



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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President: Major General Mike O'Brien CSC (Retd)

Secretary: Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD (Retd)

Victoria Barracks
B Block
256-310 St Kilda Road
Southbank, Victoria 3006

Phone: (03) 9282 5918

www.rusivic.org.au

Email: secretary@rusivic.org.au

ABN 46 648 764 477

RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Territorial Claims – South China Sea

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March Newsletter

Contents:

- 3** From the President / March Speaker
- 4** From the Secretary
- 5-6** *Opinion:*
China, America and Unknown Knowns
Mike Rawlinson
- 7** Geelong Branch Notes
- Book Reviews:**
- 8** **Widening Minds** by Tom Frame
Reviewer Mike O'Brien
- 9** **War Beyond Words**
by Jay Winter
Reviewer John Coulson
Training for War by Michael Tyquin
Reviewer Mike O'Brien
- 10** **John Curtin's War** by John Edwards
Reviewer Michael Small
- 11** **Australians on the Western Front 1918**
by David W Cameron
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 12** **Codename Suzette** by Anne Nelson
Reviewer Roger Buxton
Armenia, Australia & the Great War
by Vicken Babkenian & Peter Stanley,
Reviewer Neville Taylor
- 13** *Library Notes*
- 14** New Books



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

Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST	www.rusi.org.au
RUSI Whitehall	www.rusi.org
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Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	www.williamsfoundation.org.au
Defence Reserves Association	www.dra.org.au
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



2018 will be a challenging year for RUSI Victoria. It's clear that we need to recruit more (and younger) members and we need your help with this task. While our strategy of working closely with universities has been successful, particularly with the interns we have gained, we need to do more.

Our speaker program will continue to be our most visible contribution this year. However, I am disappointed that several speakers have declined our invitation to speak. I suspect that their reasons, at least in part, include a diminishing community view of the importance of RUSI. It all comes back to developing a stronger membership base.

I would also appreciate some assistance with library furniture. Generous donations have left us with a potential shelf space shortage. If you know of shelving either of steel or wood about 2m high, please tell us. Our need for map filing cabinets is also pressing.

Please put in your diaries an extra RUSI event as part of Melbourne Rare Book Week. At 7pm on Monday 2nd July we will be presenting a special talk on our remarkable collection of war-related sheet music. The talk will be at Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University, 18 Brunswick St Fitzroy and the event is free. We plan a live performance to complement the talk.

Mike O'Brien



Our February speaker at ANZAC House was Professor Chengxin Pan from Deakin University who spoke on '**Chinese Activity in the South China Sea.**

Lunchtime Address

Thursday 29 March 2018 at 1200 for 1230 ANZAC House , 4 Collins St, Melbourne



Kevin Wall

Vice-President, Land

Thales Group Australia and New Zealand

Topic: Current and future prospects for Defence Industry in Victoria

Kevin Wall is responsible for leading one of the most high profile businesses in Thales Australia and New Zealand. Designing and manufacturing lifesaving protected vehicles as well as small arms weapons and munitions for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and overseas customers.

The business delivers a full range of electro-optical systems, and logistics services and support for the ADF Australia wide.

In addition, Kevin is the global business line deputy for Armaments & Protected Vehicles, which enables close cooperation with key European based Thales owned entities - TDA, FZ and the Junghans Defence joint venture.

With more than 30 years' experience in defence and industry and greater than 10 years in senior leadership roles Kevin is the executive accountable for the company's activities in the 'Land' market perimeter in Australia and New Zealand

He joined Thales in 2001 and was appointed to the company's executive team in November 2010. He brings a wealth of experience to his position following senior management roles in explosive ordnance, logistics and business management. Kevin served in the military for nearly 20 years with service in both the British and Australian Army. He holds a number of technical, logistics and business qualifications and is a graduate of the Defence and Industry Study Course, a member of the Institute of Explosives Engineers and a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

Coffee and Tea from 12.00 pm., sandwiches after.

Entrance fee: \$10

For setup and catering reasons please advise the Office of your attendance, preferably by email to secretary@rusivic.org.au or phone 9282 5918 by 2pm Monday 26th March.



From the Secretary:

Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart RFD

Since the last newsletter, the office has been rolling on as usual. The president may have mentioned we have a new intern, Michael Hili, from RMIT Uni, who is undertaking international relations studies.

He is here two days a week.

The Monthly talks have started and March looks interesting, with the announcement of the new Army armoured vehicles being built in Queensland, rather than Victoria.

We have a new volunteer, in Georgie Taylor, who came in to research her grandfather and liked the place so much, she now comes in once a week to help with library maintenance.

Membership changes.

We have not been notified of any deaths or resignations in the last quarter and we have not received any applications for membership.

Membership continues to be a worry. Can I ask all members to make their circle of friends and workmates aware of what we offer and try and lure them into joining? With the withdrawal of Government funding, our main source of income now is membership fees.

Bob Hart

Programme Dates

19 or 26 March Lunchtime Address ANZAC House
Speaker TBA



Rheinmetall Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV), winner of the Army's Phase 2 Armoured Vehicle contract.

MASTERS OF WAR: THE AIF IN FRANCE 1918

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018
POMPEY ELLIOTT MEMORIAL HALL
403 CAMBERWELL ROAD, CAMBERWELL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – CHRIS CLARK
AUTHOR OF *THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIA'S BATTLES*



At the beginning of 1918, three years of fighting and destruction had failed to produce any clear result on the Western Front.

REGISTER at MHHV.ORG.AU

The Eastern Front had collapsed following the October 1917 Revolution in Russia, allowing Germany to redeploy troops from that Front to the Western Front.

It was expected that Germany had the upper hand and would launch a major offensive in the spring. Both sides sensed that 1918 would be decisive...yet neither side could be assured of victory.

About 117,000 Australian men were in France at this time, constituting about one-eleventh of the overall British armies.

Over the winter of 1917-18 the five Australian divisions were reorganised into an Australian Corps, initially commanded by General William Birdwood, but eventually replaced by Lieutenant General John Monash. As well as the servicemen of the army, navy and flying corps, many other kinds of personnel made up the AIF, such as medical personnel and chaplains.

