



Royal United Services Institute
New South Wales

Newsletter

Issue No 1 - July 2014

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Welcome to this first issue of the electronic newsletter of the Royal United Services Institute of NSW (RUSI NSW), the aim of which is to provide members, stakeholders, and other interested parties up to date news of our latest activities and events. To continue to receive this newsletter electronically recipients will need to register their email contact details to the following link <http://www.rusinsw.org.au/Newsletters> There is no charge to receive the newsletter.

Latest News and Events

Institute News

- ❖ The most recent Council Meeting was held at the Institute's Offices in the Defence Plaza Sydney on Monday 14th July. No items or matters were considered which warrant special mention in this Newsletter.
- ❖ Members of the Institute have been invited to participate in a special forum as part of the public consultation process for the development of the [2015 Defence White Paper](#) (DWP). The session will be held after the normal monthly lecture on 29th July 2014 at 2.30 – 4.30 pm at the SMSA Theatre and will be conducted by Mr Peter Jennings of the Expert Panel established to advise on the development of the DWP.

Upcoming RUSI NSW Events



Tuesday 29th July 2014 - Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Dr Brendan Nelson, Director Australian War Memorial, and his subject will be “The Australian War Memorial – its past and future”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



Friday 22nd August 2014 – the 126th Anniversary Luncheon will be held on 4th Floor Masonic Club, 169-171 Castlereagh Street at 12 noon for 12.30pm. A two course lunch with wine included at a cost of \$80.00 person. Registration must be made through the Institute's Office by telephone 02 93932325



Tuesday 26 August 2014 – Lunchtime Lecture at 1.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street – the speaker will be Professor Alan Dupont, Director Institute for International Security and Development, University of NSW and his subject will be “The White Paper - Challenges Facing Defence”. The lunchtime lectures are open to anyone interested.



Tuesday, 30 September 2014 – Seminar at 1.00 to 5.00pm at the SMSA Theatre (Level 1) 280 Pitt Street. The subject will be “The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) Centenary Seminar”. At the outbreak of World War I, the ANMEF was raised to seize and occupy German colonial possessions in the Pacific. It was formed in August 1914 and, supported by the Australian Fleet, it captured Rabaul and began occupying German possessions, especially

wireless stations, in New Guinea, Nauru, the Solomon Islands and nearby islands in September 1914. A panel of five naval and military historians will outline the background to war in 1914, naval operations in the Pacific in 1914, the raising and training of the ANMEF and its subsequent operations in New Guinea, and the aftermath. The seminar is open to anyone but [prior booking and payment](#) (\$30.00 for members and \$45 for non-members) is required through the office 02 93932325.

Upcoming Events by other Organisations

- ❖ 2 August 2014 – Hosted by the historic Fort Queenscliff Museum, “The First Fateful Shot: Port Phillip Bay, August 1914” Conference will examine the lead-up to the outbreak of World War I from the Australian perspective, and the events of 1914 including the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landing at Rabaul and the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago. The conference will be followed by the Fort Queenscliff Museum’s annual Friends of the Fort Black Tie Dinner. Costs Member \$55, General admission \$75 Concession \$45 – For Further details, including registration at <http://mhvy.org.au>
- ❖ Saturday 30 August 2014 – Street Parade (start time 1.00pm) to commemorate the formation of the 1st Light Horse in 2014 Macquarie Street Parramatta and then afterwards at the Lancer Barracks Parramatta.
- ❖ 9 – 14 September 2014 - New Guinea Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force Centenary Battlefield Tour - This tour is being offered by Military History Tours Australia Pty Ltd and is tailored to the needs of those wishing to visit the Rabaul battlefields prior to the Institute’s Centenary Seminar. For further details, including registration, [Click Here](#)
- ❖ 22 – 24 September 2014 – Land Forces 2014 - Australia’s premier land defence exhibition and a leading land defence forum for Australia, Asia and the Indo-Pacific region to be held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. It will provide an opportunity to connect to the land defence community. Further details at www.landforces.com.au

Past Events

27 May 2014 – The Amphibious Operations Seminar held at the Wesley Conference Centre on 27 May was a great success. Feedback from attendees indicates that for both currently serving personnel and others present it filled a vital need. It was attended by 65 members, 27 non-members, 5 invited speakers and one media representative.





24 June 2014 – the Luncheon Lecture by Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM; Commander, Operation Sovereign Borders on the topic “ Operation Sovereign Borders” was another most successful event which was reported in a wide range of newspapers and on TV throughout the country.

