



**Royal United Services Institute
of
South Australia Inc**

A Constituent Body of the
Royal United Services Institute of Australia Inc

Building 162 Keswick Barracks,
Keswick SA 5035
Tel/Fax: 61 (8) 8305 6378
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Promoting National Security and Defence

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NEWSLETTER

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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ACTING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While Internal Security is very important to us all, we are also concerned about External Security, which is becoming far more controversial, not least because of cost.

Last month, we were addressed by Peter Goon, who showed concern that 20 billions of dollars might be allocated to the Joint Strike Fighter without really

serious debate as to whether Australia should try to buy the F-22 Raptor aircraft instead.

Recently, the old topic of whether such a large sum would be better allocated to social services and/or low level threats to internal security, has been raised in the press.

Historically, no nation ever gets it right when viewed with 20:20 hindsight. Australians remember using a lot of WWI rifles in WWII and even in Korea. One of the saviours of WWII was the fleet of competitive fighter aircraft designed and built in the 1930's. Another was the modern, high tech nuclear weaponry.

While debate is always healthy, we should never lose sight of the near-disasters Australia has faced when its Armed Forces numbers and equipment have fallen behind the rest of the region. That cannot be allowed to recur.

Allan Behm wrote in May: "Defence is a critical national institution" and RUSI's goal "*to promote informed debate and to improve public awareness of defence and national security*" requires our constant effort.

DINING IN NIGHT ADDRESS

30th June 2006

by GPCAPT John Teager AM

Mr President, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly honoured by the invitation to speak to you tonight and I thank you sincerely for the opportunity. Throughout my 30 year Air Force career, I have been involved for a significant number

of defence related institutions, but to my embarrassment as I stand here tonight, I have to confess that I have had little previous engagement with RUSI. Thanks to your generous invitation, and the opportunity to indulge in some conversation with you, I shall leave here much better informed of the nature of your organisation.

The Royal United Services Institute of Australia is an august body and to say that I am a little in awe of the debating prowess that is sitting around these tables would be an understatement. So it is with some trepidation that I approached the task of trying to stimulate your interest for 15 minutes or so. I did seek some council from my darling wife, who said "talk about something that is dear to your heart", so being an obedient type, that is what I shall do. I should say that Cathy would have loved to have been here tonight, but she is in the middle of a Masters degree and Friday nights at the moment are university seminar nights. But she is here in spirit.

I notice from your newsletter that you keep good faith with your charter by debating a broad spread of national and security matters, predominantly during lunch time sessions. It was back in 1831 in London that the then British Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington, founded the Naval and Military Library and Museum, which subsequently was to become the Royal United Services Institution. Wellington once said that "My rule is to do the business of the day during the day". So, heeding Wellington's guidance, I thought this evening I would put the important issues of state to one side and focus on something thought provoking, but a little more light-hearted and conducive to good digestion of what has been a beautiful meal.

Having now been speaking for a couple of minutes, it will not have escaped your notice that I am of English extraction. In fact, I had a most enjoyable 20 years in the RAF before coming across to join the RAAF some nine years ago. I recall the conversation with the immigration officer – "Name"? "Teager". "Criminal record"? which took me back because I did not realise it was still a requirement. Anyway, they let me in nevertheless.

As I have now spent a significant amount of time in two Air Forces, I thought it may be interesting to discuss the cultural differences between the two. Well, after much thought, I came to the conclusion that there really is very little cultural difference. The Poms, as I now like to call them, are a bit more reserved, do tend to take life a little more seriously and they do, more often than not, sweat the small stuff, but that is not really surprising when you have to wait 38 years between world cups. Being told by a nation that consistently wins world cups that "its

only a game, mate" and being asked "which aussies have you got playing for you this time" does tend to play a little on the national psyche.

Our military values, however, are very similar and I know the opportunities for exchange service are strongly pursued. As far as size is concerned, and yes it does matter sometimes, the RAF has remained roughly four times that of the RAAF. Since I joined in 1977, both Air Forces, much to my dismay, have diminished proportionally to mere shadows of their former selves. I firmly believe that both are at critical mass if they are to remain viable as an independent arm of the defence force. Whilst we may now be small, it has not made our recruiting of quality people any easier. Demographics and the attraction of military service are against us. Sensationalist stories in the media do not do true justice to the majority who serve, but they have great potential to influence public opinion. Those of us who currently serve have an obligation to honour and sustain our legacy. And we have to be innovative in how we achieve that. What makes an organisation attractive to be part of is not only what it offers in the form of job satisfaction, but in my mind more importantly, it is the quality of the blokes around you.

Let me tell you a story. When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ball point pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat this problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, under water, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300 C. The Russians, they used a pencil.

