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Promoting National Security and Defence
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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Mike Rawlinson

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Christmas Greetings



B' Block Victoria Barracks Melbourne

B' Block was originally the Guard House for the South Gate on St Kilda Road.

- **1862** Constructed as a guard house with cells
- Late 19th Century – converted to an ammunition store
- **1910-12** Altered to Chemical Adviser's Laboratory which tested and monitored the manufacture of explosives
- **1916-22** Central Research Laboratory of the Commonwealth Government Arsenal
- Later, Defence Regional Library, Printing Section and Barracks Officer's staff
- **1997** Completely refurbished, houses the VBM Heritage display. Office of the Corps of Guides.
- **2016** Office and Library of the **Royal United Services Institute of Victoria**

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Incorporated

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December Newsletter

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Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST	www.rusi.org.au
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AIIA (Vic)	www.internationalaffairs.org.au/victoria/
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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

We continue to maintain our aim of informing the community on defence and security issues. During the past year the membership of RUSI Victoria has remained steady, despite the deaths of some of our members. While a few younger members have recently joined, the average age of our members is 70 – a disturbing fact that will be a strong influence on our future.



Unlike many other states, RUSI Victoria has a strong regional representation and influence with its Geelong Branch. It is one of our best assets.

Our financial position showed a decrease in our accumulated funds. Your Council's assessment is that we should counteract this trend by a small increase in our annual subscription. For this sum we deliver our newsletter, the national RUSI publication *United Service*, the RUSI web site and access to borrowings from our library. We believe that this delivers value for money.

I wish to particularly thank the State Branch of the RSL for providing their excellent premises for our monthly addresses. The help given by the State President, Dr Rob Webster and his CEO, Brigadier Mike Annett has been most generous.

While remarking on our monthly talks, I am pleased to report that we have maintained a very high quality of speakers throughout the year. Audiences could have been larger, but it is satisfying that the trend is for more of our female members to attend.

Our library, recognised by the National Library of Australia (NLA) as a collection of national importance, continues to improve while being both useful to our members and as an attractant to new members. Its comprehensive catalogue, visible to all at www.thecollectingbug.com/rusivictoria/ has received over 1700 visits – about 150 a month – from over 40 nations. We have attracted three grants this year: from NLA, the state government Veterans' Council and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. These funds have been put into preserving and enhancing the collection. I wish to commend Neville Taylor for his efforts - he singlehandedly has written to publishers and obtained for us over 75 free books, saving us over \$3000 and keeping our collection up-to-date. The cost – that we undertake to publish reviews of these books – is difficult for the dedicated few to keep up with and we need more voluntary help to do this.

Our office and library are both easily accessible, but 24 hours' notice is needed. We are there on Mondays and Thursdays. Each day a variety of dedicated volunteers perform enjoyable work there. I wish to record our

- 3 sincere thanks for their efforts. We could do with more of these helpers.

Our national body, RUSIDSS-A continues to liaise with Defence and ensures that the support it gives us – predominantly our premises – continues. They provide us with a necessary service and it is likely that we state RUSIs will need to financially support them in the future. I should also say that our premises are a key enabling asset for us but that, though held through a peppercorn lease, our long-term tenure is far from secure. Loss of premises would be catastrophic: your Council is considering this case as a contingency issue.

I wish to also record my sincere thanks to your dedicated Council who make my task easy and serve you devotedly.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and enjoy the remainder of the festive season. Our office will reopen on Thursday 31 January 2019.

Recent Speakers at Lunchtime Addresses



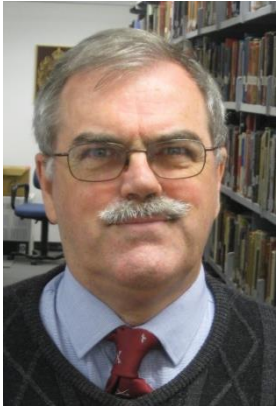
October Speaker: His Excellency Chris Seed
New Zealand High Commissioner



November Speaker:
Dr (BRIG (Retd) Nick Jans, OAM
'Leadership Secrets of the Australian Army'

From the Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD



Best wishes and keep safe for the holiday season.

See you all in the New Year.

Bob Hart



Secretary/Treasurer Bob Hart and President Mike O'Brien at the AGM

Vale

We record with sadness the passing of the following members:

MAJGEN Frank Poke, CAPT R. Westmore, Mr K. Hawkins

New Members

Welcome to: Mike Annett, Peter Cave

Welcome to Transferees: Chris Francis, Lucas de Matteis, Andrew Gordon

February's Speaker:

Thursday 28 Feb

Alfred Deakin **Professor Matthew Clarke**

Head of School, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University

'One Road, One Belt initiative in Pacific and its implication for Australia'

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@rusivc.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.



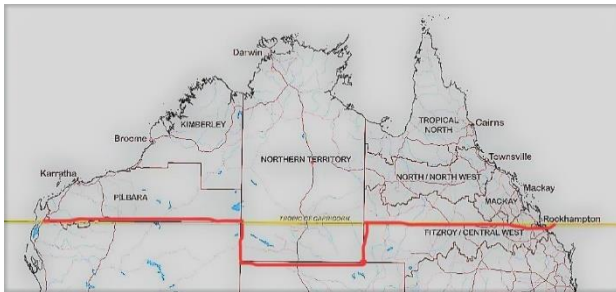
Vice President Ian Lille thanks NZ High Commissioner Chris Seed

***Opinion:* Developing Northern Australia**

Australia is unique in being an island continent that is also a sovereign nation. In our increasingly crowded world it may be apparent to foreigners that northern Australia is sparsely populated but appears to have outstanding economic potential which is not being fully exploited by Australians. Geopolitics abhors a vacuum.

