



Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC
Governor of Victoria



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 1 – March 2015

Editor: Martin Holme

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LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

**Defence Plaza – 661 Bourke Street
1200 – Auditorium One**

Monday 13 April

Neil James

Executive Director Australia Defence Association



The Problems of Governance in Defence

Neil James is executive director of the Australia Defence Association (ADA), the independent, non-partisan, community-based, national public-interest watchdog organisation for strategic security, defence and wider national security matters.

As the ADA official spokesman he is also responsible for the Association's contributions to day-to-day public debate and for helping maintain the long-term and informed perspectives the ADA has long brought to such discourse. While highly visible, this aspect of the ADA's public-interest watchdog work comprises only a small portion of its efforts.

Most of the ADA's responsibilities involve behind-the-scenes liaison on public accountability, capability development and strategic policy issues, and in its public education and community awareness activities.

Prior to taking up his current position with the ADA in May 2003 Neil served (full-time) for over 31 years in the Australian army. He continues to serve part-time as an active reservist and celebrated his 41st anniversary serving with the Army in January 2014.

His Army Reserve duties have been carefully structured (by both the ADA and the ADF) to involve no conflicts of interest with his civil position with the Association.

Neil's military experiences over four decades have spanned a wide range of regimental, intelligence, liaison, teaching, operational planning, operations research and historical research positions throughout Australia and overseas.

Time: Address 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm,
Coffee and Tea from 11.30 am

Entrance fee: \$10.00

For security reasons please advise the Office, of your attendance by email to martin.holme@defence.gov.au or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Thursday 9 April. These names are provided to Security to issue Access Passes. If your name is not on the list you will experience a delay in gaining access.

Remember to bring a photo ID with you.

Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Incorporated

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March Newsletter

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Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST (inc Victoria)	www.rusi.org.au
RUSI Whitehall	www.rusi.org
Dept of Defence	defence.gov.au
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	www.williamsfoundation.org.au
Defence Reserves Association	www.dra.org.au
Defence Force Welfare Association	www.dfwf.org.au
Military History and Heritage Victoria	www.mhhv.org.au
Department of Veteran's Affairs	www.dva.gov.au
Shrine of Remembrance	www.shrine.org.au

Opinions expressed in the RUSI VIC Newsletter are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Institute.

From The President:

Commander Warren Kemp RFD, RANR



This year, 2015, marks the centenary of the onset of the Great War, later stated to be 'the war to end all wars', but as it transpired, with little justification. Nevertheless, for us there should be considerable justification in commemorating those great world events that took place during that four year period and, as they say, changed the world forever. For many of us, including subsequent migrants to Australia, one or more family members were directly involved in the conflict and this justifies a personal commemoration. There is much about WW1 and that period of world history for RUSI Victoria to present to our members and the public and to preserve for future research. Our stated objective is to promote public discussion and informed debate about matters of defence and national security. This must be based on the history of past events and expanded by reliable information and expert opinion regarding current thoughts of future plans and prospects. To this end, a very interesting programme of monthly addresses and book launches has been arranged and a large, regular attendance at these RUSI functions will indicate your continuing support for the Institute.

Some two years ago, Captain Martin Holme, indicated to me that he proposed to retire as our Secretary. He is well-known throughout the Institute, having held this position since 2002 and during this time has been well-liked and esteemed by both members and Council. He has also indicated that he would like to continue his service to RUSI Victoria and in view of his long association and extensive knowledge of the Institute, the Council has appointed him to the vacant position. These changes will take place at the end of March and we look forward to our continuing association on Council and wish him well in the future.

The Council has also appointed Lieutenant Colonel Bob Hart, RFD to the position of Secretary from 1st April, 2015. He is known to you as a present member of Council and we wish him well in his new executive role.

Our first monthly address since November was notable, being given by Major General Paul McLachlan, AM, CSC, the Head of Land Systems. He spoke of planning for the next ten years and gave a most interesting summary of the present approach to acquisition and sustainment,

which differs from and considerably improves the previous approach. I look forward to meeting as many

members and visitors as possible at our future addresses. It is quite clear that strongly attended meetings are essential to fulfil our stated objective of promoting informed public discussion of matters of National Security and Defence.

We have had two successful 'Book Launches', sponsored jointly by RUSI Victoria, RSL Victoria and the Publishers. These were held at the convenient location of the Camberwell City Sub Branch of RSL and following this success, we propose to hold more! The first in November was *Natios* by Mark Dapin and on 5th March, two books by Harvey Broadbent, namely *Gallipoli: The Turkish Defence* and *Defending Gallipoli: The Turkish Story*. The Turkish Consul General attended the latter presentation and I was pleased to welcome him on your behalf.

Our next launch on Wednesday, 18th March will feature a book by Mark Johnston entitled *Stretcher Bearers: Saving Australians from Gallipoli to Kokoda*. Come along and bring your friends, as advance bookings are not required. The location is very convenient and the venue ideal. And for this I must, on your behalf, thank John Frewen, President of the Camberwell Sub Branch and one of our members, for allowing us to use these excellent facilities regularly.

The SubSummit Conference, to be held from 24-26 March, 2015 in Adelaide, will be a national event conducted by RUSI Australia. The aim is to promote Governmental, Naval and public discussion about Australia's future submarine project and has high level speakers presenting the various options available. I would encourage you to visit www.subsummit.com.au for the programme details and also to accompany me if you are interested in attending.

Once again, I look forward to meeting you in the library, and at our next address, to be held on a date to suit Neil James from ADA, our visiting speaker.

Yours Aye,
Warren



From The Secretary Captain Martin Holme



Sadly, this will be my last "From The Secretary". It is an appropriate time to move on and make way for a younger successor!

I wrote my first piece some thirteen years ago in 2002 and much has happened since, two moves – one from Defence Plaza and an internal one at Victoria Barracks. During my time it has been a privilege to meet with you, the Members and receive your friendship and support. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience.

I have been greatly assisted, over the years by our small team in the Office, and by Presidents, Office Bearers and Council. There are too many to mention by name but it is appropriate to mention the late Neville Wright, whose obituary appears later in this Newsletter. Neville guided me through my initial months with patience and good humour, ably assisted by the late and wonderful Marjorie Minns.

