



Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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Governor of Victoria



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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Christmas Greetings



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December Newsletter

Contents:

- 3 From the President
- 4 From the Secretary, Geelong Notes
- 5 Good News on Global Population Growth
– Mike Rawlinson
- 6 The Chatham House Rule
- 7 **RSM Desmond Lynch** – Martin Holme
- 8 Book Review – **Eye of the Firestorm**
MAJGEN (Retd) Roland de Vires
reviewed by Neville Taylor
- 9 **Fireworks** – A.A. (and Martin Holme)
- 10 Book Review – **The Fall of Singapore**
John Corfield and Robin Corfield
reviewed by Neville Taylor
- 11 Book Review – **The Australian Army from
Whitlam to Howard**
John Blaxland
reviewed by Marcus Fielding
- 12 Good News -*continued*
- 13 Book Review- **Broken Nation: Australians in
the Great War**
Joan Beaumont
reviewed by M.J. O'Brien
- 14 Library Notes

Cyberlinks

RUSI AUST (inc Victoria)	www.rusi.org.au
RUSI Whitehall	www.rusi.org
Dept of Defence	defence.gov.au
Aust Strategic Policy Institute	www.aspi.org.au
Australia Defence Association	www.ada.asn.au
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Defence Reserves Association	www.dra.org.au
Defence Force Welfare Association	www.dfwa.org.au
Military History and Heritage Victoria	www.mhhv.org.au
Department of Veteran's Affairs	www.dva.gov.au
Shrine of Remembrance	www.shrine.org.au



From The President:

Commander Warren Kemp RFD, RANR



The Annual General Meeting of the Royal United Services Institute of Victoria was held on Thursday, 25 October at the Defence Plaza, Melbourne. The formal business was concluded expeditiously and the existing Council was re-elected. The AGM was followed by a most interesting address by Brigadier Mike Annett on the Army's 'Plan Beersheba' and its implications for the 4th Brigade.

My main activity since the last Newsletter has been attending the Annual RUSI National Council Meeting in Brisbane, and was accompanied by Major General Mike O'Brien in his role of National Vice President. Our National President, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie, chaired the meeting. At the meeting were the National Executive and Presidents of the RUSIs in the other States. The meeting addressed the problems of the various State constituent bodies and co-ordinated the approach to these problems.

2013 has been a successful year for us and I thank you all for your support and interest. I continue to encourage more Members to visit our Office and Library. Those who have not yet done so will be impressed and made most welcome. If you intend to visit, please ensure that you make contact with the Secretary beforehand, to comply with security arrangements.

From the accounts presented at the AGM you will have noticed that we have been operating in deficit. Our ongoing running expenses have increased and we have not increased subscriptions or attendance charges for a number of years. To ensure our fiscal viability, Council has decided to increase the entry fee for Lunchtime Addresses to \$10.00 from February 2014. Free tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will continue to be provided. Council has also decided to increase Metropolitan and Country subscriptions for 2014/15 by \$5.00.

Unfortunately our November meeting had to be called off due to a last minute emergency involving our presenter Professor Marilyn Lake. For those who were looking forward to this address, Professor Lake has agreed to speak to us later in 2014.

Occasionally we have controversial speakers. I would like to remind members that the Institute does not take a position on policy. Our aim is encourage and stimulate informed public debate about defence and national

security. To this end we provide a platform for expert speakers to represent their subject without restriction, unless they request the application of the Chatham House Rule.

We are an educational institute and not a club, but we do have two social events during the year. The Annual Luncheon was held on Tuesday, 13 November at the William Angliss Restaurant, excellently prepared, presented and served by students at the College. The sixty members who attended enjoyed the lunch and the Occasional Address given by our Secretary, Captain Martin Holme. Martin amused us with some light-hearted recollections of Regimental life in Malta and Benghazi entitled 'Maltese Nights and Benghazi Blues'.

Our other event was the annual At Home/Christmas Drinks on Tuesday, 10 December from 1430 until 1600, when members can call in to our new home and meet the Council. It also gives us an opportunity to invite and thank support staffs from Victoria Barracks who have helped us during the year. This occasion marks the end of the year and the beginning of the festive season with best wishes and goodwill to all.

If you were unable to attend our Christmas Drinks in the Library, may I wish you a very merry Christmas, happy New Year, and very best wishes for 2014 from myself and all members of the Council. I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting.

Yours Aye,
Warren



Brigadier Mike Annett addresses the Institute following the AGM

From The Secretary

Captain Martin Holme

It has been a busy time since the last Newsletter. Our member, Dr Jim Wood gave a fascinating Address at the end of September on the medical problems incurred by soldiers returning from stressful operations. He gave us much to think about.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the end of October at which the current Office Bearers and Council were all re-elected. This was followed by an excellent Address by BRIG Mike Annett, Commander 4 Brigade, who outlined the reasoning behind Plan Beersheba.

The Annual Luncheon, on 12 November, was again held at the Angliss Restaurant where the Students prepared and served an excellent lunch. Your Secretary spoke, in a not too serious way, about his time serving in Malta and Benghazi.

I was invited to address the Inaugural Luncheon of the Geelong Branch on 18 November, on the same subject. It was a very happy first visit to the Branch for me and I was made most welcome. Their set up in the Geelong Club was most impressive.

As we go to press, we are looking forward to what will be a thought provoking Address by Professor Marilyn Lake on "The Militarisation of Australian History", on Thursday 28 November.

Please remember that our Christmas Drinks will be from 2-30pm to 4pm on Tuesday 10 December. If you plan to be present, please remember to let me know so that I can put you on the list for security purposes.

We were advised in early November that our esteemed Honorary Life Member and Councillor Emeritus, Brigadier Keith Colwell had suffered a stroke. We sent the best wishes of all Members to him for which he was most touched. It is pleasing to hear that he is making steady and good progress.

