



# SENSOR

*Promoting National Security and Defence*

## RUSI of SA

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### The Defence Diarchy – Benchmark or Busted?

The interesting article by Peter Leahy, former Chief of Army and a member of the SA Defence Advisory Board, in *The Australian* the other week about the Defence Minister's announcement of a panel to review the development of the next defence white paper certainly caught my attention. At its heart was a dialogue covering the most important aspect of organisational health - governance.

My exposure to good and bad governance has had a profound effect on the way I look at public life. I look back at the difficult days of the Defence Reform Program when the Department's Chief Financial Officer did not report directly to the Executive. Quite simply the left hand of modernisation did not know what the right hand of operations was doing from a financial perspective. On the other hand I credit a massive change to improve the governance arrangements at what became Football Australia with the Socceroos qualifying for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The new Board of Soccer Australia ensured that the Socceroos had every chance to secure the qualification. Faced with match times and connecting flights that would have put our team on the field in Sydney for the return match with our South American opponents jet-lagged and woefully underprepared, the Board and management arranged for a charter flight to convey the team to Australia in a timely fashion. On board were sports science and sports medicine practitioners who worked on the team to fine tune them physically and mentally. In the end it came down to a penalty shootout which we won – some luck involved, but only possible because of the initiative of the Board and management. When I relate this story to sports and other commentators it is always interesting to see it dawn upon them how crucial good governance is to success in any organisational endeavour.

This is the theme of Peter Leahy's article. He laments the disconnect between strategy, capability and investment that has been the hallmark of Australian Defence for decades. To be fair, Leahy points out that the lack of an overarching, coherent, enduring national grand strategy from government handicaps Defence considerably, noting that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has not produced a white paper in over a decade. Nonetheless, real reform that provides transparency and tightens up lines of accountability and responsibility to deliver informed and timely decision making is needed urgently. The starting point, Leahy argues, is to abolish the diarchy – shared responsibility between the Chief

of the Defence Force and the departmental secretary – which was, introduced in 1974 by Sir Arthur Tange in an effort to reconcile responsibility between ministers, the public service and the military. In practice, though, its existence complicates a management and control system already built with a strong tendency to fracture.

Peter Leahy's article resonated with at least one other reader who went even further in a letter to the Editor of The Australian, voicing the view that the inefficiencies of the diarchy are replicated at many lower levels within defence administration at great cost. The letter went on to say that careers turn on the diarchy's existence and (perhaps with a bit of tongue in cheek) that it reminded him of the old Soviet system where commissars supervised soldiers.

It certainly had me thinking and so I dragged out of the ether an excellent analysis of defence management by Mark Thomson in his 2007 Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) Report Improving Defence Management. Mark held a number of positions in Defence before joining ASPI in the capability development and resource management areas. In 1999 he was Political Military Adviser to then Major General Peter Cosgrove during the INTERFET operation.

The Report is worth reading in its entirety (please see below for the link) not so much as a rebuttal of those who would advocate dismantling the diarchy such as suggested by Peter Leahy but as an erudite and critical exposure of the complexity of the issue.

To begin to come to grips with the challenge of getting inside the diarchy conundrum consider the following from his opening remarks:

*'Defence management is of a scale and complexity unparalleled in Australia below that of the state and federal governments themselves. Not only is Defence one of the largest employers in the country—comparable with the Coles and Woolworths retail chains—but it maintains a diverse*

*range of technologically sophisticated military equipment valued at more than \$32 billion. Defence is also the country's largest single land owner with more than 30,000 buildings spread across the length and breadth of the continent. In addition, Defence undertakes complex operations at short notice, ranging from disaster relief through to peacekeeping and conventional war-fighting. No other entity in Australia has to deal with the diversity and complexity of missions allocated to Defence.'*

In the end I do not necessarily agree with his recommendations and no doubt many of you will be of the same view but the Report is highly valuable for the comprehensive manner in which it canvasses the complexities of management in Defence. Indeed Mark goes as far as to say; *'Given the criticality, complexity and diversity of Defence, no simple or foolproof arrangement for running the organisation is possible.'*

Is the Diarchy the best management form benchmark then or is it inherently bust? To paraphrase Winston Churchill, the diarchy may be a poor form of governance but perhaps it is better than all the other forms tried from time to time. The point here though is where is the open, public discourse on the issue? The Minister's announcement as to the development of a white paper suggests an inward focus on only part of the problems that beset Defence. In that context Mark Thomson's piece is worth reading.

