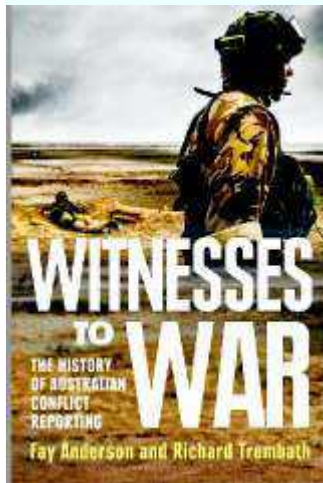




Courier Mail
Saturday 23/4/2011
Page: 25
Section: etc
Region: Brisbane Circulation: 275,610
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 98.76 sq.cms.
Frequency: MTWTFS-

Brief: MUPUBLISH

Witnesses to War
Fay Anderson and Richard Trembath
 Melbourne University
 Publishing \$36.99



SUBTITLED *The History of Australian Conflict Reporting*, this book presents a comprehensive account of Aussie reporters who covered conflicts from World War I onwards.

It is not generally realised that in relation to its population, Australia assigned more correspondents to the war fronts than larger nations such as Britain and the US.

Some famous names included George Johnson, Douglas Lockwood, Rohan Rivett, Osmar White and Alan Moorehead whose coverage of the North African campaign is considered by many to be the finest military reporting of World War II.

Shortly after the end of World War II came the Korean War, which was sometimes described as a "police action". A Melbourne journalist who covered the campaign, Harry Gordon, found it to be a brutal, complex war. Harry, now retired on the Gold Coast, recalls that it became known as the "Forgotten War". The public had little interest in the conflict; it came too soon after World War II.

Today, most people's knowledge of the Korean conflict comes from the TV series *M*A*S*H* - which lasted more than twice as long as the war. Before and during the Vietnam conflict, Wilfred Burchett became the centre of international controversy. John Pilger is another famous name. Australian correspondents continued to be in the thick of the action during the Gulf Wars and Afghanistan. Without trying too hard, I could list at least two dozen Aussie correspondents whose bylines became well-known to people all over the world. (Most of their reports were syndicated to other newspapers).