In a global context there are long-term stresses relating to uneven population growth between rich and poor countries, energy shortages, environmental degradation, climate change, economic instability and inequality. In parts of the world it is reasonable to expect that there will be energy, food and fresh water shortages resulting in civil instability, mass uncontrolled migration, and wars. Stresses are exacerbated by the rising speed of global connectivity of human activities, technologies and societies, and the escalating power of small groups. There will probably be massive job losses related to artificial intelligence, and threats from terrorism, cyber-crime and cyber-warfare, including the employment of WMD. Directly or indirectly these changes will affect Australia. In the geographic front line is northern Australia.

Northern Australia (the North) comprises the Northern Territory and those parts of Western Australia and Queensland above the Tropic of Capricorn, 40 per cent of the area of continental Australia. Largely because of its varied tropical climate, the North is sparsely populated. Although over a million people live in the North, the bulk are in the coastal cities and surrounding areas of tropical Queensland. From the 2016 census (Pop 000s) QLD: Townsville 174, Cairns 146, Rockhampton 74, Mackay 74, Mt Isa 21, in the NT: Darwin 122, Alice Springs 25, and in WA: Port Hedland 14, Karatha 16, Broome 14, Kununurra 5.



The North accounts for over half of our sea exports (Ports Australia, 2014): thriving and diverse exports in minerals, energy, agriculture and tourism. Iron ore exports from the Pilbara through Port Hedland represent a world class operation, both in scale, efficiency and value. Most of these exports go to Australia's major trading partner, China.

In 2018 Australia's geopolitical focus has shifted to our near north, with a rebuild of the Lombrum Naval base on Manus Island to be operated as a Joint PNG, Australian, US facility. The base will counter increasing Chinese influence in the region. Confrontations between our US ally and major trading partner China are particularly challenging. By coincidence the former asylum seeker Detention Centre was also on Manus. Both the naval base and detention centre are linked to the maintenance of Australian national sovereignty. Another sovereignty issue of major concern is border protection, in particular illegal entry into Australia by boat or light aircraft via Australia's northern coast.

The ADF in the North

As military threats to Australia's security have traditionally been coming from or through the Indonesian Archipelago, the ADF has a significant presence in the North, and the capability for the swift augmentation of Navy and Air Force units.

A basic inventory of ADF units in Northern Australia is as follows:

Army:

1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Regiment, 1st Aviation Regiment, at Robertson Barracks Darwin
3rd Brigade at Lavarack Barracks Townsville, 5th Aviation Regiment, Townsville

Navy:

Patrol Boats based at HMAS Cairns, and HMAS Coonawarra (Darwin)

RAAF:

Fighter Squadron at RAAF Base Tindal (Katherine)
Light Transport Squadron at Townsville
Bare Bases at Curtin (Derby), Learmonth (NW Cape), Scherger (Weipa/Cape York)
Combat Support and Surveillance Units at RAAF Darwin
Jindalee over-the-horizon radar facility

United States

Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap (Alice Springs),
US Navy Communications Station Harold E Holt (Exmouth)
Battalion to Brigade strength of US Marines at Robertson Barracks, Darwin

The north has strategic importance. Developing Northern Australia goes hand in hand with defending Northern Australia.

Our North, Our Future

The Gillard Government's 2012 ***Australia in the Asian Century*** White Paper cast Australia as a food bowl for Asia. The food demand of an expanding Asian middle-class offers new opportunities for Australia's existing agricultural regions, as well as unlocking the potential of the North.

Owing to reduced domestic agricultural production due to pollution and shortages of fresh water China has

companies ready to invest in new food sources in Australia.

Foreign investment has always been welcomed in the North and is probably necessary for White Paper success. While the commercial confidence in the development of the North shown by the Chinese private company Landbridge is to be applauded, granting Landbridge a 99-year lease to operate the Port of Darwin appears to be a strategic anomaly.

The North has natural advantages relating to agriculture, mining, energy and tourism, as well as geographic advantages relating to its proximity to the fast-growing Asian and Tropical regions. However, it faces significant economic, environmental and social challenges, including: a sparse population; infrastructure, transport and service delivery costs; competition for skilled labour; harsh and extreme weather; and possible constraints around water resource development.

Responding to the situation, in June 2015, the Abbott Government released the first ever White Paper on Developing Northern Australia – *Our North, Our Future*. The Paper contained policy proposals for the development of the north as an economic powerhouse over the next two decades. Important factors addressed were land tenure, water resources, transport infrastructure, environment protection, the full involvement of Aboriginal communities, and governance.

From the Preface to the 2015 White Paper.

The north has untapped promise, abundant resources and talented people. It is also Australia's closest connection with our key trading markets and the global scale changes occurring in Asia.

Many previous efforts to develop the north have floundered through a lack of foresight and the absence of markets in our region for high value goods and services. Through this, the first ever White Paper on Developing Northern Australia, the Commonwealth Government is putting in place the right policies, at the right time, to unlock the north's vast potential. This white paper has been developed to stand the test of time — it should be the first, and last, white paper for the north.

The White Paper set out a clear, well-defined and timely platform for realizing the full economic potential of the north, including a plan for implementing these policies over the next two, five, 10 and 20 years. The Paper contained policy proposals for the economic development of the north including new roads, studies of dam sites, changes to land-use laws as part of a development blueprint.

Development of the primary industries of northern Australia included agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and aquaculture, minerals and energy. Also identified was the potential for the export of high value services such as tropical medicine, education, disaster risk reduction and response, tourism, defence services and biosecurity.

