



Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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Dates for your Diary

27th March - Speaker Luncheon
24th April - Speaker Luncheon
7th May - Council Meeting
29th May - Speaker Luncheon:
The Blamey Oration – Naval and Military Club
given by:
Air Marshal Angus Houston AO AFC
on:
"The Airforce – Today and Tomorrow"

*** All functions and activities are subject to the present security restrictions.***

Speaker Luncheons

**** Thursday 27th March, 2003 ****

Dr Ian James Storey

Lecturer in Defence Studies - Deakin University

The topic for the Luncheon address will be :-

Australia and Sino-US Relations:

Balancing Economic Opportunities with Alliance Commitments

Dr Ian Storey teaches Defence Studies at Deakin University which is the academic provider for the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defence College, Canberra.

Dr Storey's research interests include Asia- Pacific defence and security issues, Sino-ASEAN relations and US-China relations in the post-Cold War era.

It promises to be a most interesting and timely presentation.

See page 8 for an abstract of this talk.

**** Thursday 24th April, 2003 ******Dr Michael Evans****Head of the Army's Land Warfare Studies Centre - Duntroon**

The topic for the Luncheon address will be :-

Towards an Australian Way of War

Dr Michael Evans is a distinguished academic, specialising in matters of Defence. Educated in England and Rhodesia, where he served in the Zimbabwe Army, he settled in Australia in 1987. He has published widely on military history and contemporary strategy in Australia, Britain and the United States and is currently writing a book entitled, *Military Theory and 21st Century Warfare: The Legacy of the past and the Challenge of the Future.*

Vale – We record with regret the passing of Life Member, LTCOL Richard Wegener; and former Secretary of the Institute, LCDR Alan Burrows RFD VRD RANR.

New Members – At the March Council Meeting the names of the following new candidates for membership were tabled and duly elected to membership:-

Mr J.M. Darcy	Belmont	CAPT P.W. Wertheimer RFD	Scoresby
Mr W. Teasdale	South Yarra		
Dr R. Dua	Traralgon		
Mr E. Ireland	Merrigum	LT J.M. Capp	Geelong
Mr P.M. Ellis	Yarra Glen	LT M.A. Farrow	Geelong
Mr A.R. Fuller	Doncaster	Mrs N.F. Hudson	Geelong
FLTLT J.B. Surtees	Glen Waverley	Mr K. McKeown	Geelong
Mr J.R.M. Tickler	Toorak		

Library News

As mentioned in the November Newsletter, the Committee has appointed Bruce Turner as part-time Library Advisor to assist with the upgrade of our Library. Christine Worthington, as Library Technician has joined the team and their first report to members, follows :-

The Library team apologise for any inconvenience caused by the reorganising of the books which is presently underway. We ask that members do not feel deterred from using the library at this time and to be patient if any difficulties occur in finding what is required. We are sure that the eventual outcome will be worth any temporary disruption.

Cataloguing is a slow process, but we are making some progress. 120 items have been catalogued and labelled for the shelf, including some RUSI Journals. Members will be notified in this column of missing

issues of journals, e.g. RUSI Vic-News, in the hope that members will be able to help us complete sets. According to the draft selection policy which recently went before the Committee, we have been cataloguing books onto a computer file, preparing items in disrepair for rebinding and separating items for disposal.

Books for disposal will be on offer for purchase by members at a booksale in the future. **They can be viewed at any time in the library, by prior appointment.** Already some books have been sold to members at recent Speakers Luncheons.

In the meantime, suggestions from members are always welcome – just leave us a note in the office.

Bruce Turner (Library Adviser)
Christine Worthington (Library Technician)

From the President – Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson

Let me start with a most pleasant duty, to congratulate Immediate Past President, Brigadier 'Mac' Grant and former long time Secretary Lieutenant Commander Bill Wallach on their inclusion in the Australia Day Honours List. Mac Grant was President of our Institute from 1991 to 1999 and National President from 1993 to 1996 ; while Bill Wallach was our Secretary for 14 years. Well done gentlemen – we salute you.

As the President of an organisation that promotes public discussion on matters of Defence and National Security, I have been encouraged by the balanced media coverage to the Iraq situation. In our September Newsletter I outlined the main factors for and against a pre-emptive strike against Iraq by US forces. Since then there has been a very healthy debate in the media with all views being presented, including some of marginal relevance. Although the situation has advanced considerably, not much has changed in respect of the basics.

