



The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria, Inc.  
*Promoting National Security and Defence*

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## **RUSI VIC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Volume 24 Issue 4 – December 2025

Editor: Mike Rawlinson

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Defence Picture

Australia has chosen Japan's Mogami-class frigate as the Navy's new general-purpose frigate.

## **Christmas Greetings**



**Royal United Services Institute of  
Victoria Incorporated  
December 2025 Newsletter**

**RUSI VIC -2025-26**

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RUSIDSSA	<a href="http://www.rusi.org.au">www.rusi.org.au</a>
RUSI Whitehall	<a href="http://www.rusi.org">www.rusi.org</a>
Dept of Defence	<a href="http://defence.gov.au">defence.gov.au</a>
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	<a href="http://www.aspi.org.au">www.aspi.org.au</a>
Australia Defence Association	<a href="http://www.ada.asn.au">www.ada.asn.au</a>
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	
<a href="http://www.williamsfoundation.org.au">www.williamsfoundation.org.au</a>	
Defence Reserves Association	<a href="http://www.dra.org.au">www.dra.org.au</a>
Defence Force Welfare Association	<a href="http://www.dfwa.org.au">www.dfwa.org.au</a>
Military History and Heritage Victoria	<a href="http://www.mhvh.org.au">www.mhvh.org.au</a>
Department of Veteran's Affairs	<a href="http://www.dva.gov.au">www.dva.gov.au</a>
Shrine of Remembrance	<a href="http://www.shrine.org.au">www.shrine.org.au</a>



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

## President's Column

### Major General Mike O'Brien CSC (Retd)



On behalf of our Council, I wish all members and their families a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and festive season.

2026 may bring us many challenges but we will meet them with your help!

Best regards

**Mike O'Brien**



## On the Bondi Massacre and National Security

*First they came for the Communists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Communist  
Then they came for the trade unionists  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a trade unionist  
Then they came for the Jews  
And I did not speak out  
Because I was not a Jew  
Then they came for me  
And there was no one left  
To speak out for me*

**Pastor Martin Niemoller 1947**

## Bequests

### Royal United Services Institute of Victoria

Founded in 1890, the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria promotes public understanding and discussion of defence and national security.

RUSIV manages the Monash Memorial Defence Library, Victoria's largest publicly accessible defence library.

With reduced Department of Defence support, member contributions are increasingly vital.

Please consider including the Institute in your will to help maintain our services. For assistance with bequests, contact Secretary Bob Hart at [secretary@rusivc.org.au](mailto:secretary@rusivc.org.au). Notifying us of your bequest (without specifying an amount) is appreciated for future communication.

## VIETNAM 30/50

THIRTY YEARS OF WAR/FIFTY YEARS OF REFLECTION  
1945 - 2025

16 - 17 MAY 2026

WAVERLEY RSL



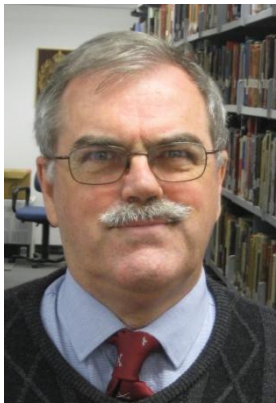
MILITARY HISTORY AND  
HERITAGE VICTORIA INC.

echo))  
BOOKS



## From the Secretary:

### Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD



We have been advised of the passing of Jonathon Burdon and Ian Murray.

We welcome new members Simon McGregor and Rob Wight.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

### Bob Hart

From the front cover:



### Mogami Class Frigate

The Royal Australian Navy has selected the upgraded Japanese Mogami-class frigate, built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), as the preferred platform for the future fleet of general-purpose frigates.

The general purpose Mogami-class frigates will replace the Anzac-class frigates and be equipped for undersea warfare and local air defence.

The first 3 frigates will be built offshore by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. Subject to the right conditions, the remaining frigates will be built at the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia.

The upgraded Mogami-class can be delivered fast, is larger and more lethal, and has lower crewing requirements than the Anzac-class frigates. The first 3 frigates will be operational by 2034.

## Library Notes:

This year draws to a close under the shadow of the possible sale of Victoria Barracks to developers. The future existence of the library would be very uncertain in these circumstances. An event horizon appears to be about 2 years away according to the best rumours.

We have been well supported by Defence over many years with rent free accommodation and basic services. These are the only circumstances under which we can exist. The operation and care of the library is done entirely by volunteers. Some readers may not be aware that 20 odd years ago the library consisted of about 5000 items recorded on a card system.

Since that time the library has moved physically several times and grown to almost 40,000 items. It is now a much more focussed collection and has expanded to include a large map and poster collection, some of which are very rare and valuable. Also, we now have a large and comprehensive audio-visual and books in PDF collection.

The efforts of many volunteers, past and present have achieved this.

Over many years progress has also been made in the accessibility of the library to all. Besides our own online catalogue, the library contents are harvested by the National Library and are visible through the search programme Trove. Many of you will know this, but it is worth repeating as it has been a long and hard process to navigate.

We continue to operate an intern programme which is of great mutual benefit.

May the Force be with us!

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

### Brian Surtees

Hon Librarian

### 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

## ***Opinion: Artificial Intelligence and ADF Recruiting***

***Mike Rawlinson***

An AI revolution is sweeping the developed world with data centres attracting huge investments. AI has many applications in commerce, the law, manufacturing, agriculture as well as the military. This includes use in defence force recruiting.

Although only a comparatively small force of about 70,000 full time members, the ADF has been 1000 members under-strength for years and only recently has been able to meet annual recruiting targets. Training rates now need to increase for several years to make up the deficit and provide for any probable expansion in the size of the force.

Similar recruiting difficulties have been experienced across the Western World. Reasons for the unpopularity of defence careers have been thoroughly investigated and there are several uniquely Australian factors. These include contracting out recruiting, recruiting for the ADF rather than single services, and bad publicity associated with the Afghanistan Inquiry and Veteran's Suicide Royal Commission. Australian responses have included: improvements in pay and conditions, bonuses for sign-on and retention, less stringent physical requirements, and recruitment from our 'five eyes' partners.

While these measures no doubt have helped bring about an improvement in recruiting, there appear to be other factors, as a revival in recruiting has been experienced across the developed democracies. One common factor may be a reaction against 'wokeism'.<sup>1</sup>

In common with other developed democracies the 21st Century has seen cultural changes at schools and universities including the indoctrination of students with 'woke' theories that denigrate nationalism, pride in country and patriotism. In Australia at secondary school level the National Curriculum has been taken over by Critical Race Theory, identity politics and a revisionist view of Western Civilisation. Ideology is replacing inquiry.

Marxist inspired Critical Race Theory and other critical theories, divide the population into oppressed and oppressors. Social justice puts us on the side of the oppressed, be they African Americans, Australian

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Wokeism" refers to a heightened awareness of systemic social injustices (like racism, sexism, inequality), originating from Black culture ("stay woke"), but has evolved into a broad, often contentious term for progressive ideologies focused on identity politics, often criticized as excessive or dogmatic by opponents. While proponents see it as essential for dismantling oppression, critics use the label pejoratively to describe perceived political correctness, cancel culture, or radicalism within social justice movements, creating a significant cultural debate.<sup>1</sup>

Aborigines, women. Jews or immigrants. The military is normally placed on the side of the white male oppressors.

