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## South Australians at war – transcript – PRG 596/1

**Diary of Frances Taylor**  
**Member of the Land Army**  
1945

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Transcribed by Susie van der Sluys 2001

### Monday 8 January, 1945

Hell of a hot day 110 (nearly disgraced myself at the chaff cutter. Mr L & Claude were cutting I was filling bags & Dick tying them. After lunch Dick went filling feeders to I cut the bands & Claude handed the sheaves. started to feel all cooped up & mechanical. started seeing yellow things & hearing noises & a horrid taste in mouth. Stopped just in time. Claude administering water. spend the rest of the afternoon on the couch in the sitting room was really a lot better but-

### Tuesday 9 January, 1945

A bit cooler went to mill in horse paddock and tried for ages to undo the plug in trough no go so jammed down the ballcock to let the tank empty itself. cut up all the meat drove Claude round Fosters with hay early in the morn

### Wednesday 10 January, 1945

early start.

very cold wet windy & miserable. Mr L & I went in truck for tank stand and out to Horse paddock. undid pipes and things ready for removal of tank. Dick & Claude got a load of sand & while we were tipping it off, cut Dick's thumb with my shovel. very bloody. in noon went out again & loaded timber from old stand on the truck & off again. Didn't go out again messed round shifted drum of diesel etc.

### Thursday 11 January, 1945

All went straight to Naracoorte did some shopping etc had a rushed lunch as had to wait ages of couse with steak (?). Then off to Dr Laurie had ears syringed. marvellous relief. more shopping & pottering round. Started on calcium. Met Mrs & went with her. had after tea, met Dr (P?), wished I'd gone to him. then home Claude had milked.



Friday 12 January, 1945

Didn't do much. Mr L was rigging up power driven emery wheel and Claude sharpened up all the axes in the noon went with Claude in the morning to fill the new feeder & move it from The Gums to Gussie's. Started reading - Lady in a Viel -

Saturday 13 January, 1945

warming up again. filled all the batteries in the lighting shed, washed etc played a bit of piano.

Monday 24 September, 1945

helped Dick clear up.

took a load of rubbish to the track. I really went for an ulterior motive "Can I have a drive back?" "Yes if you follow my tracks back" through the (?). So I drove the tractor all the way back, through 3 gates but he didn't trust me in the shed! scrubbed up floors etc in hut. On my own in eve. Cath took 'Mother' to a political meeting.

Tuesday 25 September, 1945

Shearers arrived for Peter L.

every body in Naracoorte, Dick & family too so was completely on my lonesome all day till 5 o'clock when Cath appeared & I had a cup of tea with her. cleaned bathroom in hut etc had a rather long lunch now.

L. C .L meeting in Frances alone again but had a chat when they came home.

Wednesday 26 September, 1945

Dick out of action with a toe, dropped sleeper on it. Cleaned boards in woodshed pretty messy.

Thursday 27 September, 1945

Boss home again. Didn't do much.  
chopped wood & paths.



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Friday 28 September, 1945

Cath off to Gap again no dance.  
watered garden

Saturday 29 September, 1945

went on strike and didn't wash had a lazy day.

Sunday 30 September, 1945

painted a horse and escaped Peter & Mary for afternoon tea. They stayed for tea but went straight home (thank goodness) as poor Pete dear was poorly!

Sunday 11 November, 1945

lazy day. big wash morning  
talked to cora noon Gubbie Brown brought (?) gallon tank out. Foster's & Copping's P.O.W here

Monday 12 November, 1945

moved grab morning and put it up after lunch. easy work with the Italians to help.

Tuesday 13 November, 1945

Louise Brown & father came out for a squiz at the grab. Louigi says when I marry I similar this 'oman beeq!

'you marry one year - marry finish work' me say much baby much work.

me not going too well on sweep. went up on stack in morning & helped Rocco & Louigi went on sweep. Me and sweep in noon, very hot day. Rocco was at the gate having got supplies when I emerged clean & in feminine apparel. He stared most amazedly. "Miss (H?), me no see you" I did laugh. next day - "Me tell how you verra nice."!

Wednesday 14 November, 1945

another hot day & me in a snakey mood as I was on the stack again. I didn't use the fork as I did yesterday, having raised one large blister. "Miss (H?) today, no good - you verra think, you think boy in ship." bits of teases these fellows. after Ray told them all about (?)



the (?). had a go at sweeps after lunch no good so finished on stack again with Rocco. Had a smoke just before I went for cows. moods improved all round. in room. (?) cranky.

#### Thursday 15 November, 1945

Much photos taken discovered surname Luigi Fiori and Rocco Lolli. letter from Matron 1st Feb. vacancy. goodbye long holiday. Ray went down to get the maid. & I went too & he took me to Fosters and Treys. to see about ride. I thought I would sail off the stack per grab, but Bloss came back too quickly & I thudded a pancake on top of the grab, leg first about went through heel and other ankle swelled up a bit.

#### Friday 16 November, 1945

More stack & cut. finished cigarettes. was rushed at lunch time. Ray had a rolled one for me but Rocco & Luigi both produced the 'Coo-ee' & L. insisted on my having what was left in the packet. about 6. after lunch it started to rain so we 3 went home & Ray went on cutting till he could do no more. Bert Mason came & I went into the dance with him. Went to hotel & went with girls, talked to Mrs Perkins, & Pat. saw all the boys, Flavel too. arthur Hobbs b/ wow the Monte Carlo. got home with Tregoweths at 10 to 3.

#### Saturday 17 November, 1945

woke 6

brought in stacked all that Ray had cut yesterday & just got it in before the rain, went home in the downpour, five in sitting room packet of 333's from Rocco. Rocco & Louigi came up for a chat after tea as it was their last night.

#### Sunday 18 November, 1945

Spaghetti

Rocco came up to house & made macaroni. Bruce came to take them home but stayed to eat Lougi cooked it for us. We all had it in the kitchen together.

#### Tuesday 18 December, 1945

I really was sorry to leave this time. They all took me to Naracoorte to catch the train, and I didn't want to go a bit. You can't hold back Time though I often wish you could on many occasions. Salva gave me another packet of cigarettes with "no fichettaio foto" pathetically



written on the top and "gubai" on the bottom, Ray took our photos. and teased me much about his feeling 'de trop' and I would have time just to go and say a proper goodbye. Very sad. Goodbye South East. Will I ever see you again- The end of the second phase of my life-

Wednesday 19 December, 1945

Found the city oppressive. Couldn't get used to the idea that there would be no more open spaces to go back to. Oh to live always on the land! Oh to marry a farmer! Kathie rang and I met her in town that evening. We went to the Devan and sat for about 2 hours over an ice cream and iced coffee. She goes to Magill

City an awful place with hardly any power or gas.