



Robyn White

Robyn White was living in New Castle as a nurse at a local hospital before joining the army. Robyn's father served in the Royal Australian air force (RAAF) as she grew up. His service inspired her to join these services. As a registered nurse, she could register as an officer.

The first unit Robyn served in was at 6 Camp Hospital, a small medical centre in Albury Woodonga at Latchfork Barrack. Most of the patients at the inpatient facilities were trainees and apprentices. From there, Robyn moved to 1 Field Hospital in Sydney. While working there as a nursing officer, she was offered an opportunity to serve in Rwanda.

Like many that served in Rwanda, Robyn knew little about the place, but her service would leave a life changing effect on her.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 872 on 5th October 1993. The first members of Australia's tri-service force under Operation Tamar arrived in Rwanda in late August 1994.

Although stationed at Kigali, Robyn was also positioned in a small base located in the grounds of Butare Hospital, south-west of the capital, where the medical team would visit the displaced persons' camp in Kibeho.

While working in Butare, Robyn witnessed a horrific event, making it more distressing because she was thinking of her sister back home who was going to have a baby. As distressing and tragic as that incident was, it encouraged her which drove her to become a midwife. She wanted to better understand the situation she had witnessed.