Led by the Trump White House there has been a rolling back of wokeism, especially in the military. President Trump has committed to the dismantling of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Programs in the US which undermine promotion on merit.

To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace. George Washington
--

Noteworthy is a Military Summit at Quantico Virginia in October this year at which all American Generals and Admirals were required to attend. They were addressed at length by the Secretary for Defence (War) Pete Hegseth and the President. The theme of the addresses was 'peace through strength', the maintenance of a warrior ethos and a focus on war fighting. Henceforth promotion would only be on merit and there would be no gender or racial quotas. There would be one fitness standard for combat positions and males and females who could not achieve it would be reassigned. All members of the military would be required to pass two physical fitness tests every year and would be required to maintain a professional military appearance. Fat members would not be tolerated irrespective of rank.

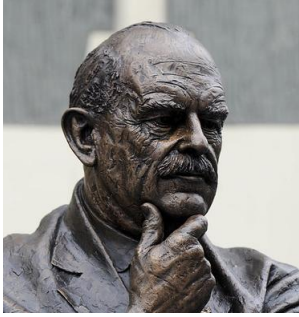
Hegseth's speech is quite a performance and while media reporting focussed on fat generals, in terms of top-down culture change the speech is significant and well worth your googling.

There is also a correlation between the uptick in recruiting and the introduction of artificial intelligence into western economies. Directly the ADF uses AI to target potential recruits on social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram and within popular games. Increasingly AI will be used to speed up the complex recruiting process.

Indirectly the productivity gains that AI is bringing to the economy are partly at the expense of the employment of young professionals. Junior tertiary qualified professionals across Australia's service industries are being displaced by newly acquired AI capabilities. This displacement can be expected to increase in the future as AI use in the economy matures. Faced with the real-world prospect of unemployment, ideological objections to the military can be overcome by full consideration of the careers it can offer.

Correlation between AI adoption in the economy and ADF recruiting trends needs to be investigated by further research. AI offers the means of individually targeting displaced personnel in a streamlined, low cost, recruitment process.

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***Library Renaming Ceremony  
The Monash Memorial Defence Library  
Mon 20 Oct 2025***

***'Keynote Speaker'***

***Michael Bennett***



Thank you, Major General Mike O'Brien, Brigadier John Holloway, the Council of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria and distinguished guests.

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the family of John Monash about my great-grandfather at this renaming of the Library

of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria.

**Background**

John Monash had three distinct periods in his life following his education: as an engineer, soldier and nation-builder. Before talking about them, let me tell you a little about his background and education.

The story of John Monash is part of our Australian story of the migrant experience. Our reliance on people coming here to build a better life of course continues today. Like today's migrants Monash was encouraged by parents determined to give him chances that they hadn't had. He had determination, drive and harnessed his abilities in multiple areas of endeavour. He contributed all he could to his country.

John Monash was born on 27 June 1865 in a terrace house overlooking near Flagstaff Gardens in Melbourne. His parents, who came from Krotoschin Prussia, now in modern Poland, had arrived during the gold rush time in the 1850s; his father was a shopkeeper.

When young John was 9 years old, they moved to the rather primitive township of Jerilderie in southern NSW. Mr Elliot, the sole teacher in the local school recognised his potential and doubted his own ability to teach him further and advised a move back to Melbourne to complete his studies. The friendship between them continued until John's death. He was enrolled at Scotch

College and in 1881 graduated as dux in mathematics and modern languages and equal dux of the school.

At the age of 16 years, John entered Melbourne University, which was for the next 80 years the only university in Victoria, until Monash University was named in his honour. He commenced in Arts with the ultimate purpose of becoming a civil engineer. The whole time he was at University he was handicapped through lack of funds, and he did much coaching of year 12 students in order to pay his way.

In 1884 he was compelled to suspend his university studies in order to earn his living. At the age of 19 he obtained a job working on the construction of the new Princes Bridge in the city and during the next two years did so well that he was given charge of the earth works and masonry. He was only 21! By the age of 30 he had qualified as a surveyor and water supply engineer and gained degrees in Arts, Law, and Civil Engineering.

**Engineer**

Around age 30 years, Monash began private practice as a consulting engineer and patent attorney, and among many achievements was acknowledged as one of Australia's foremost experts in reinforced concrete for civil construction projects. Around half of the bridges Monash built (45 in Victoria) stand today.

My favourite is the Anderson's Street Bridge over the Yarra near the Botanic Gardens.

**Soldier**

At the age of 19, Monash joined the newly formed University Company - part of what we would call the Army reserve today. When the First World War broke out he was commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade that landed at Gallipoli in the afternoon of 25 April 1915, where he served until the evacuation. The campaign there of course was an unmitigated disaster.

Monash was close to the central drama of the conflict from the moment he sailed, as a colonel who had never heard a shot fired in anger, with the first convoys of Australians in 1914, through his grim months on Gallipoli and his experience of the tragic bloodletting of the abortive 1917 campaigns in Flanders, to his astonishing victories in France in 1918.

By mid-1918 John Monash was leading the Australian Army Corps and was knighted by King George V on the battlefield following the break-out success in the Battle of Amiens in northern France on 8 August. 3. Nation-builder

After demobilising the Australian Imperial Force, he returned to Australia in December 1919 and resumed for a short while his practice of engineering, but the government was planning the electrification of the state. Once again, at the age of 55 years, he was to be launched into an immense task of construction; once again he was to build for posterity, after an agonising

period of years of destruction. For the next 12 years he was to help in every big state project which built for the future.

As first chairman of Victoria's new State Electricity Commission in 1920, he set the foundations for Victoria's economic revival and prosperity following the great depression.

John Monash was appointed the Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University. He initiated and developed the Anzac Day ceremonies in Melbourne and oversaw the public appeal for funds for Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance and supervised its construction. He was also much in request as a public speaker. Both before and after the war he wrote many papers on engineering subjects.

Australia flirted with fascism Throughout the 1920s there had been sporadic cries that Monash and the A.I.F. would rule the country far better than the awful politicians. In 1927 two appeals came from Sydney. One group, the Imperial Patriots, saw him as a potential Mussolini. The other, the Warringah Constitutional Club, wanted him to head a political movement that would represent the diggers against the two 'big machines' of capital and labour.

In 1930, as the Depression deepened, the pleas became more urgent. Monash was called on to lead an Empire Loyalty League to combat the foreign-Irish-Catholic attempt to impose an Australian governor-general. A Miss Sadleir-Forster pestered him to become Dictator-'Napoleon, Mussolini, Yourself!' A Hobart priest telegraphed: 'Assume dictatorship do not fear save Australia as Mussolini saved Italy.'

