



The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria, Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A constituent body of The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Limited

Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria

President: Major General Mike O'Brien CSC (Retd)

Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD (Retd)

Victoria Barracks
B Block
256-310 St Kilda Road
Southbank, Victoria 3006

Phone: (03) 9282 5918

www.rusivc.org.au

Email: secretary@rusivc.org.au

ABN 46 648 764 477

RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 Issue 4 – October 2020

Editor: Mike Rawlinson

ISSN 1446 – 4527

3rd COVID-19 Lockdown Edition



Huntsman Self Propelled Howitzer

Hanwha Defence Australia (HDA) has been chosen to build 30 self-propelled howitzers and 15 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles, and their supporting systems for the ADF. The self-propelled howitzers will be built in the Geelong region, with ongoing deep maintenance conducted in the same Australian facility to support the systems throughout their service life.

The Huntsman SPH is a 50 tonne, 52 calibre, 155mm platform

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Incorporated

October Newsletter

Contents:

- 3 From the President
Imperial Regiments in Victoria
- 4 From the Secretary
- 5 **Opinion: Australia's Energy Policy and Climate Change**
Mike Rawlinson
- 7 **Defence Chronicle: July --September 2020**
Michael Small

Book Reviews:

- 10 **The Making of Warriors** by Graham J. Smith
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 11 **Starlight** by Tony White
Reviewer Alister Pope
- 12 **In the Footsteps of the First** by Anne Flood
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 13 **In the Footsteps of the First – 1st Edition**
by Anne Flood, Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 13 **COSSAC** by Stephen C. Kepher
Reviewer Roger Buxton
- 14 **Hospital Ships** by Rupert Goodman
Reviewer Kevan Sanderson
- 15 **The Grand Deception** by Tom Curran
Reviewer Kevan Sanderson
- 16 **The Last Navigator** by Paul Goodwin with Gordon Goodwin, Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 16 **The Cost of War** by Stephen Garton
Reviewer Mike O'Brien
- 17 **Oil under Trouble Water** by Bernard Collaery
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 18 **Radar Gunner** by Dick Dakeyne DFC
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 18 **A Rat of Tobruk** by Mike Rosel
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 20 Library Notes and New Acquisitions

RUSI VIC Council 2020

President

Major General Mike O'Brien CSC (Retd)

Immediate Past President

Commander Warren Kemp RFD RANR (Retd)

Vice Patrons

Commodore Greg Yorke CSC, RANR

Major General David Coghlan AM

Air Commodore Greg Frisna

Vice Presidents

Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson RAAF (Retd)

Lieutenant Commander Roger Buxton CD, RCN

Brigadier Neil Graham AM

Councillors

Major General Ian Freer CB, CBE

Lieutenant Colonel Neville Taylor RFD (Retd)

Captain Martin Holme

Captain Peter Wickham RAN (Retd)

Lieutenant Colonel Ian George OAM, RFD, ED (Retd)

Colonel Mary Brandy CSM

Service Representatives

Secretary/Treasurer

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD (Retd)

Honorary Librarian

Flight Lieutenant Brian Surtees, RAF

Cyberlinks

RUSIDSSA	www.rusi.org.au
RUSI Whitehall	www.rusi.org
Dept of Defence	defence.gov.au
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	www.williamsfoundation.org.au
Defence Reserves Association	www.dra.org.au
Defence Force Welfare Association	www.dfw.org.au
Military History and Heritage Victoria	www.mhhv.org.au
Department of Veteran's Affairs	www.dva.gov.au
Shrine of Remembrance	www.shrine.org.au



Opinions expressed in the RUSI VIC Newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Institute.

From the President:

Major General Mike O'Brien CSC



While present conditions continue in Melbourne we plan to continue our weekly newsletters and plan ahead for a better future! Now for a little history.

Mike O'Brien

Extract from Argus (Melbourne, Vic: 1848 - 1957), Saturday 28 July 1934, page 9

IMPERIAL REGIMENTS ON VICTORIAN SERVICE (1837-1870)

By CHARLES DALEY

The 40th Regiment arrived on October 10, 1852. "The soldiers came up the river in a small steamer named the *Diamond*, and, after landing, marched from the wharf through the streets, headed by their beautiful band, led by Drum-Major Foster, to the western end of Latrobe street, where the tents had been pitched for the men, pending the completion of the Iron barracks in Spencer street.



The men's camp was only a short distance from the western slope of the hill, the officers' quarters being in a large two-storied square building in Latrobe street, about midway between Spencer street and King street."

The Crimean War, in 1854, provided a stimulus for great activity in military affairs. Up to this year the troops had been solely Imperial, employed in addition to garrison duties in policing the district, pre-serving order, preventing conflict with the aborigines, attending as guard or escort at public functions, and performing routine duties. A few men might be temporarily detached for outpost duties, as at the survey of Mitchellstown, or where trouble threatened from the blacks.

In 1854, under reorganisation of the forces, the headquarters staff, under Sir Robert Nickle, general officer commanding troops, was transferred to Melbourne, the most populous city, the most centrally situated, and the most convenient for communication.

The 40th Regiment, under Colonel Valiant, was the first to have regimental headquarters in Melbourne. It supplied detachments at Ballarat, Sandhurst, Castlemaine, and Geelong, also a company at Adelaide. The existing barracks in Latrobe street west, and in King street, were inadequate, and provision was made for erecting the Victoria Barracks.

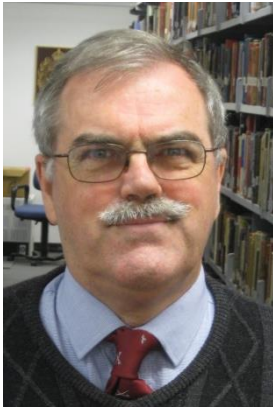
In this year also smouldering discontent at the goldfields culminated in the Ballarat riots, in the suppression of which the 40th and the 12th Regiments were engaged. The Eureka Stockade was stormed by the 40th, under the command of Captain Thomas, with 276 men, of whom Captain Wise and three soldiers were killed in the brief engagement. By the tact and moderation of Sir Robert Nickle, who arrived with strong reinforcements, normal conditions soon prevailed, the short period of martial law enforced being more acceptable than the previous civil administration. This unfortunate encounter was the only one engaged in by Imperial troops in Australia.

In the early fifties the immense output of gold and the remarkable increase in population provided full scope for varied military activities. As the existing police establishment was insufficient one company of the 40th Regiment was mounted for light cavalry duties, with a field-gun for use against marauding bushrangers. The company was employed as an escort in the transport of gold and treasure between the chief fields and the Treasury-a task that was carried out with efficiency and despatch. Mr. Peacock, librarian of the Defence Forces, Victoria Barracks, in his valuable compilation, "The Early Defence Forces of Victoria, 1839-1901," states:- "This arduous and responsible service was most successfully performed for three years and eight months, during which period it escorted and delivered into the public Treasury no less than 6,000,000oz. of gold, valued at £24,000,000 sterling, and conveyed to and from the interior in cash £17,500,000. In this duty they were employed until arrangements had been made for the police to do the whole duty of gold escort."

In the busy year 1854 a special Parliamentary Commission appointed to consider defence matters recommended the provision of a war steamer, the purchase of heavy guns from Woolwich Arsenal, an increase in troops by the addition of a corps from India to the 40th Regiment, and permanence in their service. On the commission's advice a local Volunteer Rifle Corps, not to exceed 2,000 in number, was authorised and established, with provision also for a mounted corps, the Victorian Yeomanry, and a Rifle Corps at Geelong.

From the Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD



I hope you are all enjoying the short newsletters we have been sending out. Please feel free to pass these on to friends and other organisations that you think may be interested.

As I mentioned in one of the recent emails, we are still locked out of our office at Vic Barracks due to the COVID-19 precautions in Melbourne. That means that I am unable to access files etc. I also suspect there is a bit of mail, including subscription cheques building up in the mail room. If you have sent a subscription or donation by cheque and when doing your bank reconciliation, notice it has yet to be cashed, that is probably where it is sitting. Please hold off on cancelling them until we get back and can clear the mailbox.

Hopefully things will get better and we can return to some sort of normal soon.

Bob Hart



Bequests

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria

The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria was established in 1890. It seeks to promote informed debate on and improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security.

The Institute maintains a specialist library to assist in this, as well as scheduling regular lectures and visits of interest. The costs of doing so, however are becoming burdensome and are exacerbated by an ageing and declining membership.

To allow us to continue to provide services to members and the community into the future, you could greatly assist us by remembering the Institute in your will. Should you desire assistance in adding an appropriate codicil to your will, please contact the Secretary at secretary@rusivic.org.au. If you have added a bequest to your will, it would be of assistance to be advised of it (not the specific amount) in case we need to communicate with you or your executors.



Nuship Supply (All Pictures)

Book Reviewers Wanted

Due to the generosity of Australian and overseas publishers, RUSI – Vic Library finds itself swamped with copies of books that are required to be reviewed. To lighten the load and spread the workload, we are urgently seeking members who are prepared to assist with this task.

It matters not that you have never review a book before – we can provide you with easy-to-follow guidance.

As benefactors of their generosity, we have an obligation to the publishers. They are often looking for a review to include in their publicity for the launch of a new title – so timeliness (a reasonably short turnaround time) is expected.

If you feel you can assist, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact the Secretary Bob Hart, on 9282 5918

Opinion:

Australia's Energy Policy and Climate Change

Mike Rawlinson

The wealth of the developed world rests on the burning of fossil fuel, particularly in the production of electricity. Energy policy is a foundation of economic health, itself a necessary enabler of national security. In Australia, current energy policy is conditioned by emissions reduction strategies in mitigation of global warming.

The Road Map

In September, the government announced its *Technology Investment Roadmap* that will direct Commonwealth investment towards five priority technologies: hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, soil carbon, storage options and low-carbon steel and aluminium production. Unlike the Turnbull government's proposed energy policy, the National Energy Guarantee (NEG), which was technology neutral and market determined, the *Roadmap* is technology specific.

Aside from investment in the five priority technologies, the government will look to remove barriers to emerging and enabling technologies. A watching brief will be maintained on prospective technology being developed overseas like small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) and direct air capture of emissions. Electricity generation by solar, wind, coal and gas are viewed as mature technologies and will not normally qualify for government investment. Emissions reductions are also expected from the Industry, Agriculture and Transport sectors.

