

## DIRECTORS OF THE WRAAF

### Wing Officer D.J. Carter OBE

On 11 April 1951, Miss Doris Carter was appointed Director of the WRAAF with the rank of Wing Officer.

Wing Officer Carter, who had a distinguished athletic career, served with the WAAAF from January 1942 to October 1945 and led the WAAAF contingent in the Victory March in London.

From 1946-48 Miss Carter was with the Department of Post-War Reconstruction and at the time of her appointment was in charge of the Child and Youth Migration Section of the Department of Immigration. Before returning to Australia, Wing Officer Carter spent a month studying WRAF organisation and establishments in Britain.

In 1957 Wing Officer Carter was awarded the Order of the British Empire. The Citation was as follows:

“Wing Officer Carter served with the WAAAF during the 1939-45 War and was later recalled to represent the WAAAF in the Victory Contingent which visited the United Kingdom in 1946.

During the war years this officer showed outstanding ability as an organiser and leader and when it was decided to reconstitute the Women’s Branch of the RAAF, she was again recalled and appointed Director of WRAAF in April 1951.

In the appointment Wing Officer Carter, by outstanding leadership and tireless effort, has moulded the WRAAF into a most effective force.

Her ability to establish and maintain a perfect balance between womanly aspects and service requirements, and her genuine interest in the welfare of all airwomen have won for her the confidence and respect of all members of the Service.

Her organising abilities and outstanding personal qualities were recognised by her appointment as Manager of the Australian Women’s Olympic Team in the recent Olympic Games and the manner in which she performed this task brought international recognition and added prestige to the WRAAF, and the RAAF as a whole.”

## ANNEX A contd

### Group Officer L.K. Pitman, OBE, BA, Dip Soc Stud

Wing Officer Carter left the Service in 1960 and was succeeded by Wing Officer Lois K. Pitman, later Group Officer.

Group Officer Pitman was born in Melbourne and educated in America and at St Michael's Church of England Grammar School, Victoria. After leaving school, Miss Pitman worked as a Laboratory Assistant with CSIRO in Canberra and later as an Advertising Assistant, and before joining the WAAAF in 1942 as a Section Officer, qualified as Licentiate of the Advertising Association of Australia.

After completion of No.42 WAAAF Officer Training Course, Miss Pitman served between 1942 and 1943 as Officer-in-Charge WAAAF Pearce and Staff Officer WAAAF Headquarters Western Area. Between 1943 and 1944, Flight Officer Pitman was in turn Recruit Training Officer at No.1 WAAAF Depot Larundel, and Recruit Training Unit, Sandgate, Queensland, Staff Officer WAAAF Headquarters Southern Area, and later Officer-in-Charge WRAAF Officer Training Section, back at Larundel.

Squadron Officer Pitman left the Service to assist in settling Service girls into civilian life, and stayed with the Department of Post-War Reconstruction as an information officer for approximately six months.

Miss Pitman then commenced her career as a social worker, completing the Diploma of Social Studies Course with the University of Melbourne under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, and in 1949 completed an Almoner's Course. Miss Pitman has worked as a social worker with the Red Cross Society, as a medical social worker in the Psychiatric Clinics at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, and while visiting the United Kingdom on leave in 1955/56, as a psychiatric social worker at St Thomas' Hospital, London.

In 1960, Miss Pitman was invited to join the peace-time WRAAF and did so. Since then, her appointments have been - Staff Officer WRAAF, Department of Air, Headquarters Maintenance Group and Headquarters Training Command, and since April 1960, Director of WRAAF.

After her appointment as Director, Group Officer Pitman, BA, Dip Soc Stud, undertook further study, and majored in Psychology at the National University Canberra. Her interest in this subject and her training as a social worker made her admirably suited to understand the behaviour and problems of young girls.

In 1968 Group Officer Lois Pitman was awarded the OBE for her distinguished service in senior staff appointments associated with WRAAF administration, for her untiring efforts to ensure the welfare of members of the WRAAF, and in recognition of the credit due to her for the high regard in which members of the WRAAF are held.

### Group Officer DD Parsloe, AM BCom, AAUQ

Wing Officer Parsloe was appointed Director of the WRAAF on 17 May 1972 with the rank of Group

Officer. She is the first Director who has not seen service during the Second World War.

Miss Parsloe was appointed to the WRAAF on 19 March 1951 with the rank of Section Officer. Immediately prior to appointment she was an education officer in New Guinea. She graduated from the University of Queensland and taught school for several years before she attended the School of Pacific Administration and went to New Guinea.

Since 1951, Group Officer Parsloe has served at Richmond, Williamtown, Point Cook, Laverton and Maintenance and Support Commands.