Following all this pressure What do you and your friends want me to do? To lead a movement to upset the Constitution, oust the jurisdiction of Parliament, and usurp the governmental power? If so, I have no ambition to embark on High Treason, which any such action would amount to. ... Depend upon it, the only hope for Australia is the ballot-box, and an educated electorate.... If it be true that many people in Sydney are prepared to trust to my leadership, they should be prepared also to trust my judgement. John Monash died in October 1931, leaving a legacy that lives on to this day.

#### Interest in Monash

It has been so pleasing to see the increased interest in John Monash over the last decade or more. There are many organisations behind this resurgence:

Rotary Club of Melbourne, Engineers Australia and The Spirit of Australia Foundation to name but a few.

Then there are the well-researched books that have been published, with the first biography based fully on Monash's papers that our family gave to the National Library of Australia and the Australian War Memorial by the great historian Geoffrey Searle in 1982. And of course, more recent writers passionate about their subject including Roland Perry and Tim Fischer.

Over the last 21 years the General Sir John Monash Foundation has chosen 282 John Monash Scholars that have benefited from the prestigious John Monash Scholarships, and this growing network is likely to play an important role in Australia's future. This follows through beautifully the Monash quotation:

"Adopt as your fundamental creed that you will equip yourself for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community."

This quotation now appears in microprint on the new \$100 note.

#### Books

Monash collected books, with the urgency of a man concerned that there were too many of them and not enough time left for imbibing the best. He had a library of 5000 books. Like all his other collections - from souvenirs to records - it was catalogued. Then there is Monash's own 'voice', one Public and one Personal, both represented in this library:

'The Australian Victories in France in 1918', makes sure his first-hand account of the Australian contribution to the last 100 days of the First World War could not be forgotten.

- The War Letters of General Monash' provide a remarkable self-portrait. They are an intensely personal view of his four years of war, as shared with his family. They help illuminate key events Monash was involved in, such as Simpson and his donkey, the demise of the Red Baron and particularly the creation of Anzac Day. 'Our Day'.

#### Conclusion

It is now time to declare that the new name of this library is the Monash Memorial Defence Library.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

"I don't care a damn for your loyal service when you think I am right; when I really want it most is when you think I am wrong".

"I owe something to men whose lives and honour are in my hands to do as I will. But once my duty is done and honourably discharged, I shall, with a sigh of relief, turn my back once and for all, on the possibility of ever again having to go through such an awful time"

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## 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.**

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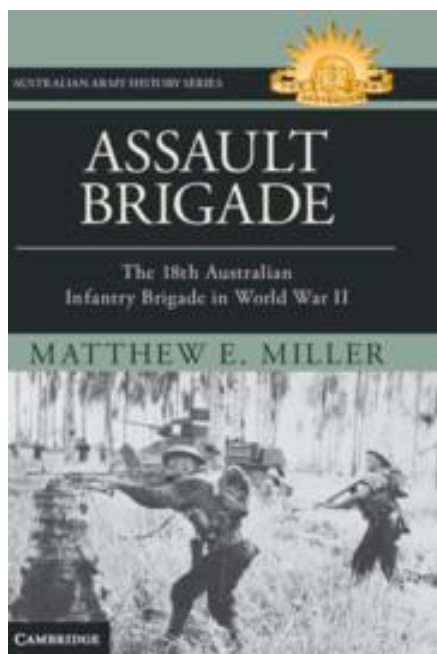
### ***Assault Brigade***

*The 18th Australian Infantry Brigade in World War II*  
Australian Army History Series

**Matthew E Miller**

Port Melbourne, VIC: Cambridge University Press, 2024  
Hardcover 296pp RRP: \$59.95

Reviewer: Robert Dixon, November 2025



*Assault Brigade* examines the challenges and development of the Australian Army's 18th Infantry Brigade throughout World War II with a particular emphasis on the brigades activities in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA). The key thesis of this book is that in the SWPA, the infantry brigade, as an intermediate formation commanding multiple infantry battalions and numerous attached units (artillery, air liaison, armour etc), was fundamental to Australian efforts to secure victory. The author shows that during the war the key decision-making body for infantry operations moved from the division to the brigade and with that the control over ancillary units such as artillery devolved from the division to the brigade. This devolution was most effective when accompanied by the co-location of both the artillery control centre and air liaison with the brigade's infantry headquarters.

The book provides a detailed study of the evolution of the 18th Infantry Brigade which participated in an unusually large variety of combat operations allowing it rare experience among Australian units. Its involvement in operations from the UK to the Middle East (the brigade participated in the siege of Tobruk and the campaign in Syria–Lebanon) and on to the SWPA (Milne Bay, Buna and Sanananda – 'where the brigade suffered a staggering 96 per cent casualty rate', Shaggy Ridge and Borneo) ensured that it was one of the most experienced brigades at the close of the war. The book focuses on the series of campaigns fought across the SWPA, highlighting lessons learnt and adaptations implemented as a result of each battle. The author shows that operations in the complex terrain found in the SWPA, which at numerous times only allowed the use of single infantry brigades, led these formations to evolve such that the Australian infantry brigade became the key combined arms combat formation in the SWPA.

One feature of the book which I found especially interesting was the attention given to the important role of Brigadier Frederick Chilton who commanded the 18th brigade from March 1943 to the end of the war. Chilton was clearly a first-rate leader and was especially innovative in developing training methods appropriate for amphibious landings and for jungle fighting. The book contains only one photograph of Chilton which I think is odd given the number of pages devoted to his activities. There is a photo which does not appear in the book but which I think would not be out of place in the chapter on the fighting at Shaggy Ridge and that is an AWM photo accession number 070477. It shows Chilton standing outside his brigade headquarters (a hut made of local materials) which is perched precariously on a very steep slope in the foothills of the Finisterre Ranges.

I found this book extremely interesting and well written. I recommend it most highly to anyone interested in brigade leadership, the better integration of infantry, artillery and other ancillary units into a unified and effective fighting force and ideas about training for amphibious and jungle operations.

The author, Matthew Miller, has had over thirty years of active and reserve service in the United States military and holds degrees from the University of California San Diego, the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of New South Wales. This book is based on his doctoral thesis. It has an excellent set of notes and references, an unusually thorough index, eleven maps and 26 photos and diagrams.

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## **War 4.0**

*Armed Conflict in an Age of Speed, Uncertainty and Transformation*

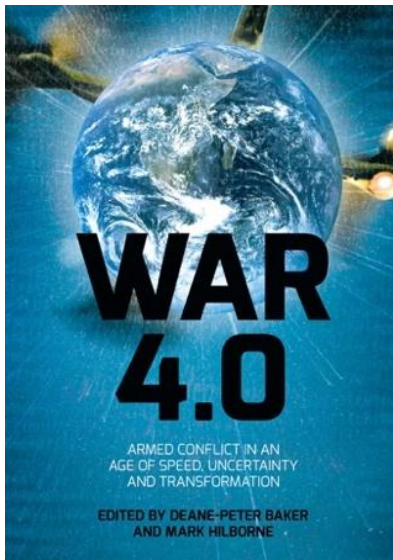
**Dean-Peter Baker, Mark Hilborne (Eds)**

Canberra ACT: ANU Press, 2025

Paperback 512pp RRP: \$36.99

Reviewer: Nik Maheshwari, October 2025

This book looks at the evolution of technology on current and future warfare and is split into two parts – one is a raw, deep dive gathering of facts and information regarding technological advancements in various domains, while the other part looks at the emotional and humane side of war. Both parts would advise the readers of expanding their horizons around the perception of war and its effect, not just physically but also morally and psychologically impacts.



