



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 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Mike Rawlinson

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COVID 19 Lockdown Edition (6th Victorian Lockdown)



A USN Virginia Class Nuclear Powered Submarine

Following a historic AUKUS Partnership, the Federal Government has cancelled work on the French designed Attack Class conventional submarine and announced its intention to acquire US/UK nuclear powered submarines.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Incorporated

October 2021 Newsletter

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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



Lockdown has become a constant in our lives. We all look forward to its cessation. During this interminable period, we have had no access to our office or the library. Bob Hart, a Ballarat resident, was caught by the short notice of the lockdown and has been unable to access our laptop computer - he would

have liked to take it home. We have not collected mail or been able to deal with correspondence other than by email. Our lunchtime speaker venue, Anzac House has been closed to us and others. In the absence of monthly speakers, we have substituted our weekly e-newsletter, now approaching its 90th issue. I am pleased that it has been well-received.

Members know that we have initiated an annual ADF Ethics Essay Competition with a prize of \$2000. We plan to run this competition for 10 years. So far we have raised \$13 000 to allow this - \$3000 has come from the generosity of our members and the remainder has been endowed by a private trust. I would like to renew an appeal to our members to bring this sum to \$20 000 to ensure the long-term viability of this scheme. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Bob Hart is planning our AGM which will be held using the lockdown *lingua franca* of Zoom. A very minimal level of computer literacy – indeed, one click – is all that will be needed. I am sure you will be up to the challenge. Details will follow soon.

In the meantime, I look forward to a double-vaccinated freedom, avoiding the mask-less and those in need of chin support in the interim!

Mike O'Brien

The Bloody Beachheads: The Battles of Gona, Buna and Sanananda

*One-Day Conference Saturday 12 November 2022
Keilor East RSL, 2-22 Hoffmans Rd, Essendon VIC 3040.*

Keynote Speaker

Dr Peter Williams - author of *Japan's Pacific War*

Register at www.mhhv.org.au



MILITARY HISTORY AND
HERITAGE VICTORIA INC.

KOKODA
HISTORICAL

Vale:

Marie Martini

3/12/1927 - 3/8/2021

The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria recently lost an ardent and dedicated supporter from the Geelong Region with the passing away of Marie Martini, who had a long and enlightened career participating in 'spreading the word' for the aims and objects of this organization.

Marie had been a member for over fifty years and during that period served on the Council firstly as the Geelong Branch Representative and then in 2002 became an elected Councillor as well as continuing as the liaison for the Geelong Branch. During the time of participation as a member of the Council she was honoured with being created an Honorary Life Member of the Institute. Finally, upon retirement from the Council in 2007 she was elevated to become a member of the Society Emeritus of the Institute.

Marie likewise was a very active member with the Geelong Branch of the Institute and served on the Branch Committee for a considerable number of years. She was elected Honorary Treasurer in 1988 and serving in that office until 1999 then being elected the Senior Vice President. Elected as President of the Geelong Branch in 2003 and she served with esteem over a two-year period. Marie then continued on as the immediate past president, simultaneously continuing on as the Branch Representative to the Council up until her retirement in 2007.

A person of strong character, dedicated to the cause whose wise counsel will be missed.

Bequests

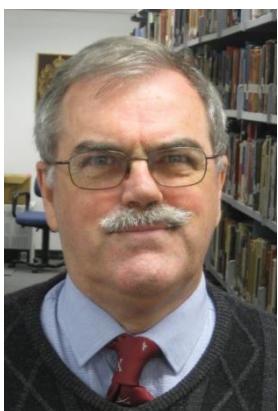
Royal United Services Institute of Victoria

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.

From the Secretary:
Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD



I have little for the October newsletter. Perhaps a simple Steady as she goes and maybe the light at the end of the tunnel is not the oncoming train!

With deep regret we record the passing of our members Marie Martini and Air Vice Marshal Alan Reed

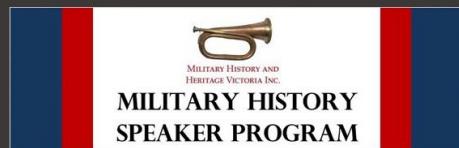
Stay safe and hopefully see you at the end of all this.

Bob Hart

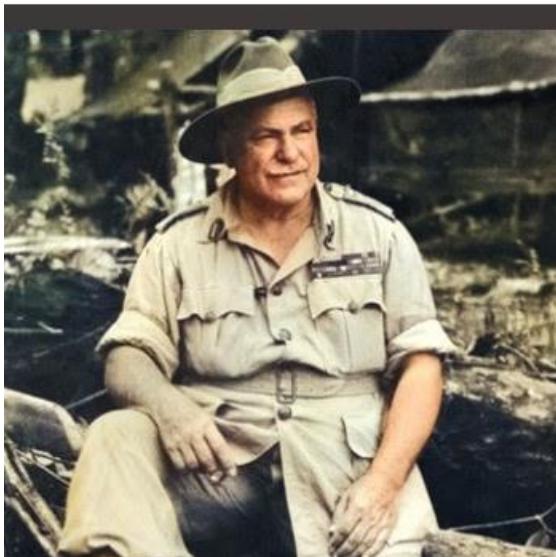
Leadership in Crisis: Blamey at War

Speaker: Brent D Taylor

MHHV Zoom Speaker Event
Wednesday 10 November 2021 7:00PM-8:00PM



For details visit the MHHV Web Site



**Tomahawk – ‘
An Oldie but a Goodie’ (that works!)**

The Tomahawk cruise missile is a precision weapon that launches from ships and submarines and can strike targets precisely from 1,000 miles away, even in heavily defended airspace. (Raytheon)

The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile is a long-range, all-weather, jet-powered subsonic cruise missile that is primarily used by the USN and the Royal Navy in ship- and submarine-based land-attack operations.

The Tomahawk was initially produced in the 1970s as a medium- to long-range, low-altitude missile that could be launched from a surface platform. The missile's modular design accommodates a wide variety of warhead, guidance, and range capabilities. At least six variants and multiple upgraded versions have been introduced since then, including air-, sub-, and ground-launched variants and conventional and nuclear-armed ones. As of 2019, only non-nuclear, sea-launched variants assembled by Raytheon are currently in service. The missile is currently manufactured by Raytheon. Over 2,000 Tomahawks have been launched in combat. The Tomahawk was most recently used by the US Navy against Syrian chemical weapons facilities when 66 were launched in the 2018 missile strikes against Syria.

The missile can be launched from submerged submarines either vertically, or horizontally from torpedo tubes.

Approximate Specifications:

Length – 20 ft

Wingspan – 9 ft

Speed – 0.74 Mach, 890 kph

Range – 1500-2500km

Diameter - 20.4 in

Unit Cost - \$US 1.5m

Operating Altitude – 100-150ft AGL

Warhead – 1000lbs high explosive

Opinion:

Long-Term World Problems and the Mindset to Handle Them

Mike Rawlinson

The 21st Century offers ongoing change. After a relatively benign 60 years for the developed world, particularly Australia, we have become complacent in our outlook and thinking. Significant challenges will need to be met by a more robust mindset if our way of life is to continue and improve.

Long-Term World Problems

As the urgent invariably overshadows the important, and the short-term overshadows the long-term, we have been understandably pre-occupied dealing with COVID-19 and Australia's relationship with China. These worries have been joined by the release in August of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) AR-6 Report to the United Nations. With maximum dramatic effect, AR-6 reinforces the conclusions of previous reports of global warming and the need to constrain greenhouse gas emissions.

As well as climate change, recognised long-term world problems include nuclear war; human impact on the environment, environmental degradation, pollution; population growth – food and water security; extreme poverty; uncontrolled migration; inequality; cyber crime/cyber warfare; future global pandemics and financial collapse.

In varying degrees these global problems are interrelated. They have the potential to place all or some nations under stress and could lead to the breakdown of societies. Additionally nuclear war and pandemics are potentially existential threats for humanity.

In 2006 Canadian academic Thomas Homer-Dixon identified five 'tectonic stresses': population, energy, environmental, climate and economic, that could converge with catastrophic effect for national and global order.¹ These stresses could be amplified by *multipliers* which make breakdown more likely, wide-spread, and severe. Multipliers are the rising speed and global connectivity of human activities, technologies and societies, and the escalating power of small groups to destroy things and people.

Doomsayers say we have already exceeded earth's sustainable capacity to support the still expanding population. A contrary view in relation to human impact on the planet and sustainability is held by cornucopians

who see human ingenuity producing ever increasing abundance.

While the doomsayers are shrill and favoured by the media, there are positive trends in relation to population, life-expectancy, education, income distribution, extreme poverty, natural disasters, access to electricity, and the survival of species. Working with UN and World Bank statistics Rosling (2019) found that things everywhere are better than most people in developed countries thought or imagined.² In countries where things were bad, they were everywhere improving. People's pessimism stemmed from a lack of familiarity with factual information, and their instincts in interpretation.

Current indications are that the potential of the new wave of innovation to solve emerging population/human impact problems is very good. While the future implications for energy, food, fresh water, resources, climate change and human well-being, are positive, problems will persist in specific areas, and for peoples who are unable to adjust and adapt to changing conditions.

Already many countries have experienced shortages of food, energy and water, and the resilience of the global community has been tested by the full range of natural disasters.

Immigration from less-developed countries with higher fertility to advanced countries may offer the means of offsetting the latter's ageing populations, but also can be the source of friction if immigrant groups are large and are of a different race or religion. Resolution of this clash of religions and cultures represents a real political challenge.

Population increase in the less-developed countries and their economic development increases the global demand for food, water, resources and energy, as well as increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Besides whatever effects climate change may bring, there are likely to be food crises, energy shortages and water shortages. Civil unrest and conflict over resources will generate uncontrolled migration to developed countries. As countries push the limits of sustainability in food, water and energy, there will be less redundancy and nations will become more vulnerable to cyclic, trend or random extreme weather events.

