

Australia's War in the Pacific 1943





Servant of the People – pilot episode.

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- 45 minutes

Australia's War in the Pacific 1943



29 June – Woodlark and Kiriwina

- The Kiriwina force mostly in L.C.T's, L.C.I's, and L.C.M's, left Milne Bay on 29th June. H.M.A. Ships Benalla and Shepparton helped as escorts and in piloting landing craft to their destinations.
- The Woodlark force, in destroyer-transports and L.S.T's, was transported from Townsville and landed without incident.
- No Japanese were on either island.
- During the first three weeks of occupation VII Amphibious Force put 16,000 men into the islands without losing a single ship, boat, or man.
- An airstrip was built on Woodlark.



29 June - Sea

- In June all the destroyers excepting Warramunga, Arunta, and Lamson, were transferred to Task Force 76 (Amphibious Forces) for the forthcoming operations.
- On the 23rd of the month Task Force 74 was constituted at Palm Island: Task Group 74.1, Australia, Hobart; Task Group 74.2 Warramunga (Commander Dechaineux, Senior Officer) , Arunta, Lamson.
- On the 29th Task Force 74 entered the Coral Sea to destroy any enemy units threatening lines of communication in the Coral Sea or eastern Arafura Sea, and be prepared to cooperate with South Pacific forces in the event of a major threat to the movement of transports in the northern Coral Sea.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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HMAS Australia framed under the barrels of HMAS Hobart's forward guns.

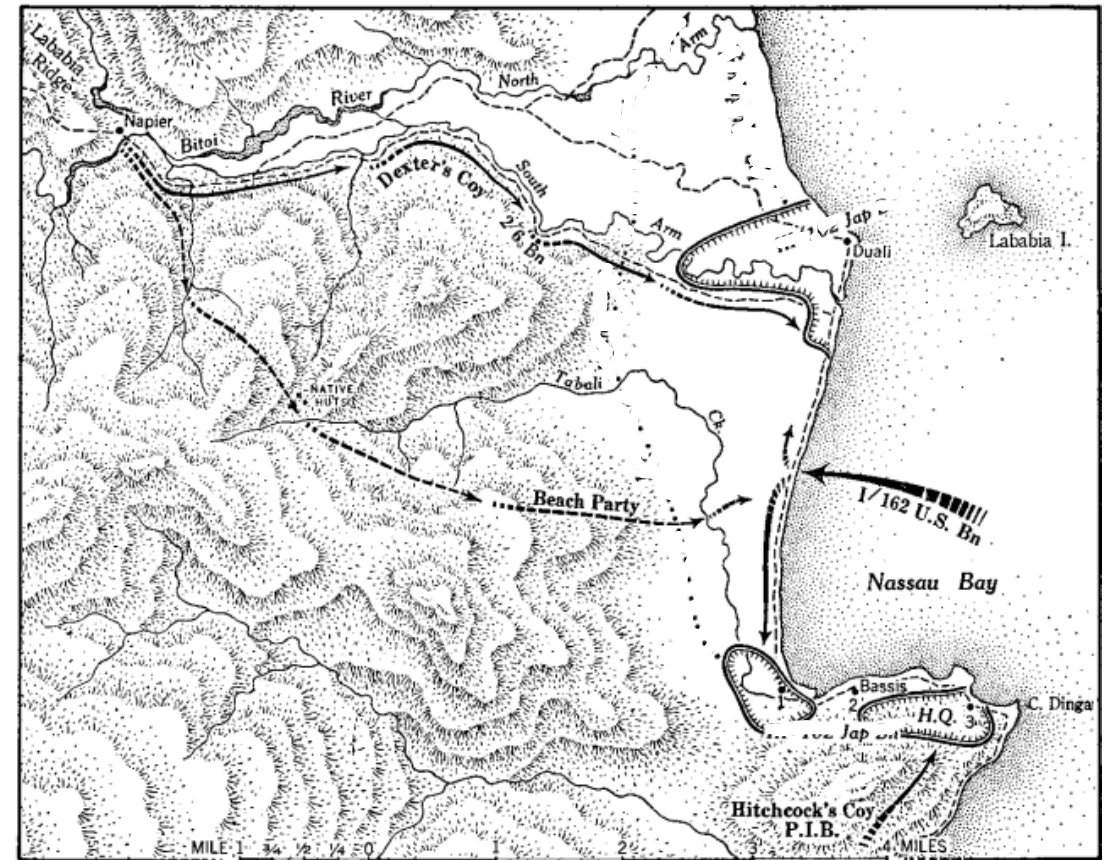
29 June - Wau

- On 29th June MacKechnie learnt that he now had 28 L.C.V's, three L.C.M's, one salvaged Japanese barge, and four P.T. boats, three of which would carry troops and guide the barges.
- In these craft he decided to move three infantry companies, two artillery batteries, one anti-aircraft platoon, and five days' rations during the two nights 29th-30th June and 30th June-1st July. Radio silence was imposed until midnight on 29th/30th June.
- At dusk on 29th June three P.T. boats loaded 70 men each at Morobe and set off north to their rendezvous off Mageri Point with the main body of MacKechnie Force, about 770 strong, loaded into about 30 craft manned by the 532nd Engineer Boat and Shore Regiment.



29 June - Wau

- The landing force was divided into three waves each of which was to rendezvous with a P.T. boat outside Mageri Point. The boats moved off in twos with an interval of 20 minutes between waves. When they reached the open sea they encountered a heavy swell about 15 feet high, which added to the discomfort already caused by driving rain.
- So dark and stormy was the night that it was difficult for the boats to see the wakes of those in front of them, and more than half an hour was spent in finding lost boats. The first two waves met their P.T. boats but the third wave failed to do so and proceeded without a guide.
- The company of the Papuan Infantry Battalion left Buso in canoes on the 29th and arrived at Cape Roon whence they moved overland to Sachen Bay. During the dark night the native soldiers moved stealthily towards Cape Dinga.

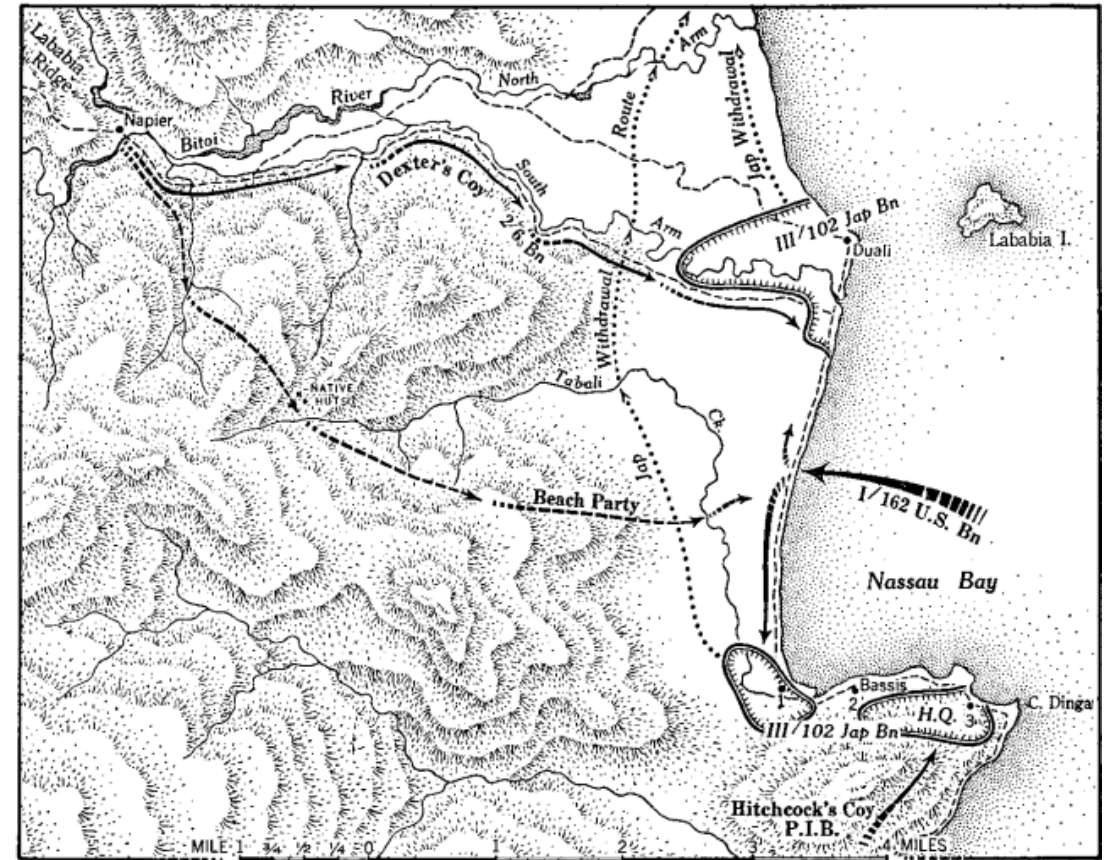


30 June - Government

- On 30 June Mr Justice Lowe was appointed Royal Commissioner to inquire into and report on the following matters:
- 1 . The statement "I am most reliably informed that one important report is now missing from the official files" made by the Minister of State for Labour and National Service in the House of Representatives on the 22nd June 1943, in the course of the debate in that House concerning the matter known as "The Brisbane Line".
- 2. The question whether that Minister was informed in the terms or to the effect specified in the statement set out above.
- 3. If that Minister was so informed
 - (a) the particulars of the information given to that Minister and referred to in the statement set out above; and
 - (b) the questions as to the person by whom, the circumstances under which, and the reason why, that information was given to that Minister.
- 4 . The question whether any document concerning the matter known as "The Brisbane Line" is missing from the official files specified in the statement set out above and, if so, the particulars of the document.

