



Royal United Services Institute  
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

*A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia*

Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC  
Governor of Victoria



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## RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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## Season's Greetings

And Best Wishes for a Happy, Peaceful  
and Prosperous New Year



Australia's Federation Guard Precision Drill Team at the Fort Queenscliff Open Day on 17 November 2012, farewelling the Australian Army presence that has been continuously located at Fort Queenscliff since 1860.

### Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST (inc Victoria)	<a href="http://www.rusi.org.au">www.rusi.org.au</a>
RUSI Whitehall	<a href="http://www.rusi.org">www.rusi.org</a>
Dept of Defence	<a href="http://defence.gov.au">defence.gov.au</a>
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Australia Defence Association	<a href="http://www.ada.asn.au">www.ada.asn.au</a>
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	<a href="http://www.williamsfoundation.org.au">www.williamsfoundation.org.au</a>
Defence Reserves Association	<a href="http://www.dra.org.au">www.dra.org.au</a>
Defence Force Welfare Association	<a href="http://www.dfwa.org.au">www.dfwa.org.au</a>
Military History and Heritage Victoria	<a href="http://www.mhhv.org.au">www.mhhv.org.au</a>

## From The Secretary: Captain Martin Holme

Recent times have been taken up and consumed by **the move**. For some time, we have been aware that we were likely to have to move location but the activities of The Commission of Inquiry, down the corridor, caused everything to be put on hold. The Inquiry ended abruptly in early October and we were advised that we would be moving into that space in early November.

This was excellent news as we were rapidly running out of space and had nowhere to put our incoming books. With much more space in our proposed new quarters and the building of shelving and transport of our 15,000 books to be done professionally, we were very satisfied.

The date was set. However, at 1600hrs, on the eve of the move, funding for the project was withdrawn. We decided to carry out the move ourselves, as fast as possible – possession being 9/10ths of the law. A team of volunteers, led by Brian Surtees, set to and not only constructed the shelving but moved the 15,000 books over three hectic days. It was an astonishing achievement and those involved in the herculean task deserve great credit and praise.

Members of the Institute should be very proud and grateful for this dedicated band of volunteers who accomplished so much. We are also most appreciative of the support and assistance received from Defence Support, Victoria Barracks. We would never have achieved our splendid result without this help.

We now have sufficient shelving space to cope with anticipated expansion of the Library for the foreseeable future and space for a pleasant and comfortable area to read, browse and socialise.

I am sure that you will find our new HQ greatly to your liking. We encourage Members to visit and make use of the new facilities. We are also encouraging Victoria Barracks personnel to come and use the area. We feel this is a useful and friendly service that we can provide for Barrack staff. We may even attract some new Members!

The Annual General Meeting passed off smoothly with those standing being re-elected. COL Doug Knight did not stand as he is off overseas on United Nations duties, and was thanked for his services as a councillor.

The Annual Luncheon was a success and enjoyed by some sixty members and guests.

The last Address for the year was on Thursday 29 November, in the Shedden Auditorium, Victoria Barracks. Originally, Chief of Army, LTGEN David Morrison AO was to be the speaker, but circumstances made this impossible and his Chief of Staff, BRIG Simone Wilkie took his place, speaking on the topic "Command in Australia and on Operations – a Woman's

Perspective". It was a most instructive address and very well received by the audience.

Please note that our traditional informal Christmas Drinks will on 11 December from 2-30pm and 4-00pm.

### Future Program Dates

11 December Christmas Drinks  
20 December Office Closes  
29 January 2013 Office Re-Opens  
28 February 2013 – Lunchtime Address at Defence Plaza  
Speaker to be advised.

### New Members

Since our last issue we welcome the following new Members:

MAJ Tim Humphery; COL Bill Monfries;  
MAJ Murray Pearson; LTCOL Margaret Sorial.



### 'The Queen – God Bless Her'

RUSI VIC Annual Luncheon  
Guest Speaker: Captain Martin Holme  
Late, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's  
Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment)

### Geelong Branch News

The Branch continues to enjoy monthly Dinners at The Geelong Club, where the ambience is most suitable to the programme.

The first Dinner Meeting for 2013 is to be held on Monday 18 February, with Guest Speaker from the security industry, Mr Brett McCall.

Dress is Lounge Suit. The Dinner meeting is at the Geelong Club, 74 Brougham Street, Geelong. The evening commences at 1830 for Dinner at 1900. The cost is \$35 per head with drinks available at Club prices.

Bookings are required to be made - contact Mrs Margaret Barnes 03 5243 9569.

## From The President: Commander Warren Kemp



The Annual General Meeting of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria was held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> October at the Defence Plaza, Melbourne. The formal business was concluded expeditiously. With one exception the Council was unchanged. Colonel Doug Knight was unavailable as he will be overseas. His service on Council was acknowledged with thanks.

The AGM was followed by a most interesting address by Dr John Blaxland on the development of Australia's Security Services, from Federation until the present time, with emphasis on the important events that resulted in changes of approach or direction.

The August address about the replacement of the Caribou transport aircraft was given by Group Captain Steve Young, who told us all about the C27J Spartan. It will be most interesting to see whether the Spartan has such a long and distinguished career in the RAAF as did the Caribou.

