



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

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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Mike Rawlinson

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COVID–19 Lockdown Edition



Artists Impression of the Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider, the USAF's new long-range strike aircraft

The USAF plans to initially acquire 100 Raider aircraft. The RAAF does not have a long-range strike capability since the retirement of the F-111, and the new submarines will not be in service until 2035. The capability gap could be filled by the B-21, drones and ballistic missiles.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Incorporated

May Newsletter

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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.dfwa.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



From the President's Temporary Desk at Home

Coronavirus has changed our lives greatly. RUSI Victoria has cancelled our monthly lunchtime addresses & closed our office and library for an indefinable period. What can we do until things return to normal?

We hope to increase the frequency of our newsletters and we encourage your contributions. We are also working on improvements to our website. In these ways we hope to keep you informed as much as we can.

Here are some suggestions you might like to try. The website of the RUSI in London has many great resources and some particularly good film clips. Try:

<https://www.rusi.org/multimedia/resilience-and-coronavirus>

and I would also suggest trawling through the wide range of other thought-provoking material that they have available.

RUSI Nova Scotia (one of the many USIs in Canada) has an interesting note about cruise ships (no, not as virus incubators!) at:

<https://rusi-ns.ca/cruise-ship-fights-maritime-patrol-ship/>

RUSI Vancouver Island has its latest newsletter at:

http://www.rusiviccda.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/RUSI-VI_Newsletter_2020-01.pdf

And the website of the 170-year-old USI of India is indeed fascinating:

<https://usiofindia.org>

Happy viewing and reading

Mike O'Brien

Anzac & Remembrance Day Programmes

Do you have any of the programmes for past Anzac or Remembrance Days? If so, please dig them out and donate them to our Library. Our present collection of these items is good, but it could always be improved. It has already been used by a researcher from Monash University.

Some Informative Reading, Viewing & Listening Suggestions

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has published *After Covid-19: Australia and the world rebuild (Volume 1)* online.

This Strategy report offers policy-focused analysis of the world we will face once the pandemic has passed. At a time when all our assumptions about the shape of Australian society and the broader global order are being challenged, we need to take stock of likely future directions.

The report analyses 26 key topics, countries and themes, ranging from Australia's domestic situation through to the global balance of power, climate and technology issues. In each case we asked the authors to consider four questions. What impact did Covid-19 have on their research topic? What will recovery mean? Will there be differences in future? What policy prescriptions would you recommend for the Australian government? Accessible at: aspi.org.au

The Lowy Institute has a series of podcasts including (so far) nine on COVID and others on regional and national affairs. See lowyinstitute.org

Defence Science and Technology has a range of podcasts from DST's leading scientists about how their innovative research adds value to the Australian Defence Force. See dst.defence.gov.au/media-centre/podcasts

The Institute for Regional Security web site has a range of interesting materials including a video diplomatically entitled *Countering Authoritarian State Influence and Coercion*. See regionalsecurity.org.au

RUSI London has an article on Coronavirus at: www.rusi.org/commentary/coronavirus-and-international-security-risks-and-opportunities

We'd welcome additions to this list.

From the Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD



Please keep safe, respect the social distancing rules and hopefully we can resume normal service sooner rather than later.

Keep calm and wash your hands!

Bob Hart

The Bloody Beachheads:

The Battles of Gona, Buna and Sanananda

One-Day Conference Saturday 4 April 2020
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



MHHV Conference postponed until October 2020



Vale:– Alistair Robb

Lieutenant Colonel Alistair Robb (b 28th February 1937) died peacefully in his home on 24th January 2020. He was a stalwart of *Carry On Victoria*, having been responsible in large measure for its restructure and success.

Born in Paisley Scotland, he had served as a subaltern in the Cameronians in the British Army before he emigrated to Australia. After joining the Australian Army he served with the Pacific Islands Regiment and The Royal Australian Regiment. He commanded D Company 7 RAR on its second tour of duty in South Vietnam in 1970 and later served on the staff of the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam. His later postings included service as SO1 Ops on HQ 3 Div Field Force Group.

Alistair was always the perfect gentleman and was never without a smile. His motto was "Wherever you be let the wind blow free". He will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

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.

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.

Towards a More Resilient Australia

Mike Rawlinson

Australia has experienced a severe drought, devastating bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. With minor exceptions Australians have adapted well to adversity.

*Australia's middle-path strategy to combat COVID-19 has delivered remarkable results by global standards - this fusion of health, security and economics constitutes the most substantial display of rapid yet integrated decision-making seen in this country since world War II.The Australian results are a function of trust, superior and faster decision-making, and better governance in an emergency.*¹

Management of Australia's response to the COVID-19 crisis has involved a high level of government intervention in society and the economy: huge spending, wage subsidies, expanded social welfare, rules on human contact, support for businesses, and emergency liquidity.

Australia has done well but could have done better if it had been better prepared. All sides of politics agree, Australia needs to be more resilient - better prepared for droughts, bushfires, floods, pandemics, other natural disasters, various national security threats including wars involving nuclear weapons, and the effects of climate change.

Areas for improvement that have been already identified include:

- Self-sufficiency in medical personal protective equipment, medicines and critical defence materials
- Ending our undue reliance on skilled immigrants as opposed to vocational training of young Australians
- Increasing strategic reserves of liquid fuels held in country
- Diversifying trading partners to include countries other than China
- Closer relations with Indonesia, Japan and India
- Encouraging a return to manufacturing in Australia
- Limiting foreign ownership of Australian strategic industries and assets

Globalism with just-in-time logistics and minimum stocks, although vulnerable to shocks, represents lean, efficient production and has enabled us as customers to obtain outstanding value.

Self-sufficiency in any manufactured item will generally mean more expensive production than could be obtained by international trade.

Latency/Excess Capacity costs money and maybe a large budgetary item. This appears to be the reason why Australia has had inadequate on-shore fuel reserves for some 20 years.

An Opportunity for Change

Both sides of politics recognise that the COVID-19 crisis presents an opportunity for change that should not be wasted. Following the crisis public attitudes and behaviours will be more readily adapted to new norms. For example, through the enforcement of lockdown procedures, people's behaviour and attitudes have been changed in respect of working at home, payment by cash, and community spirit and solidarity.

While there is agreement by politicians on increasing resilience, the bipartisanship of the National Cabinet is unlikely to last as the government and opposition have different views on priorities and the changes that are necessary. Both would like a 'new order of things' that matches their world view.

As observed by Machiavelli, introducing a new order of things is risky, particularly for a government that wishes to be re-elected.

Introducing a New Order of Things

It ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new. This coolness arises partly from fear of the opponents, who have the laws on their side, and partly from the incredulity of men, who do not readily believe in new things until they have had a long experience of them.

Niccolo Machiavelli, 1513

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. For the last few years Australian productivity associated with economic growth has been very low. GDP growth of 2-3% has followed population growth, but growth of GDP/capita has only been marginal.

Fundamental to Australia's current 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.

The government aims for a private sector led recovery, with reforms to boost productivity and economic growth and to capture the dynamism and innovation of private enterprise and open markets. Reform areas include tax,

¹ Paul Kelly, Weekend Australian, 2-3 May 2020, p15

industrial relations, cooperative federal/state relations, environmental regulation and a reduction in business red tape.

In contrast, the opposition favours greater government control of the economy via legislation, regulation and/or government equity in companies, a protectionist industry policy with tariffs or subsidies, higher taxes and higher welfare spending.

Both sides agree employment has the highest priority, but not how it will be achieved. The government is also wary of further increasing debt. Beyond this the government leads with economic growth versus the opposition with a reduction in inequality.

Recovery from the economic recession accompanying the COVID-19 lockdown involves getting Australia back to work. The recovery will be difficult with many uncertainties. Australia's largest class of employer is small business, but many businesses will have gone broke.

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

Niche manufacturing to satisfy resilience requirements is likely to be highly automated and may not provide many jobs. A revolution is happening in mainline manufacturing where Artificial Intelligence is displacing factory workers, negating the trade advantage of countries with low cost labour.

