



Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria Inc.

Promoting National Security and Defence

A Constitutional Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

Patron: The Governor of Victoria
Professor David de Kretser AC



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RUSI VIC NEWSLETTER

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LUNCHTIME ADDRESS

Victoria Barracks – St Kilda Road

1200hrs – Shedden Auditorium

Thursday, 30 September 2010

RADM Tim Barratt AM CSC RAN

Commander Border Protection Command

'Australia's Civil Maritime Security

Current Operations and future

Challenges'

RADM Barrett has headed Border Protection Command (BPC) since 2008, following a distinguished career in the South African and Australian Navies.

In concert with other government agencies and stakeholders, BPC's mission is to protect Australia's national interests by generating awareness of activity in Australia's maritime domain, detecting and responding to risks posed by maritime security threats. RADM Barrett will address current operations, the importance and value placed on cooperative measures through building strong relations with key partners and speak on future challenges in the civil maritime security environment.

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

Admission: Members and Guests: \$5.00

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

For security reasons please advise the Office of your attendance and the names of your guests by email to martin.holme@defence.gov.au or phone 9282 5918 by 5pm Tuesday 28 September. These names are provided to Security to issue Access Passes. If your name is not on the list, you will experience a delay in gaining access. Remember to bring a photo ID with you.

From the Secretary: Captain Martin Holme

The Office has been busy, bringing Membership details up-to-date on our data bases. There are quite a few Members still to respond to our reminder Subscription Notice and it would be appreciated if those in that category could reply soonest.

We have been fortunate to obtain the services of a new volunteer helper in the Office – Miss Helen Scholes, a former Naval Nurse, who is interested in the Library and helping generally in office matters. We hope she continues to enjoy helping us and we are very appreciative of her generous support and the time she gives to us.

You may not be aware that during the horrendous hail and rainstorm, some months ago, the Officers and Sergeants Messes at Victoria Barracks, were badly flooded and the building rendered unsafe. The repair works are substantial and may take some eighteen months to two years to complete. In the meantime, a temporary Officers and Sergeants Mess has been established two doors down from our entrance, which on occasions has made the vicinity more lively!

The same storm caused major flooding in the basement of 'H' Block. The water proof membrane surrounding the building is currently being replaced and repaired, requiring the closure of the normal entrance. The building is now temporarily entered from the South Entrance, opposite the Parade Ground.

Since the last Newsletter, we have continued our excellent record in providing first class speakers at our monthly Lunchtime Lectures. GPCAPT Rick Keir brought us up-to-date with the thinking and latest developments at the Air Power Development Centre and BRIG Damien Cantwell gave us a fascinating insight into his role in co-ordinating the security issues surrounding the 2009 Presidential Elections in Afghanistan.

RADM Tim Barrett, as per the front page of this Newsletter, will speak on the challenges he faces in his role as Commander, Border Protection Command.

We are negotiating with some excellent speakers for October and November.

I remind you again that the Annual General Meeting of the Institute will be held prior to the October Lecture, on 28 October. Please note that the AGM and the following Lecture will be held in the Defence Plaza Building, 661 Bourke Street.

Vale

We record with deep regret the passing of:

FLLT J. Macallister MBE DFC

New Members

Since our last issue we welcome the following new Members:

SQNLDR J. Coleiro; Mr R.N. English; CMDR P. Gall RAN; Mr C.J.S. Renwick AM; Miss H.L. Scholes.

Future Program Dates

30 September	RADM Tim Barrett AM CSC RAN Commander, Border Protection Command
28 October	MAJGEN Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Commander Joint Health Command; and AGM (Defence Plaza, 661 Bourke Street)
25 November	COL Shane Gabriel, Director Combat & Combat Support Development, Army HQTRS (possibly followed by a luncheon)
8 December	Christmas Drinks Party

Geelong Branch News

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Branch, Major Ian Barnes OAM RFD ED was elected President for 2010-2011. Ian is a long standing member and was recently awarded Honorary Life Membership of the RUSI Victoria in recognition of his service to the Institute.

The transition of the Dinner Meetings to Dromoland House, formerly Berkeley Lodge, has been very successful, and the Branch has now settled into this new venue.

The next Dinner Meeting is to be held on Monday September 20 at Dromoland House at 258 Packington Street, Geelong West. The Guest Speaker is the United States Vice Consul for Victoria, Mr Otto Westhassel, who will address 'Australian/American Cooperation in the War on Terrorism'. Dress is Lounge Suit. Time is 1830 for 1900, cost \$ 35 per head with drinks at bar prices.

On Monday October 18 the Branch will be conducting the traditional Ladies Night Dinner, also to be held at Dromoland House. The Guest Speaker will be Wing Commander Annette Holian RAAF. This event is a formal occasion - Mess Dress, Black Tie or Lounge Suit with miniatures worn. Time is 1830 for 1900, cost is \$35 per head with drinks at bar prices.

