

Tribune, 30 October 1945

Supporting Indonesian Independence

A complete Indian [sc. Indonesian] boycott of Dutch ships in Sydney was established on Friday, when 40 Indian seamen walked off the Dutch ship *Pahud* in support of Indonesian independence. Australian waterside workers, lorry drivers and clerks also stopped work on the *Pahud* when the Indians left.

The boycott began last Tuesday when 74 Indians from the *Japara* and *General Verspijck* took possession of the Lido Hostel in North Sydney, and refused to leave despite Dutch intimidation. The Lido was previously used to house Indonesians in the Dutch labor pool. When the Dutch appealed to the police to evict the Indians, they were refused assistance, and told they would have to comply with Australian eviction laws.

The Dutch then installed 59 guards armed with tommy-guns in the Lido, but transferred them on Thursday to the *Belvedere Indonesian Club* at King's Cross, where armed Dutchmen were placed on guard around the premises.

Several Australian Servicemen and Royal Navy men have visited the Lido to express their support for the Indians' action, and have been warmly received.

In a desperate attempt to get crew on Friday, the [Dutch authorities] invited 12 men from the Indian pool at Pyrmont to join the *General Verspijck*.

As an alternative the Labor Council disputes committee offered them transport to the Lido to join the other seamen.

The Dutch offer was smashingly lost. When a vote was taken 60 out of 62 Indians voted to go with the Labor Council committee.