Water is a key component to agricultural and horticultural development. Three catchments were found to have potential for new dams and large-scale irrigation: the Mitchell River on Cape York, rivers about Darwin, and the Fitzroy River basin in WA.

The Paper produced a stock-take of northern Australia's natural, geographic and strategic assets, and the potential for further development of the region's minerals, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries. It offered a comprehensive assessment of risks and impediments to growth and set out agreed policy actions and funding via a cross-agency Taskforce in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Initial momentum for change was lost when Tony Abbott was replaced by Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister on in September 2015. The Turnbull government had a huge ministry including a Minister for 'Resources and Northern Australia' and a Minister for 'Regional Development, Territories and Local Government'. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs completes the Ministerial triumvirate

Development of the north was not a high priority for the Turnbull government. By early 2018, none of the principal ministers who sponsored the 2015 White Paper remained in the cabinet. Gone were: Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Trade Minister Andrew Robb, Deputy Prime Minister and Nationals Leader Warren Truss and his successor Barnaby Joyce. Continuity is preserved by Senator Matt Canavan as Minister for Resources and Northern Australia in the Turnbull and now the Morrison government.

Progress on the White Paper agenda has not been newsworthy in the southern states. In April 2018 the 2nd Ministerial Forum, of the three commonwealth ministers plus ministers from NT, WA, QLD, reported that 34 of 51 White Paper targets had been achieved. Also, the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (NAIF) had made loans of almost \$1billion to partly finance roads and other infrastructure. In August, CSIRO completed advanced studies into the North's water resources recommended up to six dams in the three areas previously identified.

Things are happening – but slowly, overburdened by bureaucracy, red tape, and a preoccupation by the government on unrelated matters.

Conclusion

The development of the North is strategically and economically important for Australia.

Our North, Our Future is an ambitious long-term undertaking that is unlikely to progress smoothly without strong leadership from the Prime Minister and the commitment of senior ministers. As a nation building project, it requires bipartisan political support as well as leadership to engage southern Australians.

Mike Rawlinson

**Annual Luncheon – William Angliss Restaurant
Tuesday 20 November 2018**





Book Reviews

This newsletter has seven 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.

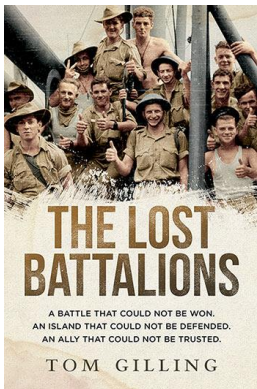
The Lost Battalions

A battle that could not be won. An island that could not be defended. An ally who could not be trusted

Tom Gilling

Allen & Unwin, 2018
Paperback 272pp RRP: \$32.99

Reviewer: Robert Dixon, October 2018



Tom Gilling is best known for his books on what the booksellers refer to as 'True Crime' in Australia. In this book, his first in the area of Military History, he tells the story of the men of two battalions of the 2nd AIF who fought in the Middle East and in Java and who then became Prisoners of War of the Japanese.

The two battalions who are the subject of the story are the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion, which was raised in May 1940 and sailed for the Middle East in April 1941 on the *Queen Mary* and the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, raised in June 1940 and sailed for the Middle East on the *Ile de France* – in the same convoy as the *Queen Mary*.

Upon arrival in the Middle East both battalions were assigned to the 7th Division and took part in the successful Syrian campaign in June and July of 1941 against the pro-German Vichy French forces. In early 1942, following Japan's entry to the war, the 7th Division was recalled from the Middle East with an initial destination of the Dutch East Indies. The bulk of the men in the two battalions concerned left the Middle East ahead of the rest of the division and on the same ship, the fast troopship *Orcades*. After a brief stop in Sumatra the *Orcades* was directed to Batavia (now Jakarta) and troops from both battalions disembarked there on the 19th of February.

Shortly afterwards, following numerous robust exchanges between Curtin and Churchill, the fall of Singapore and the bombing of Darwin, it was decided that all other ships carrying the 7th division should not now follow *Orcades* to the Dutch East Indies but should instead return to Australia. However, as a political gesture of support to the Dutch, it was decided that the two battalions from the *Orcades* that had already landed in Java should remain there and be combined with a battalion from the US 131st Field Artillery Regiment and

a squadron from the 3rd King's Own Hussars to form "Blackforce" under the leadership of Brigadier Arthur Blackburn VC. Blackburn established his force with a brigade formation, utilising all the troops who had been on the *Orcades* as infantry with only light weapons (the 2/3rd's machine guns had not been loaded on the *Orcades* when the ship left the Middle East). The task of Blackforce was to act in concert with Dutch colonial troops to defend the western end of the island of Java, with a Dutch general being in overall command of all allied forces.

The Japanese invaded Java on the night of the 28th February and Blackforce went into action a few days later at Leuwiliang, south of Batavia. They held up the Japanese advance for two days but on the 8th of March Dutch forces throughout the island surrendered and the next day Blackforce was ordered to lay down its arms.

Most of the men survived the fighting but spent the rest of the war as prisoners of the Japanese. Over 390 of the men died, most while working on the Thai-Burma Railway. Others died in POW work camps across Asia and at sea when the ships they were being transported on were sunk by allied submarines. Reading the accounts of their captivity the reader can only wonder that any of them survived the war, given that they were subject to strenuous physical labour, malnutrition, brutal beatings and diseases such as malaria, dysentery, pneumonia and cholera. As the accounts in the book make clear, many owe their survival to the work of surgeons Edward (Weary) Dunlop and Albert Coates, both of whom were captured in Indonesia. By the war's end, the men of the two battalions were scattered throughout many locations including Java, Sumatra, Singapore, Burma, Thailand, French Indo-China, Borneo, Japan and Taiwan.

