

CHIEF OF ARMY'S READING LIST

**Land Warfare Studies Centre
Canberra**

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The Australian Army established the LWSC in July 1997 through the amalgamation of several existing staffs and research elements.

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Preface

Jeffrey Grey

*There is no excuse for any literate person to be less than
three-thousand years old in his mind.*

BH Liddell Hart

This reading list is designed to help soldiers of all ranks think about the profession of arms of which they are members. Throughout history, successful soldiers have schooled their minds as well as their bodies, and have examined the challenges faced and experience gained by earlier generations through education and the widest possible reading. A soldier's most flexible and most effective weapon is her or his brain.

Many of the books listed here deal with the history of war (for war knows no nationality), and of Australians at war and of the Australian Army. History provides us with an understanding of where we have come from as individuals and institutions, and offers intellectual tools to help us analyse and understand the issues and problems of our own time within their context. The study of history also helps soldiers understand the shape and nature of war: the great Prussian theorist, Carl von Clausewitz, observed that 'war changes far less frequently and significantly than most people appreciate ... because the material culture of war, which tends to be the focus of attention, is less important than its social, cultural and political contexts and enablers.' The attainment of professional mastery lies in understanding and appreciating war in all its manifestations and dimensions.

Literature also plays an important part in the development of creative thinking. The fiction on this list shares a common focus on military themes and subject matter, but fulfils a wider purpose in posing important ethical and moral questions while serving to entertain as well as stimulate.

Reading lists of this kind do not provide immediate answers to short-term problems—there are other mechanisms and sources available for that purpose. Rather, in the spirit of the great nineteenth-century German historian, Jacob Burkhardt, the books suggested here are not intended merely to make us smarter for next time, but wiser forever. Napoleon's great adversary, the Austrian Archduke Charles, thought that great soldiers were formed 'by long experience and intense study'. You will acquire the first by dint of your service; this reading list is a jumping-off point for the second.

JG Grey

Senior Research Fellow

Land Warfare Studies Centre

September 2007

Introduction

Lieutenant General Peter Leahy, AC, Chief of Army

*Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge;
it is thinking that makes what we read ours.*

John Locke

As members of the profession of arms, in the service of our nation, we have an obligation to each other and to the Australian public to excel at what we do as soldiers. We have great equipment, sound and exemplary leaders, world-class doctrine and training and an inspiring set of values and ethos that make us proud to be Australian soldiers. We train hard and work hard in order to cope with the challenges of today's battlefield. We must also look to the future and be prepared to face the complex and uncertain challenges that lie ahead.

War is both physical and intellectual. As well as having the right equipment and being physically fit we must also be intellectually fit. This reading list is designed to help you get intellectually fit. It is designed to help you understand your profession, your role as a soldier and, as an Army, help us become flexible, agile and adaptable.

This reading list consists of works of fiction and non-fiction. It is firmly based on history and contemporary commentary. It tells us about our own journey as an Army and it also shows the journey of other armies through history. Many of the stories are inspiring and uplifting, some will make you angry as you read of avoidable mistakes and unnecessary deaths. There is much to learn from these books.

This list is designed to enable progression through the whole of an individual's career. You will note that there is a different emphasis for each rank from Private through to senior officers. It is advisable to bring yourself up-to-date by reading those works from more junior ranks that you are not familiar with.

In so doing it is wise to adopt the technique advocated by the late Colonel EG Keogh, whose intellectual contribution to the Australian Army was enormous. Some of my earliest forays into military professional reading were facilitated by this officer through his contributions to the earlier version of the Australian Army Journal. His essay on how to effectively utilise military history contains timeless wisdom. Start reading now—enjoy, learn and become better as a professional soldier.

PF Leahy

Chief of Army

September 2007

The Study Of Military History¹

Colonel EG Keogh, MBE, ED²

How do you study military history? How often have I been asked that question, and how often have I found that all the enquirer wanted to learn was how to pass an examination? If that is all you want to do don't bother to read any further, for I am afraid that I don't know any short cuts, I don't know of any substitute for work. But if you want to enrich your mind with the military experience of the ages, if you want to broaden your professional knowledge and enhance your capacity to command, if you want to really understand the nature and climate of war, the following paragraphs may be of some interest to you.

There are, of course, plenty of people who can see no value in history—any sort of history. Well, one of the outstanding characteristics of most of the great men [*sic*] of our age is their awareness of the historical context in which they stand. Would Winston Churchill have reached the pinnacle on which he stood without this awareness? Would Charles de Gaulle have been able to set France once more on the road to power and influence without it?

¹ This article was first published in the *Australian Army Journal* in January 1965 and again in 1976. It is again reprinted because of its continuing relevance as a guide to all those who undertake a study of military history.

² Colonel EG Keogh (b. 1899, d. 1981), Royal Australian Infantry (Retd), was the founding Editor of the *Australian Army Journal* in 1948. He is also the author of numerous articles and books, including *Suez to Aleppo* and *The River in the Desert*.

We cannot escape our past. Our whole culture—the way we think, the way we look at ourselves and others, our institutions, are the product of our national experience.

Military history is the story of the profession of arms, of the influence that profession has had on the general course of events, of the contribution it has made to our national life. We need to know something of the history of our army, of its exploits, for that history conditions our professional outlook. It explains why we find it best to do things in our own particular way, and it constitutes the basis of our form of discipline.

Military Experience

So far we have talked in general terms. Can military history do more for us than that? To begin with, let us forget the expression *military history* and think in terms of *military experience*.

Now the knowledge that every professional person has is not built up entirely from his own experience. Far from it. Law, particularly Common Law, is a code which has been built up from centuries of experience of many men. Medical knowledge is a compendium of the things that have been found out about human anatomy by all the doctors of all the ages. Doctors don't wait to find out everything from their own experiences. When a doctor, or a group of doctors, engaged in research make a discovery they usually publish the result. All other good doctors accept this finding and apply it to their patients.

In other words, the doctors are learning from the experience of others. Should the soldier do less? As a rule a bad doctor kills only one patient at a time, but a bad soldier can get a great many men killed for nothing.

So let us think of military history as *the study of military experience*.

Actually, whether we know it or not we are continually using this experience. If we did not use it our ideas on many things would never advance.

For example, before and during the First World War British doctrine held night attacks to be more or less impossible. It was held that control was too difficult and direction too hard to maintain. Few night attacks were undertaken by the British on the Western Front. After the war this doctrine was maintained.

Then when the war histories came out an officer named Liddell Hart noticed the frequency with which the early stages at least of the most successful attacks had taken place in fog. Liddell Hart pursued this idea, and found that nearly all the big and successful British and French attacks had taken place under foggy conditions. On the German side the phenomenon was even more striking. Of their six attempts to effect a major breakthrough in 1918, only three were successful and they were shrouded in fog.

Liddell Hart then asked, 'If the most successful attacks were those which took place in fog, an accident of the weather which had not been planned for, would not night attacks be equally successful?'

The War Office nibbled at the idea cautiously and more attention began to be paid to night operations.

When Brigadier Pile (later General Sir Frederick Pile), who was at that time commanding the troops in the Canal Zone in Egypt, heard about Liddell Hart's finding he said, 'If troops can attack in dense fog when they are *not* expecting it, they ought to be able to attack at night when they *are* expecting darkness.' He then proceeded to prove that it was all a matter of thorough training, and night attacks became accepted.

This change in tactical doctrine resulted directly from the study of experience in the First World War.

But the results did not stop there. If night operations became fairly general, there would be plenty of occasions on which one would want some light, perhaps temporarily. Perhaps one would want darkness up to a certain moment and then have the light switched on.

The tacticians stated their requirement and the engineers turned up with the answer—artificial moonlight.

So, from a study of the experiences of the First World War there evolved two things—a new tactical concept and artificial moonlight.

That, I think, is a fair example of the practical application of military history. Of course, those are not the only things we can learn from the First World War. The students picked out a few other useful tactical ideas, and they learned a lot about administering very large armies in the field.

We need to look at the failures as well as the successes. We need to find out the real cause of all the useless butchery, the real cause of all the shockingly bad generalship that characterized most of the operations on the Western Front.

Why were most of the generals such poor, pedestrian soldiers? What had happened to the heirs of Wellington, Frederick, Napoleon? Was it their training or the lack of it? Was it the prevailing professional outlook? Was it because too much emphasis was placed on the wrong values? For example, was there too much emphasis on sport and social activities and not enough on serious work and study? Or was it because they had failed to learn from military experience?

It was probably a combination of all these things, but it is at least certain that they had failed to read correctly the lessons of the American Civil War and the South African War.

They were still seeking victory in terms of the Napoleonic concept as expounded by Clausewitz. This formula postulated the massive assault as the essential ingredient in the recipe for victory. But they failed to take into account the principal lessons of the American Civil War, namely:

- The breech-loading rifle and the spade, used in combination, had made the defence too strong to be overthrown by Napoleonic methods.
- And since the American Civil War the machine-gun had enormously increased the strength of the defence.
- They ascribed the American failure to employ cavalry in shock action to amateur leadership instead of to the real causes—the breech-loading rifle and the carbine, and *trenches*.

The result of this failure to learn from the experience of the employment of these new weapons and methods was the terrible battles on the Somme and in Flanders. The effects on Great Britain's man-power and national economy were enormous and far-reaching. It was on these stricken fields that Britain's decline as a front-rank world power began, though the full effects were not felt until later.

And all this because her officer corps had failed to read the lessons of recent wars and to see therein the changes demanded by the introduction of new weapons. They did not have to speculate. The things experience had demonstrated had actually happened. Actual experience had demonstrated what would certainly happen in the future unless counter-measures were devised.

Let us take an Australian example of the misreading of experience. In the Palestine campaign of the First World War the Australian Light Horse Regiments were mounted infantry armed with the rifle and bayonet. They were not armed with the sword or lance. They were not trained or armed for the mounted charge. But at Beersheba one brigade did undertake a most successful mounted charge. And at a couple of other places the British Yeomanry, who were armed with the sword, successfully charged the enemy.

After the war, on the strength of these isolated actions, we arrived at the conclusion that despite the fire-power of modern weapons, trenches and barbed wire, the mounted charge was still a feasible proposition. The argument that led to this conclusion violated the rules of simple logic because:

- It failed to take into account the special conditions obtaining at the time of the successful charges.
- It failed to take into account the negative side of the question—all those occasions when a mounted charge would certainly have failed, and even the occasions when charges actually did fail.

This superficial examination of the available evidence, plus unsound logic, led us to arm our Light Horse Regiments with the sword. They were still carrying the things right up to the outbreak of the Second World War. Worse still, they were thinking about trying to use them.

From these examples it follows that close study of experience in the sphere of weapons and devices—new weapons, new machines, new means of transport, etc.—can help us very much in the development of tactical doctrine, organization and administrative methods.

What about the art of war, of strategy, of tactical insight, of leadership? It is in these fields, perhaps, that we can extract the most value from military history. It is in these fields that we really do need experience, and it is just these fields that first hand experience is so hard to get in peace. We can get this experience only by the study of military history.

If we become involved in a great war the army is going to expand very rapidly. Promotion is going to be correspondingly rapid. Some of our officers are going to find themselves in positions of great responsibility in the field, or writing staff

papers which may influence governmental decisions. We need not find ourselves in those positions entirely devoid of experience. By the constant study of military history we can acquire the experience which we shall need very badly.

I hope to show presently that the acquisition of this experience need not be all hard work, in fact a good deal of it can be a recreational pursuit.

How Do We Study Military History?

