



# RUSIA Defence Update

*A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence*

## A First World War Christmas Card - 1916



The 6th Brigade was re-formed in early 1915 from volunteers for overseas service. At this time, the brigade consisted of four infantry battalions – the 21st, 22nd, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions – all of which were raised in Victoria. After being sent to Egypt in June 1915 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as part of an expansion of the AIF, the brigade landed at Gallipoli in September, however, as the last Allied offensive had come to an end the previous month, from then up until December 1915 when the Anzacs were evacuated from the peninsula, the brigade was not involved in any significant engagements. In 1916, they were transferred to the Western Front, where they took part in the fighting until 5<sup>th</sup> October 1918.

The brigade had four of its men awarded Victoria Crosses, all in 1918: **Sergeant William Ruthven** 22nd Battalion (Ville-sur-Ancre, May); **Sergeant Albert David Lowerson** 21st Battalion (Mont St Quentin, September); **Private Robert Mactier** 23rd Battalion (Mont St Quentin, September) and **Lieutenant George Ingram** 24th Battalion (Montbrehain, October 1918).

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### Forthcoming Anniversaries

**1 June 1942:** HMAS Kuttubul was sunk and the Dutch submarine K9 damaged in the Sydney Harbour attack by Japanese midget submarines

**2 June 1890:** Maj Gen Alexander Bruce Tulloch founds the United Service Institution of Victoria

**4 June 1900:** Victorians and Western Australians heavily engaged in a conflict at Six Mile Spruit, South Africa

**5 June 1919:** 250 Australians land at the Port of Archangel, north Russia, with the British North Russia Relief Force

**5 June 1966:** Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force set up in Viêt Nam

**6 June 1944:** Allies land in Normandy, D Day

**7 June 1917:** Australians in Battle of Messines. Capt Robert Grieve, 37 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions nearby



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

## Defence

Inquiry into the weaponisation of the military justice system: [\(M\)IGADF](#)

## Army

The future of the Army profession: [\(F\)Army](#)

US, Japanese forces join Australian army's largest military drills of the year: [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)

## Navy

Australia starts 'high-risk' life extension of its submarine fleet: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Air Force

Why humans are staying in the loop with loyal wingman drones: [\(F\)BreakingDefense](#)

**Recommended:** Why Australia is retiring its C-27 Spartan military transport fleet: [\(F\)ABC](#)

RAAF inducts final P-8A Poseidon: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)  
 MQ-28 Ghost Bat now flying over the Pacific from U.S. Navy base: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

## New Zealand

SYOS unveils SU10 underwater drone for mine warfare, maritime security: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

## Asia Pacific & Southeast Asia

South Korea getting nuclear submarines is a huge deal: [\(M\)WarZone](#)  
 ADF supports Pacific partners in fight against illegal fishing: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)  
**Recommended:** Asia-Pacific regional security assessment 2026: [\(M\)IISS](#)

## UK

Bizarre-looking artillery system from BAE targets drone warfare role: [\(M\)NextGenDefense](#)

## Canada

'Balance of force is moving in...': Canada PM Mark Carney gives bad news to Putin on Ukraine war: [\(F\)HookGlobal](#)

## NATO & EU

Report: US to cut strategic bombers and warships available to NATO in a crisis: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)  
 Who has authority to deal with drones? In most of Europe, that's unclear: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)  
 Romania deploys F-16s after Russian drone strike on civilian infrastructure: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## US

USAF's new turbocharged ULTRA surveillance drones are heading to the Middle East: [\(M\)WarZone](#)  
 A mechanical rig to shoot around corners: [\(F\)DefenseNews](#)  
 How the Pentagon plans to spend \$50 billion on drone warfare: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)  
 Cuba's only choice: a deal with Washington is the island's best hope: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

## Middle East

Another day of uncertainty in the Strait after U.S. claims strikes on Iranian minelayers: [\(M\)WarZone](#)  
 Trump declares he is lifting the naval blockade on Iran (updated): [\(M\)WarZone](#)  
 Why Iran will prefer ongoing conflict: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Ukraine

Amid FPV threat, Aussie company to offer Ukraine armored roofs for ATVs: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## China & Taiwan

The West indulges China in its backing for Russia against Ukraine: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Military History

He built the army that won Burma. Mountbatten tried to sack him: [\(F\)BritishCommand](#)

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