



Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

Patron: The Governor of Victoria
Professor David de Kretser AC



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Martin Holme

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LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

Defence Plaza – 661 Bourke Street

Thursday, 31 March 2011

Brigadier David Coghlan

Director General of Military Strategy
Strategy Executive, Department of Defence

**Defending Australia in the
Asia- Pacific Century – Force 2030**

Brigadier David Coghlan is an artillery officer who has specialised in ground-based air defence. He has had operational tours in East Timor and Afghanistan.

He holds a Master of Defence Studies Degree from the University of NSW and a Master of Strategy from the US Army War College.

As well as his current appointment of Director General of Military Strategy, he is Head of Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

**Time: 11.30 hrs (Tea/coffee)
1200 hrs Address**

Admission : Members and Guests : \$5.00

For security reasons please advise the Office of your attendance and the names of your guests by email to martin.holme@defence.gov.au or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Tuesday 29 March. These names are provided to Security to issue Access Passes. If your name is not on the list you will experience a delay in gaining access.

Remember to bring a photo ID with you.

From the Secretary: Captain Martin Holme

The year has kicked off well with an excellent address from Dr Rod Lyon, Program Director Strategic Strategy and International, at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI). This address has now been posted on our website at www.rusi.org.au. If you have difficulty accessing it, please let me know and I can provide you with a hard copy. It was a first rate presentation.

Brigadier David Coghlan, Director General of Military Strategy, Strategy Executive, will be talking on 31 March. **Please note that this Lunchtime Address will be at the Defence Plaza Building, 661 Bourke Street, in the city.**

Included with this Newsletter is a copy of the RUSI publication *United Service*. We hope that you will enjoy this excellent journal which will be mailed to you on a quarterly basis from now on.

I would like to thank Councillor, COL Marcus Fielding, for loaning us some splendid military prints. Two will be hung in my office and three in the corridor outside and opposite the entrance to the temporary Officers Mess. Please come and inspect them on your next visit.

Program Dates for 2011

31 March	BRIG David Coghlan, Director General, Military Strategy, Strategic Executive
	"Defending Australia in the Asia-Pacific Century – Force 2030". (Defence Plaza Building, 661 Bourke Street).

28 April	TBA
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26 May	TBA (Possible Blamey Oration)
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30 June	TBA
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Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

PO J.R. Cations.

New Members

Since our last issue we welcome the following new Members :

Mr M. Hanrahan; Mr P.J. Lucas; SUBLT P. Mason;
CPL W.W. Stuart.

The Chatham House Rule

The term 'Chatham House Rule' is frequently used when issues concerning Strategy, Intelligence or sensitive policy are being canvassed or discussed in a public forum by people of note, particularly officials, who have a specific knowledge in these areas. They can speak more openly and freely if the Chatham House Rule applies at the meeting. For this reason, members attending RUSI meetings are likely to receive more frank and accurate information than is generally available.

We are often asked what the term actually means and so it was thought timely to make some explanatory comments.

The Chatham House Rule is a guideline to the handling of sensitive material that may be included in lectures and presentations given at various forums.

The Rule originated with the Royal Institute of International affairs, which is located at Chatham House in London. The Rule, which was formulated as the Chatham House Rule of Confidentiality in 1927, states:

When a meeting or part thereof, in held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant may be revealed.

The Rule is not legally binding in any way, and indeed the only sanction that exists for a breach lies with the organisation sponsoring the lecture (members or others may be excluded from future meetings), or the lecturer, who may refuse in future to speak to the organisation.

Comment:

At RUSI VIC Lectures, the Chatham House Rule normally applies and for particularly sensitive presentations the Chairman will remind the audience of their obligations under the Rule.

At seminars, the Rule may apply throughout the seminar or may be invoked for individual speakers as appropriate.

During presentations when speakers are effectively making a public announcement, it will be stated that the Chatham House Rule does not apply.