Prior booking is required for these events:
Contact Mrs Margaret Barnes on 03 5243 9569

**Donations to the RUSI VIC Inc
Library Fund are Tax Deductible**

From The President: Commander Warren Kemp



Your Council has met to consider the strategic plan for RUSI Victoria. While there was general agreement on the implementation of our aim of encouraging discussion within the community of defence and national security issues, deliberations are continuing. Our main activity in achieving our aim is the excellent programme of invited speakers for the regular monthly lectures, arranged by Brigadier Ian Lillie and his subcommittee.

We provide a platform for expert speakers in a wide variety of military and security subjects to promulgate their knowledge and experience. To maximise the primary and secondary dissemination of this information to the general public we need to maximise the attendance at our lectures. In order to do this, I would urge you to invite as many other people as possible to attend the lectures, held on the last Thursday of each month. They might be your relatives, friends or colleagues at work, but all are welcome, and this would help both you and RUSI to hear and spread knowledge and current concepts which will provide a firm basis and encouragement to discuss these issues in the wider community.

Our Office continues to function smoothly under the direction of our Secretary, Captain Martin Holme. We have become accustomed to our reduced space, consequent to having to accommodate many books that were previously stored in the adjacent Regional Library. In addition to various Members of the Council, we have been fortunate to have had the assistance of two members, Air Commodore John Macneil, and Helen Scholes, a former Naval Nurse who also has considerable administrative and secretarial skills. Their voluntary services are much appreciated.

Recently I have had the great privilege to represent RUSI Victoria on several occasions. On 6 August, Martin Holme and I attended the Monash Commemorative Service at Parliament House. I have also attended the Shrine on three occasions, on 1 August when I was invited by the President of the Victorian Association of Jewish Ex-servicemen and Women to attend their first Pilgrimage and Service, on 18 August to the Vietnam Veterans Day Service, and finally to the Battle for Australia Day Service on 1 September. All of these were memorable occasions and I hope that they will continue to have support from RUSI Victoria.

Our Geelong Branch continues to thrive and has made a successful move back to Newland Barracks, formerly the Artillery Depot. We send congratulations to Major Ian Barnes for his long association with and service to the Branch and for his recent election to serve once again as the Branch President.

Yours Aye,
Warren

New ADF Command and Control Arrangements in Uruzgan Province

The ADF's main force presence in Afghanistan is conducting stabilisation operations in Uruzgan Province. With the withdrawal of Dutch Forces, new command and control arrangements are now being established. Recently, a new task force called Combined Team - Uruzgan (CT-U) commanded by US Army Colonel Jim Creighton was created. CT-U includes US, Australian, Singaporean, Slovakian, New Zealand and French personnel.

One part of the CT-U is the Australian Mentoring Task Force (MTF) based in the provincial capital Tarin Kowt. The main task for the MTF is to train, advise and mentor the 4th Afghan National Army (ANA) Brigade. The 4th ANA Brigade is the only ANA unit based in Uruzgan Province but elements of it can be employed outside of Uruzgan Province.

Another part of the CT-U is a mixed civilian and military Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). The PRT is a multinational organisation led by an Australian DFAT member and includes five members of the Australian Agency for International Development. The PRT works in concert with the Governor of Uruzgan and his office to develop both the capacity of the provincial government and to provide political goods to the people of Uruzgan. The PRT works with a range of other foreign agencies to realise development projects in Uruzgan.

Additionally, the Australian Federal Police International Deployment Group has a dozen officers training the Afghan National Police at the Provincial Training Centre in Tarin Kowt.

An Australian Special Forces Task Group also continues to be based in Uruzgan.

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.

Headquarters Joint Operations Command – the ADF's 'Combatant Command'

Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQ JOC) is the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) operational level headquarters responsible for the command and control of ADF operations worldwide. This means that all of the ADF's operations task forces, and the Australian contingents to UN peace monitoring operations, are directly subordinate to Commander Joint Operations (CJOPS).

HQ JOC is housed in the 'General John Baker Complex' located about 30 km south-east of Canberra and 15 km south of Bungendore in New South Wales. Officially opened in March 2009, the establishment of a collocated joint headquarters for operations in a purpose-built facility is a significant way point in the long conceptual road called 'jointery'.

HQ Australian Theatre (AST) was established as the ADF's first operational level joint headquarters in 1996. Prior to that, the ADF's operations were commanded by the 'environmental commands' of the three Services: Maritime Headquarters at Potts Point; Land Headquarters at Victoria Barracks in Paddington; and Headquarters Air Command at RAAF Glenbrook.