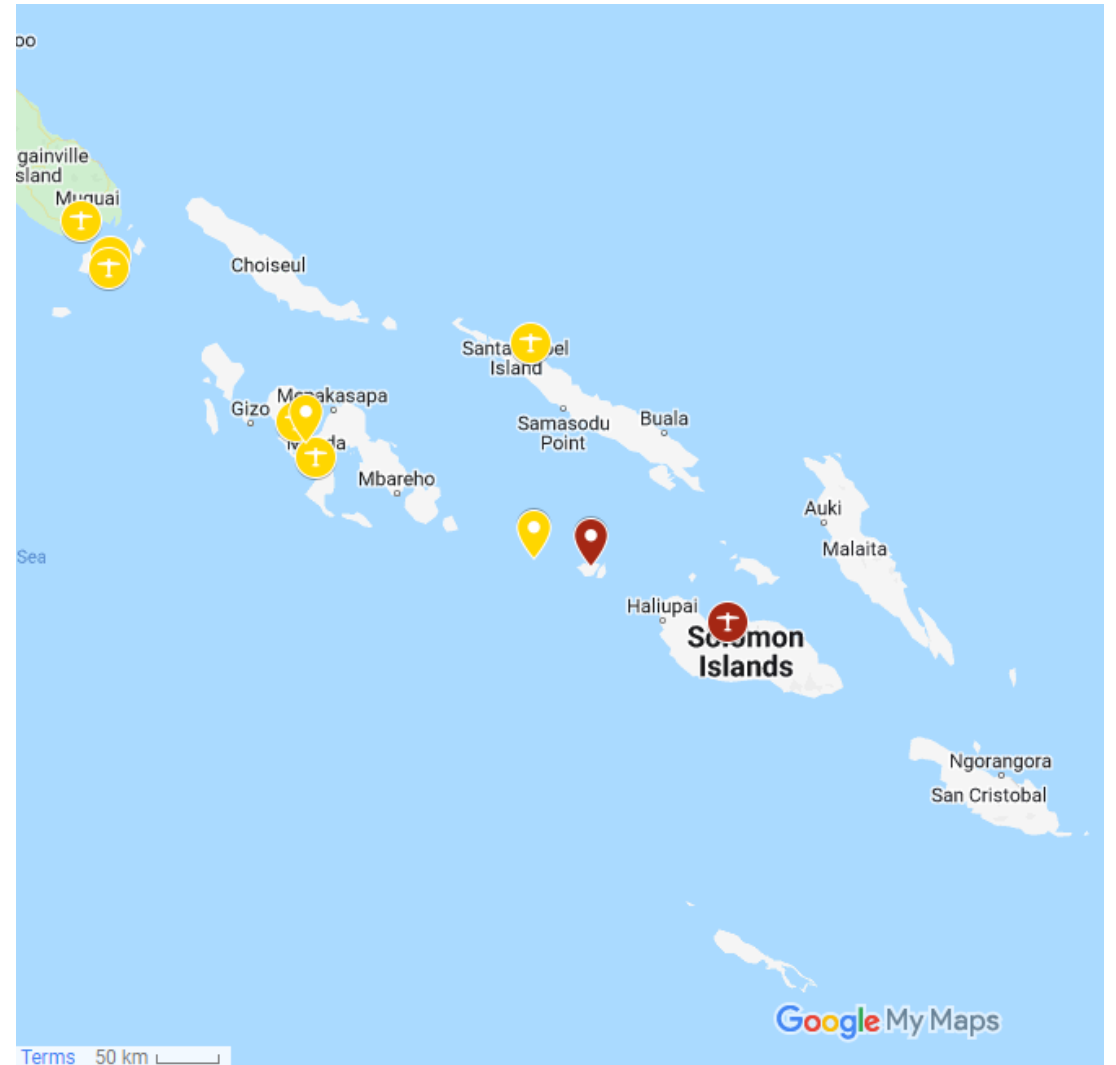
30 June - Wau

- MacKechnie Force—I/162nd U.S. Battalion—of just on 1,000 officers and men, set off by sea from Mageri Point to land at Nassau Bay, 40 miles north-west along the New Guinea coast.
- The landing retrieved success from confusion and disruption, caused by weather, the sea, navigational inexperience, and other factors. The landing craft ran in an hour or so after midnight on the 29th, guided by the Australian beach-lights.
- The boats were tossed about like match sticks as they approached the shore. Much equipment, weapons and ammunition were lost in the landing but every soldier was put safely ashore. Most of the boats were unable to retract and twenty-one of them were left swamped on the beach, while the surf smashed them.
- By daylight on the 30th, 770 officers and men had landed; those in the three P.T. boats were unable to do so because of the loss of the landing craft, and they were taken back to Morobe.



30 June – New Georgia

- when Admiral Turner's III Amphibious Force moved northwards from Guadalcanal, coastwatcher Lieutenant Dyce was in flagship McCawley, with a teleradio, to make sure of communications with the coastwatchers on shore up to the moment of landing.
- The landings, at dawn on 30th June, were carried out simultaneously and successfully at Rendova (where coastwatcher Rhoades landed with the first wave, which was joined by Horton when it reached shore), Wickham Anchorage, Viru Harbour, and Segi. The most active opponent met with in the initial operation was the weather.



