

# "Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

**FEBRUARY 2017**

## Inside this issue:

On Deployment Captain John Moulton	2
February Luncheon 26th February	3
Private Gomad Reckons.....	4
Members List	5
Mystery Picture 10 RSAR Mortar Platoon	6
<b>LETTERS</b>	7
The Punt Gun Fact or Fiction?	8/9
100 Years Ago 1917	10 11
Australia's Secret War	12 13
How to Contact Us	14

## Australia Day honours for RSARA members

Australia Day honours were conferred on two RSAR Association members on 26th January 2017. Alan Orrock and Graham Goodwin have both been honoured with awards for outstanding service to various organisations.



Former RSARA Treasurer and long time member **Alan Orrock** was awarded an OAM (General Division) for service to the community through a range of organisations, including St Johns as a volunteer, and the RSAR Association as Committee member and as Treasurer.

RSARA President Rodney Beames said "Alan has worked very hard supporting a number of community organisations, of which the RSAR Association was just one. We are proud of Alan's achievements and congratulate him on this significant milestone in his life.

LTCOL **Graham Goodwin** was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for outstanding achievement as Commanding Officer of the 10th/27th Battalion, the Royal South Australia Regiment.

Graham has only recently returned from a six month deployment to Afghanistan where he was part of a mentoring group training the new Afghani Army.

When contacted by the Editor, Graham said he was very humbled, and owes his success to the great team of Officers and soldiers of the Battalion, plus the fantastic support from the RSAR Association. Well done Graham, and Pro Patria



They've opened a new shop across the road selling camouflage clothing but I have my suspicions something weird is going on. Yesterday I saw 20 people go in but I never saw anyone coming out.

## On Deployment

SAMRA Secretary David Mercer sent in the photo below of 10th/27th Battalion Adjutant Captain John Moulton on deployment in Iraq. John is an Honorary Member of the RSAR Association whilst serving, and we're proud of the work he's doing. Stay Safe Captain Moulton, and job well done!



"Australian Army officer Captain John Moulton of Task Group Taji 4 guides an Iraqi Army soldier through urban operations techniques at Taji Military Complex, Iraq."

## PAYMENT OF SUBS

**(Don't send it to the Secretary!)**

If you haven't paid your yearly subs since the AGM in 2016, YOU'RE NOW DUE!

It's STILL only \$20 per year, and your contribution is needed to ensure we carry on our support of the Battalion and other good causes.

Your subs can be paid by sending a cheque or money order to:

**Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc**  
**The Treasurer, David Hope**  
**20 Katoomba Rd**  
**Beaumont SA 5066**

Or EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) to:

**BSB**                      **015 211**  
**Account**                **482 441 406**

**In the name of Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc.**

Please remember to include an identifier such as your surname, so the payment can be matched to you.  
 ie:- "SMIFF 2017 FEES."

# Royal South Australia Regiment Association

## 26th February Luncheon



The first luncheon for this year will be conducted on Sunday 26th Feb 2017 at the Hackney Hotel at midday.

The Special Guest Speaker for the function is to be **Mr Rob Manton**, Director of Veterans SA.

Mr Manton served in the Australian Defence Force for 30 years, where he reached the rank of Colonel. He has received five commendations including the Bronze Star for high order leadership skills and outstanding performance of duty in Iraq, the Chief of Army's Commendation for exemplary leadership and management skills, along with a Meritorious Service Medal from the Commanding General of the US Command and General Staff College for excellence in delivering training.

Mr Manton is a strategic thinker and highly capable leader. As a former adviser to the Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, he led Australian delegations to a variety of UN committees involving the 192 Member States.



**Mr Rob Manton**

He was instrumental in developing a plan for Australia's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

As an independent consultant Mr Manton also led an international campaign to progress the issue of protection of civilians in UN peacekeeping missions.

He previously held the position of Assistant Chief Of Staff of the Multi-National Force in Iraq, and was responsible for coordinating the strategic planning and operational efforts of over 850 military staff.

Mr Manton was Guest Speaker at the Murray Bridge RSL 2016 Annual Dinner, and guests were very impressed with his presentation.

Seating is limited, so **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL** to Norm Tregenza on [normlyn@bigpond.com](mailto:normlyn@bigpond.com) or his mobile of 0412 804 779

**You don't have to be a member to attend. All Welcome**

**RSVP Not Later Than Friday 17th February. LIMITED SEATS**

A middle-aged couple had two beautiful daughters but always talked about having a son.

They decided to try one last time for the son they always wanted. The wife got pregnant and delivered a healthy baby boy. The joyful father rushed to the nursery to see his new son. He was horrified at the ugliest child he had ever seen.

