



SENSOR

Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI of SA

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

RUSIDSS-SA members and guests may recall that some time ago I gave a lunch presentation about Australians Missing in Action (MIA) from the Korean War.

Over the course of the next few months I expect there will be a lot of discussion within Defence, Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and the veteran community about a range of issues related to the identification our MIA. It will cover matters such as the concerns and interests of the Next of Kin (NOK) and exhumation for the purposes of identification and, while the focus will be on the Korean War, there will be implications for other conflicts.

The Korean War is often referred to by Australia's Defence Family as the Forgotten War - a sentiment echoed by the 43 Australians Missing in Action. Of these men 18 were members of No 77 Squadron.

At the end of the Korean War there was an exchange of 4219 allied identified and unidentified remains between the Chinese PLA and the United Nations Military Forces – Operation Glory. Further to that, US Non – Glory exercises also recovered unidentified remains from South Korean battlefields, air craft crash sites and South Korean cemeteries.

Of 867 unidentified Caucasoid and Negroid remains recovered and interred in 1956 at NMC Punchbowl, 119 have been exhumed and 72 have been identified as US Servicemen as at October 2016. From 1990 to 2005 a further 620 remains were recovered by the US Military JPAC unit from North Korea under diplomatic agreement. To date approximately 300 have been identified. Since 2005 further diplomatic negotiations have been unsuccessful.

The Australian Council of Korean Veterans Associations (ACKVA) has been concerned about the issue of Korean War Australian MIA for a considerable time and in a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Defence and the Chief of Defence Force in June 2009 wrote;

'On behalf of the Australian Korean War veteran community and in particular the families of those who died with no known grave I ask you to commit a dedicated function in the defence structure to progress the location and identification of the remains of Australian servicemen, who died in the Korean War and have no known grave.'

This representation, together with the concerted efforts and presentation of evidence by the spokesperson for the NOK of Korean War Australian MIA, led to the Army establishing the Unrecovered War Casualties Unit (UWC-A), an investigative unit responsible for matters associated with the identification and recovery of unaccounted Australian Servicemen for all wars. In the case of Korea, the work is known as The Korean War Project.

In this process the spokesperson drew upon information he had sourced since 1993 and has continued to provide further information and evidence to UWC-A from his direct contacts with officials at JPAC, the South Korean Ministry of National Defence Agency KIA Recovery and Identification (MAKRI) and US Korean War MIA research organisations.

Such is the concern of the NOK to identify their loved ones that they have established private contact with the South Korean and the United States MIA recovery and analysis organisations and have provided the latter with MIA family DNA samples and MIA dental records to prepare the pathway for the comparison of over 1603 remains still unidentified as Allied unknowns and held by JPAC in Hawaii (795 interred in numbered graves, 320 on shelves) and 568 Op Glory Unidentified Allied remains (not US Servicemen) as revealed on the US Korean War casualty report of January 1956.

As previously mentioned, ACKVA has been concerned about the issue of Korean War Australian MIA for a considerable time and in 2015, in concert with the RAR Corporation and the Air Force Association, brokered a process to bring all interested parties together to improve communication and understanding. Army HQ responded positively and in December 2015 the first working group meeting of navy, army and air force representatives with MIA responsibilities met with a number of interested ex-service organisations and several NOK.

With the support of Army HQ, the focus of the working group has been threefold; improved communication including the development of fact sheets to provide better understanding, for UWC-A to expand its DNA data base with valid samples from the relatives of the MIA and, most importantly, to develop a Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) between UWC-A and their JPAC counterparts that will provide the best possible opportunity to establish whether any remains held by the US authorities are Australian.

This last endeavour is expected to be completed with the signing of an MOU later this year and provide much improved transparency and accountability to the NOK about the process of possible identification.

More recently the working group has been considering the circumstances around information concerning four unknowns at the UN Memorial Cemetery Korea (UNMCK). UWC-A is presently conducting an investigation into these unknowns, comparing their Records of Interment (ROI) and any other available data against comparable data for Australia's MIA. Army will then present its findings to the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) within the Department of Veterans Affairs which has the responsibility for carriage of any decisions that may flow from the results of that investigation. This has given rise to the need to clarify Australia's policy on exhumation for identification purposes.

It is a complex issue involving, in this instance, consideration of the relevance of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention (Article 14), the Commission for the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, (CUNMCK) and, most importantly, the wishes of the NOK.

