



Senty Togo

Aborigine Sent Home By Army

Senty Togo, an aborigine, came 500 miles from Murwillumbah to Sydney to join the A.I.F., but says he has been ordered home without any explanation.

HE was passed A1 in a preliminary medical test at Murwillumbah, but was given no further tests here.

"Perhaps it was on account of our being colored Australians," said Togo, "but I have two colored cousins with the A.I.F. abroad.

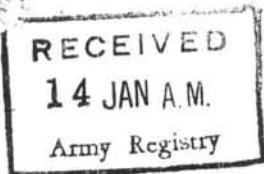
"I was passed A1 at Murwillumbah, and was brought down with a batch of 16 from the North Coast.

"We picked up two other aborigines at South Grafton. The other 13 were white boys.

"At Paddington we were separated from the whites, and, a few minutes after, we were handed our return tickets and a packet of 2s docketts for meals at the railway refreshment rooms.

"The military brought me down. I am anxious to serve Australia, but, without any examination or explanation I am being sent back—a thousand mile journey for nothing."

A military spokesman last night said he was unable to offer an explanation, but promised that inquiries would be made.



Checked for
Indexing
27/1/42

275 750 1264
"Stirling",
30 Station Street,
WEST RYDE.

6th January, 1942.

The Prime Minister of Australia,
The Hon. J. Curtin.

Sir,

On looking over the "Sunday Sun" of the 4th January, I read of the seemingly inhuman treatment meted out by the Military at Paddington to a young colored Australian named "Sandy Togi"; and also to two other colored Australians who had offered their services at the risk of their lives to fight for our country.

At the country centre where they came from they had been passed as fit, but when they arrived at Paddington they, so the paper says, were separated from the white men who had travelled with them, then were given their tickets back hundreds of miles, without any explanation.

We who pride ourselves as being democrats, and living in a democratic country, are beginning to wonder just "how much" democracy we can lay claim to; must we be continually confronted by the "old college tie" in this age?

These young men must have had their feelings horribly outraged at this treatment in a "so-called" Christian country. There was an utter lack of Christian spirit shown.

We have been told so often to look forward to the "New Age" where there will be only one race - the human race, where there must be no distinctions as to class, color, or creed. We white people know that it was nothing but an accident of birth that sent these young men into the world colored, while others of us arrived white skinned.

Why must these young men be despised and so shockingly humiliated, when they have offered their all? Surely it is high time that this insufferable snobbery should be cast out. We British who pride ourselves on our justice should ask ourselves - "Is this British Justice?". Surely not.

Many Australians agree that you are the best Prime Minister we have had. So we will leave it to you, Sir, to see that these hideous wrongs are righted.

Yours respectfully,

(Mrs.) MILDRED COPLAND.

ACKNOWLEDGED (informed representations noted and will be referred to appropriate Commonwealth authorities for consideration)

The Secretary,
Department of the Army.

Referred, by direction, for favour of advice.

RECEIVED
16 JAN 1942
A.G. 2

H. S. Lemby
Secretary.
Prime Minister's Department
12/1/42



A.I.F.
275/450/1262

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT,

12th January, 1942.

Canberra,

D.45/2/3.

In reply quote No.

Dear Madam,

With further reference to your letter of 6th January, 1942, in which you referred to a press report concerning three aborigines from the country who presented themselves in Sydney for enlistment, I am directed to inform you that enquiries were instituted in regard to this matter.

The existing Army instructions preclude the enlistment of full blooded aborigines, and the inconvenience caused to these men was due to the fact that they were, unfortunately, wrongly accepted at their country centres in the first instance.

The acceptance at the country centres involved the provision of facilities to enable them to present themselves at the Recruiting Depot in Sydney. Upon arrival there, it was found by the authorities in charge that the men could not be enlisted. In the circumstances they were provided with rail warrants and meal tickets and returned to their homes. At the time of their departure from the Recruiting Office in Sydney, the men did not express any dissatisfaction in regard to their treatment.

The patriotic gesture of the men is fully appreciated, and it is very much regretted that after travelling long distances they were caused any disappointment or inconvenience.

Regarding the non-acceptance of fullblooded aborigines, I am to state that when this instruction was issued, it was decided that no action was to be taken to discharge full blooded aborigines who had already been accepted. In certain cases men with some aboriginal blood are enlisted.

Yours faithfully,

24

Secretary.

Mrs. Mildred Copland,
"Stirling",
30 Station Street,
WEST RYDE. N.S.W.

THE COMMITTEE FOR ABORIGINAL CITIZENSHIP

RECEIVED
12 JAN 1942
A.G. 2

275	150	1262
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"FULL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS & STATUS FOR THE ABORIGINES"

Mc 8.1.42

CHAIRMAN
M. SAWTELL.

HON. SECRETARY
W. ONUS.
12a Victoria Arcade,
Sydney.

