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# RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

## Forthcoming Anniversaries

**27 July 1917:** Lt A.R. Little, an Australian serving in the RNAS, shot down 15 German aircraft over France between 8 April & 27 July in a Sopwith triplane

**28 July 1916:** Sgt Claud Castleton, 5 MG Coy, awarded the VC for his actions near Pozières. He died during the action

**29 July 1901:** South Australians attack commando forces at Groot Valliers farm, South Africa

**30 July 1916:** HMAS Pioneer bombards Dar Es Salaam, Tanganyika (now Tanzania)

**31 July 1960:** Malayan Emergency ends after 12 years and 45 days

**31 July 1962:** AATTV arrives in South Việt Nam

**2 August 1950:** RAAF 77 Sqn completes 800 sorties in Korea



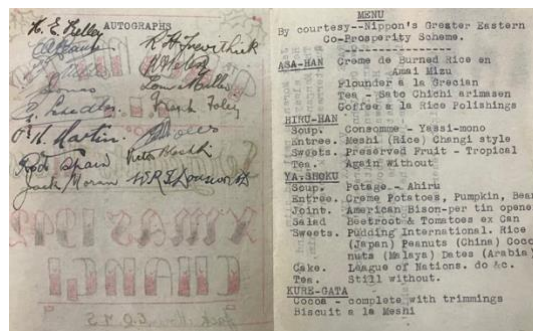
## Christmas in Changi 1942

How do you celebrate Christmas in captivity? The 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Motor Transport Company was part of 8<sup>th</sup> Division Malaya. Formed as part of the 2nd AIF, many of its personnel served in the Malaya-Singapore campaign. Tragically, many of its personnel were captured after the fall of Singapore and were incarcerated in Changi. Subsequently some died as prisoners of war in

Sandakan, Borneo.

Units tried to keep together in Changi and the 4<sup>th</sup> RMT had formed a Sergeants' Mess. Those that attended Christmas dinner had an individually crafted menu. This one belonged to Staff Sergeant Jack Moran, who survived imprisonment and returned home to Camberwell, Victoria. The menu is charged with irony [Crème de burned rice, coffee a la rice polishings, tea (still without)] and Japanese puns.

This is a small but very significant item in RUSIV's collection.



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

## Strategy

Colby's critique of middle power strategy shows why we need it: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

The war in Ukraine has dramatically changed special forces operations: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Defence

Australia whips together a hybrid air defense weapon: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Going nuclear: the true costs Australia would face: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Thales, Visionary Machines join forces on passive drone hunter: [\(M\)DroneFront](#)

## Navy

New long-range drone takes off for Navy: [\(M\)Contact](#)

## Air Force

Exercise Pitch Black 2026: [\(M\)RAAF](#)

Boeing's MQ-28 Ghost Bat makes Farnborough Airshow debut: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

An Australian CCA flew in a Pacific exercise. Boeing exec says it's an important 'first step': [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

## Pacific & Southeast Asia

Australia stands behind Philippines amid China's aggression: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Why Chinese claims of sovereignty over the Batanes cannot be ignored: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Malaysia announces missile order for stalled warship program: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

## Indonesia

Someone is showing a lot of underwater interest in Indonesia's straits: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Obvious but not easy: uncrewed systems should surveil Indonesia's seas: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## UK

New British prime minister gains early defense win with Canada fighter jet tie-up: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## NATO & EU

Russia may use captured Ukrainian drones against Poland and Baltics, Warsaw warns: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## US

Coast Guard shifts cutter squadron from Middle East to Pacific: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Hegseth offers \$37.5B price tag for 'certain aspects' of Iran war: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

**Recommended:** Washington misreads middle power cooperation: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

## Ukraine

Ukraine will build 5M drones in 2026. NATO must learn how: deputy commander: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)  
'Makes no sense': firing of Ukraine's defense minister sparks protests, outcry among allies: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Ukraine's new command team faces its first three tests: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Ukrainian F-16 scored first air-to-air kill against a Russian fighter: top U.S. general: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

What to know about Ukraine's military shakeup: [\(M\)NPR](#)

## China

Total war on Taipei: China explores elevating cognitive effects into its vision of warfare: [\(M\)WarontheRocks](#)

## Russia

How Ukraine put Russia on the backfoot: [\(P\)WarontheRocks](#)

## Military History

Will Argentina invade the Falklands? And can Britain stop them? [\(F\)Felton](#)

Defying the empire: jungle campaign in New Guinea: [\(F\)DroneScapes](#)

Some url's may be subject to an intermittent paywall

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