



Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia

Newsletter

May 2013 Edition

Promoting National Security and Defence

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Governor of Western Australia
President: Colonel Mike Brennan
Secretary: Commander Otto Pelczar, RFD, RD, RANR (ret)
RUSI of WA, Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle
Postal Address: C/- Department of Defence, Locked Bag 5001,
Fremantle, WA, 6160

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YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

**Subscriptions are due on 1 July annually
Town - \$40, Country - \$20, Associate - \$10, Student \$10
Your subscription, and other charges can be electronically transferred to the RUSI.
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2013 PROGRAM

MAY	
9 May 2013	Blamey Oration Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO Chief of Army “The Army’s Role in a Maritime Strategy”
June	
The next Newsletter will be published on 1 June 2013 Copy Deadline 15 May 2013	

The 2013 Blamey Oration

“The Army’s Role in a National Maritime Strategy”

Thursday 9th May 2013
7.00 for 7.30 pm

to be delivered by
Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO Chief of Army

On conclusion, the 2013 Blamey Medallion will be presented on behalf of the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund to LTGEN Morrison by Brigadier Duncan Warren AM, RFD (Retd) former Commander of 13th Brigade

**Lecture Theatre, The Army Museum Of Western Australia,
Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, East Fremantle**

Cost of \$5.00 for RUSI WA Members, \$10 for Non-Members. Includes a light supper (Ample free parking within the Barracks)

**RSVP by 1st May 2013 - The Secretary - Telephone: 9311 2429 or Assistant Secretary: Telephone: 9311 2232 (Office hours - Tuesdays and Thursdays)
E -mail: rusiwamembers@gmail.com**

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Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO



General David Morrison joined the Army in 1979, after completing a Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps and between 1980 and 1991 he held a variety of regimental positions, from Lieutenant to Major, in Brisbane, Singleton and Newcastle. He was also the Australian Instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, United Kingdom in the period 1987 to 1988.

After attending Army Command and Staff College in 1992, he was appointed as the Brigade Major of the 3rd Brigade, deploying in that role to Bougainville as part of Operation Lagoon in 1994, and following his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 1994 he spent two years at Army Headquarters as the Director of Preparedness and Mobilisation.

He was the Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) in 1997 and 1998. Lieutenant General Morrison was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1999 for his services as Brigade Major, Director of Preparedness and

Mobilisation and as Commanding Officer 2 RAR. He was promoted to Colonel in October 1999 and took up the position of Colonel Operations, Headquarters International Force East Timor (INTERFET).

On his return to Australia, he was posted to the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters as Chief of Staff. In 2001 he attended the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, Canberra, graduating with an Masters of Arts (Strategic Studies). He was promoted to Brigadier in November 2002 and commanded the 3rd Brigade from December 2002 until December 2004. He was then appointed as Director-General Preparedness and Plans - Army and held that position until his promotion to Major General in December 2005.

He became Commander of the Australian Defence Colleges in January 2006 and during that year led a review into Defence's joint education and training system. In April 2007, he was appointed Head Military Strategic Commitments where he served for eleven months before becoming the Deputy Chief of Army in early 2008. During that year he led a review into Army's command and control structure which resulted in the Adaptive Army initiative which had, as one of its key outcomes, the proposed creation of Army's largest command - Forces Command, responsible for force generation and, through the oversight of the Army's Training Continuum, the development of a modern foundation warfighting capability.

He was appointed as Land Commander Australia in December 2008 and became Army's first Forces Commander on 1 July 2009. On 24 June 2011, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and on 27 June 2011 he assumed his current appointment of Chief of Army.

For his service to the Australian Army in the fields of training and education, military strategic commitments and force structure and capability; in particular, as Commander Australian Defence College, Head Military Strategic Commitments and Deputy Chief of Army he was appointed as an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2010 Australia Day Honours list. In February 2012, he was awarded The Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander, by the United States of America, for exceptionally meritorious service as the Chief of the Australian Army.

His hobbies include remembering when he used to play golf, staying fit, cooking and reading. He is married to Gayle and has three adult sons from a previous marriage.

The Legion of Merit



The Legion of Merit (LOM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. The Legion of Merit (Commander degree) is one of only two United States military decorations to be issued as a neck order (the other being the Medal of Honor) and the only United States decoration which may be issued in award degrees (much like an order of chivalry).

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**Speech by the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO
at the Welcome Home Parade for Mentoring Task Force 4,
Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, 21 July 2012**

The men and women on parade are from all three Services. They have been a part of a joint commitment by the ADF to Australia's longest war. Their endeavours have contributed to our defence through the protection of our national interests and as part of this country's role as a great democratic nation whose influence among the global family of nations is strengthened through the courage and sacrifice of ADF personnel.

