

RUSI



SA

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Promoting National Security and Defence

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Just when we thought that the world had experienced the full gamut of natural disasters, all on the Australian continent, we have been further shaken (literally) by news of the devastating earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, the latter with potentially significant follow on implications. The damage caused to three nuclear reactors has once more caused the world to ponder the debate about the merits of nuclear power.

Operation PACIFIC ASSIST is the Australian Defence Force (ADF) component of a joint effort between the ADF and Emergency Management Australia (EMA). Their mission is to provide an Emergency Services Task Force in the wake of the earthquake in Japan and the subsequent devastating tsunami.

The Task Force arrived in the early hours of Monday, 14 March and comprised: NSW Police, Fire and Ambulance services, ACT fire fighters and

search and rescue dog handlers from Queensland. During its deployment the Task Force will be focused on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and emergency medical support in the vicinity of Minami Sanriku, Miyagi prefecture, about 200 kilometres north-east of Tokyo.

The ADF provided strategic air lift of the Task Force to Yokota Airbase, Japan by Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) C-17A Globemaster. The C-17A Globemaster and RAAF aircrew remain in Japan to assist the Japanese authorities with heavy airlift capability as part of the international disaster relief effort.

The web site at www.defence.gov.au/op/pacificassist/index.htm

contains more information, images and videos relating to Operation PACIFIC ASSIST.

On the operational front, the Department of Defence reports that the ADF's Counter-Rocket Artillery and Mortar System (C-RAM) continues to prove its usefulness since beginning operations in Tarin Kot in Afghanistan on 28 December 2010.

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The Officer Commanding C-RAM 1, MAJ Corey Shillabeer from Woodside, South Australia, said the system was successfully enhancing force protection to the troops providing 24 hour, 360 degree protection at the multi-national base. The Australian C-RAM works in conjunction with other Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) assets such as the American tethered aerostat surveillance system and Australia's Scaneagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, allowing coalition forces to respond to any insurgent threat.

C-RAM comprises two different types of radars all looking for objects which are moving quickly through the sky. When an incoming projectile has been detected information about where it has been launched from is passed to other force elements in order to enable them, to respond quickly and appropriately.

So far C-RAM has detected every indirect fire attack that has occurred and, on each occasion, has been able to provide adequate warning. The C-RAM capability will soon be implemented across other patrol bases in Uruzgan Province to provide better protection for soldiers and the personnel who work within the bases.

Since the implementation of C-RAM, MAJ Shillabeer and his team of 31 soldiers have worked to counter the threat of indirect fire at bases. It is reported that anywhere between five and twenty seconds worth of warning provides soldiers enough time to react and be able to take cover from fire.

Our guest speaker in May will be the Commanding Officer of 16th Air Defence Regiment, LTCOL John McLean. I look forward to hearing more about this new and valuable capability from LTCOL McLean who commands the C-RAM assets in Australia.

Tim Hanna, AM
Brigadier

At the last meeting of the RUSI-SA Council on Monday, 21 February 2011, Dr John Bruni was appointed to the position of the second Vice President of the Council.



Dr Bruni is Director of SAGE International, an Adelaide-based defence consultancy.

You can access International Insights at www.sageinternational.com.au

Registration and downloads are free.

John's wife gave birth to a baby girl (Gabiella) at the Women's and Children's Hospital on 7 February 2011. Mother and daughter are doing well. Congratulations!

Dr Gillian (Gill) Griffin has been appointed as a member of the RUSI-SA council at the meeting of Council on 21 February 2011.

Gill is a long-term member of the RUSI in Adelaide and has written articles both for the newsletter and for SAGE.

Monthly Luncheons

Monday 4 April 2011

Speaker: **WGCDR 'Max' Heinrich**

Topic: ***Electronic Warfare Capabilities in the Australian Defence Force.***

Monday 2 May 2011

Speaker: **LTCOL John McLean**

Topic: ***Changes for 16th Air Defence Regiment and for 6th Brigade.***

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 and hear, 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!

