

Jump TO Article



The article on the pages below is reprinted by permission from *United Service* (the journal of the Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales), which seeks to inform the defence and security debate in Australia and to bring an Australian perspective to that debate internationally.

The Royal United Services Institute of New South Wales (RUSI NSW) has been promoting informed debate on defence and security issues since 1888. To receive quarterly copies of *United Service* and to obtain other significant benefits of RUSI NSW membership, please see our online Membership page:

www.rusinsw.org.au/Membership



Jump TO Article

The formation & operation of the US Army Small Ships in World War II

by Ernest A. Flint

*Self-published: Coomba Park, NSW; 2013; 44 pp.; RRP \$15 (paperback)*¹

The United States Army Small Ships Section provided amphibious logistic support to General MacArthur's armies in the South West Pacific Area, especially in New Guinea, but also in the Philippines, in World War II. Some ships also later served in Japan during the occupation. The ships were mostly crewed by Australian civilians.

There have been two histories of the unit published previously, one in two editions – Bill Lunney and Frank Finch (1998), *Forgotten fleet: a history of the part played by Australian men and ships in the U.S. Army Small Ships Section in New Guinea, 1942–1945* (Forfleet Publishing: Medowie, NSW); Bill Lunney and Ruth Lunney (2004), *Forgotten fleet 2: an updated and expanded history of the part played by Australian men and ships in the US Army Small Ships Section in New Guinea, 1942-45* (Forfleet Publishing: Medowie, NSW); and Ladislav Reday (2004), *The Raggle*

Taggle Fleet (US Army Small Ships Association: Coomba Park: NSW).

This A4 booklet is a supplement to both previous histories. It is a compilation of relevant material not available when the earlier histories were published and expands their scope to also embrace the Apprentice School which conducted a one-month course for 15-year-old boys at Walsh Bay, Sydney, prior to their deployment to Finschhafen as crewmen in late 1943; and the Repair and Maintenance Section, which not only supported the Small Ships Section in New Guinea, but also the Australian Army Water Transport, and small ships of the Australian and United States navies. It commences with a brief summary of the history of the Small Ships Section by the author. This introduction is followed by copies of a miscellany of relevant documents which have not been published previously.

This booklet will appeal to historians of the period and descendants of Small Ships Section crewmen.

David Leece

¹Available from Captain E. A. Flint, 28 Tallawalla Road, Coomba Park NSW 2428, for \$15 (postage paid).