

FRASER, Norma Joan (WAAAF 96730)



Name	FRASER, Norma Joan Aircraftwoman
Service Number	96730
Date of Birth	20th February 1924
Place of Birth	Unley SA
Resident	Adelaide SA
Cemetery	N/A

Image 1 © rslvictorharbor.com.au 2011
Studio portrait of Norma Joan FRASER, the original photograph was damaged the restored was covered by a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Norma was born at Unley on 20 February 1924, the third child of Norman Symon Albert FRASER and Lisette Dorothy FRASER (nee Brookes). In 1934 the family moved from Hamley Bridge and took up new farming land in the Waitpinga area. She attended school in Victor Harbor and attained her Intermediate Certificate and studied four Leaving subjects before commencing work at General Motors-Holden, Woodville as a Schedule Control Clerk on the munitions production line.

Norma enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) on 22 June 1942 at the age of 18, having previously registered with the Women's Voluntary National Register. She underwent her basic training at No 4 Initial Training School (ITS) at Mt Breckan, Victor Harbor where she was mustered as a trainee radio operator to attend a six-week course at No 1 Radio School at Richmond, Victoria. On completion of her training, Norma was given a five-month posting to Headquarters, Southern Area, Melbourne.

On 30 April 1943, Norma was re-mustered to Radio Direction Finding (RDF) station duties, as a radar operator, initially at Dolans Bay, NSW for six months and then at Swansea, NSW for 15 months. Norma was then posted to No 3 Air Observer School (AOS) at Port Pirie as one of a number WAAAF's stationed there. The girls were paid two-thirds the rate of pay of their male counterparts. They worked hard, often under trying conditions and in doing so, made a valuable contribution to the war effort.

In early 1945, after having served almost three years as a WAAAF, Norma applied to be discharged to resume a civil occupation at Parkwynd Private Hospital, Adelaide as a trainee nurse. She was demobilised on 14 March 1945. She married John Ayers Skinner (R/N SX25787 Sapper, 2/14 Field Company, enlisted 12 Aug 1942, who was demobilised on the 23 Apr 1946). The marriage produced three children. By May 1946 she continued her nursing career. Norma lives in retirement in Adelaide.

References:

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Compiled by the Victor Harbor RSL History Research Team, July, 2011. Updated by T. Young
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Appendix



National Archives of Australia

NAA: A9301, 96730

Image 2 © vwm.org.au 2026
Enlistment day photograph



Image 3 © awm.gov.au 2026
Enlistment poster for the WAAAF.