



# The Brisbane Line



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**Royal United Service Institute Queensland Inc.**  
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**ISSUE: APRIL 2013**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Welcome** to the first issue of the RUSI Qld newsletter *The Brisbane Line*. On your behalf I welcome our new Editor, Mary Ross, and I know that all of our readers will support her in this role. I think that you will enjoy the new format and the content.

We have an exciting lecture program planned for 2013 and I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to either attend the lectures or review the summaries in 'The Brisbane Line' during the year. The lectures remain an important part of our service to members and the wider community – namely to promote an awareness in Defence and National Security matters. Certainly our first two lectures have set the scene. Our February lecture was a contemporary military capability expose on the Air Force's Heron Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, which is currently deployed in Afghanistan in support of coalition security operations. Our March lecture had a great historical flavour and reviewed the origins of our Navy and one of its great leaders. More to come during the year so please come along and bring guests with you.

We have another great bus trip planned in the first half of the year – this time to the Defence base at Canungra. See the Secretary’s notes for details.

I have previously advised you that RUSI Qld has partnered with nine other patriotic societies at the suggestion of our mutual Patron, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC. The Governor has guided our participation in a scholarship program with QUT that leverages off the address by Her Majesty at the opening of CHOGM in 2011 – it focused Commonwealth nations on progressing change through the efforts of indigenous women.

The program for the coming year was launched by Her Excellency on 28 October 2012 and is entitled **The QUT and Patriotic Societies “Women as Agents of Change” 2013 Scholarship for Indigenous Women.** The scholarship has been generously provided by QUT, with a small stipend to be paid to the recipient being funded through sponsorship and a dinner to be held in the recently refurbished Grand Ballroom at Brisbane City Hall on 11 June 2013. The dinner will be hosted by our Patron, with the recipient being announced by Her Excellency during the evening. I will advertise the event by flyer when bookings open, but I can advise that this gala event will be at a cost of \$140 per person, with bookings through a booking agency. Of course the event coincides with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty’s coronation (on 2 June 1953).

Our Vice President, John Forrest, represented RUSI Qld at a conference in Canberra on 12/13 March 2013. Jointly sponsored by RUSI National and Defence, the conference examined the role of Gender in Defence and Security Leadership. I am sure that John will report on the conference in due course.

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*“The four C’s of soldiering: Courage,  
 Commonsense, Cunning, Cheerfulness.”*

*Sir Douglas Baden-Powell*

## Notice Board

Deceased Members: Nil to report.

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## Secretary’s Notes

**The RUSIQ office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday of each week from 0930 to 1500.** The building and the Library will be open and staffed by our committee members or volunteer staff during these times.

Messages may be left anytime on the phone numbers or the email address.

Ian may be contacted anytime by his mobile phone 0418 878 205 or by email to [willoughby@qld.chariot.net.au](mailto:willoughby@qld.chariot.net.au).

Members please note that until the current constitution rules for the Institute can be amended at the next AGM, all cheque payments must be made out to the full title of “Royal United Service Institute Qld Inc.” At the next AGM an alternative “also known as” title of “RUSIQ” may be approved and from then accepted by the bank. EFT Payments may be made to our bank account at BSB 638-070 Acct No. 12221384. Please advise what the payment is for on the transaction and by email to the Secretary.

All members are requested to advise us of their Email address if they actively use one. This will help us to advise them of our activities throughout the year and save on the amount of postage and telephone calls. The Brisbane Line editions will only be sent to the Emails of those members who have nominated to receive it by this method. All other members will receive their edition through the post or on a Lecture day.

The combined President’s Lunch and Christmas Function was held on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in the Women’s College at the University of Queensland. The function was enjoyed by the 57 members and guests that attended.

Many commented on the standard of the feast provided and the friendly service by the staff of the Women's College. The event was also a celebration of the 88<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our long time member, Robert Chester-Master, who performed well for the enjoyment of all attending.

Our thanks to Peter & Margaret Mapp for organising the venue. Unfortunately they were unable to attend on the day.




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*“War is the continuation of politics by other means.”*

*Clausowitz*

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## 2013 Coming Lecture Program

Details of some coming lectures are to be finalised and confirmed.