The authors begin with reference to the Cold War era that led to a surge in investment in warfare and technological research (led primarily by the US). The private sector democratized technology which massively benefited the civilian population but came with a price to national security. Technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and autonomous systems (drones), sensors and quantum computing are covered in these chapters, detailing their impact in modern warfare and how they would shape the future of warfare in the coming two decades.

The book moves on to space warfare and cyberspace in great detail over the next three chapters, including the emergence of China's prowess in this domain. This is one area of modern warfare that is less governed and has even fewer laws. Compounding the fact that most militaries rely on space technology (such as communications and imagery), authors argue that the next major escalation would not be on land or at sea but high up above the ground. Two key systems that states

are focusing are highlighted as 'hit-to-kill' anti-satellite (ASATs) weapons and 'soft-kill' systems that disable rather than destroy a target satellite. While both the US and Russia had developed ASATs throughout the Cold War but never operationalised them, China's test of an ASAT in January 2007 fundamentally changed the discussion on space warfare and brought ASATs back in light. China's emergence in space warfare is well documented by the authors, including the history and the turning point in China's military strategy that led to that pivotal moment in 2007.

The final three chapters cover the emotional and psychological side of war. The authors go into great details over the Royal Air Force's Reaper programme and the distance paradox ('the greater the physical and psychological distance between the attacker and the target, the easier it is to launch the attack'). The study of effect of remote operations and killings sheds light on the psychological impact on the crew who carries them out, with authors showing examples of first-hand interviews of crew and their partners. This leads into the topic of empathy and morality, and the thought process leading up to the decisive moment one decides to take the life of another person (whether it is the target or collateral). Authors explore topics such as six points on the empathy bell curve and moral injury in the context of warfare's impact on soldiers. There is also the ethical/legal aspect – how do nations decide what is acceptable and what is not? Cultures and religion play a crucial role here – what is acceptable by one may go totally against the other. This is covered in the final two chapters with debates on regulation of lethal autonomous weapon system (LAWS), whether the human is still in the loop when these systems make live/die decision on a target, and what does culture and religion teaches us about the art of war.

Overall, the book is very well referenced and backed up by real-world data (like population growth) where necessary. It is easy to read and remember details and facts. Authors reference three superpowers in the book extensively – the US, Russia and China, however other nations could have been included to include a broader perspective and influence. The book provides enough technical and historical detail to keep the reader engaged without overwhelming them with excessive information. For more avid readers, the book is very well referenced. Each chapter is ten to twelve pages long with its own conclusion. To the reviewer, the critical part of the book was the psychological and emotional aspect of war, where the authors tackled philosophical and ethical questions such as 'Is the machine making a decision?' or 'To what extent does a soldier's inherent levels of empathy shape their reactions on the battlefield?' while leaving some open-ended questions for readers to contemplate.

## ***Military History Supremo***

*Essays in Honour of David Horner AM FASSA*

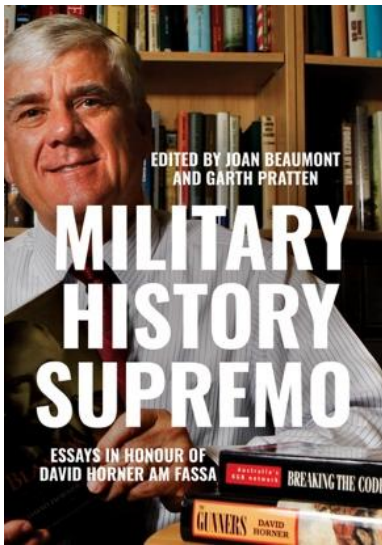
**Joan Beaumont and Garth Pratten (Eds)**

Canberra ACT: ANU Press, 2025

Paperback 422pp RRP: \$65.90

Reviewer: Michael Arnold, September 2025

The publisher's headline for *Military History Supremo* declares that Professor Emeritus David Horner AM FASSA is one of Australia's greatest military historians. This assertion is bolstered by the fact that Horner, as



Australia's fifth official historian of war and military operations follows in the footsteps of Charles Bean, Gavin Long and Robert O'Neill, Peter Edwards. This book demonstrates that Horner is a true soldier scholar, who is truly a military history supremo.

The book is a compilation of essays by his contemporaries, the who's who of Australia's

contemporary military historians, including editors Joan Beaumont and Garth Pratten. The essays are organised into chapters but are not focused in on Horner's life and times, rather they try to capture the breadth of his academic (and military) achievements and their influence on Australian military history. They also describe his impact, often directly, on their individual academic journeys. The *Foreword* was provided by fellow official war historian, Professor Robert O'Neill, who sadly did not live to see the book published.

The Introductory chapter, written by Joan Beaumont and Garth Pratten, provides the context for the book and provides an overview of Horner's academic and military careers. Horne was a hardened military professional having served 25 years in the Australian Army, including service as a platoon commander in Vietnam. Beaumont and Pratten note that he is best known for his expertise on higher-level command, which he established with his earliest books: *Crisis of Command: Australian Generalship and the Japanese Threat 1941-1943* (1978) and *High Command: Australia and Allied Strategy 1939-1945* (1982), which they note remain definitive works. They make the point that his career's scope of work ventured far beyond this subject matter into a broad range of military history topics. The book has an *Appendix*, which outlines Horner's professional career, including all of his key military and academic achievements.

I found some of the succeeding chapters of *Military History Supremo* dry and very academic in their execution. Others, like Garth Pratten's chapter on the making of Horner as a soldier-scholar are highly engaging. It was fascinating to learn how the military and academic phases of his career melded; and how the former informed the latter.

A notable chapter is Chris Roberts' *Filling the Gap: Lieutenant General Harold 'Hooky' Walker KCB, KCMG, DSO a Study in Command*, which channels Horner's approach to analysing the human elements of senior commanders in their operational performance. The chapter was an illuminating study of a forgotten 1st AIF senior commander. Walker, a British officer, who is described by Roberts as a soldier's general, commanded the 1st Division from 15 May 1915, as a brigadier general after Major General William Bridges was mortally wounded, until late June that year, when Major General Legge arrived from Australia. I learned that, Colonels, James McCay, John Monash and Harry Chauvel all objected to his appointment arguing that it should have been one of them. Surprisingly, Legge was sent to Egypt to raise 2nd Division, while Walker returned as commander in July, which he remained until 30 June 1918. Robert's makes a compelling case for Walker being the AIF's premier general, who probably would have commanded ANZAC Corps rather than Monash but for the fact the Australian government (quite reasonably) wanted Australian officers only, to command AIF formations.