When HQ AST was established, it was intended to provide the ADF with a single headquarters to command and control the forces of all three services when deployed on operations. The environmental commands acted as 'component commands'. The three services retained the responsibility for raising, training and sustaining their forces, but they force assigned their troops to the two star Commander Australian Theatre (COMAST) for the duration of any operational deployments.

In March 2004, the then Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill, announced the establishment of a new 'Joint Operations Command'. The command brought together the former HQ AST and the operations functions of Maritime, Land and Air Commands. It also incorporated Special Operations, Strategic Operations Division in Canberra, Northern Command in Darwin, the ADF Warfare Centre at Williamstown and the Joint Operational Intelligence Centre in Sydney.

As with previous reorganisations, this was a conservative approach. The new structure recognised that there was overlap between the work of the strategic and operational level staffs, and that the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) needed the capacity to command deployed forces. These nine entities would be virtually connected until they could be physically collocated. The Vice CDF took on the additional duties of CJOPS and the former COMAST became the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations (DCJOPS).

The environmental commands, and a number of other operational level headquarters' elements across the ADF, were designated as 'components' of HQ JOC. This meant, for example, that in addition to being responsible to Chief of Army for raising, training and sustaining ground forces, the Land Commander Australia was also designated the 'Land Component Commander' of HQ JOC responsible to CJOPS for a range of land operational issues.

But, as the time to decide the size and shape of a purpose built HQ JOC facility approached, the CDF, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, directed another review of higher command and control arrangements. Following an extensive review of ADF command and control by Major General Richard Wilson in 2005, (known as 'The Wilson Review'), Senator Hill announced that the new headquarters was to be modified 'to make it more streamlined and effective in the light of lessons learned from recent successful deployments and swiftly evolving command, control and communications systems and methods'.

This low key announcement disguised one of the most fundamental changes in joint command and control arrangements during the past 40 years. HQ AST had been formed with the idea of making a truly joint headquarters, but COMAST had relied heavily on the component commands. The original HQ JOC had continued to rely on the component commands. The new 'restructured' HQ JOC, however, was to be completely joint - abolishing the component commands. While certain sections within the headquarters would be concerned with specific air, submarine and maritime, in the main, ADF operations will be controlled by a joint operations staff. The previous component commanders would revert to single-service roles of raise, train and sustain.

This new restructured HQ JOC began operation in 2007 with a significant increase in staffing including the appointment of a three star CJOPS in September. The headquarters was officially designated as 'HQ JOC (Transitional)' for the two year period 2007-2008 while awaiting the construction of a new purpose-built facility. The HQ JOC (Transitional) staff was split between facilities at Potts Point in Sydney, and Russell Offices and Fairbairn in Canberra.

The construction and fit out of the purpose built HQ JOC facility at Bungendore was completed in October 2008. In November 2008, 550 staff from all three services commenced occupation of the facility and a new chapter in the history of ADF jointery began. Eighteen months on, all indicators are that the new headquarters and its facilities are performing well.

From the Sea of Marmara to the North Gate of Baghdad - The Story of Four HMAS *AE2* Crew Members

By Colonel Marcus Fielding

The story of HM Australian Submarine *AE2* in the Dardanelles campaign typically ends on April 30, 1915 when the stricken submarine, after penetrating the Narrows and 'running amok' against the Turkish warships was severely damaged and forced to surface. The valiant crew abandoned ship before scuttling it in the Sea of Marmara. The vessel itself has been the subject of searches and debate ever since its discovery in 1998, but as the brave crew was taken into captivity by the Turks another less known chapter of the story was set to unfold. A chapter that for three members of the crew would curiously end in northern Baghdad.



HM Australian Submarine *AE2*

AE2 crew member Able Seaman Albert Knaggs kept a diary and from this account and other sources it is possible to partly reconstruct their experiences in captivity.

The Turkish torpedo boat *Sultan Hisar* took the 32 crew members on board and proceeded to Gelibolu (Gallipoli). They made fast alongside a hospital ship and were interviewed by General Otto Liman von Sanders who was the German General in command of the Ottoman Army. At 8 pm they proceeded on the *Sultan Hisar* to Constantinople where they arrived the next morning on May 1, 1915.



General Otto Liman von Sanders

Able Seaman Knaggs' diary provides a detailed account of the crew's experiences on arrival in Constantinople after what appears to have been an uncomfortable trip.

"After being nearly eaten alive with bugs and lice which this country is noted for. Before leaving the boat we were supplied with soldier suits, overcoats, slippers and red fezzes to march through the streets of Constantinople to prison. The officers rode in a carriage.... That evening we were served out with Turkish sailor suits and a pair of socks. We had nothing to sleep on but the bare floor and our overcoats to cover us."

The crew traded the dark confines of their submarine to the dark confines of small rooms and cells. The next day they each had their hair shorn close. On May 3 they were assembled on a parade ground and photographed individually and as a group.