General Defence News

- **Department of Defence Senior Appointments:** Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin assumed the post of Chief of the Defence Force and Vice Admiral Tim Barrett the post of Chief of the Navy, both on 30 June 2014.
- **Australia – Japan Agreement:** Australia’s Prime Minister and Japan’s Prime Minister, signed an “Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan Concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology” at a ceremony in Canberra on 8 July. The aim of the agreement is to facilitate deeper bilateral defence science, technology and materiel cooperation, allowing Australia and Japan to work together more closely to identify potential areas of future research interest and mutual benefit.
- **National Security Legislation:** Amendments to the National Security Legislation were tabled in the Senate on 16 July. They contain a package of targeted reforms to strengthen the legislative framework governing the activities of the Australian Intelligence Community. It implements the Government's response to the recommendations of the bipartisan report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) on potential reforms of Australia's national security legislation.
- **Defence Industry:** Local industry has been in the news again with the decision to import boots for defence personnel over locally produced Rossi boots. Also, Steve Ludlam, the Chief Executive of the Australian Submarine Corporation has resigned after 5 years in the appointment. He is a submarine expert recruited from the UK to fix the problems with the Collins class submarine.
- The **Sydney Aerospace and Defence Industry Group (SADIG)** conducted a workshop on 19th June in the company of the representatives of the Expert Panel established to assist with the development of the 2015 Defence White Paper. The aim was to identify the key elements which the industry policy of the DWP should achieve. RUSI NSW was represented at the Workshop by Doug Roser, Immediate Past President and Chair of the Industry Special Interest Group. His impression was that the over-riding conclusion of the workshop was that the defence industry policy must be adjusted to ensure it takes into account, and measures, the value it has to the long term economic development of the nation not just the value to the security of the nation.

- **Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17:** The loss of 283 passengers and 15 crew of the Malaysian Airlines flight MH 17 over the skies of Eastern Ukraine was not only a criminal act of murder on a massive scale but one that will surely impact future international relations between west and east in both the short and long term.



About the RUSI of NSW

Founded as the United Service Institution of New South Wales in 1888, the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales today is one of seven self-governing constituent bodies of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia.

The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate on, and to improve public awareness and understanding of, defence and national security. To this end, the Institute:



- contributes to the national debate on defence and security policy;
- publishes a highly-respected professional journal;
- arranges regular lectures and occasional seminars on military history, defence and security issues;
- organises visits to defence and security establishments;
- operates a public library, specialising in defence and security literature dating from the early 19th century to the current day; and
- conducts social and networking functions for members.

The Institute's rooms and the Ursula Davidson military history Library are on Level 20, Defence Plaza, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney – very close to Town Hall and Museum railway stations. Tea/coffee and biscuits are available without charge and members and visitors are encouraged to use the facilities for reading or research, or just as a base when visiting the city of Sydney. However, prior to visiting for the first time please contact the Office Manager to arrange access to the Office. For additional information please visit our website at www.rusinsw.org.au or call the Office at (02) 93932325.



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please send an email with the subject line "Stop Newsletter" to office@rusinsw.org.au and we will remove you from our newsletter listing

Special offer – WWII books for RUSI NSW members:

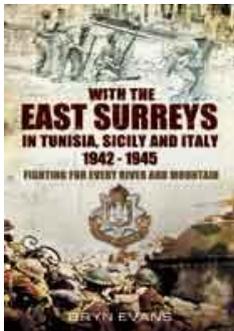
Three new WWII books are available to RUSI NSW members, with a generous part of the proceeds donated to RUSI NSW. These are first editions personally signed by the authors, for sale to members at significant discounts – see summary details below.



The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force 1942 – 1945, Bryn Evans (Pen & Sword Books, April 2014) - \$30.00

The North African and Italian campaigns are shown from the perspective of Allied air power, particularly the Desert Air Force (DAF), in which Australian airmen and squadrons made a significant contribution. The winning of air superiority and the ensuing air - ground support for Allied armies, made the crucial difference to bring the Allies victory, acknowledged by commanders of both sides.

DAF pioneered new tactics in close Army-Air Force co-operation on the battlefield, introducing air controllers in the front lines. First-hand accounts by veteran airmen of the first multi-national air force, from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, USA and other Allies, reveal the decisive victories with which DAF won the air war over North Africa, the Mediterranean and Italy in 1942-45.



With the East Surreys in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy 1942-45, Bryn Evans (Pen & Sword Books, Sept 2012) - \$30.00

On 26 October 1942 the Allies' Operation Torch invaded North Africa. The East Surrey Regiment's 1st and 1/6th Battalions waded ashore at Algiers, then became some of the Allies' foremost troops in mountain warfare. The book covers battlegrounds such as Tunisia's Atlas mountains, Sicily's Mount Etna, and in Italy the Abruzzo rivers and mountains, Cassino, Anzio, and the Gothic Line in the Apennines. A richly researched story of the East Surreys shows how a single battalion can make a huge difference. Veterans' accounts take the reader into the midst of these gruelling and costly campaigns.



The formation & operation of the US Army Small Ships in World War II, Ernest A. Flint - \$20.00

The United States Army Small Ships Section provided amphibious logistic support to General MacArthur's armies in the South West Pacific Area, especially in New Guinea, but also in the Philippines, in World War II. Some ships also later served in Japan during the occupation. The ships were mostly crewed by Australian civilians. This booklet will appeal to historians of the period and descendants of Small Ships Section crewmen.

Purchase of these three books can be made from the RUSI NSW office, at the Lunchtime Lectures, or by mail (plus postage charges).

For payment arrangements contact RUSI NSW office: tel 02 9393 2325, email office@rusinw.org.au, or Bryn Evans tel 02 9438 1939, email bryn.evans@ozemail.com.au

The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force 1942-45	@ \$30 - No.....Cost \$.....00
With the East Surreys in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy 1942-45	@ \$30 - No.....Cost \$.....00
The US Army Small Ships in World War II	@ \$20 - No.....Cost \$.....00
Postal and packaging charges (to be added by RUSI)	\$.....00
Total Cost (to be completed by RUSI)	\$.....00