It is all about perspective and how we think about things. You will recall that earlier I said "it is the quality of the blokes around you that is important". That is a bit of a chauvinistic statement, but it reflects I believe a fairly widely held sub-conscious perception of our organisation – i.e. air force and fighting in aeroplanes, is really men's business. Whilst the organisation holds that view, either sub-consciously or consciously, and we do nothing proactively to change it, we are effectively denying ourselves a potentially extremely potent work force. In the world of fighter ops, surprise is everything as is an opportunity to play around with the inner workings of your adversary's mind. I recall the time during my Cold War days serving on F-4 fighters in Germany the first time that I encountered, somewhat to my surprise, the dulcet tones of a female Dutch F-16 pilot. Whilst I went through a reaction cycle common to the vast majority of the male of the species, she proceeded to savage my six o'clock. The Dutch and the Danes saw the benefits of this (of

female pilots, not savaging my six o'clock) and, for a time, actively recruited female fighter pilots, but for reasons I know not, they have now largely reverted to an all male force.

Of course, flying and fighting is men's business, isn't it? Let me tell you another story. In 1990, I was serving as a flight commander on 19 Squadron in Germany and that year we celebrated our 75th anniversary. 19 had been the first RAF squadron to receive the Spitfire and the squadron has a long and distinguished history. Many WW2 Spitfire pilots came back for that reunion. We also had a lot of visiting aircrew, one of whom was FLTLT Joanne Salter, the RAF's first female Tornado pilot. Early in the celebrations, which was held at the squadron, one of our old fighter pilots caught me outside the building. He said to me "Young man, you will have to excuse me but I need to leave. I cannot believe that we are sending young girls into combat. Whatever has happened to my Air Force?" And with that, he walked away. Of course, at first, I thought he was joking, but no, he was deadly serious.

My final job in the RAF before transferring across, which was my one and only ground tour, was as Deputy Director for RAF Public Relations. I took a couple of Sunday Times reporters to do an upbeat story on what we had been doing to make the Eurofighter, which was soon to come into service, a unisex cockpit. I do not think I need to tell you that women have different shaped hips to men. Not bigger - just different. Well I was upbeat, the reporters were upbeat, the copy was upbeat, but the Sunday Times sub-editors chose to give the story a headline of "Fat bottomed girls will cost the air force dear".

So maybe quite a few people think it is men's business? Let me give you some statistics. We have got 2,000 women and 11,000 men in today's Air Force.

We have got 13 female pilots and 608 male pilots.

We have got 16 female navs and 216 male navs.

We have got 37 female crew attendants and 10 male crew attendants – that says something.

One in six male Squadron Leaders make it to Group Captain. For the girls, it is one in 55.

So far as females in the service is concerned, we may be talking the politically correct talk, but are we walking the walk? And I suppose the real question as we look to the future is, do we in the Air Force need to? Stubbornly sticking to old paradigms, even if it does keep the old school happy, may cost us dear in the long run. I would like to leave you to ponder that one.

You know, the make up of our force has not changed that much over the years – and maybe it does not need to. But the way we are going to fight in the future, I think is going to change quite a lot. I think we are only just beginning to understand the technology that underpins the pervasive information age in which we live and what that technology can do for us. And to put that technology to best use, we have got to understand how we tick, but much more importantly, how generation xyz ticks. And, of course, generation xyz comprises both boys and girls, and some very smart girls at that. People really are our most important asset and we need to think carefully about them – all of them.

The other week, one of our Army generals noticed that one of his soldiers was behaving rather oddly. He would pick up any piece of paper he found, frown and say "That's not it" and put it down again. This went on for some time, until the general arranged to have the soldier psychologically tested. The psychologist concluded that the soldier was deranged and wrote out his discharge from the Army. The soldier picked it up, smiled and said "That's it".

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been a great privilege to be able to talk to you and I hope without being too serious that I have given you some food for thought. May I reiterate my thanks to all of you for your outstanding hospitality and wish you well in your future endeavours that continue some 175 years beyond when the Duke of Wellington saw fit to bring you into existence.

MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Luncheon Speakers

Monday 7th August 2006

**Mr Walter Stamm
Member of RUSI of SA**

Topic: Global Warming – Is Nuclear the Answer?

Monday 4th September (AGM)

**Dr Andrew O'Neil
Senior Lecturer, School of Political and
International Studies, Flinders University**

**Topic: Increase Uranium Exports. Is
Australia Right to Pursue This Course?**

All members are invited to attend our luncheons. Indeed you are encouraged to invite partners, friends and colleagues to join us and, if they like what they see, to nominate them for membership. Please book in advance. If you are unsure whether or not your name is on the booking list, please check!

Cancellations must be into the RUSI Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions.

We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30am for drinks and good fellowship. Members are asked to be seated by 12 noon when our President welcomes members and guests, and lunch is served.