To have proper and full regard to the peace of mind and, in turn, the wishes of the families of MIA has been the feature in recent decisions made by successive governments in relation to identification and repatriation matters such as at Terendak, Vietnam & Fromelles.

Confirmation of this as an ongoing guiding policy principle would give great comfort to the NOK of past and future MIA Australian service personnel. I will keep readers informed as to how the Korean War Australian MIA matters progress.

Brent Espeland
State President

Vale

It is with regret that the deaths of

Mrs Elva Maria Wacyk
Mr Paul James Morrissy
LT Raymond Buttery OAM and
Lt Les Nixon,

members of the RUSIDSS of SA,
were noted.

The Members of Council extend their condolences
to their families and friends.



F-35A Lightning II aircraft landing at Avalon

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 3 April 2017

Speaker: Colin Goodall,

Chairman Committee for Adelaide

Topic: "Future for Adelaide"

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 RUSIDSS membership.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual. We will assemble in the Ex-Services Mess Association Bar at the Torrens Parade Ground 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 \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Wines, beer and 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 will be provided at the back of the room. Please be seated before 12.55 pm. The address will be 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 \$30.

Time for

A WAKE-UP CALL

for All Australians

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, South Australia.

RUSIDSS-SA aims to promote informed debate to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security issues.

Future luncheon speakers

3 APRIL - Colin Goodall, Chairman Committee for Adelaide

Speaking about the future for Adelaide

1 MAY - NXT Senator Nick Xenophon

Addressing the adequacy of Australia's Defence and Security systems – from his personal knowledge and research.

5 JUNE - Chen Yonglin, former Chinese diplomat

Exposing the Chinese threat to Australia's sovereignty - by him sharing a real and contemporary insight, being from his personal knowledge as a defector from the Chinese Government's consular service in Australia.

These presentations may be heard at the Torrens Parade Ground in the company of RUSIDSS-SA members and guests.

Each presentation is expected to be of around 40 minutes, with question time to follow.

Further details of each presentation will be distributed later.

To become better informed and involved in matters affecting, or likely to affect, Australia's sovereignty it is possible for members of the public to join the patriots of the **Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies SA**, by being nominated by a current member of the RUSIDSS-SA. An annual subscription of \$60 is then payable.

Elections for positions on Council are held each September.

Office Enquiries: Tel: 83058378 Mondays only, 10am – 4pm

WWI VETERANS

AIRCDRE Roger Capps spoke about the “Challenges of WWI Veterans Going to Gallipoli and the Western Front” on 5 September 2016. Following is a brief synopsis of his presentation.



Groups of veterans visited Gallipoli in 1990 and the Western Front in 1993 for commemoration of the 75th WWI anniversaries. Of about 110 that are still living, 60 were considered to be reasonably fit enough to make the journey to Gallipoli. Special medical support

was required to meet contingencies and those who went were closely monitored during the QANTAS charter flight. On the day of the ceremony, it was necessary to up at 3 am to be ready for the dawn service.

AIRCDRE Capps described how one veteran who had landed at Gallipoli during the first wave and was amongst the very last to leave did have some medical issues during the trip. Another who was blind went for the experience and said that he got a lot out of it.

Records and signatures of all those who went, veterans, carers, crew and support personnel with photographs and descriptions of each one were shown.

Fewer veterans went to the Western Front and no major medical issues were experienced. Some moving words were quoted from the book “*Australian Battlefields of the Western Front*” taken from grave stone epitaphs.

AIRCDRE Capps noted that WWI Turkish veterans joined them for breakfast on the morning of 25 April 1990 and that he was pleased to have been associated with the overall experience.

NON-LIABILITY HEALTH CARE

The Government’s 2016-17 Budget measure to extend the eligibility for non-liability health care (NLHC) treatment for mental health conditions is now in effect.

This means that all those who have served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) permanent forces are now eligible for health care for a range of mental health conditions without needing to prove that the condition has arisen from, or is linked to, their service. Reservists are also eligible if they have any period of continuous full-time service.

The conditions covered under this arrangement are:

- post-traumatic stress disorder;
- depressive disorder;
- anxiety disorder;
- alcohol use disorder; and
- substance use disorder.

Treatment is provided through a DVA Health Card – For Specific Conditions (White Card) and may include services provided by a general practitioner, medical specialist, psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist or psychiatrist, as well as

hospital services, specialist PTSD programs, and pharmaceuticals.

The White Card also confers eligibility to access counselling services through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service - VVCS.

