



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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RUSI-VIC NEWS

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Dates for your Diary

31 July - Speaker Luncheon - **Victoria Barracks**

28 August - Speaker Luncheon - **Victoria Barracks**

11 September - Annual Dinner

25 September - Speaker Luncheon - **Defence Plaza**

15 October - Council Meeting

30 October - Speaker Luncheon and AGM

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

Speaker Luncheons

** Thursday 31st July, 2003 **

Dr Paul Monk

Principal - Austthink; former intelligence analyst

The topic for the Luncheon address will be:-

Rethinking the Defence of Australia

Paul Monk received his PhD in international relations from the Australian National University. He then worked for 6 years for the Defence Intelligence Organisation on East Asia, becoming head of China analysis and chairman of the interagency working groups on Korea and China. Currently he is also Research Associate at the School of Asian Studies at Latrobe University. He is a widely published commentator on public affairs, writing regularly for major national media such as *The Australian* and *Quadrant*, and the *Australian Financial Review*.

Dr Monk will be challenging the conventional defence thinking of recent years.

Note the Venue - Victoria Barracks : Time : 1130hrs (Tea/Coffee); Address : 1200hrs

Admission : \$2.00 - Lunch may be purchased from the adjacent "Barracks Bistro", following the presentation. (For further details, see Page 5, "From the Secretary".

**** Thursday 28th August, 2003 ******Speaker - to be advised****Venue - Victoria Barracks**

Vale – We record with regret the passing of Mr P.H. Drost; Mr R. Garrard OBE; LT R.P.F Goddard; Mr W.J. Pollock AM; LEUT J.R. Russell; MAJ J.K. Tutton ED; LCDR D.W.K. Vagg.

New Members – At the July Council Meeting the following new candidates will be proposed for membership:-

Mr A. Braun - Caulfield; Mrs A. Burrows - Balwyn North; CMDR F. Richards - Mentone; CMDR J. Rienks CSM RAN - East Brunswick; COL R. Sutton LVO - Watsonia.

Mr Tony Sprake, British Consul-General, has accepted an invitation to become an Honorary Member.



J. H. DOWD 21.

OFFICER (to sailor who has rescued him from drowning). "Thank you, Smith. To-morrow I will thank you before all the crew at divisions."
SAILOR. "Don't do that, Sir. They'll 'arf kill me."

From the President – Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson

Blamey Oration – 2003

Our 2003 Blamey Oration at the Naval and Military Club was the best attended ever, and we were privileged to hear Air Marshal Angus Houston, Chief of Air Force, speak on 'The Air Force – Today and Tomorrow'. The Air Marshal made considerable effort to keep this appointment which he made a year in advance – and literally came to us direct from Saudi Arabia. For this, and his stimulating presentation, we are particularly grateful.

The Defence Budget

In the last Newsletter I expressed some concern regarding the impending May Budget. This was not altogether misplaced, as while Defence expenditure is in line with expectations, even short wars involving relatively small commitments are extremely expensive, and there are currently intense cost pressures within the Defence portfolio. Among other things, this suggests that Defence has not been compensated for the full opportunity costs of the war. In responding to these pressures Defence needs to avoid the subtle and creeping elevation of tangible over intangible outcomes that has been prevalent in personnel matters, and substitution of short-term for longer-term priorities. Both 'economies' often have unintended and unwanted outcomes, for example the block-obsolescence of our major platforms.

The idea that our security can be assured by the ongoing contribution of small highly effective, and interoperable 'niche' elements to US led coalition forces, has the ring of defence on the cheap about it. The changes in our strategic environment over the past three years strongly suggest that spending on National Security needs to be significantly increased.

Members, if you regularly use email please send an email to the Secretary at, rusi.vic@defence.gov.au to tell us or confirm your address.

Luncheon Addresses

June saw our first speaker on the war in Iraq, Major General Ken Gillespie, the ADF's Head of Strategic Operations. We have invited the Australian Commander in Iraq, Brigadier McNairn, to speak, and hopefully he will be able accommodate us when he returns from leave. Unfortunately, a downside in obtaining 'cutting-edge' speakers is difficulty in providing members with notice of the program well in advance.

