



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



Victoria Barracks  
Ground Floor 'H' Block  
256-310 St Kilda Road  
Southbank, Victoria 3006

Phone: (03) 9282 5918  
Fax: (03) 9282 5857  
Email: [rusi.vic@defence.gov.au](mailto:rusi.vic@defence.gov.au)  
ABN 46 648 764 477

## RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Issue 2 – June 2011

Editor: Martin Holme

ISSN 1446 – 4527

### RUSI VIC Council 2010/11

#### President

Commander Warren Kemp RFD RANR

#### Immediate Past President

Brigadier Ian Lillie AM CSC

#### Vice Patrons

Senior Service Commanders

#### Vice Presidents

Major General Mike O'Brien CSC  
Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson RAAF (Retd)  
Lieutenant Commander John Redman RAN

#### Councillors

Major General Ian Freer CB CBE  
Lieutenant Colonel David Ellson RFD ED  
Colonel Douglas Knight  
Flight Lieutenant Brian Surtees RAF  
Colonel Marcus Fielding  
Squadron Leader Hugh Dolan RAAF

#### Geelong Branch Representative

Lieutenant Commander Jim Eldridge RFD RD RAN

#### Service Representatives

Defence: Commander Paul Gall RAN  
RAAF: Wing Commander John Fisher

#### Secretary

Captain Martin Holme

#### Treasurer

Lieutenant Colonel Ian George RFD ED

#### Hon Auditor

Colin Kirkwood Esq

### LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

*Defence Plaza – 661 Bourke Street*

**Thursday, 30 June 2011**

**Major General John Cantwell AO**

**Afghanistan:  
Reflections on a Year as the Australian  
National Commander**

John Cantwell joined the Army as a regular soldier in 1974. He attended officer training in 1981, and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. As a Major, he commanded a British tank squadron as an exchange officer with the British in Germany and served in Operation Desert Storm with the Coalition forces in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait from 1990–91. In 2004–05 he commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, and in early 2006 he deployed to Iraq as the Director Strategic Operations, Headquarters Multi National Forces Iraq. While on this deployment he was promoted to Major General and was appointed Deputy Chief of Army in January 2007. In 2010 he served as Commander of Australian Forces in Middle East Area of Operations.

**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](mailto:martin.holme@defence.gov.au) or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Tuesday 28 June. 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.

#### URGENT PLEASE NOTE:

Information in the recently distributed  
Subscription Notices regarding EFT details was  
Incorrect and should have read:-

BANK: Defence Force Credit Union  
ACCOUNT: R.U.S.I. of Victoria  
BSB: 83205  
ACCOUNT NO: 2070 5571

## From the Secretary: Captain Martin Holme

Life at the Office is proceeding smoothly and well. The standard of our speakers at our lunchtime gatherings continues to be excellent. BRIG David Coghlan spoke in March on "Defending Australia in the Asia Pacific Century – Force 2030" and COL Bruce Murray AM gave an interesting talk on his experiences in "Enabling Afghanistan's National Security Force".

On 19 May, RADM James Goldrick AM CSC delivered the Blamey Oration – "Some Issues of Command in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The Oration is a biennial event held in conjunction with The Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund. The Oration was held at The Shrine of Remembrance which proved to be a most suitable venue, and we are grateful for the assistance and cooperation of the Shrine staff. Admiral Goldrick's talk was of the highest calibre and will be published in a future edition of the Newsletter and in due course posted on the RUSI website. ([www.rusi.org.au](http://www.rusi.org.au)).

Our next speaker, on 30 June, will be MAJGEN John Cantwell AO, recently returned from Afghanistan where he was the Australian National Commander. He was much in the news during his tour there and it promises to be a fascinating talk. **Please note that this address will be at the Defence Plaza Building, 661 Bourke Street, in the City.**

A recent Meeting with the RUSI Australia National Secretary, AIRCDRE Peter McDermott, has helped to pave the way for better and more informed use of the RUSI website and a more sophisticated way of handling our Membership data base. More about this in future Newsletters.

### Program Dates for 2011

28 July Professor Michael L'Estrange, Director, National Security College, "Australia's Evolving National Security Community and the Challenges it Faces".

25 August CAPT Brad White RAN, Director, Joint Amphibious Capability Implementation Team (TBC)

29 Sept TBA  
27 Oct TBA – Annual General Meeting  
8 Nov Annual Luncheon  
24 Nov TBA  
13 Dec Christmas Drinks

### New Members

Since our last issue we welcome the following new Members :

MAJ A. Ng; COL J.C. Coulson OAM RFD ED;  
COL M.F. Brandy CSM; LTCOL J. Cooke;  
COL B. Murray AM; Mr G.J. McMullen;  
LEUT D. Smith RAN; LTCOL R.J. Hart RFD.

### Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:  
LCDR H.A. Rhodes DSC  
Mr W. Keatley  
LT B.E. Burke  
FLLT J. Ackroyd.

### LT Beatrice E. (Bea) Burke

Bea Burke, who died recently, was a long-time supporter of our Institute, having joined in 1990. She was in her 88<sup>th</sup> year. She was a character and latterly a stoic battler, struggling on two crutches, with great difficulty and courage, and enduring considerable pain, in to the Barracks to attend Lunchtime Lectures. Despite these challenges she remained cheerful, positive and sometimes forceful in her opinions! She attended her last Lunchtime Address, just a few months ago.

