



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

Volume 21 Issue 3 – September 2022

Editor: Mike Rawlinson

ISSN 1446 – 4527

Vale: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Queen of Australia



Long Live the King

**His Majesty King Charles III
King Of Australia**

**Royal United Services Institute of Victoria
Incorporated
September 2022 Newsletter**

RUSI VIC -2022

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

Cyberlinks

RUSIDSSA	www.rusi.org.au
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Dept of Defence	defence.gov.au
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	www.williamsfoundation.org.au
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Defence Force Welfare Association	www.dfwa.org.au
Military History and Heritage Victoria	www.mhhv.org.au
Department of Veteran's Affairs	www.dva.gov.au
Shrine of Remembrance	www.shrine.org.au

From the President:

Major General Mike O'Brien CSC (Retd)



There is no message from the President this quarter as he is enjoying a well-earned holiday. Before he departed overseas the President represented the Institute at the Government House ceremony for the Governor's proclamation of HM King Charles III, as required by the Victorian Constitution.

The Annual Luncheon will be held on Monday 21 November at the William Angliss Restaurant. A flyer giving all the details was included as an attachment to an email dated 22 August. Please email the Secretary if you have not already done so.

The next lunchtime address will be on Thursday 27 October. Details will be advised shortly.

The date for our Annual General Meeting has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be in Late November and by Zoom.



July Speaker

HE Vasyl 'Bushmaster' Myroshnychenko
Ukrainian Ambassador



August Speaker

Emeritus Professor David Horner
Topic : The War Game" Australian War Leadership

A summary of Professor Horner's talk is at page 17.



September Speaker

Emeritus Professor Damien Kingsbury
Topic: Australia and East Timor

Bequests

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria

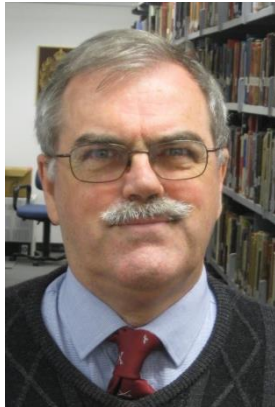
The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria was established in 1890. It seeks to promote informed debate on and improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security.

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



As I write this, we are waiting for the Funeral of 230873 Second Subaltern Elizabeth Windsor, latterly Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Many have forgotten that she did her bit in uniform and not just in ceremonial garb. R.I.P. Maám.

Long live the King!

Please do remember to read the emails for forthcoming events. We have Emeritus Prof Damien Kingsbury speaking to us on Thursday 29th Sept. We also have our Annual Luncheon at the Angliss Restaurant on 21st November.

It is intended that the office and Library will officially close EOB Monday 5th Dec and not officially reopen until Monday 30 Jan 2023. Emails will be attended to during that time but response times may vary.

We have not been notified of any deaths among members since the last newsletter.

The following new members were voted in by Council on 12th Sept:

Peter Harris
William Ramirez
Adrio Louw
Matthew Warren
Paul Riley
Jacob Chick
Jack Klien
David Van

We welcome them to the Institute.

Stay safe

Bob Hart

LOOK BOTH WAYS

We have heard
the gravel crunching under iron shod heel,
We have seen
beneath a smoke cloud, a stricken city reel,
We have known
the final agony that comes from flying steel,
And still you sing to us of glorious war.

We have heard
great tales of daring in some half-forgotten place,
We have seen
the haunted eyes of men who stared death in the face,
We have known
the ruthless progress of a vaunted 'Master Race',
And barred its passage with uncounted graves.

We have heard
the cannon roaring, we have heard the bugle call,
We have seen
the steadfast sentinels who guard that last thin wall,
We have known
that there's an ending, and we know it comes to all,
And given of our blood to stain the waves.

We have heard
of love of country sung in awe-inspiring rhyme,
We have seen
the valiant warriors who rose to heights sublime,
We have known
the depths of misery, and had no chance to climb,
And wondered at the end: "What was it for?"

Rob Ellis

Apologies to Rob Ellis. The June Newsletter erroneously attributed the poem *Look Both Ways* to Bob Ellis.



Zoom Council Meeting

The latest National RUSI Journal, **United Service**, has been released in digital form. Here is the link.

<https://www.rusi.org.au/Publications.php>

Opinion: Towards a More Resilient Australia

Mike Rawlinson

Along with the COVID 19 pandemic, over the last few years Australia has experienced the full panoply of droughts, fires and floods that the usual weather cycles have to offer, probably made worse by ongoing climate change. Now they have been joined by economic uncertainty regarding inflation and possible recession, energy uncertainty as to whether the government's emissions reduction strategy is achievable, and geopolitical uncertainty regarding our relationship with China.

Australians have also been affected by interrupted supply chains relating to the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While these adverse events have been handled reasonably well, it is evident that much better outcomes could have been achieved had we been better prepared. In its various guises the public has been calling for the anticipation of contingencies by building resilience.

Resilience is the capacity of a system, be it an individual, an economy or a society to deal with change and continue to develop. A well-resourced, cohesive society with a sound, sustainable economy and a population with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to adapt to changing situations is potentially resilient against most threats. Human aspects include a culture that is cohesive, openminded, tolerant with a strong civil society of community organisations.

While adaptability is the key determinant of resilience, observations, inquiries and reviews of Australia's recent disaster experiences suggest that a level of foresight and precautionary actions are helpful. These include planned excess capacity in emergency services and infrastructure, sovereign manufacturing capability and diversification of suppliers and customers for internationally traded goods.

Latency/ Excess Capacity

The concept of latency involving excess capacity, reserves, expansion and peacetime and wartime rates of effort, is inherent in the thinking of the military, and of most emergency services. Nevertheless, organisations can still be overwhelmed if the scale of an event exceeds the limits of excess capacity. Relevant in recent experience are police, emergency services, fire services, ambulances, paramedics, nurses and the full range of health service professionals. Post recovery the capacity of emergency services need to be evaluated in the light of recent experience, and future events anticipated. This will usually require increased investment in improved systems and infrastructure.

Where anticipated events have not yet occurred there may be a problem of forgetting the original purpose of the excess capacity and permanently repurposing it, so that it is not available when needed. This includes some military reserves, hospital beds used for the disabled and homeless, and flood mitigation dams used as storage dams.

Sovereign Capability

Sovereign capability replaces 'Just-in-Time' with 'Just-in-Case', usually at sub-optimal scale and with higher labour costs than if manufactured overseas and imported. Sovereign capability needs to be selectively applied as the protection afforded to local industry denies the nation the benefits of international trade. Alternatively sufficient inventory needs to be maintained together with a pathway for compatible enterprises to adapt to manufacture.

The pandemic demonstrated that Australia did not have the manufacturing capacity to immediately produce sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). However, this demand was met relatively quickly from imports and new local production. Australia was one of the few countries capable of vaccine manufacture, with CSL producing Influenza and Astra/Zeneca COVID-19 vaccines. A new facility is to be built to produce Moderna mRNA vaccines.

For the military sovereign capability includes the manufacture of high use consumables: ammunition, bombs, missiles, mines and small arms. Importantly, Australia lacks the capability to manufacture missiles. One has been foreshadowed under AUKUS auspices and needs to be fast-tracked.