How could the anticipated German offensive be beaten? What technology and tactics could be applied? How might the reorganisation and retraining of the Australian Corps contribute to this anticipated battle? What would be the consequences of failure? All these questions hung in the air as winter slowly turned to spring in early 1918.

'Masters of War: the AIF in France in 1918' will consider events from the strategic to the tactical level and place the AIF's capability and contribution in a wider context.

The full Conference Program is available at www.mhhv.org.au. The ticket pricing is:

- RUSI, Concession Card and MHHV Individual Members - \$50.00
- General Admission - \$75.00

The ticket price includes morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea.

Opinion: China, America and Unknown Knowns

Mike Rawlinson

China has the largest population of any country in the world, and after decades of phenomenal growth will soon overtake America in having the largest economy. This growth has taken place under US primacy in the Asia-Pacific, and with the US and China having a very close trading and financial relationship. It is only in recent years that China has challenged America's position as hegemon. A great strategic contest is underway between Australia's major ally and its major trading partner.

Arising from territorial disputes over islands and reefs in the South China Sea, China has created and militarized artificial islands on reefs and claimed sovereignty rights and associated exclusion zones. These rights are challenged by the US (and Australia) which supports freedom of navigation.

There is a plethora of writings and knowledgeable opinions on the China-America confrontation. Hugh White has written extensively, a book and two Quarterly Essays.ⁱ This article explores aspects of the America-China relationship using the Rumsfeld typology.

A reminder on the typology, in 2002 US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stated:

there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns - the ones we don't know we don't know.

Rumsfeld drew some ridicule for his remarks, but the consensus shifted over the years and his typology now enjoys a level of respect, recognising that it is regularly used in strategic planning and other areas. Known unknowns refers to 'risks you are aware of', while unknown unknowns are 'risks you cannot even conceive'. Known-Knowns include Population, Demographics, Urbanization, Megacities, Geography, and Military Forces. Known-Unknowns include Climate Change, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Pandemics, and Nuclear proliferation

There is also a fourth category, the unknown known, that which we intentionally refuse to acknowledge that we know, or what we do not like to know. Unknown knowns also include the insights that history has to offer. While financial and economic risks are usually identified by business as the risks likely to derail economic growth, from a historian's point of view the real risks in the non-Western world today are of revolution and war. Revolutions are caused by a combination of food-price spikes, a youthful population, a rising middle class, a disruptive ideology, a corrupt old regime, and a weakening international order. Like earthquakes, we know where wars are likely to occur, but we cannot know when they will break out or how big they will be.



Territorial Claims – South China Sea

The strategic rivalry between China and the US looks to some historians as leading to *Thucydides Trap*, as encountered in antiquity by Sparta and Athens, where the established power feels threatened by a rising power, which in turn feels resentful and frustrated, making war highly likely.

Also, China the US and most other Asia-Pacific countries are expanding and modernizing their armed forces, giving the feel if not the fact of an arms race, very reminiscent of the World in the years prior to the First World War. Admiral Barrie has suggested that we may be sleepwalking into a war which may be inadvertently initiated by miscalculation.

The US will have overwhelming naval and military power for decades. However, maintaining these forces is expensive. One opportunity cost, is that the US is alone among developed countries in not having a system of universal health care for its citizens.

An unknown known relates to imperial overstretch. 'Great Powers in relative decline instinctively respond by spending more on security, and thereby divert potential resources from investment and compound their long-term dilemma.' As with great powers from 1500, the historian Paul Kelly has suggested that the US may succumb to imperial overstretch where the cost of maintaining its military pre-eminence becomes too much for US economy and society to bear.

Donald Trump was elected President by voters who were dissatisfied with the major political parties. Trump made the case that the US democratic process had been captured by elites who had lost contact with Americans outside the beltway. The federal government appeared unconcerned about unemployment and underemployment in mid-west States.

Continued page 6

China, America and Unknown Knowns

Continued from page 5

Trump promised to address the problem and to 'drain the swamp', but he has not yet not applied himself to the latter task.

In China well turned out leaders in western dress can cause us to forget that China is an authoritarian state. While there are rich Chinese entrepreneurs, State owned and directed enterprises dominate China's economy and private corporations have communist party cells high within their management structure. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is tightly integrated into society, and China's military, the People's Liberation Army, is the army of the CCP not the Chinese State.

Chinese money has been readily available in Australia and throughout the region buying up infrastructure, agriculture, mines, and property. This ownership can appear benign but can all ultimately be influenced by the CCP. China has also deployed soft-power, including industrial espionage, clandestine cyber activity, intellectual property theft, political contributions, and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Often overlooked is that China has massive environmental problems with air, water and ground pollution, and the depletion of ancient aquifers is likely to reduce national food production. Feeding a population with ever increasing standards of living and declining resources has led China to purchase large tracts of agricultural land in Africa and Australia.

China also has huge debts, particularly associated with Regional and Local Governments. Corruption is problem endemic to all authoritarian/extractive states, and China is no exception. President Xi has cracked down on corruption at all levels and has skilfully used the drive against corruption to eliminate his rivals.

A new known known, is that in March 2018 the constitution was changed to allow no limit to Xi Jinping's tenure as President. He is already General Secretary of the CCP and Chairman of the Military Commission, offices which do not have a time limit on tenure. He will continue as COE – Chairman of Everything, which will ensure short-term stability in achieving his far-reaching policy goals, the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The insight of historians is that such concentration of power eventually leads to tyranny, instability as a paranoid leader purges suspected rivals, and if the people are oppressed, possibly revolution. If Xi Jinping does not wish to relinquish power (and few dictators do), national decision making in China will be subject to the health, whims, and sanity of one man. While the dark side of dictatorship may be decades away, Lord Acton's memorable quote remains applicable - power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Economic theory and Soviet practice indicate that the more China's authoritarian capitalism approaches a

centrally controlled economy the more likely it is to fail through lack of flexibility and inability to use enterprise specific knowledge to the best advantage. China also lacks the rule of law protecting property rights.