Today is a very important occasion. Your return from active service is cause both for celebration but also for sombre reflection. You have cause to celebrate because you have returned safely to your homes and families having served with courage and honour in a very dangerous environment where you fought a very dangerous foe. Enjoy your reunions with loved ones—you have earned it. Moreover, for the soldiers on parade, you now join a long line of men and women who have worn the iconic slouch hat and the Rising Sun Badge far from home on active service as Australian soldiers.

In so doing you join a very special club. The price of entry is high. It involves long separation from your families and loved ones and the constant risk of death and serious injury. Every one of you has added lustre to that Rising Sun Badge. I suspect that none of you will ever look at it in quite the same way again. You have added your own small chapter to the long and enduring history of the service of the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force and upheld a tradition that makes the ADF one of this Nation's most respected institutions.

But we should also pause for sombre reflection today to observe that what you have done has exacted a price from all of you—whether it is visible today or not. There is the time with loved ones that can never be recovered—first words uttered by kids in your absence, first steps taken by toddlers and a dozen other important milestones that you may have missed. Moreover, you have lived with the constant threat of danger. This changes you. It makes you older, more mature—less frivolous—than many of your civilian peers. And only those who have been there really know what that entails. It gives you ballast in your character that cannot be measured. But it carries risks.

Be proud of what you have done without being arrogant. More importantly, if you experience trauma and mental issues after the initial thrill of coming home wears off, know that the soldierly thing to do is to put your hand up and ask for help. Likewise if you see one of your team-mates struggling make sure you help and inform the chain of command. The extended Defence family is there for you. Avail yourself of the resources that are on hand to help you deal with the stress that active service has placed on you.

I have made a pledge to Army's wounded personnel, and their families, that we will find continuing employment within the Army for everyone, in a way that meets the needs of the Service and the individual. And should it prove not to be possible, for health or safety reasons, then all of our considerable resources will be employed to finding civil employment. The Army will not leave a single soldier behind.

To those families, loved ones and friends of the troops on parade today may I repeat those same assurances. The ADF is grateful to you for the sacrifice you have made to allow your sons and daughters, husbands and wives to deploy and perform with their sole focus on the job at hand. We stand beside you in making the adjustments to life that the return of

your loved ones will involve. We could not operate without you. You all deserve a medal for your unsung service. Please accept my thanks on behalf of Army.

I cannot help but observe that a large element of the force on parade today was drawn for the 8/9th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment. It was my first unit—and every officer and young NCO remembers his or her first leadership role in a special way. Please indulge me in a bit of nostalgia. My father commanded 9 RAR in Vietnam. It and the 8th Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment were raised for service in that war. Later as the Army scaled back to six battalions they were linked to form 8/9 RAR. Then, when successive governments sought to extract a peace dividend that seemed on offer after Vietnam and the Cold War, the battalion was disbanded and taken off the order of battle.

Many of you may not remember that when we needed to urgently deploy troops to East Timor in 1999 we only had five regular infantry battalions on hand to execute a dangerous and strategically important mission. I would like to pay a special tribute to Lieutenant General Frank Hickling, whose prescient efforts to raise the readiness of that less than adequate force, was absolutely critical to the success of INTERFET. Ever since that strategic shock, the Army has been steadily expanded and re-equipped. One of the final elements of the plan to remediate the land force was the re-raising of 8/9 RAR.

Yet even as you return from active service there are voices arguing that we can again afford to reduce the size of the ADF and the Army in particular. I served in 8/9 RAR in the Army that suffered from such short term thinking in the period after Vietnam. My memories of the officers and soldiers from that Army are that they kept the faith. They served on after experiencing the exhilaration, sacrifice and pain of war in an environment where resources were scarce and the relevance of what the Army did was not widely understood nor appreciated. By preserving the ethos, culture and skill base of the Army through their unstinting professionalism they laid the foundations for the success of the Army to which you belong.

Today I am asking you to also keep the faith as the Army enters a challenging period in its history. Again we are facing a climate when the wisdom of foreign wars is being questioned and when the merits of a standing Army must be demonstrated all over again. As we enter this age of austerity I ask you to serve on and provide your indispensable experience to the coming generation, who may not have the opportunity to serve in the demanding theatres that you have in the immediate future. In closing, welcome home. Enjoy a well earned rest. Good soldiering!