Neville's successor, as Treasurer, Ian George has been a tower of strength, a great friend and a dedicated worker for the RUSI cause. I would also like to mention a current Vice President, Mike Rawlinson, who as the then President, so bravely appointed me Secretary, all those years ago and who latterly has contributed greatly in putting together and formatting the Newsletters, which has been of great assistance to me.

I thank you all and will miss the hurly burly of life as your Secretary – I have enjoyed every minute – or nearly every minute! I will not disappear completely and hope to contribute in other ways for a few years yet. I know that you will give my successor, Bob Hart the same support that you have given me, and I wish him well in the role.

Martin Holme

Future Programme Dates - 2015

Please note that the previously announced Lunchtime Address by MAJGEN Arthur Denaro CBE DL, on 23 March has had to be cancelled, owing to a change in his travel arrangements.

We have obtained an alternative speaker, the well known Executive Director of the Australia Defence Association, Neil James, to fill the gap **but on a different date – Monday 13 April back at the Defence Plaza, in Bourke Street.**

13 April Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Mr Neil James, Executive Director,
Australian Defence Association

30 April Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Mr Robert Tickner – CEO Red Cross
Australia

28 May Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Professor LTGEN Peter Leahy AC
Director, National Security Institute,
University of Canberra

25 June Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza –
Dr Peter Dean, Senior Fellow and
Director of Studies,
Strategic and Defence Studies Centre,
ANU College of Asia

Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

MAJ R.L. Roffe AM (Life Member)
FLGOFF Neville Wright (Honorary Life Member)

New Members

Since our last issue, we welcome the following new Members:

2LT G.R. Campbell
LTCOL G. Chapman

Opinion: Waiting for the White Paper

In August last year RUSI VIC hosted the Melbourne public meeting for the Expert Committee advising the government on the forthcoming Defence White Paper.

In addition, written submissions were also received by the Expert Committee. Country member AIRCDRE John Macneil (Retd) from Bendigo made a personal 11 page submission.

On the basis of his long experience John Macneil proffered a number of thoughts which are worth sharing while we are waiting for the White Paper.

'My submission has two parts.

First it outlines my thoughts on our national objective and from that our defence policy. I then mention some components of national power which affect our ability to defend ourselves.

Next I comment on a few of the defence activities or strategies which I think affect our national defence preparedness. These are ADF location, international relationships, force structure, culture and people, organisation, and industry. Your injunction to limit ideas to things "within the resources available" places great limits on the topics. My suggestions are therefore for changes (or no change) which should cost very little or even, if properly done, save resources.'

John Macneil's first section on Australia's National Defence Objective and Policy is reproduced in full.

'Our National Defence Objective and Policy

Our defence *objective* should be to prevent any damage to our people, land, resources, trade and other such *vital* interests. To achieve this our defence *policy* should be to :

avoid foreign wars in almost every circumstance but, if we have to get into one, do all we can to get out of it, to end it, as quickly as possible, and with the minimum damage to both sides (for minimum damage should mean earlier recovery and easier and earlier reconciliation).

The first policy step to achieve this of course comes as the quality of our international relations. These should be such as to foster friendship and co-operation with all nations, but especially with our neighbours Indonesia, PNG, the nearer Pacific Islands and New Zealand. As for those nations further away, and bigger, let's be friendly, and trade with them, and have their people as immigrants and so on, but we should remember we're very small and few other nations really take us seriously except as a source of things they might want, so we should not rely on any of them. If we are *in extremis* they, even the great and powerful, may be in trouble too and have other fish to fry.

Friendship does not mean agreeing with all the things other nations may do, nor even with all the many edicts issued by UN agencies, but friendship does usually bring goodwill and, in the case of our closer neighbours and our better friends, may encourage although not always guarantee access and co-operation in times of danger.

Our present Defence and ADF international relations policy towards our regional neighbours seems to follow this theme very well indeed, and should continue.

To achieve or at least make it easier to achieve our prime objective of preserving the nation we must not only be very hesitant of becoming militarily involved in war or warlike situations.

As well, and vitally, we must have a recognisable and convincingly strong lethal military ability of our own to deter any who may look like threatening us or our vital interests.

And, if that doesn't work, then we must be able to give them a good belting where or in ways which will hurt them most, enough for them to want to stop the fighting straight away, or very soon.

We don't want to win wars. We just want to stop them quickly because they are always very destructive. A short look around the world of today makes that clear, doesn't it? **Defence policy must be to avoid and deter war and be ready for it by being militarily very strong.'**

And from his Executive Summary:

'It is suggested that the organisation at the Canberra level is grossly too large and needs to be simplified and then reduced in size, not just re-arranged.'

John Macneil

Bendigo, 24 October 2014

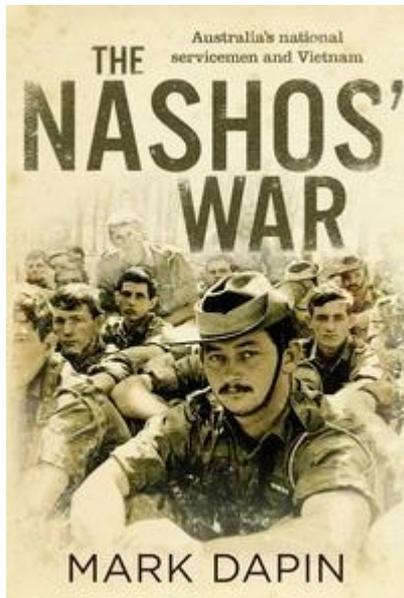


Book Review:

Mark Dapin

The Nashos' War

Penguin, 2014. ISBN 9780670077052, Hardback RRP \$39.99



Fifty years ago, the defence of Australia needed selective conscription to augment its armed forces, or so the Menzies government told the Australian public: perceived threats in our region were increasing, commitments were expanding, but Regular troops alone were not sufficiently available. We were told it was time to turn to that wider pool of young manpower in the community at large, as we had in the 1950s, and it was a popular move: the public seemed to believe this would "make a man of them", just like earlier Anzacs

Mark Dapin's book "*The Nashos' War*" is a very accessible look at what happened and why, during the 1965 – 1972 era of selective national service. It provides plenty of background explanation for the general reader and its strength is the way that the author uses the personal accounts of many who served - and of some who were conscientious objectors. Over its 480 pages he covers the experiences of young men prior to, during and after their time in the Army, including recruit training, combat, the boredom of life at base, and the return to Australia of those who deployed on operations overseas (although three-quarters of them did not – only 15,381 national servicemen were sent to fight in Vietnam out of the 63,740 who spent two years in uniform).