Projected population imbalances, combined with economic and environmental stresses that occur from time to time, do not engender confidence for a peaceful and prosperous world. However, future conflicts are more likely to be related to nationalism, religious fundamentalism and perceived inequality between (rich) developed countries with ageing populations and (poor) developing countries with young adult populations.

¹ Thomas Homer-Dixon, *The Upside of Down, Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization*, Text Publishing, Melbourne, 2006. p11.

² Hans Rosling, *Factfulness*, Sceptre, 2019

As a resource rich island continent in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia is potentially well placed to withstand the challenges of the 21st Century and help regional neighbours.

Some of the world's problems directly affect Australia. Others may only have a marginal affect, but because of global interconnectedness, the indirect effects may still be significant. Outcomes will very much depend on the mindset of Australian's and their response.

A Mindset to Match the Challenges

The future offers surprise, instability and extraordinary change. To best handle the future challenges, we need to develop and incorporate change into our mindset and world view.

Your world view is your outlook on the world and life, which affects your expectations and conditions your actions. This is conditioned by your culture, race, religion, gender, age, education, experiences and the history, geography and politics of where you live. For most in Australian society their world view is based on the values of a mature liberal democracy, a Christian culture with British institutions and traditions.

We need to be aware of and seek to understand current and future issues. We often take a distorted view of events, not necessarily from fake news but from our dramatic instincts in misinterpreting the information available. These dramatic instincts can lead to mega misconceptions, and decisions based upon these misconceptions are likely to be wrong.

Our worldview anchored on facts also needs to incorporate a holistic perception of the world as a complex adaptive system in which everything is connected to everything else. The worldview needs to be complementary to a recognition of ongoing and continuous change and the ability to handle it. Homer-Dixon calls this mindset a prospective mind.

To navigate this turbulent future 'we need to adopt an attitude toward the world, ourselves within it, and our future that's grounded in the knowledge that constant change and surprise are now inevitable. The new attitude – which involves having a *prospective mind* – aggressively engages with this new world of uncertainty and risk. A prospective mind recognises how little we understand, and how we control even less.'³ We need to anticipate harmful outcomes and act to mitigate them. The prospective mind seeks to make our societies – and each one of us – more resilient to external shock and more supple in response to rapid change. In a world of relentless change and surprise, we must constantly reinvent our societies, ourselves, and our future.⁴

As well as disruption associated with world problems, new technology imposes its own changes on society. A prospective mindset will be alert to innovation and new opportunities and have the flexibility to adapt to change. Flexibility is important as the opportunities offered by new technologies including artificial intelligence and robotics will be disruptive in almost all occupations. At the national level successful adaption to mitigate or avoid long-term threats requires early perception and action.

We need to elect leaders who have who have a long view and a prospective mindset. This means voting for political representatives and parties that display these qualities. Not only must our leaders have a prospective mindset, but they also need the political will to act. Where governments hold power by narrow majorities, they are reluctant to act if they believe it will cost them office.

In a democracy political will is very much dependent on public opinion which is conditioned by the widely held mindset of society. An electorate with a prospective mindset and a predilection for adaptability is much more likely to have the understanding to accept short-term pain to achieve long-term gain or to avoid long-term disadvantage.

Along with participation in public policy development, the development of a prospective mindset needs to be fostered, as well as the need to put the national interest before sectional interests.

Conclusion

The world faces a number of long-term mega problems in the 21st Century which could result in the breakdown of some societies and uncontrolled migration. Because of global interconnectedness all countries will be directly or indirectly affected.

The rich developed countries including Australia have the potential to weather the storm of change ahead. How they fare will depend on their governments having a long view and a prospective mindset that accepts and engages with change.

Governments, community and media organisations need to ensure that they communicate information based on facts. Explicitly to deal with ongoing change a prospective mindset needs to be fostered, incorporating flexibility, adaptability, resilience and the paramount need for a national focus.

Unless Australians fix current outstanding problems and anticipate future problems as they emerge, we can expect a mediocre future.

³ Homer-Dixon, p29

⁴ Homer-Dixon, p30

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

July 1, 2021 – September 29, 2021

(Covid lock-down continuing).

Michael Small

July 1 2021

Australia has completed its formal troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, ending a commitment that took 41 ADF lives. According to the Defence Department, Australia contributed 80 Defence personnel to NATO's *Resolute Support Mission* in Afghanistan. These were involved in training, advising and assisting local forces

July 5 2021

Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Shingo Yamagami, said Australia would not resist Chinese economic coercion alone. Japan would work with Australia and other countries to provide "a counterweight against such a dominant power". The Ambassador said the agreement would allow Japan's Self-Defence Force personnel to come to Australia and enable ADF personnel to undertake more training in Japan. Japan was interested in making more use of Australia's training facilities and weapon ranges in the future and undertaking joint exercises with the Royal Australian Navy. Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Defence Minister Peter Dutton and their Japanese counterparts, Motegi Toshimitsu and Kishi Nobuo said both countries were committed to "opposing coercion and de-stabilising behaviour by economic means, which undermines the rules-based international system".

July 11 2021

The last six Australians: BRIG Todd Ashurst + 5, have left Afghanistan ahead of the proposed date of September 11, 2021. The last combat force left Afghanistan December 15, 2013.

July 14 2021

The Chinese auxiliary general intelligence vessel (AGI) *Tianwangxing* (*Uranus*) has been observed heading towards Australia.. ADF says it has been monitoring the vessel for "several days". *Tianwangxing* is expected to monitor the *Talisman Sabre* 2021 war games involving Australia and United States. *Tianwangxing* is fitted with advanced communications systems including several clearly visible spherical domes, which shield dish antennas that collect and intercept radio signals and give it a distinct profile.

July 17 2021

Adverse commentary about Australia's future submarine force continues.

July 18 2021

A second Chinese auxiliary general intelligence (AGI) vessel, *Haiwangxing* (*Neptune*), has been observed heading for Australian waters. *Haiwangxing*, a sister

ship to the *Tianwangxing*, is believed to be monitoring this year's Exercise *Talisman Sabre*.

July 20 2021

"*Talisman Sabre* 2021 war games involving Australia and United States are designed to enhance inter-operability between Australian and US forces. The war games reflect the strength of the Australia-US alliance and the close and enduring nature of our military-to-military relationship. *Talisman Sabre* 2021 is a major undertaking for all participants and demonstrates our capacity to achieve large-scale operational outcomes while also dealing with a global pandemic".

July 21 2021

17,000 Australian and US personnel are participating in Exercise *Talisman Sabre*, the allies' biggest bilateral training mission, at Defence facilities across Queensland. The exercise involves contingents from four other countries *viz.* Japan, Canada, UK, New Zealand.

July 30 2021

Afghanistan Inquiry Reform Plan Delivering the Defence Response to the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry Version 1.0. "The reform will be conducted in five 'streams': organisational arrangements and command accountability; culture; workforce; information; and partnerships."

"The Afghanistan Inquiry was an independent inquiry conducted by MAJGEN Justice Paul Brereton, as Assistant IGADF, over the four-and-a-half-year period from mid-2016 to the end of 2020. The Inquiry was commissioned by Defence in response to rumours and allegations relating to possible breaches of the Law of Armed Conflict by members of the Special Operations Task Group in Afghanistan over the period 2005 to 2016. On November 6, 2020, the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) received the Afghanistan Inquiry report from the IGADF. On November 19, 2020 the CDF made a public statement and released a public version of the report.

The Afghanistan Inquiry made 191 findings and 143 recommendations, all of which have been accepted by Defence. There was credible information of unlawful conduct; the most disturbing was the identification of 23 incidents involving 25 Special Forces personnel, predominantly from SASR relating to alleged killing of 39 individuals and cruel treatment of two individuals".

July 31 2021

Adverse commentary is circulating about the naval frigates yet to be built. The initial cost was said to be \$35bn, but that figure is now \$45bn. In June 2018, Defence chose the British Type 26 *Global Combat Ship* with Australian modifications. Other contenders were the Italian *Fincantieri FREMM* or the Spanish *Navantia F-5000*. The Type 26 will replace current *Anzac-class* frigates to provide anti-submarine warfare capability. Defence Minister Dutton said the delivery of the first Australian frigate will be delayed by up to 18 months *i.e.* 2031-2033.

Controversy about the rate of constructing the ships is an issue. For reasons yet to be made clear, the frigates will be in service at a date later than planned, and this, at a time of increasing international tension. The cost of the two programs, frigates and subs, is estimated to be \$135bn.

August 2 2021

Defence Minister Dutton has referred to India participating in Australia's next war games with US. India invited Australia to the *Malabar naval exercise* with US and Japan last year. The Minister said Japan's participation in this year's exercise had been a highlight of the war games. Soldiers from Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force joined a multi-national amphibious force during *Talisman Sabre 2021*, with a combined assault exercise from HMAS Canberra. Australian soldiers, US Marines, Royal Marine Commandos and a Japanese ship were involved in the exercise. About 17,000 personnel from seven nations, Australia, US, UK, Japan, Canada, South Korea and New Zealand participated in *Talisman Sabre 2021*, together with 18 ships, 70 fixed wing aircraft and 50 helicopters. Defence Force joined a multi-national amphibious force during *Talisman Sabre 2021*, with a combined assault exercise from HMAS Canberra. Australian soldiers, US Marines, Royal Marine Commandos and a Japanese ship were involved in the exercise. About 17,000 personnel from seven nations, Australia, US, UK, Japan, Canada, South Korea and New Zealand participated in *Talisman Sabre 2021*, together with 18 ships, 70 fixed wing aircraft and 50 helicopters.

August 3 2021

Australia and US have both made mistakes (acc. to Robert Gottlieben) in Defence planning. GEN Hyten, vice-chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Air Force LTGEN Clint Hinote have commented that US has lost its global air and tactical superiority. The word "useless" was used in describing the Joint Strike Fighter/F-35.

The Department of Defence has set out a four-year process to reform ADF culture and command accountability in response to the Brereton Inquiry. The report sets out a plan to restore trust and confidence in the ADF, restore its reputation and ability to spot warning signs of improper conduct. A package will be delivered over more than four years to the end of 2025, focusing on organisational arrangements, chain-of-command responsibility, recruitment and performance management.

