RUSIA Defence Update

Forthcoming Anniversaries

25 June 1950: North Korean forces cross the 38th Parallel to invade South Korea
25 June 1957: Australians in action near the Thai border, Malaya
26 June 1916: Pte John Jackson, 17 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions southeast of Bois Grenier, France
26 June 1945: In what will become the largest combined military seaborne operation in Australian history, an invasion fleet of more than 200 ships carrying 7 Div begins leaving Morotai for Balikpapan
26 June 1956: Communist terrorists ambush Australians near Sungei Siput, Malaya
28 June 1918: Cpl Phillip Davey, 10 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Merris, France
28 June 1945: Pte Leslie Starcevich, 2/43 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions near Beaufort, British North Borneo

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

A Prisoner of the Ottomans

Guests of the Unspeakable was written by Thomas White (1888 - 1957). As an officer in the Australian Flying Corps while on a mission to cut telegraph wires near Baghdad on 13 November 1915, he was captured by Arabs and Turks. Imprisoned in Turkey, he escaped from a train in Constantinople (Istanbul) in July 1918, sailed to Odessa, Ukraine, Russia, as a stowaway in a cargo ship and reached London on 22 December. His book is an account of his adventures – he does not flatter his captors.

"The Opportunity Club Collingwood" most probably refers to the Collingwood Football Club, which has a strong focus on providing opportunities for its members, staff, and the wider community.

White is buried alongside his wife Vera (née Deakin) in the Point Londale cemetery, Victoria. Vera (1891 – 1978) had founded the Australian Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau which performed heroic work firstly in Cairo and then in London during the First World War.

The book must have joined the collection of the Nunawading Library. In sadly typical municipal library fashion, it was disposed of but is now valued as one of the rare books in the RUSIV library.

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

Defence
Cyber security to be key plank of new Australia-EU security pact: (M)CyberDaily
Europe and Australia commit to security and defence partnership: (M)EC
Now show the US, and Australians, how AUKUS addresses China threat: (M)AspiStrategist

Navy
USS *San Diego*, USS *Rushmore* join USS *America* in Sydney: (M)AsiaPacificDefencerReporter

Army
Australian Army finally gets combat engineer vehicles: (M)Contact

Air Force

State Department approves $2B Australian Super Hornet, Growler equipment package: (M)BreakingDefense

New Zealand

1st NZSAS Regiment marks 70th anniversary: (F)NZDF

Asia Pacific

Australia overtakes China in the Pacific as America vacates the lane: (M)Lowy
China's meeting was mostly talk, but the Pacific still listened: (M)AspiStrategist

India

India's great-power delusions: how New Delhi's grand strategy thwarts its grand ambitions: (M)ForeignAffairs

UK

UK funds next-gen Typhoon jet radar: (M)DefensePost
Britain's MI6 spy agency gets its first female chief: (M)APNews

NATO & EU

US OKs $215M joint air-to-ground missile sale to the Netherlands: (M)DefensePost
'If Russia is coming, then we will bring the war to Russia': inside NATO's muscular new deterrence plans: (M)DefenseOne
What to make of Germany's new Veterans Day: ()WarontheRocks

US

Trump's State Department purge cuts deeper than in his first presidency: (M)Lowy

Middle East

The Israel-Iran war reveals the danger of a piecemeal approach to statecraft: (M)AspiStrategist
What missiles does Iran have to launch against Israel, and how far can they go? (M)BreakingDefense.com
Israel army says destroyed 'one third' of Iran missile sites: (M)DefensePost

Russia

The Kremlin views the UK's SDR as a declaration of war: (M)RUSI

China

What year is it in China? Rethinking the timeline of a rising power: (M)Lowy

Military History

D-Day's forgotten 6th beach: (F)Felton
The secret WWII defence hidden in the hills of Lithgow (NSW): (F)ShadowdedSecrets