The author trained as a journalist, is completing a PhD with ADFA and has already edited the *Penguin Book of Australian War Writing*. He conducted extensive interviews, also culling media archives and soldiers' letters during his research. The book is broadly chronological in its organisation and offers multiple views from Nashos about their service in Australia and overseas in Vietnam, making the point that everyone's experience was different.

Dapin seeks to correct a number of (false) public impressions about Nashos and the Vietnam War era. For instance, he points out that Army had actually vigorously opposed the idea of conscription in 1964 as inefficient and a drain on its trained staff. Chief of the General Staff Sir John Wilton "was virtually

forced by Cabinet to support the decision to re-introduce National Service" and "only came to accept its inevitability with extreme reluctance".

At the same time, one little-publicised fact is that the military had previously suffered from a poorly-educated recruiting base of volunteers (in 1963 almost 13% of volunteer applicants failed to meet the minimum education standards – a mental age of 12 and the reading level of a 10-year-old). Once conscription was introduced, the services did make the most of their new better-educated, faster-learning manpower pool.

The Army was also keen to reject any conscripts with a criminal record, although these were some of the very people that the general public wanted the Army to "straighten out" with "some proper discipline and a short-back-and-sides haircut".

Contemporary media reports are shown to have uncritically praised the wonderful life to be led by the Nashos in the modern army barracks, where square-bashing and kitchen fatigues were supposedly a thing of the past. Australian operational actions were also consistently described in remarkably positive, almost PR, terms.

He points out that the odds of being conscripted reduced over the years, with fewer birth-date marbles needed for later intakes (because those who had deferred their conscription were now adding to the available manpower pool, after their apprenticeships or university studies had been completed).

Dapin argues that social histories of Australia's part in the Vietnam War are clouded by myth. He rejects perceptions about widespread community victimisation and social rejection of soldiers, pointing out that there were at least sixteen large Welcome Home city parades between 1966 and 1971, most incident-free, for returning units of Nashos and their Regular counterparts. Contrary to popular belief today, that well-known photo of a Sydney woman smeared in symbolic red paint was an isolated incident at the return of 1 RAR in 1966.

Public opinion surveys consistently showed approval of the National Service scheme, with only 29 % opposed to it at its inception in September 1965. By 1972 almost two-thirds of respondents were still in support, although by then only a quarter thought that conscripts should be sent overseas. Dapin offers a variety of reasons why more youths actually volunteered for service after being balloted out, than ever became a conscientious objector balloted in.

When looking at individuals, Dapin starts with Errol Noack, the first national serviceman to die in Vietnam, and the confused reports about the circumstances of his death. The author examines the call-up of notables like pop singer Normie Rowe, cricketer Doug Walters and Allen Fairhall (son of the then Minister for Defence) but he also weaves in accounts from many ordinary young men who came from widely-differing social, workforce and geographic backgrounds. Some had a largely positive experience and some the opposite; some look back on it all with equanimity, others with regret.

The book has little to say about the impact upon the already-existing Citizen Military Forces and the very limited use to which the CMF was put at that time (described by Prime Minister Holt as always an alternative if young men didn't want to take their chance in the lottery).

Continued Page Fourteen

Opinion: Defence Force Pay and the Australian Economy

By circumstance and unfortunate timing the ADF has been controversially caught-up in the federal government's desire for wage restraint, particularly in the public sector.

In most volunteer (non-conscript) militaries like the ADF, military remuneration is ultimately determined by market forces. In Australia, because ADF members are not permitted any form of industrial action, community wage determination practices are simulated. The adjustment mechanism operates through a process controlled by the government that involves a seemingly independent tribunal. While defence force pay adjustments generally lag community movements, determinations by the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal are not usually controversial.

Late last year the ADF received for the first time and without adequate explanation a pay increase (1.5% for 3 years) that was less than expected rate of inflation. Presumably this was meant to flag the government's intention to limit public sector wage increases in the Commonwealth Public Service enterprise agreements that would follow in 2015.

While uniformed members were quietly dismayed, the Defence Force Welfare Association protested loudly and publicly that the decision was unfair. This opinion was robustly shared by coalition backbenchers with Defence establishments in their electorates. In addition Senator Jacqui Lambie from Tasmania threatened to vote against all government legislation until a pay rise of 3% was granted.

Following reconsideration by the government, on 4 March the Prime Minister announced that the government would accept an increase of 2% for the ADF, but the difference would have to be funded from the existing defence budget.

On 5 March the Treasurer launched the Fourth Intergenerational Report. This Report is produced every five years by Treasury and assesses the long-term sustainability of current Government policies and how changes to Australia's population size and age profile may impact economic growth, workforce and public finances over the following 40 years. Determinants of economic growth are population, participation (in the workforce) and productivity.

Like most of the advanced economies Australia has an ageing population. While we are living longer healthier lives, the proportion of elderly dependents is increasing with associated increases in publicly funded health, pensions and aged care expenditures.

The Report reinforced the conclusion of the government's earlier National Committee of Audit: the country is unambiguously living beyond its means and

that ongoing federal government deficits and rising debt is not sustainable.

At the same time as introducing policies that cater for the long-term needs of our ageing population, the government has a shorter term debt and deficit management problem. Commonwealth revenues associated with the mining boom have been used to boost middle class welfare. Unfortunately the community has become accustomed to these provisions that governments can no longer afford.

There has been an increase in unemployment following the end of the mining investment boom. This has been made worse by a downturn in China's economic cycle which has significantly reduced demand for our iron ore and coal exports.

Unemployment is likely to worsen further with the impending closure of Australia's three automobile assembly plants due to insufficient scale, a high exchange rate and high labour costs.

Both sides of politics recognise that Australia has great potential to participate in the *Asian Century* by targeting the market presented by the emerging and expanding Asian middle class. Huge opportunities have been identified in tourism, agriculture, niche manufacture, education, health care and business services.

Australian businesses need to more quickly adapt to the new circumstances. Our lower exchange rate now favours export industries, as do the free-trade agreements that the government has negotiated with a number of Asian countries. Labour market flexibility is necessary for Australia to achieve a smooth transition into the new industries and be internationally competitive.

