

staff especially. When the war moved into the Pacific to safeguard the Library's treasures, Mr Taylor, by this time Librarian, arranged for a great many of the books to be housed in a room on the top floor of the Public Trust Office in Masterton, a work that was spread over several months and which meant occasional trips to Masterton for two or three of the staff at a time. This made a pleasant break in the usual routine.

While Mr Taylor was with the Army Education and Welfare Service in the Pacific in the last year or two of the war, I became Acting Librarian, which I enjoyed very much – largely I am sure because of the loyal co-operation I had from the staff. That makes a lot of difference.

Once, while the books were in the process of being moved to Masterton, it was found necessary to have some new shelves built and I was sent up on my own to keep an eye on the work, and do some unpacking and arranging of the books. I was having a wonderful time – getting books into their classes, matching up volumes that had got separated from their sets and dipping into books that perhaps I hadn't looked at for years. I cast a glance round at the workmen, busy on their job, and thought: 'Poor things – what a life! Nothing to do but saw wood and hammer in nails all day!'

Towards the end of the afternoon one of the carpenters, sitting astride the top of a book-case and hammering in some final nails, looked down on me, pityingly. 'I wouldn't have your job for anything,' he said, 'nothing to do but look at books all day.'

Alice Woodhouse

¹ Miss Tweeddale was followed by Miss O'Donnell. On Miss Brouard's retirement a married couple, Mr and Mrs Brown, were resident custodians until the evacuation of the building in 1953. (Editor)