Genders and Sexualities in History

Series Editors: **John H. Arnold, Joanna Bourke and Sean Brady**

Palgrave Macmillan's series, *Genders and Sexualities in History*, aims to accommodate and foster new approaches to historical research in the fields of genders and sexualities. The series will promote world-class scholarship that concentrates upon the interconnected themes of genders, sexualities, religions/religiosity, civil society, class formations, politics and war.

Historical studies of gender and sexuality have often been treated as disconnected fields, while in recent years historical analyses in these two areas have synthesised, creating new departures in historiography. By linking genders and sexualities with questions of religion, civil society, politics and the contexts of war and conflict, this series will reflect recent developments in scholarship, moving away from the previously dominant and narrow histories of science, scientific thought, and legal processes. The result brings together scholarship from contemporary, modern, early modern, medieval, classical and non-Western history to provide a diachronic forum for scholarship that incorporates new approaches to genders and sexualities in history

Sex, Soldiers and the South Pacific, 1939–45: Queer Identities in Australia in the Second World War is a groundbreaking study of the development of distinctly Australian queer male identities. In this fascinating and highly original book, Yorick Smaal explores how Australian queer men described, experienced and performed their sense of difference, usually in effeminate terms. Though queer lives could be found in pre-war Australia, military service by nearly a million Australian men during the Second World War transformed gendered identities. As well as the sequestered, single-sex and collective masculine identity of butch men in the forces, the Australian military experience engendered a distinctly effeminate bitch identity too. The willingness of butch men in the forces to have sexual liaisons with bitch others, whether they were in or out of uniform, reaffirmed patterns of queer effeminacy in Australian urban gay subcultures for years to come after the war. Smaal analyses the catalyst of the war, and contact with other Allied soldiers, to queer culture in Australia. For the first time in this period, the Australian forces grappled with issues of queer identity and same-sex practices between men, that left a significant legacy to identities and debates in post-war Australian society and culture. In common with all volumes in the *Genders and Sexualities in History* series, *Sex, Soldiers and the South Pacific, 1939–45: Queer Identities in Australia in the Second World War* presents a multifaceted and meticulously researched scholarly study, and is a sophisticated contribution to our understanding of the past.

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Sex, Soldiers and the South Pacific, 1939–45

**Queer Identities in Australia
in the Second World War**

Yorick Smaal
Griffith University, Australia

palgrave
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For Geoff and Mee Ling. They and I alone know why.

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Abbreviations

ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADMS	Assistant Director of Medical Services
A-G	Adjutant-General
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
ALGA	Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives
APM	Assistant Provost Marshal
Aust.	Australia
AWM	Australian War Memorial
AWOL	Absent Without Official Leave
BCC	Brisbane City Council
BCCT	Blackall Circuit Court
Brig.	Brigadier
BS	Base Section
BSCT	Brisbane Supreme Court
Capt.	Captain
CCC	Civil Constructional Corps
CCCT	Cairns Circuit Court
CIB	Criminal Investigation Branch
CIRSO	Committee of Inquiry Regarding Sexual Offences
CO	Commanding Officer
Cons.	Constable
DA & QMG	Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster General
Det.	Detective
DGMS	Director General of Medical Services
FCU	Fighter Control Unit
FL	Fryer Library
Gen.	General

GLBTHS	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Historical Society
GMO	Government Medical Officer
GOC	General Officer Commanding
HQ	Headquarters
ICCT	Ipswich Circuit Court
Insp.	Inspector
JAG	Judge Advocate General
L. of C.	Lines of Communication
LHQ	Land Headquarters
Lt	Lieutenant
Maj.	Major
MP	Military Police
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NG	New Guinea
NGF	New Guinea Force
NLA	National Library of Australia
NT	Northern Territory
PM	Provost Marshal
POW	Prisoner of War
Pvt	Private
Qld	Queensland
<i>QPD</i>	<i>Queensland Parliamentary Debates</i>
<i>QPP</i>	<i>Queensland Parliamentary Papers</i>
QSA	Queensland State Archives
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RMO	Regimental Medical Officer
Sgt	Sergeant
SLQ	State Library of Queensland
SWPA	South West Pacific Area

TSCT	Townsville Supreme Court
USAFIA	United States Army Forces in Australia
USASOS	United States Army Services of Supply
VD	Venereal Disease
Vic.	Victoria

Note on Sources

I have used pseudonyms to protect the privacy and anonymity of the men whose stories I tell here. The initial of the Christian name for men who appear before the Queensland courts is correct although the name itself has been altered. The names of state actors are correct. Acronyms have been used for the American servicemen in Noumea and an alphabetical list of pseudonyms has been created for the Australian soldiers in Port Moresby. Their interviews can be identified by format and date in the original sources. The names of Allied military officials are correct. Names for interviews held at the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives appear as they do in the records, as a mix of pseudonyms and actual names, except for Errol which is created. Actual names have been used in the book if they already appear in published materials in the same context.

Note on Terminology

Words have meaning. They are mediated by the voices of our historical actors and structured by time and place. Finding the right vocabulary to describe men and their lives is difficult, as many historians of sexuality have noted. Following other scholars, I have borrowed John Howard's term 'homosex' to capture the complex mix of same-sex practices cutting across class, age and race. I have used the word 'queer' to capture loosely Australian and American men who understood their lives through their desire, although it appears as *queer* in the text when it refers to the mainly middle-class American men who defined themselves to be free from gender codes. Elsewhere, I have attempted to use the language of the actors whose lives I explore.

Map 1. Map of the south Pacific

Map 2. Map of Brisbane city