Geelong News

Geelong Branch activity for the year commenced with a Dinner Meeting held on Monday February 21 at which we welcomed LTCOL John Hawkins from Special Operations Command as the guest speaker.

Events for the remainder of the first half to the year will be Dinner Meetings, with a guest speaker, to be held:-

Monday, March 21

Monday, April 18 - the Anzac Dinner

Monday, May 16

Monday June 20 - the 62nd Annual Dinner

All the above are to be held at Dromoland House, 258 Pakington Street, Geelong West and commence at 1830 for 1900.

The cost for the evening is \$ 35 per head, with drinks available at bar prices.

Bookings are required to be made - contact Mrs Margaret Barnes 03 5243 9569.

From The President: Commander Warren Kemp



The last year has been very busy for RUSI Victoria, but I think that a great deal has been accomplished by your Council and our Administration during this time. The early disruption due to the contraction of our office space was completed without any major problems and the new Library Catalogue is fully functional, so that you may now visit the Office and draw a publication on loan, without any difficulty. It is an efficient system and very easy to find the military book of your choice, that you may require for information or for reference, perhaps to complete your Ph D thesis! Welcome to all of our members in 2011 from the "new look" RUSI Victoria, and I would encourage you to visit our premises and view the Library collection as soon as possible.

Your Council has held several special meetings and has now completed and adopted the Strategic Plan for the period from 2010 until 2015. This document is available in our office and will be placed on our website in due course. I would like to thank our Secretary and all Members of Council for attending these special meetings and particularly for the knowledge, experience and skill that they contributed so willingly to the construction of this very important document, which will guide the Council during the next five years.

In view of the successful RUSI Luncheon held last November, it has been decided to hold our second Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, 8 November 2011, again at the William Angliss Restaurant, with arrangements similar to those of last year. We have made a reservation, so please make a note for this date in your diary now and remember to book early when the notice arrives from the Secretary!

Recently, we received an unexpected bequest from the estate of a former member, namely Lieutenant Keith Batiste, of the 2/8th Field Regiment. The Council are considering the nature of a suitable memorial and you can be assured that this welcome legacy will be put to very good use.

Foundation Day for the Royal Australian Navy was celebrated on 1st March, with luncheon arranged by the Navy League, Naval Association and Naval Officers' Club. I had the honour to represent RUSI Victoria, accompanied by my wife, Dorothy. The Guest of Honour was Rear Admiral James Goldrick, RAN, who delivered the annual Cresswell Oration; his interesting address

covering the history and development of the Submarine Service in the Royal Australian Navy.

A vibrant and strong membership has been identified as a critical success factor for RUSI Victoria, supported by the maintenance of our excellent Speaker Programme and continuing support from the Department of Defence. The vitality of the Institute is enhanced by larger attendances at our monthly addresses by expert and eminent Speakers. We are an Educational Institution and I would encourage you to not only attend our meetings, but also to bring your colleagues and friends so that the community in general will be better and more accurately informed about Defence and National Security matters.

Yours Aye,
Warren

COUNCILLORS EMERITUS 2011

RUSI VIC By-Law 7 provides that members who have served on Council in any capacity for five years or more, on standing down may be conferred the title of 'Councillor Emeritus' in recognition of their service. Current Councillors Emeritus are as follows:

Dr Colin Brown GM

Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Bryan MBE

Brigadier Keith Colwill CBE

Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Fallon

Brigadier Mac Grant OAM RFD

Commander Hugh Jarrett RAN

Mrs Marie Martini

Flying Officer John McPhee MBE

Brigadier David Noble CSC

Colonel John Pilbeam AM ED

Major Bob Prewett RFD

Major Ian Rainford OAM ED JP

Colonel Mark Richards

Lieutenant Commander Eric Thompson VRD RANR

Flying Officer Neville Wright

From the King's Speech

I recommend the Oscar winning film *The King's Speech*. The film stars Colin Firth as King George VI, Geoffrey Rush as the Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue and Helena Bonham-Carter as Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother).