Not surprising politically, there is no mention of a carbon price, a 2050 emissions target or coal. Gas is the government's preference as a transition fuel with and to renewables. Recognising that Australia should not damage its economy to reduce emissions, the *Technology Investment Roadmap* is the governments long-term strategy for reducing emissions.

Climate Change

In Australia governments have acknowledged that global warming is real, and it is (probably/certainly) caused by carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels – mainly coal (anthropogenic climate change).

Since the closing days of the Howard government, energy policy has been influenced by strategies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Energy policy has been contentious and highly political. The ongoing squabble has resulted in much higher electricity prices than necessary and a poorly phased transition from coal to renewables. The renewables, wind and solar, have been subsidised by

arrangements under the Renewable Energy Target (RET) introduced in 2001.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) tries to reduce climate change to a point where humans have a chance to tolerate or adapt to any changes. Climate Change/Global Warming is monitored for the UN by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC compiles and integrates world-wide research reporting about every 5 years. Their first report was in 1990.

IPCC reports are conservative but include a range of outcomes from the projections of different models and the use of different variables and assumptions. The world media invariably feature worst case scenarios in their reporting. Predicted downstream effects of global warming are changing weather patterns, more severe storms, reduced yields of prime agricultural areas, receding glaciers, melting arctic ice, and increasing sea levels flooding low lying coastal areas. The accepted means of preventing further warming is to cut anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions.

Since before the industrial revolution the global temperature has risen by almost 1°C and the ocean has risen by about 15 cm. The IPCC estimates the most likely temperature rise by 2100 under pledged action is 2.8°C above pre-industrial levels. With no change in emissions the rise is 3°C.

The UN Conference of Parties (COP) aim is to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. A Special Report by the IPCC in September 2019 addressed the impacts of this level of global warming. Under the Paris Agreement (COP21) of 2016 Australia signed up to reduce its emissions by 26-28% of 2005 levels by 2030. The government says it is on track to achieve this target. The UN and the Greens are calling for a more ambitious target. A target of Zero net emissions by 2050 is popular. The most progressive view is that there should be not zero net emissions but zero emissions.

Putting the Paris Agreement into perspective, the world's three largest emitters, China (28%), the US (15%) and India (7%) are not subject to the Agreement. China and India are exempted as developing countries, and the US is withdrawing from the Agreement. Australia is a signatory and is responsible for 1.4% of world emissions.

China has continued to invest heavily in new coal-fired power plants within China and for 10 developing nations as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. In China, while the proportion of power plants that are coal-fired is decreasing, their absolute number is increasing. President Xi Jinping has told the UN that China should peak its emissions by 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2060. India is also building more coal fired power plants.

Electricity Generation

Because carbon dioxide emissions remain in the upper atmosphere for about 100 years, and Australia emits only 1.4% of annual world emissions, if all of Australia's fossil fired power plants were shut-down as advocated by the Greens, there would be no significant reduction of global warming.

Current generation renewables can now legitimately claim to produce the lowest cost electricity. But renewables are intermittent and need to be 'firmed' by batteries, pumped-hydro or gas. The relevant cost for the economy is the cost of dispatchable power, NOT solar BUT solar plus (say) batteries. While great advances have been made in battery technology, the cost and scale of batteries are not yet competitive.

Renewables are also unreliable, think solar with heavy cloud, smoke or volcanic ash (Chile 2011). As well as strong interstate connectors, baseload backup needs to be accessible on the grid. This could come from legacy coal, gas, High Efficiency Low Emission (HELE) coal with CCS, or nuclear (SMRs).

Australia leads the world in the development and uptake of roof-top solar. Yet to be developed is a more sophisticated grid to manage demand and provide stable supply by integrating all sources, including batteries in households and possibly electric vehicles when connected to the grid.

Australia is the foremost world exporter of Coal, Liquid Natural Gas and Uranium. As power generation from coal and uranium are politically too hot to handle, the government has selected gas as its preferred transition fuel for renewables. While more expensive than coal, gas burns with lower emissions, and gas plants can respond flexibly. Gas power can provide firming and if required backup. The use of gas is predicated on the use of Australia's conventional and unconventional gas resources, assuming exploration and development are not impeded by State governments.

The Economy

Australia ranks last in the OECD for self-sufficiency in manufacturing. Both in respect of lessening dependence on China and increasing resilience re corona virus, there is bipartisan agreement that Australia needs to revitalize manufacturing. One of the reasons for the decline of manufacturing relates to the high cost of energy.

Many are keen to see a return of Australian manufacturing, overlooking that manufacturing was progressively abandoned because it was uncompetitive. Unless there are significant reforms in Australia's industrial, economic and regulatory culture, it is likely to still be uncompetitive.

Contemporary niche manufacturing to satisfy resilience requirements is likely to be highly automated. In

modern manufacturing Artificial Intelligence is displacing factory workers, negating the trade advantage of countries with low cost labour. As well as on processing of minerals and agricultural produce, self-sufficiency in small scale high value goods need not be uncompetitive with items available through international trade.

Pre COVID-19 Australia was a high wage country with high energy costs and very-high costs of doing business. Economic growth and employment were based on a high level of immigration and housing construction.

China, population 1.3 billion with an authoritarian government, is actor with many parts: a mega emitter, major trade partner and aspiring regional hegemon. Fundamental to Australia's prosperity have been exports of coal and iron ore to China, higher education of Chinese undergraduates and Chinese tourism. Australia has been over-dependent on China as a trading partner, not only as a customer for exports but also as a source of manufactured products. Lessening this dependence will require active readjustment.

The government aims for a private sector led recovery, from the COVID-19 induced economic recession. It aims to boost productivity and economic growth and capture the dynamism and innovation of private enterprise and open markets. Reform areas need to include tax, industrial relations, cooperative federal/state relations, environmental regulations and a reduction in business red tape.

If Australia can maintain its status as a rich country, it will have the means to adapt to climate change, to maintain its national security and to assist its neighbours. Reliable and inexpensive power is necessary for recovery from the corona pandemic and for a revival of manufacturing. A necessary but not sufficient condition for a strong defence force is a strong economy.

Conclusion

With possibly the highest level of emissions per head in the world, many believe that we have a moral duty to take the lead in reducing emissions. For some, emissions reduction is not a policy but a religion. Our carbon *guilt* burden is moderated by the fact that we are only responsible for 1.4% of the world's emissions.

Australian efforts to constrain carbon dioxide emissions make little difference to the global outcome because we are such a small emitter. However, Australia can make a difference globally by achieving scientific and technology breakthroughs which have world-wide application. The Technology Investment Road Map is a positive step in this direction

For a different but complementary perspective on 'Why Climate Change is an Important Component of National Security', see Admiral Barrie's July presentation to RUSIDSS of NSW, linked on our Short Newsletter Vol2 Issue 3 of 24 August.

A CHRONICLE of Events, Decisions & Issues relating to Defence Matters

July- September 26, 2020 (COVID-19 continuing)

by Michael Small

Highlights

The Newsletter presents a three-page selection from Michael's longer Chronicle. Members can obtain copies of the original Chronicle by contacting the Secretary. (Ed)

July 1

The 2016 Defence White Paper had three objectives *viz* Domestic, Regional and Global. The international situation has changed, and the emphasis is now *Regional*. PM said *SHAPE*, *DETER* and *RESPOND* are the key words to guide the new policies which include: an anti-ballistic missile defence shield; and land, sea and air based long-range and hypersonic strike missiles to project military power to the region.

\$270bn will be spent on a 10 year defence plan that will include lethal naval and air warfare capability. \$15bn will boost offensive and defensive cyber/electronic warfare capabilities; \$75bn to expand maritime warfare capabilities; \$65bn to advance air combat and long range weapons capabilities *e.g.* the acquisition of AGM-158C long range anti-ship missiles; \$7bn for space capabilities, navigation and communications; \$55bn to boost land force combat power; \$50bn for Defence enterprise, infrastructure and science and technology programs.

Australia's defence spending now exceeds more than 2% of GDP. PM says the strategic situation in the Indo-Pacific has deteriorated since the 2016 White Paper. The new *Force Structure Plan* and *strategic defence policy* indicate a major shift in Australia's global role.

Numbers of new recruits planned for the ADF are RAN 650; RAAF 100 and Army 50.

July 2

Army will get another regiment of self-propelled howitzers to be built in Geelong; and a battery of long-range rocket artillery and missile systems which can be expanded into a full regiment of three batteries. RAAF will acquire remotely piloted or autonomous combat aircraft to complement existing aircraft; and replacement fleets for the C-130J Hercules aircraft and the KC-30A air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

RAN's new frigates, originally costed at \$35bn will now cost \$45bn; and the Army's new IFVs costed at \$10bn-\$15bn, will now cost \$18bn-\$27bn. The *new Defence White Paper* says more assertive behaviour by 'major powers' present challenges for Australia. The *Indo-Pacific* (*i.e.* the *NE Indian Ocean*, *SE Asia*, *Timor Leste* and the *Pacific Islands*) has been central to Australian strategic thinking for decades. Indonesia,

July 4-5

PM says a deep economic recession now runs in parallel with the risk of military conflict. The *2020 Defence Strategic*

Update suggests a situation like the 1930s prior to WW II. Strategic tension between Australia and China. *Grey zone* conflict *i.e.* using paramilitary forces, militarising disputed features, exploiting influence, interference operations and the coercive use of trade and economic levers are examples. Australia has a new doctrine based on: (i) military power to *SHAPE* Australia's strategic environment; (ii) the capacity to *DETER* action against Australia's interests, holding adversaries at much greater distance/helping to prevent war; and (iii) when required, *RESPONDING* with credible military force. PM said the foundation of Australia's defence policy is the US alliance, but with more self-reliance.

July 14

US claims that most of China's territorial claims in the South China Sea are illegal. US has abandoned its position of neutrality, and has aligned with Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam. PM said: 'Beijing's militarisation of the South China Sea and coercive grey zone activities, present immediate challenges to Australia'. For Australia's position is that claims to the South China Sea should be made in accordance with international law *viz* UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea). The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, 2016, ruling on the South China Sea, was that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to resources beyond those provided for in UNCLOS.

President Xi Jinping's plans for China include: achieving economic success; effective governance; party control; and ending two centuries of humiliation and civil war.

