

**After arriving in Egypt for training before going to either Gallipoli or the Western Front, Diggers soon became swept up in the excitement and drinking that accompanied going into Cairo on leave. Many became infected with syphilis. Many were sent into Abbassia for treatment...with Wassermann tests, injections of Arsenobenzol, and the daubing of mercury on syphilitic lesions. Often they would then be sent back to Australia for further treatment and discharged. Many Diggers' troubles in Cairo were caused by a very casual attitude to life and led to many boozy nights and bad decisions. If discharged from the AIF in Australia, the Diggers would soon have to 'face the music' of explaining why they were returned from service overseas to their relatives.**

**In France, Diggers were exposed to the heavy-drinking culture of the AIF. And, although army regulations existed to control drinking and drunkenness, they were inconsistently enforced by officers and NCOs, many of whom were drinkers themselves.**

**The Western Front was awash with all kinds of booze, and estaminets and temporary bars followed the troops around. If men wanted to, just before battles, they could bolster their courage from big jars of British navy rum. When away from the fighting or on leave in London or Paris, binge-drinking sessions were a popular form of entertainment.**

**A whole new AIF jocular language of drinking was invented to describe alcohol, drunkenness, and drinking situations. Later, Diggers who survived, brought this language and their drinking and other addictions, home to Australia.**

**Smoking tobacco was also popular with the Diggers, and English cigarettes...Woodbines, Senior Service, and Players...were supplied in their millions to the troops. The epidemic of wartime smoking occurred long before the health risks were known: smoking was so normal, it was possible for brands to be given the seal of approval of King George V, and for Australian branches of the British Medical Association to start tobacco funds ‘for the comfort which our Australian boys at the front may derive from a smoke.’**

**(source: “The Secrets of the Anzacs” by Raden Dunbar)**

THE  
SECRETS  
OF THE  
ANZACS

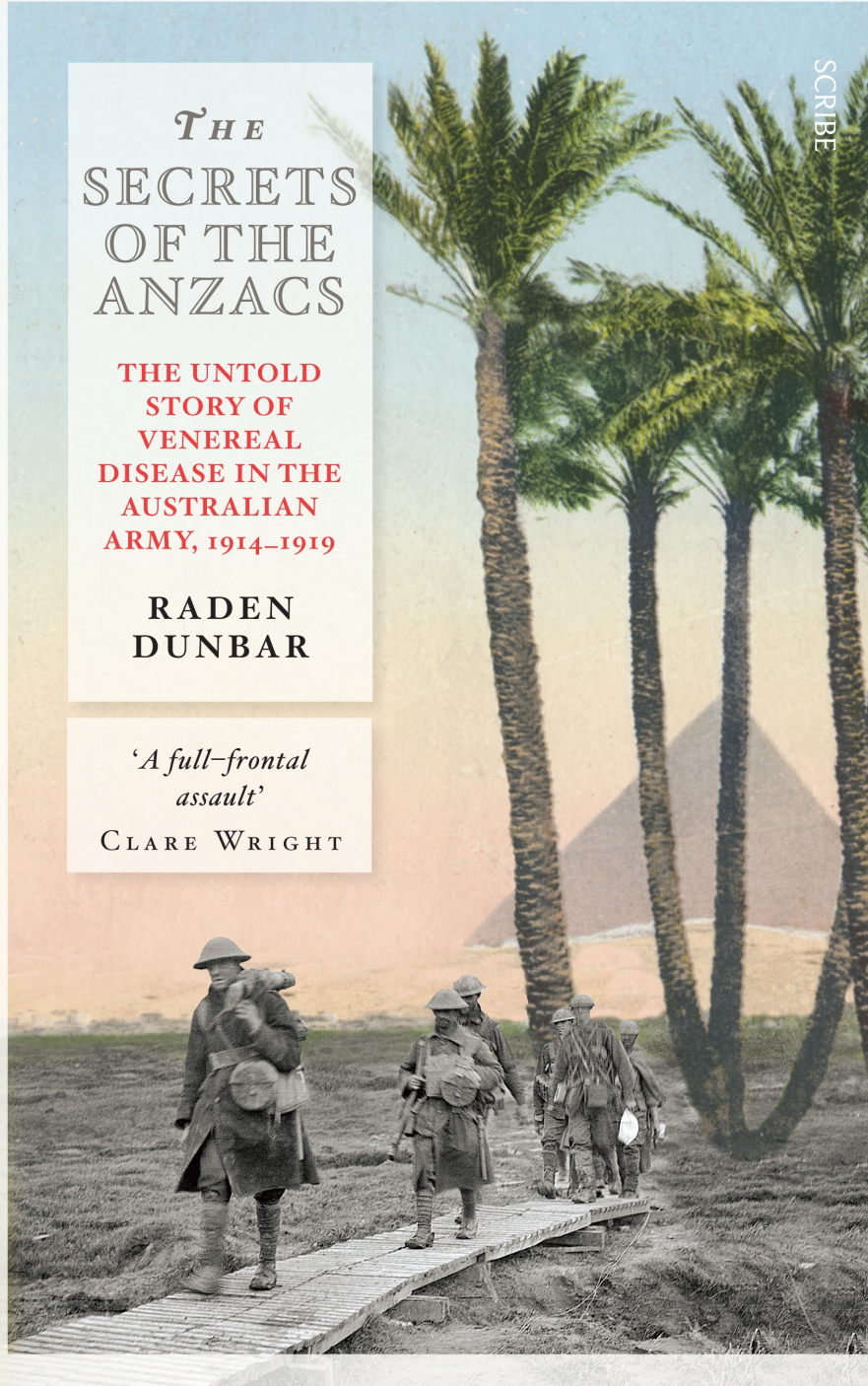
THE UNTOLD  
STORY OF  
VENEREAL  
DISEASE IN THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
ARMY, 1914-1919

RADEN  
DUNBAR

*'A full-frontal  
assault'*

CLARE WRIGHT

SCRIBER



**An excellent book about the  
Diggers in World War 1.**

**Written with such candour and  
realism, you might want to wash  
your hands afterwards.**