On May 5 the crew departed Constantinople and was transported by train over the next three days to a POW camp at Afyon Kara Hisar in the central highlands of Anatolia. There they met Russian merchant sailors and the crew of the French submarine *Saphir*, as well as the surviving crew members of HM Submarine *E12* who had been captured at the southern end of the Dardanelles on April 17, 1915.

The camp at Afyon Kara Hisar was the clearing and distribution centre for all other Turkish POW camps. Living and sanitary conditions at the camp were poor and the POWs were largely confined to cramped buildings. Only after two months of confinement were they allowed out for two hours exercise each day. A photograph of Australian and British POWs at Afyon Kara Hisar taken about this time shows them wearing beards due to the scarcity of soap and the cold weather.

In early June 1915, as the weather warmed, the POWs were put to work constructing roads. Long days of manual labour were followed by cold nights camped in tents. When food was not provided by their Turkish masters the group refused to work. In late July they returned to the camp at Afyon Kara Hisar where they discovered an outbreak of typhoid amongst the Russians. In order to stem the outbreak the POWs were inoculated and given new clothes. Accommodation blocks were disinfected washed with lime and new hay filled mattresses were issued.

In early August Knaggs recorded a visit to the camp by the U.S. Ambassador. The Ambassador inspected their living conditions and listened to their complaints. He also brought them soap, pipes, tobacco, underclothes and a quantity of insect powder. Knaggs also notes that they received some Turkish money, which may have been part of a disbursement arrangement set up by Chief Petty Officer Harry Abbot.

In late August 1915 they recommenced work constructing the roads, but a few days later stopped due another typhoid outbreak.

They were placed in quarantine for two weeks and undertook more whitewashing and disinfecting in an effort to stamp out the disease.

Knaggs' diary picks up again in early October when the ratings were moved by horse van to Angora (Ankara) about 200 kilometres east of Afyon Kara Hisar. The three HMAS *AE2* officers remained at Afyon Kara Hisar. Staying temporarily in a prison at Angora the crew met up with other French and British POWs including the crew of HM Submarine *E7*.

On October 14, 274 allied POWs began a four day 80 kilometre long march to Cankiri north east of Angora. Knaggs recorded "Many of the prisoners were suffering from wounds, not having been long out of hospital and the march being on bread and water. Many of the best amongst us fell out with some of them to help along the way." At Cankiri the POWs occupied an old training barracks which Knaggs found to be "very acceptable, but cold and draughty and full of vermin, lice etc. as usual. The barracks had one water tap in the yard for all hands to wash, no soap being provided and no working clothes." That night they gratefully found beds and quilts to lie on.

At the end of November a heavy snow fell. On December 22, 1915 a representative of the Red Crescent Society visited the camp to find out what clothes were needed and to hear all complaints. Snapshots were taken of the POWs.

During Christmas the Muslim Turks were clearly prepared to let their Christian prisoners celebrate. Knaggs recorded that...

"Christmas Day was made as bright as possible by our Turkish officers who gave us permission to play football outside in a field. We played a match Navy versus Army in which Army won 4 goals to 1. A concert was held amongst ourselves in the evening. On Boxing Day another football match took place between *AE2* versus *E7* which ended in a drawn game. On New Year's Day the Commandant visited us and wished us a Happy New Year and hoped we would soon be home with our families. The Australians played rugby against the Scottish Borderers, and the Australians won 6 points to 3. In the evening another concert was held. On January 4 we received £1 from Camp Commandant and also received Xmas puddings, sweets and cigarettes from the Red Cross Society."

On January 6, 1916, Knaggs records news that British and French forces had evacuated the Gallipoli Peninsula. Given that the withdrawal of the ANZACs was only completed on December 20, 1915 and Cape Helles remained occupied until January 9, 1916 it seems that the Turks must have been quick to relay this news to the POWs. After such news morale within the camps POW community must have sunk pretty low.

After only a couple of months at Cankiri the POWs began a march back along snow covered roads to Angora on January 17, 1916. On arrival they were housed in different quarters around the town. A week

later in the evening they were marched down to the train station and began a three day journey to the town of Pozanti standing at the entrance of a pass across the Toros (Taurus) Mountains in southern Anadolu (Anatolia). Knaggs records, "Here we are under German and Swiss engineers for work and receive 8 piastres per day for food which we buy our own doing away with the Turkish food. We are allowed plenty of Liberty no sentries are allowed to interfere with us as long as things run smooth. The work here consists of drilling and blasting tunnels, navvying [labouring], clerks, carpenters, electricians etc and odd jobs, extra money being paid monthly according to abilities at work. The name of the place being Belemedik."