15 May 2013: TBD

Topic: **“Cybersecurity, Cyberwarfare and the Tallinn Manual” Perspectives from an ICT Professional.**

Lecturer: **Prof Emeritus William J (Bill) Caelli AO PhD B Sc (Hons)**

19 June 2013: TBD

Topic: **TBA**

17 July 2013: TBD

Topic: **The Collins Submarine and the Future of the Submarine Force**

Lecturer: **Comd Ian Bray**

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*The Iris* Clovis, a 5<sup>th</sup> Century king of the Franks, owed a military victory to the iris. Clovis was trapped between enemy soldiers and a deep river. He saw yellow irises growing in the water and knew that place would be safe to cross.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, Louis VII adopted the purple iris as his emblem for the Crusades. The purple iris became known as the *Fleur de Lis* (Louis' flower) and was incorporated into the English Arms when Edward III claimed the French throne in 1339.

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## News Limited Reports Defence (In Summary)

**16 March 2013** In a report sourced from AAP, News Limited reported that that Army Chief Lieutenant General David Morrison, speaking at the RUSI in Sydney, said it was more expensive to restore capabilities than to sustain them. Australia should not downsize the Army or its inventory.

He said the Army was “in good shape, hardened and honed by war.”

The future of the Army should be to fight irregular forces such as the Taliban and to engage in land combat against the forces of a nation state in islands to Australia's north, according to General Morrison. (News Limited from AAP)

## News Limited Reports (*Continued*)

**2 April 2013 Defence analyst, Ian McPhedran** quoted former Prime Minister John Howard as admitting the US led coalition made mistakes in Iraq.

However, Howard had said Iraq was better off without Saddam Hussein and at the time, most people believed Saddam had weapons of mass destruction. Even Labor spokesman Kevin Rudd had stated such weapons were “empirical fact”.

McPhedran said former Defence chief General Peter Gration said the Iraq war was “immoral, illegal and unnecessary”.

He said United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan “virtually blamed” Australian weapons inspector Richard Butler for the Iraq war.

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*“Politics is the shadow that big business casts over society.”*

*John Dewey*

## LECTURES

**All persons in sympathy** with the aims of the Institute and all Service Personnel whether serving, in Reserve or Retired are always welcome at RUSI Lectures, irrespective of whether they are members. Cost is \$10 per person which includes a light lunch served at midday.

*Telephone Secretary: (07) 3233 4420 for information and luncheon bookings.*

## FEBRUARY LECTURE

Wednesday 20 February 2013  
R.U.S.I Hall, Victoria Barracks  
1200 for 1245 hours

## THE OPERATIONAL ROLE OF THE HERON RPA

### SQNLDR JOHN H JENKINS BSC(Hons)

John was born in Newport, Wales and attended Hartridge High School. During this time he developed his keen interest in guitar, rugby and aviation. John completed a Civil and Structural Engineering Degree at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

John joined the RAF as a Navigator in 1989. He graduated to Fast Jet streaming from the School of Air Navigation. In 1992, he started Tornado GR1 Fighter operational training after a fast jet upgrade course on the Hawk fighter aircraft. He was posted to his first operational tour, on 17(Fighter) Squadron, in Germany where his roles included the employment of nuclear weapons (cold war) and precision guided munitions (PGM) and Photo-reconnaissance (RECCE). He became the SQN SME (Subject Matter Expert) in Laser Guided Munitions and Laser Targeting Pods. **John was reposted to Germany in 1995 for his second operational tour on 31(Bomber) Squadron where he performed in the Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) role. He was selected for the Qualified Weapons Instructor Course at the RAF Fighter Weapons School, RAF Lossiemouth, UK. In 1997, John completed his third operational tour on IX (Bomber) Squadron, in Germany, as the Weapons Officer (FCI), Flight Commander and Standards Evaluation Officer. Altogether, He had six Operational Deployments to Saudi Arabia and Iraq on Operations Southern Watch and Desert Fox.**

From his base in Germany in 1999, John conducted Kosovo War Operations of eight hour PGM and SEAD missions into Serbia supporting UN operations with coalition packages. Later he was posted on exchange to the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) in Dhahran as a Weapons Officer on 7 Squadron, Tornado Operational Conversion Unit. John was the Project Manager for the introduction of the first RSAF Fighter Weapons School. In 2003, He re-toured to 83 Squadron RSAF as the Weapons and Training Officer. John has more than 3,500 flying hours in Tornado fighter aircraft.