Now, how do we study military history? Two things are essential, namely:

1. The wise choice of study material. I should like to leave that till later and go on to the second essential.
2. The development of a critical approach.

When you begin any piece of serious study, as distinct from the recreational reading which I shall mention presently, first think yourself into a highly critical frame of mind. Challenge everything; accept nothing without thinking about it.

For example, an Official History says something like this—‘The Divisional Commander ordered—etc., etc.’ Before you go any further think about that order. Think it out for yourself. Was it a sound plan? Did it take all the essentials of the situation into account? If you had been in his place, what plan would you have worked out?

Another example of challenge, of the refusal to accept statements at their face value, is to be found in the Australian offensives on Bougainville and in the Aitape-Wewak area. The necessity of these offensives was queried in Parliament, and one of the arguments put forward to justify them was: ‘To commit any troops to a passive role of defence ... is to destroy quickly their morale, create discontent, and decrease their resistance to sickness and disease.’ From this are we to assume that troops committed to an arduous offensive under severe climatic conditions are bound to have a higher morale and to be healthier than troops engaged in defence? It is true, as a generalization, that the offensive generates higher morale than the defensive. But is it true in particular cases? And do you have to mount a full-scale offensive to maintain morale, or would a modified form of the offensive be sufficient? The formation on New Britain did not undertake a big offensive; it seems to have successfully maintained morale and the offensive spirit by aggressive patrolling.

Morale is an attitude of mind. In defence the correct attitude can be fostered by means short of full-scale attack. Take the 9th Australian Division for example. Besieged in Tobruk, the division maintained morale and the offensive spirit by 'giving away' the deep and commodious Italian dugout in favour of fighting trenches, by deep patrolling, and by establishing their dominance over no-man's-land—'Our front line is the enemy's wire, no-man's-land belongs to us.' After being shut up in the fortress for months on inadequate rations, the troops might have been a bit on the lean side, but they were still full of fight. And their health was surprisingly good—until, on relief, they got in amongst the fleshpots of Egypt.

Beware of generalizations. Ask yourself, always, is this statement true of this particular situation, of these particular conditions? Unless you cultivate the habit of asking yourself these questions you will degenerate into a mere mechanic, and a bad one at that.

In the beginning this takes up a fair amount of time. But as you gain in experience you will find that you do it almost subconsciously. One side of your mind is taking in the written facts, the other side is working on the problems. And that is just the sort of mind that successful commanders have and that all officers need.

Don't forget to apply the same critical approach to the administrative side of war.

Learn to read between the lines, particularly the lines of the official histories. Official historians expect their professional readers to be able to read between the lines. For example in speaking of Singapore, the War Office history says, 'Many stragglers were collected in the town and sent back to their units.'

What does this statement suggest?

In an advance stragglers are to be expected. Men become detached from their units for quite legitimate reasons. We provide for them by establishing stragglers' posts to collect them and direct them back towards their units.

But when we get large numbers of stragglers behind a defensive position, and a long way back at that, it suggests that units have been broken up or that there has been a breakdown of discipline somewhere. And that in turn suggests that the general situation had reached the stage when a lot of people had lost confidence, when morale was at least beginning to break down.

Once you have started to develop this critical, challenging approach you will be on your way to acquiring the habit of sorting out fact from fiction. Our history is full of great military myths, most of which we thoughtlessly accept at their face value.

Take, for example, the story of Dunkirk. This episode has so captured public imagination that authors are still making money writing about it. It has come to be generally regarded as a glorious page in our military history. And so it is so far as courage, fortitude and discipline are concerned. But is this picture good enough for the professional soldier? Ought he not to see Dunkirk as a military operation stripped of all the glory? Looked at with the cold eye of the critical student, Dunkirk is seen to be what it actually was—a shocking military defeat which came within a hair's breadth of bringing Britain to her knees.

At the time Dunkirk was represented to be a glorious feat. This was fair enough because in it the British people found the spiritual strength to carry on the war. To that extent the soldier was justified in supporting the myth. But privately he needs to have a good hard look at the generalship—on both sides of course—which brought about this terrible disaster to British arms.

Each year in Australia we celebrate Anzac Day. How many of us look beyond the bands and the flags, and analyse the operations? If you want to ascertain how *not* to mount an amphibious operation, or any operation at all for that matter, you will find all you want to know in the real story of Gallipoli.

Sometimes these myths grow after the event. Sometimes they are deliberately created at the time and ever afterwards are accepted as truth, too often even by soldiers.

Take for instance the myth of the 'Spanish Ulcer'. Wellington's campaign in Spain was imposing a tremendous strain on the British people. The Government explained that the campaign was imposing a still greater strain on Napoleon, that the 'Spanish Ulcer' was 'bleeding him white'.

In actual fact the campaign was having far more damaging effects on Britain than it was on France. It is extremely doubtful if Britain could have continued the war much longer for the long-suffering public had very nearly had enough when Napoleon abdicated and retired temporarily to Elba.

We are often advised that the best way to study military history is to test the decisions, plans and actions by applying to them the principles of war. In my opinion this is a bad line of approach for the following reasons:

- It restricts the scope of our inquiries from the very beginning.
- It channels our thoughts along pre-determined lines, which is the thing to be avoided at all costs.
- In the world today there are several lists of principles, lists which differ from each other in substance and in emphasis. Which one do we take? Our own has been changed at least twice in my lifetime.

Suppose we reverse the process. Suppose we set out to test the validity of our list in the light of experience. I think that would be slightly better because it will at least half open our minds to some original thinking. However, the object of our study is not to test the validity of this or that principle, it is to cultivate our minds, to fill them with the wisdom of experience. I suggest that the best way to do this is to set out to discover some principles, some constantly recurring patterns for ourselves.

We know that throughout nature similar causes always produce similar effects. If we can discover in the military sphere some recurring chains of cause and effect, some constantly recurring patterns, we will have learned much from experience. We will also be struck by the frequency with which the rules or principles established by these recurring patterns are violated. And we will be struck by the fallacious arguments put forward in support of each violation.

One of the clearest patterns that emerges from military history is the one which demonstrates the evils of failure to concentrate upon the attainment of the aim. Time after time, war after war, large forces are sent on missions which cannot possibly further the attainment of the aim. At the worst they jeopardize, or even prevent, the attainment of the aim because they weaken the main effort. At the best they are a wanton waste of human life. This pattern seems to apply at all levels of activity. In the field of strategy there is the example of the Mesopotamian Campaign in the First World War. Closer to home we have our own Solomons and Aitape-Wewak campaigns in the later stages of the Second World War. The real war against Japan had moved 1000 miles to the north. The Japanese forces left behind in these areas were isolated and helpless. They could do absolutely nothing. Why on earth did we engage in costly offensive operations to clean them up when

they could have been safely left to wither on the vine? We could have collected the lot with scarcely a battle casualty when the main Allied forces brought about the collapse of the Japanese main forces.

My own reading over the last few years leads me to believe that we ought to have another principle of war in our list—the Principle of Command. It seems clear enough that the organization and maintenance at all times of a proper system of command is vital. By system of command I mean not only the commander, but the means, staff, signals, etc., to enable him to exercise command. At any rate the evidence demonstrates that neglect or failure to organize a proper system of command has frequently been the primary cause of failure at all levels. We are all familiar with the arguments about the organization of the high command. It is astonishing how often we come across failures to adhere to this principle further down the scale. In the Second World War in the Middle East alone there were at least four major failures of this kind. The chaos which prevailed in the later stages of the withdrawal from Greece, and probably the loss of several thousand men, was directly caused by the failure of GHQ to establish a proper command in the Peloponnese. And they had available the means of doing it. In all probability the real cause of the loss of Crete was the failure to provide the commander with the means of exercising command. Here again the means were readily available. A corps headquarters was actually on the island. It was taken off and sent to Palestine where it remained unemployed while Crete was being lost for want of some good staff work. It remained unemployed while the first phase of the Syrian operations degenerated into a fiasco caused by a patently imperfect organization of command. After the battle of Gazala the whole structure of command in the Eighth Army was broken up, and remained broken up until Montgomery came along and promptly put it together again.

Throughout history we find time and time again a commander winning through the exploitation of the 'Line of Least Expectation'. That is to say, he found and used a line of approach which the defender had neglected to guard because he thought it to be an impossible one. We could produce a long list of examples of this. What would we learn from such a list? I think it suggests that we ought always to make sure that the impossible is in fact impossible—and then keep an eye on it.

Methods of Study

Methods of studying military history will vary to some extent with each individual, but I suggest that in all cases there are two essential requirements for success.

1. A critical, challenging approach.
2. A mind alert to discern recurring patterns, recurring chains of cause and effect.

Although method will vary with the individual, I think the following preliminary steps are necessary whatever method we pursue.

1. Be quite clear about the political aim of the war.
2. Be quite clear about the national strategy by means of which the political aim is to be secured.
3. Be quite clear about the aim of the campaign you are about to study:
 - (a) How does it fit into the national strategy for the winning of the war as a whole?
 - (b) How does it contribute to the overall aim?
4. Study the features of the theatre of operations, particularly:
 - (a) The terrain.
 - (b) The weather.
 - (c) The people (friendly, hostile, or neutral).
 - (d) The communications.
 - (e) Resources, including foodstuffs, skilled and unskilled labour, etc.
 - (f) Climate for effects on health.

These four points constitute a firm base for our study of the campaign.

Now the actual method of study. Each individual must find the method that suits him best. One method I would suggest is to set about it as though you were preparing a series of lectures on the campaign. Actually write the lectures, remembering that each lecture has a time limit. This limit forces you to concentrate on essentials, to discard the irrelevant detail. When you have written a series of lectures which give an intelligible account of the campaign, and a running commentary, you will have learned a lot about it.

Now all this sounds like hard work and so it is. Unfortunately there is no substitute for work. However, there is another very important side of military history—the study of the human factor in war—which need not be so frightening.

The basic material which the soldier uses in his profession is human nature—men and women. He must know how people react to the stresses of war, and how they react to danger and adversity, to triumph and disaster.

Where Do We Find the Material?

Where do we find the material for the study of the human factor in war, of the actions, emotions and thoughts of ordinary men and women and of the art of leadership? Fortunately this part of our study need not be hard work. It can indeed be a recreation. Nearly everyone reads for recreation. Why not systematise this recreation and turn it to good account by reading for pleasure books with a direct or indirect bearing on the subject?

What sort of books should we read to give us an insight into the human factor? Well, we can read the heavy tomes with the psychological slant but we can hardly call them recreational. I think we will get on far better, we will acquire a deeper and more lasting knowledge of human beings at war if, with our minds always alert to pick out the lessons, we read:

- Biographies.
- Appropriate novels.

It is unnecessary to labour the value of biographies, but it is desirable to add a word of caution. The author is sometimes apt to be carried away by his admiration of the person he is writing about, to make out he was always right, to make him into too much of a paragon of all the virtues. And the autobiographies, the books written by the actors themselves, very often suffer from the same defect. They seldom admit they were wrong and, writing from hindsight, they are usually able to prove that they were right. So read these books with a critical eye. Don't let yourself be carried away by the author's plausibility or eloquence. With this proviso these books are a very valuable source of information, and are generally quite easy to read.

