

24.9.45

Dutch dispute

WHARFIES LOCKED-OUT

As a result of the decision made yesterday 24th September to refrain from working six Dutch vessels in the port of Brisbane, 1400 members of the Waterside Workers' Federation of A. are now locked - out.

This morning members in the Pick-up shed in Macrossan Street re-affirmed the earlier decision to support the struggle of the Indonesian people for freedom and independence from brutal Dutch Imperialism. Waterside workers will continue their struggle to prevent the loading of Dutch vessels with cargo and troops which will be used against the Indonesian peoples and their Republican Govt.

The extension of the dispute to other ships in port was not the desire of waterside workers, because members this morning presented for work for the discharging of all vessels and loading of all except Dutch vessels arriving in port, and for hospital and mercy ships.

The Brisbane Waterside Employment Committee with the agreement of the Shipping Employers refused to allow our members to work unless they were prepared to work Dutch ships.

From 9 p.m. last night, attempts were made to transfer workers finishing to the Dutch vessels. On all occasions, members refused to take the transfer, and remained loyal to their decision.

Waterside workers are determined to continue their struggle to prevent the loading of Dutch vessels.

Waterside workers know that the Shipowners, in an attempt to win public opinion to the side of the Dutch Government, are using the plea that thousands of P.O.W's, European evacuees and Javanese people are suffering as a result of the shipping hold-up. BUT boxes labelled "Comforts" for Dutch evacuees, were found to be phosphorous bombs and tommy-guns.

As Australians who have kept the supplies moving for six years to the boys in the front lines, many of whom are now in our union, we are concerned that all ships with the exception of Dutch vessels, now in Brisbane are worked so that the Australian people, the soldiers still in the north, and our returning P.O.W's will not suffer hardship.

We declare that the Shipowners are responsible for this hold-up.

They must be forced to allow our members who are available for work to unload supplies for the Australian people and load supplies for our boys in the islands.