July 18-19

PM and POTUS discussed working more closely with SE Asian partners. *Quadrilateral Security Dialogue* (QSD) which includes Japan and India was also the subject of discussion. The *Five Eyes intelligence alliance* (Australia, UK, US, NZ, Canada) is Australia's pre-eminent international security and intelligence partnership, and is more important than ever. The Five Eyes co-operation would focus on sovereignty, security and economic prosperity. The Five Eyes members believe that China finds it more difficult to intimidate a group of nations, rather than one nation at a time.

July 22

US and Indian warships are engaged in the *Malabar Naval Exercises*, Bay of Bengal. RAN ships are (as yet) not taking part. The USS *Nimitz*, carrier group linked up with Indian destroyers and submarines off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for a series of war games. USS *Ronald Reagan* with USS *Nimitz* were part of a US naval deployment that conducted exercises in the South China Sea.

July 23

Australia needs closer ties with its allies to deal with China. Currently, HMAS *Canberra*, *Hobart*, *Stuart*, *Arunta* and *Sirius* are taking part in trilateral exercises in the Philippine Sea with Japanese and US navies. India is expected to invite Australia to the *Malabar* exercises, trilateral naval exercises involving India, US and Japan.

Australia is working with: (i) South Pacific island states in the *Pacific step-up program*; (ii) Association of SE Asian Nations as an institution, and with ASEAN members individually. Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia are concerned about China exercising its power in the region.

July 25-26

Foreign Minister Payne and Defence Minister Reynolds will meet their US counterparts, on July 28 for the *2020 AUSMIN* consultation. Australia's special relationship with US is a union of strength and shared values. Both countries are determined to keep the Indo-Pacific secure, open, prosperous, inclusive and rules-based. Both countries draw on the same values *viz* democracy, freedom, human rights, respect for sovereignty of nations large and small, an aversion to coercion and a desire to see security and prosperity spread justly around the globe.

Areas to be discussed include: a public health crisis, economic upheaval and resurgent authoritarian regimes using coercion to gain power and influence at the expense of our freedom and sovereignty. Resolving the COVID-19 crisis, the *Pacific Step-up* and increased engagement with Japan, India and ASEAN are central to the security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific. Australia is providing: (i) the *2020 Defence Strategic Update* and *Force Plan Structure*; and (ii) the \$270bn to be invested over the next decade.

July 28

The new F-35 stealth fighters will not get *Advanced Maritime Strike* capabilities or a new *Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS)* communications system under the program's original timetable or budget. The new Defence plan confirmed that Australia would acquire new long-range anti-ship missiles for US\$800m. Lockheed Martin announced a slowdown of the work on the F-35 program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia and US will conduct more joint naval exercises in the South China Sea following Australia's decision to state that there was no legal basis for China's claims to the area. But Australia will resist US offers to conduct freedom of navigation exercises in the disputed waterway.

July 30

Following AUSMIN talks Australia and US will establish a *bi-lateral defence co-operation framework* to counter Chinese military expansion.. The new arrangements are the biggest development since annual training of US Marines in Darwin commenced 2012. Defence co-operation with US will be increased with a strategic fuel reserve to be established in Darwin costing \$86.4m. Discussion also took place about: (i) the Hong Kong situation; (ii) the treatment of Uighers; (iii) support for Taiwan and (iv) the QSD which will involve Japan and India.

August 7

Paul Dibb has described a possible scenario if China and US engage militarily. Referring to Tony Abbott's comment about Taiwan who said: 'It would be hard to see how Australia could stand aside from assisting a fellow liberal democracy of 25 million people'. Dibb says if China were to attack US forces across the Taiwan Strait, and Australia refused to be involved, the existence of the ANZUS alliance could be jeopardised..

President Xi Jinping wants to reclaim Taiwan and restore China as a great power. President Xi has urged the people of Taiwan to accept they will be re-united with China. Dibb says if China attacks Taiwan, and US does not respond, that will mark the end of the US alliance system in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan is the only country likely to commit to the defence of Taiwan. Australia is the only Five Eyes ally US should be able to depend on. The current geopolitical / geographical situation is now a major concern for Australia.

August 8-9

Defence needs an overhaul to be able to deliver the government's \$270bn upgrade to the nation's military capabilities. The Minister said: 'We have the right plan, but we don't have an organisation that is yet adaptable enough to deliver'. The department needs to keep up with technological change. Part of the problem involves the way Defence works with 15,000 private sector companies.

Department of Defence plans to establish 'a capability partnership to deliver an innovative and modern approach of workforce recruiting to ADF', entitled *Defence Recruitment Modernisation*. Defence is committed to modernising the recruiting approach from the point of attraction to the point of selection for enlistment. This will require expertise in marketing, recruiting operations, medical and psychological testing, ICT, facilities management, and administration to manage the required change. This program is planned to commence from July 2023.

ADF members have been sentenced for a series of crimes including sexual misconduct, drug possession, violence and fraud in just one six-month period. They have been sentenced to fines, reprimands, dismissals and 28 days' imprisonment for some cases that would have merited years in jail if they had been dealt with in a civilian court.

Major General Paul Brereton's report about 55 potential instances of unlawful conduct by special forces in Afghanistan, will make 'uncomfortable reading'. Major General Adam Findlay, the current head of Special Operations Command will be replaced by Major General Paul Kenny, acting head of ADF's COVID-19 taskforce.

August 11

Chief of ADF, General Angus Campbell has asked Anglican bishop Tom Frame to examine cultural and leadership failings involving Australia's special forces ahead of a war crimes report on dozens of alleged murders of prisoners and civilians by special forces in Afghanistan. This *third* study, due to be released in mid-2022, will examine the ethical standards and command culture of SAS and Commando regiments from 1999 to the present day.

Former Afghan soldier, Hekmatullah, who killed Private Robert Poate, L/Cpl Stjepan Milosevic and Sapper James Martin at Tarin Kowt on August 29, 2013 is likely to be released as part of a deal with the Taliban. The peace agreement with the Taliban committed the Afghan government to release 5000 insurgents. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said releasing the prisoners is unpopular but will lead to an agreement that will end the war.

OS Edward Sheean, RANR, a member of the crew of HMAS *Armada* when it was sunk by Japanese aircraft, 77 years ago, December 1, 1942, and originally 'Mentioned in Despatches' (posthumously) has now been awarded the Victoria Cross (posthumously).

August 12

Two former defence ministers, Brendan Nelson (January 2006-December 2007) and Joel Fitzgibbon (December 2007-June 2009) say military/political leaders must be held to account if Australian special forces are found to have committed war crimes in Afghanistan.

Three studies will have been undertaken with respect to cultural/leadership issues and instances of unlawful conduct by special forces in Afghanistan.

August 12

Major General Jeff Sengelman instigated the *first* inquiry in May 2016, which led to a report by Dr Samantha Crompvoets. In this *first* report Dr Crompvoets alluded to: (a) a culture of impunity about the use of force; (b) illicit drug use; and (c) poisonous rivalries between SAS and Commando regiments. This led to IGADF commissioning a *second* study currently being undertaken by Mr Justice Paul Brereton, and due to be released later this year. Now a *third* study has been announced. The Chief of ADF has asked Bishop Tom Frame to examine the conduct of senior ADF leadership and the strategic conduct of the war.

August 20

NUSHIP *Supply*, the lead ship for the RAN's new *Supply-class Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment* (AOR) ships, built by Navantia, successfully completed its Sea Acceptance Trials in Ferrol, Spain. *Navantia* Australia's Managing Director said the achievement of this milestone particularly given the challenges of COVID-19, is an example of Spanish – Australian collaboration to advance Australia's sovereign naval shipbuilding industry.

August 25

The legal defence of special forces personnel facing war crimes charges will be funded by the government. Key criteria include the commonwealth's duty of care to current and former members and their families, and the need to ensure a fair trial by enabling adequate and competent legal representation.

August 26

Defence will spend \$1bn to help ease the jobless rate. 500 extra reservists will be recruited; two Victorian bases (RAAF, East Sale and Albury-Wodonga Military Area) will be upgraded; military uniforms will be modernised; reservists will have more hours if they have lost their jobs; and the *Bushmaster* vehicles made in Bendigo will be upgraded.

August 27

Four RAN vessels and 700 ADF personnel have arrived in Hawaii ahead of two weeks of training involving 10 nations during *Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2020* (RIMPAC). RIMPAC 2020 will be an at-sea-only event due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The leading forum in the Indo-Pacific for information on submarines and submarine matters, *Submarine Institute of Australia* (SIA) conference, is set to go ahead in November this year. A maximum of 100 people will be permitted to attend the event, and everyone else who wishes to attend will be able to watch all conference presentations online via a webinar format.

September 3

The Taliban is insisting on the release of Hekmatullah, a former Afghan National Army sergeant, as the Afghan government moves to free more prisoners under a US-brokered peace deal. The Taliban's chief negotiator, called on both countries not to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs, saying: 'the Taliban inmates might have killed a few soldiers, but the French and Australians have killed hundreds of Afghan citizens'. Hekmatullah killed Private Robert Poate, Lance Corporal Stjepan "Rick" Milosevic and Sapper James Martin at a forward operating base north of Australia's main base at Tarin Kowt on August 29, 2012.

France has also lodged diplomatic objections to the release of two Taliban militants who killed a French aid worker in 2003, and a former Afghan soldier who killed five French troops and

injured 13 others in 2012. US has been pushing for the Afghan government to free the last of the prisoners, who Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has described as a "danger to the world".

US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien spoke with Mr Ghani on Monday, urging his support to ensure a swift start to the peace talks with the Taliban. O'Brien reiterated US support for a sovereign, democratic and unified Afghanistan that would never again serve as a source of international terrorism. Under the terms of a controversial US-Taliban deal, Kabul agreed to free 5000 militants while the Taliban would free 1000 Afghan troops.

September 4

Army's *Hawkei* vehicle was on display at Russell Offices, Canberra, for the announcement that it was ready to commence full-rate production at the Thales facility in Bendigo. The Australian-designed *Hawkei* will complement government investment in AFVs, new watercraft and upgrades to the *Bushmaster* Protected Mobility Vehicle.

September 5-6

Rogue Afghan soldier Hekmatullah will be relocated to Qatar ahead of US-brokered peace talks with the Taliban, where he may be released. The Afghan government has now freed most of the prisoners on the Taliban's list of inmates who must be released before the talks can get under way in Doha. The Australian and French governments have been lobbying for the killers of their citizens to be excluded from the prisoner exchange.