Another stand out chapter is Bob Breen's essay on grey-zone conflict within the Australian context. Breen make the case for an Australian grey-zone strategy and what he calls a 'fourth armed response force'. Breen is a Duntroon graduate and a soldier-scholar, who was mentored by Horner in the late 1980s. Horner would go onto supervise Breen's PhD candidature and would employ him to write Volume IV of the *Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations* series. The chapter draws upon Horner's histories of Australian strategy and higher command before and during the Pacific War 1942-45 as well as his work on the development of Australian intelligence services and Special Forces. The chapter is an excellent and provocative piece of work that argues that Australia should not repeat the mistakes it made in the 1930s and 1940s, that were so eloquently described by Horner. Breen identifies the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as the Indo-Pacific's key grey-zone protagonist, who has already attempted to economically coerce Australia into subservience. He describes how the CCP's grey-zone campaign ignores Australia's geographic advantages and bypasses the ADF. Thus, the requirement for grey-zone strategy, which is not reliant on the promises of great and powerful friends such as the United States; and the need for establishment of a uniquely configured fourth armed response force to lead in executing the strategy's various elements.

In all, I found *Military History Supremo* an interesting read. While some of its chapters were a little dry and too academic in their execution, most are very engaging. I gained a much better appreciation of David Horner's contribution to Australian military history, including his influence on a significant number of Australia's premier military historians. I would certainly agree with the proposition of the book's title: David Horner is indeed a military history supremo. I would commend this book to all those interested in Australian military history and this country's strategic challenges.

## ***Intelligencer***

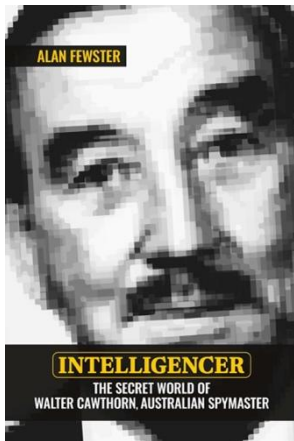
*The Secret World of Walter Cawthorn Australian Spymaster*

### **Alan Fewster**

North Melbourne, VIC: Australian Scholarly Publications, 2024

Paperback 152pp RRP: \$49.95

Reviewer: Doug Knight, October 2025



Walter 'Bill' Cawthorn had an extraordinary life as an Australian in the British Imperial system. A very young sergeant at Gallipoli and later commissioned on the battlefield despite his young age, he later joined the British Indian Army in 1918 and later after the Partition of India, Bill chose the Pakistani Army and reached the rank of Major-General. Bill intelligence for four countries (Britain, India, Pakistan and Australia)

and served as an Australian ambassador. Cawthorn's life as an "intelligencer" — bringer of news, secret agent, spy — is the lens used by Sydney journalist, writer and ex-diplomat Alan Fewster in his account of Cawthorn's life.

Born in Melbourne in 1896, Cawthorn was a junior cadet instructor, training as a teacher, when war broke out in 1914. After he joined the Australian Imperial Force in early 1915, he was quickly promoted to sergeant, sailing for Egypt in May 1915 and then embarking in September for Anzac Cove. Cawthorn's diary describes his introduction to Gallipoli:

'Long before we saw any sight of land, we could see searchlights flashing and the occasional flash of a gun. As we got close in we could see the hospital ships — all lit with green lights, with a big red cross and also a big warship in the distance. It was about midnight when we dropped anchor, and we could hear the bullets going. We transferred to a big barge lashed to a tug

at about 2a.m. and did not get on to land till about 4a.m. A more awful 2 hours I never spent — weighed down with equipment — about 500 men where there was only room for 200, made the discomfort simply terrible. The barge rocked forward very much so that it was only by the exercise of great determination that I was not sick.'

Fewster's chapter on Gallipoli is a vivid account of the birth of an Australian military legend through the eyes of Bill. After an afternoon swim on his first day, Bill walked the beach to see for himself all the work done since the first Australians had landed five months before: 'Whole hills had been terraced and cleared of shrub. And roads made spiral-wise up the slopes. No wonder those that are left are just about tired to death.'

Bill's battlefield home was a ready-made dugout caused by a Turkish shell: It has a sheet of tin roofing over the top and it's quite roomy.' He dreaded having to lead a burial party into no-man's land between the trenches at Lone Pine: 'You have to crawl out on your hands and knees and try to locate the dead, then secure their disks or pocketbook, scrape a hole and bury them — all in perfect silence.'

Despite some superiors' worries about his youth, the nineteen-year-old earned a battlefield commission as a second Lieutenant, surprisingly after having been promoted to being the Regimental Sergeant Major several months previously.

After the evacuation from Gallipoli, Bill's battalion deployed to the Western Front. In June 1916, a fortnight after his twentieth birthday, Bill was invalided to the UK after suffering a shrapnel wound to his abdomen. Bill missed his battalion's first major action at Pozieres, during which twenty-seven officers and 656 other ranks were killed or wounded.

Army life suited Bill and he made it his career. Having decided the opportunities would be more plentiful in the British Army, he resigned his commission as an Australian captain to become a lieutenant in the British Indian Army. The decision 'changed the course of Bill's life', writes Fewster, 'setting him on a path he would follow for the next fifty years: the shadow world of intelligence and espionage' — at first for Britain and then in India, Pakistan and Australia.

Bill was one of India's delegations to the 1946 conference that established the United Nations. Such was his knowledge of the North-West Frontier that the new government of Pakistan 'trusted him to negotiate what ultimately became the *de facto* border with India, which remains in place today. As Deputy Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Army, Cawthorn created the now infamous Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) bureau, which grew from an empty room with packing cases for desks into one of the world's most powerful and feared intelligence organizations.

Cawthorn and his wife returned to Melbourne in 1951, buying a house near Kallista in the Dandenong Ranges, an area 'popular with retired members of the Indian army and civil service, who liked the cool temperate climate, which reminded them of Raj hill stations'.

Bill's career put him in good stead at the Melbourne Club and with other good chaps such as Menzies and Casey. Bill was a child of 'the crown and empire generation', Fewster observes. 'Although he was not born into the officer class, he had the bearing of a *pukka sahib*', with the moustache to suit.

A fellow good chap, Walter Crocker, described Bill's ambivalence about returning to Melbourne: 'He finds Australians ignorant and provincial but also arrogant and self-confident. There is hardly anyone any more who understands his interests, India, the officer sahib's ways of life, the Empire and so on'.

Bill's career as an intelligencer resumed when he joined the Melbourne-based Joint Intelligence Bureau, which tried to coordinate intelligence from Australia's three armed services. But in a 'series of meetings and lunches at the Melbourne Club' from mid 1953 into early 1954, 'Casey sought to gauge Cawthorn's suitability for a posting to his old stamping ground' as Ambassador to Pakistan and so, in 1954, Cawthorn returned to Karachi, back to the world he knew, as Australia's High Commissioner. Fewster headlines this chapter, 'More a Pakistani than an Australian'.

