



Royal United Services Institute
of
South Australia Inc

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

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Promoting National Security and Defence

RUSI-SA

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NEWSLETTER

RUSI-SA CYBERLINKS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Attendances

The Council at its monthly meeting on Monday 28 May had to reluctantly agree to cancel the Dining In Night scheduled for Friday 1 Jun due to lack of numbers. At that time, we only had acceptances from about ten members and their partners, apart from members of the Council. The Council would appreciate feedback as to the reasons for low attendances at this and similar functions. We have been able to secure several excellent high profile speakers for upcoming events and need to make a good showing if we hope to attract similar speakers. As you should be aware from the last newsletter, we had the Chief of Navy as our guest speaker at the Current Issues Briefing on Monday 18 June, and the Governor General has graciously agreed to address our luncheon on Monday 13 August.

Obviously the future of our activities, both social and guest speaker luncheons and Current Issues Briefings depends upon your support.

RUSI-A Seminar

The Seminar, conducted jointly by the RUSI and the Australian Defence College, was held at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra on 15 and 16 May 07. The theme was "*The Future Defence Force. Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future*" and attracted about 400 personnel, mainly from the Defence forces, and included a number of overseas visitors.

The guest speakers included three from the USA, including retired General John Abizaid, Former

Commander US Central Command, and the Australian lineup included the Chief of the Australian Defence Force (Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston), the Vice Chief of the ADF (Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie) and a panel of the Chiefs of the three Defence Forces; without doubt a high-powered group of speakers. During his address, ACM Houston took the opportunity to release the military blueprint for 2030 *"Joint Operations for the 21st Century"*, a copy of which is available on CD in our library.

The general thrust of all the presentations was that we will continue to be involved in a series of low level operations but cannot afford to relinquish our ability to react strongly to a major conventional threat. An extract of the CDF's address is included in this newsletter.

National Council Meeting

The annual meeting of the RUSI National Council, of which each State President is a member, followed the seminar. The agenda included a detailed review of the seminar and it was felt that in the current economic climate we might need to concentrate on more frequent, shorter, seminars conducted on a regional basis.

The RUSI Strategic Plan was discussed in detail with the main emphasis being on attracting new members. A number of revisions to the plan were made.

Other items discussed included a proposal to establish a RUSI of Australia Foundation, to receive donations and bequests to further the aims of the RUSI. This was accepted. A special resolution to amend the "Aim" of the RUSI of Australia to read, *"The aim of the Institute is to promote informed debate and to improve public awareness and understanding of defence and national security"* was passed.

Major General John Harley AO (Retd) was re-elected as President and Vice Admiral Chris Richie AO RANR accepted the position of National Vice President, replacing Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson (Retd).

Each constituent body reported on its activities, with membership concerns being a common theme. It was interesting to note that, because of the increasing age of members, Tasmania was considering having a formal luncheon in lieu of the formal dining-in night. Another aspect was the wider range of subjects now being covered in the luncheon and evening sessions being conducted in the various divisions.

David Stoba

Chief of the Defence Force Address to ADC/RUSI Seminar in Canberra on 16 May 07

(As reported in the *'Canberra Times'* by David McLennan, Defence Reporter).

Australia's military must prepare for much stronger future enemies, armed with more lethal and sophisticated technology that could leapfrog Australia's own, its chief warned yesterday. Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, who issued the military's blueprint for 2030, *Joint Operations for the 21st Century*, at an Australia Defence College-Royal United Services Institute conference yesterday, described a future where his armed forces may not have the upper hand in the region they enjoy today. *"We face an environment in which rapid rates of technological change and the altering human organisation of warfare have the capacity to substantially enhance the capabilities of our future adversaries,"* he said.

Conventional weapons are becoming more advanced. "Low-tech" capabilities, like informal communications, are becoming more readily available, and control, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems are becoming increasingly secure and sophisticated. The document said Australia needs to be prepared to face enemies armed with weapons of mass destruction, submarines, advanced multi-role aircraft and *"mobile ground forces with better armour, increased firepower and better targeting systems, The rate of technological innovation will continue to accelerate, which will lead to shorter life cycles of technologies";* it also said *"Opportunities will present themselves for less-developed nations to quickly and intelligently invest in new technological fields in order to rapidly match, or leapfrog, the forces of developed nations such as Australia. In addition, the global economy and the rapidly reducing cost of technology will increasingly enable non-state actors to leverage technology as a force multiplier."*