30 June – New Georgia

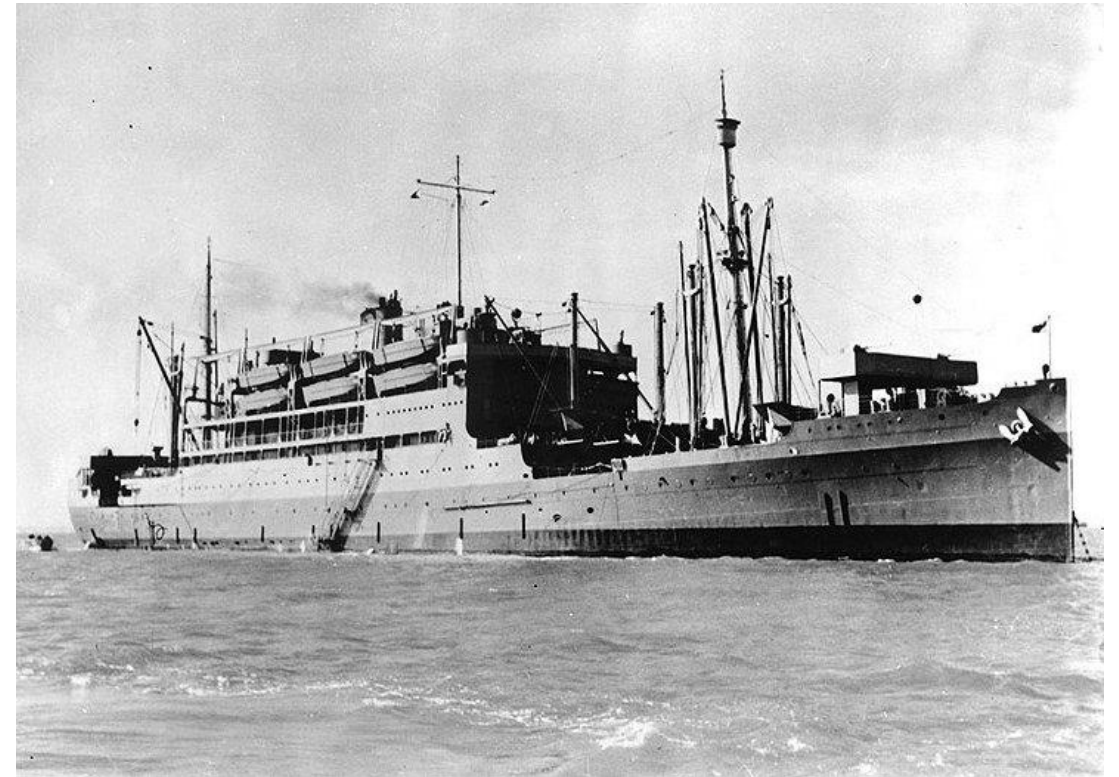


MAP II

R.F. STIBIL

30 June - Sea

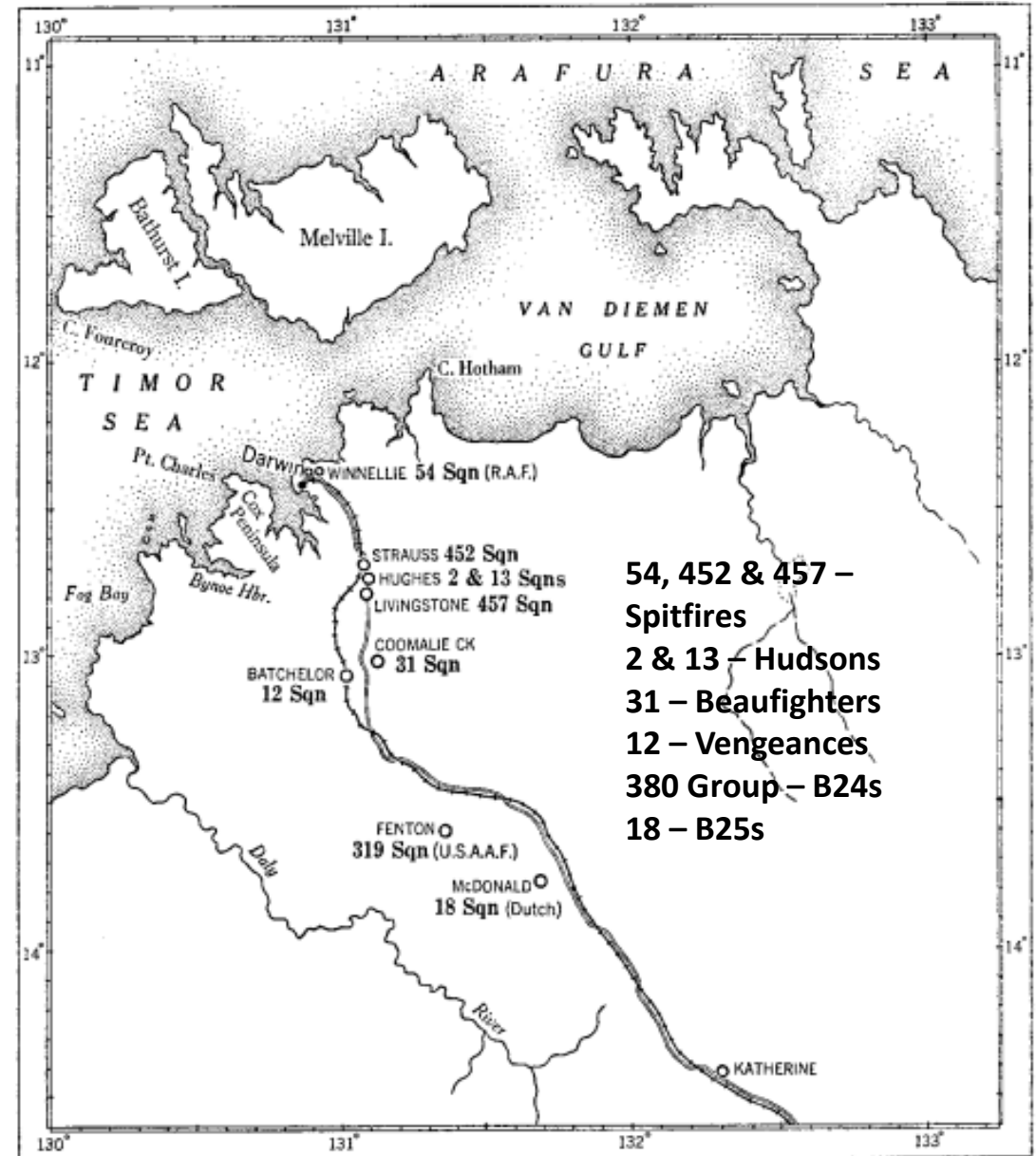
- As the withdrawing column of transports entered Blanche Channel, torpedo planes attacked. McCawley's gunfire brought down four, but a torpedo hit in McCawley's engine room, killed 15 of her crew, and knocked out all power.
- Following the attack, Admiral Turner and his staff transferred to destroyer Farenholt. Rear Admiral Wilkinson remained on McCawley to command salvage operations, while attack cargo ship Libra took the transport in tow and destroyers Ralph Talbot and McCalla stood by to assist.
- At 1640, all the crew, except the salvage party, was taken off by Ralph Talbot. Soon afterward, the group was attacked by dive bombers, and McCawley was strafed, but no further damage was inflicted as the salvage party manned her guns to shoot down one of the three planes destroyed.
- By 1850, the draft aft had increased to 38 feet (12 m), and Admiral Wilkinson ordered McCalla alongside to take off the salvage party. Within the hour, all hands were aboard McCalla and pulling clear of the stricken transport.
- At 2023, the final blow came. McCawley was again torpedoed and in 30 seconds she sank in 340 fathoms.
- The following day, six motor torpedo boats were found to have torpedoed an "enemy" transport in Blanche Channel, after having been informed no friendly forces were in the area.



USS McCawley (AP-10, later APA-4), photographed circa 1941-42.

30 June - Air

- 21 fighters and 27 bombers attacked Fenton field near Darwin 38 Spitfires intercepted.
- Due to a misunderstood order all the Spitfires attacked the bombers instead of one squadron engaging the fighters. As a result the Spitfires were subjected to attack by the escorts. The wing intelligence report reads:
- The result of the failure to attack the fighters and engage them whilst the bomber formation was being attacked was inevitable and our aircraft were the subject of a well concerted attack by the bombers' escort. Many of them were engaged throughout the period of their contact with the enemy by these fighters and were not able to press home further attacks on the main bomber formation and squadron and section cohesion appears to have been lost.
- Soon after the Spitfire attack (12.13 p.m.) the enemy bombers turned towards Fenton which they pattern-bombed at 12.31 p.m. The anti-aircraft guns opened fire on the bombers which were flying at 20,000 feet but they did not hit any planes nor did they divert them from their bombing.



30 June - Air

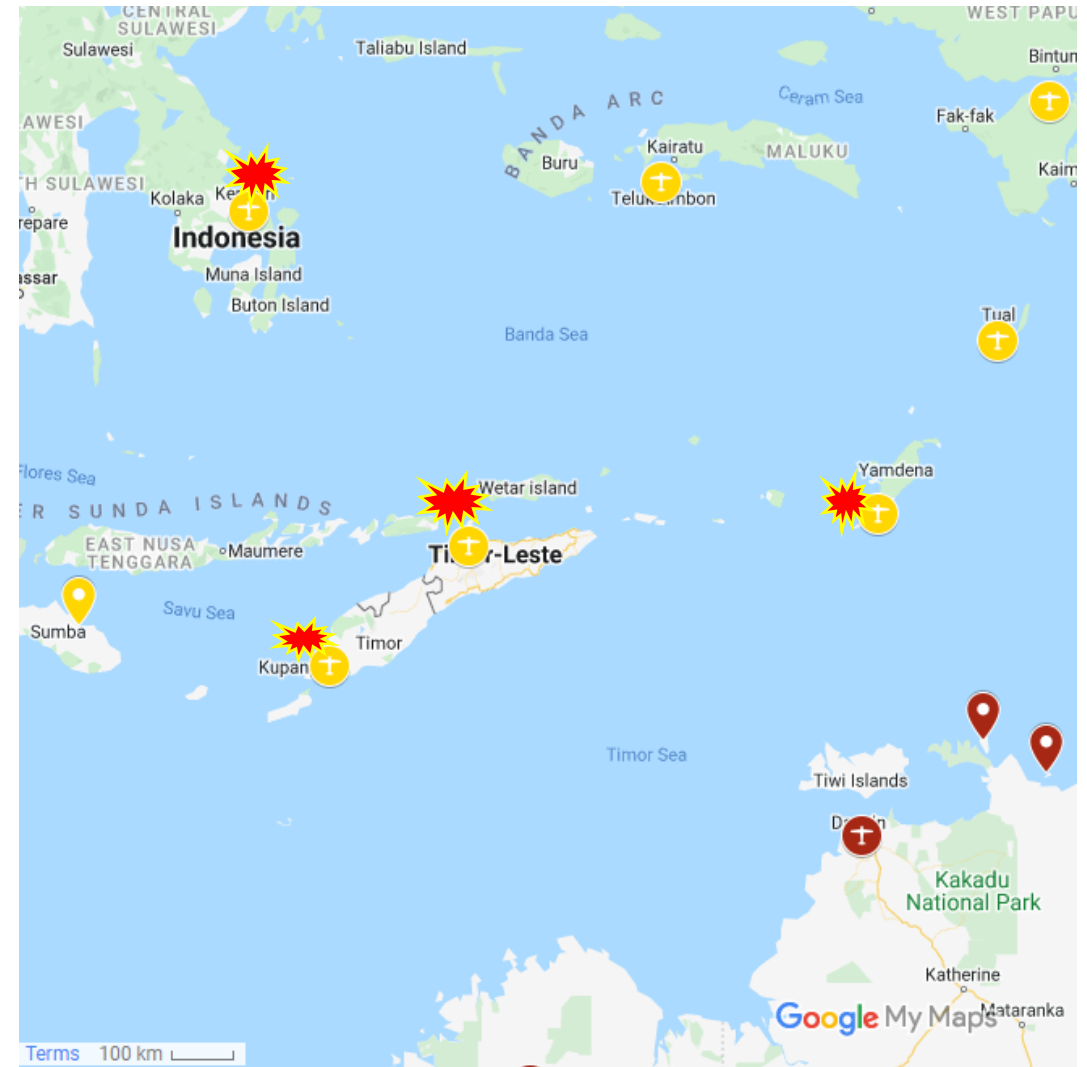
- The enemy bombing destroyed three Liberators of No. 380 Group on the ground, damaged another seven and caused damage to equipment and installations. Two men were slightly injured.
- The defenders claimed three fighters and six bombers destroyed two bombers probable one fighter and five bombers damaged.
- A total of 6 Spitfires were destroyed but destruction of 3 of these was due to engine failure.
- Flight Sergeant Duncan of No. 452 Squadron was forced to parachute during the engagement when his engine caught fire and spent five days in rough country until found by a rescue party. Duncan was seen by fellow pilots on 1st July and they flew out eight times during that day to keep in touch with him. On the following day more flights were made and food and cigarettes dropped to him, and contact was kept up until he was rescued on the fifth day.



