



NEWSLETTER

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES
INSTITUTE – HOBART BRANCH

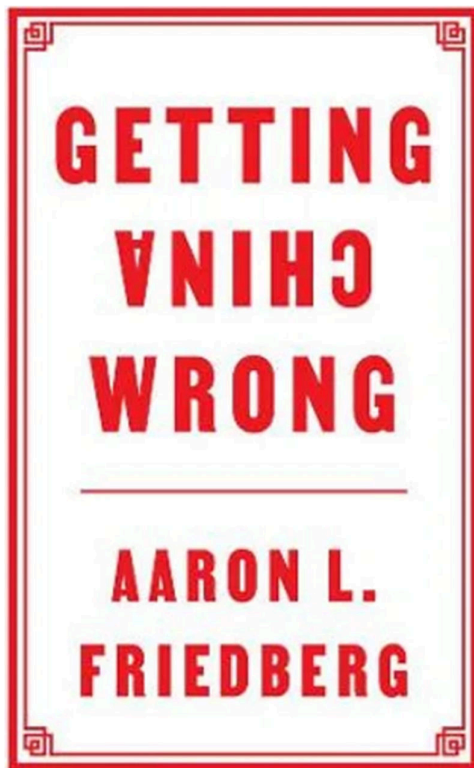
February, 2023

From the President

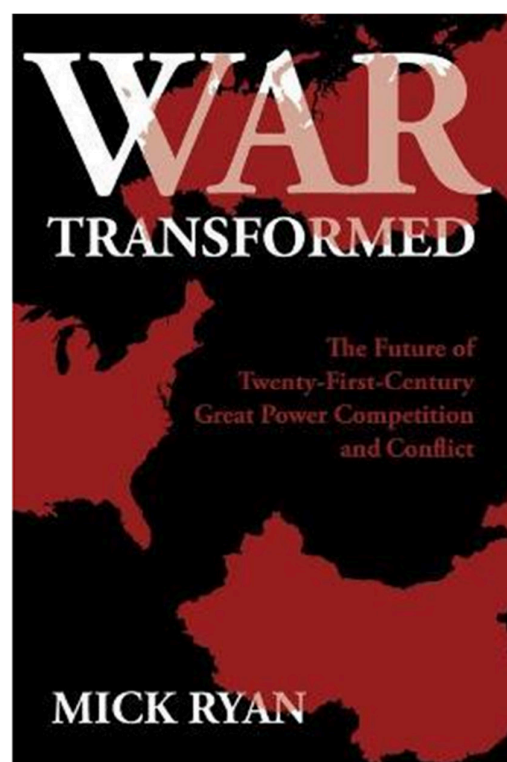
Welcome to our first library newsletter. The Social Committee Member over Christmas located a most suitable antique bookcase at a good price. Your President, Librarian and Jack of All Trades, Bruce Parr transported it to Legacy House where with assistance from Graeme Hyland the treasure has been filled with excellent tomes for members to enjoy.

From the Librarian

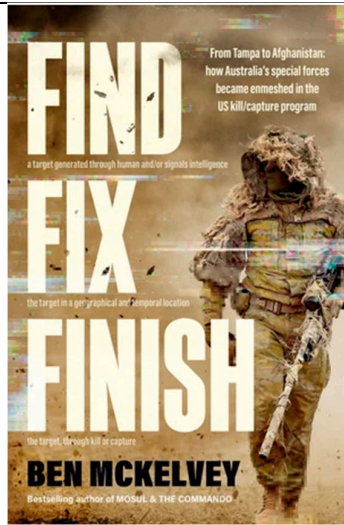
We continue to pursue new books on contemporary issues and in response to member's requests. Profiles of recent purchases are below.



The West's strategy of engagement with China has failed. More than three decades of trade and investment with the advanced democracies have left that country far richer and stronger than it would otherwise have been. But growth and development have not caused China's rulers to relax their grip on political power, abandon their mercantilist economic policies, or accept the rules and norms of the existing international system. To the contrary: China today is more repressive at home, more aggressive abroad, and more obviously intent on establishing itself as the world's preponderant power than at any time since the death of Chairman Mao. What went wrong?