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Book Review – Duty First: A History of the Royal Australian Regiment

This review by Chris Appleton first appeared in *Defender* Summer 2007/08

In the 60th year of the Royal Australian Regiment this updating of its history revises aspects of the 1990 edition and adds two new chapters: Upheaval Uncertainty and Opportunity UN Operations and Australia 1990-1999 by Craig Stockings and Near and Far Operations 1999-2006 by John Blaxland. The revision of the original chapters covering 1965-69 reflects new information and recent research, particularly that stemming from the subsequently published volumes of the Official History of the Vietnam War. Once again this book is edited by former infantryman, Vietnam veteran and renowned military

historian, Professor David Horner, but this time ably assisted by former cavalryman and historian, Dr Jean Bou.

Constrained by the publisher's insistence that the new edition be no longer than the last, the coverage of the regiment's near continuous series of operations since 1991 has necessarily demanded brevity over breadth by the authors and editors. This period includes operations in Somalia, Cambodia, Rwanda, the various iterations of Timor, Iraq, Solomons, Tonga, and Afghanistan. The tempo of recent operations is exemplified by the fact that in 2006 each of the six commanding officers of the regiment deployed with at least part of their battalion.

The recent strategic need to raise two new battalions (splitting 5/7RAR once again into 5RAR and 7RAR and the re-raising of 8/9 RAR) is a sure sign that this tempo is expected to continue. A factual and practical account of the regiment's achievements in the spare prose favoured by soldiers, this volume is true to the style of the first edition. Four new short pieces: the father and son experiences of Barry and John Caligari covering most of the 60 years of the Regiment's history, Alan Gilman's experiences from Singleton trainee to RSM, All the linked battalions by Simon Gould, and reflections on operations and command at different levels by Lieutenant General David Hurley, add a valuable and distinctly personal touch to the work of the historians.

David Hurley's account of soldiering in 1RAR in the late 1970s – beset by chronic undermanning and ageing equipment – is a particularly sobering reminder that 'the good old days' seldom were. And that the regiment today is immeasurably better manned, trained equipped, and resourced than it was during 'the Long Peace.'

As a history, however, this volume has limitations beyond those of length imposed by the publisher. Most significant is the pale account of 4RAR operations in Afghanistan in 2006. The bland few pages do no justice to the most intense fighting done by the regiment since 4RAR was last in action in 1971. The limitations imposed by Special Forces security requirements are draconian and deprive the regiment and the nation of a story of courage and achievement deserving of our knowledge, pride and respect. This sparse treatment is in stark contrast to the detail attended upon almost every patrol clash and significant incident by the battalions of the regiment serving in East Timor.

This volume, as regimental histories are wont, does not address the longstanding challenges faced by the regiment in retaining its people. The strength of the regiment's warrant officers and NCOs as the touchstone of its professionalism is properly and proudly acknowledged. That the regiment has such a cadre is testament to the quality of the humble infantryman given that the majority of soldiers do not serve beyond their initial four-year engagement.

Perhaps properly, this history avoids politics. However, it is difficult to see the 1996 termination of the successful Ready Reserve Scheme (as implemented in 6RAR and 8/9 RAR) as other than a poor decision by the newly elected government of the day. The result was a less capable regiment until Timor in 1999 and the demands of deployed operations gave the regiment a new impetus and priority.

The regiment's efforts at organisational development are well addressed, the development of high-readiness parachute, commando, mechanised and amphibious capabilities reflecting well on the modern regiment and the Army. Significantly, the structure of the infantry battalion today (less the commando battalion, 4RAR) is little different from that of the battalions of Korea. Efforts underway now to determine the best structure to fight,

command and support an infantry battalion, and to best exploit the great array of new equipment and 'enablers' available, will be central to the regiment's continued success.

The laconic manner and dry wit of the Australian regular infantryman conceals the fact that for many, service in the regiment evokes deep, near spiritual sentiments. This theme pervades the eleven 'individual views' by men of all ranks. As Brian Betts, a veteran of Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam records, 'my fondest memory is my service in the Royal Australian Regiment. Given my life to live again, I would do it all over and enjoy it just as much.'

This updated volume, a story of courage, humour, professionalism and dedication to duty. It is a proper and fitting tribute to the many thousands of mostly young men who, over the past 60 years, have served the Royal Australian Regiment and the nation in war and peace with such great distinction – by putting duty first.

David Horner and Jean Bou (Editors); 'Duty First: A History of the Royal Australian Regiment', Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW, 2008, Casebound and jacketed, 526pp.,

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YOUR PATRONS, OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Secretary:

Commander Otto Pelczar
Phone: (08) 9311 2429
Fax: (08) 9311 2460
e-mail: otto.pelczar@defence.gov.au

Office and Library Hours:

9.30 am to 4.00 pm
Tuesday and Thursday
Mobile/sms: 0408 940 928

Patron: His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC, CVO, QC
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