She sort of adopted me when I was feeling my way as the new Secretary and I have been very touched by her kindness, her interest in my minor ailments and above all, her sometimes wicked sense of humour.

Bea had a great interest in things Military and over the years assembled a substantial collection of military related books, many of which, in recent years, she generously donated to our Library.

In early 1945, Bea was posted as OC 66 AWAS Barracks in Townsville, Queensland. She was responsible for the wellbeing and provision of accommodation for Army women working in units in the area. The Barracks also acted as a leave and transit depot for all women's services passing to and from the South-West Pacific area.

Bea was there for VP Day on the 15 August 1945 and in her own words, "remembered that all units were ordered to remove distributors from army vehicles to prevent any over enthusiastic troops from going wild and crashing them". Her second recollection was, "beneath all the elation, I could not help wondering what the future held since, like so many others, I had only known a world at war as a young adult. The distributors were replaced and, in time, we have all learned what the future held".

In August 2005, Bea answered the call and returned to Townsville to join the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of VP Day. It was a memorable visit, which she writes well about, in an article published in our November 2005 Newsletter.

Her funeral was well attended by a host of diverse friends and associates and as is so often the case on such occasions we all learned much that we had previously been unaware of about a remarkable human being.

### Martin Holme

## From The President: Commander Warren Kemp



I am pleased to report that Captain Mark Hill, RAN, the Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus and Senior Naval Officer, Victoria, has accepted my invitation to become Vice Patron of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria. The Constitution of RUSI Victoria provides for the appointment of the Governor as Patron and three Vice Patrons, who are to be the Senior Officers of the three Armed Services in Victoria, and these arrangements are now proceeding. Although HMAS Cerberus is situated at some distance from Victoria Barracks, we welcome Captain Hill and look forward to a close association with the Navy and to his involvement with RUSI Vic to the extent that he is able, as has been the tradition in the past.

As mentioned by our Secretary, the Officers of Council held a meeting on 30 May with the National Secretary, Air Commodore Peter McDermott. This discussion was about the RUSI web-based membership management system and the potential for using the website to promote RUSI Vic activities. We have reached agreement in general terms and will now proceed to the details that will determine whether this system will be workable and will meet the requirements of RUSI Victoria.

We now have a Membership Sub-committee, the Chairman being our Vice President, Lieutenant Commander John Redman and members Colonel Douglas Knight and Wing Commander John Fisher, representing each of the Services. Their task is to manage all aspects of membership in co-operation with the Secretary and Treasurer, to maintain general supervision of the membership records and to seek new members, particularly younger people and those still serving or recently separated and living in Victoria. The Chairman may, from time to time, co-opt another member of RUSI Vic to assist the Sub-committee in the consideration of a particular matter. While membership matters are very important, we should not overlook the fact that attendance at our meetings and other activities continues to be our main priority. The Membership Sub-committee will report to Council at each Council Meeting, making any recommendations that are deemed appropriate for consideration and decision by the Council.

Anzac Day continues to be well-supported in the community and I am impressed by the increasing

interest shown by young people, particularly this year when Anzac Day became entangled with Easter. The form of the Anzac Commemoration will undoubtedly change with the passage of time, but the interest of the young people of today is a good indication that this National Day to commemorate the fallen in all wars will persist in Australia and New Zealand for a very long time to come. Our thoughts at this time are drawn to the recent tragic deaths and casualties in the current war in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and our sympathy is with their relatives and colleagues. Our duty, as RUSI Victoria, is to inform and educate our Members and the general public regarding matters of Defence and National Security so that our Armed Services are given full support, in the knowledge that their sacrifices shall not be in vain.

I have had the honour to represent RUSI Victoria several times during the last three months. On 1 May the Victorian Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (VAJEX) held their annual Anzac Service at the Mount Scopus School in Burwood and this was well-attended by some 200 people.

The RSL Hellenic Sub-Branch held a function at the St Kilda Town Hall on 21 May, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Crete in May 1941 that was well-attended by 150 members and guests. There were several speakers, highlighting the contribution of the Merchant Navy to the war effort, followed by a short presentation by Mr Steve Kyritsis regarding his recent book "Greek-Australians in the Vietnam War" and subsequently he presented a signed copy of his book to our library.

The Boer War Day Commemoration was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May at the Shrine of Remembrance, this year being the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wilmansrust action on the night of 12 June 1901, when the 5<sup>th</sup> Victorian Mounted Rifles lost 18 men killed and 42 wounded. We will remember them each Anzac Day, the day to remember the fallen of all our wars.

The Blamey Oration of 2011 was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on 19 May, in conjunction with the Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Trust. This splendid occasion, with an excellent Oration by Rear Admiral James Goldrick, AM, CSC, RAN followed by the presentation of the Blamey Medallion by the President of the Blamey Memorial Trust, Major General David McLachlan, AO, was met with acclaim by the attendance of 70 of our Members and their Guests. In addition, I would like to add my thanks to those of David McLachlan and my appreciation to our distinguished speaker, James Goldrick, who is my colleague on the National Council of RUSI Australia.

Yours Aye,

**Warren**



## A Century of Creating Australia's Military Leaders

### The Royal Military College of Australia

In 1902 the first Commander of the Australian Military Forces, Major-General Sir Edward Hutton, recommended that a military college be established and Field Marshall Lord Kitchener was invited to visit Australia and advise the Government on the defence requirements of the Commonwealth. One of the recommendations of the 1910 Kitchener report was that a College should be established for the training of officers for the permanent military forces.

