



THE FEDERAL
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Comment on objections 5

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NAME OF PROPOSED NEW DIVISION IN WA

Proposal is for it to be named after Lieutenant Colonel (LTCOL) Vivian Statham, AO, MBE, ARRC, ED (née Bullwinkel) (18 December 1915 – 3 July 2000)

LTCOL Bullwinkel was born in Kapunda in South Australia. She studied at the Broken Hill High School and graduated at Broken Hill Hospital as a Registered Nurse and Midwife. She then worked at Hamilton, Victoria, before moving to the Jessie McPherson Hospital in Melbourne.

She was rejected by the RAAF (flat feet) but did join the Australian Army Nursing Service before sailing for Singapore with the 2/13 AGH in September 1941.

The events of the fall of Singapore, the sinking of the Vyner Brooke and the massacre on Randji Beach on Banka Island is too well known to need recounting here.

After the Second World War she left the Army (onto the RofO List) to become the Director of Nursing at the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, including organising and leading a rescue mission for orphans to Vietnam in 1975. Other interests and awards awaited her in the following years

It was not until her marriage to COL Francis West Statham in SEP1977 that she became involved in WA – her best years were behind her, and she died from a heart attack in 2000.

I did meet LTCOL Bullwinkel at a dining in night in the late 1980's at Keswick Barracks.

While she was a very fine person, she does not have that "locus" with Western Australia. A better suggestion if you wish to honour her would be look to renaming division in South Australia (for example Barker – her birthplace of Kapunda), New South Wales (Parkes – includes Broken Hill where she was educated and gained her nursing qualifications) or Victoria (Cooper – contains the old Fairfield Hospital and rename Wills to Cooper).