



The Brisbane Line



A publication of the
Royal United Service Institute Queensland Inc.
Promoting Australia's National Security & Defence
 A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

ABN: 91 025 331 202

Tel: (07) 3233 4420

(07) 3233 4616

Email: rusiq@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.rusi.org.au

Victoria Barracks, Brisbane QLD 4000

Correspondence to:

Victoria Barracks Brisbane

ENOGGERA QLD 4051

Patron:

Her Excellency, the Governor of Qld, Ms Penelope Wensley, AC

Vice Patrons:

MAJGEN S.Smith, DSC, AM

AIRCDRE T. Innes

CMDR P.Tedman, DSM, ADC, RAN

Commissioner I. Stewart, APM

Management Committee:

President: AIRCDRE Andrew Kilgour, AM

Vice Pres (Ops) SQNLDR John Forrest, RFD (Ret'd)

Vice Pres (Admin) Mr Peter Mapp

Hon. Secretary LTCOL Ian Willoughby, (Ret'd)

Hon. Treasurer Mr Barry Dinneen, FCA, FTIA, JP(Qual)

Hon. Librarian LTCOL Dal Anderson, RFD, ED (Ret'd)

Asst Sec (Publicity) Mr Duncan McConnell

Committee : LTCOL Russell Linwood, ASM

CAPT Neville Jolly (Ret'd)

Mr Sean Kenny, ASM

Editor Brisbane Line: Mrs Mary Ross

Inaugural President 1892-94:

MAJGEN J F Owen, Commander Qld Defence Force

Past Presidents:

2009-11 AIRCDRE P W Growder

2006-09 BRIG W J A Mellor DSC, AM

2003-06 GPCAPT R C Clelland AM

2001-03 MAJGEN J C Hartley AO

1998-01 MAJGEN K G Cooke AO, RFD, ED

1995-98 COL The Honourable J Greenwood RFD, QC

1993-95 BRIG P P Smith MBE, RFD, ED

1990-93 BRIG R I Harrison MBE, RFD, ED

1973-90 GPCAPT P R Smith ED, AE

1971-73 BRIG F W Speed OBE, ED

1969-71 MAJGEN D R Kerr CBE, ED

1966-69 CAPT G E Hunt DSO, DSC*, RANEM*

1966-66 LTCOL G Holzberger OBE, ED

1965-66 GPCAPT J E Jackson

1961-65 BRIG J L Amies CBE, ED

1946-61 BRIG C A McEachern DSO, ED

1943-46 COL J Craven DCM, ED

1941-43 BRIG G V Moriarty CVO, MC, ED

VOL: 1 ISSUE: 3 AUGUST 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the August issue of the RUSI Qld newsletter 'The Brisbane Line'. After a month in Europe, Christine and I have missed much of our Winter. As you read this issue, Winter is on its last legs and Spring is just around the corner.

I missed our last lecture by Commander Ian Bray RAN on the Submarine Force, but I understand that it was outstanding. Our August lecture by Brigadier Steve Porter is an update on the redevelopment of the Army Reserve – for those who miss it you can read the summary in the next issue of Brisbane Line.

We have a Federal election on Saturday, 7 September 2013. With the economy centre stage one of the most significant National Security elements will be focused. Whatever the outcome of the election, we will be watching closely to see

how the winner deals with the significant issues facing our Nation over the next decade.

Our Annual General meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18 September 2013 following the monthly lecture. The AGM does not go for long and I encourage attendees at the September lecture to stay and participate in the meeting. I am pleased to note that we have again delivered a small surplus – the details will be delivered by the Treasurer at the AGM. This will be my last year as President as under our constitution one can only hold office for three years.

We are hosting the RUSI National Conference in Brisbane on 19/20 September 2013 – the planning for the event has taken some time for the Committee during the year. I'll provide a report on the RUSI National Conference in the next Issue.

Our membership numbers are down a bit as a consequence of members no longer being able to attend lectures. I continue to encourage members to introduce new candidates and, of course, make the most of your membership of your Institute. Remember that membership of the Institute is open to anyone with an interest in Defence and Security matters – previous military service is not necessary.

For those of you who pay an annual subscription, a reminder that renewal of membership is now due and should be paid to the Secretary. Details on how to pay were in the renewal notice sent with the last Issue.

We are offering distribution of *The Brisbane Line* in either electronic or hardcopy form, with hardcopy being the default. If you wish to receive 'The Brisbane Line' by email, then please let the Secretary know. Elsewise, it will continue to appear in your post or letter box as usual.

Finally, I look forward to catching up with you at the next lecture.

Andrew Kilgour AM
President

Secretary's Notes

Deceased Members: It is with sadness that we report the passing of the following long term members:

CAPT John MacDonald
MAJ Noel Vary and his wife Lyle
Mr Bob Rockett
FLGOFF Henry Candy

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. Please remember to advise Ian or Keith if you are planning to attend a Lecture to allow for catering of the lunch.

All members are requested to advise us of their Email address if they actively use one.

The Department of Defence Real Estate Contractor has advised us that the ongoing lease of the RUSI Hall will not be extended. It will only be continued on a Month by Month basis until a decision is made as to the future of Victoria Barracks – redevelopment or disposal. Either way, we will eventually have to move, and your Committee is investigating our options on this matter. **A condition of our continued short term use of the hall is that we warn you, our members and guests, to be careful when walking around the barracks because of the rough condition of the foot paths and the entrance to the hall.**

BUS TOUR

A tour of the Queensland Emergency Operations Centre is arranged for Thursday 17 October 2013. A bus will depart from Kedron Wavell Services Club (KWSC) at 0920 or Members and Friends may catch a Trans Link bus to the Kedron Brook Busway Station. After the visit the bus will return to KWSC for a buffet lunch.

Total cost is \$30 per person subject to sufficient attendees.

Please advise the secretary of your attendance.