No longer a senior officer at the centre of the headquarters action, Bill waged long-distance fights for attention from External Affairs, which saw him as an outsider, and for resources from a Public Service Board he found ignorant and dilatory.

Walter Crocker, who was serving as High Commissioner in New Delhi, recorded Bill's anger at the 'supreme ineptitude' of Australia's diplomatic service, and the frustrations of being a diplomatic bag-carrier for visiting Australians. Our man in Karachi complained about 'the plague of visitors' and the 'outrageous behaviour' of 'ordinary Australians, especially politicians 'who would telephone from the airport 'at any hour of the day, seeking accommodation, or to be met'.

Bill served the system well enough to be knighted in 1958, and the following year he was posted as Australia's High Commissioner to Canada. The postings meant he observed 'from a safe distance the turmoil that was the Australian intelligence community in the mid-to-late 1950's.' ASIS was 'reviled by its two most important clients, External Affairs and Defence', Fewster writes, 'morale was at rock bottom' and the intelligence service was 'in a fight for its survival'.

In 1957, Australia's senior ministers and officials had decided to kill off ASIS. British and American intelligence agencies pushed hard against the closure. MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, sent its deputy chief

to do the rounds in Canberra and 'managed to convince Casey that Australia ought to stay in the business of secret-intelligence and counter-subversion'. Casey didn't need much convincing. Unlike those of his senior diplomats who distrusted the 'spies', Casey was always interested in what he called 'the dirt boy stuff', the espionage he defined as 'bribery, deception, whispering and underground methods generally'.

After only a year as High Commissioner to Canada, Cawthorn returned to Melbourne in 1960 to take over at ASIS headquarters in Victoria Barracks. The public reason for his short Ottawa stint was poor health, a cover story that had some truth — he'd had a heart attack, suffered from phlebitis, and took three different drugs every day.

Walter Crocker's diary records his view of the good-chap qualities that suited his friend to run the spies, judging that Cawthorn had 'the honesty to be entrusted with a secret service but has he the safe intellect?' If Australia must do espionage, Crocker mused, the job could be entrusted to Cawthorn because 'his old-fashioned Christianity and Anglicanism, and his utter decency and his never-give-up plodding more than compensate for his slowness and over-simple judgement of men and situations'.

The question of 'who will watch the watchmen?' was one the two friends returned to near the end of Cawthorn's eight years running ASIS. Crocker recalled expressing a dislike of the 'espionage approach' and doubts about the value of the 'peep-hole view in international relations' during an after-dinner conversation in 1968; Cawthorn responded by saying that ASIS should not report on current facts and appearances, as done by embassies, but discern the long-term trends:

When Bill made clear his fears about 'huge, powerful' secret services, 'more or less above the law, as well as in the dark', Cawthorn replied that Australia would not have such a service, and in any case 'we must be able to count on integrity and balance in the operations'. Bill thought that a profession in which 'duplicity, concealing your true feelings and of leading people up the garden path' did not normally 'warp the practitioners'. Crocker said he found that proposition hard to accept.

When Bill became Director in 1960, ASIS had overseas stations in Jakarta, Tokyo and Dili, with a presence in the MI6 stations in Hong Kong and Singapore. Under Prime Minister Harold Holt in early 1966, ASIS achieved its biggest expansion of posts, opening stations in Manila, Rangoon, Bangkok and Saigon.

Cawthorn gave his life to his work. Two years after leaving ASIS, he died of a heart attack while waiting for a massage at a health club around the corner from the Melbourne Club.

Fewster makes use of the definitive book on the early decades of the intelligence service, Brian Toohey and William Pinwill's *OYSTER: The Story of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service*. (OYSTER was a codeword stamped on ASIS material.) Fewster's work shares with *OYSTER* the scars of legal battles with government. Where Toohey and Pinwill had to fight to defend what they'd written, Fewster's struggle was to get the documents he needed from ASIS.

Fewster's battle took him to Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) in 2018 when he started researching the book, virtually no ASIS records appeared in the National Australian Archives catalogue. Fortunately, Fewster's close reading of the 1977 Royal Commission Report on the Intelligence Services revealed references to a document on the organisation's internal history submitted by ASIS. Fewster targeted that history using the Archives Act, only to be opposed by ASIS and other Australian intelligence organisations at every step.

Fewster's was denied access to the ASIS history on security grounds, neither his lawyer nor he were allowed to hear the submissions made by these officials to the AAT. Fewster stated he could not justify on grounds of cost, or the time involved, an appeal to the Federal Court. For its part, ASIS was itself beginning to open its records. As the years progressed, Fewster began to find on the Archives website files which were still the subject of action by men in the AAT. Eventually, in 2024, the Tribunal gave him access to the history, albeit heavily redacted. By then, it was online.

The secret world is oyster-like in clamping hold of its secrets, but some pearls do escape.

Fewster's book illustrates the evolution of intelligence bureaucracy in the twentieth century as lived by an outstanding Australian. While spies operate beyond the law on behalf of their government masters, their cloak-and-dagger machinations are ruled by the need to feed the files. As Bill had warned an army officer he was trying to recruit: 'In ASIS you'll spend most of your time behind a desk'.

Significant credit must go to Alan Fewster for his writing mission, perseverance, sense of history and archival persistence. Or as he puts it himself in the last sentence of his acknowledgements: 'Finally, my thanks to the Australian Secret Intelligence Service for supplying the [cover photograph](#) [of Cawthorn] and, grudgingly, some redacted files dealing with ASIS history'.

## ***Australian Heroes of World War II***

*Remarkable Stories of Battlefield Courage*

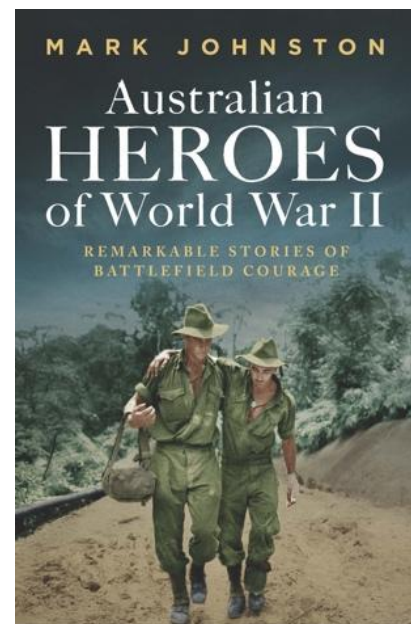
**Mark Johnston**

Randwick, NSW: New South Books, 2025  
Paperback 448pp RRP:\$39.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, October 2025

Mark Johnston has excelled once again!

*Australian Heroes* provides its readers with an amazing source of material that they are most likely not in a position to access. As recounted in the Introduction, for all the heroic deeds described, there were many just as deserving that received no recognition at all – some do not even have their actions mentioned in their own unit



history.

Where a soldier's action has been recognised prior to or after that under consideration has clearly indicated. Many entries contain comments that may include hometown, a father's involvement in the First World War, a sibling's exploits, life after 1945, and any other pertinent or interesting fact(s). The research behind this entire work borders on the unbelievable.

