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RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Royal United Services
Institute of Victoria
rusivc.org.au
secretary@rusivc.org.au

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Forthcoming Anniversaries

29 September 1918: Maj Blair Wark, 32 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions from Bellicourt to Joncourt. Battle of St Quentin Canal, France, begins

30 September 1918: Light Horse cuts Ottoman escape from Barada Gorge

1 October 1918: Allied cavalry, including Australian Light Horse regiments, enter Damascus, Syria

2 October 1943: Australian infantry capture Finschhafen, New Guinea, from Japanese

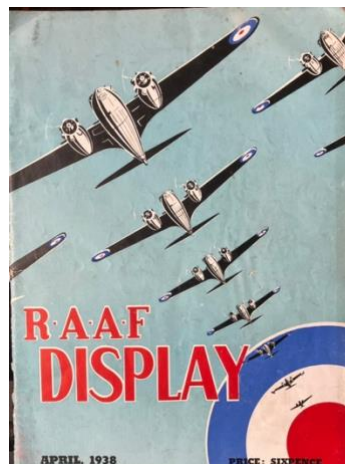
3 October 1918: Lt Joseph Maxwell, 19 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Beaurevoir line, France

3 October 1950: 3 RAR suffers first Australian casualties of Korean War

4 October 1917: Sgt Lewis McGee, 40 Bn, and LCpl Walter Peeler, 3 Pnr Bn, awarded VCs for their actions east of Ypres, Belgium

5 October 1918: Last Australian action of the First World War captures Montbrehain, France

The RAAF in 1938



This is the 48-page Souvenir Programme for an RAAF display in April 1938. It was staged in Sydney & Melbourne, with the Victorian venue being Flemington Racecourse.

87 aircraft took part in the demonstration. The types included were Moths, Avro Trainers, Wapitis Bulldogs, Seagull Vs, Demons, Gannets, Magisters, Wirraways (N.A. 16 & N.A. 33) and Avro Ansons. With perhaps the exception of the Ansons, none of these aircraft were really fit for service in the Second World War. Pilots included Sqn Ldr A.M. Charlesworth, AFC and Sqn Ldr F.R.W. Scherger.

The display was enthusiastically received by the [public](#) and more than 200 enlistment enquiries were received. There is little doubt that this display demonstrated the parlous state of the equipment of the Air Force on the eve of conflict

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

Defence

How to count Australian defence spending as (almost) 2.8 percent of GDP: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

National defence means supporting defence families: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

Frigate and flight find their rhythm: [\(M\)Contact](#)

Army

Australian tapped as deputy UN commander in South Korea: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Air Force

Australian F-35As visit Brunei: [\(M\)Contact](#)

Southeast Asia

Recommended: Southeast Asia influence index: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Indo-Pacific

The UK's 2025 carrier strike group deployment and Britain's Indo-Pacific tilt: [\(P\)RUSI](#)

UK

British Poseidon in first mid-air refuelling in UK skies: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

Royal Navy commissions new Astute-class submarine, starts final Dreadnought build: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

US

Secret Service says it disrupted illicit cellular network threatening UN conference: [\(M\)TheRecord](#)

Trump says Ukraine can win back all territory, in sudden shift: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

World's most powerful warship sends message to Russia: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

NATO & EU

Germany to buy anti-torpedo torpedo in 2026, leaked document shows: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

3 Russian fighter jets entered Estonian airspace in 'brazen' incursion: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

US approves sale of over 2,500 Javelin anti-tank missiles to Poland: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

EU ministers to ponder what a 'drone wall' for Europe could look like: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

State clears Germany for \$1.2 billion worth of AMRAAMs: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Middle East

Israel can no longer wish Palestine away: but symbolic statehood is no panacea for the Palestinians: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

Ukraine

Ukrainian drones strike Russia's rare Be-12 flying boats: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

Ukraine expects \$3.5 billion fund for US weapons, Zelenskyy says: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Ukraine flaunts massive underwater drone with 2,000-km strike reach: [\(M\)NextGenDefense](#)

Ukraine navy, a battle-tested force, plays enemy in NATO drone drill: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Russia

Russia says NATO airspace accusations create 'tension': [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Recommended: Arsonist, killer, saboteur, spy: while Trump courts him, Putin is escalating Russia's hybrid war against the West: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

The paradox of Russian escalation and NATO's response: [\(M\)IISS](#)

China

China and Russia conduct joint sub patrols — should America worry? [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

The China threat goes beyond the Pacific, intel chiefs say: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

China's latest aircraft carrier showcases new fighter jet launch system. Only the US has the same tech: [\(M\)CNN](#)

Military History

Shaking General Monash's pedestal: the Battle of Hamel 4 July 1918 | Dr Derek Clayton: [\(F\)WFA](#)

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