The government then instructed Colonel William Throsby Bridges to visit and report on the military colleges in England, Canada and the United States. In 1910, Colonel Bridges reported to the Minister for Defence and he was given the task of founding the new college.

As its first Commandant, with the rank of Brigadier-General, Bridges chose the former sheep station at Duntroon as the site for the Military College. By June 1911, the essential buildings had been constructed, the staff appointed and the first intake of 32 Australians and 10 New Zealanders admitted.

On the 27 June 1911, the Governor-General, Lord Dudley, opened the college and announced that it would be called the Royal Military College of Australia (RMC). The curriculum at RMC was designed as a four-year course, with half military and half academic subjects.

Due to the outbreak of the First World War, the first intake was specially graduated for overseas service. The next three intakes were also shorted and the majority of cadets in the first four intakes served with either the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) or the New Zealand Army.

At the start of the First World War, Major-General Bridges was given command of the 1st AIF Division. He died at Gallipoli and his body was returned to Australia and buried on the slopes of Mount Pleasant, overlooking the college. In total, forty of the 117 Australian graduates died in the First World War.

The four-year course resumed after the War. However, RMC entered a difficult period during the 1920s, when there was a general apathy towards the military during the post-war era and severe budgetary cuts. This resulted in small intakes and the small number of graduates also included some officers for the Royal Australian Air Force.

By 1930, the depression had made its impact on the college. As a cost-cutting measure, the government sought to combine the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay with the Royal Military College Duntroon into the Defence College of Australia. This amalgamation of the colleges did not occur, but in 1931, the Royal Military College was transferred to Victoria Barracks,

Sydney. This seemed to be the most practicable solution, as the aging temporary buildings at Duntroon, and its location in Canberra added to the increased costs of the college.

With the new location in Sydney, the Royal Military College became known as 'Duntroon Wing, Victoria Barracks'. On 27 June 1936, the Royal Military College was returned to Duntroon in Canberra. During the ceremony the Defence Minister, Hon. Sir Archdale Parkhill stated that the grounds for the return of RMC to Canberra were due to the increase of cadet numbers required by the defence program.

Prior to the return of RMC to Duntroon, a substantial amount of building work and site remodelling was required. At last, Duntroon was to have the permanent buildings that had been planned since 1910. These buildings are still in use by the Royal Military College -Duntroon.

On the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the four-year course was reduced to two years. Additional special entry classes were admitted for six, nine and twelve months.

By 1943, the improved military situation made it possible to extend the course length and a three-year curriculum was introduced. In 1947, a revised four-year course was introduced which included alternative academic courses in Arts or Science. By 1958, RMC offered courses in Arts, Science and Engineering. These courses enabled graduates to receive exemptions, up to half a degree, on the civilian courses conducted at Universities. The military curriculum was aimed to achieve the balance between the short-term requirements of a junior regimental officer and the broader foundation necessary for senior ranks within the Army.

RMC partnered with the University of New South Wales to offer Bachelor courses in Arts, Science or Engineering, commencing in the 1968 academic year. In order to graduate, cadets had to achieve passes in both military and academic studies and leadership.

In 1986 the Officer Cadet School in Portsea, Victoria was closed and the 12 month officer training course was transferred to RMC. This change coincided with the opening of the Australian Defence Force Academy which took on responsibility for training officer cadets of all three services in their first three years. From 1986, classes at RMC were changed from four classes of one year duration to three classes of six-month duration focused solely on military training.

In 2011 RMC will celebrate its Centenary.



# The Population Bomb

(From Population to Human Impact)

Too many people! Population is the cornerstone of a nation's power and influence, but overpopulation can lead to food shortages and civil instability, and in the worst case famine and war. Two big long-term issues facing Australia and the world are climate change and population growth. While these are not unrelated, this discussion will focus on world population to 2050.

The world population is very close to 7 billion. By 2050 it will have grown to 9.2 billion. Already various countries have experienced shortages of food, energy and water, and the resilience of the global community has been tested by the full range of natural disasters. At least two television programs last year alerted us to potential population problems: 'Dick Smith's Population Puzzle' addressing the notion of a Big Australia and the dangers of unsustainable population growth, and David Attenborough's 'How Many People can live on Planet Earth'.

## Background

Documented concerns about runaway population growth start around the beginning of the industrial revolution. In 1798 Thomas Malthus warned of population growth outstripping the growth in food production in Britain. Malthus's views were influential but his predictions did not eventuate, as the huge increases in productivity wrought by the industrial and agricultural revolutions delivered improved prosperity across society. What was found in Britain and all subsequent industrializing countries was that the 'Malthusian trap' was not foiled by just increasing productivity, but that increased prosperity was associated with increased life expectancy and declining fertility. This phenomena has been called the 'demographic transition'.

In the 1960s concerns were felt for population growth in less developed countries where traditionally high birth rates were matched with declining death rates associated with modern medicine. Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book, *The Population Bomb*, forecast human population growth outstripping food production in the 1970s and 80s. His message was reinforced by the 1972 warnings of the Club of Rome, *Limits to Growth*; that exponential population growth would over-run finite earth resources.

While Ehrlich's predictions did not eventuate, his book introduced population growth into popular and political discussion, and influenced the adoption of measures to limit population growth in many developing countries. Measures ranged from the one child policy in China, male sterilization in India and family planning policies in other developing countries.

