

WOLSTON AT WAR

Over to you: possible responses

Page 4	
How far is Wolston House from Wacol Railway Station?	In a straight line and using the locations provided, Wolston House is 2.86 kilometres, or 1.78 miles, from Wacol Railway Station.
Page 5	
Were there any economic or social conditions in Ireland which would have let to the Grindles migrating to Queensland?	From the 1840s, many Irish people came to Australia as assisted immigrants. A famine in the 1840s was an early cause. Later migrants saw opportunity in a new country. Escape from repression would be another reason.
Page 6	
Would you describe the Grindles as successful migrants? Compare their lifestyle to your own. Find three ways in which it is different.	The Grindles appear to have been successful at operating a large farm. Their lifestyle was essentially rural and they had little access to modern appliances. Their lives differed in three ways in that they grew or reared their own food, they constructed their own windmills to raise water from underground sources and they had to milk their cows twice a day. All of these things people of today generally do not have to do.
Page 8	
Where is Stuartholme school located? What happened to the students when their school was converted into a hospital? Somerville House in South Brisbane also was occupied by US military personnel. Who were they? What happened to the students from this school?	<p>Stuartholme is located in Birdwood Terrace, Toowong, Brisbane. During World War II the students, all boarding students, continued their education at Canungra and later at Southport.</p> <p>Somerville House was used as the headquarters for Base Section 3 of the US Army. In December 1942 the commanding officer was Col. Wm. H. Donaldson, Jr.</p> <p>Somerville House students who lived north of the Brisbane River were schooled at Raymont Lodge in Auchenflower. Students from south of the river were given lessons in what is today the former Queen Alexandra Home at Coorparoo. Boarding students were transferred to Moiomindah at Stanthorpe.</p> <p>More information about Somerville House and Raymont Lodge and the former Queen Alexandra Home can be found through the Queensland Heritage Register.</p> <p>https://heritage-register.chp.qld.gov.au/basicSearch.html</p>

The National Trust of Australia (Queensland)

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Page 10	
How reliable is the censored newspaper report (on page 10) as a resource on the Battle of Brisbane?	This report does not appear to provide all the information about the incident and does not even mention that the canteen was for US soldiers and that the disturbance was between Australians and Americans.
Page 11	
1. Were the blocks of lands that belonged to Grindles Ltd (Lots 383, 384 & 385) in Camp 1, Camp 2 or Camp 3?	Camp 1
2. Which Brisbane construction company built the kitchens and mess halls of Camp Columbia?	M. R. Hornibrook. More information can be found about Manuel Hornibrook at http://adb.anu.edu.au
3. Was the first section of the camp on the eastern or the western side of the railway line between Brisbane and Ipswich?	Western
4. How many servicemen was the camp to accommodate?	5,000 servicemen
5. What three advantages would there have been to constructing the camp at Wacol?	For transportation purposes, Camp Columbia was within a short walking distance of Wacol Railway Station, which is on the main line between Brisbane and Ipswich. Also for ease of transportation, Camp Columbia was located on Ipswich Road, the main road between Brisbane and Ipswich. It was also far enough away from Brisbane to reduce the distractions of the city.
6. The small hut buildings have not been constructed in straight lines. Why would they have been designed like this?	Air raids were considered possible so the small buildings were dispersed amongst the trees. If a bomb was dropped nearby it would not cause as much destruction and loss of life.
7. From the documents, were any other camps for American servicemen constructed in the Brisbane area? Is there any evidence of these remaining today?	According to a document dated 12 February 1942 in the National Archives of Australia file MP729/6, 401/197, USA Camp Columbia Brisbane District, another camp was located in the vicinity of Archerfield Aerodrome. It was to accommodate 1,000 men. (This camp was later named Camp Muckley and became a housing camp after the war.) No evidence of this exists today.
Page 12, Camp Columbia	
Were they meant to be a permanent structure? (The buildings of the US Sixth Army at Camp Columbia)	The buildings were meant to be temporary. They were constructed using less expensive material.
What standard is the accommodation for US military personnel?	US military personnel were housed in tents because they were only passing through on their way to or from the war zones.

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<p>Page 12 continued</p>	
<p>1. Using Trove, can you find a <i>Courier-Mail</i> report on US soldiers at Camp Columbia published during World War II?</p> <p>What does this indicate about censorship related to the military forces during the war?</p>	<p>It is not possible through Trove to find an article about Camp Columbia until after World War II, when it was being used as a hostel for immigrants.</p>
<p>2. The NAA primary source documents related to Camp Columbia do not provide much information about the way the soldiers lived? How could you use the files as a source of information about soldiers lived when in the camp?</p>	<p>Some of the documents provide statistical information about the number of servicemen and the number of buildings being provided for them. Camp Columbia was constructed quickly in the summer months. It was presumed that conditions would be improved as winter approached.</p>
<p>3. How reliable are the primary source documents of the NAA regarding Camp Columbia?</p>	<p>Assuming that the actions written about actually occurred, the documents related to Columbia are very reliable.</p>
<p>4. Camp Columbia was a large camp site. Section II of the US Army 42nd General Hospital at Camp Columbia was located at the map co-ordinates -27.585366, 152.922050 Find this location using Google Maps. What organisation occupies this site today?</p>	<p>Today this site is occupied by the Animal Care Campus of RSPCA Queensland. Their address is 139 Wacol Station Road, Wacol.</p>
<p>5. During the war the Grindle family consisted of elderly brothers and sisters living on a farm. How would they have been affected by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Censorship • Rationing • Manpower • A large camp of military personnel nearby 	<p>Like everyone else in Brisbane, the Grindle family members would have read or heard news that was censored. What the Grindles produced on the farm would have been sold in a strictly regulated market. The Grindles men were beyond the age to enlist or be sent to work at industrial firms. They were also primary producers. Some people from the camp visited Wolston House.</p>
<p>6. Find, and add to the list of sources, two websites which have information related to US-Australian relations during World War II. From these websites, list three ways in which the lives of ordinary Australians were changed by exposure to US military forces during the war.</p>	<p>http://www.vw2australia.gov.au/allin/yankdownunder.html</p> <p>http://history.unimelb.edu.au/overhere/australian-american-relations.html</p> <p>US military personnel introduced new ideas—about music, food, language and dancing. New bonds of friendship were forged between Australian civilians and US soldiers. The need for supplies caused a boost to Australian primary and secondary industries.</p>

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