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Forthcoming Anniversaries

18 March 1945: *The last Japanese stronghold, Bacon Hill, New Britain, is captured by Australians*
20 March 1916: *Anzac Corps lands in France*
20 March 1917: *Lt Frank McNamara, 1 Sqn AFC, receives the only VC awarded to an Australian airman in WWI for actions in Palestine*
20 March 2003: *Invasion of Iraq commences*
21 March 1941: *6 Cav Regt and 2/9 Bn capture Giarabub, Libya*
22 March 1945: *Australians capture Dagua Airstrip, New Guinea, from Japanese*
22 March 1945: *RAAF No 464 Squadron bombs Gestapo headquarters in Denmark*
23 March 1945: *Australians capture Waitavalo and Tol plantations on New Britain, ending Japanese resistance on the island*

RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 133rd Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Member contributions are always welcome

HMAS Melbourne



This issue of *The School Paper* for Grades VII & VIII of May 1913 headlines the arrival of HMAS *Melbourne* on 26th March 1913. Melbourne was 5400 tons and its principal armament was eight six-inch guns.

In that year, the national defence plan for the RAN was based on a 15,000 man force. It was to be equipped with 8 battle cruisers like *New Zealand*, 10 protected cruisers like the *Melbourne*, 18 destroyers like the *Yarra*, 12 submarines, 3 depot ships, and one repairing ship. At that time a naval college, for the training of Australian boys as officers was opened at Osborne House, Geelong with twenty-eight cadet midshipmen are studying there at the time; but it was expected that they would take up their

residence with those who were to commence the course of training in the next year in the building that is being erected on Jervis Bay, the port of Canberra.

The accompanying poem was by Melbourne-resident [Bernard O'Dowd](#).

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

Defence

A guardian to watch over Fijian waters: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Navy

To control our destiny, we must learn from our past for the AUKUS SSN: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
 AUKUS Chiefs of Navy to meet in Western Australia: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Army

Fire mission by night: [\(F\)Defence](#)
 B Squadron gets extra sting with Wasp: [\(M\)Contact](#)

Singapore

Singapore downplays defense spending hike, though with warning of instability: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Pacific

Why Chinese policing in Pacific island countries is a problem: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Geopolitics, influence and crime in the Pacific islands: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Working with the grain: history and Britain's South Pacific tilt: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

UK

DragonFire: new declassified footage of £10-a-shot laser precision weapon in action: [\(F\)ForcesNews](#)

Horror fire ripped through 'cursed carrier' HMS *Queen Elizabeth* injuring ten sailors: [\(F\)TheSun](#)

US

Meet the Air Force's most adorable aircraft: the mini C-17: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

USN Virginia submarine production shortfall worsens: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

Pentagon budget request aims to balance congressional limits, foreign needs, and innovation: [\(M\)DefenseOne](#)

Musk's SpaceX is building spy satellite network for US intelligence agency, sources say: [\(M\)Reuters](#)

Recommended: 40-plus countries convening next week to thrash out 'responsible AI' for military use: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Pacific leaders say they need more funding to compete with China: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

'The Bloody Hundredth' tells the true story of 'Masters of the Air': [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Ukraine

The sea drone that's lifting Ukraine morale as it hunts Russian ships: [\(M\)C4isrnet](#)

Russia

Russian crew film sinking of *Caesar Kunikov*: [\(F\)EngineerReact](#)

Forever Putinism: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

Middle East

US, allies shoot down 28 Houthi drones in large Red Sea skirmish: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

China

China's defence budget boost can't mask real pressures: [\(M\)IISS](#)

Simmer war: the new form of US-China rivalry: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

China's invasion force could face hundreds of exploding sea drones:

Military History

A brief history of Freyberg's 2nd New Zealand Division in WW2: [\(F\)TIKHistory](#)

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