



Volume 19 | Issue 2  
19 June 2023

# RUSIV Defence Update

## Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

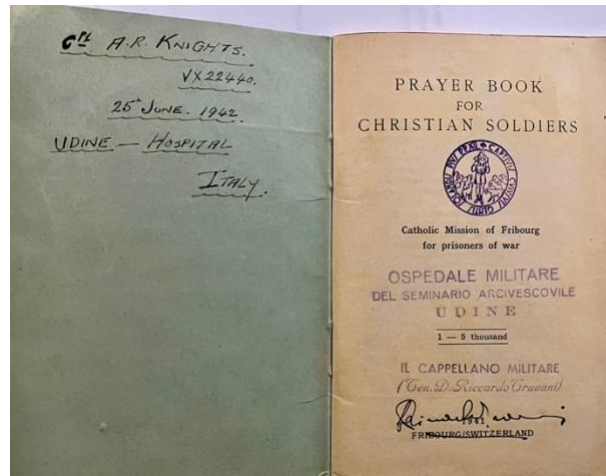
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### Forthcoming Anniversaries

- 20 June 1864: Australians engage Maoris at Te Ranga, NZ
- 21 June 1940: HMAS Sydney and Stuart bombard Bardia
- 21 June 1942: Tobruk falls to Axis forces
- 22 June 1945: Australians begin operations to seize oilfields at Seria (Brunei) and Miri-Lutong (Sarawak)
- 23 June 1885: NSW contingent to Sudan returns to Sydney
- 24 June 1942: Rommel attacks Egypt. British forces fall back to El Alamein
- 25 June 1950: North Korean forces cross the 38th Parallel to invade South Korea. Australian observer reports this to UN
- 25 June 1957: Australians in action near the Thai border, Malaya
- 26 June 1916: Pte John Jackson, 17 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions southeast of Bois Grenier, France
- 26 June 1945: In what will become the largest combined military seaborne operation in Australian history, an invasion fleet of more than 200 ships carrying 7 Div begins leaving Morotai for Balikpapan

## POW of the Germans & Italians



This prayer book of Swiss origin was given to VX22440 Corporal Alan Robert Knights, a former hotel manager of Middle Brighton Victoria. He was a member of C Company of the 2/24th Australian Infantry Battalion who was wounded and captured at Tobruk on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1941.

The pamphlet is evidence of his hospitalisation in Udine in north-eastern Italy. His later POW camps are recorded as Campo 57, Camp 66 (both in Italy) and Stalag VIII-A and Stalag XI-B in Germany.

Australian soldiers were held in Campo 57, at Gruppignano near Udine. The camp was commanded by Colonel Vittorio Calcaterra, described by one prisoner as “a sadist and a beast and an accessory to murder”. Campo 66 was at Capua. Stalag VIII-A was located just to the south of the town of Görlitz in Lower Silesia, east of the River Neisse. It held up to 30,000 Allied prisoners of war (POWs), before its evacuation in February 1945. Stalag XI-B was just to the east of the town of Fallingbostal in Lower Saxony. the camps at Fallingbostal were liberated on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1945 by British troops. He died on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1995 in Elwood Vic.

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

## Defence

National defence strategy will need to clarify Australia’s approach to deterrence:

[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Defence budget set to take a big inflationary hit: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Govt urged to act on AUKUS Pillar II roadblocks: [\(M\)InnovationAus](#)

## Navy

Combat systems agreement boosts Australia' shipbuilding capability : [\(M\)NavalNews](#)

## Army

6 RAR King's and Regimental Colours Parade: [\(F\)Defence](#)

## Air Force

Exercise Black Dagger 23-1: [\(F\)RAAF](#)

Operation Solania - maritime surveillance in the Pacific: [\(F\)Defence](#)

9 Squadron reformed as MQ-4C Triton operator: [\(M\)Contact](#)

## Indonesia

Indonesia buys Qatari Mirage jets to plug fighter gap: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Pacific

Australia's opportunity to help close the Pacific's digital divide: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## US

House Dems introduce bill to allow Virginia sub transfer to Aussies: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Five urgent steps to prevent American military defeat in the Pacific: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

The Army is developing these programs to fight in the Pacific: [\(F\)DefenseNews](#)

## UK

Britain's Ajax program involved 'systemic and institutional' failures: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## NATO

NATO finalizing new Ukraine Council to draw Kyiv 'politically closer' to alliance: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Ukraine

Russia's improved weaponry and tactics challenge Ukraine offensive: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Ukraine has officially launched its counter-offensive: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Ukrainian offensive faces tough fight in initial stages: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Ukraine's counteroffensive begins: shall the Leopards break free? [\(M\)RUSI](#)

Atomic group visits Ukraine nuclear plant: [\(P\)DefenseNews](#)

Dumb and cheap: When facing electronic warfare in Ukraine, small drones' quantity is quality: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Military History

The F-111's fatal flaw: [\(F\)RAAFDocumentaries](#)

The problem child of Europe (1940): [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

The last WW1 trophy guns: [\(F\)Felton](#)

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