September 10

French ambassador to Australia, M. Christophe Penot, says the submarine program is on track, and French shipbuilder *Naval Group* will soon formalise its commitment to, at least, 60 % Australian content for the program in its contract with the government.

France wants to lift its maritime security partnership with Australia in the Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans, and work more closely with Australia. The ambassador stressed France's commitment to the Indo-Pacific. France has six overseas territories and 1.6 million citizens in the region, as well as 80 per cent of its exclusive economic zone.

September 11

Rogue Afghan soldier Hekmatullah has been transferred to a detention facility in Qatar where he will be held with five other prisoners, all of whom have been convicted of killing Coalition troops or civilian humanitarian workers in insider attacks. The government's position is that Hekmatullah must not be released as part of US-brokered peace talks with the Taliban.

September 19-20

ADF commanders ignored warnings that redeploying soldiers continuously to Afghanistan was affecting their mental health, and their ability to make decisions. Ben Roberts-Smith and 'Soldier C' are expected to be prosecuted over alleged war crimes. The Brereton inquiry (due to be released soon) has focused on decisions made about persons who were clearly 'non-combatants' or 'no longer combatants'.

September 21

Paul Dibb refers to the risk of a coming war between China and America. Former prime minister Rudd also said that we are confronting the prospect of a hot Cold War, with actual conflict between the US and China possible.

Continued Page 19

Il
us
tr
ati
on
:
Jo
hn
Ti
ed
e
m
an
n

Book Reviews

This newsletter has 12 Book Reviews. On behalf of members the Editor thanks the reviewers. The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Library thanks authors and publishers for providing copies for review. If you would like a hard copy of a review, please contact the Secretary.

The Making of Warriors

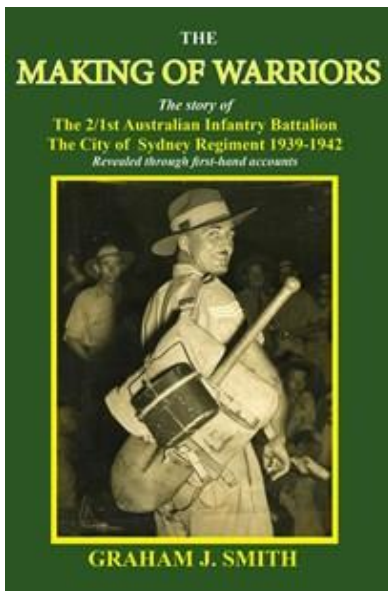
The story of the 2/1st Infantry Battalion The City of Sydney Regiment 1939-1942

Graham J Smith

Dural, NSW: Rosenberg Publishing, 2020.

Paperback 248pp RRP \$34.95

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, August 2020



Military history continues to be the beneficiary from descendants of those involved in both World Wars researching their exploits, only to expand their research into a work on the unit in which the relative served. Graeme Smith spent five years examining the background of Sergeant Jack Ledden MM (pictured on the cover) and has produced a fine history of the 2/1st Battalion AIF.

Based on the official Battalion Diary, the 16th Brigade Diary (compiled by a former journalist) and recollections of members of the 2/1st, there is an incredible continuity to the narrative. Supplementary German and Japanese input have been appropriately included. Frequent comparisons are made between the weapons, equipment and the conditions each side fought.

The 2/1st was formed on 16 Oct 39 at Victoria Barracks Sydney with the four battalions of 16 Brigade sailing for the Middle East on 10 Jan 40 and by Feb were in Julis, Palestine undergoing months of intensive desert warfare training.

The 2/1st was the first Australian infantry battalion in the War committed to battle and first to cross the start line at Bardia on 3 January 41. Capturing the town, they attacked Tobruk on 20-21 January, being burdened with huge numbers of Italian prisoners. The battalion sailed to Greece, and by 22 Mar were at Veria providing rear guard cover while 16 Brigade withdrew through the mountains to the south coast.

Evacuated from Greece on 25 April and arriving in Crete on 30 April, the now 620-strong battalion was tasked with defending the Retino airfield. On 20 May two battalions of German parachute troops attacked the airfield with many being shot before landing or once on the ground.

The transport section's bayonet charge recaptured a German-occupied radio hut. In subsequent days another airfield captured by the Germans enabled them to fly in sufficient men and heavy weapons to force the surrender of the troops at Retino on 30 May. Two officers and fourteen men took to the hills and escaped Crete, while approximately 350 became prisoners of war.

The battalion was reformed in Palestine in October with 100 men from both 2/2nd & 2/3rd Battalions and 500 reinforcements, and by November had a strength of 32 officers and + 703 men. It remained in Damascus till 26 March 42 when it sailed to Colombo, Ceylon and commenced jungle training. In Sydney by August, it prepared to go to Port Moresby, leaving Brisbane on 13 September.

At this stage, a starving, exhausted and over-extended Japanese force had given hope of capturing Port Moresby but were determined to impose maximum delay and casualties on the forces pursuing them north along the Kokoda Track. On 25 September the men dyed their khaki apparel green before moving north the next day. [At Menari members of the 2/25th Battalion discovered evidence of Japanese cannibalism on 13 October.] The 2/1st played a pivotal role in the Battle of Eora Creek [the bloodiest & most significant battle of the Australian Army's campaign to retake the Kokoda Track] on 15 October; the Battle of Oivo – Gorari from 4 – 11 November; and at Soputa on 20/21 November [where Ledden won his Military Medal] as 16 Brigade pursued the Japanese to Sananada Point. In fighting from Emita Ridge to Wairopi the 2/1st suffered 168 casualties, the most of any battalion on Kokoda Track and with 250 being evacuated with typhus and malaria. From a strength of 1000 plus, the battalion, with only 17 officers and 202 men was spent as a fighting force and was returned to Cairns on 10 January 1943. In December 1944 the 2/1st re-joined 16 Brigade in the Aitape – Wewak campaign in northern New Guinea until the end of hostilities. The battalion was disbanded in December 1945.

The three Commanding Officers from 1939 to 1942 all rose to the rank of major general in subsequent service in and beyond the War. A comprehensive *Appendix* includes the unit citations for gallantry at Soputa.

The Battalion's total awards and decorations for World War II were:

- Two Distinguished Orders and two Bars
- Two Members of the British Empire
- 15 Military Crosses
- Seven Distinguished Conduct Medals
- 27 Military Medals
- One British Empire Medal
- 57 Mentioned in Dispatches

The total casualties were:

- 263 Killed
- 418 Wounded
- 350 (approx.) Prisoners of War (taken on Crete)

This book is a high-quality paperback printed on a glossy paper that has enhanced the clarity of the numerous photographs of all participating forces. The included maps are easy to follow and sometimes usefully double as a timeline. The text is a fine blend of narrative and records/recollections that make for easy reading. It leaves no doubt in the readers' minds that this was indeed a fine band of Australian 'warriors'.

An excellent publication that could well be used as a fine template for the history of any military unit.

Starlight

An Australian Army Doctor in Vietnam

by **Tony White**

Published by Copyright Publishing Company Pty Ltd (2011) PO Box 380, Mt Ommaney, QLD, 4074
Website: www.copyright.net.au
Contact: info@copyright.net.au
176 pages \$33.00 Hardback & \$27.50 Soft Cover plus Packing & Postage
ISBN 978 1 876344-689

Reviewer: Alistair Pope

Prologue

Starlight is a refreshing book to read. Paradoxically, for a book that I highly recommend it contains a great deal of the blood and gore of war. It also contains observations about the environment and culture of Vietnam as well as some insights into the mind and souls of the ordinary Australian soldier. Tony White, the 5RAR RMO writes in a conversational style that is as easy to read as a diary. He records events and incidents and expresses the views he held then (and not as so many prefer to remember with the benefit of hindsight). He has no ego about his limited capabilities as a young, inexperienced doctor. The result is that the reader soon feels a sense of being part of the 'family' that is a battalion on operations.

The Road to Vietnam

Like many before and after him, Tony joined the Army to earn a living salary and pay for the last two years of his medical education. The Army was a means to an end that was not intended as a career, but an interlude of mutual benefit. Australia has a habit of never being adequately prepared for almost any eventuality.¹ This would explain (but not excuse) why a brand-new doctor just six days into his six-week Young Officer's Induction Course was 'invited' to become the Regimental Medical Officer for a battalion about to embark on operations in a war zone. Tony, with the eternal optimism of youth accepted and soon found himself joining the 5th Battalion readying for deployment in just two months' time. One might think that Tony was asked because he was sufficiently inexperienced that he would likely accept as he had no idea what lay ahead.

Vietnam Operations

By May 1966, 5RAR was in Vung Tau preparing to move to the forward operating base to be established at Nui Dat, about 30km to the north of Vung Tau and 5km from the Provincial capital of Ba Ria. Their first operation would involve evicting some enemy residing there, so tension among the soldiers was high. Near the end of the first day on site shots rang out. It is unclear who fired them, but fire was returned. Private Errol Noack, a National Serviceman stood up to move to a better position and was hit by machine-gun fire and killed.

Worse was to follow when it was found that he had been killed by 'friendly fire'. The battalion's war had begun badly.

At this stage of the Australian commitment to the Vietnam War, enemy strength in Phuoc Tuy Province was such that operations had to be mounted with a minimum of a full-strength company of 100+ men, or even of battalion sized deployments. The RMO and his staff were also deployed into the field so Tony saw much of the action from what was essentially a 'front or second row seat'. His experience was neither desk nor hospital ward bound. Gradually the VC and the NVA were pushed back and the area around Nui Dat became relatively secure. However, there is a brief mention of the Battle of Long Tan, fought by Delta Company of 6RAR on 18th August 1966. Given the importance of this well-known event, this 'footnote' would appear strange at first, but it is not as each battalion was fully committed with its own operational concerns.

Mines and Casualties

The main cause of casualties were dreaded mines of all types. In fact, 5RAR's greatest losses were two 'incidents' towards the end of their year's tour of duty. The first occurred when a mine (or booby-trap) killed the C Company Headquarters officers and wounded five soldiers. Just a week later an APC loaded with soldiers hit a large mine. Seven were killed and 28 were wounded as a result of the first explosion and then by a second one triggered by those approaching to give assistance. Tony describes all of these events in graphic detail. By the end of their tour 5RAR had lost 25 killed and 79 wounded, 80% of whom had been seen or treated by Tony before 'dustoff'.

