

“Fighting For It”- Teacher Notes

Pa: “*She was a strong woman, your Nanna, always fighting for it. For what she believed*”.

The major themes of the play – “*Fighting For It*”:

- The fighting of a “Just War”.
- The eagerness to “Do my bit”.
- Women in “Men’s” jobs. The changing role of women in society. The evolution of women’s rights.
- The hatred and fear of the Japanese.
- The changing relationship with allies: Australia’s switch from England to America as key defensive ally.
- The Australian male’s resentment of the Yanks – ‘*Over paid, over sexed and over here!*’
- Loss of Innocence – the horrific attacks on civilians, the monumental loss of civilian lives. The unique atrocities of WW2.
- The wartime use of atomic weapons.
- The nature of forgiveness and the letting go of hatred.
- The loss of loved ones and the grief that follows.



Many Australians felt that WW2 was a “Just War” and that Australian’s were fighting for a rightful cause. Newspapers had been reporting on Japanese atrocities committed in China, the rise of fascism in Spain and Italy and the militaristic ambitions of Hitler’s National Socialist government in Germany.

- a) Discuss what is meant by the term “A Just War”.
- b) What does the word “fascist” mean?
- c) Who were the fascist leaders of Europe at the outbreak of War?
- d) Why did England declare war on Germany?
- e) Why did Australia declare war on Germany?
- f) Why did Australian’s volunteer to fight in WW2?
- g) What was the “Rape of Nanking”?
- h) How did the reporting of these events in Nanking influence the attitude of the average Australian toward the Japanese?
- i) What events led to the declaration of war on Japan?



The Australian Declaration of War, 1939.

'It is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that in consequence of a persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her and that, as a result, Australia is also at war'.

– Prime Minister Robert Menzies

Listen: <http://aso.gov.au/titles/radio/menzies-speech-declaration-war/clip1/>

Read: <http://www-958.ibm.com/software/analytics/maneyeyes/datasets/robert-menzies-declaration-of-war/versions/1.txt>

The following is a further excerpt from Robert Menzies' declaration:

"The history of recent months in Europe has been an eventful one. It will exhibit to the eyes of the future student some of the most remarkable instances of a ruthlessness and indifference to common humanity which the darkest centuries of European history can scarcely parallel. Moreover, it will, I believe, demonstrate that the leader of Germany has, for a long time, steadily pursued a policy which was deliberately designed to produce either war or a subjugation of one non-German country after another by the threat of war".

- a) What did Menzies mean by "...ruthlessness and indifference to common humanity which the darkest centuries of European history can scarcely parallel..."?
- b) What can you tell, from this speech, about the threat Germany posed in Europe?

Reserved occupations:

Pa: *"I walked into to Collinsville to enlist but I was told to "BUGGER ORF!" It was because I was a coal miner. I tried again in Townsville. But I was told. "Coal mining is essential to the war effort. BUGGER ORF!"*

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/homefront/reserved_occupations/

- a) Although Grandad was keen to enlist he could not because he was coal miner. Why could coal miners not enlist?
- b) What other industries were not allowed to enlist?
- c) The Australian *Manpower Regulations* had what powers?



Women do the “Men’s Jobs”.

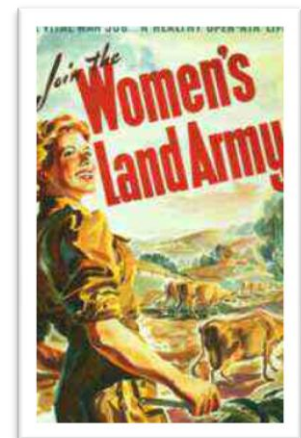
"I do not think that flying - either commercial or for defence - is a part of a woman's normal role. This heavy and arduous work must remain part of a man's domain". – The Australian Minister for Defence.

<http://www.ozatwar.com/civilian/awfc.htm>

- a) Why did women work during WW2?
- b) What changes did work bring to the lives of individual women?
- c) What was the impact, in Australia, of women working?
- d) How did women working in WW2 help to change the perceived role of women in Australian society?
- e) Do you believe that WW2 has impacted on women’s role in society today?

