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**Forthcoming Anniversaries**

- 26 February 1943: Battle for Wau, New Guinea, ends
- 27 February 1942: Attacks by Japanese aircraft damage HMAS Hobart in West Java Sea
- 28 February 1942: Japanese landing on Java met by Brig Arthur Blackburn's Blackforce. Dutch forces on the island surrender, followed by Australians four days later
- 28 February 1991: Gulf War ends with liberation of Kuwait
- 29 February 1944: Australian and New Guinea Administrative Unit and Royal Papuan Constabulary land with US forces on Los Negros, Admiralty Is, New Guinea
- 1 March 1901: Australian Army formed
- 1 March 1942: HMAS Perth and USS Houston engage a large Japanese force in the Battle of the Sunda Strait. Both ships are sunk. Perth loses 357 sailors and a further 320 become prisoners, 106 of whom die in captivity

# RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

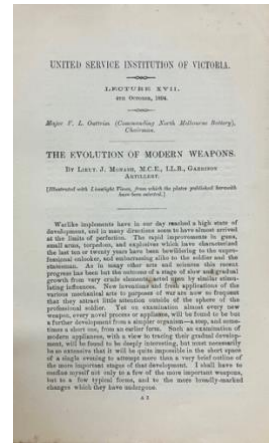
## An Early Article by John Monash

John [Monash](#) (1865-1931) was a member of what was then the United Service Institution of Victoria and later became its secretary.

Our early journal was published by the Government Printer from 1890 to 1896. Its issues had the transcripts of lectures given to the Institution in its Collins St premises.

This article, 'The Evolution of Modern Weapons' is from the talk given by Lt Monash in October 1894. He examined technological advances in weaponry. His topics include metallurgy, explosive propellants, heavy artillery, machineguns and torpedos. The presentation was illustrated by "limelight views": there *was* a time before PowerPoint! A digitised version of the paper is available.

When discussing torpedoes, Monash remarks that the [Brennan](#) torpedo, an Australian invention, is secret and avoids any further details. That's another story!



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

## Defence

Defence must engage stakeholders earlier, more openly, frequently and comprehensively: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Navy

Navy's enhanced lethality surface combatant fleet: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Surface fleet review: biggest naval expansion since WWII: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Government announces larger surface fleet – but timing uncertain:

[\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Aussie Navy to double surface fleet with \$7B plan, but future spending uncertain:

[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Is the Australian Navy hopeless? [\(P\)TheAustralian](#)

Australia's 'tier-2' naval expansion opens the door for the Anzac frigate redux: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Air Force

The Boeing Wedgetail: the plane that will control World War III: [\(F\)Megaprojects](#)

## New Zealand

New support for Ukraine: [\(M\)NZDF](#)

## Singapore

US, Singapore air forces to team up at vital Pacific base in Guam: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Indo-Pacific

'Already late': Pentagon sounds alarm on funding Pacific island pact: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Avoiding war in the Indo-Pacific: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## UK

The three key takeaways for the Royal Navy from the Ukraine war: [\(F\)ForcesNews](#)

Britain promises Ukraine more Brimstone missiles, training: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## US

Space Force: we need a hotline to China: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

First Ukrainian F-16 pilots will complete training as soon as May: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Armored vehicles and Patriots sent to Ukraine without solid sustainment plan, says Pentagon IG: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Ukraine

Ukraine: why we must stay the course: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Comparing Russian, Ukrainian forces two years into war: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Australian assistance to Ukraine is enlightened self-interest: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Russia

Russia forced to 'sacrifice quality for quantity' in war with Ukraine: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Putin takes a flight in nuclear-capable bomber in a tough message to the West ahead of election: [\(F\)APNews](#)

## China

**Recommended:** As China ramps up its presence in Antarctica, analysts say Australia is 'asleep at the wheel': [\(M\)ABCNews](#)

China unveils export version of attack helicopter: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Military History

The last Japanese holdout on Iwo Jima didn't surrender until 1949: [\(F\)IntelReport](#)

Orion in Australian service: [\(F\)AustralianMilitaryAiationHistory](#)

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