



**Royal United Services Institute
of
South Australia Inc**

A Constituent Body of the
Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

Promoting National Security and Defence

Building 160 Keswick Barracks,
Keswick SA 5035
Tel/Fax: 61 (8) 8305 6378
Office Hours:
Monday and Friday 10am to 4pm
Library also opens on Wednesday

RUSI-SA

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NEWSLETTER

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

RUSI OF SA EMAIL ADDRESS

rusikes@bigpond.com

RUSI OF AUSTRALIA WEBSITE

<http://www.defence.gov.au/rusi/>

RUSI FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES WHITEHALL WEBSITE

<http://www.rusi.org>

AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

<http://www.aspi.org.au>

Patron

*His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce
AO CSC RANR Governor of South Australia*

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2008

President:	COL D.Stoba RFD ED (Retd)
Vice Presidents:	BRIG D. Willett AM (Retd) COL N.R. Bergin (Retd)
Councillors:	Mr C.C. Brooks COL Hans Broweleit (Retd) Mr M.J. Gorroick Fay Leditschke CAPT M.J. Orchard RFD ED (Retd)
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Treasurer:	COL L. Thompson AM RFD ED (Retd)
Hon Auditor:	CAPT D. Shorrock (RAAPC)
Secretary/Public Officer:	Elaine Atkinson
Librarian/Hon Editor:	CAPT M.J. Orchard RFD ED (Retd)

Luncheon Speaker

Monday 4 February 2008

Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

**Leader of the Opposition
South Australian Government**

**Topic: Water – A Strategic
Imperative for South Australia**

Luncheon Speaker

Monday 3 March 2008

Ian Kelly

**Deputy Commissioner SA
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**Topic: Australia's Military History;
Do We Know What We Don't
Know?**

Australians generally have a poor grasp of their own history – particularly their military history. Ian Kelly will look at our knowledge of the First World War, in particular and ask if Australians have an accurate picture of what happened. He will also explore a little-known episode in our military history and ask why it's been ignored for so long.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are now into a new year and I am pleased to report that the guest speaker and social programs are well in hand. Now that the federal elections are over, we are hopeful of securing further high profile speakers for our monthly luncheons and "Current Issues Briefings".

I have written to the new Minister for Defence, The Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, stressing the importance of Keswick Barracks and supporting the campaign to retain it as an ADF base. A copy follows my report.

The Council has decided to continue with the quarterly social events of BBQ, Dining In Night, Winter Carvery and the Christmas Sundowner. When I met with our Patron last year, His Excellency indicated his willingness to attend and address our annual Dining In Night and we are endeavoring to arrange a mutually convenient date mid year. I encourage all members to put these dates in your diary as soon as they are published in the newsletter and to actively support them.

On a national level - at the annual meeting of the RUSI of Australia National Council, held in Canberra last May, there was considerable discussion about falling membership numbers nation-wide and each state was asked to prepare discussion papers on attracting new members from nominated interest groups. In October, the RUSI National President, Major General John Hartley AO Retd, decided that a fundamental review of the RUSI was needed to consider, for instance, *why the RUSI is important, what it has to offer to attract new members and how it should be structured and managed*. The National Vice President, Vice Admiral Chris Richie AO RANR, was tasked with heading a small team to examine these issues. An extraordinary meeting of the RUSI of Australia National Council is to be held in Canberra on Friday 14 March 08 to receive and discuss a progress report on this review. The only other item on the agenda is a briefing and demonstration on the new RUSI website, which is a key element in our overall strategy of meeting current and prospective members needs. I will be attending this meeting and will report on the outcomes in the next newsletter.

David Stoba

Following is the text of a letter that was sent to the Minister for Defence and other politicians recently:

Importance of Keswick Barracks as an ADF Base 10 January 2008

On behalf of the Council and members of the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia, I congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Defence. We trust that you will be able to address our Institute at some time in the future, to follow up on the very interesting presentation you made at our Current Issues Briefing at Keswick Barracks in August 2007.

A number of submissions were made to your predecessor, by concerned organisations and individuals, regarding the proposed closure and sale of the centrally located Australian Defence Force (ADF) base of Keswick Barracks, and this matter was raised during your visit.

The impact of such an action on the recruiting and retention of the currently under strength Army Reserves has been well researched and documented. The detrimental effect on other organisations, such as the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia (RUSI-SA) should also be taken into account.