The venue for our July and August Luncheon Addresses will be the 'Shedden Auditorium' on the ground floor of 'H' Block at Victoria Barracks. Arrangements, including the timing, will be slightly different to accommodate attendance by Victoria Barracks based officers. Our first speaker at the Barracks will be Dr Paul Monk who will speak on 'Rethinking Australia's Defence'. As changes in Australia's defence posture could lead to a different force structure for the ADF, this session should result in some lively debate.

Annual Dinner

Please note that the date of our Annual Dinner has been changed to Thursday 11 September. There may also be a change in venue, as the labour subsidy we have previously enjoyed at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess has recently withdrawn by Defence as a cost cutting measure.

Triennial International Seminar

Just a reminder that the RUSI of Australia's Triennial International Seminar will be held in Canberra on Thursday/Friday 9/10 October on the theme 'Global Security in the New Millennium'. While I will be attending and providing an overview at our luncheon meeting on 30 October, the more first hand observers RUSI-VIC can get at the Seminar the better. Details of the Seminar are available at the office.

Library News

From MAJGEN Mike O'Brien CSC – Chairman Library Committee

Cataloguing of the Library is continuing well. Several more of our rare books have returned from the binders. Examination of the books in the Library against our collection policy has almost been completed. A Library Brochure has been printed and distribution to other libraries has commenced so that a greater community awareness of our collection can be achieved. Members are encouraged to check this progress and to judge the considerable overall improvement in the collection.

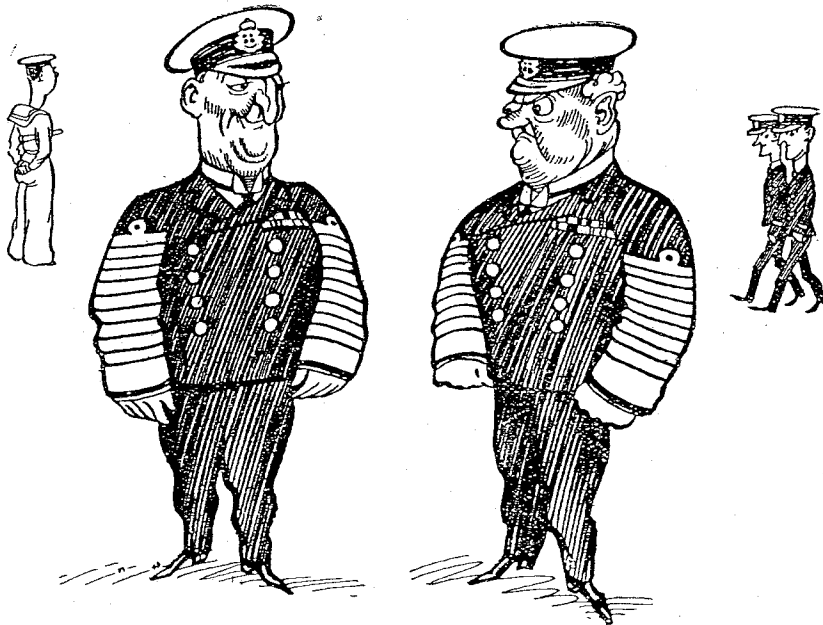
We are starting to assemble what may be called the RUSIV Archives. Included in this category are:

- Publications of the RUSIV (such as the *Journal of the USI of V*);
- Newsletters of the Institute;
- Lists of lectures given to the Institute;
- The text and illustrations for lectures given to the Institute in printed or computer form;
- Published and unpublished histories of the Institute;
- Minutes of AGMs and Council meetings;
- Photos of Councillors and members;
- Membership lists and records, lists of emeritus councillors, office bearers and the like;

- Obituaries of former members and other accounts of their lives;
- Constitutions, rules and the like;
- Reminiscences of members and former members; and
- Any other items that would assist in any future compilation of the history of the RUSIV.