Historical and War Novels

Now the novels. Don't despise the novelist, but make a distinction between the author who writes merely to spin a good yarn and the author, the serious novelist, who writes because he has something to say, some important comments to make. It is probably true to say that the novelist and the dramatist have done more to directly influence the development of thought and ideas than all the philosophers. While it is true that the philosophers and the thinkers produce the basic idea, it is the novelist and the dramatist who 'put it across' by translating it into terms which ordinary folk can understand and appreciate, into terms of universally experienced human emotions—love and hate, courage and cowardice, hope and despair. Consider, for instance, the tremendous influence of the novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Up to the time of its publication there was a chance that the issues which divided the Northern and Southern States of America could have been settled by wise statesmanship and public forbearance. Its publication made the Civil War virtually inevitable. It focused all the issues upon a single point—slavery. It enraged the South and it inflamed the North. In far away Europe, particularly in England and France, it created a public opinion which compelled the governments to drastically modify their policies of active sympathy towards the Southern cause.

The First World War produced a crop of novels which profoundly influenced the course of events over the two following decades. With few exceptions all these books expressed the violent revulsion of the common man against the stupidity and futility of the dreadful blood-baths to which they had been subjected on the Western Front. You can learn all about the strategy and the tactics of the Western Front in half a dozen printed pages, for there was precious little of either to write about. But if you really want to understand, if you want to find out what the war was like from the point of view of the fighting man, read novels like *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Not So Quiet*, *Her Privates We*, *War by ex-Private X*, *Covenant With Death*, etc. Read the poetry of Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, and plays like *Journey's End*. Above all, read CE Montague's *Disenchantment*. Every officer ought to have this little volume of beautifully-written essays. He ought to keep it by his bedside and read a few pages every night. That will keep his feet on the ground and his head out of the clouds.

From these books you will learn more about the real nature of the First World War than from all the learned volumes of strategy and tactics put together. You will learn about the incredible imbecility of the worst vintage generals in all history,

of the shocking staff work, of the sheer ineptitude of military leadership all the way down the chain of command. You will understand why the people who make and unmake governments in democratic countries cried out in revulsion ‘To hell with brass hats and red tabs, to hell with generals, we shall have no more of that nonsense.’ And when you have understood that you will understand the motive force behind the policies of disarmament and appeasement which led step by step to the Second World War.

In Service circles it is fashionable to blame the politicians for this disastrous disarmament policy. Anyone who has given thoughtful attention to the literature of The First World War would know that this view fails to trace the chain of cause and effect back to its origin. The politicians were simply reflecting public opinion. That public opinion had been created by the war itself. It had been expressed, focused and consolidated by the literature of the war. Some of the writers, CE Montague for instance, went right to the heart of the matter—the downright ineptitude of the military leadership and the reasons for it—others saw only the result. If the soldiers had conducted their business more efficiently, as they did in the Second World War, the literature would have had quite a different tone. In the ultimate analysis of cause and effect the soldiers were responsible for the wave of pacifism which swept the democratic world after the war, not the writers or the politicians. They only expressed the public opinion which the soldier had created.

The novels of the Second World War reflect a totally different feeling because the field leadership at any rate was infinitely better. The value of these books lies in the presentation of the cold facts in a way which enables us to grasp the ‘feel’ of the thing in a very vivid manner. For example, we may read that the Allies sent to Russia by the Arctic route so many tanks, aeroplanes, trucks, so many millions of tons of shell, that so many ships were sunk, so many lives lost. All good stuff for a planner to know, but it leaves you stone cold, it raises no feeling at all. But if you read *HMS Ulysses* you will have a very good idea of what the cold statistics meant to the Allies in terms of human values—in terms of human courage, resolution and suffering. And if you read David Forrest’s *The Last Blue Sea* you will learn more about the impact of the jungle on young troops than all the text books can give you. If in the pursuit of your profession in peace or war you forget those human values, all the rest of your knowledge will go for naught. Those values are your indispensable tools of trade.

The Documentary

There is another, though rarer, type of book which presents both the technical and the human aspects of war in an easily digested form. I don't know the literary term for this kind of work. It resembles a documentary film which presents the dry facts of some particular aspects of life, or some particular persons or events, by clothing them with human values, reactions and emotions without passing into the realm of true fiction. The characters, instead of being creatures of the writer's imagination, are real people, people who have actually lived and whose actions have influenced the course of history. Instead of simply giving us the bare, and often unimpressive facts, the writer brings them back to life, recreates the scenes and the actions he wants to present to us. Treated in this way by a skilful writer, the facts we are seeking become more vividly impressive, more easily remembered and more easily read.

This form of literary expression has been brought to near perfection by a school of American writers. In the sphere of military history perhaps the leading exponent is Bruce Catton, whose magnificent works on the American Civil War vividly depict its strategy and tactics, the personalities, and the varying degrees of abilities of its leaders, the reactions of the troops to the ebb and flow of victory and defeat. All the great lessons are there, timeless as time itself—the results of half measures, of indecisiveness, of bad staff work, the influence of selfishness and personal ambition, the little things that go wrong and cause great disasters, the over-riding importance of the human factor with all its strength and frailty. These things always have been and probably always will be, the factors which determine the issue of victory or defeat.

In his book *A Stillness at Appomattox*, Catton gives us an almost exact representation of one of the major problems of the atomic battlefield—the exploitation of the hole punched in the enemy's defences by a nuclear explosion. The Union army faced the Confederates in strongly fortified lines at Petersburg. When several assaults had failed a Union engineer suggested driving a tunnel under a vital point in the Confederate works and blowing it up. That part of the programme was an immense success—what was probably the biggest explosion in any war up to that time blew a huge gap in the Confederate line. The rest was a pitiable fiasco. Through the neglect of elementary principles, through the failure to do simple things which could reasonably be expected of a junior subaltern, experienced generals failed completely to exploit the opportunity. It is remarkable how

monotonously disasters occur through the failure to do simple, elementary things. History may not repeat itself, but by Heavens, the mistakes of history do. Are some of us going to make the same mistakes on an atomic battlefield?

Recently an Australian author, Raymond Paull, made a very creditable attempt to give us in this documentary form the story of the early stages of the war on our own northern approaches. His *Retreat From Kokoda* is, I think, the first military classic this country has produced. Despite certain attempts to discredit this book, it is chock full of lessons which are of the utmost importance to the Australian Army. More recently an Englishman has given us the story of the destruction of the Normandie Dock at St Nazaire in *The Greatest Raid of All*. While this book lacks something of the power and sweep of the other works referred to, it could almost be regarded as a text book on the organization and conduct of an amphibious raid.

Some years ago, during a wet spell on a holiday, I picked up a book with the unpromising title *Prepare Them for Caesar*. Up till then Julius Caesar had been for me a shadowy, academic figure. In the book he came alive, a very human figure. Reading it I found what Wavell tells us to seek. I began to understand why men followed Caesar, why his soldiers stuck to him when his cause seemed hopelessly lost.

The great merit of these books—the novels and the documentaries—lies in the fact that they do not require hard study, they are truly recreational. Nevertheless every one you read adds a little more to your knowledge of war. Subconsciously your trained mind will be at work criticising, evaluating, picking out the lessons great and small, lessons which are more likely to stick because they are expressed by living, human characters instead of cold, inanimate print in a text book. Subconsciously the climate of war, the vision of men and women in action from the cabinet room to the forward area, seeps into your soul and becomes a part of your being. A sympathetic understanding of human nature will be created in your mind, an appreciation of its grandeur and its frailty, its varying motives, its hopes and ambitions and fears, its cruelty and its compassion. It is not sufficient for the soldier to be aware academically of the various facets of human nature. He must have a far deeper awareness than that. The best way to acquire that essential awareness is to read the works of good writers whose talent enables them to present human beings in a way which touches our hearts as well as our minds.

Conclusion

The officer who studies military history along the lines of recreational reading and analytical research will benefit in three ways:

First, he will develop a mind rich in the experience of war in all its aspects. The climate of war will become an integral part of his subconscious being. Without consciously thinking about it he will have a cultivated awareness of the pitfalls which strew the path of the commander and the staff officer, and he will be able to see the possibilities and the dangers of any situation or any course of action.

Secondly, he will develop the power of analysis—the power of breaking up the problem into its component parts, balancing one against the other, and arriving at a sound solution.

Thirdly, it will fill his mind with knowledge of human beings in combat, and that is essential knowledge for the soldier.

I have recommended two types of literature. Each type complements the other. The official histories give you the bare facts, the skeleton. The biographies, novels and the documentaries clothe the bare bones with the flesh of human beings in action.

Finally, remember that unless your critical analysis of fact is not tempered with sympathy and compassion you will never learn anything about humanity.

Soldier

Non-Fiction

Australian Army Campaign Series

Albert Palazzo & Glenn Wahlert

The *Australian Army Campaign Series* offers short, well-illustrated introductions to the history of the Australian Army. Each volume focuses on leadership, command, strategy, tactics, lessons and the personal experience of war. Titles to date include: No: 1 – *Battle of Crete*, by Albert Palazzo; No: 2 – *The Western Desert Campaign, 1940–41*, by Glenn Wahlert; and No: 3 – *Australian Military Operations in Vietnam*, by Albert Palazzo.

Forward into Battle: Fighting Tactics from Waterloo to the Near Future

Paddy Griffiths

A highly readable work, this book delves into the interaction between small-unit tactics and the evolving impact of firepower to create ‘the empty battlefield’. From Wellington to the Arab–Israeli War, Griffiths explores the importance of combat morale and battle stress on the soldier—and thus the conduct of close combat—challenging long-held myths about revolutions in military affairs and the importance of technology over human factors.

A Whack on the Side of the Head – How you can be more Creative

Roger von Oech

Critical and creative thinking are the hallmarks of military genius, and this book provides simple exercises and explanations to help people break free of constrained thinking patterns.

Fiction

The Killer Angels

Michael Shaara

Michael Shaara's work portrays the Battle of Gettysburg, the turning point in the American Civil War, and examines the conflict on many levels. The author explores the motivations of the leaders and their soldiers, and contrasts the fortunes of the poorly supplied but buoyant Confederacy, and the superbly equipped but demoralised Union. At the end of the battle, it is the professional Union commanders who have won—fighting a battle that maximised the value of the terrain and firepower. The idealists and romantics of the book, like the Confederate General Lee, succeed only in wasting away their own forces by 'following their hearts'.

Weapons of Choice: World War 2.1

John Birmingham

The year is 2021 and a revolutionary Islamist movement is fighting Western forces to cement the new Caliphate, which extends throughout South-East Asia. A multinational battlegroup sets out to engage this threat, but is cast back in time, right in the middle of the Pacific War in 1942. The first in the *Axis of Time* trilogy, this fast-paced thriller contrasts 'traditional' views of warfighting with the consequences of insurgency and terrorism. Birmingham highlights the changes in culture, technology and society that today's Global War on Terror may well bring about in the Western mind and way of war.

Starship Troopers

Robert A Heinlein

Heinlein graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1928 and continued his involvement with the military right through the Second World War. His award-winning book explores profound territory—what makes a citizen and what is the military’s responsibility to the state that supports it? A simple tale of a young man joining up and going to war against an alien race, ‘the Bugs,’ hides layers of deep and complex moral and political philosophy, the core of which is the notion that social responsibility requires individual sacrifice.

Fight Club

Chuck Palahniuk

This book, which inspired the film of the same name, poses interesting questions about small-group dynamics, the nature of self-identity, the role of violence in the masculine imagination, and the dangers and benefits of loyalty and leadership. Intensely psychological, with barbs against consumerism and mass-movements, this book has many parallels with the way soldiers are inculcated into the military.

Ender’s Game

Orson Scott Card

Ender Wiggin is six years old when he is taken from his family and sent to Battle School, where he is taught the art and science of war. Ender’s advantage is his creativity, and he rises to command all of the Earth’s military, but at the expense of his physical and mental health. The book investigates the use of simulation and networked forces to select leaders and manage combat, and has a sub-text about the burden of leadership and the importance in commanders of both compassion and ruthlessness.