An unknown known is that economic historians predict that China's economic growth rate is unlikely to be sustained in the longer term as the authoritarian 'extractive' political/economic system will have difficulty in achieving the 'creative destruction' necessary for ongoing economic renewal which will be opposed by vested interests that have both political and economic power.ⁱⁱ

In an interview with Harvard academics in 2013, Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, elder statesman and Asian grand strategist, saw China as purely acting in its own national interests and not interested in changing the world. He thought that the US was psychologically unprepared and unwilling to accept the rise of China as a great power. Furthermore, the American sense of cultural supremacy would make the adjustment process most difficult. In Lee's opinion the greatest assets that the US had to influence China were its educational institutions which hosted thousands of China's ablest students each year. Australia has similar influence.

In 1996, in a demonstration of US power during a Taiwan crisis, the USS Nimitz and its Battle Group sailed through the Taiwan Strait. This type of gunboat diplomacy is no longer effective in the South China Sea as China has ballistic missiles that can target aircraft carriers. Although China is militarily weaker than the US, it has the means of denying US freedom of action in the South China Sea.

The current US default position put forward by Secretary of Defense James Mattis is that America retains its primacy in the Asia-Pacific. But the US is unlikely be able to sustain this position in the long-term.

Where strategic rivalry leads to confrontation there is the risk of a major war. If there was an escalation involving the use of nuclear weapons, there would be a catastrophic disruption to global trade and finance affecting not just the participants. This outcome is not inevitable. However, it may require at least a proxy war, before America and China both agree on new power sharing arrangements.

Hugh White's analysis of the rational positions of China, America, and Asia-Pacific countries individually is that a compromise position where the US steps down from its leadership position in Asia-Pacific but remains involved as a great power and recognises China as a great power but not a hegemon. His ideal solution in the very long-term is a *Concert of Asia*, explicit rules on national behaviour agreed by the great powers of the Asia-Pacific – China, US, Japan, India and possibly Indonesia.

Continued page 7

China, America and Unknown Knowns

Continued from page 6

The US under President Trump is unpredictable and unreliable. The President's negotiating style offers considerable scope for misunderstanding, the protocols of real estate and diplomacy being far apart.

However, by putting 'America first' President Trump appears to be less wedded to maintaining America's primacy in the Asia-Pacific, and more inclined to doing deals with China. As evidence, in NATO his insistence that member countries pay their way is more one of a senior partner, than a hegemon.

Across the range of knowns and unknowns Australia faces changed strategic circumstances. Australia does not have a role as an intermediary between the US and China, but it can influence both sides by pursuing its national interests and maintaining its values.

Australia's best course is to act in our national interests, maintain our values, and encourage continued US engagement in the region. However, this does mean that we do not uncritically follow the US, and do not compliantly conform to pressure from China. To be credible, we will need a stronger defence force, that can operate independently if necessary.

Rumsfeld's quote concludes:

And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category (unknown-unknowns) that tend to be the difficult ones.

Mark Twain had a different view:

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.

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

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.

Geelong Branch Notes:

This year's activity for the Branch commenced with a Dinner Meeting held on Monday 19 February when we were fortunate to have as the Guest Speaker LT Dave Sabben MG who provided an 'on the spot' account of the events leading up to and the battle of 'Long Tan, Vietnam' during that famous encounter involving elements of the 1st Australian Task Force.

The next Dinner Meeting will be held on Monday 19 March with Guest Speaker Senior Sergeant Mark Lee of Victoria Police, who will speak on his Peacekeeping experiences in East Timor and the Middle East.

The Anzac Dinner is to take place on Monday 23 April. A Guest Speaker will provide an address touching on the contributions relating to the Centenary of Anzac and allied events. All the above gatherings are to be held at Capri Receptions, 258 Packington Street in Geelong West commencing at 1830 with pre-dinner conversation prior to seating for Dinner at 1905.

Congratulations to our member MAJ Robert Charles RFD on the award of OAM in the recent Australian Day Honours, a fitting recognition for his many years of community service through a range of roles.

Members from Melbourne are reminded that they will be made most welcome in attending Geelong Branch Meetings – for any information contact Mrs Jenny Eldridge on 03 5281 2356."

Book Reviews

This newsletter has seven 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. Some book reviews have been shortened. The full versions are available on the RUSI VIC website: rusivic.org.au. If you would like a hard copy of a review, please contact the Secretary.

Widening Minds

The University of New South Wales and the education of Australia's defence leaders

Tom Frame

New South Books 2017
Paperback 544pp RRP: \$59.99

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, January 2018



WIDENING MINDS

The University of New South Wales
and the education of Australia's defence leaders

TOM FRAME



The partnership between the service colleges and the University of New South Wales has been long and productive. Indeed, it represents the longest educational partnership in Australia. Tom Frame is an ideally suited author to commemorate this 50-year association and the involvement of over 25 000 students.

Do Australian full-time military officers require a tertiary education? The

question is important. It has been answered in the positive many times by military and political enquiries and reports. Should that education be at a university or at a military establishment? This question has been more debatable but largely resolved to favour the latter. Should the education be joint or single service? The answer determined has been joint with tangible and measurable benefits but with some lesser costs to 'tradition'. This book traces these key issues and their resolution and it does so with admirable clarity.

The participants in this debate are diverse. Senior military officers in the 1960s were predominantly unlikely to have had tertiary qualifications, though some, as Frame recounts, realized that this had disadvantaged them. Academics at the service colleges – for they all had academic syllabi – came from the post-Second World War generation. Though they were very competent, they suffered from a surfeit of higher degree qualifications as was the norm for the period. In many cases this led to demotions from professor to associate professor as new appointees arrived from a higher degree-rich generation. These academics had an understandable concern for the preservation of their conditions of service, sometimes at odds with the universities. The universities – and several were involved – were hard to class attitudinally. There was both reasoned support and trenchant opposition to

marriages between the military and the universities. Academic freedom remained a key issue. Attendance at a

'proper' campus was a debated topic. Disdain for 'military thinking' (whatever that may be) was a common factor in a generation of university administrators somewhat removed from the experience of the Second World War. The Vietnam War and conscription muddied the waters in an era of university activism.