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We usually 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 \$22 for members and first time guests and \$25 for non-members. 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. 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.

Cancellations must be advised to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$22. The caterers must be notified of the number attending by then and that number must be paid for.

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS

Dr Gillian (Gill) Griffin



Dr. Griffin is a Research Associate at Flinders University, South Australia.

She was formerly a teacher in the UK before being appointed Business/Education Liaison Manager for the Education Authority. Her role was to initiate and develop curriculum based projects whereby members of the business community and UK School/colleges could work together. During the seven years that she held this post, she wrote and published resources for companies and schools.

Dr Griffin has published widely in scholarly journals. She holds a BA Honours degree and an MA from UK Universities. Her doctoral thesis was on Military Ethics in Asymmetric warfare. This was a critical analysis of the changes in military operations and the ethical implications for the modern soldier.

At present Dr Griffin is finalising a chapter to be published in an American book on teaching ethics to Business students. Her area of interest is on Australian War Literature and its influence in shaping our national identity.

DEFENCE SCIENCE

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) is part of Australia's Department of Defence. DSTO's role is to ensure the expert, impartial and innovative application of science and technology to the defence of Australia and its national interests.



As Australia's F-111 fleet retires, the Minister for Defence Science & Personnel, Warren Snowdon, praised the significant contribution made by the DSTO.

You may read more of the contributions made to the support of the operation and maintenance of the Australian F-111s at the DSTO website:

www.dsto.defence.gov.au/news/

There you will find many other articles on what the DSTO is currently doing in support of Australia's Defence Force.

On Monday, 7 February, 2011, LTCOL David Edmonds addressed the RUSI-SA luncheon to describe his operational deployment to Afghanistan as Staff Officer Grade One, Science and Technology Insertion.



Between May and September 2010 I had the opportunity to represent the DSTO (Defence Science and Technology Organisation) on an operational deployment with the Army to Afghanistan. Based at Kandahar Airfield (KAF), I kept a frenetic pace with barely time to breathe, but enjoyed my role immensely. I found it professionally rewarding and felt that I delivered great outcomes for DSTO and the Australian Defence Force, albeit in a challenging environment.

Life on operations was exciting to say the least. KAF, accommodating some 33,000 coalition troops and support personnel, was constantly abuzz with all sorts of military aircraft and vehicles, with a strong local insurgency keeping everyone alert. The whole country in general was, and is, an extraordinarily dangerous place with coalition combat fatalities and serious injuries tragically being almost a daily occurrence. At KAF we had had more than our fair share of indirect fire (IDF) attacks, however systems in place give ample warning to incoming IDFs making them only slightly more than a nuisance.

Southern Afghanistan is an extremely dry, hot and desolate place during the summer months where temperatures have, and do, reach into the high forties and fifties. Large areas of desert, or 'Dasht', and rugged yet beautiful mountain ranges are punctuated by irrigated green river valleys which support the main centres of rural and village populations, rich in culture and traditions. Apart from the odd vehicle and road, life in the countryside has not changed very much for hundreds of years.

The country-side, and increasingly, the towns and cities, are also the focus for Taliban insurgency driven violence and Coalition counter-insurgency military operations. In simple terms, this counter insurgency conflict is characterised by Coalition forces under NATO leadership (ISAF - International Security Assistance Force) focussing on rebuilding Afghanistan's leadership, society and economy after decades of warfare and life under the previous Taliban regime. This rebuilding is balanced with necessary military activities to counter a Taliban-led insurgency hell-bent on violent destabilisation and a return to a fundamentalist and insular Muslim society.

Australia's role as an ISAF Coalition partner is to assist with mentoring and training part of Afghanistan's national security forces (ANSF) so that they can become more self sufficient in providing a safe and secure Afghanistan. While Australian defence members can be found all over Afghanistan, we are centred mainly in Uruzgan Province and its river valleys, providing protection for the local populations and working with the ANSF and other ISAF coalition partners.