He told his wife: 'There's no way I can be the father of this baby. Look at the two beautiful daughters I fathered.

Have you been fooling around behind my back ?'

The wife smiled sweetly and replied: 'No, not this time'



Private Gomad reckons.....



When they were young lads, Brian and Greg walked into a pharmacy in Brighton one day, picked out a box of tampons and proceeded to the checkout counter.

The pharmacist at the counter asked Brian, "Son, how old are you?"

"Eight", Brian replied.

The man continued, "Do you know what these are used for?"

Brian replied, "Not exactly, but they aren't for me. They're for Greg. He's my brother. He's four."

"Oh, really?" the pharmacist replied with a grin.

"Yes." Brian said. "We saw on TV that if you use these, you would be able to swim, play tennis and ride a bike.

Right now, he can't do none of that."

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands. For instance, if they are holding a gun, she's probably angry.

Seeing a spider isn't a problem. It becomes a problem when it disappears.

..And then she asked  
"What's the best  
form of birth  
control after 50?"  
I said  
"Nudity"



Sandi V  
www.wackywits.com

Abareh, Wadi **SM**  
 Abel, Colin  
 Acton, Chris  
 Adams, Aaron **SM**  
 Apostolides, Chris  
 Attenborough, Geoff  
 Ayles, Jeff  
 Baldwin, Bob  
 Bampton, Michael **BAND**  
 Barnaart, Philip  
 Bates, Allan  
 Beames, Rod **CoM**  
 Beckett, David **LM SM**  
 Bennet, Graham  
 Benveniste, Sam **SM**  
 Bilsborow, Jason **SM**  
 Blackmore, William  
 Blake, Sam **SM**  
 Blondell, Mark **SM CoM**  
 Bloomfield, Max  
 Bourne, Ian **SM**  
 Boath, Ian  
 Boothroyd, Lincoln **SM**  
 Boscence, Bob  
 Bras, Riley **SM**  
 Broadbent, Robert **SM**  
 Brookes, Phil  
 Brown, Bruce  
 Brown, Harry  
 Burnard, Trent **SM CO**  
 Burton, Ray  
 Buttars, Erik  
 Campbell, Wenona **BAND**  
 Carnachan, Ian  
 Chittleborough, Jeff  
 Clyne, Lachlan **SM**  
 Cooke, Nat **CoM**  
 Contibas, Nikolaus **SM**  
 Cotton, Bob  
 Cram, Kevin  
 Dart, John  
 Davey, John (Jack)  
 Davey, Trevor  
 Dawson, Trevor **BAND**  
 Del Vecchio, Victor  
 Demasi, Nathan **SM**  
 Demosani, Tony  
 Dew, Trevor  
 Domanski, Glenn  
 Dubsky, Eddie  
 Dunn, Peter  
 Dunn, Bob  
 Dunn, Jeff  
 Durdin, Russell  
 Durrant, Chris  
 Edson, Roger  
 Elliott, Graham  
 Elliss, Scott **SM**  
 Eva, Keith

Ewens, Mimi **SM**  
 Ferguson, Shane **BAND**  
 Field, Don  
 Flanagan, Ted  
 Fortune, Nigel **BAND**  
 Gaborit, Lyndon **LM**  
 Gallagher, Erin **BAND**  
 Genovese, John  
 Gibson, Lindsay  
 Giles, John  
 Gill, Graham  
 Gilmore, Graham  
 Goodwin, Graham **SM**  
 Gordon, Frank  
 Hardy, Robert **SM**  
 Harley, Peter  
 Harrington, Malcolm  
 Harrison, John  
 Hawking, Don  
 Hawkins, Des  
 Heath, Jonathon **BAND**  
 Haynes, Malcolm **SM 2IC**  
 Haynes, Scott  
 Hewitt, Emily **BAND**  
 Hogan, Mark **LM**  
 Hook, Alan **LM CoM**  
 Hope, David **CoM**  
 Horseman, Ian **LM**  
 Hudson, Mick  
 Hudson, Rick  
 Humphrys, Jesse **SM CoM**  
 James, Grant **SM**  
 Jeffrey, Scott **SM**  
 Johnson, Barry **LM**  
 Jolly, David  
 Jones, Brett  
 Keenan, Alan  
 Kilford, Brian  
 Klopff, Alex **LM**  
 Klopff, Paul  
 Koop, Joshua **BAND**  
 Laing, David **LM CoM**  
 Lakin, Bruce  
 Lampard, Ross  
 Lee, Bob  
 Lee, Pat  
 Lloyd, Elmer  
 Longstaff, Paul  
 Loveder, Peter  
 Main, Brian  
 Marcus, Ray  
 Marlin, Robin **LM**  
 Martin, Bob  
 Matchett, Bill  
 Mau, Mark  
 McCulloch, Don  
 McGree, Barry  
 McLachlan, Joshua **SM**  
 McMahan, Tyler **SM**  
 McMullin, Jim  
 Meissner, Terry **SM**

