



Royal United Services Institute of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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RUSI-VIC NEWS

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Dates for your Diary

30 March - Luncheon Speaker - Defence Plaza

27 April Luncheon Speaker - Defence Plaza

10 May Council Meeting - Defence Plaza

25 May Luncheon Speaker - Defence Plaza

RUSI VIC CYBERLINKS

RUSI of Australia (inc Victoria) <http://www.defence.gov.au>

Department of Defence

<http://defence.gov.au>

Rusi for Defence Studies Whitehall <http://www.rusi.org>

Australian Strategic Policy Institute <http://www.aspi.org.au>

Australia Defence Association

<http://www.ada.asn.au>

Luncheon Speaker

**** Thursday, 30th March, 2006 ****

Brigadier A.J. Smith

Commander - 7 Brigade and Commander - "Operation ACOLYTE"

"Defence Support of the 2006 Commonwealth Games"

Brigadier Smith is in overall command of "Operation Acolyte" which has total responsibility for the Defence Force contribution to the administration and safe conduct of the 2006 Commonwealth Games - a major involvement. Hopefully, by 30th March, the Games will have been successfully and safely concluded. Brigadier Smith will then be free to expand on the planning and outcome of a mammoth exercise.

It should be a fascinating, informative and topical presentation.

Venue: Defence Plaza; Time: 1130hrs (Tea/Coffee); Address: 1200hrs

Admission: Members -\$3-00 Non-Members - \$5-00

Lunch may be purchased from the adjacent "Armoury Bistro" afterwards

Please advise the Office on 9282 7498 or 9282 7392 if you and/or any guests intend to be present by Tuesday, 28th March, 2006.

**** Thursday 27th April 2006**

Lunchtime Speaker

Negotiations are well advanced to secure a Speaker of note. Details will be advised in the near future.

**Venue : Defence Plaza at 1130 hrs(Tea/Coffee)
1200 hrs - Address**

New Members – We welcome the following New Members:-

**MAJ D.C. Dennis - Mentone; CDRE J.C.Dickson AM MBE – Mt Eliza;
LTCOL A. Lloyd – Balwyn.**

From the Library

A renewed effort to catalogue the Library efficiently and pave the way for a national approach in recording the combined RUSI heritage in books, papers and records, is about to commence. RUSI Victoria has been charged with the duty of leading the way.

Presentations to the Library:

The Library Committee wish to thank the following for generous donations to the Library:-

LTCOL Wilfred Gill; COMDR Hugh Jarrett; AIRCDRE Mike Rawlinson.



"Play set or no play set, he has two Navy destroyers waiting in mid-ocean for further orders."

From the President – Air Commodore Mike Rawlinson

The RUSI 2006 Lecture Program started in February with a great address by Professor Joan Beaumont entitled 'Did Singapore need to Fall? If you were unable to be part of the large audience, and want to know the outcome of the poll on whether Major General Gordon Bennett should have stayed, you will have to ask one of the attendees.

RUSI VIC has two new Vice-Patrons, Air Commodore Kevin Paule, the new Air Force Training Commander, and Captain David Garnock RAN, the new Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus. On your behalf I have wished them successful tours in their new appointments, and hope that they will be able to join us occasionally.

Senator Robert Hill has stepped down as Defence Minister after a record term. While not involving large force elements, he has probably presided over a greater variety of 'action' than any of his predecessors since Vietnam, and must be rated as a most successful Minister. He has since been appointed as Australia's Ambassador to the United Nations.

From an RUSI point-of-view, a disappointing aspect that has been associated with Senator Hill's time as Minister, has been the practice of prior vetting and approval of speeches delivered to RUSI meetings by Defence Force Officers including Service Chiefs. This implies a lack of confidence in the judgement and discretion of the senior officers involved and a similar lack of trust in the Chatham House Rule applied by RUSI. As a result addresses have become generally less frank and less spontaneous than we have been accustomed to in the past. A reversion to former practices would be welcome.

Senator Hill is succeeded by Dr Brendan Nelson, formerly the Federal Education Minister.

Dr Nelson (MD) does not have a military background, but spent a time as Parliamentary Secretary of Defence when he entered the Ministry. He has shown himself to be a

particularly energetic Minister and as a leadership contender in the Liberal Party, will be looking to make a mark in defence. It's also good to see Victorian political representation restored within the defence portfolio, in that Bruce Billson MP, the Member for Dunkley, and formerly Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed as the new Minister Assisting.

