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Royal United Services Institute
of Victoria
rusivic.org.au
secretary@rusivic.org.au
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Forthcoming Anniversaries

- 15 April 1917:** Capt James Newland and Sgt John Whittle, 12 Bn, awarded VCs for their actions west of Boursies and Lagnicourt, France. Lt Charles Pope, 11 Bn, awarded the VC for his actions at Louveral, France
- 15 April 1951:** C Coy 3 RAR takes Hill Salmon, Korea
- 17 April 1917:** Australians in second battle of Gaza, Egypt
- 18 April 1942:** Gen Thomas Blamey appointed Commander Land Forces, South West Pacific
- 20 April 1941:** Anzac Corps withdraws to the Thermopylae Line, Greece
- 22 April 1941:** Evacuation of Anzac Corps from Greece begins
- 22 April 1951:** Chinese begin spring offensive against UN troops in Korea

RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

World War Two & the Old Melbourne Gaol



War Diary for 4 Australian Guard Compound
August 1943 - AWM

At the beginning of 1942 the Australian Defence Department commandeered Old Melbourne Gaol for the temporary incarceration of military prisoners from the three armed services. The servicemen would have committed military offences such as drunkenness or absence without leave and had been sentenced to periods of imprisonment under military law.

The Gaol was re-named as the 4th Australian Guard Compound and staffed by Army. In August 1943 there was an average of around 110 prisoners under arrest or serving sentences with a prison staff of 40 under command of Lt Victor Charles Murphy, a First World War veteran.

For a short time this unit also held the recaptured group of German prisoners of war led by Kapitän zur See Theodor Detmers of the *Komorán*, the vessel that sank HMAS *Sydney*. This group had escaped from their prison at Murchison on 11th January 1945 by tunnels. On recapture they were sentenced to 28 days detention for escaping. Detmers complained about the prison conditions, the food and being kept with NCOs.

During the Second World War there were also other Detention Barracks in Victoria including the 2nd (Puckapunyal), 7th (Bendigo), 8th (Geelong) and 10th (Portsea).

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

Defence

Australian and UK defence commit to joint action on climate: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

It's time for a new national security strategy: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Australian companies increasingly look to US following AUKUS pact: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Aussie PM says no Japan as AUKUS member, but Pillar II on table: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

What will Australia's approach to net assessment be? [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

A central bank concept for defence: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Aussie PM must improve AUKUS explanation for public, reassess US relations, experts warn:

[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Australia, US and Japan strike missile agreement to deter China: [\(M\)9News](#)

Navy

Defence continues 2024 regional presence deployments: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)
 Wartime trade: it's not just military supply: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
 Australian government bungles future frigate choices: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)
 Crew of HMAS *Yarra* open their doors: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Papua New Guinea

U.S. set to expand naval base in Papua New Guinea: [\(M\)USNINews](#)

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands goes to the polls. Here's what to expect: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Indonesia

Indonesian defence under Prabowo: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Philippines

Australia joins forces to patrol Philippine EEZ: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

UK

By filling gaps, Britain shows the way for Pacific islands' second-level supporters:
[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

US

Recommended: The State of Defense 2024: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Canada

Canada to boost military spending by nearly \$6 billion but falls short on NATO goal:
[\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Ukraine

How Patriot proved itself in Ukraine and secured a fresh future: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)
 Zelensky says Ukraine will lose war without US funding: [\(M\)TheHill](#)

China

US, allies make 4-power military demonstration in contested South China Sea: [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)
 From the bookshelf: 'Party of One': [\(MN\)AspiStrategist](#)
 China says it patrolled the South China Sea in an apparent response to US naval drills with allies:
[\(M\)APNews](#)

Military History

The single most important military aircraft ever shot down? [\(F\)DarkSkies](#)
 How did an eclipse impact World War II operations? [\(F\)DefenseNews](#)

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