August 12 2021

Australia has joined a US-led program to develop new land-based guided missiles capable of striking surface targets and ships at ranges of up to 500km, in a move to equip the ADF with modern area denial weapons. The federal government has contributed \$70m under an agreement with US to develop the next phase of its *Precision Strike Missile* (PrSM) program.

The missile will improve on an earlier baseline version, with increased range and accuracy, and the ability to engage moving targets. The agreement comes as Australia tries to convince US to share top-secret military

technology to manufacture some of its most powerful weapons under licence in Australia.

August 15 2021

Taliban take control in Afghanistan. A *débâcle* for the Western allies. Large numbers of Afghans who had assisted allied forces have been flown out of the country. Accurate numbers of those who have been extracted are elusive. Reports suggest a total of 117,000; with 75,000 on US flights; 11,000 + on British flights and 4,100 on ADF aircraft. Thousands remain, unable to get to Kabul airport in safety.

August 16 2021

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan take control in Afghanistan. President Ashraf Ghani and other members of his government leave Kabul. The situation described as *chaotic*. 250 + ADF personnel support the airlift of Australian citizens and visa holders from Afghanistan, amid chaos in Kabul after the collapse of the government.

August 27 2021

A suicide bomber/member of Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K), a rival group to Taliban, strikes at Kabul airport. Reported death toll is 170. This number includes 12 US marines and one US Navy medic. 140 + reported to be wounded. UK PM Boris Johnson described the attack as "barbaric and despicable". No ADF personnel were involved.

August 31 2021

US military presence in Afghanistan ends after twenty years. The cost was 2,461 US lives and \$US824.9bn.

September 1 2021

The commander of SASR will be the only combat unit leader to hold the position of colonel, under changes that are aimed at addressing concerns in the Brereton report about the structure of the elite regiment. Ass./ Defence Minister Andrew Hastie, a former SAS officer, said it signified a new era for the regiment.



Tomahawk

September 4 2021

The Government plans to equip the *Collins-class* subs, the Airwarfare destroyers and the *Hunter-class* future frigates with long range *Tomahawk* cruise missiles.

Tomahawks are long range precision weapons with a range of 1500km. Defence Minister Dutton said in Parliament that "the situation in the Indo-Pacific is deteriorating and is uncertain as the period before WWII".

September 4 2021

Japanese PM, Yoshida Suga, intends to stand down. His departure will affect the forthcoming QSD conference which will have to be postponed until late October. Minister Dutton and Foreign Minister Payne will go to Washington for this year's AUSMIN conference.

September 16 2021

AUKUS: Australia will acquire at least eight nuclear-powered submarines in a decision that will deliver the nation strike capability and require an increase in Defence spending. The new submarines will be delivered under an historic Defence technology partnership involving: Australia, United States and United Kingdom (AUKUS) to meet rising Chinese strategic threats. The submarines will cost more than the estimated \$90bn for the now-cancelled French-designed *Attack-class* submarines.



USN Virginia Class Nuclear Powered Submarine

France has criticized Australia's decision to cancel their submarine contract. The French Foreign Minister said cancelling the \$90 billion subs deal with Naval Group was "contrary to the spirit and the letter" of cooperation between Canberra and Paris.

September 17 2021

The French submarine contract was originally announced April 29, 2016. The estimated tender price was \$23bn in 2016 dollars, but operating costs took the bill to around \$270bn. That contract has now been cancelled, and a new AUKUS agreement will see nuclear-powered submarines in service with the RAN. The new (*i.e.* Australian) submarines could be versions of the USN's '*Virginia*' class subs and/or the RN's '*Astute*' class. One possible version could be a hybrid UK-style sub with US nuclear power drive and weaponry. Another possibility is that RAN might lease a less powerful *Los Angeles* Class submarine from US. Also suggested is the possibility of RAN personnel serving on existing nuclear powered submarines to gain experience.

Former PM Turnbull made the purchase-decision (April 29, 2016) to acquire the French-designed *Attack-class*

submarines. Since that date, there has been continuous adverse comment about the submarine contract, and a series of unsatisfactory business arrangements with the French.

September 18-19 2021

Comment about the way negotiations with the French team were undertaken are still surfacing. Five years ago, the French had sent "a brilliant team of salespeople led by Madame Marie-Pierre de Baillencourt". National Security Committee endorsed the French bid on Sunday, April 24, 2016. While the then PM Turnbull was announcing the French bid in Australia, French President (at the time) François Hollande was saying that 3,000 to 4,000 jobs would be created in France. This was not the deal made in Australia. Madame de Baillencourt *et al.* are no longer involved in these business dealings, and a new team arrived in Australia to set the (French) record straight.

Under the new AUKUS agreement, Australia will acquire or have access to: (i) at least eight nuclear-powered submarines; (ii) Tomahawk cruise missiles for the *Hobart-class* destroyers; (iii) Joint air-to-surface stand-off missiles for F/A 18 A/B Hornets; (iv) Long range anti-ship missiles for the F/A-18F Super Hornet; (v) Continuing collaboration with US to develop hypersonic missiles; (vi) Precision-strike guided missiles on the land capable of hitting targets 400km away; (vii) Co-operation on missile capabilities, cyber, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, research and development and industrial supply chains.

September 23 2021

UK proposes that two or three RN nuclear submarines could be in Australian waters and be serviced in Australian ports. US has the capacity to use nuclear submarines around Australia well before the expected construction of the new (Australian) subs.

Postscript on Naval Affairs

George Santayana (1863-1952) the Spanish/American moral philosopher wrote:

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

September 29 2021

A suggestion has been made that the ADF could be readied for double duty. The ADF could be training to respond professionally for emergency relief tasks both in Australia and within the SE Asia and SW Pacific regions. How could the ADF be better prepared for this secondary role? Officers and senior NCOs could be required to have a secondary skill in emergency management-related areas as part of their normal career progression. This would make the ADF much better prepared for assistance to government in responding to natural disasters, evacuating civilians and other emergency tasks. The ADF is too large and valuable a resource for it not to be professionally cross-trained and equipped for vital civilian support activities .

Xi Jinping Thought

Michael Small

President Xi Jinping assumed office as President, Peoples' Republic of China, on March 14, 2013, following his appointment as General Secretary of the Communist Party in 2012. Upon taking office, he introduced a series of policy changes for the 'New China' which included censorship and anti-corruption measures. Document 9, *Seven Dangerous Western Values* described as a critique of the liberal way of thinking, was released by Chinese Communist Party in July 2012.

Document 9 reveals what the Chinese Communist Party really thinks of Western values, Western principles, Western standards and Western ideas.

Document 9 identified seven key features of Western democracy with the comment that deviating from official Communist Party thinking or undermining Chinese Communist system was forbidden. Chinese Communist Party intended to be, and is, in firm control. The *Seven Dangerous Western Values* are: constitutional democracy, universal (western) values, civil society (individual rights), pro-market neo-liberalism, media independence, historical nihilism and criticism of past errors and questioning the nature of Chinese societies.

The Chinese Communist Party is more important/powerful than the formal organs of State and dominates them. China under President Xi is now driven by communist ideology to undertake structural change to governing the nation. President Xi is changing the Chinese economy with State agencies dominant, and CCP firmly in control. Three dominant eras are now seen to have emerged: (i) *China under Mao Zedong*: when China "stood up"; (ii) *China under Deng Xiaoping*: when China "grew rich"; and (iii) *China under Xi Jinping*: when China "became powerful". In 2018 the constitution was changed and President Xi Jingping effectively became president for life.

'Xi Jinping Thought' is the philosophical term used to describe the thinking that has encapsulated Marxist-Leninist thinking together along with Mao Tse-tung's thoughts and Deng Xiaoping theory. 'Xi Jinping Thought' consists of **fourteen** basic points. If any doubt remains about President Xi 's long term plans for his country, these points should be read with Australia's current strategic situation in mind.

The fourteen basic points are:

1. Ensuring Chinese Communist Party leadership over all forms of work in China.
2. Chinese Communist Party should take a people-centric approach for the public interest.
3. The continuation of comprehensive deepening of reforms.

4. Adopting new science-based ideas for innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

5. Following socialism with Chinese characteristics with people as master of the country.

6. Governing China with Rule of Law. *The 'Rule of Law' in China, as portrayed by several well-known cases would seem to be unacceptable to Western observers.*

7. Practise socialist core values, including Marxism, communism and socialism with Chinese characteristics.

8. Improving peoples' livelihood and well-being is the primary goal of development.

9. Coexist well with nature with energy conservation and environmental protection policies and contribute to global ecological safety.

10. Strengthen the National security of China.

11. Chinese Communist Party should have absolute leadership over China's Peoples' Liberation Army.

12. Promoting the one country, two systems system for Hong Kong and Macau with a future of complete national reunification and to follow the One-China policy and 1992 Consensus for Taiwan.

13. Establish a common destiny between Chinese people and other people around the world with a peaceful international environment.

14. Improve Party discipline in Chinese Communist Party.

(NB The *Seven Dangerous Western Values* and the *fourteen basic points of Xi Jinping Thought* are shown as they appear in the translation. The English format is sometimes ambiguous.)

While some of the fourteen points look innocuous and ones with which there could be no real argument, the fact remains that the Peoples' Republic of China is a Marxist-Leninist single-party state controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. China is convinced that the West (*i.e. US*) is in decline. China recognises that a new Cold War is taking place with an on-going struggle between two competing forms of government.

'Xi Jinping Thought' underlies Beijing's military escalation, 'wolf-warrior' diplomacy, foreign interference and economic coercion aimed at breaking Australia's will and forcing policy concessions. It has pressured Australia to choose between China and the US. The cancelling of the French *Attack-class* submarine contract and the AUKUS Nuclear Submarine deal is the result of that choice. Unsurprisingly, both the governments of China and France are unhappy with this development.

China is a Marxist-Leninist State controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. 'Xi Jinping Thought' sets out in clear and precise terms the current thinking of the new China and its President.

Book Reviews

This newsletter has 15 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.