Milde, Peter **SM**  
 Mitchell, Barry  
 Mitchell, David  
 Morony, Frank  
 Moore, Jeffrey  
 Moore, Terry **LM**  
 Moschis, James **SM**  
 Munro, Ron  
 Oliver, Peter  
 Orrock, Alan  
 Ockenden, Marc  
 Oswald, John  
 Pach, Chol **SM**  
 Paul, John  
 Perkins, Bob  
 Pollard, Barry  
 Portakiewicz, A **BAND**  
 Portakiewicz, D **BAND CoM**  
 Phillips, Colin  
 Phillips, Trevor  
 Payne, Bob  
 Parslow, Howard  
 Parsonage, James  
 Preece, Brian  
 Rado, Stephen  
 Ranger, Denis  
 Rathmann, John  
 Rathmann, Norm **CoM**  
 Rijken, Paul  
 Ramm, Hank  
 Robertson, Jim  
 Rorie, Graham **SM**  
 Rossetti, Lee  
 Sage, Andrew  
 Salamon, Peter  
 Sanders, Ashley **SM**  
 Sanderson, Max  
 Sands, Mike  
 Sexton, Mark **SM**  
 Slater, Ian  
 Slattery, Kimberly **BAND**  
 Sniedze, Julie **BAND**  
 Sprigg, Rob  
 Staker, Cameron **SM**  
 Standing, Michael **CoM**  
 Stone, Eddie  
 Strain, Doug  
 Steer, Phil  
 Stewart, Rob **LM**  
 Stewien, Peter **LM**  
 Stuart, Matthew **SM**  
 Tiller, Garth  
 Thomson, Jim  
 Tolotta, Tarrant **SM**  
 Tompkins, Ian  
 Tregenza, Norm **CoM**  
 Trezise, George  
 Tucker, Belinda **BAND**  
 Ullrich, Andreas **SM**  
 Vella, Joe  
 Wake, Stephen

Waters, Ian **LM**  
 Weepers, Nicole **BAND**  
 Weightman, Aidan **SM**  
 Westover, Rhys  
 Wheeler, Chris  
 Williams, Darrian **SM**  
 Wilson, Graham **LM**  
 Wilson, Neil  
 Wood, George  
 Woore, Phillip  
 Yorke-Simpkin Reg **LM**  
 Zuromski, Paul **SM**

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Abel, Karen  
 Ayles, Denise  
 Beames, Cheryl  
 Carnachan, Dom  
 Dart, Caroline  
 Demosani, Gail  
 Elliott, Julie  
 Eva, Gail  
 Field, Shirley  
 Gatley, Graeme  
 Gill, Maureen  
 Gilmour, Helen  
 Hawking, Lorraine  
 Hook, Phillipa  
 Hudson, Margaret  
 Jolly, Sandra  
 Klopff, Josie  
 Laing, June  
 Lampard, Kay  
 Main, Raelene  
 Marcus, Yvonne  
 Lee, Anne  
 Mitchell, Roma  
 Parkin, Audrey  
 Phillips, Heather  
 Sanderson, Lorraine  
 Tregenza, Lyn  
 Winger, Kathleen

#### HONORARY MEMBERS

T. Burnard CO 10/27 RSAR  
 J. Moulton ADJT 10/27 RSAR  
 B. Lipman RSM 10/27 RSAR

**LM** denotes LIFE MEMBER  
**SM** denotes SERVING ADF MEMBER  
**BAND** denotes serving 10/27 Band member  
**#** Denotes NEW MEMBER

224 members  
 as at 1/12/16



## CAN YOU NAME THESE SOLDIERS?

The photo above was sent in by member Don McCulloch and is of members of a 10 Battalion Mortar Platoon and I think, looking at the webbing equipment, was taken sometime in the 60's or early 70's.

Can you help identify any of the members? A prize of \$100 (Nigerian Dollars, that's about 13 cents AUS) is up for grabs if you can put names to the faces.