As this will be the last Newsletter before Christmas, I take the opportunity of wishing you all a very happy and safe festive season.

As previously advised, the office will officially close after business on Thursday, 19 December and re-open on Tuesday, 28 January 2014.

Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

Mr G. (George) Scott, Mr J. Skurrie, and
LT R. (Ron) Whitten



Commemorative Tankard: Fusiliers vs Hussars – Polo

Geelong Branch Notes

The Geelong Branch has concluded another year's activity, which has entailed variety and sometimes challenging series of events.

We have now been conducting successful Dinner Meetings at The Geelong Club for over two years and have found that the location and facilities to be most suitable. As a consequence the Branch has shifted its administrative base to The Geelong Club. Thanks to a sterling effort by the President MAJ Ian Barnes OAM and Mrs Margaret Barnes the Library collection has been installed and catalogued, in the Club, where access is much easier than at Newland Barracks. Other memorabilia and mementoes including the Branch Honour Boards have likewise been relocated to the Club.

In November the Branch conducted the inaugural Lunchtime Meeting as a substitute to the usual Dinner Meeting with the familiar pattern for members meetings being followed. The Guest Speaker was the Secretary of RUSI Victoria, CAPT Martin Holme, who delivered an amusing and entertaining address. The Committee was pleased with the response to the Lunchtime activity and has resolved to continue with a mixture of Dinner and Luncheon Meetings during 2014.

The final event for the year was the traditional Christmas Dinner held on Monday, 9 December.

Maintaining timing of the third Monday of the month, other than January and July, the 2014 program is to commence with a Dinner Meeting to be held on Monday February 17. Details for this and future events will be published in later issues of the RUSI Victoria Newsletters. Members are reminded that they are most welcome to attend activities conducted by the Geelong Branch.

Some Good News on Global Population Growth

In recent years we have been beset with fears of future global overpopulation overwhelming the earth's ecological system and producing shortages of energy, resources, water and food. Since the UN's Brundtland Report *Our Common Future* in 1987, sustainability has been a major long-term concern. Contemporaneously climate change, wholly or partly human induced, is thought to be causing a warming of the planet, an increased incidence of extreme weather events, a reduction in agricultural yields, melting the ice caps, and rising sea levels which will eventually cause flooding of low lying islands and coastal districts.

From RUSI's geopolitical and national security point of view, critical shortages could be accompanied by competition between nations for scarce resources, civil unrest, particularly in the case of food and water shortages, uncontrolled migration and the possibility of armed conflict and failed states. Also, the tertiary effects of climate change would most likely involve the military in disaster relief and possibly climate wars.

These gloomy scenarios do not sound like good news at Christmas, but there is another story.

There is a long history of predicting the downfall of civilization, and all previous doomsayers have been wrong.

Matt Ridley – 'The Rational Optimist', 2010

The world population has increased exponentially since 1800, from less than 1 billion to 7.1 billion today, but the rate of increase is slowing and world population will probably peak at around 9 - 10 billion in the second half of the century. All the growth is taking place in developing and underdeveloped countries, while the populations of many developed countries are declining and ageing. Environmentalists' concern is that we will exceed the carrying capacity of the planet, and some believe we have probably exceeded it already. Put another way, we are using up natural capital by not properly pricing and accounting for it.

Bjorn Lomborg's book *The Sceptical Environmentalist*, (2001) has shown by analysing mostly UN data that the environmentalists' litany of woe is almost always overstated, and generally based on short-term trends. By most criteria the aggregate human condition is improving. While globalization has increased the level of inequality in the world, both between and within countries, it has also resulted in a world in which everybody is healthier, richer, cleaner and living longer. Lomborg has argued that the vast majority of environmental problems such as pollution, water shortages, deforestation and species loss as well as population growth, hunger and AIDS, are area specific and highly correlated with poverty. They could be solved by economic and social development.

Lomborg sees ending world poverty as the world's overriding goal, as aside from moral imperatives, eliminating poverty is positively linked to most other goals including adaption to climate change.

The June 2012 *OECD Economic Outlook to 2050 – Consequences of Inaction*, projects the world economy at four times what it is today, consuming 80% more energy with fossil fuel still accounting for 85% of the total. But physical constraints of resource availability and the physical response of the global ecosystem may intervene and the economic growth projections are unlikely to be realised with current technology.

For the human impact on the planet to remain the same or decrease, efficiencies in production, transmission/distribution, consumption and waste disposal must be able to offset increases in population and rising standards of living. We need to 'decouple' impact on the ecosystem from economic growth. While relative decoupling is a normal productivity and efficiency outcome, absolute 'decoupling' of economic growth from ecosystem impact is difficult to achieve as efficiencies are passed on as price reductions which result in increasing consumption.

The conventional economics approach to scarcity is in the interaction between demand and supply. Initially, a shortage causes an increase in price, as some consumers are prepared to pay more to secure scarce goods. This tends to reduce demand, but also calls forth further supply from higher cost sources. If demand still goes up, then price increases further and still higher cost sources are used to generate supply. As the price increases some demand is diverted to the purchase of existing substitutes or alternatives. Still further increases in price motivate investment in completely new alternatives to satisfy demand. Often, discoveries in the search of substitutes result in new products and services with even lower costs.

As an example, over the last 10 years the increasing price of petrol, relating to extraneous shortages, higher production costs, increased demand from the developing countries, the prospect of diminishing oil reserves, and public policy to curb carbon dioxide emissions, has seen car manufacturers tardily respond with smaller and lighter cars, much more efficient petrol engines, gas conversions, small diesel engines, hybrid/electric and electric motors. However, with the exception of battery technology, there have been no real technological breakthroughs, as most of these measures were available and only awaiting a market incentive to overcome corporate inertia.