The new arrangements also make it easier to apply. Applications no longer need to be lodged on an official form, but can instead be made over the phone or by email. In addition to this, a diagnosis is no longer required prior to being approved for NLHC treatment. Instead, a diagnosis from a general practitioner, psychiatrist or clinical psychologist can be provided to DVA within six months of approval. Once a diagnosis of one or more of the five conditions is provided, treatment approval becomes permanent.

For more information:

- DVA Factsheet: <http://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-hsv109-non-liability-health-care>
- Phone DVA on 133 254 (metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (regional callers)
- E-mail NLHC@dva.gov.au

On 26 October 2016, at a Current Issues Briefing at the Naval, Military and Air Force Club, AIRCDRE Noddy Sawade CSC spoke about the Air War in the Middle East with the emphasis on its effects on the RAAF.



Following is a summary of his talk.

The early days were used as the basis for what is happening today. The Global War on Terrorism, initiated by US President George W. Bush, invoked the ANZUS Treaty and Australia joined the US in the war in Afghanistan, Operation SLIPPER 2001 to 2014. The Bali bombings in 2002 erased any doubt that Australia needed to support the US led coalition, which invaded Iraq in 2003. Operation FALCONER focussed on Iraq, SLIPPER on Afghanistan but also included large areas of maritime significance including the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and North Western Indian Ocean including Diago Garcia and Krygystan, while the current Operation OKRA now encompasses Iraq and Syria.

The fact that the RAAF deployed fighter aircraft along with ISR and Air Lift elements was a significant effort and one which, while small compared to other nations, is still significant. Overall the RAAF deployed two P3s (10/11SQN) and 14 FA/18s (75SQN) to the UAE, three C130s (36SQN) to Qatar, 60 personnel Air Traffic Control detachment to Baghdad, RAAF Air Defence Gunners to Baghdad to train Iraqis and for Embassy Protection, Combat Support Elements to Baghdad and air movements, intelligence, logistics, medical and HQ functions for support.

AIRCDRE Sewade went on to describe Operations BASTILLE, FALCONER and CATALYST in some detail. *"The War in Iraq, ADF Operations in the Middle East in 2003"* describes these operations at <http://www.defence.gov.au/publications/lessons.pdf>.

The use of RAAF fighters in Operation FALCONER was of particular historical significance. 75 SQNs combat air patrols into Iraqi airspace marked the first time that an RAAF fighter squadron conducted offensive combat operations since 77 SQN deployed to South Korea with its P-51 Mustangs in 1950. There was an even deeper historic connection as RAAF

pilots renewed acquaintance with Basrah and Al Kut, familiar to the aircrew of Mesopotamian Half-Flight which had operated through the same region in 1915 in the very first overseas deployment of Australian combat aircraft. Much of the terrain that had been reconnoitred by the Half-Flight during the early Middle-East Campaigns of WWI was to become the principal operating area of RAAF Hornets 88 years later. A significant RAAF achievement occurred in 2004 when Baghdad Airport was handed over to the Iraqis after Australian ATCs had set it up and trained Iraqi personnel.

Operation SLIPPER occurred in three phases, the response to 9/11 from 2001 to 2003, stabilisation from 2005 to 2006 and reconstruction 2006 to 2014. Wikipedia contains a detailed description of SLIPPER at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_Australia_during_the_War_in_Afghanistan. The most dramatic change for RAAF was C17 involvement and the deployment of the mobile Air Surveillance radar 114 Mobile Control and Reporting unit.

Two Globemaster C17 aircraft from 36 SQN with three air crews and a large number of other personnel were established at Al Minhad Air Base in UAE. This was the first time that Australian C-17s deployed away from Amberley for more than two weeks, and was established to transport ADF equipment out of Afghanistan as part of the reduction of the Australian force in the country. About 100 Globemaster sorties were conducted to fly equipment out of Tarin Kot in 2012 and 2013.

All Australian C-17s that flew into Afghanistan are fitted with a Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures system for protection against missiles. The redeployment used solely RAAF air lift from Afghanistan to the UAE and then by ship from there to Australia which meant we didn't have to risk a road convoy out and/or rely on foreign or commercial air. The redeployment, known as OP NOSTOS (Greek for going home), was masterly and gave ADF forces a clean and quick exit without sacrificing people or equipment.

114MCRU assumed control of airspace over the congested areas of Afghanistan from the outgoing US 73rd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron. It marked the first operational deployment of the unit since it was sent to Malaysia in 1958, and the first time the new TPS-77 radar was used in earnest.

