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DEFENCE NEWS...

United States Marine Corps F35B Joint Strike Fighter

The United States Navy and Marine Corps have successfully conducted ship suitability sea trials with the F35B Lightning II, the short take-off/vertical landing (STOVL) variant of the joint strike fighter. The trials were conducted on the USS Wasp, in the Atlantic, just off Virginia. The USS Wasp is a multi-purpose amphibious assault ship (LHD), which is not equipped with a launching ramp. The trials were very successful. As of 18 August, the two F-35Bs participating had completed a total of 40 short take-offs and 41 vertical landings, including night-time vertical landings. No catapult or hook assistance was required.

The F-35B is a single-engine, fifth generation fighter aircraft and is the first aircraft to combine stealth technology with STOVL capabilities and supersonic speeds. It will supersede the F/A-18 Hornet and AV-8B Harrier II fighter aircraft currently in service with the United States Marine Corps. At the conclusion of the trials, it is expected the Navy and Marine Corps will have sufficient data to support certification for future F-35B Lighting II shipboard operations in anticipation of initial operating capability in 2015.

Lockheed Martin Corporation
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two" is recorded by Arthur Phillip], leading to a widespread exodus from the Port Jackson area, with further adverse cultural consequences. Contemporary records of the exact cause of this severe epidemic do not exist, so the chickenpox theory is entirely speculative. Accordingly, in the interim, I propose that it be referred to as "severe acquired pustular disease".

Conclusion

The history of the settlement during the first seven years of the colony of New South Wales was tumultuous and characterised by struggle and want. It was threatened with collapse had the drought not broken, if supplies had not been brought from Cape Town by HMS Sirius in 1789-90 and from Batavia by HMS Supply in company with a hired Dutch ship in 1790, and had the farms not prospered that were established at Rose Hill in 1788 and Richmond Hill in 1791. The provision of medical services was also sorely tested by the dumping of great numbers of sick and dying convicts arriving with the Second and Third Fleets. That this did not overwhelm the colony's health service is in no small way due to the diligence of White’s leadership and administration together with the uncritical devotion of his surgeons and nurses.

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**OPINION**

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**LETTER**

The role of the Army in a maritime strategy

I very much enjoyed Lieutenant General Morrison’s article in the Spring issue of your excellent journal [United Service 64 (3), 9 – 14]. However, I must take issue with his contention that the air raids across Australia’s north 71 years ago were the direct result of the defeat in detail of our ill-prepared land forces on Ambon, Timor and the Dutch East Indies; that they attacked us on land, from land; and that Australia was saved not by the battle of the Arafura Sea, but by the land effects generated by joint forces throughout the South-West Pacific Area.

Your readers should be aware that the initial raids on Darwin were carried out from the sea by the Japanese fast carrier force which bombed Pearl Harbour a few weeks before. Furthermore, at the Battle of the Coral Sea on 7 May 1942, the Japanese escort carrier Shojo was sunk by aircraft from the USS Yorktown and USS Lexington. In response, the Japanese invasion fleet from Rabaul, which was heading to Port Moresby, was ordered to return. A month later at the Battle of Midway, most of the Japanese fast carrier force was destroyed. The Japanese then abandoned their plans to invade Australia; and concentrated instead on establishing a barrier between the United States and Australia on the islands to the north and north east of Australia.

Vice Admiral Ian Knox AC RAN (Ret'd)
Lavender Bay, 23 October 2013

*References*