I concluded then : 'The UN is being pressured to act. Without action, the conventions of international law are comfortable but ultimately worthless. Saddam has defied the UN; the UN must respond with decisive action.'

Australia has backed the US, and by our deployment of ADF elements has indicated that we are prepared to fight if necessary. There is a high level of brinkmanship on all sides, the US, Iraq, the UN and the main players of the Security Council. War is still not an inevitable outcome. Even though the Australian Government has not made a commitment to combat should a US attack eventuate outside of UN auspices, save for new and extraordinary circumstances, our participation could be anticipated.

Opinion in Australia is divided. In assessing the decision that our Government must make soon, and may have made before this Newsletter reaches you, I believe that the relevant criterion to be used is whether participation is in Australia's National Interest in all its dimensions and time horizons. Notwithstanding some misgivings over possible longer-term consequences, in my opinion, support for the US alliance passes this test.

Concerted military action in Iraq will be an opportune time for terrorist attacks by Islamic militants against civilian targets within Western countries, not just the homelands of the 'coalition of the willing'. Terrorist attacks will weaken the resolve of the participants, divide international opinion and breakdown the cohesion and shared values within

Western society. The Government has prepared Australians for such an eventuality with its 'alert but not alarmed campaign'. While the fridge magnet reminder can be easily ridiculed, it is useful, effective in raising awareness and uniquely Australian.

The Minister for Defence has released an *Update* on Australia's National Security that modifies the Government Defence White Paper, *Defence 2000: Our Future Defence Force*, to take into account our changing strategic circumstances. The paper concludes : 'The threats of terrorism and WMD are real and immediate. For the foreseeable future, any ADF operations are likely to occur within the context of regional contingencies, the War on Terror, efforts to counter the proliferation of WMD or to otherwise enhance global security and stability.'

In the context of the sealift that is available to deploy and sustain ADF operations, Lieutenant Commander John Redman and I have made a personal appearance before the Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy. We expanded on Council's short submission recommending that the Inquiry examine the paucity of Australian owned, registered and crewed ships that would be potentially available as 'Ships Taken Up from Trade' to support Defence Force operations.

Let me conclude by addressing membership. While we have a steady stream of new members, overall membership of the Institute has been declining because of the passing of our members with World War II experience. Your Council is formulating a strategy to increase membership, with a primary focus on recently retired officers of the permanent or part-time forces. Prospective members who are in sympathy with the objectives of the RUSI, 'Promoting National Security and Defence' are of course welcome from any source. We need their support and desirably their participation, just as the ADF needs our support.

The Institute's membership year starts in April. This is the best time to sign up new members, and we know the best method is the personal approach made by existing members. I call on all members to actively seek and nominate new members over the next two months. A phone call to the office will secure you copies of our new purple and gold coloured prospectus/application form.

Mike Rawlinson

The challenge – Each Member signs up a new Member during April/May.

From the Secretary - Martin Holme

The alert among you will have noticed a subtle but significant change on the Newsletter's letterhead. In line with RUSI National Headquarters in Canberra we have decided to change the Institute's name amplification or slogan from 'for Defence Studies' to 'Promoting National Security and Defence' which we believe more accurately reflects the raison d'être of the Institute.

I strongly support the President's initiative in challenging members to participate in a recruiting drive. We must also maintain and encourage existing members to continue their involvement with the Institute. I have written personally to those who have not renewed their subscriptions this year, with a plea that they do so now if possible.

We have an interesting program of lunch-time speakers lined up and the year got off to a good start with COL Terry Beaton concluding his fascinating presentation on Burma Railway issues.

While on the subject of luncheons, I draw your attention to the May luncheon - Thursday, 29th May - when we will host the Blamey Oration, a biennial event, which will be given by The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Angus Houston AO AFC. His subject will be, "The Air Force - Today and Tomorrow". On this occasion, the venue will be The Streeton Room (the main dining room) at the Naval & Military Club, 27 Little Collins Street. Please make a note of this

special event in your diary. The Oration will be preceded by our usual sandwich lunch at 12 noon.