Potential enemies are not going to face the same recruitment and retention problems as Australia, and it warned the commodities boom that fuelled increased defence spending could not be expected to last forever. Australia could not dismiss the possibility of future state-on-state conflicts, but there were other global and regional factors. These include terrorism, pandemic disease, resource depletion, climate change, state fragility, poor governance and economic underdevelopment. Problems are likely to arise quickly, leaving little time to change the nature of the military to suit specific contingencies as they emerge, and requiring an agile and flexible force. The military

would likely be involved in more low-intensity operations, especially stabilisation operations like in East Timor and the Solomons, which required demonstrably visible presences on the ground for long periods.

Future land forces are more like special forces, *"with an emphasis on precision and stealth"*, with air support and a greater reliance on unmanned systems.

Air Chief Marshal Houston said giving people the knowledge to understand their environment, their enemy and themselves are increasingly important. *"People are the key to war-fighting capabilities, and knowledge dominance enables our people to do their jobs better, faster and in ever more challenging circumstances"*, he said. *"However, knowledge dominance will involve recognising that information is both a boon and a burden in hierarchical organisations like the ADF - we need to get the right level of detail to the right person at the right time, no more and no less."*

Australia has to adapt the way it operates to be successful in the future. Australia still needs to be able to defend itself against credible threats without relying on help from another country and to provide joint forces to coalition operations.

Luncheon Speaker

Monday 13 August 2007

**His Excellency
Major General Michael Jeffrey AC
CVO MC**

**Governor General
of the Commonwealth of Australia**

The Governor General has consented to address members and guests of the RUSI-SA on Monday 13 August. He will be accompanied by Her Excellency Mrs Marlena Jeffrey.

Please note that the scheduled date for the August Luncheon has been changed to Monday 13 August at the normal time of 11.30 for 12 noon.

Members are encouraged to attend this special event and to invite their friends and relatives.

**Life Membership for Councillor
and Coordinator of the Guest Speaker Program
COL Neville Bergin (Retd)**



The Council of the RUSI of SA awarded Life Membership to Neville in 2007.

Born and educated in Adelaide, Neville graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, into the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, in 1956. He served in numerous Signals regimental and staff appointments, including command of 126th Signals Squadron (Special Forces) and as Commanding Officer and Chief Instructor of the Army School of Signals.

In 1970, he commanded the Task Force Signals Squadron at Nui Dat in South Vietnam and then served as the senior Signals staff officer and Defence Communications Officer in London. Neville is a graduate of the Army Staff College and the Joint Services Staff College.

Following a number of logistic staff appointments, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and appointed Director of Logistic Operations-Army. From 1983 to 1987, he was seconded to the United Nations in New York as a logistics and communications adviser for the support of peacekeeping missions. In this role he travelled frequently and extensively throughout the Middle East.

Neville retired from the Australian Army in 1987 and accepted an appointment as a Divisional General Manager of British Aerospace Australia in Adelaide. Before retiring from industry in 1999, he travelled extensively on business throughout South East Asia.

He has held the honorary appointment of Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in South Australia and, since 1994, has been the Convener of The Duntroon Society in South

Australia. For ten years he was a Director of Employ SA. Throughout his military and post-military careers he has had a long association with the RUSI and, from 2000 until 2004, was President of the RUSI of SA.

Neville is married to Nanette. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS

Monday 4 June 2007

Dr Satish Gupta

Director-General, Australia Policy Institute



The following was extracted from Dr Gupta's address.

Thank you for the invitation to speak to you on Australia – India relations. My talk will be in four parts, firstly I will talk about the present day India and where that country stands, the commonalities between our country and India and then a few words on India and China, Australia-India relations and what they could achieve together.

Getting to know India first hand is extremely important, because many still think of India as a poor country, too many beggars, too many dying of malnutrition, disasters, calamities, sufferings and so on. These are the preconceived impressions which one has even before setting foot on Indian soil.

But these first impressions of India tend to be superficial, as this is not the real India of today. India is the world's largest functioning democracy; a poor country, the world's fourth largest economy, the fastest growing economy in the world, world leader in the IT industry, a nuclear power, a naval power, a military power and an air power. It is a strong nation, economically, politically & strategically, and stands tall in the community of nations as the world's largest functioning democracy and is an economic powerhouse.

