



# RUSIA Defence Update

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

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## Forthcoming Anniversaries

**18 May 1915:** Maj Gen William Bridges dies of wounds on board the hospital ship Gascon. Gen Bridges' grave is on the high ground between RMC and ADFA

**19 May 1918:** Sgt William Ruthven, 22nd Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Ville-sur-Ancre, France

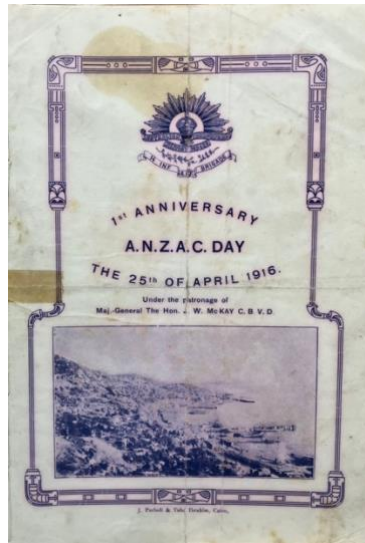
**20 May 1915:** LCpl Albert Jacka, 14 Bn New Zealand and Australian Div, won the first Australian WWI VC for his actions at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli

**22 May 1945:** Australian troops take Buin Road, Bougainville

**24 May 1942:** HMAS Nestor assists in the hunt for the Bismarck



## The First Anzac Day - Egypt



The first Anzac Day was commemorated in several countries and locations. This is the programme for the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade's ceremony held in Egypt as the brigade was training prior to being deployed to the Western Front. The brigade had recently been formed based on soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade: it consisted of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, 54<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Battalions. It was part of the newly-raised 5<sup>th</sup> Division commanded by Major General James McCay who was the Patron of this commemoration.

The events were in two parts – a sports carnival and a band recital. The daytime carnival included athletic (100 yards, greasy pole, tug of war, pillow fight & and high & fancy diving competitions; the evening concert was held in the brigade lines.

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

## Strategy

Civic patriotism strengthens our democracy: [\(M\)AspistrStrategist](#)

## Defence

Australia unveils \$45.2 billion defense budget with ramp up in AUKUS spending: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

2026 defence budget – A\$17.4 billion in spending uplift still undecided: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Something else for Australia to consider: Russian nuclear subs in the Pacific: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Navy

Raytheon awarded SeaRAM contract for Australian frigates: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Hedging our bets: a potential Japanese option for managing risk in the AUKUS optimal pathway: [\(M\)ASPI](#)

## Army

National Defence Strategy 2026: [\(F\)Army](#)

## Air Force

Hegseth says E-7 Wedgetail 'has a future,' reversing planned cancellation: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Indonesia

Indonesia becomes first export customer of Turkey's Kizilelma combat drone: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

## Indo-Pacific & Southeast Asia

Pakistan's first Chinese submarine set to boost naval capability: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

No solidarity: Southeast Asian countries split as each seeks Iranian oil: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## UK

All guns blazing: the UK sets up \$1.35 billion RCH 155 artillery order: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Canada

Canada eyes Turkey as a fellow mid-power ally in weapons development: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## NATO & EU

From destroyers to drones, how a Europe-led coalition aims to open the Strait of Hormuz: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## US

The next Army chief won't inherit a force he'll inherit an argument: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Cyberattacks are now part of US counterterrorism strategy: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Trump-class battleship will get same nuclear reactor as Ford aircraft carrier: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

**Recommended:** A world with two Americas: [\(F\)Lowy](#)

## Middle East

Trump rejects Iran's response to latest US proposal to end the war: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Price tag for Iran war ticks up to \$29B, not including base damage: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Ukraine

Ukraine and Russia fight on despite US-mediated ceasefire: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

## Russia

In Russian military parade meant to project power, analysts see 'real vulnerability': [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## China & Taiwan

Not just commercial litigation: China is trying to keep Darwin Port: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Military History

Every UK overseas military base, mapped: [\(F\)IWM](#)

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