PROGRAM 2013

18 Sep 2013: GPCAPT Geof Harland, CSC, -
Officer Commanding No 82 Wing.
Topic: Super Hornet

18 Sep 2013: 1430: RUSIQ AGM

19-20 Sep 2013: RUSI National Conference –
Brisbane

16 Oct 2013: CMDR Lachlan King, ADC, RAN
Topic: Australia's Amphibious Capability.

16 Oct 2013: Bus Tour QEOC Kedron

29 Nov 2013: RUSIQ President's and Christmas
Luncheon – Details to follow.

From the Editor

They say: "Never drive faster than your angels can fly."

My angels certainly flew hard the day a speeding car flew out of nowhere and totalled my car.

For a few weeks, my ability to keep up with *The Brisbane Line* was certainly not keeping up with the standard set by my angels: but a few broken bones, some wonderful paramedics, the tender administrations of hospital staff and I'm still here, grateful to be alive.

And *The Brisbane Line* is back on track.

Adventures in Information Technology are also proving fascinating and elucidating for me. Hopefully the mysteries of Microsoft and other communication technologies will vanish, giving way to a more efficient, interesting presentation and publication for RUSI members.

Mary Ross
Editor

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.

LECTURE REPORTS

Wednesday 19 June 2013

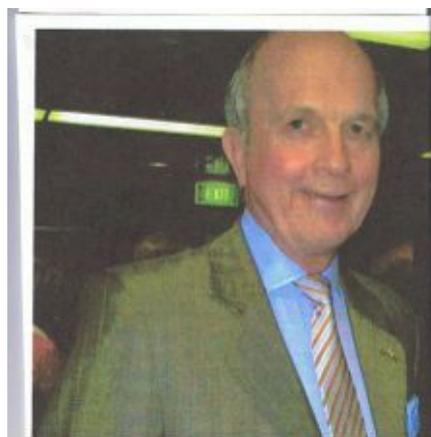
R.U.S.I Hall, Victoria Barracks

The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV)

Presented by

National President AATTV Association

COL Kerry Gallagher, AM (Ret'd)



Colonel Kerry Gallagher was a Regular Australian Army officer from January 1965 to December 2003. He graduated from the Royal Military College in 1968 and completed a BA in 1977.

The highlights of his military service for Australia as a regular army officer, are:

- Active Service in South Vietnam in Australia's most decorated unit, the Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV) (71 – 72).

- Selection as the first Australian Army major to attend the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth Kansas (68 – 69).
- *Appointment as and promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor Officer Cadet School, Portsea (82 – 83).*
- Selection to and appointment as Commanding Officer, to raise Australia's only parachute battalion, 3rd Battalion (Parachute), The RAR.
- Secondment to Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade and subsequently to the United Nations to assist the Australian Embassies and missions in Iran and Iraq (88 – 89).
- Appointment and promotion to Colonel, Chief of Staff 1st Division, including a further detachment to advise the United Nations on the establishment of a mission in Layoune, North West Africa.
- Appointment as Director of Training and Resources, Land Army, responsible for all combat training and training resources in the then 70,000 strong combat force.

Colonel Gallagher was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for developing the parachute capability for the Australian Defence Force ahead of time and below budget.

Awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1989 for UN peace keeping duties.

Awarded the President's Award of the federal Australian Medical Association for exceptional service.

Colonel Gallagher was the CEO of the AMA Queensland from October 1996 to September 2008 during which period he was responsible for several major developments for that organization. He then established Vanguard Consulting Services which offer high level consulting services to a select range of state and national organisations.

He recently became the National President of the AATTV Association.

Introduction

Clearly as the very new National President of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association, I was honoured to be asked to give this talk to RUSI today.

I must admit however that now, standing before you, I feel as nervous and naked, in terms of experience and competence, as I did on that Wednesday in early 1971 when I stepped off QANTAS Flight 177 at Tan Son Nhat International Airport as a very new captain and one in RAASC to boot! Recovering from food poisoning from a meal at King's Cross with Peter Cosgrove and Mick McDermott and then, still significantly ill, on the Qantas flight the first thing I was offered was a prawn cocktail! Maintaining a "presence" at the draft conducting officer on such a flight must never have been so hard! Nevertheless in true Team style as then, let's "persevere"!

The Beginning

Even before it deployed, **The Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, AATTV or just The Team**, was destined to be controversial. The first Commander of the Team, (then Colonel, later Brigadier) Francis Phillip "Ted" Serong graduated from the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1937 and in 1960, after a stint in the late 1950s as Director of Military Art, in which time he established the Jungle Training Centre, was posted to Burma to assist the Burmese Government with "some insurgency issues". This gave him the ideal background to be chosen as the first commander of the Team.

In 1962, the Menzies Government asked him to become the leader of a 30-man Australian Army Training Team, sent to South Vietnam to assist the Vietnamese armed forces resist the communist guerrilla insurgency. In true Serong blunt style however in an interview in 1971 Serong boasted, "I was aware of Australia's entry into the war before anyone in Canberra was aware of it!" When asked by the interviewer, in an attempt to draw out his CIA connections, if he was prepared to say how he was aware of it, he answered, "I got a message to come up to

Canberra and when I got there I was greeted with the news that I knew I was going to be greeted with; that Australia was going to intervene in Vietnam, a small token intervention!"

Serong arrived in Vietnam in July 1962, slightly ahead of the main body and was officially attached to the headquarters of the US Military Assistance Command (headed by General Paul D. Harkins) as senior counter-insurgency adviser.

Anne Blair, Ted Serong's biographer, wrote, "General Harkins did not believe in counter-insurgency, and he did not want an adviser."

Serong's relations with the US Army got off to a rocky start. On reporting to the huge US military headquarters in Saigon, General Harkins asked the Australian where he had previously served. Colonel Serong said, "Fighting the insurgency in Burma, Sir." Harkins said, "And how many men did you have in your headquarters?" Serong replied, "Two, Sir." General Harkins waved an expansive arm around, and said, "I have 500 men here." To which Serong replied, "But we were winning, Sir!" (*2)

Ted Serong's relations with the US Army's hierarchy did not improve, and he formed a healthy contempt for the widely held US Army view of Vietnam, that is, it was an opportunity for combat experience, which would lead to promotion.