"If women are allowed to wear trousers and do men’s jobs they will turn mannish and lose their moral fibre, they’ll be so changed by the experience that they will not be able to settle down, after the war and become wives and mothers".- Major Newspaper 1942.

- f) Why does the author of this article think that women will lose their “moral fibre” if they “do men’s jobs”?
- g) What does this article tell you about the prevailing attitudes of 1942 Australian society toward the role of women?
- h) During WW2 women joined all sections of Australia’s defence forces. What were the names given to women’s branches of the army, navy and airforce?
- i) What jobs in essential industries did women fill?
- j) What was the Women’s Land Army?



Training

Pa: *“Men of 1 battalion, welcome to Dubbo Army Camp. In addition to a uniform, the defence department will provide you with, the following free issue:*

Two singlets. Two pairs socks. Two pairs underpants. Two towels. The following articles will not be provided by the defence department. You will need to procure

them; Hair brush. Comb. Tooth brush. Shaving brush. Razor. Razor strap. Piece of soap. Shaving soap. Tooth paste. Pair of braces and belt. Cardigan, jersey or sweater and one pair of light shoes”.

Pa was a trainer at Dubbo army camp, where he trained the 2/1 and the 2/2 Pioneer Battalions

http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11400.asp - 2/1st

- a) Research and outline the life of a soldier from the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion. Include their training and where they would have served.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

NOTICE TO RECRUITS.

A.A.F. Mob. 31.
A 11-4
34 2- NOV 1940
WOLLONGONG

Wollongong (Place)
1. 11. 40 (Date)

Surname Jarvis

Other names in full Francis Jarvis

You will report to Adjutant 3rd Bn (Name or appointment)
at Quill Hall Wollongong (Place)
on 17. 11. 40 at 7 am. (Date and time)

prepared to proceed to a Camp of Continuous Training at Sugawanna
for a period of three months.

On entering camp you will receive a free issue of the following articles, in addition to uniform —

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Two singlets. | Two pairs socks. |
| Two pairs underpants. | Two towels. |

When uniform is issued to you arrangements will be made for the return of your plain clothes to your home.

The following articles will not be provided by the Defence Department, and if you are in possession of them you should bring them with you —

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Hair brush. | Piece of soap. |
| Comb. | Shaving soap. |
| Tooth brush. | Tooth paste. |
| Shaving brush. | Pair of braces or belt. |
| Razor. | Cardigan, jersey, or sweater. |
| Razor strap (if required). | One pair sand shoes or light shoes. |
| Small padlock and key (for kit bag when issued). | |

For your own comfort and convenience you are further advised to bring knife, fork, spoon, plates and drinking cup into camp. These will be issued in due course and your own property can be returned with your own private clothing.

REMARKS.

Bring hot Lunch

[Signature] Captain (Signature and Rank)
Area Officer 34 Wollongong

2- NOV 1940 (Appointment)

Defence Press, Sydney.

POW

Nanna: *"My Dearest, wonderful news, NORMAN IS ALIVE! The most wonderful news. We don't know much more than that. BUT HE IS ALIVE. The Red Cross sent dad a telegram saying; Japanese radio in Singapore, had broadcast his name. We think he might be in Changi or perhaps Burma. Dad is so relieved. I think the worry was making him ill. I could just scream with joy"*.