Not long ago, the largest economic and development aid recipient, India today gives billions of dollars in aid to help other countries, and its homegrown multinationals are investing money all over the world. It is the fourth largest economy in the world, after the US, China and Japan.

Today, India probably is the only country in the world which is closing the gap between its rich and the poor by creating a middle class of several hundred million people, and that middle class is larger than the population of the United States or the European Union.

Today, 55 per cent of all Indians are 25 years old or less, highly educated and on the move. The world is going to have to compete with them in every country. Once a liability, India's demography is turning out to be an asset. Her economy, once considered stagnant, is likely to remain the world's fastest or second fastest in growth.

The Tsunami also hit India hard, but because of her economic strength, not only did India not accept any overseas aid, she was strong enough to render financial and material assistance to Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia and Thailand, and even to the US when the cyclone Katrina hit its coast with devastating effects.

India has found a berth in a group of countries the US considers critical for maintaining peace and balance in the world, namely the US, the EU, Russia, Japan and China.

Both Australia and India are members of the East Asia summit, the dialogue partners at the ASEAN Regional Forum and members of the Indian Ocean Rim (littoral) Countries. However, whereas Australia is a member of the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic forum), India is not.

Australia and India have much in common thus enabling them to work together in many ways in many areas. Both countries have a common legal system, financial institutions, English language, free press, free judiciary and rights of individuals. Both are free societies and peace loving nations.

The USA and other countries such as France, Japan, Britain, South Korea and Canada have agreed to sell uranium to India because they consider India to be a responsible nation, but Australia has found it necessary to disagree.

One would have thought that it would be in Australia's interest to support India's thirst for energy as both countries share deep political cultural and security interests.

The security in the Indian Ocean is becoming a strategic issue. India, as the world's fourth largest naval power, and having the largest navy in the Indian Ocean, has been providing security to the oil and cargo traffic to major countries such as Japan, South Korea, the US, and the East Asian countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam. (Australia, with India, is an Indian Ocean Littoral State and also a member of the Indian Ocean Rim Countries grouping.)

The strategic importance of the Indian Ocean is obvious and cannot be overestimated, because it is perhaps the most important ocean in the world. It has the keys to the seven seas and the four critical access waterways, the Suez Canal, the Bab-El-Mandeb, the Straits of Hormuz and the Straits of Malacca.

The Indian Ocean region is home to one-third of the world's population and 40 per cent of the world's oil reserves, and links the Middle East, Africa and East Asia with Europe and the US. It carries the world's heaviest traffic of petroleum and petroleum products. (The UN investigations show that it also has a "huge reservoir of fish and marine life, hydrocarbons and beach sands very rich in minerals.")

The commercial value of the traffic linking the Middle East, South Asia, East Africa and Australia is enormous, considering that a large chunk of oil-related business moves in the area through the Straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. For this reason, the Indian Ocean, the only water outlet for this heavy oil traffic, is important even for non-littoral states such as Japan, Europe and the US. The Indian Ocean has the potential to become a zone of peace and cooperation which would greatly benefit all countries around it, including Australia.

Australia-India naval cooperation, complemented with our advanced technology in protecting the environment of the ocean, would strengthen our ties with India, especially when the Indian ocean is already being threatened by piracy, smuggling, the narcotics trade, human trafficking and other transnational crimes, as well as the proliferation of weapons through its sea routes.

Indeed, fearing terrorist attacks from the sea, India is presently strengthening its naval presence along the southern coast.

The multi-facet cooperation between Australia and India could go a long way in affording peace of mind and security to the small and large nations using the Indian Ocean, and not letting others develop it for their aggressive designs against peace loving nations around the globe who benefit from its mighty waters.

AUDITOR

CAPT Danny Shorrocks, a serving Reservist, has accepted the position of Auditor to the RUSI-SA.

Current Issues Briefing

Wednesday 25 July 2007

BRIG Philip Winter CSC

Commander, Counter Improvised Explosive Device (EID) Task Force

BRIG Winter's subject will be the Explosive Device Threat in the Middle East Area of Operations and his address will describe both the threat and ways and means being taken by the Australian Defence Force to counter the problem.

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MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

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 reported to the RUSI-SA Office by midday of the Friday before the lunch. Subsequent cancellations will attract a fee of \$20. The caterers have to be notified of the number attending by that time and that number must be paid for.

The dress code for the luncheon is neat casual, taking into consideration weather conditions. We assemble in Building 34A, Keswick Barracks, Keswick, at approximately 11.30 am 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 12.55 pm, as the guest speaker will be introduced at 1.00 pm. 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 2.00 pm.