A Narrative of Denial

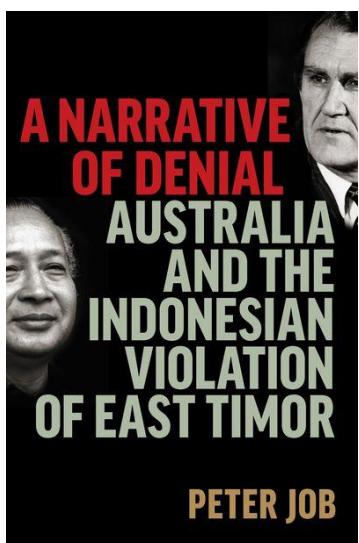
Australia and the Indonesian Violation of East Timor

Peter Job

Carlton, Victoria: Melbourne University Press, 2021
Paperback. 368pp. RRP \$39.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, June 2021

By limiting his work to covering the Whitlam and Fraser prime ministerships, Peter Job has comprehensively explored every facet of government policy, action (and inaction), manipulation of publicly disclosed accounts, deliberate withholding of information, ignoring intelligence reports and sacrificing a nation's people. Quite a litany of political malfeasance!



It was his anticolonialistic views that saw him support integration with Indonesia and work against decolonisation, self-determination, and possible independence for East Timor. Fraser regarded Indonesia as a cornerstone of its foreign policy, the Suharto Government was determining Australia's policy and the relationship was not to be upset at virtually any price.

At numerous points during the period examined, there was ample evidence available to the governments to 'reconstruct' policy and change their stance. There were government members who sought such changes but were conveniently not heard in the pursuit of a tunnel-vision goal that withheld all attempts to undergo even the smallest deviation. The government manipulated its stance so that it acquiesced to the Indonesian desire to absorb East Timor, but at the same time professed to be forthright in upholding the international norms on Human Rights. Australia, due to

its proximity to East Timor, was regarded as the 'world expert' on that country and its affairs, and, as a result, was able to thwart moves to have East Timor and its future discussed in the United Nations General Assembly.

The Australian Government used every method to track down and confiscate radio receivers tuned to the Fretlin broadcasts from East Timor. Any reports from church missions or private individuals were labelled as 'biased' and untrue representations of actual circumstances. The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) worked non-stop to abet the stream of misinformation fed to the Australian public.

The 'crunch' came on 16th September 1972 with the murder of the 'Balibo Five' by the invading Indonesian forces, who claimed the journalist identified themselves with the Fretlin in the civil war and, sadly, 'should not have been where they were'. Lawyer Bernard Collaery established, from British National Archives, that DFA were aware Indonesian intelligence regarded the visit of the five journalists as a 'hurdle to get over' as any camera footage being viewed internationally would have created massive problems for the Indonesia. A cable from the Jakarta Embassy on 18th September made it clear the incident 'could have serious consequences and inflame Australian public opinion if it appears that Australian casualties are the result of Indonesian intervention'. The official Whitlam Government line was that the operations in Balibo was a Timorese Popular Democratic Association and Timorese Democratic Union affair – the lie conveying to Indonesia that it could do whatever it liked with impunity and without incurring any Australian sanction.

Even when Indonesia finally conceded and allowed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to enter East Timor, aid was being confiscated by the Indonesian forces, and by charter, the ICRC was unable to comment on any aspect of the political situation or observed abuses. Massive famine was being created by herding the local population off their farming land and then claiming they were incompetent farmers and managers. In May 1979, Prime Minister Fraser personally responded in Parliament to a question on what efforts had Australia made to press the Suharto regime to ease the suffering of the Timorese people: 'It is my understanding that Indonesia will be going to very significant lengths to advance the cause and wellbeing of the people . . . I cannot say that I see anything constructive or anything that could be achieved from the thrust of the honourable gentleman's question.'

Sadly, it is obvious to any reader that this work could not have been given any other title. Job has produced a formidable and challenging work that has been extensively researched and is extremely thought-provoking.

Traitors and Spies

Espionage and Corruption in High Places in Australia, 1901-50

John Fahey

Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2020
Paperback 448pp RRP \$34.99

Reviewer: Bruce Brown, June 2021

TRAITORS AND SPIES

ESPIONAGE AND CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES IN AUSTRALIA, 1901-50



JOHN FAHEY

In March 2021 Mike Burgess the Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) presented a 'Threat Assessment for Australia' which included an observation that, under his watch, he wanted 'to make ASIO more open and transparent'. Established in 1949 the modern professional ASIO is a far cry from the haphazard way Australia's internal security interests were defined and managed from 1901. John Fahey has meticulously researched the pre-ASIO years and provides some significant revelations.

In 1901 the imperative was to establish an effective security intelligence system to police the Immigration Restriction Act. The focus was to identify and remove non-white residents. During the conscription campaigns of 1916-17 Billy Hughes established the Commonwealth Counter Espionage Bureau very small security intelligence group to spy on senior military officers, his Cabinet colleagues, and members of his own party. Security intelligence was gathered by military authorities, including the Defence Department and the Navy, and later from 1919, by the Investigation Branch of the federal Attorney-General's Department.

Fahey documents the role played by the military and special branches of the state police forces during the inter-war years. Of particular interest is Fahey's study of the NSW Police force and the rise to prominence of William John MacKay, who famously pulled Francis de Groot off his horse at the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932, and as Commissioner influenced the creation of the Subversive Organisation's Bureau which was 'the largest and most effective of the many security intelligence organisations operating in Australia at the time'. It accrued records on more than 40 000 NSW citizens.

Fahey devotes a lengthy section on the rise to prominence in Queensland of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Frederick Wake. In the wake of hysteria about Japan's entry in the war Wake led a crackdown on Italian cane growers and imprisoned a large number - leading to shortages of sugar and hardship for the families. Wake incurred the ire of senior US figures when they discovered that Wake was using prostitutes to seduce and gather information from US officers stationed at Queensland bases.

In 1946 Soviet espionage activities were highlighted by the defection of Igor Lourenco, a cypher clerk in the Soviet embassy in Canada. Gouzenko's revelations, US unease and British government pressure eventually encouraged Chifley's Labor government to create ASIO, a civilian-controlled security intelligence service, governed by legislation. In this regard Fahey pays tribute to John Dedman who overcame Chifley's doubts about the new service to see it established in negotiation with Britain's MI5.

John Fahey's attention to detail is apparent throughout the book. In sum, he has researched and written a significant and readable book which will satisfy both the historically minded cognoscenti as well as the general reader.

Tarra

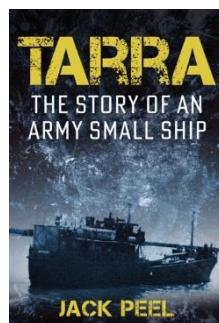
The story of a small ship that significantly impacted the Australian Army

Jack Peel

Crows Nest, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2020
Paperback 188pp RRP \$24.99

Reviewer: Roger Buxton, June 2021

Tarra was the third last of the 300-ton, 125-foot wooden cargo vessels built for the Army wartime small ship fleet, and the author completed his engineering training in her.



Launched in July 1945, just too late to take part in the Pacific War, *Tarra* was seaworthy and easy to handle, but subject to hogging and sagging in a seaway and required a reinforced keelson among other modifications.

AV 1379 Tarra was intended to join the fleet of small vessels operating in coastal waters to support the Army, but her life was spent with Army Small Ships after World War II. After builders' trials and working up she was used for transport and training, and then in transporting surplus ammunition from Sydney and dumping it at sea, a dangerous task that led to the sinking of a sister ship. Later she was seconded to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, then to the Commonwealth Department of Territories to transport copra in New Guinea and finally to support the Pacific Islands Regiment on 'The Vanimo Shuttle'.

Declared 'beyond economical repair' in 1965 she was sold and foundered on her first voyage with her new owners.

The story of *Tarra* is supported by an extensive review of Army Water Transport and its personnel, especially of those who served in *Tarra* where hard lying was the order of the day.

This is recommended reading anyone interested in small ship support for the Army.

Phillip Schuler

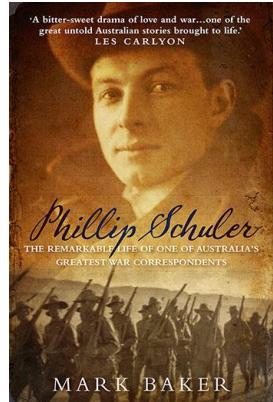
The remarkable life of one of Australia's greatest war correspondents

Mark Baker

Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2016
Paperback 352pp RRP \$32.99

Reviewer: Rob Ellis, June 2021

Phillip Schuler left school in 1905 and enrolled in the Law Faculty of the University of Melbourne. Had he continued his studies, he may well have become a leading jurist or barrister.



Instead, in 1909, after completing his first year at Law School he became a cadet journalist at *The Age*. There he came under the guidance of the then-editor of that august newspaper, his father, the reclusive and sometimes hot-tempered editor, Frederick Schuler, who served David Syme, the newspaper's campaigning proprietor, for 26 years as editor, and several

years as Chief of Staff.

In his formative years as a cadet, Philip formed a deep friendship with Roy Bridges [1885-1952], another cadet, with whom he formed a close friendship. Later, Schuler also worked with a third cadet, Keith A Murdoch [1885-1952], but it cannot be said that their early friendship endured.

As a young cadet journalist, Philip Schuler covered a visit to Australia by General Sir Ian Hamilton, then Inspector-General of the Overseas Forces of the British Empire. Philip, having had some years' service in the Australian Militia, was assigned to cover the tour for *The Age*. This was the start-point of a firm & close friendship which lasted for the remainder of Schuler's short life.

When General Hamilton was appointed to the command of the Allied Forces for the Dardanelles Campaign of 1915, Schuler was able to obtain access to the Gallipoli Peninsula, and to report freely to his paper, without much of the restrictive censorship imposed on most other correspondents. The only official Australian correspondent, the older and experienced C E W Bean, with whom Schuler had become friends on the troopship from Australia to Egypt, became his mentor, adding some polish to the younger man's raw talent. Bean became editor of *The Official History of Australia in the War* and gave guidance to Schuler on his account of the Gallipoli campaign, *Australians in Arms* [T Fisher: Unwin 1916 – copies are still available from booksellers], which is considered by many to be one of the better coverages of that ill-fated campaign.