Corporal

Non-fiction

Combat battalion: The Eighth Battalion in Vietnam

Robert A Hall

The literature of the Australian Army during the Vietnam War contains a wealth of unit histories. Bob Hall's *Combat Battalion* is among the best. While Hall's main focus is on 8RAR's story, he goes beyond the simple re-telling of the unit's operations. This work deals with the full range of the Australian soldier's experiences, including issues of morale, unit cohesion, and personal response to combat.

Leadership: The Warrior's Art

Christopher Kolenda

This is a wide-ranging anthology examining the crucial role of leadership in the crucible of combat. Covering both classic and modern concepts of leadership, and using case studies from Alexander the Great through the Second World War, the timeless principles of leadership are illustrated with concrete historical contexts. Formed into three sections—ancient and modern concepts of leadership, historical case studies, and contemporary experiences and reflections on leadership—this rich study coherently defines effective military leadership for both combat and peacetime training environments.

A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam

Neil Sheehan

A classic history of US involvement in the Vietnam War, written by an author who was a correspondent for United Press International and the *New York Times*. In this biography of Lieutenant Colonel John Paul Vann, Sheehan lays bare the venal and violent forces behind the war. Vann left the US Army in 1963 and returned to Vietnam as an adviser in 1965 till his death in a helicopter crash in 1972. Vann's life, like the blunders and self-deceptions of the war itself, contained 'a bright shining lie'.

Battle Leadership

Adolph von Schell

The author, a Captain in the Imperial German Army, saw extensive service in the First World War and was posted in 1930 to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he delivered a series of lectures. These were published in 1933 into a slender volume and remain essential reading within the US military education system. His focus, based on long and diverse experience, is on the psychology of battle and the motivations of troops on the march and under fire.

Fear Drive My Feet

Peter Ryan

This classic Australian memoir of the Second World War has lost none of its power and emotion since its first publication in 1959. Ryan spent much of 1942 and 1943 patrolling forward of friendly lines in Japanese controlled territory around Lae in New Guinea. Often working only in the company of a handful of indigenous police and porters and under arduous and dangerous conditions, Ryan maintained his coolness and resourcefulness as he kept watch on the Japanese. *Fear Drive My Feet* highlights the enduring soldierly virtues of courage, initiative and resilience to which every Australian soldier should aspire.

Fiction

The Red Badge of Courage

Stephen Crane

When published in 1895, Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage* was an international bestseller, went into numerous reprintings, and has remained widely available ever since. It is the story of the psychological component of combat, and one young warrior's struggle—in this case an ordinary private—to contain his fear and fulfill his duty. In the course of this brief novel Crane captures the realism of the personal view of war. When it first appeared *The Red Badge of Courage* was immediately seen as a masterpiece of war literature, a recognition that it continues to hold to the present.

1984

George Orwell

Written when Stalin's purges were current affairs, and often ranking in the top ten of any list of great literature, this bleak dystopian novel warns the reader about power and authoritarian government. Orwell's hero, Winston Smith, is an individual trapped in a world of conformity, where the past is flexible and the future fixed. Winston Smith's urban society lives on the edge of fear in a time of perpetual war, and the place of human rights and dignity seems most at risk. Nearly six decades later, this novel's relevance increases as the Long War unfolds around us.

Catch-22

Joseph Heller

Heller joined the US Army Air Force in 1942 and flew sixty combat missions. In 1961 he published this masterpiece of satirical fiction about the murderous insanity of war. Yossarian, a B-25 bombardier in the Second World War, can be sent home if he is crazy and if he asks to go, but asking to go home proves he is sane; the binding logic of military and bureaucratic paradox—expressed as ‘Catch-22’—has now entered the public lexicon to mean a ‘no-win situation’ or absurdity in choice. This novel is funny and touching, outrageous in its cynicism and honest with its portrayal of men at arms trapped in a system where the big questions are unimportant and the trivial is crucial.

Fields of Fire

James Webb

The author is a 1968 US Naval Academy graduate and retired Marine Corps officer who was badly wounded and highly decorated for service in Vietnam. Widely praised for its unromantic and graphic depictions of infantry combat and life in a Marine platoon in the field, it was one of the earliest novels to emerge from that war, and remains one of the best. Having served as the youngest-ever Secretary of the Navy during Ronald Reagan’s second term in office, Webb is now the junior Senator for Virginia in the United States Congress.

The Good Soldier

Ford Maddox Ford

Set on the brink of the Great War, this elegant story is a touching lament about the nature of self-deceit and flawed character. It examines the ways in which people deny who they are and strive for unrealistic ideals, and around them the old world of Europe crumbles beneath pretence and artifice while the American Century unfolds.

Sergeant

Non-fiction

Defeat into Victory: Battling Japan in Burma and India, 1942–1945

William Slim

A memoir of the war in Burma and India by the XIVth Army's Commander, who led British, Indian and other Commonwealth forces from early defeats at Japanese hands through to the final victorious advances of 1945 and the re-conquest of Rangoon. Slim hoped, in part, to 'give, to those who have not experienced it, some impression of what it feels like to shoulder a commander's responsibilities in war'. His modest and deeply human memoirs succeed in this admirably, and it remains one of the best books about the challenges and pressures of command in modern war to emerge from the Second World War.

We Were One: Shoulder to Shoulder with the Marines Who Took Fallujah

Patrick O'Donnell

We Were One's focus is on the tactical level of operations in Iraq. O'Donnell was embedded with a company of Marines. The result is a turbo-charged depiction of combat in the urban environment that is not for the faint-hearted. In an age of asymmetric warfare, O'Donnell shows that there will always be a need for soldiers capable of closing with and killing the enemy.

In Good Company: One Man's War in Vietnam

Gary McKay

McKay entered the Army as a national serviceman, graduated from officer training at Scheyville as a second lieutenant, served a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was seriously wounded, became a regular soldier, and reached the rank of colonel. As a platoon commander McKay tells a richly detailed and observant story of Vietnam at the sharp end.

With a Machine Gun to Cambrai: the Tale of a Young Tommy in Kitchener's Army, 1914–1918

George Coppard

This compelling view of service in the Great War is from the perspective of 'a common private of the uneducated classes', as the author styles himself. Enlisting in the 6th Battalion, Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, he later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and fought through many of the major engagements on the Western Front from his arrival there in June 1915 till the end of the war in 1918. His account is valuable both because he was not an officer or from the middle class (members of which authored the overwhelming majority of trench memoirs), and because, as he observes, ordinary soldiers endured the horrors of trench warfare through a sense of duty and self-respect; this was even more pronounced among those who had volunteered.

Gallipoli

Les Carlyon

The events at Gallipoli are one of Australia's foundation myths, a point to which our military and national cultures refer. This work casts a critical eye across the events of these events in a highly readable way, combining a cracking narrative with solid historical research. Combining personal accounts from the frontlines with the broader strategic and political considerations, this is a tale of errors and heroism great and small.

Not as a Duty Only: An Infantry Man's War

HB 'Jo' Gullett

A classic of Australian war writing, Gullett's book deals with his experiences in the Middle East and New Guinea firstly as a sergeant and then after receiving his commission. His account of the battle of Bardia and his company's successful assault on Post 11, in which he was badly wounded, is justly famous, while his descriptions of the functioning of an Australian infantry battalion at war is widely quoted. At times almost meditative in style, this remains the most profound memoir of war service ever written by an Australian soldier.

Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War

Mark Bowden

This book has become the most well-known account of the US involvement in Somalia, and articulates many of the reasons why the mission was not a success. In a step-by-step manner the author takes the reader through the battle from start to finish. He pays great attention to the tactical decisions, both good and bad. At the same time, he considers the strategic environment, giving a well-rounded account of all the relevant factors. The great strength of this book is how the author pays attention to tactics and military reality in the pursuit of personal drama.

Military Blunders: The How and Why of Military Failure

Saul David

It is the duty of all military personnel to learn from the past—not only to emulate the victories but also to learn from the mistakes. To that end, David has written a detailed analysis of some of history's greatest military failures. He outlines a variety of reasons as to why these disasters happened—incompetent commanders, bad planning, meddling politicians, underestimation of the enemy and poor performance of soldiers—and provides details, including maps, of the military operations that were doomed to failure. Peppered with interesting asides and psychological insights, this book is a well-written catalogue of how disasters could have been averted, and how rarely failure comes about due to unexpected factors.

Fiction

The Years of Rice and Salt

Kim Stanley Robinson

The award-winning science fiction writer imagines a world in which the European population died of the plague in the fourteenth century and in which China, India and the Islamic world came to dominate. Essentially an alternate history and a novel of ideas, this is a challenging book that rewards the reader on a number of levels.

Paths of Glory

Humphrey Cobb

A soldier in the Canadian Army during the First World War, Cobb produced one of the best anti-war books of all time. Based on true events—the execution of innocent French soldiers for cowardice—this is a tale of privates and generals, of ordering men into battle and the difference between ‘command’ and ‘leadership’.

The Centurions

Jean Larteguy

This is the first of two novels (the second was *The Praetorians*) dealing with the French war in Algeria, a highly contentious subject at the time of publication. Larteguy (a pseudonym) had served with the Free French during the Second World War and had been decorated several times. After the war he served as a foreign correspondent and witnessed the collapse of the French colonial empire first-hand. His novel reflects the dilemmas faced by French soldiers in Algeria following their defeat in Indochina, and also deals with the gradual process of demoralisation and loss of faith among men who feel themselves to be holding the lines of ‘civilization’ against ‘barbarism’.

Warrant Officer

Non-fiction

Battle Studies: Ancient and Modern Battle

Ardant du Picq

An officer with nearly thirty years experience in the Crimea, Syria and Algeria, du Picq was killed leading his men against the Prussians in 1870. This French classic examines the moral force and psychological endurance of soldiers in battle, demonstrating that the human elements of war are eternal factors in defeat and victory. *Battle Studies* advocates the importance of unit discipline and cohesion, especially important to du Picq as he experienced and analysed first-hand the increasing lethality of battlefield firepower.

Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in War

Eliot Cohen & John Gooch

The authors address one of the most intriguing questions of war-fighting—how do well-trained, professional and technologically advanced armies sometimes fail against a lesser opponent? Relying on a number of case studies, Cohen and Gooch highlight the effects of bureaucratic malaise and institutional culture on a force's ability to anticipate, react and learn. The capacity to fail, they conclude, lurks within even the best military organisations.

The Prince

Niccolo Machiavelli

A touchstone of political philosophy, this slender volume is a distillation of Machiavelli's involvement at the heart of European statecraft in the sixteenth century. Its central thesis, written as a guide for those in positions of responsibility, is that theological and ideological stances must not enter into the political realm lest chaos ensue. Violence must be contained, the traditions and property of subjects must be respected, and the road to peaceful stability is through material prosperity. Dealing with effective leadership and the use of power, *The Prince* is the first exploration of instrumental politics, where the desired ends are defined and appropriate means are employed to secure them—what today is known as 'strategy'.

Serious Creativity: Using the Power of Lateral Thinking to Create New Ideas

Edward De Bono

Military problems are usually multifaceted and without a 'right answer', more especially in today's world of complex environments characterised by uncertainty. Soldiers need to know how to think under pressure and with little—or too much—information. Creative thinking can be taught, and this is a 'how-to' guide, full of exercises and activities to free up lateral thinking and spark creativity, including the well-known 'Six Thinking Hats'.

