



Royal United Services Institute  
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

*A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia*

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## RUSI-VIC NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Issue 4 - Christmas Edition – December 2008

Editor: Martin Holme

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# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Greetings to RUSI members and friends, especially to the 3000 members of the Defence Force serving Australia overseas.

Iraq	980	Egypt (Sinai Peninsula)	25
Afghanistan	1090	Sudan	17
East Timor	750	Middle East	12
Solomon Islands	140	Darfur	4
And on Maritime Patrol	500		



## **From the Secretary: Captain Martin Holme**

Welcome back! As stated elsewhere, there has been a regrettable pause in the production of our regular Newsletters, which play an important part in informing Members about what is going on and other matters of general interest. The hiatus was caused in part by the hole left in the office administration by the untimely and sad loss through ill health of our Assistant Secretary, Marj Minns and in part by my lengthy medical absences. A replacement for Marj has proved to be a difficult challenge, but we may be getting there. (On the other hand, replacements for my hips have proved very successful!)

I join with others in saluting the hard working Library Committee who have transformed a somewhat haphazard arrangement into an efficient, well laid out and catalogued library of significance. Please make a point of coming to Victoria barracks and using it! Access to RUSI Members has been simplified and Security Guards at North Gate will find your name on a list of Members held there and on the production of a photo ID will issue you with a pass. The office is manned most days but it is advisable to ring in advance to ensure your access to the office and Library thus avoiding disappointment.

The Annual Dinner, held sadly for the last time at the Naval and Military Club, was a great success with MAJGEN Mike O'Brien giving a fascinating talk on "The Burials at Fromelles".

Since the last Newsletter, we record with deep regret the passing of two former Presidents of the Institute – BRIG Bob Viall DSO ED and MAJGEN John Stevenson AO CBE. We also note with sadness the passing of the long serving and Founding National Secretary of RUSI Australia, Mr Leo Mahony AM.

On a brighter note, BRIG Mac Grant OAM RFD, MAJ Ian Rainford OAM ED JP, and Mrs Marie Martini have been appointed Councillors Emeritus and MAJ Ian Barnes RFD ED has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Institute.

I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

## **Christmas Drinks**

Our traditional Christmas Drinks will be held in the Office/Library on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December from 2pm to 4pm and we hope that many of you will be able to drop by for some festive cheer. For catering purposes please let me know if you intend to do so.

### **Program Dates for 2009:**

2 Feb Office re-opens  
26 Feb Lunchtime Lecture  
26 Mar Lunchtime Lecture  
23 Apr Lunchtime Lecture  
28 May Lunchtime Lecture

Since our last issue we have sadly lost some Members. We have also gained some new ones. For the record, their names are listed below:

### **Vale**

We record with deep regret the passing of:

Mrs L.A. Heywood; MAJ J.V. Phillips;  
LT G. Farrell; COL D. Pitt; MAJ R.H. Clark;  
LTCOL C. Bunbury; Mr R.B.E. Wart;  
Mr W.J. Goodall; COL W.M. Vincent;  
Lt W.G. Grant; FLLT J. Champness;  
CAPT M.E. McLaren; Sir John White;  
Mrs A. Hill; LT A. Cuthbertson; COL R. Sutton;  
BRIG R. Viall; LT P.A. Viall; FLTLT K. Goode;  
FLGOFF H. Orson; SQNLDR W. Roebuck;  
Mr J.R. Pascoe; MAJGEN J.D. Stevenson;  
MAJ T. McCaw.

### **New Members:**

We welcome the following new Members:

Mr T.N. Ahern; Mr P.J. Williams;  
Mr C.R. Bright; MAJ G.R. Tapper;  
BRIG P. Hutchinson; CHAP G. Redfern;  
Ms J.M. Stubbs; GPCAPT R.D. Story;  
CAPT I.G. Downing; Mrs J. Mayo;  
BRIG P. Edwards; Mrs H. Horniblow;  
Mr K.D. O'Callaghan; CAPT P.J. Martin;  
LTCOL G. Spencer; CMDR J.M. Moller;  
Mr D. Levy; Dr L. Shackleton-Fergus;  
Miss E. Stevens; BRIG K.J. McMann;  
LT H.J. Whybrow; Mrs M. Stratford;  
FLTLT B.D. Simpson; Mr P. Fielding;  
LTCOL D.D. Shearman; Mrs N. Young;  
LTCOL A.J. Lombardo; Mrs A. Whybrow;  
Mr P. Zablud; Mrs M. Lyons.