On the other hand, he worked closely with the US State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, which operated an extensive and effective grass-roots operation against communist Viet Cong cadres in the villages of South Vietnam.

From 1962 until 1965, he shaped the Australian Army Training Team into a force with a remarkable record of achievement.

As I think about the directness that obviously was Ted Serong, I am reminded of this story "Well snarled the tough old general to the bewildered young soldier. "I suppose after you get discharged from the army, you will just be waiting for me to die so you can come and urinate on my grave?" The young soldier replied, "Not me sir! Once I get out of the army I'm never going to stand in a queue again!"

1st XXX

Serong was invited to select the first thirty Advisors and he did this from a list of 100 officers and 200 warrant officers and senior NCOs. He later said that nearly all were known to him personally and he selected the final thirty based on their combat experience and competence.

In actual fact thirty six members were selected for the first team, with the extra six being reserves. Initially the team's existence was "top secret" and they were assembled for a preparation and pre-deployment course at the School of Military Intelligence then at Middle Head in Sydney. Captain Barry Petersen, although he was not to be part of the final first team (he went to Vietnam in August 1963 to replace then Captain John Healy) recalled that the essence of the training became clear very early as, "during the first lecture the doors burst open, guards rushed in with batons, ordered all of the class to their feet and then less than gently forced each member to an underground prison consisting of individual bamboo cages. Water dripped from the roof and the walls were covered with slime. All members were stripped and then given prison clothes. Then the torture began. For the following week the members were subjected to sleep and food deprivation, interrogation, physical abuse and humiliation. This was clearly intended to prepare us for the possibility of capture in Vietnam!" (*2)

In contrast the subsequent jungle-training course conducted for the first team at Canungra was considered by most to be comparatively easy.

Over subsequent years while the jungle training course at Canungra became the Tropical Warfare Advisors Course and was a "qualifying" course, the "Code of Conduct" course gave way to the Vietnamese Colloquial Language Course conducted at the School of Languages and a Weapons Advisers Course at the Infantry Centre was added to the Advisors pre-deployment training.

Finally on 29 July 1962, the main body of the first team departed Sydney in civilian clothes and flew to Paya Lebar airport in Singapore where Ted Serong who had returned there from Saigon

met them and then to the British Army Barracks in Nee Soon. The Team were to spend four days at Nee Soon in final preparation. On 31 July Serong flew on ahead of the main body of the Team and received them, along with the Australian Ambassador, Mr B.C. Hill, at Tan Son Nhat airport when they arrived at 12.25pm on 3 August 1962.

While not having the time, not wishing to bore you with a long list of names, some of the more well-known names in the first team were: Colonel Mann, Major Fitzpatrick, Major Clark, Captain Tinkler, Captain Clunies-Ross, Captain George, Captain Hagerty, Captain Thompson, Lieutenant Gollings, Warrant Officer Quee, Warrant Officer Perkins, and Sergeant Hacking (First Team member killed – June 1963).

The Team were deployed to Vietnam nominally as Advisers but as Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Daly wrote, “The title “Training Team” is misleading, since many of its members were posted as advisers to commanders of South Vietnamese combat units while others occupied even more hazardous postings as commanders of Special Forces units – semi-guerrillas – operating independently far into the hinterland!” For these roles the Team had plenty of experience as all had served in Korea, Malaya or Borneo.

For the Teams initial deployment Serong had his way. He insisted they were all jungle warfare experts and therefore should be deployed to the jungle areas of South Vietnam not to the rice paddies. He did not allow them to be too concentrated, politically he could not afford to lose them all in one incident, nor did he allow them to be spread thinly across the country as General Harkin wanted. In the end ten members joined the American advisory team at the Dong Da National Training Centre in Phu Bai, south east of Hue; another ten joined the Vietnam Civil Guard Training Centre at Hiep Khanh, north west of Hue; two were attached to a village training centre at Da Nang; seven remained in the southern part of the country, four at the Ranger Training Centre at Duc My and three in the Australian Headquarters in Saigon.

Over the ten years that the Team remained in South Vietnam the disposition of its members was constantly changing with representation in all four Military Corps (later Regions) until close

to the end when all of the Team found its way to the training of Cambodian Forces in the south.

The Legend Commences and Continues

There are many chapters to the full story that becomes the Legend of the Team. It would be wrong of me however, not to relate at least one story behind the awarding of a Victoria Cross to a member of the Team. Amazingly there were four Victoria crosses awarded to Team members.

I will tell a Kevin “Dasher” Wheatley’s story. Warrant Officer Wheatley was posted to Tra Bong, thirty kilometres west of Quang Ngai in October 1965.

Dasher was known as a down to earth, fair bloke. His reputation for bravery had already been established. Earlier in 1965 he had been pinned down in a ditch by the overshots of South Vietnamese troops locked in a firefight with the Viet Cong. At the sound of the machine gun, a little Vietnamese girl had broken from her mother’s grip and run screaming onto the road near a US command post. When Wheatley saw the little girl, he jumped up, sprinted down the road, grabbed her in his arms and scrambled back to cover, shielding her with his body.

In the action that saw Wheatley awarded the VC, posthumously, Wheatley and fellow Warrant Officer Ron Swanton were crossing a rice paddy at the head of about sixty Vietnamese irregular troops when Viet Cong soldiers, dug in nearby, opened fire. Most of the irregular troops broke for the jungle in terror. One was shot and Swanton tried to carry him to safety while Wheatley covered Swanton and radioed Captain Felix Fazekas, the Australian Commander at Tra Bong, for support. Suddenly Swanton fell too, wounded with a bullet through the chest. Wheatley raced across the paddy and dived down beside his friend.

