



THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES
TE RUA MAHARA O TE OPE WHAKAORA

JUNE 2018

REVELATIONS 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

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Captain Elizabeth Herdman

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- 2) Print | 'actual size' | A3 double-sided | flip on short edge | then, if you wish, fold as illustrated.



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The Heritage Centre and Archives also has a webpage on which you can find information and articles of interest:

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/our-community/bcm/archives-heritage>

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WELCOME to REVELATIONS 2

► Welcome to the second edition of the Heritage Centre & Archives quarterly newsletter. First of all may we say thank you for the kind messages and words of encouragement that we received from some of you regarding our first ever newsletter. We especially appreciated the suggestions for future articles; we'll be working on some of those in the coming months.

Congratulations from the Heritage Centre team to the [Central Taranaki Corps](#) who have just celebrated their 125th anniversary! We were able to supply them with a display made up from old images and stories from the Stratford and Eltham Corps whose combined histories make up the Central Taranaki Corps.

In this edition of Revelations we will be highlighting the work of two women Officers, [Lt Colonel Renda Mehrtens](#) and [Captain Elizabeth Herdman](#). Renda Mehrtens spent 31 years on missionary work in India where she was regarded with deep affection and much appreciated for her work. In 1883 Pollard quickly recognised in Elizabeth Herdman striking powers of leadership, and after only 20 days of training she was commissioned as an officer and promoted to Captain. We hope that you enjoy a small taste of their stories.

Sharon Burton | [Territorial Archivist](#) ◀

If you'd like to visit our Facebook Page Salvation Army Archives NZFT:
<https://www.facebook.com/SalvationArmyArchivesNZFT/>

MEHRTENS LEGACY

Single women in officership

► LT. COLONEL RENDA MEHRTENS

Renda Mehrtens aspired to be a Salvation Army officer from a very early age. When asked by her high school headmaster which subjects she wanted to study, she replied "the ones that will help me when I am a Salvation Army officer."

In 1939, Renda entered the Training College in Wellington. As a cadet, [Brigadier Viola Blincoe](#), a training officer at the college described Renda as gracious, godly and more than capable in her work as an officer.



After 8 years of appointments in New Zealand, Renda was transferred to Southern India where she served for 31 years. Her appointments included work in leprosariums, headquarters, and children's homes. In 1959, she was appointed to [THE HAVEN](#) and served the young women and children in this home for almost 20 years before retiring in 1979.

Records at Archives reveal that she was held in deep affection and with much appreciation of the quality of her service in India. Territorial Commander Dean Goffin and Lt Colonel Vera Williamson both described her as 'PURE GOLD.' Someone who was always willing to do the menial task with grace and

cheerfulness, always willing to go the extra mile. She loved the frail old folk in her care, she loved the needy lepers and the sick, but it seems most of all that she loved the babies and the little children.

Lt Colonel Mehrtens was Promoted to Glory on 20 October 1979. ◀



Renda Mehrtens Scrapbook from The Salvation Army International College for Officers - London January 1958.



Elephants gifted to Renda Mehrtens July 1965.

OVERSEAS MISSIONARY WORK



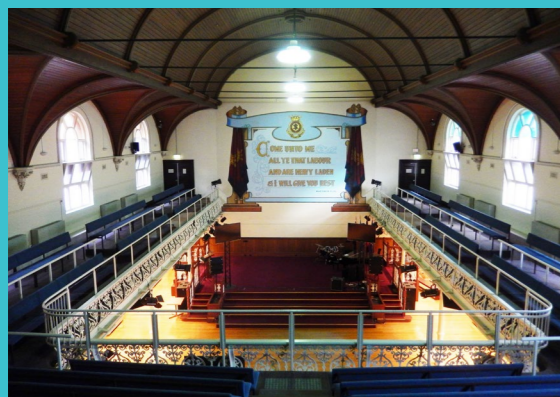
The Haven - Indian 1975 - Renda Mehrtens (4th row from top, middle holding baby).