However, the Gallipoli Campaign was not the be-all and end-all of Philip Schuler's life. In 1917, having had his book published, he enlisted in the A I F and was

posted to the Supply Train of General John Monash's newly formed 3rd Division, initially as a private, but rising rapidly to the rank of Lieutenant. He was mortally wounded by an artillery shell on 23 June 1917, dying two days later.

Philip Schuler was handsome, gifted, full of life, intelligent and witty, a gentle person, authentic, loyal, and hard-working. He never married, but he left behind an illegitimate son in Australia. He had, in 1915, committed himself to and planned to marry Nelly Rabinovitch, a young and beautiful widow & mother of 2 young daughters. She was of Russian and Egyptian parentage, and both sides of her family were among the social and economic elite of early 20th century Cairo. Nelly's relationship with Schuler was never formalised, and Philip was killed before he could return to Cairo to marry his beloved, who mourned him for much of her life. It seems it was very deep and sincere, love.

It is not unusual for a biography to evolve into lesser biographical studies of some of the more significant participants in the main subject's life, or to a particular set of events that are central to it.

As Schuler made his reputation almost entirely from his reporting of the Dardanelles Campaign, his work there, and the ramifications of it make a substantial and well-presented part of the book. There is also informative coverage of the Dardanelles Commission of 1916-1917. This was an attempt to explain away the catastrophe that was the whole operation; it was also an attempt to pin blame on General Sir Ian Hamilton for all that went wrong – but this failed. The Commission found that Hamilton had been given an almost impossible task, with inadequate forces which were inexperienced and poorly led [especially at Suvla Bay].

Keith Murdoch, [who later became Sir Keith and an Australian media baron] and Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett, an official British correspondent for the English 'Daily Telegraph', did not come out well, either from their reporting of the campaign or the findings of the Commission. Neither does Andrew Fisher, ex-Australian Prime Minister, who had been Australia's representative on the Commission. General Hamilton's reputation could not be saved – he was never to receive another command and finished his otherwise distinguished career as Lieutenant of the Tower of London.

This is a well-written and well-researched book, illustrated with photographs of Schuler and his family and friends [who were many], and of the Gallipoli battlefield as Philip saw it. Mr Baker has brought to life the work, career and family of a brilliant young journalist, and his role in bringing an open and unbiased account of a major event in Australia's history to the people of Australia.

It is a sad story, because it covers the short life of a journalist who, had he lived longer, may have been a distinguished member of that elite group of highly respected Australian journalists who have covered so much of our country's history. Mark Baker has made a significant contribution to this field.

Military Justice Handbook

Second Edition

Anthony Paphitti

Havant, United Kingdom: Howgate Publishing Limited, 2021
Paperback 820pp RRP \$193.91

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, July 2021

Paphiti has produced the second edition of a handbook that could, by some defence force members, be considered more as a 'bible'. It has been written to be all-inclusive - from senior military leaders to those in the civil community - because it is totally devoid of both military and legal jargon.

The opening chapters deal with ranks, command structures and the responsibilities of military members at all levels in all the services. Not overlooked are civilian employees in

military environments, both from their obligations whilst serving with the military and when and how military law applies to them.

Arrest, investigation, common service offences, administrative action by commanding officers and summary hearings are considered in great detail with virtually all possible nuances examined. The later chapters then list matters that would normally be outside commanding officers' jurisdiction – legal aid, fitness to stand trial, Court Martial pre-hearing procedure, trials and sentencing, appeals, young offenders (those under 18 years of age), victims of and witnesses to crime, and Service Inquiries and Coronial Inquests. Included are five pages of Statutory References and fifteen Appendices. An extremely detailed *Contents* make navigation to any desired general aspect a very easy matter, while the extensive *Index* provides quick access to specific items.

It is very easy to understand why this Second Edition would have been eagerly anticipated by so many both inside and outside Britain's military. While its scope covers all services within the British military system, its contents and guidelines can be applied and modified to one's own military and civil jurisdictions. As a retired commanding officer who had to deal with numerous summary offences, it would have been a great asset to have had Paphiti's *Handbook* on my bookshelf during that time.

Mine Warfare

1st Australian Task Force's Struggle for South Vietnam
Australian Army Combat Support Series No 3

Andrew Ross

Crows Nest NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2021
Paperback 160pp RRP \$19.99

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, July 2021

The Army History Unit's series continue to go from strength to strength. Each volume is authoritative, accessible, well-illustrated and available at an extremely good price.

This volume, in the Combat Support Series is no exception. Its author has a Defence Science background

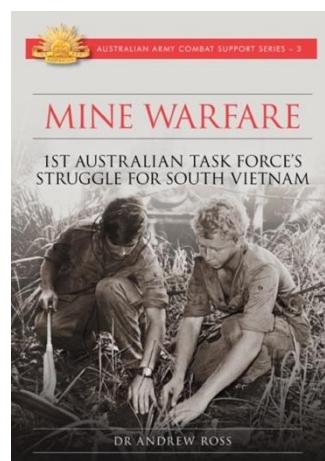
– it is therefore little surprise that his approach is analytical and strongly driven by data. Two important databases provided his material. The 1 ATF Contact Database 1966-1971 listed the small arms exchanges of fire with the enemy and the more extensive (by a factor of 10) Phước Tuy Incident Database 1966-1971 listed events of military significance. Both data sets

were assembled after the Việt Nam War. However, the relevant elements of them were available to our troops during the war, and in the case of mine incidents, were supplemented by mine incident maps that were regularly updated.

It was fortunate indeed that the Việt Nam War happened before mobile phones facilitated remote detonation of mines. The ready supply of M16 'Jumping Jack' mines from the Australian barrier minefield and chaotic Army of the Republic of Việt Nam minefields more than compensated for this future technological advance. 1ATF laid 20,292 M16 mines in its ill-advised Barrier Minefield and later destroyed 11,227 of them. The enemy was gifted at least 3,000 of the difference. This resulted, as the author says, in an act of self-destruction by 1 ATF.

The book does not examine the extent of the mine warfare training of sappers and infantry assault pioneers prior to their deployment to the Task Force. This is a topic that deserves closer examination.

This a welcome and systematic examination of the Vietnam mine tragedy. It is inevitable that insurgents will use mines. Many of the lessons in this book are relevant to any such future conflicts.



Missing

The Need for Closure after the Great War

Richard van Emden

Barnsley, UK: Pen & Sword Military, 2019
Hardback 312pp RRP \$37.95

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, July 2021

The magnitude of the human disaster of the First World War is hard to comprehend. This is emphasised when it is realised that about half of those killed were unable to be identified. The remembrance and commemoration of the dead was a major issue for all the relatives and friends of the missing.

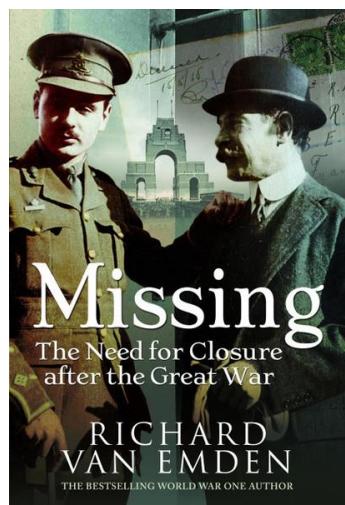
By November 1918 the battlefields of France and Belgium were littered by unrecovered bodies. Dealing with these was a major emotional and political issue. Should all the dead be returned home? Or just the British?

Or the identified? How should the random battlefield burials be reorganised? Who should design, build and maintain the cemeteries? Who would own them? Headstones or crosses or Islamic grave markers? Bigger burial symbols for higher ranks? What about Indians or the Chinese Labour Corps? Who would recover the bodies? These and many other issues needed swift resolution.

Major General Sir Fabian Ware, a former newspaper editor, stepped forward and partnered with several famous architects. He established the principles and set about their application. It was a massive job. Political and public pressure was applied unmercifully. The self-effacing Ware stuck successfully to his guns.

Van Emden is a recognised expert on the Great War and clearly traces both the anguish and the processes. He weaves in the story of the search for the body and burial of a Royal Air Force pilot shot down in 1918. An Australian involvement in the recovery of his remains and the confusion leading to his unknown burial combine with his distressed family's search for a solution – 'closure'. This may have been practical for the English but verged on the impossible for Australians, New Zealanders and many of the other Commonwealth allies.

This is a well-told story and a most worthwhile book. It is complemented by the Australian Bart Ziino's, *A Distant Grief : Australians, war graves and the Great War*, also available in our library.



The Platoon Commander

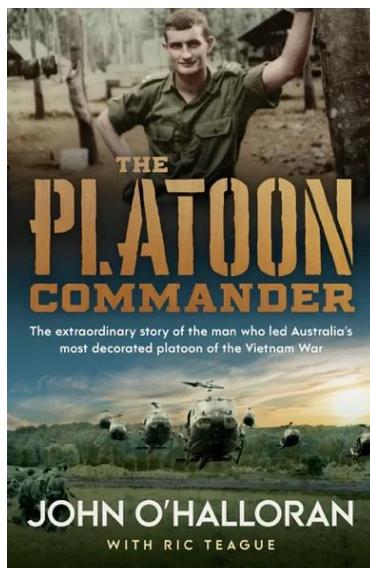
The extraordinary story of the man who led Australia's most decorated platoon in Vietnam

John O'Halloran with Rick Teague

Sydney, NSW: Hachette, 2021
Paperback 352pp RRP \$34.99

Reviewer: RUSI – Vic, June 2021

John O'Halloran was called up for National Service in 1965. He graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant from the first course of the Officer Training Unit Scheyville and was assigned to infantry. He joined the newly raised 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, trained with it in Australia and went to Vietnam with it as its platoon commander of 5 Platoon, B Company.