Luncheon Speaker

Monday 3 September 2007

Simon R Woolrich

AWD Support Systems Director

(TBC)

Current Issues Briefing

Monday 20 August 2007

5.30 to 8 pm

Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP

Shadow Minister for Defence

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

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2007

Sunday 19 August 2007

Winter Carvery, Flagstaff Hill Golf Course at 12 Noon.

Sunday 25 November 2007

Christmas Sundowner, Keswick Barracks Officers' Mess at 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm.

Members will be reminded of these events closer to each activity and will be given details of costs and RSVP dates. A tear-off slip will be included to allow members to notify the Secretary of their attendance and to pay for the event.

LIBRARY

If any of our knowledgeable members are presently carrying out, or planning to do any research or investigation into military history, then the RUSI-SA library may well be the ideal place to start.

As you know, we have an extensive library, with books dating back to the early 19th Century on military expeditions and various subjects and more books are being added all the time. Members are always welcome to avail themselves of the library's facilities.

Come in during normal library hours (10 am to 4 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to peruse the extensive range of books, magazines and Service newspapers that are on display, and relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

LIBRARY NON FICTION

The following books have recently been added to the library. Reviews are provided by Malcolm Orchard.

The Bomb: A Life by Gerard DeGroot

Gerard DeGroot is professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. And as he writes *It did not take atomic bombs to make war terrible. So claimed Joe Oppenheimer, the acknowledged father of The Bomb. Though the remark was made in search of moral consolation, it was true. The inclination to kill is a historical constant. As has been demonstrated from Troy to Gettysburg, Agincourt to the Somme, the prospect of blood and death has never proved a deterrent to war. What has changed is man's capacity to kill – the efficiency of slaughter. Developments in weaponry have made killing easier. The distance between attacker and victim has increased, as has the number of people that can be killed with a single weapon. The development of aerial bombing mirrored the development process. The atom bomb brought it to a horrifying terminus.*

The Bomb: A Life was the winner of the RUSI Westminster Medal for Military Literature 2004.

For Valour by Bryan Perrett

The Victoria Cross was first awarded in 1857 to heroes of the Crimean War by Queen Victoria – it has been awarded only 1354 times. The Congressional Medal of Honour is its American equivalent. Bryan Perrett, formally of the Royal Armoured Corps describes here many actions of gallantry from September 1854 (Crimea) to March 1945 (Iwo Jima).

Armed Action by James Newton

Here Lieutenant Commander James Newton DFC of Britain's 847 Naval Air Squadron gives a personal account of the ferocious battles that followed the British assault on Basra.

The Battle for Spain by Anthony Beevor

The Spanish Civil War of 1936 – 1939, with Nazi, Fascist and Soviet intervention, has been seen as the

opening round of WWII. Indeed, as Beevor notes *The Spanish Civil War offered the Nazi campaign in Spain "the perfect testing ground for weaponry and testing". "The Battle for Spain" runs to some 586 pages; it is well illustrated by many photographs and clear maps. Several critics have written "Beevor's strength is his narrative mystery....."*

Second to None by Roger Freeman

The 32nd Battalion AIF was formed in Adelaide (at Mitcham Camp) in August 1915 and comprised men from South Australia and from Western Australia. Part of the 5th Division, it had distinguished service in France and Belgium – it fought in the terrific Fromelles and Ypres battles and distinguished itself in the final advances to the Hindenburg Lines. ***Second to None*** tells the story of the Battalion through the eyes of its members – from their diaries, letters and reminiscences. It is profusely illustrated.

The Eager Soldier by T.W.Wright

This book was donated by Barbara Adams and will be reviewed in the next issue of this newsletter.

The Australian Cruiser, Perth by I.Pfennigwerth

For all of her few months from her commissioning in June 1939 to her sinking on 1 March 1942, the Australian light cruiser *Perth* was engaged in war time operations against the forces of Germany, Italy, Vichy France and Japan. She served in the West Indies, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the Mediterranean and, finally, in the Java Sea. Her operations included the blockading of German merchant ships in neutral ports, escorting vital troop convoys to the Middle East, attacking shore positions in Libya and Syria and providing air defence of convoys, especially from the feared Stuka dive bombers of the German Luftwaffe. She participated in several pivotal battles, especially Matapan and Java Sea, and in the evacuation of Commonwealth forces from Greece and Crete in April-May 1941. Despite all this active service, up until her sinking she had lost fewer than a dozen of her company to enemy action.