Epilogue

The trials and trauma of infantry operations in Vietnam affected everyone involved to a greater or lesser extent. Although he never fired a shot, Tony and his medical staff sometimes performed their tasks under fire, but never shirked from their duty. The ordinary soldier saw close mates in their platoon or company killed or wounded but they returned to the field when called to go out on their next mission. Comradeship in the face of danger and death has always characterized the Australian Digger – and this is well-described by an articulate, intelligent and medically trained observer. The book finishes with a review of this trauma and its post-war effects on many of the participants. When the adrenalin is no longer flowing and the close bonds of mateship are fading as each soldier goes his own way it opens the door for the nightmares to begin. As Tony explains, despite his training and knowledge, even he stood near the precipice as he could not explain his experiences to others who had not been there. What hope had the ordinary soldier – or the discharged National Serviceman, now back serving customers at the bank just weeks after fighting for his life? Finally, it was somewhat strange to find that I knew six of those mentioned in the book, one of whom I never knew had been wounded until now. It was never raised as a subject of normal conversations.

¹ It was noted that the 'Field' or 'Shell' dressings issued to each soldier were manufactured in April 1915!

In the Footsteps of the First

The History of the 1st Light Horse Regiment AIF 1916 – 1919

Anne Flood

Wagga Wagga, NSW: Anne L Flood, 2019

Paperback 418pp RRP \$45.00

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, September 2020

Anne Flood has penned and self-published a second work honouring her grandfather and those he served with in the First Australian Light Horse Regiment (1st ALH). Her first book covered the period from the formation of the Regiment to its return from Gallipoli back to their beloved Walers; and this volume covers next four years until it became the first complete unit to return to Sydney in 1919. The *Foreword* has been written by the granddaughter of Australia's first lieutenant general, Sir Harry Chauvel who commanded the Desert Mounted Corps (DMC) which included 1st ALH. In 1919 Anne marched with 1st ALH, leading the Sydney Anzac Day Parade.

Based upon the First's Regimental Diary there is usually a chapter devoted to each month, often several chapters when major battles were fought in the Sinai Campaign. Where necessary, personal anecdotes have been included to supplement the principal actions recorded in the War Diary. Each day lists the casualties suffered and includes the names of those killed or died of wounds or illness along with those receiving awards for bravery or outstanding service. Over 70 high definition photographs and 20 maps provide amplification and clarity to the narrative.

Desert mounted warfare is definitely one area where the 'administrative tail wags the dog'. With so many horses to be watered, tactical objectives also had to have the capacity to water the Regiments' needs. Sometimes this forced withdrawal after successfully capturing a town or feature. Chauvel was acutely aware of this need on 31 October 1917. After a full day attack on the South by the British XX Infantry Corps on Tel el Saba and on Tel el Sakaty by the 1st and 2nd LH Brigades and NZ Wellington and Auckland Mounted Rifles, he ordered the 4th LH Brigade to capture Beersheba and the wells before dusk. Thus the 4th and 12th LH Regiments galloped into Australian history. Overall casualties for the British at Beersheba, and immediately after at Tel el Khuweilfe, amounted to 2200 men and 330 deaths.

There were many battles fought by the DMC in the final 26 months of the War - some involved defending key points along the coast, others attacks that were not always successful.

A key element in the campaign was the use of aerial reconnaissance and attack by both sides. Horse lines and drinking troughs were very visible from the air and heavy horse losses were sustained due to bombing and strafing. From the siege of Romani 5 – 13 August 1916 – the first victory to the British in WW1 – two unsuccessful attacks on Gaza [26 March and 19 April 1916] and the eventual flanking of the Turkish line at Beersheba, by sheer persistence and attrition suffered by the Turks, the DMC pushed north. Jaffa [Tel Aviv] was occupied in February 1918 and Amman October 1918 after two unsuccessful attempts in March and April in the Jordan Valley. A large number of the men from the DMC died of malaria contracted in the occupation of the Jordan Valley.

The signing of an Armistice at Mudros on 30 October 1918 saw the end of hostilities in Palestine. 1st ALH had Christmas 1918 in Rafa as the ANZAC Mounted Division awaited embarkation. [There were in excess of 11 000 horses that could not be brought back to Australia due to quarantine regulations.] 13 Mar 19 saw HT *Ulimaroa* carry 21 officers and 485 other ranks of 1st ALH to Sydney where it went in to quarantine at North Head on 13 April. A complete Embarkation Roll has been included. Back in Sydney just before Anzac Day, there was no celebratory march due to the Spanish Flu pandemic.

There are 80 pages of Nominal Rolls that include those who transferred into the Regiment in all 35 batches of reinforcements following its initial embarkation for Egypt. Of the 3805 on the Regimental Rolls, 224 were killed in action or died of wounds or sickness, 679 were wounded and four became prisoners of war.

This work has honoured Flood's grandfather and father in style. Readers are invited to walk with their ancestors too, but with impeccable research and documentation it also provides a trove for military historians to further their research.

[Between the Wars the 7th Light Horse (New South Wales Lancers) became the 1st Light Horse (New South Wales Lancers). After various reorganisations and title changes, in 1956 the 1st LH (New South Wales Lancers) merged with the 15th Northern River Lancers to create the 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers, a unit which continues to serve today in the Australian Army Reserve. Its colour patch is the same as the 1st ALH regiment and its guidon carries the battle honours won in the Boer, First and Second World Wars.]

Copies of this publication are available directly from Dr Flood:

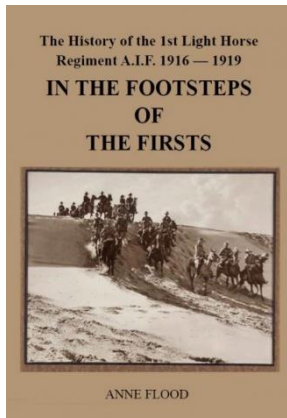
E-mail: anneflo@tpg.com.au

Mobile: 0407 219 741

Keeping Up to Date with Cyberspace

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has gained an international reputation for its alerts and other information about the hacking of cyberspace. You can get free daily email information by subscribing at:

<https://aspiicpc.substack.com>



In the Footsteps of the First

1st Australian Light Horse Regiment

1st Edition

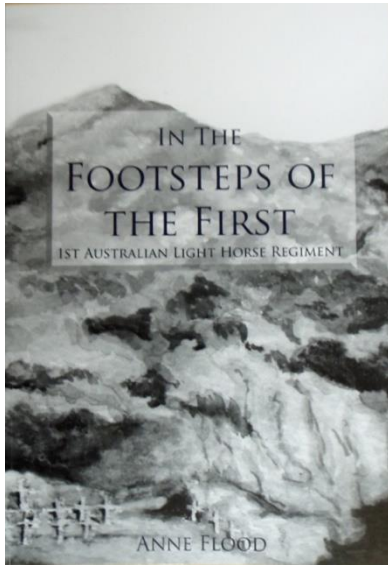
Anne Flood

Wagga Wagga, N.S.W.: **Triple D Books**, 2012

Paperback 188pp RRP \$39.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, September 2020

Frederick Henry Wood first showed his three year-old granddaughter Anne the scar on his leg from a bullet wound suffered in Monash Valley on Gallipoli on 1 Jun 1915. In fact the bullet passed through George Herbert Puckett's arm before striking her Pop's leg. The wounds resulted in both cavalymen being repatriated back to Australia and created a life-long friendship between them. Wood marched in the Sydney's first Anzac Day March in 1916 and was still carrying his unit's sign (1ARH) in the late 1960s.



The accuracy of the account of the First Light Horse Regiment's history from its formation to its tour on Gallipoli is beyond reproach as it is based upon the war diary of its higher formation – the First Light Horse Brigade until 11 May 1915 and the First's Regimental Diary after landing at Anzac Cove (without horses) on 12 May 1915. A battlefield tour of the Gallipoli Peninsula in 2010 saw Dr Flood seeking to walk in her grandfather's steps in Shrapnel Gully, Monash Valley and Pope's Hill where the First were posted 13 May until 2 September. The First suffered 157 casualties and 59 deaths in the 200 who charged on 7 August onto The Chessboard. The Regiment moved to No.1 Outpost 2 September and were among the last to evacuate The Peninsula 20 December 1915 and returned to Heliopolis where they were immediately refitted for further duty around the Suez Canal.

The *Introduction* includes a brief family history that mentions 'Pop' undergoing 'a minor name change and the creation of a later birthdate' to facilitate him seeing active service with his four sons in World War II. A six-page *Chronology of the Gallipoli Campaign* list all significant dates and neatly compliments the *Index* that only includes personnel and ships. A chapter is devoted to each month from the declaration of war to the evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915 with, where necessary, personal anecdotes including principal actions being succinctly recorded in the War Diaries. Each day lists the casualties suffered and includes the names of those killed or died of wounds or illness.

A separate *Honour Roll* has been included for the 7 August battle. The embedded maps are uncluttered and make it easy to follow the actions described. There have been a generous number of both historic and current (some of the author's own) photographs included. *Endnotes* conclude each chapter. Perhaps the most important feature is the 22 pages of very detailed Nominal Rolls that include those who transferred into the Regiment in the five batches of reinforcements following its initial embarkation for Egypt.

This most readable work, dedicated to the author's grandfather and father, provides an invaluable source for those researching their forebears in the Great War or military historians seeking detail of unit's histories, and it deserves a place in every military history library.

[In 2019 Dr Flood self-published the final four years of The First's war in *In the Footsteps of the First: The History of the 1st Australian Light Horse Regiment AIF 1916 – 1919*.]

Copies of this publication are available directly from Dr Flood:

E-mail: anneflo@tpg.com.au

Mobile: 0407 219 741

COSSAC

Lt. Gen. Sir Frederick Morgan and the Genesis of Operation OVERLORD

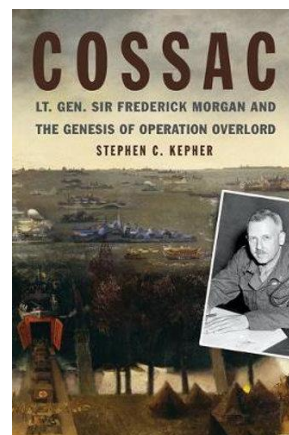
(Studies in Naval History and Sea Power)

Stephen C Kepher

Annapolis, Maryland, US: Naval Institute Press, 2020

Hardcover 336pp RRP \$64.25

Reviewer: Roger Buxton, August 2020



By March 1942 the United States Army Chief of Staff Office (CSO) had determined that the 'Germany First' agreement between Britain and the United States required Operation ROUNDUP (later OVERLORD), an invasion of the Continent in the spring of 1943. This book tells the fascinating story of the planning for that operation.

