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RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 131st Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Forthcoming Anniversaries

16 May 1901: Lt Frederick Bell, 6th West Australian Mounted Infantry, awarded the VC for his actions at Brakpan, Transvaal
16 May 1945: 9th Division soldiers land in Brunei
16 May 1968: Battle for Fire Support Base Coral
18 May 1915: Gen William Bridges dies of wounds on board the hospital ship Gascon. Gen Bridges' grave is on the high ground between RMC and ADFA
19 May 1915: Ottoman counterattack on Anzac Corps fails
19 May 1918: Sgt William Ruthven, 22nd Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Ville-sur-Ancre, France
20 May 1915: LCpl Albert Jacka, 14th Bn, New Zealand and Australian Div, wins the first Australian WWI VC for his actions at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli
20 May 1941: Germans conduct first mass (240 soldiers) paratroop assault. The 2/4th Bn was part of the composite allied force at Heraklion on the north coast of Crete
22 May 1945: Australian troops take Buin Road, Bougainville

Member contributions are always welcome

[Arthur Edgar Leighton](#) (1873-1961)



In our office we have this mounted head of a Sambar Deer, presented to Arthur Leighton in 1904. He had been assistant manager of the government of India's department of military supply at the newly constructed explosives factory at Aravunkadu on Tamil Nadu.

In 1919 he returned to Australia - he had an earlier visit in 1909 -, and was appointed chairman of the board of management of the Commonwealth government factories and instituted the Defence Research Laboratories. In 1921-38 he was controller-general of munitions supply. He took a leading part in the preliminaries which led to the establishment of aeronautical research in the mid-1920s. During the 1930s he retained his staff by adapting his factories to the production of such domestic items as lipstick containers.

Leighton retired in November 1937 but returned as controller-general in May 1938-June 1939 and in 1940-46 as consultant on explosives. He was responsible for radical changes in the manufacture of cordite and the use of 'gun paper' made from pinus radiata as a replacement for cotton.

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

Defence

Australia considering next-generation US and UK designs for nuclear submarines:

[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Handling of Darwin port lease a fiasco on both sides of politics: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Battle of the Coral Sea -- 80th anniversary: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Exercise Southern Jackaroo underway at Shoalwater Bay: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Navy

Indo Pacific 2022 - Chief of Navy's opening address: [\(F\)RAN](#)

Plan Galileo Horizon Three: Sustainment 2025: [\(F\)RAN](#)
Navy hosts largest international exercise in its history: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Army

Chief of Army visits soldiers in the Torres Strait: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Air Force

US

US Defense Secretary speaks with Russian counterpart for first time since Russia invaded Ukraine: [\(M\)CNN](#)

UK

Challenger 2 tanks on the move in Europe: [\(F\)ForcesNews](#)

Canada

Defence team news: [\(F\)CanadianArmedForces](#)

China

Four ways China is growing its media influence in Southeast Asia: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)
Chinese Navy ship operating off of Australia, Canberra says: [\(M\)USNavalInstitute](#)

Ukraine

Russian battalion loses armoured vehicles in failed river crossing: [\(F\)BBCNews](#)
UN warns 'millions will die' if Russia keeps Ukraine's Black Sea ports closed: [\(F\)News.com](#)
How is the Ukraine war redefining future conflict? [\(F\)BBCNews](#)
Ukraine war spreads to Turkey - the sea mine threat: [\(F\)Felton](#)
Russian offensive campaign assessment, May 14: [\(M\)InstituteForTheStudyOfWar \(ISW\)](#)
Russian forces withdraw from key Ukrainian city Kharkiv: [\(F\)BBCNews](#)

Russia

Troops, tanks and missiles in Red Square for Russia's Victory Day parade: [\(F\)BBCNews](#)

Military History

General John Monash: the man who changed how wars were fought | Monash & Me | [\(F\)Timeline](#)

Note on Sources for the War in Ukraine

Propaganda is a weapon of war used by both sides in this conflict. While every effort is made to offer the best authenticated sources in this newsletter, you should exercise your own judgement.

Please pass this newsletter to your friends and invite them to join RUSI Victoria

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