Key factors in the success of family planning have been an increase in the status and education of women, and the availability of reliable contraception. On the food production side, the 'green revolution' significantly increased crop yields in many developing countries. In India, where Ehrlich had predicted famine, the harvest was increased by a factor of six and India became an exporter of grain.

## United Nations 2006 Projections

ASPI 2009 Strategy Report, *The Human Tide*, addresses the world situation from interpretive projections of 2006 UN population and economic data. As observed and forecast by the Club of Rome, the world's population has experienced exponential growth - but it is now slowing. UN projections for 2050 are 7.8 billion (low variant), 9.2 billion (medium), and 10.7 billion (high). The population then stabilises or slowly declines. Almost all of the increase in population will come from less developed countries.

Economic development has reduced world poverty but has increased inequality. Despite UN efforts about 1 billion people are still living in poverty, and while improvements are ongoing, the absolute number is unlikely to change a great deal. The UN has calculated that at basic nutritional levels the earth can produce sufficient food to support the 2050 population projections, but the most important driver of consumption growth is not population but rises in the standard of living. The demands on the Earth made by the world population can be thought of as being its human impact.

## Human Impact

Human impact on the environment is the consumption of water, resources and fossil fuels and the production of waste and pollution including CO2 emissions. Associated effects are desertification, deforestation, over fishing, loss of biodiversity, and poisoning by toxic chemicals.

Diamond (2005), *Collapse*, observes that the human impact /head in developed countries (US, EU-4, Japan) is 32 times that of a person in a least developed country. If all the current population of the world had first world living standards the total human impact would increase 12 times. Even if the Chinese population (1.3 billion) alone achieved a first world living standard and everyone else remained the same, the total human impact would double.

### *Population Bomb (Continued)*

This is clearly unsustainable with current technology as some resources are scarce already.

Gilding (2011), *The Great Disruption*, uses Paul Ehrlich's IPAT equation to conceptually understand the broader situation.

$$I \text{ (Impact)} = P \text{ (population)} \times A \text{ (affluence)} \times T \text{ (technology)}$$

The human impact (I) on the environment is a product of the size of the population (P) times the affluence or income per person (A) times the technological intensity of economic output or the impact associated with each dollar we spend (T). The equation works for each category of consumption and waste. To lower our impact on the environment, we can have fewer people, we can have less affluence, or we can have lower impact per dollar spent, through either better technology or change in our behaviour with that technology.

UN forecasts give a mid-range average population growth rate for the world of 0.7%. This is the compound rate that results in a world population of 9.2 billion in 2050. Average world economic growth on a per capita basis is 2.5%. In 2050 this results in a world economy 3.5 times the size of the current economy. Within the economic growth aggregate, the economies of the G7 nations would double, while the economies of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) would increase up to 10 times.

Because of the size of the economic growth rate, it is difficult to envisage technology and behavioural changes able to be deployed in time that would increase efficiency in production and consumption sufficiently to constrain human impact. The equation indicates that by 2050, human impact on the planet is likely to increase by up to a factor of 5 times what it is today.

But physical constraints of resource availability and the physical response of the global ecosystem will intervene and the economic growth projections are unlikely to be realised. Some commentators (eg Gilding) believe that the world is already operating at past the level of sustainability and that we are eroding our capital stock of natural resources. This is clearly the case with fossil fuels.

### **Energy**

Under current economic patterns, the prosperity of the developed world, and the long-term prospects of the developing world, depends on the continuing availability of energy and minerals. While 'peak oil' has probably been passed, oil should not run out until the latter half of this century. In the intervening period scarcity will be reflected in rising prices.

Gas should last longer, and coal may last until the next century. Our next industrial revolution will be the transition to a non-fossil fuel energy environment.

### **Food and Water**

While the earth can sustain its 2050 population at basic nutritional levels, food to satisfy a rising standard of living in the developing countries with high growth rates will further strain the productive capacity of the planet. Land and ocean ecosystems are already degraded. The green revolution has nearly run its course, and there is not much excess capacity of potential cropland. Ocean fishing has passed its peak, and many fisheries have been eliminated by overfishing. Food prices can be expected to rise and people in less prosperous nations will inevitably suffer.

The availability of fresh water will also be a problem in some areas which have become overpopulated, over-irrigated or the climate has become drier. The depletion of ancient aquifers in China and Australia is indicative of future problems. Food shortages were the trigger for the 'Arab Spring' uprisings across North Africa and the Middle-East. In 2010 world agricultural output had been reduced by droughts in Russia, Brazil and Australia, and floods in Pakistan.

Human induced climate change via carbon dioxide emissions is a negative feedback link between economic growth and the use of fossil fuels. Effective deployment of renewable energy generators to replace fossil fuels will take years. To date the major emitter countries have lacked the political will to begin the transition in earnest. The 2007 IPCC Report forecast is that trend shifts in weather patterns should not cause adverse impacts until 2020. As the harbinger of more severe effects, inundation of low lying Pacific islands may occur from 2050.

Globalisation has increased our interdependency. As we push the limits of sustainability in food, water and energy, there is less redundancy and nations become more vulnerable to cyclic, trend or random extreme weather events.

Human impact on the environment will be the predominant source of global difficulties in the future, not population growth. Economic growth is the most significant multiplier. 'You cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet.' (Gilding 2011)

**Mike Rawlinson**

## Victoria's Military History and Heritage

### Colonel David Collins



When you next walk down the Collins Street reflect on the man after whom the street was named.

