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We wish all our readers a Happy New Year

RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Forthcoming Anniversaries

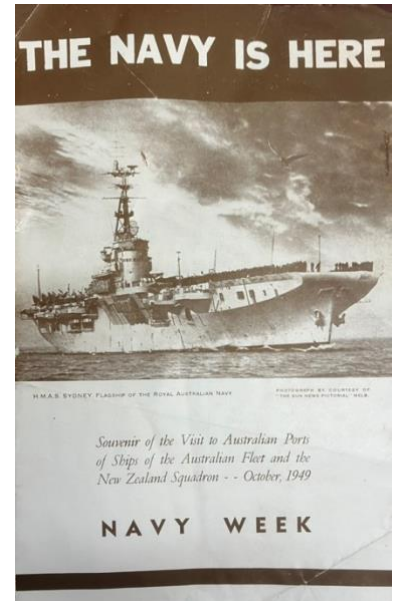
30-31 December 1944: Battle of Pearl Ridge, Bougainville
31 December 1967: 3 RAR arrives in Việt Nam on board HMAS Sydney
1 January 1901: Queensland Mounted Infantry Regiment suffers the first casualties of any Australian colony in the second Anglo-Boer War
1 January 1956: 2 RAR contacts communists in Malaya
2 January 1942: 8th Div makes contact with Japanese in Malaya
3-5 January 1941: Battle of Bardia
4 January 1902: Victorians repulse Boers at Onverwacht, South Africa
5 January 1941: 6 Div captures Bardia

Navy Week 1949

The first post-war Navy Week began in Melbourne on 20 October 1949. Ten Australian and New Zealand warships arrived at Port Melbourne and remained there for a fortnight. The celebrations provided opportunities for the public to see the ships and to arouse interest in the appeal for funds for a second memorial chapel at the Flinders Naval Depot (now HMAS Cerberus), to commemorate officers and men of the Royal Australian Navy who lost their lives in the first and second world wars.

The vessels were the newly designated flagship, the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney, together with the cruiser HMAS Australia, destroyer Warramunga and frigate Shoalhaven with the cruiser HMNZS Bellona and frigates HMNZS Taupo, Kaniere, Tutira, Rotoiti and Pukaki.

The RAN had mobilised from a pre-war strength of 5440 to a wartime 37,200 plus 2700 WRANS. In 1949 it was 12,000 strong: its strength now is over 16,000.



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

Defence

Editors' picks for 2025: 'Australia's defences must be ready in two years. Here's what to do':

[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Editors' picks for 2025: 'More F-35s, more tankers: a reliable way to strengthen Australian deterrence': [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Enhancing defence cooperation between Australia and India: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

Australia expands Evolved Cape patrol fleet with two additional boats: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Army

Austal Defence Australia awarded \$681 million landing craft contract Down Under:

[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

The Australian Army's new vehicles: [\(F\)MelPikos](#)

Air Force

Australia first to fly America's new JATM missile on F-35s and Super Hornets: [\(F\)NextGenWarfare](#)

Asia Pacific

International operations in the Western Pacific: [\(M\)USNI](#)

Japan's Cabinet approves record defense budget aiming to deter China as tensions grow: [\(M\)PBS](#)

UK

The submarine bottleneck: why US nuclear shipbuilding needed Britain: [\(F\)Warships&Warriors](#)

Meet the Long Range Reconnaissance Group: [\(F\)BritishArmy](#)

Success at sea - how CSG25 cemented a UK-Norway naval shift: [\(F\)BFBSForcesNews](#)

US

Navy to begin constructing 2 'Trump class' battleships: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Trump's new 'battleship' should not carry nukes: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

NATO & EU

Emmanuel Macron announces France will build a new aircraft carrier: [\(F\)France24](#)

Trump's appointment of envoy to Greenland sparks new tension with Denmark: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Middle East

Gaza's new normal: persistent limited conflict is more likely than peace: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

Israel Defense Minister vows to stay in Gaza, establish outposts: [\(m\)defensepost](#)

Ukraine

Russia using Belarus territory to bypass Ukraine's defences, says Zelenskyy: [\(M\)ALJazeera](#)

Russian drones, missiles pound Ukraine before Zelenskiy-Trump meeting: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

Russia

Lukashenko: Russian nuclear-capable Oreshnik missiles now in Belarus: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Putin's ex-defence chief known as the 'keeper of secrets' dies suddenly on Christmas Day: [\(F\)TheSun](#)

China

China likely loaded more than 100 ICBMs in silo fields, Pentagon report says: [\(M\)CNA](#)

Fujian enters service, J-10C impresses: 10 China military developments in 2025: [\(M\)SCMP](#)

Military History

Ask a librarian: the brownout strangler and Melbourne during WWII: [\(F\)SLV](#)

Battle of Hong Kong 1941: Britain's Christmas Day surrender: [\(F\)HistoryChap](#)

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