## THE OPERATIONAL ROLE OF THE HERON RPA

Slide 1



In 2009, John transferred to Royal Australian Air Force and was posted to RAAF Base East Sale, the School of Air Warfare, as a Qualified Air Combat Officer Instructor. He was selected for Heron UAS training and posted on Operational Deployment to Afghanistan in 2010 as a Payload Operator with Task Unit 633.2.7 Heron UAS.

Slide 2



In 2011, on return from Afghanistan, he was posted to 5 Flight at RAAF Base Amberley to reinvest the corporate knowledge for the Heron UAS capability and the ISR/ EW combat role for the ADF. In late 2012, John returned from his second Operational Deployment to Afghanistan where he served as the Executive Officer of Task Unit 633.2.7 Heron UAS.

Slide 3

John is now the Executive Officer of No 5 Flight and he is a RAAF Qualified Air Combat Officer Instructor.

John lives in Brisbane where he is happily married with two adult children.



Slide 4

**BIO**

**SQNLDR John Jenkins ('Jenx')**  
5 Flight

**Background:**

- RAF Tornado GR4 & Qualified Weapons Instructor (QWI)
  - 7 OP Deployments Iraq (OP Desert Fox) - Saudi & Turkey
  - Weapons FLTCDR IX(B) Sqn – ALARM & LGB
  - Kosovo War Ops – RAF Bruggen, Germany
- Royal Saudi Air Force Tornado GR4 Secondment
  - Ftr Wpns School Instr (GR4, F-15C, F-15E & E-3 AWACs)
  - OCU Instructor & QWI (FCI)
- Royal Australian Air Force 2009 – Qualified ACO Instructor
  - OP SLIPPER – TU633.2.7 Heron RPA 2010
  - 5FLT Heron RPA - XO TU633.2.7 Heron RPA 2012

Slide 7

**Unmanned Aerial Recce**  
Not a new idea.....



We have simply made a few improvements!!!!  
.....hopefully

Slide 5

**BRIEFING OBJECTIVES**

- Expand understanding of the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Roles and Tasking
- Operational Role of the Heron UAS

Slide 8

**UAS TLAs**  
Three Letter Acronyms!

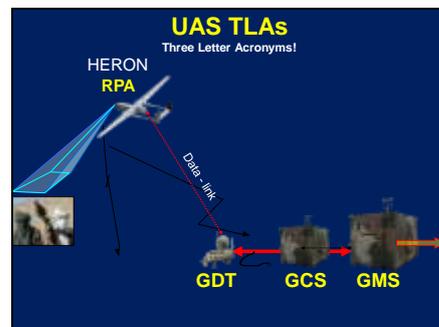
- UAS – Unmanned Aerial System
  - RPA – Remotely Piloted Aircraft (UAV)
  - GDT – Ground Datalink Terminal
  - GCS – Ground Control Station (Cockpit)
  - GMS – Ground Mission Station (Intel Centre)
- UAV – Unmanned Air Vehicle
- UCAV – Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle
- AVO – Air Vehicle Operator (Pilot)
- PO – Payload Operator (Nav / WSO)

Slide 6

**SCOPE**

- UAS TLAs
- UAS Tier Classification
- UAS Weapons
- Heron – Project Nankeen
- Heron System
- Heron Operational Role
- Discussion

Slide 9



Slide 10



Slide 13



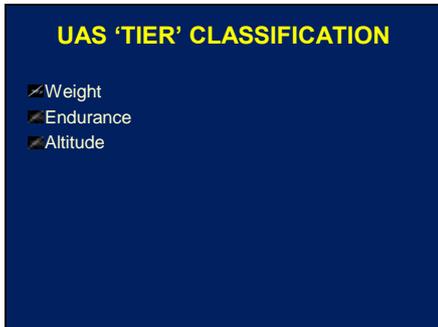
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Slide 14