The book includes twenty-two B&W photographs, a very thorough index and a bibliography. The absence of any maps is puzzling. A map of western Java in particular, would aid the reader. Having said that, the book is well-written, and the author very skilfully connects the stories of individual soldiers with the 'big picture'. This is a worthwhile addition to the literature on the experience of Australian soldiers in the war against Japan.

Unfortunately, there is no mention of the excellent history of the 131st Field Artillery Regiment titled *The Lost Battalion* by Hollis Allen, first published in 1963 – this is now available in a Kindle edition from Amazon.



Cold War 1945 - 1991 Series

Pen & Sword Military Barnsley, UK 2017 & 2018
Paperback 128pp RRP: \$26.50 + p&h

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, November 2018

This series of monographs play a vital role in filling the gaps in areas where the essential detail is either unknown or maybe faded from the memory of the military history enthusiast. With a table of contents, timeline, maps and ample photographs as common fare, some volumes have additional feature that enhance them. Including excellent background material, some of these works follow through to the present day.

These three volumes, published in 2017 and 2018, have been reviewed in chronological order.



Dien Bien Phu

The First Indochina War, 1946-1954

Anthony Tucker-Jones 2017

France's reluctance to relinquish her vast 19th century empire in South East Asia and Africa saw events culminate at Dien Bien Phu.

In March 1946 the French Expeditionary Force moved into North Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh having established the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in September the previous year). Ho had established the Viet Minh with militia (village), regional troops and the Vietnam Peoples' Army (regulars) supported logistically by Chinese Communists. The French were alone in waging a war unpopular at home, and virtually unsupported by the US and UK.

The January '51 battle for Red River (Hanoi and Haiphong), despite being won by the French, illustrated potential problems they would face at the Viet Minh continued to gain strength both numerically and logistically. The French concentrated on strongpoints based on cities, and did not attempt to control the intervening countryside, and the strategy of using paratroop battalions without adequate logistic ground and air transport led to the final demise of the French at Dien Bien Phu on 7 May 1954.

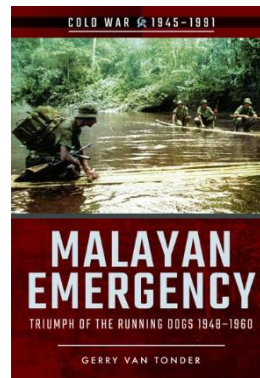
The text consists of short chapters dealing with all aspects of the period. A coloured insert includes a map of French Indochina, French aircraft, weapons and decorations and Viet Minh weapons and decorations. Both the French and Viet Minh order of battle at Dien Bien Phu are Appendices, and a brief Bibliography complete the work.

The on flow of the Viet Minh victory over the French was the Second Indochina War (better known as the Vietnam War (1 Nov 1955 – 30 Apr 1975).

Malayan Emergency

Triumph of the Running Dogs 1948-1960

Gerry von Tonder 2017

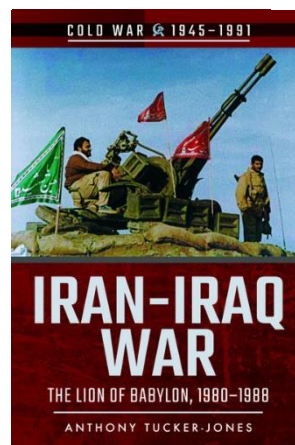


A Timeline for the period from 1946 to 1960 precedes the Introduction – a brief history from 1800 includes the development under Raffles, the collapse of rubber and tin prior to the Second World War needs, and the emergence of the Chinese used to defeat Japanese becoming Communist Terrorists.

In April 48 the British conducted an 'anti-bandit' operation against the pseudo Communist Terrorist government and their accompanying tax extortion. By June 48 the 'Emergency' was declared (as potential insurance claims for losses would be voided in a war situation).

Causes, processes and outcomes are based on first hand accounts, newspaper articles and thorough research. Most of the narrative is based on Rhodesian Army accounts, with scant mention of the other colonial forces involved. The South African and British forces are listed and enemy strategy and tactics are examined in detail.

A coloured insert includes photos, maps, equipment and RAF aircraft. A good Bibliography rounds out a most readable coverage of the subject.



Iran-Iraq War

The Lion of Babylon, 1980-1988

Anthony Tucker-Jones 2018

Frustration over access to the Persian Gulf by Iraqi oil tankers and an inability to build a strong navy coupled with Iran refusing to pay tolls to use the Shatt al-Arab Waterway set the scene for inevitable conflict. Saddam

Hussein, on becoming Iraqi President in 1979, incorrectly assumed that the Iranians would have diminished military resolve after the Iranian Revolution following the overthrow of the Shah. Iraq launched an attack on Iran on 11 September 1980. By 22 September fighting extended along the 720-mile joint frontier.

Chapter 7 details how both countries strove to redress imbalances in their forces through the purchase of incredible quantities of military materiel from the Soviet Union, France, China and others who were more than happy for cash (or oil when that cash ran short). The lack of skills of the personnel using the more sophisticated weaponry often resulted in poor 'return on investment'.