In his first speech since taking on the portfolio, Dr Nelson said that he saw his greatest challenge as recruiting, retaining and caring for defence personnel. This is certainly an area that could use some new thinking. Some recent official views on recruiting shortfalls either now or in the future have been made from 'well within the box'. Change a few parameters, step back and view the total picture, particularly the small size of the ADF relative to the Australian population, and the problem disappears. Stand-alone solutions of increased pay on the one hand or conscription on the other, are neither efficient nor effective. They are also out-of-touch with both the actual requirements of the ADF and the needs and aspirations of individuals.

Defence Update 2005 was issued by the Government in mid-December 2005. The full text is available on the Defence Department website. In addition to the acquisition of Abrahams tanks and two large support ships already announced, the Update considers options for heavy airlift capability to supplement the RAAF's C-130 Hercules Fleet. (4 Globemaster II selected), and increasing the size and capability of the Army through a 10 year plan for the *Hardened and Networked Army*.

The *Hardened and Networked Army* is the most significant change to affect the Army in decades. You can expect that a full briefing will be included in this year's RUSI VIC Lecture Program.

From The Secretary - Martin Holme

2006 is well under way and in this first Newsletter of the New Year we wish you a happy and prosperous one.

This issue contains an appreciation of the recently retired National Secretary of RUSI Australia, Mr Leo Mahony, whose input into the RUSI cause will be much missed.

Vice President Ian Rainford has contributed a fascinating article on the early Church's attempts at banning weapons. Angus Bartlett-Bragg shares with us his wonderful memories of attending the 200th Anniversary Dinner of the Battle of Trafalgar in the Painted Hall at Greenwich.

In early March, a Luncheon was held to induct Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Bryan into the hallowed halls of those conferred with the title Councillor Emeritus of RUSI Victoria. In his acceptance speech Stuart made some interesting and pertinent observations, which form the basis for the article on page 7.

At the Luncheon there was discussion round the table as to the meaning of the word "Emeritus". After consulting with various tomes the following relevant definition emerged – one who has honourably been discharged from public service (or his duties); venerable, learned and revered. These admirable traits sit well with Stuart and indeed all our Councillors Emeritus!

As mentioned elsewhere, our Lunchtime Speaker year started with a fascinating talk on the Fall of Singapore, given by Professor Joan Beaumont. I commend our Speaker on Thursday 30th March – Brigadier A.J. Smith who will by then be free of all constraints and able to tell us the real story of Defence support for the Commonwealth Games. I urge you to attend.

Some time ago I made a plea that Members submit letters of interest for publication in the Newsletter. Response has been minimal to put it mildly – why not give it a try!?



Stuart Bryan at the Luncheon



Angus Bartlett-Bragg in 'Painted Waistcoat' talks with MAJGEN John Hartley, RUSI National President At The Blamey Oration in May 2006

Retirement of Mr Leo Mahony National Secretary RUI of Australia

The last day of December 2005 marked the retirement from office of Mr Leo Mahony, the highly respected National Secretary of RUI of Australia. Leo was first elected National Secretary in April 1980 and has served continuously on the National Council of the RUI of Australia for 26 years.

Leo's first encounter with the RUI was when he attended a meeting of the then USI of Victoria in 1965. He later joined the Institute in 1972 on the nomination of Major General Ron Hughes, who became the inaugural National President of the newly formed federal body in 1974. In 1980, Leo was encouraged to take on the position of National Secretary by Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot, the first CDF, who was a member and a strong advocate of the RUI. The then National President Major-General Tim Cape, nominated him for the position.

Leo has known personally all eleven National Presidents. Since 1980, he has worked closely with incumbent National Presidents, including our own Major General John Stevenson (National President 87-90) and Brigadier 'Mac' Grant (National President 93-95).

As well as the members of successive National Councils, particularly National Treasurers, Leo has provided essential support for the International Seminar Planning Committees, and National Journal Boards. He has liaised and worked with a large number of senior officers of the three Services, academics, public servants, representatives of defence industry, the media and Members of Parliament.

In Canberra the name of Leo Mahony has long been synonymous with the RUI. For almost three decades, Leo has been uniquely well connected at the highest level

of the defence hierarchy in Australia. Maintenance of the privileged relationship that RUI has with the Department of Defence, in no small way can be attributed to the connections and influence of its National Secretary. Without the strong support of successive Ministers for Defence, Chiefs of the Defence Force, Service Chiefs, and most Secretaries of the Department of Defence, the RUI could not have flourished, and continued to stage its outstanding International Seminars.

Leo has a prominent place in the development and history of our institution, and it is fitting that the National Council has commissioned him to write the history of the RUI of Australia at the national level.