**I AM AN AUSTRALIAN VETERAN**



**MY OATH OF  
ALLEGIANCE HAS NO  
EXPIRY DATE**

The 10th Battalion (AIF) Association has been in existence for a number of years, and catered mainly for ex serving members of the 10th Battalion (AIF) from the 2nd World War. Inevitably, if your membership is made up predominantly of ex soldiers in their late 80's and 90's, when your members pass away, so will your association. The late Roger Cundell (pictured right) was a long standing President of the 10th Bn (AIF) Assoc, and when he passed in 2011, the "writing was on the wall." The offer for those left to join the RSAR Association was made some time ago, and the current President of the 10th AIF Doug Strain and his members have taken up the offer. Over the next few months we will "absorb" these heroes into our fold, and make them as welcome as all new members.

*The Editor*



The late Captain Roger Cundell OAM.

Hi Rod

Re: the amalgamation of the 10th Bn (AIF) Association with the RSAR Association.....

This is a landmark decision of the 10Bn (AIF) Association and a very good outcome for the associations generally. It is a matter that has been in discussion for many years and has not been taken lightly. Those of the Association who knew Roger Cundell will recall his passion for "his" association and I recall him saying to me "not in my lifetime, Hooky".

Well it has now come to pass and I believe the veteran's community will be all the better/stronger for this action.

I congratulate the respondents to your email; the comments reflect a maturity in the COM of the RSAR Association that is a credit to them.

For what it is worth, I believe the arrangements proposed by Doug and seemingly accepted by the COM are fair and reasonable. Also the process to welcome each and every one of the 10 Bn members to the RSAR is a worthy approach.

Congratulations Rod to you and your Committee for the tireless work you are doing on behalf of the members of the RSAR Association.

Best wishes

*Alan Hook*

Past President RSAR Association Inc

Mr Doug Strain  
President  
10th Battalion (AIF) Association

Hello Doug,

Thank you for your letter regarding the winding up of the 10th Bn AIF Association.

I am delighted to advise that the unanimous response from the RSAR Association Committee of Management is to accept your proposal without change and welcome your members wholeheartedly into our organisation.

To this end,

"On behalf of the Royal South Australian Regiment Association Inc. I take great pleasure in formally welcoming you and all your members into the Association and extend an open invitation to our Christmas Function to be held at the Kibby Club, Keswick Barracks, at 11 am next Sunday (18th) This is free for your members and families. Further, my secretary and treasurer will be in contact to confirm 2 years membership and copies of our newsletter "Sitrep Over".

This is truly a momentous occasion for us all. **WELCOME.**"

Rod Beames  
President RSARA

## The PUNT GUN.....Fact or Fiction?

I've seen some interesting firearms in my time, but nothing equates to the sheer size of the near - legendary Punt Gun. Some of us used to baulk at carrying the GPMG M60 during our time in service, but this monster weighed as much as five times that of the M60.

A punt gun was a type of extremely large shotgun used in the 19th and early 20th centuries for shooting large numbers of waterfowl for commercial harvesting operations and private sport. A single shot could kill over 50 waterfowl resting on the water's surface. They were



too big to hold and the recoil so large that they were mounted directly on the punts (a small skiff boat) used for hunting, hence their name. "Used for duck hunting" isn't the right expression for aiming this piece of artillery in the general direction of a flock of ducks, firing, and spending the rest of the day picking up the carcasses. In the early 1800's the mass hunting of waterfowl to supply commercial markets with meat became a widely accepted practice. In addition to the market for food, women's fashion in the mid 1800's added a major demand for feathers to adorn hats. To meet the demand, professional hunters custom built extremely large shotguns (bore diameters up to 2") for the task.

These weapons were so cumbersome that they were most often mounted on long square-ended flat-hulled boats (punts). Hunters would manoeuvre their punts quietly into line and range of the flock using poles or oars to avoid startling them. Generally the gun was fixed to the punt; thus the hunter would manoeuvre the entire boat in order to aim the gun. The guns were sufficiently powerful, and the



A hunter aiming his PUNT GUN

punts themselves sufficiently small, that firing the gun often propelled the punt backwards several inches or more.

To increase efficiency even further, punt hunters would often work in groups of 8-10 boats. By lining up their boats and coordinating the firing of their single shot weapons, entire flocks of birds could be "harvested" with a single volley. It was not unusual for such a band of hunters to acquire as many as 500 birds in a single day.