While we have many of these items we need to appeal to our members to supplement those that we have. For example, one of our treasures is the first Council of the USI Minute Book, recording the first meeting in 1890 and featuring the remarks and signatures of councillors such as Lieutenant John Monash. (The book needs some conservation and rebinding.) We would like to print some extracts in future issues.

We would like to thank those thoughtful members who have donated books and magazines recently and also those who continue to correspond with us on Major General Hoad. May we make a further appeal for items any of you may have that would help us fill some of the gaps in our archives? We will soon try and publish a list of specific items that appear to be missing from our collection.



ONE UP!

JIM BATEMAN
1917

From the Secretary - Martin Holme

Since the May/June newsletter we have had two quite excellent Luncheon Addresses. The Blamey Oration, given by Air Marshal Angus Houston AO AFC, was an outstanding success, attracting an attendance at the Naval and Military Club of nearly 150 people. A copy of his address "Airforce Today and Tomorrow" can be obtained by contacting me at the office.

The June meeting involved a change from Hugh White, the advertised speaker, to Major General Ken Gillespie AO DSC CSM, Head Strategic Operation, whose inspiring talk on "Success in Iraq" was very well received. Nearly 100 people attended, with General Gillespie providing us with some fascinating detail in the question session. A synopsis of his address appears later in this newsletter and a full copy can also be obtained through the office.

As will be seen in the attached flyer, the next Speaker Lunch will be on Thursday, 31st July, when Dr Paul Monk will tackle the subject "Rethinking the Defence of Australia". We can be assured of a thought provoking address.

You will note that the venue for this presentation will be **Victoria Barracks**.

This Speaker Meeting and the following one on Thursday, 28th August, are being held at Victoria

Barracks with a view to encouraging and facilitating the presence of serving officers who might then see value in joining the RUSI.

It will not be possible to provide the normal sandwich lunch, but the admission price of \$2-00 will include tea and coffee from 11-30am, before the talk, which will commence at the earlier time of 12 noon. There is an excellent Bistro adjacent to the Auditorium where a simple meal may be purchased at the conclusion of the presentation.

For those interested, we have arranged a guided tour of the Barracks, starting at 2-00pm. The tour, which will be restricted to a maximum of 20 persons, takes about an hour.

It is essential, for security purposes, that you advise the Secretary of your intention to attend:-

- a. the Lecture
- b. the Tour.

Guests are welcome, but please advise the Secretary beforehand of their names. Please remember that you and any guests will require photographic ID, ie. a driving licence or similar.

Details of the 28th August Meeting, again at the Barracks, will be mailed out nearer the time, together with details of, and applications for, attendance at the Annual Dinner, on Thursday, 11th September.

Book Review

The RUSI of Victoria library- has many biographies of military leaders of the past including some quite rare and often fascinating accounts of past campaigns, commands and events.

One of these, *From Private To Field Marshal*, by Field Marshal Sir William Robertson, Bart published by Constable of London in 1921 is an autobiography of especial note and interest. Will Robertson took the "Queen's Shilling" from a recruiting sergeant in the city of Worcester in November 1877. He was actually a few months under the official age when recruits were permitted to join but because of his size had no difficulty in reaching the standards required, physical and otherwise. (To be on the safe side the recruiting sergeant put Will Robertson's age down as 18 years and 2 months.) So began a remarkable military career that took Will Robertson to the very top of the British Army.

He achieved long and distinguished service in many parts of the world, participating in campaigns large and small with successes that few are destined to achieve. Included in his career were many years service in India, in the war in South Africa and of course the Great War of 1914/1918.

It is difficult to imagine how hard it must have been to attain the heights that Field Marshal Robertson reached. His ability and dedication shine

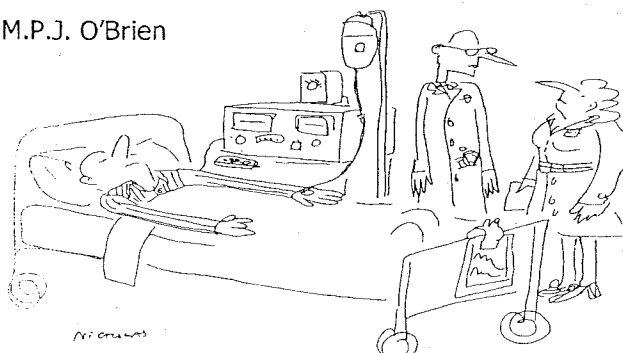
through his story even though he is modest in the extreme. It seems there were few difficulties that he could not overcome.

