



Royal United Services Institute  
of Victoria Inc.

for Defence Studies

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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RUSI-VIC NEWS

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Office Bearers

**President:** AIRCDRE Mike Rawlinson RAAF (retd)  
**Vice Presidents:** BRIG David Noble CSC  
MAJGEN Ian Freer CB, CBE  
MAJ Ian Rainford ED, JP  
**Immediate Past President:**  
BRIG W.H. (Mac) Grant RFD  
**Secretary:** MR Martin Holme  
**Hon. Treasurer:** FLG OFF Neville Wright  
**Chairman Library Committee:**  
MAJGEN Mike O'Brien CSC

Dates for your Diary

25<sup>th</sup> July - Speaker Luncheon  
14<sup>th</sup> August - Council Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> August - Speaker Luncheon  
26<sup>th</sup> September - Speaker Luncheon and AGM  
16<sup>th</sup> October - Council Meeting  
31<sup>st</sup> October - Speaker Luncheon  
15<sup>th</sup> November - Annual Dinner  
28<sup>th</sup> November - Speaker Luncheon  
12<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Drinks

\*\*\* All functions and activities are subject to the present security restrictions.\*\*\*

**Speaker Luncheons**

**\*\* Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2002 \*\***

**Lieutenant Colonel Terry Beaton (Retd)**

first Curator of "Hell-fire Pass" will speak on:

**The Burma Railway :**

Looking through the eyes of an engineer born after the war.

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\* Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2002 \*\***

**Mr Murray MacLean OAM**

First Assistant Secretary North Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Will speak on:

**China Today**

**PLEASE NOTE:** the new 'actual' start time for the Speaker Luncheon is 12pm for lunch,  
followed by the Speaker at 12.30pm. Cost - \$8-00.

**New Members** - At the next Council Meeting the following prospective members will be considered:

|                      |                |                      |              |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| FILt Jack Macalister | Red Hill South | Mr John Cohen        | Eltham       |
| Mr Martin Holme      | Camberwell     | Ms Rebecca Shrimpton | Geelong West |
| Mr Donald Bartlett   | Croyden        | Mr Brian Loughnane   | Albert Park  |
| Mr David Stroud      | Carlton South  | Mr Harry Shepherd    | Toorak       |
| Mr Norman Henderson  | Hampton        | Mr Ross Darrigan     | Essendon     |

### **Vale**

We record with regret the deaths of the following members :

Lt A.L. Walker

Mr M.J. Burkimsher

Capt W.R. Trewarne

### **From the Secretary - Martin Holme**

I have recently been appointed as the new Secretary and look forward to meeting you all and gradually getting to recognise everyone! Please make yourself known to me and make contact if you have any problems or queries. I will endeavour to assist but hope you will be understanding while I find my feet.

I come from Scotland and, in 1958, was Commissioned into the 21<sup>st</sup> of Foot - The Royal Scots Fusiliers, which a year later was amalgamated with The Highland Light Infantry, to become The Royal Highland Fusiliers. I was a Regular Officer for 12 years, retiring in 1970 as a Captain, having served in Cyprus (Active Service), Tasmania (ADC to the Governor, Lord Rowallan), Malta, Libya, Germany, UK, Gibraltar, finishing as 2 I/C of the Royal Guard stationed at Balmoral Castle, Scotland, during the Royal Family's summer/autumn stay.

I have been in Australia since 1970, largely working in the Mining, Papermaking and Forestry industries and look forward to a very happy association with the RUSI.

### **Contact by E-Mail**

We are considering the possibility of communicating, by e-mail, with those members who have access to it.

It would therefore be appreciated if members with an e-mail address could advise the Secretary, so that this information can be added to the Institute's data base.

It is not intended that this method of communication take the place of the current mail out system of contact, but it is something we should bear in mind.

### **RUSI Members Speakers List**

We have been asked, on occasion, if we have members who would be prepared to give a talk on some interesting defence related topic, to kindred organisations or groups such as Probis.