During its twelve months tour of duty he was involved in several significant actions, including the Battle of Long Tan and Operation Bribie. His platoon suffered many casualties and ended its tour as perhaps the most decorated Australian platoon of that war.

All first-hand accounts, including the ghost-written ones, have a value. This book is no exception. It is derived from interviews with O'Halloran by his helper, backed up by somewhat superficial research as evidenced by the brief bibliography. O'Halloran has a superb memory for incidents and names. He recounts from his perspective, with little contribution from his subordinates and less from those who commanded him.

The style of the narrative is direct, casual and confronting. Warts there are aplenty. This is much more a personal narrative than an historical contribution. While non-fiction books should be indexed, I did not miss its absence. There are errors, mostly insignificant but nevertheless annoying. A particular gripe was that Duntroon graduates were preserved from platoon command, a demonstrable misapprehension.

This is a racy book that borders, in places, on the injudicious. The author shows little respect for his superiors and land several blows below their belts. He is cocksure and in a platoon commander's war, a cut above his commanders and equals.

The Bomber Mafia

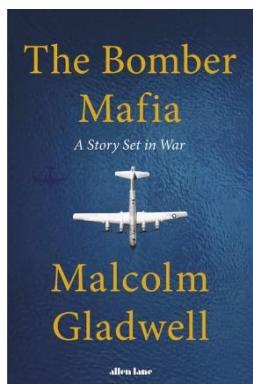
A Story Set in War

Malcolm Gladwell

London: Allen Lane, 2021

Paperback 256pp RRP \$35.00

Reviewer: Rob Ellis, August 2021



This is a relatively short book that succinctly and clearly covers, two significant aspects of the air war between 1943 and 1945, and the impact they had on the careers of two senior officers of the United States Army Air Corps - Howard Hansell and Curtis LeMay.

The two key aspects were the failure of the daylight raids on Schweinfurt in 1943, and the success of 'fire storm' raids on Tokyo and other cities in Japan in late 1944 and early 1945; and the roles of the two main characters on these events.

The 'Bomber Mafia' were a group of young, enthusiastic permanent-service officers of the Air Corps including Howard Hansell who, in the early 1930s were on the Instructional Staff of the Air Corps Tactical School, at Maxwell Field, Alabama.

As well as tactical instruction they also wanted to contribute to the doctrines that would shape an Independent Air Service. These were being formed in Britain, France, Italy, and Germany, and in a few other countries. They had a vision of an Air Service which was independent of the Army, and which could win the next war without the horrendous casualties and devastation of a war of attrition as in 1914-18.

They saw that any future war in Europe could be won by precision bombing of the enemy's 'choke points'. These were the facilities upon which any nation depended if it was to continue to fight a major war.

In an exercise based on a hypothetical war between the U.S.A. and Canada, it was shown in a presentation that, with seventeen bombs, the Canadians could bring the New York area to a state of impotency. Precision bombing, carried out by day, could destroy the power stations and electricity grid, water viaducts and pumping stations, and road and rail bridges. The enemy [New York State] would be unable to continue the war - civilian morale would be shattered, supply lines would close, and the war would be over, with very little loss of life and minimal physical damage.

In 1942-44 General Ira Eaker, the Officer Commanding the US Air Forces in Europe, supported the idea of daylight precision bombing, and did not agree with Sir Arthur Harris, of RAF Bomber Command who advocated night area bombing. Harris and Frederick Lindemann, best friend and favoured adviser of Winston Churchill, both passionately believed in saturation night bombing of Germany's industrial cities.

In 1939, none of the warring powers had the aircraft, equipment, or trained aircrews to carry out long-range bombing attacks in daylight, but by 1942-43, the situation had changed.

The United States had the B17 Flying Fortress and the B24 Liberator which had the range to penetrate deep into German air space. They also had the Norden Bomb Sight which its designer, Carl Norden, claimed to enable the bombers to hit a target 15 feet square, from 20,000 feet, with over 80% accuracy - which in practice it could not do. But Eaker believed, and Hansell (by 1942 commanding a Bomber Group in Britain), was convinced that precision daylight bombing was the way to go. So, two operations were planned:

The US 8th Air Force, based in Britain, dispatched bombers from a base in Libya, to make a low-level daylight attack on the oil fields of Ploesti, in Rumania, that provided more than three-quarters of the Axis Powers' petroleum supplies. The force sent comprised 182 B24 Liberator bombers, with 1,416 aircrew. Only 37 aircraft returned to base undamaged, and 660 aircrew were killed or captured. The refineries were back in full production within a few weeks.

The second mission was to hit a major 'choke point' - the largest manufacturing plant for roller- and ball-bearings, at Schweinfurt. 376 B17 Flying Fortresses were despatched in daylight, to targets well beyond the range of any escorting Allied fighters. Losses were heavy - 16% of the aircraft with a further 26% returned being damaged beyond repair. Aircrew losses were 15% of the 3,700 airmen involved either killed or captured. A follow-up raid on Schweinfurt, by 291 aircraft, suffered 26% lost or damaged beyond repair. In the two attacks on Schweinfurt, over 2,000 bombs were dropped - and 80 hits were obtained - barely 4% accuracy was achieved. Manufacturing production was not affected and returned to pre-raid levels within a few weeks. Daylight raids on targets beyond the range of escorting fighters were discontinued for five months, and there was a reversion to saturation bombing in daylight.

Hansell was aghast, and so, for different reasons, were many senior officers of the US Army Air Corps. The Schweinfurt raids were not the 'turning points of the war', that Hansell had predicted. Hansell was posted to the Pacific war theatre, to command a Bomber Group based in the recently re-conquered Mariana Islands.

There, he continued to believe in precision daylight, high altitude bombing, but even with the Boeing B29 Super Fortress he was unable to achieve satisfactory results. One of the reasons for this was the discovery of the jet stream winds, previously unknown, which blew across Japan at altitudes above 25,000 feet.

The vision that Hansell and his fellow believers had of pin-point accuracy, using the Norden bombsight, crumbled to nothing. His moral stance meant he could not bring himself to use incendiary bombs to burn Japanese factories and storehouses, and the homes of Japanese civilians. He was posted to command a training unit in Arizona,

Hansell was replaced by an iconic and 'gung-ho' leader, General Curtis LeMay, who was prepared to use napalm-filled incendiary bombs against the very flammable Japanese cities.

LeMay's strategy had him labelled as a war-criminal, both by the Japanese and some of his own fellow-officers. He believed that if one wanted to win a war, one used whatever weapon you had, and followed the orders given by your superiors. He went on to plan and lead the Berlin Airlift of 1949, and to become Chief of Air Staff. He was a leader for his time and should go into history as such. Hansell retired into obscurity after the war.

Gladwell has set out to clear Hansell's reputation. He was an officer with a strong moral code, capable and competent, but unable to achieve objectives using weaponry which transgressed his code. Gladwell has also tried, successfully, to polish LeMay's reputation, and give him credit for his considerable achievements as a planner and leader, and to show all sides of his very complex character. He has written a very readable book, one from which much can be learned about the problems faced by leaders in war. The reader should read Chapter 2 carefully, and note the two quotations from General John Pershing and an unnamed US Congressman, (pp 32-33). They are central to the issues that faced the main characters.

You Don't Belong Here

How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War

Elizabeth Becker

Carlton, Victoria: Black Inc., 2021
Paperback 320pp RRP \$32.99

Reviewer: Rob Ellis, June 2021

It is not often that one finishes reading a book that is hard to put down. This was one of those occasions.

Elizabeth Becker has written a clear and vivid account of the work of three quite remarkable women war correspondents who made a huge contribution to the press coverage of the Vietnam War, and of the later three-sided war between the Cambodian Government, the Khmer Rouge rebels and the North Vietnamese. These conflicts ended in suffering for the ordinary people, and in what could be called a 'victory' for oppressive, totalitarian neo-Fascist elements which masqueraded under the banner of "free, democratic, Socialist" leaders - and were not so. These two overlapping wars were not the 'victory for Democracy' that at least two US Presidents, numerous politicians and some military leaders claimed.

Ms Becker has clearly documented the work of three accredited war correspondents, French-born photographer Catherine Leroy, and two print journalists - Frances Fitzgerald, from a socio-economic upper-class background [her father was a senior American diplomat], and Kate [Catherine] Webb, from a middle-class Australian/New Zealand background.

All three devoted their vast skills to telling the truth, as they perceived it, about two of the bloodiest wars of the latter half of the 20th century. This was done despite opposition from male correspondents, Vietnamese and Cambodian political leaders and American military authorities, all of whom actively discriminated against women correspondents. This was so strong that it gave rise to the book's title - for the attitude of these men was '**you don't belong here...**' in Vietnam and Cambodia.

All three had to pay their own way to Vietnam, fight with authorities for accreditation and then for access to the war they had come to cover. All were, early in their time in Vietnam, naïve, with limited experience, [although Leroy had previously qualified as a civilian parachutist and was able to join US paratroopers on their jumps into combat] and had to overcome their initial limited knowledge of the country, the culture and the language.

Vietnam had been, before World War II, a French colony, and this gave the French woman, Catherine Leroy, an advantage - she could talk to the local people,

many of whom were bi-lingual - French and Vietnamese [although few spoke English].

All three worked under extreme difficulties, and at great personal risk, as neither the North Vietnamese soldiers or the irregular Viet Cong militia showed any mercy to these or any other correspondents. All three suffered both sickness and psychological stress, with one, Kate Webb, being hospitalised with PTSD.

In Becker's evaluation, the American military and political leaders of the time did not come out well from the Vietnam and Cambodian wars. They went in with limited and ill-formed political objectives and military strategy, and, in the end, achieved little.

Their military tactics were those of World War 1, backed up with the technology of World War 2 and the Korean War. The tonnage of US bombs dropped in Vietnam and Cambodia exceeded that of the American air war in Europe 1942-45, but achieved much less.

In total the US deployed over 500,000 men to the Vietnam War, and more than 50,000 were killed in combat or died of other causes directly related to the war. Yet, little was achieved, and President Nixon was finally forced to negotiate a peace agreement. Vietnam was, for the Americans, about as successful as the Dardanelles Campaign had been for the Anglo-French forces a generation earlier.