Any increase in real price of labour (wages plus on-costs) needs to be strictly limited to increases in productivity. If it could be shared fairly across the community a fall in the real cost of labour in Australia would improve our international competitiveness and help to restore economic growth.

The response to the ADF pay rise illustrates the difficulty that a government has in reducing its wages bill and achieving community wage restraint. The thought of wage increases being less than inflation was a shock and an anathema to most Australians who implicitly believe that real wages must always increase. Attitudes need to change.

The long economic boom has ended. All Australians need to adjust to this new reality and be prepared to accept changes that will ultimately underpin our future prosperity. Hopefully, ADF pay will not again gain prominence in the ongoing adjustment process. The ADF prides itself on leadership in many areas, but wage restraint is not one of them.

Mike Rawlinson

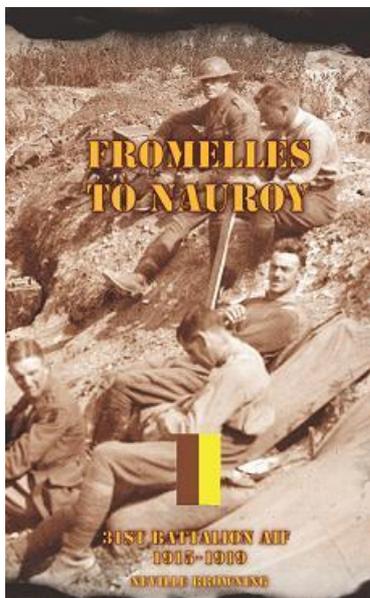
Book Review:

Neville Browning

Fromelles to Nauroy:

31st Battalion AIF 1915-1919

The author, Huntingdale WA: 2013



It is indeed remarkable that histories of infantry battalions that fought in the First World War are still being published

The 31st (Tivey's Chocs) was raised at Broadmeadows Victoria and Enoggera Queensland in August 1915. It was formed from the high number of enlistments after the Gallipoli landing and was assigned to the 8th Brigade. It sailed from Melbourne the following month.

The 31st became part of the 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to the Western Front in June 1916. The 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19th July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was disastrous for the 31st - it suffered 576 casualties in 24 hours. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 31st played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.

In early 1917 the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations after the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line. The only large battle in which the 31st Battalion played a major role in 1917 was Polygon Wood, near Passchendaele on 26 September.

The 31st had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was largely kept in reserve. It took part in the Allied August offensive in the battle of Amiens on 8th August. The battalion famously captured the Amiens Gun, which is displayed at the Australian War Memorial, though its railway mounting has sadly been destroyed. The unit was subsequently involved in the operations that continued to press the retreating Germans through August and into September. The 31st fought its last major action of the war in September 1918 when the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, and two American divisions attacked the Hindenburg Line across the top of the 6-kilometre-long St Quentin Canal tunnel. The 31st was resting and retraining out of the line when the war ended on 11 November 1918. It disbanded in France on 21 March 1919.

How is a unit history written when it is almost 100 years since the actions it fought in? There are no veterans to be interviewed and soldiers of the 31st left few diaries. The Commander's Diary of the 31st is of high quality and Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Toll¹ personally wrote much of it, particularly after its major engagements. This Diary is the book's main source. It also uses several of the soldiers' accounts deposited in libraries such as that at the Australian War Memorial. As such a distance from the events, it is difficult to get the feel and personality of the battalion and its leaders – commanding officers, regimental sergeant majors and the like.

In a work of this magnitude it is a sad inevitability that some errors creep in. The very badly treated Harold Pope was a Brigadier General commanding the 14th Brigade at the time of Fromelles, not a Lieutenant Colonel. While the name index (for members of the battalion only) is good, the absence of a general index is a pity. However, there is a good nominal roll and a list of those killed and decorated.

This is a comprehensive and well-produced book printed on paper designed to last. A particularly welcome feature of the book is its several hundred photographs of soldiers who served in the 31st.

Geelong Branch Notes

The Geelong Branch commenced the year with a Dinner Meeting held at Berkley Lodge, formerly Dromoland House, on Monday February 16 with BRIG Cameron Purdey, Director General Land Manoeuvre Systems from DMO and located at Victoria Barracks as Guest Speaker on the subject of future 'Acquisitions and Procurement' in the ADF.

Future activity, as scheduled, is a Dinner Meeting on Monday March 16, the Anzac Dinner on Monday April 20 and on Monday May 18 Ms Jill Mayo, from our Geelong Branch Committee, will provide a presentation of her visit to Albany, Western Australia to witness the centenary celebration of the Anzacs departure from Australia for the Middle East last year, and a summary of how the New Zealanders' will have celebrated their Anzac Day in this year's 100th anniversary of Anzac Day. Jill will be attending numerous ceremonies in New Zealand as representative from the Geelong Branch of RUSI Victoria during her visit this April. June, by tradition, has the Annual Dinner of the Branch as the major activity.

The Branch Library remains located at The Geelong Club and members are reminded that our 'lending service' is available under arrangements made with the Club.

¹ Toll, a Boer War veteran, had commanded a battalion of the AN & MEF to Rabaul in 1915. He led the 31st from its raising until January 1918 when he was hospitalized after his gassing and severe wounding at Polygon Wood

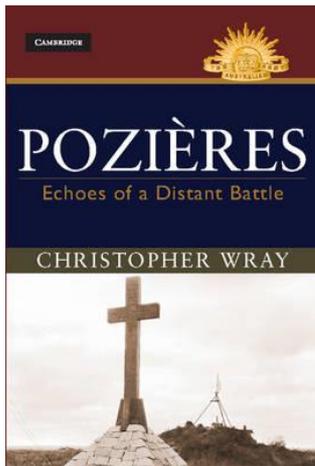
Book Review:

Christopher Wray

Pozières Echoes of a Distant Battle

Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2015.
Hardcover 244 pages Photographs and paintings,
maps, appendix, notes, bibliography and index,
RRP: \$59.95

Christopher Wray is a lawyer who has written biographies and military histories. *Pozières* is the fifteenth title in the Australian Army History Series published by Cambridge University Press.



The author succinctly covers the French battlefield at Pozières from 23rd July to 5th September 1916 before undertaking a comprehensive examination of its impact on our Australian society and history, and how it is remembered or commemorated today. There is ample detail for both military history buffs and sociologists to come away completely satisfied.

