

# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY READING LIST

---

SUPPLEMENT – JUNE 2009

Read – let me charge you to read. Study books that treat of your profession, and of history. Study Faulkner’s dictionary, and borrow, if you can, books which describe the West Indies, and compare what you find there with your own observations. Thus employed, you will always be in good company. Nature has sown in man the seeds of knowledge, but they must be cultivated to produce fruit.

Captain Cuthbert Collingwood, 1787

# PROFESSIONAL READING

---

## Modern Maritime Strategy

### *Seapower: A Guide for the Twenty-First Century, (Second edition)*

by Geoffrey Till

published by Routledge, London, 2009

The second edition of *Seapower: A Guide for the Twenty-First Century* is essential reading for all serious practitioners of maritime strategy and naval power. The sea has always been central to human development - as a source of resources, and as a means of transportation, information exchange and strategic dominion. It has provided the basis for mankind's prosperity and security. If anything, this is even truer in the early 21st century, with the emergence of an increasingly globalised world trading system and a developing awareness of the fundamental importance of the sea as a physical environment. Navies have always provided a way of policing, and sometimes exploiting, the system. In contemporary conditions, navies, and other forms of maritime power, have to adapt, often fundamentally, in order to exert the maximum power ashore in the company of others and to expand the range of their interests, activities and responsibilities. Their traditional tasks still apply but new ones are developing fast. The new edition of *Seapower* has been brought up to date and enlarged with additional chapters. This discussion on post-modern and modern navies is particularly relevant to Australia's military strategy, while the Asia-Pacific regional case-study describes the application of seapower theory in practice. This book provides an excellent overview of contemporary issues and thought and is a must read for anyone who wishes to understand modern Australian maritime affairs. It should be mandatory for all senior officers and defence practitioners.

### *Australia and its Maritime Interests: At Home and in the Region*

edited by Andrew Forbes

published by Sea Power Centre - Australia, Canberra, 2008

Australia and its Maritime Interests continues the highly successful series of Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Sea Power Conference proceedings. This volume contains the 2008 proceedings. It heralds a new era for the RAN, characterised by the new Labor Government and the New Generation Navy initiative, hence the introductory papers by the Defence Minister and the Chief of Navy are especially important. Further this volume sets the scene for Australia's - and the RAN's - future security environment; it discusses the North Asian balance of power and its implications; it addresses security cooperation in the Southeast Asian region; it highlights the importance of the Indian Ocean to Australia; as well as re-examining our maritime responsibilities at home including how we can protect Australia's sovereignty, now and in the future. Overall

it is a comprehensive and timely update on all things maritime, written by some of the world's most knowledgeable subject matter experts. The reader may not agree with everything in every paper but this volume offers an informed baseline that enables one to reflect on Australia's maritime interests from a position of knowledge superiority.

***Major Naval Operations: Newport Paper 32***

by Milan Vego

published by Naval War College, Newport RI, 2008

Many within the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Defence community at large equate defence operations with 'boots on the ground' even though such views often give a false impression of the reality application of force by modern armed services. While some militaries are becoming increasingly bogged down in counter-insurgency tactical doctrine, the ADF needs to reflect on what we are missing. The RAN has ships, units and personnel on deployment around the world and at home continuously, undertaking diplomatic, constabulary as well as military roles, many of which are never thought of as on an operation. Milan Vego's *Major Naval Operations* is a well timed corrective. His straightforward and logical style helps the reader to understand just what major naval operations are. Perhaps the main point of the book is the need to understand that naval operations can use techniques and procedures suitable for major land or other major operations but there are significant differences because of the very nature and characteristics of war at sea which should not be overlooked. The discussions on operational design, the operational idea, preparation and execution, provides valuable insight, if not a roadmap, for how naval operations should be conducted. Some might suggest that the United States (US) Navy experience is not relevant to Australia, but knowing that we will operate with the US Navy in future coalitions, it would be wiser to ensure that ADF operations have been thought through from a truly joint perspective.

# GENERAL READING

---

## Contemporary Maritime Affairs

### ***Sea Change: Advancing Australia's Ocean Interests***

by Sam Bateman and Anthony Bergin

published by Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra, 2009

*Sea Change* is a timely review of the value of the oceans to Australia and the threats they face. Although many Australians are prone to suffer from sea-blindness, (the inability to see the extent of one's dependence upon the sea), Australia is a three ocean country, with one of the largest maritime domains in the world and extensive maritime interests. Not only is our future prosperity and security vitally linked to the sea, we have, geographically speaking, the potential to be an oceanic superpower. While much of our media concentrate on Australia's perceived 'realist' naval build-up, *Sea Change* makes clear the much broader 'internationalist' aspects of our enduring and newly emerging maritime interests. The authors' demonstrate how our maritime interests are indeed strategic, political, economic and environmental. Not only does this short and easy to read book effectively outline Australia's maritime interests, it sets out the agenda for what Australia must do to foster cooperation across the Indo-Pacific region. The authors' conclusion bears repeating: 'Australia's future largely depends on how we act as a maritime power, but we need to do much more to realise the full potential of the oceans'.