Go to it at the following URL:

[https://www.aspi.org.au/publications/special-report-issue-1-improving-defence-management/SR1\\_DefenceMgmt.pdf](https://www.aspi.org.au/publications/special-report-issue-1-improving-defence-management/SR1_DefenceMgmt.pdf)

Brent Espeland  
State President

## BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

### 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

**From 4 to 8 May 1942, the American and Australian navies fought together in the Battle of the Coral Sea.**

This was the first naval battle in history in which the opposing surface ships at no stage sighted or fired on each other - all attacks were carried out by aircraft.

The Battle of the Coral Sea thwarted the Japanese planned invasion of Port Moresby and ended the Japanese expansion southward. The Official History of the Royal Australian Navy refers to the Battle of the Coral Sea as "Japan's first check."

The Australian American Association in South Australia will commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea with a service at 10.30 am on Sunday 4 May 2013 at the Australian American Remembrance Columns in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and with a formal dinner at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club at 7.00pm on Saturday 10 May 2014.

All are welcome. For further details contact David Stoba Tel: 8266 0007 or email [djs0304@chariot.net.au](mailto:djs0304@chariot.net.au)

## RUSSIAN REVISIONISM

**President Putin's plan for overturning the European Order is discussed in an article published recently by the Council on Foreign Relations.**

The author claims that Russia's willingness to violate Ukraine's territorial sovereignty is the gravest challenge to the European order in half a century. The complete article may be found at

[http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/140990/ivan-krastev/russian-revisionism?cid=soc-tumblr-in-snapshots-russian\\_revisionism-030414](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/140990/ivan-krastev/russian-revisionism?cid=soc-tumblr-in-snapshots-russian_revisionism-030414)

# Monthly Luncheons

**Monday 14 April 2014**

Speaker: Mr Michael von Berg MC

Topic: **Leadership in the Modern Australian Army**

**Please note that this luncheon has been moved from the first to the second Monday.**

Wines presented to guest speakers are generously donated by SKYE CELLARS, 578 The Parade, Auldana 5072.

SKYE CELLARS has been operating for over 28 years. It is a family owned and operated business situated in the heritage listed Auldana Estate Winery in the Adelaide foothills.

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see and hear, to nominate them for membership.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual. We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12.00 noon when our President welcomes members and guests and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Soft drinks will be available for purchase. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Friday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55 pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available. We aim to complete the program by 2.00 pm.

**Cancellations must be advised to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$25.**

# AUTUMN FEST

Imagine it is about 1916. You are part of a Mounted Patrol returning from Escort Duties and entering Thebarton Police Barracks. You are on horseback, 'at the walk', one of a Patrol of six, moving forward to the gap between the Orderly Room and the Administration Block, where you are brought to the 'Halt'. The Patrol is acknowledged by the Orderly Room Guard, and moves forward across a Parade Ground. On the right are the two story brick dormitories and the Mess Kitchen and Hall where you eat your meals. Adjacent is the Saddler Shop and Armoury. To the front are the Stables. Nearby is a large galvanized iron shed that houses the Police Band which could be heard practicing. You're turned to single file, and the order 'Dismount' is given. Mounted Constable's lead their horses inside, at the completion of another day.

For the RUSI of SA Autumn Fest on Sunday 30 March 2014 a tour was conducted at the Thebarton Police Barracks, which were presented as they may have been in 1916.