Belemedik is 15 kilometres from the township of Pozanti and was one of about a dozen camps set up in southern Turkey to have POWs work on building sections of the Berlin to Baghdad Railway. Belemedik camp was set on the banks of a river and deep in a valley under tall mountains. Construction of the strategically important and controversial railway began in 1903. By the start of the First World War many sections had not yet been completed and this hampered the Ottoman Empire's efforts to supply and reinforce the Mesopotamian Front. The unfinished sections through the Toros Mountains were technically difficult and required considerable effort to construct. Allied POWs were put to the task of blasting twelve tunnels, milling timber and laying railroad track. As an indication of the railway's significance, Enver Pasha, the Turkish Minister for War, visited on February 18, 1916 to inspect the works.

On April 10 Knaggs recorded a rumour that Lieutenant Commander Stoker (the *AE2*'s Captain) and two other officers escaped from Afyon Kara Hisar. On May 8 Knaggs notes word that had been recaptured. On Easter Monday, April 24 Knaggs records that he managed to get "plenty drunk". On April 30 he notes the anniversary of their capture and his wife Annie's birthday.

Over the months Knaggs records a steady stream of deaths from illness and accidents on the worksites. Welfare packages are received sporadically from the Red Cross Society, the US Ambassador, the Ladies Emergency League, as well as from his wife. Pay days are regular and there appears to have been the opportunity to buy and sell goods.

His diary entries regularly record the war news and rumours that were passing through the POW population. In hindsight we can recognise that much of the information that was circulating was grossly inaccurate. Germany apparently surrendered on two occasions in the course of 1916. In April 1916 Knaggs records that "five English warships are in the Sea of Marmara, and England has given Turkey 10 days to consider what she is going to do, or Constantinople will be bombarded. Great excitement in the camp." Knaggs records a rumour that America declared war on Germany a full year before it actually occurred.

Continued Page Nine

H.M.S. VICTORY

By Commander Hugh Jarrett RAN

It is now over two hundred years since the Battle of Trafalgar and on the anniversary of that great battle, 21st of October, in clubs and Naval Officers' messes world-wide the toast would be "To the Immortal Memory". Few, however, will pause to consider anything but the great admiral and his victories which were achieved in magnificent sailing ships of the line – often referred to as 'Liners', and the greatest 'liner' of them all was *HMS Victory*.

Victory's keel was laid down in the old single dock at Chatham during the Seven Years War and she is now well into her third century.

Initially, the name *Victory* was unpopular with sailors and the public at large because the previous ship to bear that name was lost with all hands in 1744. In spite of this, the Admiralty christened her *Victory*, and as if to confirm this when she was floated out of the building dock, on the 7th May 1765, she was seen to have a list to starboard. This necessitated 38 tons of extra ballast being loaded on her port side to level the imbalance.

As she was launched during peace, she was laid up in Reserve in Ordinary for eleven years until the colonial revolt in the Americas when she was commissioned and hoisted the flag of Admiral the Honourable Augustus Keppel as flagship of the Grand Fleet in March 1778.

In June of that year Keppel sailed from Portsmouth with 20 ships of the line and fell in with two French frigates upon which he opened fire, thereby starting the war which followed.

From papers seized from the frigates, he found there were 32 French ships-of-the-line in Brest, which caused him to return to Portsmouth for reinforcements. He then sailed with 32 ships-of-the-line and fell in with the French with equal strength to the west of the Ushant. He was to windward with a westerly wind and on 27th of July fought the first fleet action of the war.

Victory had a sharp encounter with the French flagship, the 110 gun *Bretagne*, which was badly damaged, but severely smashed *Victory's* masts and spars, which was a typical French tactic in many sea battles.

It was an indecisive battle with no ships being taken or sunk and both fleets returned to their home ports.

This caused a great outcry in England and naval and political controversy followed. Admiral Keppel and his third in command belonged to opposing political parties – Whigs and Tories – and made charges against each other and, in the court-martial which followed; England was divided along political party lines. Sentiment favoured the Commander-in-Chief and Keppel and his second-in-command were acquitted.

In 1799 *Victory* became flagship for Admiral Hardy who, with 37 sail-of-the-line and no reserves, prevented the invasion of England by a combined Franco-Spanish fleet of 66 ships-of-the-line which then confronted, turned tail and returned to port.

The King and the public reviled Hardy for not giving battle, but the Admiralty approved Hardy's strategy. Admiral Hardy died on the 8th May 1779 and was succeeded by Admiral Geary who cruised off Brest with a fleet of 29 ships and intercepted a French merchant convoy of 29 ships and captured 12. On return to port after eleven weeks at sea, all the provisions of the fleet were condemned. There were over 2,000 sick men in the fleet, including the Admiral, who had to be retired as a result.