The cost of the buffet is \$20. We also conduct a raffle to help cover expenses. Our caterer has agreed to provide vegetarian meals and sweets for diabetics, but these must be ordered before midday on the Thursday before the lunch.

For those who do not have time to enjoy lunch, but wish to hear the lecture, chairs are provided around the perimeter of the hall. Please be seated before 12.55pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00pm. The address is of about 30 to 35 minutes duration with 15 minutes for questions, after which coffee or tea is available.

We aim to complete the program by 2.00pm.

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2006

Sunday 21 August - Carvery Lunch

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Phone/Fax: (08) 8278 5702

Mobile: 0412 066 657

Email: b.presgrave@optusnet.com.au

9 Norfolk St, Blackwood, SA 5051

or at RUSI-SA Office, Keswick Barracks.

Views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the RUSI - SA Inc

LIBRARY NON FICTION

“Strategic Command” by David Horner

Reviewed by Malcolm Orchard

Here is an important book of Australian Military history. Here is the biography of the first Australian Army officer to reach the rank of full general since Sir Thomas Blamey had been promoted to general in September 1941: General Sir John Wilton, who attained the rank in September 1968.

And, in the words of his biographer, David Horner, Professor of Australian Defence History in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University, he was *“arguably the most important and influential Australian Army officer in the second half of the twentieth century”*.

Indeed, during his tenure as Chief of the general Staff, the Australian Army underwent its largest expansion since the Second World War and troops were deployed to operations in Borneo and Vietnam. Also, as Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, Wilton set in place joint arrangements that *“have persisted to the present day”*. David Horner argues, however, that a biography of Wilton *“lies not in his personal experiences – interesting though they were – but in the opportunity it provides to explore some crucial issues in Australian military”*.

The first issue concerns Australia’s relationship with Asia and the development of its strategic and defence policies in the post war period. (It must be remembered that Wilton’s military life centred on Australia’s Asian wars. For, as his biographer points out, from the end of the Second World War until his retirement in November 1970, Wilton spent most of his career dealing with the communist threat.

The second issue is the development of the Australian Army. John Wilton’s military career spanned more than 40 years (he marched into Duntroon on Saturday 16th February 1926) and in that time he saw the transition from an era when Australia hoped to rely upon the gifted amateur in time of war through to a time when *“it expected to be able to call upon a professional army to deal with a range of strategic situations, many of them quite different from those in traditional wars”*.

The third issue is the challenge of high command.

Wilton, for the last ten years of his military career, operated at the strategic level of command – this biography is primarily about his command at this level.

However, *Strategic Command* also looks at the relationship between Wilton, Australia's top military officer, the government and the bureaucracy during the Vietnam war. And, as Horner writes: "*the picture that emerges is one of John Wilton as the epitome of the professional Army officer*". Wilton was determined that Australia had to have a highly professional officer corps; he was also determined to move the three Australian services towards a joint force. He perceived quite early that "*this would be essential in future war*".

In retirement, and then aged 62, Wilton accepted the important post of Consul-General in New York, an appointment he held until his 65th birthday in November 1975. He died on the 10th May 1981. His funeral was held on Wednesday 13th May at the Duntroon Chapel that he had been instrumental in having built....

Strategic Command is an extremely well written and researched biography in the justly acclaimed Australian Army history series of publications: some 27 photographs of historical significance and interest are also a pleasing feature. *Strategic Command* is a valued addition to the RUSI library's collection.

"If By Chance" by Major General John Strawson

Reviewed by Malcolm Orchard.

Major General John Strawson served in the Middle East and in Italy during the Second World War; post-war he commanded a regiment in Malaysia and Germany – later he was Chief of Staff, United Kingdom Land Forces. "*If By Chance*" is his 12th book of military history.

The promise behind its writing was for him to look at a number of battles and campaigns of his choosing, explain the strategic circumstances, along with the principal statesmen and commanders involved, and then, following Karl von Clausewitz's contention that of all human activities, none is so much linked to chance as that of making war, see what effect chance had had in determining their outcome. And then, in the next stage, move from what did happen to what might have happened had things fallen out differently; and thus to see what longer term consequences there might have been.

Thus, in this frame of mind, could Napoleon have won the battle of Waterloo? And what would have

happened if he had? Or, what if the main military assault against Turkey in 1915 had been made on the Asian shores of the Dardanelles, as Birdwood had wanted? And not on the European part as favoured by Hamilton... And if Hitler had not halted his Panzer forces before Dunkirk and had entrapped the entire British Expeditionary Force, how then would Churchill have defied the Wehrmacht? Or if Hitler had listened to Admiral Raeder in 1941 and instead of invading Russia then, had strongly reinforced Rommel's African Corps and the whole of the Middle East had been captured in consequence, how would Britain been able to take the war into Europe? And what if, on the 25th October 1854, at Balaklava in the Crimea, someone had not blundered?