We were given a briefing and shown movies of SAPOLS's Police Dog Squad, followed by a sumptuous Devonshire Tea. Two retired Senior Police Officers then guided us in two groups to view the Bruce Furler Motor Gallery, a collection of Police Bicycles, Motor Cycles, an old Bedford Prison Van, various Patrol Sedans including an FX Holden, a Chrysler Royal Highway Patrol and Commodore sedans. The most impressive piece was the 'Black Maria' horse drawn prison van. At the request of one of the children, tour guides turned on the sirens and lights on vehicles that had them fitted.

We looked into the Stalls area of the Mounted Police, with a plaque for each Mounted Police Horse, in alphabetical order with its name and dates of services to SA Police. We were shown the old administration block adorned with engraved plaques for all Police Officers that had 'fallen' in War, and the plates of the names and time of service for Police Officers that died on duty. The administration block included references and memorabilia from the time of colonisation in 1836 to current times, and includes one of the largest displays of Police Patches and Badges in the world.



Thanks are extended to Geoff Rawson, and his volunteers for the excellent and much appreciated afternoon.

Visit web site: <http://www.sapolicehistory.org/> for more information, or email: [SAPOLHistoricalSociety@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:SAPOLHistoricalSociety@police.sa.gov.au) if you want to arrange a tour of your own.

For those that missed this tour, or would like to see it again, the Police Historical Society is having an open day on Sunday, 27 April 2014, at Thebarton Police Barracks, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Re-live 175 years of policing in SA. Learn why the SA Police Force was established just 16 months after the proclamation of the colony, which was to consist of free settlers who it was believed would not commit any crime. On-street parking is readily available.

Report prepared by Graham Saunders, who arranged the visit.

**On 4 February 2014, Dr Michele Cunningham spoke on “Prisoners of War in Borneo 1942-1945”. The following text, provided by Michele, covers much of what she had to say.**

Between July 1942 and April 1943 2,000 Australian and about 2,300 British and Indian prisoners of war were transferred to Borneo to construct airfields for the Japanese. All the Australians and about 800 British worked on the airfield at Sandakan in British North Borneo while the remaining British worked at Kuching in Sarawak. 1500 Australians went to work at Sandakan in July 1942, while the other five hundred Australians arrived at Sandakan in April 1943. However, they ‘relaxed’ on Berhala Island in Sandakan harbour until their camp was completed near the Sandakan airfield on 5 June. The night before they were moved, eight men escaped and managed to remain hidden – with the help of some locals involved in an underground network – for some weeks before escaping by boat to the Philippines. Here they joined up with American guerrillas where many of them remained until the end of the war.

The escape of these men had repercussions for the prisoners in Sandakan, particularly as it occurred on the heels of the escape of three men from the Sandakan camp. Two of these men had been caught and shot while the third remained at large and was one of the eight who escaped from Berhala Island. The Japanese decided to immediately remove all senior officers – Majors and above – and a few junior officers to Kuching, believing that the men would be much more easily controlled without the senior officers around. Security in the three separate compounds – two Australian and one British – was also stepped up.

### **Clandestine activities.**

The underground network that helped the escapees had been operating for some months and comprised European civilians now made to work for the Japanese; local Chinese and native civilians and police and a group of Australian prisoners led by Captain Lionel Matthews from Adelaide. They had gathered maps and information about Japanese locations and defence systems, made contact with Filipino guerrillas and gathered and secreted arms to be prepared to assist an Allied invasion force when and if it came. They also

constructed a radio that provided them with up to date progress of the war. Unfortunately they were betrayed in July 1943 and most of the members of the underground – and many others - in the Australian camp were arrested. Hundreds of civilians were also arrested and all were questioned and tortured for several weeks before those

considered guilty were transferred to Kuching to be tried. This resulted in the execution of Captain Matthews and eight Chinese, Indian and native civilians and the imprisonment of over twenty others. Their sentences ranged from six months to twenty years, the military personnel and some of the European civilians being transferred to Singapore to serve their sentences. The remainder were kept in the Kuching gaol.