My main responsibilities involved working with Australian task groups to identify capability needs and other opportunities for technological enhancements to the way that business is done. It was then my responsibility to identify and drive existing initiatives in DSTO to help address these needs. I also worked closely with representatives of our major coalition partners' scientific and technological teams in Afghanistan to share new knowledge, initiatives and expertise. This was done to inform Australian forces and DSTO of leading edge developments and new equipment implementations.

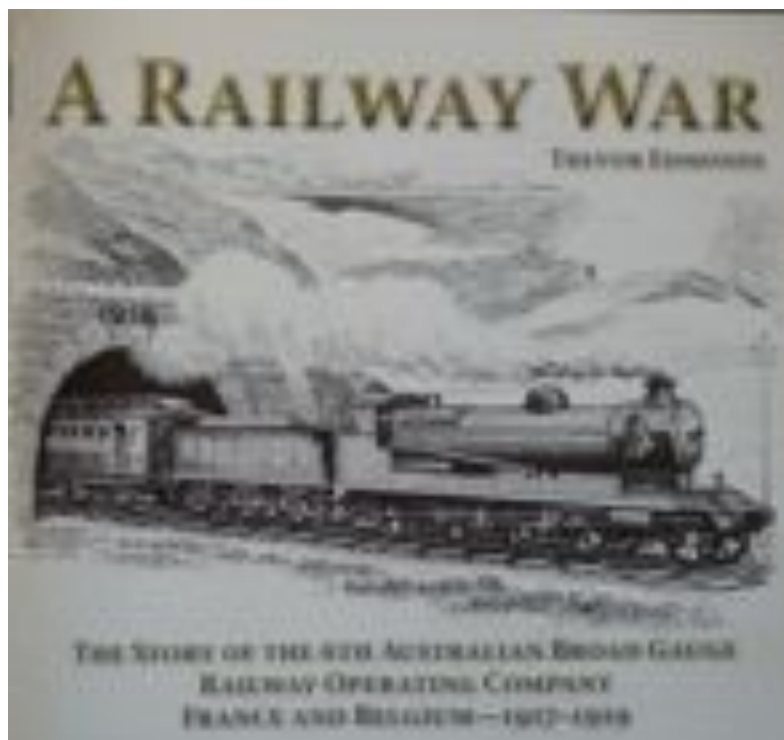
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Part of my role saw me take possession of new equipment from either DSTO or coalition partners, or conducting our own evaluations or demonstrations in-theatre. Some of these initiatives required me to manage the participation of DSTO scientists and other technological experts who deployed to Afghanistan to conduct specialised investigations, testing and trials. My role involved working with some very impressive and technically advanced equipment involving new and enhanced weaponry systems, radio/digital communications, ISR platforms (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), CIED (Counter Improvised Explosive Devices) and other force protection measures. It is this aspect of my role which I found to be most interesting and rewarding. Coming from an Armoured Corps and technology project management background I have always found it rewarding to work with impressive kit, but I am always cognisant of the seriousness of my role with DSTO and Australia's need to remain technologically ahead of an adaptive and capable insurgent who uses rat-cunning to bring the fight to us every day.

While I was there I had the opportunity work with some fantastic people and to travel to other parts of the country to work with Australian task groups and coalition partners. My work took me up to Uruzgan Province (Tarin Kot) several times and across to Helmand Province to work with the US Marines (1MEF) and British S&T teams, as well as out to a number of Australian and Coalition Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Kandahar and Zabul Provinces. The whole experience was truly eye opening and life changing. I was certainly glad that I paid attention during the many training courses that I have been on over the years, and will always look back on this experience as one of the pinnacles of my military career. There is no substitute to live operations to place all training and previous experience into a real context, and to focus one's attention onto the things that really matter. It has also reaffirmed my belief that life in the military offers a fulfilling and exciting full-time or part-time career where an individual is able to make a real difference.

AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY HISTORY



The December 2010 issue of “Australian Railway History” Volume 61 No. 878 contains a special 33 page article on Australia’s contribution to the railway systems operating in Europe during WWI. Australia provided six railway operating companies for service in France and Belgium during the Great War.