Australia is vulnerable to a disruption of liquid fuel supplies. There are only two oil refineries, and most oil is imported as refined product. Australia has reserves of about 60 days, well short of the 90 days required by the International Energy Agency agreement on emergency reserves. Any fuel supplies purchased and 'on the water' on inbound tankers, are vulnerable to enemy action during a conflict. A recent Defence Department report estimates that 90% of our fuel imports would be at risk should there be conflict in the South China Sea.

During recent supply-chain disruption, it was found that Australia was running out of the Diesel Exhaust Fluid, AdBlue, normally imported from China. This deficiency had the potential to halt the nation's fleet of heavy haulage trucks, agriculture and mining operations. A crisis was averted, and more secure supplies arranged for the future.

Where inventories of emergency supplies are stored, they need to be regularly monitored, as stocks often have shelf-lives, maybe prone to obsolescence, and require maintenance. Inventories also need to be replaced if used.

Infrastructure

Irrespective of climate change, Australia is a country of drought and flooding rains.

Severe droughts occur in Australia on average every 18 years. Although Australia's population has increased to 26 million people, mostly living in major cities, no new dams servicing the cities have been built in the last 10 years. Water security has been met by the construction of desalination plants. The plants link city water supply with electricity security during future droughts.

Energy security is an essential component of resilience. A reliable, affordable electricity supply is required for households, industry, government, commerce and the military. Outages are unacceptable. Currently plans are for low emission generation by intermittent wind and solar firmed by batteries and hydro. Increased demand can be expected as households shift from gas to electricity, from charging electric vehicles, from desalination during droughts and from increases in population. Electricity generation from renewables needs to be backed up by gas and nuclear to ensure supply under all conditions.

Infrastructure also includes the design, construction and maintenance of ports, airports, roads, railways, bridges, sea walls and levees.

In response to the requirement to isolate COVID-19 infected travellers several purpose-built quarantine facilities were constructed. These hubs (camps) accommodate 100s of people in low density cabins. This capacity will be available for medical isolation and alternative uses in the future

Unknown in Australia, in the US and Europe the Cold War spawned dual use facilities – stretches of highway designed to be used as runways, commercial cargo aircraft fitted to carry military loads, and bridges strong enough and wide enough for main battle tanks. Similar innovative thinking should always be considered. From Australia's pandemic experience hotel rooms could be explicitly designed to double as isolation facilities during pandemics.

Diversification of Suppliers and Customers

Supply chains are vulnerable to disruption if importing from a single source or exporting to a single customer. In Australia's case this vulnerability exists with China our major customer for iron ore and coal. While Australia has benefited from China's economic expansion, any downturn in China's economy will adversely affect Australia's exports. Australia is also exposed to arbitrary restrictions on trade by the Chinese government. These vulnerabilities have been recognised in recent years and Australia has taken steps to develop and strengthen trade with India, South Korea, Japan and the UK.

Adaptability

Many examples of adaptability and resourcefulness come from the recent natural disasters and response to the pandemic. Well established command and control arrangements between governments and agencies have generally worked well. An innovation for the pandemic was a National Cabinet comprising the PM, State Premiers and Chief Ministers. While the cabinet was not politics free, it was a step in the right direction.

We have seen in Australia's response to the pandemic, political leaders need to stay in overall control of events as they generally have a more holistic appreciation than their expert officials who are not accountable to the public. While trust in government was generally high, there were numerous incidences of bureaucratic overreach.

Mitigating Factors

All resilience measures have a cost and most have little immediate benefit. What benefit they offer becomes less apparent with the passage of time after the event. Unless an election occurs shortly after an event, there are no political plaudits for investing public money in latency, reserves or buffer stocks. Government politicians must weigh-up risk/consequences vs electoral risk of diverting funds from more sensitive areas where there are immediate short-term benefits.

Without political leadership to explain the nature of resilience measures to the public, the measures will generally be allocated a lower priority than more pressing short-term needs. Some almost identical recommendations of bushfire inquires decades apart suggest that a number of highly desirable measures are just too expensive.

Governments need to take a medium-term view in resource prioritization. A health system that is fully stretched with a normal routine caseload is unlikely to adequately handle a large-scale emergency.

While resilient in the face of natural disasters and a pandemic, the Australian public is unaccustomed to military confrontation and conflict, and the 'guns or butter' decisions that will accompany it.

Australia is a resilient country and has been strengthened by the experience of fires, floods, droughts and pandemics as people and governments learn from each occurrence. However, enthusiasm for emissions reduction over reliability threatens future energy security.

Political leaders need to appraise resilience measures holistically and make judgements using cost/benefit principles mindful of risk and consequences. Existing resilience measures need to be monitored in each jurisdiction to ensure they are still relevant, well maintained, and of sufficient size as population grows and shifts.

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

June 1 2022 – August 28 2022

Michael Small

June 1 2022

Day 97 of Russia's *special military operation (invasion)* in Ukraine, which is not a war, according to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaking on BBC TV.

June 2 2022

Australia's 47th Parliament to take office after the May 21 election. ALP won 77 seats, giving it a two seat majority, L/NP 58 seats and Other 16 seats.

Defence Minister Richard Marles says bridging the gap between the retirement of the *Collins-class* submarines and the arrival of the AUKUS nuclear-powered boats is his top priority.

June 3 2022

Day 100 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

June 4-5 2022

Japan plans to send the aircraft carrier *JS Izumo (DDH-183)*, displacing 19,500 tons, to the Indo-Pacific region, to undertake training exercises with regional partners over the next four months. *JS Izumo* will be accompanied by two destroyers and a submarine for the *Indo-Pacific Deployment 2022* exercise, June 13-October 28. The Japanese maritime force will also participate in: (i) the multinational *Rim of the Pacific* drill near Hawaii in June; and (ii) the *Kakadu exercise* in Australia in September.

A RAAF *P-8 maritime surveillance aircraft* was challenged by a Chinese *J-16 fighter aircraft* over the South China Sea. Defence Secretary and Head of ADF raised their concerns about the incident with their counterparts in Beijing. Defence released details of the intercept saying it resulted in a dangerous manoeuvre which posed a safety threat to the plane and its crew.

The *P-8* aircraft was intercepted during a routine maritime surveillance activity in international airspace.

June 6 2022

Duration Russia's invasion of Ukraine now **103 days**.

June 7 2022

Defence Minister Richard Marles said Australia's nuclear-powered submarines were fundamental to the nation's security. The government will provide funding to make it work in a commitment that could increase Defence spending towards 3 % of GDP.

June 11 2022

Day 108 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Australian government will pay French *Naval Group* \$835 million in compensation, after the decision to

cancel a \$90-billion contract to build 12 submarines. The total amount of money spent by Australia on the program is now \$3.4 billion.

June 14 2022

The newly elected PM has to appoint a new Chief and Vice Chief of the Defence Force, and new heads of the army, air force and navy, and a Chief of Joint Operations, who oversees the defence deployments in the field.

June 15 2022

Chairman Xi Jinping has set the legal basis for an expansion of the Chinese military's role in other countries, weeks after Beijing signed a security pact with Solomon Islands. Chairman Xi had signed off on a set of new trial outlines that allowed for Chinese "armed forces operations" that were not war.

June 17 2022

Day 114 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

June 18 2022

Solomon Islands PM Manasseh Sogavare has reassured Foreign Minister Penny Wong that his country will not host Chinese military forces. PM Sogavare said that Australia remains Solomon Islands first security partner of choice and first development partner of choice.