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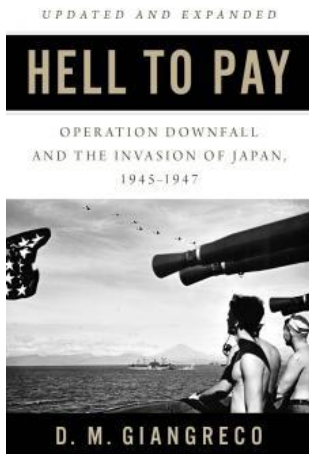
Hell to Pay

Operation DOWNFALL and the Invasion of Japan, 1945-1947

D M Giangreco

Naval Institute Press, Annapolis Maryland, 2017
Hardback 582pp RRP: \$47.00

Reviewer: Michael Hili, October 2018



This book is a weapons specialist's, military history buff's and conspiracy theorist's best friend. With many scholars already having scrupulously debated the potential invasion of Japan (dubbed 'Operation Downfall'), Giangreco's 'Hell to Pay' works to put the conjecture and disagreement to bed. It attempts to grapple with the accuracy and viability of casualty projections for an offensive operation against Japan. In doing so, Giangreco delves into perspectives and reports provided by a number of officials in the U.S and Japanese armies, and those within the Truman Administration, in regards to what was expected to occur if the atom bombs hadn't been utilised. It also qualitatively surveys Japanese readiness for such an offensive, and the major factors considered by proponents like Macarthur, Marshall and Truman that eventually led to a use of the bomb and sending the potential invasion force back home.

It is a dense read. Admittedly this is due to the book being an academic document analysis; attempting to address a gap in understanding the myriad of controversies surrounding the potential Operation. Yet the layout and design are quite difficult to manoeuvre for those wishing to find select information on their topic of interest. Titles of chapters are predominantly catchy quotations or vague rhetorical questions and declarations. This leaves the reader with almost no semblance of what the chapter is about and whether it is suited to their interest.

Despite the problems in presentation and some issues in writing clarity, one cannot deny the quality and expanse of Giangreco's analysis. The most impressive capability outlined in his book is to contextualise decision making with an array of existential and militaristic factors. The most prominent of these is his analysis of the potentiality of the U.S first launching their invasion on the island of Kyushu. Giangreco puts a lot of effort into breaking-down the nature and potential objectives of the armed divisions; where they were expected to invade and what kind of resistance they were expected to encounter. These types of arguments and reports require a sizeable amount of presupposed knowledge of weapons and the nature of "phantom divisions" to follow. He also goes into depth on the nature of terrain, potential for traps and

ambushes extensively. One could see the appeal of this type of analysis for researches in, or operators within amphibious operations and guerrilla tactics.

It can be said with confidence that this book is written for those with a background in the military, or those firmly entrenched in the academic discourse of military history. The degree of background knowledge required to follow this narrative is far too great for even an established history buff that does not already know about 'Operation Downfall' extensively.

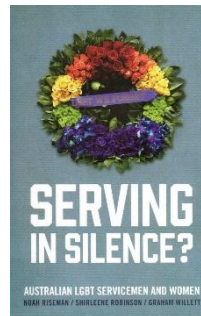
Serving in Silence?

Australian LGBT Servicemen and Women

Noah Riseman / Shirleene Robinson / Graham Willett

NewSouth Publishing, Sydney NSW 2018
Paperback RRP: \$39.99

Reviewer: Ian Lillie, October 2018



This is a collection of life stories of men and women from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities who are serving or have served in the various branches of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) over different historical periods. The book is the result of an Australian Research Council Discovery project documenting the history of LGBTI military service, based on; '...four years of oral history interviews, visits to the National Archives of Australia and the perusal of old newspapers and ephemera held at the Australian Lesbian and gay Archives (ALGA)'. The authors are all historians who have published books and articles particularly in relation to the LGBT community.

Over 115 stories were recorded and fourteen of them presented in this book. Those selected to tell their stories were all volunteers in the military and were capable and qualified servicemen and women. *Serving in Silence?* is a collection of very personal life stories of LGBT men and women who served or are serving in the ADF.

The book is very well structured in three historical eras based on broad Defence policies and attitudes of the time: 'Silences And Discretion, 1944 – 1973; Bans and Witch-hunts, 1974 – 1992; and From Tolerance to Inclusion, 1993 – 2018. Each section contains four stories from servicemen and women about their lives in the services as a LGBT person and the difficulties in maintaining a military career. Mostly they had to keep their sexuality a secret. They were all keen on the military as a way of life and as a career and contributed in whatever role they performed. These are very personal stories and the contributors should be commended for making them available for publication.

The authors provide 'introductions' to each section. This is a very useful description of the Defence policies of the day and to some extent their interpretation and implementation which puts the stories in context.

Continued on Page 13

Defending the Ypres Front 1914 – 1918

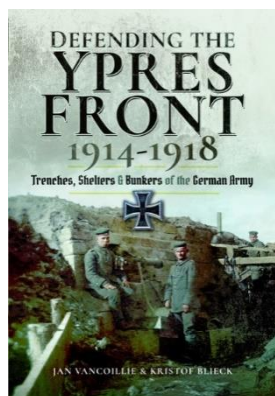
Trenches, shelters and bunkers of the German Army

Jan Vancoillie & Kristof Bliek

Pen & Sword Military, 2018

Hardback 294pp RRP: \$45.20

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, November 2018



Two devoted Belgian authors have produced an outstandingly detailed work on the German 4th Army defences on the Ypres salient in the First World War. Despite many German records being lost due to Second World War allied bombing, the photographs, maps, plans, diagrams and sketches included reinforce the German penchant for impeccable record keeping.

There is more visual content

than the east-to-read text, with some present-day coloured photographs being adjacent to the high-quality sepia shots taken during the War. There are 21 maps of the area showing German dispositions during the campaign, and an additional thirteen maps in the final chapter - *Tour Section* - for those who wish to see the area and the remaining and reconstructed fortifications first hand today.

