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## **RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER**

Volume 8 Issue 2 –May 2009

Editor: Martin Holme ISSN 1446 – 4527

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www.williamsfoundation.org.au

## **LUNCHTIME ADDRESS**

Victoria Barracks – St Kilda Road 1200hrs - Shedden Auditorium

## THURSDAY, 28th MAY 2009 LTCOL STUART YEAMAN

**Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Reconstruction Force - Afghanistan** 

## "Protected Reconstruction –

## **Uruzgan Campaign – an Australian Perspective**"

Stuart Yeaman commanded 4<sup>th</sup> Reconstruction Task Force in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, from April to October 2008. During this deployment RTF 4 built key infrastructure in Tarin Kowt and Sorkh Margab and undertook innovative operations to seize key terrain in the Baluchi Pass. They also re-constructed two Taliban destroyed bridges, after a hazardous 400km re-deployment, moving through three Provinces in the process.

This will be a fascinating first-hand account of the often dangerous but much lauded work carried out by our forces in that troubled land.

Time: 1130 hrs (Tea/Coffee) 1200 hrs Address

Admission: Members and Guests: \$5.00

Lunch may be purchased from the adjacent "Barracks Bistro" afterwards.

Security issues require that you advise the office on 92825918 (email - martin.holme@defence.gov.au) by 24 March. If you or any guests are attending. Remember to bring a photo ID with you for ease of access.

## From the Secretary: Captain Martin Holme

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that fellow Member, LTCOL Ian George had volunteered to help with office administration and was assisting and understudying Treasurer FLLT Neville Wright. Neville has since approached me indicating that the struggle of travelling into the office twice a week was beginning to take its toll and that after nearly twenty five years of devoted and loyal service to RUSI Victoria, he would like to retire as Treasurer.

Loyal to the last, he confided to me that he had wanted to retire some time ago but due to the shortage of help in the office, did not want to let the side down. That is the last thing that Neville would ever do and our gratitude and recognition of all that he has done for RUSI Victoria, over a quarter of a century of service is acknowledged with acclaim. My personal thanks for the support he has given me since I became Secretary is profound and I shall greatly miss his wisdom, built up over the years and his ever present sense of humour. Hopefully we will be able to call on his knowledge of things RUSI in the future as we battle through life in the office without him! He will be able to enjoy the Lectures without the chore of setting out the provisions and manning the Treasurer's table.

As I mentioned, Neville will remain Treasurer until  $1^{st}$  July, as he wishes to complete one of our more onerous tasks, that of sending out the Subscription Notices!

A more formal thank you will be arranged later.

LTCOL Stuart Yeaman's talk on reconstruction work in Afghanistan was an inspiring and fascinating account of what our soldiers are achieving in that troubled country. For those who were unable to be present and would be interested in reading his address, I can arrange to send you a copy. Please let me know if you would like me to do so.

The recently released Defence White Paper is a most significant document and of great importance to all who are interested in Defence matters.

Our next Lunchtime Lecture will be on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May, when Dr Andrew Davies, Director, Operations and Capability Program, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, will provide an in depth assessment of the White Paper - a most important and timely Lecture.

#### **Program Dates for 2009:**

28 May Lunchtime Lecture – Dr Andrew Davies ASPI 25 June Lunchtime Lecture – Speaker TBA 30 July Lunchtime Lecture – Speaker TBA Since our last issue we have sadly lost some Members. We have also gained some new ones. For the record, their names are listed below:

#### Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

LT W.G. Banks CAPT R.W. Ruffley PLTOFF J.L. Tremewen

#### **New Members:**

We welcome the following new Members:

Mr F.V. Bibby MBE WO R.S. Cox Mr D. Ellis MrR.N.Gryst

### **Book a New Member**

We are always looking for new members who share our interest and concern for Defence and National Security.

To provide a tangible incentive to existing members who sign up a friend or colleague, Council has decided to offer a small reward.

Recruit a new member and select a book from our excess stock of duplicate volumes. In addition, be in the draw for a mystery prize!

#### **Memorable Quotes:**

When armies begin to separate their thinkers from their fighters, they will have their thinking done by cowards and their fighting done by fools.

Alexander the Great



# From the President: Brigadier Ian Lillie

Hello to all of our members and those supporters who happen across our Newsletter.

