



Volume 6 | Issue 6
10 November 2025

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Library Catalogues:
RUSINSW
RUSIV
RUSI London

Forthcoming Anniversaries

10 November 1950: 3 RAR patrols to Pakchon and captures 25 North Korean prisoners
11 November 1916: Light Horse raids Maghara, Sinai
11 November 1918: Germany signs an armistice ending the fighting on the Western Front
11 November 1943: Last Japanese air raid on Darwin
13 November 1965: W02 Kevin Wheatly, AATTV, awarded posthumous VC for his actions at Tra Bong, Việt Nam
16 November 1916: Allies capture Jaffa, Palestine

Please see attached note about the Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program 2026

RUSIA Defence Update

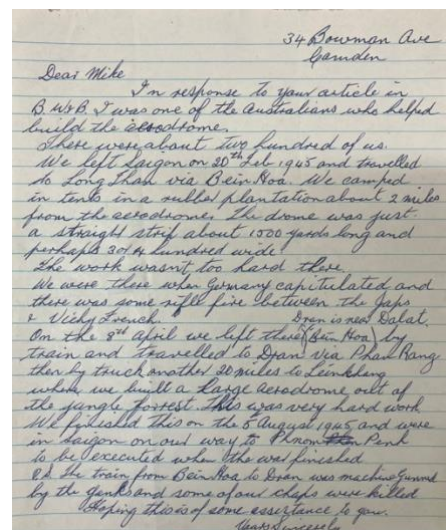
A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Australians in Phước Tuy Province, Việt Nam

Between 1966 and 1972, the 1st Australian Task Force was based in a rubber plantation at Nui Dat, 8 kilometres north of Bà Rịa in Phước Tuy Province. Was this the first Australian presence in the province?

The illustration is a letter which attests to the little-known presence in the province of Australian prisoners of the Japanese. Among the labour tasks they were forced to do was the construction of an airfield marked on maps of the 1960s & 70s as Phu My 5.

Several died as POWs and were initially buried at Vũng Tàu.



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

Defence

ASIO's step-up in warning frequency means we are less secure: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
Beyond AUKUS: the maritime strategy Australia needs: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Navy

First Ghost Shark extra large AUV delivered to Australian navy: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)
Tiny Aussie startup teams with Austal to allow autonomous systems on all RAN ships: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)
US sub arrives for maintenance in significant test for Australian base [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)
Lockheed's Aussie arm makes pitch to sustain future Australian Virginia-class submarines: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)
Australian navy sizes up high-risk submarine transitions under AUKUS: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)
'Greatest vulnerability': Australian Navy chief says protecting undersea cables is 'existential': [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)
Four defense primes team up to pitch development of SSN-AUKUS combat system: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Air Force

Boeing receives Australia's P-8A Poseidon anti-sub aircraft for major upgrades: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

New Zealand

Operation Whio: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

Asia Pacific

In Japan and Australia, misinformation fuels rising anti-immigration sentiments: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

UK

A double-win before the UK Supreme Court should embolden the Foreign Office, if they can take the public with them: [\(M\)RUSI](#)

British F-35 role shifts from 'Tier One' to specialist ally: [\(M\)UKDefenceJournal](#)

US

What it would take to build Trump's Golden Fleet 'battleships': [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

US sub arrives for maintenance in significant test for Australian base: [\(M\)Stars&Stripes](#)

NATO & EU

A new system to identify and take down Russian drones is being deployed to NATO's eastern flank: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Belgium suspects 'spy operation' in drone flight near nuclear air base: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

NATO's spending pledge is no invitation for creative accounting: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Middle East

Israeli military's ex-top lawyer arrested over leak of video allegedly showing Palestinian detainee abuse: [\(M\)BBC](#)

Ukraine

Ukraine says units not surrounded in embattled Pokrovsk: [\(M\)DefensePost](#)

Ukraine says it has hit a major Russian oil refinery with long-range drones: [\(M\)APNews](#)

China & Taiwan

How war in Taiwan ends: if deterrence fails, could America thwart China? [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

Russia

Experts explain how long it would take Russia to resume nuclear weapons detonation tests: [\(M\)WarZone](#)

Military History

Reassembling the RF-111C: [\(F\)AWM](#)

The Poppy | The history of Remembrance Day poppies: [\(F\)IWM](#)

After Aussie Navy tracked Soviet subs in Bass Strait, they found 40 more mapping our coastline: [\(F\)WWIIBlackOpsFiles](#)

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Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program 2026

The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia (RUSI-A) is joining with Macquarie University (MacqU) to apply for a research grant under the Commonwealth's 2026 Defence Strategic Policy Grants Program (SPGP).

For RUSI to re-establish its credibility as a 'think tank' within Defence at a strategic policy level, we need to win a research grant and deliver on it competently. RUSI-A recently entered a MOU with Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer from MacqU that sets out the processes to be followed by the parties in undertaking an application for a SPGP grant.

2026 SPGP Application

Applications for the 2026 SPGP must align with or address priorities and challenges outlined in the 2024 *National Defence Strategy* **OR** address one of the following Priority Policy Questions:

1. What measures can Defence pursue to enhance Australia's national preparedness and resilience against the risk of major conflict?
2. How can Defence and industry partners better collaborate to achieve National Defence Strategy outcomes?
3. How can emerging or disruptive technologies contribute to a strategy of denial in the Indo-Pacific?
4. How might Indo-Pacific alliances and partnerships promote regional deterrence over the coming decade?
5. How can Australia and Indo-Pacific countries shift policy approaches to grey zone behaviour and stabilise norms?

The SPGP encourages international perspectives and diverse backgrounds to enrich understanding and analysis of global strategic policy issues. Applicants must collaborate with an Australian think tank or academic institution on all grant activities.

Research Theme

Paul Irving (President RUSI-A), Chris Skinner (RUSI Strategy SIG) and Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer have developed a research theme that will address Priority Policy Question 4: *How might Indo-Pacific alliances and partnerships promote regional deterrence over the coming decade?*

The theme is based on a study of how major defence exercises are an effective deterrent mechanism. The project will unpick how major exercises KAKADU, PITCH BLACK, HAMEL, TALISMAN SABRE *et al* contribute to deterrence and produce recommendations on how to extract the maximum deterrent effect from these exercises.

The project is a unique collaboration between Macquarie University and RUSI that will bring together each organisation's singular strengths and is a marvellous opportunity to build a reputation for RUSI-A as a credible player in the strategic policy arena in Australia.

MacqU will be the lead organisation and Assoc Professor Adam Lockyer will be the overall Project Lead. Chris Skinner will champion the project on behalf of RUSI-A. He will be the project 'leader' at the administrative level and will co-ordinate RUSI-A input; however, he needs to be supported by members of RUSI who are willing to undertake research on the topic, including using the resources of the RUSI NSW Ursula Davidson Library, the RUSI VIC Monash Memorial Defence Library and the libraries of other RUSIs.

If we are successful in this grant application, I envisage that in 2026/27, there would be two travelling road shows to all RUSIs, one in the second half of 2026 to engage with members and others interested in the research project, and then towards the end of the project to confirm the draft deliverable reports and recommendations.

Members of RUSI with background relevant to the proposed research or who otherwise are interested in it are invited to indicate their interest in participating in the project should the grant

application be successful. If you are interested in becoming involved in the research project, your early advice to me would be appreciated.