

A Silent Soldier

by Trina Parry-Plater 2009[©]

I am a silent soldier,
I am a Commando's wife.
I have no uniform, I wear no rank,
Yet I live a Commando life.

I may not do a "selection test",
but my challenges are real,
my strength is tested time and again,
along with character, resilience and zeal.

I may not carry an "Army" pack,
but it's a pack of a different name,
it may hold children, groceries or rigors of life,
- I carry it, and block out the pain.

I may not be part of a Company,
and I often must survive alone,
but I hold my dear friends close at heart
and their support is my backbone.

I may not have a Mess to dine in,
or rations to swap with a mate,
the demands that are put upon me mean
some dinners are "zapped" on a plate!

I may not run an Exercise,
or instruct on the "CQB",
but I multi-task with the best of them,
- I administer a family.

I may not hold a position,
that can be reduced to an acronym,
for I have many hats to wear –
more so, in the absence of "him".

I may never have a "Chain of Command",
to issue a "call-out" in the mid of night,

but alone I will waken many times,
to comfort children or dry tears from a fright.

I may not have a career mapped out,
with guidance from peers above,
my career is bent, broken and compromised,
sacrifices I make for my love.

I may never receive a payment,
for the quiet soldiering that I do,
my work often goes unnoticed,
and is appreciated by just a few.

I may never fight an enemy,
or return injured or scarred from war,
but I mend "his" heart, I ease "his" mind,
and the wounds I dress are raw.

I may never carry a weapon,
but I will always protect my own,
I won't drop my shield or lose my ground,
I defend my love, my family and home.

I may never have the comradeship,
to spin "warries" of the past,
but the bonds with friends – shared fears and tears,
forge friendships that will last.

I may never receive a medal,
or march on ANZAC Day,
but I stand tall in the quiet knowledge,
that I too, have a role to play.

I am a silent soldier.
I am a Commando's wife.
No uniform nor rank – just pride in knowing,
I live a Commando's life.