Fazekas and Sergeant Sershen, a US Special Forces soldier, rushed to Wheatley’s aid with the assistance of a few brave Vietnamese soldiers. Within 150 metres of Wheatley, Fazekas heard him shout, “God somebody help us, somebody do something!” Wheatley then began to drag his wounded comrade across the fire-swept paddy to cover, assisted only by a lone medic who had dashed across the field with bandages for

Swanton. The medic pleaded with Wheatley to leave Swanton but Wheatley refused. He continued to drag Swanton towards the jungle, miraculously surviving heavy machine gun fire. His ammunition ran out as he neared the jungle. At that point a Vietnamese private, Dinh Do, ran out to help Wheatley over the last few metres to cover. Later Dinh Do described the last moments alive of these two Australians in his statement supporting the recommendation for Wheatley to be awarded the Victoria Cross:

“My platoon started to run away when I saw Warrant Officer Wheatley half dragging, half carrying Warrant Officer Swanton from the rice paddy to cover. I helped him (Wheatley) in the last stages and asked him to run with us. He refused to leave his friend and he pulled the safety pins from the two grenades he had. I started to run when the VC were about 10 metres away. Then I heard two grenades explode and several bursts of fire!”

Meanwhile Fazekas had blazed a path across the open paddy to the hamlet, destroyed the enemy positions and returned to help the two warrant officers; both already dead. For his actions and rescue attempt, Fazekas was awarded the Military Cross.

The bodies of Wheatley and Swanton were found the next morning, lying together shot repeatedly at close range through the head and chest. Wheatley had been due home in two months. He was the first of the four Team members to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The public outcry over the Government's policy not to bring Australian bodies home, forced a policy change! (*2)

Another individual team member that I will outline is the much reported Captain Barry Petersen who arrived in Vietnam in August 1963 to replace Captain John Healy in the Combined Studies Division (code used in the early and mid-1960s for a para-military wing of the CIA) and was based in Ban Me Thuot in the central highlands. Petersen was given the task of supporting and supervising the operations of paramilitary political action teams of Montagnards in Dar Lac Province in the southern central highlands. This was to be the start of an intriguing and perilous adventure which was to last for two years and involved Petersen living in

some of the loneliest and most isolated areas of Vietnam.

Perhaps the least recognized role that Petersen played in 2 Corps/Military Region 2 was his significant and perhaps even leading role that he took in the Montagnard rebellion of September 1964. Montagnard resentment over the perceived Vietnamese repression of the Montagnard people around Ban Me Thuot and the ongoing loss of their traditional land, led to the Montagnard Special Forces groups in the area planning a rebellion against the Vietnamese authority and Vietnamese Forces in the area. Petersen's knowledge of and links with the Montagnard people enabled him to become aware of the growing tensions in the area and subsequently of the preparation of the Montagnard forces for action against the Vietnamese.

Over the next twenty four hours Petersen acted swiftly. He convinced Serong to travel to the area and bring a senior CIA officer with him. He also convinced the senior Vietnamese Commander to meet with the Montagnard leader, Serong, the CIA officer and himself. From this meeting a patchy but none the less effective resolution was reached which saw the Montagnards achieve a number of the concessions that had been seeking. Not all Montagnard leaders were forgiven but the truce held and Petersen's swift and decisive action had been in a major way, responsible for achieving a significant diplomatic and politically successful outcome. Truly, this action and the outcomes were well above that normally expected of the military and truly well beyond that for which his training had prepared him. Petersen went on to achieve much with the Montagnard Special Forces groups in the central highlands and saw him given the status of “chieftain” by these people. (*1)

Throughout the ten years that the Team was in Vietnam the Advisers worked quietly and effectively at their roles throughout the whole of South Vietnam, **and elsewhere**, achieving quite outstanding results and generally winning the admiration and support of both Americans and Vietnamese. No, the history of the Team was without its setbacks and “failures” but these were very much in the minority. These Advisers worked quietly and efficiently without support, often alone and often having to rely on their own

ability, training and resilience to succeed, to achieve and often to survive!

There are many other stories to the Team but time does not permit me to outline any more. Besides I wanted to have time to give you some personal reflections of my own, albeit very small, part of the history of the Team. Certainly, if I have given you any encouragement and incentive today to learn more about the Team, could I encourage you and direct you first, to three excellent resources. These being Ian McNeill's, "The Team"; Bruce Davies and Gary McKay's "Vietnam, The Complete Story of the Australian War" and Paul Ham's "Vietnam The Australian War".

Personal Reflections - Now to my story.

I arrived in Vietnam on St. Paddy's day and after a brisk circuit of the necessary administrative and logistic elements in Saigon I found myself in the Di An MACV Training Centre about 30 kilometres north of Saigon. Here I was given instruction on weapons that I was told I would need to be familiar with, although after Di An I never saw any of them again and then completed a Vietnamese language course where I was told that all I had learnt in Woodside would be useless, unless I was captured by a North Vietnamese unit!

After almost two weeks Di An, where I was truly amazed at how much straight vodka my American room-mate could consume throughout the day without either falling over or dying, I was delivered to the AATTV's Jungle Warfare Training Centre. This had been established at the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat in the recently vacated 8RAR lines, which was not to be replaced, as the Task Force wound back to two battalions. Here RF Company Commanders were trained in leadership, command and tactics, under an all Australian group led by Lieutenant Colonel Jim Sullivan. This was an interesting time but not half so interesting a time as when he was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) "Smiling" Keith Kirkland who introduced us to black web belts complete with brass keepers and mud gaiters which the "Boots GP" had been designed to replace! Yes interesting times.

With all the knowledge that a transport officer can bring to the training of infantry tactics, I became the Senior Instructor of Advanced Training Wing at JWTC. Surprisingly I really enjoyed the challenge and with the support, encouragement and late night tuition of Captain Terry Properjohn I suspect I even managed to sound competent and to win the minds of my Vietnamese counterpart, Captain Ho and the students; most of whom were significantly older and certainly more experienced than me.

