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Forthcoming Anniversaries

9 May 1901: Tasmanian troops drive Scheeper's commandos out of Craddock District, South Africa
10 May 1940: Germany invades Holland and Belgium
11 May 1945: 6th Division captures Wewak, New Guinea
11 May 1969: WO2 Ray Simpson, AATTV, awarded the VC for his actions in Vietnam
13 May 1943: Australian commitment in British North Africa campaign ends at Tunisia
14 May 1943: Hospital ship Centaur sunk by Japanese submarine off Queensland, killing 268 people. Only 63 men and one female nurse rescued by USS Mugford
15 May 1942: POWs moved to Thailand from Singapore to work on the Burma Railway. Australians reinforce Port Moresby, Papua
15 May 1945: Pte Edward Kenna, 2/4 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Wewak, New Guinea
16 May 1901: Lt Frederick Bell, 6th West Australian Mounted Infantry, awarded the VC for his actions at Brakpan, Transvaal
16 May 1968: Battle for Fire Support Base Coral

RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 131st Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

Defence Science and Technology [Group](#)



Cecil Napier Hake is regarded as Australia's first Defence scientist

Defence science in Victoria can be traced back to 1907 when the Commonwealth government appointed the Victorian Inspector of Explosives, Cecil Napier Hake, as the Chemical Adviser to the Department of Defence. Hake was thus Australia's first defence scientist and went on to establish the first Defence laboratory at Victoria Barracks on St Kilda Road in Melbourne in 1910 - in B Block, the former guardroom. It is today's location for RUSIV and our library.

At the time of Federation, Victoria had the most comprehensive defence establishment in the country which included, thanks largely to Hake, a top class munitions factory. In around 1907 Hake was permanently transferred to the Commonwealth Department of Defence as its full time Chemical Advisor. One of his first jobs was to advise on setting up explosive testing facilities. Later he was in charge of establishing Australia's first Cordite Factory and in June 1908 was appointed Inspector of Cordite - a position which was independent of the Military and of the Cordite factory.

Key to internet references: (M) - magazine or website; (N) - newspaper; (F) - film clip; (P) - podcast

Defence

Australian support to Ukraine: [\(F\)Defence](#)

MRF-D 22s aviation support established in Darwin: [\(M\)Contact](#)

Making Australia fit for AUKUS: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

HMAS *Maitland* farewelled as the Navy looks to its next generation of ships: [\(F\)ABCNews](#)

USS *Frank Cable* visits Perth: [\(F\)RAN](#)

Australia's most powerful amphibious assault ships: [\(F\)MilitaryAnalysis](#)

Army

Army chief attends naming ceremony for support craft: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Air Force

Exercise Diamond Shield takes off at Old Bar airfield: [\(F\)Defence](#)

RAAF C-17 takes another Vietnamese peacekeeping rotation to Africa: [\(M\)Contact](#)

Defence Space Command - badge design: [\(F\)RAAF](#)

In a first, Australian tanker refuels Japanese jet mid-air: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

New Zealand

Royal New Zealand Navy: Polar Life Boat: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

New Zealand rocket caught but then dropped by helicopter: [\(M\)c4isrnet](#)

Solomon Islands

In 35 years of reporting from Solomon Islands, I've never seen the secrecy of the last few months: [\(N\)Guardian](#).

Morrison defends relations with Solomon Islands after 'invasion' claim: [\(M\)9news](#)

Pacific

Former Pacific leaders say climate crisis is primary security threat: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

UK

60 Second Update | May: [\(F\)BritishArmy](#)

China

China makes second largest incursion into Taiwan air defence zone: [\(M\)AlJazeera](#)

Ukraine

Ukraine: the hardware each country is sending: [\(F\)ForcesNews](#)

Ukraine can use American M777 155mm Howitzers: [\(F\)USMilitaryNews](#)

Poland confirms it is sending tanks to Ukraine: [\(M\)NotesFromPoland](#)

The role of drones in Russia's Ukraine invasion: [\(P\)DefenseOne](#)

Russia

Big blow to Russia as their 'most advanced' fighter jet is being decoded by US, UK scientists: [\(F\)StaySavvyStaySmart](#)

Will Putin go nuclear to avoid defeat in Ukraine? [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

Chaplains of the Western Front | Emily Mayhew: [\(F\)WesternFrontAssociation](#)

German ghost bomber - the mysterious case of the Cambridge Dornier: [\(F\)Felton](#)

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