

From Ray Minniecon's visit to Israel for the centenary of the capture of Beersheba – posted on Facebook. There were many indigenous Australians who fought for their country in our wars, especially in the 'Charge of the Light Brigade'.



Day 15. In the hoof prints of Grandfather James Lingwoodock, 11th Lighthorse. 1917.

Final day reflections.

We visited a few places in Beersheba before heading off to Tel Aviv to catch our flight home tomorrow. We visited the Lighthorse museum with its fantastic historical footage and photographs. We also visited Abraham's well. This is what the Battle was all about. Water access. We then visited the Pratt foundation's park which has a brilliant and great sculpture of a light horse in action. Very beautiful. BeerSheba has many sites dedicated to the Lighthorse.

But My journey to Israel was to try and understand what grandfather experienced in this theatre of war.

My closing thoughts on my journey here to Israel I'm considering another question. I'm asking myself the question Why did he volunteer to join the military and go to war?

Because both he and Grandfather John Geary had just got married. And now they want to leave their wives and go to war in a foreign country. Why?

What was their motivation? Was it to serve King and country?

But they weren't recognised as humans! Remember what King O'Malley, an MP from South Australia said in 1901 "...that there is no scientific evidence that he (the aborigine) is a human being at all." Yet, in spite of this perspective of our people, my grandfather signed up to go and fight a war for this individual.

Why fight for someone who sees you as non-human? This question puzzles me deeply.

Did he join for the money? Was the pastoral industry not paying him enough? Perhaps he wanted more than Government rations for his family other than Flour, sugar and tea?

Did he join for adventure and glory? What kind of adventure and glory can you get when people with guns are trying to shoot and kill you? And what business did our Aboriginal people have with these countries? Our people had no arguments or disagreement with any these people in these foreign countries.

And in my limited research of this war, I discovered a very disturbing piece of information that angers me. I did not know that King George V is of German descent. I did not know that his blood cousin was the Kaiser of Germany. And his other blood cousin was the Tzar of Russia! This monarchy mafia who ruled the world at this time in human history were all related! What hypocrisy!

Did my grandfather know that he was fighting for the survival of these monarchy megalomaniacs? Did he see Gavrilo Princip's shot as an assassins bullet or a shot for freedom from the oppression of the monarchy mafia? While these kings ate sumptuously in their palaces, the people ate straw to quell their hunger.

More then 70 million soldiers were mobilised and over 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died as a result of this war which including a number of genocides. Did the mafia monarchy care?

My Grandfather, please help me understand...why! I have far too many questions and too few answers!

As I reflect on my journey here in Israel, I must come home with a sense of peace about the why question. Why did Grandfather come to fight in this war. The only way I can resolve this deeply vexing question is to dig deep into the wisdom and spirituality of our people. I've come to the conclusion that Grandfather James Lingwoodock and my other grandfather John Geary came here to fight for the dignity of all humanity. He came here to do his service for humankind. He came here, along with his horse and other brothers in arms to fight for the justice and peace for all humanity.

Grandfather, with all the skills that I have, I will join you in this fight. It's a battle worth winning.

Grandfather, thank you. I love you. Your grateful grandson, Ray Minniecon.

*There were many Facebook likes and comments on this post – like this one from Darren Cassady:
Brother Ray I think that what your grandad did was prophetic! By taking Beersheba it opened the way the Jews to return to the Land of the Abrahamic Covenant. They did something that the great Crusades of the Catholic church to take back the Holy Land could not do in the 1000-1100 AD!... Them old aboriginal men were a part of the promise GOD said would in the last days and in 1917 the Balfour Declaration came into effect opening the way for the Jewish State in 1948... I like to think of it this way, that our Ancient people were used by the everlasting Ancient of Days to restore again to their Land GODs Ancient people!*