Now consider the upside. Throughout history there have been waves of innovation that have raised the economic and social development of the civilized world. The last wave was in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and ran from about 1980-2001.

The most noticeable outward sign of this wave of innovation has been the exponential growth in the use of computers and mobile phones. *Continued Page 12*

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, is 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.

Q & A (from Chatham House)

Q. When was the Rule devised?

A. In 1927 and refined in 1992 and 2002.

Q. Should one refer to the Chatham House Rule or the Chatham House Rules?

A. There is only one Rule.

Q. What are the benefits of using the Rule?

A. It allows people to speak as individuals, and to express views that may not be those of their organizations, and therefore it encourages free discussion. People usually feel more relaxed if they don't have to worry about their reputation or the implications if they are publicly quoted.

Q. How is the Rule enforced?

A. Chatham House can take disciplinary action against one of its members who breaks the Rule. Not all organizations that use the Rule have sanctions. The Rule then depends for its success on being seen as morally binding.

Q. Is the Rule used for all meetings at Chatham House?

A. Not often for Member Events; more frequently for smaller research meetings, for example where work in progress is discussed or when subject matter is politically sensitive. Most Chatham House conferences are under the Rule.

Q. Who uses the Rule these days?

A. It is widely used by local government and commercial organizations as well as research organizations.

Q. Can participants in a meeting be named as long as what is said is not attributed?

A. It is important to think about the spirit of the Rule. For example, sometimes speakers need to be named when publicizing the meeting. The Rule is more about the dissemination of the information after the event - nothing should be done to identify, either explicitly or implicitly, who said what.

Q. Can you say within a report what you yourself said at a meeting under the Chatham House Rule?

A. Yes if you wish to do so.

Q. Can a list of attendees at the meeting be published?

A. No - the list of attendees should not be circulated beyond those participating in the meeting.

Q. Can I 'tweet' whilst at an event under the Chatham House Rule?

A. The Rule can be used effectively on social media sites such as Twitter as long as the person tweeting or messaging reports only what was said at an event and does not identify - directly or indirectly - the speaker or another participant. This consideration should always guide the way in which event information is disseminated - online as well as offline. ●

Regimental Sergeant Major Desmond Thomas Lynch DCM MBE

Late the Irish Guards

This is a further occasional article about interesting characters I have come across in the Services. I was reminded of RSM Lynch when browsing in The Daily Telegraph Book of Military Obituaries. I had no previous knowledge about his heroic DCM.

Lynch was the legendary Regimental Sergeant Major at the Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School near Chester in England, which I attended in 1957, as an eighteen year old. He was a tall large man, always immaculately dressed and he scared the living daylight out of us.

His opening address to our intake left us shell-shocked and ended with - "You call me Sir and I call you Sir, but there's one big difference - you mean it and I don't". The Guards Warrant Officers were all awesome to us Officer cadets, with suitably frightening names - Lynch, Leach and Blood.

The Drill Parades were also terrifying - the slightest misdemeanour or speck of dust on uniforms or boots resulted in extra parades in the evening.

There was one memorable occasion which went as follows:

Lynch (bellowing): "Company Sergeant Major Leach - there's an Officer Cadet moving his eyes on parade - third man in, second rank".

Leach (after halting in front of the offender): "Got 'im Sir".

Lynch: "Take his name".

We were all the better for this harsh discipline. The only time we got the better of the Staff was at a famous Passing Out Parade. Eaton Hall, a vast sprawling Victorian Mansion, had been the seat of the Dukes of Westminster. In pride of place at the Parade Ground, stood a large statue of one of the Dukes, mounted on a magnificent horse. The night before the Passing Out Parade a hole was drilled into the top of the horse and as it was hollow, we filled it with water. The horse's penis also had a large hole drilled in it which was plugged with a cork with string attached.

When the General arrived for the Parade - the string was surreptitiously pulled and the horse peed lustily throughout the Parade. The RSM could do nothing about it!

Lynch was an outstanding soldier and a hero. I wish we had known more about him at the time. The following is taken from the Telegraph obituary:

Desmond Lynch was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal in North Africa when a Sergeant in the Irish Guards; many thought a VC would have been more appropriate.

Lynch was the platoon sergeant in the leading company when it met with heavy fire during an attack on April 27 1943. The Company Commander and two Platoon Commanders were wounded or killed, and the company sergeant major killed. Lynch laid his wounded Platoon Commander in a slit-trench, saluted, asked "Leave to carry on sir?" then took charge of what was left of the company. As the advance continued he organised it to continue the assault and gain its objective. During the next three days, the force was continually attacked with the Company holding a ridge under shell and mortar fire when infantry attacks were not in progress..

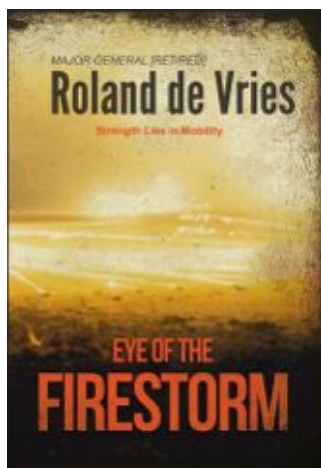
Lynch remained in command except for a brief period, and he presented an outstanding figure. His soldierly appearance, calmness and bravery in the most difficult circumstances created a great impression upon the men. At 10 am on April 28, enemy 88 mm guns opened up on the west of the ridge with unexpected violence. There were casualties, and some of the men were badly shaken.

Lynch, who was at Force HQ at the time, ran without hesitation up through the heavy fire to his Company, held the men steady in their positions, and moved a Bren gun forward at great personal risk to meet the first infantry assault. He gave the first fire order. The initial German assault was beaten back thanks to Lynch, whose example showed that the fiercest fire could be endured and that determined attack could be broken by small-arms fire. Even when half blinded by a blast he continued to encourage his rapidly dwindling Company.