The Royal United Services Institute of South Australia (RUSI-SA) is currently located in Building 160 at Keswick Barracks, which houses a well-stocked defence-oriented library used by members generally and by authors for research purposes. The aim of the Institute is *to promote informed debate and to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security*. This is achieved primarily by the means of monthly presentations, seminars and the publication of newsletters and seminar papers. The majority of these activities are conducted in this building and in other facilities located within Keswick Barracks.

The RUSI is assisted financially by an annual grant-in-aid from the Department of Defence.

The RUSI-SA currently has over 400 members and surveys have confirmed that the central location and accessibility of the RUSI-SA is a key factor in the recruitment and retention of members and in encouraging visitors to attend the above activities. The closure of Keswick Barracks and the relocation of the RUSI-SA would have a severe impact on its viability and hence its ability to meet its aim.

The Council and members of the Royal United Services Institute of South Australia support the campaign to retain Keswick Barracks as an ADF base.

Yours truly, Colonel David Stoba RFD ED (Retd)
Chairman RUSI-SA

cc. SA Federal Senators & Members

Premier of South Australia,

Leader of the Opposition in South Australia

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

Cancellations must be reported to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20. The caterers must be notified of the number attending by then and that number must be paid for.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$20. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55 pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00 pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available. We aim to complete the program by 2.00 pm.

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2008

Council has determined that the dates for social functions in 2008 will be as follows:-

Sunday 16 March - BBQ

Friday 6 June (TBC) - Dining In Night

Sunday 24 August - Winter Carvery

Sunday 23 November - Sundowner

Please make a note of these important dates in your diary. More details will be publicised closer to the time of each function.

Know your Councillors

COL L. Thompson AM RFD ED (Retd)



Leslie Thompson commenced his building experience with his father in suburban Nedlands, Western Australia, in 1937. After qualifying in Building Construction and Structural engineering at the Perth Technical College and successfully completing the Builders' Registration examinations, the first in Australia in 1941, he continued his involvement post war on large suburban housing groups of commercial buildings at Fremantle and the Kwinana refinery, buildings at the University of Western Australia and on high rise buildings in the Perth CBD.

Leslie had AIF war service with the Royal Australian Engineers and in 1948, joined the newly established Citizen Military Force, later commanding the 13th Field Squadron and 4th Movement Control Training Group, Royal Australian Engineers. He went on to become Deputy Commander of the 1st Battalion, the Royal Western Australian Regiment and then commanded the Western Australia University Regiment, the 6th Battalion and the Royal Western Australian Regiment. His final appointment was Commander, Western Command Officer Training Group.

While on a trip around the world in 1946 to 1948, studying building practices, Leslie qualified for membership of the Institute of Building, London (established in 1834) and later became a member of the Australian Institute of Building after its formation in 1951. He served as the President of the Western Australian Chapter from 1960 to 1962 and of the South Australian Chapter from 1983 to 1985. He has been a member of the Institute Council since 1960 and is an Honorary Life Fellow of the Institute. He was awarded the Institute Medal in 2006.

Leslie was an active member of the United Services Institute of Western Australia from 1948 until he moved to South Australia in 1973. He has been the Honorary Treasurer here since 2002.

Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI - SA Inc

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LIBRARY

As you know, we have an extensive library, with books dating back to the early 19th Century on military expeditions and various subjects and more books are being added all the time. Members are always welcome to avail themselves of the library's facilities.

Come in during normal library hours (10 am to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to peruse the extensive range of books, magazines and Service newspapers that are on display, and relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

LIBRARY NON-FICTION

The following books have been added to the library recently. Reviews are provided by Malcolm Orchard.

"Game to the Last" by James Hurst

Here, at last, is the history of West Australia's famous 11th Battalion AIF at Gallipoli – a sister battalion to South Australia's celebrated 10th Battalion AIF.

Historian James Hurst follows members of the battalion from their first leaving home, the initial training at the well known Black Boy Hill camp, their embarking for overseas, the training and boredom in Egypt and their baptism of fire at Gallipoli as dawn broke on the morning of 25 April 1915....