In less than two months however Colonel Leary, the Commander AATTV and a highly respected no-nonsense officer, "asked" me to come to Saigon with my kit? In Saigon Colonel Leary told me I was to deploy to Pleiku initially, to take over the Night Operations Training Team (NOTT) from Captain Barry Calagari and then with Barry to relocate the team to Phu Cat on the coast just 40 kilometres north of Qui Nhon under the protection of the National RF/PF Training Centre there and in the shadow of America's largest in-country Phantom Air Base.

This was to be a great experience and learning time for me. I will not name them but at Phu Cat I had the great fortune of working with some of the most competent and trustworthy warrant officers I ever worked with across the whole of my army career. I lied; I will single out one, Byron (Ron) Cox. He was truly outstanding! Equally our "Provisioning" Warrant Officer could literally produce "blood from a stone". I must say however that I never fully got used to his sense of humour. On my arrival he secured an almost new and worth its weight in gold, American jeep! Later he confided in me the previous owner a senior American CIA officer, just after taking delivery of it, was shot and killed in it. He further confided to me, he had had to patch out the name stencilled on it when he picked it up. "The Hurse!"

One month into my appointment at Phu Cat, a senior Australian Infantry Captain, Jim Weiland, arrived from Australia at Phu Cat. He commenced the second NOTT and obviously became the overall commander of the NOTT outpost. Jim gave me immense freedom and from the aspect of learning the trade, I was very grateful for this. Jim ran the training at Phu Cat and I was responsible for the mobile NOTT

training and evaluation around the whole of the Military Region.

In late November again I was called to Saigon, again with complete kit. This time I was told I would be taking over from Captain Bruce Straker as the Adjutant of the Team in Saigon at Free World Force Headquarters. Again I was very pleased with this decision as I got to work with Colonel Leary, at least for a while, and with Warrant Officer Class One "Pop" Stanley, another truly outstanding soldier and probably had there been one at that time, he would have been RSM of the Army. Over the time I was Adjutant, I saw the whole of South Vietnam and all of the operations in which the Team was involved. In addition, there were a few privileges in the role; own jeep and own flat, complete with beer cartons to cover the gaps where previously there had been air conditioners!

I completed my tour here under Lieutenant Colonel Jim Stewart, previously deputy to Colonel Leary and who became Commander of the Team on Colonel Leary's return to Australia. Just before I left in early 1972 I handed over AATTV for it to become AAAG at Van Keip.

(Aside: The story of the beret and badge and Pop Stanley and COMAFV!)

Conclusion

During the 10 years it served in Vietnam, the 1000 Australians who served in "the Team" won four Victoria Crosses, two Distinguished Service Orders, and a further 108 military decorations for bravery. The Team was also given the United States Meritorious Unit Citation, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and individual awards from both US and Vietnamese Governments.

Now as the very proud National President of the famous unit, a unit that all Australians can justifiably be proud, I find myself looking both back to the past and forward to the future. In the past I can see the many warriors of the Team, strong, fit, young, upright, proud and independent! I look forward and that glint of "you will never break me" is still there, burning in the eyes of the Team but the bodies tell of the passage of time and the quickly thinning ranks

reinforce this message. I am at these times reminded of General Douglas MacArthur's words in his speech to Congress on 19 April 1951 in relation to his dismissal by President Truman,

"The world has turned over many times since I took the oath on the Plain at West Point and the hopes and dreams have long since vanished. But I still remember the refrain of one of the most popular barrack ballads of that day, which proclaimed most proudly, that old soldiers never die. They just fade away. And like the old soldier of that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away – an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the light to see that duty. Goodbye!"

Now just like the old soldier and just like MacArthur, the Team is beginning to fade away but the story and the truth of the Team will never fade away!

In finishing could I acknowledge the assistance I have sought and taken from two principal sources:

- The Team by Ian McNeill (*1), and
- Vietnam, The Australian War by Paul Ham (*2).

Kerry Gallagher
June 2013

LECTURE

Wednesday 17 July 2013

R.U.S.I Hall, Victoria Barracks

**Collins; The real facts and where
the Submarine Force is headed
with future submarines**

Presented by

CMDR IAN BRAY

Program Manager, Navy Minor Projects

Ian originally hails from Queensland where he joined the Navy as an enlisted sailor in 1975, initially qualifying as an avionics technician on jets of the Fleet Air Arm.

He was selected for commissioned rank and graduated from the Royal Australian Naval College, HMAS Creswell in 1980; subsequently serving in the destroyers BRISBANE, VAMPIRE and destroyer tender STALWART, gaining his qualifications as a Seaman Officer.

Ian volunteered for the Submarine Service in 1983 and after completing his initial training in England, joined HMAS OVENS and was awarded his 'Dolphins'. A string of submarine jobs followed; Torpedo Officer OTWAY (83/84), Navigating Officer OTAMA (85/87), Submarine and Surface Warfare Courses 1988, Operations Officer OTAMA (89/90) and OVENS (91/92).

In 1992 he was selected to attend the Royal Navy (RN) Submarine Command Course, known as 'Perisher'. He successfully completed the course at Faslane, Scotland, and returned home to take command of the Onslow. At the end of 1994 he once again returned to the UK for a two-year exchange on the staff to Flag Officer Submarines (FOSM) at HMS WARRIOR, NATO's UK headquarters. On successful completion of the RN Warfare Officer's staff course at HMS DRYAD, Ian commenced his duties with FOSM as the Staff Warfare Officer – Special Forces. He was responsible for joint and combined special operations planning and engaged in operations from submarines with the British 22 SAS Regiment, the Royal Marine Special Boat Service and the US Navy Seals.

