

Hello Shipmates,

Was taken aback on hearing a brief wireless report that Australia had purchased Global Frigate from the U.K. Thoughts that came to immediate mind - 'Never pass up a good opportunity to shut your mouth' and 'If you have to eat crow, take it while it's hot'. - I have stated 'loud and often' that that purchase would never happen.

I prepared to abase myself with the grovel valve wide open. Later, a proper report of proceedings paint a different picture. Oz wishes to purchase only drawings of hull modules for vessels to be built in Oz, Adelaide, altered to fit U.S. Aegis radar, built into large foremast behind bridge.

Technology transfer of any U.K. equipment that may be fitted. Agreement of tech. transfer from A Class submarines for new class of conventional submarines required by Oz to be built by them. And here's a chuckle, Super Carriers to do time in the Southern Ocean, perhaps even with their four aircraft if the R.A.F. allow them to borrow.

You would expect Technology Transfer to alarm the powers that be, three prominent high tech. firms, G.K.N. the latest, bought by foreigners and asset strippers.

To high light our stupidity in this field, in March 2012 we had an offer for high tech. to flow inwards, for a change.

Secretary of U.S. Navy offered British procurement office to underwrite provision and installation of their brand new EMALS (electro magnetic) catapult and arrestor wire system, as fitted to their latest carrier, *George W Bush*. Experts estimated equipment would cost £458 million, installation a further £400 million, - that was March 2012 remember.

In May 2012 U.K. government abandoned plan for a proper 'cat and trap' carrier, a direct reversal of the 'defense review' decision!

Therefore the 'quantum leap' in carrier operation - for free - was dumped. Result; R.N.is condemned to a vessel capable only of short range, low load lifting, untried aircraft, unable to land or launch any other nation's conventional carrier aircraft. One cannot help feel M.O.D. see 'a deal' not as mutually beneficial business, rather the other definition - a plank of soft wood. That 'cat and trap' option is the reason 'wave is ruled in European theatre' by France.

When her naval strike squadrons *Rafales* and her early warning multi-engine contingent are not aboard their nuke carrier *General de Gaulle* (currently in refit) they are fully embedded on the U.S. Sixth Fleet-Med Carrier. High intensity cross decking and training, down to the lowliest mech. and armourer makes for a seamless fit. A real 'special relationship' exists from history for the U.S.A. and France.

The 'fledgling states' first war timer alliance was with France during the war of Independence. Their fleet pulled off our defeat at Chesapeake leading to defeat at Yorktown in 1781. When ashore naval air stations used are *Oceana* and *Chambers Field*, both in the aforementioned Chesapeake victory area.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, our own feckless, oft time fraudulent, unfit for purpose, noble Lords ensure such scenarios will be repeated soon! Or a bit later, should they decide to fall out with anyone stronger than the Isle of Wight.



Military, of silly walks. A team from Pakistan Military Academy, which only started learning the drill exercise two months ago, high kicked its way to a surprise win at the 90th All Arms and International Pace Sticking Competition at Sandhurst

Most impressive on T.V. - that practice for the 100 year fly past, 'up the Mall' for the R.A.F. their P.R. gurus have the Khaki and Navy Blues beaten into insignificance. Battle of Britain much lauded with no mention of 58 Fleet Air Arm pilots who flew with R.A.F. in that debacle. I see five of them became 'aces' with five kills.

Is my carrier fetish showing? -'Exasperated of Newington'.



The watch that kept time for Admiral Lord Nelson during the Battle of Trafalgar, and was then taken from his pocket on his flagship Victory after a French sniper's bullet pierced his shoulder and shattered his spine, is coming up for auction after centuries of being kept in private collections.

The watch is a valuable object in its own right, made by Josiah Emery, one of the most renowned watchmakers of Georgian England. With the Nelson connection and family provenance, it is estimated to fetch up to £450,000 when it is sold by Sotheby's on 4 July.

I was outbid - LIAR !

