

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY READING LIST

SUPPLEMENT – MARCH 2008

PROFESSIONAL READING

Modern Maritime Strategy

Sea Power: Challenges Old and New

edited by Andrew Forbes

published by Halstead Press, Sydney, 2007

Sea Power: Challenges Old and New is the bound volume containing the proceedings of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Sea Power Conference 2006. It not only includes articles by some of the most renowned naval leaders, specialist practitioners and academics from around the world, but contains updates on many of the recent discussions on maritime affairs. Notwithstanding a time of political uncertainty and war, the roles of navies remain the same, albeit with a changing emphasis on specific tasks. In order to meet these challenges, navies require new equipment, logistic and scientific support and the RAN has to make and adapt plans for the current and future fleet. The book includes parts on: Setting the Scene; Security Issues in the Maritime Environment; Science, Technology and Support; Issues Facing Today's Navies; and the RAN. It is a wide-ranging and comprehensive view on where the navy is currently and where it should be in the years to come. A must read for naval professionals.

Sea Control and Power Projection for Australia: Maritime Air Power and Air Warfare

by Richard Menhinick

published by Centre of Maritime Policy, University of Wollongong, Wollongong, 2005

In modern democratic Australia it is crucial to consider all views in the Defence debate; *Sea Control and Maritime Power Projection for Australia* makes a significant contribution to that discussion. It is an easy to read statement of why Australia needs a navy, and what that navy does. This book provides a good summary of the foundations of RAN strategy and doctrine, without the jargon and buzz-words that are often found in official Defence documents. Menhinick re-states the fundamental principals of why seapower has and always will underpin Australia's defence policy, and that 'air power at sea' is a sub-set of seapower. Both recent and historical examples are used with advantage to reinforce the author's observations, while the discussion on how the RAN is viewed within contemporary Australian society provides further food for thought. No matter one's personal views *Sea Control and Maritime Power Projection for Australia* is a rewarding read that offers rare insight on the issues facing the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in the maritime environment. This book should be read by all Australian naval practitioners who are interested in Australia's place in the world.

Australian Naval History

Australia's Navy in Vietnam: Royal Australian Navy Operations 1965-72

by John Perryman and Brett Mitchell

published by Topmill, Sydney, 2007

Every now and then a book that is a pleasure to hold, look at, and read comes across one's desk. *Australia's Navy in Vietnam* is one such book. This pictorial volume records the little known events surrounding the RAN involvement in Vietnam between 1965 and 1972. The operations of ships on the gunline, the naval aviators ashore and the clearance divers in the riverways, are central to the story but the important contributions made by the Vung Tau Ferry and its escorts, diplomatic visits and other RAN deployments are not forgotten. This book is outstanding in its use of personal experiences and memorabilia in a manner that adds depth to what could otherwise be dry historical commentary of military operations. As a result the individual experience of naval service in a war zone shines out from the pages of this work. It is both a tribute to the navy veterans and a useful source of practical information for those currently serving in the navy. What would they do in a similar situation?

Sea Power Ashore and in the Air

edited by David Stevens and John Reeve

published by Halstead Press, Sydney, 2007

Trafalgar, Tsushima, Midway and other epic blue-water fleet actions are not likely to have their counterparts in the early twenty-first century. Since the end of the Cold War there has been increased interest instead in the way that navies directly influence events where sea, air and land interact. Yet, in the broad sweep of military history this is nothing new. In *Sea Power Ashore and in the Air* leading historians look back over more than a hundred years, to show how navies have often made a critical difference to the fighting ashore and the contest for mastery in the air. This book and the proceedings of the King-Hall Naval History Conference 2005, continue to reveal the depth of historical experience that comes to light during these bi-annual sessions. The conference remains one of the premier events for naval history around the world, and the proceedings continue to be not only interesting in their own right but are extremely relevant to those who are involved in today's naval operations.

GENERAL READING

Contemporary Regional Maritime Affairs

Chinese Naval Strategy in the 21st Century: The Turn to Mahan

by James R. Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara

published by Routledge, London, 2008

China's Naval Strategy in the 21st Century is a slim yet substantial volume written by James Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara, scholars in the US Naval War College's Strategy and Policy Department. It reflects the recent US concern with China's growing economic, diplomatic and military strength, especially as it relates to China's Navy. Traditionally a continental power, China has recently become much more attentive to its maritime interests. Major maritime factors include China's growing reliance on trade for its vital energy supplies, and the importance of Taiwan as a means of permitting or denying China's access to the Pacific. However according to the authors, the turn to the sea also came about through the ability of Chinese Navy leader Liu Huaqing to cast off Maoist Army-dominated defence philosophies in the 1980s and bring credibility to the concept of offshore defence. Liu and others have used Mahan's ideas selectively in the China context: so, Mahan is an important influence, but by no means the only one, in China's naval strategy. The authors examine the practical results of the naval strategy by evaluating recent and future developments of the Chinese Navy. They suggest that the US must remain engaged in the Asia-Pacific and in future will need a balanced strategy, able to adjust to China, whether it develops benignly or otherwise. This is an important book, not least for proposing a historical foundation to China's ongoing naval expansion.