In September we had another very interesting address by Mr Denis Baguley, CEO of the Shrine of Remembrance about recent developments of the building and gardens, with details of the new under-croft development and educational facilities for visitors. These extensions are located on the South side, and will complement the visitor facilities on the North side of the Shrine.

Also in September I represented RUSI Victoria at the annual National Council meeting of RUSI Australia in Fremantle, and was accompanied by Major General Mike O'Brien, in his position of National Vice President. Our National President, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie, chaired the meeting. At the meeting were the National Executive and Presidents of the RUSIs in the other States. The addressed the problems of the various State constituent bodies and co-ordinated the approach to these problems, our area being membership matters. Included was a most interesting visit to the Special Forces Museum and display at Swanbourne Barracks, and dinner in the presence of the Governor of Western Australia and his wife. The meeting was held in the RUSI WA rooms at Leeuwin Barracks, with arrangements in the very capable hands of their Secretary, Commander Otto Pelczar.

I have had the honour to represent RUSI Victoria on a number of occasions. August included Kokoda Day at the Shrine, the Monash Commemoration in Parliament House and Long Tan Day for Vietnam Veterans. The annual Battle for Australia Day was again held at the Shrine on 5<sup>th</sup> September. I also represented the Institute at the Defence Reserve Support Council annual awards presentations.

I cannot let Trafalgar Day pass without comment and mention the excellent dinner arranged by our Vice President, Lieutenant Commander John Redman, who is also the convenor of the Victorian Division of the Naval Officers' Club. In November I represented RUSI Victoria at a Reception on board HMAS Warramunga alongside Station Pier. At the annual Commemoration Service for HMAS Goorangai at Queenscliff in November, the Institute was represented by RUSI of Victoria Councillor Lieutenant Commander Jim Eldridge, Enough about the "Silent Service" for now!

The most significant event during the last few months has undoubtedly been the rather sudden relocation to our new premises, which began abruptly and was completed within a few days! I would like to record my sincere thanks, both personally and on behalf all members of RUSI Victoria, to each of the several members who volunteered to give their time and efforts to assist with the removal, which proceeded with expedition under the expert guidance and direction of Library Committee Member, Flight Lieutenant Brian Surtees, RAF, who kept us in line!

We are an educational institute and not a club, but we do have two social events during the year. The Annual Luncheon was held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at the William Angliss Restaurant. It was excellently prepared, presented and served by students at the College and we thank them for looking after us so well. The sixty members who attended enjoyed the occasion and the Occasional Address given by our Secretary, Captain Martin Holme, who marked the Royal Jubilee Year with recollections of his time at Balmoral, Scotland, as Captain of the Royal Guard.

Our other event is the annual At Home on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December from 1430 until 1600, when members are encouraged to call in to our new home and we also invite others from Victoria Barracks who have assisted us during the year. This occasion gives us the opportunity to mark the end of the year and the beginning of the festive season with best wishes and goodwill to all.

My greetings and best wishes are extended to each of you and I look forward to 2013 with the anticipation of another successful year in the history of RUSI Victoria.

Yours Aye,  
Warren

## Defence Establishments in Victoria

### RAAF East Sale

*Motto: Always Ready*

RAAF East Sale is currently the only RAAF Base in Victoria conducting flying operations. Tucked away in Gippsland, it is best known as home to the Roulettes Aerobatic Team of the Central Flying School.



#### PC9s of the Roulettes Aerobatic Team in Action

The Base has been a permanent flying training base since April 1943 when No 1 Operational Training Unit (1 OTU), flying Beaufort and Hudson medium bomber aircraft, was relocated from airfields at West Sale and Bairnsdale. The new base at East Sale was built to look like a country town when seen from the air, with both living and working accommodation resembling 'houses'.

During wartime, as well as aircrew training, East Sale based aircraft also undertook operational sorties around the south-eastern corner of Australia, mainly convoy escort duties and anti-submarine patrols.

From its opening until cessation of hostilities, over 3000 pilots, navigators, signallers and air gunners were trained at the base. (Gough Whitlam trained as a navigator on Hudsons.) Almost all of these crews later operated in Pacific theatre of war. Since World War II, air training has continued at East Sale and it has become the RAAF's main postgraduate flying training base.

More than 18 different types of RAAF aircraft have been based at East Sale. These include Beaufort, Hudson, Ventura, Oxford, Fairey Battle, Kittyhawk, Beaufighter, Lincoln, Mustang, Dakota, Mosquito, Chipmunk, Vampire, Canberra, HS748, Winjeel, Macchi MB-326, CT-4, PC-9 and Beechcraft King Air 200/350.

The RAAF Central Flying School was relocated from Point Cook to East Sale in 1947, with the primary role of training flying instructors. In 1962 CFS formed its first aerobatic display team, 'The Red Sales' of four Vampire jets. On 15 August the four Red Sales crashed in

formation after failing to recover from a aerobatic manoeuvre. All six on board were killed.

Successor display teams have been 'The Telstars' flying first Vampires and then Macchi MB-326 jets, and 'The Roulettes' flying Macchis and from 1987 the Pilatus PC-9 turboprop aircraft.

As well as the crash of the Red Sales, East Sale is associated with a spate of fatal Beaufort crashes in 1943, the mid-air collision of two Macchi MB-326 trainers of the Roulettes during aerobatic practice in December 1983, and the loss of a Boeing 707 of No 33 Squadron while on a training flight off the Gippsland coast in October 1991.

