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RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 132nd Year

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Member contributions are always welcome

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Forthcoming Anniversaries

- 15 August 1944: RAAF bombers cover landings in southern France
- 15 August 1945: VP Day - the end of the Second World War
- 17 August 1966: Mortar attack on Australian base at Nui Dat, Vietnam
- 18 August 1966: 1 Aust Task Force in battle of Long Tan. D Coy 6 RAR awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation
- 19 August 1914: Australian Expeditionary Force sails to capture German positions in the Pacific and to destroy wireless installations
- 20 August 1901: Australians capture Boer wagon train at Wolmaranstad, South Africa
- 20 August 1941: 1st Polish (Carpathian) Bde relieves 18 Bde at Tobruk
- 21 August 1943: Australians capture Komiatum Ridge, New Guinea, from Japanese forces
- 22 August 1942: 18 Bde lands at Milne Bay, New Guinea
- 23 August 1918: Lt William Donovan Joynt, 8 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Herleville Wood, France. Lt Lawrence McCarthy, 16 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Madame Wood, France

Prisoners of the Japanese



The 1945 Red Cross Map of POW Camps with known locations

Over 22,000 Australians became prisoners of war of the Japanese in south-east Asia : army (about 21,000); RAN (354); and RAAF (373).

At the end of the Second World War, Australia placed a priority on the recovery of its prisoners of war, Fears were held for the captives. The experiences of our soldiers in Papua and New Guinea revealed Japanese cruelties. Extremely sparse correspondence from prisoners to their next-of-kin offered little comfort.

In 1944, the 1st Parachute Battalion was warned to prepare for a mission to rescue thousands of Allied prisoners held by the Japanese at Sandakan in North Borneo. This operation, codenamed Operation Kingfisher, was controversially cancelled and almost all the prisoners were subsequently killed by the Japanese in what subsequently became known as the Sandakan Death Marches.

The map above noted that the exact location of the Borneo camps was as yet unknown.

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

Defence

Recommended: Ten rules of the Australian way of war: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
The importance of not caring (too much) about what Beijing thinks of us: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Navy

Can a new conventional submarine smooth Australia's transition to a nuclear-powered fleet?
[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
UK Navy's newest frigates are coming, while the Australian Navy's new type 26 is ready to build:
[\(F\)WorldofMilitary](#)

Air Force

A forecast of Lightning for Pitch Black: [\(M\)Defence](#)

New Zealand

Questions raised about Chinese surveillance cameras in use in New Zealand: [\(M\)RadioNZ](#)

Guadalcanal 80th anniversary commemorations: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

Malaysia

Bersatu man calls for public inquiry into warship scandal: [\(M\)FreeMalaysiaToday](#)

Philippines

Philippines tries to claw back money after cancelling Russian helicopter deal: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

UK

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace admits 20-year Afghan military campaign ended in failure: [\(M\)NationalUK](#)

US

Infantry squad vehicle is getting a laser to destroy drones: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Next generation helicopters are coming: [\(F\)USMilitaryNews](#)

Ukraine

Russian offensive campaign assessment, August 8: [\(M\)InstituteForTheStudyOfWar](#)

Saky Airbase: examining the theories behind the explosions: [\(F\)ForcesNews](#)

Bodies of Russian mercenaries litter field after Donetsk battle with Ukrainian Army: [\(F\)RadioFreeEurope](#)

Russia-Ukraine war: what we know on day 172 of the invasion: [\(M\)Guardian](#)

China

China seeks to display its growing military might in Taiwan drills: [\(M\)FinancialTimes](#)

Russia

As Russian missiles struck Ukraine, Western tech still flowed: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

North Korea

North Korea's space capabilities and ambitions: [\(F\)RUSI](#)

Military History

Berlin's hated WW2 memorial: [\(F\)Felton](#)

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