## **From the President : Brigadier Ian Lillie**

By now you would all be aware that we have had our Annual General Meeting for 2008. The Council, including yours truly, was re-elected and I do thank you for your support and confidence. Within Council I welcome former councillor Commander Warren Kemp as our third Vice President. Major Bob Prewett did not stand for re-election due to other commitments, and I thank Bob for his contribution over many years, particularly his assistance with updating and modernizing our data bases. We are fortunate that Lieutenant Commander John Redman has been able to return to Council, and we welcome him, back.

I would also like to congratulate Major General Mike O'Brien who has been elected National Vice President of the RUSI of Australia.

Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson, our Immediate Past President of 8 years and former National Vice President, remains on the Council and has kindly volunteered to revitalize our Newsletter!

I believe we have had a highly successful Speakers Program this year which has been high quality and generally well supported by the membership. We are fortunate that the Department has been generous with the time of many key personnel who are encouraged to come and address us. Our final speaker for 2008, Major General Jim Molan promises to be of the same high calibre.

If you have suggestions for speakers from Defence, academia or industry, then feel free to contact me or Martin and we will follow them up. We try to stick to the themes of military history, current operations, strategic analysis and the major projects. Obviously, I also try to balance up the three Services to ensure a broad based and interesting and informative program.

Another highlight of the year has been the enormous improvements to the Library, thanks again to the leadership of Mike O'Brien and the efforts of his team. Cataloguing is complete and we have now an automated location and borrowing system for our collection of over 7,000 books. We certainly lead the way in the quality, management and accessibility of our collection. It is worth a visit and the team would love nothing more than to see usage of the collection increase next year.

An area of concern, is our declining membership. Although we consistently gain new members, the trend over the past 5 years or so has seen a steady decline of about 5% each year. We are working hard to address this. I intend to host a morning tea in the Officer's Mess early next year to make a pitch to the current serving officers and public servants in the Barracks. I also hope to spend some time with Commander 4 Brigade to talk to him about initiatives which might appeal to his officers.

We need to convert the 'occasional attendees' to full members because membership drives not only our finances but also our viability in raising public awareness of defence and national security. Don't forget our best advertisement for the Institute is you the members. When you speak favourably about our events, this attracts interested people. If your friends are interested, bring them along and suggest that they join. If you have any other ideas on how we can increase membership feel free to raise them with me or any other Council members.

My second concern remains our day-to-day administration. At this point, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the tremendous effort of our Secretary, Martin Holme, and our hard working Treasurer (et al) Neville Wright. They have been great supports during the year and I would like to thank them both publicly for their efforts. They provide the friendly and helpful 'public face' of RUSI-VIC. My task is to find some administrative back-up for them in 2009. Can you help?

Finally, I should report that the RUSI of Victoria is to host the RUSI National Council Conference here in Melbourne next year. We are already thinking about venues and activities.

Thank you to all of you for your support over the last year and for your confidence in re-electing me as President for 2009. It is a great honour to lead such a venerable and well regarded organisation with its' significant history and the important role it plays in the defence and national security debate in this country.

To you and your families, may I extend my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hope to catch up with you at a presentation in 2009.

Regards  
Ian

## The ADF in Recessionary Times

It is now a Year since the election of the Rudd government. The Rudd government promised a preference for multilateralism over bilateralism, to be a strong supporter of the UN, and a good friend of the US but not an uncritical supporter of US foreign policy. It appeared to be less comfortable committing forces outside our region, and more likely to persevere longer with diplomatic means before committing forces. It also proposed taking leadership in nuclear non-proliferation and regional cooperation. Notwithstanding the election rhetoric, in Defence to date, the Howard and Rudd policies have not been that different.