First of all, I hope you all had a great ANZAC day, wherever and how you choose to commemorate it. I attended the Dawn Service and the March here in Melbourne. I think the numbers for the Dawn Service continue to grow while, understandably, the numbers of veterans at the march is declining. I remain very heartened by the fact that so many young people are taking notice of the day, attending the activities and generally paying their respects to the many servicemen and women for their sacrifices for the lifestyle we enjoy today.

Sadly, we must remember that there have been 10 deaths on active service in current operations and about 3000 of our young men and women are away on operations today. With the recently announced increase in the forces in Afghanistan, such losses are sadly likely to continue.

The National Council of the RUSI of Australia met at Melbourne Airport for a half day on 18 March. The idea was to get together more frequently than the annual event. It was also the first opportunity for the National President Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie to put his stamp on the organisation.

This meeting was very useful to catch up with all of the State Presidents and to consider some new initiatives emanating from National Office. We looked at a number of options for a RUSI of Australia Website. This will be in place soon and will include detail about the national organisation and all of the State RUSIs. Some of the detail is still to be tidied up but the new proposal looks very promising. Importantly, it will include an option for 'online' membership which I think will be an attractive option for younger members to join the RUSI. Of course, the more traditional means of joining still remain and members who join electronically will have to nominate a 'home RUSI' to belong to. It will be up to each individual RUSI to ensure that their particular part of the site is up to date with the program and activities. Ideally, this is where copies of our best presentations would reside for future research purposes.

We also discussed the financial situation of the RUSI. National Office has determined to balance annual revenue and expenses and not rely on using investments for day to day operational costs. This is a very prudent approach and one that we mirror in the RUSI of Victoria. The National

Treasurer is therefore looking for some savings to enable funding of the Website initiative without impacting

the long term investments. The National Conference will be one full day of deliberation and just one overnight stay.

We may look at options for videoconferencing in future to save both time and money in managing the RUSI.

The National Council will meet again in Melbourne on 10/11 September 2009 and I am pleased to report that our Patron, the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser has graciously agreed to host a reception to mark the occasion. Needless to say, Martin and I are doing some work on the program of activities for this event at the moment.

An important part of this Conference will be the opportunity for National Council to visit and be briefed on the RUSI of Victoria Library. Our library may provide the basis for a national network or a model for the other States to consider. Ideally, in due course, all libraries would at least be on a common cataloguing system and be linked electronically to allow researchers and interested members access to the broadest range of military and strategic books and references.

I am very pleased to see that the Defence White Paper was released at Garden Island on 2 May. I am not sure of the reason for the Saturday release but I am sure it has something to do with the availability of Ministers and the Prime Minister. However, I am very pleased to report that I was invited to the release on behalf of the RUSI of Victoria. Unfortunately the invitation only came the day before so I had to decline, but this is recognition of RUSI and our role in the Defence debate. I am sure we were represented from National Office and by our sister RUSI of NSW. It will take some detailed analysis to come to grips with this important document so I am also pleased that we have Dr Andrew Davies from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute to address RUSI of Victoria on the implications of the White Paper on 28 May. His speciality is on capability development so he is well placed to give us his views.

I hope that everyone who attended our April presentation by Squadron Leader Hugh Dolan on the Air War over Gallipoli enjoyed the session as much as I did. It certainly was an informative and interesting presentation and we will definitely invite Hugh Dolan back for another instalment of this fascinating story.

Regards,

Ian

# RAAF FIGHTER REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The RAAF's current fighter replacement story is a good illustration of the difficulties that arise when actively pursuing high value long-term investments. Although often presented otherwise, these problems are not exclusive to Defence acquisition, and the energy sources required for our 'clean energy' future' are civilian examples that come quickly to mind.

Common features of these decisions are: long-lead times (10 + years); long-service life (10-50+ years); uncertainty surrounding many critical factors; high-technology subject to technical obsolescence; high cost with an opportunity cost likely to distort the budget, and the effects of economies of scale in manufacture.