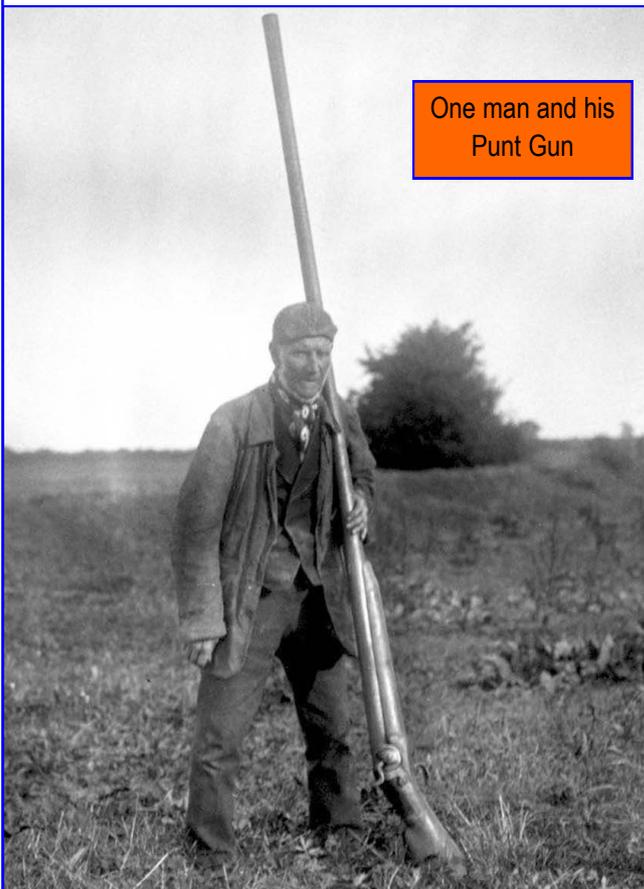
Because of the custom nature of these weapons and the lack of support by the weapons industry, they were often rather crude in design. In the United States, this practice depleted stocks of wild waterfowl and by the 1860s most states had banned the practice. The Lacey Act of 1900 banned the transport of wild game across state lines, and the practice of market hunting was outlawed by a series of federal laws in 1918.

In the UK similar laws were enacted, however the use of Punt Guns were confined to NOT shooting wild fowl. This left collectors and enthusiasts with the right to still collect and fire these monoliths, with no effect on populations of wildfowl.

BELOW: Chief United States Game Warden George A. Lawyer, with an illegal 10'9" shotgun (PUNT GUN) weighing 250 pounds, which was used for duck hunting. 1920.



Two x 2 Gauge Punt Gun cartridges (TOP) compared to a standard 12 Gauge shotgun cartridge.



One man and his Punt Gun



As we enter 2017 we reflect on the significance of the battles that were fought 100 years ago, the impact of those battles and the hand they played in shaping Australia as a nation during the Great War. This year we commemorate battles fought in theatres on the Western Front and in the Middle East, with decisive battles fought at Rafa and Gaza in the Sinai campaign, as well as battles in Bullecourt, Menin Road, and Polygon Wood.

By the end of 1916 Australia had suffered 40,000 casualties; a further 76,836 Australians would become casualties by the end of 1917. Below are highlighted some of the better known engagements that involved South Australian units and personnel.

#### **Centenary of the First Battle of Gaza (26 March 1917)**

The coastal city of Gaza was the heart of the main Turkish defensive position in southern Palestine. Three major battles were launched in 1917 by British and Dominion forces to capture Gaza – only the third succeeded. The first battle of Gaza took place on 26 March 1917 with two British infantry divisions attacking from the south while mounted troops attacked from the flanks and the north. After a strategic error, withdrawing troops due to a fear of a lack of water supplies, a secondary attack commenced to no avail, Turkish reinforcements held out against an exhausted infantry.



Australians in the second line of the trenches before Riencourt (near Bullecourt), in May 1917, cleaning their rifles in readiness for an attack.

#### **Centenary of the Battle of Noreuil, France (2 April 1917)**

Northern France, late in February 1917, saw the German Army retreat to the Hindenburg Line. The Germans gave up ground, but in doing so they made the ground uninhabitable and as difficult to navigate as possible. British and Dominion troops immediately followed-up this withdrawal and advanced. In order to delay their advance and provide time for the Hindenburg Line defences to be fully prepared and manned, the Germans established rear guards by fortifying numerous villages and towns on the approaches to the Hindenburg Line. Noreuil was one of these villages. It was attacked by the 50th and 51st Battalions, with the 49th and 52nd in support, on the morning of 2 April, 1917.

#### **Centenary of the Battle of Messines, Belgium (7 June 1917)**

The target of this offensive was the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, a stronghold southeast of Ypres, which since late 1914 had been occupied by the Germans. This battle, it has been argued, was the most successful operation of the war, most certainly of the Western Front. A product of long preparation, detailed planning, and sound training, the initial assault was preceded by the laying of 21 mines, of which 19 detonated under the German front line. German counter attacks continued the following day with resistance continuing until 14 June. British, Australian and New Zealand forces retained possession of the captured areas.