The Introduction treats the history and geology of the Flanders area. Particular attention is given to the criteria used in siting the German strong points, the use of rail, road and water transport to support their logistics; use of forests and other treed areas, and how the high-water table affected their constructions (from 1916 geologists checked potential sites to groundwater problems).

From the conclusion of the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914, trenches were improved under engineer supervision. As timber splintered under bombardment, subsequently trenches were reinforced with (woven) willow. Quality material was used in sandbagging both in trenches and in breastwork above ground level. In the period subsequent to the Second Battle (April – May 1915), the long period of relative 'little action' enabled linear fire trenches to be replaced by zigzag trenches complete with continuous fire steps. Amazing complexes of communication and switch trenches created defence in depth behind strong points. The degree to which barbed wire and camouflage were used in defence is described in detail, as is the use of improvised shelters in bomb craters.

The chapter *Defence by Concrete* discusses the move to the building and camouflaging of bunkers using poured concrete or (where lack of security made their use necessary) the use of prefabricated concrete blocks. Where built to specification bunkers had front and sidewalls 1.5 metres thick – requiring as much as 1500 tonnes of cement and 9000 tonnes of sand and stone

weekly for construction! Numerous trench maps showing the sophistication and thoroughness of the German defences have been included.

All of this came with a huge manpower cost. Soldiers from fighting units were trained by military engineers, Italian, French and British prisoners of war, and Belgian paid civilians (many being housed and fed as well) all contributed to the massive works. The 1500m Hooze Tunnel was built under Menin Road to facilitate the safe access to the front line.

The cement from captured French and Belgian cement works was railed to the front as was the sand and gravel needed. Timber was recovered from damaged buildings and local sawmills were established. In the latter part of 1917 almost one quarter of a million rail wagons went to the 4th Army area – 17 percent was engineer material, and 33 percent being building material. In addition to this traffic, the same lines also carried troops. Trolleys pushed by manpower on smaller gauge lines saw material delivered 'on site'. There were 45 engineer 'companies' (each of approximately 250 officers and men) within the 4th Army. The inventories (in German) of several of the pioneer field parks amply illustrate the number of stores held as construction proceeded.

Following the *Tour Section* mentioned above, there is a short Glossary, Bibliography and Index included. The quality of this work is a credit to both the authors and the publisher.

Overall this work provides the reader, whether military history buff or not, with a clear insight into just how 'tough a nut' the German line was for the Allies to crack in 1918. Its place on our library shelves is well deserved.



Iran-Iraq War

Continued from Page 10

Israel, wishing to preserve a balance of power in the Middle East, requested US support to the Iranians. This was forthcoming in the period 1985-86.

Various aspects of the war are dealt with in separate chapters – Iraq's incredible tank force, Iraqi fighters versus Iranian anti-aircraft missiles, naval battles, the tanker wars and the use of chemical weapons against the massed Iranian soldiers and Kurds. By 1988 Iran was in no position to continue waging war against Iraq. The losses by the belligerents had been staggering. Both sides then resorted to resolving their 'Kurdish problem'.

A most generous colour insert contains ten maps and ground, air and naval scenes. Eight Appendices list the Iranian and Iraqi Chain of Command, Orders of Battle and military hardware sourced. A very detailed Index accompanies a good Bibliography.

The subsequent bellicose stance taken by Iraq is made even more amazing when considered that this war was a prelude to Hussien's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, and then the rejection of the 16 January 1991 deadline to evacuate or face the Coalition of the Willing's Operation Desert Storm.



Australians on the Western Front 1918

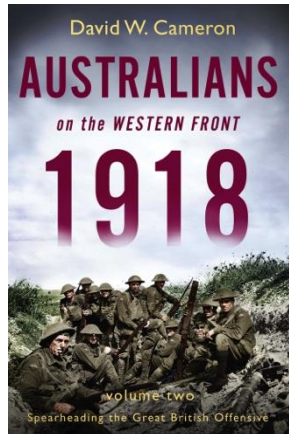
Volume 2 Spearheading the Great British Offensive

David W Cameron

Penguin Australia 2018

Paperback 560pp RRP: \$34.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, October 2018



After reading (and reviewing) David Cameron's *Australians on the Western Front 1918 Vol 1*, my expectations of *Vol 2* were more than realized. Twenty-five per cent longer, the detailed account from the Australian troops contribution to the Offensive from July to October 2018 makes for riveting reading.

Using the same format as *Vol 1*, Cameron has tabled all Australian commanders down

to the 60 battalion commanding officers and alluded to individuals mentioned in the narrative by their age, civilian occupation and hometown, as well as any bravery award(s) and their survival or otherwise of the conflict. The included disposition of individual rifle companies during attacks and reorganizations will enable descendants to place exactly where their forebear(s) were when the going was toughest.

Since the German Spring offensive, the nature of the conflict had changed, as had the 'balance of power'. The Allies now had little problem with manpower and logistics as the US threw its support into the conflict. Conversely the German armies were heavily dependent on rail transport and were confronted with huge manpower and food shortages and logistic difficulties as well as coping with sinking morale. This did not in any way diminish the Allied casualties in any of the final battles, even though many Germans surrendered without providing strong opposition. Over 400 Australians died on 5th October at their last battle at Montbrehain before the Corps was taken from the Front.

The five battles covered are Hamel (4th July), Amiens (8th – 12th August), Chuignes (23rd August), Mont Saint-Quentin – Péronne (31st August – 5th September) and breaking through the Hindenberg Line and the subsequent Le Catelet and Beaufort Lines (29 September – 5 October).