China looms large in both our geopolitical and globalization thinking. There is an ongoing conflict of world views between business and defence as to whether China is predominantly a market opportunity or a threat. It is both. Strategic rivalry between China and the US is likely to be over-emphasised by President Trump during the upcoming US Presidential election campaign.

However, the conclusion of the July 2019 Newsletter article on China still holds.

Australia's best course is to act in its national interests, maintain its values and encourage continued US engagement in the region. However, this does mean that we do not uncritically follow the US, and do not compliantly conform to pressure from China. We need to ensure the security of our strategic infrastructure and maintain a strong defence force that can work with the US and other democratic nations as well as operating independently if necessary.

Many of the resilience measures suggested by the crises are not new and were works-in-progress before COVID-19. They include: diversification of trade partners, increasing liquid fuel reserves, reducing the cost of energy, and encouraging high technology niche manufacturing.

Following through on resilience measures is important and must not be forgotten. The reasons that the serial recommendations of successive bushfire inquiries have not been fully implemented is that they are found to be too expensive, opposed by vested interests, or viewed subsequently as acceptable risks. Also, the lapse of time after the event before recommendations are considered by government, lessens their impact and allows other priorities to intrude.

A strong and resilient nation needs a strong economy. Greater resilience can be expensive. It can be paid for by higher taxes, reducing Australia's standard of living to allocate more resources to resilience. This will involve cultural change. The alternative is economic growth by increasing population, increasing the participation rate, increasing productivity or some combination of these.

COVID-19 and National Security

Several national security issues are within the resilience measures, ranging from cybersecurity to increasing the capability of the ADF.

A pre COVID-19 increase of the defence budget to more than 2% of GDP was warranted by Australia's changed strategic circumstances. A larger Army would certainly give the ADF the flexibility to respond to defence and disaster issues occurring at the same time.

As the recovery may take several years, the % GDP measure may lose its relevance. Anomalously, the proportion of GDP allocated to Defence looks like it will increase in the short term - not due to any increased outlays, but because of non-discretionary defence spending and significant declines in GDP.

Despite the changing strategic scene, there may be deferral of some defence acquisitions, as money will be scarce during the economic recovery. A mitigating factor is that most other countries will be in a similar situation or worse.

Recovery from the COVID-19 economic recession is likely to be protracted and difficult for many people. Hopefully Australia will emerge as a stronger, more resilient nation, with sensible compromises on government intervention, private enterprise, productivity and welfare.

actually counterproductive'.

Defence modelling showed that it would cost 30% more to build the subs in Australia, rather than buy directly from France; and the cost of building naval ships in Australia was 30 to 40% higher than in foreign shipyards. Currently, the program's design phase was running nine months late. John Davis, CEO of *Naval Group* referred to 'cultural issues', and a shortage of workers with critical skills such as welders and engineers is also a problem.

February 19 2020

Defence has released a list of 137 sub-contractors for the submarine project, but only six defence equipment suppliers and 28 engineering or technical service firms were included. *Alliance Francaise* will support local staff wanting to improve their French so they can communicate better with French management. Defence Industry Minister Melissa Price said '*the benefits of the Defence mega-project would flow through to the broader economy. The economic benefits from a project this size cannot be understated*'.

February 21 2020

RAAF Base Tindal will be upgraded for the new F-35 JSFs, and will provide a base for US strategic bombers. The move is 'strategically constructive and makes Australia more secure'. The cost involved is \$1.1bn. This is an expansion of RAAF's capability and demonstrates a more assertive Australia-US posture. The re-development includes major runway extensions, fuel stockpiles and engineering to support US B-52 strategic bombers and RAAF's KC-30 air-to-air refuellers. The upgrades are referred to in the Defence White Paper and are integral to Australia's alliance with the US. US marines already rotate through the NT on training exercises, and there are plans to base US navy ships in northern or Western Australia with crews being flown in or out as required.

February 22-23 2020

The US has approved the sale to Australia of 200 AGM-158C Long Range Anti-Ship Missiles for about \$1.5bn. These could be fired from the new JSFs or the F/A18F Super Hornets. PM said that Defence spending would reach 2% per year in the May budget. PM visited the Joint base at Pine Gap for a briefing by US and Australian officials.

A long-term partnership between French company *Naval Group* and Defence is said to be in doubt, due in part to 'cultural and technical disputes'. The contract is the biggest in Australia's history, although the 12 subs will not be arriving until 2034. The program has two aims: (i) build a super conventional sub; and (ii) insist/require that all 12 subs will be built in Australia with maximum input from Australian industry. The *Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board* (Australian) chaired by former US Navy secretary Don Winter advised that: 'even if negotiations were successful, Defence should consider if proceeding is in the national interest'.

February 26 2020

French company *Naval Group*, the builder of the new subs, said that Australian companies would get at least 60% of work on the subs, but will not make a contractual commitment for another two years. *Naval Group* committed to building the entire fleet of subs in Australia'. Greg Sammut, Defence's general manager of subs said: 'the 60% commitment was new'. John Davis, CEO, *Naval Group* said the company was still working with Defence to bridge cultural problems that has set back its relationship with Defence. He predicted 'difficult and hard conversations' as the project proceeded.

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

February - April 2020 (COVID-19)

by Michael Small

Highlights

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

February 12 2020

The \$220bn agreement with French company *Naval Group* (formerly known as DCNS) to purchase 12 new submarines is attracting a lot of attention. The \$220bn deal is two deals; one deal for the base submarine between Australia and France; and another deal for the combat system to be installed in the submarines by US. The French will have limited access to the combat system proposed for the new submarine being designed. They will be equipped with highly complex and controversial technology which (it is said) will be obsolete when they finally arrive in the 2030s. The original costs of \$50bn have risen to an estimated \$220bn. The *Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board* (seven US and five Australians) considered eight submissions from the *Future Submarine Program*. These submissions involved Defence's assessment of significant risks to the *Future Submarine Project (FSP)*, and the risks involved in entering into the Strategic Partnering Agreement with the *Naval Group*. It appears that the risks the board identified may outweigh any benefits of proceeding.

February 13 2020

Naval Group (DCNS) says local firms may not get half the value of the sub-contracts and warns that the capability of defence suppliers is falling short of expectations. John Davis, CEO, *Naval Group Australia*, said the company was trying to bridge differences between the French and Australian engineering cultures. There were problems and Davis was predicting difficult and hard conversations as the project proceeded. Growing concern over the project's cost. Davis said the subs would be the world's most expensive conventionally powered submarines. They would also be the world's most capable diesel-electric subs, and would deliver Defence's specific and unique requirements. Davis said specific challenges regarding Australian industry were new to *Naval Group* and more work had to be done. He said the contractor was obliged to develop the capabilities of the local industry. The *Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board* is concerned about the project, and has advised that Defence should consider terminating the deal which would be expensive in money and time.

February 14 2020

Former Defence Minister Pyne ('probably less than 10% of the work will be done outside Australia,' May 21, 2016) is now critical of *Naval Group* for refusing to say whether Australian firms would get any work on the \$80bn *FSP*. Defence Minister Reynolds will raise the matter with her French equivalent Minister. Concern expressed that the defence sector could miss out on lucrative contracts. To date, 137 Australian companies and organisations have been awarded contracts, but this list includes the Australian branches of 26 foreign companies. Defence Industry Minister Price said 'mandating a minimum proportion of Australian industry, particularly at this time is

February 26 2020

Inspector-General of the ADF, James Gaynor said 338 witnesses had been interviewed by the Brereton inquiry into allegations of alleged unlawful killings of civilians and prisoners by Australian special forces in Afghanistan. There were 55 potential instances of unlawful conduct covering a range of alleged breaches of the law of Armed Conflict. Mr Gaynor expects to finalize a report in the next few months which will be handed to Chief of ADF GEN Angus Campbell 'who will decide on appropriate further actions'.

