



RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Forthcoming Anniversaries

26 January 1945: Borneo death march begins

26 January 1943: Brisbane-based US submarine Wahoo sank two Japanese transports off the coast of New Guinea

26 January 1943: Natives from Marchinbar Islands north of Arnhem Land rescue survivors from HMAS Patrick Cam helped by coastwatchers

27 January 1942: HMAS Vampire and HMS Thanet attacked the Japanese landing force at Endau, Malaya

28 January 1945: HMAS Melbourne (ex HMS Majestic) launched at Vickers Armstrong yard, England

29 January 1856: The VC instituted by Royal Warrant. First presentations were made on 26 June 1857 – one winner later dying in Melbourne

31 January 1945: Fremantle-based US submarine Boarfish sank Japanese transport Enki Maru off Indo China

2 February 1943: HMAS Manoora returned to service after conversion from armed merchant cruiser to a landing ship.



HMAS Sydney (III) – the Aircraft Carrier



We have recently been given an interesting collection of photos centred around HMAS Sydney.

HMAS Sydney (R17/A214/P214/L134) was the former HMS Terrible (1944), a Majestic-class light aircraft carrier, sold to

Australia in 1947 and completed, then commissioned into the RAN in 1948. She was the first RAN carrier, one of three operated during the cold war, and flagship until the 1960s.

Her career until 1973 included active service in the Korean War, use as a training vessel when HMAS Melbourne arrived in 1955, in reserve in 1958 but reactivated as fast troop transport from 1962, operating for Malaysia and from 1965, made one of 25 tours of duty in Vietnam until 1972 (nicknamed the Vung Tau Ferry).

Comprehensive details of Sydney's service are available on the Sea Power Centre's site at [Sea Power - HMAS Sydney III](#).

The aircraft illustrated are Sea Furies and Fireflies. Other items in the album include photos of crashed aircraft

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

Strategy

The problem with strategy as problem-solving: [\(M\)MilitaryStrategyMagazine](#)

Defence

Offshore wind can be a security hazard. Australia needs a risk assessment:

[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

The Australian shield: why US supercarriers trust Nulka: [\(F\)NguoiGiaiMa](#)

Army

Heavy vehicles, lighter footprint: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Air Force

Getting ready to pass on the display baton: [\(F\)RAAF](#)

UK

Half a billion investment to upgrade RAF Typhoons and secure 1,500 British jobs: [\(M\)Gov.UK](#)

Autonomous submarine XV *Excalibur* handed to Royal Navy: [\(M\)NavalNews](#)

Canada

“A rupture, not a transition”: Carney’s new order: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

IN FULL: Canadian PM Carney delivers speech at Davos: [\(F\)AFPNews](#)

US

Former military leaders sign legal document supporting Sen. Mark Kelly: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Trump’s year of anarchy: the unconstrained presidency and the end of American primacy:

[\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

NORAD stresses aircraft deployment to Greenland is ‘routine’ and ‘long-planned’:

[\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

NATO & EU

Greenland, NATO and the ghost of Henry Kissinger: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Middle East

US completes withdrawal from al-Asad airbase, Iraq says: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Iran’s protests: the regional and international responses: [\(M\)IISS](#)

Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine war: lost amid the distractions: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Russia

Russia released a video of its air forces conducting “routine” flights over the Baltic Sea:

[\(F\)EuroNews](#)

China & Taiwan

The US needs Europe in a Taiwan fight. Here’s why, and how to make it happen:

[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

That isn’t signaling. China’s military is seriously rehearsing around Taiwan: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

Wear them with pride - Royal Australian Navy - HMAS *Ovens*: [\(F\)Ingramatt](#)

The forgotten Navy — Australia's war on the Vietnam gunline: [\(F\)ClaspsOfCourage](#)

Royal Australian Navy 50th anniversary (1961): [\(F\)Pathé](#)

Lost nuclear bombs and secret US bases: Greenland in the Cold War: [\(F\)BFBSForcesNews](#)

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