The current Operation OKRA commenced in 2014 and provides Air Combat and Air Support Operations in the UAE. It is the ADF's contribution to the international effort to combat the Daesh (also known as ISIL) terrorist threat in Iraq and Syria. Australia's contribution is being closely coordinated with the Iraqi government, Gulf nations and a broad coalition of international partners. Information about OKRA may be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/Okra/>.

According to the first commander of the Air Task Group, AIRCDRE 'Zed' Robertson:

"The initial push was at short notice. While a modest contribution, I'd argue it remains the most prepared, best equipped and most properly trained of any RAAF deployment in our history. Never before had the RAAF sent an air task group that had no caveats, probably best of each aircraft type in theatre and done it INSIDE readiness notice. We (the ATG) were ready for combat ops in 19 days on the other side of the world and we self-deployed and contributed a meaningful package.

The women and men fitted in seamlessly to the coalition effort and Aussies were leading packages in week two. Other nations took a further month, after they came on board, to lead missions and this is testament to International exercises and tier one level opportunities like exercise Red Flag."

The RAAF has certainly had a kinetic effect on Middle East Operations – OKRA is testament to that. It continually achieves outcomes that larger forces find difficult. While the scale of the RAAF is small, its effect is much larger and I know from personal discussions with high ranking USAF and British officers that the presence of the RAAF in the coalition provides great benefit. They often forget that what our commanders, air crew and ground crew achieve comes from such a small force. The RAAF is considered as highly reliable, capable, professional and ethical in its application of Air Power.

Sustainability is the most important issue for Australia, being a serious drain on our resources, particularly human. The overall effect of the RAAF on the Air War in the Middle East is very much considered to be significant. The outcome of those effects will no doubt be politically affected and, unless we are prepared to commit for a long time, may be rendered a waste of time, but the issue of sustainability remains – only time itself will tell of the effect of the RAAF in the air campaign.

TRANSFORMATION FOR THE RAAF

GPCAPT Phil Champion, OC 92 Wing, addressed RUSIDSS-SA on 10 October 2016. He spoke about his role as the OC and how 92 Wing is approaching capability transition from the P3 Orion to a mix of Manned and Unmanned Platforms and orchestrating this within a RAAF Plan Jericho transformational context.



The Wing has entered a significant transitional period which will herald a generational change. P3C Orions are being replaced by P-8A Poseidon Maritime aircraft which will revolutionise Australia's capabilities and will be interconnected with all ADF systems. See <https://www.airforce.gov.au/Technology/Future-Acquisitions/Boeing-P8-A-Poseidon/?RAAF-Z4PUOpGXH/eLtWmc6qxYI9xYycb+rKng> for full details of the Poseidon. In addition, the Heron Unmanned System is now employed within Australia under 92 WG Command and Control as a developmental capability.

The P3C has been in service for over 40 years and is now too expensive to keep. 70% of its maintenance is unscheduled and the introduction of Poseidon will allow for a significant reduction in the workforce from 950 to about 550 personnel. The last P3C will leave service in late 2018.

The first P-8 aircraft will be delivered to Australia next month and then a new one every three months until we have 12. To unlock and optimise the potential that comes with this new capability, we must ensure that we are fully integrated and networked both organisationally and operationally with the rest of Air Force, which is also undergoing considerable change and modernisation. Both culture and innovation aspects need to be considered.

A description of Plan Jericho followed which is an RAAF initiative to transform it for the information age. RAAF will work with Army and Navy to ensure delivery of a networked future joint force across the spectrum of air, space, electromagnetic and cyber. Plan Jericho details are at <http://www.airforce.gov.au/plan-jericho/?RAAF-Crl57877JHUU/bo9YoJ64qWYIO7G/14Q>.

When Poseidon is fully integrated, the MQ-4C Triton, unmanned aircraft system will follow. The Triton is a high altitude, long endurance aircraft that will be used for maritime patrol and other surveillance roles. For more information about Triton, see <http://airforce.gov.au/Technology/Aircraft/MQ-4C-Triton-Unmanned-Aircraft-System/?RAAF-BYjCaU6eHptQ3E2EiHw9jKOLJvauES8Y>.

RSL VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL

The SA Branch of the RSL has set up on line the RSL Virtual War Memorial. On Monday 7 November, Robert Kearney described the VWM during the RUSIDSS-SA luncheon.