#### **Third Battle of Ypres, Belgium (31 July 1917)**

The Third Battle of Ypres was the major British offensive in Flanders in 1917. The aggressive and meticulously planned offensive was aimed at destroying German submarine bases located on the north coast of Belgium. Nine British divisions were ordered to advance on the German lines near the village of Passchendaele in Belgium. The battle of Ypres consisted of several smaller battles fought under extremely difficult waterlogged conditions due to the frequent rain and destruction of the Flanders' lowlands from artillery bombardment. The Third battle of Ypres remains one of the most costly and controversial offensives of World War I.

Significant battles at Menin Road (20-25 September) and Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Celtic Wood and Passchendaele all occurred

as part of the Third Battle of Ypres. The Battle at Polygon Wood would prove particularly costly for Australia, with more than 5,770 Australian casualties, many of whom were from the 50th Australian Infantry Battalion raised in Egypt in 1916, most of whose members hailed from South Australia.

#### **Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, Middle East (31 October, 1917)**

The battle of Beersheba was part of a wider offensive known as the third Battle of Gaza. The battle of Beersheba is widely known for the final phase of this all day battle, which culminated in the charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade. Members of the 4th Light Horse with only bayonets drawn, the only weapon able to be used on horseback as their rifles were slung on their backs, stormed through the Turkish defences and seized the strategic town of Beersheba. The charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse at Beersheba is remembered as the last great cavalry charge.

The capture of Beersheba enabled British forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza on 7 November and advance into Palestine.

#### **Centenary of the Capture of Jerusalem (9 December, 1917)**

The Battle of Jerusalem occurred during the "Jerusalem Operations" against the Ottoman Empire. Fighting around Jerusalem began on 17 November, and continued after the surrender until 30 December 1917. The capture of Jerusalem was successfully fought against strong opposition in the Judean Hills and north of Jaffa on the Mediterranean coast. The loss of both Jaffa and Jerusalem, together with the loss of 80 km of territory after the capture of Beersheba, Gaza, Hareira and Sheria, resulted in a significant setback for the Ottoman Army and the Ottoman Empire.

### **1917 BATTLES IN WHICH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN'S FOUGHT IN COMBINED UNITS**

**Middle East – Rafa (9 January 1917) 3rd Light Horse Regiment + 9th Light Horse (with VIC)**

**Western Front – Advance to the Hindenburg Line (February-April 1917) 32nd Battalion (with WA)**

**Middle East – Gaza (27 March, 19 April 1917) 3rd Light Horse Regiment (with TAS) + 9th Light Horse (with VIC)**

**Western Front – Noreuil (2 April 1917) – 50th Battalion (SA)**

**Western Front – Bullecourt (10-11 April 1917) – 12th Battalion (with Tas/WA), 16th Battalion (with WA), 48th Battalion (with WA), 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion**

**Western Front – Battle of Lagnicourt (15 April 1917) – 12th Battalion**

**Middle East – Gaza (19 April 1917) – 11th Light Horse Regiment (with QLD)**

**Middle East – Es Salt Raid (30 April – 3 May) – 3rd LH + 9th LH Regiments**

**Western Front – Messines (7 June 1917) 16th Battalion (with WA), 43rd Battalion, 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion (with QLD)**

**Western Front - Third Battle of Ypres (31 July – 10 November, 1917) which incorporated the following battlefront locations:**

- Pilckem – 31 July – 2 August – No units with SA servicemen fought in this battle – mostly British, French, Canadian
- Warneton (31 July 1917) **43rd Battalion**
- Battle of the Menin Road Ridge (20 September 1917) -**12th Battalion, 27th Battalion (SA); 32nd Battalion (with WA), 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion**
- Battle of Polygon Wood (26 September 1917) – **10th Battalion (SA), 16th Battalion (with WA), 27th Battalion, 32nd Battalion (with WA), 43rd Battalion, 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion**
- Battle of Broodseinde Ridge (4 October 1917) – **10th Battalion, 27th Battalion, 43rd Battalion**
- Raid on Celtic Wood (9 October 1917) – **10th Battalion, 27th Battalion, 43rd Battalion**
- Battle of Poelcapelle (9 October 1917) – **10th Battalion, 27th Battalion, 32nd Battalion, 43rd Battalion**
- First Battle of Passchendaele (12 October 1917 –) **16th Battalion (with WA), 27th Battalion, 32nd Battalion, 43rd Battalion, 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion**
- Second Battle of Passchendaele (26 October – 10 November, 1917) **16th Battalion, 32nd Battalion, 43rd Battalion, 50th Battalion, 52nd Battalion**