► Captain Kathleen Gill's tribute to Lt. Colonel Renda Mehrtens: "Today I thought of how much she gave the girls in values of life, and spiritual knowledge. Of how much material benefits Renda brought to The Haven. Dormitories, covered drains, proper toilet and bathroom facilities, new buildings and extensions, improved embroidery industry, financial support, so much and all to the Glory of God. A work done silently, conscientiously and beautifully. A good and faithful servant for whom we praise God." ◀

MELBOURNE HERITAGE VISIT

New Zealand and Melbourne Heritage Centre teams meet

► At the beginning of May 2018, Sharon Burton and Selwyn Bracegirdle of the New Zealand Heritage Centre & Archives visited their Melbourne counterparts for a few days of historic information sharing. The displays were looked at in detail, research carried out, many photographs taken and the New Zealanders presented to Lindsay Cox a certificate of significance to The Salvation Army in Australia - the 'Staff Officer Commissioning Certificate' for William McKenzie dated 1905 and signed by William Booth. ◀



Interior of The Salvation Army historic Melbourne City Temple.



Biorama cameraman.



The Melbourne Training College built 1900-1901 remains standing today.

PRESERVING PRECIOUS IMAGES

The detailed care of historic photographs

► So very often we are asked here at the Heritage Centre for tips on how to preserve photographs, particularly the very old sepia image ones that have been passed down by the generations. So here is some information for storing and preserving those precious family moments.

Mould is the enemy! Always store your photographs in a well ventilated area, circulating air will prevent mould growth.

Be cool! Storing photographs in temperatures above 24° will damage the chemicals used in the processing of the photographs. The cooler it is the better.

Relative humidity! Bar a flood, high levels of humidity are not your friend, around 55% relative humidity is ideal for photographic storage.

Rise above! Never store your photographs on the floor in your garage or basement, not only is water ingress an issue but wee beasties nibbling away at your precious images is also a major concern. In fact - try not to store them in these areas at all.

Lights - Camera - Action! Light will cause your photographs to fade, if you can't enclose your photographs completely then store them in a dark place. Under the bed or in a closet is a good place. Just be aware of those little dust bunnies though!

Flat is good! Use stiff, flat materials and containers to encourage your photos to stay flat. Never roll large photographs - it will be difficult or impossible to ever flatten them again.



Mrs Captain Colley
Wellington City Corps 1883.



Packet of archival photographs.

Acid free! Use albums with acid-free sleeves, sheet protectors, or photo corners. Look for materials like polypropylene or polyethylene.

Go digital! Convert your printed photographs to digital for extra precaution; it never hurts to make copies. The quick and easy solution is to take pictures of them with your digital camera or cell phone, however if you have the intention of reproducing them from a digital copy you may want to consider using a scanning machine.

Back up! Just like your photographs - store your digital storage devices in a dry area, or better still in the cloud! ◀



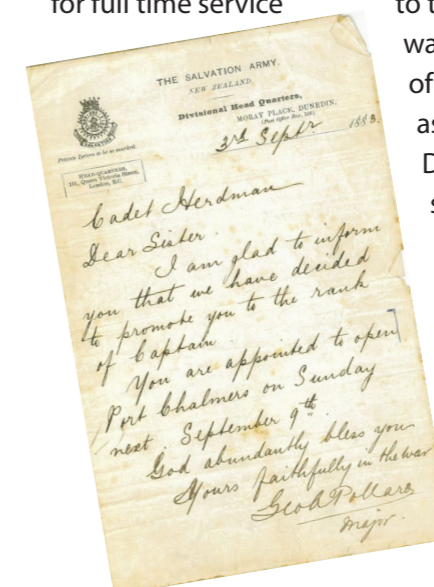
Sydenham Corps Barracks 1909.

WOMEN IN OFFICERSHIP

The first New Zealand trained woman officer

► CAPTAIN ELIZABETH HERDMAN

In April 1883, Elizabeth Herdman with her friends Elizabeth Westlake and Fanny Worsdell attended the early meetings of The Salvation Army in Dunedin. They were so captivated with Mrs. Captain Burfoot's charm and sincerity and the opportunities the Salvation Army was offering to women that they presented themselves for full time service to the Army. Major Pollard



was impressed with Elizabeth Herdman's power of leadership, and after only 20 days of training as a Cadet was commissioned to be a Captain. In December 1883, after serving at Dunedin South, she and Lieutenant Lizzie Coupar pioneered The Salvation Army's work at Waimate.

This letter dated 3 September 1883 is addressed to Cadet Herdman and promotes her to Captain with an appointment to open Port Chalmers. It is signed by Major George Pollard. The original is held at [The Salvation Army Heritage Centre and Archives](#). ◀