Quite a DCM! I now feel very privileged to have been once under his eagle eye, and as a subsequently distinguished General recalled: "It was a terrifying experience to be inspected by him. I can remember the explosion, almost nuclear in its proportions, when a cadet asked him whether it was in order for officers to carry umbrellas when in uniform". An officer who served with him in the Irish Guards remembered: "He had a reputation for ferocity unequalled in all the Micks. All I can say is, thank God Sergeant Lynch was on our side".

Martin Holme

Book Review:



Major General (Ret'd) Roland de Vries

Eye of the Firestorm

MAJGEN (Retired) Roland de Vries, a former Deputy Chief of the South African Army visited Victoria Barracks in October and presented a signed copy of his autobiography 'Eye of the Firestorm', to the RUSI VIC Library.

MAJGEN de Vries retired in 1999, having seen active service in 1981, 1987 and 1988 in Rhodesia, South West Africa (Namibia), Southern Angola during 'high density' conventional battles. An important role in his military career was the development of operational concepts and military doctrine for mobile conventional warfare within the South African context; and included the development of the Ratel Infantry Combat Vehicle.

For his exploits and astuteness, Roland de Vries has rightfully been called the Rommel of the SADF. In this forthright, warts-and-all but compassionate autobiography he recounts the fascinating story of the transformation of a small, colonial army into, pound-for-pound, the best fighting force on the planet.

It is a soldier's life story about how he lived through the South African Border War and the transformation that followed when South Africa became a fully democratic State on 27 April - it is also about gaining perspective in life. This book puts in perspective the African way of warfare and expounds about operational concept tactics, terrain, command and leadership displayed from opposing sides. Roland de Vries believes with a passion that strength lies in the many rhythms of manoeuvre and by being surprisingly different.

This book weaves a fabric of richness to life in the military as well as the South African Border War. It covers a military career spanning over 37 years. Expect the unexpected from a man who believes that those who are entrusted to him count and need to be given the best fighting chance in life.

Neville Taylor



Join us in Ballarat for Military History and Heritage Week 2014

In the lead-up to the Gallipoli Centenary Victoria's third Military History and Heritage Week will get underway throughout the State between Saturday 19 and Sunday 27 April 2014.

Military History and Heritage Week comprises a series of coordinated military history and heritage themed events and activities across a range of locations and communities. The City of Ballarat was selected as the focal point for 2014.

Military History and Heritage Week runs across the Easter long-weekend (18 to 21 April), includes Anzac Day on Friday 25 April 2014 and concludes on Sunday 27 April 2014.

The historical theme for Military History and Heritage Week Ballarat is *From Eureka to 1914*. The Week will comprise a series of events and activities including:

- Anzac Day Parade: The Biggest Light Horse Parade in Victoria since WWI.
- Exhibition at the Gold Museum: *Citizen Soldiers and Sailors*.
- Photographic exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy: *Maoris and Dervishes, Boxers and Boers*.
- One-day Conference at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *The Science of War: Advances in Military Technology to 1914*.
- Colonial Militaria and Genealogy Fair at the Ballarat Mining Exchange.
- Colonial Naval and Military Charity Gala Ball at Sovereign Hill.
- Two-day International Conference at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *1914: The Fateful Year*.
- Commemoration for the 12th and 40th Regiments.
- Old Cemetery Tours: *Volunteers and Militia (1855-1914)*.
- Historical Re-Enactments: *Imperial Troopers, Colonial Volunteers and the Traps*.
- Film Festival at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute: *Before the Anzac Dawn – Conflicts to 1914*.
- Ballarat Military History and Heritage Walks.

For more information see the Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc. website at www.mhvh.org.au

Fireworks

Viewing the spectacular fireworks display, which was part of the recent Naval Review, reminded me of a splendid short story by Anthony Armstrong ("A.A."), which depicted a not so successful Regimental occasion, set in the 1920s. It is a good end of year read!:

Martin Holme

Our Regimental Firework Display

Frankly the Firework Display in our barracks at Havvershot was not a success. We have to admit it, but there it is. To the world we stand shoulder to shoulder and take the blame as a unit; in the Mess, however, we put all the blame on Captain Bayonet, who, poor fellow, was so conscious of guilt that it was not even necessary to fine him drinks. You still only have to look reproachfully at him and he offers you gin straight away.

It was Colonel Howitzer who, towards the end of October, first suggested to the Adjutant that the battalion might get up a Firework Display on the night of November 5th. He added airily that if a bob a head were charged and the show went off well, a lot of money might be made for the Adjutant's pet Benevolent Fund. The Adjutant replied that that in that case he would spare himself no trouble to make the thing a success, and promptly sent a chit to Captain Bayonet telling him to take it up, organize it, run it, and report to him when the thing *had* been a success.

For several days Captain Bayonet was very mysterious. He had long conferences with sundry officers and with the R.S.M., with the result that selected troops spent two afternoons practising subtle manoeuvres to be done eventually with torches; while Lieutenant Holster was secretly dispatched into town to purchase several kit-bags full of fireworks. Knowing what our officers' ideas of humour are, these were at once locked up in the store – all, that is, except one over-sized squib which reappeared two nights later in Lieutenant Swordfrog's fire. The squib went out by the door and Swordfrog by the window.

The night of the fifth came. The fireworks were to be let off from the flat roof of the Regimental Offices, a low building on one side of the parade-ground, and five minutes before the billed opening the spectators had lined up on the opposite side in deck-chairs, a great state of excitement, and a north-east wind. They consisted of the Officers' Mess with its wives, daughters and friends, who were given deck-chairs; the Sergeants' Mess with its wives, daughters, and friends, who had ordinary chairs; and the troops with their wives, daughters, and friends who had merely forms, barrack-room, 6', soldiers. What with the dark and the north-east wind no one was very matey – except, the officers who had wisely taken the precaution of surrounding a decanter or so of port in the Mess beforehand.