On the back of years of prosperity and a mineral exports boom the government has faced the C21 global issues of climate change, peak oil, world poverty and terrorism. At home there have been serious water conservation and management issues as well as a long drought and coming to grips with the requirements of an ageing population.

Enter the global financial crisis. Our stock market has fallen dramatically, the exchange rate has plummeted and debt laden corporations have collapsed. The government has responded with a guarantee of bank deposits, fiscal pump-priming via a Christmas welfare bonus, housing grants and local government handouts. Coincidentally, significant assistance has been offered to the automotive manufacturing industry.

The implications of forecasts of a near recession in 2009 are less revenue from taxation, and increased welfare spending. Defence is likely to be squeezed by competing demands from welfare, education, health and infrastructure. Lean times have arrived, although an increase in unemployment may directly benefit ADF recruiting.

Rent-seeking entities of all sorts are already loudly seeking public money to support their particular crises, whether real, perceived or imagined. Just to balance these voices in influencing public opinion, the defence case needs to be put by knowledgeable people.

It tends to be forgotten by those without an understanding of defence, that weapon systems procurement normally has a lead time of over 10 years, and personnel expansion a lead time of at least two years.

A Defence White Paper is due in 2009. The paper will present the government's strategic assessment, and its response to it. It should reflect a change in the world balance of power, with the US becoming less dominant, China emerging and Russia re-emerging.

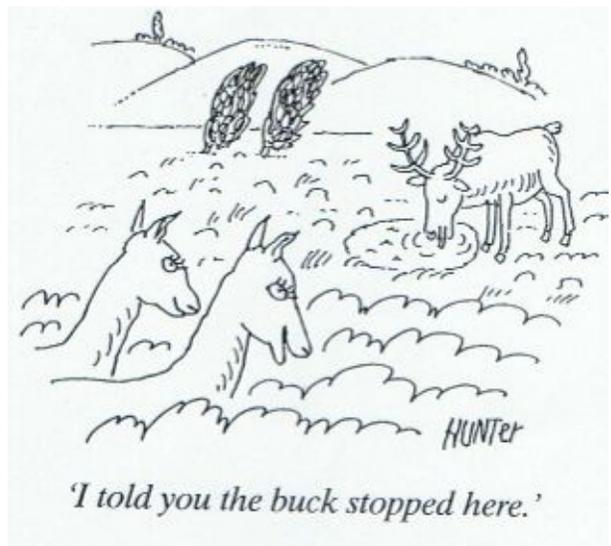
Paul Dibb's 'arc of instability' will not have gone away, and together with international terrorism, and the effects of climate change, the global financial crisis is likely to increase instability as it affects the real economies of our near neighbours. There is also uncertainty regarding the military modernisation and expansion of the forces of most Asian nations, particularly China and India.

For incumbent Australian Governments the national interest is paramount, but this is defined across a range of competing priorities and tempered by a passionate desire for re-election. Public sentiment directly influences government ordering of priorities, and short-term electoral imperatives tend to crowd out long-term needs. Defence is therefore likely to be under pressure for cutbacks and deferrals next year.

RUSI members need to stress to all they come into contact with, the long-term nature of defence, and the risk that the ADF will be ill equipped to deal with future contingencies. It is in Australia's long-term interests for us to talk up Defence's claim on scarce budget dollars.

As RUSI's aim is to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security, 2009 will be a year of real challenge for the Institute.

**Mike Rawlinson**



## **AIR VICE-MARSHAL Henry WRIGLEY CBE, DFC, AFC** **Australia's First Air Power Analyst**

Air Vice-Marshal Henry Wrigley was President of the United Service Institution of Victoria from 1948 - 1960 and thence Patron of the Institution until his death in 1987.

Henry Wrigley made a significant contribution to the development of our Institute, but few current members probably know of his role in the development of air power doctrine in the RAAF. This article is taken from the 'Pathfinder' Bulletin Issue 58 December 2006, published by the RAAF's Air Power Development Centre.