Returning to Australia in 1997, he converted to the COLLINS class submarines and was posted as the First Naval Officer of DECHANEUX, a position he held for almost three years until her delivery to Fleet Base West in December 2000. Throughout 2001 Ian worked at the Defence Science & Technology Organisation (DSTO) in South Australia assisting in the development of the Undersea Battle Lab simulation in conjunction with the US Naval Undersea Warfare Centre (NUWC), at Newport, Rhode Island, United States. From 2002 until 2004 he joined Navy Headquarters in Sydney, as the Chief of Staff to the Commander Submarine Task Group. During this time he was also the Deputy Director of Exercise Kakadu 03, a joint 13 nation maritime force based from Darwin. His next job introduced Ian to the RAN Test, Evaluation & Analysis Agency (RANTEAA) at Garden Island, Sydney. However, during this posting he was also chosen for active service in the Middle East as the Military Liaison between US Central Command and Australian Joint Operations Command. Although based out of Qatar, this service took him on many 'field trips' throughout Iraq and Afghanistan with US Army and Marine forces, exposing him to ground warfare. Ian returned to his duties at RANTEAA in 2005.

In 2006, Ian retired from the Navy and joined the Australian Public Service at the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO), where he conducted performance audits on the Department of Health and Ageing. After gaining promotion to Senior Director in the ANAO, Ian was approached by Navy and subsequently accepted a job offer; rejoining the RAN in 2008. Ian is currently posted to NUWC Newport, Rhode Island, United States, as the Operational Requirements Manager in the Joint Program Office (JPO). The JPO is responsible for the development of systems and weapons fitted in both US and Australian submarines.

Ian's interests include maritime affairs, cross country skiing, computer gaming, cooking, V8 super cars, travel, international relations, history, theatre and film. Ian is married to Vicki, who is an Operations Research Analyst with DSTO.

Today's lecture is The Australian Submarine Force, the history of the Australian Submarine Force.

Our Navy will be celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Our Submarine Force will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year. Because submarines are complex machines, countries that operate them always have problems with them. Our first submarines got here almost a year after the fleet got here, in 1913, but that was an epic voyage for its time as no other submarines had successfully completed such distances.

What do submarines bring to the fight? Submarines are an offensive weapon. A submarine is an offensive platform. It is not a defensive platform. It goes to the enemy's front door where your friendly ships cannot operate, because those waters are held by another country. So potentially, submarines can go right into enemy waters to either spot them or to attack them without warning. That's the whole idea of a submarine: that you do deliver unexpected violence to an enemy's front door. There's nothing subtle about a submarine, once you give it the order to attack and conduct open warfare.

However, they make the opposition commit so much money, so much time and so much materiel to counter the submarine threat – if we have a submarine sitting off another country, that country would have to devote massive resources to find the submarine. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. They do deliver good value for money.

They are also a threat. In 1982 during the Falklands War the Brits let slip to the Argentineans that they had submarines sitting off the Falkland Islands. It was two or three weeks before they actually had submarines in the Falkland Islands but just the threat

of having a submarine prevented the Argentineans from sending their carrier to sea. For the whole conflict that carrier stayed in port.

A photo was displayed of the former HMAS Torrens being destroyed by a single torpedo during trials.

I just spent three years in Newport Rhode Island working with the Americans, because for over 10 years we have been in a joint armaments cooperative program with the United States so that their submarines and our submarines have the exact same torpedoes and combat system.

A skimmer is a term we use for surface people – because they skim along the surface.

There are only two kinds of ships – submarines and targets. And every ship has the potential to be a submarine – once. The TORRENS was sitting quietly in the water, but if a fully laden ship like TORRENS, fully flashed up, fully fuelled was hit by a torpedo, not one single person on that ship would survive. I had the honour to be the first captain of the DECHANEUX. I had her for nearly three years.

In 2004, I volunteered to deploy with US Central Command to the Middle East. I was based out of Qatar but I did lots of field trips out of Iraq and into Afghanistan. I have the greatest administration for anyone who wants to be in the Army, because being shot at is not fun.

I was in Afghanistan resting when a US Marine Colonel walked past. “Hey, what kind of a gun is that?” It was my weapon, and he called it a “gun”. “It’s a Steyr.” “Hey, you’re an Australian!” (said the Colonel – then noticing the insignia, “Hey, you’re a submariner!” “Yes Colonel.” “What the hell are you doing here?”

I left the Navy in 2006, but like MacArthur, I returned. The Navy asked me if I would consider coming back and after some thought I said yes and returned in 2008. I have just recently had three years in the United States. A revised Map of the World is displayed. It shows you exactly where Australia is. If you look at the world upside down and superimpose the map of Australia, it shows you we are very much the island continent and we have massive distances of water surrounding our country.

Australia is the only country that operates diesel submarines and regularly crosses oceans. Ideally, Australia should have nuclear submarines because of the distances involved, but we have no nuclear industry to support such an initiative and I doubt if the Australian public would accept it. Finally, the expense would be prohibitive.

Let’s talk about the history of our submarines. We had two submarines in 1914. They were AE class. At the time, they were cutting edge technology. Of interest to me, there were two submariners named Bray on the AE 1 and 2..

We then had the J class, after WWI. We then had two OXLEY class submarines, very briefly. Then the OBERONS in 1967 and now the COLLINS. The first thing you notice is the gaps. Every other country in the world that has submarines has operated them consistently. The Royal Australian Navy, no. For many years they were not considered useful. It’s mind-boggling to me that we had a 35 year gap where we had no submarine capability. If you look at Australia’s Order of Battle, every other Navy in the world, submarines come at the top of the Order of Battle, in our Navy it’s somewhere after patrol boats.

Both the AE’s were based in Sydney, built in the UK. They arrived in May 1914, just a couple of months before the start of WWI. They were about seven or eight hundred tons, the same size as a German WWII U-boat. For submarines to sail all the way from the UK to Australia, 12,000 miles, was unheard of, but those two boats did it. They had 1 torpedo forward, 1 aft and 2 athwartships. That is one facing starboard and one facing port, so that you didn’t have to turn the boat to fire at a ship.