David Collins was born on 3 March 1754 in London and went to the Exeter Grammar School before joining the Royal Marines as an Ensign at the age of 14.

Collins went to North America early in 1775, and fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill, where the British suffered heavy casualties, but held the heights of Charlestown. He was promoted to first lieutenant the following week.

By November 1776 was stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he met and then married Mary (Maria Stuart) Proctor on 13 June 1777.

He was promoted captain-lieutenant in August 1779 and outright captain in July 1780. In February 1781 he joined the HMS *Courageux* in the Channel Squadron, but did not enjoy being at sea. After three years on half-pay stationed at Chatham, and with the prospect of a long peace, Collins was influenced by his father to accept appointment to the expedition to Botany Bay.

On 24 October 1786 he was commissioned deputy judge advocate of the new colony and likewise, by Admiralty warrant, of the marine detachment. He sailed without Maria in the *Sirius* with the First Fleet, arriving at Botany Bay on 20 January 1788. Next day he went with Governor Arthur Phillip's party to examine Port Jackson. Six days later the fleet's transfer to Sydney Cove was completed and the business of settlement began. On 7 February 1788 the government was formally inaugurated, Collins reading the relevant Act, commissions and letters patent.

Collins became the new colony's first judge-advocate. He was responsible, under the governor, for the colony's

entire legal establishment. He issued all writs, summonses and processes, retained certain fees, and with one other justice of the peace formed the bench of magistrates.

In June 1788, Governor Phillip appointed Collins as the Secretary to the Governor. For the next eight years, quietly and efficiently, he was the indispensable aide to the officer administering the Government of New South Wales.

After a 10 year absence, Collins returned to England in June 1797 to nurse his wife who had become very ill. On 1 January 1798 he was promoted lieutenant-colonel, without pay or command, in recognition of his services in New South Wales.

In 1800, while the colonies were controlled by various departments in London, Collins wrote to the under-secretary of war, John Sullivan, offering to act as liaison officer for New South Wales. Nothing came of it, but his exceptional knowledge of the colony's affairs was recognized and in 1802 he was chosen to form a new settlement in Bass Strait.

On 4 January 1803, Collins was commissioned lieutenant governor of the proposed new dependency under the governor of New South Wales. He sailed in April in H.M.S. *Calcutta* – again leaving Maria in England. When he arrived at Port Phillip Bay on 9 October, two days after the storeship *Ocean*, Collins was dismayed by the lack of timber and water, but he began unloading his convicts, settlers and stores at Sullivan Bay (near Sorrento), while Lieutenant Tuckey and George Prideaux Harris explored. Their reports were not encouraging, so he wrote to Governor Philip Gidley King suggesting removal of the settlement. King agreed, and Collins decided to move to the Derwent River area in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania).

Collins was appointed as the first Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Van Diemen's Land and set about establishing the new colony. Maria spoke of joining him, but she felt that could not leave her ailing mother in England. In April 1808 Collins was given brevet rank of colonel in the Army.

His time as Lieutenant Governor was filled with challenges and conflict with his chain of command. This included an episode with William Bligh when Bligh blockaded the new colony in for several months until January 1810.

On 24 March 1810 Collins died suddenly, aged 56. He was buried with full military honours on the spot intended for a church, and St David's Cathedral in Hobart now bears his name. Maria died twenty years later at Plymouth on 13 April 1830.

Collins has also given his name to Collinsvale in Tasmania, Collins Street in Melbourne and Collins Street in Hobart, Tasmania.

## Victoria's Military History and Heritage

### Black Beasts of War



Sitting unobtrusively astride the front entrance stand are two black beasts of war. There was time when they were prized weapons in chaotic massed infantry and cavalry battles of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. They spewed out cannonballs that decimated the ranks advancing towards them. But these two guns were captured at great cost and now rest as silent sentinels to battles past.

The pair of cannons flank the central front entrance of Victoria Barracks in Melbourne. They were once part of Tsar Alexander the First's army campaigning in the Crimea. And yet, most passing Melburnians would have little appreciation of how these weapons came to be a feature on our daily landscape.

Their story can be traced through the strange markings on the cannons themselves. Cyrillic lettering reveals that they are 36 pound cannons that were cast in 1838 at the Alexander Factory. The Alexander Factory was established in Petrozavodsk in 1765 and in 1838 the director of the Factory was John 'Ivan' Armstrong – a native Scot employed by the Russian Admiralty. John's father, Adam Armstrong, had also been the director of the Alexander Factory for 12 years until 1818.

The two cannons now at Victoria Barracks were originally manufactured for the Russian Navy which underwent a significant expansion at in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We can safely assume that the cannons were supplied to one of the major Russian Navy fighting ships, but unfortunately there are no records available to indicate which ship they were allocated.

In the defence of Sevastopol in 1854 and 1855 the Russians scuttled eight major war ships to protect the harbour. Nearly 700 ships cannons from these warships were removed and became additional artillery located in defensive redoubts around Sevastopol. The ships were *Grand Duke Constantine*, *City of Paris* (both with 120 guns), *Brave*, *Empress Maria*, *Chesme*, *Yagondeid* (84 guns), *Kavarna* (60 guns) and *Konlephy* (54 guns).

In early 1855, after a protracted siege and series of battles, the British and French forces finally overcame the Russian defenders at Sevastopol. The outcome of this battle contributed substantially to the Russians ultimate defeat in the Crimean War.

