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Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria
rusivic.org.au
secretary@rusivic.org.au
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Forthcoming Anniversaries

17 July 1917: RAN forms minesweeping brigade
18 July 1918: Lt Albert Borella, 26 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Villers-Bretonneux, France
19 July 1916: 5th Division fights the Battle of Fromelles suffering 5533 casualties in 24 hours
19 July 1940: HMAS Sydney sinks Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleone off Crete
20 July 1943: HMAS Hobart hit by torpedoes from a Japanese submarine off San Cristobal
21 July 1900: 300 Australians ambushed by Boers at Elands River Post, South Africa
22 July 1919: Australians in attack at Archangel, North Russia
23 July 1916: Battle of Pozières, France, begins. Lt Arthur Blackburn, and Pte John Leak 9 Bn, awarded VCs

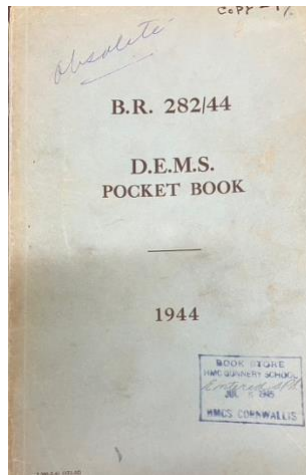
RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

DEMS! What's DEMS?



DEMS was the acronym used for defensively equipped merchant ships during the Second World War. The illustration is the 1944 Pocket Book issued to the merchant crews. This 228-page manual replaced the 1942 version.

The British armed 5,500 ships with old naval guns that had been stored after the Great War. They varied between the 3 to 6-inch range of direct fire guns and were sometimes supplemented with anti-aircraft guns. The guns were manned by naval crews - from the Royal Navy or Royal Artillery Maritime Regiment; by the Royal Canadian Navy (713 ships) and Royal Australian Navy (375 ships). The Pocket Book includes instruction on guns, machine guns, rockets, paravanes and smoke making apparatus.

The RAN had 37 officers and 1,070 ratings who served in the DEMS. Their association meets at Waverly Vic RSL and conducts an annual commemorative service at The Shrine.

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

Defence

Australia gifts further Bushmasters to Ukraine: [\(M\)MinisterDefence](#)

Navy

Historic first for Navy's 816 Squadron: [\(M\)Defence](#)

ADF will need fast minelayers for its new 'smart' mines: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Army

Exercise Capital OTP: [\(F\)Army](#)

Smooth and lethal: Boxer squadron's first live fire: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Air Force

Training for special operations readiness: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Is Australia getting too close to Ukraine action with Wedgetail deployment? [\(M>Contact](#)

New Zealand

The lessons of New Zealand's China diplomacy: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Solomon Islands

Australia 'concerned' by China-Solomon Islands policing deal: [\(M\)AlJazeera](#)

US

House narrowly passes defense bill after Dems defect over abortion: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

America's Pacific allies want more joint exercises, short-supply munitions: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

US to send F-16 fighter jets to Gulf amid Iran shipping tensions: [\(M\)AlJazeera](#)

UK

UK defense chief muses about replicating cluster munitions' edge: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

UK official sees 'unique' partnership chances for next-gen fighter: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

NATO

Germany approves \$769M weapons package for Ukraine, clears huge Boxer deal with Australia:

[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

The NATO Vilnius Summit: Bucharest 2.0? [\(M\)RUSI](#)

Central, Eastern European pressure improved Ukraine's outcome at NATO summit, experts say:

[\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Ukraine

Ground vehicles are the new frontier in Ukraine's drone war: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

UN HRC53: Statement on human rights situation in Ukraine: [\(M\)Gov.UK](#)

Vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices: [\(M\)UKDefenceIntelligence](#)

Zelenskyy says Russia 'investing everything' to stop Ukraine army: [\(M\)AlJazeera](#)

How to end a war: some historical lessons for Ukraine: [\(M\)IISS](#)

Russia

Russian general says top military brass betrayed soldiers fighting in Ukraine: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

Russian mortar crew in training: [\(F\)Instagram](#)

China

China flexes military muscles ahead of Taiwan's war games: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

The disturbing evolution of China's foreign policy: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

Dealing with a bomb hang-up in a Canberra over Vietnam: [\(F\)AustralianMilitaryAviation](#)

How the Allies won WW2's longest battle: [\(F\)Historigraph](#)

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