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Forthcoming Anniversaries

2 May 1915: Australians of the 11th Battalion attack Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli
3 May 1917: 2nd Battle of Bullecourt, France as part of the Hindenburg Line battles
3 May 1917: HMAS Sydney battles Zeppelin L43 on North Sea
5 May 1915: 2 Aust Bde and the New Zealand Bde redeploy to Cape Helles, Gallipoli
5 May 1945: VE Day
8 May 1942: Battle of Coral Sea ends
9 May 1901: Tasmanian troops drive Scheeper's commandos out of Craddock District, South Africa
10 May 1940: Germany invades Holland

RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 131st Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

1st Marine Division, US Marine Corps – “Melbourne’s Marines”



While the Australians were fighting on the Kokoda Track, the 1st Marine Division was engaged in the [Guadalcanal Campaign](#) in the Solomon Islands. It would fight there from August 1942 until relieved in December 1942. The battle cost the division 650 killed in action, 1,278 wounded in action with a further 8,580 contracting malaria and 31 missing in action.

The division was moved to Australia to reconstitute. Initially it was sent to Brisbane. "Don't call it a camp," railed one battalion commander. "Just say we were dispersed in a swamp." General Vandegrift dispatched staff officers forthwith to scout for a better location. They found the ideal tonic for the division: Melbourne, located in cool, mosquito-free southeastern Australia. When the transport *West Point* (AP-23) delivered the division there on 12 January 1943, the Melbourne population embraced the Marines in a tumultuous reception.

The Marines fell in love with Australia, and the Aussies reciprocated the affection. Almost all of the young Americans would remember their stay down under as one of the happiest periods of their lives. While in Australia, the Division band adopted the song "Waltzing Matilda" as a favorite and it soon became the official song of the First Marine Division. It is still played every morning immediately after The Marines Hymn ('From the Halls of Montezuma ...') following the raising of the national colo(u)rs at 0800, and at Divisional parades

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

Defence

Chief of Defence Force Anzac Day 2022 message: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Russia's Ukraine invasion must be Australia's clarion call: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

China-Solomons deal 'politically illiterate' if Beijing wants better ties with Australia: Rudd: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

The Hunter frigate: an assessment: [\(M\)Aspi](#)

Army

Red Berets take a dive to deliver the Anzac Day game ball: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Air Force

Anzac Dawn Service aboard KC-30A: [\(F\)RAAF](#)

Solomon Islands

Blame game over Solomons–China deal must give way to clear-eyed strategy: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Pacific

What the Tonga disaster tells us about the South Pacific's cyber resilience: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Beyond thought bubbles: how to fix Australia's Pacific policy: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Pacific aid map: [\(M\)LowyInstitute](#)

Canada

Fatal incident at military college in Canada leaves four cadets dead: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

US

It will be years before Raytheon can build new Stinger missiles: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

It's the Wedgetail: Air Force to buy E-7 to replace AWACS [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

UK

Australia's Defence boss heads to UK to inspect British-designed warships and have talks on AUKUS, Ukraine: [\(M\)ABCNews](#)

NATO

NATO membership an existential imperative for Sweden and Finland: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

China

The passing of Australia's panda passion: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Ukraine

U.S. intel helped Ukraine protect air defenses, shoot down Russian plane carrying hundreds of troops: [\(M\)NBCNews](#)

An overview of Russia's cyberattack activity in Ukraine: [\(M\)Microsoft](#)

Russia

Why does Russian Explosive Reactive Armor not explode? [\(F\)MilitaryHistoryVisualized](#)

Technical Reflections on Russia's Armoured Fighting Vehicles: [\(M\)RUSI](#)

Military History

War Widows and Emigration | Andrea Hetherington: [\(F\)WesternFrontAssociation](#)

Luftwaffe jets vs. Remagen Bridge - Germany's last air operation in the west 1945: [\(F\)Felton](#)

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