Over 4,000 artillery pieces were captured in the fall of Sevastopol. In celebration of the victory it was decided to distribute a pair of cannons seized at Sevastopol to each of the most important cities in the British Empire - including Gibraltar, Quebec, Dublin, Auckland and Melbourne.

The castabells of several captured Russian cannons were removed and recast into Victoria Cross medals. The first Victoria Cross was awarded by Queen Victoria to each of 62 recipients at Hyde Park in London on the 26 June 1857.

In 1858 four pairs of captured Russian cannons were dispatched to Australia. It is not clear what their journey has been over the last 150 years, but one pair are presently located in Centennial Park in Sydney and another pair are on the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide. One cannon now stands outside Anglesea Barracks in Hobart and its sister in City Park in Launceston.

So, the next time you walk past the two black beasts of war in front of Victoria Barracks reflect for a moment on their history and the heritage they provide to Victoria.

**Peter Fielding**

---

### Geelong Branch News

The Branch recently relocated the venue for the Dinner Meetings from Dromoland House, in Geelong West, to The Geelong Club located at 74 Brougham Street in Geelong.

The 62nd Annual Dinner is to be held on Monday June 20, commencing at 1830 where the Guest of Honour will be the President of RUSI Victoria, CMDR Warren Kemp RFD. This event is a formal occasion Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit with miniatures worn. 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.



## Book Review

Lynette Ramsay Silver,

### *Sandakan - A Conspiracy of Silence*

Sally Milner Publishing Pty Ltd, Binda, NSW, 2009, 395 pp



This is a revised edition of her 1995 publication. One can't help but admire the author's industry and research into one of the most tragic events in our military history - Sandakan, the death marches to Ranau and the failure to launch *Kingfisher*, a small Australian airborne operation, that would have saved lives.

On 7 July 1942, Australian prisoners of war B Force of 144 officers and 1,351 NCOs and men left Singapore for Sandakan in what was then British North Borneo. Eight months later E Force of 19 officers and 484 NCOs and men left for the same destination. Later, British POW were also sent to Sandakan. The task was to construct an airfield. Due to a number of factors, including USAAF bombing, the airfield was never completed. In October 1943, the Japanese, fearing an uprising from the local population aided by the Australian POW, took most of the officers away to Kuching. Those left were three field officers, three medical officers and two chaplains. Of the eight officers and 1,775 men at Sandakan, only six were to survive.

Following the US invasion of the Philippines in October 1944, the Japanese feared similar landings in Borneo so decided to move the POW to the west to Ranau, a distance of 265 km/166sm. The first group left Sandakan on 29 January 1945. Of the 470 men (350 Australian, 120 British), only 203 reached Ranau. Those who could not keep up were murdered by the Japanese. The second march of 536 (439 Australians, 97 British) began on 29 May 1945. 163 reached Ranau.

The Japanese then torched the Sandakan compound, leaving the remaining 288 POWs without food or shelter. 75 of these men were ordered to make the third march to Ranau. They left on 9 June. All died or were murdered by the Japanese within days of departure. By 15 August 1945 all the remaining 213 Australians and British had been murdered, or died of disease and starvation. The last survivors at Ranau were murdered by the Japanese on 27 August 1945, 12 days after the Japanese surrender

The main reason or excuse given why *Kingfisher* was not launched, say in April 1945, which would have saved most of the lives of those Australians and British left in Sandakan after the first march, was that there were not sufficient C-47 have saved most of the lives of those Australians Dakotas (about 40) available. This excuse is barely credible. The RAAF had more than 100 on strength, so at least one squadron of 12 could have been made available. The US forces in the area had many more. For example, they had recently rapidly mounted a very successful combined airborne/waterborne assault on a large POW compound at Los Banos, just south of Manila. The blame for inaction must go, ultimately, to the Prime Minister who was also Minister of Defence and to General Blamey in that they did not press the matter to General MacArthur sufficiently and firmly. Furthermore, the Allies had complete control over the waters and US Navy PT boats regularly patrolled the eastern coasts of Borneo, so support for the airborne rescue was readily available.

Another author summed up the tragedy thus - "Our POW were not abandoned so much in a callous manner as in a careless manner."

**Alf Argent**

---

## Canberra Class Ships

The previous edition of the RUSI Newsletter contained an article that stated the "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."

The Canberra class Landing Helicopter Dock ships will actually displace 27,851 tonnes at full load.

HMAS Melbourne displaced 20,000 long tons (20,320.9 tonnes) at full load.

The author apologises for the accidental omission of a figure '2' in the article's text.

## RFA Largs Bay

Commissioned 2006, 16,000 tonnes, decommissioned in the RN 2011 following the UK strategic defence review, has been recently purchased by the RAN for \$65 million. to replace Kanimbla.

## Book Review

Matina Jewell,

***Caught in the Crossfire: An Australian peace-keeper beyond the front-line***, Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2011



This book is a first-hand account of an Australian Army officer with the UN Military Observer mission in the Middle East in 2006. Matina Jewell, a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College, was posted to an observer position and while un-armed at the border of Syria, Lebanon and Israel was caught in a full-scale war. She and her UN team-mates reported hundreds of violations of the peace agreement. She was the only female officer in isolated multi-national posts.

Matina traces the events in her challenging deployment with clarity and enthusiasm. She raises many issues by doing so. A UN mission is frequently staffed by officers from many nations and from widely differing cultural backgrounds, experience and training. Australians joining this mission, and this officer in particular, have had the chance to attend a language course, gaining a distinct advantage over those from nations who consider what English they speak might be sufficient.

