The 1915 August Offensive, or ‘Anzac Breakout’, at Gallipoli, also referred to as the Battle of Sari Bair, was designed to break the stalemate that had existed on the Gallipoli Peninsula since the initial landing on 25 April. It saw some of the bloodiest fighting since the landing as Allied and Turkish troops fought desperate battles at Lone Pine, German Officers’ Trench, Turkish Quinn’s, The Chessboard, The Neck, Chunuk Bair, Hill Q, Hill 971, Hill 60, Cape Helles and Suvla Bay. Its result was an enlarged beachhead ‘cage’ for the Allied forces, for which they paid a very high price in men and materials.

To mark the centenary of this important offensive in Australian military history, members of the Institute’s Special Interest Group on Military History, who have been studying the causes of this failure, will stage a mock post-war Commission of Inquiry with group members playing the roles of Commissioner, Counsel Assisting, and Witnesses. In doing so, they will draw on the most recent historic research from both the Allied and Turkish sides.

**Dramatis Personae and Research Team**

**Commissioner**  
Brigadier The Honourable Alan Abadee AM RFD QC

**Counsel Assisting**  
Colonel Andrew Morrison RFD SC

**Commission Staff**  
Lieutenant Colonel John Howells RFD

**Charles Bean**  
Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney RFD

**General Liman von Sanders**  
Lieutenant Colonel Paul Simadas RFD

**Colonel Mustafa Kemal**  
Lieutenant Colonel Jim Sinclair RFD

**General Sir Ian Hamilton**  
Major John Hitchen RFD

**Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood**  
Lieutenant Colonel Ron Lyons RFD

**Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stopford**  
Dr Tony McArthur

**Major-General Sir Alexander Godley**  
Brigadier Bryce Fraser RFD ED

**Major-General H. B. Walker**  
Brigadier Bryce Fraser RFD ED

**Major-General H. V. Cox**  
Colonel Joseph Matthews

**Brigadier-General John Monash**  
Colonel John Hutcheson MC

**Brigadier-General F. E. Johnston**  
Lieutenant Colonel Ian Watkins RFD ED

**Artillery and naval gunfire support**  
Lieutenant Colonel Ken Broadhead RFD

**Medical**  
Major General Paul Irving AM PSM RFD

**Producer**  
Major General Paul Irving AM PSM RFD

**TUESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2015**  
Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics’ School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney  
10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p. m.
ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
NEW SOUTH WALES

1915 Gallipoli August Offensive
Centenary Commission of Inquiry

Program

0930 – 1000  REGISTRATION  [Attendees to be seated by 0955]

SESSION 1
1000 – 1010  Commissioner’s Opening Remarks  –  Brigadier The Honourable Alan Abadee AM RFD QC
1010 – 1025  Ground Brief  –  Lieutenant Colonel John Howells RFD
1025 – 1100  Counsel’s Opening Address  –  Colonel Andrew Morrison RFD SC
1100 – 1130  MORNING TEA

SESSION 2
1130 – 1145  Witness: General Liman von Sanders  –  Lieutenant Colonel Paul Simadas RFD
1145 – 1200  Witness: Colonel Mustafa Kemal  –  Lieutenant Colonel Jim Sinclair RFD
1200 – 1230  Witness: General Sir Ian Hamilton  –  Major John Hitchen RFD
1230 – 1245  Witness: Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Stopford  –  Dr Tony McArthur
1245 – 1345  LUNCH

SESSION 3
1345 – 1415  Witness: Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood  –  Lieutenant Colonel Ron Lyons RFD
1415 – 1445  Witness: Major General Sir Alexander Godley  –  Brigadier Bryce Fraser RFD ED
1445 – 1500  Witness: Major-General H. V. Cox  –  Colonel Joseph Matthews
1500 – 1530  Witness: Brigadier-General John Monash  –  Colonel John Hutcheson MC
1530 – 1600  AFTERNOON TEA

SESSION 4
1600 – 1615  Counsel’s Closing Address  –  Colonel Andrew Morrison RFD SC
1615 – 1655  The Inquiry’s Findings  –  Brigadier The Honourable Alan Abadee AM RFD QC
1655 – 1700  Producer’s Closing Remarks  –  Major General Paul Irving AM PSM RFD
Team Member Profiles

Major General Paul Irving AM PSM RFD is a former Army Reserve signals officer who rose to command the 8th Signals Regiment, the 8th Brigade and the 2nd Division. In civilian life, he was a senior human resources manager in the NSW Public Service who became an Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Corrective Services. He is a Vice-President of the Institute, National President of the Defence Reserves Association and Representative Colonel Commandant of the Signal Corps.

Brigadier The Honourable Alan Abadee AM RFD QC is a retired senior barrister who became a justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Australian Defence Force.

