

DUTCH WOMEN.

Volunteers for Auxiliary Corps.

It was announced in Melbourne on Thursday that the C-in-C of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (Lt-General L. H. van Oyen) had inspected the first group of the Women's Auxiliary Corps which consisted of Dutch women and girls. Inquiries in Perth on Friday revealed that a number of Dutch women who have resided in this State for some time have already sent in their applications to join the corps. They are overjoyed at the opportunity of joining a corps which, it is believed, will play a large part in the reconstruction of their country when it is liberated.

Those who have sent in their papers from this State include Mesdames C. J. Leeman and J. M. Mol, and Misses B. A. Freese, J. Butler and H. Whitton. All have passed their medical examination. Two other women who are British subjects but who are interested in the Netherlands have sent in their papers direct.

Some of these women are evacuees. Mrs Leeman, for instance, has every reason for wanting to go back. She is a Dutch subject whose home was in Batavia before the war. Coming to Australia after the fall of Singapore, she left behind a husband and two sons, one serving in the Navy and one in the Air Force. The only news she has received was a card, some months ago, from her sailor son.

Although over the age officially stated for enlistment, Mrs Leeman has been accepted because of her ability as a linguist. Mrs Mol also lived in Java and her husband is a prisoner of war. Miss Freese has lived in Australia for 15 years. Miss Whitton is a British subject, but lived in Java all her life. It is expected that the first camp will be opened in Brisbane at the end of this month where all recruits will go for training. British and Australian women volunteers will be accepted in the corps provided they can pass a medical test indicating that they are fit to serve in a tropical climate, and have a knowledge of the Dutch language.