A brief picture of the Western Front and its Allied key command figures prior to the arrival of the first AIF divisions in mid-1916 sets the scene for the Australians' first action in Europe. The Australians were to lose 23 000 officers and men in the ensuing two months' action making it the First World War battle with the highest Australian casualties. The artillery bombardments and machine-gunning conducted by both sides were described as being 'war on an industrial mechanical scale'. Added to this was the constant lack of certainty as to whether troops had reached and were defending their objective. This was because the terrain was little more than a field ploughed by artillery shells, with only the remnants of buildings and former trenches remaining.

The events surrounding two of the three Victoria Crosses won at Pozières are recounted in detail. Lieutenant Arthur Blackburn (23 July) and Private Martin O'Meara (11-13 August) are those two, with Private Thomas Cooke (24 July) being the omitted third. Lieutenant Albert Jacka, VC was awarded a Military Medal for actions on 7 August that Official War Historian Captain CEW Bean described as being 'the most dramatic and individual act of individual audacity in the history of the AIF'.

The environment in which the conflict was fought was described as a 'huge, horrible slaughterhouse'. With constant bombardment noise, mud, endless corpses laying on the ground and the stench of death, the cost to the participants was as much mental as physical. Any trenches dug were

usually hit by enemy artillery causing them to collapse and have to be dug again. Some dead had to be re-buried as they were blown out of the initial graves their comrades provided for them. The symptoms of 'shell shock' experienced by so many would today be classified as post-traumatic stress disorder on a massive scale.

Whilst the number of Australian dead was horrific and the impact back in Australia saw many families abandon churchgoing as the lengthy casualty list were published, many casualties were transported to Britain for hospital treatment. Some of these were, or became, amputees. Australian hospitals were not able to cater for prosthetic limbs, and many on return opted for crutches rather than a cumbersome wooden leg. [The first genuine prosthetics were not to be manufactured in Australia until 1930.] This further alienated returning servicemen from the community where they were unable to take up their former employment, and they also often became frightening figures to young children.

By 1916 Australia was desperately short of men to replace battle casualties in the AIF. Prime Minister Hughes campaigned for conscription in the referenda of 1916 and 1917. The politics of the time are most thoroughly examined, and the failure of both referenda resulted in Hughes resigning, then forming a coalition government with the Liberals, putting the Labor cause back at least a decade.

There were thousands of (censored) letters that came back to loved ones in Australia, but many of these probably were not even looked at when the War ended and husbands, sons and brothers came home. There was a distinct 'vacuum' in communication from the returned servicemen for a period of approximately ten years. Bean's third volume *The AIF in France, 1916* was published in 1929, but would not have had a general public readership. Around 1929 some literary works started to appear overseas with some being widely criticized because they honed in on the destructiveness of war. The early Thirties saw the first Australian writings begin to appear.

In August 1916, Will Dyson, an Australian artist living in Britain, suggested to the Australian High Commissioner that he go to the Western Front to record for the Australian people what war-time France was really like. This saw him and other middle-aged established painters appointed as official war artists, who, apart from soldiers painted before battle or after they returned, had to rely on personal descriptions of battlefield experiences because as artists they could only observe from a distance. Despite this obstacle there were many significant works completed (often in studios many months after the events depicted).

Finally Wray examines the extent to which the Battle of Pozières has been remembered. With the decimation of the Australian 5th Division at Fromelles on 19th July 1916, many Australians reading the Pozières' casualty lists assumed they were from the Battle of Fromelles. Pozières has become just another battle among many that the AIF fought. A monument was unveiled at Pozières in July 1917 by the 1st Division AIF, but it was not until 1932 that the Australian War Memorial provided an official memorial to those who fell. A sprinkling of soil from Pozières was used in the entombing of The Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial on 11th November 1993.

Pozières is a very readable and comprehensive history of a short, but critical period in our military past, with the added bonus of looking at the resulting ramifications for our nation and its citizens.

The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Library wishes to thank the publisher for providing a copy for review.

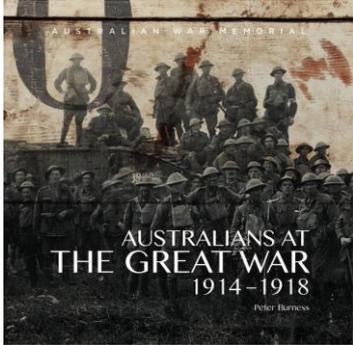
Neville Taylor

Book Review:

Peter Burness

Australians at the Great War 1914-1918

Murdoch Books, Crows Nest, NSW April 2015
Paperback with flaps, 152 pp photographs, maps and index, RRP: \$29.99



This illustrated history covers the First World War from mobilization through each of the principle theatres in which the AIF fought. There are over 120 photographs in black and white, with some being hand-tinted, and the artworks of the official war artists being in

colour. The author's long-time knowledge of the content of the Australian War Memorial's archives has enabled him to present this unique and comprehensive collection of the Great War in pictures that convey so much more than words could ever hope to achieve.

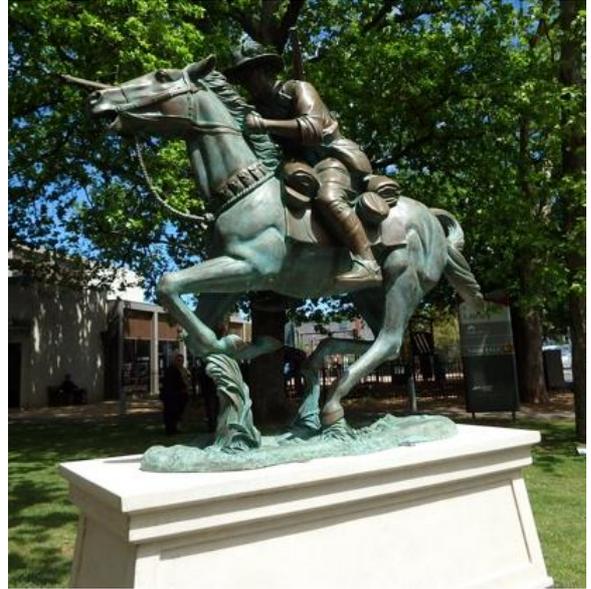
Peter Burness is the Australian War Memorial Lambert Gallipoli Fellow and is a senior historian at the Australian War Memorial, where he has worked since 1973. Formerly the Head of the Military Heraldry and Technology Section and a senior curator in the Exhibitions Section, he has been involved in numerous travelling, temporary, and permanent exhibitions. He has a special interest in the First World War and for almost 20 years led the Memorial's annual battlefield tours to the Western Front. Peter has published numerous articles on Australians in the Great War, the colonial period and other conflicts including *The Nek: a Gallipoli Tragedy*. More recently he has written four of the volumes of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' series *Australians on the Western Front*.