Sadly, Leroy and Webb, neither of whom married, died relatively young [both of cancer], after having successful award-winning careers as war correspondents; one such award is now made in honour of the memory of Kate Webb. Frances Fitzgerald, born in 1940, is still alive. She married, later in life, and was author of a highly-regarded and best-selling book on the Vietnam War - *Fire in the Lake*, which is still in print.

All three have left substantial and significant archives, which have been preserved, largely by their colleagues, and which are freely available for historical researchers and biographers. Ms Becker, herself an accredited and experienced war correspondent, has made excellent use of these valuable resources in telling their stories.

Few American military chiefs and politicians of the period came out of this war with very much credit, and Ms Becker has shown how their failures were disclosed, through her excellent coverage of the work of the three correspondents who are central to this book, and to their many colleagues, who shared the same risks and hardships, and in some cases gave their lives, to uncovering the mistakes and misguided actions of these leaders.

It is saddening to read this book, with its stories of discrimination, incompetence and failure by many of the secondary characters. It is uplifting to read of the dedication of the three central characters - Leroy, Fitzgerald and Webb - brave women and accomplished war correspondents.

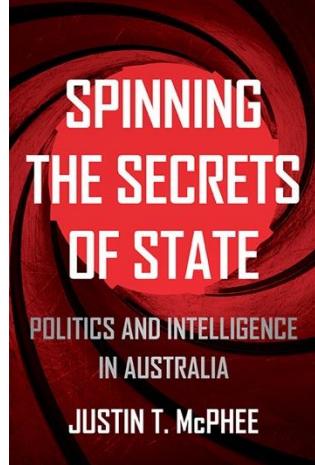
Spinning the Secrets of State

Politics and Intelligence in Australia

Justin T McPhee

Clayton, Vic: Monash University Publishing, September 2020
Paperback 272pp RRP \$34.95

Reviewer: Bruce Brown, July 2021



One of the most contentious and ongoing issues confronting liberal democracies is the relationship between politicians and their national intelligence agencies. In theory, intelligence agencies are designed to provide political-neutral information to help governments frame appropriate policies to protect the national interest rather than their own political agenda. But as Justin McPhee establishes in this fascinating and readable book, the Australian experience since federation has been replete with instances where this classic model has gone amiss.

Not all intelligence advice, for example, is necessarily accurate. In 2003 the invasion of Iraq by the US-led coalition including Australia was premised on intelligence that Saddam Hussein had developed weapons of mass destruction. Two years later, President George W Bush admitted that the intelligence was flawed.

More importantly, McPhee cites many instances as far back as 1901 when politicians have manipulated intelligence for a political outcome. During World War I Billy Hughes used intelligence information to discredit the anti-conscriptionist movement. In the early Cold War years post World War II, there were concerns about how secure the information was derived from top secret cables between Moscow and its embassies. This ultimately led to the creation of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) in 1949. The following year, in 1950, Menzies used intelligence to show the need for the Communist Party Dissolution Bill.

In 1954 the dramatic defection of Vladimir Petrov established ASIO's reputation, but left-wing critics increasingly suspected links between ASIO and the conservative political parties. In 1966 during the Vietnam War Malcolm Fraser as Minister for the Army used intelligence to attack a mother and son for their opposition to conscription and the war.

Fast forward to the Iraq war during which McPhee (p 195) argues:

'At the very least, intelligence was cherry-picked and publicly disclosed to promote the necessity for invasion, as well as to persuade a sceptical audience - the Australian

public - of the wisdom of such a volatile and disputed policy measure and to discredit opposition to that policy.'

McPhee also cites a period during the Cold War when ASIO pursued its own agenda using media organisations as well as bringing pressure to bear on the newly elected Prime Minister Gough Whitlam in 1972 to have his personal staff vetted by ASIO.

Spinning the Secrets of State blends excellent scholarship with a very readable narrative. It will satisfy both the academic and general reader.

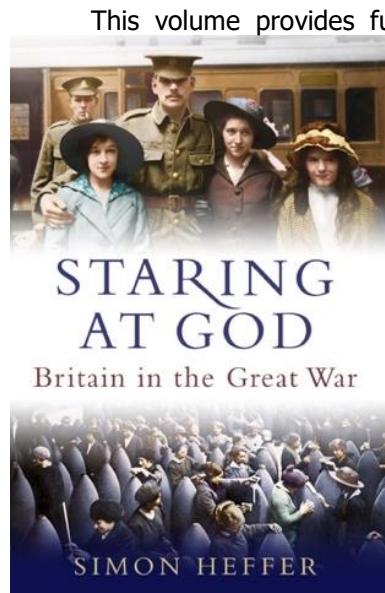
Staring at God

Britain in the Great War

Simon Heffer

London: Random House, 2020
Paperback 928pp RRP \$35.00

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, July 2021



This volume provides further proof that good military history is not just about generals and battles – it can importantly concern itself with the home front and its social and political history. This is the third volume in the author's similarly based history of Great Britain.

The central elements in this book include politics and the opinions of the public. It extends beyond these areas to daily life, the importance of civil production, the increasing importance of the female workforce, recruitment and conscription.

The author has documented day-to-day events with meticulous precision. Official records are richly supplemented by personal correspondence. He has a particular skill in indicating public attitudes of various classes of society by the well-chosen anecdote. For example, one knew Britain was at total war when it became permissible to shoot pheasants out of season.

This is an extensive book that could well have been used in the later war as a primer on how to run (and indeed, not to run) a war on the home front. It's a great scholarly addition to the literature in this area.

Teddy Sheean VC

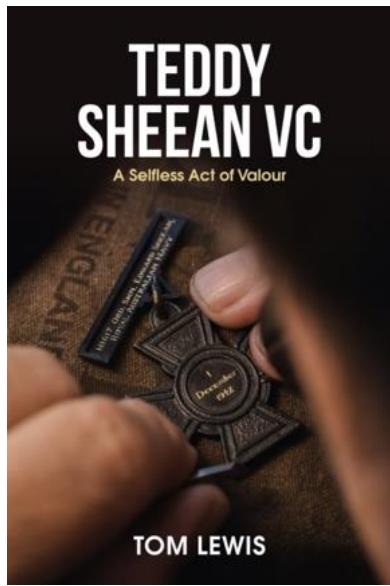
A Selfless Act of Valour

Tom Lewis

Newport, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2021
Paperback 180pp RRP \$29.99

Reviewer: Roger Buxton, August 2021

On 1 December 1942 HMAS *Armidale* was operating south of Timor to land Netherlands East Indies soldiers, and to evacuate refugees, when she was attacked by Japanese aircraft. Struck by two torpedoes and one bomb, *Armidale* was reduced to a sinking condition and the order was given to 'Abandon Ship'. Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean, a 20 mm Oerlikon gun loading number, was abandoning ship when, twice wounded by a strafing fighter, he returned to his gun and engaged the attacking aircraft. He was reported to have shot down one of the attackers and was still firing, strapped to his gun, as *Armidale* sank with him.



This was a conspicuously brave action meriting recognition, and the rules for awarding decorations for bravery limited posthumous awards to either the Victoria Cross (VC) or a Mention in Despatches (MID). Ordinary Seaman Sheean was Mentioned in Despatches, although many subsequently considered that he should have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Teddy Sheean was born in Barrington, Tasmania in 1923, and the book follows his early life, education, and service in the RAN until the fatal attack on *Armidale* by Japanese aircraft.

As Ordinary Seaman Sheean's last action appears to merit the VC – and no VC was awarded to any member of the RAN during the War – Tom Lewis explains the unusual administrative procedure for recommending and awarding decorations for bravery in effect at the time, and the subsequent efforts on behalf of Sheean.

Tom Lewis had previously published this book in 2016 as *Honour Denied – Teddy Sheean, a Tasmanian Hero*, and this revised edition was published following the award of the VC in 2020.

There are extensive endnotes, a comprehensive bibliography, and useful appendices in this meticulously researched book. Written for the general reader, the book contains sections such as 'The Development of Warships and Guns at Sea' that can be skimmed or omitted by naval historians or 'former naval persons'.

As Teddy Sheean's last action and his award of the VC many years later are well known events, this book is recommended for those interested in the convoluted system of decorations for bravery and the long struggle on Sheean's behalf. A small criticism: my copy has no endnotes for the 32 notes in Chapter 7.

Derrick VC in his own words

The wartime writings of Australia's most famous fighting soldier of World War II

Mark Johnston (Ed)

Moss Vale, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2021
Paperback 448pp RRP\$39.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, July 2021

A most intriguing soldier with all the traits of larrikin, rebellion against authority, drinker and inveterate gambler. At the other end of the spectrum, he was a self-made man who, in a crisis, was intent on not letting both those under his command and his side down while possessing the capacity to display incredible compassion.

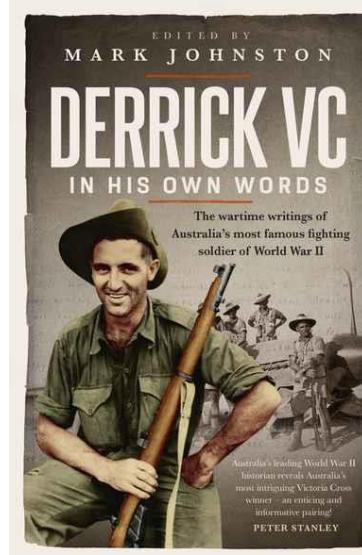
Those around him and his superiors had incredible respect for his knowledge and skill as a soldier.

Despite having very little education, during the war he wrote a huge number

of letters to his family and the mates he made during military courses. In addition, he kept a daily diary for each of his five years in combat. The diaries contained records of letters written and received and description of military actions (to the point of being almost neglectful in describing his own role), with, deaths and wounding of his sections and platoon), weather, dust, food flies, rain, and criticism of his superiors. He displayed a keen interest in other theatres of the war such as Russia and the Japanese advance in South-East Asia.