In 1781, *Victory* was relieved as flagship by *Britania* and became a 'private ship' (a Captain's command without an admiral on board). During the Great Siege of Gibraltar, on 20th March in the same year, Vice-Admiral Parker hoisted his flag in her when the Grand Fleet covered several convoys and relieved the Rock. On completing these tasks, Admiral Parker hauled down his flag and *Victory*, once more, reverted to being a Private Ship.

In September 1781, *Victory* became the flagship of Rear-Admiral Richard Kempenfelt, who, when he had served in *Victory* as Flag-Captain, had perfected a system of flag signals which he was now in a position to test. He led his fleet of twelve ships-of-the-line to intercept a French convoy of 20 supply ships escorted by a squadron of 12 ships-of-the-line plus two 64 gun ships armed en flute (that is – with reduced armament). The French ships were commanded by a master tactician – Admiral Le Compte Luc-Urbane de Guichen.

Kempenfelt had drilled his ships in his system of signals and this was to be the proof.

The French were sighted 150 miles south-west of the Ushant and Kempenfelt crossed astern of them and kept up to windward and, using his new signal-book, turned his squadron into line-abreast astern of the French, and stayed out of range of their guns. The weather was quite squally, so he was quite content to watch and wait for the French to make an error.

After several hours, the French ships began to straggle and the supply ships began to drop astern of their escorting warships. Seeing this, Kempenfelt signalled his ships to turn together into line-ahead and follow him through the French battle-line to the merchant-ships beyond, and it all worked wonderfully – and he took merchant-ship after merchant-ship and sank four frigates while 19 sail-of-the-line looked on helplessly.

He captured 15 supply ships and, in a running fight, defended his prizes and escorted them into Plymouth in triumph. He had beaten the master-tactician!

On 11th March, Kempenfelt shifted his flag from *Victory* to the *Royal George* because Admiral Lord Howe had hoisted his flag in *Victory*.

In August 1782, the fleet was ordered to refit with all speed and proceed to the relief of Gibraltar, but the *Royal George* had sprung a leak and in order to get at it weights were shifted to heel her over. This caused a large part of her bottom to fall out and she sank in Portsmouth Harbour taking 800 men to their deaths, including Rear-Admiral Kempenfelt.

(Strangely, on a visit today to Portsmouth dockyard one will hear or see no mention of this disaster.)

On the 11th of October Lord Howe with 34 sail-of-the-line found 48 enemy ships off Algeciras, but as he was escorting a number of store ships he saw them safely into Gibraltar and thus completed the Relief on the 18th which gave him the opportunity to challenge the enemy fleet off Cape Spartel west of Tangier.

The enemy had the advantage in numbers and a favourable wind, but held off until after dark and were very hesitant, and battle was joined in moonlight and continued for four hours, at which the French broke off the action. Admiral Howe had given orders that *Victory's* gunners were not to open fire until they could see the buttons on the enemy's jackets. So, throughout the action, *Victory* did not fire a shot!

In 1793, Revolutionary France declared war on Britain and *Victory*, as Lord Hood's flagship in the Mediterranean, cruised off Toulon until that city declared in favour of the Royalists.

Admiral Lord Hood then took his fleet into Toulon and held it for four months, which turned into a forlorn endeavour against overwhelming odds, which caused the fleet to retire taking many Royalists with them. But many were left behind to be massacred by the revolutionary zealots, one of whom was Major Bonaparte in charge of the French Artillery.

Victory was at the sieges of Bastia and Calvi where naval landing parties took guns ashore and manned the forts. Calvi is notable because it was here that Horatio Nelson suffered damage to his eye. He became known in the fleet as "the Little Brigadier" due to his exploits on shore. On return to Portsmouth, Admiral Lord Hood was relieved due to ill health.

On the 3rd of December 1795, Admiral Sir John Jervis hoisted his flag in *Victory* and commenced a close blockade of Toulon with ships of the fleet seldom entering port, being re-provisioned at sea and remaining on station. Thus his fleet held the sea and the French remained in harbour.

On land the French were succeeding and Spain joined them, and so Britain found herself without bases in the Mediterranean, so in the Autumn of 1796 Jervis reluctantly withdrew his fleet to Lisbon and on the 14th February 1795 he was returning from escorting a convoy to Brazil when he sighted a Spanish fleet of 27 Ships-of-the-line.

The Spaniards were hoping to rendezvous with the powerful French and Dutch fleets to invade England.

Action was joined of Cape St Vincent and the Battle of Cape Saint Vincent was *Victory's* greatest battle to this date. Admiral Jervis was honoured with the title of Earl St Vincent and Commodore Nelson was made a Knight of the Order of the Bath. He was offered a Baronetcy but he opted for the Knighthood because he could wear the Star and Sash of the Order where everyone could see them!

Victory had not been refitted for two and a half years, so she was ordered home and after dockyard inspection it was concluded that it was not worthwhile repairing the 32 year old ship. Accordingly she was laid up in the Medway as a hospital ship for prisoners of war.