As well as those choosing and refining the outcomes, a further group of individuals were greatly affected by the negotiations between defence and the universities. For example, students at the Royal Military College who entered in 1965 and were able to pursue the 'degree' (rather than the 'diploma') course offered felt that they were promised accreditation for their efforts. It was not forthcoming. These students felt that they had earned a degree but that both the University of New South Wales and the Army insufficiently advocated their case. The reviewer was a victim of this shortcoming.

That the marriage between the University of New South Wales and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) took place and has been productive is a minor miracle. There have been casualties in the relationship. Casey University was one. Development of a suitable ethos for a newer military generation and its strong female component has been too slow.

The book covers not only the foundation of ADFA but also its progress to the present time. It examines the developing relationship between the Department of Defence and the University and between the diarchy of the Commandant and Dean. It does not avoid the controversies arising from the behaviour of the cadets.

This is a readable, balanced and authoritative book. It recounts the disputes, often prolonged, between and within the defence force and the universities. It is a story governed, not surprisingly by personalities: academic, military and political. There were principled behaviors and stubborn ones, dogged determination and quickly-won compromises. Several of the key participants do not cover themselves in glory, but Frame's diplomacy leaves some of this interpretation to the reader who may have to interpret between the lines of his factual but interpretative narrative.

War Beyond Words

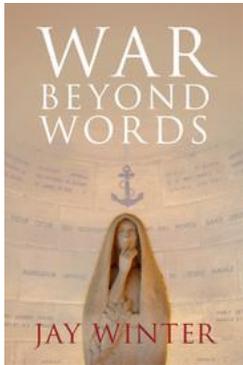
Languages of Remembrance from the Great War to the Present

Jay Winter

Cambridge University Press 2017

Hardback 320pp RRP: \$39.95

Reviewer: John Coulson, January 2018



Jay Winter is Charles J Stille Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University. His book *War Beyond Words* is an exposition in the ways the different creative arts have framed our thoughts on war from 1914 to the present.

War Beyond Words is not your standard military history text or a study in the machinations of war and conflict. Winter reveals the ways in which the creative arts from painting and sculpture to photography, film and poetry impact on our memory and

understanding of war and conflict.

In his introduction, Winter states that ... *"I want to explore some well known and widely disseminated work of art to suggest the way contemporary artists today (2017) see war is very different from the way they saw it a century ago."*

The book is in two parts: **Part 1: Vectors of Memory**, in which Winter discusses the impact on our understanding through photography, film and writing. He comments upon the significance of the pocket camera in 1914 that enabled the common soldier to record the horrors around them. The role of the official photographers and censors was made so much more difficult, especially when newspaper editors encouraged soldiers to submit their photos. He comments on the work of photographers such as the Australian Frank Hurley to create composite photographs and sold as genuine images.

In the chapter on filming war and conflict, Winter highlights the influence of seminal films such as *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *Catch 22*, *Paths of Glory* and *Blackhawk Down*.

Part 11: Frameworks of Memory discusses the significance of Martyrdom with reference to the Holocaust. Winter examines the place in our culture for war memorials and military cemeteries. He discusses the significance of sculpture and iconography.

Winter describes the design and realisation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington DC. He also highlights the cascade of ceramic red poppies that emerged from the Tower of London in 2014, 888,246 poppies to commemorate the lives lost during World War One.

The book is very well illustrated with two sections of colour and black and white photographs reproduced on high quality gloss paper. These illustrations are a study in their own right and underline the theme of the book.

I found the book a difficult read at first, until I came to terms with its rather esoteric content. It has prompted me to reflect much more on the images and iconography of our own military experiences, including buildings such as the Shrine of Remembrance, the military cemetery at Springvale, and the sculptures in the Domain including Blamey, Monash, and Weary Dunlop. Reading the book has allowed me to put into context, structures such as the POW Memorial at Ballarat and the Police Memorial in Birdwood Avenue.

The book helped me put into context the work of filmmakers such as Damien Parer and Peter Weir, and war artists such as Ivor Hele. It also clarifies and supports the cost, time and effort devoted to the recording of Australians at war by creative artists and writers over the past one hundred years.

It is not a book for the average reader of military history. Winter's book is a major contribution to our understanding of the diverse ways in which men and women have wrestled with the intractable task of conveying what twentieth century wars mean to them and mean to us.

Training for War

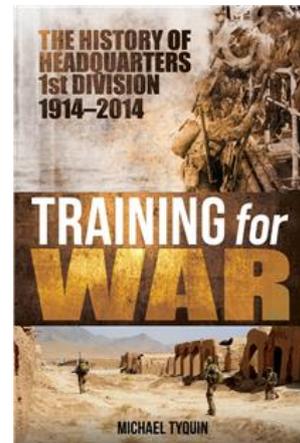
The History of Headquarters 1st Division 1914-2014

Michael Tyquin

Big Sky Publishing 2017

Hardback 276pp RRP: \$39.99

Reviewer: Mike O'Brien, November 2017



Most Australian Army unit histories are based on units: infantry battalion, artillery regiments, engineer squadrons and the like. There are several at a lower level (such as infantry platoons or companies) and some at higher (divisions and brigades). This volume is perhaps the first in a new category – a history of a headquarters.

Michael Tyquin is a capable and prolific military author, particularly in the field of medicine. This book is a fine complement to Robert Stevenson's *To Win the Battle: the 1st Australian Division in the Great War 1914-1918* (2013).

The divisional headquarters has had an uneven history. Its 'glory days' were when the division fought at Gallipoli and the Western front. The inter-war years were uneven and far less challenging. The division did not fight in the Second World War. As the Army reformed from 1946 onwards the division had an increasing role in guiding the field Army structure, though the importance of the headquarters varied greatly from year to year.

The book examines several main themes, some more prominently than others. The need for a divisional structure is a constant. The importance of a trained staff to exercise command is another. Particularly in the more recent period, the role of the headquarters in relation to altering strategic assessments and increasingly joint operations is a further governing factor. Tyquin melds these factors into his well-judged narrative.

The book is well written and well-illustrated and Tyquin can be justifiably proud of this volume.

The author's task has been exacerbated by the paucity of archived records and the more recent habit of lack of preservation of electronic records. Will sufficient records exist to write the history of this (or any other unit) in the next one hundred year? I suspect that unless there is a large attitudinal change such history will evaporate rather than be recorded. Those who read this volume will judge it to be an important and indeed necessary contribution to our military history. Let us also hope that its successor is feasible!