March 5 2020

According to the government's *Naval Shipbuilding Advisory Board*, no Plan B has left Australia in trouble with the \$80bn *Future Submarine project*, Negotiations became difficult in the second quarter of 2018, and the board advised that the government should consider cancelling the contract. Defence stated that the German, Swedish and Japanese alternative options were not able to supply the 'regionally superior' submarine that Australia required. US had concerns that the design of the Lockheed-Martin provided combat system for the submarines not be shared with *Naval Group*.

March 18 2020

ABC Four Corners program broadcast an apparent execution of an unarmed Afghan man in leaked video footage. The alleged incident took place during a village raid in Oruzgan province in May 2012. NSW Supreme Court judge Paul Brereton is examining at least 55 potential cases of unlawful conduct by Australian special forces in Afghanistan as part of his inquiry for the Inspector-General of the ADF. The allegations predominantly relate to unlawful killing of persons who were clearly non-combatants or were no longer combatants. Reported that soldiers routinely shot villagers' dogs, destroyed property and planted radios and guns on bodies of dead Afghans. Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said to be 'deeply concerned by the Four Corners program', but was steadfast in her support for the Brereton inquiry.

March 28-29 2020

The Army will be involved in managing new quarantine measures to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. They will support state and territory police where returned travellers are being tracked down in an endeavour to halt the spread of coronavirus across the country. PM said the country was fighting the virus on two fronts, economic and health. Army personnel will help enforce the crackdown under the *Defence Assistance to the Civil Community aka Defence Amendment (Call Out the ADF) Bill* which gives the government authority to call out the military in sudden and extraordinary emergencies. Army will work with state and territory police in conducting increased compliance checks on travellers undertaking mandatory self-isolation at home.

April 1, 2020

Major General Paul Kenny will lead the ADF response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected there will be a wider deployment of ADF personnel. The ADF will co-ordinate the delivery of military assistance to civilian agencies, including contact-tracing of positive coronavirus cases and support in enforcing quarantine orders. Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said Defence was ready to increase its support as required by the states and territories.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia will establish a \$170m HQ and Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) at Redbank, Ipswich, Qld. The Centre will be the most advanced military-vehicle manufacturing facility in the country and enhance the ecosystem of industrial capability. The company will deliver 211 Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRV) to the Army.

April 15 2020

HMAS *Melbourne* and *Newcastle*, the two *Adelaide-class* frigates, have been sold to the *Armada de Chile* for an undisclosed sum. The two ships will be renamed *Imirante Latorre* and *Cápitán Prat*. (see entry November 20, 2019).

April 18-19 2020

LTGEN John Frewen is co-ordinating Defence's response to the Pandemic. US Pacific Fleet's RIMPAC exercise, the biggest naval war games held in the region, has been postponed. In 2018, the Australia was represented by four surface ships, a *Collins-class* submarine, a *P-8A Poseidon* maritime patrol aircraft and more than 1,600 personnel. This will be the fifth major training exercise to be postponed this year. Defence has cancelled RAAF's *Pitch Black* air combat exercise and the Army's *Exercise Hamel 2020*. *Exercise Bersama Shield* involving Malaysia, Singapore, NZ and the UK has also been cancelled. All non-essential ADF training has been cancelled.

April 22 2020

Defence will soon launch its *More, Together: Defence Science and Technology Strategy* to guide the priorities and vision of the 2,200 scientists and engineers at Australia's second largest national research institute. The strategy builds aims to open up the sector to outside innovation and ideas. It wants to promote the eight *STaR Shots* (Science, Technology and Research) goals to concentrate on mission-directed research underpinned by the \$730m *Next Generation Technologies Fund*. Michael Shoebridge from ASPI says Australia's defence research is excellent, but compromised by a shrinking budget. US has its Defence Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) which generates break-through technologies. Shoebridge says Australia needs a similar organisation, with an annual budget of \$300m sourced from Defence's \$38bn budget.

The government is investing \$200bn in Australia's defence capability through its Science and Technology arm (DST) and is working on major scientific projects. Australia needs to focus on building a technology-enabled Australian Defence Force, Australian Public Service and Defence industry workforce. Australia needs STEM graduates *i.e.* graduates with training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

April 23 2020

HMAS *Parramatta* (*ANZAC-class* frigate) with USS *America* (amphibious assault) ship, USS *Barry* (guided missile destroyer) and USS *Bunker Hill* (guided missile cruiser) have been conducting exercises in the South China Sea. HMAS *Parramatta* has been on "extended deployment" throughout south and SE Asia for the past two months.

April 28 2020

China has launched a new 40,000-ton Type 075, amphibious assault ship, built in months. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported that China and India have both joined the top three in global, military expenditure. The world's nations spent a combined \$A2.95trillion on military expenditure, an increase of 3.6% on 2018. US spent \$US732bn an increase of 5.3%. China spent \$US261bn an increase of 5.1%, and India spent \$US71.1bn an increase of 6.8%. The Chinese ship will carry carry helicopters, landing craft, tanks, drones and marines. China's amphibious warship program is an attempt to compete with US Navy's *Wasp-class* ship. China plans to build two more Type 075 ships, and claims the South China Sea, the East China Sea and disputed islands in the Asia-Pacific.

End

Book Reviews

This newsletter has eight 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.

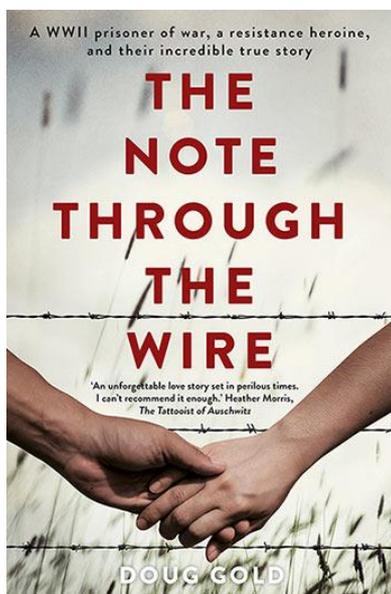
The Note Through the Wire

A WWII prisoner of war, a resistance heroine, and their incredible true story

Doug Gold

Allen & Unwin 2019
Paperback 336pp RRP \$29.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, March 2020



After enlisting in 1940, Bruce Murray, an unhappily married 24-year-old, was posted to the 25th Battalion, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. On Anzac Day 1941, as Greece fell to the Germans, he was wounded and became separated from his battalion colleagues as they attempted to withdraw to Kalamata Bay. After capture he was hospitalised in Corinth before

beginning the several 'cattle train' journeys to Stalag XVIII D in Maribor, Slovenia. His parents were officially notified that he was 'missing in action' on 18th May.

Josefine Lobnik, an 18-year-old German-speaking native of Maribor, Slovenia, had joined the local partisans in December 1941. The Germans seized her brother on 2nd February 1942. Posing as an elderly woman on a walking stick, on 15th February she sought information of her brother's whereabouts from the Allied inmates of Stalag XVIII D, whose compound abutted where the East European prisoners were kept.

Unable to mutually communicate, Josefine passed a note to Bruce through the wire. She was fired on by guards and badly wrenched her knee in making her way to safety. Bruce returned weekly to the wire, but Josefine did not return. On 8th April he passed a note for 'the young lady posing as an old woman' back to the partisans indicating that he had been unable to gain no information for her.

A recalcitrant prisoner, Bruce was hospitalised having been beaten after attacking a German guard in September 1942. He was then moved around until he being assigned to a work camp in Radkersburg, south-east Austria to work on Rossnegger's farm. Josefine, as a partisan, was betrayed to the Germans in Maribor by her best friend, and knowing she was on a Nazi death list, fled to (her cousin) Rossnegger's farm in Austria. On 3rd March 1943, Bruce's 27th birthday, he and Josefine caught up again for the first time since their initial encounter.

