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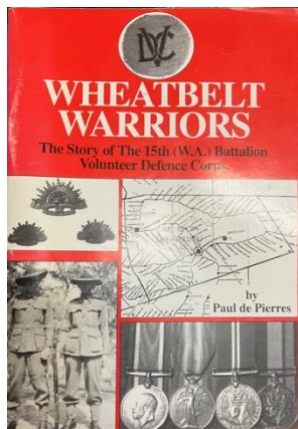
#### Forthcoming Anniversaries

**21 July 1900:** 300 Australians ambushed by Boers at Elands River Post, South Africa  
**22 July 1919:** Australians in attack at Archangel, North Russia  
**22 July 1942:** Japanese advance on tracks towards Port Moresby. Pte Arthur Gurney, 2/48 Bn, awarded posthumous VC for actions at Tel El Eisa, Egypt  
**23 July 1916:** Battle of Pozieres, France, begins. Lt Arthur Blackburn, and Pte John Leak 9 Bn, awarded VCs for their actions at Pozieres  
**24 July 1900:** Capt Neville Howse, NSW Army Medical Corps, awarded the VC for his actions at Vredfort, Orange Free State, the only VC awarded to Australian medical personnel  
**24 July 1945:** Pte Frank Partridge, 8 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions on Bougainville  
**25 July 1916:** Pte Thomas Cooke, 8 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Pozieres, France  
**26 July 1942:** 2/28 Bn attacks Miteriya Ridge during the El Alamein campaign, only to be overrun by Germans because Allied armoured support could not get through enemy lines to support them  
**28 July 1916:** Sgt Claud Castleton, 5 MG Coy, awarded the VC for his actions near Pozieres. He died during the action

# RUSIA Defence Update

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

## The Volunteer Defence Corps in the Second World War



The Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) was an Australian part-time volunteer military force during the Second World War. It was established in July 1940 by the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (now the RSL) and initially composed of ex-servicemen who had served in the First World War. Modelled on the British Home Guard - the famous 'Dad's Army' - VDC members were initially veterans who could do guard and other duties in Australia. This enabled younger men to be deployed overseas with the Second Australian Imperial Force. The VDC was later handed over to Army control and comprised men from all parts of Australia and various civilian backgrounds, volunteers unfit for combat in the regular forces, over the age limit or in reserved occupations. By 1944 the VDC had 111 battalions with a total of over 75,000 men. Their story is not well recorded. A compilation volume *On Guard with the Volunteer Defence Corps* was published by the Australian War Memorial in 1944 but there are very few published histories of VDC units.

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

## Defence

Since Australia hosts US facilities, we need a joint war plan: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)  
US, Australia launch largest-ever Talisman Sabre drills aboard HMAS Adelaide [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)  
A studiously ignored problem: force projected from Australia must go through Indonesia: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)  
Cost of Defence's roadmap for spending 3 percent of GDP on defence: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)  
Australia says China likely to spy on military drills with US: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)  
South Pacific threats are rising. JORN now needs to look eastwards: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

China is still coercing Australia – with implicit threats: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Arrival of the world's largest submarine cable installation vessel in Western Australia: [\(P\)Aspi](#)  
Army's Typhon missile system strikes at-sea target during milestone launch in Australia: [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)

## Navy

US, Australia and Japan sign trilateral naval logistics agreement: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Protecting Australia's maritime domain, AUKUS is pathway to self-reliance: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## New Zealand

New Zealand Air Force launches dedicated space squadron: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

## Indo Pacific

U.S. to construct Philippine fast boat base near South China Sea flashpoints: [\(M\)USNI](#)

## UK

Warship attempts to 'breach' British carrier group: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

## US

US is selling weapons to NATO allies to give to Ukraine, Trump says: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Pentagon just made a massive, long overdue shift to arm its troops with thousands of drones:

[\(M\)WarZone](#)

Step toward blocking E-7 Wedgetail radar jet program cancellation taken by Congress:

[\(M\)WarZone](#)

USNI News fleet and Marine tracker: [\(M\)USNI](#)

Trump downplays possibility of sending Ukraine long-range weapons: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

## Middle East

British drone conducts air strike in Syria against terrorist: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

Israel and Iran usher in new era of psychological warfare: [\(P\)NYTimes](#)

How Iran overplayed its hand: [\(M\)WarontheRocks](#)

## Ukraine

Ukraine spy chief says 40% of Russian ammunition is North Korean: [\(M\)Military.com](#)

Digitize or die: Ukraine's war is a wake-up call for 20th century militaries: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Ukraine fielding new crop of unmanned boats optimized for river combat: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Trump on Putin: pleasant calls, deadly outcomes: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

## Russia

Russia might finally be done with its perpetually broken aircraft carrier: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

## China

Pacific military balance tilting in China's favor, says new Defense of Japan Report: [\(M\)USNI](#)

China's dual-use space sector goes global: [\(M\)IISS](#)

## Military History

Australia's most famous ambush – Gemas: [\(F\)PrinciplesofWar](#)

Missing bow of World War II cruiser found after 83 years: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

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