Air Vice-Marshal Henry Wrigley CBE DFC AFC (1892-1987) is widely regarded as Australia's first true air power analyst. His essays and notes on air power, written during the 1920s, were published for the first time in 1990 as *The Decisive Factor: Air Power Doctrine by Air Vice-Marshal Wrigley* (AGPS, Canberra). The book refers to him as 'Australia's first authoritative commentator on air power', and his writings as 'a *de facto* expression of early Australian air power doctrine', noting that the RAAF had no indigenous air power doctrine prior to 1990. The book also cautions that Wrigley should not be thought of as a significant original thinker. Regardless, Wrigley was a clever observer and analyst of air power as it emerged as a new dimension to war fighting in the early 20th Century, and it is worth considering whether his analysis of air power issues are still relevant today.

Wrigley's writings covered a wide variety of air operations scenarios. His definition of air superiority included not only a capability for air-to-air fighting and making attacks on aerodromes, but also the ability to attack an enemy's means of military-industrial production. Of course, Douhet and others had also advocated attacks on war production, which in World War II was to become a primary goal of the combined strategic bombing offensive. Wrigley, however, more specifically advocated the use of both day and night bombing—the former for its accuracy, the latter for its lower casualty rate

among the attacking aircraft. This was prophetic of how the allied bombing of Germany and occupied Europe during World War II was actually conducted.

Wrigley had a number of other insights into what did and did not work well in aerial warfare. He advocated the integration of naval, land and air elements in operations, and the employment of naval reconnaissance from the air. He saw the advantage of 'long range firing' from aircraft—another prophetic vision of the current spread of stand-off and beyond visual range aerial weapons. He emphasized the importance of the 'moral effect' (morale) gained by successful attacks. He advocated the dispersal of aircraft at air bases, a lesson that air forces have learnt the hard way over the years. In another insightful comment he notes that one of the first duties of an invading army ought to be securing or preparing aerodromes. A classic example of the effectiveness of this principle is the rapid securing of a succession of aerodromes in France following the Allied D-Day invasion. In the subsequent air war over Europe, lines of communications and supply became increasingly important targets. Here again, Wrigley had addressed the issue as a possible future development, which he linked back to Napoleon's strategy. Every war following his writings has featured air strikes against transport and communication nodes in a major way.

Although focusing primarily on combat air power, Wrigley's view of air strategy also encompassed reconnaissance, which is, he wrote, 'now almost essential to military operations'. This was a reflection of his own operational background. During World War I he piloted RE8 biplanes with No 69 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps (later renamed No 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps). These were primarily reconnaissance aircraft, though occasionally employed as bombers, and Wrigley gained much experience on patrols to locate enemy guns and photograph the changing tactical situation on the front line.

*Continued overleaf...*

In 1935, Wrigley published his wartime memoirs in his book *The Battle Below*. This was one of only a few other works by World War I Australian airmen, and the first by a serving member of the RAAF. Viewed against his earlier unpublished writings, Wrigley's book is a non-analytical account of his experiences. Interesting though they are, he gives what is basically a day-to-day account of the squadron's tasks, with little interpretation of the usefulness of this work in the bigger picture. He describes his squadron's role in each of the offensives it was involved in—Flanders, the Somme, Amiens, the advance to Peronne, Mont St Quentin and the capture of the Hindenburg Line.

The book gives some detailed descriptions of the methods employed by his unit to complete its assigned tasks. One example is the system of relaying information on the accuracy of their firing to artillery units—the clock code system, developed by a Royal Flying Corps officer as early as January 1915. This system was first used two months later in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in north-west France. In this action, an infantry advance was preceded by a concentrated artillery bombardment across a two kilometre line that was directed, in part, by several squadrons of reconnaissance aircraft. In the clock code system, the pilot signaled a letter-number code in Morse using an early airborne radio. The code told Allied artillery the location of the fall of their shots in relation to the target, using a bulls-eye in which the numbers of a clock-face were superimposed on concentric circles labeled with letters. It was still in use in the mid-1930s when Wrigley published his book.

*The Battle Below* also makes passing reference to the usefulness of aerial photography and the development of the art of photo interpretation. The whole of the I Anzac Corps front was systematically photographed, and the photos analyzed with as little delay as possible. It was a godsend for the strategists and the men in the trenches alike. Its modernized and wider development, remote sensing, is an indispensable tool of modern warfare.