As is usual in military autobiographies of the period (mid to late 19th and first quarter of the 20th century) there is little mention of the Field Marshal's domestic and personal life though the reader learns that somewhere along the way he married. One interesting fact though is the friendship shown this soldier by His Majesty King George V.

This book is a great read and I recommend it to all who have an interest in the military and political history of the British Empire including India.

RUSI members will find this and many other military autobiographies and biographies in their library. Please come and see for yourself.

M.P.J. O'Brien



'No, nurse, I said switch off his mobile phone.'

Iraq - Why We Enjoyed Success

An extract from: "*Military Success in Iraq*"

A Luncheon address to RUSI of Victoria -Thursday 26 June 2003

by

Major General Ken Gillespie AO, DSC, CSM

Head of Strategic Operations Division

Again, I will focus on the elements for Australia's successful participation in the coalition rather than the war itself. However, with regards the big picture let me make a few short remarks.

I don't think that the ultimate success of the offensive campaign was ever in doubt. But, it was a war which was conducted in a fashion different to that predicted by most pundits. The campaign plan was flexible and constantly modified to cater for emerging circumstances. The predicted levels of destruction, loss of life and humanitarian disasters did not eventuate.

There were significant risks to campaign success, but the time is not yet right to go into these. The process of operational analysis and the formulation of lessons learned still has some way to go. It is fair to say however, that the military is often accused of learning lessons and getting themselves into a position of being well prepared for the last war. I think the Iraq war has shown that the military has perhaps moved on and in many ways is now a bound ahead of many of those who make a living out of Defence and security commentary.

So what were the elements of our success?

- **Leadership. Strong and focussed Government and Defence**
 - National Crisis Management Machinery of Government functioned as designed
 - Ready access to key decision makers
 - Clear guidelines
 - Agreement to plan without commitment
- **Unprecedented levels of access to US planning and intelligence.**
 - Enhanced communications
 - High levels of situational awareness
 - Better basis for strategic planning
 - Integration of PA into Defence planning and operations

- **Strong historical and professional links between key coalition nations.**
 - Strong liaison and coalition savvy.
 - Influence - ability to engage and be heard beyond your weight.
 - respect
 - Strong personal links between coalition commanders at various levels forged through the Afghanistan campaign and through interoperability initiatives like exchange postings, combined exercises and attendance at war colleges etc.
- **Strong Whole of Government performance.**
 - Iraq Consultative Group - PM&C.
 - Iraq Task Force - DFAT.
 - Legal Working Group - AGs.
 - SCG - Defence.
 - All outputs shared, stove pipes disappeared.
- **Enhanced communications.**
 - Able to communicate with all elements of our forces 24/7
 - Web technology
 - Industrial to Information age
- **Lessons Learned From Previous Operations**
 - Robust capability to deploy, sustain and redeploy.
 - Planning included reconstitution.
- **Fantastic people**
 - Strong individual and group commitment.
 - Well trained, well motivated and well led.

Perhaps the difficult topic of targeting with our F/A-18s will bring a few of these strands together as a good example of what went right with this operation:

- we have different international legal obligations to our US allies. This required us to develop different Rules of Engagement and to use