Colonel Andrew Morrison RFD SC is a Senior Counsel at the New South Wales Bar who has served two terms as an acting District Court judge. He is also Queen’s Counsel in Tasmania and Western Australia. He is an Army Reserve infantry officer who rose to command the 2nd /17th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment. He has a PhD in law from the University of London.

Lieutenant Colonel John Howells RFD is a retired Army Reserve armoured officer who became second-in-command of the 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers and Chief Instructor at the Reserve Command and Staff College. He is now a battlefield guide and military historian.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Sweeney RFD is a retired Army Reserve infantry officer who rose to command the Officer Cadet Training Unit. He is an accountant in civilian life and is also a battlefield guide and military historian.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Simadas RFD is a currently-serving Army Reserve infantry officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Jim Sinclair RFD is a currently-serving Army Reserve intelligence officer who is on full-time service with Headquarters Forces Command where he is developing an adversary doctrine. In civilian life, he is a librarian in the State Records Authority of NSW.

Major John Hitchen RFD is a former Army Reserve infantry officer who was an industrial chemist in civilian life. He is now a battlefield guide and military historian.

Lieutenant Colonel Ron Lyons RFD is a former Army Reserve infantry officer who served in the 4th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment and various staff/training postings before becoming Chief Instructor of the Regimental Training Unit. He is a tour leader and battlefield guide, and member of the International Guild of Battlefield Guides. In his civilian life, he operates a consultancy in workplace logistics systems.

Dr Tony McArthur is an educator and military historian who holds a PhD in history from the University of Sydney. He is a former Army Reserve officer in the 15th/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers.

Brigadier Bryce Fraser RFD ED is a former Army Reserve infantry officer who rose to command the 4th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment and the 5th Brigade. In civilian life he was the general manager of a major health insurance organisation. Since retiring, he has gained a PhD in military history from the University of Wollongong.

Colonel Joseph Matthews is a retired regular Indian Army officer, an infantryman who rose to command a battalion. Now resident in Australia, he is a financial crime analyst. As well as being a member of the Institute, he is a life member of the United Service Institution of India, an alumnus of the Indian Defence Services Staff College and holds a Master’s Degree in Defence and Strategic Studies.

Colonel John Hutcheson MC is a former officer of the Australian Regular Army and the Army Reserve. An engineer and commando, he won the Military Cross in Korea and also saw active service in Malaya and Vietnam. With a PhD in construction financial management, he is now a part-time university lecturer and building consultant. He is a Vice-President of the Institute.

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Watkins RFD ED is a former Army Reserve electrical and mechanical engineer who is now a regular battlefield tour participant.

Lieutenant Colonel Ken Broadhead RFD is a former Army Reserve artillery officer who rose to command the 133rd Divisional Locating Battery and 23rd Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. An economist and retired Reserve Bank officer, he is a Councillor of the Institute, chair of the Finance Committee, and co-ordinator of the lectures and seminars program.
The Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales is an independent, apolitical, incorporated public association that was established in 1888. Now in its 127th year, it seeks to promote informed debate on, and improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. Any interested person may become a member.

In furtherance of its aim, the Institute, through its research, education and social programs:

- contributes to the national debate on defence and national security policy and makes submissions to government on specific policy issues;
- conducts regular public lectures and seminars on specific contemporary aspects of defence and national security and less frequently on military history;
- conducts a biennial international defence and security dialogue specifically aimed at informing the Australian Government’s ‘white paper’ policy development process;
- maintains a highly attractive and informative website with a large national and international readership (www.rusinsw.org.au);
- publishes a monthly newsletter, delivered to readers by email, which keeps readers abreast of defence and security news;
- publishes a quarterly professional journal, United Service, both in hard copy and online – now in its 68th year, the Institute’s flagship publication seeks to inform the defence and security debate in Australia and to bring an Australian perspective to that debate internationally – it enjoys a wide national and international readership especially via the online versions;
- publishes monographs on specific topics it has researched;
- maintains a comprehensive library of military literature, dating from the late 18th century to the present day – it is especially popular among researchers and academics;
- organises visits to defence-related establishments and historic battlefield tours; and
- conducts periodic social and networking activities for its members.

The Institute is a constituent body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia, which is a federation of self-governing state and territory-based United Services Institutes. In addition to maintaining fraternal links with its Australian counterparts, the Institute also maintains close links with the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, London, and the United Service Institution of India.

Currently, the Institute has some 560 members. Many of the Institute’s members have served at some stage in the defence forces or merchant navies of Australia or its allies, but increasing numbers come from academia, the police and security services, defence industry, the public service and the wider community.

The Institute is funded primarily from membership subscriptions (currently $45 per year) and the income from its modest investments. The Department of Defence provides housing for the Institute’s library at no cost to the Institute and provides a small grant-in-aid that is applied to upkeep of the library collection. Production of the journal is defrayed by advertising. Staging of the International Defence and Security Dialogues has been made possible by a generous financial contribution from a member.