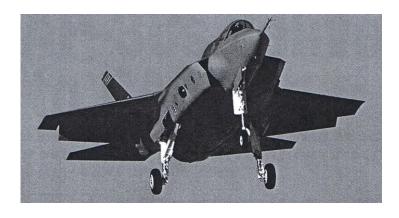
This saga started in 2000 with Project Air 6000 (New Air Combat Capability) aimed at the replacement of both the F/A-18 Hornet and the F-III. The original planned withdrawal date for the F-III was 2020.

In 2001, very early in the selection process, the government decided to commit some US\$150 million to participate in the development program for the Lockheed-Martin Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), which would replace both of the RAAF's types. While this was not a definitive commitment, it was viewed as such by the Canberra based sales teams for the other contending aircraft, the French Rafale, Eurofighter Typhoon, and Super Hornet, who packed their bags and went home.

The F-35 JSF is a 'fifth generation' single seat, single engine, stealthy, supersonic aircraft designed for the USAF, USN, USMC as well as the RAF and RN. An ultrasophisticated missions-systems suite gives the pilot unprecedented situation awareness. The JSF will be manufactured in three versions, conventional take-off and landing, carrier and short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL). A total production of some 3,000 aircraft was planned, with a proposed RAAF order of up to 100 conventional aircraft.

Other development partners are Canada, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Turkey and the Netherlands with subsequent interest from Israel, Singapore, Spain, Greece, South-Korea, Finland and Japan.

A complication occurred in the fighter replacement program with an unexpected failure of an F-III wing test specimen in 2001. Despite wing replacement for affected aircraft the government decided on early withdrawal of the F-III fleet. This decision was criticized by some former RAAF Officers who believed the F-III should be upgraded to last until 2020 as it was a superior to the JSF in its role of long range strike.



F-35 Joint Strike Fighter 'Lightning II'

However, the government decided in early 2007 to retire the F-III force from December 2010 and replace it with 24 Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornets as a bridging capability to the JSF.

My view is that the F-III proponents have put too much faith in the durability an ageing airframe. On the other hand I detect a fair bit of spin in the justification for the F/A-18F. In particular, downgrading the relevance of the role in which that the F-III was a world beater: long-range, low-level strike, at night, in bad weather and when the enemy was least expecting it.

The Super Hornet is a two seat fourth generation aircraft, about 25 percent larger than the RAAFs existing single seat F/A-18 Hornets but with some commonality. Our aircraft will be brand new – straight off the production line. The Super Hornet has a multi-role capability and could be used in either the fighter or strike roles.

Dr Carlo Kopp presented to RUSI VIC in 2008 on Regional Air Forces which are re-equipping with the Russian Sukhol Su-30 fighter. This aircraft has a high thrust/weight ratio together with vectored thrust which gives it exceptional manoeurability - superior to both the F/A-18F and the F-35 JSF. Dr Kopp, and others, argues that the JSF should be complemented by the acquisition of the JSF's elder and larger brother- the F-22 Raptor. The Raptor is currently in squadron service in the USAF and is universally acknowledged as the top air superiority fighter in the world. It is also the most expensive fighter in the world and has not been made available to US allies.

JSF detractors tend to put undue emphasis on the performance of aircraft in close combat rather that a comparison of complete systems. For those interested, the RAAF Association's think tank the 'Williams Foundation' has a paper on its website that considers all factors in the JSF selection. Go to www.williamsfoundation.org.au

### Vale - Major General John Stevenson AO CBE

Major General John Stevenson died during the period when our Newsletter was temporarily "off air" and so we were unable to publically and properly honour a man who did so much for the RUSI cause, both in Victoria and nationally. It is fitting that we now do so.

Major General John Dennis Stevenson AO CBE (Retd) passed away on 30 July 2008 following some nine months of failing health. He was President RUSI VIC: 1985- Jul 1991 and National President RUSI of Australia: 1987-1990. This obituary is an abbreviated version of those by Arthur Burke and Geoffrey Nettle.

From birth in Melbourne on 13 August 1925, John Stevenson was destined to be in the Army. His father, Colonel George Stevenson had served with distinction in the Boer War, had been appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for his service at Gallipoli and a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for achievements in France.

John completed his secondary education at the Geelong Church of England Grammar School in 1942. He wanted to enlist immediately, but at this father's insistence, he entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon for the three-year war course. John enjoyed life at Duntroon—especially the relative barracks luxury and delicious meals compared with those at his former boarding school. Rugby ruled at RMC and John Stevenson became a formidable player, earning his lifelong nickname of 'Punchy' for his method of softening up the opposition in the scrum at the breakdown.