In 2008 Officers Training School (OTS) was relocated from Point Cook to new facilities at East Sale. This added a new role for the base as OTS brought with it the primary responsibility for all RAAF initial officer training.

There are thirteen ADF elements based at East Sale, together with aircraft and equipment maintenance and support contractors.

Major RAAF units are as follows:

- Headquarters Air Training Wing (HQATW),
- Central Flying School (CFS),
- No 32 Squadron (32SQN),
- School of Air Warfare (SAW),
- School of Air Traffic Control (SATC), and
- Officers Training School (OTS).

The Army is represented by A Squadron 4<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment.

No 32 Squadron operates eight King Air 350s as light transport aircraft and as training aircraft for the School of Air Warfare. Students trained on the King Air graduate as either Air Combat Officers for the RAAF or as Observers for the Royal Australian Navy.



**A Beechcraft King Air 350 of No 32 Squadron**

*Question: What is the connection between Gippsland and Afghanistan? Answer page 11.*

## Defence on a Tight Budget

The progenitor organisation of the RUSI was formed in 1832 at a time following the Napoleonic Wars when the British fighting services enjoyed little public interest or support and money for defence was tight.

A similar tightness is affecting the ADF in Australia today. In the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, there are a myriad of demands upon the public purse, and the May Budget saw a reduction of defence spending to 1.56 per cent of GDP, the lowest since 1938, with further falls anticipated.

### Budgetary Pressure

Despite being an immigrant country, Australia has an ageing population which means increased spending on aged care, health and welfare, and an increased dependency ratio. By 2050 it is estimated that the proportion of the budget represented by aged care, health and welfare will double. As the working population will be relatively smaller, tax rates will need to increase, and/or other government spending reduced.

In this context, the government is about to initiate major new spending on education and disabilities, the non-defence aspects of national security have received significant increases over the last 10 years, and new federal funding is required for spending on infrastructure. We can also expect higher expenditure on climate change related activities, not only abatement but adaptation.

### Strategic Considerations

As well as the reductions in the Defence budget, the government has announced the withdrawal of most ADF personnel from Afghanistan by 2014, and tabled the *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper outlining the implications for Australia of the economic growth of China, India and other Asian countries.

The paper makes the point that we are geographically close to the centre of the action. China is the world's most populous nation, has the second largest economy and is our premier trade partner. At current growth rates China's GDP is expected to overtake the US within a decade.

Japan has the third largest economy and is our second largest trading partner. Our closest Asian neighbour, Indonesia, has the world's largest Muslim population, and India is expected to pass China as the world's most populous country.

The economic growth of China, which underpins our current prosperity, cannot be assumed to continue uninterrupted. China's outgoing Premier Wen Jiabao is reported as stating that China's economic growth is 'unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable'. While this could be just the description of a capitalist system, it does not augur well for the future.

blocks to growth in individual developing countries are: corruption, property rights, climate change, food security, water security and in the case of China, an ageing population. Where growth falters and expectations are unrealised there is the potential for civil instability which could spill-over into conflict between nations.

As countries develop, a normal expectation is that they will upgrade and enhance their military capability. The emerging Asian middle class that can afford to buy our high quality niche manufactures and food, is also capable of maintaining and operating sophisticated weapons systems.

China and India, which share a border, and fought a brief border war in 1962, are both building up their military and naval forces commensurate with their economic growth.

There appear to be no immediate or even emerging threats to Australia, only greater uncertainty. As well as the uneasy relationship between China and Taiwan, there is scope for conflict between several pairs of countries having rival territorial claims to islands in or about the South China Sea.

The US has had a commanding naval and military presence in the region since WWII which is now being challenged by the emerging China. Australia appears to be caught between loyalty to its great ally and declining super-power, the United States, and its great trading partner, China, a communist state with a market economy dominated by state owned enterprises.

Former Prime Minister Paul Keating has often usefully reminded us of 'where we are' – next to Asia. But we must also not forget 'who we are', a western democracy with predominantly British institutions, and a diverse immigrant population. As well as sheltering under the US nuclear umbrella via the ANZUS Treaty, we have historic and cultural affinity with the US, the leading Western democracy. Although we are less religious, less litigious, less patriotic and do not feel that we need to carry guns, the Americans are very much like us.



**Lockheed F-35 (Lightning II) Joint Strike Fighter**

Australia's situation is not a dilemma but a challenging opportunity to play a constructive role in reducing the probability of conflict between the US and China, particularly conflict that comes from misunderstanding.

We need to practice clever diplomacy backed by a respected naval and military capability.

## Defence Policy

*Asian Century* ideas will be reflected in a foreshadowed 2013 Defence White Paper, will also incorporate the government's response to changes in US Defence policy, President Obama's *Pivot towards Asia*, which in the short-term for Australia will see 2,500 US Marines rotating through Darwin, and an increased number of USN ship visits to Fleet Base West.

Contemporary history shows that conflicts arise at relatively short notice and past notions of mobilization do not apply – 21<sup>st</sup> Century wars will be 'come as you are' affairs.