The five years of the Great War are broken into four periods – the commencement of hostilities (1914), the Gallipoli Campaign (1915), the French and Belgium campaigns (1916-1917) and the Western Front in 1918. The Light Horse's exploits in the Middle East are covered separately, and the work concludes with artwork and memorials post-1918. The text accompanying the photographs provides adequate information about the locale, the principal formations fighting there, their leaders at the time and the outcome of the major offensive thrusts by both the Allies and the enemy. The reader is also provided with well-sourced first-person accounts of conditions faced by both sides. Because of its concise form, this work lends itself as a great introduction to the Great War for young readers at secondary school level.

A very readable and comprehensive pictorial history indeed!

Neville Taylor

The Book Review on the **Kyneton Mounted Rifle Corps** in the December 2014 Newsletter mentioned a commemorative statue to be unveiled in the Kyneton town centre. Here it is.



KYNETON LIGHT HORSE STATUE

This magnificent statue depicts a Light Horseman at the famous charge at Beersheba in October 1917. Beersheba, in the Sinai Desert, was a small outpost manned by the Turks, but was important to the overall British offensive known as the Battle of Gaza because of the vast water supplies that were so necessary for the troops and their horses to survive. The place is now a substantial town of some 200,000, predominantly settled in recent years by immigrants from Eastern European countries – and is a part of southern Israel.

This statue is also representative of the Kyneton volunteers who signed at the Mechanics Institute into the newly-formed volunteer units, back in the early 1860s. This resulted in two of the earliest country troops in Victoria: the Kyneton Light Horse and the Kyneton Rifles – so basically one cavalry and one infantry unit. Through many amalgamations that incorporated those volunteers from places such as Malmesbury, Castlemaine, Maldon, Maryborough and elsewhere, they received royal patronage that resulted in a name change to Prince of Wales Light Horse. They were the forerunners of those who came together and fought so heroically against Germany and the Ottoman Empire some fifty years later and for which this statue is representative.

This statue acknowledges the early mounted rifles from the 1860's; it represents those of the Light Horse units that served on all three fronts of the Great War (Gallipoli, the Western Front and Palestine), and it represents the 178 volunteers from this small town who paid the supreme sacrifice - and let's not forget the 150,000 Waler horses that never returned to Australia.

Beersheba was the last successful cavalry charge in history - it saw 800 members of the 4th and 12th Australian Light Horse win a heroic victory against an estimated 4,000 Turks. Unable to provide themselves with swords or lances at short notice, the Light Horse famously charged with their short bayonets as depicted on this statue. The liberation of Jerusalem and Hebron followed, and changed forever the face of the Middle East.

It also helped to create the legend of the Australian Light Horse.

Book Review:

Winter, Jay (ed.)

The Cambridge History of the First World War, Volume III, Civil Society

Cambridge University Press, 2014

Volume III, *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, is the third in this superb series of three volumes covering the major events relating to the First World War. Volume I analysed the impact that the war had on regions and across the world. Volume II was a study of the war illustrating how the structure of the state and its relationship to civil society were transformed by the war. Volume III explores the social and cultural history of the war, and considers the role of civil society throughout the conflict.

The early part of this volume addresses the ways families adjusted to (or failed to adjust to) the challenges of war. This section is particularly moving describing the upheavals to normal family life when the breadwinner was called up for active service. The statistics throughout the text make grim reading. In this example, 2 million (est.) women became widows, 600,000 in France and Germany, 400,000 in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and 239,000 in Britain. The plight of children and the young receives special attention. In this example, a 12 year old wanted to become a drummer or bugler, so he applied and gave his physical dimensions, 5' 3" high and 33" chest measurement. The sense of bereavement is described when the father was killed, and the children are left behind. Six million children were orphans by the time the War ended, a million were French and another million were German. Jay Winter, the editor of these three volumes, and Professor of History at Yale, wrote (p. 46) *that the sheer scale of the story defies precise description* in respect to the way the War impacted on families. Thousands of ordinary families suffered losses, but so did the upper classes and the social elites.

Of special interest are two Antipodean stories (pp. 63-67). The first relates to three New Zealanders, ex-service men, who submitted a design for the Auckland Memorial Museum. All three were architects, and two had been wounded. Winter wrote (p. 63) that 'their military record gave them the moral authority to speak in stone.....here was a design halfway between a war memorial and a museum'.

The second story will be well known to members of RUSI VIC. It concerns the construction of the last Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Fromelles in Northern France. On 19-20 July 1916, a military operation at Fromelles resulted in 2,000 British and 5,500 Australian casualties in killed and wounded. Winter wrote (p. 65) 'that the battle had no effect whatsoever on the disposition of the German forces'. Among the Australians, 250 were unaccounted for after the operation. They were not discovered until 2008 when an amateur historian suggested that they might be buried in a wood near a casualty clearing station (p. 578). See also Major General Mike O'Brien CSC, 'The Burials at Fromelles', RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER, Volume 8, Issue 4, November 2009.

The War affected women in various ways. In Britain, the effect of war work on young women was devastating. Girls filling shell casings with TNT soon showed symptoms of toxic jaundice, their skin and faces turned yellow, and their hair, if blond, turned bright orange. 'They used to call us canaries', recalled one worker many years later. Women factory supervisors were appointed, drawn from the middle and upper

classes. They were chosen not for any special expertise in HR management, but with their middle and upper class backgrounds they were deemed to be capable of dealing with the lower orders of society.

The problems associated with civilian populations living in the multi-national empires are described. Ethnic minorities such as Jewish and Chechen populations in tsarist Russia; Armenians in the Ottoman empire and tsarist Russia; Poles in Russia, Austro-Hungary and Germany; and Ukrainians under Russian and Austro-Hungarian rule were all likely to be being driven out of their homes, deported and/or massacred (as we are seeing today in Eastern Ukraine).

