

Jail protesters paint trams

2 chased

Pentridge prison officer Mr L. L. "Sonny" Curll chased two men from his home at Fawcner early today.

Police said Mr Curll woke shortly after 4.30 and found the men painting signs in his drive.

During the night swastikas and protest signs were painted on 20 trams at the Preston workshops.

The lettering, 6 in. wide and 18 in. high, was in a white, plastic paint. It was plastered over the sides of the trams, windows and canvas awnings.

One sign read: "They killed Gordon Roberts." [Gordon Mannix Roberts, 50, died in hospital in July, 1970.

He was serving three months in Pentridge for larceny when he became ill.

A doctor at the jail diagnosed severe broncho-pneumonia and sent him to the Royal Melbourne Hospital by ambulance.

He died there.]

Others read: "Ban the Bash," "Sadist pig," "Stop the Bash in H Div. Pentridge," "Do your job Smith" and "Sorry Clarry Wet Paint."

Mr C. L. (Clarrie) O'Shea is the former secretary of the Tramways Union.

Forty workmen took an hour to remove the signs. Tram services were not affected.

"It could have been worse," a tramways spokesman said.

"We were lucky the paint came off so easily.

"Most of the trams were brought here for repair to flood damage from last week."

The watchman at the yards in St. George's Rd. said that he saw nothing unusual overnight.

Before Mr Curll disturbed the two men in his drive today, they had painted signs on the street outside.

MEN RAN

The letters were 18 in. high, but were painted over and could not be read.

Someone wrote over the slogans after they were painted and made them illegible.

When the two men saw Mr Curll they ran, police said.

A week ago vandals daubed his house in letters about two ft. tall.

Last week more than 200 Pentridge prisoners held a sit-in in the mess hall to demand better treatment.

They wanted extra phone calls for prisoners arranging appeals, and an annual day alone with their families for life-sentence prisoners.

On January 25 signs and slogans were printed on the prison walls in Champ St., Coburg.

One of the signs read: "Ban H division".

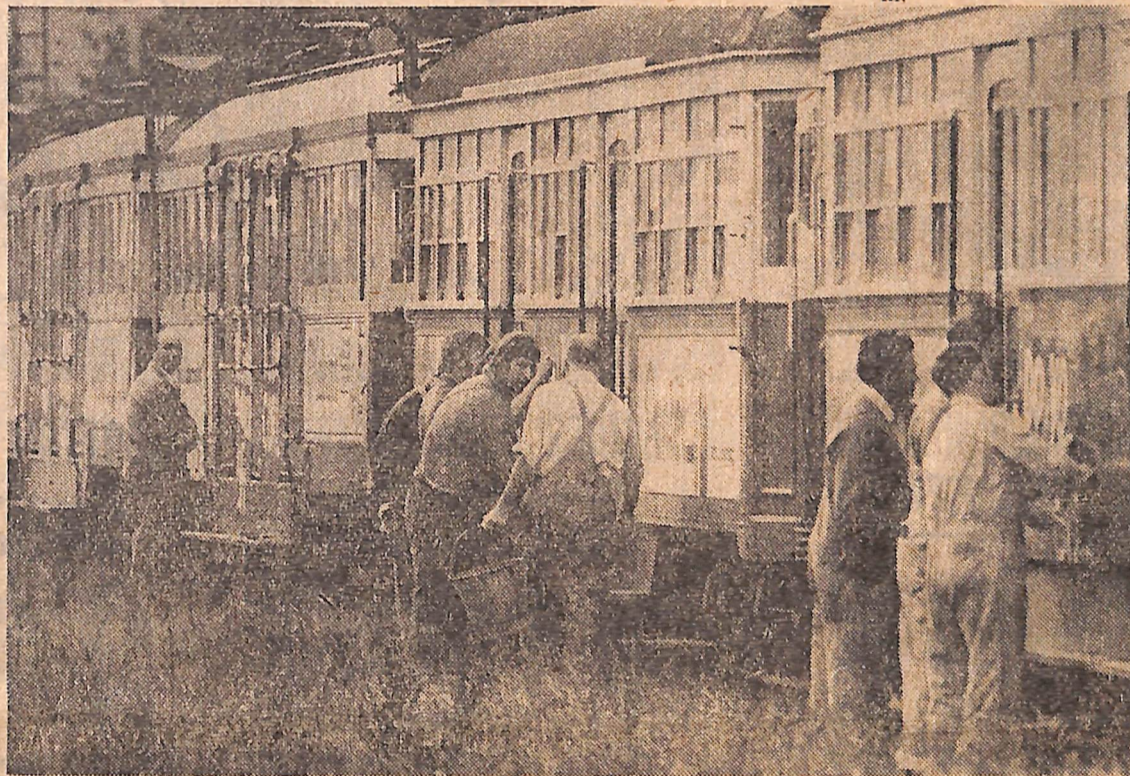
The cars of three prison officers were daubed at the same time.

On January 27 slogans were painted on the house of Mr J. Callega, a neighbor of Mr Curll.

On February 17 the front of the Coburg Town Hall, in Bell St., was daubed with swastikas and the words "Ban the Bash".



One of the trams which were daubed at the Preston depot during the night.



WORKMEN clean the 20 trams today. Forty men worked for an hour to remove the signs. Tram services were not affected.

Morris