John Curtin's War

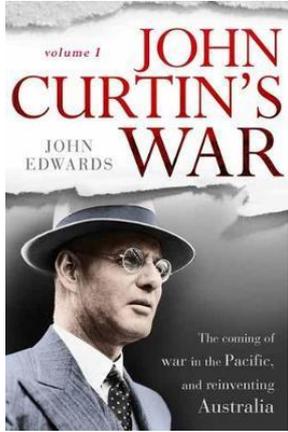
The coming of war in the Pacific, and reinventing Australia Vol 1

John Edwards

Penguin 2017

Hardcover 538pp RRP: \$49.99

Reviewer: Michael Small, January 2018



What was the purpose of the book? John Curtin's War is an examination of events about 'an obscure politician from Perth' (p. 321) who had left school at fourteen, was good at arithmetic, smoked Craven 'As', liked Irish stew, could type with two fingers, went on picnics and became Prime Minister in most extraordinary, difficult and challenging times. Eminent persons, from both sides of the

political fence, have engaged in verbal fisticuffs about the 'correct' interpretation of certain events which took place during WW II, mainly to do with Churchill, but this review does not directly address the political context, rather considers 'John Curtin's War' both as an analytical narrative and a literary work of art. Early chapters cover Curtin's life in Melbourne, his move to WA where, after four attempts, he is finally elected ALP member for Fremantle on 15 September 1934.

Edwards addresses the effects of the Depression, WA's move to secede from the Commonwealth, and refers to well-known Perth identities: Alec Reid, Chancellor, University of WA; Jimmy Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor; and Senator Bertie Johnston; people who were public figures in WA's inter-war period. Curtin spoke about defence and foreign policy issues, 5 November 1936, and the Singapore strategy that was already doomed to failure. The ALP was expected to be more concerned with trade union matters rather than defence and foreign policy. Events in Europe - Menzies' trip to London for the Silver Jubilee of King George V, *anschluss*, the Czechoslovak crisis of late 1938, Lord Halifax and the appeasers, the talk of Japanese southward expansion (which seemed strange since Japan had been an 'ally') are all covered in a fascinating and detailed way. During WW I Japanese destroyers had escorted Australian troops *en route* in the Mediterranean, and two Japanese battle cruisers, 'Nisshin' and 'Ibuki' were scheduled to escort the 27 Australian and 10 NZ troop transports from Albany on 1st November 1914. When the convoy did sail from Albany, only 'Ibuki' joined up with 'Sydney', 'Melbourne' and 'Minotaur'.

Yet 21 years later, Curtin saw the situation differently, the RN would not be coming to Singapore and Australia would be on its own. We are given insights into the political intrigues of the late 1930s; the roles played by R.G. Menzies, Stanley Bruce, Joe Lyons, Jack Lang, Earle Page, Richard Casey, Eddie Ward, Sir Ronald Cross, Douglas MacArthur, and in particular the significant role

of public servant, Frederick Shedden. These are spelt out, sometimes in unflattering prose. An interesting aside, is the personal relationship between Menzies and Curtin; courteous, polite, restrained - so different from the Canberra of recent times. The relationship between Churchill and Curtin is portrayed in a very different style. Churchill is described as 'indignant, grumbling and irritated' in his correspondence with Curtin, characteristics which are evident in Churchill's six volume 'The Second World War'. Probably, Churchill had good reason to be annoyed. After all, he did have an empire to protect, was running a war on several fronts *viz.* the Atlantic, the Middle East, Malaya/Singapore and the Home Front. John Curtin, prime minister of a country of but seven million and in reality, a long way from the action was really a distraction and side issue. No wonder then that reports got back to Churchill that the Australians were panicking. British High Commissioner, Sir Ronald Cross, hitherto relatively unknown, comes across in a most interesting way. Curtin did not (unsurprisingly) get on with Cross (later to become Governor of Tasmania). The concluding chapters cover Singapore, the possibility of Japanese invasion and a thawing in the frosty relationship with Churchill: as Edwards points out, they were both politicians and needed each other.

What approach or methodology was adopted? John Curtin's War is a biography, an analytical narrative and much else besides. The charm of this so-revealing text lies in Edwards' mastery and use of prose composition: it is simply flawless. While much of the over-all story is probably known, it is in the detail of events and people that is captivating. The political drama of the 1930s, the Perth/Cottesloe lifestyle, the overnight WAGR rattler to Kalgoorlie (the wild life in the Perth foothills, the compulsory morning tea and two biscuits after a sleepless night) and then the monotony/relaxation of a long trip to Canberra, are all presented in exquisite detail. Events moved fast for Curtin, Menzies declaring, to his 'Fellow Australians' at 9.15pm Sunday 3 September, 1939, that it was his melancholy duty to declare war; Street, Fairbairn, Gullett and White killed in plane crash 13 August, 1940; Menzies' return to Australia, 24 May, 1941; and Curtin, then aged 56, telling his wife he has a birthday gift for her, 3 October, 1941 - his new cabinet met 7 October, 1941. With the loss of HMAS Sydney, 19 November 1941 Curtin remained calm and in control. Edwards describes Curtin as a loner, appointed rather than elected, but with moral authority that becomes clear in the text.

What is original/new? What is the value? Edwards writes (p. 348) 'No Australian prime minister had ever overseen the doing of so much, so quickly'. This sentence sums up Curtin's achievements in such difficult and dangerous circumstances. John Curtin (1885-1945) died in office on 4 July 1945 aged 60 years.

Including photographs, endnotes, a bibliography, acknowledgements, and an index, this is a great story about a great man - the former trade union official and radical socialist, who guided Australia through its most difficult period as its 14th Prime Minister.

Australians on the Western Front 1918

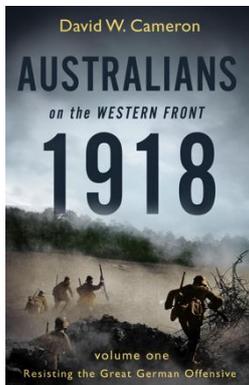
Volume 1 Resisting the German Offensive

David W Cameron

Penguin Australia 2018

Paperback 416pp RRP: \$34.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, February 2018



David Cameron has produced a monumentally detailed and documented account of the battles fought by Australian troops between the 21st March and 25th April 1918.