General Naval History

MacArthur's Amphibious Navy: Seventh Amphibious Force Operations 1943-1945

by Daniel E. Barbey

published by Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 1969

The operations of the Seventh Amphibious Force, between 1943 and 1945 are typically overlooked by historians who try to understand World War II in the Pacific. By doing so they perhaps miss much that underpinned the Allied victory over Japan. In only two years, Vice Admiral Barbey developed a most efficient force from small beginnings with a few staff and very few ships into a massive force with more than 200 ships; a fleet that successfully completed 56 amphibious assault landings involving the overwater movement of more than a million troops. Nicknamed MacArthur's amphibious navy, Barbey's force was responsible for rapid advances, against a determined Japanese

enemy, across the South West Pacific, the Philippines, Borneo, Korea and China. But the secret to Barbey's success was the use of maritime manoeuvre, thorough planning and a commitment to innovation. As many ships and personnel of the RAN served under Barbey as integral components of the Seventh Amphibious Force, *MacArthur's Amphibious Navy* helps place Australian naval history in a broader context. In addition, Australian Army and Air Force units also participated in a number of these amphibious operations, the book provides good examples of Australians working in a joint and combined amphibious environment. Indeed, the practical experience, planning details and lessons learnt by Barbey and his amphibious team are particularly relevant for those interested in current and future amphibious operations in the Pacific.

General Military History

The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession

edited by Williamson Murray and Richard Sinnreich

published by Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2006

A collection of essays from writers important in the field of military studies, this anthology explores the significance of history to the military profession. The first section includes essays on the general theme of historical learning and military practice, whereas the second section focuses on specific historical events and their applicability to modern day military action. This book presents lucid and well-written arguments to why and how history should be studied and used. In this world of rapid change and future focus, the importance of military history can often be overlooked; by examining and learning from the past, soldiers can build the knowledge and insight that is required for the tasks they may face in the future.

War in Human Civilization

by Azar Gat

published by Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2006

War in Human Civilization is a kaleidoscopic journey examining the roots of war in human nature. Azar Gat explains how warfare has evolved during the major developments of world history. The discussion on war begins with the environmental, biological and cultural development of modern homo sapiens, it reviews the emergence of agriculture, the rise of the state and the birth of civilization, before it addresses the impact of the advance of modernity and democracy. Gat suggests that war has always been with us, pursued for the attainment of the very same objects that underlie human desire in general. Although *War in Human Civilization* firmly comes down on the side of the Hobbesian tradition, where the 'state of nature' was one of endemic 'warre', Gat does not give up all hope. Rather, he sees the peaceful option of competitive cooperation as a more

promising way of meeting our desires, than using the violent option, that is war. Subject matter specialists will undoubtedly highlight errors of interpretation in Gat's work, and so the general reader should not take all of Gat's claims on face value. However, such errors mostly follow the widely diverse sources that form the basis for Gat's broad sweep of historical, anthropological and archaeological themes. This book quintessential value lies in its ability to draw together wide ranging scholarship from a variety of fields to inspire a reader to develop new and original approaches to understanding the human condition that is war. *War in Human Civilization* is not a history of warfare as such, but it should effectively replace the now aging *A History of Warfare* by John Keegan.

Leadership and Command

Pentagon 9/11

by Alfred Goldberg, Sarandis Papadopoulos, Diane Putney and Nancy Berlage

published by History Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington DC, 2007

Pentagon 9/11 is the official history of the Pentagon terrorist attack of 9 September 2001, it not only describes the terrible damage and harm inflicted upon the building and its occupants by American Airlines Flight 77, it details the efforts that continued over the days and weeks following the attack which restored the structure, salvaged lives and maintained operations at the headquarters of the United States military establishment. In so doing, it weaves a narrative of the individual experiences of those who without warning had to face and overcome the horrors of a modern terrorist attack. It makes one realise the potential consequences of an international terror campaign, and if nothing else should help to dispel any remaining myths of operations being limited to the front-lines and/or war zones, for today the military may have to come face-to-face with terror anywhere in the world. Perhaps more importantly, *Pentagon 9/11* documents how the American people work in a crisis situation. The way decisions were made and individuals made things happen, working cooperatively and rapidly with the equipment on hand, despite conflicting requirements between the large number of government and non-government organisations involved. This book emphasises the true strength of the American people whose sacrifice, determination and resolve always seems to come to the fore when they are attacked. The Australian reader may recognise similar traits in their own national character.

