



Volume 24 | Issue 4  
8 April 2024

Royal United Services Institute  
of Victoria  
rusivic.org.au  
secretary@rusivic.org.au  
Library Catalogue:  
www.thecollectingbug.com/rusivictoria/

#### Forthcoming Anniversaries

**9 April 1917:** Pte Thomas Kenny, 2 Bn, awarded VC for his actions at Hermies, France  
**9 April 1942:** Aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and destroyer HMAS Vampire are sunk off the coast of Ceylon  
**10 April 1941:** 6 Div engages Germans in Greece. Siege of Tobruk begins  
**11 April 1917:** The first attack on Bullecourt, with tanks in support, is unsuccessful  
**12 April 1941:** Anzac Corps reformed in Greece by Gen Thomas Blamey  
**13 April 1924:** HMAS Australia sunk outside Sydney as part of the Washington Naval Treaty British fleet reductions  
**13 April 1941:** Cpl John Edmonson, 2/17 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Tobruk. This is the first VC awarded to an Australian during WW2  
**14 April 1943:** RAAF and USAAF shoot down 21 Japanese planes over Milne Bay, New Guinea

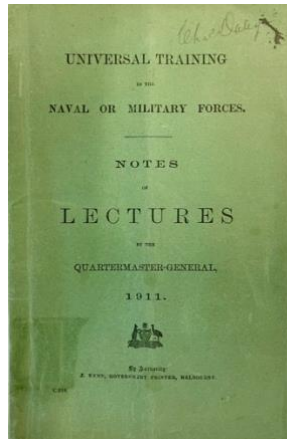
# RUSIV Defence Update

## Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

## Universal Training 1911



Between 1911 and 1929 Australian males aged between 18 and 60 were required to perform militia service within Australia and its territories. The Defence Acts of 1903 and 1904, empowered the Australian Government to call up 'unexempted' males in time of war. The *Defence Act 1909* made training and service compulsory in time of peace.

This first scheme of universal training came into operation on 1 January 1911. The Minister for Defence presented a comprehensive report on the progress of the scheme for the period 1911 to June 1912. Annual statistics for the number of registrations, medical examinations and exemptions under the universal training scheme are included in the Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia for the years 1910 to 1929.

The scheme had a chequered rate of success. The junior cadets were abolished in June 1922, and universal military training and the holding of military camps was suspended from 1 November 1929, pending a general review of defence policy. ([NAA](#))

This copy of *Universal Training in the Naval or Military Forces: Notes of lectures by the Quartermaster-General, (1911)* appears to be the only one in Australian libraries.

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

## Defence

US Marines arrive at Darwin for training: ([M](#))[AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

US, Australia collaborate on integrated air and missile defence test:

([M](#))[AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Australia's DefendTex in talks to buy Brazil's missile-maker Avibras: ([M](#))[DefenseNews](#)

Hanwha Group bids for global shipbuilder Austal: ([M](#))[AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Austal rejects Hanwha's takeover bid – for now: ([M](#))[BreakingDefense](#)

Chief defence scientist: *We must get emerging technologies into the hands of our war fighters faster*":

([M](#))[AspiStrategist](#)

Closer Pacific integration could help solve the ADF's recruitment problems: ([M](#))[AspiStrategist](#)

Will AUKUS lead Australia down the nuclear path? ([M](#))[EurekaStreet](#)

Rethinking Australia's wartime maritime trade: ([M](#))[AspiStrategist](#)

## Air Force

RAAF Poseidon's first visit to French-held Réunion Island: [\(M\)Contact](#)

24/7 eyes in the sky | Triton MQ-4C in RAAF service: [\(F\)AustralianMilitaryAviationHistory](#)

ADF | Soaring Eagle | Op Kudu E-7A Wedgetail: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Hardening Australia's northern air bases: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Indonesia

China and Indonesia vow to boost defence ties as Prabowo Subianto seeks to reassure Beijing ahead of inauguration: [\(M\)SouthChinaMorningPost](#)

## UK

Is the UK preparing for war amid threats of conflict? [\(M\)SkyNews](#)

## US

DIU launches first AUKUS prize challenge focused on electromagnetic spectrum: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Biden and Xi discuss TikTok, South China Sea and de-risking in call: [\(M\)Nikkei](#)

## Canada

Minister of National Defence message for the RCAF 100th Anniversary: [\(F\)CAF](#)

Canada's biosecurity scandal: the risks of foreign interference in life sciences: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## India

India in the Quad: insider or outlier? [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## EU

Denmark fires chief of defense, runs into more naval issues: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Ukraine

Finland signs Ukraine security deal, Zelenskiy warns of Russia troop plans: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

## Russia

Why Russia wants to destabilize Moldova: [\(F\)ISW](#)

## Middle East

**Recommended:** 'Lavender': The AI machine directing Israel's bombing spree in Gaza: [\(M\)+972mag](#)

## Military History

Australia's Battle of Beersheba [\(F\)Army](#)

Did Japan attack the Continental US - fact or fantasy? [\(F\)Felton](#)