Zero hour came. A flourish of trumpets, off announced the preliminary torchlight evolutions, and the selected

storm-troops appeared in four columns at the corners of the square, each man carrying a flaming torch.

The idea, we gathered later, was that these four columns should advance to the centre of the square and there perform intricate manoeuvres, the lights from their torches providing a pleasing spectacle to the eye as they wound involvedly in and out of each other's ranks. All very lovely. They had, however, reckoned without the north-easter. As each man rounded the corner into the wind-swept square, the flame of his torch was wiped out with a perfectly-timed precision, that conveyed the effect of some giant sponge wiping figures one by one from a slate. This little contretemps had been entirely unforeseen, but the troops were undismayed. With the traditional discipline of the British Army they tramped stolidly forward and met, as per orders, in the centre.

Now one of the chief points about torchlight evolutions is that the light from your torch shows you where the next man is, so that you are thus enabled to avoid both him and, what is more important, his torch. If all the torches are out it makes quite a different thing of it; in fact, unless you are fitted with some sort of sound-ranging apparatus the affair touches the unexpected at every point.

Nothing could be seen in the pitch blackness that filled the square, but plenty could be heard, even above the heavy marking time. The general opinion was that Private Sling's comments were best, but a strong body favoured the pithy remarks on night-rugby, general post in coal mines, and torchless evolutions in general, believed to emanate from Private Rifle. Some snappy repartee – snappy enough indeed to be attributed next morning in orderly room to Private Barrell under open arrest by Corporal Foresight as first witness – was also much admired. When at last the language was beginning to light up the scene more effectively than torches would have done, the R.S.M.'s voice rose supreme, giving an 'All Columns – *About Turn*'. This cleared the square; though unfortunately Column 'A' lost direction and appeared out of the night that covered it with alarming suddenness in the midst of the officers' deck-chairs, starting a panic which was never really quite allayed.

When order was restored among the troops Captain Bayonet was heard from the roof opposite announcing through a megaphone that now that the torchlight manoeuvres were over the fireworks would begin. The words were barely out of his mouth before some sort of a rocket went off very abruptly, and apparently just behind him, because we heard his megaphone clatter on the parade-ground ten feet beneath and we heard Private Pullthrough's 'Beg pardon, sir. I thought you was ready'. A burst of applause luckily drowned any reply Bayonet himself may have made.

There was then a pause, some subdued murmuring, a 'Ready now', and a terrible fizzing accompanied by a flood of brilliant white light which silhouetted for two seconds Private Pullthrough in panic-stricken flight from right to left across the roof.

Continued page 10

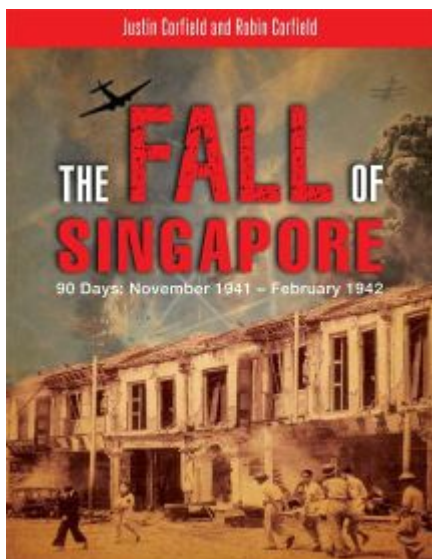
Book Review :

Justin Corfield and Robin Corfield

The Fall of Singapore

90 Days: November 1941 – February 1942

Hardcover: 743 pages, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne 2012



This most impressive record of a critical period in World War II contains over 2000 maps and illustrations - many furnished by families of those who died in Singapore. The considerable detailed information provided on some of the many thousands who died, is testament to the research done by Justin Corfield and Robin (his father, who passed away in 2010).

A brief and comprehensive history of the Malay Peninsula precedes detail on the First World War and the period between it and the Second World War. A month-by-month calendar of the key events from 1 September 1939 to December 1941 precedes description of the civil and administrative structures in place in Singapore and the Malaya Command prior to its invasion. All formation and unit commanders are described in detail, and the disposition of the major participants in the Pacific War in 1941 are then outlined.

The major part of the text covers a daily account of events affecting Singapore from 1 December 1941 and includes many biographical notes of those who were killed on that day, and a list of deaths for the day. The campaign coverage includes all details of naval and air actions and events.

It is perhaps unfortunate that despite such a wealth of research done to present this extremely weighty, informative and extremely readable tome, it is only by going through daily death summaries that the reader is able to locate any one individual as this book possesses no index.

Whilst this work makes a major contribution to the record of the events of the time, it also includes minutiae of detail that will satisfy the most fastidious and discerning of readers.

Neville Taylor

Fireworks continued

Nothing more, however, transpired – beyond the querulous statement by a voice unknown that he'd 'only meant to light me blinkin' pipe, s'welp me!'

A further short pause ensued and then some decorous red things staggered up into the night and were greeted with a respectful 'Aaah!' from the assembled audience. Another rocket next took place; then a second; then three simultaneously, followed by five. At this the audience began to feel a trifle uneasy, not so much because five rockets had gone off simultaneously, which is fairly normal, but because one of them had gone off horizontally, which is not. And when seven more, this time all horizontal and attended by two highly mobile Catherine-wheels suddenly leapt to life and began to bounce off walls and chimneys, the audience definitely became very restive.