In 2022 the strength of the ADF is stated to be around 60,000 full-time and 30,000 part-time. Australia currently has a population of just over 26 million.

Mr Justice Brereton (IGADF inquiry into war crimes in Afghanistan) said that Australian laws prohibiting war crimes are useless if they are not enforced. He also said there is a risk that national chauvinism might trump justice according to the international law of armed conflict. Mr Justice Brereton argued it was vital and in the national interest to ensure war crimes were both investigated and prosecuted. A nation's preparedness to investigate war crimes by its own is a measure of a mature civilisation.

June 19 2022

Australia is increasing military aid to Ukraine by sending 14 *M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers*. The first four were loaded into a Ukrainian *Antonov AN-124* aircraft cargo plane and flown to Ukraine, as part of a package of military aid now worth \$285 million. *Bushmaster* vehicles, anti-armour weapons, unmanned aerial systems and ammunition are already used in battle.

June 20 2022

RN will deploy HMS *Tamar*, a new River Class Offshore Patrol Vessel, to Darwin to re-establish a naval presence in the Indo-Pacific region. HMS *Tamar* will visit Darwin this week as part of a five-year mission to work with allies and partners across the region.

June 23 2022

Defence Minister Marles says Australia and India have been drawn together because both countries have the problem of reconciling strong economic ties with China, and both countries share anxieties over Beijing's growing military might. Minister Marles met his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh in New Delhi, both Ministers promising to expand military ties and intensify cooperation on defence technology. Both welcomed the increase in defence exercises and exchanges between the two nations

June 26 2022

Day 123 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

PM Albanese will attend a NATO leaders' summit meeting (Australia is not a member of NATO) in Madrid next week. PM wants government to be part of a "global solution" to global problems rather than "an impediment" like its predecessor. PM will emphasise Australia's shift in climate change policy.

PM Albanese said NATO understood that climate change was a national security issue as well as an environmental and economic issue that risked future conflicts over water, food and migration. National and international action must be taken to address it.

PM Albanese has met Quad leaders Joe Biden, Fumio Kishida and Narendra Modi and has spoken with other leaders via phone and video conferences.

The threat Russia and China pose to the global order will be discussed when PM Albanese meets with world leaders in Madrid this week at the largest NATO summit ever held.

PM Albanese and his counterparts from New Zealand, Japan and South Korea, will form a special Indo-Pacific delegation, warning Beijing's "no limits" pact with Moscow means NATO needs to focus on a wider threat than just Russia.

June 28 2022

Chief of Defence General Angus Campbell will have his term extended by two years despite being due to retire in July. Vice Chief of the Defence Force David Johnston and Chief of Joint Operations Greg Bilton will also have their terms extended by another two years. The last time a Defence chief had his/her term extended was in 2008, when the Rudd government reappointed Sir Angus Houston for a further three years.

Acting PM Richard Marles has announced the new Chiefs of the Navy, Army, and Air Force.

Rear Admiral Mark Hammond will be the new Chief of Navy, Major General Simon Stuart will become the Chief of Army, and Air Vice-Marshal Robert Chipman will be the Chief of Air Force.

July 1 2022

Day 128 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

July 2 2022

China will soon launch its third aircraft carrier, *Fujian*, 80,000-tonne, three times the size of RAN's largest ship and China's most advanced ship. *Fujian* will enable PLA-N to expand military operations. *Fujian* uses electromagnetic catapult technology similar to US and French aircraft carrier use. The next carrier is expected to be nuclear-powered.

July 6 2022

Acting PM Richard Marles is committed to reforming ADF after the Afghanistan war crimes inquiry, declaring that "history will judge us". The Minister said the nation must "make right this appalling set of circumstances" and he promised to keep parliament informed of progress.

July 7 2022

Foreign Minister Penny Wong described Russia's invasion of Ukraine as "unprovoked, illegal, immoral, inhumane".

July 8 2022

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet Senator Penny Wong at the G20 foreign ministers meeting in Bali, thus ending a three year-long diplomatic freeze between Australia and China.

July 11 2022

China's Foreign Ministry said there were four requirements for Australia to improve the relationship between Australia and China *viz.* (i) Australia must treat China as a "partner rather than a rival". (ii) the two countries must seek "common ground while shelving differences". (iii) Australia must reject "manipulation by a third party". (iv) Both countries must build "public support featuring positiveness and pragmatism".

July 16 2022

Day 142 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow would respond positively should Kyiv be ready to resume peace negotiations, but Ukraine must accept the "territorial realities" of the situation.

July 26 2022

Day 153 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Moscow is determined to help Ukrainians *liberate themselves from the burden of this absolutely unacceptable regime*. Mr Lavrov accused Kyiv and its Western allies of spouting propaganda intended to ensure that Ukraine *becomes the eternal enemy of Russia. Russian and Ukrainian people would continue to live together. We will certainly help Ukrainian people to get rid of the regime, which is absolutely anti-people and anti-historical.*

July 27 2022

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow was ready to hold talks with Ukraine on ending the war. (AP: *Russian Foreign Ministry Press Service*).

August 2 2022

More than 4000 troops from five nations: Australia, Indonesia, US, Singapore and Japan will take part in two weeks of exercises that will include paratrooper drops and amphibious landings on an island near the southern edge of the South China Sea. US officials have stated this year's "Super" *Garuda Shield* is not aimed at readying for conflict with any specific nation, but to "advance regional co-operation to support a free and open" Indo-Pacific, despite heightened tensions over China's regional assertiveness.

August 3 2022

Stephen Smith, Defence Minister between 2010 and 2013, and retired Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston will conduct a strategic review of ADF for the first time in a decade. Recommendations are to be made within five months. PM Albanese says the review will ensure the ADF is "well positioned to meet the nation's security challenges over the next decade and beyond".

August 4 2022

Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Australia's new army chief, says military exchanges and bilateral defence exercises will be increased with Indonesia to include regional partners and allies in more sophisticated war games. The Asia-Pacific region confronts a heightened risk of conflict. General Stuart said 100 Australian soldiers from Darwin's First Brigade are embedded with an Indonesian battalion for a fortnight's exercise.

August 6 2022

Two comments about the forthcoming Smith/Houston defence strategic review:

Comment A "Six policy priorities: (i) increase defence firepower; (ii) stockpile essential equipment; (iii) speed up decision making; (iv) increase US military presence; (v) harden and disperse bases; and (vi) strengthen our national resilience". (Ref. P J, 6/8/2022).

Comment B "And the way it (*i.e. the Smith/Houston defence strategic review*) should be done is you have an independent set of intelligence reviews and advice. Those intelligence reviews and advice go through to the strategic policy advisors. From that, they develop a series of credible threats, including high-intensity conflict, and they model them, and war game what sorts of capabilities that would demand. Only then do you determine, what's your force structure priorities? And only then, once you've done that, you come to the money. Now, no government has ever done that. So maybe this new review may be the first to do that". (Ref. P D, 6/8/2022).

August 9 2022

Day 166 of Russia's *special military operation* in Ukraine.

August 12 2022

Defence Minister Marles has recused himself from the decision-making process for up to \$27bn worth of

infantry fighting vehicles, because one of the contenders is based in his electorate. The South Korean company *Hanwha*, vies with Germany's *Rheinmetall* to win the contract. *Hanwha* is building a facility at Avalon, in the minister's Geelong-based electorate of Corio, to build self-propelled howitzers and (potentially) the IFVs.

