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The Secrets of the Anzacs: The Untold Story of Venereal Disease in the Australian Army, 1914-1919 (Paperback)

By Raden Dunbar

Scribe Publications, Australia, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 235 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Here is a truly astonishing statistic: during World War I, about 60,000 soldiers in the Australian Imperial Force were treated by army doctors in Egypt, Europe, and Australia for venereal diseases - almost the same number of diggers who were killed during the war. This silent, secret scourge took hold in Cairo in 1914, and continued until 1919 when survivors of the war waited in Europe to be repatriated. Nobody wanted to know about it, at first - and the general public back home was, of course, kept in the dark. Moralistic commanders in Egypt ordered strict punishments for men with VD, and the young victims were sent back to Australia in disgrace, most of them inventing amazing excuses for their inexplicable return. Many of them re-enlisted, but some felt they had to change their names to do so. Medical officers couldn't afford to be puritanical, though. They tried to prevent the diseases, as well to cure them with toxic drugs in army VD hospitals in Cairo, England, and at Langwarrin near Melbourne. Eventually, even the army had to face facts,...



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