-7 JAN 1942

indexing

JAN 1942

133 Darlington Rd
Darlington

The Hon Minister for Army
Mr Forde

RECEIVED
12 JAN 1942
A.G. 1

Dear Sir

I would like you to give me a ruling on aborigines joining the A.I.F. in last Sundays Sun Clipping enclosed we find there was three aborigines returned home without any explanation. Quite recently in Victoria a number of aborigines were discharged from the A.I.F. on top of that it is being freely said that no more aborigines will be accepted in to the Army if this is so will you notify me we are quite in the dark. Our boys do not mind serving & according to the ruling which states that to join any of the fighting services one must be of pure European descent that in itself would debar us from serving. Candidly speaking I would like to see that all aborigines be granted full citizenship & status before being asked to defend our country. I feel sure the present Labor Government will treat

Al's 10/1/42 DM

With justice, it has been sent to me
by members of my association for
me to request you to form a Battalion
of Aborigines under their own C.O.'s
the same as done in New Zealand. &
a request which we as a body heartily
agree. There is no need for me to tell
you that the Aborigine is the greatest
Bushman in the world & for reconassance
work would be unbeatable. But yet
we do not see any aborigine Scouts
connected with the army. America
has utilized her Aborigine for
Scouting purposes & I feel sure
that Australia can do the same
However would it be possible for me
to see you so I can explain our
position more fully. I can be at
your service at any time

Thanking you in
Anticipation
W. J. Omer

RECEIVED
20 JAN A.M.
Army Registry

A.I.F.
275/450/1262

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JAN 20 1942

RECEIVED
21 JAN 1942
A.G. 1

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Minister for the Army to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th January, 1942, regarding military service of Aborigines, and to inform you that this matter has been the subject of much consideration with a view to meeting the wishes of all concerned.

Many opinions have been expressed both for and against the enlistment of Aborigines, and after very careful consideration, it is not proposed to depart from the decision already arrived at, viz. : that persons who are not substantially of European origin or descent may not be enlisted in the A.I.F.

This decision definitely precludes the enlistment of full-blooded Aborigines, but instructions have been issued to medical officers that in deciding whether or not a person is substantially of European origin, they will be guided by the general suitability of the applicant, and by the laws and practices of the State or Territory in which the enlistment takes place, thus providing for the enlistment in certain cases of men with some aboriginal blood.

Yours faithfully,

FRS
(F. R. Sinclair)
Secretary.

AS 2 6 1/2 42 ✓

Mr. W. Onus,
Hon. Secretary,
The Committee for Aboriginal Citizenship,
133 Darlington Road,
DARLINGTON, N.S.W.

ag
20/1/42

AS 2 30 1/2 42
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2/1/42
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22-1-42
P.A.
[Signature]

Australian Labor Party A.L.P.

PENRITH BRANCH

275

750

1274

27 JAN 1942

PENRITH

Jan 22nd

1942

President:

J. Jackson

~~E. BLACK~~

22 Riley Street, Penrith

Hon. Secretary:

F. T. MCGINLEY

31 Brown Street, Penrith

*J. M. Forde M.H.R.
Minister for Army*

Dear Sir

The above Branch

Carried a resolution of protest against the attitude of the Military Authorities in having the Aborigine Study Logo brought from Inurwillumbah to Sydney and then sent back without any explanation

The enclosed cuttings from the Press will serve to show the difference in the treatment of the Aborigines of other countries

*Yours
Fraternally
F. T. McGinley*

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9 FEB. A.M.
Army Registry

C/JMH

A.I.F. [64]
275/750/1274

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Prs. File 275/750/1264

Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE. S.C.I.
31st January, 1942.

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Checked for
entry

Dear Mr. McGinley,

I have your letter of the 22nd instant, in which you advise me that your Branch has carried a resolution of protest against the treatment which it is stated was meted out to Sandy Togo, an Aborigine, in connection with his desire to enlist in the A.I.F.

I am having the circumstances surrounding this case fully investigated by the appropriate officers of my Department.

Yours sincerely,

(F. M. FORDE)
Minister for the Army.

SECRETARY:

For necessary action please.

[Signature]

Private Secretary.
31/1/42.

F. T. McGinley Esq.,
Australian Labor Party,
Penrith Branch,
31 Brown Street,
PENRITH. N.S.W.

ALY.
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RECEIVED
11 FEB 1942
A.G. 2

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Australian  Military Forces
Eastern Command

TELEPHONE FO 455 [60]

A(R).WHC.HP

Address your reply to
Headquarters, Eastern Command, Paddington,
and quote Number hereunder

E.C. REGISTRY NUMBER		
467	6	1392.

430 . 13 . 990
Victoria Barracks,

Paddington, N.S.W.

January, 1942.

30 JAN 1942

16776

FEB A.M.

ARMY REGISTRY

~~1677~~

ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

ABORIGINALS : ENLISTMENT.
(Ref. A.H.Q.6969 of 20 January, 1942.)

1. It is advised that on the 3rd January, 1942, three aborigines, whose names are given hereunder, were called to the Recruiting Depot for enlistment;

FERGUSON	Lawrence,
LAURIE	Wally,
TOGO	Sendy.