A B24 Bomber and crew. Destruction of 3 of these aircraft and damaging of seven more was a major loss.

30 June - Air

- On 30th June Mitchells, Hudsons, and American Catalinas which again came from Perth for the purpose, bombed the Timor airfields.
- Beaufighters attacked Selaru again and
- the Liberators bombed Kendari.



30 June - Air

- By the end of June losses of Spitfires had reduced the strength of No. 1 Fighter Wing to a low level and Bladin signalled the Chief of the Air Staff asking for the immediate dispatch of twenty-two aircraft to bring the wing up to strength.
- Bladin also asked for eleven new engines to be flown up to replace worn engines. Worn-out engines were causing slow speeds during battle, and formation leaders had been forced to reduce their speed in order to prevent straggling.
- Air force headquarters replied that up to seventeen Spitfires would arrive within a week or so. Another eighteen machines were being off-loaded in Melbourne and steps were being taken to assemble these machines in all haste.
- The failure of cannons and machine-guns was also reducing the effectiveness of the Spitfires. The stoppages of the weapons were usually caused by freezing of the mechanism and faults in ammunition. Steps were taken to reduce these failures.

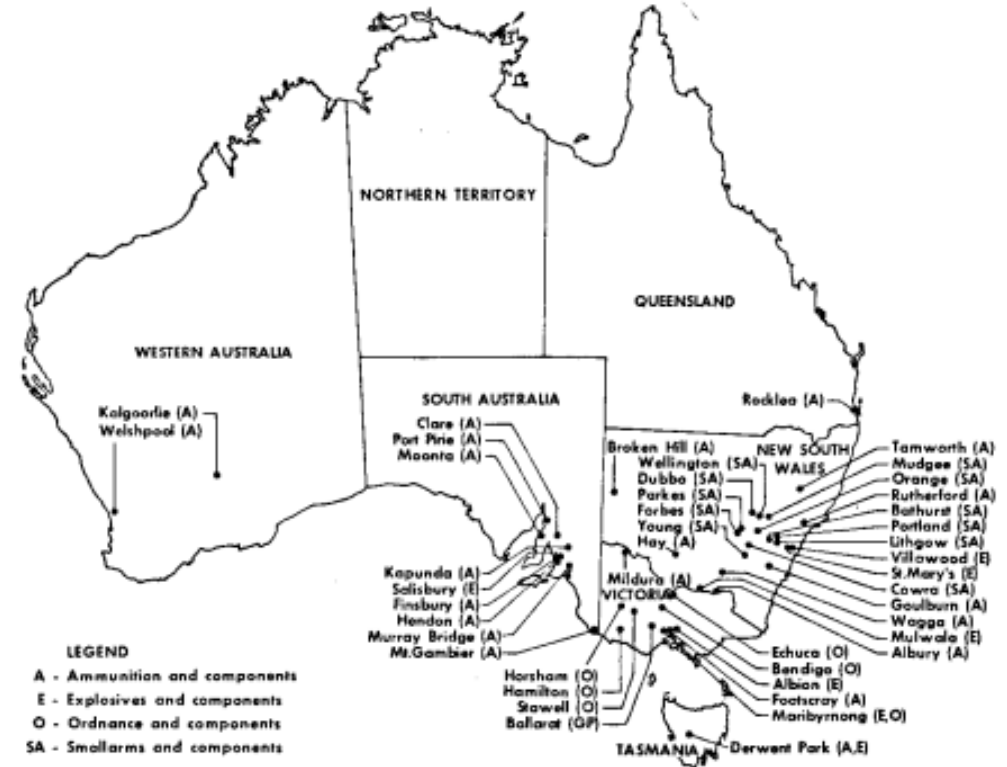


Supermarine Spitfire Mk VIII of the Royal Australian Air Force's Temora Historic Flight.

June - Production

- The achievement of the Department of Munitions and its associates in 1942 had been considerable. Within a short period a high degree of self-sufficiency in a wide range of ordnance, small arms, ammunition and explosives had been achieved. Munition factories and annexes had been erected throughout the Commonwealth in a deliberate and sensible policy of decentralisation.
- Production in 1942 had been planned on the necessary assumption that a major war would be fought on the Australian mainland and that there would be very little support from other countries.
- The exhaustion of the Japanese thrust to the south, the build up of American forces in Australia, improvements in the supply and safety of trans-Pacific shipping, and the expansion of Lend-Lease indicated the need for an overhaul of munitions production objectives.
- The attempt to reallocate munitions capacity from low to high priority work, deal with overcapacity and integrate American and Australian requirements is a story of unrelieved confusion, of misinformation and incomplete information, of petty squabbles between Munitions and the Army and between Munitions and the Manpower Directorate, and of lack of leadership from the Prime Minister and the War Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT MUNITIONS FACTORIES



June - Production

- An April review did at least yield a quantitative measure of surplus munitions capacity. The figures provided were rough and incomplete and probably underestimated the extent of the surplus, but its size could not be concealed.
- Out of an estimated annual value of production of £100,000,000 22.2 per cent was regarded as surplus to the current or expected needs of the Services.
- Typically, information about stockpiles dribbled in during April, May and June; at no stage were up-to-date figures available in a comprehensive form to relate to current production targets.

Annual production surplus	Estimated annual value
600 25-pounder guns	£ 3,300,000
150 3.7-inch A.A. guns	1,275,000
2,000,000 rounds 25-pounder ammunition	13,000,000
400,000 rounds 3.7-inch ammunition	3,400,000
600,000 gun-carriers	1,200,000
	<u>£22,175,000</u>

Less expensive items such as 3-inch mortars, mortar-bombs and .303-inch cartridges were also in heavy surplus; and for this group production cuts of around fifty per cent were recommended by the Defence Committee .

The table above was cut and pasted as an image from the official history. The number of bren gun carriers cannot possibly be correct. My assumption is that it should be 600 not 600,000.