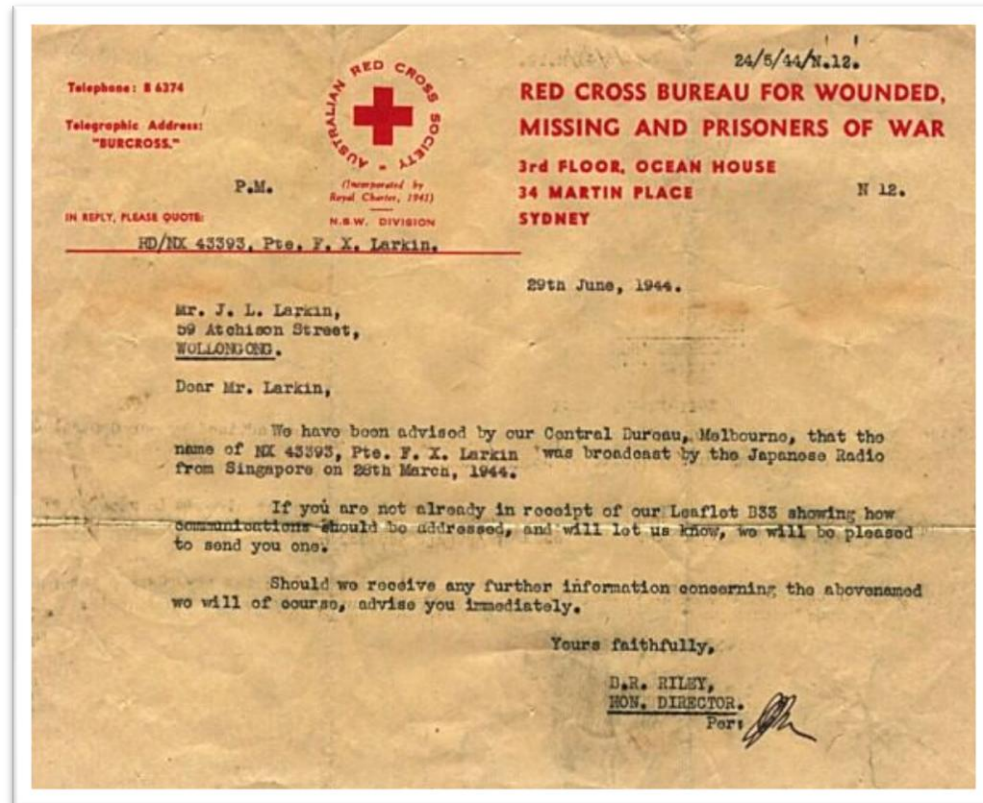
- a) What does P.O.W stand for?
- b) What impact did the Japanese capture of Singapore have on Australia?
- c) How many Australian men were captured at Singapore?
- d) Where were these men initially imprisoned?
- e) Describe the conditions at Changi Jail.
- f) What does this drawing represent?



- g) What other initiatives did the POW's take to improve the conditions and their experiences at Changi?
- h) What was the Burma railroad?
- i) How many men died to build this railroad?
- j) What did the men die of?
- k) What were some of the brutalities and tortures used by the Japanese on the POWs?
- l) There are war memorials to these soldiers in Thailand, Malaysia and Burma – name two and write a paragraph about each.

Red Cross

- a) What is the International Red Cross?
- b) What did the Red Cross do during WW2?



The Yanks

<http://deborahburrows.com.au/tag/world-war-2/>

Joy Boucher, aircraft construction worker, Sydney: *"The first thing you noticed when you met an American, was their manner. They had very good manners with women. A woman likes to be spoken to properly, and naturally when they were treated so well by the Americans, the reaction was quite profound. Almost everyone went out with some Americans, because they were just everywhere and we had no Australians to dance with".*

- a) Along with financial independence some Australian women discovered a new empowerment through relationships with Americans. Why were some Australian women so seemingly impressed with the Yanks?
- b) The next image is a propaganda picture from the Japanese. It plays on fears the Australian soldier may have, that while he is fighting in the Pacific, back home, the Yanks are playing up with his women. How true was this fear?



- c) What was the “Battle of Brisbane”?
- d) Although there was tension and fights between the Yanks and the Aussies, in general they got on and held a great respect for each other. True or false. Please discuss your answer with evidence.
 - 1) <http://www.ww2australia.gov.au/allin/yanksdownunder.html>
 - 2) <http://ergo.slv.vic.gov.au/explore-history/australia-wwii/home-wii/americans-australia>
- e) What is the story of the Australian war brides?
- f) *“If it wasn’t for the Yanks we’d all be speaking Japanese!”* Was a common sentiment after WW2. Is it True or false. Please discuss your answer with evidence.
- g) Why was Australia so important to the Americans?
- h) How did WW2 change the nature of Australia’s defensive strategies?