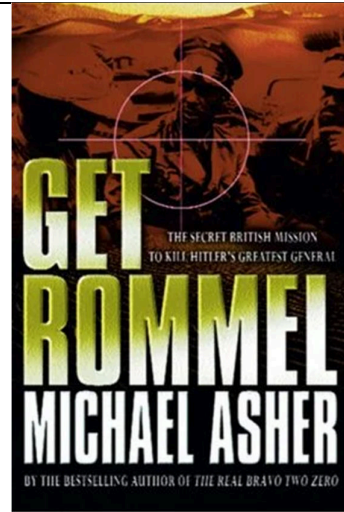


The Future of Twenty-First-Century Great Power Competition and Conflict provides insights for those involved in the design of military strategy, and the forces that must execute that strategy. Emphasizing the impacts of technology, new era strategic competition, demography, and climate change, Mick Ryan uses historical as well as contemporary anecdotes throughout the book to highlight key challenges faced by nations in a new era of great power rivalry. Just as previous industrial revolutions have advanced societies, the nascent fourth industrial revolution will have a similar impact on how humans fight, compete, and build military power in the twenty-first century.

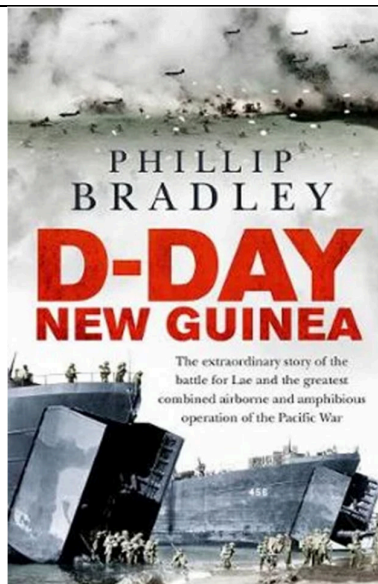


Increasingly enmeshed in a US-led targeting program that attempted to kill its way out of the war, the Australian SASR became one of the most feared and lethal force elements in the country. But with the Afghan government corrupt at every level, ancient enmity washing into each Afghan valley and Canberra and Washington uninterested or bereft of strategy, these killings became their own end, not a means.

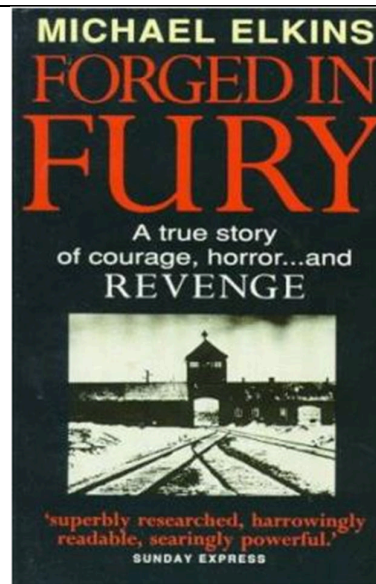
In the craggy mountains, green belts and digital battlefields of Afghanistan, concepts of heroism and malevolence started to warp, and from them also emerged Australia's most decorated, visible and controversial soldier in a century.



In summer 1941 Erwin Rommel was Hitler's favourite general: he had driven the British out of Libya and stood poised to invade Egypt. He seemed unbeatable. So the British decided to have him killed. The British opened their counter-attack with a series of special forces raids, the first ever operation by the newly formed SAS. Rommel was one of the targets. Michael Asher reveals how poor planning and incompetence in high places led to disaster in the desert-- and how fantastic bravery and brilliant improvisation enabled a handful of men to escape.



The capture of Lae was the most complex operation for the Australian army in the Second World War. In many ways it was also a rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of France with an amphibious landing combined with the first successful large scale Allied airborne operation of the war. But this is not just a book about a successful military campaign that changed the course of the war in New Guinea. It also brings together the extraordinary stories of the Australian, American and Japanese participants in the battle, and of the fight against the cloying jungle, the raging rivers and soaring mountain ranges that made New Guinea such a daunting battlefield.



Forged in Fury is a remarkable book, written in white-hot anger about the most abominable evil ever known to mankind -- from early 1941 to April 1945, between five and six million Jews were butchered -- mostly in Eastern Europe -- by citizens of the Third Reich and those who co-operated with them. It tells of the war, the people, the SS officers, the Jewish ghettos, the concentration camps, the resistance, the heroism and the horror. In particular it follows the lives of the Jewish men and women who, in 1945, formed an organization called DIN or "judgment", whose mission it was to avenge those millions of Jews murdered by the Germans. Between 1945 and 1946.