June - Production

- In an effort to justify the Army's position (and thereby shift a portion of the blame to Munitions) Blamey (photo) assured the Prime Minister that the Army had reviewed its needs constantly by means of the Services and Munitions Co-ordinating Committee and that every effort had been made to use manpower as economically as possible.
- By contrast, he claimed that the Department of Munitions had committed three sins:
 - it had placed orders with itself for Army equipment in order to maintain continuity of production even though the orders were surplus to the Army's requirements;
 - it had sought export orders from the Ministry of Supply in London and the Eastern Group Supply Council in India; and
 - it had accepted special orders, outside the usual supply channels, for South Africa and New Zealand for the manufacture of bullet-proof plate, machine-gun carriers, fuses and ammunition.
- In self-defence Munitions charged the Army with failure to keep the Department fully informed of its requirements, and with importing equipment from overseas sources when supplies were available from within Australia.
- Charge and counter-charge were both accurate as far as they went, but each side ignored the root cause —the continued over-ambitious plans for expansion to which both were party.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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June - Production

- The most disturbing aspect of the April review was, however, that on the rough estimates that were then available no labour would be released from the Munitions bloc. While production of 25-pounder guns and ammunition, mortars and small arms ammunition was reduced, other parts of the programme—mainly aircraft production, small craft, shipbuilding and repair—would absorb the labour so released. The best that Munitions could offer was that 13,000 men and women would no longer be needed for expansion.
- The munitions programme remained under continual review following the April review as a result of pressure by the War Commitments Committee.
- Approval of the incomplete programme in April, although conditional, meant that a decision on fully-revised schedules was deferred until the end of the year, and did not become effective until 1944.
- Much more could have been expected of the War Cabinet at this critical stage, but as with manpower policy the episode illustrates the extent to which the internal interests of the Services and Munitions determined the course of events.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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MELBOURNE, VIC. 1943-11-10. SOME MEMBERS OF THE WAR CABINET MEETING IN THE FEDERAL MEMBERS ROOMS. L TO R: J. A. BEASLEY, MINISTER FOR SUPPLY AND SHIPPING; H. DE VERE (BERT) EVATT, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; FRANK M. FORDE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR THE ARMY; JOHN CURTIN, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR DEFENCE; SIR FREDERICK SHEDDON, KCMG OBE, SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND SECRETARY TO THE WAR CABINET; J. B. (BEN) CHIFLEY, COMMONWEALTH TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

June - Production

- A further revision was produced in June which recommended in the majority of cases further substantial reductions, particularly in artillery and its ammunition (see following table), but this was not endorsed pending clarification of overseas requirements.
- In the meantime production was to continue on the basis of the April review and Munitions was to produce a report on the reorganisation required to effect the reductions.

MUNITIONS PRODUCTION: DESIGNED CAPACITY, ACTUAL AND RECOMMENDED RATES, SELECTED ITEMS 1943

(monthly production rates)

	Designed capacity	Actual production rate: Jan-Jun	Production rates recommended by Defence Committee in:	
			April	June
Artillery				
25-pound Howitzer	70	45	20	10
24-pound Short		3	—	—
2-pounder A.T.	80	19	—	—
6-pounder A.T.		78	20	10
40 mm Bofors A.A.	40	10	30	30
3.7-inch A.A.	24	16	20	10
Guns and mortars:				
Owen sub-machine	2,000	2,322	2,000	1,000
Austen sub-machine	2,000	1,633	2,000	2,000
Rifles, .303-inch	16,000	12,717	16,000	16,000
3-inch mortars	200	104	80	Nil
Ammunition, artillery:				
25-pounder H.E.	500,000	295,610	250,000	120,000
40 mm A.A.	200,000	13,424	160,000	100,000
3.7-inch A.A.	75,000	20,924	16,000	8,000
Small arms ammunition:				
.303-inch ball	60 m.	27.2 m.	40.0 m.	40.0 m.
9 mm ball — Owen and Austen	15 m.	7.2 m.	13.0 m.	13.0 m.
Ammunition — mortar and grenades:				
3-inch mortar H.E.	250,000	141,846	190,000	100,000
Grenades No. 36 — hand, rifle	120,000	121,244	120,000	100,000
Mines:				
Mines A.T.	60,000	51,685	60,000	60,000

Source: War Cabinet Agenda 169/1943 Supplement 1

June - Production

- War Cabinet endorsed Munitions' proposal to allow overseas contracts to be completed and to continue maintenance automatically.
- The decision was based on inadequate information. Canberra had been kept very much in the dark by the London Assignment Board and the Eastern Group Supply Council in India about current stocks and future requirements.
- Some of the contracts on which Munitions was working could have been cancelled or modified by negotiation, for surpluses of gun equipment and artillery ammunition were accumulating abroad as well as in Australia.
- The Government's attempts to discover the facts were sporadic but, as will be seen, overseas authorities were in any case reluctant to yield them.

June - Production

- The "overseas clarification" tended to confirm Canberra's worst suspicions. A cable, through the Eastern Group Supply Council rather than through the usual channels to London, advised that a new policy had been adopted for a united Empire munitions production effort on the basis of each portion of the Empire undertaking the production best suited to its industrial capacity and geographical location.
- The overproduction of munitions on an Empire basis was acknowledged; in an effort to rationalise capacity the Council proposed, abrasively, that "The heaviest cuts in programme will be taken by the United Kingdom and Canada, who can most easily adjust their programmes and require maximum relief on labour and materials."
- In other words, Australia was seen as a supply base for the United Kingdom in the latter stages of the offensive against Japan. In more detail, Australia would be the only portion of the Empire manufacturing 3.7-inch guns, and would be the primary supplier of 25-pounder ammunition.
- Munitions reacted enthusiastically but the Defence Committee, conscious of MacArthur's position as controller of Lend Lease supplies, dismissed the plan.
- The conclusion was that programmes would be related to Australia's interests (which included support for the United States), not to those of the United Kingdom.

June - Production

- Confirmation of the stringent control of munitions assignment outside the South-West Pacific Area opened the way for yet another revision of the programmes. On this occasion the Services Equipment Committee was in a better position to assess the equipment needs for the Pacific offensive due to be launched in September.
- Jungle warfare required a switch in emphasis from the heavier gun equipment to small arms—rifles, machine-guns, mortars and grenades—and to mobile anti-aircraft equipment. Stocks of these were sufficiently high to permit reductions in planned production, but output of some ammunition items, such as 3-inch mortar, grenades, and 9 mm ball for the Owen and Austen, would need to be increased.
- Overall, however, this further reappraisal of munitions requirements known as the August review was easily the most realistic of 1943 and marked the first serious effort by the Services to curb their demands.

MUNITIONS PRODUCTION: DESIGNED CAPACITY, ACTUAL AND RECOMMENDED RATES, SELECTED ITEMS
1943

(monthly production rates)

	Designed capacity	Actual production rate:		Production rates recommended by Defence Committee in:		
		Jan-Jun	Jul-Sep	April	June	August
Artillery						
25-pound Howitzer	70	45	9	20	10	Discontinue
24-pound Short		3	21	—	—	Discontinue
2-pounder A.T.	80	19	10	—	—	—
6-pounder A.T.		78	31	20	10	Discontinue
40 mm Bofors A.A.	40	10	14	30	30	10
3.7-inch A.A.	24	16	4	20	10	Discontinue
Guns and mortars:						
Owen sub-machine	2,000	2,322	1,541	2,000	1,000	500
Austen sub-machine	2,000	1,633	1,659	2,000	2,000	500
Rifles, .303-inch	16,000	12,717	16,420	16,000	16,000	8,000
3-inch mortars	200	104	11	80	Nil	40
Ammunition, artillery:						
25-pounder H.E.	500,000	295,610	273,578	250,000	120,000	30-50,000
40 mm A.A.	200,000	13,424	38,408	160,000	100,000	100,000
3.7-inch A.A.	75,000	20,924	18,907	16,000	8,000	8,000
Small arms ammunition:						
.303-inch ball	60 m.	27.2 m.	20.5 m.	40.0 m.	40.0 m.	20.0 m.
9 mm ball — Owen and Austen	15 m.	7.2 m.	5.9 m.	13.0 m.	13.0 m.	10.0 m.
Ammunition — mortar and grenades:						
3-inch mortar H.E.	250,000	141,846	68,608	190,000	100,000	150,000
Grenades No. 36 — hand, rifle	120,000	121,244	71,178	120,000	100,000	120,000
Mines:						
Mines A.T.	60,000	51,685	48,983	60,000	60,000	15,000

Source: War Cabinet Agenda 169/1943 Supplement 1; and 439/1943 Supplement 1.

THE STRUGGLE FOR PRODUCTION CONTROL

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June - Manpower

	Net Manpower Requirements—January-June 1943					
	Deficiency in 1942 programme at end of 1942		Requirements for 1943 programme January-June 1943		Total requirements January-June 1943	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Navy			5,000	1,000	5,000	1,000
Army	40,000	25,000	25,000	—	65,000	25,000
Air Force	6,000	—	22,000	8,000	28,000	8,000
Munitions and Aircraft						
Production	33,000	17,000	15,000	13,000	48,000	30,000
Allied Works	—	—	—	—	—	—
	79,000	42,000	67,000	22,000	146,000	64,000

June - Manpower

Required Monthly Rate of Supply of Manpower January-June 1943

	Males	Females
Service Recruitment	16,000	6,000
Munitions and Aircraft Production	8,000	5,000
	<u>24,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

Experience during 1942 had been

	Average monthly labour supply	Percentage of women
April to June	40,000	20
July to September	25,000	25
October to December	10,000	50

June - Manpower

- The August review formed an integral part of the plan of 1st October to rebalance the war effort by the release of 40,000 men—20,000 from munitions—by June 1944. But implementation was held up pending completion of a Munitions feasibility study. The report, ordered in July for the end of September, was not ready for consideration with the Defence Committee's recommendations in mid-October.
- Details were finalised on 30th November only after the intervention of the Prime Minister (photo).
- The primary reason for the delay of four and a half months was simply lack of interest in manpower saving and rationalisation. To the end of 1943 the men of Munitions were preoccupied with the business of production and anything which interposed was an irritating distraction.



