New Zealand nurses had died on overseas service and over 200 had been decorated. These were the women who left for war looking for adventure and romance but were soon confronted with challenges for which their civilian lives could never have prepared them. Their strength and dignity were remarkable. Using diaries and letters, Peter Rees takes us into the hospital camps and the wards, and the tent surgeries on the edge of some of the most horrific battlefronts of human history. But he also allows the friendships and loves of these courageous and compassionate women to shine through and enrich our experience. Profoundly moving, *Anzac Girls* is a story of extraordinary courage and humanity shown by a group of women whose contribution to the Anzac legend has barely been recognised in our history. Peter Rees has changed that understanding forever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The story deserves ten points. The writing is about as dry and methodical as it can get. Still, I give the author credit for realizing how important it is for people to know about the amazing heroism of the Australian and New Zealand nurses serving during World War I. What these women did for the injured and dying soldiers with very few comforts and very little equipment is unbelievable. Not only did they nurse the bodies, they did their best to help with psychological healing. Those injured soldiers were not bandaged and sent home. They were patched up, if possible, and sent back to the

trenches. Sometimes three, four, or five times. And the dangers. I don't want to give anything away, but there were ships blown apart by German submarines and nurses working in hospitals while bombs were bursting around them. Nurses also suffered from post traumatic stress disorder. This book is tremendously interesting and I hope that it gets the reading audience it deserves.

This book is such an accurate record of the true story of World War I, told through the eyes & the diaries of our wonderful Australian nurses. The conditions under which they worked & lived is beyond our imagination. I do not understand War. One minute both sides are hacking each other to pieces. Then now & again they all have a break to drag the wounded in & bury the dead - exchange stories between sides & even maybe have a game of cricket against each other. After they have mutilated one another some badly injured enemies are taken prisoner & the nurses have the extra task of nursing them back to health - even though the original aim was to kill them! As with our soldiers how the nurses were able to return to resume their lives in Australia & New Zealand, carry on as normal, raise a family etc. is beyond me. This book should be a "must read" for all of us in particular the younger generation - to somehow help stopping this ever happening again. Of course the lesson has never been learnt - we are still seeing the senseless destruction of life throughout the world..

The "re-badged" book that the Australian A.B.C. series was based on. I enjoyed the read despite the hard going material it covered. A great overview of the contribution and sacrifices made by both New Zealand and Australian Army and other Volunteer Nurse's. I was impressed with the significant research the Author has conducted. The story extracted from the Nurse's Diaries really does appear to give a very personal perspective to the 'Great War' as they experienced it. Yet at the same time providing a great companion to many of the other modern Australasian histories and stories that have been told of the period. Both corroborating various accounts of many of the major battles and players of ANZAC in the time. At the same time however providing a fresh aspect on some of these well known actions and their participant's at the personal level. Pulling no punches and 're-refreshing' our 'official' memories regards terrible mistakes, incidents and treatment of both ANZAC / Volunteer Nurses and soldiers alike. An important story both well worth telling and reading. One I'd like to think the children of ANZAC know better than we expect, appreciating the brave contribution and sacrifice of these wonderful women. Pioneering both a history and a legacy that has prevailed well past their own era and has been passed right on to today ! If your after a glimpse into the world of ANZAC Nursing in World War One this is a good book for you :) Thanks to Peter

and the team.

A superbly crafted and respectful book that brings together personal accounts from letters and diaries, formal histories, family histories, and a very skilled author to tie it all together. You should not read this book because the author has done such a good job of it, but because it rightly honours those who earned the respect of all, and does not flinch from the 'hard parts of history' including skilfully handling the cold truth that when the war is won, for those who served and their families the pain and suffering does not magically end. Of such deeds was the ANZAC legend born, and an entire profession cemented forever on the path Nightingale set. There are important lessons here as well, set out on the pages waiting to be read, but from the words of the nurses rather than the author, which make this book very relevant to modern conflicts despite the significant improvements in medicine and changes to the shape of war. For all the things we have learned, at times it seems our politicians and the general public are determined to learn nothing. So read this book; whether for the personal and deeply moving stories within, the powerful insights into control and power between medicine and nursing, gender stereotyping, war and its consequences, follies of commanders and politicians, or more, just read it. We will remember them, Our Sisters too. L Lillian Captain (ret'd), NZ Army, Registered Nurse.

An astounding history of people who persevered through a remarkable time. Their simple, humble heroism and sense of duty, told through their own words is masterfully woven into a compelling narrative. Gives you a real insight into these women and their times. Couldn't put it down, thought some of the chapters were the stuff of nightmares. The true story of these real-life heroines makes one's life seem insignificant in comparison - though I doubt they'd have seen it that way.

I loved this book. All Australian and New Zealanders should read this book to understand what a horrendous time those awesome nurses went through during WW1. The conditions that they gallantly worked under is awe inspiring. Although we've learned about the Great War over the years this account of the Anzac nurses really brings it home how it really was. Be prepared to be sad, horrified and weepy. Highly recommended

A real eye opener. Saw the series on the ABC and enjoyed it, the book was even better.

Wonderful book! I seen the miniseries and knew I wanted more in depth look at these brave,

courageous women's lives. It's a story you will not soon forget.

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