The chapters are set out in chronological order for each theatre of war with appropriate and easy-to-follow battle maps. To break up the constant descriptions of bravery, there has been four short 'interludes' on 'The Language of Heroism', 'The Warriors' Weapons', 'The Typical Hero' and 'Heroic Rescuers'. Ample photographs have been imbedded in the text – some being the actual presentation of a newly-won bravery award.

Typical of Johnston's style, it is well written and easy to read. It has a comprehensive bibliography and end notes and is well indexed.

A fine contribution to the recognition of Australia's Second World War heroes.

## **Anzac Guerrillas**

*A World War II story of resistance, hope and humanity  
in occupied Europe*

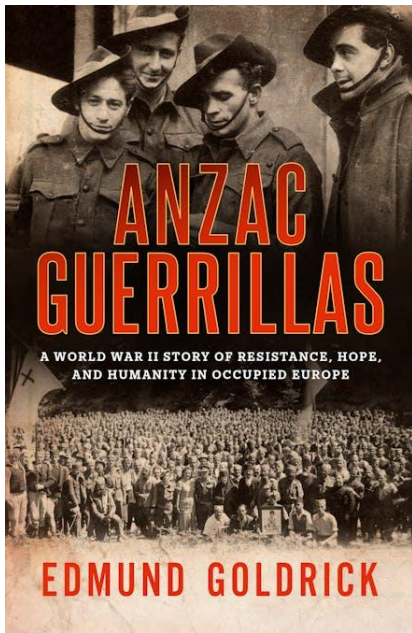
**Edmund Goldrick**

Sydney, NSW: Hachette, 2025

Paperback 352 pages RRP: \$34.99

Reviewer: David Rees, August 2025

The author, Edmund Goldrick, is reputed to have spent four years researching the activities of a few Australian soldiers who, during the Second World War, were captured by the Germans in Greece but escaped into Yugoslavia, where they became involved in Yugoslavia's guerrilla war against German occupation.



The book provides a fascinating account of the adventures undertaken by two special Australian soldiers who were initially part of the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF) sent to Greece in March 1941. However, the AEF lost the campaign, and over 5000 Australian soldiers became POWs. As POWs, the two soldiers were transported to Germany by different trains, from which they escaped and found themselves stranded in Yugoslavia. Fortunately, they met up with some Yugoslavs guerrilla fighters and assisted them in fighting the Germans while trying to prevent the guerrilla factions from fighting among themselves.

By way of background, the two key Australian characters in the story were Private Ross Sayers, serving with the 2/6th Battalion, and LT Roland Jones, serving with the 2/8th Battalion of the 6th AIF Infantry Division. The 6th Division was part of the British 8th Army, which, by early 1941, had successfully pushed back the Italians after they invaded Egypt. However, by late March 1941, the 6th Division was withdrawn from Libya and deployed to Greece, as part of the Allied Expeditionary Force, which included the 2nd New Zealand Infantry Division, the headquarters of the 1st Corps (*later renamed ANZAC*

*Corps*), and a British Armoured Brigade. The aim of the AEF was to assist the Greek Army in resisting possible German, Italian, Bulgarian, and Hungarian invasions into Greece. The Greek Army had managed earlier to resist the Italian invasion from Albania, but on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1941, the Germans, Bulgarians and Hungarians suddenly invaded Yugoslavia and Greece. Within 11 days, the Axis troops had defeated the Yugoslavs and negotiated an armistice which gave them Yugoslav transit rights to attack Greece from Yugoslavia's southeast border. Due to poor coordination between the Allies and Greek troops, the Germans were able to push south into Greece very quickly and occupy the entire Greek mainland by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1941. Many of the escaping AEF troops on the mainland were transported to Crete by Greek Navy, RAN and RN ships. The Germans later used paratroopers to occupy Crete between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June successfully.

The author devotes most of the book to describing how Sayers, Jones, and their fellow ANZAC escapees survived in occupied Yugoslavia and coped with the complexity of the conflicting political factions, such as the Chetniks led by monarchist *Draža Mihailović* and the Partisans led by communist Josip Broz Tito. However, little is written about the severe criticisms that occurred in Australia, New Zealand and the UK at the time regarding the poor strategic decisions made in 1941 in sending an ill-fated Commonwealth Expeditionary Force to Greece.

Nevertheless, the author provides a detailed historical account of what happened to the ANZAC soldiers, the Chetniks and the Partisans in Yugoslavia between 1941 and 1945. His account is based on archived military intelligence and British Special Operations Executive (SOE) reports and papers, rather than relying solely on memoirs. During the German occupation of Yugoslavia, the SOE sent many agents there to organise the shipment of British weapons and ammunition to both factions during the guerrilla war. However, the agents found it too difficult to reconcile the two factions and eventually supported only the Partisans under Tito. LT Jones, who sided with the Chetniks, tried to return to his unit in North Africa in 1943 but was again captured by the Italians and escaped to Switzerland, where he was arrested before being released and returned to Australia. PTE Sayers, on the other hand, stayed in Yugoslavia for three years fighting with the Partisans before returning to Australia.

The book is well-researched and features 34 pages of endnotes and an extensive bibliography.

## ***The Art of War and Peace***

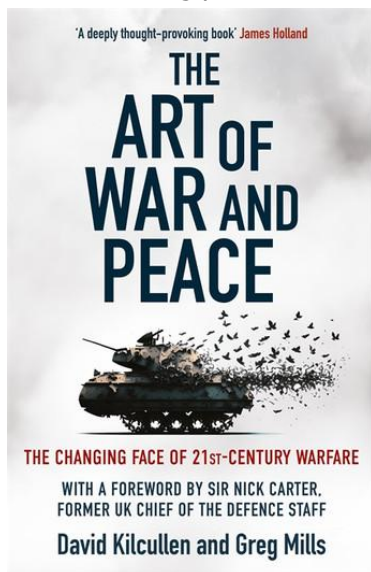
*The Changing Face of 21st-Century Warfare*

**David Kilcullen and Greg Mills**

Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2025  
Paperback 336pp RRP: \$36.99

Reviewer: Michael Arnold, November 2025

Academic and former Australian Army officer David Kilcullen and Greg Mills, Brenthurst Foundation head and advisory board member of RUSI, London have collaborated to produce *The Art of War and Peace*. In the book, they analyse past lessons, current observations and predictions to explore how wars can be won in the battlespace and how that success can be translated into enduring peace.



The book is divided into four chapters plus an introduction and conclusion. The introduction is titled *A Pre-War World* and posits that the world is poised on the brink of devastating conflict. The authors argue that all the pieces for this are present: including the Russo-Ukraine War, tensions across the Taiwan Strait, American division, rising populism in Latin American (I would add Europe), and endemic war and increasing poverty in Africa. They argue that this potentially foreshadows a return to the carnage of the twentieth century. However, they state that this is not foreordained.