You may recall that some time ago Council decided to recognise former Councillors who had served in that capacity for more than five years, by conferring on them the honorific title of Councillor Emeritus. Following the recent Council Meeting our President, AIRCDRE Mike Rawlinson had the privilege of presenting Certificates to seven Councillors Emeritus:-

CMDR Hugh Jarrett RAN; LCDR Tom Kilburn MBE VRD RAN; FLGOFF John McPhee MBE; BRIG David Noble CSC; COL John Pilbeam AM ED; MAJGEN John Stevenson AO CBE; LCDR Eric Thompson VRD RANR.

The following were unable to attend and will receive their Certificates at a later date :-

LTCOL Don MacLeod RFD ED; COL Bob Mair MBE; BRIG Rob Vial DSO ED; LTCDR Bill Wallach DSC OAM VRD RANR.

The Royal United Services Institute of Victoria salutes and thanks these former Councillors who have served the Institute so well, over many Years.



"That was very naughty, Sir Pincus. You're not supposed to use gunpowder—it's only a deterrent."

Australia needs a Merchant Marine that is Capable of providing Sealift Support for the ADF.

This article contains the substance of the argument put to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia's Maritime Strategy by RUSI-VIC. The Inquiry Hearing on 12 March 2003 at the Victorian Parliament House. The Institute was represented by the President, Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson (Retd) and Councillor, Lieutenant Commander John Redman RAN

The Government Defence White Paper, *Defence 2000: Our Future Defence Force*, as updated in February by the Minister for Defence, provides for regional and global deployments of ADF elements in the defence of Australia and safeguarding Australia's national interests. This could include peace making, peace keeping and humanitarian tasks as well as the evacuations from natural disasters.

The deployment of troops and equipment will almost always require sealift support.

While the RAN has three very capable ships in HMAS Tobruk, Kanimbla and Manoora to initiate the deployment of military elements, the deployment and sustainment of a brigade sized force requires the additional support of merchant vessels.

The Australian experience in East Timor required the charter of 20 ships, 17 of which were under foreign flags. This includes the use of the HMAS Jervis Bay, an INCAT passenger and vehicle catamaran manufactured in Tasmania that was fortuitously available at the time. HMAS Jervis Bay proved ideally suited for the role of fast troop transport over the relatively short distances involved. However, vessels of this type and size do not normally operate in Australia.

The Australian Merchant Fleet

The size of the Australian Merchant Marine is much smaller than a disinterested observer might expect of an isolated country that occupies a continent with an extensive coastline, large coastal cities and a large volume of maritime trade. For historical and industrial reasons there are now only some 50 ships flying the Australian Flag, and of these, only about a dozen vessels are suitable for support of the ADF.

To put the numbers into perspective, Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics statistics give the number of ships entering Australia from overseas as 3,087 in 2000-2001, a fairly stable annual number. Over the last 10 years the annual number of ship calls at Australian Ports has also been stable at about 21,000.

Contrast the magnitude of these figures with the number of Australian owned and registered ships, which stood at 56 in 2001, down from 74 ten years earlier. Over the same period the number of

qualified Australian deck and engineer officers declined from 1088 to 823.

Of our 50 or so ships, 50 per cent are Bulk Carriers and are not suitable. This includes some very large ships of 150,00 tonnes. Thirty per cent of the fleet are Tankers, of which probably only two ships are suitable. Our eight Roll On – Roll Off (RO-RO) ships are suitable, but most of these operate in the same area servicing Tasmania. The only ships configured to carry more than a nominal number of passengers are the two 'Spirit of Tasmania' ferries. We possibly have only one Self-Sufficient General Cargo ship of appropriate size on the Australian register. This is probably the type of ship that could be of the most use to the military.

Department of Defence Position

The current Department of Defence position reflects an ideological belief that the 'market will provide', and that in all contingencies, whatever support is required can be easily chartered from the world market. This is what occurred in the East Timor operation. However, the circumstances were relatively benign, and we cannot expect that this condition will always apply.

To deploy and sustain a brigade-sized force, and at the same time provide for emergencies and other contingencies, particularly in the South Pacific, would require the support of possibly 20-30 merchant ships. The list would include RO-RO vessels and Self-Sustaining General Cargo vessels of size 3,500 – 10,00 tonnes plus a number of specialist ships for port duties.

While the 'free market' solution may be viable in benign circumstances, current policy involves an unduly high level of risk that the market will not respond appropriately in all contingent circumstances:

- the types of ships required may be unavailable, due to prior demand;
- the types of ships required may be available but not in the time frame required;
- the types of ships required may be unavailable because the owners do not wish to undertake the risks involved in

the charter for a price we are prepared to pay;

- the types of ships required may be unavailable because of political constraints;
- there may be difficulties associated with the foreign crews; and
- the quality of the ships available may be insufficient to satisfy our requirement.