The article is very detailed and is well illustrated with photographs, maps and diagrams. It covers the companies involved, types of engines used, a history of activities and incidents and the personnel involved.

Copies of this sophisticated publication, a Bulletin of the Australian Railway Historical Society, are available to anybody. The cost, including postage, is \$11-00 and can be made by Cheque or Money Order to ARHS and sent to 67 Renwick Street, Redfern NSW 2016.

RESERVE FORCES

The main event in South Australia this year for Reserve Forces Day, which recognises and celebrates the service to our Nation of Australia's Reservists since Federation, will be held in Mount Gambier on Saturday, 2 July 2011, commencing with a March through the streets of Mount Gambier at 11 am and culminating with a Parade at Cave Gardens.

The March and Parade, which will comprise past and current Reservists, Cadets, members of the Royal South Australia Regiment Association and the Returned & Services League from Mount Gambier and surrounding districts, will be reviewed by His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RANR, who will take the salute and give a short Address.

Immediately after the Parade a commemorative service and wreath laying ceremony will be conducted in Cave Gardens.

In the evening a Reunion Dinner will be held at Cassadio Park at 6.30 pm for 7.30 pm for past Reservists and ex members of 10, 27, 43 and 48 Battalions and their families and friends. Bookings for the Dinner, to cost \$30 per head, are to be made to Ian Summers, PO Box 3246, Mount Gambier 5290, Telephone 8723 1714 by 17 June 2011.

A number of kindred organisations from Adelaide will take the opportunity of visiting Mount Gambier on that weekend and will participate in these Reserve Forces Day activities.

In Adelaide, in conjunction with Reserve Forces Day, the July monthly luncheon of the RUSI-SA will be held on Sunday, 3 July (in lieu of the normal Monday luncheon) in support of and recognising Reserve Forces Day 2011.

It is anticipated that members of South Australian Unit and Corps Associations will join RUSI members at this luncheon at Building 34A, Keswick Barracks at the usual time of 12 noon on Sunday, 3 July 2011.

Bookings to RUSI-SA Office
(08) 8305 6378.

**Captain Barrie Newman
Chairman
Reserve Forces Day Council –
SA**

RSL

If you have been disappointed by not winning an RSL bear during one of our recent raffles, they are available for sale in the RUSI-SA office at a cost of \$65 each.

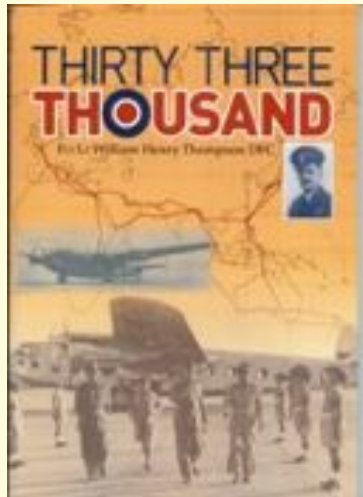


These bears are sold on behalf of the RSL as a fundraiser and are available in Army, Navy and Air Force uniforms as well as the nurse shown below.

Please see Elaine in the office should you wish to purchase one.



Anzac biscuits in attractive tins are also available for sale in the office



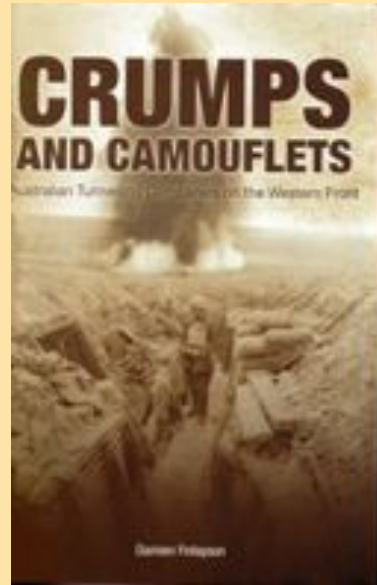
“Thirty Three Thousand” by FLTLT William Henry Thompson DFC is the reproduction of a diary by Chris Thompson’s father. It covers a journey undertaken at the end of WWII with Lord Alanbrook, then Chief of the Imperial General Staff, and his entourage, on a tour of Army bases under his command in the Middle and Far East.

