



The RUSI Gazette



Anglesea Barracks

Edition No 3/2020 dated 04 December 2020



Editor of the RUSI Gazette is SQNLDR AW Robertson OAM, CSM, RFD, Executive Officer RUSI of Tasmania

HOW ABOUT THIS!

To produce 1lb of Honey, a Bee needs to visit 2.5 million flowers for pollen.

Some Stats from the siege of Malta during WWII

Population of Malta	270,000
Air Raids on the Island	3,343
Tons of Bombs dropped	15,000
Civilian Casualties	1,581
Military & Merchant Navy	
Casualties	7,500
People Injured	3,780
Convoys to Malta (1940-42)	17
Tons sunk by Subs from	
Malta	390,660
Enemy Aircraft destroyed	241
Buildings damaged or	
Destroyed	10,761

No wonder the King awarded the Island the George Cross.

Christmas Wishes

I extend to all members, Season's Greetings in what has been a memorable year, not for the usual reasons I might add.

Let us hope that the coming year 2021 will see a return to normal operations and that all your personal goals and expectations will come to fruition.

Have a very happy, safe and enjoyable festive season and we look forward to your company and support in 2021.

Charles Hill
Wing Commander
State President.



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The Wellington Touch

This message was sent by the Duke of Wellington to the British War Office from Central Spain 1812.

“Gentlemen, Whilst marching from Portugal to a position which commands the approach to Madrid and the French forces, my officers have been diligently complying with your requests which have been sent by HM Ship from London to Lisbon and thence by dispatch to my Headquarters. We have enumerated our saddles, bridles, tents and tent poles and all manner of sundry items for which HM’s Government holds me accountable. I have dispatched reports on the character, wit and spleen of every officer. Each item, and every farthing has been accounted for, with two regrettable exceptions, for which I beg your indulgence.

Unfortunately the sum of one shilling and nine pence remains unaccounted for in one Infantry Battalion’s petty cash and there has been a hideous confusion as to the number of jars of raspberry jam issued to one Cavalry Regiment during a sand storm in Western Spain.

This reprehensible carelessness may be related to the pressure of circumstances, since we are at war with France, a fact which may come as a bit of a surprise to you Gentlemen in Whitehall.

This brings me to my present purpose, which is to request elucidation of my instructions from his Majesty’s Government, so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. I construe that perforce it must be one of two alternative duties, as given below. I shall pursue either one with the best of my ability, but I cannot do both:

1. *“To train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the benefit of the accountants and copy boys in London, or perchance,*
2. *To see that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain.”*

Your most obedient servant,

Wellington



LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS AT WORKING BEE



Major Alec Young thanks God he has finished



Major Rob Jones and Major Martin Bastick



Bruce Parr and Jake sorting the books



MAJ Royce Darling, SQNLDR Alan Robertson and John Bennet sorting Journals

Here are several photos of a Working Bee unpacking the Library books and placing them on the shelves at Legacy House. The Library has over 3,000 books all having to be sorted by the Dewey cataloguing system. Thanks to all those volunteers who came to help with the task.

RUSI LIBRARY SPONSOR



Taylor Screens of Albert Road, Moonah have graciously agreed to sponsor our RUSI Library in the sum of \$500.

This will allow us to pursue Library resourcing without any adverse impact on our very tight budget. All members are encouraged to support Taylor Screens when needing products that the Company provides.

Book Donations Request RUSI Library

The Librarian, LTCOL Peter Hodge, has asked if any member might assist with the donation of any of the following books:

Buften J, (1905) *Tasmanians in the Transvaal War*, SG Loone

Chataway T, (1948) *The History of the 15th Battalion*, W Books Brisbane

Deayton C, (2011) *Battle Scarred, the 47th Battalion in the First World War*, Big Sky Publishing

Thornett F, *The Tasmanian War Memorials Database*.



What a magnificent sight it made having the sails of the Opera House covered in Poppies for Remembrance Day this year. A very fitting tribute to all our fallen soldiers in all wars and conflicts.

LIBRARY CORNER – AN UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARIAN LTCOL PETER HODGE

RUSI LIBRARY - HOBART

The Branch library has been moved from Derwent Hall Anglesea Barracks to the Lounge Legacy Hall 159 Macquarie St. Presently, it is open every Tuesday from 10.30am to 2.30pm and at all other times by request to LTCOL Peter Hodge (Retd), Tel: 03 6229 2367 or email: pandjhodge@bigpond.com.

Unpacking could not have been achieved without the generosity of many members: MAJ Martin Bastick, Mr John Bennett, MAJ Col Bowden, MAJ Keith Burke RFD, Mrs Nellie & LTCOL Mark Cooper, MAJ Royce Darling JP, LTCOL Dave Halmarick, Mr Graeme Hyland, FLTLT Carroll James RFD, Mrs Jill O'Reilly, Mr Bruce Parr and Jake SQNLDR Alan Robertson OAM, CSM, RFD, JP, LTCOL Chad Sutton and MAJ Alec Young RFD

We now have a new and comfortable home thanks to Hobart Legacy. Since unpacking, a considerable amount has been done to organise and update the collection. Special thanks for this ongoing work go to: LTCOL Mark Cooper, Mr Graham Hyland and LTCOL Chad Sutton. The sub-committee has a new appreciation of our broad and rich collection which contains a wide diversity of: books (many on unusual military experiences), book sets (many unique and valuable), folio's, journals, maps and video's.

The major collections are classified using Dewey numbers:

- 355 Military Art & Science (defence of Australia, biography, strategy & tactics, cyber warfare)
- 356 Infantry
- 358 Air Forces & warfare
- 359 Naval Forces & warfare
- 623 Military Engineering (incl. missiles & drones)
- 940.4 WWI conduct
- 940.5 WWII conduct
- 956 Iraq War
- 958 Afghanistan War
- 959 Vietnam War
- 973 US Civil War
- 997 Falklands War

A number of new books, covering security in the Southern Ocean, Chinese involvement, and drone technology, are now on order. A special opening will be held so that members can become re-acquainted with the collection.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting your military interests.

Happy reading,

PETER HODGE RFD

Lieutenant Colonel RAA (Ret'd)
Honorary Librarian



Special General Meeting Hobart Branch

A Special General Meeting (SGM) has been called for Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 7pm in Legacy House Lounge, 159 Macquarie Street Hobart.

The purpose of the SGM is to amend the State Constitution to provide for untoward behaviour to be dealt with more effectively than the Constitution now provides for.

The formal notice of the SGM and the proposed amendment is contained in a separate flyer sent out with this edition of the Gazette.

**A.W. ROBERTSON
SQNLDR
Hobart Branch Secretary**

15 December 2021