Bruce found a loose bar in his hut and spent numerous nights with Josefine listening to BBC broadcasts on a clandestine radio in a neighbouring farm. Josefine, continued acting as a partisan courier of stolen papers, maps, plans and small weapons. She returned to Maribor from August to December 1943, before returning again to Radkersburg. Josefine commenced delivering Red Cross parcels from Bruce's camp colleagues to local partisans, and by June 1944, she and Bruce had combined to make six such deliveries. A twice-decorated heroine, she escorted a group of six POW escapees to safety in August 1944. In the largest successful rescue effort of the War, a total 99 of 105 escapees from railway work parties survived to be airlifted to Italy on 17th September.

By 4th April 1945, the Russians had commenced shelling Radkersburg. Knowing that the Germans would force march them large distances to other camps, Bruce and his mate escaped the camp. Promising to come return for her and in suits Josefine had acquired, they surrendered to the Russians – only to have to briefly fight along their troops. The Russians, over a fortnight, moved the prisoners by rail to Odessa in the Ukraine so they could then be shipped to Naples. Bruce unsuccessfully tried everything to get back to Slovenia rather than be shipped back to New Zealand.

Bruce was aware, from Josefine's letters, that she had received none of his own, but persisted in continuing the one-sided correspondence. Discharged from the Army on 6 March 1946 and now divorced, it took Bruce five months to gain a berth on a ship to Europe. Josefine had a visa to the UK by December of that year, but it was another year before they were united and finally married on 27th December 1947 in Cleethorpes, Lancashire. They returned to New Zealand and raised three children.

Doug Gold, being the suitor of the eldest daughter Anemarie, realised there was a fascinating story behind his future in-laws. Bruce eventually opened up to Doug (who had no intent to do more than record their wartime activities) but died in 1993. Convincing Josefine to tell her story five years later, Doug arranged to meet her in France. Three days prior to that meeting, a car accident resulted in Josefine's death. Writing was then stalled for 20 years, but preservation of the story for his own descendants became the primary goal.

This remarkable story makes for fascinating reading, and one can sense Gold's absolute admiration for the hardships, trials and risks that confronted these two heroes over 70 years ago.

Law in War

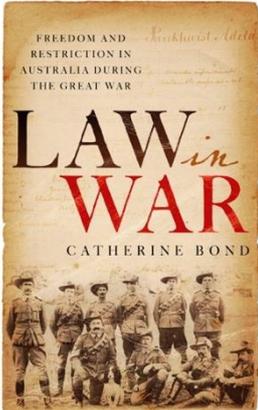
Freedom and restriction in Australia during the Great War

Catherine Bond

Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2020
Paperback 272pp., ill., RRP \$34.99

Reviewer: Michael Tyquin, April 2020

The author Catherine Bond is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law, UNSW Sydney. Building on her doctoral thesis on the history of Australian copyright law the author has shone a light into this long-neglected element of the home front in Australia during the Great War. Engagingly written and free of legal jargon the book's motif is that laws enacted during wartime would have a lasting legacy for Australian society. Despite this, the interwar years and beyond have seen little in the way of studies published on the law or the judiciary in Australia during the First World War.



While this is not a revisionist history, Charles Bean is taken to task, again, for deliberate omissions in his official history of Australia 1914-1918, as is the less influential but significant work (edited by Bean) of Professor Ernest Scott. In an eerie parallel with current day controversies over the content and publication of official history a proposed chapter in Scott's history dealing specifically with the law, never saw light of day. There were too many men in power with vested interests in how such a study might reflect on them.

Bond emphasizes that while Australian military doctrine for example was modelled on that of Britain, the mother country's influence on our law regime waned as the war dragged on. *Law in War* looks at a sample of individuals affected by discrimination and oppression in wartime Australia, a clever device by way of narrative structure and which makes for sobering reading. The author counterbalances these with five case studies of those who benefited in some way though the law.

Not unlike the office of the Auditor-General from 1914 the Attorney-General's Department was hopelessly under-staffed. It was therefore almost overwhelmed by the volume and breadth of work for which it became responsible when Australia joined the imperial war effort. The author notes the breathtaking (and to this reviewer) reckless speed with which Prime Minister Billy Hughes drafted regulations and laws, one of which for example established the Commonwealth Police. Bond also identifies the critical role of the states' police in augmenting the meagre resources of the Commonwealth while diverting resources from routine policing.

The courts were often the last resort for ordinary people who were subject to some of Hughes' more draconian regulations. But some were to be disappointed by, to the modern mind, the questionable morality and propriety of some of the judgments handed down. And it here that the author's selected case studies come into their own. They are used to support arguments or enhance an understanding of their victims before the law. The saga of Adela Pankhurst is a case in point. But for this reviewer the most poignant chapter is that which deals with three non-Caucasian Australian soldiers. Overall these provide the reader with a sense of the justice system as it was at the time while providing political context.

Bond makes the key point that much of the nation's wartime legal controls were enacted through regulation, sometimes without parliamentary oversight. Those who have studied our home front are constantly surprised not only by the number of new regulations but the extent to which they governed every aspect of Australian life. Public bewilderment about the scope (and occasionally even the intent) of much war-time regulation looked forward to the same confusion in World War Two.

It is little surprise that neither Hughes nor his Minister of Defence, Senator George Pearce, come away from this study as being either statesmanlike or even-handed. Some of the former's zeal in drafting laws was petty and vindictive.

One of my personal bugbears when it comes to studies of this kind is the absence of a bibliography. However, the footnotes are extensive and informative for those who wish to read further. I should like to have seen more of Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, Australia's most interventionist Governor-General and his influence on W.M. Hughes regarding the drafting and policing of law and more use made of radical newspapers such as *The Worker* and *The Socialist*.

The stated aspiration of the author is to fill the gaps in examining Australia's wartime regime, and to me she has succeeded rather well. Of course, with satisfaction comes expectation. As Bond and other scholars are aware, there is still much more to be done in this field – particularly regarding the pervasiveness of the *War Precautions Act* and the role of the judiciary.

This is recommended reading not only for social and military historians but for those who view with concern encroachments on personal freedoms during times of crisis.

Dr. Michael Tyquin is a consulting historian and author. His most recent book is *Madness and the Military: Australia's experience of the Great War* (2019).

The Cuban Missile Crisis

Thirteen Days on an Atomic Knife Edge, October 1962

[Cold War 1945 - 1991 Series]

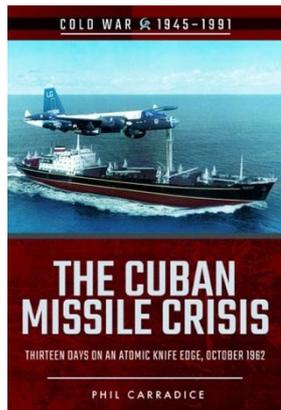
Phil Carradice

Barnsley, UK: Pen & Sword Military 2017

Paperback 128pp RRP \$40.40

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, April 2020

Phil Carradice does not purport to be a military historian – he writes stories! Taking the ‘the people, the place and the problem’ he has succinctly and accurately chronicled the most dangerous situation the world has ever faced.



Starting by recalling what he was doing at the time of the crisis, he provides an excellent account of Cuba’s background and its relationship with the USA, before turning to brief biographical details of Kennedy, Khrushchev and Castro. Castro’s belligerence led to the bungled US sponsored attack on Cuba, (see Carradice’s *Bay of Pigs: CIA’s Cuban Disaster, April 1961* [2018] in this series).

At the June 61 Summit in Vienna, Khrushchev totally savaged Kennedy verbally and strategically before going on to create the Berlin Wall two months later. In December Castro announced Cuba embracing the Marxist/Lenin programme, which was then followed by the US applying a full embargo on Cuba in February 1962. Khrushchev and Castro agreed in May to secretly place intermediate range missiles capable of covering the US eastern seaboard and many other critical population centres, but to also use the missiles as a bargaining chip to force US withdrawal from Berlin.

