

# The Oyster



*“For those who long for creamy oyster stew”*

November 2014

## Food and War

By David Trounce

There is very little more discomfoting than hunger.

It has been used for millennia as a tactic of war and we have all seen the consequences of starvation pictured in the media.

A look at the poetry from prisoners of war during WWI and WWII shows just how obsessed these men were with food on a daily basis.

One such poem, written to his sweetheart from Stalag Luft III, a German Prisoner of War Camp went like this,

*“I dream as only captive men can dream. Of scrambled eggs, and shortcakes thick with cream;*

*I long for buttered creamy oyster stew. And now and then, my pet, I long for you.”*

For those who believe that life is just the result of some accidental machinery, food is nothing more than fuel.

But the existence of Creamy Oyster Stew and Shortcake thick with cream suggest that there is more to our appetites than merely keeping the motor running.

Food is romance, it's companionship (as the word itself suggests).



Food also sets the boundaries between friend and foe. Which is why we have the injunction from Jesus – and applaud it's application in times of war: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him.”

We don't just want food. Ideally, we want beautiful food, tasty food, soul satisfying food. We don't just look to food as a means of escaping famine, we look to food as a means of friendship and life.

And so we write entire books on how to make our food more beautiful and more satisfying in every way.

We do this because we hunger for something which all food represents. Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life”. With these words He explained the reason for all food. Food exists so that when Jesus came in to this world and offered to satisfy the hungry with eternal life, we would know what He was talking about. Food is a momentary neon light that points us toward that which satisfies forever. Jesus.

## To End All Wars

*“And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)*

To End all Wars is the true story of Ernest Gordon and a small band of Prisoners of War who, under a policy of forced starvation from their Japanese captors build the Burma railway and learn first hand what it means to love an enemy in the midst of pain.

One of the most remarkable moments in the film comes when a truck load of injured and barely living Japanese soldiers turn up.

Having been bombed by Allied planes, they abandoned their posts to seek medical help.

As the Allied prisoners line up to watch, a Japanese captain runs in front of the truck. Furious that the soldiers have abandoned their positions, he looks them over with disgust.

“Do not bring these dogs here.”

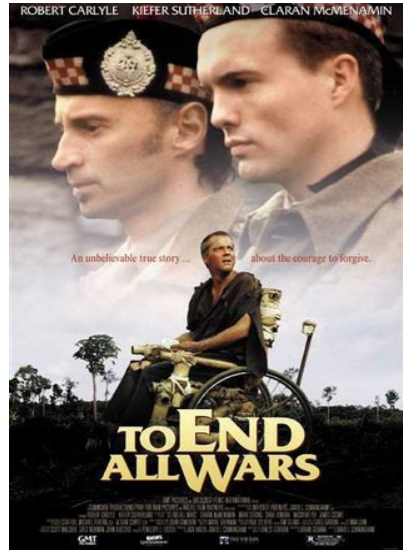
Ernest, begins to walk toward the truck. The Japanese captain stops him, saying, "No good. No good." Earnest keeps walking. His own Commanding Officer officer demands, "Captain Gordon, I forbid you to give comfort and aid to the enemy."

Gordon replies, "Major, those are wounded, dying human beings. They're no harm to us." "Ernie, get back to your own men."

Driven by a knowledge of what Jesus Christ had done for the world, Gordon shakes his head, "no". The Japanese captain is amazed. Soon, one of the prisoners fetches a bucket of water. Gordon stands in front of the injured Japanese soldiers in the truck and begins to tend to their wounds providing water and calling for food.

Other prisoners step in to help, The Japanese captain watches on in shock at the sight of his own starving prisoners tending to the thirst of a disgraced and enemy.

It is interesting that in the promise written above, the alternative to war is the provision of food. Food represents friendship and reconciliation. When Christians take Communion, they are accepting an invitation to be reconciled with God by eating bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' death and resurrection. To End all Wars is a movie that exemplifies that victory and that reconciliation. A reconciliation made available to anyone willing to cease their war with God and accept His invitation to food and friendship.



# News, Views and Events

## Lemon Jam

Mixed local market stalls  
10-2pm. A local band  
plays from 1-4pm.



Lemon Jam is a series of music events being held on the waterfront Henderson Park, Lemon Tree Passage on the fourth Sunday of every month. Support local musicians and get down to the waterfront for a jam!

## Two Ways to Live

Two ways to Live is a simple booklet with some eternal truths about where we have come from and where we are heading.

The message at the heart of Christianity is this:

God is the Creator of the world and He created humanity to rule over and enjoy the earth which He had made. But, Humanity, wanting to rule without God has rebelled against Him.

God judges (and will judge) humanity for this rebellion. Man in declaring his independence from God has also separated himself from the source of life.

That rebellion has left us in a state of death.

In his love, God sends Jesus to die as an atoning sacrifice. In his power, God raises Jesus to life as ruler and judge.

This is the Good News of the Gospel.

In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are presented with the possibility of life on God's terms, in his world. And that life is eternal life to all who repent and believe.

**Get the Booklet: Our Church Book Shelf has a whole bunch of these booklets. Drop in and grab a free copy.**



## What's On This Month

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### Women's Get Together

Join with other local woman this month for an evening dinner and chat.

This month Friday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Tanilba CRC Church.

Call Ella on 4982 4507

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### Men's Breakfast

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at Henderson Park.

This month Saturday November 1st 7.30am

For more Information call David on 4984 5442

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## Published By Tanilba CRC.

02 4984 5442

Corner of Tanilba Ave and Peace Parade, Tanilba Bay. NSW.

## Nine Battles We Should Never Forget

W J J P G I K Z W O V N A C L  
L G M G E V Z M T R T O H B Q  
O I M X P N B J M E H O T V W  
P J I B I W R X M C M Z A M S  
V V D B D G S E I T U J U O Y  
M W W H A P V R H O X H D X J  
M Y A T N I E T A M N O E L W  
P G Y W S J L C S P R L O V Y  
W X G O O L R E T A W O P E D  
B D T Z G A L L I P O L I B Q  
C X E M M O S T N P O K V N Z  
J L R A W A Y V G L Z G L D J  
C F J Z N S N X S L E I P Q Z  
Y A R N Y F R I I U T X G R C  
C J L J Z R A F S B V L P Y K

JERICO HASTINGS CAJAMARCA	ATNIETAM WATERLOO LEIPZIG	SOMME MIDWAY GALLIPOLI
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