Leo Mahony has visited the RUI of Victoria on many occasions, and has earned the respect and friendship of all members with whom he has had contact. As your President since 2000, Leo has always provided me with support and I have valued his advice and assistance. Leo is known for his old world charm, dignity and decorum, and furthermore qualifies for that highest Australian accolade of being a thoroughly 'good bloke'. On behalf of the members of RUI of Victoria, I would therefore like to pay tribute to Leo for his achievements as National Secretary for nurturing the RUI in its important niche of promoting the defence and national security of our country, and thank him for a job well done.

Mike Rawlinson
Air Commodore (Retd)
President RUI of Victoria

THE CHURCH BANS WARFARE

By Major Ian Rainford OAM ED JP

Over lunch with the Parish Priest of Armadale and Toorak, I got into an interesting discussion on the banning of weapons, and we found ourselves a long way from W.M.D. In fact, we got back to crossbows and, from there, to the Ecumenical Council held in the Lateran Palace, Rome, in the Middle Ages, i.e. The Second Lateran Council of 1139 and the famous "Truce of God" by which the Church sought to forbid the waging of war in the most solemn times of the year: Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. It further sought to protect all the clergy, merchants and peasants in their coming and going, and extended to the farm plough animals and the sheep. All were to "be left in peace at all times". It went further and I quote:

"11. We also prescribe that priests, clerics, monks, pilgrims, merchants and peasants, in their coming and going and their work on the land, and the animals with which they plough and carry seeds to the fields, and their sheep, be left in peace at all times.

12. We decree that the truce is to be inviolably observed by all from sunset on Wednesday until sunrise on Monday, and from Advent until the octave of the Epiphany, and from Quinquagesima until the octave of Easter. If anyone tries to break the truce, and he does not comply after the third warning, let his bishop pronounce sentence of excommunication on him, and communicate his decision in writing to the neighbouring bishops. Moreover let none of the bishops receive into communion the excommunicated person, but rather let each confirm the sentence received in writing."

JOUSTS AND TOURNAMENTS OUTLAWED

"14. We entirely forbid, moreover, those abominable jousts and tournaments in which knights come together by agreement and rashly engage in showing off their physical prowess and daring, and which often result in human deaths and danger to souls. If any of them dies on these occasions, although penance and viaticum are not to be denied him when he requests them, he is to be deprived of a church burial."

Then we see in Lateran III of 1179 that the knights of the day were ignoring the Church's law laid down in Lateran II.

"20. Following the footsteps of our predecessors of happy memory, popes Innocent and Eugenius, we forbid those abominable jousts and fairs, which are commonly called tournaments, in which knights come together by agreement and rashly engage in showing off their physical prowess and daring, and which often result in human deaths and danger to souls. If any of them dies on these occasions, although forgiveness is not to be denied him when he requests it, he is to be deprived of a church burial."

CROSSBOWMEN AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Finally, in Lateran IV of 1215, clerics are prohibited from personally having anything to do with the shedding of blood by word or deed and may not be put in charge or command of troops of any kind. It is interesting that crossbowmen get a specific mention. In this canon the power of capital punishment is effectively handed over to secular power.

"Fourth Lateran Council – 1215

18. On sentences involving either the shedding of blood or a duel being forbidden to clerics.

No cleric may decree or pronounce a sentence involving the shedding of blood, or carry out a punishment involving the same, or be present when such punishment is carried out. If anyone, however, under cover of this statute, dares to inflict injury on churches or ecclesiastical persons, let him be restrained by ecclesiastical censure. A cleric may not write or dictate letters which require punishments involving the shedding of blood; in the courts of princes this responsibility should be entrusted to laymen and not to clerics. Moreover no cleric may be put in command of mercenaries or crossbowmen or suchlike men of blood; nor may a subdeacon, deacon or priest practise the art of surgery, which involves cauterizing and making incisions; nor may anyone confer a rite of blessing or consecration on a purgation by ordeal of boiling or cold water or of the red-hot iron, saving nevertheless the

previously promulgated prohibitions regarding single combats and duels."

The quotations given are in full, but the complete canons are much more comprehensive. However, I wanted to confine this article to the military

aspects as much as possible. My thanks to the Reverend Father Brendan Hayes for supplying the material from which I have compiled this article.

200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar Commemoration Dinner – Greenwich, London

RUSI Member Angus Bartlett-Bragg attended the Dinner to Commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar – in the famous Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, with the Commander-In-Chief, First Sea Lord Designate as Guest of Honour.

