



RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Library Catalogues:
[RUSINSW](#)
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Forthcoming Anniversaries

13 July 1943: Australians clear Muho, New Guinea, of Japanese troops

15 July 1940: RSL forms the Volunteer Defence Corps

16 July 1940: HMAS Stuart and Waterhen used in screen at the bombardment of Bardia

18 July 1918: Lt Albert Borella, 26 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Villers-Bretonneux, France

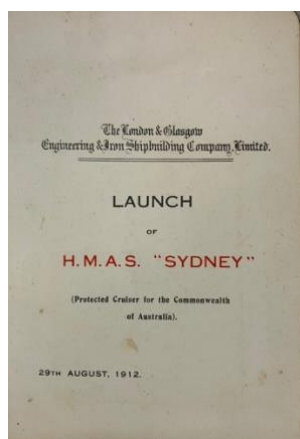
19 July 1916: The disastrous Battle of Fromelles

19 July 1940: HMAS Sydney sinks Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni off Crete

20 July 1943: HMAS Hobart hit by torpedoes from Japanese submarine I-11 while en route to Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu



HMAS Sydney (1)



The first HMAS *Sydney* was a Town class “protected cruiser”. It was one of three ordered in 1910 and which formed part of the initial RAN fleet. *Sydney* is best remembered for sinking the German raider SMS *Emden* in November 1914.

Sydney launched at the London & Glasgow Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding Company on the south bank of the River Clyde on 29th August 1912. The ship cost approximately £385,000 to build. She commissioned at Portsmouth on 26th June 1913, with Captain John C T Glossop, RN as her first commanding officer. After departing Portsmouth on 25 July 1913, *Sydney* reached Albany, Western Australia, on 19 September 1913.

On 4 October *Sydney* took part in the ceremonial entry of the RAN Fleet Unit to Sydney harbour. It was welcomed by tens of thousands of spectators who lined the shores of the harbour. *Sydney*'s first overseas visit was to Singapore in March 1914. There it met the two new RAN submarines, *AE1* and *AE2*, and escorted them to Australia.

After the war's end, *Sydney* spent a year in reserve before being reactivated to serve as Flagship of the RAN. The cruiser was decommissioned in 1928 and broken up for scrap. Several sections of the ship, including her bow and foremast, have been preserved as monuments, and three of the ship's main guns saw later use in shore fortifications.

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

Strategy

Why navies still matter in the age of drones: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Army

As one Australian Army brigade bulks up with armor, its fuel and ammo needs spike: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Air Force

Allies sharpen Pacific readiness: [\(M\)Defence](#)

New Zealand

New Zealand joins US-led push for shared AI battlefield command: [\(M\)MilitaryaiAI](#)

Pacific & Southeast Asia

Indonesia drops KF-21 co-production plans, eying stock warplanes instead: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

UK

UK to equip Commando force with high-speed craft in \$666m upgrade: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

NATO & EU

NATO summit host Turkey sees its alliance clout rising amid war raging nearby: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

NATO picks Saab GlobalEye to replace aging E-3 AWACS fleet: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

Norway provides both a model, and a warning, for NATO: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Europeans to fill almost all gaps left by US in NATO defense plans, source says: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

NATO's three-front problem: [M\(IISS\)](#)

After Ankara: first reflections on the 2026 NATO summit: [\(P\)RUSI](#)

Canada

Canada selects Germany's ThyssenKrupp to build new submarine fleet: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

US

F-15EX and Ghost Bat team up over Pacific during Valiant Shield: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

Middle East

Iran was the most successful failure in US airpower history: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Hamas announces dissolution of Gaza governing body: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

US and Iran exchange intensifying fire across Mideast, threatening ceasefire deal: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Ukraine

Dr Jack Watling on Ukrainian adaptation to war: [\(P\)RUSI](#)

Russian strikes kill 20, exposing Ukraine's air-defense shortage: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Ukraine signs \$2.5 billion contract with Sweden for Gripen E deliveries by 2029: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

China

Chinese ballistic missile test is said to undermine nuclear weapons-free zone in South Pacific: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

China test-launches ballistic missile from sub in South Pacific, drawing protests: [\(M\)CBSNews](#)

More salami-slicing: now China mounts coast guard patrols east of Taiwan: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Comfortable in a truce with the US, China pushes Taiwan harder: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Yes, China does seek hegemony: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Beijing is testing who will stand by Taiwan: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

Soldier settlers: [\(F\)ACMI](#)

History of soldier settlement in Victoria - battle to farm: [\(F\)PROV](#)