The contemporary usefulness of Wrigley's air power commentaries and analysis was limited, as he had little opportunity to put them into practice. In the years before World War II, he commanded RAAF Station Laverton, Victoria, and during the war he commanded Southern Area, covering Australia's southern states. He was also Air Member for

Personnel, and commanded RAAF Overseas Headquarters in London. Although the latter position took him geographically closer to an air war 'front line', it was largely an administrative posting. He was not in a position to influence the way in which the air war was fought from Britain.

How should we assess the contribution of Henry Wrigley today? His writings were insightful and often prophetic, but as they did not see the light of day until 1990, nearly 70 years after they were written, they were of no practical value in Wrigley's day. Today, Wrigley is probably more widely remembered for an aerial accomplishment he made just after World War I—the first flight across Australia, from Melbourne to Darwin—than for his contributions as an air power thinker. However, *The Decisive Factor* is an important document in understanding the historical development of Australian air power thought.

***Finally, there is the need for some sort of thinking department. Often and often throughout the war when some development occurred, we wondered why we hadn't thought of it before, and nearly always came to the conclusion that there was no real reason. It was only lack of foresight.***

**AVM H.N. Wrigley, c. 1928**



## **From our Library**

### **Major General Mike O'Brien**

**I**would hope that all our members make time to visit their library and to borrow from it. Many will be aware that our collection has been entirely re-catalogued and re-shelved. This work was previously estimated to take over two years to complete: however, the work of our volunteers has been so effective that it has virtually been completed in half that time. I cannot thank our helpers too much for this consolidated and productive effort. They deserve all our thanks!

The books have been catalogued using the Dewey Decimal System which is the standard used by most libraries throughout the world. We have been guided throughout by the cataloguing of the Defence Libraries, so our task has been made a good deal more simple. Each book has been recorded on a computerised program and each has been assigned a barcode identifier. Our computer is fitted with a programmed barcode scanner which will identify each book in our collection. Taking books out (and returning them) is a very simple process: the computer makes it very easy indeed. Finding a book is quite simple too. There is a step-by-step instruction sheet nearby to assist borrowers and browsers.

Our plan is to consolidate the cataloguing and filling of gaps in our collection this year. Next calendar year we hope to consider making our catalogue visible to all on the Internet. We hope this will be a service to our members, attract researchers to the use of one of the very few specialized military collections in Australia and also help us attract new members.

Our collection policy is to have books that relate to the defence and security of Australia and its region and, as a second priority to the world. This makes a collection both strong in history and forward-looking in terms of foreign relations, tactics and strategy.

The collection has many strengths: since the USI of Victoria started in the 1890s books were collected and some of the early acquisitions, especially those relating to Australia, are now rarities. Sadly, there are gaps in our collection. For example, we have Official Histories of Australia's involvement in the First and Second World Wars but fewer relating to our New Zealand cousins. We do not have one of the volumes of our Official History of the Korean

War and this volume is far from easy to obtain. There are gaps in our coverage of the Australian experience in Vietnam. We have some unit histories of Australian World War One and Two units, but just a few after those periods.

How can we improve our collection? We are, like communist tacticians, attacking on several fronts.

- First, we are repairing some of our more valuable books that have been damaged. Some are very rare and several are unique.
- Next, we are obtaining newly-published books. Sometimes we have been successful in getting review copies (but this obligates us to publish a review –and we need some help with this) and more frequently we buy them getting as good a discount as we can negotiate.
- Next, we have been put on the distribution lists of the Army and Navy 'think-tanks' (but not yet the Navy!) and so we get their publications free of charge. We are acquiring ASPI papers and are considering subscribing to the Lowy Institute's publications as well.
- Next, we have been very fortunate in attracting donations of books and even donations of money. Please consider adding to these donations if you can. We will take anything that is within our collection policy: books, pamphlets, instructional leaflets, personal diaries are all welcome.
- Lastly, we'd like to encourage anyone to help us further. One particular need is to assist in the preservation of our collection by placing protective covers on dust-wrappers. A further job is to write to publishers and official sources seeking copies of their books. There are many other such jobs and any of them can be done at times that suit you – we do not seek regular hours, just the effort will do!