Angus writes : "It was a memorable occasion. A Royal Marine detachment and naval ratings, all dressed in 1805 rig, were formed up as honour guards to greet us on arrival. There were some four hundred attending the dinner. Those attending included a large contingent of Flag Officers with the hall awash with gold braid.

The hall was set with eighteen long tables and a head table, each named after a ship of the line at Trafalgar. The head table of just nine, named Victory of course, was set across the Upper Hall where Nelson lay in State from Christmas Eve 1805 to 8th January 1806 when he was carried up the Thames for burial at St Paul's.

For me personally there was total disbelief in finding myself allocated a seat the head table, the Victory, on the immediate left of the Mess President. This was in no way a tribute to a lowly submarine fore-ends-man. In attempting to decipher their arrangements I took my place as a tribute to Australia and I was humbled by this accolade to the country I represented. I was warmly welcomed by the President and by the C-In-C and in his welcoming address the President made reference of some who journeyed from as far off as Australia to attend the dinner.

Sir Jame Thornhill's masterpiece, The Painted Hall, arguably the most magnificent dining hall in the world today, looked resplendent for the occasion and the evening was full of pageant

music, exuberance and levity with, at the same time, strict observance of protocol and mess discipline. During the dinner the Royal Marines and naval ratings in 1805 dress entertained us with some very amusing street theatre depicting shipboard life in Nelson's navy.

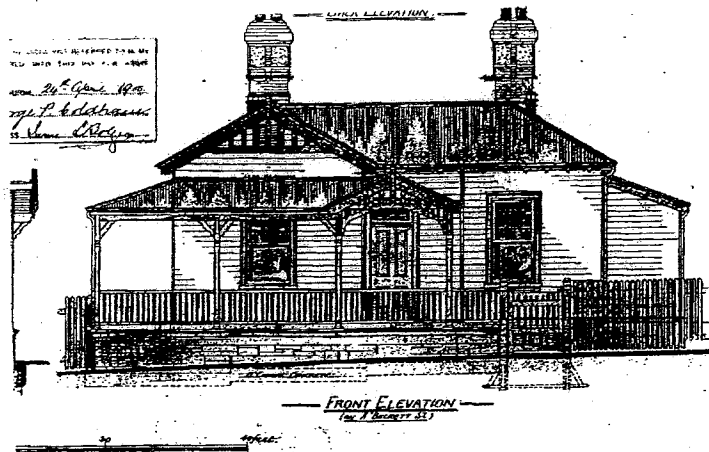
The President was a Submarine Captain and we discussed the October 2004 RCN S/m Chicoutimi and the January 2005 USN S/m San Francisco incidents. Without any prompting from me he then proceeded to give me some insights into the Conqueror's Belgrano engagement in 1982. It was fascinating stuff.

In his address the C-In-C spoke well of Nelson the man, of his legacy to the modern navy and the navy's preparedness for current and future contingencies. It was good. The whole evening was, as I have said, a very memorable occasion."

(The formalities continued into the early hour and when Angus left, he missed the last train to return to his hosts in Sussex. He got imprisoned in the locked and barred lower entrails of Waterloo Station at 1-30am and on being released searched London for a bed to lie on. But that is another story!)



'What you're asking amounts to sexual harassment, Lord Nelson.'



Orderly Room, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, 1900 (later the site of the Army Medical Drill Hall, now the location of the RHSV).

**Volunteering and Valour – An Exhibition
 March 27 to May 26
 239 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne 3000**

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is mounting the above exhibition which we thought might interest Members.

The context for this exhibition is the RHSV building; the site on which the Drill Hall now stands was continuously occupied by the Army from 1866-1988.

Originally known as the West Melbourne Orderly Room the small weatherboard building was used by the Colonial Volunteer Forces. By the late 1930s the current building was under construction as HQ to Army Medical Corps – and the many civilian medical personnel that could be called up.

Using material from the RHSV collection, Volunteering and Valour traces the origins of the volunteer forces and sets them against the propaganda material used for recruiting in the First World War. The exhibition concentrates on the Volunteer Rifle Regiments, the naval volunteers and the significant collection of First World War recruiting propaganda posters. It contrasts the highly patriotic official returned soldiers certificates with the more personal letters and memorabilia of soldiers and nurses. Highlights of the exhibition are Volunteer Corps Oaths of Allegiance, the Victorian Volunteers' Trophy of 1864, war correspondent Donald McDonald's fascinating Boer War scrap book and the propaganda broadsheets illustrated by Norman Lindsay.

The exhibition will be accompanied in April by tours of the building and a practical workshop on how to create boxes to store memorabilia.