August 16 2022

The *Luftwaffe* will participate in *Exercise Pitch Black*, RAAF's most significant International Engagement activity with forces participating from a wide range of partner and allied nations developing and enhancing military relationships at all levels.

Luftwaffe will provide 200 personnel, six *Eurofighter Typhoons*, three *A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transports* and an *A400M* transport aircraft. Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz said this is the first time German and Australian air forces have trained together..

Eurofighter is a multi-role aircraft employed in air-to-air as well as air-to-ground combat. The *Luftwaffe* with its *Eurofighters* assumes responsibility in Europe and within NATO for securing the airspace. Following *Exercise Pitch Black*, the *Luftwaffe* group will participate in *Exercise Kakadu* before continuing to Japan and the Republic of Korea

August 18 2022

Day 175 of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

August 24 2022

Australia has three Hobart-class AWDs that were built in Adelaide. Spanish shipbuilder *Navantia* has met Defence to discuss its \$6bn proposal to build three new Hobart class boats, at \$2bn per ship, saying that it could deliver all three warships by 2030.

The *Navantia* AWDs carry 48 guided missiles, compared with 32 missiles on the *Hunter Class* frigates, giving the navy an early boost in firepower if the option for three more destroyers was chosen.

The new AWDs would cheaper than the new *Hunter Class* frigates which will deliver nine warships for \$45bn. The British-designed Type 26 frigates have design and weight issues. The displacement of the vessel has ballooned from 8,000 tonnes to more than 10,000 tonnes, a problem BAE Systems is working to rectify.

August 25 2022

Day 182 of Russia's *special military operation* in Ukraine.

August 27-28 2022

Australia may expand its *F-35 stealth* fighter fleet from 72 aircraft to 100 and is considering buying *US B-21* bombers to give the nation a new long range strike capability.

End

Book Reviews

This newsletter has nine 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.

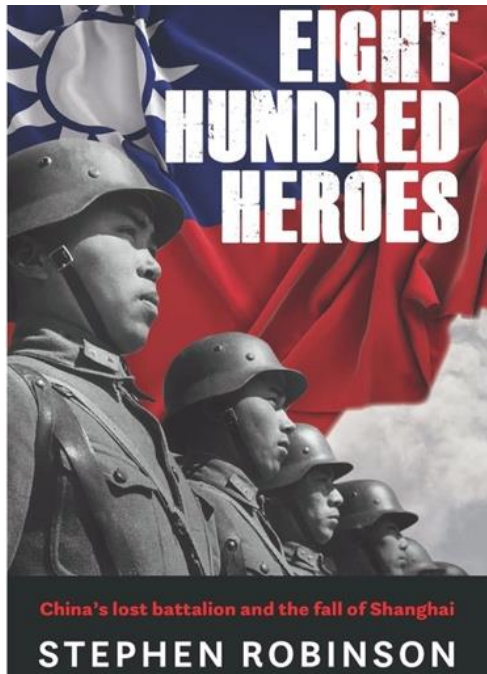
Eight Hundred Heroes

China's Lost Battalion and the Fall of Shanghai

Stephen Robinson

Gosford, NSW: Exisle Publishing, 2022
Hardcover 304pp RRP \$49.99

Reviewer: Rob Ellis, August 2022



This is an unusual book in that it refers to an event that took place in Shanghai, during the Sino-Japanese War that had commenced in 1931 - Initially as a peacekeeping operation and which developed into a full-scale and bloody war in 1937.

The event was a defence of the Warehouse located in the Zhabei District of Shanghai, by Nationalist or Kuomintang troops of the Chinese 88th Division against Japanese marines and troops of the Japanese 11th 'Lucky' and 3rd Divisions which became involved in the Battle of Shanghai, a densely settled city of some 3 million people. The warehouse, which had been strongly built, backed onto the Suzhou Creek which was crossed by a narrow bridge which led into the British Concession, which had a protective garrison of three British infantry battalions and was part of the international settlement of Shanghai.

The mind battle had gone against the Chinese who retired westward leaving 240 men of the 88th division as a rear-guard with orders to hold the

warehouse to the last man. This order was later revised by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and the unit commander LTCOL Xie Jinyuan led the survivors of his rear guard into the British Concession where they were interned and later handed over to the Japanese as prisoners of war.

At this point the story of the real rearguard action becomes fictionalised, as propaganda to encourage support for the Nationalist cause. The 240 men involved was suddenly claimed to be 800, They did not fight to the last man as originally ordered but were withdrawn on a direct order from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, and the escape was achieved with the cooperation of the British troops garrisoning the Concessional Settlement on the south bank of the Suzhou Creek.

The siege which lasted all of three days became the subject of four films all known as *The Eight Hundred Heroes*, and a popular song *Eight Hundred Heroes who Shook the World* was later used by both Nationalist and Communist parties to mythologize the 240 [not 800] heroes of the defence of the Sihang Warehouse.

Briefly the films claimed wide audiences in several countries, and briefly increased international support for the Nationalist Chinese cause. At least one version produced by the People's Republic of China was used in an attempt to go in wider acceptance of the Communist Party's government, Although there had not been any communist troops among the Sihang Warehouse defenders.

The Japanese had disadvantages during the siege. They were only able to use small calibre artillery pieces Risk that heavier artillery may carry into the British Concession and create an international incident which the Japanese wanted to avoid at that time. also the entire action was clearly visible from the hotels and rooftops of the British Settlement, which meant European and American journalists were able to provide eyewitness accounts of the engagement to their newspapers and magazines. The publicity generated support for Chiang's government, but showings of the later Communist Party film did not gather as much support - perhaps because of the addition of fictional characters and events. To show the defenders as Communist Party troops was seen as a misuse of the incident as purely propaganda for the Party and not as a recognition of the bravery of Kuomintang officers and men.

Overall this book, which is well researched and attractively presented, gives a good insight into the tangled threads of the military and ideological conflicts in China between the fall of Imperial rule in China just before World War I and the rise to power of the Communists after the defeat of Japan by the Western allies in 1945. It will be of interest to any student of Chinese political and diplomatic developments in the years between the Great Depression of 1929-1935 and the ascension to power of Mao Zedong, with Russian support, in the aftermath of World War I.