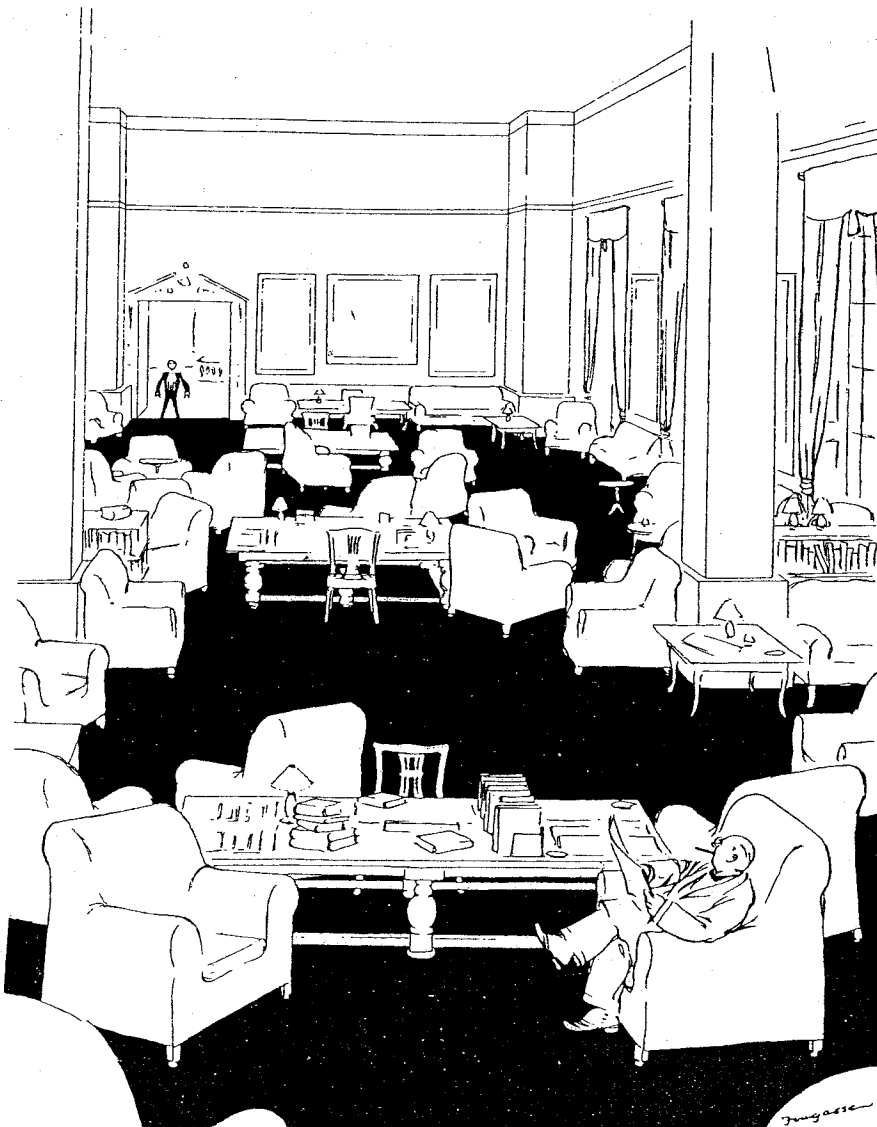
different weapon policies to our coalition partners;

- despite these differences we were able complete a full and active role in the air campaign while adhering to our own national policies and international legal obligations;
- to meet our own national requirements and to satisfy Government that we could operate within an appropriate legal framework we needed to be able to receive instantaneous access to intelligence, leverage of US targeting processes, develop and maintain our own strategic targeting oversight and be able to influence key targeting decisions at coalition leadership level.
- All of these requirements were achieved and our people were involved in the targeting cycle at all levels of coalition command and here in Australia. Our intelligence agencies played a key

role in this process as did a number of Government agencies.

- We had the communications, intelligence, tactical and strategic personnel dispositions and whole-of-Government processes in place to react instantly to targeting requests and issues.
- There were no 'blue on blue' Australian casualties. This was achieved in no small manner through extensive liaison, sound combined procedures, rehearsals, high levels of interoperability, use of precision weapons, effective Rules of Engagement, and very tight command controls. Our successes were based on the endeavours of our people. The value of combined exercising in all environments and, in particular, in the high end of war fighting, cannot be overstated.

The full text of MAJGEN Gillespie's presentation is available to members from the office.



