After pressure from the US, the Australian Army adopts a policy to arrange medical discharges for homosexuals.
Truth runs a cover story reporting on an “unsavory cell of homosexuals” in the national service training camp at Puckapunyal, discharging five men immediately.
Royal Australian Navy adopts a policy on “Abnormal Sexual Behaviour” in addition to an existing policy on “Unnatural Offences”.

1969
CAMP Ink publishes a story about a dismissed lesbian from the WRAAF; mainstream coverage prompts the Defence Minister to order the services to come up with a consistent policy on homosexuality.
First tri-service approach to homosexuality establishes a framework whereby service police investigate all cases. Those found to be homosexuals may either request their own honourable discharge or be discharged dishonourably.

1974
Five members of the Gay Ex-Services Association are turned away from laying a wreath at Melbourne’s Shrine of Remembrance.
A Court of Inquiry investigates police practices relating to homosexuality at the RAAF Academy. The Court of Inquiry recommends not discharging four cadets because police evidence may be considered inadmissible.
Defence Instruction DI(G)Pers 15-3 updates the ban on gay and lesbian service.

November 1985
An article in *Outrage* causes a stir when it names three RAAF Police who had been going undercover to catch gays and lesbians.
A lesbian dismissed under the ban files a complaint with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission. The HREOC enters discussions with the ADF about her case and the ban more widely, but the ADF resists lifting the ban.

1990-92
After Defence Minister, Senator Robert Ray, and Attorney-General Michael Duffy present their cases, the Keating Cabinet decides to lift the ban on gay, lesbian and bisexual military service. This does not include transgender service.

23 NOVEMBER 1992
Defence LGBTI Milestones

**JUNE 1994**

G-Force forms as a support, advocacy and social group for serving gays, lesbians and bisexuals. The group would last until 1998.
Notwithstanding opposition within the ADF hierarchy, G-Force marches in the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.
DI(G)PERS 16-16 formally bans transgender service, saying anyone who wishes to transition must leave the ADF.
The partner of a deceased Second World War veteran lodges a complaint to the UN Human Rights Committee when he was denied a spousal pension. The UN finds in the complainant’s favour, but the Howard Government refuses to recognise same-sex couples for veterans’ pensions.
DEFGLIS is founded as a support and advocacy group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Defence members. In 2011 they would change their name to the Defence LGBTI Information Service.
New ADF rules on de facto spouses recognise same-sex couples.
Department of Veterans’ Affairs begins to recognise same-sex de facto couples.

July 2009
ADF contingent at Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras allowed to march in uniform for the first time.

MARCH 2013
DEFGLIS begins annual rainbow wreath-layings, with one of the surviving GESA members laying Melbourne’s wreath at the Shrine of Remembrance.
DEFGLIS hosts the first annual Military Pride Ball.
We wish to thank the interviewees who generously provided material for this exhibition, as well as the following people for their assistance: Julien Varrenti-Osmond and Al Noveloso (ACU), Bronwyn Roper and Aimee Rhodes (Melbourne City Library), Kathy Sport and Nick Henderson (Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives), Lin Tobias for the panel design.

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SERVING IN SILENCE?
Australian LGBTI Military Service since World War II