The German armies, reinforced by troops no longer needed on the Eastern Front, launched *Operation Michael* to separate the French and British armies by capturing the vital rail hub at Amiens. The Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions were in the front

line close to Ypres, while the 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions were in reserve. By 25th March both the 3rd and 4th Div were on their way to Doullens (30km north of Amiens) to secure the front between the 3rd and 5th (Brit) Armies at the junction of the Somme and Ancre Rivers. The Australians became responsible for the approximately 20km front from Villers-Bretonneux to Albert.

Following the table of contents, Cameron has provided an excellent listing of commanders of Australia's 5 divisions, 15 brigades and 60 infantry battalions. Each individual mentioned in the narrative is accorded his or her age, civilian occupation and hometown, as well as any bravery awards and their survival or otherwise of the conflict. They are not restricted to Australian infantrymen, but include commanders on both sides, members of other corps and even a German tank commander. In keeping with his earlier works, the chapter headings are part of an individual or unit history account of the moment.

Virtually all telephone communication was out during battles due to intense artillery fire prior to German attacks, and runners had to be used. Despite this, timely maneuvering of rifle battalions, individual companies and even platoons, enabled reinforcement so that lines could be held.

On 28th March two Tasmanian battalions of 12th Brigade and the 35th Division (Brit) were attacked nine times in the First Battle of Dernancourt. The Germans were unable to seize the railway embankment, despite breaking the Australian line at the railway underpass. The Germans occupied Dernancourt and a counterattack failed to dislodge them. The four battalions of 9 Brigade held Villers-Bretonneux against four German divisions on 4th April, while the British lost Hamel (just to the north-east). On the 5th, three depleted battalions of 12th and 13th Brigade were assaulted by three German divisions during the Second Battle of Dernancourt, but were able to hold the line and conceded ground of no tactical importance. This was the largest German attack (25,000) against (3,000) Australian troops for the entire War. Two of the three battalions were so decimated in the action that they were removed from the order of battle almost immediately afterwards.

On 9th April the Germans launched operations *Georgette I* and *Georgette II* against the Armentières and Ypres sectors. A German breakthrough outflanked Armentières and pushed the British back towards the Channel Ports. From 12th April, trains brought the Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions to the critical hub of Hazebrouck. In the early stages, three companies of the 7th Battalion were responsible for 6000m of the line. [A brigade of four battalions would normally be responsible for a frontage of about 4500m.] Again the Australians, at Strazeele station, had three German divisions assaulting their line, but as before, prudent use of Stokes trench mortars, Vickers and Lewis machine guns enabled the infantry to withstand the onslaught. To complicate matters, exhausted British troops were withdrawing through the Australian lines, leaving them solely responsible for the line. The troop withdrawal enabled the Germans to occupy Méteren on 16th April. A counterattack was organised using a supporting French battalion, but it 'did not show'! A two-pronged, two-phase attack by 3rd Brigade (over the nights of 22nd and 23rd April) with around 200 casualties was unsuccessful, in the attempt to retake Méteren.

With Hazebrouck secure in the hands of the Allies, Germany's efforts turned to the final roll of the dice in the Somme and Amiens sectors. German bombardments on the mornings of 17th and 18th April did not launch the expected attack on Villers-Bretonneux. Aerial superiority for both sides was critical for the strafing/bombing of supply lines and gathering intelligence to assist in battle planning. On 21st April, the 'Red Baron' was shot down by a 13th Brigade Vickers machine gun. Cameron has devoted a number of pages to first-hand accounts of the Baron's demise and the honour paid to him by the Allies. Early on 24th April four German divisions would attack Villers-Bretonneux after a massive artillery barrage that included gas shells. Australia's 59th and 60th Battalions (15th Brigade) were located northwest of the town ready to counterattack should the town fall, but the British in the town and covering the southern approaches withdrew under German troop and A7V tank pressure. The British commanders ordered their tanks to do battle with the German tanks [the first tank-on-tank battle]. The 13th and 15th Brigades were tasked to retake Villers-Bretonneux. This they did by doing it 'our own way' in the early hours of the third anniversary of the Gallipoli landing by using a pincer movement and British troops to 'mop up'. By 4pm Villers-Bretonneux had been retaken and the Great German Offensive was at an end.

In his prologue, Cameron discusses the 1916 and 1917 failed conscription referenda in Australia, thereby underlining the fact that there were not going to be reinforcements to replace Australian losses during ongoing campaigns. His first two photographs are related to the conscription/anti-conscription campaigns. Other photographs are of key personnel and locations (some being aerial shots). Included are 26 pages of Notes, eleven pages of References, a twelve-page Index and an Index of Military Units (Australian, British, Canadian, German, New Zealand and Canada). Most impressive are the excellent battle maps for each of the actions listed above. Some maps have the Allied dispositions both before and after the action took place. [I would recommend to readers to photocopy each map to facilitate following the battles' details with greater ease.]

This most readable and well-researched account is an essential complement to Australian military history collections. It lacks for nothing, and this reviewer is most eager for Volume II to roll off the presses.

Codename Suzette

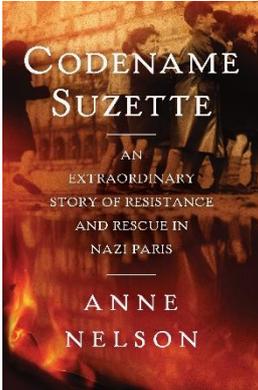
An extraordinary story of resistance and rescue in Nazi Paris

Anne Nelson

Allen & Unwin 2017

Paperback 336pp RRP: \$29.99

Reviewer: Roger Buxton, November 2017



While researching *Red Orchestra* Anne Nelson came upon a haunting photograph of Suzanne Spaak but found only occasional references to her in the histories of the Occupation. Subtitled 'An extraordinary story of resistance and rescue in Nazi Paris' this is the result of her search for Suzanne's story. The daughter of a wealthy financier and married to the grandson of a Belgian prime minister, Suzanne was a member of the *grande bourgeoisie* with a country residence and a Paris apartment in

the Palais Royal.