Command at Sea: Naval Command and Control since the Sixteenth Century

by Michael A. Palmer

published by Harvard University Press, London, 2005

Few books focus specifically on the characteristics of command at sea – this one is well worth reading. Commanding in the naval environment is unique. The natural elements present challenges in simply going to sea and operating; challenges that are magnified by the inevitable ‘fog of war’. Palmer analyses a range of naval battles from Kentish Knock in 1652 to Desert Storm in 1991: to see how successful commanders adapted and used the technology of the time to try and cut through that fog. Palmer looks at command and control systems from flags to modern satellite communications, showing that as the speed of communications increased, the reaction time available to commanders has decreased. Hence there has never been ‘enough’ time to observe, decide and then direct subordinates in battle. Those commanders that have been successful have accepted this reality and not relied upon technology to provide them with centralised control of their forces. Rather they have relied on doctrine, discussion, mutual understanding and professionalism, together with trust and confidence in their subordinates. Typical of this was Admiral Nelson’s ‘band of brothers’ concept – what we would call today Mission Command and Leadership. Palmer’s book is well worth reading for all those proceeding to sea or commanding forces in war. While specifically focused on naval command, the lessons are, in my view, equally applicable across all areas of warfare – technology is important; leadership is critical.

Waves of Hope: The US Navy’s Response to the Tsunami in Northern Indonesia

by Bruce A. Elleman

published by Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, 2007

The powerful underwater earthquake that occurred off the coast of Sumatra on 26 December 2004, generated the most destructive tsunami ever recorded, drowning more than 150,000 people without warning in exposed littoral areas from Indonesia to South Africa. Most Australians will remember our Defence Force’s relief efforts in the Aceh Province of Indonesia as part of Operation SUMATRA ASSIST, but in these extraordinary circumstances of human suffering, the US Navy also played a key role in organising what was to become a massive, multinational humanitarian relief operation, based and executed virtually entirely ‘from the sea.’ Working closely with the Indonesian government and military, the US Navy delivered, within days of the disaster, vast quantities of emergency food and other supplies and provided on-the-spot emergency medical treatment to thousands of injured and displaced persons along the Aceh coast. *Waves of Hope* is the comprehensive history and analysis of Operation UNIFIED ASSISTANCE. This is a valuable and indeed unique study that makes use of a variety of internal Navy documents, oral histories and interviews with a number of senior naval officers. It should be of immediate benefit to planners in both naval

and joint environments, as well as to those interested in the lessons learned from this frequently neglected yet vital – indeed, life-saving mission. Some might say that the tsunami disaster was a key sign-post for the types of humanitarian operation that will become the bread and butter for the ADF during the first half of the 21st century. A must read on anyone’s list.

A Merciful Journey: Recollections of a World War II Patrol Boat Man

by Marsden Hordern

published by The Miegunyah Press, Carlton, Victoria, 2005

Many sailors feel that no one else would be interested in their personal experiences, hence relatively few naval memoirs are written. Marsden Hordern’s reminiscences of his days as a patrol boat officer prove that current generations of Australians are interested. His service as a young RAN officer in Fairmiles and Harbour Defence Motor Launches (HDMLs) during World War II included operations off the Australian coast, Timor, New Guinea and other Pacific islands. As with most naval activities, 90 per cent of the time the patrol boat job was dull and repetitive, but the remaining 10 per cent involved getting into harm’s way; with the crew placing their lives at risk to combat the sea’s harsh environment or the efforts of a determined enemy. Hordern describes how he patrolled the shores of Japanese-held territory, assisted beleaguered commandos in Timor, and was caught up in the drama of collecting Japanese prisoners of war from the islands. Drawing on the letters and journals he wrote at the time, Hordern engagingly recounts his triumphs and disasters as a naval officer, detailing his rise from a young and callow sub-lieutenant to a lieutenant in command of his own ship. Horden recalls his hopes and fears, and, in the face of the horrors of war, reveals an appealing enthusiasm for new experiences and a growing love of the sea. Such experiences reflect the wide-ranging tasks that continue to be undertaken by RAN patrol boats, despite the modern public perception that equates our patrol boats with Australian coastal surveillance.

Naval and Military Fiction***War and Peace***

by Leo Tolstoy

published by Wordsworth Classics, Ware, Hertfordshire, 1993 (numerous editions)

This classic piece of literature is required reading for the modern military professional. Although it is set in the highly differentiated society of early 19th century Russia, *War and Peace* provides many insights into the influence that social constructs have upon modern military institutions and how one’s cultural setting impacts on how wars are fought. This is not just a tale of military glory and romantic love, but rather a case-study of war as an instrument of policy and its impact upon individual lives. The reader should

reflect often on how similar events would unfold within their own society, and decide whether they agree or disagree with Tolstoy's portrayal of specific characters, whether they are historical or fictional. Is the 'German' approach to warfare a meaningless abstraction? Can the success of Kutuzov be attributed to his being in touch with the Russian nation? Why do soldiers take on the uniform, join specific units and fight to the death during battles of annihilation? Why do some follow orders when they are clearly morally wrong? What are really the most important events in one's life, and how are they affected by love of life or fear of death? These are just a few questions that should arise while reading *War and Peace*. Everyone in the military needs to find some time during their life to sit back and reflect on their own life: *War and Peace* is a vehicle that helps promote such reflection.