June - Manpower

- The plan for contraction, when finally approved on 8th December, provided for the bulk of the reduction to fall on private contractors. As far as possible work formerly performed by contractors would be taken over by government factories, thus releasing resources for conversion to civilian production.
- The ammunition factory at Rocklea, Queensland, was already in process of conversion for aero-engine reconditioning; Tamworth, New South Wales, had been made available for food dehydration; Katoomba and Young, New South Wales, and Stawell, Victoria, were converted for clothing and textile manufacture.
- The number of munitions factories would fall from a 1943 peak of 47 to 41.
- However, the August review would not in the view of the Minister for Munitions permit the release of 20,000 men by June 1944 as directed by the War Cabinet. The most that could be made available was about 17,500, but even this figure was unlikely to be reached because it made no allowance for the diversion from within the Munitions bloc to "absolute priority" work on small marine craft construction, aircraft production, ship repair, and manufacture of radio location equipment.
- Further, much of the labour employed by Munitions was unsuitable, because of age or physical condition, for active service or arduous employment.

June - Manpower

- This forecast was vigorously disputed by the Manpower Directorate but was at least consistent with the pattern of manpower release by Munitions since April 1943.
- Output and employment had reached a peak in that month, but the April review was slow to take effect. Employment fell more rapidly after June although not as quickly as had been expected. Between March and November by 18,000—12,000 men and 6,000 women—but against this the number in aircraft production rose by over 6,000, in ship construction and repair by over 500, and employment was also expanding in small marine craft construction.
- Munitions had to contend with the loss to the Services of a large proportion of its young men and the introduction of more women and older men and argued that during the course of 1943 labour productivity tended to fall, a trend reinforced by the easing of psychological pressure.
- But there was substance in the Director-General of Manpower's repeated allegations that production of some items had been continued for the sake of retaining labour; that actual labour requirements were exaggerated; and that the decline in efficiency was much less pronounced than Munitions claimed.
- Many of the countless disputes of 1943 arose because of the division of manpower responsibilities between the Directors-General of Manpower and Munitions.
- Manpower's tactics were undoubtedly irritating for those preoccupied with the business of production, but on the basic issue its view was correct—in 1943 as towards the end of 1942 Munitions was of its own volition and by Cabinet direction attempting too much.

June - Washington

- At AAF Headquarters the Historical Office undertook in the (northern) summer of 1943 a study of all records of the (Bismark Sea) action including the captured enemy documents.
- These offered conclusive proof of the presence of no more than sixteen ships in the original convoy and failed to establish the assumption that additional vessels had later joined them.
- Photo intelligence had provided positive identification for only three destroyers and six merchant vessels, with five other units listed as possible destroyers for a total of fourteen.
- But GHQ SWPA, on being apprised of the conclusions of this study in Washington, declined to accept them and elected to stand on the original figures.

June - Sea

- In the Pacific Theatre during World War II, Japanese depth charge attacks were initially unsuccessful. Unless caught in shallow water, a submarine could dive below the Japanese depth charge attack. The Japanese were unaware that the submarines could dive so deep. The old United States S-class submarines (1918–1925) had a test depth of 200 ft (61 m) but the more modern Balao-class submarines (1943) could reach 400 ft (120 m).
- In June 1943, the deficiencies of Japanese depth-charge tactics were revealed in a press conference held by U.S. Congressman Andrew J. May (photo) of the House Military Affairs Committee, who had visited the Pacific theater and received intelligence and operational briefings.
- Various press associations reported the depth issue. Soon, the Japanese were setting their depth charges to explode at a more effective average depth of 246 ft (75 m). Admiral Lockwood, commander of the U.S. submarine fleet in the Pacific, later estimated that May's revelation cost the United States Navy ten submarines and 800 seamen killed in action. The leak became known as The May Incident.



July 43

- By April 1943 15 A.I.F. and 8 militia battalions had gained battle experience in New Guinea. The militia battalions belonged to the 7th Brigade (9th, 25th, 61st Battalions) which had taken part in the successful defence of Milne Bay; the 30th Brigade (3rd, 39th and 55th/53rd Battalions) which had fought over the Kokoda Trail, and, in company with the 14th Brigade (now 36th and 49th Battalions) had joined the 4 A.I.F. brigades attacking Gona and Sanananda.
- In July 3 of these 8 battalions—the 3rd, 39th and 49th—would be disbanded and their officers and men distributed among the units of the 6th Division as reinforcements, leaving only 5 battle-trying militia infantry battalions .

7 September - Brisbane

- MacArthur, in a message to Washington on 7 Sep 1943, suggested that action might be taken against those responsible for calling the claims made in his communique into question.



Dec 43 - SWPA

- According to the figures in the Chiefs of Staff Reports to the War Cabinet, beginning with 4,600 in January 1942 the total United States Army and Air Corps forces in the SWPA rose as follows:
- Jun 1942 88,569
- Dec 1942 106,388
- Jun 1943 178,207
- Dec 1943 323,476



*"Wot'll you do, Cabby, when the Yanks go?"
"Wot'll YOU do, sister?"*

Rufus Morris in Bulletin (Sydney) 11 Oct 1944

20 January 1944

- In November 1943, Carpenter was replaced by Admiral Kinkaid, who ordered the final deactivation of the Mark 6 in all combat commands. Christie (photo) abided by the order, commencing on 20 January 1944, but was still convinced the Mark 6 had potential.





Putin's Wars

- Putin came to power as President at the end of 1999. Since then he has fought 5 wars:
- Second Chechen War
- Russo-Georgian War
- Russo-Ukrainian War
- Russian military Intervention in the Syrian Civil War
- Central African Republic Civil War



Putin with President Boris Yeltsin on 31 December 1999, when Yeltsin announced his resignation.

Second Chechen War

- Major combat phase:
 - 26 August 1999 – 31 May 2000
- Insurgency phase:
 - 1 June 2000 – 16 April 2009
- Location
 - North Caucasus, mainly Chechnya and Dagestan
 - Parts of Georgia
 - Suicide attacks across Russia
- Result
 - Russian victory
 - Russia regained control over Chechnya, which had achieved de facto independence in the first Chechen War.
 - The Chechen opposition faded away.



Grozny, the capital city of Chechnya.

Russo-Georgian War

- Following the election of Putin and a pro-Western change of power in Georgia in 2003, relations between Russia and Georgia began to deteriorate, reaching a full diplomatic crisis by April 2008.
- In August 2008, South Ossetian separatists shelled Georgian villages.
- This triggered the Georgian government into sending the Georgian Army to take control of most of Tskhinvali, a separatist stronghold.
- Russia launched a full-scale land, air and sea invasion of Georgia on 8 August which Russia called a "peace enforcement" operation.
- The Russian air force attacked targets beyond the conflict zone, in undisputed parts of Georgia.
- Russia recognised the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia from Georgia and the Georgian government severed diplomatic relations with Russia.



Russian military Intervention in the Syrian Civil War

- The Russian military intervention in the Syrian civil war began in September 2015, after an official request by the Syrian government for military aid against rebel groups.
- The intervention initially involved air strikes by Russian aircraft against targets primarily in north-western Syria, and against Syrian opposition militant groups opposed to the Syrian government.
- In addition, Russian special operations forces and military advisors are deployed to Syria.
- Prior to the intervention, Russian involvement in the Syrian Civil War had mainly consisted of supplying the Syrian Army with arms and equipment.
- At the end of December 2017, the Russian government announced its troops would be deployed to Syria permanently.
- The war is ongoing. The Syrian government headed by Bashar al-Assad has been preserved. Syrian Armed Forces have recaptured more than 30,000 square kilometres of area, including Latakia, Aleppo and Palmyra.