Monash's 4th July 93-minute battle in capturing le Hamel became the Allied model for the 'last 100 days'. Generally, aerial reconnaissance and artillery bombardment preceded attacks that were accompanied by tank support that was most effective against wire obstacle and machinegun posts. Tank carriers were used in immediate post-action situations – 'four carriers in 30 minutes landed defence stores, ammunition and water (that would have taken 1200 men all day)' on a newly

captured objective. Combatants could now be provided with a hot meal within a couple of hours after an action.

The 1916 and 1917 failed conscription referenda in Australia underlined the fact that there were no reinforcements (apart from previously wounded returning to units) to replace Australian losses during ongoing campaigns. The Australian government wanted bring home on a three-month furlough those who had enlisted in 1914 as well as having the fifteen Australian brigades conform to their British counterparts and consist of three (instead of the current four) battalions. Monash was forced to order, on 23 September 1918, the disbandment of seven depleted battalions to be merged with others. There were strong objections by those who had enlisted on hearing that their beloved battalions were to be broken up. Negotiations between battalion representatives and divisional and brigade staff resolved matters 'satisfactorily', albeit temporarily, before Monash's Corps attacked the Hindenberg Line.

Included are a comprehensive range of photographs include the wire and fortified posts protecting objectives, captured fortifications, VC winners, and Prime Minister Billy Hughes at the Front. Included are 30 pages of Notes, eleven pages of References, an 18-page General Index and a six-page Index of Military Units. Eight excellent battle maps cover all the details of the actions listed above.

This extremely readable and extensively researched account will be a fine addition to Australian military history collections.

Serving in Silence?

Continued from Page 11

Regardless of the formal policy of the time, there seemed to be times when rules were to some extent overlooked as long as the LGBT members performed their jobs. But there were also witch-hunts where the policies were enforced inflexibly and servicemen and women, who were otherwise performing their duty, were discharged or invited to seek discharge. It may never be known how many good servicemen and women were lost to the system during these periods.

The stories are easy to read and they give a clear picture of the difficulties of serving in an organization that was not as inclusive and welcoming as it should have been. LGBT men and women lives were made difficult by the policies and attitudes of the day. The ADF has come a long way in inclusiveness since the 'Silences and Discretion' days.

It is a useful book for those interested in understanding the changes to personnel policy that have taken place in the ADF over time and why the changes were necessary. It will also be helpful for those developing high-level personnel policy. It provides a clear and personal account of how such high level policy impacts directly on individuals in a large organisation like the ADF. These are the stories of fellow servicemen and women who served this country and were not given a fair go.

Serving in Silence? is easy to read and is logically set out. It contains a useful Bibliography for those interested in further research.

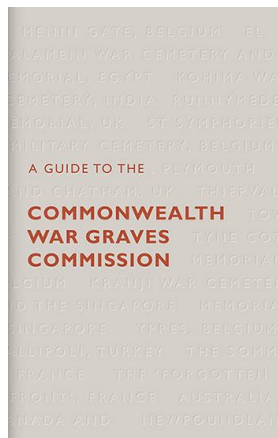
A Guide to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Peter Francis (Ed)

Third Millennium Publishing, 2018
Hardback 224pp RRP: \$39.99

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, November 2018

While most of us are aware that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cares for the graves of



Australian and other servicemen and women, few are likely to be fully informed of its origins, development, principles and how it has changed over time. This neat well-illustrated volume fills that purpose and marks the start of CWGC's second century of service.

CWGC cares for the graves of the dead from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa and India from both World Wars. (The

graves of Australians from other conflicts are the responsibility of the Office of Australian War Graves- a part of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.) Our three services are responsible for bringing bodies for burial even when that involves a recovery or archaeological effort. CWGC provides the place of burial and the continuing care for it.

The statistics of CWGC's responsibilities are staggering. They care for 23 000 locations in 150 countries. Individual burials are recorded in registers in each burial cemetery. Those who have unidentified burials - the 'known only to god' - are listed on CWGC maintained memorials. The more than 10 000 unknown Australians killed in the First World War are chiefly listed on the Menin Gate in Belgium, the Australian Memorial at Villers Bretonneux and at Gallipoli. In one of the great database efforts, all these records are available on the CWGC site (www.cwgc.org) for all the world to see.

CWGC employs over 850 gardeners. Specific plant varieties are chosen for the cemeteries to match climatic conditions and to ensure that headstone details are not obscured. There has even been a rose variety specially developed for the cemeteries in France and Belgium.

This is a compact well-written and well-illustrated guide. A particularly useful segment provides a tour guide for the major regional burial regions. Take this book if you plan to visit the battlefields!



Library Notes:

RUSI (Vic) has received a grant of just under \$10,000 from the National Library of Australia as a result of an application we made earlier in the year. This was based on two official NLA sponsored and funded assessments of our library over the last two years. The first resulted in our library being assessed as being of National Significance and the second was an assessment of our needs in the preservation area. We can Email copies of these assessment reports to any member who is interested.

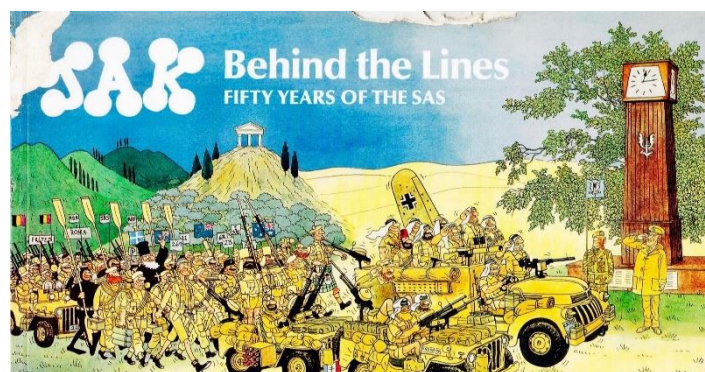
As a result, we have ordered a badly needed additional map cabinet and several bays of shelving. In addition, we can now press on with our programme of rebinding and refurbishing rare books. These are the big-ticket items but there will be money left over for better quality archival materials.

