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Forthcoming Anniversaries

11 September 1914: Battle of Bita Paka, New Britain – first Australian conflict of the First World War

14 September 1943: 26 Bde crosses the Busu river heading towards Lae, New Guinea

15 September 1943: 2/25 Bn patrols enter and raise Australian flag at Lae

19 September 1918: Australian light horse units ride around Turkish positions at Nablus, Jordan, sealing enemy escape routes

RUSIV Defence Update

Celebrating our 134th Year

A weekly e-newsletter relating to our security & defence

Guinea Gold Friday April 23, 1943

Wave Of Indignation In U.S. Follows News That Japs. Killed War Prisoners

AMERICAN airmen who were forced down in Japan on April 18 last year during a raid by U.S. planes on Tokio and other Japanese cities, have been killed by the Japanese. A wave of indignation and horror has swept America.

It is known that the Japanese tried all the airmen captured, and sentenced them to death on alleged confessions by the airmen that they had bombed and machine-gunned non-military objectives.

President Roosevelt described the killing as "murder in cold blood", and said those responsible would be brought to justice. A note of protest had been sent already to the Japanese Government.

THE Chief of the U.S. Air Force (General Arnold) yesterday called for an intensive air drive against Japan.

In a message to all men of the U.S. Air Force he said: "These airmen died heroes. We must redouble our efforts until the inhuman Japanese war lords are no more. Remember your comrades when you have a Zero in your sights."

Details of events which followed the Tokio raid were given in a special statement issued by the U.S. State Department in Washington yesterday.

The statement said that on October 19, 1942, the American Government learned from Japanese radio broadcasts of the capture, trial and severe punishment of the airmen. Continued endeavours were made by the U.S. Government to obtain confirmation of these reports from Tokio, but it was not until March 12 of this year that the American Government received a communication from the Japanese Government. The note, which was handed through the Swiss Government rep-

representative at Tokio, said the Japanese had tried the U.S. airmen before a military tribunal, and the death penalty had been pronounced.

The U.S. authorities then forwarded a communication to Tokio stating that it "would hold responsible for these diabolical crimes, personally and officially," all officers of the Japanese Government who had any part in them, and would, in due course bring all of them to justice.

"The U.S. Government similarly warns Japan that for any repetition of such revolting crimes as regards American prisoners of war or for any other act of inhuman barbarity inflicted upon American prisoners in violation of the rules of warfare, the American Government will visit upon officers of the Japanese Government responsible the punishment these acts justify," the communication said.

"This recourse to inhumanity is barbarous. This attempt by Japanese war lords to intimidate the American Air Force is an utter failure. It has served only to make the American people more determined to blot out Japanese militarism."

Major General "Jimmie" Doolittle led the US air raid on Tokyo on 18th April 1942. 16 B-25B Mitchell medium bombers, each with a crew of five, were launched from the US Navy aircraft carrier USS *Hornet*, in the Pacific Ocean. Here is an account of the fate of the crews published a year later in the Australian edition of *Guinea Gold*.

Of the 16 crews involved, 14 returned to the United States or reached the safety of American forces, though one man was killed while bailing out. Eight men were captured by Japanese forces in eastern China (the other two crew members having drowned in the sea), and it is true that three of them were later executed. It is quite understandable that information on the crews' fates was not accurately known in 1943.

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

Defence

Australia needs a centre of excellence to counter small drones: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Is AUKUS Pillar II growing too quickly? [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Defence medical services need more prevention, faster return to work: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

A progress report on hypersonics—doubtful US weapons for the Western Pacific: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Australia–Japan 2+2 and the latticework of partners: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)
 Japan and Australia agree to increase joint military training: [\(M\)APNews](#)

Navy

First trip home to Japan with the Navy: [\(M\)Defence](#)

Army

US Marines, Australian Army plan tests around island-hopping Stern Landing Vessel: [\(M\)BreakingDefense](#)

Operation Render Safe 2024-2 Solomon Islands: [\(F\)Defence](#)

Air Force

The US Air Force simulated a mass casualty evacuation on a Pacific island: [\(M\)TaskandPurpose](#)

Australia deploying aircraft to India for first time: [\(M\)AsiaPacificDefenceReporter](#)

New Zealand

New Zealand's intelligence service warns of growing foreign interference risks: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

Pacific

Long-range leaders in Melanesia: why you need to know about them: [\(M\)Lowy](#)

UK

The FIRST 6th generation fighter jet was finally unveiled! [\(F\)MilitaryAffairs](#)

US

US Army's next budget invests heavily in drones and electronic warfare: [\(M\)DefenseNews](#)

Ukraine

The deadly ground drones giving Ukraine's frontline soldiers an advantage: [\(F\)BFBSForcesNews](#)

Ukraine's gamble: the risks and rewards of the offensive into Russia's Kursk region: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

How Ukraine's Kursk incursion changed the war in Russia: [\(P\)RUSI](#)

China

A diplomat's tantrum shows China's insecurity in the Pacific: [\(M\)AspiStrategist](#)

Military History

World War II: Burma victory: [\(F\)PeriscopeFilm](#)

German Panzers did 'Invade' Britain! [\(F\)Felton](#)

Reagan didn't win the cold war: how a myth about the collapse of the Soviet Union leads Republicans astray on China: [\(M\)ForeignAffairs](#)

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