US U-2 reconnaissance aircraft flights over Cuba were suspended on 30 August for six weeks due to fears of retaliation after an accidental incursion in December over Soviet territory. In the interim the preparation of missile silos, the landing of missiles and Russian soldiers to operate them continued. By 16 October the US had confirmed the presence of missiles that were far larger than required for the self-defence role claimed by Khrushchev. Non-military personnel were evacuated from the US facility at Guantanamo Bay and Kennedy, standing firm against his Chiefs of Staff who pressed for a military strike, placed a Naval blockade around Cuba.

Khrushchev sent a letter to Kennedy on 26 October offering a way out of the standoff; removal of the missiles, the lifting of the blockade and America not to invade Cuba. ‘Black Saturday’ (27th) saw a U-2 spy plane shot down and one of four Russian submarines forced to surface. It had had no communication with Russia, so was unaware of the status of the stand-off. Twice the submarine was bombarded by practice depth charges, and thinking it was under attack and its skipper prepared to launch a nuclear-tipped torpedo. The check was that the three senior officers present all had to

approve, and the onboard flotilla commander refused – thus averting the outbreak of a nuclear war. By 10.00am Sunday Khrushchev agreed to Kennedy’s proposal to include the removal of nuclear missiles on Turkey’s border (not to be publicly disclosed) and the crisis had been defused.

[On 20 June 1963 the Washington-Moscow Direct Communications Link (later becoming known as the ‘Hotline’) between the Pentagon and the Kremlin was agreed to, and after an exchange of teletype machines, became operational on 30 August. At no stage have telephones been involved. A Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed between the US, the UK and Russia on 5 August 1963.]

Carradice has devoted a whole chapter to the sentiments of a large variety of individuals who experienced that critical period in world history. Subsequent political moves post-crisis and the final years of the major players finalises his work.

High quality black and white photographs have been included along with a coloured insert that includes maps of the ranges of the Cuban missiles and Soviet units in Cuba, US and Cuban (Russian) aircraft, the three types of Russian missiles, leaders’ photographs and memorials. The work concludes with substantial endnotes, and bibliography.

An excellent publication that acquaints the reader with individuals involved and the complexities of a crisis that appeared to be hellbent towards an horrific outcome.

War at Sea

A Shipwrecked History from Antiquity to the Twentieth Century

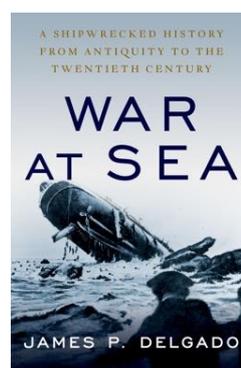
James P Delgado

New York: Oxford University Press, 2019

Hardback 465pp RRP \$53.95

Reviewer: Mike O’Brien, March 2020

This remarkable and authoritative book looks at maritime conflict through the lens of the wrecks that litter the world’s oceans -the world’s most extensive battlefield.



Maritime archaeology has developed rapidly in recent years. Wreck-finding technologies have improved. Extensive areas can be searched. The challenges of extreme ocean depths have been met with famous examples like the discovery of the wreck of *KMS Bismarck*. The author comprehensively shows that a great deal of useful information can be derived from careful archaeological examination of the remains of battle. Indeed, as he says, “archaeology can give voice to the dead in a way that even survivors cannot”.

Continued next page

War at Sea - continued

The section on the archaeology of the Battle of Jutland is a fascinating proof of this last statement. Danish exploration of the wrecks has added much to our knowledge of the battle.

There are many Australian references in the text. Among the most telling is his disgust at the illegal salvage of the many wrecks from the Battle of the Java Sea in 1942 including HMAS *Perth*, HMS *Exeter*: the salvage of entire ships not for loot but for their bulk steel. As he says, "Left behind are scant traces or nothing at all in one of the most shocking recent developments in the history of sunken war ships".

The author has been an active participant in many of these discoveries. His span of knowledge of all eras of maritime warfare is extensive.

I highly recommend this book. It is written with scholarly accuracy and clarity. It will fascinate all naval scholars.

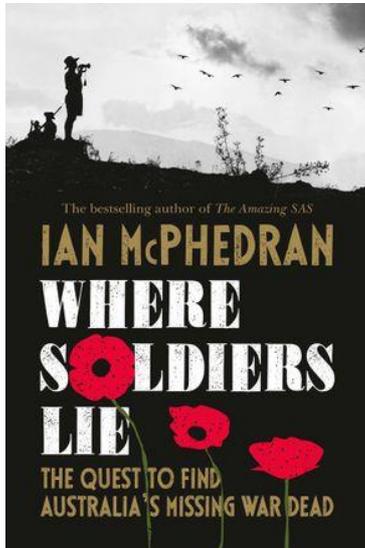
Where Soldiers Lie

The Quest to find Australia's War Dead

Ian McPhedran

Sydney, Harper Collins 2019
Hardcover 288pp RRP \$39.99

Reviewer: Ian Lillie, March 2020



Where Soldiers Lie is not a guidebook to Commonwealth War Graves where our soldiers are buried and commemorated. It is so much more! It is a fascinating insight into the search for our missing serviceman and women who have no known grave or headstone of their own.

The number of missing is extraordinary. Of about 102 000 servicemen

and women who died in the service of this country since WWI, some 35 000 are listed as 'Missing', one in three! Some are lost at sea while others still lie in steamy jungles in Asia or in overseas War Graves recorded as simply 'Known Unto God'.

The book is presented in three time periods: 'Viet Nam to Korea, WWII and WWI. There is also a section devoted to 'The Scientists' describing their skills and technologies in support the searchers. This section is very informative as it describes the skills and technologies used that are more like police forensics.

More importantly, it is the story of dedicated and passionate men and women who take up the challenge to search for our missing. They research historical

narratives, old reports, maps and diaries; investigate information, interview combatants of both sides and locals and finally conduct the field trips. However, their enthusiasm is not always matched by government support. This is clearly illustrated in the story of the search for the 'Viet Nam Six', the final account of our war dead from that conflict. Their story is a fitting opening chapter to this book.

There is also a chapter on the recovery of 250 dead from a mass grave at Fromelles, with many now identified and interred. There are other successful searches discussed and more yet to be done. The search for our missing is not simple and it is not made any easier with the passing of time.

Formal identification needs a high level of confidence in the result. The evidence of various experts; historians, archaeologists, forensic scientists, forensic dentists and DNA experts must align before a formal identification is made.

There are international sensitivities with searches, such as in locating 43 MIA Australians in the DMZ or in North Korea. Similarly, teams can't go digging up farms in Belgium 100 years after the war unless there is compelling evidence to do so.

McPhedran explains very well why the searches are still necessary. It is a daunting task and while not all the missing will ever be found, it is important to relatives, their comrades and the nation that sent them to war, that the searches continue while there are still missing.

Government policy has changed over time for the better. During WWI and WWII, the dead were buried near the battlefield with their comrades. Even as late as 1966, the policy was for burial in theatre. Now we see ramp ceremonies and military funerals in their hometown. The Department of Defence has established Unrecovered War Casualties sections for the services and while they are enthusiastic in their duties, they are small teams but at least is a start.

This is an excellent read in an area that has not been well documented before, other than for individual cases. It is well written and easy to follow. There is some jargon and acronyms, but they are all well explained in the text and the glossary. Some 50 informative photographs include the search teams. I commend this book to military history enthusiasts as an explanation of a seldom discussed aspect of war service and to the general public to gain an understanding of why recovering our missing is so important.

Not Forgotten

The Great War and our Modern Memory

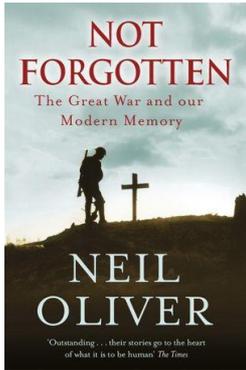
Trevor Rieck, Jack McCaffrie and Jed Hart

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2018.

Paperback 336pp RRP \$ 23.99

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, April 2020

As the memory of the First World War fades, will our recollection of those who served in it diminish? Perhaps this process is inevitable. This book, first published in 2005, seeks to preserve the memory of a handful of British soldiers by telling their stories in brief.