"DID YOU RING, SIR?"

"YES; THERE'S A WASP IN THE ROOM."

THE KRAK des CHEVALIERS

By Ian Rainford OAM ED JP

The Krak sits on a spur which forms part of the Mount Lebanon/Jebel Ansarige range which dominates the Homs Gap guarding the rich coastal plains between Tripali and Tantus. This location has long been a defensive site of great importance. The fortress was first constructed in 1031 by the Emir of Homs. The Crusaders arrived in 1099 and in 1144 it was handed over to the Knights Hospitaller by Raymond 11, Count of Tripali.

The Hospitallers, around the year 1170, made a massive strategic expansion of the existing fortress. As a result it became a forward defence position against the Muslim Emirs of Homs and Harma, as well as Damascus and Alippo and in the bigger picture, Cairo and Mosul. It provided a secure base in the area for not only local operations but also for the inflow and egress of Crusaders coming and going to and from Europe.

After the disaster of the Seventh Crusade in 1249, the garrison at the Krak was greatly reduced and it finally surrendered to Sultan Baibars in the year 1271, after forcing the Hospitallers to retreat to the inner defences.

The massive expansion of 1170 doubled the fortifications and established stores for grain and oil, water aqueducts and tanks, a mill, a bakery, an oil

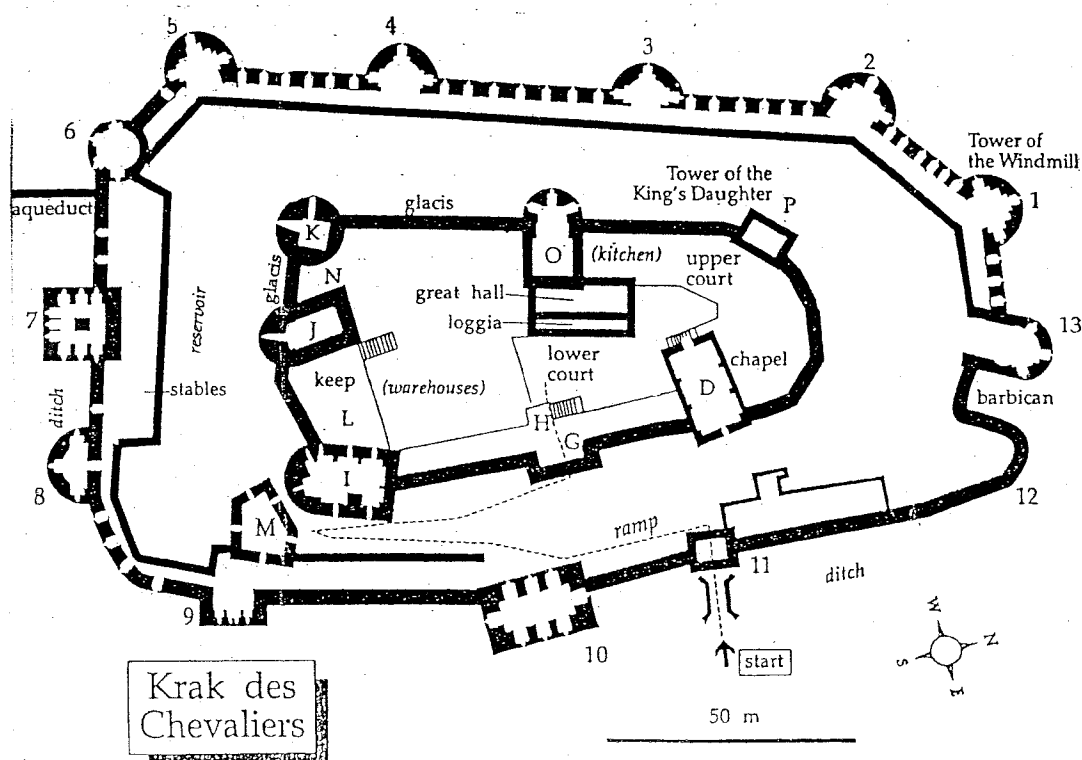
press and stables. The Castle could now hold and house a garrison of 2000 and withstand a prolonged siege of up to five years. Saladin tried to capture the fortress in 1188 without success.