That something had happened that was not according to plan was next instant evident. I don't know much about firework displays myself, but I have an idea that Roman candles don't go off by salvos of dozens at two second intervals; nor are coloured stars designed to ricochet off walls at six inches range. And I am practically certain that His Majesty's face in two halves lying on their sides and surrounded by a section of trench raid nightmare and a regular cloudburst of golden-rain is hardly a patriotic set-piece. Finally, no good Firework Display, in my opinion, should be over in one and a quarter minutes.

The noise at last died away into silence, except for the crackle of something unintended burning on the roof. There was, however, no applause, most of the audience being too shaken to realize it was over, and the others not having seen it owing to being under their deck-chairs, praying. Then the silence was broken by the Fire Alarm on massed bugles, as the band, evidently much relieved that they were at last able to take an important part in the show, came into action on the Adjutant's order.

At this, half of the audience immediately left. The carnage was completed by the arrival into the dark square of the Fire Picquet at the double – whereupon the R.S.M. took charge. Not being able to see, he concentrated on making himself heard, and from various remarks of his which reverberated through the night he was obviously taking it for granted that the half of the audience which had left was the feminine half.

The fire was soon quelled and the picquet dismissed. Evolution, display, fire and all had taken something under twelve minutes, instead of three-quarters of an hour; or, as the quavering voice of Bayonet opposite, evidently speaking from under cover, put it, 'Owing to a slight miscalculation in the time of showing, the Display is now over.'

The Band then played the National Anthem, but His Majesty, having already put in a short and fragmentary appearance, was not again visible.

A.A

Book Review:

John Blaxland

The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard

Cambridge University Press, 2013; 434 pp.; ISBN 9781107043657 (hardback); RRP \$59.95

The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard is the first critical examination of Australia's post-Vietnam War military operations, spanning the 35 years between the election of Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister in 1972 and the defeat of the Howard Government in 2007.

As David Horner, Australia's pre-eminent military historian writes in the foreword "the task of integrating new military operations into the broader narrative of Australia's military history was made difficult because they did not fit the mould of earlier operations." To his great credit, Blaxland has done a tremendous job in collating and documenting what the Army was doing.

Dr John Blaxland is a Senior Fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University. Prior to this he spent 28 years in the Australian Army including appointments as Defence Attaché to Thailand and Burma and Chief Staff Officer for Joint Intelligence at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. His previous publications include: *Strategic Cousins* (2006), *Revisiting Counterinsurgency* (2006), *Information-era Manoeuvre* (2002), *Signals, Swift and Sure* (1999) and *Organising an Army* (1989). He currently writes about Asia-Pacific military, intelligence and security affairs, and is very well qualified to write this book.

In addition to being a historical record, Blaxland contends that the Army has adapted and been successful over this period, and puts forward five reasons why; including individual and collective training, regimental or corps identities, ties with close allies and regional partners, as well as links with society. These themes are teased out regularly throughout the book to demonstrate prowess but equally Blaxland identifies several issues which could have been perhaps better dealt.

He shows how the Army grew in capability and confidence to play leading roles in East Timor, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, and to contribute to combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Blaxland usefully addresses the international, national and tactical levels of activity in his account. He has organised the book into four parts covering from Vietnam to the eve of the East Timor intervention (1972-1999); land force operations in East Timor and Solomon Islands; the Middle East area of operations; and Asia-Pacific engagement and adaptation at home.

At a time when the Australian Army's decade of continuous operations is drawing to an end, and as the 'Asian Century' gathers pace, the Army's strategic role is

once again the subject of some debate. Many foresee some parallels from the era following the end of the Vietnam War – reduced budgets and a greater political reluctance to deploy forces overseas. But at the same time, there is significant capital investment being made into air and naval platforms including the two Landing Helicopter Docks. The role of the Army in a 'maritime strategy' is a topic currently engaging the minds of Army's highest echelons.

My sense is that Australia has an enduring interest and will continue to support a rules based global order and will contribute to a range of endeavours that seek to realise a more just and peaceful world. The broad range of military operations and activities conducted between 1972 and 2007 demonstrate this.

The book includes a large number of photographs, a comprehensive list of abbreviations, several clear maps and an appendix listing the operations undertaken in the period, as well as the meticulous notes and references that you would expect from a seasoned writer.

Horner assesses that "until the official histories appear, Blaxland's book is likely to remain the most thorough, all-embracing account of the Army's recent activities." And the official history of the Australian Defence Force's activities from the East Timor intervention in 1999 has not yet been commissioned. In years to come Blaxland would be well qualified and positioned to lead this effort.

The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard is essential reading for anyone interested in understanding the evolution of Australia's military land forces since 1972.

Marcus Fielding



Good News: *Continued from Page Five*

Applications for the new technology are ongoing with developments in communications, health, education, and micro-finance offering huge productivity advances and increases in living standards in underdeveloped countries.

The ICT revolution merges into a new wave of innovation centred on resource efficiency, eliminating waste, internalizing externalities and selling services not products. While there are diminishing returns in production processes, there are no diminishing returns on the generation of ideas. The world now has more educated people than ever before, and through networked intelligence the ICT revolution has multiplied the potential for continued innovation by emphasising collaboration, openness, sharing, integrity and independence.

Current indications are that the potential of the new wave of innovation to solve emerging population/ human impact problems is very good. Future implications for energy, food, fresh water, resources, climate change and human well-being, are positive, but problems will still persist in specific areas, and for peoples who are unable to adjust and adapt to changing conditions.

There is considerable scope for increases in efficiency in the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity. Smart grids and the storage of electricity are needed to efficiently utilize intermittent renewable sources. While new shale gas/ oil exploitation will ensure that fossil fuels do not run out this century, fossil fuels are non-renewable and there is merit in conserving them for future generations.