The ADF is primarily concerned with defending sovereign territory and national interests. To be a credible deterrent in its own right, the ADF must be perceived as able to inflict unacceptable losses upon possible aggressors.

As the geopolitical system is complex, adaptive and interactive, the government's defence policy may influence the policies of our neighbours. Capability gaps brought about by whatever reason, increase our potential vulnerability in the short-term, and in the longer-term could be perceived by our neighbours and allies as incompetence or complacency.

As well as having adequate capability and capacity, of naval, army and air forces, with no hollowness in the army, ships 'fitted for but not with', and more than just a 'boutique' air capacity, the ADF must be adaptable and agile, able to react at short-notice. Defence industry must be able to maintain, repair and adapt major equipment, and manufacture munitions and high usage spares.

While the ADF has a reputation as a professional high technology force that can punch above its weight. It has also been found wanting in the recent past, particularly in respect of naval amphibious capability, submarines and helicopters.

The long lead times associated with many aspects of defence are important. Top-end weapons systems, warships, aircraft and armoured vehicles, are extraordinarily expensive and have long lead times for selection and acquisition (10 years), and service lives of 30 years or more on hulls and airframes.

Speculative purchasing of untested weapons systems, like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, offers cutting edge performance and technology with a full service life, but with a multiplicity of risks: commercial risks with price and delivery schedule, technical risks with performance and reliability as well as associated strategic risks. Buying a proven weapons system off a current

production line, if this is available, for example the C-17 Globemaster III, offers known performance, known reliability and low commercial risks, but a higher risk of technical obsolescence. It is better suited to buying airlifters than combat aircraft.

Complex weapons systems generally mean more customised skills and longer training times for individuals and organisations, the latter reflecting closely integrated but diverse elements operating in a complex communication and control network.



**Virginia Class Nuclear Attack Submarine**  
(not currently a contender as a Collins Class replacement)

In determining force structure governments exercise judgement in balancing: the strategic assessment of current and future threats to the national interest, with the status quo, the cost of change and what we can afford. The budget itself is a trade-off against other calls upon the public purse and expected revenue.

## Budgetary Considerations

Government policy is implicitly made in the context of budgetary and domestic political considerations. In an inevitable reallocation of expenditure priorities governments will be faced with hard political choices.

Two programs in the firing line for adjustment are the RAAF's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and the Navy's Collins Class submarine replacement.

Australia signed up in the development stage for the F-35 JSF program, which offered a fifth generation fighter that could meet the requirements of all US Services and replace the ubiquitous F-16 fighter in most western countries. Development costs would be shared and spread over the 4,500 aircraft expected to be built. The RAAF would notionally buy up to 100 aircraft.

The aircraft was always expensive, but the expected cost has doubled, due to development problems on the one hand, and a significant reduction in the number of aircraft required by US forces. The acquisition is over budget and several years behind schedule. The RAAF is committed to purchase 14 aircraft. Australia may not be able to afford the full quota of 100.

The 2009 White Paper contained the ambitious and very expensive commitment to doubling the submarine fleet from six to 12 and building the new submarines in Adelaide.

*Continued page eight*

Until recently, conventional thinking has been that some fossil fuels would run out before the end of the century, and that 'peak oil' had probably been passed. ('Peak Oil' does not represent the end of oil, but the end of cheap, easily obtained, 'sweet oil' uncontaminated by sulphur.) Expectation and experience were the price of fuel would increase from both increased demand and an increasing cost of production. It was also thought that while natural gas reserves were currently plentiful, eventually 'peak gas' would probably occur later this century.

It now appears that the planet is not going to exhaust any of its fossil fuel reserves this century. They are a finite, non-renewable, resource and will run out, but not any time during our lifetimes or those of our children.

Shale oil and gas reserves in the US have been known about since the 1930s, but the means of economically exploiting them has not been available. Due to advancements in technology over the last decade, and increases in the price of energy, in the US shale gas development has become commercially viable.

The process to extract gas from shale formations thousands of metres below the earth's surface by horizontal drilling and the injection of water, sand and chemicals at high pressure, is known as hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'. A downside is that fracking may not be benign, and could be responsible for ground water pollution and the incidence of earthquakes.

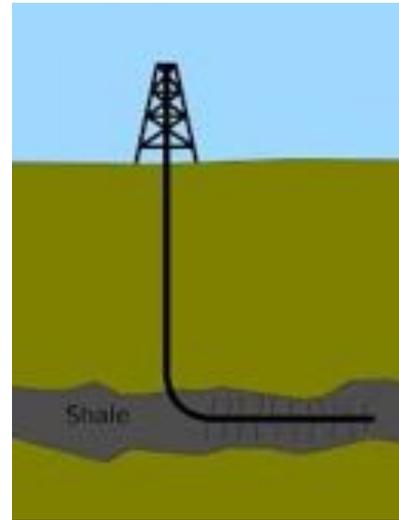
While there are shale gas reserves in China, East Africa, Australia and the UK, partly because of access difficulties, expensive logistics, and the need for a large volume of water to carry out fracking, it is only so far in the US that shale gas reserves have been fully exploited.

The game changer, is not that they have found gas that is commercially viable, but that they have found so much that the wholesale energy price is now less than coal. Cheap shale gas in the US is a game changer on several fronts: US energy security, climate change, and world geopolitics.