The war crimes, atrocities and barbarism of WW2

- a) What are the defining atrocities of WW2?
- b) In what way do these atrocities differ to previous wars?
- c) How was it possible that Germany, a civilised nation, attempted genocide on the scale of the Holocaust?
- d) What has been the impact of the Holocaust on the modern world?

- e) Did the Japanese commit war crimes and atrocities during WW2? Argue with evidence.
- f) Did the allied forces commit atrocities during WW2? Answer with evidence.

Suicide as a Weapon of War

Pa: *"...the Japs were suicidal. Madness! Wave after wave of Banzai charges. Straight into our guns. Ten thousand years! That's what Banzai means".*

- a) What is a 'Banzai charge'?
- b) What is a Kamikaze?
- c) What is Hara-Kiri?
- d) What is the Bushido code of the Samurai?
- e) There were mass Japanese civilian suicides on the island of Saipan as the American's invaded? Why did ordinary Japanese men and women throw their children off the island's cliffs and then jump after them, to their deaths?

2/25th Infantry Battalion

Pa: *"My request to transfer to a fighting unit was finally approved. A crack battalion in the 7th Division A.I.F. boyo, the 2nd/25th infantry battalion. I couldn't believe my luck to be a part of such a famous battalion, in fact, the most decorated battalion in the 2nd A.I.F".*

- a) Research the story of this battalion. Where did it serve and why is it so famous?
- b) The 2/25th fought in the final major Australian campaign of the war - The battle of Balikpapan. Research this battle.
- c) Why was the Australian invasion of Borneo contentious? Why did many Australian soldiers feel their lives were being thrown away?

http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11276.asp

Attacks on Australia

- a) Australia was bombed and attacked several times during the war.



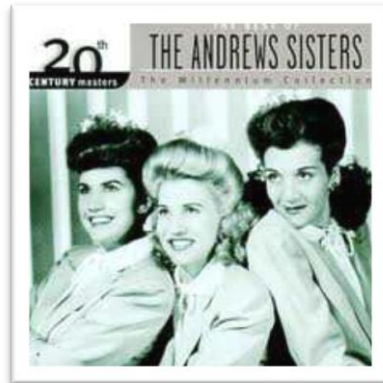
Choose one of the following incidents and write a paragraph describing what happened.

- 1) Midget submarines invade Sydney Harbour. (Pictured above: A midget submarine is retrieved from the harbour. The ferry - HMAS Kuttabul - lies sunk in the harbour.)
- 2) Darwin is bombed.
- 3) Townsville is bombed.
- 4) Australian shipping is torpedoed along the east coast.

The Music of WW2

Eileen: *"The Yanks brought more than money and lashings of charm. They also brought new music. There was swing and jive and jazz. It was fabulous!"*

Go onto *You Tube* and listen to five American songs from WW2.



- a) How were these songs different from the music of pre-war Australia?
- b) What impact did this music have on Australia?
- c) What musical influence did the African-American soldier bring to Australia?

Essay or Discussion

Discuss: Before WW2 Australia looked to England and Europe for its social, cultural and political perspectives. After the war Australia looked to America.

The Atomic Bomb.

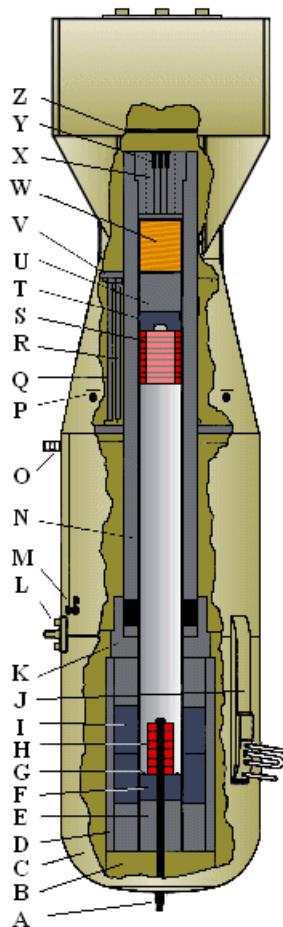
"It is an atomic bomb. It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East". – President Truman. August 6. 1945.

