

Who was Jack Simpson?

The Lies of the Rev Sir Irving Benson!

Why the Reverend Sir Irving Benson lied about Jack's working class values and politics. The purpose was to support the war in Vietnam. So Benson lied about the kind of person Jack Simpson was. He replaced Jack's class war rhetoric with his own cold war prejudices. Benson published his booklet, *'The man with the Donkey: John Simpson Kirkpatrick The good Samaritan of Gallipoli'* on the 50th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

Vietnam and conscription

Four days after the 50th Anniversary on the 25 April 1965, the Australian Government announced that it was expanding its share in the U.S. invasion of Vietnam.

Conscription by lottery had been introduced in November 1964. The government used the ANZAC legend to drum up support. Benson hoped that his booklet would reinforce the propaganda effort.

PM Menzies lies to parliament about Vietnam commitment!

On the 29 April 1965 Menzies told the House of Representatives that Australia would send a 900 strong combat force. His first lie claimed that his government was 'now in receipt' of a letter from the PM of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam). The text of the letter did not arrive until after he finished speaking. His second lie was to say that the letter was a request for troops – in truth it was a thankyou for his government's offer.

Deceit and its consequences

The facts about Menzies's lies came out years later. Had they been known he should have resigned for deliberate deceit. The backwash of the lies was the death of 500 Australians in combat. Many veterans bodies and minds have been shattered, too many have cut their lives short.

Four million Vietnamese were killed. Had the same proportion of Australians been killed it would have meant one million dead. Three times more bombs were dropped there than by all sides in the Second World War, and 75 million litres of Agent Orange was poured onto the people and land.

And on it goes-Iraq, Afghanistan, Marines and Drones-Who's paying?

Australian Governments will continue to use Gallipoli and the ANZAC tradition as a means to meet their political ends. The self-defence of Australia is not their aim. Their overriding concern is military integration into the U.S. war machine. As Prime Minister, Howard voiced the arrogance of the coloniser by claiming the Gallipoli Peninsula for the Australian Heritage register.

Ten years ago, Howard lied to the Australian people, along with Bush and Blair, about WMDs in Iraq to justify invasion. These lies were met by a spontaneous opposition of over 500,000 people around the country. In 2001, the Howard government had put troops into Afghanistan. The present government continued to pretend that the U.S. NATO occupation was winning hearts and minds.

The ALP government has surrendered to U.S. demands for a marine base in Darwin. Drones are launched out of Katherine. Billions of dollars are spent to subordinate the Australian military into the U.S's strategic plans.

2015 will be the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli invasion. The government is preparing to misuse the ANZACs to justify aggression and military spending. Soldiers' lives, and the welfare of working people, will continue to be needlessly sacrificed unless we organise to stop the war-makers.

All wars take their toll on families and friends. We are the ones who comfort the traumatised and nurse the suffering. Workers across the country are organising to end decades of acquiescence by successive governments to the demands of British, and then U.S. global dominance.

Help organise for a peaceful Australia and go to

www.anti-bases.org www.ipan.org.au