Dasher

The Kevin Wheatley VC Story

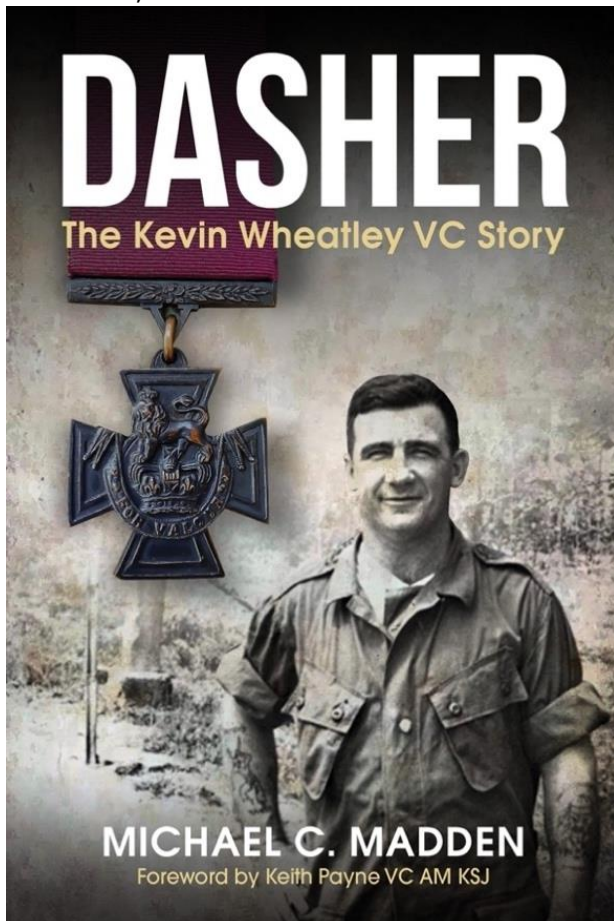
Michael C Madden

Crows Nest, NSW: Big Sky Publishing, 2021

Paperback 324pp RRP \$29.99

Reviewer: Rob Ellis, August 2022

Michael Madden's well-written biography of Kevin 'Dasher' Wheatley makes it clear that his was a Victoria Cross that was well deserved, as he willingly gave his life while trying to save a mortally wounded comrade and close friend, WO 'Butch' Swanton.



Both men were members of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, and both died when the outnumbered patrol of Republic of South Vietnam troops to which they were attached was ambushed by a numerically much larger force of North Vietnamese regular army soldiers.

Kevin Wheatley was one of three children born to a return veteran of the second AIF and his wife. He had a sort of upbringing that would be considered fairly normal for the child of a World War Two veteran who had had difficulties in finding suitable and steady employment when discharged in 1946. Kevin and his two siblings grew up in a loving family environment. To marrying his 15-year-old sweetheart when he was only 17, Kevin decided to join the Australian defence forces in 1956, at age 18, and took to army training and discipline with enthusiasm and application. After only nine years he had been promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer when posted to the AATTV in 1965.

He was young, fit, willing to defend himself, and athletic. In the army he took to rugby league football with the same enthusiasm that he gave to his training and excelled at the task of becoming a soldier. He was skilful and fleet footed on the rugby field where he acquired the nickname 'Dasher'.

In many ways Dasher was the archetypal digger. He was disciplined, but never subservient, and had respect for and of the WO's and senior NCOs who were responsible for training him. His boy sense of humour endeared him to the many friends he made in the units in which he served or worked with, winning Australia or on employment in Malaysia and Papua New Guinea or serving with the AATTV in Vietnam. His expertise and competence in training Vietnamese recruits to be competent soldiers earned him the respect of many of those with whom he served, in the ADF, the Republic of Vietnam army and the many Americans who served incomparable training units during the Vietnam War.

Michael Madden has researched Dasher's career fully. With the help of his comrades, family and many friends, and by the end of the book the reader wishes he had been one of the large cohorts of friends Kevin Wheatley acquired in his short life. The detailed description of the action during which Wheatley lost his life makes it clear that his Victoria Cross was well deserved. However the award attracted many negative reactions both within the Army and the wider community, and there was a great deal of official and political resistance to allowing the recommendation for the award to go ahead. The reasons for this obstruction are not discussed in full, but there is ample evidence as Mr Madden records it, that there were many reasons for preventing the award to be made. Yet the *Foreword* in the book and one of the contributors to the *Epilogue* are by WO Keith Payne, VC, AM who served in the AATTV where he won his Victoria Cross. He, like many others, admired and respected 'Dasher' Wheatley, regarded him as a close friend and knew what it was all about, for he too, had 'been there'.

After his death Kevin Wheatley's pay stopped, and his wife, who was working as a clerk with the Return Services League, came under attack from officials and members of the RSL, some of whom actively opposed Kevin's award. The outcome was that Mrs Wheatley resigned her position and was left destitute with four young children to support. After many delays, she and the children were presented with the medal, but she found herself unable to afford the insurance premiums on it and had to sell it and his other decorations. Despite strong negative reactions, Western Australian media magnate Kerry Stokes purchased the medals, and the full set were then donated to the Australian War Memorial Canberra where they are on display in the Hall of Valour.

'Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life to save a friend' John 13.15

Our Exceptional Friend

Australia's Fatal Alliance with the United States

Emma Shortis

Richmond, Vic: Hardie Grant Books, 2021
Paperback 288pp RRP \$32.99

Reviewer: Bruce Brown, September 2022

In 2021 the Australian and US governments celebrated the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty, long regarded as the linchpin of Australia's defence and foreign policies.



Formed in the Cold War era the treaty was invoked by successive governments to justify Australia's commitment to fight alongside the US in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq as well as the establishment of US intelligence bases on Australian soil.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in 2001, John Howard gave expression to this view.

If that treaty means anything, if our debt as a nation to the people of the United States means anything, if the comradeship, the friendship and the common bonds of democracy and a belief in liberty, fraternity and justice mean anything, it means that the ANZUS Treaty applies and that the ANZUS Treaty is properly invoked.

Over time, there have been critics of the treaty and its implications for Australian sovereignty. In this context Emma Shortis has produced a new and engaging critique of the alliance. Her academic interests include the study of the US in both a global and historical context. Her PhD in History at the University of Melbourne examined the international campaign to save Antarctica from mining.

The thrust of Shortis' argument is the need to explore in whose interests the alliance really serves and whether Australia needs to maintain a compliant relationship with an increasingly ugly and broken US democracy. She makes clear (Page 11) that her book *'is not anti-American but unapologetically anti-American power'*. The book provides a very contemporary analysis of American politics and the implications of the Trump era on its political system.

Furthermore, given the current concerns over possible conflict between China and the US with respect to Taiwan, the possibility looms that Australia may be drawn into another military conflict alongside its great and powerful friend.

Notwithstanding the very readable and relevant scope of the book, readers are left with the vexed question of how to reshape an alliance so embedded in Australia's national psyche. Shortis argues for a rethink of the way our political, economic, cultural and environmental structures are so closely intertwined with the American model.

This book provides an excellent starting point for such a conversation.

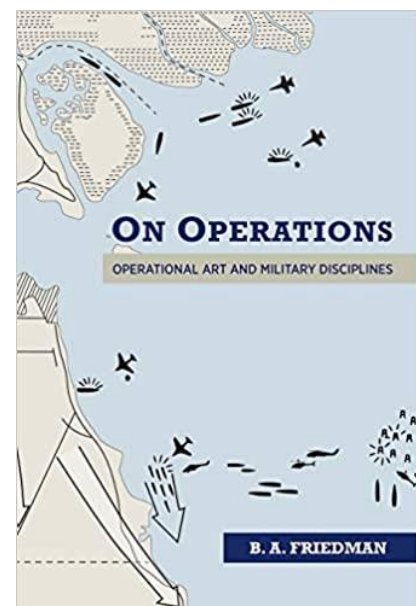
On Operations

Operational Art and Military Disciplines

B. A. Friedman

Annapolis, Maryland, US: Naval Institute Press, 2021
Hardcover. 256pp RRP \$56.43

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, August 2022



This is the second book in Friedman's trilogy 'tactics to strategy'. *On Tactics* (2017) examined commanders and success on the battlefield. *On Operations* has the staff officer as its focus, supporting commanders by 'performing the functions of operational art'.

continued next page

On Operations ..continued

Napoleon reorganised his military staff, and his model was copied by Prussia/Germany, the Soviet Union, and the United States. The US military misinterpreted the Soviet concept of operations and inserted the term 'operational level' into their military doctrine and the terminology persists today. Friedman claims that this term breaks the necessary nexus between tactics and strategy. He goes to great lengths to argue against this and pleads for 'operational art' as a far more accurate description of military staff activities that can serve both tacticians and strategists.