## US Oil Security

Tight oil accompanies shale gas. The US has also increased its available domestic oil output and reserves by using fracking technology to extract oil from existing oil fields that have been exhausted as sources of conventional oil.

And domestic sourced oil and gas is not all. The US is currently on track to achieve energy security within North America by 2020 by importing tar sand oil from Alberta's Athabasca oil sands, via the 2,000 km long Keystone XL pipeline to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. The Athabasca tar sands deposit represents oil reserves second only to Saudi Arabia. Bitumen is upgraded to synthetic crude oil before being piped to refineries. Exploitation of these reserves of unconventional oil, has only been made economic by increases in the world price of oil.



Although not commercially viable at current oil prices, the US has also has huge reserves of 'kerogen', a shale from which synthetic oil may be obtained after (currently) expensive treatment.

## Implications for Global Warming

In the US gas is now cheaper than coal, and if this cost differential persists, gas may become the primary fossil fuel for electricity generation. While carbon dioxide emissions from gas fired power stations are half that of coal, building new power stations will lock power companies into this emission level for the life of the new plant – up to 50 years, as opposed to switching to renewables – solar and wind energy. This represents a set-back for a significant long-term reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, and mitigation of global warming.

Gas generated electricity will compete with nuclear, solar, wind, tide and geothermal. The availability of cheap shale gas is probably the death knell for older nuclear and coal fired plants in the US, Europe and Japan.

## Geostrategic Implications

While the world will still be vulnerable to interruptions in oil supply or refinery output, the new US capacity should lessen the amplitude of future energy spikes.

The Middle East will lose some of its strategic importance, as the US becomes closer to achieving energy security. US Gas, when eventually available for export, will lessen the leverage Russia has in Europe by virtue of its gas supplies. Even if not exported, environmental impact studies are under way in several countries to examine the process for the US shale gas glut will affect us indirectly by reducing US demand for gas and energy substitutes on the world market and thereby putting downward pressure on world energy prices, including the price of Australian coal, uranium, and liquid natural gas, and the relative price of natural gas sold on the domestic market.

The shale gas phenomenon in the US has all the attributes of a 'Black Swan': rarity, extreme impact, and only retrospective predictability.

**Mike Rawlinson**

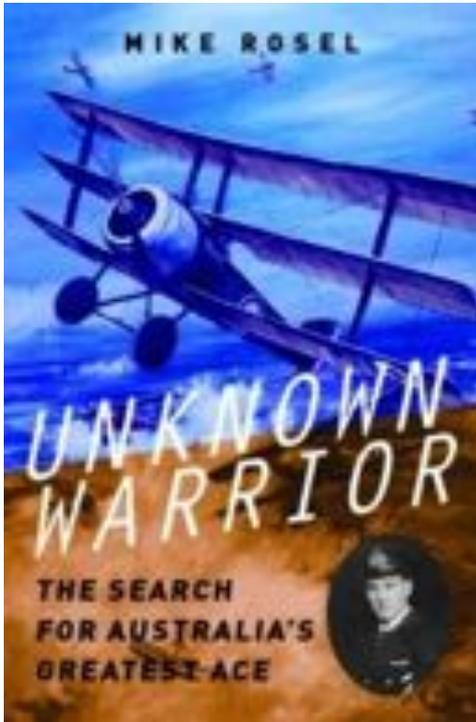
## Book Review

Mike Rosel

### The Unknown Warrior

The Search for Australia's Greatest Ace

Kew Vic: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2012.  
(RRP \$33.50)



GREATEST AUSTRALIAN AIRMAN KILLED. Mrs. D.R. Webb, of Northcote, has learned by cable of the death of her brother, **Captain Robert Alexander Little**, double D.S.O., double D.S.C., Croix de Guerre, &c. He was recently killed in France in a night aerial combat.

Though but 22 he had come to be one of the mightiest of air fighters. He was officially credited with the destruction of 47 enemy machines - a record among Naval Air Service pilots. The "Times" of Wednesday last speaks of him as "a fearless fighting pilot, mentioning in illustration of his fearlessness his climbing the cliffs of Dover on a foggy day to rescue a pilot who had crashed down there. Before he had a score of enemy machines to his credit the authorities, recognising his great ability, begged him to come and take charge of a great London aerodrome, where he could have imparted his know- ledge to others, but he refused.

He was an old Scotch College boy. His father, Mr. James Little, resides at Windsor.

Little was the most successful Australian flying ace of the First World War. Is he unknown? There is a short biography in that flagship of Australian biographies, *The Australian Dictionary of Biography*. He is aptly commemorated at Scotch College and the Australian War Memorial displays his record and one of his propellers.

The RAF Museum displays one of his 'machines', fully restored (though in the recent past not labeled as having been flown by Little). And a hall at the Australian Defence Force Academy is named for him, ensuring that generations of Australian officers of all services will have some knowledge of his exploits.

This full-length biography is welcome and a useful addition to our Library collection. Our thanks to the author for the donation of this copy.

### Defence on a Tight Budget *Continued from page six*

The government is considering several overseas designs to be built in Adelaide, together with local design and build options. So far the least-cost alternative of buying a lesser number of overseas built existing designs has not been considered, nor has the proposal of leasing US nuclear powered attack submarines.

When money is tight we need to get the best value possible for money spent on defence.

