

It is frequently claimed that religion is the cause of more war than any other single factor. While I would dispute this on factual grounds, I am inclined to the view that an informed Christian perspective of the kind offered during the Great War can and does deliver a certain stance on a range of issues relating to the war and its conduct.

Christian notions of the dignity of individual human persons and the sanctified nature of life are integral to notions of social harmony and prescriptions for the proper exercise and limits of political authority. In terms of analytical method, a consciously Christian ethical outlook would, for instance, insist that we consider these concerns in the context of broad community discourse, both within the Church and in public conversations, as the nation state is a contingent entity lacking specific divine sanction for its actions.

The simplistic, over-confident, and naïve assertions and accusations of many Christian ‘commentators’, before and during the Iraq war, hurt the Church, the community and the ADF. They would do well to ponder the more thoughtful analyses of those who understood the individual and institutional evil that led to the warfare that was waged on a national scale after 1914. That same evil has yet to be banished from the human heart. ♦

Dr Tom Frame is the Anglican Bishop to the ADF and a prominent naval and church historian. This article is a modified version of an address delivered by him at the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon, to mark ‘Defence Sunday 2003’ (the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day). Dr Frame’s next book, ‘Living by the Sword? The Ethics of Armed Intervention’, will be published by the University of NSW Press on Anzac Day 2004.

association update

Vale Lawrie Clark

As we noted in the Spring 2003 issue of *Defender*, this year brought the passing of the last survivor of our three founders, the redoubtable Jim Harding. As the Association finishes its 28th year we record the passing of our first national president, Colonel L.G. (Lawrie) Clark, MC, on 07 November 2003.

Lawrie joined the ADA in its earliest days in the mid 1970s because he had a deep commitment to Australia’s national security. His leadership skills were soon put to good use in the original State branch in Western Australia. When the ADA went fully national in 1981, Lawrie stepped up from the presidency of the Western Australia branch to be our first national president. He was a source of much sage advice on the national council and held the presidency until 1989 when he was forced to retire only through ill health.

Although Lawrie’s ill health plagued him for the next 14 years he remained a staunch supporter of the ADA and was a particularly close reader of *Defender*. At Jim Harding’s funeral in July this year, although not at all well, Lawrie insisted on representing the Association and saluting Jim’s passing. This dedication to duty, in practice, form and spirit, was typical of Lawrie’s approach to life.

An outstanding junior infantry leader in Korea, he later served in Vietnam, including with the Australian Army Training Team (AATTV). He was officer commanding 1st Special Air Service Company, Royal

Australian Regiment, from 12 September 1960 to 23 June 1963, and later commanding officer of the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) from 13 December 1969 until 25 January 1972.

Lawrie’s other community commitments were extensive. He was a dedicated member of Rotary and a long-time staunch member of Legacy, the SAS Association and the AATTV Association. He also served as a councillor for the shire of Busselton.

His funeral at Karrakatta Cemetery in Perth on 13 November 2003 was attended by a very large group of family, friends, Army comrades and admirers, and included a representative of the Governor-General, a close friend. The SASR saw him off in fine style, both at the funeral service and at the celebration of his life held later at the SAS Association House at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne.

The Association was represented at Lawrie’s funeral by his successor as President of the Western Australia branch, Noel Monks, and by other longstanding members including Joan Dowson, Andrew Fraser Hobday and Kevin Bovill. The Association has also passed its condolences on to Lawrie’s wife, Pat, and family.

Our continuing tribute to Lawrie is the work of the Australia Defence Association and the cause he championed, as our National President for nearly a decade and as a dedicated member for another two. ♦