

## STERILIZERS AND ANTIBIOTICS. --- Comments from Una Keast. AANS NFX 34699

During the War years the only so-called antibiotics available were the sulphur drugs.  
In 1943, Penicillin was introduced and used in a drip, sub-cutaneously or intramuscularly.  
In later years it was given in capsule form.

Cross infection and 'golden staph' were unheard of as asepsis was practised, hands were scrubbed before attending to patients dressings, sister's hair was covered and no jewellery was worn.  
Doctors' hair was worn as short back and sides, and no beards.

The nurses made the dressings for the operating theatre and the wards, including the sponges and bandages. Whenever it was required, these dressings were hand washed by staff.

This was not a 'throw away' society.  
Surgical instruments, including syringes and needles were sometimes sterilized by boiling them in adapted four gallon kerosene/petrol tins.  
These were set on a hand pumped primus to gain the desired heat.

Thankfully, these conditions did not always prevail in my various theatres of overseas duties with the AANS which was attached to the 2nd AIF.

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### **TRIVIA:**

As told by Una Keast.-- 2007

Some of the first batch of nurses to join 2/5 AGH

Vi Bignold	Gwen Berry	Una Keast	Mary. Leane	Mary. Leake
H. Mathews	Francis. Aveling	Laura. Greenwood	Dulcie. Deacon	Eva. Jones
Tessie Wood	R. McCallum	Norma Jolly	Jean Gay	Mollie Nalder
Enid Hemmelhoch	Margaret Logan	Eileen Beavan	Doris Bell	Lillian Shaefer
Jean Morton				

Una saw service at Showground - Kenmore [Goulbourn]- Cowra - Middle East - Armidale -  
New Guinea - Morotai

103 AGH B/Hills

Inskip in charge at Armidale.

Una's name on Honor Roll at Tottenham. NSW. Memorial Gates

It was at New Guinea that the bomber fully laden with fuel and bombs, crashed into a Company of soldiers. This substantiates Mickey Bell's burns photos from Adelaide River