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#### Forthcoming Anniversaries

**24 February 1951:** 3 RAR captures Hill 614, Korea  
**27 February 1942:** Attacks by Japanese aircraft damage HMAS Hobart in West Java Sea  
**28 February 1942:** Japanese landing on Java met by Brig Arthur Blackburn's Blackforce. Dutch forces on the island surrender, followed by Australians four days later  
**1 March 1901:** Commonwealth Naval Forces and Australian Army formed  
**1 March 1942:** HMAS Perth and USS Houston engage a large Japanese force in the Battle of the Sunda Strait. Both ships are sunk. Perth loses 357 sailors and a further 320 become prisoners, 106 of whom die in captivity

# RUSIA Defence Update

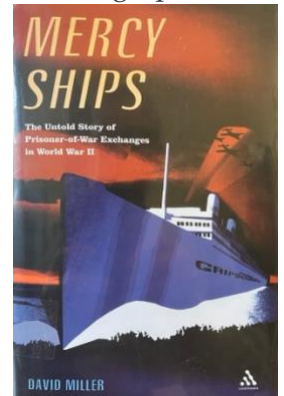
A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

## Australian Prisoner of War (POW) Exchanges – World War Two

More than 30,000 Australians became POW between 1940 and 1945. The Germans and Italians captured Australians during the Mediterranean and Middle East campaigns, and also at sea in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Members of RAAF aircrews, who had bailed out during operations over Germany, occupied Europe or North Africa, also became POWs. Of the 8,000 Australians taken prisoner by the Germans and Italians, 265 died during their captivity.

During the Pacific war, the Japanese captured 22,000 Australians: soldiers, sailors, airmen and members of the army nursing service, as well as some civilians. They were imprisoned in camps throughout Japanese-occupied territories in Borneo, Korea, Manchuria, Hainan, Rabaul, Ambon, Singapore, Timor, Java, Thailand, Burma and Vietnam and also Japan itself. At the end of the war only 13,872 of the POWs were recovered: one-third of the prisoners had died.

Were any Australian POW or POW of the Australians released by their captors during the war? The answer will be in next week's update.



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

## Defence

Securing Australia's interests in a Trumpian trade world:

[\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Australia, New Zealand monitoring 3 Chinese warships off Australia:

[\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Director-General's annual threat assessment 2025: [\(M\)ASIO](#)

## Navy

HMAS Hobart joins Indonesia fleet review, Exercise Komodo: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

## Army

Tanks for the memories: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Air Force

RAAF flies Red Flag over Nevada: [\(M\)Contact](#)

MQ-4C Triton: [\(F\)Nguoi](#)

## New Zealand

Bruiser loose | Royal New Zealand Navy: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

Hercules comparison (C-130H and C-130J) | Royal New Zealand Air Force: [\(F\)NZDF](#)

## Indonesia

Indonesia procures 60 Bayraktar TB3 drones: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

## Asia Pacific

Japan, Australia to bolster IT personnel of Pacific island nations: [\(M\)NikkeiAsia](#)

This is what it looks like when you have 3 aircraft carriers from 3 countries at sea: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

## UK

UK defence secretary John Healey unveils 'biggest defence shake up in 50 years' to make UK war ready: [\(M\)Independent](#)

The army with more horses than tanks: [\(F\)Felton](#)

Gravehawk: how the UK turned old Soviet missiles into Ukraine's new air defence system: [\(F\)MOD](#)

## US

The trials ahead for Pete Hegseth: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Bloodbath: Joint Chiefs chair, CNO, Air Force vice chief, three top JAGs to be replaced: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

## NATO

German Chancellor's pushback at Vance brings US-Euro tensions into the public at Munich: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Spending, troops and Asia: three ideas for Europe to stabilize NATO: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

## Ukraine

America needs a maximum pressure strategy in Ukraine: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

The underexploited potential of Ukrainian defence tech: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Russia and US agree to work toward ending Ukraine war in a remarkable diplomatic shift: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Russia, US agree to work towards improving ties and ending Ukraine war: [\(M\)MilitaryTimes](#)

## Middle East

The fight for Syria: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## China & Taiwan

Wary of cable sabotage, Taiwan looks to satellites as back-ups: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Still not confident enough: China isn't likely to move on Taiwan in 2025: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

## Military History

Operation OKRA: [\(F\)AustralianMilitaryAviationHistory](#)

Was General Percival really to blame for the fall of Singapore 1942? [\(F\)HistoryChap](#)

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