Slide 12



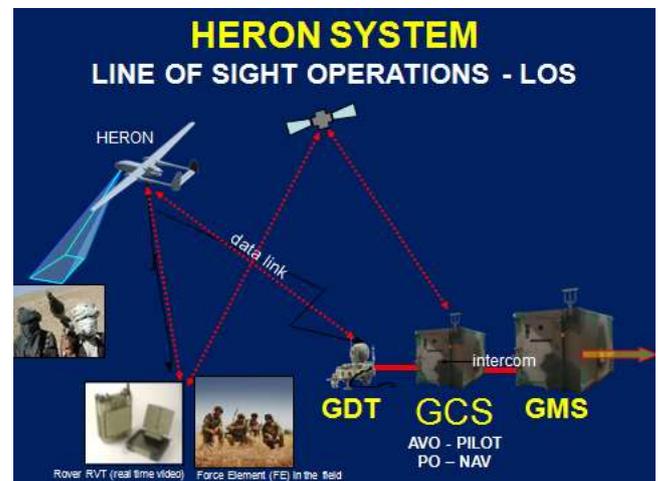
Slide 15



## PART 2

### HERON SYSTEM HERON SYSTEM COMPONENTS

- ✗ Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) – UAV!!!
  - Long-Range Electro-Optic (MOSP) Payload
  - Electronic Warfare (EW) COMINT Payload
  - Auto-Land System (ATOL)
- ✗ Ground Control Station (GCS)
- ✗ Ground Mission Station (GMS)
- ✗ Ground Data Terminal (GDT)



### UAS WEAPONS

- ✗ MQ-1 Predator
- ✗ MQ-9 Reaper (Predator B)
- ✗ Intensive Development - Small Yield Weapons (Collateral Damage)

### HERON SYSTEM MOSP MULTI-MISSION OPTRONIC STABILIZED PAYLOAD



### ELECTRO-OPTIC LONG-RANGE SYSTEM



**HERON SYSTEM**  
GROUND MISSION STATION

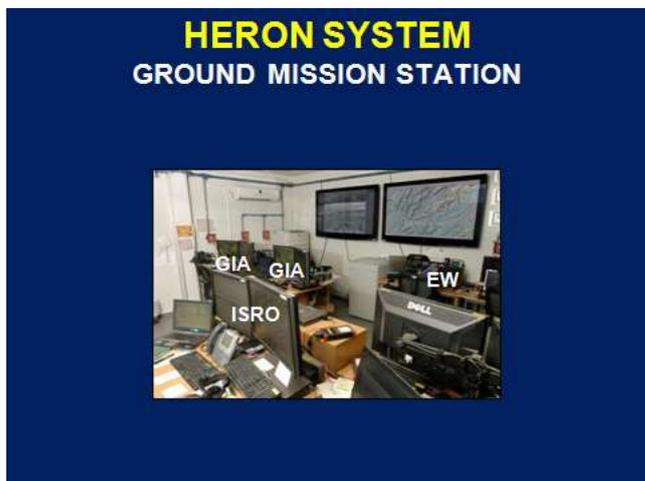
**GMS CREWMEMBERS**

- ✗ ISRO (ISR Officer)
- ✗ Geospatial Imagery Analysts (GIA)
- ✗ EW – Crew of 3+

**HERON SYSTEM**  
MOSP  
MULTI-MISSION OPTRONIC STABILIZED PAYLOAD

FLIR  
Electro Optical  
IR Laser Pointer

A diagram of the Multi-Mission Optronic Stabilized Payload (MOSP). It is a cylindrical device with several windows and sensors. Labels with arrows point to: 'IR LASER POINTER' (top), 'DAY SENSOR WINDOW' (left), and 'NIGHT (FLIR) SENSOR WINDOW' (right).



## HERON OPERATIONAL ROLES

- ✘ INTEL Gathering (ISR & EW)
- ✘ Pattern Of Life
- ✘ Overwatch
- ✘ Direct Support
- ✘ Command Tasks

## HERON OPERATIONAL ROLES

### MISSION OUTPUT

- ✘ Real-time day and night Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance (ISR) and Electronic Warfare (EW)
  - Patterns of life
  - Acquisition and assessment
- ✘ Force Protection - Over Watch
- ✘ Direct Action support
- ✘ Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination of ISREW to wider community

## HERON OPERATIONAL ROLES

### UAS Considerations

- ✘ Weather
- ✘ Airspace
- ✘ Deconfliction
- ✘ HMI Design
- ✘ Lost Link (none in 16,000 flying hrs)
- ✘ Operating Crews
  - AVO = Pilot (RAAF/USAF/RAF) – CF use Navs
  - PO = Sensor Op (experience/airmanship/SA)