The Japanese response to this and to a Chinese uprising in Jesselton in September 1943 was to transfer all but a handful of the Australian and British officers to Kuching. The officers were confined in separate compounds with neighbouring compounds housing over 1,000 British soldiers and about 100 Australians; civilian males; civilian women and children; Indonesian soldiers; Dutch officers; and some Indian officers and soldiers. Altogether about 3,300 prisoners and internees were kept at Kuching. Of these, about 700 British soldiers, 30 civilians and seven Australians died.

Back in Sandakan, the men left behind continued to work on the airstrip until the end of 1944 at which time Allied bombing and the changing war situation brought construction to a halt. The bombing, and Allied blockades in the surrounding seas, began to have a significant effect on food supplies to Borneo from about August of 1944 and as a result conditions in all camps began to deteriorate.

From July 1942 to August 1944 approximately 45 Australians had died, mostly of various illnesses, and about 85 British had died, including those who died at Jesselton. From September 1944, however, the number of deaths began to rise dramatically; from September to December they numbered 20 to 50 a month; in January 1945, 100; and from February to May 1945 over 600 Australians and 70 or more British died.

### **The first march to Ranau – 260km.**

At the end of January 1945 the Japanese decided to begin moving the prisoners overland towards the west coast to coincide with their own withdrawal from all parts of British North Borneo towards the Brunei/ Jesselton area where they anticipated the Allies would invade Borneo. Approximately 450 prisoners left



Dr Michele Cunningham

Sandakan divided into nine groups that departed at daily intervals. 185 men reached Ranau at the end of February and 142 reached Paginatan, a few days' march from Ranau, about the same time and remained there for a month. By this stage 116 deaths had been recorded, either from illness, exhaustion or being 'disposed of' by the guards because they could not carry on. The number thus 'disposed of' was never satisfactorily determined. However, 30-40 Japanese/Formosan guards also died along the way. Of those who stopped at Paginatan, only 38 were capable of moving on to Ranau at the end of March. Of those only 18 survived the march, by which time approximately 120 of the other prisoners at Ranau were still alive. By the end of June 1945 when the survivors of the second march arrived at Ranau only six prisoners remained alive.

### The second march to Ranau.

At the end of May the Japanese intended to remove the remainder of the prisoners, but of the 800 prisoners remaining only 530 were capable of moving. The Japanese then burnt down the camp and left 288 extremely ill men to fend for themselves with only a few guards left behind. At the end of June 142 Australians and 41 British prisoners reached Ranau, the remainder having died or been killed along the route. A number of men were reported as having escaped along the way, but of the many accounts from natives who found or helped a number of them, only two men, Richard Braithwaite and Owen Campbell managed to survive and eventually be taken to the Australian HQ on Morotai in June 1945.

Seventy of the remaining prisoners reportedly began to march to Ranau in June but not one of them arrived. The bodies of 54 men were found in one area of the track and there were various native reports of their being executed by the guards. By the middle of August not one prisoner was left alive at Sandakan, most having died of starvation and illness, while at least 23 were executed.

### Ranau.

Deaths from starvation, illness and ill treatment steadily took its toll and early in July four men decided to escape. Of these, three managed to survive about five harrowing weeks in the jungle with the help of natives before being picked up by Australian Services Reconnaissance personnel. They were William Moxham, Keith Botterill and Nelson Short. At the end of July two more men decided to escape having been warned by a friendly guard that the Japanese were intending to kill the remaining prisoners. Of these only Bill Sticpewich managed to survive about two weeks in the jungle. The Japanese executed the remaining 32 prisoners within days of Sticpewich's escape.



Depiction of the march from Sandakan to Ranau by the daughter of a prisoner who died on the march.

Thus six men – all of them Australian – of about 2,500 survived over three years' imprisonment in Sandakan and the marches to Ranau.