These stories are connected to the scattering of war memorials – over 36,000 of them - throughout Great Britain.

Among them is an account of the person accepted to be the youngest British soldier killed in the war. The parents of this 14-year-old were not aware that he was serving in Belgium until notified of his death, His body was only identified in 1925.

In this book you will find the when and why of identity discs. At the outset of the war each soldier had a one circular red of vulcanised fibre impressed with his name. When removed from the dead – so that their pay could be stopped – the bodies were difficult to identify, particularly after the mass casualties of the Somme. So, from September 1916 (at least in theory), a second octagonal green one was added, allowing one to stay with the body. This is a part explanation of the difficulty encountered in the identification of the 250 bodies of Australians buried by the Germans after the Battle of Fromelles – the Germans had collected the singular red discs to be returned to next-of-kin through the International Red Cross.

Each British (and indeed Empire) soldier who died in the Great War is either memorialised on his grave or (if the body's location is not known) or on a group memorial such as Thiepval or the Menin Gate. But what of the names on memorials in their home towns or elsewhere in Britain? The British National Inventory of War Memorials (NIWM) being maintained by the Imperial War Museum not only records the 36,000 memorials but also the names listed on them in a searchable form. It is now possible to find where a soldier may be *remembered*. Has this been done in Australia? The NSW government is attempting this task with their more than 3000 memorials. The Australian War Memorial is seeking photos of all Australian memorials. We have a long way to go to mirror the NIWM. It is an important task as many memorials have been lost or destroyed.

There is much value in this book. The stories are fascinating. Even more important is the consideration of the issues of remembrance. The dead of the Great War deserve no less than this.

The Battles for the Kokoda Plateau

Three weeks of hell defending the gateway to the Owen Stanleys

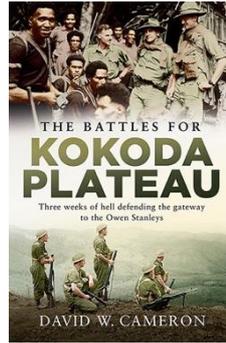
David W Cameron

Allen & Unwin 2020

Paperback 432pp RRP \$32.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, March 2020

After the 8th May Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese high command having abandoned the attempt to seize Port Moresby by sea put its effort into a land push south across the Owen Stanley Range, landing a large force at Gona on the north east Papua coast on 21st July. The force was met by Captain Sam Templeton's B Company of the Australian militia's 39th Battalion, the 1st Papuan Battalion (PIB) and the Royal Papuan Constabulary. Fortunately, Allied airmen made life very difficult for the Japanese as they strove to establish a beachhead and build infrastructure to support the landing of equipment and supplies.



B Company having come from Port Moresby, were exhausted after struggling across the Kokoda Track, and had virtually no heavy weapons and were short in both ammunition and rations. Realising the strategic importance of the Kokoda airstrip to both sides, an extraordinary effort to prevent its capture by the Japanese ensued in the following three weeks. Captain Templeton was captured on 26th, but continued his stand by grossly exaggerating the numbers garrisoned in Port Moresby, sowing doubts in the minds of his captors before he was summarily executed.

The new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Owen, was flown up to Kokoda and on 30th July ordered the burning of the supply dump at Kokoda and a withdrawal to Deniki (several kilometres behind Kokoda). After realising the Japanese had not occupied Kokoda, he led his men back into the village in an attempt to reopen its airfield to receive reinforcements and supplies. The aircraft dispatched to Kokoda were unable to land due to bad weather. The CO was mortally wounded on the forward slopes of the Kokoda plateau. On 8th August the 39th launched a counterattack at Kokoda but outnumbered and short of ammunition, fell back to Deniki after two days of fighting. The Australians eventually managed to repel the ongoing Japanese attack and on 14th August the 39th and the PIB fell back to Isurava having provided the Allies with vital time to put forces in place to harass the Japanese thrust down the Kokoda Track.

In Melbourne on 10th August 1942 when discussing the fighting around Kokoda, General Thomas Blamey, the Commander of Allied Land Forces in the South West Pacific Area, said that not much was happening there and 'it was not of great importance'!

Continued next page

Kokoda continued

As with any war, there are civilian casualties. During these battles, those who had been in the region long before hostilities commenced were in many instances caught behind the Japanese lines, and along with downed airmen were desperate to link up with the Allied forces withdrawing southwards. Some were successful; others were captured, tortured and then executed. Cameron has intertwined their stories, diaries and letters with those of the military members involved. Particularly pertinent are the recollections of 60-year-old Captain 'Doc' Vernon whose First World War experience as a physician saw him provide unbelievable support to the sick and wounded during the vital battles in Papua and New Guinea. Service personal mentioned or quoted have all been identified by age, occupation and home town.

In typical Cameron style, the two maps provided are ample for the reader to grasp the detail of the Kokoda theatre. There are high quality photographs and a very detailed *Bibliography*, and, indicating the depth of his research, in excess of 20 pages of *Endnotes*. A comprehensive *Index* is included.

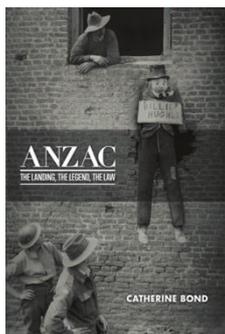
This is a very readable account of the circumstances in which two small and virtually unknown battles took place. Full credit to Cameron for creating this important work that deservedly places one 'bookend' on the history of the Kokoda Track.

Anzac: the Landing, the Legend, the Law

Catherine Bond

North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing 2016
Paperback 204pp RRP \$44.00

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, April 2020



There are clear regulations around the use of the word 'Anzac' under the Protection of Word 'Anzac' Act 1920 and penalties apply for the incorrect use of the term. Permission from the Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel is generally required to use the word 'Anzac' in a commercial context. The Department of Veterans' Affairs issues *the Use of the Word 'Anzac' Guidelines* to help Australians comply with the legal restrictions on the use of the word 'Anzac'.

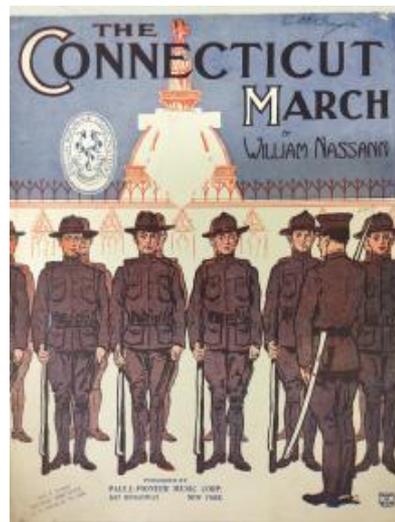
Bond explores these restrictions. Common usage relating to the eponymous biscuit and to RSL headquarters buildings seem to indicate that the controls are far from watertight. Should that be so?

This book reaches several conclusions. It firstly suggests that a review of the regulations should be undertaken. Times change - this seems a reasonable suggestion. Next it suggests that there should be greater accountability for ministerial decisions relating to 'Anzac'. This is also logical given the detailed examples in this book. Next the author seeks repeal of the

prohibition on the use of the word for the name of a private house, boat or vehicle. This conclusion is less supported by argument. And lastly, the author supports the continuing probation on business use of 'Anzac'. This is a logical and very supportable conclusion.

Catherine Bond examines the use of a word and sensibly asks whether restrictions on its use adopted 100 years ago should continue. Her book is logical, well researched and a timely raising of this question.

From the RUSI Victoria Library Catalogue



Rare Items in our Collection



The Frontispiece of *Under the Red Crescent*

Our library is very much the richer for the donation of many of the military books formerly in the collection of our late member, Major E.W.O. (Warren) Perry, MBE, ED (1901-2010). The collection came to us from another of our members, the late Colonel Jim Wood, ED.² Warren's extensive records were donated to many institutions: perhaps His most notable legacy was to the National Library of Australia – it consisted

of 20.7 metres of predominantly military records consigned from 2001 to 2011.