The film's climax is with King George VI's 1939 Christmas Message Empire Broadcast, which concluded with an inspirational poem.

At the onset of the Second World War, the King's words and the delivery of the speech were vital in maintaining morale. What particularly stuck in people's minds was the appositeness of the words of the poem. Everyone asked, 'who was the author of the poem?'

When he was Secretary and Editor of *RUSI News* the late Bill Wallach reproduced the text of King George VI's 1939 speech in the September 1996 edition but omitted the poem. He redressed this oversight by printing the text of the poem in the September 1997 edition, adding 'author unknown'.

The story continues, as the author was not only known but was related to a member of the Institute, Major Ian Haskins. A stylised and illustrated version of the poem was reproduced in the April 1998 *RUSI News*, together with an explanation of its providence. Here is the poem, unfortunately without the visual embellishment:

At the Gate of the Year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.

And he replied ...

Go out into the Darkness

and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.

From *God knows* – Minnie Louise Haskins 1875-1957

The poem was first published in 1908 as part of a collection entitled *The Desert*. The poem appeared in *The Times* in the months before Christmas 1939 and Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) gave a copy to the King.

After King George VI died in 1952, she had the words engraved on brass plaques placed on his Memorial. The poem was read at the Queen Mother's funeral in 2002.

Mike Rawlinson



King George VI

F 111 Retirement

The last FIIC, A8-125 landed at RAAF Base Amberley on 3 December 2010 for the last time, bringing to an end 37 years of remarkable service to the RAAF and Australia.



The F-111 formula of long-range, high speed, low level attack at night and bad weather gave Australia a regional strategic edge for much of this period.

Proud to Belong in the ADF - My Oath!

Multiculturalism returned to the public debate in February. From 'The Age' editorial of 19 February: 'Australia today is one of the most conspicuously successful examples of a society that combines broad cultural diversity and tolerance of difference with shared allegiance to the nation. That allegiance, in turn, is underpinned by acceptance of English as the common language and by shared understanding of citizenship, founded on respect for the rule of law, for free speech, and for the equal dignity and rights of all, regardless of race, gender or sexuality.'

In the ADF there are members in uniform from almost all ethnic groups in Australia. But, collectively Australians with an ethnic background are significantly underrepresented in the Defence Force. There are numerous reasons for this, many relating to cultural misunderstandings.

This underrepresentation is unsatisfactory on two counts. First, for a mature democracy, and successful multicultural country, all groups in the community should be represented in the uniformed services in roughly the same proportion that they constitute in the community. It does not take much imagination to envisage situations in which the current defacto Anglo/Celtic monopoly on military employment could be divisive for the nation.

Second, Australia has an ageing population and for the ADF to maintain the quality of its recruiting, the recruiting base needs to include all groups in the community, particularly those groups which have a growing fraction of our young adult, recruitable population.

Although ethnic underrepresentation has been contemplated for nearly 20 years, the ADF has never had a specific policy to recruit and retain personnel with an ethnic background – never that is, until now. A new *Multicultural and Retention Strategy* aims at recruiting Australians with an ethnic background. An excellent website and booklet are entitled *Proud to Belong in the ADF*. Recruiting activities need to be complemented by cultural awareness in training, and greater engagement of line ADF personnel with ethnic communities.

Another sticking point with some ethnic communities is the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, which their sons and daughters will swear or affirm on enlistment which is quite different from the citizenship pledge with which they are familiar.

The Oath of Allegiance is essentially the same in form as that administered to members enlisted in the NSW Infantry who formed the NSW Contingent to the Sudan in 1885, and swore allegiance to Queen Victoria. Since 1953 when Queen Elizabeth succeeded her father as monarch, the Oath at enlistment has been unchanged:

Iswear that I will well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her Heirs and Successors according to law, as a member of the (RAN, Australian Army or RAAF) for a period of....., and that I will resist her enemies and faithfully discharge my duty according to law. SO HELP ME GOD!

