

Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), 1941–1947: Organisasi Perintis Wanita dalam Dinas Militer = Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), 1941–1947: Pioneer Organization of Women in Military Service

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Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas perkembangan Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) sebagai dinas militer wanita pertama di Australia selama Perang Dunia II untuk memaksimalkan upaya perang. Sebagai negara persemakmuran Inggris, Australia menerima konsekuensi dari deklarasi perang yang dinyatakan Inggris terhadap Jerman pada 1 September 1939, yaitu turut terlibat dalam Perang Dunia II. Oleh karena urgensi perang yang lebih besar dari perang-perang sebelumnya, maka berbagai upaya perang dan angkatan pertahanan dipersiapkan termasuk AWAS. Berbeda dengan penelitian sebelumnya dalam "Civilising Forces: Class, Gender and the Australian Women's Army Service 1941–1947" karya Christine Evans Appleyard yang membahas AWAS dari konteks kelas dan gender, penelitian ini memfokuskan perkembangan AWAS mulai dari faktor yang melatarbelakangi pembentukannya tahun 1941, kinerja AWAS selama Perang Dunia II, hingga pembubarannya tahun 1947. Penelitian ini menggunakan Metode Sejarah dengan empat tahapan, yaitu heuristik atau mengumpulkan data berupa surat kabar sezaman dari situs resmi National Library of Australia serta buku dan jurnal dari situs daring. Kemudian, data diolah melalui tahapan kritik sumber, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Didapatkan kesimpulan bahwa pembentukan AWAS merupakan hasil perluasan peran wanita Australia dari perang-perang sebelumnya dan memberikan jalan bagi mereka untuk berkontribusi lebih banyak dalam kehidupan Australia pascaperang, khususnya kesempatan kerja di kemiliteran.

.....This article examines the development of Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) as Australia's first women's military service during World War II to intensify the war effort. As a British commonwealth country, Australia received the consequence of British's declaration of war against Germany on September 1, 1939, namely being involved in World War II. Due to the war's greater urgency than previous wars, various war efforts and defense forces were being prepared including AWAS. In contrast to previous research entitled "Civilizing Forces: Class, Gender and the Australian Women's Army Service 1941– 1947" by Christine Evans Appleyard which discusses AWAS from the context of class and gender, this research focuses on the development of AWAS starting from the factors behind its formation in 1941, its performance during World War II, until its disbandment in 1947. This study uses the Historical Method with four stages, namely heuristics or collecting data formed contemporary newspapers from the official website of the Australian National Library, as well as books and journals from other sites. Then, data are processed through the stages of source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. It is concluded that the formation of AWAS is the result of expanding the roles of Australian women from the previous wars, and providing a way for them to contribute more to Australia's post-war life, especially employment opportunities in the military.