Friedman devotes a chapter to each of the six disciplines of operational art:

- Administration – the management of available friendly forces. Enables tactics by sustaining the human resources of the military organization physically, mentally, and morally.
- Information – enables tactics by ascertaining relevant facts, figures and knowledge regarding friendly and enemy forces, civilian populations and the environment while preventing the opponent from doing likewise.
- Coordination – (or operations) enables tactics by conducting and synchronizing tactical actions and operational disciplines across time, space, and forces available.
- Fire Support – enables tactics by applying the force's long-range, stand-off, and heavy weapons in support of its other components.
- Logistics – enables tactics by facilitating the movement and sustainment of tactical forces.
- Command and Control – enables tactics by establishing a feedback loop between the commanders and subordinate commanders and their staffs, providing direction down and awareness up.

The eight taxonomies available to describe the operational stance of an organisation at war and its relationship to its opponent are then examined. The US military is designed for offensive persistent annihilation campaigns, and its weakness is in waging offensive, raiding, cumulative campaigns against nonstate actors.

There are five case studies of campaigns/operations ranging from 1805 to 1942. After the background and events have been described, Friedman examines how the six disciplines were or were not successfully applied.

It has been very well written, with the reader not confronted with a barrage of technical terms. Commanders and staff officers at all levels can take a great deal from this relatively short work.

The Royal Australian Air Force in South Australia during WWII

Adelaide - Gawler - Mallala - Mount Gambier - Parafield - Port Pirie - Victor Harbor

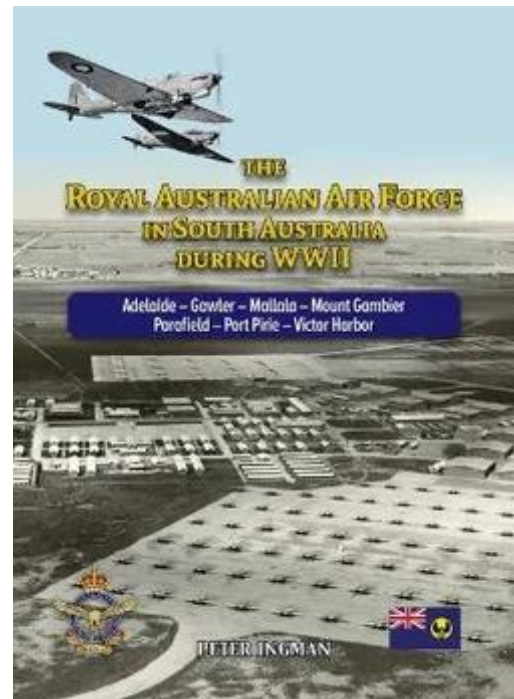
Peter Ingham

Avonmore Books, 2021

Paperback 96pp RRP \$30.00

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, July 2022

Once again, those with an interest in RAAF and local South Australian history, have been presented with a most comprehensive and thorough account for the duration of the Second World War.



Adelaide and each of the rural centres have had described the physical construction of the bases, their role in training RAAF personnel, the (often delayed) arrival of the aircraft used for training, the base commanders, the number of trainees and the throughput of course graduates. Most of the locations have been described early in the War as they were established, and then revisited during the closing years. Special mention is made of No. 4 Initial Training Unit (Adelaide), No. 4 School of Technical Training (Adelaide), No. 7 and No. 10 Radar Stations (at Wedge Island and Cape Jervis respectively) and other smaller units.

The imbedded historic photographs, which have been extremely widely sourced, bring to life the conditions of the bases, aircraft and key personnel described in the text. Tables of fatal flying accidents occurring in South Australia and Victoria involving RAAF (SA) aircraft are very detailed appendices. A third appendix is an Honour Roll from 1939 to 1947. *Sources* and an *Index* (of Names) round out this well-written and compact volume of a most important era in South Australia's history.

The Ledger

Accounting for Failure in Afghanistan

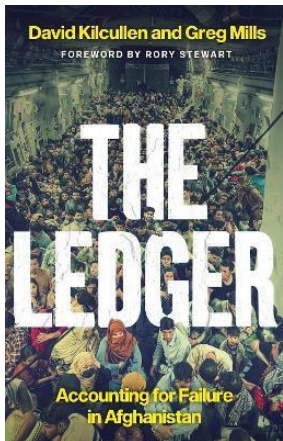
David Kilcullen and Greg Mills

Sydney, NSW: New South Books, 2021

Paperback 368pp RRP \$29.99

Reviewer: Roger Buxton, September 2022

In 1996 the Taliban captured Kabul and most of Afghanistan, ending four years of civil warfare between rival mujahadeen groups. Unfortunately they allowed al-Qaeda to operate in the country and, after the 9 September 2001 attacks on the USA, they refused American demands to expel al-Qaeda and to hand over Osama Bin Laden. The USA and its close allies then combined with the Northern Alliance to drive the Taliban into hiding or into sanctuary in Pakistan by the end of the year.



A conference of Afghanistan leaders was held in Bonn in late 2001, Hamid Karzai was selected to head the Afghan Interim Administration

and the United Nations Security Council established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to oversee and train the Afghan security forces. ISAF was also involved in prolonged fighting with the Taliban, particularly in the South. In December 2014 Afghanistan assumed full responsibility for its security, and from this point international forces were limited to training, advising, and assisting.

The Taliban resisted international forces with considerable success, and in February 2020 the United States and the Taliban signed an agreement to withdraw these forces by May 2021. In August 2021 we witnessed the collapse of the Afghan Army and the catastrophic withdrawal from Kabul. How had things gone so wrong?

The highly respected authors David Kilcullen and Greg Mills - and the foreword by Rory Stewart - give their very persuasive reasons. The 2001 invasion had no clear aim and was apparently to prevent a descent into chaos and to defeat the Taliban. Once the Taliban had been defeated, the cardinal error was to ignore them instead of negotiating a political agreement from a position of strength. As they were ignored the Taliban began an insurgency. The Taliban was assumed to be a terrorist organization when it had a nationalist agenda and "a vigilante law and order approach to the rule of law and order" and, as such, enjoyed wide popular support.

Despite the dedicated and effective military leadership at all levels, many mistakes were made: failure to address poverty and corruption nurtured hatred of the government and the foreign forces; failure to understand that politics were personal and tribal rather than national; a mismanaged poppy control campaign; attempting nation building while the enemy

was undefeated and failure to deploy resources adequate to the task.

A disastrous error was to create a western-style Afghan Army that relied on Western support and then withdrawing that support leading to its inevitable and rapid collapse after May 2021. The USA, which provided most of the forces and led the intervention, advertised that it intended to leave, so all the Taliban had to do was to keep fighting and wait.

The failings of the Western intervention are dealt with clearly and in some depth, and this book is highly recommended for those wondering why it went so terribly wrong.

