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Royal United Services Institute of Victoria
rusivic.org.au
secretary@rusivic.org.au
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Forthcoming Anniversaries

5 January 1941: 6 Div captures Bardia
8 January 1958: Last Australians return from Korea
9 January 1917: Light Horse captures Rafa, Egypt
10 January 1940: First 2nd AIF convoy sails to the Middle East
10 January 1942: Japanese planes attack Singapore
11 January 1942: Japanese capture Tarakan, Borneo
12 January 1942: Japanese enter Kuala Lumpur, Malaya
12 January 1943: 2/9 and 2/12 Bns, supported by three tanks, attack Sanananda, New Guinea
13 January 1900: Boers attack New South Welshmen at Prieska, South Africa

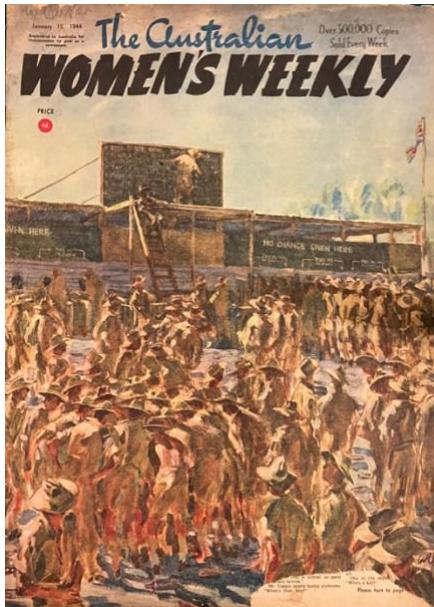


Monash Memorial Defence Library

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

RUSIA Defence Update

An Army Race Meeting, April 1943



The Australian Women's Weekly continued publication throughout the Second World War, selling a remarkable half a million copies an issue. Many of its articles had references to the progress of the war, contributing to civil morale. This January 1944 issue featured several paintings by WEP (Bill Pidgeon, 1908-1981) of a meeting of the 'North Australian Picnic Race Club' during his tour of northern operational areas – indeed, in the Northern Territory.

Horses were brought in from one of the stations and were auctioned to the troops. Buyer of the horse became the owner-trainer and had the right to select his own jockey. Proceeds of the horse sales were used as prize money for the race meeting.

The club was run entirely by Army personnel, officers and men, and jockey clubs on a grander scale might have been envious to hear that the total cost of the course was £15 for materials purchased. The rest was scrounged. The Allied Works Council lent graders and tractors, and the whole course was built in about three weeks. There was an elaborate tote, grandstand, judge's box, and all the facilities necessary for a racecourse. All the meetings benefited Red Cross funds or Prisoner of War Appeal funds. After the war the track was handed back to civilians in the area, complete with its picnic grounds.

Key: (M) – magazine or website; (N) – newspaper; (F) – film; (P) – podcast

Defence

ADV Reliant sets sail for deployment after a landmark year in the Pacific: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Navy

Why SM-6 is transforming the Royal Australian Navy's air warfare doctrine: [\(F\)NguoiGiaiMa](#)

Air Force

C-130J Hercules block upgrade program complete: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Australia's ten billion dollar bet: why 20 new Super Hercules? [\(F\)NguoiGiaiMa](#)

Southeast Asia

Trump applauds new Thailand, Cambodia ceasefire: [\(M\)TheHill](#)

Indo Pacific

China showed off its nukes and caused problems in the region: 5 Indo-Pacific stories from 2025: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

UK

UK armed forces to launch paid gap year scheme for under-25s: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

US

The Army's new tank will roll out a decade early. Here's how they did it: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

From National Defense Strategy plans to acquisition overhaul findings: 2026 preview: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

More is needed to turn the Marine Corps' aspirations into reality: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

NATO & EU

Falling price of cocaine forces drug traffickers to reuse narco-submarines, say Spanish police: [\(M\)Guardian](#)

UK, Germany ink \$70m joint deal for mobile RCH 155 artillery: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Middle East

5 takeaways from Trump-Netanyahu meeting at Mar-a-Lago: [\(M\)TheHill](#)

Ukraine

Vessels damaged as Russia intensifies attacks on Ukraine's ports: [\(M\)MaritimeExecutive](#)

NATO allies oppose US peace deal for Ukraine as FCAS falters: 2025 review: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Ukraine peace plan 'scares the bejesus out of us,' officials say: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Russia

Russia's air force is imploding... experts predict a 2026 collapse: [\(F\)MilitaryShow](#)

Russia's descent into tyranny: how four years of war have remade society: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

Russia says Ukrainian drone attack targeted Putin's residence: [\(F\)CNN](#)

Russia is losing - time for Putin's 2026 hybrid escalation: [\(M\)RUSI](#)

China

Chinese forces fielding intercontinental anti-ship ballistic missiles capable of reaching U.S. West Coast, Pentagon says: [\(M\)USNI](#)

China stages military drills around Taiwan to warn 'external forces': [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

China is bringing gray-zone warfare to space: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Military History

Tripoli to Takrouna - 2 New Zealand Division's last campaigns in North Africa [\(F\)WW2TV](#)

Citizen Soldier (1972) | Inside Australia's Citizen Military Forces [\(F\)NFSA](#)

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