So much did John embrace this code that he captained the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club to a premiership win in 1954 and later coached the ACT rugby union team, now the ACT Brumbies. His support for Army rugby was legendry.

Graduating into Artillery in December 1946 and too late for active service, Lieutenant Stevenson joined A Field Battery with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. Returning to Australia at the end of 1948, he began a number of courses at the School of Artillery which led to his selection for the Long Observation Course at Larkhill in England. This was followed by an attachment to the British 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Divisional Locating Battery in Germany.

On return to Australia, Captain Stevenson was posted to the  $1^{\rm st}$  Field Regiment which was spread between Middle and North Heads in Sydney. He became the inaugural battery commander of  $104^{\rm th}$  Locating Battery before being sent to Korea, attached to the Headquarters  $1^{\rm st}$  Commonwealth Division.

On return to Australia in 1953, he was appointed the adjutant/quartermaster of  $10^{\rm th}$  Field Regiment on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, and pursued his passion for rugby, by joining the Melbourne club at South Yarra and captaining their premiership win in 1954.

John Stevenson married Vivienne Ann Cotton in Brisbane in July 1955 and began a 53 year union, ended only by his passing. By 1958 they had had three daughters, Jenny, Wendy and Suzie'.

The Stevensons' first married accommodation was at their next posting—the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Staff Cadets perceived Stevo's priorities as being 'instructor in Rugby and coach in Artillery'. Next postings were Staff College at Fort Queenscliff, in 1958 and then Brigade Major (BM) at Headquarters Northern Command, Brisbane.

These were tough and trying times as the new unit was raised from scratch. Nevertheless, with his dedication to working hard and playing hard, he also established the beginnings of a unit rugby team with pleasing results in local competitions.

Twelve months later, Major Stevenson completed his Tactics 5 course at the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra, and was retained as a member of staff. His next posting was as GSO1 in the Directorate of Military Training at Army Headquarters, Canberra.

In June 1964, Lieutenant Colonel John Stevenson took over the reins of command of 4<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment at Wacol. 105<sup>th</sup> Battery had been kept up to strength as the priority force plan artillery unit, but at the expense of the 101<sup>st</sup> Battery which had returned from Malaysia in 1963. John Stevenson's leadership and diplomacy were tried to their fullest for the next 18 months, but with two experienced Majors in the unit, he successfully transitioned the Regiment from a peacetime Pentropic organisation to a light-scaled Tropical Warfare establishment. The final test was launching 105<sup>th</sup> Field Battery as the first Australian Artillery unit to serve in Vietnam. He was posted back to Canberra as the Assistant Military Secretary in early 1966, and never returned to a Gunner appointment for the remainder of his fulltime career.

John Stevenson was posted to Vietnam to take command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Logistic Support Group from his RMC classmate and life-long friend, Ian Gilmore. When this position was raised to a colonel's appointment, John was promoted and remained in command. In recognition of his exceptional service in this role, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 1970 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Colonel Stevenson returned to Canberra as the Deputy Director of Military Plans in January 1970. Almost two years later, he was promoted brigadier and appointed the Commander Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force and Southern Oueensland Area, in Brisbane.

The post Vietnam War reorganisation of the Army raised the command status of Tasmania to a brigadier's appointment and John was chosen for this position. Despite thinking at the time that they were being 'sent to Coventry' in June 1973, Brigadier and Ann Stevenson threw themselves professionally and socially, wholeheartedly into this new environment. A ship's collision with the pylons of the Hobart Bridge brought a sudden operational urgency to this idyllic life, but with characteristic leadership, John organised almost every piece of Bailey bridging in the Army to reconnect the city of Hobart across the Derwent River. By now, there was an almost empty nest at home, and Ann and John thought long and hard about settling down in Tasmania with their many local friends.

However, early in 1976, John was elevated to major general as the inaugural General Officer Commanding Logistic Command in Melbourne. Major General John Stevenson was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in the 1980 Australia Day Honours for his services as GOC Logistic Command.