### ***Hell on Earth: Sandakan – Australia's Greatest Military Tragedy, Hachette Australia, 2013.***

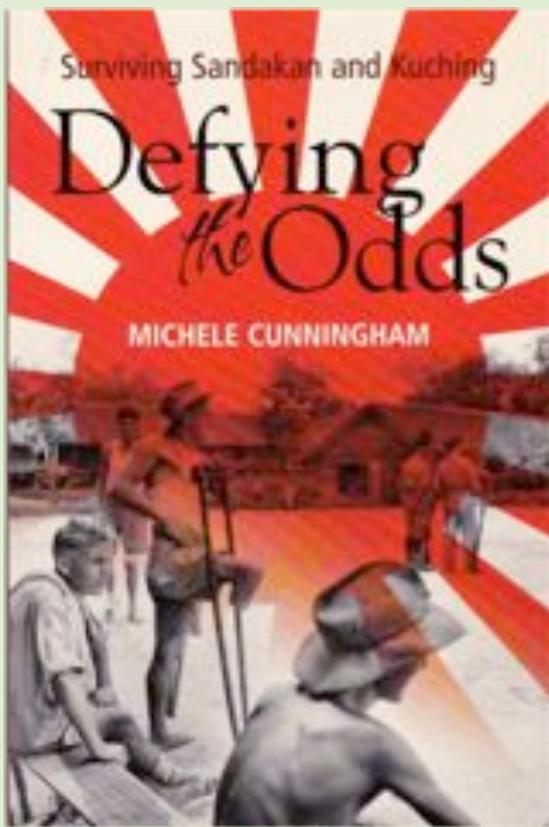
This is my recently published book about the dreadful tragedy of Sandakan. My writing involved many years of intensive research that included material in archives in Canberra and Melbourne, the United Kingdom and the United States. I have tried to place the story within the context of the progress of the war in the Pacific to understand the impact this had on a proposal to attempt to rescue the prisoners in 1945 and whether in fact such a plan was ever fully formed. I have also examined in much depth the war crimes trials related to Sandakan, and other evidence that provides more, and perhaps controversial, information about how the tragedy unfolded.

### Kuching.

At Kuching conditions had been deteriorating at a similar rate to those in Sandakan, the rations barely sustaining life. The majority of 700 deaths here occurred between January and September 1945. As the prisoners became weaker they were barely able to maintain their gardens, so vegetable supplies also deteriorated. Their ability to concentrate, even to read a book, was dramatically affected by malnutrition. By the time the Japanese surrendered at the end of August the remaining prisoners had lost between two and five stone (12-30kg), my father weighing six and a half stone, having been eleven-stone or more prior to the war. If the war had not ended when it did the death toll in Kuching would have risen dramatically and medical opinion suggested few would have survived many more weeks.

### ***Defying the Odds: Surviving Sandakan and Kuching, Lothian Books/Hachette Australia, 2006.***

My first book on prisoners in Borneo was intended to focus on the experiences of the 150 Australian officers imprisoned there, but as they were only a small percentage of the prisoners held there their story was inevitably intertwined with that of the other prisoners. A number of British prisoners and internees kept diaries or wrote memoirs shortly after the war and their writings provided a wealth of information about their experience, especially that of the hundreds of soldiers who worked on the airstrip. Over half of them died. My book is the only publication to tell the story of Batu Lintang prisoner of war and internee camp in any detail. It also deals with the post-traumatic symptoms of some of the former POWs and how they were addressed by the Repatriation Department in the early post-war years.



For Australian servicemen captured by the Japanese in WWII, humour, courage and dignity in the face of hardship, brutality and deprivation - and hope in the face of the unknown - were quiet victories. They defined a uniquely Australian spirit.

***Defying the Odds*** by Michele Cunningham tells the incredible story of the officers of E and B forces interned at Sandakan and Kuching in Borneo. Despite the starvation and then trauma they suffered at the hands of the Japanese, they boosted morale through a regimen of study, music and theatre, and most importantly, by making each other laugh.