In contrast the Citizenship Oath has undergone a number of changes, the last being in 1993. In introducing the 1993 legislation, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Senator the Hon Nick Bollock said:

'we need to have an oath of allegiance which reflects the core values of Australia and which is a bonding instrument, and we can do this without any disrespect to our sovereign'

The 1994 Citizenship Pledge of Commitment reads:

'From this time forward, under God, I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.'

Although not stated, loyalty to Australia embraces loyalty to the Australian Constitution including the Queen.

Swearing 'Loyalty to Australia and its people' is a much more appealing enlistment Oath for a candidate with an ethnic background than the 1953 Oath in current use. In conjunction with the ADF's new multicultural recruiting initiative, now is the time to change the Oath at enlistment to align with the citizenship pledge.

As there is no specific constitutional basis for the enlistment oath, nor is it specifically provided for in legislation, a change could be achieved by the Governor General approving changes to regulations.

A change in the Oath would be an important symbol, publicly demonstrating the sincerity and determination of the ADF in welcoming Australians with an ethnic background into its ranks – proud for them to belong in the Australian Defence Force.

Mike Rawlinson

Canberra Class Landing Helicopter Dock



The *Canberra* class Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) is the new amphibious assault ship being developed for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

The Australian Government has approved a \$3 billion project to build two LHDs, which will have air support, amphibious assault, transport and command centre roles.

They are planned to replace in turn HMAS *Tobruk* and one of the RAN's two current *Kanimbla* class vessels – HMAS *Manoora* or HMAS *Kamimbla*.

The *Canberra* class ships will be the largest warships ever operated by the RAN and will displace up to 7,000 tonnes - more than the RAN's last aircraft carrier, HMAS *Melbourne*. Each of the ships will be able to carry an infantry battalion.

In June 2007, the Australian Minister for Defence announced that Tenix Defence was the preferred tenderer for the construction of the two large amphibious landing ships at a cost of \$3 billion.

On 24 September 2009 a keel laying ceremony took place for *Canberra* at the Navantia shipbuilding yard in Ferrol, Spain.

Canberra is set to be launched in Spain during March 2011, and expected to arrive at Williamstown dockyard in late 2012. The hull of *Adelaide* is expected to arrive in Australia in 2014.

The *Canberra* class ships will provide the Australian Defence Force with greatly increased naval aviation capabilities, with each ship carrying up to 24 Army and Navy helicopters. These aircraft will include Army and Navy MRH-90 transport helicopters and Navy S-70B Seahawk anti-submarine helicopters. The ships will be built with an integral ski-ramp and could be certified to operate allied or Australian Short Take Off or Vertical Landing (STOVL) aircraft.

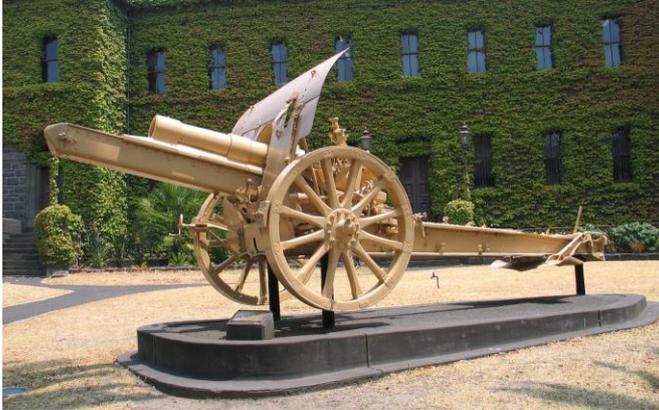
The *Canberra* class ships will be each armed with four RAFAEL Typhoon 25 mm remote weapons systems placed at the ships' corners. These weapons will be used to defend against asymmetric threats such as small boats. It is unusual for large warships such as the *Canberra* class to not be armed with anti-aircraft missiles and close-in weapon systems for protection against missiles. The RAN believes that the new *Hobart* class destroyers and Royal Australian Air Force aircraft will be sufficient to protect the LHDs from attack.



