

"Sitrep, Over!"



Official Newsletter of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

Editor - David Laing 0407 791 822

FEBRUARY 2017

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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.

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



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 Honourary 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.

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.



Mr Rob Manton

Seating is limited, so **BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL** to Norm Tregenza on 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

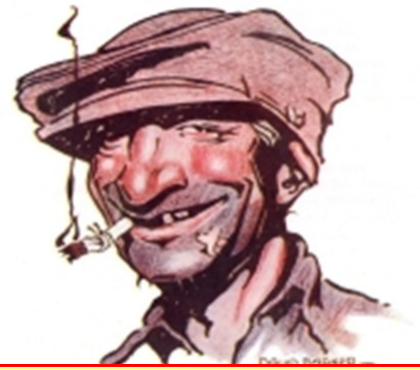
A middle-aged couple had two beautiful daughters but always talked about having a son.

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"



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



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.

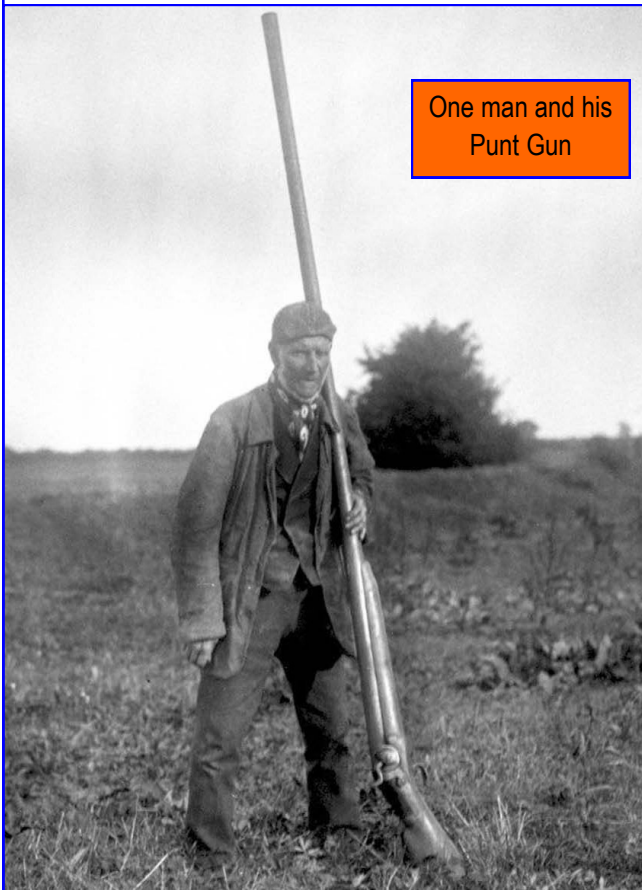
Because of the custom nature of these weapons and the lack of support by the weapons industry, they were often rather crude in design. In the United States, this practice depleted stocks of wild waterfowl and by the 1860s most states had banned the practice. The Lacey Act of 1900 banned the transport 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:

- Pilkem – 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.

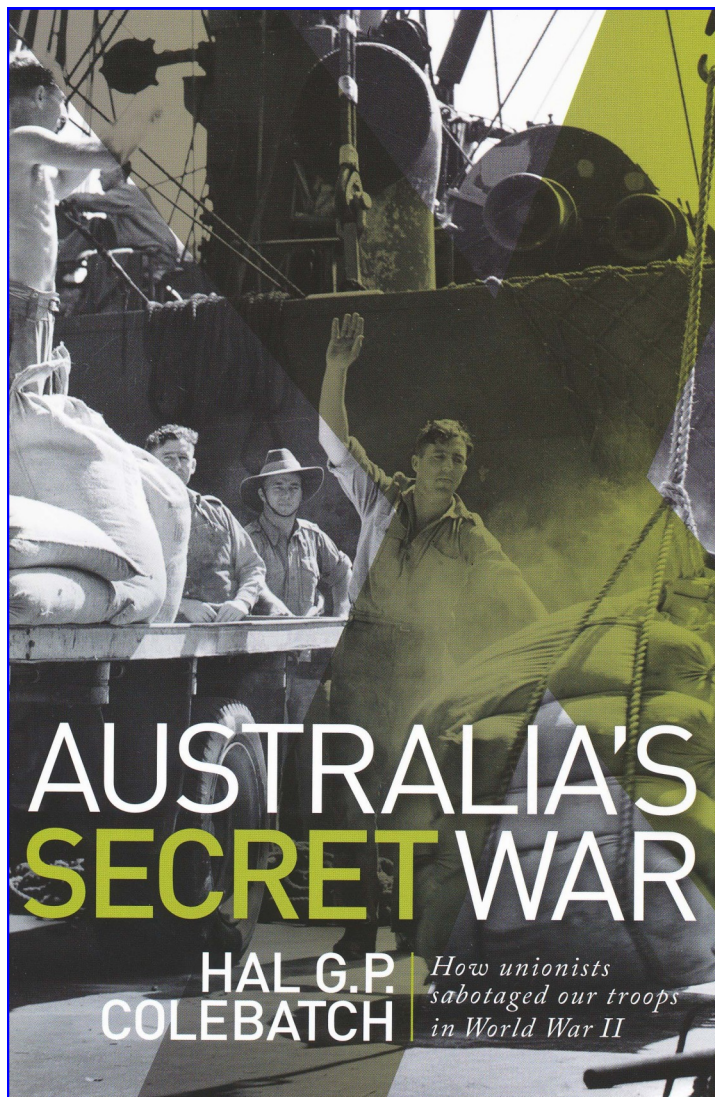
As the Turnbull government begins to take on union power and corruption, a timely new book reveals the union movement's role in one of the most shameful periods of Australian history.

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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Sweetie, I have a problem with my car. The 710 cap fell off the motor.

2:10 PM

What happened? ??

2:11 PM



The 710 cap???

2:11 PM



The 710 cap fell off the motor and I'm scared it might hurt the motor. I don't have the money to fix it.

2:26 PM

Send me a picture of this 710 cap.

2:27 PM



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CONTACT US!-

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We're on the Internet

www.rsara.asn.au

Check out the revamped website

Courtesy Webmaster Jesse Humphrys

Happy Australia Day