



# RUSIA Defence Update

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

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## Forthcoming Anniversaries

**11 May 1945:** 6 Div captures Wewak, New Guinea  
**11 May 1969:** WO2 Ray Simpson, AATTV, awarded the VC for his actions in Việt Nam  
**12 May 1917:** Lt Rupert Moon, 58 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Bullecourt  
**12 May 1945:** Cpl John Mackey, 2/3 Pnr Bn, awarded the VC posthumously for his actions on Tarakan Island, East Indies (now Indonesia)  
**12 May 1917:** Lt Rupert Moon, 58 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Bullecourt  
**12 May 1945:** Cpl John Mackey, 2/3 Pnr Bn, awarded the VC posthumously for his actions on Tarakan Island, East Indies (now Indonesia)  
**13 May 1943:** Australian ground commitment in British North Africa campaign ends at Tunisia  
**14 May 1943:** Hospital ship Centaur sunk by Japanese submarine off Queensland, killing 268 people. Only 63 men and one female nurse rescued by USS Mugford  
**15 May 1945:** Pte Edward Kenna, 2/4 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Wewak, New Guinea



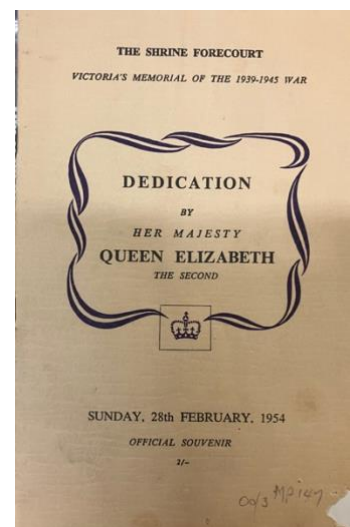
## The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

The Shrine of Remembrance was built to provide a place to grieve and remember Victorians killed in the First World War (1914-1918). It now provides a place of remembrance for Australian service and sacrifice in all wars since Australia's Federation in 1901.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1934 Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester and son of King George V, officially opened the Shrine before a crowd of 300,000 people.

In 1954 the Second World War Memorial Forecourt was completed. The Forecourt, which includes the Cenotaph and Eternal Flame was dedicated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 28<sup>th</sup> February that year. The flame, symbolising eternal life, was lit by Her Majesty during the dedication. The Cenotaph is a single pillar of stone rising 12.5 metres, topped with a carving made from Footscray basalt, designed by sculptor George Allen. The carving depicts 6 men in the uniforms of the 3 Australian services—the Navy, Army and Air Force, carrying a dead comrade draped in the Australian national flag.

A post-1945 conflicts memorial was added in 1985 and altered to include later conflicts.



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

## Strategy

Australia's grey-zone problem is a thinking gap, not a capability gap: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

The role of private sector intelligence in a divided world: [\(F\)RUSI](#)

RUSI of NSW strategy report May 2026: [\(P\)RUSINSW](#)

## Defence

Enhanced defence and security cooperation with Japan: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Japan and Australia are perfect partners in the world of AI: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Army

Second HIMARS regiment funded: [\(M\)Contact](#)

## Air Force

Exercise Mobility Astra: [\(F\)RAAF](#)

The eyes of autonomy: building safer skies with ARENA detect-and-avoid system: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Exercise Pitch Black returns in 2026: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

## Indonesia

Indonesia: democracy without collapse: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

## Indo-Pacific

India to build strategic outpost near key shipping lane in Indo-Pacific: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

'This is how we prevail in the Pacific': US, allies train to repel amphibious assault: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

## UK

The quiet demise of HMS *Iron Duke*: down to 5 frigates: [\(F\)Warships&Warriors](#)

AI-enabled vulnerability discovery is reshaping national cyber defence: [\(M\)RUSI](#)

## NATO & EU

Trump says 'probably' when asked if he might pull US troops out of Italy, Spain: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Some US troops cite benefits of Germany presence as Trump threatens pullback: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

France moves carrier into Red Sea ahead of potential Hormuz mission: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Europe defense autonomy is in reach at €50 billion a year: German experts: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Poland becomes first nation to sign EU SAFE loans, expects billions for defense: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

France moves carrier into Red Sea ahead of potential Hormuz mission: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## US

New Pentagon UFO files include reports from moon landings: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Getting our adversaries out of Cuba should be our immediate goal: [\(M\)CipherBrief](#)

## Middle East

Iran denies ship attack as Trump warns of renewed bombing, eyes deal: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

US forces disable Iranian-flagged tankers trying to cross blockade: [\(M\)NavyTimes](#)

## China & Taiwan

China's grey-zone fleet is eroding Taiwan's control at sea: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Taiwan's mobilisation model holds lessons for Australia: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

China and the war in Iran: pragmatism and national resilience: [\(M\)IISS](#)

## Military History

Documenting a disaster: the WW1 combat cameraman: [\(F\)BattleGuide](#)

What happened when Australia SAS in Vietnam decided to raid the US supply depots: [\(F\)WW2RealStories](#)

One codebreaker faked a water shortage Japan lost 4 carriers in one day: [\(F\)UntoldWarNarratives](#)

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