Refugees posed another problem. In September 1918, the number of refugees was 1.85 million (est.). When Italy declared war, 87,000 (est.) ethnic Italians living in Austro-Hungary fled to Italy. The Australian aborigine is also mentioned (p. 219) as a victim of 'internal colonialism'. Another story (p. 263 ff.) relating to 'captive civilians' tells of Anthony Spivalo, whose family had come from Dalmatia, and was now living in Western Australia. Dalmatia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire and so Anthony was an enemy. He was initially interned on Rottneest Island (today a holiday island and pleasure resort for tourists) off the coast near Fremantle, and later at Holsworthy concentration camp in NSW.

The First World War was described (p. 287) as a war of unprecedented slaughter. In the British army, the RAMC grew from 20,000 doctors and nurses in 1914 to 160,000 in 1918. The wounds of this the second industrialised war (the first was the American Civil War) were generally gruesome, and in addition there were the diseases caused by rodents, lice, filth of all kinds, the cold, the damp and dysentery, all of which added to the misery of the front line soldier.

Ethical dilemmas for medical officers were an issue. An army doctor was both medical practitioner and army officer, so the question arose should a soldier with 'shell-shock' be sent back to the line or be given psychological counselling for PTSD if he was showing symptoms of 'shell-shock'? This is described by Myers (pp. 315 ff) a Cambridge physician, psychologist and anthropologist. Clarifying and treating 'shell-shock' became a life and death matter, because it could result in a court-martial and possible execution. The number of wounded had been grossly underestimated particularly in Gallipoli and Salonica, with the situation being described as chaotic in relation to the provision of most medical facilities. See also RHSV, Issue No. 316, Feb/March 2015, *Melbourne Heroines of World War One*, Speaker, Susanna de Vries. Hospital ships, hospitals and medical supplies were in short supply, but there were some positive advances. The introduction of blood transfusions was one innovation which did improve the chances of survival for those with serious abdominal wounds.

The Spanish flu pandemic is described, some thought it a version of cholera. At one American army camp, 14,000 cases were recorded, with 757 deaths. The total number of deaths in the American army from Spanish flu was 43,000 (p. 341). Symptoms included: high fever, headaches, intense pain in the muscles and bones, inflammation of the pharynx and throat, coughs, intestinal pain, nausea, rash, and depression. Treatment was very basic, it consisted of: 'tea, brandy, quinine, gargles and inhalation of menthol'. The number of deaths from Spanish flu was estimated to be 550,000 in the US, 13,000 in Australia and 6,000 in New Zealand. In the field of literature, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Rudyard Kipling on one side, and Frida Bettingen (1865-1924) the German expressionist poet, expressed their grief in poetry and prose.

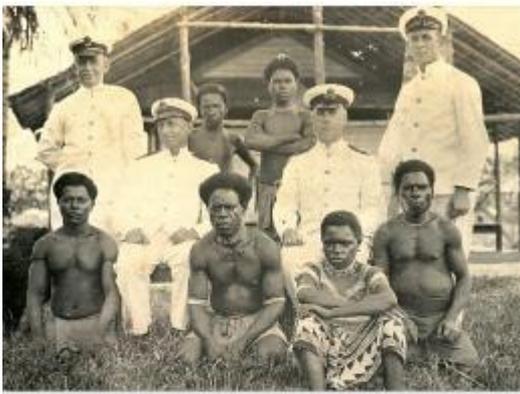
Continued Page Thirteen

Book Review:

Ian Pfennigwerth

Under New Management: The Royal Australian Navy and the Removal of Germany from the Pacific, 1914-15,

Geelong: Echo Books, 2014



Ian Pfennigwerth

Under New Management deals with the development of the Royal Australian Navy in response to German influence in the Pacific before the First World War, with Australian and New Zealand operations against and capture of German possessions in the Pacific in 1914, and with the Anglo-Australian pursuit and destruction of the German East Asiatic Cruiser Squadron.

Pfennigwerth's primary argument is that, alongside the more well-known participation of Australians in Gallipoli and on the Western Front, the Royal Australian Navy ought to be recognised for its contribution to the Australian effort in the First World War. He makes the point that the navy was essential for the transportation and protection of troops to their destination, be it to the Pacific islands or to Europe, and that it had thus already played a role in extending Australian influence before the Gallipoli landings. Furthermore, Pfennigwerth opines that Australia had matured as a nation not in 1915 but in 1909. It was in this year that Australia had decided to take responsibility for its own naval defence, for not only was there a strong German colonial and naval presence in the Pacific but there was also uncertainty over the commitment of Britain to ensure the safety of Australia.

This book is at its best in its consideration of strategy and naval operations. In particular, there are some excellent explanatory passages on cruiser warfare, on

wireless communications across the Pacific, and on the effect of the availability of coal on naval logistics.

There is a fine appendix on the characteristics of Australian and German warships, and there is also a good collection of photographs, mostly sourced from the Australian War Memorial or from the Sea Power Centre Australia, dispersed throughout the book.

Pfennigwerth is keen to highlight, perhaps somewhat stereotypically, 'muddled British thinking' in order to enhance the image of Rear Admiral Sir George Patey, the commander of the Australian Fleet. He emphasises Patey's desire to locate and destroy the German cruiser squadron, which posed a threat to the shipping lanes and coastlines of the British Empire, and how this desire was frustrated by British orders to focus on the capture of German colonial possessions.

Unfortunately, the strengths of the book are outweighed by its weaknesses. The second half of the book descends into mere description of events with comparatively little analysis. This is especially so in the discussion of the activities of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force, which was sent to seize New Britain from the Germans. For example, the account of the Battle of Bitu Paka should have been accompanied by reflection upon its significance or even by some observations on why certain decisions were made. It is from analysis, not from description, that a reader learns.

A book like this ought to have an introduction containing a literature review. Such a review establishes what has previously been written about a topic and thereby helps to indicate in what way the book containing the review contributes something new. The absence of a literature review raises questions about the extent of originality.

The prose is frequently inelegant and occasionally vague, and there are numerous typographical errors. The index is satisfactory but not comprehensive. The maps are similarly so. The most important and detailed map appears on page 7 (British and Foreign Possessions in the Vicinity of Australia), but its reduction in size to under half a page renders most of its information illegible. Moreover, the handling of sources is substandard. Citations are often lacking for multiple pages, even at moments when it is apparent that Pfennigwerth must have referred to a source. And when citations do occur, they are almost always incomplete or inconsistently formatted.