One of Warren's books we were given was the autobiographical *Under the Red Crescent: Adventures of an English Surgeon with the Turkish Army at Plevna and Erzeroum, 1877-1878*. Its author, Charles Ryan (1853-1926)³, was a remarkable Australian. This volume tells of his service as a medical officer with the Ottoman Army during the Russo-Turkish War. How he took up this position and his experiences during the campaign are yarns worthy of George MacDonald Fraser's *Flashman*.

Charles Ryan served with the Ottomans – or perhaps rather against them – at Gallipoli in 1915. He was by then a colonel in the Australian Army Medical Corps and the senior medical officer on Lt Gen Birdwood's staff. He participated in the truce to allow burial of the Ottoman dead on 24th May 1915, provocatively wearing his Turkish medals. In seeing an enemy combatant wearing the medals of their own side, the Turkish soldiers were angry. They thought he had stolen the medals from their fallen comrades, yet when challenged, he told them in broken Turkish he himself had been awarded the medals by the Sultan some 38 years earlier. The Turkish soldiers then embraced him as a hero.

Ryan not only greeted his foes but, contrary to orders, photographed the grisly scene. These photos are preserved at the Australian War Memorial, presented by his son-in-law, the future Lord Casey, governor-general of Australia from 1965 – 1969.

² Jim Wood wrote an extensive obituary of Warren Perry available at <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/perry-edward-warren-1543>.

³ A biographical essay is at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ryan-sir-charles-snodgrass-charlie-8311>

This is but a small sample of Ryan's adventurous life.

There is a most readable Novel, *Plevna: a biography in verse* by Geoff Page. Ryan is a celebrated figure in Turkey, far more so than in his native land.

Warren Perry's copy of *Under the Red Crescent* was formerly owned by George Thomas Chirside (1863-1940) of Werribee Park.

Prestige and the Provosts



A letter sent to Base Records on 24 October 1919 read in part:

In reference to a cable sent to my next of kin – W.T. Wolfe, Tulloch, Tasmania dated 28th July 1919 from Base Records Office advising him of the return of 2663A Pte G. Wolfe of the Anzac Provost Police Corps per transport *Zealandia* which left England 3-7-19. This notification also appeared in the press at a later date.

This is a gross injustice to me as I have never at any time been a M.P. as these slimy ones are debarred from becoming a member of the R.S.S.I.L.A. I would feel at ease if you could correct this error & if possible through the Tasmanian press. If not please forward me some official document to that effect as I do not wish to be branded as one of them.

Yours in earnest, 2663A Pte G. Wolfe, 12th Battalion.

Base Records responded on 31st October (also attaching a note of regret):

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, according to the records, No. 2663A Private George WOLFE was attached to the 12th Battalion Infantry, and was not at any time during his service with the Australian Imperial Force attached to the Military Police of Australian Provost Corps.

(signed) Major, Officer i/c Base Records

Nevertheless, on 17th December 1919 Private Wolfe's Medical Documents were forwarded to Base Records by the 6th Military District at Anglesea Barracks, noting his unit as "Aust. Provost Corps".

My thanks to Ian Dunn.

Mike O'Brien

Two 'Extra' Australian Victoria Cross Winners

This is a short account of two Australian winners of the Victoria Cross (VC) who are not normally listed as 'our' recipients. There are a few others too – perhaps more of them later! Australia can claim them as ours because though British, they chose to emigrate and settle here at a time when Australian citizenship was not defined.



Thomas O'Grady, VC, DCM (AWM)

The first such winner is Thomas Grady (also known as O'Grady). He won his medal at Sebastopol in 1854 during the Crimean War when the British were besieging the Russian entrenchments. The British Naval Brigade were moving their entrenchments and guns towards the Russians when one of the British guns was neutralised by close hits. Grady went forward under close artillery fire and cleared the gun. He also fought in the battles of Inkerman and Alma and was once again put forward for a VC. The conditions of the award then in force did not allow a second award so he was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal in its stead. He left the army, emigrated to Western Australia and thence to Melbourne. He and his wife and daughter fell on hard times and he was found close to death in a Collingwood gutter. He died soon after in May 1891 and was accorded a military funeral.

O'Grady has a few USI connections. The finding of a VC winner 'in the gutter' was somewhat of a local sensation in Victoria, calling the care for our veterans into question. The ensuing debate in the press led to the founding of the United Services Home at Drysdale on the Bellarine Peninsula to look after Crimean War veterans resident in Australia. Several prominent USI members backed this proposal and subscribed to its founding. One was our founder, the commandant in Victoria, Major General A.B. Tulloch. He also granted O'Grady the privilege of a military funeral. One newspaper report claimed that O'Grady had saved Tulloch's life in the Crimean War, though there does not seem to be any confirmatory detail. Tulloch did not attend O'Grady's funeral but sent a representative, an action hard to understand.

O'Grady's VC is displayed at the Australian War Memorial. His DCM had been snatched from him and is not extant.



Drummer Wagner (WikiTree)

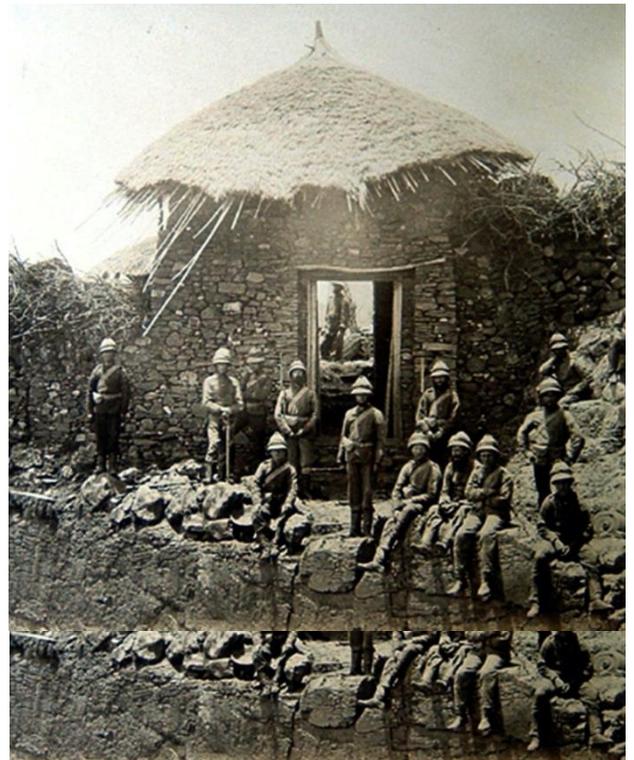


Magner's VC (Museum Victoria)

I knew a little of the Crimean War but had never heard of the Abyssinian Campaign. Michael Magner, born in Ireland, was a 27 year-old, [drummer](#) in the 33rd Regiment of Foot, was part of the British expedition in Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) in 1869 to capture the remote hill fort Magdala in which the eccentric Emperor Theodore III was strongly entrenched. Magner and a fellow soldier from his regiment were first to storm the fortified gate to the entrenchments and both won the VC. Magner emigrated to Australia in 1886 and later settled in Fitzroy. His death in 1897 was just recorded in a few lines of a death notice and he was buried (as was Thomas Grady) in Melbourne General Cemetery with little ceremony. Three of his sons enlisted in the AIF in the First World War: sadly, one of them was killed in action.

Magner's VC is in the collection of Museum Victoria (Item NU42203) and was once on display. It has now been relegated to storage, inappropriately in my view. If our Museum does not see fit to have it on public view, perhaps they should transfer it to the War Memorial.

Mike O'Brien



The gate of the hill fort stormed by the two VC winners (Wikipedia)

Tragic Incident at Government House Melbourne

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Friday 22 April 1927, page 16



The wrecked machine

On Thursday 21st April 1927 the Duke of York (later King George VI) and the Duchess came to Melbourne to what was still Federal Government House after having opened the new parliament building in Canberra. The Royal Australian Air Force provided the Guard of Honour which the Duke inspected. While this was under way, a flypast of RAAF DH9 occurred. Two of the aircraft collided and their four occupants were tragically killed. Though parachutes had been available they had chosen to fly without them.