There is scope for Australia to have a constructive role in ensuring the stability, peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region. In the future much will depend upon how adroit we are at negotiating in the economic, geopolitical and diplomatic space between our great western ally and our great trading partner as she (China) emerges as a global power.

In times when there are no tangible military threats and the defence budget is under pressure the role of the RUSI in raising public awareness of defence and national security assumes greater importance.

**Mike Rawlinson**



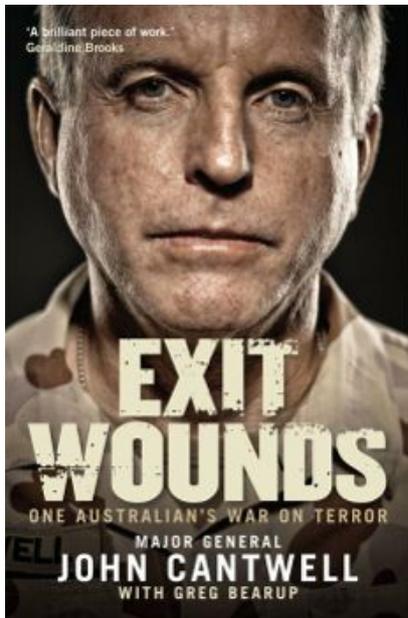
**Dr John Blaxland – October Lunchtime Address**  
*The Evolution of Australia's Security and Intelligence Organisations*

## Book Review

Major General (Retired) John Cantwell, AO, DSC with Greg Bearup

### Exit Wounds – One Australian's War on Terror

Melbourne University Press: Melbourne; 2012; 388 pp.; ISBN 13: 9780522861785; ISBN 10: 0522861784, RRP \$34.99 (paperback)



I have known John Cantwell for over a decade and have always found him to be a clear thinker, morally courageous and a true gentleman. His public revelation of suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder comes as a surprise to many, but those that know him recognise this as his next 'crusade'. Not just his own rehabilitation from PTSD, but an effort to try and 'fix' part of the culture that has developed within the Australian Defence Force.

*Exit Wounds* is a personal and insightful account of Cantwell's wartime experiences in the Australian Army. He was on the front line in 1991 as Coalition forces bulldozed live Iraqi troops in their trenches. He fought in Baghdad in 2006 as the Director of Strategic Operations and saw first-hand what a car bomb does to a marketplace crowded with women and children.

In 2010 John Cantwell was the national commander in charge of Australian forces in Afghanistan; and during this tour of duty ten Australian soldiers were killed. Cantwell returned to Australia in 2011 to be considered for the job of chief of the Australian Army. Instead, he ended up in a psychiatric hospital and retired in early 2012 after nearly 40 years of service.

As a young man from a large Queensland family, John Cantwell joined the Australian Army at 17 as a Private and rose to the rank of major general.

His career included Commanding Officer of the Royal Military College at Duntroon, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in Darwin, Deputy Chief of the Army, and Head of the Force Structure Review as part of the 2009 Defence White Paper.

He was also Interim Head (and later, Chief of Operations) of the Victoria Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, coordinating all Commonwealth, State and non-government efforts to recover from the deadly Black Saturday fires in 2009.

Cantwell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his leadership in action in Afghanistan, has been made a Member of the Order of Australia and an Officer of the Order of Australia, and received the United States Legion of Merit.

*Exit Wounds* is also a compassionate and deeply human account of life on a modern battlefield: from the nightmare of cheating death in a minefield, to the poignancy of calling home while under rocket fire in Baghdad, to the utter despair of looking into the face of a dead soldier before sending him home to his mother.

The book is laced with his insightful descriptions of his personal struggle over decades with post-traumatic stress disorder. He talks about losing soldiers 'entrusted' to his care. He has hidden his post-traumatic stress disorder for decades, fearing it will affect his career. And he is convinced that his plight is not an isolated one. Cantwell fears for the many sufferers that hide their challenges for fear of appearing weak or having their careers damaged.

After the experiences of soldiers who fought in South Vietnam in the 1970's, and after a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is remarkable that the issue of PTSD remains such an 'unspoken of' issue. The challenge is to overcome the stigma, to encourage veterans with emotional damage to seek help, and so start the healing process, without detriment to their careers. While some progress with the former has been made in recent years, the latter is still a work-in-progress.

Raw, candid and eye-opening, no one who reads this book will be unmoved, nor forget its imagery or words. Let us all support John Cantwell in this crusade to remove the stigma associated with PTSD and contribute to healing some of the scars of war.

**Marcus Fielding**

#### Check Your Bookshelves

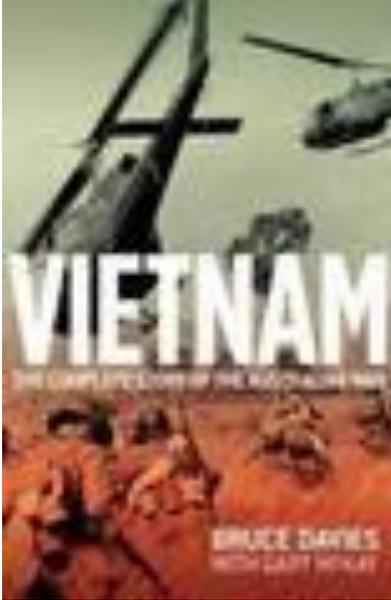
Do you have any of your own books on defence and military related subjects that you would like others to read? Why not donate them to the RUSI Library? They will be gratefully accepted, well cared for, and made accessible for members and scholars. All donations will be acknowledged in the Newsletter.