After three years, he was appointed the Chief of Logistics in Canberra. He remained in this appointment until statutory age retirement and completed almost 40 years of dedicated service to the Australian Defence Force.

John and Ann returned to Melbourne, purchased a house in Stevenson Street, Kew and he threw himself headlong into a range of occupations—chairman of the Industrial Mobilisation Course (later its National President) and writing for Dennis Warner and others on defence matters. Such was his contribution to a work on defending northern Australia that one of the carriages on the Darwin rail was recently named after him. Regrettably, he was too ill to attend the naming ceremony, but Ann was there in his stead.

John was always an active member of Legacy, became National Chairman of the Order of Australia Association, was President of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia, Patron of the Melbourne Rugby Union Football Club, and was an enthusiastic participant in activities at the Naval and Military and Athenaeum Clubs. General John became the Honorary Colonel of the Melbourne University Regiment (1982-88), Colonel Commandant RAA Victoria (1988-92) and Representative Colonel Commandant RAA (1989-92).

Vale Major General John Dennis Stevenson AO CBE — military leader, loving family man, rugby devotee, gentleman, and always a Gunner. Gone to that Great Gun Park up above at 83 years young.

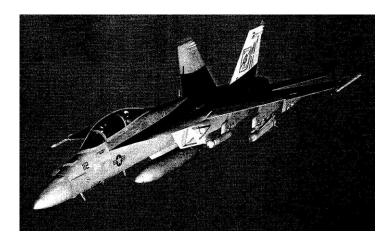
#### **Fighter Replacement Update** – *Continued from Page Four*

The New Air Combat Capability debate has been mainly centred on the service life of the F-III and the performance of the JSF. All protagonists have assumed that there will be few complications with our existing F/A-18 Hornets having their fuselages re-worked and systems upgraded to remain in service until final deliveries of the JSF. Deliveries of our first batch are now planned for 2014-2015, two years behind schedule.

The F-35 program has been under scrutiny by the Obama administration for budget cuts. A reduction in the numbers for US forces, would affect other buyers by increasing the unit price over a reduced production run. While there have been no statements on the F-35, US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has announced that he intends to close down the F-22 Raptor production line at 187 aircraft. (183 already built).

So the F-22 is off the menu, and F-IIIs will remain until December 2010 when they are replaced by the F/A-18F Super Hornet. As the Super Hornet can undertake either the F-III or F/A 18 Hornet roles, the RAAF has some flexibility in its fighter/strike force mix to handle any shortfalls in F/A-18 serviceability and possible further delays in the delivery schedule for the Joint Strike fighter.

Mike Rawlinson



F/A-18F Super Hornet (The RAAF to get 24 as bridging aircraft until the Joint Strike Fighter is delivered

## From the Library

#### **Book Review**

David Kilcullen "The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Middle of a Big One", Scribe Publications RRP \$35.00

Review by Mark Richards

In reviewing this book, I should first declare that I served with David Kilcullen some years ago in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, then under the command of Jim Molan, a recent RUSI Victoria speaker.

In addition to an extraordinary range of first hand experience in the conflicts of the past decade, David Kilcullen has maintained a deeper academic interest in geostrategic issues and been a prolific contributor to online and other forums. In The Accidental Guerrilla, Kilcullen draws together his thinking on the manifold challenges of insurgency and how to effectively address them.

From a technical perspective, Kilcullen usefully sets out a series of frameworks though which the contemporary manifestation of Islamist insurgency may be examined. The title is a reference to a key distinction Kilcullen makes between hard-core "Takfiri" (Al-Qaeda) and the range of fellow travellers whose concerns are more regional and rational. This distinction, when properly understood, has the potential to isolate Al-Qaeda as appears to have been achieved in Iraq.

The core of Kilcullen's thesis is that terrorism cannot be defeated by military means alone. An American, and for that matter Australian, focus on killing insurgents can only be effective within the context of securing populations and offering a viable future to the point where a local populace itself decides that its interests are better served by defeating the insurgents. Thus, Kilcullen emphasises "population-centric" approaches over those that are "enemy-centric".

Kilcullen is able to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of various strategic and tactical approaches from extensive field work, much of

which involved his attachment to fighting formations and units. This gives an authenticity to his conclusions not generally achieved by a purely academic author. Moreover, time and again the

importance of local history and custom are emphasised, highlighting the point that there can be no "one size fits all" model for counter-insurgency.