## HERON OPERATIONAL ROLES

### REACTIVE TASKING

- ✘ Command Airborne Re-Task
  - Intel queuing of task
  - RPA relocation & airspace
  - Comms control – 'Eyes On ASAP'
  - Dynamic environment

## HERON OPERATIONAL ROLES

### GCS CREWMEMBERS

- ✘ Driving the RPA & Sensors
- ✘ Optimising Output
- ✘ Managing the Datalink & Sensor use
- ✘ Comms to FE

### GCS CREWMEMBERS

- ✘ FMV Analysis
- ✘ ISR Effect
- ✘ Post Mission Reporting
- ✘ Intel Map

## FUTURE?





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*“Just because I was born in Ireland does not mean I am Irish.”*

*Arthur Wellesley (Wesley)*

*1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington*

*Served in the Irish Parliament for the family*

*Borough of Trim (1790)*

*Irish Secretary (1808)*

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## **MARCH LECTURE**

**Wednesday 20 March 2013**

**R.U.S.I Hall, Victoria Barracks**

**1200 for 1245 hours**

**The Naval Brigade  
and**

**Sir William Cresswell, KCMG, KBE:  
Their Place in History**

Presented by

***CAPT Richard Arundel, RAN***

***And***

***CAPT Bob Hume, RFD\*, RANR***

## **CAPTAIN RICHARD ARUNDEL, RAN**

**Richard Arundel** joined the RAN as a 13 year old cadet in 1947 and spent 41 years in the RAN.

He specialized in signal communications and spent much of his career in naval and joint communications.

He was also Defence Attaché in Paris and Berne and claims to be the only sailor with a part disability pension for a skiing accident whilst on attaché duty.

## **CAPTAIN R.W.G. (BOB) HUME, RFD\*, RANR**

Bob Hume joined the Sea Cadets at age 14. Upon leaving school he joined the RANR. He was commissioned in October 1966. He spent 11 years in the Supply and Secretariat Branch, specializing in the Pay, Cash and Accounts area. He then transferred to the Special (Naval Control of Shipping) Branch. (Now known as the Maritime Trade Organisation) The last 5 ½ years as Staff Officer NCS at HMAS MORETON. He then transferred to the Naval Legal Branch, where he remains as an Active Reservist. He spent 8 years as Head of Panel of the South Queensland Naval Legal Panel. He has been posted to Singapore as senior Australian officer for an international NCS exercise; to the UK (HMS VERNON) for specialist training, and to the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, Bangkok, as part of the RAN presentation team.

As a Legal Officer he has acted as Prosecuting and Defending Officer at Courts Martial and Defence Force Magistrates Courts; Investigating Officer for the Inspector General ADF; and as Counsel Assisting at Boards, and Commissions of Inquiry.

In civilian life he is a “semi-retired” Barrister-at-Law. He has had a life long amateur interest in Military History. He is currently Chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Committee (South Queensland) and a member of the “Navy 100” Memorial committee.

## **The Naval Brigades, Sir William Cresswell, their place in our History**

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A couple of disclaimers before we start. Firstly, this presentation has been drawn from secondary and tertiary sources only, and, as a result it may contain inaccuracies, particularly in dates and numbers, please bear that in mind if you are checking this against the internet. The concepts and conclusions are, however, all mine. Secondly, I must admit to two ulterior motives, which I share with my colleague.

The first ulterior motive is that we are, unashamedly, advertising the upcoming dedication of the "Navy 100" Memorial at St Mary's Church, Kangaroo Point, on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2013.] Our work on that Committee over the last 2 ½ years has made us acutely aware of how little "real" appreciation there is of the massive contribution of the Naval Brigades, and Sir William Rooke Cresswell to the history of the RAN. We do believe that Cresswell's oft glibly quoted accolade as: "The Father of the RAN" is justly deserved. We are unashamedly promoting their memory. Notwithstanding our motives, we trust that you will find our presentations both entertaining and informative, and, perhaps a little provocative).

By "provocative", I really mean "didactic". To appreciate this topic, and the time to which it relates, one must adopt a completely different "mind set" to that of the present. Today, particularly since 1915 we live in a "Defence environment" dominated by the Army. Everyone in this room would have grown up understanding that the Chief of the Naval Staff's (now Chief of Navy) jurisdiction stopped at the high water mark as measured at the highest cadastral tide. That was not always the case.

