

JESSIE'S LETTER FROM THE QUEEN

Published April 2016

100 years of life was celebrated being surrounded by family, friends and a special birthday congratulatory letter from the Queen.

Kimberly House Nursing Home resident and former military Sergeant Jessie Bradshaw could never have asked for more last Friday when the lounge was decked with colourful decorations, cakes, presents and the people she loved the most all there to witness this day.

Niece Susie Ambury said it was sweeter after receiving the letter from the Queen and it was very special indeed for the family. "To read out the letter and have the Queen personally sign it and sent to her for her birthday is just so lovely and she really deserved it because she is a very loving woman," she said. The letter read, "I am pleased to know that you are celebrating your hundredth year. I send my congratulations and best wishes on such a special occasion- signed Elizabeth."

She said her aunty had six other siblings and only one sister was still alive in Australia at the age of 96 years.

Mrs Ambury said that Jessie was a very strong woman, always enjoyed her food and was still driving her car and visiting friends at the age of 92 years. "She then moved to Willowcroft Care Home and stayed there for five years before moving to Kimberly House Nursing Home and has been well looked after and managed to reach this amazing age," she said.

Long-time friend Elizabeth Poltow said Mrs Bradshaw was a Sergeant in the Women's Royal Army Corp during World War two. "She trained as a tailoress before joining the army and it was during that time that she met her husband who was an officer in the army.

"After the war she continued her work as looking after the prisoners of war at Nether Hampton and used her skills of tailoring to make soft toys for the charities," she said. She said that after leaving the army she became greatly involved with the community and started the New Forest Wine club and it was her famous bird sap wine that was always sort after while living at Keepers Cottage in No Man's Land. Mrs Poltow said she made a lot of lifetime friends who were part of the celebration on Friday and managed small chats with her.

The day ended with cutting her birthday cake and opening her many presents and the delicious spread prepared by the homes chef and enjoyed by the family, friends and staff at the home.