Copies of the Diary are available at a cost of \$25.00 each. Please contact Chris Thompson on 0407781960.

“Crumps and Camouflets” by Damien Finlayson

Below the shattered ground that separated the British and German infantry on the Western Front during WWI, an unseen and largely unknown war was raging, fought by miners, ‘tunnelers’ as they were known. They knew that, at any moment, their lives could be extinguished without warning by hundreds of tonnes of collapsed earth and debris.

Crumps and Camouflets tells the story of the tunnelers who fought a daily duel with the enemy over the wire and the enemy within - the gnawing, paralysing fear of a sudden and violent death.



RUSI OF NSW JOURNAL

The NSW Branch of the RUSI publishes quarterly a comprehensive and highly respected journal, *“United Service”* which is available to read on the web.

It is aimed at a diverse readership drawn from the Australian Defence Force, the federal and state police and customs services, the intelligence community, the public service, academia, defence science, defence industry (including logistics and transport), the merchant marine and the wider Australian community. Given this breadth, *United Service* avoids the use of abbreviations, acronyms and jargon wherever practicable.

Please go to www.rusinsw.org.au and select “Journal” to access the journal.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT AFGHANISTAN?

Afghanistan is a war-ravaged country that faces immense development challenges. While the challenges are huge, progress is being made. Australia is helping.

Fact Sheet 6, published by the Department of Defence, describes comprehensively Australia’s contribution to the war in Afghanistan and the progress that is being made.

The Fact Sheet can be found at

http://www.defence.gov.au/defencenews/articles/1017/files/6_Progress%20in%20Afghanistan%20since%202001%20Fact%20Sheet%206.pdf

Operation PACIFIC ASSIST

A Japanese Ground Self Defence Force vehicle in Okinawa is loaded onto a RAAF C-17 Globemaster III for transportation to the mainland as part of the disaster relief effort.

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is working around the clock to help ferry personnel and supplies from Okinawa to the Japanese disaster zone as part of Operation PACIFIC ASSIST – the ADF component of the Australian Government's response to the earthquake and tsunami relief effort in Japan. Two RAAF air crews from Amberley's 36 Squadron are working in alternate shifts to fly their C-17 Globemaster III to Kadena air base in Okinawa, pick up members of the 15th Brigade of the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF), their vehicles and equipment, and fly them to the Japanese mainland to assist the disaster relief effort. The RAAF has also provided an eight-person Mobile Air Load Team (MALT) that specialises in preparing and arranging difficult or unfamiliar loads inside the C-17's cavernous interior. Image by Corporal Raymond Vance.



Exercise TRITON STORM 2

Two Royal Australian Navy ships and submarines and Royal New Zealand Navy ships with over 1300 sailors and officers are participating in a comprehensive maritime training exercise called Exercise TRITON STORM 2 off the coast of Western Australia. The six Frigates, one replenishment ship and three submarines participating in the exercise will conduct the full spectrum of maritime operations including live firings, seamanship evolutions, boarding training as well as anti-aircraft and anti-submarine training for the next five weeks. During the exercise, HMA Ships PERTH, TOOWOOMBA, BALLARAT, PARRAMATTA and SIRIUS and HMNZ Ships TE MANA and TE KAHA will also operate with Royal Australian Air Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft including Hawks, F/A 18s, AP-3C and P3K Orions and Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft during maritime warfare serials. Collins Class Submarines HMAS WALLER, FARNCOMB and DECHAINEUX will also progress submarine warfare proficiency whilst testing the Australian and New Zealand surface fleet in anti-submarine warfare. Collectively all units will be tested on their preparedness for various warfare serials whilst operating within the strict environmental and safety guidelines used within Navy.



The above two images are taken from the Australian Defence Image Library, to be found at

<http://images.defence.gov.au/fotoweb/>