AE1 was lost at sea just off Rabaul. She is listed as “still on patrol”. To this day, we still do not know what happened to that boat. If things go wrong with a submarine, things go wrong very quickly if you don’t react. AE2 was lost after getting through the Dardanelles. The first boat to get through the Dardanelles was an Australian boat. The next two were British. Their captains were awarded the VC. The captain of the Australian boat was not, and yet they were the first ones to do it. An Australian submarine got through the Straits of Mamara while troops were going ashore at Gallipoli and tied up the Turkish support ships trying to deliver supplies and additional troops to Gallipoli. After a few days of operating in Turkish held waters, she was shot by a Turkish gunboat, lost control and sank. The crew abandoned ship. They were captured by the Turks and spent the rest of the war in captivity. Four of her crew died in captivity. The reason the submarine was out of control, I think, is she was hitting batches of fresh and salty water and lost trim. A submarine is just an aircraft, but it’s under water.

We lost both our submarines during WWI, so we didn’t replace them. We then got six J class submarines just after WWI. These boats were obsolete when we got them. They weren’t very efficient, but they did come with a submarine tender, HMAS PLATYPUS.

After the J class, we had two more boats, and they were OXLEY boats, which were very good. In the 1930's they were returned to the Royal Navy, OXLEY being the first British submarine lost in WWII. She was in her patrol area off Norway and another British submarine saw her on the surface and mistook her for a U-boat and torpedoed her.

But then, we had a 35 year gap. Then we got six OBERON submarines. Every ship and submarine I've served in, except the DECHANEUX, is either scrap or in a museum.

Sydney was a great little base, but then we moved the submarine base from Sydney to Western Australia. This was done because if you have to go to war, if your operating from the West Coast, you just go North into South East Asia.

We're planning on building 12 new submarines. Most likely they won't all be based in one place. We'll definitely have six of them on the west coast.

So we were based west. Here are two of our COLLINS class submarines at Fleet Base West, and the outward boat there was my boat, HMAS DECHANEUX. They were much bigger, they can stay at sea for up to 70 days, that's based on food. They have great range.

If you compare an OBERON, they had no laundry, and few showers. We'd be lucky if we showered once every five days. You slept in a sleeping bag. Open engine room, which meant that the engine room was open to the rest of the boat. We stank of diesel.

By comparison a COLLINS class submarine: has a sealed engine room, proper bunks, proper sheets, you could shower as much as you want because the boat makes all the water you can use. There's no diesel smell. Completely different. About 3,500 tons, so they're the same size and tonnage as an ANZAC class frigate. It's basically an underwater frigate.

They have had their problems, which I'll talk about: but they are good boats. The whole idea of a submarine is that it's a big listening platform. You just suck in all the information you can listen to and you put all the data together so you can track the target.

COLLINS was commissioned in 1996, so we've used these boats 17 years, nearly 20 years. We've got a great deal of experience with these submarines now and they're doing Australia proud.

Submarine locations around Australia: Fleet Base East – Garden Island in Sydney. Navy Strategic Command has headquarters in Canberra, top

submariner and his staff. They do all the strategic planning for the Submarine Force. Down in Adelaide where I'm going is the Australian Submarine Corporation. They can build and do major maintenance on the submarines. I will be joining the future submarine concept design team. They will be assessing designs to replace the COLLINS. In Western Australia we have Fleet Base West, which is HMAS STIRLING, that's where half of our surface fleet is based. And that's all of our submarines. This is where our submarine headquarters is, and also where we do all of our training.

COLLINS: Commenced back in the early 1980's. At the time, it was a very brave thing for Australia to do. We'd never built submarines before. We didn't know what was required. We do now. Trust me.

When we had the OBERON submarines, they were built by the British, supplied by the British, all that sort of stuff. What we didn't realise with the COLLINS, if you own the submarine, you build that submarine, you own it. Then you've got to support it properly, to supply it: infrastructure, all that kind of stuff. We as a Navy, as a country, did not appreciate what was required to be the owner of a submarine. We do now.

That was one of the reasons the COLLINS had so many problems – it wasn't properly supplied. We didn't devote enough money to it. No-one appreciated what was required. And that gets back to that 35 year gap, that we didn't operate submarines until we had OBERONS, and then we didn't have to worry about ownership because they were British supplied.

When we built this (the COLLINS), this was the most modern submarine in the world. It was a very brave thing to do. It was the first submarine to be completely designed on a computer.

If you're not going to properly support a ship or a submarine – it's equipment, you end up with problems. The same thing applies to anything you design and build, like a car or a truck, or anything, of course, you won't get it right. Which is what happened with the COLLINS.

In the mid-eighties we had seven contenders for a submarine and the Americans were out of the game of building non-nuclear submarines. We had close ties with the Brits, so we went to Vickers. We had to make the submarine bigger (to carry the fuel) so we said "If you can put an extra diesel engine in, so we can carry more fuel, because we have to go across oceans, we'll take your submarine." Vickers told us where to go. They said, "We build submarines for the Royal Navy, if they're good enough for the Royal

Navy, they're good enough for you." So we ruled that out.

The Germans offered us a 2,000 tons submarine, which is 1,500 tons less than this (the COLLINS), it didn't have the range. It just wasn't suitable. The only boat that met our requirements was the Swedish Type 471 (the COLLINS).

We submariners were very surprised, back in the mid-eighties, when the government made the decision to build this boat. We were very pleased.

Could it be better to base the submarines further north? It could be (because of the range) but you don't really want to be having a major base in the north of Australia as a permanent fixture because of tropical cyclones. If you look at Darwin as an example, Darwin was attacked by the Japanese in WWII – and was wiped out by a storm (Cyclone Tracey). So you don't want to have any major infrastructure in the North. You can have forward infrastructure – wharves etc. stationed in the northern areas where you can use them, but not anything major.

COLLINS is a big boat. It's a big submarine. It has to be because of that range.