However, as he writes: *Though the 11th Battalion, as a component of the 3rd Brigade and the covering force, played an important part in the ANZAC landings on 25 April 1915, the focus of this book is the experience of the battalion throughout the Gallipoli campaign, and due to constrictions of space, I have devoted only one chapter to the Landing as a whole, but have focussed on the experience of certain members of the battalion during the battle. I intend to make the 11th Battalion's experience of the Gallipoli Landing the subject of a separate book.*

Gallipoli, of course, was not an isolated event. The troops had parents and siblings, wives, children and friends and during the war, these had to endure the anxiety of a dearth of information about loved ones overseas. Afterwards, they had to live with the reality of loss, wounds or war strain. When the guns finally fell silent, towards the end of 1918, the silence in distant Australia must have been deafening. Parents witnessed the return of their dead sons' friends, or greeted their own boys in wheelchairs, with missing limbs or lost sight. Wives had to contend with providing for a family without its breadwinner; others lived with the nightmares of Gallipoli or the Western Front. In the years after the excitement, stresses and the strain of the war, the stillness left by the absence of loved ones must have seemed shattering. Christmases and birthdays came every year, but

familiar presences were gone. For years after the war that claimed their sons, fathers, husbands and brothers, the dates of the battles they fought echoed through the 'In Memoriam' columns of newspapers. To the families of those still missing, the grief was compounded by an ongoing anxiety and the desperate possibilities that missing sons were still alive somewhere. Those who did return from the holocaust felt very keenly the legacy of those they left behind.

(The 11th Battalion AIF served until the very end of the war, 11 November 1918. It suffered some 3539 casualties, including 1115 killed in action; Similarly, the 10th Battalion AIF lost 1015 killed in action.)

"Fromelles" by Patrick Lindsay

As the dust-jacket from the newly published *Fromelles* says: *Many of our diggers survived Gallipoli only to lose their lives in an ill-conceived battle near the French village of Fromelles. They were outnumbered two to one by an entrenched German force. In the blackest night in Australian history, 19 July 1916, the diggers suffered 5533 casualties, with almost 2000 killed. Against all odds, hundreds of our soldiers broke through the enemy lines, never to return..... Fromelles is Australia's worst military disaster, yet it barely rates a mention in our history books.....*

Patrick Lindsay not only describes the actual fighting at Fromelles, including a minor part played by a German "nondescript 27 year old lance-corporal", a despatch runner, "a pale intense loner", Adolf Hitler, but also the efforts of a small team of Australians to find the actual whereabouts of an unmarked mass grave of Australians buried behind the then German lines by the Germans. *Fromelles* is well illustrated by photographs "ancient and modern", many of the latter taken by Lindsay himself, when researching "over there". The book is a fascinating addition to our library.

"Vietnam" by Paul Ham.

This is a big book: Big in length with some 814 pages, big in scope in interesting reading and detail. Its dust jacket tells the reader that: *Seen as the last 'hot frontline of the Cold War, the ten year struggle in the rice paddies and jungles of*

South Vietnam unleashed the most devastating firepower on the Vietnamese nation and visited terrible harm on civilians and soldiers.

Yet the Australian forces applied tactics that were very different from those of the Americans. Guided by their commanders' experience of jungle combat, Australian troops operated with stealth, deception and restraint in pursuing a 'better war'.

Drawing on hundreds of accounts by soldiers, politicians, aid workers, entertainers and the Vietnamese people, Paul Ham reconstructs for the first time the full history of our longest military campaign.

From the commitment to engage, through the fight over conscription and the rise of the anti-war movement, to the tactics and horror of the battlefield, Ham exhumes the truth about this politicians' war – which sealed the fate of 50,000 Australian servicemen and women.

More than 500 soldiers were killed and thousands wounded. Those who made it home returned to a hostile and ignorant country and a reception that scared them forever.

With its sub-title, "*The Australian Way*", "*Vietnam*" opens with chapters recalling the history of that country. Thus, part one, "*The Place*", looks at the country of Vietnam with an historical perspective of some three thousand years: the Chinese occupation; The French occupation; the Ho and the Giap influences; the Red menace; the two Vietnams..... And the coming of the Americans.....

Part two opens with COL Francis ("Ted") Serong going to Vietnam on 6 June 1962.... Part three in turn looks at "The Australian Province" and, "*you are hereby called up for National Service....*"

And in its turn, Part eight deals with the "endings"..... the fall of Saigon and home comings. Then follow appendices covering the Australian Roll of Honour, the several battalions and their commanders, all Australian units involved in Vietnam (Army, Navy and Air Force) and "dust off" procedures, a vast bibliography and websites etc.

Paul Ham, as he did with his previous book on the Kakoda campaign, has written a comprehensively researched history of the Australian involvement in the Vietnam war. It is an excellent, compelling addition to the RUSI-SA's library.

SURVEY

On the last Sunday of November, 41 members and guests enjoyed an excellent Sundowner cocktail party. For most of us the 11 piece band of 10/27 RSAR was excellent, the company was first rate, the service was efficient and unobtrusive, and the food and drinks were commensurate with a \$20 entrance fee. However, it was considered by Council that the amount of financial risk (as well as the effort) involved was perhaps too great and the benefit was gained by too few. It is a sobering thought that the function was run for a surplus of \$5.85.