Fundamentals of Guerrilla Warfare and the Indonesian defence system past and future

AH Nasution

A theoretical and practical manual written by one of the fathers of the Indonesian military, arguably his country's most distinguished soldier. Nasution writes with candour and honesty about the means by which the Nationalists overthrew Dutch colonial rule, and makes no exaggerated claims for the success of military action alone. His work is of particular interest because it deals with the subject from a non-Marxist perspective.

Crete: The Battle and the Resistance

Antony Beevor

This is an excellent introduction to the Crete Campaign of the Second World War by a master of narrative history. Beevor has written a compelling story that addresses the campaign at the strategic, operational and tactical levels. Of further importance is his account of German Phase IV operations during their occupation of the island.

Fiction

The Hunt for Red October

Tom Clancy

Full of high-suspense and plot twists, this book introduced the techno-thriller to the world and converted Tom Clancy from an insurance salesman to best-selling author. Captain Marko Ramius of the Soviet Navy attempts to defect to the West with a ballistic missile submarine and a new, barely detectable propulsion system. A taut thriller with well-developed characters and sweeping drama, this is a must-read for fans of military fiction.

The Secret Agent

Joseph Conrad

In this dark, comically satirical tale set against the nihilist terror threats at the dawn of the twentieth century, foreign spies and anarchists attempt to disrupt London society with bombings and violence. This is a story of human motivations and their significance in the face of political ideals and violence. The turmoils of Iraq or the Second Intifada become more understandable with fiction like Conrad's at hand.

The Thin Red Line

James Jones

A fictionalisation of the Guadalcanal campaign in the Second World War, this book is based on the author's experience in the US 25th Infantry Division. The theme is that war, despite being a mass human occurrence, is a very personal and lonely experience each individual suffers alone. With depictions of violence and murder, dread fear and frustration, this oft-confronting book is renowned for its realism.

Junior Officer

Non-fiction

Independent Company: The 2/2 and 2/4 Australian Independent Companies in Portuguese Timor, 1941–1943

Bernard Callinan

First published in 1953, *Independent Company* remains a compelling account of guerrilla warfare, although in this case Australian soldiers were the guerrillas fighting the Japanese occupiers of Timor during the Second World War. For more than a year a small party of Australian commandos tied up a greatly superior enemy force and provided one of the few Allied successes during the period of Japanese expansion.

A War to be Won: Fighting the Second World War, 1937–1945

Allan R Millett & Williamson Murray

Williamson Murray and Allan R Millett provide a compelling and fast-paced study on the conduct and evolution of the Second World War. *A War to be Won's* focus is on the conflict's strategic and operational levels. In doing so the authors highlight the decisions undertaken by the leaders on both sides, including the opportunities they seized and those they missed. Of the many studies of the Second World War this is among the best.

Pure Logistics: The Science of War Preparation

George C Thorpe

Thorpe's minor classic, *Pure Logistics*, was written while he was a student and instructor at the US Naval War College. Although first published in 1917, Thorpe was well ahead of his time in his perception of the place of logistics in development and projection of military power. Thorpe identified logistics as a distinctive branch of warfare—one of equal importance to strategy and tactics—and understood the need to address logistics at the national defence level.

War: The Lethal Custom

Gwynne Dwyer

While there can never be one definitive volume on a topic as vast and varied as 'War', Gwynne Dyer has done an admirable job of writing a book about the custom of war, placing it within historical and cultural contexts. This is a large book, brimming with information, not all of which will be absorbed on first reading. It is well worth the effort, however, being one of the best books on the subject that is currently available. This book reminds the reader that war is a natural condition of human beings. Dwyer explains why this is so, and goes a long way to explaining how war has evolved.

Not as a duty only: an infantryman's war

HB 'Jo' Gullett

A classic of Australian war writing, Gullett's book deals with his experiences in the Middle East and New Guinea firstly as a sergeant and then after receiving his commission. His account of the battle of Bardia and his company's successful assault on Post 11, in which he was badly wounded, is justly famous, while his descriptions of the functioning of an Australian infantry battalion at war is widely quoted. At times almost meditative in style, this remains the most profound memoir of war service ever written by an Australian soldier.

The Long Gray Line: The American Journey of West Point's Class of 1966

Rick Atkinson

This West Point class straddled a fault line in history. Their class suffered more deaths in Vietnam than any other and they served during a turbulent period in the development of the US Army. This is a superb and atmospheric narrative history that inevitably captures the unique spirit of this revered American institution. But it also sets the personal experiences of a group of young officers in the context of the anarchic 1960s. It is military sociology at its best, while also offering insights into the human factors that contribute to effective leadership and team identity in combat.

A Rumor of War

Philip Caputo

Caputo served as a Marine officer in Vietnam in 1965–66, and this book contains autobiographical elements. The novel's protagonist is accused of war crimes, and the book deals intelligently with the effects of a poorly-understood insurgent conflict on a conventional military force. Caputo went on to become an award-winning correspondent, and covered the fall of Saigon in 1975 for the *Chicago Tribune*.

We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young: Ia Drang—The Battle that Changed the War In Vietnam

Harold G Moore & Joseph L Galloway

One of the classic accounts of US combat in Vietnam, written by one of the battalion commanders concerned and a distinguished foreign correspondent who covered the action at the time. The book deals with the actions at landing zones X-Ray and Albany in the Ia Drang Valley in late 1965 that marked the first major engagements between US forces and the People's Army of Vietnam.

A Short History of Nearly Everything

Bill Bryson

Bryson, with a light tone and engaging style, presents everything the intelligent person needs to know about the natural and physical sciences. From the origins and history of the universe, through basic chemistry and physics to the rise and evolution of life, this book informs as it entertains. High-school science classes should be this stimulating and educational.

Fiction

The Lords of Discipline

Pat Conroy

In the 1960s in Charleston, South Carolina, a young outsider attends a military academy steeped in history and tradition, and struggles to cope with the physical and emotional brutality of cadet life. When he is ordered to mentor the first black cadet as an upper-classman, his morals are tested. A gripping coming-of-age story, this book explores themes of loyalty, shared experience and courage in the face of greater and lesser evil.

Fatherland

Robert Harris

Twenty years after the victory of the Nazis in the Second World War, President Kennedy is due to visit Germany. Berlin is preparing for celebrations to mark the seventy-fifth birthday of Adolf Hitler when a body washes up on the shore of a river in an area near the homes of high-ranking Nazi officials. The detective on the case, Xavier March, has his own personal dilemmas to grapple with while uncovering the horrific hidden secrets of the Nazi regime. A well-written thriller, this

is also one of the best examples of the alternative history fiction genre, allowing the reader to imagine what the world would have been like if the Nazis had not been defeated.

The Regeneration Trilogy

Pat Barker

Based on real historical events and characters, Barker's books deal with the emotional and mental trauma suffered by those who served in the First World War, an often overlooked element of the war experience. The novels are based on meetings between the psychologist WH Rivers and the poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, and they explore the development of ideas around 'shell shock' as a medical condition, and the burgeoning science of psychology. These books also paint a believable portrait of British society during the Great War, looking at some of the less-investigated issues such as attitudes towards homosexuality, pacifism and the dissonance between conditions on the frontlines and how they were presented at home. Each book comes with historical notes and recommended further reading about the people involved.

Seven Days in May

Fletcher Knebel & Charles Bailey

This novel, set during a fictitious US Administration in the 1960's, examines the moral dilemmas that confront professional soldiers when they disagree with the policies pursued by the civil authority. It was written amid a period of conservative disillusionment with the Presidency of John F Kennedy and describes the sophisticated planning by senior officers to overthrow the President of the United States, whom they deem to be reducing defence spending and readiness in a dangerous fashion. The central character of the book must weigh his conflicting loyalties to his service and the nation. While unmistakably a product of the 1960s and the Cold War, these themes are enduring interest to the professional soldier.

Captain

Non-fiction

Another Bloody Century: Future Warfare

Colin S Gray

One of the foremost strategic analysts in the Anglo-American security community demonstrates that war is both dynamic and timeless; it possesses both an unchanging nature and an evolving character. Distrustful of strategic prediction, he argues for an understanding of the likely future directions in warfare through a close study of the long-term patterns and influences on warfare, and concludes that, in the future, as in the past, the key determinants on warfare will be policy and strategy. Clearly written and endlessly interesting, the book distils thirty years of Gray's thinking and writing in the field; it might equally have been subtitled 'back to the future'.

The Roots of Blitzkrieg: Hans von Seeckt and German Military Reform

James S Corum

General Hans von Seeckt was the German Army commander who undertook the institution's reform and rebuilding after its defeat in the First World War. In studying von Seeckt's leadership Corum provides a first-rate analysis of the requirements of military innovation and intellectual transformation.

Future War in Cities: Rethinking a Liberal Dilemma

Alice Hills

As the title of this book suggests, Alice Hills discusses the moral and legal constraints on the use of force that the armies of liberal states must face when fighting in urban areas. Hills examines the experiences of the Russians in Grozny, the Americans in Hue and Baghdad, and the British in Northern Ireland among others. Hills concludes that the best approach for Western forces facing the daunting task of urban operations is to resort to well-trained and well-led infantry—an approach that commanders have followed throughout the ages when faced with the strategic conundrum of their time.

War in European History

Michael Howard

Howard provides a brief overview of the key developments in the Western art of war from the period of the Middle Ages to the Nuclear Age. In doing so, Howard integrates the evolving nature of war with the social, economic and technological forces that shaped Western society. While *War in European History* stops short of the present, it provides essential an understanding to where we have come from.

The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Algeria, 1955–1957

Paul Aussaresses

The struggle for ‘Hearts and Minds’ is a standard tactic of counterinsurgency warfare. Yet, it is not the only method with which to defeat an insurgency. In *The Battle of the Casbah* the French Commander, Paul Aussaresses, describes how he waged a war of counter-terror, employing torture and summary execution to break the enemy’s will and exert control over Algeria. *The Battle of the Casbah* confirms that, for a democracy, brutality can be an effective response to an insurgency, but the cost may be the loss of your soul.

The American War of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy

Russell Weigley

Weigley's book has had a significant impact on the post-Vietnam generation of US Army officers through its widespread use at the Command and General Staff College and elsewhere. He argues that the two dominant influences on US military behaviour have been force and mobility, legacies respectively of the Civil War and the Plains Wars against the Indians. Other scholars (such as Echevarria and Linn) have used this as a starting point to argue about the current thinking on US war-making, but all recent discussion of an 'American way of war' takes its cue from Weigley's wide-ranging discussion of its historical roots.

The Army and Vietnam

Andrew Krepinevich

Krepinevich's *The Army and Vietnam* has become a classic interpretation of failure in war. The core of his argument is the folly of transferring conventional war-fighting methods to other theatres of war. It is a story that military professionals ignore at their own peril.

Berlin: The Downfall, 1945

Antony Beevor

An exhaustive examination of the situation in Berlin at the end of the Second World War, Beevor has written what is both a sweeping narrative and highly detailed account of not only the fall of a city, but also the end of one of the greatest military mis-adventures of all time. This book relies on not only official archival material, some of it previously unavailable, but also anecdotal information from those on various sides of the fight, including civilians as well as military personnel. While the large-scale battle strategy between two titans—the remnant of the Nazi forces comprising in great part a militia of the very young and very old, and the Soviet Army of 2.5 million—is the important background of the this book, it is

the stories of the individuals that make this book a masterpiece. This book is a true insight into grimness and inhumanity that can befall those caught in the madness of war.

Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle

Stephen Biddle

This is a very valuable analytical work by one of the most insightful civilian commentators writing in the realm of contemporary military affairs. Biddle analyses the emergence from the carnage of the Western Front in 1917 of what he terms ‘the modern system’ of combined-arms warfare. Most Australian officers, familiar with the Battle of Hamel and the operations of the First AIF in 1917, intuitively understand the imperative of applying Monash’s orchestration to the close battle. Biddle produces compelling statistical evidence to analyse success in battle since 1917 and concludes that the close collaboration of infantry, armour and fire support with all arms and services is indispensable to survival and victory on the modern battlefield. This is a salutary reminder that there is no technical panacea to solve the problem of the last one hundred metres, nor has precision technology eliminated close combat from war. That being the case, a thorough grasp of the modern system of combined-arms fighting is a core element of professional mastery.

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

Williamson Murray & Richard Sinnreich

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 of the book 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.

Fiction

The Matthew Hervey series

Allan Mallinson

This series of novels follows the life and career of a fictional cavalry officer, Matthew Hervey, in an equally fictitious regiment, the 6th Light Dragoons, from service in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo through early nineteenth-century campaigns in Canada, India and southern Africa. Mallinson himself commanded the Light Dragoons and retired from the British Army as a brigadier. His novels examine the challenges of command at increasing rank levels, and display an excellent feel for the interior life of a cavalry regiment, and for the British Army and society of the day more generally. Highly enjoyable reading that wears its learning very lightly.

Slaughterhouse Five

Kurt Vonnegut

Billy Pilgrim has become unstuck in time—he keeps re-living his experiences in the Second World War, as well as jumping ahead in time to where he is kept by aliens in a zoo. Vonnegut, a prisoner of war held in Dresden, lived through the awful Allied firebombing, and this incident forms the core of Billy Pilgrim's character. Funny, tragic and often irreverent, the book explores fate and fatalism as well as post-traumatic stress and the appalling impact of war on people and societies.

Bomber

Len Deighton

Deighton weaves a masterly tale of a Lancaster crew's final raid over Germany during the Second World War. While a novel, his meticulous research gives the book a documentary feel, which serves to heighten the foreboding sense of approaching death, destruction and terror that was strategic bombing. The themes that Deighton explores are central attributes of warfare and include the effect of acute stress on capability, the value of teamwork, and the unexpected emergence of courage. Deighton also captures Clausewitz's idea of friction. Despite its detailed planning the mission slowly goes wrong, culminating in the obliteration of the wrong target.

The Sharpe Books

Bernard Cornwall

Cornwell is a prolific historical novelist best known for his Sharpe series, which deals with the exploits of a British soldier in Wellington's army. Mostly set during the Napoleonic Wars in the Peninsula, Sharpe is a former ranker commissioned after saving the Duke's life. His various exploits have been made into a series of telemovies, themselves often loosely based on the novels. The broad history is correct, although twentieth-century attitudes and sensibilities are sometimes allowed to intrude for entertainment's sake.

Major

Non-fiction

On War

Carl von Clausewitz

On War is one of the classic theoretical works on the nature of war. Clausewitz, a Prussian general of the Napoleonic Wars era, sought to understand both the internal dynamics of his calling and the function of war as an instrument of policy. Clausewitz also established the critical concepts of friction and chance and their limiting effects on command. *On War* is essential reading for officers desiring high command. It should not be read in a single sitting but thoughtfully considered over the course of a career.

Deliver us from Evil: Peacekeepers, Warlords and a World of Endless Conflict

William Shawcross

A critique of United Nations' peacekeeping missions during the 1990s, the author explains how the United Nations is often hamstrung by its own member states and their inability to act, rather than the organisation of the United Nations itself. Based mainly on his own high-level access to world leaders and bureaucrats, Shawcross gives an in-depth analysis not only of the missions the United Nations endeavours to carry out, but also the *Realpolitik* basis for why these missions usually fail to realise their objectives.

Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age

Peter Paret

This collection of essays is an updated edition of the 1943 classic of the same name. While complementing the original volume, it contains twenty-two new essays and brings the study up to the contemporary age. The included authors are outstanding and many are regarded as the expert in their respective fields. The book's focus is on the strategic ideas of all major theorists over the past 500 years. Moreover, each essay succeeds in placing its topic into its political, social, and economic context.

Voltaire's Bastards: The Dictatorship of Reason in the West

John Ralston Saul

In his long and well-constructed book, John Ralston Saul does much more than critique the rise of reason in the West. It is a fulsome history of Western culture itself, running the gamut of every element that may hold some vestige of power in the Western world today—defence, government and business being obvious examples, but also including art, literature and society in general. The heart of the argument that underpins this book is that Western society has developed (or maybe devolved) into a lifeless machine, unwilling to reward creativity and that we are now in the grip of rampant bureaucratisation and mediocrity. While the reader may not agree with everything Saul has to say, or even much of it, this is a book of a rare breed—one that presents its arguments well, with clarity and wry humour, while simultaneously informing and challenging the reader.

Zeno and the Tortoise: How to Think Like a Philosopher

Nicholas Fearn

This book provides a short and accessible guide to the major elements of philosophical thought in the Western tradition from the Socratic method to deconstructionism. Intended as an introductory text, it is clear, amusing and avoids the pitfalls inherent in many such 'guides'—becoming bogged down in arcane or highly theoretical discussion.

Strategy: The Logic of War and Peace

Edward N Luttwak

The author of more than a dozen books, Luttwak is an internationally recognised scholar in the area of military strategy. In this breakthrough work he addresses the idea of strategy at all of its levels. Luttwak's most important insights are that strategy follows a paradoxical non-linear logic and the need to avoid being defeated by the extent of your own success.

Fundamentals of Guerrilla Warfare and the Indonesian defence system past and future

AH Nasution

A theoretical and practical manual written by one of the fathers of the Indonesian military, arguably his country's most distinguished soldier. Nasution writes with candour and honesty about the means by which the Nationalists overthrew Dutch colonial rule, and makes no exaggerated claims for the success of military action alone. His work is of particular interest because it deals with the subject from a non-Marxist perspective.

The History of the Peloponnesian War

Thucydides

Thucydides is the father of the Realist school of international relations theory and the first great participant-historian, in his case the great war between Athens and Sparta that wrecked the ancient world of his time. His stated purpose in writing his history provides all the justification one still needs to read it: to be useful to those 'who desire an exact knowledge of the past as an aid to the understanding of the future, which in the course of human things must resemble if it does not reflect it'.

Revolt on the Tigris: The Al-Sadr Uprising and the Governing of Iraq

Mark Hetherington

Written by a former British Army officer, who served as provincial governor of Wasit Province in south-central Iraq in 2003–04, this revealing book explains much of what went wrong with the Coalition Provisional Authority’s initial attempts to re-make Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein. The author was one of the few non-Americans placed in a position of any authority, and his observations and obvious feeling for the Iraqis are an excellent addition to the better-known ‘big picture’ accounts of the post-hostilities period.

The Shield of Achilles: War, Peace and the Course of History

Phillip Bobbit

This is a work of panoramic scope that examines the interplay of technological and social change, warfare and shifts in epochal constitutional orders. Bobbitt applies Clausewitz’s insight as to the intimate connection between politics and warfare and examines the evolution of the liberal democratic constitutional order that prevails in much of the West today.

The Campaigns of Napoleon

David Chandler

David Chandler has written a monumental history of Napoleonic warfare that, despite the passage of time, remains the most important and thorough book on the subject.

Moving Mountains: Lessons in Leadership and Logistics from the Gulf War

William G Pagonis

Lieutenant General William G Pagonis served as commander of 22 Support Command, the organisation during the First Gulf War responsible for maintaining US forces in the Middle East. In his outline of the logistic lesson of the war Pagonis writes for both the military and business communities. This is a personal account, but one that places the US Army's logistic requirements into the broader context of the campaign.

On Guerrilla Warfare

Mao Tse-tung

This book is one of the classic texts on guerrilla warfare, and one of the first written treatises on the art of the insurgent. Building upon his experience and the classic work of Sun-Tzu, Mao writes a convincing argument as to how and why guerrilla activities should be integrated into conventional military activities. Written in the context of China's guerrilla war against Japanese occupiers, this book discusses the differences between guerrilla and conventional military forces, as well as how such forces can work together for a common goal.

The Gallic War

Julius Caesar

This book is the autobiographical account of the campaigns fought against the Gauls. Written by one of the most famous figures of ancient history, this book reveals Julius Caesar's astounding ability as both a military commander and a chronicler of his times. While this book can be read as a straightforward account of battles fought, it can also be instructive as to how so many aspects of military campaigning remain constant throughout the ages.

The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States and War

Williamson Murray, Alvin Bernstein, & MacGregor Knox

This book's objective is to provide the reader with an understanding of the varied factors that influence the formulation and outcome of national strategies. It offers a *tour de force* of historical examples, ranging from the origins of strategy under the Athenians to the intricacies of the nuclear age. It is comprehensive, inclusive and written by leading scholars.

Fiction

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley

Along with *1984*, *Brave New World* is the masthead of dystopian fiction, worlds created to explore what makes a good social order and how best to achieve it. Depicting an ideal society full of happy and fulfilled citizens, where sex and drugs and music are hedonistic tools to pacify the population, Huxley illustrates the dangers of rampant technology and the elegant beauty of human frailties. Military personnel, defending a nation and its interests, must develop a sense of what they serve and why, and this book will prompt many such examinations.

Eagle in the Snow

Wallace Bream

This novel is a panoramic story about the barbarian invasions of Western Europe at the beginning of the fifth century through the eyes of a legion's commander, Maximus. The knowledge and understanding of the workings of a legion in late Roman times is unparalleled, while the study of the stress of command in the face of imminent disaster is sketched against the background of a dying civilisation about to collapse in blood and ruin.

Lieutenant Colonel

Non-fiction

Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesman and Leadership in Wartime

Eliot A Cohen

Eliot Cohen's thesis is that the relationship between soldiers and statesman lies at the heart of what strategy is all about. He explores this connection in a series of case studies in which he examines the wartime performance of four democratic leaders who led their nations through great military crises. The case studies are of Abraham Lincoln of the United States, Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom, Georges Clemenceau of France and David Ben-Gurion of Israel. In the process of this analysis Cohen also distills the principles of effective wartime leadership.

Challenge of Change: Military Institutions and New Realities, 1918–1941

Harold R Winton & David R Mets

The Challenge of Change presents a series of essays that focus on military change during the Interwar Period, an era whose technological advances rival the complexity of the present Information Revolution. The contributors examine how US and European military institutions attempted to meet the demands of emerging strategic, political and technological realities.

Ripples of Battle: How Wars of the Past Still Determine How We Fight, How We Live, and How We Think

Victor Davis Hanson

An ambitious work that does not quite reflect its sub-title, but which has much that is interesting and thought-provoking. Taking Okinawa, Shiloh and Delium as his focus, Hanson looks at the ways in which these battles specifically and conflict more generally shape the individuals who fight them and the wider societies from which they come, and to which they return. The treatment of the three is a little uneven, but the epilogue which links them to the 11 September 2001 attacks and the subsequent War on Terror is an important attempt to impose some context and perspective on recent and current events.

Battle: A History of Combat and Culture

John A Lynn

Consciously fashioned in part as a refutation of arguments advanced by Victor Davis Hanson, Lynn agrees with the latter on the key importance of culture in shaping the ways nations fight, and on little else. In a series of case studies ranging from Classical Greece to the Egyptian assault on the Bar Lev line during the Yom Kippur War, he discusses the ways in which culture and warfare interact in different societies through the ages. He also argues that many societies have maintained a discourse or representation of war and military activity that is at variance with the realities of war in their time.