Also, because of the small numerical size of the pool of Australian merchant marine officers and crews, bareboat charters are unlikely to be viable.

Conclusion

The ADF requires assured access to sufficient sealift support to deploy and sustain the equivalent of several overseas elements, including a mechanised brigade.

The Australian Merchant Marine is currently too small and specialised to satisfy even a part of this requirement. Almost exclusive reliance on chartered foreign ships for sealift is insufficiently reliable in all

situations. There is a reasonable probability that foreign ships and crews will not be available when they are needed.

A cursory analysis suggests that the ADF needs access on demand to about a dozen suitable Australian flagged ships, with crews who have Naval Reserve status. An increase in the number of ships on the Australian register and the number of qualified Australian seafarers is highly desirable, and the numerous legislative and regulatory barriers that currently inhibit such an expansion should be lowered or removed. Additionally, the operation of the types of merchant vessels that are useful for defence purposes should be subsidised in the most efficient way for our Merchant Marine Fleet to be able to provide the bulk of sealift for the ADF whenever it is required.

The market is not necessarily going to provide for our security – we must do it ourselves.

Mike Rawlinson



"You mustn't trouble your pretty head about world peace, my dear. Leave it to us men."

Book Reviews

By
M.P.G. O'Brien

Report by Colonel J.C. Hoad CMG - ADC to the Governor-General and Commonwealth Military Attache Japanese Army, 1904 (Russo-Japanese War)

This is an unusual book review. The book is not readily available: the review copy may be the only copy in existence! The book is part of the library at the RUSI of Victoria. It is one of the gems of its collection.

Sir John Charles Hoad, KGMG was born in Goulburn NSW in 1856. He had commanded the 1st Australian Regiment (with troops from Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania) during the South African War in 1899 and 1900. He then became principal staff officer to the commander of the newly formed Australian forces, Major General Edward Hutton. In 1904, the Deakin government decided to send Hoad to Manchuria as an observer in the Russo-Japanese War. It did so without consulting Hutton and relations between the two became strained.

The book, Hoad's Report, is of foolscap size and was bound in half-leather boards that are now in poor repair. It consists of 210 pages. Most of the text is typescript and this copy is one of the duplicates. The type was done with predominantly purple ribbon with some occasional use of red. A numbering-stamp machine numbered the pages separately. There are eleven photographed sketch maps and the text also has several other photographically reproduced illustrations. We have not located a second volume of the report that would appear to have included landscape photographs: I wonder if anyone remembers it?

Hoad's fellow attaches came from England, the United States of America, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Australia, Spain and Switzerland. The principal British observers were Lt Gen Sir William Nicholson (Director General Mobilization and Intelligence) and Lt Gen Sir Ian Hamilton. The book's contents consist of six of Hoad's reports to the Minister for Defence, Captain R. Muirhead Collins, RN from 1st April 1904 to 16th August that year. The range of subjects covered is very wide. As you would expect, Hoad gave a detailed account of the Japanese Army, dealing with (among other subjects) its historical development, organisation, administration, conscription, recruit training and officer training. He was the first foreign officer to tour the arsenal in Tokyo and described it in detail. He analysed the performance of each arm and service of the army (infantry, cavalry, field artillery, transport and Supply and medical services).

Among the attachments to the report is a copy of the secret agreement between China and

Russia respecting Manchuria of 1902, the non-adherence to which could have been said to cause this war. There is a diary recording Hoad's observations of the battles after he arrived in Manchuria in July until September. His report also gave an account of the battle of Liao-yang (August-September 1904). Diagrams show that the Russian fortifications included extensive barbed wire entanglements with deep conical pits under them and instances of electrified fence barriers.

Here is what Hoad had to say on the Japanese Soldier:

Under fire he well maintains the qualities of a long race of fighting men, and possesses great endurance and energy. He is untiring, his march powers are remarkable, and whether shoeless or short of rations he make no complaint. He lives principally on rice, and does not get tea, sugar, jam etc. He has great nerve when wounded, and when operated on he is stoical and seldom allows an expression of pain to escape him. He is eager to fight and is brave and well led by his officers in whom he has implicit confidence. Further he is intelligent and resourceful. The Japanese Soldier can be relied on if taken prisoner to give no information to the enemy. They are past masters at observing secrecy and shamming, also stupidity and talking all around a subject.

