

Student reflection

Room 16 Samuel Smith and James Villarojo

1. What new knowledge and understanding have you gained from completing the project?

Back in the old days, women in the Army had lots of rules and restrictions. They were paid less than men and could only do certain jobs. Women also had to leave the Army



when they got married or had children, but now they are allowed to stay and continue their careers. We learnt that being in the armed forces can help improve fitness and athletic skills. Many students researched inspiring women who served in the military and learnt about their achievements. We researched Doris Carter, who served and later became an Olympic athlete.

2. What new knowledge and understanding have you gained from engaging with veterans or current ADF members and their personal experiences?

Our class interviewed Brigadier Georgeina Whelan and Warrant Officer One Annie Schwartz, and we learnt a lot from them. They told us about leading soldiers and helping manage emergencies, which showed us how strong and confident they are as leaders.



We also learnt that the leadership skills that Brigadier Whelan acquired in the Army was used when she was given the role as ACT Emergency Services Commissioner. Other women we interviewed explained that going to war can be very stressful, especially when they have to leave their children and families behind, but it can also feel like an adventure. Our class was amazed by Brigadier Whelan and WO1 Schwartz because they were hardworking, brave, self-sacrificing, and very commanding leaders who inspired everyone around them.