## Leadership

### ***Running the War in Iraq***

by Jim Molan

published by Harper Collins, Sydney, 2008

Jim Molan's book, *Running the War in Iraq*, makes a significant contribution to the discussion of Australia's defence by helping us think about our current and future involvement in 21st century conflicts. His practical no non-sense style reflects Molan's character as a fighting general, but also makes one think about what one would do in similar circumstances. On the surface *Running the War in Iraq* is a memoir of Jim Molan's year long deployment (commencing April 2004), including his time as the Chief of Operations in command of the Multi-National Force-Iraq. But it is more than just another memoir of yet another general in a distant war. Molan's uniquely Australian Iraq War experience provides numerous examples of the application of strategic level command such as: 'The term strategic meant I would be running the level of war that interacted with the new Iraqi government, bringing the political, diplomatic, information, economic and reconstruction sectors into line with the military side.' In practice it meant protecting Iraq's infrastructure, planning attacks on insurgency leaders, shaping the Second Battle

for Fallujah or fighting the way to Iraq's first free elections. Molan's experiences provide valuable insight into the practicalities of modern generalship - they should help to re-emphasise 'operational art' within the Australian Defence Force. This book is highly recommended to the general reader and military specialist alike; each will learn much about 21st century warfare.

## General Naval History

### *Six Frigates*

by Ian W Toll

published by Michael Joseph, London, 2007

*Six Frigates* describes the first two decades of the United States (US) Navy, from 1794 to 1815. With Independence, America's merchant ships no longer enjoy the protection of the Royal Navy. These ships and their valuable commerce were initially defenceless when travelling in Mediterranean waters, easily falling prey to the Barbary pirates. News of such attacks accompanied by gruesome tales of cruel tortures and crews taken into slavery, created a popular demand for action in the United States. As a result in 1794 the US Congress enacted a resolution for the provision of a naval force of six wooden frigates capable of policing the Mediterranean against piracy. In addition, the budding US Navy soon had to deal with both French privateers and increasing interference by the Royal Navy ships against American trade, ship's crews and sovereign waters. The subsequent War of 1812 proved the making of the US Navy. This book is a well written and engaging narrative history, full of historical detail and scholarly research. Once you have started reading, it is hard to put down.

## General Military History

### *The Second World War in the Far East*

by HP Willmott

published by Cassell & Co, London, 1999

It is sometimes hard to see the forest for the trees and the large number of good histories available on the Pacific War means that it is difficult to pick a single volume. *The Second World War in the Far East* provides one of the best overviews on the subject; it is well illustrated and full of maps but most importantly it provides a unique and at times controversial overview by a renowned naval historian. An essential maritime campaign the Pacific War areas evolved into a series of campaigns, dominated by those who gained sea and air control and where small land forces were manoeuvred strategically to achieve astounding victories with relatively low casualties (Willmott points out that the Soviet Union lost more dead each week of its struggle with Germany between June 1941 and May 1945, than the total American casualties in the Pacific War). Despite determined Japanese defences on each island assaulted and despite great courage in the assaulting forces, each captured Japanese base was a massive step towards the unconditional defeat of the Japanese nation. The Americans applied 'the-more-you-use-the-less-you-

lose' principle in its drive across the Pacific to the front door of Japan. The decisive maritime campaigns contrast starkly with the long and bloody land campaigns fought in China, Burma, India and Manchuria. In 1944 the Japanese Army was able to launch major offensive operations in both India and China but by the year's end the Imperial Japanese Navy was effectively destroyed and Allied fleets were fast isolating Japan from its overseas troops. The American submarine offensive against Japanese shipping was another nail in Japan's coffin. This book is both a good general introduction and a thought provoking read.

## Technology and Future War

### *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century*

by Peter W Singer

published by Penguin, New York, 2009

With 44 countries, including Australia, now developing military robotics a massive shift in military technology has occurred that could make the stuff of science fiction real and could have profound effects on the battlefield and in the politics of war. Pilots sitting at computer terminals just outside Las Vegas are killing militants in Afghanistan via remote control. Science fiction authors are consulting for the Pentagon on the next generation robots. *Wired for War* is a remarkably lucid and eye-opening account of one person's assessment of the potential impact of the current robotic revolution on future warfare. This book is much more than a technocrat's guide to military robots, uninhabited vehicles and remote controlled weapon systems; it has an underlying human focus, prophesising the need for total re-evaluation of current concepts such as military and naval doctrine, the law of armed conflict, asymmetry as the norm, and even the end of the 'warrior ethos'. What will be the role of future serving men and women when they are no longer required in the front-line? Or, indeed, has the front-line already ceased to exist? Although you may not agree with everything within *Wired for War*, it is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the future of warfare.