Providing such a service falls very much within our charter and it occurs to us that we probably have a wealth of talent amongst our membership who might be prepared to offer their services to this worthy cause.

We propose to create such a Speakers List and consequently ask members who would be prepared to talk to other groups, to contact the Secretary, advising of the topic that might be addressed.

We would then have a bank of potential speakers to satisfy any future requests.

### **Korean Seminar Publication -a reminder**

Proceedings of the One Day Seminar - **Australians in the Korean War – 50 Years on.**

Now an excellent 150 page illustrated book and available for purchase at \$20-00 per copy incl. postage.

Why not send a copy to a friend? We can post it direct. **Contact the Secretary.**

## President's Message – July 2002

Welcome to Martin Holme as our new Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I thank those other members who applied for the position for their interest. This Newsletter is 'thin' because of changes in the office. The next edition will be normal length incorporating some changes in the format.

In the April newsletter I expressed some intrepidation about Defence in the budget. Budget Day came and went, and Defence appears to have done rather well in the short-term. My concern in the longer term seems justified, as Air Force is having serviceability problems with its high speed jets that were not forecast in the White Paper, and their replacements will be very big ticket items.

Congratulations to our Vice Patron in Chief, Major General Peter Haddad. In the Queens Birthday Honours List General Haddad was made an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for his leadership as Army Support Commander and Commander of the Joint Logistics System.

From 1 July we have new Commanders in the ADF. At the top :

Admiral Chris Barrie has been succeeded by General Peter Cosgrove as CDF;  
Vice Admiral Russ Shalders succeeds Lieutenant General Des Mueller as VCDF

Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie becomes Chief of Navy behind Vice Admiral David Shackleton  
Lieutenant General Peter Leahy becomes Chief of Army behind General Cosgrove

Air Marshal Angus Houston remains as Chief of Air Force – now the senior Single Service Chief.

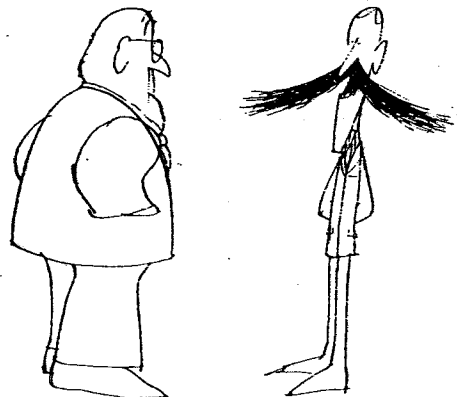
One recent item of defence interest is the creation of an International Criminal Court by the UN. Significantly, the setting up of the court has not been supported by the US on the grounds that it infringes upon US sovereignty. In Australia the Government has endorsed the Court after heated debate in the party room. This means that Australia will participate in the development of the court and its procedures. Australian approval comes with a number of provisions. The key proviso is the Australian Attorney General must first give approval before an Australian National can be tried by the court.

Thank you to those who have offered to help in the Library and in the office, your offers are much appreciated. Changeover arrangements have meant that we have not yet been in a position to benefit from your services, but we will be calling. In particular, the Library Committee has quite an ambitious plan of modernising our library that will require a lot of assistance when it gets under-way.

reminder that the book of the Korean Seminar is available from the office at a cost of \$17.50 plus postage.



Mike Rawlinson



Barrington

"It makes me feel adequate."

## Joint Strike Fighter for the RAAF

At the end of June the Government announced that it would make a \$300 million commitment to join the second development phase of the American 'Joint Strike Fighter', to be developed by Lockheed-Martin. Notionally the RAAF will acquire 100 JSF aircraft in about 15 years time as replacements for our F/A-18s and F-111s, although some doubt exists as to whether they will last this long.

The JSF is 'Joint' in that it is designed to fulfil the requirements of the USAF, USN and USMC by having conventional, carrier and short take-off/vertical

landing versions of the same basic aircraft. The JSF is intended to replace the A-10, F-16, F/A-18 and the Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers.