The *Argus* reported:

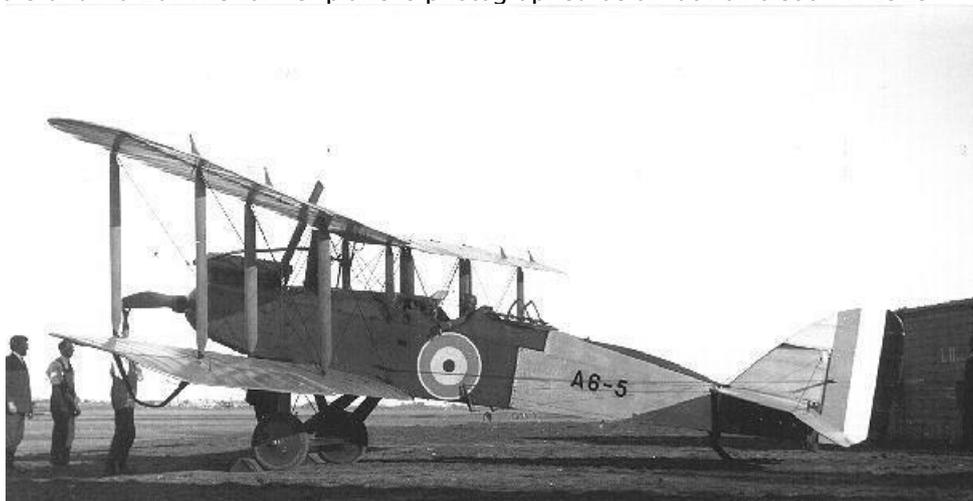
There were many eye-witnesses of the tragedy, and there is little doubt how the accident occurred.

At 4 o'clock just as the the crowds lining Linlithgow avenue had turned away after the Royal car had passed, a formation of five DH9 machines, in charge of Flight Lieutenant G. Jones, flew over from the direction of Alexandra avenue. Their average height above the ground was approximately 300ft. to 350ft. The formation "zoomed" and rose, passing over the Homeopathic Hospital and slightly to the north of it. Suddenly there was a shriek, followed by terrified cries from numbers of women. One of the aeroplanes on the norther wing of the formation was seen to be flying close above the machine which had a moment before been leading it. Without warning the machine below, apparently with the object of flying clear of the formation, rose in a slight climbing turn. To the watchers below the uppermost machine seemed to drop slightly at the same moment. There was a ripping crash as the nose of the lower machine came in contact with the port wing of the other, and both aeroplanes appeared to mingle in a sickening medley of rending, crashing noises, and, to the accompaniment of screams from hundreds of terrified women.

For an instant the two wrecked aeroplanes clung together, tumbling all ways as they fell, and crumpling up so that the wing of one and the tail of another were seen to fall away. A moment later the two machines fell apart. One was spinning rapidly as it fell; the other dropped like a plummet. When they had nearly reached the earth there was a burst of black smoke from one machine and a loud report was followed by a vivid upward burst of flame. This machine had plunged straight through the galvanised iron roof of the postal garage in Sturt street, and had burst into flames the instant it touched the roof. The other machine hit no obstruction. It descended straight on to the middle of Dodds street, a small street running between Sturt street and St. Kilda road, and parallel with both.

There can be little doubt but that the occupants of both aeroplanes were killed instantaneously. Indeed, it is considered highly probable that some of the men were killed by the collision in the air. Those in the aeroplane which struck Dodds street could not survived an instant after the impact with the roadway. Those in the machine which dropped through the iron roof could not have lived long enough to have become aware of the fire which broke out as the aeroplane struck.

The aircraft were A6-5 and A6-26. The former plane is photographed below at Point Cook in 1925.



Gems from our Library's Collection

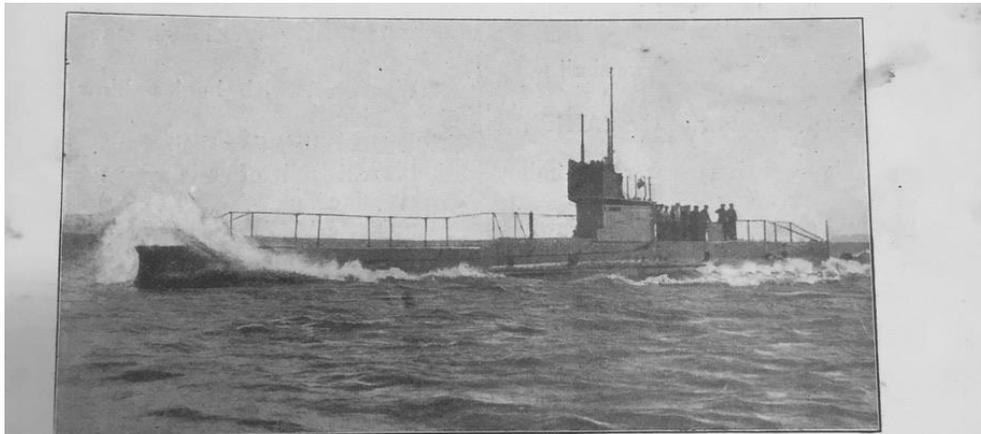
The Loss of HMAS *AE1*

This is an occasional article to highlight some of the amazing items in our Library.

We have several early issues of The School Paper which was distributed to Victorian school children. This photo is from the issue for Grades VII & VIII, No 181 dated Nov 2, 1914. It has a photo of the submarine and an anonymous commemorative poem.

HMAS *AE1* was lost on 9th September 1914 with her entire complement of three officers and 32 sailors. It was the RAN's first major tragedy and it marred an otherwise successful operation to seize the German colonies in New Guinea and the South Pacific. It was not until December 2017 that the wreck was located 300 metres of water off the Duke of York Island group.

An extensive analysis of the wreck is at <https://www.navyhistory.org.au/ranships/ae1/>



From a photograph taken in England.]

THE MISSING SUBMARINE "AE1."

1. They heard no clamor of battle,
 No charging squadron's
 cheers ;
 No murderous Maxim's² rattle
 Was din'd in their dying
 ears ;
 For, wrapped in the ocean
 boundless
 Where the tides are scarcely
 stirred—

In deeps that are still and
 soundless,—
 They perished, unseen,
 unheard.
 O ! brave are the heroes, dying
 'Mid thunder of charge and
 gun ;
 But our half-mast flags³ are
 flying
 For the crew of the "AE1."

New Acquisitions (since March 2020)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author(s)	Subject
<i>Surviving the Great War</i>	Aaron Pegram	Australian prisoners of war on the Western Front 1916–18
<i>Breaking the Silence</i>	Alison Holland	Aboriginal defenders and the Settler State, 1905–1939
<i>Oil under Troubled Water</i>	Bernard Collaery	Australia's Timor Sea intrigue
<i>The Vietnam War</i>	Geoffrey C Ward and Ken Burns	An intimate history
<i>The Ratline</i>	Phillipe Sands	Love, lies and justice on the trail of a Nazi fugitive
<i>Expertise, Authority and Control</i>	Alexia Moncrieff	The Australian Army Medical Corps in the First World War
<i>Darwin's Submarine I-124</i>	Tom Lewis	The sinking outside Darwin Harbour in 1942
<i>Honour Denied</i>	Tom Lewis	Teddy Sheean and other brave warriors of the Royal Australian Navy
<i>The Submarine Six</i>	Tom Lewis	Six RAN heroes honoured by having a Collins Class submarine named after them
<i>First Know Your Enemy</i>	John A Moses with Peter Overlack	Comprehending Imperial German war aims and deciphering the enigma of kultur
<i>The Fight to the Finish</i>	Allan Mallinson	The First World War – month by month
<i>Wings of Gold</i>	Trevor Rieck et al	Australian pilots and observers who trained with the United States Navy 1966-68

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.