Also, we have received a grant from the State Government which will enable us to purchase an additional computer and software to allow two cataloguing stations to be active at the same time.

We are fortunate in having three lady volunteers who assist in cataloguing, assessment, preservation and scanning. Joan Poon is our regular cataloguer of some years now and recently we have welcomed the help of Georgie Taylor and Joan Merenra. Their efforts are much appreciated. We are also still hosting two interns, Michael Hilli and Josh Abbey. Josh wrote an article on sea mines for our October Newsletter.

Brian Surtees
Honorary Librarian

Here is another example of a rare pamphlet now scanned and stored digitally.



Recordings of Lunchtime Addresses (2014-2018)

The list below details the lunchtime addresses that have been recorded, a few are audio only.

DVD copies (or MP4 if preferred) are available to members on application. We request a minimum contribution of \$5 to cover production costs.

Lunchtime Addresses

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>
MAJGEN John Stevenson	Interview at The Athenaeum Club	2005
Mr Tom Trumble	Rescue at 2100 Hrs	Jun 2014
COL Richard Iron	The Changing Character of War	Jun 2014
CMDR Michael Osborne	The Future of the RAN (audio only)	Jul 2014
Dr Wright Neville	Terrorism and the Threat to Australia (Audio)	Aug 2014
Prof Marylin Lake	The Militarisation of Australian History (Audio)	Sep 2014
GPCAPT Carl Schiller	Plan Suakin	Oct 2014
MAJGEN Jim Molan	Project Overlander	Mar 2015
Neil James	Australia's Defence Policy (Audio)	Apr 2015
Prof Peter Leahy	Another Century another Long War	May 2015
Dr Richard Chauvel	Indonesia and the Relationship with Aus	Jul 2015
Prof Mesut Uyar	The August Offensive at Gallipoli: An Ottoman Perspective	Sep 2015
Mr David Archibald	Australia's Defence	Nov 2015
MAJGEN A Denaro	Just Fighting	Mar 2016
Dr Adam Paul Bandt MP	Greens Defence Policy	Apr 2016
MAJGEN Peter Haddad	The Defence White Paper and what it means for Victorian Industry	Jun 2016
MAJGEN John Frewin	Military Strategic Commitments	Aug 2016
VADMRL Tim Barrett	The Navy and the Nation	Sep 2016
AIRCDRE Stephen Osborne	Today's Air Force & Current Operations	Nov 2016
Prof Greg Barton	Impact of Fundamentalist Islam on Aus/Indon Relations	Feb 2017
Dr DW Rogers	Allied Central Bureau NG Sigint	Mar 2017
Dr Alan Dupont	The New World Disorder	Apr 2017
Comm. Craig Lapsley	Emergency Management Victoria	May 2017
LTGEN A.J. Campbell (CA)	Reserve Transition-a Total Force	Jul 2017
Dr Ross McMullin	Polygon Wood	Sep 2017
Dr David Hundt	US Defence policy Asia/Pacific Trump	Nov 2017
Mr. Kevin Wall VP Thales	Defence Industry Victoria	Mar 2018
MAJGEN Rosenfeld	Health support to the ADF	May 2018
Dr Aiden Warren	North Korea Capabilities & Trajectory	Jun 2018
MAJGEN M O'Brien	Talk to GSV Military Genealogy	Aug 2018
Her Excellency Menna Rawlings	Brit High Comm. BREXIT	Aug 2018
Hon Richard Marles MP	Shadow Def Min ALP Def Policy	Sep 2018
His Excellency Chris Seed	NZ High Commissioner. NZ today	Oct 2018
Dr Nick Jans (BRIG Ret'd)	Secrets of Australian Military Leadership	Nov 2018

New Acquisitions (since October 2018)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author	Subject
<i>The Afghanistan Conflict and Australia's Role</i>	Amin Saikai (Ed)	
<i>The Sydney Wars</i>	Stephen Gapps	Conflict in the early colony 1788 - 1817.
<i>The Missing Man</i>	Peter Rees	The story of the only World War Two indigenous RAAF fighter pilot.
<i>The Last 100 Days</i>	Will Davies	The last three months of the First World War.
<i>The New Zealand Wars</i>	Philippa Werry	A brief history from 1840 to the present written for adolescent readers.
<i>Secret Army</i>	Barry Stone	An elite force, a secret mission, a fleet of Model-T Fords, a far flung corner of the First World War.
<i>Dear Grandpa, Why?</i>	John L Read	Reflections from Kokoda to Hiroshima.
<i>After the War</i>	Leigh Straw	Returned soldiers and the mental and physical scars of the First World War.
<i>Australia First Spies</i>	John Fahey	The remarkable story of Australia's intelligence operations, 1901-45.
<i>Heroes of Hamel</i>	Stephen Dando-Collins	Australians, Americans and English in the 1918 battle that changed military tactics.
<i>The Man who Took the Rap</i>	Peter Dye	The English Commander and his responsibility in the 1942 fall of Singapore.
<i>Best We Forget</i>	Peter Cochrane	The War for White Australia 1914 - 18.
<i>The Battle for the Atlantic</i>	Jonathan Dimbley	How the Allies won the Second World War

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10 December 2018

**The first two of the RAAF's 72 Joint Strike Fighters touch-down at
RAAF Base WILLIAMTOWN**