Some planning was carried out by the British under General Paget, but as they favoured taking advantage of opportunities in the Mediterranean Theatre, and as Operation TORCH in North Africa required all the landing craft available in 1943, this planning led nowhere. The CSO, on the other hand, saw the Mediterranean as a sideshow and wanted an invasion in the west at the earliest opportunity. In March 1943 an American planning group led by Colonel – later Brigadier General Barker USA produced a plan for

Hospital Ships

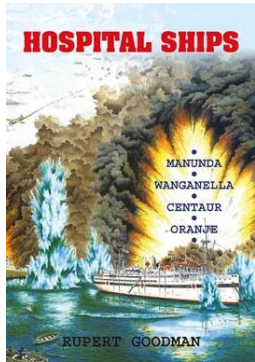
Rupert Goodman

Tingalpa Qld: Boolarong Press, 2016

Paperback 310pp. RRP \$29.99

Reviewer: Kevan Sanderson, July 2020

Hospital ships have been in use since at least the days the British fought off the Spanish Armada says Rupert Goodman in *Hospital Ships*. Goodman covers the subject of hospital ships in some detail albeit from a predominantly Australian viewpoint and the book is rich in facts and especially figures. The author leads the reader through the historical development of hospital ships pre-World War I, the evolution through both World Wars and then finishes off with a discussion of the modern trends.



Between the history and the future of hospital ships Goodman describes in depth four of the Australian hospital ships, *Manunda*, *Wanganella*, the ill-fated *Centaur* and the Dutch ship *Oranje*, devoting a chapter of the book to each. Each chapter describes the ship prior to being converted and commissioned as a hospital ship, the trips made as a hospital ship and the subsequent post-war activities of the ship.

Hospital ships essentially played two roles for the ill and wounded military personnel: namely the transportation of them and their care. The author explains the different requirements for each role referring to them as 'military' hospital ships and 'naval' hospital ships respectively.

Considerable attention is also devoted to an additional, somewhat complicating role usually assigned to hospital ships, which is that of transporting troops to the war. Pure hospital ships are known as 'white' ships whereas when a ship is used both as a hospital ship for transporting patients away from the front and troops towards the front it becomes a 'black' ship.

The author explains the Geneva Convention as it applies to hospital ships and discusses the many contraventions of the convention and the complications arising from dual purposing. One dilemma is whether to ensure the ship conforms to stringent Geneva Convention rules requiring painting the ship white, with red crosses and bright illumination during nighttime operations or not. If belligerents do not observe conventions, then making a hospital ship highly visible simply makes it a better target. There are many examples, including HMAH Ships *Manunda* and *Centaur*, of hospital ships being deliberately targeted.

The book contains a comprehensive set of appendices including Hospital Ship Standing Orders, the Geneva Convention Articles, Roll of Honour for those who served on Australian Hospital Ships, details of the trips made by the four ships and a clear list of abbreviations used. The book is a low-cost publication

being paperback bound and low-quality photographs. Having said that, there are many relevant and interesting photographs of the ships and the personnel who served on them.

The subject of this book which may be summarized as Australian hospital ships of the twentieth century, is a narrow one, but if that subject is of interest, then this book is a 'must read' for the sheer range of data it provides.

I found the book particularly interesting in its descriptions their conversions to hospital ships and their lives as hospital ships.

COSSAC -continued

the invasion called Operation SKYSCRAPER, but this was rejected because the 'bill' of required forces was impossibly high.

In March 1943 Lieutenant General Morgan, a British corps commander, was directed to read the accumulated papers and make a presentation on the invasion to the British Chiefs of Staff (COS). This presentation was followed by his appointment, on 26 April, to produce a plan for a full-scale cross-channel assault in 1944 'as early as possible'. As time was short, Morgan successfully demanded that the COS specify the force levels involved and a definite target date for the operation, which was set as 1 May 1944.

As no commander was appointed, Morgan called both himself and his new organisation COSSAC (Chief of Staff Supreme Allied Commander). Brigadier General Barker USA became Morgan's deputy and the two of them agreed that 'any division along national lines should be abolished' and the allied staff formed a seamless whole.

The absence of a commander, who would issue orders that a staff officer could not, and who would stamp his own authority on the operation, was a critical difficulty, but the Chief of Combined Operations, Admiral Mountbatten, cooperated with Morgan to hold a conference of the most senior commanders (Operation RATTLE) at the end of June 1943. RATTLE reached decisions on the essential aspects of the invasion and obtained – for the first time – support for the operation as envisaged by the planners.

The outline plan for OVERLORD was submitted to the COS in July 1943 and on 15 August the CSO directed Morgan to proceed with detailed planning 'with full preparation'. There were now less than nine months to prepare the largest ever amphibious operation, and Kephner describes how this was done, including the deception plan (FORTITUDE) to make the Germans think the main attack would be in the Pas de Calais (or even in Norway) rather than in Normandy, the construction of the MULBERRY harbours (without which Morgan 'would not recommend the operation') and the expansion of the attacking forces and the landing areas when General Eisenhower was appointed as Commander. There are several useful appendices, including the outline OVERLORD plan in this very readable and highly recommended book.

The Grand Deception *Churchill and the Dardanelles*

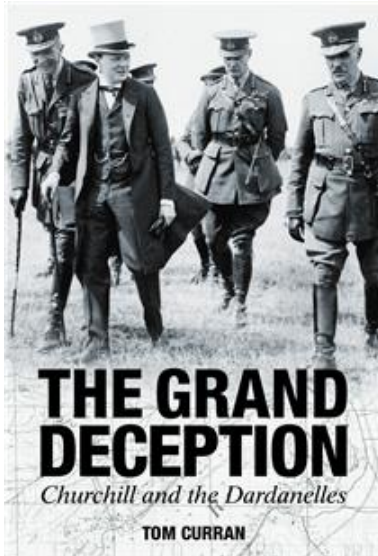
Tom Curran

Newport, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2015.

Hardcover 318pp. RRP: \$34.99

Reviewer: Kevan Sanderson, July 2020

Tom Curran examines the role of Winston Churchill, the First Sea Lord at the time, in decision making prior to the Gallipoli landings. Faced with stalemate on the Western Front, Churchill and Lloyd-George supported alternate strategies such as 'knock



away the props', by attacking Germany's allies; Fisher and Kitchener opposed extending the Front. The Dardanelles campaign, which was originally to be a naval assault was supported halfheartedly by the War Council and the often-absent Prime Minister Asquith, who, unable to provide decisive leadership, sought to arbitrate between these opposing views, leading to procrastination and delay.

As specified in his introduction, Curran's central hypothesis is that the Naval assault on the Dardanelles and hence the subsequent disastrous Gallipoli campaign, was undertaken essentially because Churchill deceived the Cabinet War Council. The vilification of Churchill does not end there as the author also criticises him for meddling in operational aspects of the Royal Navy and for attempting to rewrite history in his post-war account titled "The World Crisis". He is further criticised for his use of confidential government documents although previous authors including Fisher, Jellicoe and Kitchener had already used such documents in writing their own memoirs.

Churchill's role in making both strategic and operational decisions before and during the Dardanelles campaign is presented in considerable detail. Curran presents his case through extensive references to many official documents and press releases. He even quotes extensively from "The World Crisis" although most often to allege inaccuracies or disinformation rather than to provide a counterpoint.

The Grand Deception does an excellent job of presenting the way that wartime leaders, including allied Prime Ministers, cabinet members, senior military figures and others communicated with and amongst each other, both officially and informally, during wartime. It does nothing to encourage support for, or confidence in any of them.

The book cites several instances of War Council secrets being leaked, leaders refusing to communicate or share strategies with peers and subordinates and prioritising national or political goals over defeating the common enemy. But the documents referenced and quoted reveal communications from all levels of organisation that are vague and ambiguous in the extreme.

It is probably fair to say that consideration of any aspect of the Great War, from its causes to the Treaty of Versailles which concluded it, does not show the decision makers in a favourable light; and it is easy to see how Liddell-Hart concluded, 'war commanders (of the Great War) had feet of clay and wooden skulls as well'. It is certainly true that where the ultimate failure of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli campaigns are concerned there is plenty of blame to go around. The idea of forcing the Dardanelles and eliminating Turkey was one of the very few strategic concepts of World War I but did not get the consideration or support necessary to make it work.

Curran's case is not convincing. To accept his view of Churchill as deceiver is also to accept that characters such as Fisher, Kitchener, Asquith, Lloyd-George et al are weak, disinterested, irresolute and disingenuous and/or were in Churchill's thrall; which may have been true of some of them at some times, but surely not all of them all of the time. Curran further argues that Churchill subsequently attempted to discredit Fisher and Kitchener for their lack of commitment and support for the Dardanelles adventure when, in fact, several of his own references show both to be hesitant or non-committal and vacillating.

A common problem with military histories is maps which are difficult to read or inconsistent with the text. Pleasingly, this book includes two detailed maps which are both relevant and exceptionally clear. There is also a large bibliography and extensive footnotes, indicating considerable research. A perfectly adequate index is attached but the photos are generally small and of poor quality. Unfortunately there are so many references with minimal linking text that reading "The Grand Deception" is frequently tiresome and the uneven flow dilutes the strength of the authors case. The book is derived from a PhD thesis document and often reads like one.

Finally, Curran devotes a whole chapter to the historiography, the history of the history, or, as he calls it, the 'battle of the books', in which he examines several authors, including Churchill himself, their publications and their effect on public perceptions in the decades since 1915. In fact this reader found this chapter to be the most interesting part of "The Grand Deception" and the book is recommended reading for this aspect alone.