On departure from Japan, Hoad was awarded the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd Class and the Japanese War Medal. He returned to Australia after September and later became Chief of the General Staff 1909 to 1911. He died in 1911 and is buried in St Kilda cemetery.

You may be interested in a recent assessment of Hoad in a book on Australians in the Boer War¹. He is described as a dull mediocre military clerk who was a beneficiary of his democratic patrons.

This book is valuable for many reasons: it is probably the first report by the first Australian Military Attaché. Though in a poor state now, it is scheduled for repair, as are several other valuable books in the library. It is likely that the book will form part of our 'rare books collection' that we hope to have ready in a few months.

In Flanders Fields

By Norman Jorgensen and Brian Harrison- Lever

Published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press: Sandcastle Books, 2002: Price \$24-95

Yet another unusual book review! The children's book arm of the justly famous Fremantle Arts Centre Press has sent us a welcome review copy of an illustrated book about an incident in the trenches of Flanders in World War one. It would be wrong to outline the simple story told: suffice to say it has a subtle lesson about war. The book would be an ideal way to introduce a child of eight years or more to the concept of war or the harsh realities of the Great

War. Brian Harrison-Lever has done the illustrations excellently. The helmets worn by German soldiers are illustrated (probably correctly) as the *Stahlhelm* type rather than the *Pickelhaube* that might be expected. And the book does quote the poem *In Flanders Fields* correctly! If you are a grandparent you might like to put this book on your Christmas list for next year: the book is distributed by Penguin.

Bush Heroes: a People, a Place, a Legend

By Suzanne Welborn

Published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press: Sandcastle Books, 2002: Price \$29-95

This book is described as a regional history about Western Australians who volunteered for the First World War. While these men formed about 8% of the First AIF, more than 25% of those chosen to land at Gallipoli were from that State. The book examines the pre-war social environment of Western Australia and the motives for volunteering for enlistment. It examines how the experience of war generated myth and symbolism and the eventual creation of a legendary image of the Australian man personified in the Australian soldier.

It makes intelligent use of original source material throughout. Included in the author's meticulous research was the examination of the original attestation papers of three major units (11th and 28th Battalions and the 10th Light Horse). Thus she is able (and she is the first to do so) to relate age and date

of enlistment and other details to deaths, wounds and other occurrences. She has also extensively used the diaries of officers and soldiers from WA, mainly from the Australian War Memorial's invaluable collection.

The result is a book that gives an excellent social feel for these soldiers, their quest for adventure, their feelings for Empire, their mateship and their distaste for the reality of war. The effects of the war on families and fiends are also sympathetically treated. The tables that analyse the data on enlistment, casualties, disease and discipline are particularly valuable.

The book was first published as *Lords of Death* and may have attracted the wrong sort of market! It is a welcome addition to the RUSI Library.

Australia and Sino-US Relations

Balancing Economic Opportunities with Alliance Commitments

(An abstract of the lunchtime talk to be given by Dr Ian Storey on Thursday, 27th March, 2003)

The presentation examines the strategic dimension of Sino-Australian relations within the context of Sino-US relations. During the Cold War era, Australia's policy towards the PRC closely mirrored that of its American ally; anti-communist hostility in the 1950s and 1960s (leading to Australian military involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars), rapprochement in the 1970s, and alignment against the USSR in the 1980s. In the post-Cold War era Australia has adopted a policy of engagement with China, and trade has become the bedrock of Sino-Australian relations. Overall, bilateral relations are in good shape. However, since the early 1990s, Australia, like other regional states, has been concerned at the strategic implications of China's rising power. For Australia, the dilemmas posed by a rising China

are particularly acute – on the one hand Canberra seeks to maximise the economic synergies is also a close political and military ally of the United States. Should the Sino-US relationship become more competitive or confrontational, Sino-Australian relations will inevitably suffer. This presentation examines three issue areas that have the potential to strain relations between Canberra and Beijing: Taiwan, the US Ballistic Missile Defence program, and America's increasingly Asia-focused defence policy. The Howard government has signalled its support for US policy in these three areas, putting Canberra at odds with Beijing. The future development of Sino-Australian relations is, therefore, largely contingent on how China and the USA manage their relationship over the coming decades.