**Middle East – Battle of Beersheba – 3rd LH, 9th LH & 11th LH Regiments.**

**Middle East – Sheria (7 November 1917) – 11th Light Horse Regiment.**

*My first 6 months in Vietnam, June to December 1966, were among the worst in my life, significantly due to the Wharfies and the Postal workers union. Because the wharfies used every dirty trick in the book to stop supplies getting to us, we lived on mouldy canned combat rations many years old, (one third of the Artillery Regiment had on average, 6-10 mouth ulcers the size of a small button), had only hutchies, which are just a plastic sheet, to live under, and I was always short of medical supplies until the American Guns came and I cadged basic stuff from them. The Postal union refused to handle our mail, so it came and went through the US system, a letter taking 6 weeks to get home and replies the same time to get to us. The greatest morale killers in those conditions are bad or no food and no communication with home. The word spread that when you got home, you should 'Wallop a Wharfie and Punch a Postie'. The fight was pretty much knocked out of us and we were just so happy to get home that I don't know anybody that followed through. The Vets reading this may shed some light on that but at least we fared better than the poor bastards in WW11.*

*The book should be compulsory reading in all schools; it will make any fair minded Australian howl with rage, but then the leftie Teachers Union wouldn't stand for that. Solidarity Brother!*

*John Taske.*

*They did the same in Sydney during the Vietnam War. e.g. One example is that the Sydney wharfies stole all the vast and expensive tool kits that went with each of the Centurion tanks as they were loaded on board a ship for Vietnam. They had refused to load the tanks until they were taught to drive them from the tank transporters when they arrived on the wharfs, [a very short distance] to the edge of the docks, which obviously gave them the chance to steal the many thousands of dollars of tools, which had to be replaced urgently by air to Vietnam.*

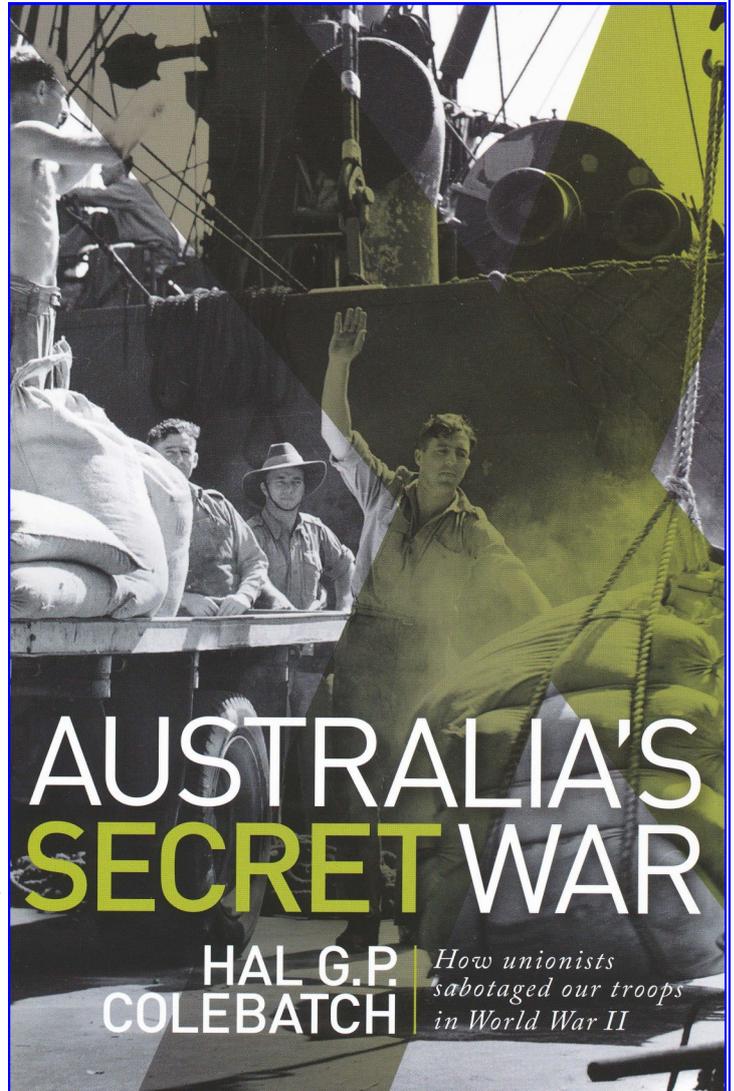
As the Turnbull government begins to take on union power and corruption, a timely new book reveals the union movement's role in one of the most shameful periods of Australian history.