The Krak is a fort within a fort. The outer curtain wall protected by round towers and an inner one which clusters tightly around the central keep. The two defensive rings are separated by an open space incorporating many of the defensive refinements of the 13th century. A ditch which surrounds most of the inner ring and a talus or glacis not only gives strength to the footings to support the weight of the massive wall above, but also protection against undermining of the wall. The smooth sloping surface also helps prevent scaling.

The battlements incorporate loopholes and jutting firing positions plus strategically placed bastions enabling fire cover along the full length of the walls. The battlements of the inner keep overlook and dominate the outer fortification walls.

Everything I have described and more still can still be seen today and that is why The Krak des Chevaliers is reputed to be the finest example of a Crusader Castle in existence. The little sketch map attached is worth a thousand words.

(Ian Rainford - Vice-President, RUSI Victoria, an aficionado of Crusader history, recently visited The Krak.)



60th Anniversary of Operation Jaywick

by Lynette Silver

On 12 February 1942, as Singapore was engulfed in columns of oily flame and smoke, dozens of evacuation craft fled the beleaguered island for the safety of Sumatra. Among them was *Kofuku Maru*, a small nondescript Japanese fishing vessel, commandeered by Australian mining engineer and master mariner, Bill Reynolds. Three days later Singapore, the jewel in Britain's Far Eastern crown and the Empire's last bastion, fell to the Japanese.

Reynolds and *Kofuku Maru* arrived at their destination unscathed. Discovering that many others had not, Reynolds began searching for survivors stranded on hundreds of small islands to the south of Singapore. During the next fortnight he rescued more than 1500 castaways, all of whom then joined an escape route, set up by British agents.

On one of Reynold's trips he bumped, literally, into one of them – Ivan Lyon, a Captain in the Gordon Highlanders and, more importantly, a member of Britain's highly secret Special Operations Executive (SOE) Far East. On learning that the obviously Japanese *Kofuku Maru* had avoided unwelcome attention from enemy planes, Lyon realised that if Reynolds could get out of Singapore, unmolested, they could get back in. Reynolds agreed. Using his ship to infiltrate deep into enemy territory, a small, hand-picked team could then transfer to two-man canoes or folboats and, with the aid of magnetic limpet mines, wreak havoc on shipping in enemy-occupied Singapore. And so, Operation Jaywick was born.

Lyon had no trouble convincing Britain's General Wavell that such a plan was feasible. Commander RM 'Cocky' Long, RAN, Director of Naval Intelligence, who had established a most effective coast watching network, realised the potential and pledged his full support. Aided by an endless stream of funds transferred to a secret bank account from the coffers of SOE in England, Lyon established a 'one-off' training camp at Refuge Bay, north of Sydney. Here the mission's 2IC, Lieutenant Donald Davidson (RNVR), put a team of sailors recruited from Flinders' Naval Depot in Victoria through a tough and rigorous program.

On 18 January 1943 *Kofuku Maru*, now renamed *Krait* after a small but deadly snake, set sail for Singapore, only to have serious mechanical problems defer the operation indefinitely. It was not until 2 September that *Krait*, the defects rectified and a new engine installed, was finally on her way to Singapore. On board were six operatives, two reserves and six crewmembers. Reynolds, who was undertaking a

hazardous solo mission in Borneo, was not with them. His replacement was Lieutenant Ted Carse, RANVR.

Flying the Japanese flag, and with her crew more or less effecting a disguise by donning sarongs and applying a foul-smelling dye to skin and hair, *Krait* successfully ran the gauntlet of enemy air and maritime surveillance. At Pandjang Island, about 100 kilometres from Singapore, the raiding party transferred to three folboats for the final leg of the journey. In the fourteen days that they were gone, *Krait* was to sail aimlessly off the coast of Borneo, returning to pick them up at Pompong Island after dusk on 1 October.