Russian Troops in Aleppo December 2016

Russo-Ukrainian War

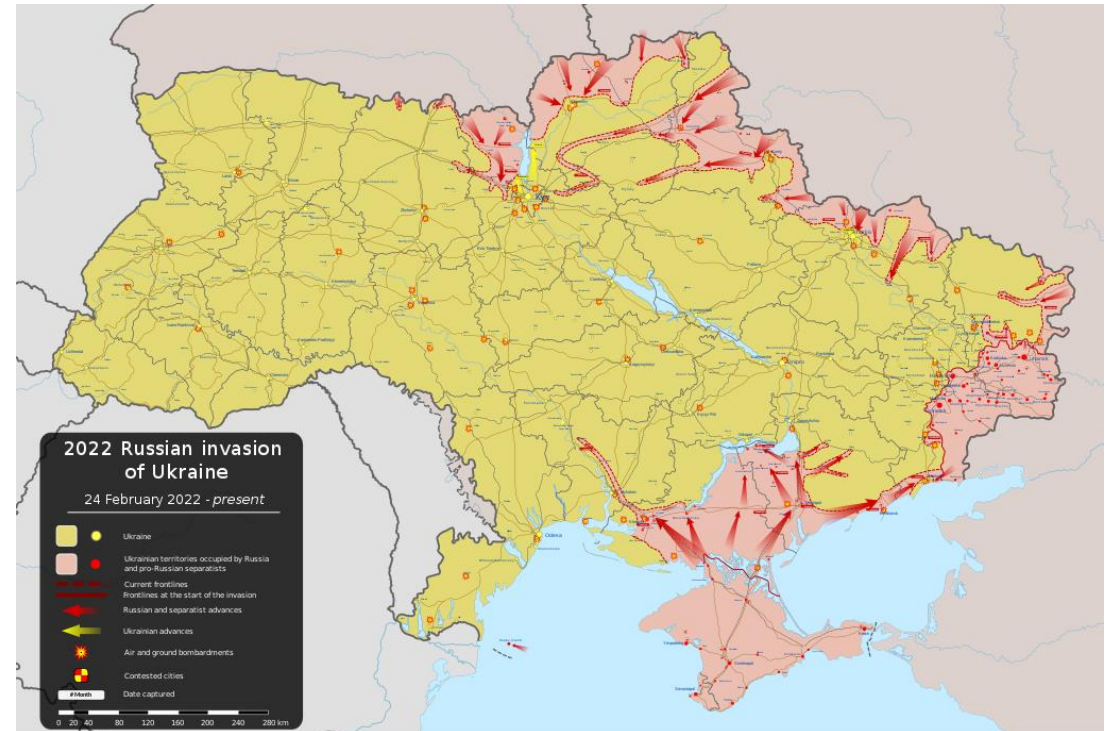
- Following the removal of Yanukovych on 22 February 2014, pro-Russian unrest erupted in parts of Ukraine.
- Russian soldiers without insignia took control of strategic positions and infrastructure in the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. (Russian forces particularly the Black Sea Fleet remained based in Crimea after the break up of the Soviet Union.)
- Unmarked Russian troops seized the Crimean Parliament and Russia organized a widely-criticised referendum, whose outcome was for Crimea to join Russia. It then annexed Crimea.
- In April 2014, demonstrations by pro-Russian groups in the Donbas region of Ukraine escalated into a war between the Ukrainian military and Russian-backed separatists of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk republics.
- The war settled into a stalemate, with repeated failed attempts at ceasefire. In 2015, a package of agreements called Minsk II were signed by Russia and Ukraine, but a number of disputes prevented them from being fully implemented.



The blockade of military units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine during the capture of Crimea by Russia in February–March 2014

Russo-Ukrainian War

- On 30 November 2021, President Putin stated that an expansion of NATO's presence in Ukraine, especially the deployment of any long-range missiles capable of striking Moscow or missile defence systems similar to those in Romania and Poland, would be a "red line" issue for the Kremlin.
- NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg stated: "It's only Ukraine and 30 NATO allies that decide when Ukraine is ready to join NATO. Russia has no veto, Russia has no say, and Russia has no right to establish a sphere of influence to try to control their neighbours."
- Having built up a large military presence on the border from late 2021, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.
- The initial attack on Kyiv failed but the attack in the Donbas and along the coast continues and seems to be having some success.
- Ukrainian resistance has impressed the west which is providing some useful armaments and applying sanctions against Russia.
- Putin seems unimpressed with Western sanctions, which, in any event are rendered feeble by European dependence on Russian gas.



Nuclear Weapons

- After 5 decades of arms limitation and arms reduction negotiations the New START treaty was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, entered into force on 5 February 2011. It is expected to last until 5 February 2026, having been extended in 2021.
- It requires the USA and Russia each to reduce the number of their deployed warheads to 1,550, which would give a throw weight of the order of 1,500 megatons. That is equivalent to approximately 100,000 Hiroshima bombs.
- All these deployed war heads have delivery systems with intercontinental reach.
- The number of undeployed warheads is not restricted.

European Gas Hostage

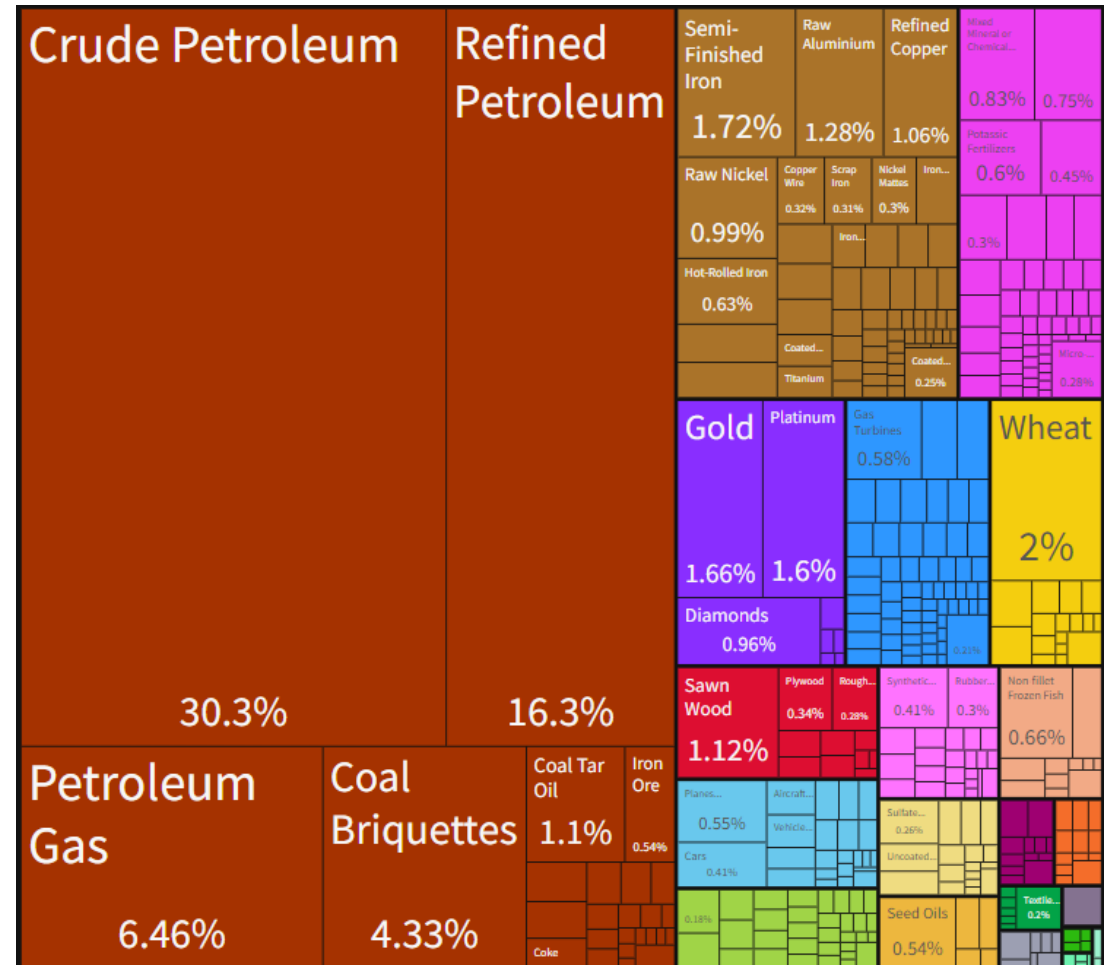
- Russia is the main supplier of natural gas to Europe.
- Much of the gas transits Ukraine, which makes about \$3 billion a year in transit fees, making it the country's most lucrative export service.
- Following the launch of the Nord Stream pipeline, which bypasses Ukraine, gas transit volumes through Ukraine have been steadily decreasing.
- European, particularly German, dependence on Russian gas supply restricts their ability to apply sanctions against Russia.
- Russia's significant oil export capacity also complicates sanctions.



Major Russian natural gas pipelines to Europe

Russian exports by value

- Russia produces 13% of global crude oil.
- Russia exports 5.5 million bbls/day of oil and oil products to members of the OECD.
 - That is 26% of OECD imports, but
 - 34% of OECD Europe imports, but
 - Only 7% of US imports, which
 - are only a small fraction of US consumption.
- Russia is a huge supplier of natural gas to Europe.
- These energy supply relationships restrict the options to apply sanctions to Russia.



