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RUSIV Occasional

Celebrating our 131st Year

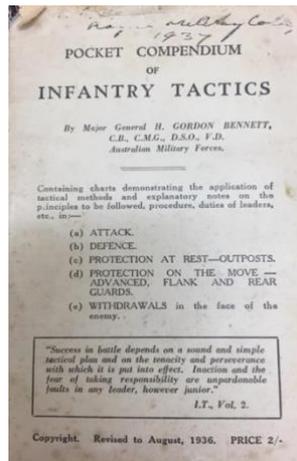
A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Forthcoming Anniversaries

- 22 November 1916:** *Monash's 3 Div reaches France*
- 22 November 1944:** *Australia assumes responsibility for Bougainville, New Guinea*
- 23 November 1901:** *Lt Leslie Maygar, 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, awarded the VC for his actions Geelhoutboom, Natal*
- 23 November 1944:** *Australian troops relieve Americans at Cape Torokina, Bougainville*
- 24 November 1943:** *Sgt Thomas Derrick, 2/48 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Sattelberg, New Guinea*
- 25 November 1951:** *3 RAR in Battle of Suncheon, Korea*
- 26 November 1942:** *HMAS Adelaide sinks German blockade runner Ramus in the Indian Ocean*
- 1 December 1942:** *Japanese aircraft sink HMAS Amidale near Timor. The hero of the battle was a young ordinary seaman, Edward Sheean, who refused to leave the ship. He had no chance of escape. Strapped to his anti-aircraft gun, he blazed away till the last.*

Member contributions are always welcome.



Lt Gen H. Gordon Bennett (1887-1962)

Henry Gordon Bennett was commissioned in the Militia in 1908 and volunteered for the AIF in 1914. He landed at Gallipoli as 2IC of the 6th Battalion on 25th April 1915. After the Battle of Krithia he was promoted to the command of the 6th though he resented not achieving that appointment earlier. On the Western Front he performed well, being promoted to command the 3rd Brigade in 1916. His brigade fought notably at Bullecourt, France (April to May 1917), the Menin Road (September) and Passchendaele (October), Belgium, and again in France at the Hindenburg line from September to November 1918. In contrast, his prickly temperament and tendency to act without orders from divisional headquarters provoked Major General (Sir) William Glasgow to observe: 'Bennett is a pest!'

He returned to civil life in 1919 and remained in the Citizen Military Force achieving command of the 2nd Division in 1926 and promotion to major general in 1930. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was confident that his seniority would land him command of the 2nd AIF. Blamey, a former regular officer, passed him over primarily on the grounds of temperament. Bennett continued to be sidelined until the unexpected death of General White led to his appointment to command the 8th Division in September 1940. Bennett took two of his brigades to Malaya where his relationships with commanders above and under his command was fiery. His decision to return to Australia on the fall of Singapore in February 1942 was largely based his view that he had valuable lessons to impart on methods of fighting the Japanese. Bennett was rusticated to III Corps in Western Australia and was not afterwards given any fighting command in the war.

The illustrated item (1936) in our collection has five cards on tactics. Few copies exist. Its publication perhaps implies lack of respect for the chain of command.

No library seems to hold a copy of a 1942 publication by Bennett on the lessons he learnt in Malaya. We also hold the transcript of a War Cabinet briefing by Bennett on 2nd March 1942. It makes interesting reading!

Key to internet references: (M) – magazine or website; (N) - newspaper; (F) – film clip; (P) - podcast

Defence

Army, Navy and Air Force in joint live fire - Exercise Western Shield: [\(F\)Defence](#)

10 years of shared commitment to the US-Australia alliance: [\(F\)Defence](#)

DroneShield of NSW named a finalist in Australian Export Awards: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Army

Kapooka, the 'Home of The Soldier' turns 70: [\(F\)Defence](#)

New look Regional Combat Team Warfighter training exercise: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Navy

HMAS *Stalwart* commissioning: [\(F\)RAN](#)

A look at Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2021: [\(F\)RAN](#)

Submariner rescue training - Exercise Black Carillon 21: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Air Force

RAAF's mysterious surveillance missions from Singapore: [\(M\)AustralianDefenceMagazine](#)

Design of Boeing's loyal wingman gives clues about performance and roles: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

The Magnificent Seven, No. 35 Squadron March of the Spartans: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Indo-Pacific

The Indo-Pacific operating system: power, order & rules for the 21st century (Lowy Institute 2021 On-line Conference - Registration); [\(M\)LowyInstitute](#)

New Zealand

Exercise Peka Peka: RNZAF working with NZ Police: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

3rd Combat Service Support Battalion perform haka during dedication ceremony: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

Royal New Zealand Air Force: No. 40 Squadron descend into Phoenix Airfield, Antarctica: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

Singapore

India, Singapore and Thailand holding mega naval exercise in Andaman Sea: [\(M\)EconomicTimesIndia](#)

UK

British defence chief General Sir Nicholas Carter says AUKUS security pact 'not designed to be exclusive': [\(M\)ABCNews](#)

Defence secretary summons UK army board amid series of scandals: [\(M\)Guardian](#)

New British Army Fitness Standards: [\(F\)BritishArmy](#)

US

Recommended: Biden and Xi, Kerry and Xie: monologues, not dialogue: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Russia tests anti-satellite weapon, US astronauts take cover: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Military History

Discipline within the AIF on the Western Front | Greg Stephens: [\(F\)WesternFrontAssociation](#)

The Battle of Kapyong, a Canadian perspective: [\(F\)ValourCanada](#)

Thai Occupation of Germany - A Forgotten WW1 Operation: [\(F\)Felton](#)

China

Why Keating is wrong about China: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)