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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 June 2023 12:07 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: Submission on anti-Nazi legislation

I am quite disturbed by the recent news that Nazi memorabilia will be banned in Australia. I completely understand why those who suffered at the hands of Hitler and his thugs would feel this way, but I believe the blanket ban is going too far.

I have been a Military Antique dealer for the past 50 years since my return from Vietnam. Although primarily a British and Australian dealer, over time I have had interesting "bring backs" offered to me which would fall into the ban category. AIF souvenirs such as helmets, caps, badges, and medals brought back from war zones such as Tobruk and Crete offer a fascinating insight to the trials and hardships of our troops.

An excellent example of what I consider to be historically important in my possession is nazi documents related to a young German sailor killed in the famous Sydney Kormoran action. These items could not be deemed offensive, and I should be able to sell these items to a specialist collector without fear of prosecution.

I have run my Antique shop in Swanbourne since 1983 and can honestly say that I have NEVER had a single nazi thug as a customer. They have all been normal collectors who are doing nothing more than adding to their fathers' souvenirs or simply interested in WW2 collecting.

Interestingly, in Germany all that is required is for dealers to cover the swastika with a sticker when items are put on display at shows and fairs. Many German websites demand Nazi material post 1919 be placed in its own section requiring special registration before entry is allowed (see HERMAN HISTORICA website).

I believe this ban will not help the Jewish people as it will be seen as the power of the Jewish lobby and play into the very hands of those who believe they control everything as no other regime is also banned.

Adopt the German system when trading in these items but come down hard on those that wear, parade, and participate in rallies.

If you examine my website jbma.com.au you will see that a ban on nazi material will not affect me. I write out of genuine concern for my fellow collectors who will never condone what the nazi's did having the same attitude as what the Japanese did to our troops in the Pacific.

Your sincerely

John Burridge MG

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