In 1799 it was decided to refit her for sea service, but she had so many defects that she was still under repair when the Peace of Amiens stopped all work until war became imminent.

In March 1803 she was named as Nelson's flagship if war was resumed, which occurred on the 18th of May and she hoisted Nelson's flag on the same day and continued as his flagship until the successful conclusion of the greatest of all naval battles which gave Britain command of the seas for many years to come.

After the Battle of Trafalgar, it was decided to take Nelson's body back to England in a frigate, but a deputation of *Victory's* sailors put before their officers – "We brought him out and we'll take him home." And their officers had the same opinion. So he returned to England embalmed in a cask of spirits (most probably rum). He was laid to rest in St Paul's Cathedral in a coffin made from timber from the mainmast of the French flagship *L'Orient* which he defeated and sank at the Battle of the Nile. It was presented to him by the commanding officer of the line of battle ship *Swiftsure*, Captain Benjamin Hallowell, who wished to remind him of his mortality. "That when you are tired of life you may be buried in one of your own trophies!"

Far from being upset by this grim reminder, Nelson had it placed upright against the bulkhead in his cabin behind the chair in which he sat at mealtimes.

H.M.S. Victory to be continued in the next edition

David Kilcullen "Counterinsurgency", Scribe Publications RRP \$29.95

A review by Mark Richards

This is David Kilcullen's second work to be published - the first being "The Accidental Guerrilla" - and I am again privileged to be reviewing it for our Institute's newsletter. Of course it is now well known that Kilcullen has been highly influential in US policy and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. But rather than build on the first book however, *Counterinsurgency* records some early Kilcullen thinking on the subject that has become his life's work.

The core of this book is Kilcullen's "Twenty-eight Articles". Owing more than just a title to T.E. Lawrence's 1917 work in the *Arab Bulletin*, this pithy expression of principles, approaches and tips is primarily aimed at company level officers preparing for and executing counterinsurgency operations. This piece has been compared to a modern day Sun Tzu text: an essential read for officers in the field, and not infrequently an excellent source of wisdom for readers of all backgrounds, military or civilian.

The other pieces in the book include Kilcullen's doctoral research work on counterinsurgency in Indonesia, his Iraq "surge" plan, and an examination of the multifarious challenges facing the coalition in Afghanistan. He concludes by proposing a new approach to the "global war on terror", where counterinsurgency - as opposed to counterterrorism - is at the core of strategy to defeat global jihad. This is the point of segue into his "accidental guerrilla" thesis at the heart of his first book.

Of particular interest to Australian participants in, and followers of, the peace enforcement campaign in East Timor in 1999 is a "blow by blow" account of the action at Motaain, where Kilcullen was present as an interpreter. Many will recall the news footage of the fire fight and its aftermath with Kilcullen negotiating with the local Indonesian commander in the glare of the camera lights.

While not as cohesive a read as the "Accidental Guerrilla", "Counterinsurgency" will be essential reading for young officers and for those keen to understand the experiences behind Kilcullen's well known views on this most important way of war.

AE2 Crew Continued

To his credit, Knaggs caveats his later entries with "rumour has it..." and regularly commentates that some rumours just seem fanciful. But it must have been difficult for them to discern fact from rumour as other news was uncannily accurate and arrived relatively quickly after the event. For example, on April 29, 1916 the Allied forces besieged at Kut in Iraq surrendered and 8,000 soldiers were taken prisoner. The news of this

event and the same figure of captives reached the camp only five weeks later on June 9 - quite possibly directly from Allied prisoners captured at Kut.

Arduous and dangerous work, poor diet and disease associated with communal living in rough conditions were all features of their experience in captivity. Unfortunately, some weren't able to survive. On September 18, 1916, Chief Stoker Charles Varcoe died of meningitis at age 38. He was buried at the Christian Cemetery in Belemedik.

In the later part of summer in 1916, typhoid and malaria swept through the camp at Belemedik. On October 9, 1916, Petty Officer Stephen Gilbert died of malaria and typhoid at age 39. On October 22, 1916, Able Seaman Albert Knaggs died of malaria and typhoid at age 34. Knaggs' diary entries end three months earlier on July 18 which might indicate that he suffered a prolonged illness. Both Gilbert and Knaggs were also buried at the Christian Cemetery in Belemedik.

Stoker Michael Williams died on September 29, 1916. The exact cause of his death is not known, but it is recorded that he was buried in Pozanti, likely because there was a hospital there where he may have received treatment.

Many POWs at Belemedik contracted malaria and after captivity suffered from it for the rest of their lives. Many others also suffered disfiguring injuries, but despite the hardships it would also seem that life in captivity at Belemedik became routine. In 1917, six of the HMAS *AE2* crew members were relocated to another POW camp at San Stefano. In mid-1918 the construction work at Belemedik was completed and the railway opened.