Suzanne had Jewish friends, and when the first arrests of Jews took place in 1941, she began her association with the Jewish organisation Solidarité. In September 1941 the family moved to Paris where her apartment saw a succession of 'maids' awaiting forged papers. In the winter of 1941-1942 Suzette joined the MNCR (The National Movement Against Racism).

In January 1942 the Wansee Conference planned the total destruction of European Jews and events in France moved quickly: foreign Jews continued to be interned; in March the first Jews were deported to Auschwitz, and in the Grande Rafle (round-up) in July, thousands were arrested by French Police and herded into the Velodrome d'Hiver in appalling conditions before being moved to internment camps. The MNCR had warned of the Rafle without effect, and now, with many parents deported to the East, desperate efforts were made to save the children, many of who were in homes run by the UGIF (General Union of French Jews).

Suzette successfully urged the Church to issue a pastoral letter against the arrests and she became deeply involved in finding people who would hide and look after Jewish children, and also in obtaining the money necessary to support them. She usually left home at 6.00 am, travelling to villages near Paris where she would confess to the local priest, obtain 'good addresses' for rescued children and return home at midnight. There were some major rescues of children from UGIF homes where volunteers 'kidnapped' children, provided them with new clothes and identities and took them to 'good addresses' before they could be recovered by the police. With her status and access to funds, Suzette helped to build a financial enterprise to fund the support of rescued children, and her apartment became the location for meetings of resistance movements.

The November 1942 arrest of Leopold Trepper, an acquaintance, and a member of the Red Orchestra, placed Suzette in danger of betrayal and in 1943 she had to go underground and cease her work rescue work.

Codename Suzette is extremely readable and at the same time provides a brilliant description of the convoluted politics of the Jewish, Resistance and collaborationist groups in wartime France. The book contains numerous photographs, dramatic *personae*, endnotes, an extensive bibliography and an index. Both the historian and the casual reader will find it hard to put down.

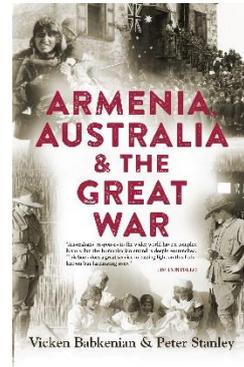
Armenia, Australia & the Great War

Vicken Babkenian & Peter Stanley

New South Publishing 2016

Paperback 323pp RRP: \$34.99

Reviewer: Neville Taylor, January 2018



Ottoman authorities arrested and deported 230 Armenian political, religious, educational and intellectual leaders in Constantinople 500km east to Angora (now Ankara) on the eve of the ANZAC landing on Gallipoli. Thus began the rounding up of the Armenian elite and the extermination of Turkey's Armenian subjects. Eventually more than half of the Armenian two million were killed, exiled or died of disease.

In October 1854 the young Armenians servant of a Ballarat Catholic priest was arrested for not having a mining licence. Despite being exempt from the requirement he was found guilty – resulting in public backlash that led to the Eureka Rebellion in December 1854. Armenian periodicals of the day encouraged Armenians to migrate to Australia, and in the ensuing 50 years many came to Australia to create a niche for themselves in Australian society.

As reports from the US and UK press reached Australia, they were included in war news in Australian papers, so the Armenians' plight became widely known here by late 1915. Britain quickly responded with books on the subject being widely read. *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-16* (November 1916) became a major factor in appeals for funds for the Armenians to be established in Victoria. Recruiting drives included mention of the plight of the Armenians. The cause gaining increased support during 1917 and 1918.

Thousands of destitute Armenians were found by the Allied forces in the deserts of Syria and Mesopotamia, as were the corpses of those who had not survived. The establishment of relief centres did much to ease the plight of survivors. Promises made by the Allies during the war to restore the national rights came to nothing. Expected sanctions on Turkey for their ill treatment of prisoners and the Armenian massacres were never imposed. Armenian testimony in war crime trials was excluded 'to obviate criticism of perceived bias'. Mustafa Kamal in May 1919 was dispatched to oversee the disbandment of remaining Ottoman forces in the eastern province, but instead organized a resistance movement against Armenian and Greek political aims. Moving into the political arena he then worked to defend Turkish rights – 'Turkey for the Turks' became the catch-cry.

By February 1919, relief on a massive scale commenced arriving for the Armenians on a number of American freighters. Among the relief workers was Californian Congregational Minister Loyal Wirt who had made a massive impact during 1901-07 when he lived in Australia. Australian papers continued to report on the Armenians' plight, and the peace movement during the War transferred to an emerging human rights agenda. With over 200,000 Armenian refugees scattered through Eastern Mediterranean countries, Wirt was commissioned to establish Armenian relief committees in Pacific countries. Wirt reached Australia in May 1922 and soon had numerous philanthropic organisations eager to help.

Continued on page 13

Library Notes:

Since our last report we have received a large donation of books on the Vietnam war from the collection of Phil White OAM (12th Field Ambulance). These have now been catalogued and will appear on our web catalogue www.thecollectingbug.com/rusivictoria/ within a month.

We have also received a donation of books and wallcharts from Mrs Jennifer Newton, a member of the Australian Women Pilots Association and an experienced commercial pilot herself. Her donation to the library consists of a collection belonging to her late husband consisting of books about the Catalina aircraft and publications and unit diaries covering the activities of RAAF radar units in WW II which contain valuable detailed information and a fine collection of photographs. In addition, we received 6 colour wall charts illustrating aircraft of the RAAF from earliest times. These are reproductions of a mural in the Australian War Memorial.

Two of our past interns have contributed to our collection. Mr Linden Lyons has contributed two published books which he has translated from German: ***Herman Hoth's Panzer Operations: Germany's Panzer Group 3 during the invasion of Russia, 1941.*** Also, ***Otto Heidkamper's Vitebsk: The Fight and Destruction of the Third Panzer Army.***

Ms. Freya Tulloch has contributed her paper on ***The effects of Technology on the RAAF since World War Two.***

We welcome our most recent intern Mr Michael Hilli, (RMIT University) who has an interest in the Strategic Situation to our North in the South China Sea and all matters relating thereto.