The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World

Rupert Smith

This contentious look at modern strategy begins with a blunt statement: ‘War no longer exists.’ The author—who rose to the position of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and before that held senior command in a number of major international theatres—explains this extraordinary statement by assessing the use of force in the modern era of conflict. His thesis is that it is no longer

the battlefield but ‘amongst the people’ that wars are fought and decided. The purpose of this book is as a call to arms for modern strategists to move beyond past attitudes about the use of military force and to understand that resolution is unlikely to come by military defeat of an enemy alone.

Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory & Practice

David Galula

Galula graduated from St Cyr in 1939 and fought with the Free French in the Second World War and in both Indochina and Algeria after the war. In keeping with a theme in French doctrine, he emphasises the psychological dimension and the need for intellectual flexibility and preparedness among counterinsurgent forces. His work also places particular emphasis on ‘the static elements of population security’ and of embedding the security forces among the population they are meant to assist and protect.

Winning the Next War: Innovation and the Modern Military

Stephen Peter Rosen

Winner of the 1992 National Security Book Award, *Winning the Next War* provides a critical analysis of the process of military innovation. Relying on case studies, Rosen compares the efficiencies of innovation in wartime and peacetime, and the effect of technological advances on the need and pace of adaptation. *Winning the Next War’s* primary contribution, however, is its understanding of the innovation process and the identification of the factors that shape the direction of military change.

Street Without Joy: The French Debacle in Indochina

Bernard B Fall

Fall was the best-qualified and most astute observer of the French war in Indochina, and this book provides an overall account of its course and conduct set in the context of revolutionary people’s war. Fall’s analysis was largely ignored by US planners for their own Vietnam conflict, with predictable consequences.

The Lifeblood of War: Logistics in Armed Conflict

Julian Thompson

Julian Thompson, a British brigade commander during the Falklands War, provides a sweeping overview to the principles of operational logistics. Thompson starts his study with an examination of the logistics of the Assyrians, although most of this case studies deal with warfare in the twentieth century. Through his analysis Thompson identifies the essential elements of successful logistics, and highlights the consequences when support fails.

Fiction

Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe

Published in 1958, this is the seminal African novel written in English. Often viewed as a reaction against Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, which treated African cultures as if undifferentiated and 'primitive', Achebe presents the beauty and complexity of Ibo culture and tradition. The benefit for the soldier in today's globalised world lies in the exploration of how other societies can view external influence as 'colonialism'.

Bugles and a Tiger

John Masters

This memoir of the twilight days of the British Empire in India serves as the background to a young subaltern's transformation into a professional soldier. Although Master's descriptions are Kipling-esque in tone, this work has a serious side—the development of leadership skills. *Bugles and a Tiger* recounts Master's experiences in India up to the outbreak of the Second World War. A sequel, *The Road Past Mandalay*, covers his part in the Burma Campaign against the Japanese.

Senior Officers

Non-fiction

The Dynamics of Military Revolution, 1300–2050

MacGregor Knox & Williamson Murray

Spanning seven hundred years, this collection of essays considers a series of military revolutions that have altered the basic context of waging war. The authors take a broad approach to their subject, addressing the social, political, technological and institutional change that shaped the evolution of the Western way of war. *The Dynamics of Military Revolution* is an important introduction to the subject of military innovation.

Masters of War: Military Dissent and Politics in the Vietnam Era

Robert Buzzanco

An account of dissent within the US military over policy regarding the Vietnam War, this book has enjoyed a resurgence of interest following the frustration of US policy in Iraq. The focus is resolutely on civil-military relations and high politics, and tends to tail-off in its discussion of the period after 1968. It provides an important revisionist perspective on policy formulation and relations between the highest levels of the US military and successive administrations, and is extensively documented.

Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S Grant

Ulysses S Grant

Written while he was dying of throat cancer after a controversial second term as President and a financially disastrous business venture, the *Memoirs* were intended to provide for Grant's wife and family. They focus overwhelmingly on his military career in the Mexican War and the US Civil War. With a clear and concise style not always found in military memoirs, the book was both a critical and financial success, and remains one of the key contemporary texts for understanding the Union conduct of the Civil War, especially in its second half.

Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam

HR McMaster

The author, who at time of writing the book was a serving member of the US military, has compiled a well-researched history of the actions of President Johnson, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara during the lead-up to the Vietnam War. Dense with recollections of actual correspondence and conversations, this gives an exhaustive—and damning—account of the slide into disaster. It leads the reader to consider what level of responsibility is held by both military and civilian leaders when it comes to the planning of military intervention and conflict, and at what stage a campaign gains its own momentum and becomes 'inevitable'.

Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies

Jared Diamond

The purpose of this book is to describe how the current world came into being. Diamond explains that it is geographic features that have shaped the current economic, social and political world in which we live. Geography, unequal distributions of flora and fauna, the advantages gained through early food production, population density, and dissemination of ideas and germs gave some cultures

huge advantages over others. Full of interesting facts as well as thought-provoking hypotheses, this book would be of interest to anyone looking for answers as to why the world turned out the way it did.

Hell in a Very Small Place: The Siege of Dien Bien Phu

Bernard B Fall

This is a magisterial account of the battle that ended the first Indochina war—and the French empire in Asia—by one of the most astute and knowledgeable authors in the field. Fall's account draws on extensive archival research, secondary literature in several languages, and wide-ranging interviews with participants who survived the siege. Still easily the best account available.

What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat

Louise Richardson

In *What Terrorists Want*, Richardson combines a broad historical overview with policy prescriptions on how states can defeat terrorist organisations. This is an authoritative work that covers terrorism in its entire context. Moreover, Richardson brings an unemotional, practical, dispassionate tone to her work that makes suggestions that are rationale and achievable.

Honorable Warrior: General Harold K Johnson and the Ethics of Command

Lewis J Sorley

Sorley presents a wide-ranging and thoroughly researched biography of the Chief of Staff of the US Army during the worst years of US involvement in Vietnam, 1964–68. Johnson survived the Bataan Death March in 1942 and was a deeply moral, highly intelligent and compassionate soldier. He fundamentally disagreed with the US Administration's conduct of the war, and wrestled with the idea of

'resignation in protest' that, towards the end of his life, he came to believe he should have done. The book charts the dilemmas of senior command in an unpopular, losing war and investigates the moral and ethical challenges this offers.

Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander

Gary W Gallagher (ed)

Commander of the artillery in Longstreet's Corps at Gettysburg at the advanced age of twenty-eight, Alexander was an engineer, artillerist and staff officer whose lengthy recollections provide a rich and varied account of virtually all the major engagements in the Eastern theatre of the Civil War, in nearly all of which he was personally involved. His closeness to the senior figures of the Army of Northern Virginia and his discussion of operations and personalities with candour and clarity make this an unrivalled Confederate perspective on the Civil War and ranks it as one of the key participant memoirs to emerge from that conflict.

Strategic Commander: General Sir John Wilton and Australia's Asian Wars

David Horner

General Sir John Wilton was one of the most significant senior officers that the Australian Army has produced, his career spanning more than forty years. It began before the Second World War as a graduate from the RMC and ended with command of Australian forces during the Vietnam War. As Horner outlines, Wilton's story provides lessons on a number of levels—staff officer and tactician, institutional manager and innovator, and strategic operator. Wilton's career also provides a case study on civil-military relations. As Chief of the General Staff (now Chief of Army) and Chairman of the Chief of Staff's Committee (now Chief of the Defence Force) Wilton was responsive to a series of Prime Ministers and Defence Ministers.

The Meditations

Marcus Aurelius

These ruminations are truly the definition of ‘timeless classics’—the thoughts of this great Roman general are, on the whole, still relevant today. Marcus Aurelius was not only a general, but also became a Roman emperor. These meditations are an insight into the mind of a great thinker who applied his philosophy to how he carried out his tasks in life, and modern military professionals would do well to do the same. Occasionally there are references to people or ideas that may not be clear to anyone but scholars of the era, but most copies will have notes to explain the more obscure ideas.

Fiction

The Field Marshal’s Memoirs

John Masters

Masters graduated from Sandhurst in 1933 and served with the Gurkhas and in the Chindits in Burma during the Second World War. He understood the British Army well and commanded at brigade level in action. A noted author of novels dealing with the British in India, *The Field Marshal’s Memoirs* was something of a departure from his main concerns. It investigates the difference between official accounts of wartime events and the complex and often messy reality that lies behind them, considered through a fictitious senior officer’s planned memoirs of the Second World War that threaten to upset a great many reputations and received wisdoms.

Topical Titles

We Were One: Shoulder to Shoulder with the Marines Who Took Fallujah

Patrick O'Donnell

We Were One's focus is on the tactical level of operations in Iraq. O'Donnell was embedded with a company of Marines who helped take Fallujah. The result is a turbo-charged depiction of combat in the urban environment that is not for the faint-hearted. In an age of asymmetric warfare, O'Donnell shows that there will always be a need for soldiers capable of closing with and killing the enemy.

Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq

Thomas E Ricks

Fiasco is an exploration of the decision-making behind the plans to invade Iraq and the actions, both on the ground and in Washington, once the invasion had begun. From the first sentence, this book is a denouncement of the whole Iraq 'adventure', which the author argues was based on bad premises and deceptions. Such misdirected reasoning led to forces on the ground that were never aware of the real nature of their mission, and muddled strategy that has led to unnecessary deaths and a country on the brink of civil war. This book, dense with information and analysis, will probably become the 'go-to' book for future readers looking for information about the Iraq conflict.

The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq

George Packer

Among the vast number of books on the current war in Iraq, *The Assassins' Gate* stands out as one of the best. This book's style is more literary than those that focus on combat operations, but Packer provides a broader interpretation of the sources and consequences of the conflict. Moreover, Packer is familiar enough with his subject to view the conflict from the perspective of the ordinary Iraqi.

Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone

Rajiv Chandrasekaran

A depressing but powerful account of the Coalition Provisional Authority's attempts—and self-delusion—to develop a new society in Iraq. Led by hubris and arrogance rather than knowledge or compassion, a group of people were recruited based more on their political affiliations than any knowledge or experience of Middle Eastern affairs, Arabic, reconstruction or often even the issues upon which they were meant to be working. They then attempted to rebuild a nation in the image they preferred, ignoring the realities on the ground or the day-to-day needs of Iraq, preferring to micro-manage and attempt to implement a privatised capitalist system on what had been for years a socialist society. This book reads as a how-not-to for anyone involved in the task of reconstruction.

The Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power

Max Boot

This book deals exclusively with US 'small wars', such as the Indian Wars, the war in Nicaragua, or the counterinsurgency fight in the Philippines. Boot casts his eye from these early battles throughout the twentieth century, up to contemporary small wars such as those in Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo, arguing that they all fit into a common, unifying theme—the spread of US power. The author identifies these wars as demonstrations of the resolve of the United States, or as punishments

for transgressions against the United States, and explores how they furthered US foreign policy. Boot argues that these small wars form a corpus of experience from which many lessons for today's operations can be learned.

Fighting the War on Terror: A Counterinsurgency Strategy

James Corum

This is a damning view of the US method of fighting an insurgency. Corum, a retired US Army officer with nearly thirty years experience and now a highly regarded scholar at the US Army Command and General Staff College, outlines what the United States has done wrong in the conduct of the Global War on Terror and highlights what it needs to do in order to save the situation. Corum offers more hope than other recent literature on Iraq, but he does not recoil from the depth of reform the US Department of Defense must undertake if it is to succeed.