On 10th July 1942, the first day of the First Battle of El Alamein, Tom's section captured 100 Italian prisoners and three Fiat machine gun posts. This resulted in him being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. His diary entry: 'my own section I was particularly pleased with! Sixteen months latter at Sattelberg, New Guinea, on 21st November, as a sergeant he was given a new platoon to command.

Continued next page



Derrick VC *continued*

On the 24th, after refusing to withdraw from an attack on a seemingly impossible position, he asked for 'another 20 minutes', then led this platoon on to capture a key Japanese stronghold. This action resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross. After officer training back in Victoria the following year, he was commissioned lieutenant. He returned to his battalion and landed on Tarakan where he fought until dying of wounds on 24 May 1945.

Very few of Tom Derrick's letters have survived, and many parts of his diaries are illegible. Mark Johnston has used his incredible research skills to produce a virtually complete account of Tom's service life. A 21-page *Introduction* examines each of the major military phases Derrick experienced, including how others saw and reacted to him, and how he mellowed with time and experience. A summary of his *Record of Service* also precedes his diary entries.

Every daily entry includes Tom's location, rank, and posting in his beloved 2/48th Battalion. The entries are 'footnoted' where necessary to explain actions, military terminology, slang and colloquialisms. Whenever a soldier is first mentioned (often by nickname), his Service Number, rank, full name, date of birth, pre-war occupation, unit joined, (and often, subsequent war service) have always been provided.

This meticulously researched and edited text is a great credit to Mark Johnston. Every detail has been included with all the explanation needed for a lay reader to easily follow Tom Derrick's amazing years as one of our finest combatants. His name has now been placed 'front and centre' in Australia's war history.

On Contested Shores

The Evolving Role of Amphibious Operations in the History of Warfare

Timothy Heck and B A Friedman (Eds)

Quantico, Virginia USA: Marine Corps University Press

2020

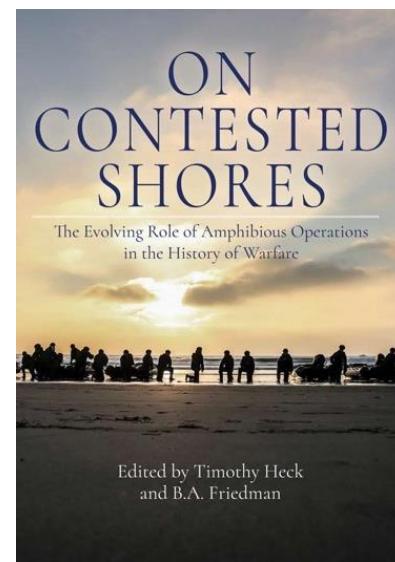
Paperback 430pp RRP \$60.00

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, June 2021

There have been decades of speculation over the future of amphibious operations in times of conflict and humanitarian assistance. Heck and Friedman have compiled 23 diverse papers from 16th century operations in Tuscany (a siege) and the Netherlands (assault by land, and relief by ships over deliberately-flooded land below sea level) through to consideration of the changing physical, climatic, demographical, and technological landscapes that come with the 21st century. As so much has been written about the major amphibious landings of last century, the authors have deliberately lightly treated their inclusion. All writers acknowledge that mounting amphibious operations are

extremely demanding and require incredible attention to detail.

The events of '9/11' in the US has resulted in a shift in focus of many military forces from traditional force projection to counterinsurgency. In the last two decades many non-state actors are resorting to insertion of their terror forces by sea. General David Berger, the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, has tasked the Marines with 'a return to the sea, increasing naval integration, and expanding its ability to fight not just from the sea but for sea control from the shore'. Five types of amphibious operations are in current American doctrine: the assault, the withdrawal, the raid, the demonstration, and amphibious support to other operations.



Amphibious operations cannot be conducted in isolation.

Reconnaissance and securing a beachhead before a landing or evacuation are essential. So too is having the firepower to prevent

interdiction during the operation. One of the earliest amphibious multidomain operations was Germany's Operation Weserubung (the invasion of Norway in April 1940). The land, sea and air services were all involved in planning the five-objective assault: with heavy German warships providing protection for the landing vessels, paratroopers seizing airfields for air resupply, and the Luftwaffe protecting the troops on the ground. Germany was also involved in huge naval evacuations from the Eastern Front during 1943-45.

The final six papers examine the role of amphibious operations in conjunction with naval forces, operating in various environments such as the Arctic, the Cold War and the Information Age, and a summary of the Marine Corp's advanced base operations in the past, present and future. The editors, in their conclusion, look at the impact of precision-guided munitions, unmanned systems, machine learning and artificial intelligence in influencing opportunities and threats for amphibious warfare.

This is a thoughtfully compiled work on historic, current and future amphibious operations. It 'ticks all the boxes' as an academic work: with excellent footnotes, included original maps, an extensive *Further Reading* list, *Index* and CVs for all the contributors. It deserves its place in any collection of military history.

Tragedy at Évian

How the world allowed Hitler to proceed with the Holocaust

Tony Matthews

Big Sky Publishing, 2020

Paperback 456pp RRP \$34.99

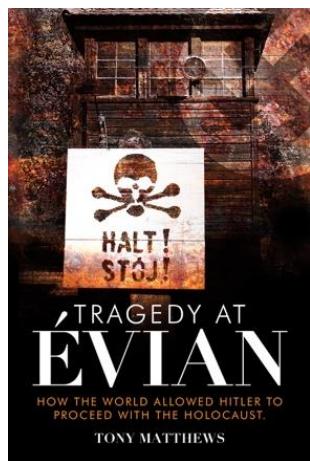
Reviewer: Kevan Sanderson, July 2021

On July 6th, 1938, delegates from 32 democratically governed nations including Australia, met in Evian-sur-les-Bains, France for the purpose facilitating emigration of political refugees from Austria and Germany. *Tragedy at Evian* has been written after reviewing recently released, highly classified documents from the US Department of State and tries to be two books in one. Although each participating country's viewpoint is presented, the information appears to be heavily weighted towards the USA viewpoint.

In the first part, which comprises two-thirds of the book, Matthews presents the case that the Evian Conference, by failing to provide a solution for Jewish immigration from Germany and Austria, caused the Holocaust. Matthews fundamentally contends that the Holocaust could have been prevented if the delegates at the Conference had shown more compassion, but his arguments fail utterly.

The Evian Conference remit was the issue of around 570,000 Jews in 1938, in Germany and Austria, who were being pressed to leave those countries. The book suggests this number could easily have been assimilated by the participating nations if each allowed 18 000 Jews entry; however it shows no evidence that such an assimilation would have prevented the ultimate toll of the Holocaust. Matthews references documents to show that neither the individual countries nor the League of Nations itself were enthusiastic about attending the Conference, and in fact, because of the Conference, no country was prepared to make substantive changes to their existing immigration policies. However, it should be noted that even so, over half of those German and Austrian Jews were able to leave before the onset of the Second World War. Furthermore, most estimates number the Holocaust dead at over 12 million. The scale of the Holocaust was so far beyond the terms of reference of the Evian Conference, indeed even beyond its or the world's imagination, it is naive to think they would, or even could, have come up with a workable solution.

The final third of the book chronicles the efforts, often heroic and always dangerous, of individuals and private organisations to assist Jewish immigration in this period. It recounts, country by country, stories of those that defied the Nazis to aid Jewish refugees. This



section does make for interesting reading although one gets the feeling, they are summaries from other sources and primarily used by Matthews as filler.

I found a couple of nagging and recurring annoyances. The author repeatedly uses 6 million for the number of Holocaust deaths. This refers only to Jewish deaths, whereas most estimates suggest that over twice this number fell victim to the Holocaust - more than half of which were not Jewish. The second is that the author conflates the pre-war immigration question and the post-war knowledge of the Holocaust and the issue of a Jewish homeland which muddies the waters, and by implication, blames Evian for not solving two of the major problems which are still unsolved and confront the world today, the book trivializes the difficulties of international cooperation over immigration. Matthews imputes, but does not substantiate, sinister anti-Semitic motives to the Conference delegates at both personal and national levels. I fear the author has tended to interpret past events in terms of modern values and concepts, that is, presentism.

Matthews claims *Tragedy at Evian* is not an academic text, and I agree because the author's main contention is far from proven. At the same time, it reads like an academic text. In other words, it is not light reading, being a very dry, chronologically presented item-by-item and country-by-country description of the politics and the lead-up to the Conference itself.

Appendices include the full text of the *Special Report to President Roosevelt* by his Special Ambassador to the conference, Myron C. Taylor, and the *Final Resolution of the Conference*, the former being an interesting view of the US conclusions and the latter being an example of a bureaucratic 'No Decision' decision.

Ultimately, however, the book fails on a number of levels, as a compelling argument and as a good read.

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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, on 9282 5918

New Acquisitions (since June 2021)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author(s)	Subject
Operation Pedestal	Max Hastiings	The fleet that battled to Malta, 1942.
<i>Letters to Lily Vale</i>	Mark Latchford	The life and letters of Ernest Latchford MC MBE in France, Persia, and Russia, 1916-1919.
<i>Save Our Sons</i>	Carolyn Collins	Women, dissent, and conscription during the Vietnam War.
<i>The Battle of the Bismarck Sea</i>	Michael Veitch	The forgotten battle that saved the Pacific.
<i>Blood Lust, Trust & Blame</i>	Samantha Crompvoets	The story of what went wrong in the ADF in Afghanistan.
<i>Rwanda UNAMIR 1994/95</i>	Kevin O'Halloran	Australian UN peacekeepers in Rwanda including them witnessing the tragic massacre of 4000 at Kibeho on 22nd April 1995.
<i>The Western Front</i>	Nick Lloyd	A history of the First World War.
<i>The Art of Sacrifice</i>	George Petrou OAM	Petrou's paintings of Australia's war and other heroes.
<i>The Resilience Shield</i>	Dr Dan Pronk et al	SAS resilience techniques to master your mindset and overcome adversity.
<i>Not Playing the Game</i>	Xavier Fowler	Sport and Australia's Great War.

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