A separate task that has been undertaken in conjunction with the library is to sort out our archives. We have made good progress but more work is needed.

Where is all this effort headed? Our library should be a tool for all our members and an aid to attract new ones. It is well-established on firm foundations and it is a permanent part of RUSI of Victoria.

So we encourage you to visit and use this significant resource and to consider whether you can help it along its path.

## A Last Word – Library Notes

The list of recent acquisitions for your Library is a long one. Here are some of its highlights (and some of the things we are missing!):

- Our collection of *Australian Army Journals* and *The RUSI of NSW Journal* is now almost complete thanks to a donation from our long-time member Dr Warren Perry. Do you have any of the early ones hidden away – around 1948-50? Please tell us!
- We have purchased a set of Sir John Fortescue's monumental *History of the British Army*: it is considered one of the master works of military history.
- The Army Historian, Mr Roger Lee, has donated almost all the volumes that have been published in the Army History series by Allen & Unwin, Oxford University Press and Australian Military History Publications. The purchase price of these books would be well over \$1000. Can anyone persuade his counterparts in the RAN & RAAF to do the same?
- The official historian of the post-World War Two conflicts, Dr Peter Edwards, has donated a valuable collection of more technical naval, military and peacekeeping titles.
- Ms Bea Burke has given us some of the gems from her valuable collection.
- **Official Histories.** These are the core of our collection. We have Volume I of the *Australian Official History of the Korean War* by Dr Bob O'Neill but not Volume II (Operations): it's out of print and at present unobtainable. We have four of the eight volumes issued of the *Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975*: the others are also out of print and not easily found. One is yet to be published - yes, we will buy it!
- Lord Brassey was Governor of Victoria from 1895 to 1900, sailing here in his private yacht *Sunbeam*. He lectured to the USI of Victoria and had written several books. We have just had one of his volumes written by him re-bound: it came to us from the collection of Sir Frederick Sargood, Victoria's first Minister for Defence and owner of the Rippon Lea mansion. There are many other early fine 'association' copies of book in our collection.
- A new acquisition (by our purchase) is the second volume of Rick Atkinson's acclaimed *Liberation Trilogy* – it is *The Battle for Sicily and Italy 1943-1944*. We don't yet have the earlier volume *An Army at Dawn: the War in North Africa 1942-1943*.
- Our collection of *Army Lists* is building up but is far from complete. Some of the earlier World War Two volumes have been re-bound. These items and their equivalent RAN & RAAF counterparts are listed as reference and not for loan.
- Brigadier Ian Gilmore, who has now moved to Queensland, has given us a collection of the Australian Army Education Corps, World War Two publication *Salt*. We would like to see if we can build a set of all its issues from 1941 to 1946. Does any member have some copies?
- **Fromelles.** If you would like to read about this battle, we have several titles including the very-hard-to-find but comprehensive *Don't Forget Me Cobbers: the Battle of Fromelles* by Melbourne historian Robin Corfield.
- Mr Edward Humphreys has donated a copy of his recently published *Andrew Fisher: the Forgotten Man*. It examines the little-known part the Australian Prime Minister played in the Dreadnought crisis prior to the First World War.
- Martin Windrow's *Last Valley: Dien Bien Phu and the French Defeat in Vietnam* is a highly recommended recent acquisition.
- We also have the *US 9/11 Commission Report (Authorized Edition)*. One wonders what value an unauthorized edition might have!
- Our collection of 15 or so first editions of the *Michelin Guides to the Battlefields of the Great War* is fascinating, remarkable and valuable.

### Donations to your Library Fund are Tax Deductible

Help to maintain the Institute's Library as the best collection in Victoria on defence and military related subjects by donating to your RUSI of VIC Library Fund.

The RUSI of VIC Library Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) approved by the Australian Taxation Office, and monetary gifts to the Fund over \$2 are tax deductible by the donor.

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