

explained that he didn't care if the band played *Pop Goes the Weasel*, but if they played *Rule Britannia* he would walk off the parade.

On 23 November 1975, at a ceremony in front of the Department of Defence offices in Canberra, VAT retired from the Royal Australian Navy. The 100-man guard of honour was drawn from all three services and in attendance were his army successor and the three service chiefs, as well as the Secretary of Defence Sir Arthur Tange. The new Minister of Defence, the Honourable James Killen, in farewell appreciation commented that VAT's career had been one of true service to the nation, carried out with impartiality and in the highest traditions of his service. As VAT departed the musical salute being played was *Advance Australia Fair*.



*The Governor-General of Australia Sir John Kerr held a retirement dinner at Yarralumla in VAT's honour. On the left is Lady Anne Kerr and on the right is Lady Nanette Smith.*



*Melbourne with Wessex, Sea King, Tracker and Skyhawk aircraft embarked continued in service for seven years after VAT retired.*