This book is not just an account of the cruiser's war service. Using diaries kept by members of her ship's company to supplement British, Australian, German, Italian and Japanese official sources, Ian Pfennigwerth has provided a picture of the men who contributed to the ship's last desperate battle against a superior Japanese force. This sustained the survivors in the ordeal of imprisonment and mistreatment that was to follow. Years afterwards, a former petty officer would wonder that so many had *'been touched by the ghostly character of this long-gone ship, which has so affected us'*.

The book is a story of adventure and courage in adversity, written as a tribute by a former commanding officer of the cruiser's namesake, the guided missile destroyer, *Perth II*.

And as the President of the Naval Historical Society of Australia, Captain Paul Martin RAN (Retd) notes in his forward:

The story of *Perth* has given rise to a proud tradition of the name. The second *Perth* was a guided-missile destroy built in the USA and commissioned in 1965. The ship saw active service in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf and was decommissioned in 1999. A new *Perth*, an Anzac-class frigate built in Williamstown, Victoria, was commissioned in August 2006.

The story of this proud name continues.

“The Australian Cruiser, Perth” is well illustrated by some 16 photographs and 14 clear maps and drawings.

The book was donated by Commodore Orm Cooper.

“The Making and Breaking of the Post-Federation Australian Army, 1901-09” by Craig A.J. Stockings.

The Australian Army did not begin with the 1st AIF. On the contrary, the original Force lived and died from March 1901 to December 1909. As responsibility for defence was transferred from colonial to federal authorities, many problems of structure, administration and training came to the fore. The task of forging these disparate structures into a national military organisation confronted a Federal Government already constrained by limited finances. This monograph shows how Australia's first army was assembled, what this force represented and why it failed to endure.

The post-Federation Army existed for only a decade. It was a unique and in many respects forgotten organisation – an army of regiments and batteries, of cavalry and lances. It attempted to blend militia and volunteer forces into a cohesive whole, all at a time when the higher command structures were in a constant state of flux. Worse, the personalities and interests of its leaders often clashed to the detriment of the organisation. All this happened in an era of strategic uncertainty marked by the emergence of new Asian and European powers, which in itself stimulated doubt and debate as to proper defence arrangements and force structure imperatives.

The fate of the fledgling army was sealed with the visit to Australia, and inspection of Commonwealth Military Forces, by the famous military figure Field

Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. Kitchener's subsequent report, an exercise in public relations more than a military revelation, lent credibility to pre-existing Government agendas and initiated a complete restructuring of the 'post-Federation Army'. This is its story.

Dr Craig Stockings is a Lecturer in History and Strategic Studies at University College, University of New South Wales. He was operationally deployed to East Timor as part of the INTERFET force in 1999-2000 and his last full-time appointment was as the Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General in 2003.

He has recently completed a book to be released in August this year entitled: *“The Torch and the sword: A History of the Army Cadet Movement in Australia, 1866-2006.”*

LIBRARY FICTION

The following additions to the library have been donated by AIRCDRE L.R. Klaffer OAM AFC.

“Tripwire” by Lee Child
“Sahara” by Clive Cussler
“The Final Candidate” by Alan Gold
“Against All Enemies” by Richard Herman
“Reign In Hell” by William Diehl
“Fires In The Dark” by Louise Doughty
“Deadlock” by Colin Forbes
“The Power” by Colin Forbes
“Detective” by Arthur Hailey
“Eminent Domain” by Carl Huberman
“Body Of Truth” by David Lindsey
“Web Of Deceit” by Glenn Meade
“Heritage” by Judy Nunn
“No Safe Place” by Richard North Patterson
“Defending The Truth” by Richard Parrish
“Red Leaves” by Paullina Simons
“The Alexandra Link” by Steve Berry
“Bleedout” by Joan Brady
“Act Of Treason” by Vince Flynn
“The Afghan” by Frederick Forsyth
“Dark Harbour” by David Hosp
“Forever Odd” by Dean Koontz
“Balance Of Power” by Paul Palmer
“Step On A Crack” by James Patterson
“No Safe Place” by Richard North Patterson
“The Naming Of The Dead” by Ian Rankin
“The Betrayers” by Harold Robbins
“A Knife Edge” by David A. Rollins