The Virtual War Memorial is a time capsule containing the names of all those who served the nation in times of conflict. It can be found at <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au>. The initiative was started in South Australia but is now national.

The Ode of Remembrance, taken from Laurence Binyon's poem "*For the Fallen*" cites "*We Will Remember*



Them". The Virtual War Memorial is designed to remember not only those who have fallen, but all those who served. RSL members are able to go to the website, sign in and follow directions to add family member details. RSL staff are able to help if necessary.

Trove newspapers at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/> is a very useful resource that helps find and use resources relating to Australia. It is more than a search engine. Trove brings together content from libraries, museums, archives, repositories and other research and collecting organisations big and small.

Currently, the memorial does not include those who served from overseas but that may change in the future.

PAPER CAT

The following was published on 30 July 2016 in the Global Times, a daily Chinese newspaper under the auspices of the Peoples Daily newspaper, focusing on international issues from a communist Chinese perspective. It was a semi-official response from the Chinese Government when the Australian Government supported the international court's ruling on the South China Sea.

Around the announcement of the arbitration tribunal over the South China Sea, Australia was one of the most delirious countries. Canberra immediately supported the arbitration result and claimed China "must" abide by it, and also signed a joint declaration with the US and Japan. Australia has inked a free trade agreement with China, its biggest trading partner, which makes its move of disturbing the South China Sea waters surprising to many.

Australia is a unique country with an inglorious history. It was at first an offshore prison of the UK and then became its colony, a source of raw materials, overseas market and land of investment. This country was established through uncivilised means, in a process filled with the tears of the aboriginals.

Even with a scarce population and vast land, Australia has disputes with other countries over territory. It claims nearly 5.9 million square meters of land in the Antarctic, accounting for 42 % of the continent. In order to back its territorial claims, Australia even brought up

the activities of the British in the Antarctic as evidence.

Since The Antarctic Treaty was signed, all territorial claims over the continent were suspended. Canberra then raised another claim to demand the Antarctic continental shelf. It cited Article 298 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to avoid a demand by arbitration by others.

Both historical rights and the exemption of arbitration as ruled in Article 298 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea were denied by the arbitration tribunal. Australia showed blunt double standards as if no one had a memory of what it did and said over the Antarctic.

Australia calls itself a principled country, while its utilitarianism has been sizzling. It lauds Sino-Australian relations when China's economic support is needed, but when it needs to please Washington, it demonstrates willingness of doing anything in a show of allegiance.

Analysts say that besides trying to please the US, it also intends to suppress China so as to gain a bargaining chip for economic interests. China must take revenge and let it know it's wrong. Australia's power means nothing compared to the security of China. If Australia steps into the South China Sea waters, it will be an ideal target for China to warn and strike.

Australia is not even a "paper tiger," it is only a "paper cat" at best. At a time when its former caretaker country the UK is dedicated to developing relations with China, and almost the whole of Europe takes a neutral position, Australia has unexpectedly made itself a pioneer of hurting China's interest with a fiercer attitude than countries directly involved in the South China Sea dispute. But this paper cat won't last.

RUSIDSS - SA SPEAKERS FOR 2016



1 February
AVM Brent Espeland

"MIA from the Korean War"

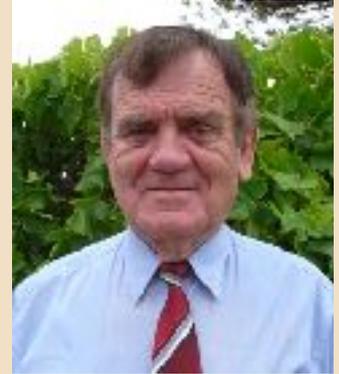


7 March
LTCOL Berni White

"16 Air Land Regiment"



4 April
Dr John Bruni
"Developments in the Middle East"



2 May
Ron Bannon,
"Does China have a Covert Fifth Column in Australia?"



6 June
COL Neale Sutton

"The Future of Humanitarian Shelters"



4 July
LTCOL Anthony Pay

"Army Health Training"



1 August
WGCDR Bruce Paix
"What it is Like in a Large Bushfire"



5 September
WGCDR Roger Capps
"WWI Veterans Going to the Western Front"



10 October
GPCAPT Phil Champion

"92 Wing"



26 October
AIRCDRE Noddy Sawade

"Air War in the Middle East"



7 November
Robert Kearney

"RSL Virtual War Memorial"



5 December
WGCDR Mark Ryan

"Secrets and Wisdom of Olympic Flames"