## Book Review

Bruce Davies MBE

### VIETNAM, The Complete Story of the Australian War

Allen and Unwin 2012 (690 pp, notes, index, b&w illustrations)



This book written by Bruce Davies in association with Gary McKay was officially launched by the President of the RSL Victoria at a Vietnam War exhibition held at the Melbourne Town Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012. It is Bruce Davies third book published about aspects of the Vietnam War and reflects the extensive operational experience of the author who completed three tours of duty to Vietnam, with I RAR in 1965-66 and with the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam for two additional tours in 1967 and 1969. It is not a "blood and guts" manual or a blow by blow account of every action Australians were involved in and the important theme of the book is a balanced and unbiased background view of the war and its causes as well as historical antecedents. It demonstrates extensive research which includes data from formally restricted US, Vietnamese and enemy documents available and translated after the war. Key players, both Allied and our former enemies involved in Australian actions, have been interviewed and have opened their records for perusal to provide an extensive authentic research base for this book.

Bruce Davies examines what others were thinking about Australia's efforts in the war and not all were complementary. Some readers will consider segments of the book as controversial as Bruce opens up some of the myths of the war however they will find that the main strength of the book comes from its wider view of the war and that includes the attitudes of Australian society and politics towards the war. This discussion is set chronologically in a seamless flow of strategic, operational and tactical facts.

The events leading up to the battle and aftermath of the battle of Long Tan have been analysed with the benefit of interviews and records from both sides. It makes for fascinating reading and sheds new light on this ferocious battle adding information identifying the Viet Cong units and giving their plans for the battle. Bruce's condemnation of the Imperial Awards and Foreign Awards systems follows the restrictive treatment of Long Tan officers and soldiers.

In his Foreword to this book, Major General Jim Molan writes that "Davies applies a forensic approach to history that he demonstrated in his previous books, but in a style which being both readable and academic, does not disguise his own, somewhat cynical view of the big political issues that shaped the war and its ignominious end. .. The real benefit of Davies book is not just as a well written and researched history in a more concentrated form than the official histories, but as an object lesson in how to win and lose wars, especially from the point of view of a small ally in a big war. Davies history, because of its brutally honest treatment of the Australian involvement in a previous unsuccessful war, is frighteningly similar to the situation Australia now finds itself in the final stage of the Afghanistan War. This history of Australia's involvement in Vietnam should have been studied ten years ago, when we had a real chance to win in Afghanistan."

Bruce Davies other two books on the Vietnam War, "The Men Who Persevered" a history of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam and his story of "The Battle at Ngok Tavak", are also held in the RUSI Library in Melbourne and the addition of " Vietnam , The Complete Story of the Australian War" provides a full coverage of the part Australia played in this War and is recommended reading for all.

**Ian McKeown**  
AATTV 1964-65

Title donated to the Library by the publisher.

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Please make cheques to the 'RUSI VIC Inc Library Fund'. Receipts will be provided.

## Victoria's Military History and Heritage

### Sale's Namesake

By Colonel Marcus Fielding

Sale is a city in the Gippsland region of Victoria with a population of around 14,000. Two famous Gippsland explorers, Paul Strzelecki and Angus McMillan, passed through the immediate area around 1840. The first white settler was Archibald McIntosh who arrived in 1844 and established his 'Flooding Creek' property on the flood plain country.

In the 1840s, drovers heading south to Port Albert crossed Flooding Creek and were confronted with the difficult marsh country around the Thomson and Latrobe rivers. A punt operated across the Latrobe River until a toll bridge was erected.

A new settlement named 'Sale' was gazetted in 1851. It was named in tribute to General Sir Robert Sale, a British army officer who won fame in the first Afghan war before being killed in battle in India in 1845.



**Sir Robert Henry Sale**

In 1838, on the outbreak of the First Anglo-Afghan War, Brevet-Colonel Sale was assigned to the command of the 1st Bengal Brigade of the army assembling on the Indus. His column arrived at Kandahar in April 1839, and in May it occupied the Herat plain. The Kandahar force next set out on its march to Kabul, and a month later Ghazni was stormed, Sale in person leading the storming column and distinguishing himself in single combat.

Ghazni was well provisioned, and on its supplies the army finished its march to Kabul easily. The British achieved a decisive victory over Dost Mohammad Khan's troops, led by one of his sons. In August 1839, after almost thirty years absence, Shuja was again enthroned as Shah in Kabul.

For his services during the campaign Sale was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath and received the local rank of major-general, as well as the Shah's order of the Durrani Empire.



**A British-Indian Force attacks the Ghazni Fort during the First Afghan War, 1839**

Sale was left as second-in-command of an occupation force of 8,000 in Kabul and conducted several small campaigns; ending with the action of Parwan which led directly to the surrender of Dost Mahommed Khan. By this time the garrison force had settled down to the quiet life of cantonments, and Lady Sale and her daughter came to live in Kabul.