Military History and Heritage in Victoria

By Colonel Marcus Fielding

The letterhead on the RUSI Victoria Newsletter shows one of the artillery pieces located in front of Victoria Barracks - a Turkish 5.9 inch howitzer.



The plaque in front of the gun states that it was captured on the 8 November 1917 by the Australian Mounted Division near Huj, during the offensive against the Gaza-Beersheeba line which culminated in the occupation of Jerusalem.

The village of Huj was established in a hilly area on the northern edge of the Negev Desert sometime between 1818 and 1820 by Mustafa Bey, the Ottoman Governor of Gaza and Jaffa. He built a police station to keep the village secure, and offered free land to encourage migration to the site from Gaza from amongst the surrounding Bedouin tribes. Today, Huj is a Palestinian village located 15 km northeast of Gaza City.

The 3rd and 4th Australian Light Horse Brigades together with the 5th Yeomanry Brigade formed the Australian Mounted Division at that time.

The gun was most probably captured by members of the 9th Light Horse Regiment as part of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade.

The 9th Light Horse Regiment was formed in Adelaide and trained in Melbourne between October 1914 and February 1915. Approximately three-quarters of the regiment hailed from South Australia and the other quarter from Victoria.

The 3rd Light Horse Brigade fought at Gallipoli and was the unit involved on the disastrous attack on the Nek on 7 August 1915.

With the fall of Gaza on 7 November 1917, the Turkish defensive position in southern Palestine collapsed. The 9th Light Horse participated in the pursuit that followed and led to the capture of Jerusalem in December 1917. An account of the fighting on 8th November 1917 reveals

that the brigade took several guns in the afternoon. An extract follows:

One of the [Turkish guns] was galloped by a patrol under Lieutenant G.L.H. Mueller, of the 9th Light Horse, and the team of bullocks was shot after all the efforts of the Australians to drive the little Turkish bullocks had failed. Lieutenant W.H. Lilly of the machine-gun squadron, advancing boldly with two [machine]- guns, destroyed the team of another, and afterwards co-operated with Lieutenant F.J. MacGregor, of the 10th Light Horse in the capture of a third. This gun, a 5.9-inch howitzer was in action against the Australians at a range of 1600 yards, and MacGregor saw the enemy bring up teams for its withdrawal; he therefore, with Lilly covering his advance with a machine-gun, rode forward with four men, captured a German officer with the crew of the gun, and under heavy fire shot the team of animals.

Next time you walk past this artillery piece on your way to a RUSI Victoria event please take a moment to reflect on the actions that led to its capture and the military heritage it represents.



Military History & Heritage Victoria Inc.

MHHV is an incorporated not-for-profit association registered in Victoria.

MHHV Incorporated was established to provide an inclusive forum for individuals and groups who are passionate about military history and heritage in Victoria.

Military History and Heritage Victoria has the following aims:

- ☞ To encourage interest in Australian and especially Victorian military history and heritage in all of its forms within both the general community and by individuals.
- ☞ To develop and engage in activities related to the research of military history and the preservation of military heritage as well as the promotion, education, commemoration of this history and heritage among communities and the general public of Victoria.
- ☞ To promote the interests of its member organisations to all levels of Government, communities and the general public of Victoria.
- ☞ To promote communication and cooperation within the military history and heritage community of Victoria.

Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc. will officially launch in April 2011.

Bill Millin – Piper Extraordinaire

Bill Millin, piper at the D-Day landings, has died aged 88. This is an edited version of his amazing story, which appeared recently in 'The Economist'. Ed.