Read: <http://www.cddc.vt.edu/host/atomic/hiroshim/truman1.html>

Watch – You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN_UJJ9ObDs

- a) Who was Robert Oppenheimer?
- b) What was the 'Manhattan Project'?
- c) What was 'The Trinity test'? - <http://www.abomb1.org/trinity/trinity1.html>
- d) What was 'Little Boy'?
- e) What was 'Fat Man'?
- f) What was the name of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress that dropped 'Little Boy' on Hiroshima?
- g) Colonel Paul Tibbets named the aircraft after his mother. Who was Colonel Tibbets?

- h) The picture is 'Little Boy'. Find a picture of 'Fat Man'. Write down any differences that you can see between the bombs.



Cross-section drawing of Y-1852 Little Boy showing major mechanical component placement. Drawing is shown to scale. Numbers in () indicate quantity of identical components. Not shown are the APS-13 radar units, clock box with pullout wires, baro switches and tubing, batteries, and electrical wiring. (John Coster-Mullen)

- Z) Armor Plate
- Y) Mark XV electric gun primers (3)
- X) Gun breech with removable inner plug
- W) Cordite powder bags (4)
- V) Gun tube reinforcing sleeve
- U) Projectile steel back
- T) Projectile Tungsten-Carbide disk
- S) U-235 projectile rings (9)
- R) Alignment rod (3)
- Q) Armored tube containing primer wiring (3)
- P) Baro ports (8)
- O) Electrical plugs (3)
- N) 6.5" bore gun tube
- M) Safing/arming plugs (3)
- L) Lift lug
- K) Target case gun tube adapter
- J) Yagi antenna assembly (4)
- I) Four-section 13" diameter Tungsten-Carbide tamper cylinder sleeve
- H) U-235 target rings (6)
- G) Polonium-Beryllium initiators (4)
- F) Tungsten-Carbide tamper plug
- E) Impact absorbing anvil
- D) K-46 steel target liner sleeve
- C) Target case forging
- B) 15" diameter steel nose plug forging
- A) Front nose locknut attached to 1" diameter main steel rod holding target components

"Atom Bombs: The Top Secret Inside Story of Little Boy and Fat Man," 2003, p 112.
John Coster-Mullen drawing used with permission

- i) The bombs are different to each other in the way they work. See if you can find any information about these bombs explaining how they work and how they are different.

The Effects of the Bombs

Images of Hiroshima - http://www.google.com.au/search?qs_rn=23&gs_ri=psy-ab&pg=hiroshime&cp=8&gs_id=gh&xhr=t&q=hiroshima&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&bvm=bv.50165853,d.dGl&biw=1536&bih=762&bs=1&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hl=en&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=b8f9Ua74Dcy7kQXO8YDQAq

Pa: "I'll always remember that first day, marching into Hiroshima, nothing was left, not a single building. Rubble as far as the eye could see. Absolutely nothing standing except one burnt out dome. The Genbaku Dome. It's still there, you know, a reminder. We couldn't believe it. One bomb. One bomb had done that!" (Picture of Genbaku Dome below)

You Tube – Hiroshima & Nagasaki:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go55bCfntNQ>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6t0lpDN-jg>

Injuries to civilians - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebenWAmjcCY>

- a) Who are the 'Hibakusha'?
- b) Choose one survivor – Hibakusha - and write a short story describing what happened to them.

Pa: *"The Japs never surrendered because of the atomic bombs. It was because the Russians invaded Manchuria; that scared the bejesus out of them. They were terrified of a Russian invasion. If that happened they'd lose everything. A two thousand six hundred year old culture wiped out. Phhhht gone".*

Debate: The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not win the war. The Japanese surrendered because of the Russian invasion of Manchuria and the starvation caused by the Allied naval blockade of Japan'.