That thought has Council pondering about the viability of our next scheduled function, the BBQ in the patio of the Officers Mess at Keswick Barracks on Sunday 16 March 2008. Accordingly, Council wishes to find out from members the following:

Did you attend the 2007 Sundowner?
.....

Did the date suit you?

Did the time suit you?

Would you be likely to attend a similar event next year?

Why?
.....
.....

Are you planning to attend the BBQ 16 March at 12 Noon?

Why?
.....
.....

We are keen that you make your comments and return them to us by mail (RUSI, Building 160, Keswick Barracks, Keswick SA 5035), drop them in at the office, or hand them to Elaine Atkinson or Hans Broweleit at the next lunch. If you prefer, use the phone and call the office with your point of view.

MEMBER UPDATE

Following are the names of some members with whom we have lost contact. If you should know the whereabouts of any of these persons, please inform the secretary.

- C.M.Allison
- CMDR A. Atkinson
- R.D. Bradford
- K.G. Brinsley
- C.F. Calvert
- O. Colin
- F.J. EadenA.N. Huon
- N.P. Lock

“RUSI-SA and NMAF Club Cooperation

The Council of the RUSI-SA and the Military History Sub-Committee of the Naval Military & Air Force Club have agreed to support one another by cross promotion of the Guest Speaker programs of the Institute’s Monthly Luncheons and Current Issues Briefings and the Club’s Military History nights. The details of the Military History nights to be held at the NMAF Club on Thursday, 28th February and Thursday, 27th March 2008 follow. Please note that you do not have to be a member of the NMAF Club to attend their Military History nights. Members are encouraged to support the Club by attending these well researched and interesting presentations. **The completed return slips are to be returned, with payment, direct to the Club and not to RUSI-SA.”**

NAVAL, MILITARY & AIR FORCE CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (INC)

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MILITARY HISTORY - SPEAKER AND DINNER

Speaker: Captain Bob Kearney
Topic: Celtic Wood

THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2008
6.00 pm Speaker / 7.00 pm Dinner

In October 1917, at the Third Battle of Ypres, 85 officers and men of the South Australian 10th Battalion carried out a trench raid against a German position in Celtic Wood. The raid was a disaster: only 48 men returned, and the fate of the remaining 37 has never been explained, with many suggesting that the Germans massacred captured prisoners and subsequently disposed of the evidence.

Captain Bob Kearney is the author of Crossfire, an account of his experiences in Vietman, and Silent Voices, about the 10th Battalion AIF during the Great War. He will discuss the raid on Celtic Wood including his opinion on what occurred during and after the raid.

Speaker and Three Course Dinner: \$36 per person
 Speaker Only: \$11 per person
 Costs to be Invoiced with Drinks.
 Normal Dining Room Dress Rules Apply.

Bookings will Close on Tuesday 26 February 2008.

MILITARY HISTORY - SPEAKER AND DINNER

Speaker: LTCOL David Brook
Topic: Seeadler

THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2008
6.00 pm Speaker / 7.00 pm Dinner

In 1916 & 1917, the German ship Seeadler (Sea Eagle) captured or sank 14 allied merchant ships. The Seeadler story is exciting enough, but the story of its Captain, Count Felix von Luckner is even more so. Known as Der Seeteufel (the Sea Devil), he led the life of an adventurer before joining the Navy in 1912. The story of his capture, escape and re capture in New Zealand in 1917 is fascinating.

The Speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel David Brook (Retd) who authored the recently published history of our Club.

Speaker and Three Course Dinner: \$36 per person
 Speaker Only: \$11 per person
 Costs to be Invoiced with Drinks after the Event.
 Normal dress regulations apply.

Bookings will Close on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

MILITARY HISTORY - SPEAKER AND DINNER
THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2008
6.00 pm Speaker / 7.00 pm Dinner

Name Initials

Signature.....

Phone No. Day No of Guests.....

Any dietary requirements.....

Credit Card Payments for RUSI Members:

Card Number.....Expiry.....

Cardholder's Name.....

Card Type: (ie. Visa Mastercard 2% Fee for Amex)

(Late cancellation fee \$25 per person)

NOTE: All Members are required to lodge their own Booking Slips. Please do not book for other Members unless they are your Guests and to be charged to your Account.

MILITARY HISTORY - SPEAKER AND DINNER
THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2008
6.00 pm Speaker / 7.00 pm Dinner

Name Initials

Signature.....

Phone No. Day No of Guests.....

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