Any reasonable observer might have thought Bill Millin was unarmed as he jumped off the landing ramp at Sword Beach, in Normandy, on June 6th 1944. Unlike his colleagues, the pale 21 year-old held no rifle in his hands. Of course, in full Highland rig as he was, he had his trusty *skean dhu*, his little dirk, tucked into his right sock. But that was soon under three feet of water as he waded ashore, a weary soldier still smelling his own vomit from a night in a close boat on a choppy sea, and whose kilt in the freezing water was floating prettily round him like a ballerina's skirt.

But Mr Millin was not unarmed; far from it. He held his pipes, high over his head at first to keep them from the wet (for while whisky was said to be good for the bag, salt water wasn't), then cradled in his arms to play. And bagpipes, by long tradition, counted as instruments of war. An English judge had said so after the Scots' great defeat at Culloden in 1746; a piper was a fighter like the rest, and his music was his weapon. The whining skirl of the pipes had struck dread into the Germans on the Somme, who had called the killed pipers "Ladies from Hell". And it raised the hearts and minds of the home side, so much so that when Mr Millin played on June 5th, as the troops left for France past the Isle of Wight and he was standing on the bowsprit just about keeping his balance above the waves getting rougher, the wild cheers of the crowd drowned out the sound of his pipes even to himself.

His playing had been planned as part of the operation. On commando training near Fort William he had struck up a friendship with Lord Lovat, the officer in charge of the 1st Special Service Brigade. Not that they had much in common. Mr Millin was short, with a broad cheeky face, the son of a Glasgow policeman; his sharpest childhood memory was of being one of the "poor", sleeping on deck, on the family's return in 1925 from Canada to Scotland. Lovat was tall, lanky, outrageously handsome and romantic, with a castle towering above the river at Beaulieu, near Inverness. He had asked Mr Millin to be his personal piper: not a feudal but a military arrangement. The War Office in London now forbade pipers to play in battle, but Mr Millin and Lord Lovat, as Scots, plotted rebellion. In this "greatest invasion in history", Lovat wanted pipes to lead the way.

He was ordering now, as they waded up Sword Beach, in that drawly voice of his: "Give us a tune piper". Mr Millin thought him a mad bastard. The man beside him, on the point of jumping off, had taken a bullet in the face and gone under. But there was Lovat, strolling through fire quite calmly in his aristocratic way, allegedly wearing a monogrammed white pullover under his jacket and carrying an ancient Winchester rifle, so if he was mad Mr

Millin thought he might as well be ridiculous too, and struck up "Hielan' Laddie". Lovat approved it with a thumbs up and asked for "The Road to the Isles". Mr Millin inquired, half-joking, whether he should walk up and down in the traditional way of pipers. "Oh, yes. That would be lovely".

Three times he walked up and down at the edge of the sea. He remembered the sand shaking under his feet from mortar fire and the dead bodies rolling in the surf against his legs. For the rest of the day, when ever required, he played. He piped the advancing troops along the raised road by the Caen canal, seeing the flashes from the rifle of a sniper about 100 yards ahead, noticing only after a minute or so that everyone behind him had hit the deck in the dust. When Lovat had dispatched the sniper, he struck up again. He led the company down the main street of Bénouville playing "Blue Bonnets over the Border", refusing to run when the commander of 6 Commando urged him to; pipers walked as they played.

He took them across two bridges, one (later renamed the Pegasus Bridge) ringing and banging as shrapnel hit the metal sides, one merely with railings which bullets whistled through: "the longest bridge I ever piped across". Those two crossings marked their successful rendezvous with the troops who had preceded them. All the way, he learned later, German snipers had him in their sights but, out of pity for the madman, had not fired. That was their story. Mr Millin himself knew he wasn't going to die. Piping was too enjoyable, as he had discovered in the Boys' Brigade band and all through his short army career. And piping protected him.