The Last Navigator

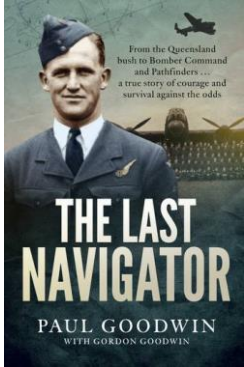
Paul Goodwin with Gordon Goodwin

Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2020

Paperback 352pp RRP \$32.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, June 2020

This is a biography written as an autobiography. Paul Goodwin has written 'in his (my father's) voice, as it is his story'. Sentiments and feelings have been greatly enhanced by presenting the life of Gordon Goodwin in this format from his father's memoirs and



subsequent verbal elaboration in his final years; with research filling any 'gaps'.

An independent and resourceful adolescent in a very small country town, Gordon suffered years of constant demands from a father who thought his own role in life was to be an overseer. After leaving school at 12 years of age, Gordon eventually took himself off to

Bundaberg to work in a sugar mill and study the science of sugar refining. To help make ends meet he joined the local militia unit in 1939, training as a Vickers gun crew member. His uncle's tales of conditions on the Western Front in the First World War, made joining the RAAF in 1940 a more attractive proposition. [Gordon's militia colleagues were posted to 9th Division, and with the fall of Singapore, became prisoners of the Japanese.]

Whilst doing three-months basic training in Sydney, Gordon became fascinated by the navigational skills of Matthew Flinders. Then at 23 years-old he was off by sea to Vancouver for the second stage of the Empire Air Training Scheme. After training as a navigator/bomb-aimer at Edmonton's Air Observers School he flew day and night navigational exercises. Next was followed by an eight-week course at the bombing and gunnery school followed by four weeks at Air Navigation School in Winnipeg to study astro-navigation.

The now Flight Sergeant Goodwin, qualified as observer/navigator, was posted to Atlantic Ferry Command. It took two flights in a Lockheed Hudson from Newfoundland to make it to Scotland in August 1941. At 27 Operational Training Unit in Staffordshire, crews were formed and commenced final training in Wellington Mark IV bombers before posting to No. 460 Squadron RAAF, RAF Bomber Command in Brighton, Yorkshire in March 1942. [The Lancaster 'G-for-George', now in the Australian War Memorial, flew in 460 Squadron.]

At the end of April, Gordon's skipper invited him on a double date where he met his future wife Joy, who worked in London with Imperial Chemical Industries. Gordon's seventeenth operation was over Cologne on 30 May 1942 and saw his squadron in Bomber Command's 30 May 1942 and saw his squadron in Bomber Command's first 1000-bomber raid. The

incendiary results of the initial bombers providing guidance for those following led to the formation of Pathfinder units. Gordon flew 32 Pathfinder missions and 65 with Bomber Command. After his first tour (30 missions), he became a navigational instructor. Following a three-month Staff Navigator Course in April 1943, he formed a Navigation Instructors Course before returning to action with No. 7 Squadron Pathfinder Force. While on posting as navigation officer at the newly formed No. 635 Squadron, Gordon and Joy married in May 1944, with Joy experiencing a V1 'buzz-bomb' strike on her parents' home in August.

Gordon saw out the War as Chief Ground Instructor for Pathfinders in the early months of 1945. There was a call to London to consider a position as flight staff with Qantas after the war. He was soon on a six-day flight in a Qantas 'civilianised' Lancaster bomber on his way to Sydney and a ten-month separation from Joy. Gordon was finally 'de-mobbed' from the RAAF on 4 July 1945 and went on to spend the next 26 years with Qantas – the last thirteen of those as Chief Navigator. He flew in flying boats, Convair Constellations, Super Constellations, Boeing 707s and retired as 747 'Jumbos' came into service. He worked on developing the computerised navigation systems for the latter aircraft.

Gordon, after making an incredible contribution to aviation navigation and Joy enjoyed their long retirement, with Gordon outliving the June 2012 unveiling in Britain of the memorial to Bomber Command statue by one month.

Paul provides an excellent *Afterword*. An insert of excellent black and white photographs from childhood through War to Qantas and Bomber Memorial is included. Paul has provided generous *Endnotes* that elaborate on his sources used outside his father's memoirs *Resume of the Life and Times of One R. Gordon Goodwin* (completed in 1997).

This work provides a superb insight into the role of the RAAF within the RAF Bomber Command. Eminently readable, it only took two sittings to complete a most enjoyable and enlightening experience.

The Cost of War

War, Return and the Re-Shaping of Australian Culture

Stephen Garton

Sydney: Sydney University Press, 2020

Paperback 308pp RRP \$40.00

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, July 2020

War is an all-encompassing event. It affects combatants before, during and afterwards. It changes relationships, families, friends and nations. The understanding war must go well beyond the bounds of actual conflict. That is why a well-structured military library has so many dimensions other than fighting: economic, sociological, political, psychological, religious, legal, artistic, ethnic – the list does not really end. To quote the cost of war purely in the terms of those killed,

Oil under Troubled Water

Australia's Timor Sea Intrigue

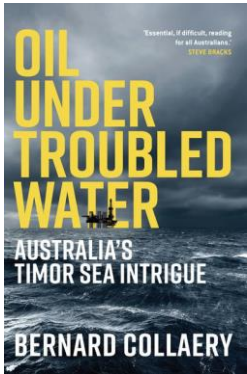
Bernard Collaery

Melbourne: Melbourne University Publishing Academic,
2020

Paperback 277pp RRP \$39.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, June 2020

This is a monumental work that completely 'calls out' Australia's incredibly unseemingly bad behaviour towards the Timorese people. Its pages contain a 'Who's-Who' of politicians and giants of industry who have been complicit in the extraordinary exploitation of one of the world's poorest nations that has persisted since the early 1960s.



and chambers relating to the 'bugging' of the Timor cabinet rooms in 2004, and currently facing a 'secret trial' at the direction of Australia's current Attorney-General. He has legally represented Timor-Leste and its leaders over the last two decades in an endeavour to have them receive what they are justly entitled to. This work was written in the 'political safety' of Cambridge in 2019.

Collaery begins with the Atlantic Charter (14 August 1941) drafted by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill that affirmed the right of all peoples 'to choose the form of government under which they will live'. Despite the emergence of the United Nations in October 1945, the political will and motives of those in power around the world saw the aspirations of the Charter watered down or just plain ignored.

During the Second World War, Britain, Holland and the Portuguese left the Timorese to the mercy of Japanese invasion, with meagre Australian forces trying valiantly to protect them. Post-war, Australia considered it advantageous to negotiate with Indonesia. With the US and Australia paranoid over Communist pushing into the South-West Pacific, they sanctioned Indonesian occupation of Portuguese Timor leading to that country occupying East Timor at massive humanitarian and economic cost to its people. Australian political leaders turned a blind eye to Indonesian atrocities including the massacre of five Australian journalists in Balibo on 16 October 1975 that sparked international outrage.

With Indonesia stepping up its terror campaign prior to the Timor Independence Referendum in August 1999, Australian police were part of the unarmed UN Peacekeepers overseeing the voting. [See Tammy Pempers, *Scorched Earth: Peacekeeping in Timor during a campaign of death and destruction* (Newport, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2019)] Subsequent violence from local militia forces saw the Australian Defence Force

(ADF) leading the International Force East Timor (INTERFET) from [20 September 1999](#) – [28 February 2000](#) to protect the East Timorese people. The goodwill generated by the ADF was quickly 'white-anted' by Australia's bugging of their Cabinet room in 2004.

Meanwhile international oil cartels had carried out geological surveys and were awarded mining licences by the Australian Government in seas that were obviously part of Timor's continental shelf. Australia copped some of its own medicine when foreign companies involved have manipulated agreements that see neither Australia nor East Timor benefitting from 'the inerts' (highly-valuable helium gas) that are part of the LNG being extracted from the Bayu-Undan Field only 40 kilometres from East Timor's coast. With considerable toing and froing at the United Nations in relation to a common boundary, and subsequent unenforceable resolutions, Australia has conceded the absolute minimum to the Timorese people even as late as the 2018 Timor Sea Treaty.

Collaery has meticulously detailed the manoeuvring, political evasiveness and in the case of Australia's Cabinet decisions, invocation of 'security necessity' to eliminate transparency. Cabinet papers held by National Archives of Australia have been virtually inaccessible, or if available, been massively redacted.

As would be expected, this is a very substantial and demanding read. The inclusion of verbatim parliamentary exchanges and impeccable referencing provide the reader with ample avenues to follow up if desired. A number of photographs accompany the text, which has been supplemented by an extensive index.

A troubling side of our political leaders and big business laid bare, and unfortunately, never to be addressed.

The Cost of War - continued

captured or maimed is as ill-informed and misleading as the assertion that James Cook discovered Australia.

Professor Garton brings us a revised version of his 1996 book. He reinforces the view that war has changed Australian individuals and society in lasting and frequently unexpected ways. Sadly, most of these issues are on the darker side of the Anzac legend. He takes an informed thematic approach. The return of the AIF was far from straightforward and the reception given to veterans uneven and disjointed. Garton's analysis of the process of remembering the war at personal, institutional and national levels is incisive. His account of the development and administration of the repatriation system is a model of enquiry. The chapters on soldier settlement, shellshock, re-entry to life at home and prisoners of war are informative and saddening. He has added consideration of the Korean War to his first edition's consideration of the Vietnam War but left subsequent conflicts aside.

I miss the powerful photographs in the earlier edition of this book. I welcome its re-issue and revision. It remains an important landmark study on the effects of war on Australia.

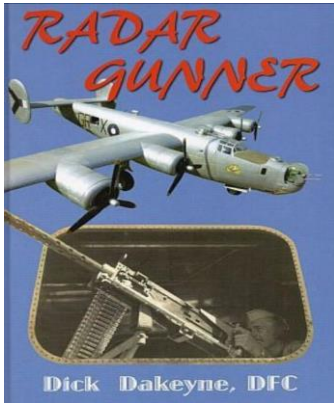
Radar Gunner

Dick Dakeyne, DFC

Coolalinga NT: David M Welch, 2015
Hardback 142pp RRP \$29.95

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, August 2020

Wishing to enlist in his father's First World War battalion, Dakeyne was told he could not serve overseas until he was 19 years old; no such restriction applied to the RAAF. Enlisting on his 18th birthday in 1941, he underwent training at wireless/air gunner, Morse code,



gunnery and observer schools in New South Wales and Queensland. In February 1943 he was trained at *HMAS Rushcutter* to use an Australian top secret radio set capable of picking up radar transmissions. [By joining the RAAF he actually had to wait longer to see active service.]