While peppered with some Americanised military jargon in places, the book should be relatively accessible to a wide readership. This is good news as what Kilcullen has to say is very worthwhile indeed (although as I saw the other day, selling the book in an airport departure lounge – with an AK47 on the cover! - may be taking it a bit far).

The Accidental Guerrilla is a very worthy contribution to the security challenge of our time. It is essential reading for any professional in the field and of great value to those of us trying to gain a better perspective of this issue. On a slightly parochial note, it must also be said that it is great to see and Australian military officer making such a key contribution to global thinking and policy development.

## **Geelong Branch News**

The next Dinner Meeting will be held on Monday May 18, at Capri Receptions, 55 Separation Street, North Geelong. Time is 1830 for 1900, Dress is Lounge Suit and at a cost of \$ 35 per head with drinks available at bar prices.

The Guest Speaker iwill be Major Peter Sheldon, whose talk is entitled 'Operation Azure in Sudan'.

On June 15 the Branch will be having the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, also to be held at Capri Receptions. This event is a formal occasion, Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit with miniatures worn. Time is 1830 for 1900, cost \$ 35 per head with drinks at bar prices.

Prior bookings are required for these events. Contact Major Ian Barnes or Mrs Margaret Barnes on 03 5243 9569.

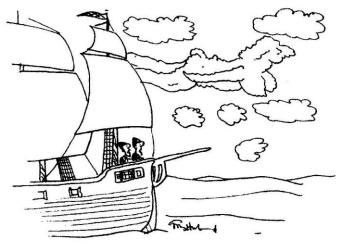
## The Last Word - Library Notes

There would appear to be major changes happening next door to us at the Melbourne Regional Library of the Defence Library Service. Some time a few weeks ago they were instructed to dispose of what seemed to be 75% of their holdings: indeed, on the first day of this program (a rainy day!) considerable holdings were moved to a dumpster for haulage to a tip. We then became aware of what was occurring. We recovered some items from the garbage and persuaded the library staff to move all the remaining military-related titles directly to our storage area. This has now occurred.

We have now acquired perhaps over 1000 new titles of value to us. Some titles we already have. We plan to keep the better copies, ensuring that addenda like maps are complete. We plan to pass on the duplicates to other RUSI libraries if they want them. A few, very few, may need to be sold or otherwise disposed of.

This presents us with both a large and unexpected cataloguing challenge and a shelving space shortage. We will attack the cataloging with our dedicated team of volunteers. However, this is a time when we need to ask others to help them. In the typical RUSI spirit, we'll treat the storage space and shelving issue as an opportunity with solutions probably within our grasp but not yet realized.

But on a very positive note, we have acquired many books that we had little chance of otherwise ever acquiring. Items of particular use and value that have come our way include many volumes of the Official History for the Second World War from the UK, US Army, US Navy, Canadian Forces, Indian Army and a wide range of other general military texts of high quality. Some are older 'classics', others newer titles. We'll keep you posted on our progress!



'Fotheringay, I've been at sea too long.'

#### **Check Your Bookshelves**

Do you have any of your own books on defence and military related subjects that you would like others to read? Why not donate them to the RUSI Library? They will be gratefully accepted, well cared for, and made accessible for members and scholars. All donations will be acknowledged in the Newsletter.

### **Talking Dog**

A bloke is driving around the 'back of Bourke' when he sees a sign in front of a broken down tin roof house: 'Talking Dog for Sale'

He rings the bell, and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The bloke goes into the back yard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

'You talk?' he asks.

'Yep,' the Lab replies.

After the guy recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says 'So, what's your story?'

The Lab looks up and says, 'Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told ASIO, and they had me sworn into the toughest branch of the armed services ... the SAS. You know one of their nicknames is 'The Devil Dogs.'

In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders; because no one thought a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running, but the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So, I decided to settle down.

I retired from the Corps (8 dog years is 56 Corps years) and signed up for a job at airports to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a crop of puppies, and now I'm just retired.'

The bloke is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

'Ten dollars,' the bloke says.

'Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?'

'Because he's so full of bullshit,' answers the man. 'He never did any of that stuff. He was in the Navy!'