The chapter overviews the current state of the world, highlighting US and Western misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan and the consequence breakdown in the efficacy of Western deterrence. They suggest revisionist powers such as China and Russia have been emboldened. Kilcullen and Mills then offer up an approach to make sense of the world's chaos, manage conflicts and most importantly, win the peace; something at which the West has been poor since the end of World War Two.

Their analytical approach is based on: field trips to many of the conflict zones examined in the book; conferences convened with regional leaders, including protagonists in

conflicts: and interviews key figures with directly involved in the wars and conflicts analysed. Kilcullen and Mills are not your typical academics and are certainly not lacking in courage!

Chapter One: *Three Wars, Three Questions, Three Themes* uses the wars in Afghanistan, Ukraine and Ethiopia as case studies. They note that all three have been fought roughly at the same time on three continents, employing different combinations of technology and skill levels, and all have involved outside powers with (so far) very different outcomes. Obviously, the Afghanistan War concluded with an overwhelming Taliban victory after an incompetent (and cowardly, according to the authors) Western retreat. They explore the causes for this in detail.

Their analysis of the Ukraine war is up until mid-2024 and, therefore, is a little dated. They are scathing of America's initial response, stating that that on the cusp of Russian invasion, President Biden undercut any deterrence offered by Ukraine's supporters by stating that the deployment of US troops to Ukraine was 'not on the table'. Ukraine was lucky in that its president has considerable resolve and clear ability to galvanise domestic and international support. Russian hubris and initial military incompetence helped Ukraine in the war's early stages. Also, the authors remind the reader that the Ukrainians have been fighting the Russian since 2014 and were to a degree battle-hardened.

The authors analyse the war in Ethiopia or more accurately, the Tigrayan War, in similar detail. Tigray is a relatively small region to the north of the country and the Tigrayans make up only six percent of Ethiopia's population. However, the conflict has been particularly bloody, and unlike the war in Ukraine, has attracted limited Western interest. The conflict was concluded in 2022 (though skirmishes between the two sides have continued since then) and the authors analyse in detail its many lessons for concluding a war.

Their conclusion is that the three conflicts demonstrate that Western deterrence and geopolitical influence is in rapid decline, as is the effectiveness of the Western way of war. They also assert that the critical importance of war termination, something they note that the US and its allies have been so palpably poor. War termination is the art of converting battlefield success into enduring peace.

Chapter Two: *Bigger Wars* examines large-scale combat operations (LSCO) once again using Ukraine, Ethiopia, Taiwan as a possible future case and several other examples to explore the LSCO aspects of contemporary and future warfare, including their implications for war termination. They suggest that a key lesson from Ukraine is that in a war of national survival, amid a return to large-scale industrial warfare reminiscent of the two world wars, is the ability of a state to effectively mobilise its personnel, industrial and manufacturing base. They spell out the far-reaching, catastrophic consequences of a conflict between China and Taiwan,

which includes the possibility of war between the two superpowers. They also draw lessons from the Ethiopian war, which certainly qualifies as an Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO).

Chapter Three: *Smaller Wars*, which the authors describe as limited-objective, low intensity conflicts that usually include inter- and intra-state dimensions, can have major consequences. Smaller wars and the associated fragmented state sovereignty are prevalent in Africa. The authors note that in 2023 half of all the world's conflicts were in Africa. They identify a large number of lessons such as: find and address the real causes of conflicts; don't become hypnotised by battlefield metrics; locals must lead - in every respect; and war is politics. There are many more such lessons and they are all salient, hard-won insights, useful for anyone involved in attempting to conclude wars.

Chapter Four: *War into Peace* is the culminating chapter. The authors ask 'how, then, to win a modern war?' And they are not talking about mere battlefield victories, which are not ends in themselves, rather they are the means to enduring peace. Their answers, not surprisingly, are complex thorough and well-reasoned. In short, while there are no easy solutions there are solutions. Success is dependent on understanding the battlefield realities, including the impact of new technologies etc, but also the social and governance context within which a war takes place. They examine the success or lack thereof the United Nations in war termination since 1948 to demonstrate just how difficult it is. They conclude that UN peacekeeping has become either endless or impossible.

Conclusion: *Where Have All the Leaders Gone?* The authors artfully sum up the key lessons identified in the book. They lament the failings of Western leadership – its lack of strategic understanding, its willingness to be seduced by warfighting approaches totally inappropriate for the battlespaces in which they are employed. For example, they outline Westmoreland's World War Two attritional techniques to the jungles of Southeast Asia without understanding Vietnam's history, culture or its soldiers' perfection of guerrilla warfare. Amongst a number of key lessons, one of note is that escalation of a response, either military or economic, can create dividends and signalling a willingness to do so, helps dispel the bluff of wily political leaders like Vladimir Putin.

I found *The Art of War and Peace* an excellent and provocative read. For those practitioners and academics in international relations and security studies, I would argue that it is a must read. But I also commend it to those readers with an interest in the current state of the world and who are trying to make sense of an increasingly fraught state of affairs. The book, while painting a bleak future does offer some hope. Leaders, through hard graft and, I suggest, the honest and thorough application of Kilcullen's and Mills' war

termination methodology could go a long way to resolving many of the world's current conflicts.



## The RUSI Needs You

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

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

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

Please contact the Secretary Bob Hart, by email: [secretary@rusivic.org.au](mailto:secretary@rusivic.org.au)

## New Acquisitions (since September 2025)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Subject</b>	
<i>Australia's Coastal War</i> shores.	Tom Lewis	When World War Two reached	our
<i>Tank</i>	Mark Urban	The ten war machines that changed the world and the remarkable men behind them.	
<i>Soldiers Don't Go Mad</i>	Charles Glass	A story of brotherhood, poetry, mental illness during the First World War.	
<i>The Causes of War</i>	Geoffrey Blainey	From 1700 to today.	
<i>The Road to Hell</i>	Robert Likeman	The Australian doctors at war.	
<i>Australia's Aviation Heroes</i>	Colin Burgess	True stories from our airmen at war.	
<i>Code of Silence</i> the War.	Diana Thorp	How Australian women helped	win
<i>Inferno</i>	Phillip Bradley	Australians on the Western Front.	
<i>A Nasty Little War</i> Revolution.	Anna Reid	The West's fight to reverse the	Russian
<i>Borneo</i>	Michael Veitch	The last campaign.	
<i>War and Power</i>	Phillips Payson O'Brien	Who wins wars - and why.	
<i>Trails to Freedom</i>	Simon Tancred	The true story of the Medieval Trails used by Anzac POWs to escape Italy in 1943–1944.	
<i>Sister Bullwinkel</i>	Lynette Ramsay Silver	The uncensored story.	
<i>Blamey</i>	Brent D Taylor	Gallipoli, Kokoda and beyond: the story of Australia's greatest general.	
<i>My Flying Boat War</i>	Wng Cdr 'Vic' Hodgkinson DFC	Survival and success over the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific in WW2.	
<i>Fly Boy</i>	Peter Hodge	Ace pilot - a life cut short.	
<i>The Douglas Boston in</i> <i>RAAF Service</i>	Michael John Claringbould	No. 22 Squadron 1942-1944.	