But then, as Major General Strawson writes:

Speculation about the chances and mischances of war and battles seems endless. There seems to be no final version of history. Every generation takes a new look.There is much entertainment to be derived from rewriting history with reference to chance – a chance opportunity missed, a risk taken or not taken, the intervention of fate or fortune.

And he knows from personal experience from early in his Army career of a risk not taken, a chance opportunity missed. As a young tank commander in Italy in 1944, on the 3rd of September, just five years to the day from the beginning of the Second World War, he received from his squadron leader the order to advance "*with all speed to the north to reconnoitre and seize crossings over the river Conco*". And as he says:

I received no information about where our own troops were, whose positions we would be passing through before taking the lead, nothing whatever about the enemy; there was no mention of being joined by a Forward Observation Officer from our supporting artillery regiment; no question of joining up with the so-called motor battalion of the 60th Rifles, who would be ideal for holding any crossings we might secure; no indication of an objective beyond the Conco; the order was simply – Advance!

And this he continued to do during the night, with, at last, an objective: the village of Coriano and its tactically important ridge. But suddenly, when about a mile or so from another ridge overlooking Coriano from the south, he received to his surprise the order to halt:

The reason for doing so was never given, but it subsequently became clear that at that time, Coriano was very lightly held by the Germans, yet during the next days was heavily reinforced, together with the neighbouring ideally defensive ground. This action

enabled the Germans to conduct a stubborn step-by-step defence and gradual withdrawal, extremely costly to the advancing Allied troops, which ensured that the Gothic Line was not broken during the autumn and winter of 1944. But what a chance was missed!

During the next day, a squadron of Sherman and Stuart tanks, totally unsupported by artillery or infantry, was unable to make progress against the rapidly improvised ant-tank defences deployed against them: the troop which advanced to Coriano itself *“was shot to pieces”* by anti-tank guns; and Strawson and his tanks deployed from first light on the ridge over-looking Coriano were subjected to the *“most disagreeable artillery, mortar and anti-tank fire”* for most of the day.

Even so, Strawson considers that opportunity to win a great advantage there and then before the weather deteriorated and the whole advance became bogged down *“had been there”*, especially as support troops were available and could have been rushed forward.

As it was, his regiment, the 4th Hussars, in his words, *“lost five officers, thirty five men, nine tanks, and gained – a battle honour”*.

“If By Chance” quietly points out that the Ifs of history may be illusionary, but Major General John Strawson shows also that they can also be both particularly interesting and entertaining.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Non Fiction – Donated

“Katakana Man” by A. Jack Brown
Donated by M.J. Orchard

“Our Votes, Our Guns” (Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe)
by Martin Meredith
Donated by Hazel Kruger

“Strategic Command” (General Sir John Wilton)
by David Horner
Donated by R.S. Sheldrick

Fiction – Donated

“The Closures” by Michael Connelly
“Seizure” by Robin Cook
“6 days” by Brendan Dubois
“Blood Storm” by Colin Forbes
“Fury” by Colin Forbes
“The Power” by Colin Forbes
“So Far From God” by John Harris
“The Ambler Warning” by Robert Ludlum
“The Lazarus Vendetta” by Robert Ludlum

“The Prometheus Deception” by Robert Ludlum
“The Burning Man” by Phillip Margolin
“Blood Redemption” by Alex Palmer
“4th of July” by James Patterson
“Conviction” by Richard North Patterson
Donated by AIRCDRE L.P. Klaffer AFC, OAM

Study papers – Received

“Mechanising an Army” by CAPT J.C. Morrison
“Air Power in the Protection of Territorial Areas”
by Sanu Kainikara
“The Transformation of Special Operations” by
CAPT Malcolm Brailey

THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) has been established to recognise serving and former ADF Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for at least four years, or, completion of their initial term of engagement, whichever is the lesser from 3rd September 1945 onwards. Eligibility has been extended to ex-service personnel:-

- who have died in service,
- have been medically discharged with a compensatory impairment at the time of their discharge, thus rendering them unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period, or
- have honourably served but, due to some Defence workplace enlistment policies of the time (as determined by the Chief of the Defence Force), were unable to serve the required minimum qualifying period.

Current serving full time members will be assessed automatically in line with the new process for assessing long service awards through PMKeys.

Application form for the ADM is available from the RSL, RUSI-SA (Malcolm Orchard) and other ex-service organisations.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of RUSI-SA Inc is planned for Monday, 4th September 2006. At the meeting, elections will be held for members of RUSI-SA Council for 2006/2007. In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Council are to be submitted at least 21 days before the meeting. Consequently, any nominations for Council should be submitted to the RUSI-SA office by Friday, 11th August 2006. Nomination forms are available from the secretary.