The Nut-Brown Maiden

The pipes themselves were less lucky, injured by shrapnel as he dived into a ditch. He could still play them, but four days later they took a direct hit on the chanter and the drone when he had laid them down in the grass, and that was that. The last tune they had piped on D-Day was "The Nut-Brown Maiden", played for a small red-haired French girl who, with her folks cowering behind her, had asked him for music as he passed their farm.

He gave the pipes later to the museum at the Pegasus Bridge, which he often revisited, and sometimes piped across, during his long and quiet post-war career as a mental nurse at Dawlish in Devon. On one such visit, in full Highland rig with his pipes in his arms, he was approached by a smartly dressed woman of a certain age, with faded red hair, who planted a joyous kiss of remembrance on his cheek.

Library Notes

JUST a brief note for your perusal this time! We have included an article on the way ahead for libraries now that electronic media are so powerful. Perhaps all the factors do not apply to our RUSI of Victoria Library, but nevertheless they are, we hope, of interest to you.

Many new acquisitions have been added since our last notes. Two are of particular note. They are:

General A.P. Wavell, *Summary of Statement on Operations in Malaya and Singapore*, 1942.

[This is a photocopy of the Prime Minister's (Churchill's) copy of the 'Wavell Report' which he directed was to be restricted to War Cabinet distribution only]

Ian McGibbon, *New Zealand's Vietnam War: A History of Combat, Commitment and Controversy*, Auckland: Exisle Press, 2010. [The NZ Official History of operations.]

Military Technology

Invisible Tanks, Planes and Armour Could Hit Battlefields in 5 Years

In BAE Systems "eCamouflage" concept, images are projected on the hull of a combat vehicle that changes in concert with the environment -- making the vehicle invisible. Invisible tanks -- and maybe invisible soldiers -- may soon be charging onto battlefields.

A British weapons manufacturer is making good on the promise of Wonder Woman's invisible jet, describing an "eCamouflage" system that uses electronic ink to disguise combat vehicles by projecting videos of the countryside onto them -- electronic squid ink of a sort.

Using highly sophisticated electronic sensors attached to a vehicle's hull, BAE Systems plans to project images of the surrounding environment back onto the outside of the vehicle -- enabling it to merge into the landscape and evade attack, explained London paper *The Telegraph*.

Unlike conventional forms of camouflage, the images on the hull would change in concert with the changing environment, always insuring that the vehicle remains disguised.

BAE Systems is working with an unnamed Swedish company that makes a technology similar to the e-ink screens in digital book readers like the Amazon Kindle and Sony Reader, explained Mike Sweeney, head of external communications for the company. E-ink screens, as any e-book reader can attest, are both slow to refresh and black and white -- two clear obstacles to this technology.

BAE has solved those problems, Sweeney told FoxNews.com. "The guys in Sweden, together with some other companies we've been looking at, have the answer to that question," he said. BAE is starting with tanks, such as the CV90 (or Combat Vehicle 90, the Swedish equivalent of the Bradley armoured fighting vehicle) on which the first tests will be conducted. But the technology won't be limited to them, Sweeney said. "We're also working on it for aircraft," he told FoxNews.com.

This isn't the first time the technology has been discussed. FoxNews.com wrote about invisible tanks in 2007, when they were merely a concept. And BAE isn't alone in its quest to make things vanish. Several companies have been working on similar technologies, all based on the same approach, as Sweeney was quick to note: They all use "a camera to capture the scene on the other side of the vehicle, then project that image on the other side of the vehicle so that it blends into the environment."

But BAE plans to make it happen, intending to test in Sweden at the end of the month a technology it calls "adaptive signature." And the next stage, Sweeney explained, will be transparent battle armour for soldiers.

The concept was developed as part of the Future Protected Vehicle program, which BAE's scientists believe will transform the way in which future conflicts will be fought.

A spokesman for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) -- the U.S. Department of Defense's research and development wing -- told FoxNews.com that a similar program that utilized "negative index materials" was scuttled in 2009 due to unviable research.