Dakeyne's first posting was as a Radar Counter Measure (RCM)/gunner crew member in Liberator bombers with the 319th Squadron USAF stationed at Fenton Field, 100km south of Darwin. The installation of the RCM equipment in aircraft was extremely slow, so most of his missions was a waist gunner. When the 319th moved to Port Moresby, he remained at Fenton with the USAF 380th Bomb Group serving in the 530th Squadron. During a Japanese air raid, whilst sheltering in shallow weapon pits, a colleague had a leg blown off and prompt action by Dakeyne ensure the survival of his close mate. Wishing to reach more distant potential targets (2400 miles to Java), the squadron operated from Corumna Downs, 30 miles from Marble Bar. He completed his first tour of 30 missions in the period May – December '43.

His second tour was with the USAF 90th Bombardment Group stationed on Biak Island off the north west coast of New Guinea from March to August 1944. On posting back to RAAF command in Brisbane he learnt of his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross. In December he was able to travel to Willoughby (NSW) to marry. Two posting in April 1945 to 24 Squadron RAAF and 201Flight in Darwin saw the end of his active service in December '45 with 48 missions totalling 528 hours of combat flying.

Seizing the opportunity for further study under resettlement, Dakeyne completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours in Geography (but without any teaching qualification) at Sydney University. In August 1950, with a family of three girls, he spent the next eight years in Kenya. In 1959 he was offered a position as a Geography demonstrator at Sydney University, then in 1961 being offered a study grant for field work involving short stays in New Guinea villagers each year over a four-year period. Dakeyne was made a Senior Tutor in

1967 and also became a student counsellor for two years. In retirement, from 1980 to 1988 he was a Uniting Church lay preacher.

There is plenty of fascinating detail arising from being embedded in a United States unit for most of his active service. In 1946 he was informed by the Australian Government that they had declined on his behalf the US Medal of Freedom (without Palm)! The text is extremely readable and generously punctuated with high quality photographs covering his entire life. There are five annexes that cover his history in the RAAF, a brief *Index*, and the book's endpapers are extracts from his Flight Log-Book.

An important work that complements our understanding of our colleagues in arms.

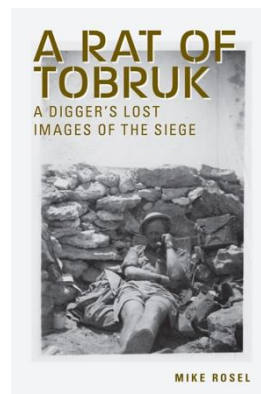
A Rat of Tobruk

A Digger's Lost Images of the Siege

Mike Rosel

North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2020
Paperback 108pp. RRP \$29.95

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, July 2020



This is another monograph written by the son of a Second World War participant, who, like so many, did not discuss his war experiences. Lieutenant John Rosel was an avid photographer rather than a diary keeper, and over 600 photographs (many annotated) of his campaigns have survived, but his war letters to his future wife have not.

Mike Rosel has been able to access letters and diaries of those who fought beside his father at Tobruk to wrap an appropriate narrative and soldiers' recollections around the photographs from the 2/24th Battalion AIF's initial training in Bonegilla (Vic), sailing to the Middle East, desert training and the Siege of Tobruk. As commander of 14 Platoon, John was awarded the Military Cross for holding the strong point S10 with six of his men on 30th April 1941 after having being surrounded and down to less than 1000 rounds of ammunition. A message torn from his diary to D Company of the adjoining battalion (2/23rd) has become a classic document of the battle included by R P Serle in *2/24: A History of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion*, Brisbane: Jacaranda Press, 1963. Private Harry Fraser, a Swan Hill cornet player, was posted to John's platoon in April 1941, and his 181 letters to his parents have provided a very colourful, sobering and personal account of the 'Rats' at this time.

John returned to Melbourne in 1942, married, and went on to Infantry Training battalions in Australia before finishing his service at Tarakan in Borneo.

An extremely generous collection of photographs has been imbedded in the text, quite often with John's

notes accompanying them. A brief *Bibliography and Sources* precedes an *Index*.

While many Australians are aware of the 'Rats of Tobruk', few probably know where Tobruk is, let alone the adversity facing our troops there in the Second World War. This is an exceedingly readable picture of the Australian military action in the treeless desert waste that pushed Tobruk against the Mediterranean Sea.

Defence Chronicle continued from page 9

August 12

More likely than nuclear war, in Dibb's view, is the prospect of a regional conflict *e.g.* Taiwan, or a confrontation in the South China Sea or the East China Sea. Such potentially high-intensity conflicts will require radical changes to the ADF *e.g.* the acquisition of long-range strike, cyber-attack and area denial systems. The ADF's logistics, stockholding of missiles and munitions, fuel supplies and military bases all requiring fundamental improvement.

September 24

Department of Defence Science and Technology plans to link Defence Science with business and academia. The *More, together: Defence Science and Technology Strategy 2030*, May 2020, introduces a new concept: *Science, Technology and Research Shots* (StaR Shots). The *2020 Defence Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan* links Defence's plans with industry initiatives, asking: 'what is the question we are trying to answer?'

Defence Science Partnership Program involves every public university in Australia. Two programs, *Next Generation Technologies Fund* and *Defence Innovation Hub* give industry and academia access to Defence. *Industry Competitive Evaluation Research Agreement* (ICERA), August 2020, will assist small businesses to contribute to Defence priorities. *Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct for Tasmania* will promote maritime solutions, and construction of a next-generation *High Performance Computing Centre* in Adelaide has commenced.

September 25

Immunity could threaten war crimes trial. Investigators say high-level immunity provided to witnesses in the Brereton war crimes inquiry could influence adversely cases against special forces veterans. The inquiry is focused on eight to 10 of the alleged crimes identified in interviews with more than 330 witnesses. These include alleged murders of unarmed civilians and prisoners by SAS and Commando operators. IGADF who has coercive questioning powers, can offer immunity to witnesses known as "derivative use immunity". It means prosecutors are unable to use any *information, document or thing obtained as a direct or indirect consequence* of evidence to IGADF by a witness who is later charged. The law remains unresolved and there is the possibility this could end up in the High Court. AFP investigators have told Mr Roberts-Smith they had "eyewitness accounts" implicating him in alleged war crimes in Afghanistan.

September 26

A number of SAS soldiers are accused of murdering Afghan detainees, behaviour which breaches the rules of war and Australia's criminal code. Former commander of special forces Major General J. Sengelman blames the crimes on a compromised chain of command and describes the behaviour as shameful and embarrassing. A small group of the SAS are

said to be responsible for numerous murders. Poor leadership and a disregard for ethical behaviour, moral outlook or integrity of character are said to be key findings in the soon to be released Brereton report. **End**

Donations to your Library Fund are Tax Deductible

Help to maintain the Institute's Library as the best collection in Victoria on defence and military related subjects by donating to your RUSI VIC Library Fund. The RUSI VIC Library Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) approved by the Australian Taxation Office, and monetary gifts to the Fund over \$2 are tax deductible by the donor.

Please make cheques to the 'RUSI VIC Inc Library Fund'. Receipts will be provided.

Borrowing from our Library

We have developed a trial system to allow us to post books or DVDs to our members. We won't charge postage to you, but you will need to pay return postage. We'll supply reusable protective packaging.

Choose your title from our online catalogue (www.thecollectingbug.com/rusivictoria/)

& email your request to us at

library@rusivic.org.au

This system will operate during the Coronavirus period.

Postponement Update - MHHV Conference

The Bloody Beachheads:

The Battles of Gona, Buna and Sanananda

One-Day Conference Saturday 20 March 2021

RHSV, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne, 3000

Keynote Speaker

Dr Peter Brune – Author of 'A Bastard of a Place'

Register at www.mhhv.org.au



Library Notes:

As may be expected there has been almost no physical activity at the library since the last report. The President has been able to make several properly authorised visits and has been able to do some cataloguing. He has also been able to add book cover illustrations to our catalogue in the cloud. We have been considering installing software to permit remote operation of our library computers. However, while this would be advantageous in the long term I hope we will be back at work within the month. In the interim we have received some excellent book donations which await delivery to the library.

It will be a good day when we see all our volunteers back in harness.

Brian Surtees

Hon Librarian

New Acquisitions (since July 2020)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author(s)	Subject
<i>Vietnam Vanguard</i>	Ron Boxall, <i>The 5th Battalion's approach to</i> Robert O'Neill (Eds) <i>counter-insurgency, 1966.</i>	
<i>U-Boat Commander Oskar Kusch</i>	Eric Rust	Anatomy of a Nazi-era betrayal and judicial murder.
<i>Right Man, Right Place, Worst Time</i>	Betty Lee	Commander Eric Feldt - his life and his Coastwatchers.
<i>China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order</i>	Geoff Raby	
<i>Counter Attack</i>	Peter Edgar	Villers-Bretonneux - April 1918.
<i>Radio Girl</i>	David Dufty	Mrs Mac, pioneering engineer and wartime legend.
<i>Letters from the Veldt</i>	Craig Stockings	Edward Hutton and his brigade of colonials in Pretoria.
<i>Atomic Salvation</i>	Tom Lewis	How the A-Bomb attacks saved the lives of 32 million people.
<i>Combat Medic</i>	Terry Pickard	An Australian's eyewitness account of the Kibeho Massacre.
<i>Pure Massacre</i>	Kevin O'Halloran	Aussie soldiers reflect on the Rwandan genocide.
<i>Spinning the Secrets of</i>	Justin T McPhee	Politics and intelligence in <i>State</i> Australia.
<i>Dunera Lives Profiles</i>	Ken Inglis et al	Lives of "Dunera boys" before, during after internment.
<i>For Valour</i>	Aaron Pegram & Craig Blanch	Australians awarded the Victoria Cross
<i>Traitors and Spies</i>	John Fahey	Espionage and corruption in high places in Aust, 1901-50.
<i>Endell Street</i>	Wendy Moore	The Suffragette surgeons of World War One.
<i>A Rat of Tobruk</i>	Mike Rosel	A digger's lost images of the siege.
<i>Fremantle's Submarines</i>	Michael Sturma	How Allied submariners and Western Australians helped To win the War in the Pacific.