The British Commonwealth Occupation Force

- a) Research Australia's involvement in the BCOF - <http://www.awm.gov.au/atwar/bcof/>
- b) How long were the Australians in Japan?



- c) How did the experience alter some of the negative stereotypes and ill feeling toward the Japanese by the Australian soldiers?
- d) What have been some of the health impacts on the returned Australian men and women of the BCOF? - <http://nuclearhistory.wordpress.com/2012/07/25/the-australians-who-occupied-hiroshima-bcof/>
- e) Why are the Australian members of the BCOF described as 'The Forgotten force'?
- f) Some Australian men brought Japanese brides home to Australia. What was the experience of the Japanese bride in Australia?

Essay or Debate

Australia's engagement with the world completely changed after WW2. We started our modern journey toward becoming a truly multicultural nation. - *Please refer to post WW2 growth and immigration policy in your answer or discussion.*

Missing in Action & Ambiguous Loss

Nanna: *"My Dearest, we haven't heard anything from Norman since Singapore fell. We are praying that he is imprisoned at Changi. We've sent a letter to find out but as we are only allowed to write twenty five words, and then strictly family news! Gosh you know me; I only managed to finish my greeting and that was that. The whole family is terrified as rumours are spreading of the foul treatment of P.O.W's by the Japanese, torture and murder is all the talk".*

In *'Fighting For It'* Nanna has lost her brother Norman. The International Red Cross sends news, in 1944, that he is alive but this is the last information she ever receives. After the war Nanna begins her search for Norman; this takes her all over Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and Burma. After years of searching Nanna eventually realises that she will never see him again and she gives up. Her grief destroys her and the play - *'Fighting For It'* - opens with Boyo's poem describing, he and Pa, washing, dressing and feeding Nanna each morning.

An American Psychotherapist, Pauline Boss, has called this grief – Ambiguous Loss.

Research Task: Find out all you can about the effects of ambiguous loss.

Question 1: Why does losing a loved one, without the knowledge of what has happened to them, have such a traumatic impact upon family members?

Question 2: What is the Australian Government, defence forces and private organisations doing to find Australia's missing soldiers?

Question 3: How important do you think it is to find Australia's lost soldiers?

*With ambiguous loss, there is no closure;
the challenge is how to learn to live with the ambiguity.* – Pauline Boss.
Ambiguous Loss - <http://www.ambiguousloss.com/>

There are over 2000 Australian Servicemen who remain unaccounted for in Papua New Guinea from World War Two. Unrecovered War Casualties – Army is currently investigating cases in Aitape, Bagou, Gewoto, Sopyta, Buna, Sanananda, and several places along the Kokoda track. In addition to these cases Unrecovered War Casualties – Army is working to identify those currently buried as “Unidentified Soldiers”. – Unrecovered War Casualties – Army. <http://www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Unrecovered-War-Casualties-Army>

Further websites on Australian soldiers missing in action:

WW1

Fallen Diggers - <http://www.falldiggers.com.au/>

The Lost Diggers - <http://au.news.yahoo.com/sunday-night/blogs/article/-/8900933/>

The Lost Soldiers of Fromelles - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Lost-Soldiers-of-Fromelles/115701995146926>

WW2

Search for the missing men of Operation RAVEN:

<http://www.army.gov.au/Our-work/Unrecovered-War-Casualties-Army/World-War-Two-Pacific-Region/Search-for-the-missing-men-of-Operation-RAVEN>

Recovery of Recovery of Australian service personnel missing in action from World War II. The work of the ADF Forensic Recovery Team

http://www.defence.gov.au/health/infocentre/journals/ADFHJ_apr00/ADFHealthApr00_1_2_47-53.pdf

Korea

Missing in Action

<http://korean-war.commemoration.gov.au/ceasefire-at-panmunjom/australians-missing-in-action.php>

Vietnam

Australian MIAs of the Vietnam War – "missing in action" or "no known grave"?

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/vietnam_mia/no_known_grave.asp

Australian servicemen listed as missing in action in Vietnam

http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/vietnam_mia/

Australian War Memorial

<http://www.awm.gov.au/>

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