FOR THE 25th: A NOTE FROM INSIDE A NATION IN LOVE WITH WAR

As Australia gears up to commemorate/celebrate the state orchestrated Anzac Day 2017 (April 25th), a few dissident thoughts: War is a political act initiated/manufactured by a few people who have the power to order/coerce/manipulate many others with little or no power, to engage in barbaric acts of violence with tools that intensify violence and destruction. All the while, those who have created the situation operate in relative safety away from the face-to-face realities of hands-on violence. The reasons for the War-event will be multifarious. Those who engage in a hands-on way and whose energies fuel the act, will be given one set of reasons, usually emotive and spurious, while the reasons of the planners/initiators will be cold-blooded ones, rooted in the geopolitical and economic, perhaps even the mad. It will be the task of future historians to bring the War-event planners and initiators to account and to interrogate their reasonings and justifications, if that is they do not themselves become dancers to the martial tunes of the paymasters and sell their souls to the martial spirit, doing their bit as unblooded intellectual warriors to assist repetitions of histories.

[Opposite: Australian WW1 anti-conscription poster attributed to IWW organiser Tom Barker (1887-1970), in its day worth significant imprisonment].

[Rowan Cahill, 24 April 2017]