The Passion of Command: the Moral Imperative of Leadership

BP McCoy

This work provides an excellent primer on battle leadership for junior leaders and sub-unit commanders. It contains the author's first-hand experience of preparing US marines for combat and maintaining unit cohesion in the face of the demands of combat. But more than this, it expounds the collective USMC wisdom on morale, ethos, marksmanship and physical and mental resilience as fundamental to success under fire. Its focus is unambiguously 'brilliance as the basis' and it provides valuable case studies and practical examples for young officers and NCOs to inoculate their troops against the hazards of close combat. It is written in a direct and accessible style and should be read by every soldier before deployment on operations or prior to serving in command of troops.

The Dominion of War: Empire and Liberty in North America, 1500–2000

Fred Anderson & Andrew Cayton

An ambitious analysis spanning five hundred years, it shows the means by which war and conflict shaped the United States, often in ways unintended by those who initiated them. Using nine individuals as their focus, the authors move US ‘minor’ wars—such as the War of 1812 or the Mexican War—to the centre of our attention. Overall, the book emphasises the imperial elements of US history and argues that the long-term patterns of US development look broadly similar to those of other large, successful states. It constitutes a sustained argument against the notion of American exceptionalism.

A Peace to End All Peace: the Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East

David Fromkin

This is an important book whose appearance substantially predates current events in the former territories of the defunct Ottoman Empire. It examines the ways in which the destruction of Ottoman rule laid the foundations for the modern Middle East and created or exacerbated the fault lines that have plagued international relations in the region in more recent decades.

Supreme Command: Soldiers, Statesmen, and Leadership in Wartime

Eliot A Cohen

Using four historical case studies drawn from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Cohen analyses the relationship between the highest levels of military command and political leadership at the civil-military interface. This is set against a discussion of the ‘normal’ theory of civil-military relations advanced in Samuel Huntington’s famous *The Soldier and the State*, which Cohen substantially revises.

Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam

Gilles Kepel

In this book the author explains the recent ascendance of militant Islam to a Western audience and argues that the terrorism we see today stems from the failure of Islamic fundamentalism, not its success. This book covers the growth and struggle of political Islam throughout the world and places events such as 11 September 2001 in a historical and socio-political context.

Australian Army History

The Australian Army is fortunate to have available an extensive and well-developed historiography. Provided below is a representative list of only a small part of the works that are available to those seeking a deeper knowledge of the Army's history, Corps, Formations and Units.

Shaping History: A Bibliography of Australian Army History Units

Syd Trigellis-Smith, Sergio Zampatti and Max Parsons

A Military History of Australia

Jeffrey Grey

The Australian Army: A History

Jeffrey Grey

The Australian Army: A History of its Organisation, 1901–2001

Albert Palazzo

The Forgotten War: Australia and the Boer War

Laurie Field

The Australian Frontier Wars, 1788–1838

John Connor

Making the Australian Defence Force

David Horner

An Atlas of Australia's Wars

John Coates

Australian Defence: Sources and Statistics

Joan Beaumont

Game to the Last: The 11th Australian Infantry Battalion at Gallipoli

James Hurst

Quinn's Post: ANZAC, Gallipoli

Peter Stanley

Crisis of Command: Australian Generalship and the Japanese Threat, 1941–1943

David Horner

At the Front Line: Experiences of Australian Soldiers in World War II

Mark Johnston

Alamein: The Australian Story

Mark Johnston & Peter Stanley

Bravery Above Blunder: the 9th Australian Division at Finschhafen, Sattelberg and Sio

John Coates

On Shaggy Ridge: The Australian Seventh Division in the Ramu Valley from Kaiapit to the Finisterres

Phillip Bradley

The Once and Future Army: A History of the Citizen Military Forces, 1947–1974

Dayton McCarthy

A Different Sort of War: Australians in Korea, 1950–1953

Richard Trembath

Conscripts and Regulars with the Seventh Battalion in Vietnam

Michael O'Brien

An Inch of Bravery: 3RAR in the Malayan Emergency, 1957–59

Colin Bannister

The Anzac Illusion: Anglo-Australian Relations During World War I

EM Andrews

Green Armour

Osmar White

Other People's Wars: a History of Australian Peacekeeping

Peter Londey

Arms and Schools

Signals: A History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, 1788–1947

Theo Barker

Craftsmen of the Australian Army: The Story of RAEME

Theo Barker

Guns and Brooches: Australian Army Nursing from the Boer War to the Gulf War

Jan Bassett

Signals Swift and Sure: A History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, 1947–1972

John Blaxland

Soldiers of the Queen: Women in the Australian Army

Janette Bomford

Australia's Military Map-Makers: The Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1915–1996

Chris Couthard-Clark

Australian Armour: A History of the RAAC, 1927–1972

RNL Hopkins

The Gunners: A History of Australian Artillery

David Horner

Duty First: The Royal Australian Regiment in War and Peace

David Horner

Equal to the Task

Neville Lindsay

Loyalty and Service: The Officer Cadet School, Portsea

Neville Lindsay

The Royal Australian Engineers, 1835–1902: The Colonial Engineers

RR McNicol

The Royal Australian Engineers, 1902–1919: Making and Breaking

RR McNicol

The Royal Australian Engineers, 1919–1945: Teeth to Tail

RR McNicol

Duntroon: A History of the Royal Military College of Australia, 1911–2001

Darren Moore

The Royal Australian Corps of Transport, 1973–2000

Albert Palazzo

A History of the Australian Military Postal Services, 1914–1950

Edward B Proud

To the Warrior His Arms: A History of the Ordnance Services in the Australian Army

John D Tillbrook

Little by Little: A Centenary History of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps

Michael Tyquin

The Other Enemy: Australian Soldiers and the Military Police

Glenn Wahlert

Redcoats to Cams: A History of Australian Infantry, 1788–2001

Ian Kuring

Formations

The White Gurkhas: The 2nd Australian Infantry Brigade at Krithia, Gallipoli

Ron Austin

The Silent 7th: An Illustrated History of the 7th Australian Division

Mark Johnson

The Magnificent 9th: An Illustrated History of the 9th Australian Division, 1940–46

Mark Johnson

Defenders of Australia: The Third Australian Division

Albert Palazzo

Units

Forward Undeterred: The History of the 23rd Battalion, 1915–1919

Ron Austin

To Kokoda and Beyond: The Story of the 39th Battalion, 1941–1943

Victor Austin

Our Secret War: The 4th Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment, Defending Malaysia Against Indonesian Confrontation, 1965–1967

Brian Avery

An Inch of Bravery: 3RAR in the Malayan Emergency

Colin Bannister

Gulf Force: Survival and Leadership in Captivity, 1941–1945

Joan Beaumont

The Thunder of the Guns: A History of the 2/3 Australian Field Regiment

Les Bishop

First to Fight: Australian Diggers, NZ Kiwis and US Paratroopers in Vietnam, 1965–1966

Bob Breen

The Blue & White Diamond: The History of the 28th Battalion, 1915–1919

Neville Browning

Nothing Over Us: The Story of the 2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion

David Hay

The Long Carry: A History of the 2/1st Australian Machine Gun Battalion, 1939–1946

Philip Hocking

SAS, Phantoms of the Jungle: A History of the Australian Special Air Service

David Horner

War Book of the Third Pioneer Battalion

MBB Keating

Bushmen's Rifles: A History of the 22nd Battalion The RVR

Neil Leckie

Militia Battalion at War: The History of the 58/59th Australian Infantry Battalion in the Second World War

Russell Mathews

The Team: Australian Advisers in Vietnam, 1962–1972

Ian McNeill

Vietnam Task: The 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, 1966–1967

Robert J O'Neill

Purple Patches: A Tale of the Sappers

TH Prince

Men of Beersheba: A History of the 4th Light Horse Regiment, 1914–1919

NC Smith

Forward: The History of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment

Joan Starr & Christopher Sweeney

Nulli Secundus: A History of the Second Battalion, AIF, 1914–1919

FW Taylor & TA Cusack

Land Warfare Studies Centre

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The General Sir Brudenell White Monograph Series

Schmidtchen, David, *The Rise of the Strategic Private: Technology, Control and Change in a Network-Enabled Military*, 2006.

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- 301 Evans, Michael, *Forward from the Past: The Development of Australian Army Doctrine, 1972–Present*, August 1999.
- 302 Ryan, Alan, *From Desert Storm to East Timor: Australia, the Asia-Pacific and the ‘New Age’ Coalition Operations*, January 2000.
- 303 Evans, Michael, *Developing Australia’s Maritime Concept of Strategy: Lessons from the Ambon Disaster of 1942*, April 2000.
- 304 Ryan, Alan, ‘Primary Responsibilities and Primary Risks’: *Australian Defence Force Participation in the International Force East Timor*, November 2000.
- 305 Evans, Michael, *The Continental School of Strategy: The Past, Present and Future of Land Power*, June 2004.
- 306 Evans, Michael, *The Tyranny of Dissonance: Australia’s Strategic Culture and Way of War, 1901–2005*, February 2005.
- 307 Morrison, James C., *Mechanising an Army: mechanisation and the conversion of the Light Horse, 1920–1943*, June 2006.
- 308 Hopkins, Scott (ed.), *Asymmetry and Complexity: Selected Papers from the 2005 Rowell Seminar and the 2005 Chief of Army’s Conference*, February 2007.
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- 310 Wegener, Andrew, *A Complex and Changing Dynamic: Afghan Responses to Foreign Intervention, 1878–2006*, April 2007.
- 311 Stockings, Craig, *The Making and Breaking of the Post-Federation Australian Army, 1901–09*, July 2007.

- 312 Keating, Gavin, *A tale of three battalions : combat morale and battle fatigue in the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade, Bougainville, 1944-45*, September 2007.

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- 101 Evans, Michael, *The Role of the Australian Army in a Maritime Concept of Strategy*, September 1998.
- 102 Dunn, Martin, *Redefining Strategic Strike: The Strike Role and the Australian Army into the 21st Century*, April 1999.
- 103 Evans, Michael, *Conventional Deterrence in the Australian Strategic Context*, May 1999.
- 104 de Somer, Greg, *The Implications of the United States Army's Army-After-Next Concepts for the Australian Army*, June 1999.
- 105 Ryan, Alan, *The Way Ahead? Alternative Approaches to Integrating the Reserves in 'Total Force' Planning*, July 1999.
- 106 de Somer, Greg, *The Capacity of the Australian Army to Conduct and Sustain Land Force Operations*, August 1999, reprinted October 1999.
- 107 de Somer, Greg, and Schmidtchen, David, *Professional Mastery: The Human Dimension of Warfighting Capability for the Army-After-Next*, October 1999.
- 108 Zhou, Bo, *South Asia: The Prospect of Nuclear Disarmament After the 1998 Nuclear Tests in India and Pakistan*, November 1999.
- 109 Ryan, Michael and Frater, Michael, *A Tactical Communications System for Future Land Warfare*, March 2000.
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- 111 Wing, Ian, *Refocusing Concepts of Security: The Convergence of Military and Non-military Tasks*, November 2000.
- 112 Ryan, Michael and Frater, Michael, *The Utility of a Tactical Airborne Communications Subsystem in Support of Future Land Warfare*, April 2001.
- 113 Evans, Michael, *From Deakin to Dibb: The Army and the Making of Australian Strategy in the 20th Century*, June 2001.
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- 118 Blaxland, John, *Information-era Manoeuvre: The Australian-led Mission to East Timor*, June 2002.
- 119 Connery, David, *GBAeD 2030: A Concept for Ground-based Aerospace Defence in the Army-After-Next*, July 2002.
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