To start we need a definition of "Naval Brigade": "A Naval Brigade is a body of Sailors and Marines landed from the Fleet to take part in Military operations ashore as both Artillery and Infantry, most usually under Naval Command". Whilst that is the "classic" definition of a Naval Brigade, one has to appreciate that in the Australian Colonies, the Organisations called "Naval Brigades" were differently composed, although their intended use was consistent with the classic definition.

To further put the Australian use of the term in perspective one must appreciate the "legal" difference between "A Militia" and "A Reserve"

Australia's first "Militia" dates from 1800 (The Sydney and Parramatta Loyal Volunteers). Part of that great British tradition of Volunteers. Like all Volunteer units its members were recruited for the defence of "hearths and homes" (ie what we now call "Homeland Defence"[slide] These men like several generations after them were recruited under the provisions of the "Militia Act"(as adopted in Australia, in essence without much amendment) This legislation dates back to the Middle Ages. In certain Australian circles the Militia Act was referred to as the "Koala Act"[ "Can't export 'em, and can't shoot 'em"]

From Elizabethan times to early last Century, the "Great British" Defence model was to have a powerful "blue water" Navy, backed by a very small "standing" Army which could be expanded in times of need. Expansion could be achieved by 4 means: recruitment at home; entering alliances; recruiting mercenaries; and recruiting native levies.

Expanding the RN was slightly more tricky, because of the skill sets required. You have all heard of the "Press gang"] last used in the Napoleonic Wars. This system worked well for one very good reason. Unlike the Army, the Navy has a "Civilian Equivalent", ie the Merchant Navy, including the Fishing Fleets. It was from this body that most of its "recruits", pressed or otherwise actually came. Changing social attitudes lead to the demise of the Press Gang, but the Merchant Navy, and the Fishing Fleet were recognized as the primary sources of recruits. In the 1850's the RN began to experiment with the concept of a "Reserve" of men, drawn from the Merchant Navy and the Fishing Fleets, (the concept of a Reserve of Ships was well recognized) who could be called upon as needed. Having no background with the limitations of the Militia Acts, the Navy was able to draft legislation which totally suited its needs. Definition: A Reserve is a body of men who can be called upon to render service (under set conditions) at any time, in any place, for any length of time.

The first RN Reserves were experienced seamen, it was not until the 1870's that the idea of a "Volunteer" Reserve made up of citizens from "off the street" was developed in parallel. The first Australian Naval Reserve may have been the NSW Naval Brigade founded in 1863 (?1864) or the Victorian NB in 1859. The Queensland NB was formed in 1873

Given this background, in Australia, the Naval authorities developed a three pronged approach to Naval defence. This consisted of a "regular" naval force, a small "Reserve" of seagoing personnel and a much larger force of effectively light artillery and infantry called the Naval Brigade.

There is no coincidence that the concept of a "Naval Brigade" was flavour of the month in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Australia. It can be argued that "Britannia ruled the waves" from 1805 to, at least, 1918, but certainly there was a Century of Naval Peace from 1815 to 1914 (only 99 years, I know) During that period there was only one occasion on which a ship of the RN engaged in a "ship to ship" conflict !! (HMS Shah against the Peruvian "Turret ship", the "Huascar", 1877)[ I acknowledge that other important Naval engagements did take place: several between South American nations and their colonial master Spain, and between themselves; the Austro-German fleet and the Danes at Heligoland; the Austro-Hungarians and the Italians at Lissa; and the Russo-Japanese battle of the Tshuma Straights)However, a Naval Brigade was landed to assist in **every** conflict in which Great Britain was engaged during this period: {List: Maori Wars, Ashanti War, Crimean War, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Opium Wars, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Anglo-Boer Wars, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sudan Wars, the Zulu War, the Matebele War, The Boxer Rebellion, Indian Mutiny, WWI {France and East Africa}and other minor conflicts, too numerous to mention!} Lord Nelson suffered all of his major wounds whilst either ashore as part of a Naval Brigade or whilst engaged in "Amphibious Operations", a preserve of the Navy until 1915.Also remember that, until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, an Officer of the RN when operating ashore, automatically rose one rank, whilst so engaged. That is, a Commander ranked with a Colonel etc, there was to be no doubt as to who was the most important.

