

Brides with torn hearts

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I am doing research for a new project and have just discovered this beautifully written account of the Australian wives of GIs in Melbourne's Age newspaper from 2007. Written at the time of a ceremony organised by the Australian and American governments to recognise these women it focusses on Joy Shaddle who met her American in Sydney in 1944 and two and a half years later came to New York to marry him. They settled in a tiny town in Illinois but Joy was homesick and still misses Australia more than 60 years later. Many of the women who came to Australia as brides or to marry Aussie servicemen experienced similar emotions - this story will ring true for many of them as well. These women mostly relinquished their Australian citizenship when they married a GI and legislation was passed in 2007 to allow them to regain it.