August in Kabul

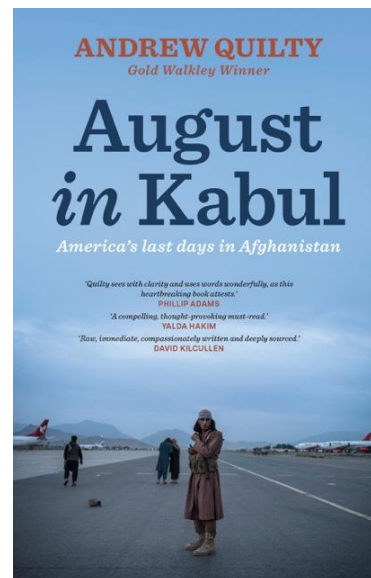
America's last days in Afghanistan

Andrew Quilty

Carlton VIC: Melbourne University Press, 2022

Paperback 304pp RRP \$34.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, September 2022



Released on the anniversary of the fall of Kabul to the Taliban, this highly-readable work looks at a variety of individuals in the days preceding 31 August 2021. Fortunately for the reader, there is ample background provided - in some cases going back as far as the 1980s. The narrative

is broken into three period during August 2021.

As the Allies prepared to leave Afghanistan, their support to the Afghan Army dwindled away to virtually zero. Four tiny hilltop outposts in Maidan Wardak Province were left without food, water ammunition and medical back up. The Taliban were able to wait until the soldiers were no longer a viable force before overrunning the four posts. The second scenario involved a worker in media relations in the presidential palace, who knew he would be a Taliban target and had a family he did not want to leave behind. A third involved a young girl, whose two siblings were already in Germany, and the confronting fragile environment she experienced in Kabul and the deteriorating relationship with her father and older brothers in her home.

As the Taliban drew closer to Kabul and key infrastructures came under their control, Afghan soldiers walked away from Resolute Support Mission Headquarters in Kabul after having rid themselves of their uniforms and dissolved into the Kabul general population. The young girl could no longer go to classes

and her father offered her as a Taliban bride for protection for the rest of his family. Meanwhile the Taliban were releasing inmates from the Bagram Prison that held many of their leaders.

The Doha Agreement, signed on 29th February 2020, guaranteed the US withdrawal by 2021, and the Taliban knew they only had to wait rather than continuing fighting. They continued to exploit everything to their advantage while they waited. As families made their way to the Kabul Airport in mid-August, the description of the traumas and difficulties they faced were indeed heart-breaking. The reader is privy to the duty of the US Marines who were flown into Kabul for 'crowd control' at the airport. The bomb blast at Abbey Gate, and the deaths of those falling from one airborne aircraft, reminded us of the TV news footage we had seen twelve months earlier.

Andrew Quilty flew back into Kabul on 13th August determined to record the last days of the Allied occupation. As a result of many interviews, his choice of 'cameos' provide an excellent and very personalised account of the days in Kabul as they passed last August.

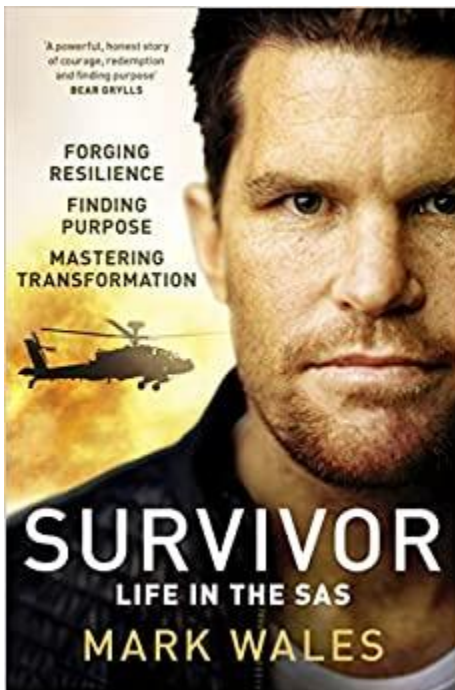
Survivor

Life in the SAS

Mark Wales

Sydney, NSW: Pan Macmillan, 2021
Paperback 368pp RRP \$35.00

Reviewer: Kevan Sanderson, August 2022



Survivor: Life in the SAS is the author's story of his life in the army and his transition to civilian life. Wales wanted to be a soldier from early childhood. In his book he provides a record of his war experience and the struggles he endured attempting to come back from that experience.

The author was committed to a military career, joined the cadets at school then chose the elite path, through ADFA and RMC Duntroon, to become an infantry officer. Finally, Wales passed SAS selection and served four tours in Afghanistan during a ten-year army career.

By his own admission Mark was ill-prepared for the trauma of prolonged exposure to a dirty conflict. He believed he knew enough to survive war but was proven wrong and discovered his limits.

When he left the Army in 2010, Mark struggled to adapt to civilian life, enrolling in postgraduate management training before trying several different jobs and starting his own clothing company. His book describes his failures to 'fit in', until he realised he was in trouble dealing with post-traumatic stress. He describes the difficulty of accepting a problem exists as the hardest step to recovery, and his message is that rebuilding your life after hitting rock bottom isn't easy. Recovery takes time, effort and patience and trauma must be confronted head-on; counter-attacked if you like.

The author only briefly touches on the politics and management of the conflict and the recent controversial revelations about the behaviour of SAS personnel in Afghanistan. He acknowledges that over the four years of his involvement he observed creep in psychological damage, morality, and the culture of the SAS. He is critical of the way the war was being directed at the highest levels claiming that higher echelons clearly understood it was being lost but continued to reinforce failure. He exhorts that ADF leadership be held accountable for failures in Special Operations forces.

Survivor is more of memoir than an autobiography - providing a good and easy read and therein lies the book's weakness. The blurb on the book's rear cover poses the question 'How do you rebuild your life when you have hit rock bottom?' The problem is that the details of Mark Wales 'struggles in the Army, the war and in life are so lightly treated this reader didn't realize he had hit rock bottom. After reading I couldn't escape feeling this book is intended as a glossy companion to one of the authors speaking engagements designed to enhance his brand as TV personality and corporate speaker.

Several other current volumes about Special Force operations emphasize negative aspects and may be seen to be 'piling on'. Overall, I would recommend reading *Survivor*, if only to get an alternative view.