But the new policy of the Indian government in stopping the subsidy to the frontier tribes roused them into hostility, and Sale's brigade received orders to clear the line of communication to Peshawar. Sale's brigade marched from Kabul in late October and after severe fighting entered Jalalabad on 12 November 1841.

During the advance to Jalalabad, Sale received news of the murder of Sir Alexander Burnes - a senior British political agent - along with orders to return with all speed to Kabul. These orders, for various reasons, he decided to ignore; suppressing his personal desire to return to protect his wife and family, he gave orders to push on, and on occupying Jalalabad at once set about making the old and half-ruined fortress fit to stand a siege.

On 1 January 1842, an agreement was reached that provided for the safe exodus of the British garrison and its dependants from Afghanistan. Five days later, the withdrawal began. The departing British contingent numbered around 16,500, of which about 4,500 were military personnel, and over 12,000 were camp followers. The military force consisted mostly of Indian units and one British battalion, 44th Regiment of Foot.

The column was attacked by Ghilzai warriors as they struggled through the snowbound passes. The evacuees were killed in huge numbers as they made their way down the 48 km of treacherous gorges and passes along the Kabul River valley between Kabul and Gandamak, and were massacred at the Khurd Karbul Pass before a survivor reached the besieged garrison at Jalalabad.

The force had been reduced to fewer than forty men by a withdrawal from Kabul that had become, towards the end, a running battle through two feet of snow. The ground was frozen; the men had no shelter and had little food for weeks. The remnants of the 44th were all killed except Captain James Souter, Sergeant Fair and seven soldiers who were taken prisoner. The only Briton to reach Jalalabad was Dr William Brydon.

Amongst those taken captive during the march were Lady Sale and her youngest daughter Alexandrina, along with her husband Lieutenant John Sturt and their newly born daughter. Sturt was fatally injured by three dagger wounds to the abdomen, with Lady Sale nursing her son-in-law in his final hours. Upon his death she secured him a Christian burial; he was the only fallen officer to receive such a burial.

Her courageous and defiant actions meant that she endangered herself frequently; she was shot in the wrist, with the bullet lodging there. After nine months in captivity, Lady Sale bribed the Afghan officers into releasing them, and then subsequently rescued by Sir Richmond Shakespear on 17 September 1842. Throughout her time as a captive, Lady Sale kept a diary, detailing the events of the ordeal.

A year later Lady Sale published her journal (*Journal of the Disasters in Afghanistan*, London, 1843) which documented her experiences throughout the campaign and the book became a best seller.



### Sir Robert and Lady Florentia Sale

Sir Robert Sale died in action at the Battle of Mudki in December 1845, leaving Florentia widowed. After her husband's death she received a pension of £500 per annum in light of her conduct as a prisoner and her husband's military services. She remained for the most part of the rest of life in India.

A SBS TV documentary in 2012 "Afghanistan: The Great Game" asserted that Sale was named after Lady Sale and not her husband, but in any event the naming of Sale is a lasting tribute to a remarkable couple and their incredible experiences.

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## Member's Letters

Editor,

I refer to Colonel Fielding's column on Major-General Charles George Gordon in the August RUSI VIC Newsletter.

Gordon entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in 1849. By coincidence there was another cadet named Gordon in his Term, born the same year, 1833. However, his namesake was removed from the Academy because of his indolent habits, temper and poor eyesight although he excelled in boxing and horse riding.

This other Gordon was Adam Lindsay whose father had been a captain in the Bengal Cavalry. Because of his post-Academy behaviour his despairing parents sent him out to the colonies. He was a police trooper at Penola, South Australia, then a horse-breaker, a steeple chaser; a member of the House of Assembly, Adelaide; failed in sheep-farming in Bunbury, West Australia; rented livery stables in Ballarat; had his poetry published that was popular but not financially successful and suffered some nasty falls at the hurdles.

On 23 June 1870 his *Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes* was published and he was told how much he owed for the printing. Next morning he walked into the ti-tree on the beach at Brighton and shot himself in the head.

Adam Lindsay Gordon is the only Australian poet honoured in Westminster Abbey. His bust in Poets Corner was unveiled by the Duke of York on 11 May 1934. The tablet reads "Adam Lindsay Gordon, Poet of Australia. Born 1833 Died 1870".

His statue in Gordon Reserve, Spring Street, is north of General Gordon's.

PS The statue of General Gordon has him looking south. Perhaps it should have been placed to face north because during the siege of Khartoum every day he would go to the top of the Palace with his telescope and look north for the relieving force that was to come up the Nile.

**A. Argent**

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## Library Notes

The Library has received a particularly generous donation of several hundred books by Colonel Marcus Fielding. These valuable books supplement our collection in many ways and fill some of our 'gaps'. The donation includes much recent material on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from several national perspectives, publications from the War Colleges of the US, US and UK doctrinal material and many valuable general military books and films. We are most grateful for this, the largest donation we have received in at least the least 10 years.

Cataloguing of this material is well underway but will take us several months to complete. We will produce a list of these new acquisitions so that members can take full advantage of them

The move of RUSI of Victoria (and its Library) to new rooms next-door but one, is complete. The new accommodation is much less cramped and better laid-out with greatly increased shelf space to house our collection. It has taken a considerable effort to complete the move, and I thank all involved, in particular Brian Surtees.

**Mike O'Brien**