A constant theme in the book relates to the difficulties an officer in an isolated area suffers if it is felt that their leaders do not understand their circumstances or communicate infrequently. Readers can form their own views on this issue.

Front-line service by females is an issue that receives much heat and less light. I would consider Captain Jewell performed her task very well indeed even when under fire. It is distressing to find that injuries she sustained in what was undoubtedly a 'shooting war' received far less recognition than should have been accorded by the Departments of Defence and Veteran's Affairs. Peacekeeping that turns to war should be so recognised. The book deserves reading for this sad episode alone.

Be prepared for a technological leap when you read this book. It is full of 'QR code symbols' which you can (or perhaps could) scan into your mobile phone and which

will then connect to photos and movies that enlarge on the text. Ah, the wonders of modern science!

The RUSI of Victoria expresses its thanks to the publisher for this Review Copy.

## The Chinese Chengdu J-20 Fighter



The Chengdu J-20 is a fifth generation stealth, twin-engine fighter aircraft prototype developed by Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force.

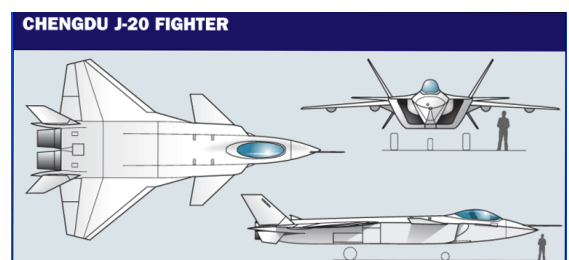
The J-20 made its first flight on 11 January 2011 and is expected to be operational by 2017-19.

The J-20 is a single-seat, twin-engine aircraft estimated to be approximately 75 feet (23 m) in length with a wingspan of 45 feet (14 m). It is estimated to have a takeoff weight of 75,000 to 80,000 pounds (34,000 to 36,000 kg) with internal stores only.

Chinese sources have claimed that production aircraft will be powered by two 13,200 kilograms (29,000 lb) WS-10 class high thrust turbofan engines fitted with Thrust Vector Controlled nozzles, both made in China.

The front section of the J-20 is similarly chiseled as the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor and the body and tail resemble those of the Sukhoi T-50 prototype.

The J-20 has a pair of all-moving tailfins that are swept back in the F-35 style instead of being trapezoid like the F-22 and Sukhoi PAK-FA tails and ventral stabilizing fins. It also has an F-22 style nose section, but with F-35 style dropped nose, forward swept intakes with diverter less supersonic inlet bumps, and a one-piece canopy.



## The Genesis of the RUSI of Victoria

As we approach our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015, we propose to print articles from the National Library of Australia's *Trove* digitised newspaper collection to trace the early years of our Institute. The first two articles in the series, leading up to the USI's formal inauguration, are below.

*Argus*, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1889

### PROPOSED UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTE.

About 30 officers connected with the naval and military forces met at the Victoria Barracks yesterday to consider a suggestion for the establishment of a United Service Institute, similar to that in England



Major-General A.B. Tulloch, 1889

Major General TULLOCH<sup>1</sup> who was in the chair, stated that the project had been mentioned to him by Major Stanley within the last few days, and it was suggested that the large room above the Naval and Military Club might be obtained for the institute, as it was in every respect suitable. The idea was to establish in the institute a library having a common interest to members of the united service, to have occasional lectures, to read military papers and what was, in his opinion, of far greater interest to play the war game with a contour model instead of a map. The English institute which had been established for 60 or 70 years was in part subsidised by the British Government, and Mr Bell<sup>2</sup>, the Minister of Defence, had already promised that in the event of the institute being established the Government would grant a sum of £100 at the outset for its equipment and subsidise it to the extent of a pound for every pound subscribed by the

<sup>1</sup> Major General Sir Alexander Bruce Tulloch, KCB, CMG (1838-1920), Military Commandant of Victoria 1889-1894, author of *Defence of Australia: a Lecture* (1891), *Recollections of Forty Years' Service* (1903), *A Soldier's Sailing* (1912). Tulloch, a British officer, had been a spy for the British in Egypt in 1882.

<sup>2</sup> The Honourable James Bell, MLC was Minister for Defence (Victoria) from September 1889 to November 1890.

officers up to the limit of £200 on either side. Such an institute would, of course, be one entirely for naval and military purposes and altogether apart from any club or kindred institution.

Major STANLEY<sup>3</sup> explained that consideration of the matter was necessarily hurried because of the desire to secure the room now available. It was thought that a sum of about £350 or £400 a year would be sufficient to maintain the institute. The question was for them to determine whether they could raise £200 a year amongst the officers.



James Bell, MLC  
(1836-1908)

Taking the reserve, unattached and active list, there were about 100 officers whom it might be presumed would be interested in the institute and probably close upon 100 from the Naval Forces. If the institute was established the Victorian Rifle Association intended to have their office in the same building.