Development of renewable energy sources, ostensibly to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions, have produced significant advances in electricity generation by solar photovoltaic cells, solar/thermal, wind, and geo-thermal power generation. Awaiting developments are in carbon capture and storage, and 4th generation nuclear reactors using thorium which offers the potential of a plentiful nuclear fuel with much lower levels of radioactive waste.

Today, almost 1 billion people are undernourished and lack access to fresh water, although we could adequately feed everyone now, given the political will to do so. The UN has calculated that at the level of basic nutrition the world will still be able to feed itself as the current population of 7.1 billion increases to 9 billion by 2050. The signs are that we will be able to do much better than this.

World agricultural production currently involves considerable inefficiencies in production, transportation, distribution and consumption, which when addressed will significantly increase the supply of most foods. Also, the subsidised growing of corn (maize) for biofuel has reduced the amount of grain available for human consumption. There is also the incongruity that sees a rising level of obesity and associated diabetes in

developed and developing countries contrasted with near starvation in some underdeveloped countries.

The original green revolution was not fully exploited in all countries and many more could increase crop yields using existing technology. In particular, there is much arable land in Africa which is underutilized and scope worldwide to increase yields by wider application of Genetically Modified (GM) Crops. Where suitable land is not available trials have had great success with vertical farming/horticulture in multi-story, factory/greenhouse, hydroponic farms.

On the protein side, beef is set to become more expensive as it uses a disproportionate amount of water to produce. While the fishing catch from the world's seas and oceans has peaked, the yield from aquaculture currently equals the wild fish catch and is increasing.

The basis of modern agriculture is land, fertilizer, fossil fuel and water. Earth is the blue planet, and there is plenty of water even though only 1% is available as freshwater in groundwater, rivers, lakes and swamps. The problem is not availability but accessibility to freshwater when and where it is needed.

Supplies of freshwater can be increased by desalination and new purification methods using nanotechnology, but there is considerable scope increasing efficiency in the use and transmission of freshwater, which is typically under-priced. 70% of the water is used in agriculture, mostly inefficiently. Where aquifers are being exhausted, human ingenuity needs to address the means of their replenishment. The conservation mantra of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) applies to both resources and water.

On what principle is it, that when we see nothing but improvement behind us, we are to expect nothing but deterioration before us?

Macaulay, 1830

Development in underdeveloped countries has been held back by wars, tribalism, civil instability and incompetent, oppressive and corrupt governments.

A number of historical studies have found that the keys to social development are the hallmarks of liberal democracy (individual freedom, the rule of law, property rights, a free press, and free markets), openness and trade.

There is no current or emerging world population crisis or problem. Food, water and energy shortages are only likely to occur for limited times in specific areas. Things are getting better everywhere, and with networked innovation and globalized trade the pace of improvement is likely to quicken.

Future conflicts are more likely to be related to nationalism, religious fundamentalism and perceived inequality between developed countries with aging populations and developing countries with young adult populations.

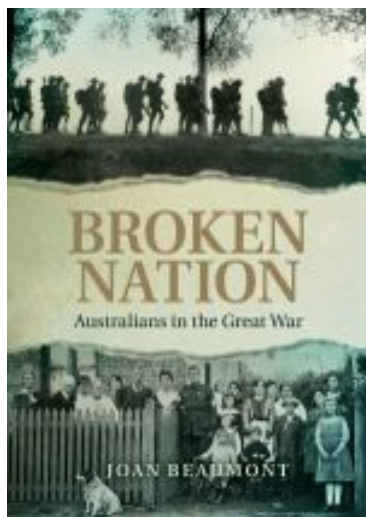
Mike Rawlinson

Book Review :

Joan Beaumont

Broken Nation: Australians in the Great War

St Leonards NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2013 (628 pp bibliography, index, rrp \$55)



Professor Beaumont, a popular RUSI of Victoria speaker, notes wisely that there will be a rush of commemorative books for the centenary of events in the First World War. Hers is an early starter in this expected field and is a well-judged and important book.

The book aims to relate the Australian experience of war in all its complexity - from the home front as well as the battle front - as the men and women who experienced it chose to understand and remember it. The sewing together of the battle experiences with those at home puts together an integrated look at the conflict together with the diplomacy and memory. The war affected life back home in Australia and what happened at home also affected our troops at the front.

The home front does not dominate this book – the fighting is its central theme. Professor Beaumont does the nation a favour by providing an account of the fighting that is accessible to the general reader. The 'iconic' battles are here- Gallipoli, Villers-Bretonneaux, Pozieres, the Somme and the latest entrant Fromelles but so are the many other important battles far less known to the general public - Hamel, Bapaume, Amiens, Polygon Wood and many others. This book has achieved a fine balance that few of the more recent popularist accounts of Australians in the Great War have.

As well as a balanced military narrative there are some particularly clear maps (from General Coates' *Atlas of Australian Military History*, also in our collection) adding to make a very clear picture. The interactions of the home front – wives, sweethearts, politics, pro- & antiwar groups, conscription referenda and overarching diplomacy and the clear picture gains a great deal of valuable detail. The author frequently points out the stark differences between Australia then and now - her authorship of the statistics volume of *The Centenary*.

History of Defence adds many authoritative, surprising and convincing facts.

This book would be particularly valuable solely for its view from the present day of the First World War. It has extra value because it is so well and authoritatively written.

Charles Bean is given justifiable praise throughout this work. His one-volume summary of the war, *Anzac to Amiens*, is a great book. *Broken Nation* adds much to Bean's book, not least the results of recent scholarship. It is a most worthy successor to *Anzac to Amiens*.

We are grateful to Allen & Unwin for a review copy that is a great addition to our library.

M.P.J. O'Brien

A Proposition

Have you thought of donating a book to our Library?