2. In accordance with General Instructions they were not enlisted and were given a rail warrant and meal tickets and returned to their homes. At the time they left the Recruiting Depot they made no comment as to their treatment and did not express any dissatisfaction.

3. There was no indication on their basic documents that they were aboriginals.

4. The Deputy Director of Recruiting has been requested frequently to instruct authorised recruiting officers that aboriginals were not to be enlisted and in this case, these instructions had not been carried out.

5. In addition to D.A.61(H), which precludes the enlistment of persons not substantially of European origin or descent, A.H.Q.25837 of 6th May, 1940 forbids the enlistment of aboriginals. Further representations were made to this Command by the Aborigines Welfare Board and the Chief Secretary's Department which were submitted to Army Headquarters. Telegram A.3244 of 27th June, 1940 and A.H.Q.54746 of the 12th August, 1940, confirm the instructions contained in A.H.Q.25837 of the 6th May.

L. Abbenet Lt Col
Colonel i/c. Administration,
Base H.Q., EASTERN COMMAND.

AG 2/2/42

RECEIVED
3 FEB 1942
A.G. 2

R(19)

Association for the Protection of Native Races [65]

RECEIVED

17 APR 1942

Founded 1911

President: Professor A. P. ELKIN

275	750	1290
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GENERAL REGISTRY

Vice-Presidents: The Honorable J. A. PERKINS, M.P., Canon J. S. NEEDHAM,

20 APR 1942

T. E. ROFE, Esq., E. J. BRYCE, Esq.

p/PRS

Classified
Indexing

Hon. Secretary:

15th April 1942

Miss RUTH H. SWANN

Elizabeth Farm House,
Granville.
Phone UW8290

Hon. F. M. Forde,
Minister for the Army,
CANBERRA.

SECRETARY
For information
and any action
considered necessary.

E. Mianes

20.4.42.

Hon. Treasurer:

Hon. Sir,

W. COOPER, Esq.,
"Chetwynd," Killara

ABORIGINES IN MILITARY FORCES

With reference to the refusal of the authorities in Sydney to accept three aborigines, one from Murwillumbah and two from South Grafton, who desired to enlist - According to newspaper reports no explanation was made to these men as to why they were rejected and they were surprised because several coloured men have already gone abroad with the A. I. F. The A. P. N. R. would be grateful to you for information as to why an exception was made in the case of the volunteers referred to above.

At the same time we would suggest the formation of a battalion entirely composed of aborigines, so that all of them who desire to enlist would be enabled to do so, even if difficulties do occur when black men and white are in the same camps.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) *Ruth H Swann*

Hon. Secretary.

RECEIVED
25 APR 1942
A. G. 2

P. A. 1942
[Handwritten signature]

RECEIVED
23 APR 1942
A. G. 2

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
ATTESTATION FORM

FOR SPECIAL FORCES RAISED FOR SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR ABROAD

Army No.....
Surname..... Other Names.....
Unit.....
Enlisted for service at..... (Place)
..... (State)..... (Date)

A

Questions to be put to persons called out or presenting themselves for voluntary enlistment.*

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. What is your name? | { | 1. Surname..... |
| | | Other names..... |
| 2. Where were you born? | { | 2. In or near the town of..... |
| | | in the state or country of..... |
| 3. Are you a natural born or a naturalized British Subject? If the latter, papers are to be produced. | { | 3. |
| 4. What is your age and date of birth? | { | 4. Age..... |
| | | Date of Birth..... |
| 5. What is your trade or occupation? | { | 5. |
| 6. Are you married, single or widower? | { | 6. |
| 7. Give details of previous Military Service. | { | 7. A.M.F.— |
| | | No..... Rank..... Unit..... |
| | | Other Military Service..... |
| | | No..... Rank..... Unit..... |
| 8. If now serving, give particulars. | { | 8. No..... Rank..... Unit..... |
| 9. Who is your actual next of kin? (Order of relationship:—wife, eldest son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest half-brother, eldest half-sister). | { | 9. Name..... |
| | | Address..... |
| | | Relationship..... |
| 10. What is your permanent address? | { | 10. |
| 11. What is your religious denomination? (Answer optional). | { | 11. |
| 12. Have you ever been convicted by a civil court? | { | 12. |

I, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true and that I am willing to serve in the Australian Military Forces within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

Witnessed by.....
(Signature of Attesting or Witnessing Officer) Signature.

*The person will be warned that should he give false answers to any of these questions he will be liable to heavy penalties under the Defence Act.

B

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

I certify the above-named person to be fit for Class.....
Temporarily unfit.
Unfit. (Signature)

C

OATH OF ENLISTMENT

I, swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord, the King, in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia until the cessation of the present time of war and twelve months thereafter or until sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed or removed, and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained, and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So Help Me God

Signature of Person Enlisted.....

Subscribed at..... in the State of.....

this..... day of..... 19.....

Before me —
Signature of Attesting Officer.....

‡Persons who object to take an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Defence Act. In such case the above form will be amended accordingly and initialed by the Attesting Officer.