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RUSIA Defence Update

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

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Library Catalogues:

RUSINSW

RUSIV

RUSI London

Forthcoming Anniversaries

5 October 1918: Last Australian action of the First World War captures Montbrehain, France
7 October 1952: Australians involved in the Battle of the Hinge, Korea
8 October 1915: Gen William Birdwood receives notification to evacuate Gallipoli
9 October 1917: Australians in Battle of Passchendaele, Belgium
9 October 1950: UN forces invade North Korea by crossing 38th Parallel
11 October 1944: Australians land at Jacquinot Bay, New Britain, to recapture the island from the Japanese
12 October 1917: Capt Clarence Jefferies, 34 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Passchendaele
12 October 1943: RAAF Beaufighters attack Japanese positions at Rabaul

The Defence Library in 1924

Library practice last century often included the publication of a catalogue in what we would now call "hard copy". A hundred years ago Defence did just that. The contents of its 1103-page *Library Catalogue* (For Official Use Only) are instructive.

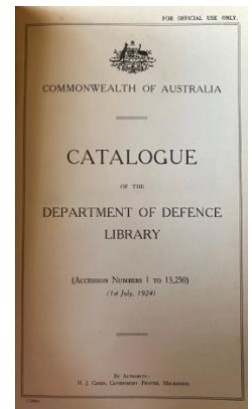
Then (as now) the use of the Library was restricted to the Defence Force. It offered a borrowing service for those stationed away from Melbourne, returns being at the cost of the borrower.

There were 13,250 volumes sorted by subject and separately by author. Relatively few titles were Australian: these included locally produced instructional pamphlets (the majority) and unit histories of the Boer and Great Wars. Only two volumes of Bean's *History* had been published. The great majority of works came from Britain.

Military history was the most populous topic. Many titles examined wars and campaigns. There were many biographies of generals, none of whom were Australian. Few or none of the titles related to women, ethics or shell shock (with 1 exception).

Sadly, the Defence Library has diminished in importance and regional presence. Many of the earlier Australian publications have been disposed of, including some that were unique

Our copy was signed in 1957 by five Victoria Barracks librarians, four of whom were women. Few of the 1924 Catalogues survive: it ran to a second edition in 1929 - there were no successors.



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

Defence

Building the human firewall: Australia's next layer of cyber resilience: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Multinational combined joint force offers credible collective deterrence: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Australian conflict prevention - from statements to strategy? [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Navy

How do women survive 3 months trapped with 150 men on a submarine: [\(F\)SubmarineInsider](#)

Army

Australian Navy transports Army's heavy combat vehicles in milestone trial: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Australia's fresh HIMARS hankering may signal ship-killer role: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Air Force

Australia's Ghost Bat drone is here and it's wild! [\(F\)WesO'Donnell](#)

Exercise Bushido Guardian 25 starts in Japan: [\(M\)APDR](#)

New Zealand

New Zealand NH90 helicopters fly record distance across Tasman Sea: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Canada

Recommended: Inflection Point 2025: Canadian Army modernization: [\(M\)Canada](#)

US

Pentagon readies contingency plans for government shutdown: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Hegseth blasts 'fat troops' in rare gathering with military brass: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

Trump and Hegseth Are Wrong: the US military is lethal as ever [\(M\)Bloomberg](#)

NATO & EU

NATO embraces new Australian-made Star Wars-style lasers to counter Russian drones: [\(M\)ABCNews](#)

EU vows haste in 'drone wall' plan for eastern borders: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Europe's growing defense industry: [\(P\)DefenseOne](#)

Middle East

Hamas yet to respond on Trump's Gaza plan: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Trump gives Hamas 'three or four days' to respond to Gaza peace plan or face 'a very sad end' – as it happened: [\(M\)Guardian](#)

Netanyahu apologizes to Qatar, promises no further strikes, US says: [\(M\)LeMonde](#)

Israel issues 'last' warning for Gazans to flee main city: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Ukraine

Ukrainian Air Force Establishes drone interceptor branch: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Zelenskyy sounds alarm over unprecedented power outage at Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant: [\(M\)Guardian](#)

Explosive-packed Ukrainian drone boat found 900 miles away in Turkey: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

Russia

Russian submarine breaks down in NATO's backyard: [\(F\)MilitaryShow](#)

Russia is helping China prepare to attack Taiwan, RUSI report says: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

China & Taiwan

The People's Liberation Army: modernised but still mistrusted: [\(M\)Aspi](#)

Ukraine's lesson for Taiwan: build big, cheap and numerous cruise missiles: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

The Royal Australian Corps of Signals 1925-2025: [\(F\)RUSINSW](#)

The Battle of Broodseinde Ridge: [\(F\)BendigiCinescope](#)

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