The JSF is a new generation aircraft that is both supersonic and has 'stealth' characteristics (cannot be seen on radar). Production aircraft will not be flying until 2005, and the first operational aircraft will enter USAF Service in 2008. The United States demand is likely to be about 3000 aircraft. Development partners ahead of us are the UK (for RAF and RN), Singapore, the Netherlands and Turkey.

## M113 APCs to get \$500m refit

The army's ageing fleet of M113 armoured troop carriers will receive a planned \$500 million upgrade. Defence Minister Robert Hill has announced that the 350 Vietnam-era vehicles would be fitted with bigger engines, improved armour and more firepower.

The contract for the project, to be carried out by defence contractor Tenix in Adelaide and at its Bandiana plant near Albury-Wodonga, will be signed in July. The vehicles are scheduled to re-enter service from around 2005.

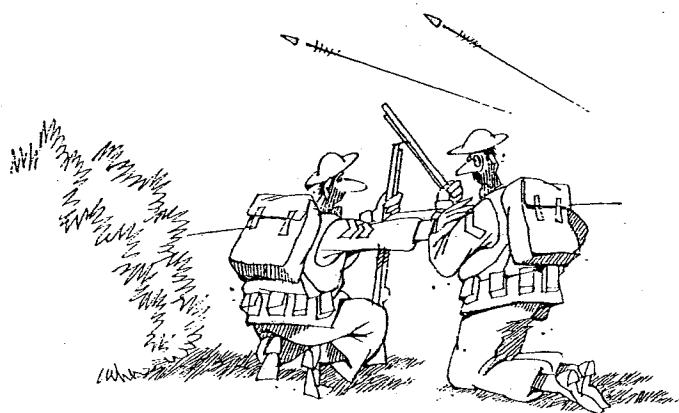
New engines will be installed to improve mobility and meet stringent environmental standards, with the interior space of the vehicles being modified to benefit soldiers. The improvements will include anti-mine applique armour, the removal of fuel cells from the crew compartment and a fire suppression system inside. The upgrade will also include cooling systems for the interior and the turret will be fitted with a new machinegun and a day/night sight.

The M113s have been the backbone of Australia's military carrier capability since the 1960s. Despite their age, the vehicles are still in use with a number of armies around the world, including Italy, Germany, Israel and Denmark.

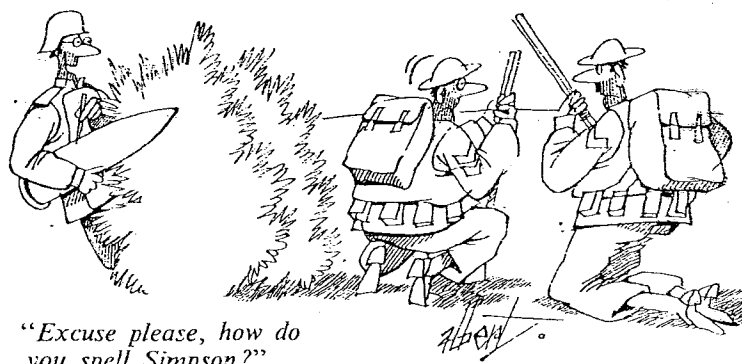
The upgrade should help the M113 carriers remain in service until at least 2020. Tenix was nominated as the preferred prime contractor for the project in June, 1998, in a much-delayed project.

Australia's M113s most recently saw action in East Timor where their tracked wheels proved more reliable in wet season conditions than newer vehicles.

Other projects to boost army mobility include the planned purchase of Australia-built Bushmaster armoured trucks for troop transport and the acquisition of another 150 all-terrain light armoured vehicles through Tenix. The Bushmaster contract with ADI in Bendigo has been revised, with government agreeing to receive 299 trucks instead of the original 379 vehicles.



"It's no use worrying lad, if it's got your name on it there's nowt you can do . . ."



"Excuse please, how do you spell Simpson?"