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

Under Beijing's Shadow

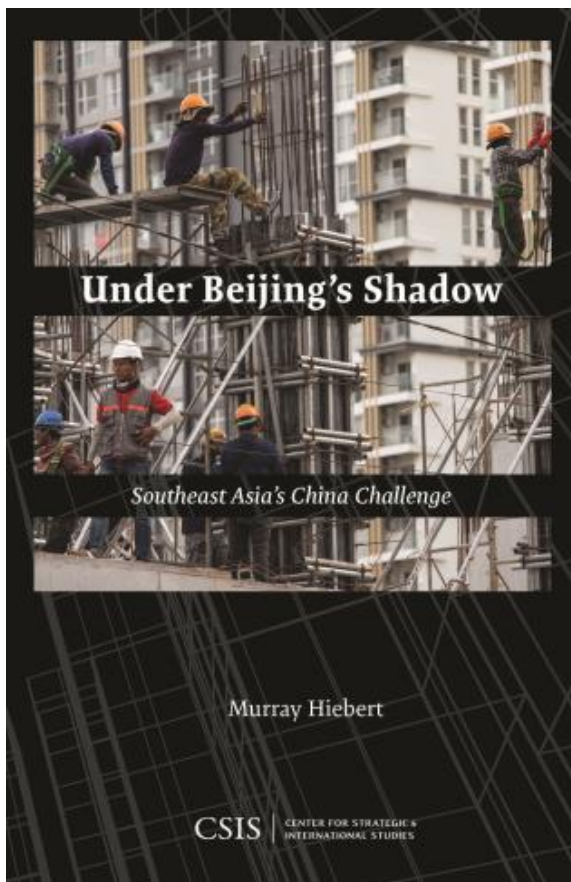
Southeast Asia's China Challenge

Murray Hiebert

Lanham, Maryland US: Roman & Littlefield, 2020
Hardcover, 608 pages RRP \$76.14

Reviewer: Bruce Brown, June 2022

A pre-occupation of Australia's foreign policy analysts continues to be the search for appropriate strategies in response to China's growing assertiveness in the Indo Pacific region. In 2022, for example, news of an agreement between Solomon Islands, a neighbouring Pacific Islands state, and China created a furore over how Australia should have responded.



There were, in fact, no case studies or a road map for Australia to explore, unlike those provided for Southeast Asia by Murray Hiebert.

Hiebert's volume provides an illuminating insight into China's engagement with 10 countries in Southeast Asia - another zone of geopolitical importance to Australia. Based on his extensive knowledge and contacts as a journalist in Southeast Asia, Herbert is able to explore how differences in religion, economics and proximity to China shape the responses of each state. Ultimately this

undermines the development of a concerted and coherent ASEAN regional response.

Aside from chapters dealing with the ten countries, the opening and closing chapters offer broader perspectives accompanied by maps.

The final chapter 'Epilogue: For Southeast Asia. How close to China is too Close?' provides an interesting observation for the Australian reader.

'Prime Minister Morrison in August 2019 paid an official visit to Vietnam, a strategic partner, and announced commitments to increase economic ties and strengthen defence and security cooperation. But the visit tools place while a Chinese survey ship and supporting coast guard vessels were hassling a Vietnam-sponsored oil rig exploring for oil and gas ...off the coast of southern Vietnam. China's actions were discussed in Hanoi, but Morrison avoided calling out Beijing's behaviour, presumably to avoid offending China, which is Australia's most important economic partner.'

The reluctance of the Australian prime minister to call Beijing out suggests that nations in China's crosshairs cannot expect much help from countries like Australia that are highly dependent on China economically, said Huong Le Thu of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

Above all, the book can be highly recommended as very readable for the armchair as well as specialist reader

Book Reviewers Wanted

Due to the generosity of Australian and overseas publishers, RUSI – Vic Library finds itself swamped with copies of books that are required to be reviewed. To lighten the load and spread the workload, we are urgently seeking members who are prepared to assist with this task.

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

The War Game: Australian War Leadership from Gallipoli to Iraq

Lunchtime Lecture Thursday 25 August 2022



The second lunch-time lecture, after a lengthy Covid-19 shutdown, was delivered by Emeritus Professor David Horner, AM, Official Historian and Professor of Australian Defence History, ANU, addressed the question of why Australia had gone to war nine times in a century, and how Australia's political and defence force leaders had handled the greatest challenge a nation can face.

Professor Horner's recent publication (July 2022, *The War Game: Australian war leadership from Gallipoli to Iraq* should be of great interest to RUSIVIC members. Professor Horner has covered a vast range of topics *e.g.* Ukraine, the Asia-Pacific region, the nature of war and the human suffering it brings. Jonathon Swift (1667-1745), the Anglo-Irish satirist (see *Gulliver's Travels, The Battle of the Books*) who disdained war games, military success and political leadership; and Robert Walpole (1676-1745), generally regarded as Britain's first PM, are referred to, in addition to Sir Joseph Cook, sixth PM of Australia; Andrew Fisher (Labor PM who said Australia 'would support Britain to the last man and the last shilling'); Billy Hughes (PM between 1915-1923), R. G. Menzies, Sir Arthur Fadden, Sir Frank Shedden (1893-1971), Field Marshal Thomas Blamey, Harold Holt, Bob Hawke and John Howard.

In his presentation, Professor Horner addressed the selection of war leaders, the rules of war, the tension that can exist between military and political leaders, the command structure, decision-making in war time, the environment of uncertainty, threats to resign, unintended consequences, and government policy not being followed.

The War Game: Australian war leadership from Gallipoli to Iraq should be compulsory reading for RUSIVIC members.

Michael Small

Library Notes

Since the last report we have received some important donations. A large one came from the collection of Major General Ronald Alwyn Grey AO DSO mid, donated by his wife Avril, containing some rare personal documents and books. We now have the personal papers of three Commanders of Australian forces in Vietnam. Other desirable books and pamphlets came from Hugh Fraser and Donald Edwards. Some of these items are rare. One example is a set of seven Aircraft recognition booklets covering allied and axis aircraft. These were published during WWII by The Aeroplane magazine and are still in very good condition.

Thanks to the efforts of our President, we have sold a good many of our best quality surplus books to two independent booksellers and received a substantial financial amount for them.

We still have quite a large stock we wish to dispose of and there are many excellent books to be had.

Our secretary will be publicising a link to a downloadable movie of the recent talk by David Horner on Australian War leadership. Anyone who wishes to download their own copy of this movie may do so, or just watch it without downloading it. More of our past talks will be made available in this way as time permits. Members will be advised when they are available.

We have some very valuable maps in our collection. One example is an Italian strip map of the North African defences. An American Internet site that values this sort of thing quotes many thousands of dollars for our map. We probably have other such gems in our map drawers or hanging on our walls.

Brian Surtees
Hon Librarian

New Acquisitions (since June 2022)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author(s)	Subject
<i>Russia</i>	Antony Beevor	Revolution and Civil War 1917 – 1921
<i>The War Game</i>	David Horner	Australian war leadership from Gallipoli to IRAQ.
<i>The Witness</i>	Tom Gilling	The fighting had ended but for Sandakan's most notorious prisoner the war was not over.
<i>The Cowra Breakout</i>	Mat McLachlan	The compelling untold story of the only World War II battle fought on Australian soil.
<i>Fact or Fission?</i>	Richard Broinowski	The truth about Australia's nuclear ambitions.
<i>The Greatest Escape</i>	Neil Churches	A gripping story of wartime courage and adventure.
<i>Empire, War, Tennis and Me</i>	Peter Doherty	The unique history of tennis and its ties to culture and nationalism.
<i>Semut</i>	Christine Helliwell	The untold story of a secret Australian operation in WWII Borneo.
<i>Australia's Secret Army</i>	Michael Veitch	The story of the Coast Watchers, the unsung heroes of Australia's armed forces during World War II.
<i>The Greatest Raid</i>	Giles Whittell	St Nazaire, 1942: The heroic Story of Operation Chariot.
<i>The Scrap Iron Flotilla</i>	Mike Carlton	Five valiant destroyers and the Australian war in the Mediterranean.
<i>Darwin Spitfires</i>	Anthony Cooper	The real battle for Australia.

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Please make cheques to the 'RUSI VIC Inc Library Fund'. Receipts will be provided.