Another weird thing that we did with the COLLINS class was the diesel generators. You'd think that we would go and buy a proven diesel. We took a proven 16 cylinder engine and added two more cylinders. We ended up with a 19 unique 18 cylinder diesels. You're asking for mechanical problems there right from the start. 18 engines are in the COLLINS, three per boat and the 19th is used for training ashore.

We then had problems with the electrical generators. We've since fixed all that. We've had some main motor issues – the actual main motor which drives the submarine through the water – we've addressed that.

They were the main three things that really affected the COLLINS. Everything else, we solved and they worked pretty well. Some extremely well. It was actually the bits that push the submarine through the water that we had the major problems with.

One of the big success stories of this boat is its platform operating system. It is basically a push button system that operates all the electrics, mechanical and diesel systems. It's all on a computer screen, so you've got one person operating all those systems on the boat.

When we go away, we don't communicate with anybody. We don't transmit. If we receive communication from Australia, we never answer,

because if we answered, we would give the position away.

If you're the captain of a surface ship, you're always in constant communications with the shore or in the company of other ships and you can always defer to somebody else if you need to make a decision. The commander of a deployed submarine does not have that safety net. They just have to be trusted to get the job done and bring the ship safely back.

The torpedo and the combat system are the two major items we share with the US Navy. The US Navy have the exact same weapons as our COLLINS class.

The submarine can carry up to 65 crew – 58 permanent and seven extra billets for trainees and sea riders.

Our submarines were named after great people. I'll talk about my boat, the DECHANEUX.

Dechaineux was the captain of heavy cruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA during World War 2. Commodore John Collins was on board the ship at that time. The ship was attacked by a kamikaze and that crashed into the bridge. Captain Dechaineux refused medical help until his crew were given medical help. He died of his wounds because he wouldn't accept any medical assistance. About 80 people were killed or injured on board the AUSTRALIA.

The boat's motto is Fearless and Ferocious, which is a description of Dechaineux himself. He was loved by his men.

A modern diesel electric submarine is like a power house. It's there to generate electricity. You run the diesel engines, stick a snorkel up just above the surface of the water, start the diesel generators up, suck fresh air down through the snorkel, that goes in to feed the air to the engines. Run the diesel generators, the diesels drive the electrical generators that generate electricity. That electricity is stored in two main batteries, which are two big black boxes one forward, one aft in the submarine. However, the COLLINS class submarine has four main batteries. Two forward, two aft. And they're massive. Everything needed to drive the boat is then taken off the battery. Diesel engines are not connected to the drive shaft.

For junior sailors, you've got five six berth cabins. Other accommodation space for officers and senior sailors.

Women in submarines. We've had female submariners for 15 years now, since 1998. It's been hugely successful. We haven't had the same problems

experienced in the surface ships have had with bringing women on the ships. I think that's a lot to do with the fact we're a very small force. You have to volunteer to join the Navy, then you have to volunteer to be a submariner. You have to want to be there. As of July last year we've got fully integrated messing in submarines, so the boys and girls share the same bunk spaces. The toilets and showers are individual. A bit of common sense. The minimum standard of dress in the bunk space is T-shirt and underwear. And you also have a little sign outside the six berth cabin and if that says No Entry, you just turn around and don't enter. From a personal point of view, I'd much rather serve in submarines with women than without. They tend to bring a more civil environment.

The Americans are just trying to come to grips with it now. They've just approved females to serve in submarines.

At present, all of our submarines are driven by male Commanders. We've had one of our girls get as high as the second in command, but you've got to appreciate, it's a matter of attrition. Traditionally, if you take 12 junior seaman officers, only four of those people will make it to the Submarine Command Course, so you're going to lose eight. Also, only three of the four that get through to the command course will pass. It's a 75% attrition rate overall from start to finish. Therefore, if say two of the original 12 junior officers are female and the other 10 are male, statistically it would be rare for a female to pass through to command. I look forward to the day when we have females in command of our submarines, but we need more of them at the start of the process to see this happen.

Our submarines usually take only six females on board, because we do not have enough female volunteers. We just don't get enough male or female volunteers in our service, so we haven't had any females go through the Command Course.

Future submarines. If you're talking about a tank, it's all about fire power, manoeuvrability and armour. If you're talking about a submarine, it's payload, power and endurance.

If you're talking about endurance, there is nothing produced in Europe, currently, that will meet Australia's requirements. We've got four choices.

If Europe comes up with a design within the next five years, that will meet our requirements, then we may go with that.

The first choice is buy an off-the-shelf design, without modification, there's nothing that exists.

The second choice is to buy an off-the-shelf design and modify it to Australian requirements.

Option three, is to evolve the current class of submarine (the COLLINS) into the next generation.

The fourth, is to design an entirely new submarine. This is a big undertaking.

However, the real issue isn't about building 12 submarines. That is the end product. What this really about, is about giving Australia a strategic, in-house capability to build, design and maintain indigenous submarines. And from that, the building technologies and design work will flow through to the rest of the Navy as well.

You don't just build 12 submarines, because by the time you finish building, they'll almost be obsolete. You build them in batches, and as you go through them, you evolve.

Although the time-line isn't accurate, we are basically looking at developing options three and four further.

Our first new submarine will probably commence building some time after 2020 and will be built in batches in South Australia at ASC site, and might use ASC or another company to build. Cost is estimated to be \$35 billion over decades.

■ Donations to the RUSI Library

The President and Committee thank the following donors for their generous donations.

Date	Donor	Quantity
4/06/2013	Mr Michael Hughes	1
11/06/2013	Department of Defence	1
20/06/2013	Mr Jack D Webster	19
2/07/2013	Mr Michael Hughes	1
2/07/2013	LT COL Dal Anderson RFD ED	1
16/07/2013	LT COL Russell Linwood ASM	23
17/07/2013	Mr Michael White	1
	Total	47

Librarian **Dal Anderson** will be happy to assist members with any library needs.