This is the first full-length account of how the officers of B and E forces defied the odds and survived.



Fay Leditschke, RUSI of SA member and past member of Council, who was the first female Commissioned Officer in SAPOL in 1979.



Old Thebarton Police Barracks - site of the museum.

## *Vale*

It is with regret that the recent death of

Reginald McColl

was announced.

Reginald was a long time member and past Councillor of the RUSI-SA. He passed away on 26 March 2014 and was privately cremated. RIP

The President, Councillors and Members extend their condolences to his family and friends.

### **The luncheon address by Mr Guy Bowering on 3 March 2014 focused on the topic “Close Air Support - Then, Now and into the Future - An ADF Perspective”.**

The following notes made of the talk were written by David Hirst.

From the outset, we the audience, were able to hear how the Australian First World War General Sir John Monash, arguably the key pioneer of what is now generally termed Close Air Support, proved his revolutionary theory.

The Battle of Hamel in 1918 saw the employment of Air Power working in concert with Land Forces to genuinely assist in delivering a decisive outcome. By initially using the available heavy bombers to deliver explosive ordnance on the enemy positions, then for them to return to base and re-equip and deliver Infantry ammunition, which was delivered to support the advance and consolidate the ground seized in the battle, was a tactic which proved invaluable. As opposed to the excessive timeframes of land battles at that time, the Battle of Hamel, according to Monash's plan, was to take 90 minutes to complete. By the time the battle had been declared a success; having attained all the desired objectives, 93 minutes had passed. As such, the true effect of 'shock and awe' had been achieved and the Australian troops were able to maintain and capitalise on the gains made without having to forfeit the ground seized due to a lack of munitions. Much of the success of Monash's plan would be used to telling effect by the German war machine for the 'Blitzkrieg' campaigns of the Second World War. A sound endorsement indeed, given the early and relatively easy campaigns in Europe for the Germans up until late 1942!

The Australian use of Close Air Support was again to prove effective and often decisive in the South West Pacific in the Second World War. In particular this was shown at Milne Bay, as well as the Beaches campaigns in Papua New Guinea, and through up until Japan's surrender in August 1945. Again in Korea, and in a far more



Mr Guy Bowering

limited way in Vietnam, Royal Australian Air Force aircraft operated with a high degree of success in ably supporting ground forces when in close proximity to enemy forces.

However, on balance, the audience was able to establish that the Australian Government had by the late 1960s become somewhat more reserved in dedicating appropriate and genuine ground attack aircraft to the fight at hand. This can be explained with the block retirement of many then deemed obsolescent aircraft from the inventory around that time. The net effect was, a more modern fleet of new combat aircraft being purchased, with the intent of conducting different operational roles. While there was merit in much of this doctrine, certain flaws, role limits and delays in delivery were only a foreshadow of future problems the RAAF was to experience up to and including now and into the foreseeable future. Many pundits can see a rhyme with the F-111 purchase

and the F-35 project. For the investment being made, we the tax payers can only but hope the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter does provide the Australian nation with the same degree of genuine punch in the fight - if the unfortunate day ever does arrive and offensive operations are to be conducted.

From there Mr Bowering discussed his first-hand experiences of Close Air Support in the first Gulf War. This part of the talk granted an insight into more of the real outputs, delivered munitions and types utilised, to achieve the end result sought. A telling statistic, often overlooked by the mainstream media of the time and now, was that only around 10% of the bombs dropped in the entire conflict were what are termed 'smart weapons'. Given the accuracy and strike rate success of these new technology attachments to standard conventional bombs, this set the tone for a strong desire by most nations to improve their inventories with high-tech and equally expensive precision munitions. As such, a new form of arms race has emerged to compete with the long-standing competition in the aircraft platform sphere. No longer are just the aircraft type and role the key factor in the quest for Air supremacy. The high-tech weapons suites; stealth characteristics and aircrew survivability (if required in the near future) are also all hotly contested.