Brian Surtees
Hon Librarian
Email: library.rusivic@gmail.com

Book Review: continued from page 12

Armenia, Australia & the Great War

He proposed a 'mercy ship' to ease the situation in Armenia. The *Hobson's Bay* sailed for Constantinople from Melbourne on 6 September 1922, well stocked and carrying the first of a number of missionaries who offered their services. Adelaide-based Reverend James Cresswell made a tour of orphanages in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine containing Armenian children as well as refugee centres in Greece, Turkey and Armenia in 1923. He encountered numerous Australian working in various capacities at many locations and his reports on return stirred Australian communities to even greater efforts.

Sydney social worker Edith Glanville, influenced by Wirt, worked tirelessly towards the (free) shipping of donated flour and other 'raw materials'. By 1925 Australia was feeding 6500 children through the Save the Children Fund.

Australian women played a considerable part in the League of Nation's Commission of Enquiry for the Protection of Women

and Children in the Near East in the early 20s. Eleanor MacKinnon, in September 1925 spoke of the frustration in aid works when, after orphanages had been established, the Turks had revisited and scattered the Armenians yet again. University of Adelaide Professor Darnley Naylor wrote in the *Adelaide Register* that the 'Great Powers' had promised rest and security for the Armenians, had broken their word, and left them to the tender mercy of the Turks.

In 1926 Glanville became an officer with the League of Nations investigating the needs of refugees. After two years she returned to Australia and created a fund called Australian Friends of Armenians that became one of many organisations affiliated with the National Council of Women in New South Wales in 1930. Her fund continued to operate through the Second World War.

The first Armenian genocide refugees migrated to Australia in 1924, numbering perhaps 100. Post-World War II about 500 had arrived by 1960. The establishment of Armenian churches in Sydney and Melbourne, and the Australian government opening up Armenian migration for those fleeing the Middle East turmoil in 1962-63. The Lebanese civil war of 1975 and the 1979 Iranian revolution saw the number of Armenian migrants (from 43 countries, 25 nationalities and speaking 35 languages) swell to 10,000. Subsequent overseas conflicts, as well as friends and relatives already, here has lifted Australia's Armenian population to approximately 50,000.

[Two of our best-known Armenians are the current Ambassador of Australia to the United States, Joe Hockey (whose father Richard Hokeidonia changed his name to Hockey after arrival in 1948) and New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian, whose grandparents were orphaned by the Armenian Genocide in 1915. She spoke only Armenian until five years old, when she began learning English. Gladys has remained involved in the Armenian-Australian community, serving a term on the Armenian National Committee of Australia. In 2015, she attended a commemoration ceremony in Yerevan for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.]

Vicken Babkenian, an independent researcher for the Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, has meticulously researched the background to this work. His co-author, Peter Stanley is a research professor at UNSW Canberra and president of Honest Truth, was pressured prior to publication by Australia's Turkish Ambassador not to use the term 'genocide'; one million deaths was more than sufficient justification for its use throughout the text. Stanley is critical of the manner that relations between Australia and Turkey have been built 'upon falsehood and sentimentality, fictions, evasions and lies connived by both governments and many Australians heedless of the evidence'. He is not looking to alter our current good relationship with Turkey.

Included are a lengthy and comprehensive Bibliography, Notes and Index as well as two very clear maps and a collection of excellent photographs (from 1915 to 1923). This is a story that gets to the truth, and hopefully will lead to a greater understanding of the ordeal of the Armenians and a reappraisal of Australia's relationship with them.



New Acquisitions from Publishers (since December 2017)

Books reviewed in this *Newsletter* have not been included

Title	Author	Subject
<i>ANZAC Girls</i>	Peter Rees	The extraordinary story of our World War I nurses
<i>Monash and Chauvel</i>	Roland Perry	Australia's two WW I corps commanders
<i>Courage in the Skies</i>	Jim Eames	The little known role of QANTAS in WW II
<i>Palestine Diaries</i>	Johnathan King	The Light Horsemen's own story, battle by battle
<i>Crossing the Line</i>	Kim McGrath	Since 1964 Australia has politically duped the people of East Timor/Timor-Leste of their oil and gas reserves
<i>Lost Copy: The Endless Wars</i>	John Martinkus	The story of war correspondents' attempts to have the truth of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars reported in the media
<i>Australia's War with France</i>	Richard James	The 1941 campaign in Syria and Lebanon
<i>Those We Forget</i>	David Noonan	<i>Recounting Australian casualties of the First World War</i>
<i>The AIF in Battle</i>	Jan Bou (Ed)	How the Australian Imperial Force fought, 1914–1918
<i>The Future of War: A history</i>	Lawrence Freedman	
<i>Forgotten Men</i>	Michael Tyquin	The Australian Army Veterinary Corps 1909 – 1946
<i>The Shadow Men</i>	Craig Stockings and John Connor	The men who shaped the Australian Army from the Veldt to Vietnam
<i>No Front Line</i>	Chris Masters	Australia's Special Forces at War in Afghanistan
<i>Traitors</i>	Frank Walker	Why Australia and its Allies betrayed our Anzacs and let Nazi and Japanese war criminals go free
<i>Line of Fire</i>	Ian Townsend	The true story of a forgotten battle, a lost family, and an 11 year-old boy shot as a spy
<i>Soldier</i>	Phil Rutherford	Uniforms of the Australian Army and the soldiers who wore them
<i>A Medical Emergency</i>	Ian Howie-Willis	Major-General 'Ginger' Burston and the Army Medical Service in World War II
<i>Crew</i>	Nike Coleman	The story of the men who flew RAAF Lancaster J for Jig that was shot down over France on their way to Germany in February 1944



MASTERS OF WAR: THE AIF IN FRANCE 1918

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE SATURDAY 14 APRIL 2018
POMPEY ELLIOTT MEMORIAL HALL
403 CAMBERWELL ROAD, CAMBERWELL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — CHRIS CLARK
AUTHOR OF *THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF AUSTRALIA'S BATTLES*



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