By way of illustration of the point of the importance of the Naval Brigade, may I engage in some audience participation; "What was the manpower size of the British Army in 1853 when it went into the Crimean War?" (Answer: 25,000 men) "What was the size of the Russian Army that opposed them?" (Answer about 3 Million Men) "What was the manpower size of the Royal Navy" (Answer: 125,000 men) The British Army had "expanded" for this task by entering into alliances [with France, Turkey and Piedmont/Sardinia], it was busily "recruiting at home"(a slow procedure), there were no "mercenaries" available nor "native levies" to call upon, so they had to fall back upon their old standby, the Royal Navy. A Naval Brigade of several thousand men operated ashore throughout the Crimean War. "Name the first man to be awarded the Victoria Cross?" (Answer: Commander (later Rear Admiral) Henry James Raby RN, for his bravery in the trenches before Sebastopol.)

Also remember that the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the era of "Jingoism", if there was a problem anywhere in the world, the headlines in the popular press would immediately shout : "Send a Gunboat", they could have said "Send the Naval Brigade" [ that didn't sound as good as "Send a Gunboat" a much more "catchy" expression. "Modern Journalism??" ]

The reason for this statement is that wherever a Gunboat went it invariably sent ashore a "Landing Party" or, in reality, a "mini" Naval Brigade. This must have been a formidable sight. Each member was a "trained killer", who was very proficient in the use of all small arms (swords, cutlasses, knives, pistols, rifles, bayonets, and clubs), but they also landed with the soubriquets "Admiralty Pattern 9 Pounder Gun on Field Carriage" and, and of course the latest "Quick firing" device, also on a field carriage.

It is instructive to pause here to talk a little about the Navy's love affair with the Machine Gun. Very early in the development of this weapon, the Navy realized its potential. Firstly as an anti-personnel weapon against "Boarders", and, later as a "force multiplier" against "Tribesmen" (however described).

A couple of hundred Sailors armed with the latest rifle [Schniders, Martini-Henrys, Lee-Metfords, Enfields etc) was always a formidable sight. However if they were facing, say 10,000 angry tribesmen, the numbers didn't look that good. However add to the rifles a couple of 91 pounders and a couple of Gatling, Nordenfeldts, Gardiners, Maxims, or whatever, then one narrowed the odds considerably.

Whilst the popular press and the music halls trumpeted the pacifying influence of the Naval Brigade, and "Gunboat Diplomacy", let us never forget that it was a formidable weapon that was, on occasions, used very effectively, and that, unfortunately, usually meant "death, destruction, rape and pillage", and political subjugation to the British Raj.

All five Colonial Navies had a Naval Brigade. Most had depots and men located outside the capital cities (eg: in Qld: Brisbane, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, Cairns, Thursday Island) It was proposed to send a Naval Brigade to assist the British in the South African [Second Anglo-Boer]War (1899-1902) but the Boxer Rebellion in China (or, the 3<sup>rd</sup> China War) erupted unexpectedly placing "Western" interests in jeopardy. A large multi-national force ( Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, United States, and Japan) responded. Britain's global interests always meant that its resources, though vast and impressive, were widely dissipated so its contribution consisted of what was on hand (the ships and men of the "China Station" [Admiral Seymour]) and that which was closest (3 RN ships on the "Australia Station" {Wallaroo, Lizard and Mohawk}, and the Australian Colonial Navies. Indian native troops were also called upon.

Current engagement in the Boer War meant that Australian "Soldiers" were not considered for use in China. I could not find any explanation, in the "popular" literature accounting for the decisions of the Australian Colonies to send exactly who they did send!

The Naval Brigades of NSW and Victoria participated (no contribution from Queensland, South Australia or Tasmania) HMCS Protector was sent from South Australia (her crew was entirely "regulars" from that Navy) and Queensland contributed only one man: CAPT Creswell, also a "regular". I believe that Queensland did offer both Gayundah and Paluma but this generous offer was politely declined by the RN on the grounds that these ships were too slow for "modern warfare"..

HMCS Protector (commanded by CAPT Creswell, Commandant of the Queensland Navy) was absent from Australia for four months and one day. During that time she saw no "warlike action", but she was extremely busy. The Naval Brigade (commanded by CAPT FW Tickell of the Victorian Navy), on the other hand, left Sydney on the SS Salamis on 8 August 1900 and returned on 25 April 1901, during which time they too, saw no action, but were used as Security Guards, Police and Firemen, witnessing many atrocities, by both sides.