I would recommend this book only as an introductory overview of Australia's war in the Pacific in 1914. However, the overall quality is that of a first draft, and it should have been proofread and significantly revised before publication.

Linden Lyons

VALE : Neville Ellis Wright

27 July 1923 – 30 December 2014



Neville was the immediate past Treasurer of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria, a task he performed for us for over 20 years, following many years as Honorary Librarian.

After leaving school, Neville would have preferred to join the Air Force but did not pass the medical examination, and joined the Army instead.

Service in the Army gave Neville the fitness edge he needed to pass the Air Force medical. He joined the RAAF in 1942 and was sent to Canada as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme. He trained as a signaller at Calgary, excelling in Morse Code and becoming the only student on his course to be commissioned. He served with the RAAF until 1945.

On demobilization, Neville attended the University of Melbourne, graduating Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce in 1949. He was employed as an accountant at Mobil for six years and from 1956 as an accountant and internal auditor at the Colonial Gas Association until 1973, when it became the Gas and Fuel Corporation, and he continued to serve there until his retirement in 1983.

Neville was an ardent traveller and an enthusiastic bike-rider and he continued these activities in his retirement. He was a talented bobbin lace-maker, an amateur film maker, skilled tapestry maker, potter and wood turner.

Neville was a quietly spoken gentleman with a wry sense of humour and a wicked smile. When he spoke, his contribution was always worth listening to! He was a punctilious Treasurer. All of our members and the Barracks staff respected and liked him. He was one of those rare men about whom nothing ill was spoken. He was a Councillor Emeritus and an Honorary Life Member of the RUSI Victoria, held in high esteem and we will miss him.

First World War Vol III continued from Page Eleven

Volume III concludes with an account of religious practices and beliefs among the participants; it describes the effects of films, newsreels and the propaganda that was associated with the developing film industry, and the building of war memorials to commemorate the dead. Australia lost 60,000 and New Zealand 16,645 with the total number of war dead from both sides, (estimated) 9,164,000 – 10,001,800.

Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst and J.B. Priestly, broadcaster and novelist expressed their views on the conflict. Readers might prefer to read the original rather than a paraphrased version (see pp. 594/595).

A variance of facts was noticed in Chapter 12 (Military Medicine) and Chapter 14 (The Spanish flu). In respect to the outbreak of Spanish flu (p. 301) 'all armies were struck hard by Spanish flu, but it was the American army that was struck the hardest. Almost one in four became infected: more than 20,000 died,'. And (p. 341) 'They (the 200,000 young men) came from rural backgrounds, with less natural immunity than urban residents, and were gathered in recruitment camps with no form of quarantine. In 1918 the flu caused the death of 43,000 American soldiers (p. 341).

Michael Small

Postscript (Volumes I –III)

The political talk today sounds ominously like the political talk of pre-World War I. The conflict escalating around Donetsk and the Debaltsevo region, between Ukrainian forces and Russian- backed separatist forces is a cause for concern. Information, disinformation and deception abound. Both sides are offering excuses for their actions, the arrangement so far is fraught with serious, as yet, unsettled issues. The separatists accuse the Kiev government of being illegitimate, the West accuses Russia of changing national boundaries at the point of a gun, Moscow accuses the decadent West of using NATO to hem them in, and finally the Kiev government looks like having to foot the economic bill, while having no real control over disputed cities in separatist areas. The narrative as described in Volume I reveals the machinations among the leaders of the Great Powers, and the events leading up to and after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary on 28 June 1914 and 4 August when Britain declared war on Germany. At the time of writing, 15 February 2015, a 'cease fire' has been agreed to, the main provisions being the withdrawal of heavy weapons, a buffer zone between the warring parties, an exchange of prisoners, and the settlement of the porous border between Russia and Ukraine.

Finally, these three volumes are a most valuable contribution to the RUSI VIC library. Let us hope that after reading about the slide into a war that should never have taken place, in this most masterful series, diplomacy, and not *maskirovka*, prevails.

MS

Library Notes:

British Army War Diaries for the First World War

We seek the help of our members to acquire a key research asset for our library.

The UK Naval & Military Press has just released copies on DVDs of all the war diaries of infantry battalions & headquarters that fought on the Western Front in the Great War. This massive undertaking consists of colour facsimiles of 4,500 separate diaries - in all a staggering 1.56 million pages!

Each unedited diary has an added chronological index, which gives every location of the unit throughout the war, day by day. The diaries have maps, sketches, operation orders, returns, weather reports and much more. In many cases they include documents missing from the Australian equivalents.

The Australian equivalents to these diaries are on line at the Australian War Memorial web site and, while extensive, do not compare with the size of their British counterpart. They are easily accessible. The British diaries are not accessible on line – indeed the Library of the Imperial War Museum has just survived an attempt to close it down and disperse its holdings.

We believe British diaries will be an extremely important reference for Australian research not only when they fought alongside our soldiers but also because many Australians served in British battalions.

We would like to purchase a copy in multi-DVD form. This will allow viewing and printing of any of the diaries.

The cost is £450 or approximately \$885, a one-off price beyond our book-purchasing budget. We are therefore asking whether you may wish to support this purchase in part or full. Donations of funds to our Library over \$2 are tax deductible. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to help.

Mike O' Brien

are tax deductible. Please contact the Secretary if you wish to help.

The Nasho's War- continued from Page Six

Dapin does comment that the CMF changed from "an organisation for the citizens most interested in joining the military, into a larger body including those who were least enthusiastic about the idea" but he does not explore this much further.

In conclusion, "The Nashos' War" offers a useful insight into the 1965 -72 selective National Service scheme, although scholars would appreciate more detail in its reference notes section and index. This book provides plenty of food for thought when today's reader compares how those Nashos were called-up, trained and served, to the ways in which Australia chooses to augment its "Regular" forces nowadays.

John Boyce

Reviewed by LTCOL John Boyce RFD

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One-Day Conference
The Great Debate:
Conscription and National Service 1912-1972
 30 May 2015
 at the Mechanics Institute, Oakleigh, Victoria





For details of the Conference visit Military History and Heritage Victoria at www.mhhv.org.au