Following the Armistice, after three and half years in captivity, the remaining 28 crew members of HMAS *AE2* were repatriated in December 1918.

After the war, the Imperial War Graves Commission considered that it was impractical to look after the many isolated graves of British and Commonwealth servicemen buried in several locations across Turkey, so their remains were disinterred and reburied in selected cemeteries. One of those selected cemeteries was in Baghdad.

In 1922, Gilbert's, Varcoe's and Knaggs' remains were reburied in the Baghdad North Gate War Cemetery where they remain to this day. For reasons unknown, Stoker Michael Williams was not reinterred in Baghdad, but he is listed on the Pozanti memorial in the Baghdad North Gate War Cemetery.

Eighty seven years later I came across the graves of these three brave sailors who had endured so much hardship and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. On behalf of all Australians I thanked them for their service.

Marcus Fielding

Library Notes

SINCE our last Newsletter, progress continues apace in our Library. The number of catalogued items has risen above 11 000. All these items are listed on the computer and all but the rarest items are available for loan.

We have also commenced cataloguing our current holdings of military instructional pamphlets. There are few libraries in Australia that hold these items and none of them has a comprehensive collection. A case can be made that they are a valuable resource for researchers and general readers. If you have box of pamphlets hidden somewhere in your house, you might consider donating it to our library.

What are the challenges we face in the near future? The greatest is that our Library is under-used. To help remedy this, we plan to hold an Open Day in November this year. We will invite Librarians, Researchers, Academics and Authors to view our collection and reflect on its value to the community – we may even acquire some new members in the process. After all, the purpose of the Library is to serve our members! If you know of anyone who should come to the Open Day (or wish to yourself) please notify the Secretary.

New acquisitions in this period have been many and varied. Some highlights are:

Ian McGibbon, *New Zealand and the Korean War*. [two volumes of their Official History]

B.J. Caligari, *The Courts-Martial of Bushveldt Carbineers Officers in Pietersburg, South Africa Jan-Feb 1902*

Robert O'Neill, *Australia in the Korean War 1950-53, Volume II, Combat Operations* [We have finally sourced this now rare but very important volumes]

Ian McNeill & Ashley Ekins, *On the Offensive: The Australian Army in the Vietnam War 1967-68*

[We now (at last) have all the published volumes in the series '*Official History of Australia's Involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts 1948-1975*']

Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Working the Web: Investigating Australia's Wartime History*

Several Orders of Service, including:

Service of Reinterment for Five Australian Soldiers whose Remains were Found near Westhoek, Belgium, October 2007

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Private Peter Raymond Gillson, died 8 Nov 1965, 15th June 2007

[Few, if any, collections keep these valuable items. Can you add to them?]

Come and see your Library! It is generally staffed on Mondays and whenever we have a Lecturer- but you can always gain access via our Secretary

Operation Blowdown

Between 1960 and 1965 the Australian Army reorganised into a 'Pentropic' Division to fight limited wars in the tropical jungles of South East Asia where nuclear weapons might be used.

As part of efforts to better understand a nuclear battlefield the Australian, UK and US Governments conducted a joint test - Operation 'Blowdown' - on 18 July 1963 designed to simulate the effects of a nuclear bomb on tropical rainforest. The test detonated 50 tons of conventional explosives to partially simulate a ten kiloton air burst in the rain forest at Iron Range on the Cape York Peninsula in far north Queensland.

Operation Blowdown's remote location was accessed via Gordon Airstrip. Built by the US during the Second World War, the airstrip had continued to be maintained by the Department of Civil Aviation. Among the army personnel employed to support the operation were 200 soldiers from the Brisbane-based 24th Construction Squadron of the Royal Australian Engineers.

The explosion was intended to test and examine the feasibility of using air burst nuclear weapons for clearing rainforests and creating obstacles to slow troop movement. The explosives were sourced from obsolete artillery shells and placed in a tower 42 meters above ground level and 21 meters above the rainforest canopy. Military structures, vehicles equipment and simulated troops were arrayed around Ground Zero to replicate operational conditions.

Operation Blowdown involved defence scientific teams from Australia, the UK, the US and Canada. Approximately 1,000 testing and monitoring instruments were prepared and set up at the test site. Some 17,000 trees in the area had been catalogued, with individual species tested to establish their mechanical strength.

On Thursday 18 July 1963 at 8:30 am the shot was fired. Soon after the explosion troops were moved through the area which was now covered in up to a meter of leaf litter, to test their ability to transit across the debris. Analysis of the data, which took some months, revealed overpressure and dynamic pressure measurements along the blast line, as well as the effects of the blast on military material, field fortifications, supply points and foot and vehicle access.

The original Movietone film about Operation Blowdown is available in three video clips on You-Tube.