Libraries: the Future

Here is a recent BBC broadcast which we hope will be of interest. It might even spark debate!

By Peter Jackson, BBC News

With more than 400 public libraries under threat of closure, the campaign to save them is gathering pace. But in an age of downloads, cheap books and easy online shopping, can this great British institution survive? Some of the UK's best-selling authors have joined the fight against "cultural vandalism" by backing a national day of protest read-ins against library closures. But no matter how eloquently Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy or author Colin Dexter extol their virtues, the fact is library visitor numbers - like their budgets - are falling.

Campaigners say they are irreplaceable doors to learning more relevant now than ever before, but for others the speed and breadth of the web has rendered them obsolete dinosaurs. Supporters say that libraries allow dialogue to flourish and enrich local democracy. So what can the internet provide that a library can't, and when is there simply no online substitute for a trip to your local library? Here are five examples on either side:

Only at a library

1. **Specialist research** As tempting as it is to view the web as a panacea for gathering information, there are gaps only library documents, books and maps can fill. Local and family historians as well as academic and historical researchers are among those who still rely heavily on paper and print. "Those libraries that have managed to retain older collections need to go on retaining them... we need that evidence of ingenuity, originality and inspiration that we can lose if we only look at things produced in the last few years."

2. **Environment to learn** Sometimes there's no substitute for human contact; just being in a place surrounded by books and information with help at hand to access them is invaluable. Whilst some will crave the refuge of silence libraries offer, others such as the vulnerable and isolated have a place to interact, learn and meet people.

3. **Expert staff** Anyone who's spent five minutes trawling the thousands of medical and health websites will know the perils of misinformation. Librarians have specialist knowledge and are trained to find reliable information and evaluate it - a skill as relevant in the digital age as it has always been. Simple Google searches are hit and miss, throwing up websites edited to varying degrees of academic rigor and professionalism. Librarians can help navigate through the "labyrinth" of information and around these pitfalls.

4. **Free internet access** With 30% of the population still without a home internet connection, libraries are for many their first and last online experience. Although some charge after a certain period, all libraries should offer at least some free online access. Libraries reduce the "digital divide" by offering free access to those who can't afford a pc or monthly subscriptions.

5. **Engage in local democracy** Community forums in libraries are the perfect place to meet and engage in local politics because they're neutral, non-judgmental spaces. "The problem with the internet is people flock together and have similar views, there's no real dialogue between people who have different views." "Libraries do so much more than just give information, there are community discussion groups... and reading groups where you can talk about green initiatives or economic issues."

Only online

1. **Searchability** The speed of research and interactivity of the internet make it an altogether richer experience than traditional libraries. "You can get lost in the world of information on the internet but we gain and lose.

"We tend not to read things all the way through anymore. You find a link, follow it and never go back to what you were originally reading, which is perhaps bad for the attention span. "On the other hand, it's serendipity. It's wonderful that you can leap on from one source of information to another, from one question to another series of questions, it is a wonderful resource."

2. **Digital books** Forget catching a bus to the library to carry home a limited number, yet heavy stack nonetheless, of books. For those who can afford a portable reader like a Kindle or iPad, the convenience of accessing books on a beach, up a mountain, or anywhere else for that matter, can be irresistible. But with sales of e-books fast catching up paperbacks, the full impact on traditional publishers has yet to be revealed.

3. **Comfort in numbers** Forums and social networks can be an impersonal way to interact, but sometimes magic happens. "Sometimes the right answer just comes when people ask each other questions on forums.

4. **Brings niches together** If you had a niche interest in something, it wasn't always easy to find someone with the same niche interest, now it really is. "Community activity used to revolve around notice boards in town halls and libraries, now your notice board is global."

5. **Self-publishing** The traditional barriers to publishing have been shifted by the advent of do-it-yourself e-books on the internet. Whereas information in libraries has been limited to the books on its shelves - the information which managed to get published, sites like Blurb allow you to print on demand.

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