On the night of 26 September, having surveyed their targets through a powerful telescope from a nearby Indonesian island, the six men, dressed in black and with blackened faces, paddled silently, and undetected, into Singapore Harbour. Lyon and his partner Queenslander Able Seaman Andrew Huston, attached all their mines to an oil tanker. Lieutenant Bob Page (AIF), a Sydney medical student, and Able Seaman Arthur Jones, of Perth, selected three merchant ships while Davidson and Able Seaman Wally Falls, a dairy farmer from Casino in NSW, placed their limpets on three other cargo vessels. The task complete, the three folboats headed for the safety of their island hideout. Shortly before dawn, all seven mines exploded, sinking or damaging 37,000 tonnes of shipping.

Satisfied, by the columns of billowing smoke and the frenetic activity generated by the enemy planes and vessels, that the attack had created chaos, the raiders began the long paddle back to Pompong Island. Davidson and Falls, who arrived first, made a successful rendezvous with *Krait*. The others, some hours behind, did not. Fortunately, just as they were coming to the conclusion that they had been abandoned, Carse was persuaded to return for them. With the entire party reunited, *Krait* turned for home.

Apart from a rather nerve-racking encounter with an enemy patrol boat in the Lombok Strait, the journey was uneventful. Their welcome too, was low key, which was not unexpected as details of the mission had not yet been made public. Despite expectations, they never were. When it was discovered that the Japanese believed that local people, under the direction of prominent European civilians, were responsible for the attack, an order was issued at the highest level forbidding any publicity. Lyon, who had

designed the raid purely as a propaganda exercise, was enraged.

While the security clampdown would ensure that Jaywick would never realised its full potential, the repercussions at the human level were immense. On 10 October, determined to discover which of the locals were responsible, the Japanese Kempai-Tai, or Secret Police, had begun an unsurpassed reign of terror. It lasted for over twelve months and cost the lives of thousands of innocent civilians.

Operation Jaywick was undoubtedly the most successful undercover raid carried out in the South-West Pacific during World War II. Encouraged by its success, another, more complex mission, Operation Rimau, took place the following year. It claimed the lives of all 23 men, six of whom were members of the Jaywick Team. *Krait*, which is on display at the National Maritime Museum, is dedicated to their memory.

The gallantry and courage of all who served on Operation Jaywick have not been diminished by the passing years and remain a great inspiration, not only to the general public but also the Special Forces. However, as we honour these men on this, the 60th

Anniversary of their mission, let us also remember that when nations engage in armed combat, glory can come at a dreadful price.

Operation Jaywick Personnel

Major Ivan Lyon (party leader) *
 Lieutenant Donald Davidson (2IC) *
 Lieutenant H E Carse (navigator)
 Lieutenant R C Page (operative) *
 Corporal A Crilley (cook)
 Corporal R Morris (medical orderly)
 Leading Seaman K P Cain (ship's crew)
 Leading Stoker J P McDowell (engineer)
 Leading Telegraphist H Young
 Able Seaman M Berryman (reserve operative)
 Able Seaman W G Falls (operative) *
 Able Seaman A W G Huston (operative) *
 Able Seaman A W Jones (operative)
 Able Seaman F W Marsh (reserve operative) *

* died on Operation Rimau

Captain WR (Bill) Reynolds was captured in Borneo in late 1943. He was executed in Java the following August.

Lynette Silver is the author of *Krait: The Fishing Boat that Went to War* and *The Heroes of Rimau*, available from the Australian National Maritime Museum Bookshop.

The above article was submitted by RUSI Victoria member, CAPT Marc Preston, a reserve officer who is a member of the Operation Jaywick 60th Anniversary Committee which is co-ordinating a series of events at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour, Sydney to commemorate both the SOE/SRD Singapore Harbour raid and the history of Australian Special Operations from 1940 to the present.

The commemoration will be a very high profile event attended by the Chief of Defence Force, Commander Special Operations Command, Ministers of Defence and Veteran Affairs, a delegation from Singapore and two of the three surviving members of the raid.

CAPT Preston will keep us posted as to further details of the commemoration.