Drawing all of this information together, Mr Bowering was able to clearly articulate areas of concern for the current RAAF doctrine in the Close Air Support space. With the current fleet of aircraft in the Australian inventory, few, and soon even less, aircraft will have the ability to project offensive Air Power in the conventional sense. As the expiry date of the remaining 70 odd 'classic' F/A-18 fighters looms large in this decade, and the lease on the stop-gap 24 F/A-18F Super

Hornets runs its course, the future Strike capability looks increasingly pale and anemic. Add to this the 2009 White Paper proposal to acquire 100 F-35 JSFs, now potentially reduced to 86, and the high probability of actually even less being ultimately delivered, gives for a reasonable rise for some concern.

Adding to this debate is the often hyped discussion on the potential future purchase of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or drones, or whichever new buzz name is applied to these pilotless aircraft. As anyone who is slightly more than just a casual observer on this topic for more than the past decade will acknowledge, little if anything is ever mentioned of these platforms ever being, or being capable of, carrying and delivering weapons for Australian forces. A very pivotal point, when

at some stage again in the future Australian Land Forces may call upon the RAAF to 'lend a hand in the fight'. From this position, the RAAF will have much to consider in allocating Air asset into any hostile threat environment – either Air or Ground combat related in the future. Will the loss of such an airframe to possible ground base threats and small-arms fire be enough to deter committing the asset in the first place? If so, what else can the RAAF provide to aid in the suppression of enemy forces in close proximity to our own troops? The small handful of the Army's new Euro Tiger helicopter is supposed to be an armed reconnaissance platform – not really to be committed to sustained ground attack roles. After that, the options are exceptionally few, if any at all.

Complicating this issue is the fact our 'Great and Powerful Friend' being the United States of America, our long-term security guarantor, or so it has been hoped, is radically transforming it's own military and mortally crippling itself in the Close Air Support realm as well. The recent announcement to retire the entire fleet of A-10 Warthogs, so soon after proving invaluable in the 1st and 2nd Gulf Wars as well as in Afghanistan even today, is troubling indeed. These aircraft have provided sterling service and are comparatively cheap to maintain and operate. With no other viable alternative even being considered, or available or being produced to fill this massive void, is very worrying, not just for US forces but Western Liberal Democracy security as a whole.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE

**On 22 April 2014, Australia Post will release a special stamp issue to commemorate the Centenary of WWI. This issue is the first of a five year series that will commemorate chronologically the story of WWI with each issue relating to the centenary year in which it is released.**

The first issue contains a medallion cover, mini-sheet of stamps, first day covers, stamp packs and booklets.

WWI was the first war in which Australians fought as Australians rather than colonial soldiers.

You can download the recently published Stamp Bulletin which contains full details of the commemorative issue at <http://shop.auspost.com.au/stamp-coin-collectables/for-collectors/publications>



The landmark introduced with this issue will be used across the five-year program.

## STEALTH FIGHTER JETS

**It was recently reported in *Adelaide Now* that the Prime Minister Tony Abbott is about to approve the biggest ever purchase of stealth fighter jets.**

Approval will be given within weeks for Defence to order 86 American made stealth fighter jets for the RAAF at a cost of about \$90 million each. The project cost is estimated to be \$14 billion during the 30 year life of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

To read the report in full, see

[http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/national/tony-abbott-to-approve-australias-biggest-ever-military-purchase-of-stealth-fighter-jets/story-fni6ulvf-1226851684344utm\\_source=The20Advertiser&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=editorial&net\\_sub\\_uid=64432140](http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/national/tony-abbott-to-approve-australias-biggest-ever-military-purchase-of-stealth-fighter-jets/story-fni6ulvf-1226851684344utm_source=The20Advertiser&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&net_sub_uid=64432140)



Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter