

*Took Tea in Macquarie Street . .*

# GIRL FROM THE KIMBERLEYS TRAINS WITH CHURCH ARMY



**Sister Connie McDonald**

A girl from the wild Kimberley country of West Australia who grew up at Forrest River Mission and was educated at high school in Alice Springs was a recent visitor to Sydney.

She is Sister Connie McDonald a member of the Church Army, a society within the Church of England which trains men and women for evangelistic work.

Sister McDonald came from Alice Springs to the Church Army's Training School at Stockton near Newcastle. When Stockton school closed at the end of last year she was transferred to a new bible school at Croydon, a Sydney suburb.

During her stay in Sydney the Kimberleys' girl was a house guest of the Superintendent of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. H. J. Green and his wife at their Harbord home.

On a visit to the city she had morning tea with the Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, in his Macquarie Street office.

Sister McDonald was asked to write her story for *Dawn*. She agreed to tell it in her own beautifully simple, dignified style which we are pleased to record:—

"My name is Connie. I was born and brought up on a mission station which is 40 miles by boat from Wyndham, W.A., which is the nearest township to Forrest River Mission.

"I was taught about God at an early age by the missionaries who came to Forrest River to help us know about God. I attended the mission school and our teachers were Missionary teachers and as well as teaching us to read and write and do arithmetic, etc., they taught us about Christ and how He died for us all because He loved us so much that He gave His life for us.

"At the age of 14 I became aware of the presence of Christ and I knew that there was a God who is true and living, and it was at that age that I gave myself to Christ.

"In 1949 I went to Alice Springs at the age of 14 to school because I felt that I would like to further my education. I stayed in Alice Springs where I obtained a High School education and then went back to Forrest River where I helped to teach Kindergarten and also help to bring the little ones to know Christ.

In 1957 I came over to Yarrabah, Queensland, another mission, to help with the teaching in the schools.

I taught kindergarten at Yarrabah for 2½ years. It was while I was there that I heard the call of God to serve Him, and it was His will that I should serve Him in the Church Army. I then wrote away to the Church Army and after waiting a couple of months I received a letter from Sister Bacon, who is Sister-in-Charge of the Training College, telling me that I had been accepted as a candidate.