A discussion followed at the close of which the desirability of establishing the institute was affirmed,

the title to be the United Service Institute of Victoria. It was also agreed that the annual subscription should not exceed one guinea but the committee when appointed would of course make arrangements for the members. Major Hannay<sup>4</sup> was appointed honorary secretary pro-tem, and it was decided to issue at once a circular to all officers inviting their co-operation in the movement. It is desired that replies should be sent as soon as possible, a general meeting in connection with the project being fixed for the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

At the close of the meeting General Tulloch expressed his warm approval of the war game, which he had seen for the first time at Cairo, in Egypt where it proved an admirable lesson in tactics, as well as enabling officers to reach country readily. Many who at first could make no progress in the game because of their poor tactical skill and were at first somewhat disgusted with it, on persevering improved rapidly and were much interested in the game. He knew of no better training in a particular line than that obtainable from the improved war game. His plan was to arrange the blocks on either side to represent a certain character of country. Each side having seen the other's country, a curtain was dropped in the middle of the room, and the officers on either side were required to formulate their plans and place them upon paper before the curtain was again raised.

*Argus*, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1889

*A second meeting of officers in connection with the proposed United Service Institute was held at the Victoria Barracks on*

<sup>3</sup> Later Major-General John Stanley, RAA.

<sup>4</sup> Later Brigadier-General Frederick Rainsford-Hannay, RE

## The Last Word - Library Notes

The number of users of our library is (slowly) increasing. If you have a friend researching a military topic, suggest that they look at our collection – it's the best in Victoria in its areas of specialisation. They can always ring Martin Holme to gain access.

Our new acquisitions program continues. Highlights in the last few weeks include (free) review copies from some of the publishers we canvass – please note their reviews and offer them what support you can. We are also making selective purchases to fill collection gaps.

Here are some of our newer additions:

*Victorian Naval & Military Forces List 1897*

Major General Sir A.B. Tulloch, *Recollections of Forty Years' Service*, 1903

Ron Austin, *Let Enemies Beware: The History of the 2/15<sup>th</sup> Battalion 1940-1945*

Robert Likeman, *Gallipoli Doctors*

Ron Austin, *Gallipoli: Australian Encyclopaedia of the Gallipoli Campaign 1915*

Ron Austin, *The Fighting Fourth: A History of Sydney's 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion 1914-1919*

Ron Austin, *Soldier's Soldier: The Life of Lt Gen Sir Carl Jess*

G. T. Clunie, *From Gallipoli to Palestine The War writings of Sgt GT Clunie of the Wellington Mounted Rifles, 1914-1919*

Emery Max, *They Rode into History: The History of the 8th Light Horse Regiment AIF, 1914 -19*

John Lack, *No Lost Battalion An Oral History of the 2/29th Battalion AIF*

Colonel Peter Scott, *Command in Vietnam*

All are available for perusal – all but the first two are also available for loan.

### Should RUSI of Victoria have a Collection of Military Maps?

Our fast developing library has at present a small collection of military maps. We have several trench maps from the First World War and some from the Second. We also have an extensive collection in the 'Map Volumes' of histories of conflicts from the Crimea, Russo-Japanese and many more recent conflicts. We even have DVDs of maps from the First World War. The magisterial *Atlas of Australian Military History* by General John Coates is one of the great books on military maps that we have & treasure.

Maps have several disadvantages for us. They are somewhat difficult to store and preserve. They are not easy to categorize and catalogue.

We think the advantages of collecting them outweigh the disadvantages. No campaign or battle can be reasonably understood without maps.

So we're determined to preserve and catalogue our small collection. We'd also like it to grow.

Our suspicion is that many of us have the odd military map or two ferreted away. Rather than disposing of them, would you consider giving them to your library here at the RUSI?

### Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST (inc Victoria)	<a href="http://www.rusi.org.au">www.rusi.org.au</a>
RUSI Whitehall	<a href="http://www.rusi.org">www.rusi.org</a>
Dept of Defence	<a href="http://defence.gov.au">defence.gov.au</a>
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	<a href="http://www.aspi.org.au">www.aspi.org.au</a>
Australia Defence Association	<a href="http://www.ada.asn.au">www.ada.asn.au</a>
RAAF Assoc 'Williams Foundation	<a href="http://www.williamsfoundation.org.au">www.williamsfoundation.org.au</a>
Defence Reserves Association	<a href="http://www.dra.org.au">www.dra.org.au</a>
Defence Force Welfare Association	<a href="http://www.dfw.org.au">www.dfw.org.au</a>

### A Century of Creating Australia's Military Leaders The Royal Military College of Australia

(Article Page Four)



The 'Long White Line' - The Graduating Class of the Corps of Staff Cadets march past in slow and in quick time at the 2010 Graduation Parade

### The Genesis of the RUSI of Victoria

Continued from Page Eleven

Monday afternoon, General Tulloch presiding. The response to the circular sent out to officers was not so wide as had been expected, only 70 favourable replies being received and this was not considered sufficient to justify action being taken on the lines first contemplated. It was suggested that the institute might be established at considerably decreased cost in the Victoria Barracks, but the majority of those present were of opinion that unless some more central place were chosen the attendance would not be very large. Major Kelly<sup>5</sup> suggested that the institute should be established in connection with the United Service Club, but to this also objections were raised. It was finally agreed to postpone further action in the matter until the middle of January, and commanding officers in the meantime will ascertain the opinion of their officers in connection with the scheme, and the extent of the support which might be expected from each corps. Lieut.-Colonel Freeman<sup>6</sup> intimated that he would give an annual donation of £25 for three years towards the institute if established.

The next article will feature our first meeting. It raises the question – what was our official date of formation and thus our birthday?

<sup>5</sup> Later Colonel Nicholas William Kelly, CB, VD (1851-1907), once commander 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Brigade

<sup>6</sup> Later Colonel Alfred Freeman, d 1916.