

***Cairns Post*, 19 January 1938**

METAL FOR JAPAN. LOADING REFUSED! BY PYRMONT WATERSIDERS.

The Melbourne Maru has been held up at Sydney owing to the refusal of waterside workers to load a cargo of metal for Japan. The trouble was restricted to the Pyrmont wharf because no hitch occurred in loading a similar cargo at Walsh Bay.

The agents ... were informed by the spokesman for the men that they would not load metals which might be used in Japan for the manufacture of munitions.

This afternoon a second call was made for labour, but there was no response. During the lunch hour a meeting, attended by about 100 men... supported the decision not to load metal for Japan.

The spokesman stated that they were taking action independently of the Waterside Workers Federation. They said that it was not a strike, and all men were willing to handle cargoes which could not be used to manufacture munitions.

***The Sun*, 28 January 1938**

WATERSIDE HOLD-UP REVIEWED

The attitude of Sydney wharf laborers in refusing to handle goods for Japan which might be manufactured into articles of war, is engaging the close attention of the Federal Cabinet.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) declined firmly to-day to make any comment.

Ministers are awaiting a statement of policy by the Waterside Workers' Federation before considering further action. Mr. Lyons ...will remain in close touch with the Attorney-General (Mr. Menzies), who has been delegated to deal with the matter.

...

Wharf laborers again declined to day to handle cargo for Japan on the two Japanese ships in port, the Canberra Maru at Pyrmont, and the Atsuta Maru at Walsh Bay.

On the Atsuta Maru one winch was operating, with ten federation men, who were handling a shipment of flour for Manila (Philippine Islands). By 8 a.m. about 70 wharf-laborers were in the street outside the Atsuta Maru's berth. When the 8 a.m. bell rang they all walked across the street as a call was made for labor. They quietly watched the men start work upon the flour. It was not for Japan.

Over at Pyrmont the wharf-laborers watched the call for men to load the Canberra Maru in silence, but not a man offered.