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Please see attached note about the **Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program 2026**

RUSIA Defence Update

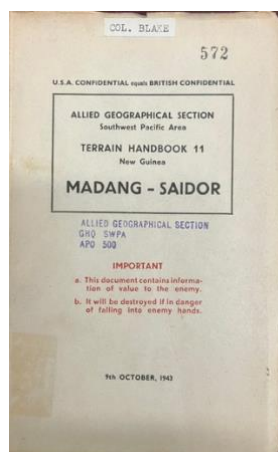
A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

The Allied Geographical Section

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Library Catalogues:
[RUSINSW](#)
[Monash Memorial Defence Library](#)
[RUSI London](#)

Forthcoming Anniversaries

18 November 1942: 16 Bde captures Popondetta, New Guinea
19 November 1914: Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force occupies Admiralty and Western Islands
19 November 1941: German raider Kormoran sinks HMAS Sydney with all hands. Kormoran also sinks
20 November 1917: 55 Siege Bty fires in support of British tanks at Cambrai, France
21 November 1950: 3 RAR concentrates with 27 Commonwealth Bde for advance to Yalu River, Korea
23 November 1901: Lt Leslie Maygar, 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles, awarded the VC for his actions Geelhoutboom, Natal



The Allied Geographic Section (AGS) was a joint US & Australian Second World War intelligence agency operating from Melbourne and then Brisbane from 1942 to 1945. The AGS provided reports to Australian and allied forces on topographic, geographic, hydrographic and anthropologic information on the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) to aid recapture. The Terrain Handbooks in this extensive collection contain text, diagrams, photographs and various sized coloured maps.

This copy (573) was assigned to Major (later Colonel) W. V. Jardine-Blake, AIF, who served at Gallipoli and in command of the 35th Battalion on the Western Front during the Great War, and later commanded the Allied Geographical Section in Australia during the Second World War; seeing operational service in the Philippines, for his services he was awarded the United States Legion of Merit, one of only perhaps only seven awarded to Australian Army personnel during the Second World War.

The Monash Memorial Defence Library holdings of AGS Terrain Handbooks are visible in our catalog.

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

Defence

Australia's spy boss warned of a Russian threat – and it's unfolding in real time: [\(M\)SBS](#)
Australian startup raises \$46 million for world's first hydrogen-fueled hypersonic flight: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)
Australia, Indonesia agree to sign new security treaty: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)
Australia becomes a risk-taking ally: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Navy

Australian Canberra-class LHD with MQ-9B and CCA: [\(F\)NavalNews](#)
RADM Hugues discusses Upgraded Mogami frigate for Australia: [\(F\)NavalNews](#)

Air Force

The digital battlefield around Australia's South China Sea patrols: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
Exercise Mobility Bluegum 2025: [\(F\)Defence](#)

New Zealand

Leading without a map: The NZDF's journey in WPS implementation: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

UK

British Army recruit numbers drop 38% since 2019: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

UK holds off on Type 32 frigate plans pending review: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

Canada

Recommended: Navy commander insists Canada should buy unmodified submarines: [\(M\)TorontoSun](#)

US

A look at the future of Army technology: [\(F\)DefenseNews](#)

Make the Pentagon's China Report really matter: [\(M\)WarontheRocks](#)

As drones proliferate, Army pilots worry about their future. Will a new approach to flight school help? [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Funding for E-7 Wedgetail included in bipartisan deal to end 41-day government shutdown: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Losing perspective: nuclear weapons and U.S. national security strategy: [\(M\)RealClearDefense](#)

NATO & EU

Middle East

Gaza death toll tops 69,000 as Israel and militants again exchange remains: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Netanyahu and Kushner meet as Gaza ceasefire's first phase winds down: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Ukraine

Zelenskyy: 'We want to order 25 Patriot' air defense systems from US: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

China & Taiwan

China commissions first catapult-equipped aircraft carrier: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

China's military may discard its rigid command structure, report warns: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

China's steel slowdown and the global iron-ore and emissions outlook: [\(M\)IISS](#)

Russia

Upgraded Russian spy ship escorted out of North Sea: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

Ukraine-Russia war latest: Putin's troops exploit bad weather to step up assault in Pokrovsk: [\(M\)Independent](#)

Military History

QF 25pdr Short Gun Howitzer: [\(F\)AWM](#)

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

Recommended: How one radar operator's "mad" frequency switch made Chain Home invisible to Germans: [\(F\)BritainatWar](#)

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Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program 2026

The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia (RUSI-A) is joining with Macquarie University (MacqU) to apply for a research grant under the Commonwealth's 2026 Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program (SPGP).

For RUSI to re-establish its credibility as a 'think tank' within Defence at a strategic policy level, we need to win a research grant and deliver on it competently. RUSI-A recently entered a MOU with Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer from MacqU that sets out the processes to be followed by the parties in undertaking an application for a SPGP grant.

2026 SPGP Application

Applications for the 2026 SPGP must align with or address priorities and challenges outlined in the 2024 *National Defence Strategy* **OR** address one of the following Priority Policy Questions:

1. What measures can Defence pursue to enhance Australia's national preparedness and resilience against the risk of major conflict?
2. How can Defence and industry partners better collaborate to achieve National Defence Strategy outcomes?
3. How can emerging or disruptive technologies contribute to a strategy of denial in the Indo-Pacific?
4. How might Indo-Pacific alliances and partnerships promote regional deterrence over the coming decade?
5. How can Australia and Indo-Pacific countries shift policy approaches to grey zone behaviour and stabilise norms?

The SPGP encourages international perspectives and diverse backgrounds to enrich understanding and analysis of global strategic policy issues. Applicants must collaborate with an Australian think tank or academic institution on all grant activities.

Research Theme

Paul Irving (President RUSI-A), Chris Skinner (RUSI Strategy SIG) and Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer have developed a research theme that will address Priority Policy Question 4: *How might Indo-Pacific alliances and partnerships promote regional deterrence over the coming decade?*

The theme is based on a study of how major defence exercises are an effective deterrent mechanism. The project will unpick how major exercises KAKADU, PITCH BLACK, HAMEL, TALISMAN SABRE *et al* contribute to deterrence and produce recommendations on how to extract the maximum deterrent effect from these exercises.

The project is a unique collaboration between Macquarie University and RUSI that will bring together each organisation's singular strengths and is a marvellous opportunity to build a reputation for RUSI-A as a credible player in the strategic policy arena in Australia.

MacqU will be the lead organisation and Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer will be the overall Project Lead. Chris Skinner will champion the project on behalf of RUSI-A. He will be the project 'leader' at the administrative level and will co-ordinate RUSI-A input; however, he needs to be supported by members of RUSI who are willing to undertake research on the topic, including using the resources of the RUSI NSW Ursula Davidson Library, the RUSI VIC Monash Memorial Defence Library and the libraries of other RUSIs.

If we are successful in this grant application, I envisage that in 2026/27, there would be two travelling road shows to all RUSIs, one in the second half of 2026 to engage with members and others interested in the research project, and then towards the end of the project to confirm the draft deliverable reports and recommendations.

Members of RUSI with background relevant to the proposed research or who otherwise are interested in it are invited to indicate their interest in participating in the project should the grant application be successful. If you are interested in becoming involved in the research project, your early advice to me would be appreciated.