What the wharfies did to Australian troops - and their nation's war effort - between 1939 and 1945 is nothing short of an abomination.

Perth lawyer Hal Colebatch has done the nation a service with his groundbreaking book, **Australia's Secret War**, telling the untold story of union bastardry during World War 2.

Using diary entries, letters and interviews with key witnesses, he has pieced together with forensic precision the tale of how Australia's unions sabotaged the war effort; how wharfies vandalised, harassed, and robbed Australian troop ships, and probably cost lives.

One of the most obscene acts occurred in October, 1945, at the end of the war, after Australian soldiers were released from Japanese prison camps. They were half dead, starving and desperate for home. But when the British aircraft-carrier HMS Speaker brought them into Sydney Harbour, the wharfies went on strike. For 36 hours, the soldiers were forced to remain on-board, tantalisingly close to home. This final act of cruelty from their countrymen was their thanks for all the sac-



rifice.

Colebatch coolly recounts outrage after outrage.

There were the radio valves pilfered by waterside workers in Townsville which prevented a new radar station at Green Island from operating. So when American dive bombers returning from a raid on a Japanese base were caught in an electrical storm and lost their bearings, there was no radio station to guide them to safety. Lost, they ran out of fuel and crashed, killing all 32 airmen.

Colebatch quotes RAAF serviceman James Ahearn, who served at Green Island, where the Australians had to listen impotently to the doomed Americans' radio calls: "The grief was compounded by the fact that had it not been for the greed and corruption on the Australian waterfront such lives would not have been needlessly lost."

Almost every major Australian warship was targeted throughout the war, with little intervention from an enfeebled Prime Minister Curtin.

There was the deliberate destruction by wharfies of vehicles and equipment, theft of food being loaded for soldiers, snap strikes, go-slows, demands for "danger money" for loading biscuits.

Then there were the coal strikes which pushed down coal production between 1942 and 1945 despite the war emergency. There were a few honourable attempts to resist union leaders, such as the women working in a small arms factory in Orange, NSW, who refused to strike and "pelted union leaders with tomatoes and eggs".

This is a tale of the worst of Australia amid the best, the valour and courage of our soldiers in New Guinea providing our last line of defence against Japanese, only to be forced onto starvation rations and to "go easy on the ammo" because strikes by the wharfies back home prevented supplies from reaching them.

A planned rescue of Australian POWs in Borneo late in the war apparently had to be abandoned, writes Colebatch, because a wharf strike in Brisbane meant the ships had no heavy weapons.

There was no act too low for the unionists. For instance, in 1941, hundreds of soldiers on board a ship docked in Fremantle entrusted personal letters to wharfies who offered to post them in return for beer money. The letters never arrived.

At one point in 1942 a US Army colonel became so frustrated at the refusal of Townsville wharfies to load munitions unless paid quadruple time, he ordered his men to throw the unionists into the water and load the guns themselves.

In Adelaide, American soldiers fired sub-machine guns at wharfies deliberately destroying their aircraft engines by dropping them from great heights.

Australian soldiers had to draw bayonets to stop the same Adelaide wharfies from stealing food meant for troops overseas. You will read this book with mounting fury.

Colebatch offers various explanations for the treasonous behaviour of the unions. Many of the leaders were Communists obsessed with class warfare. Fervent "identity politics" led them to believe they were victims, and that servicemen and women were "puppets of capitalism whose lives were of no consequence".

Contrary to popular belief, strikes and sabotage continued to the end of the war, even after the Soviet Union became an ally, writes Colebatch, who contends that the Australian Left may have wanted to undermine the military in preparation for revolution after the war.

Whatever the reasons for the defective morality of those unionists who sabotaged our war effort, the traitors have never been brought to account.

This story has been largely suppressed for 70 years because Labour and the Left have successfully controlled the narrative of history. But no more, thanks to Colebatch.

*Hal Colebatch's new book, Australia's Secret War, tells the shocking, true, but until now largely suppressed and hidden story of the war waged from 1939 to 1945 by a number of key Australian trade unions against their own society and against the men and women of their own country's fighting forces at the time of its gravest peril. The book is available in most good book stores and online for about \$45.00*

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2:11 PM

 The 710 cap???  
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**CONTACT US!-**  
 The Secretary/Editor, David Laing,  
 RSAR Association Inc  
 Riverglen Marina, RSD 3152A  
 White Sands SA 5253  
 0407 791 822  
[davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com)

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**Happy Australia Day**