Would you be prepared to try this scheme? Here's a selected list of recently published books (& recommended prices) that we'd like to obtain for the library – they are all available at the moment at your local good bookshop. Why not buy one you like from the list, read it & donate it afterwards? Please tell us if you do & we'll cross it off our 'wants' list. Or, give us the cash, we'll buy the book & you'll get a warm feeling & a tax deduction!

Almanac of American Military History [4 Volumes] Spencer C. Tucker, Spencer C Tucker (Virginia Military Institute) (\$957.80)

Before the Anzac Dawn: A military history of Australia before 1915 Craig Stockings, John Connor (\$34.99)

Victory in Vietnam: The Official History of the People's Army of Vietnam, 1954-1975 Military History Institute of Vietnam, The Military History Institute of Vietnam, William J. Duiker (Professor Emeritus of History, Penn State University, USA), Merle L. Pribbenow (\$103.95)

The Long Road to Changi: Australia's Greatest Military Defeat and How it Broke the Bonds of Empire Peter Ewer (\$35.00)

A Military History of Australia Jeffrey Grey (Updated ed, \$21.95)–

Oxford Companion to Australian Military History Peter Dennis, Jeffrey Grey (Updated ed, \$49.95)

Military Stress and Performance: The Australian Defence Force Experience George Kearney, Mark Creamer, Ric Marshall, Anne Goynes, Peter Cosgrove (\$50.00)

Australian and US Military Cooperation: Fighting Common Enemies Christopher Hubbard (\$121.00)

Library Notes :

OVER this year we have received many donations from our members and they have added a great deal of depth to our collection. Nevertheless, it's difficult to keep up with all the new titles that are being published.

Recent Acquisitions

Phillip Bradley, *Hell's Battlefield: To Kokoda and Beyond*, Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2012

Simon Cameron, *Lonesome Pine: the Bloody Ridge*, Newport NSW: Big Sky, 2013.

Mike Carlton, *First Victory – 1914 – HMAS Sydney's Hunt for the German Raider Emden*, North Sydney: Random House Australia, 2013

Michael Caulfield, *The Unknown Anzacs: the Real Stories of our National Legend Told through the Rediscovered Diaries and Letters of the Anzacs who were there*, Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2013

Michele Cunningham, *Hell on Earth: Sandakan - Australia's Greatest War Tragedy*, Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2013

Hugh Dolan, *Gallipoli Air War: the Unknown Story of the Fight for the Skies over Gallipoli*, Sydney: Macmillan, 2013

Damien Fenton, *New Zealand and the First World War 1914-1919*, Auckland: Penguin NZ, 2013

Dr David Kilcullen, *Out of the Mountains: the Coming Age of the Urban Guerilla*, Melbourne: Scribe, 2013

Marilyn Lake & Henry Reynolds, *What's Wrong with Anzac: the Militarisation of Australian History*, Sydney: New South, 2010

Tom Lewis & Peter Ingram, *Carrier Attack Darwin 1942: the Complete Guide to Australia's Own Pearl Harbor*, Kent Town SA: Avonmore Books, 2013

Henry Reynolds, *Forgotten War*, Sydney: New South Publishing, 2013

Chris Roberts, *The Landing at Anzac 1915* (Australian Army Campaign Series 12), Newport NSW: Big Sky, 2013

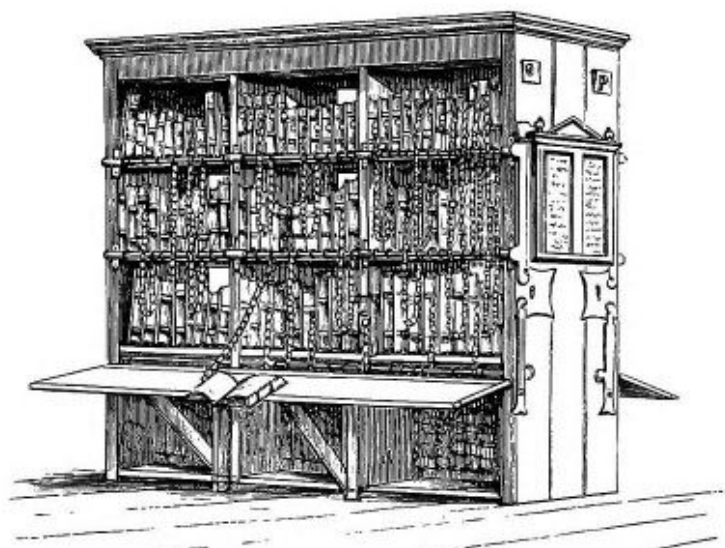
raig Stockings & John Connor (eds), *Before the Anzac Dawn: a Military History of Australia to 1915*, Sydney: New South, 2013

Alistair Thomson, *Anzac Memories: Living with the Legend (New Edition)*, Clayton Vic: Monash University, 2013

Recent Donations

We have recently received a valuable donation of books from Dr Daryl Moran.

The donation is centered on British and Australian uniforms. Only two other Australian libraries hold *Dress Regulations for Officers of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth 1901*. Its British counterpart, *Dress Regulation for the Army 1911*, is similarly rare. A catalogue of photograph of Second World War uniforms of the three services appears to be unique. But perhaps the rarest item is a scrapbook from the Collingwood firm of into which were pasted any original First World War Australian colour patches. Though some have been removed, those surviving are in remarkably pristine condition. All these items and several others have been added to our growing Rare Books collection. We are most grateful to have received them.



Donations to your Library Fund are Tax Deductible

Help to maintain the Institute's Library as the best collection in Victoria on defence and military related subjects by donating to your RUSI VIC Library Fund. The RUSI VIC Library Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) approved by the Australian Taxation Office, and monetary gifts to the Fund over \$2 are tax deductible by the donor.

Please make cheques to the 'RUSI VIC Inc Library Fund'. Receipts will be provided.