On the question of "pillage", referred to above, I wonder how many of you have visited the Wardroom at HMAS Penguin at Balmoral in Sydney and have seen the enormous Chinese cast bronze bell which sits on the veranda? This item was "liberated" from the Forbidden City by members of the NSW Naval Brigade. How an item weighing several tons was moved from Peking to Sydney in 1900 defies imagination. I am reliably informed that the Chinese Government makes periodic overtures to the Australian Government for the return of this Bell. Apparently it is one of a pair cast in the 1300's by China's most renowned bell caster, and is considered an item of immense cultural significance.

It is our contention that the participation of the Australian Navies in the Boxer Rebellion was far more pivotal than anyone at the time could have imagined. Despite the lack of "warfare" there was plenty of action, in which, it seems, the Australians distinguished themselves. 8 of the best Navies in the World were watching, and it appears that they were impressed (especially Admiral Seymour of the RN) by what they saw.

From this point onwards the cause of “A Navy for Australia” received the “official” ( by which I mean “Imperial”) backing that it deserved. Supply of Marconi Wireless Telegraphy equipment to the Queensland Navy in 1903, meaningful participation in the Imperial Defence Conferences of 1909, the grant of the title “Royal” in 1911, and the arrival of the “First Fleet” in October 1913;] all contributed to a unique situation in that arguably, Australia went into WWI as the most “modern” Navy in the World!

The NB story does not end with the Boxer Rebellion. Undoubtedly their finest hour was in August 1914 when they were sent to capture German New Guinea. The vagaries of the Militia Act (mentioned above) meant that the NB was the only body of troops who could be dispatched at short notice, to “a foreign country”, for an indefinite period. Almost the entire Australian Regular Army (then consisting of about 300 men) also participated, providing a number of the senior, and staff officers. On return from New Guinea, a large number, but by no means all, of these NB men enlisted in the First AIF. It is instructive to remember that Australia’s first casualty in World War I was a Sailor: a member of the Naval Brigade.

Recently, the RAN revamped its system for the award of “Battle Honours”, and HMAS Protector now enjoys the battle honours:” China 1900, and Rabaul 1914”.

Another reference to “pillage” is that generations of Australian Naval Officers (since late 1914) have been posing their letters from the Wardroom of HMAS Cerberus, in a magnificent enamelled Imperial German Post Box “liberated” from outside the German Colonial Post Office at Rabaul.

The Naval Brigade, consisting of several thousand men served throughout the First World War under that name. Most of you will be conversant with the record of the RAN’s most decorated unit, the RAN Bridging Train at Gallipoli. Their proud boast “First in, last out” was painfully accurate. After the Dardenelles they were chiefly engaged in maintaining, and operating the Suez Canal. Other tasks of the NB included Mine laying and Mine Sweeping, security of maritime installations, both at home and overseas.

The Naval Brigade continued as a separate entity until 1920 when it was amalgamated into the RANR, and a great tradition ended.

May I give you a glimpse at the careers of three individuals who contributed to that rich tradition: Commander Frank Gardner, Staff Paymaster Treacy, and Rear Admiral Bracegirdle.

Commander Frank Gardner RANR.

Staff Paymaster Treacy (“The Father of the RAN Supply Branch”).

Rear Admiral Bracegirdle.

Lastly, in 1914, Rear Admiral Sir William Cresswell was the Chief of the Naval Staff of the RAN. Captain Tickell, who commanded the Naval Brigade in China, was still serving as a Captain in the RAN. He had the honour of commanding HMAS Parramatta on her delivery voyage to Australia. (the cheapest and best “Value for money” ship of the RAN; and the first Naval ship ever to leave the ancient port of Portsmouth without a Rum Cask!) His title was “Director of Reserves”, a title which still exists, today, if in a somewhat diminished form. In 1914 it was a very important role as he was responsible for the mobilization of the Reserve and for recruiting into the Reserve over the next four years. In both WWI and WWII all personnel who joined the “Navy” “for the duration” were enrolled into the RANR (the legislation creating the RAAF, followed the RAN model and its “wartime” members were also “Reservists”)

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