What will happen next?

- With Russia still a major nuclear power no external military intervention in Ukraine is a rational option.
- With the Europeans this energy dependent on Russia, serious coordinated sanctions sufficient to force Putin back out of the Ukraine will be impossible.
- Putin will not stop the war until he has won. The best that can be hoped for is a period of stalemate.
- If he wins, every other country of the former Soviet Union with a dissident Russian population will fear the same treatment as Ukraine.
- Concerted effective western sanctions on Russia may inhibit China, which is much more dependent on both imports and exports than Russia.



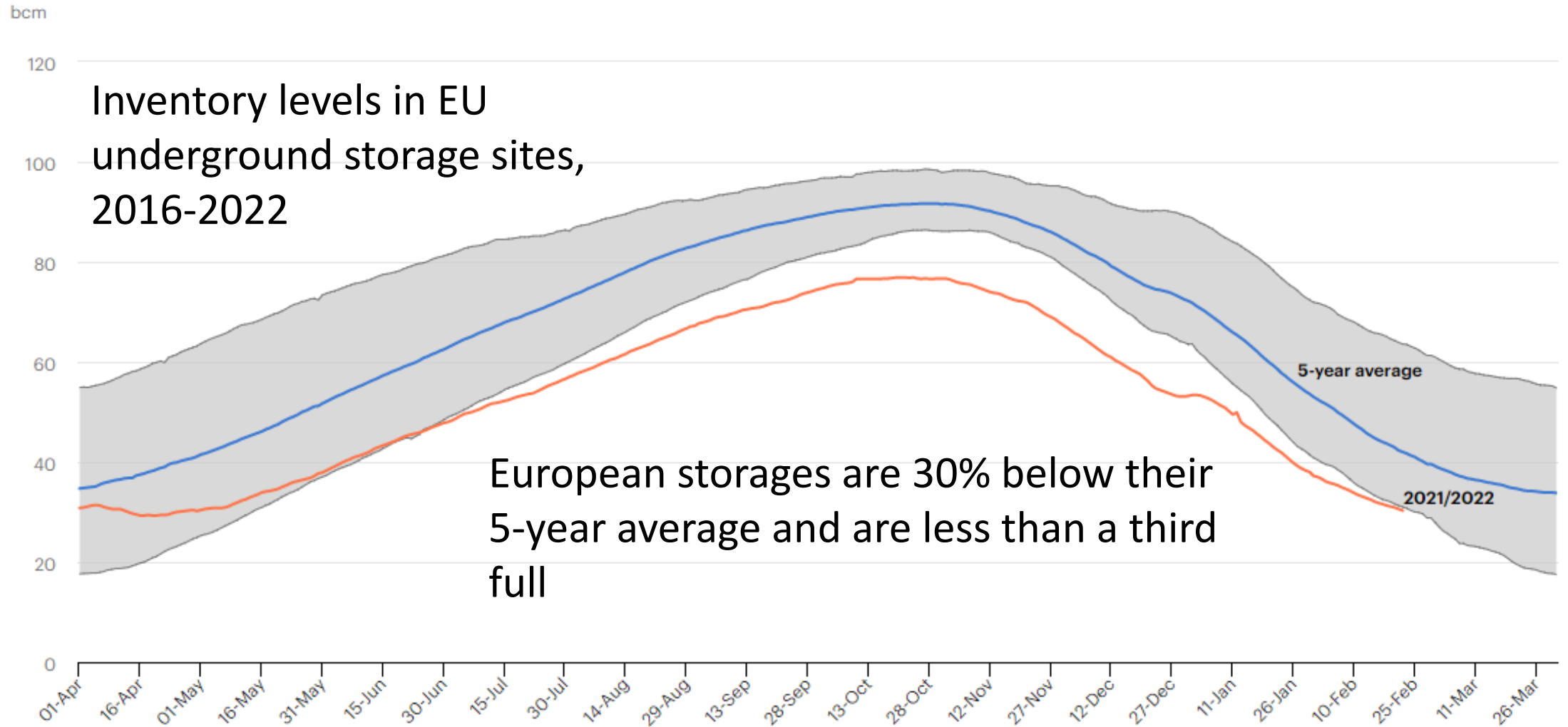
Post Soviet States in English alphabetical
order: Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Estonia
Georgia Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Latvia Lithuania
Moldova Russia Tajikistan Turkmenistan
Ukraine Uzbekistan



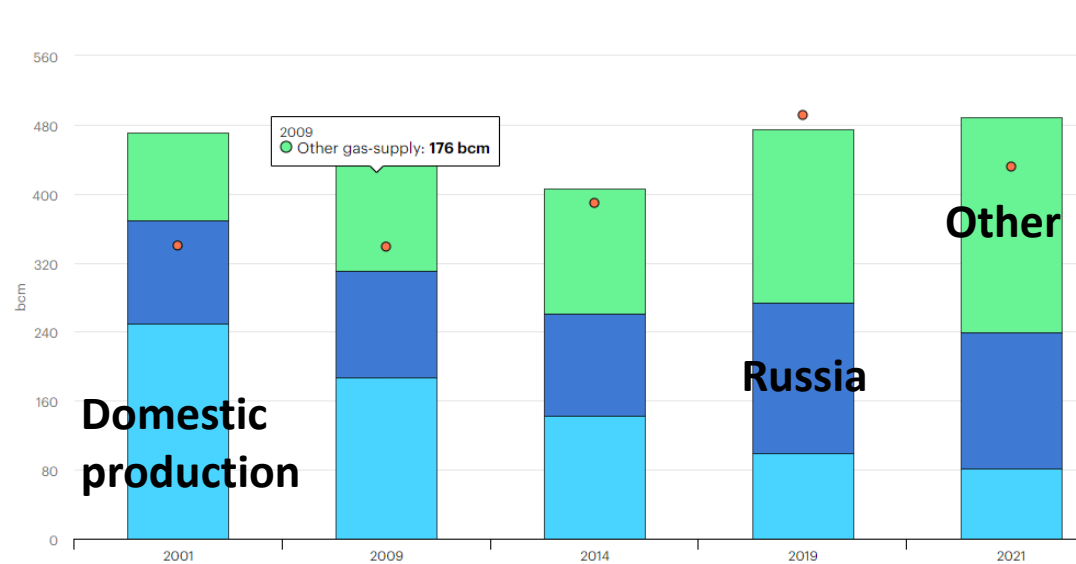
What will happen next?

- Energy Prices
- Inflation
- Growth
- Food

European Gas Supply (EU + UK)

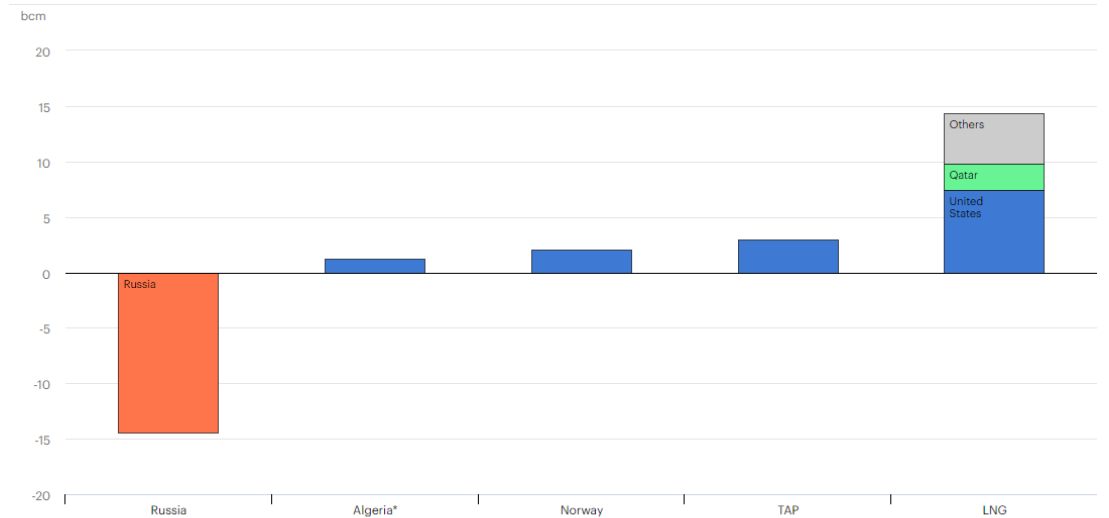


European Gas Supply (EU + UK)



The Europeans will have to find alternatives to Russian Gas to avoid the ongoing exposure to Russian blackmail. The graphs show they have already started.

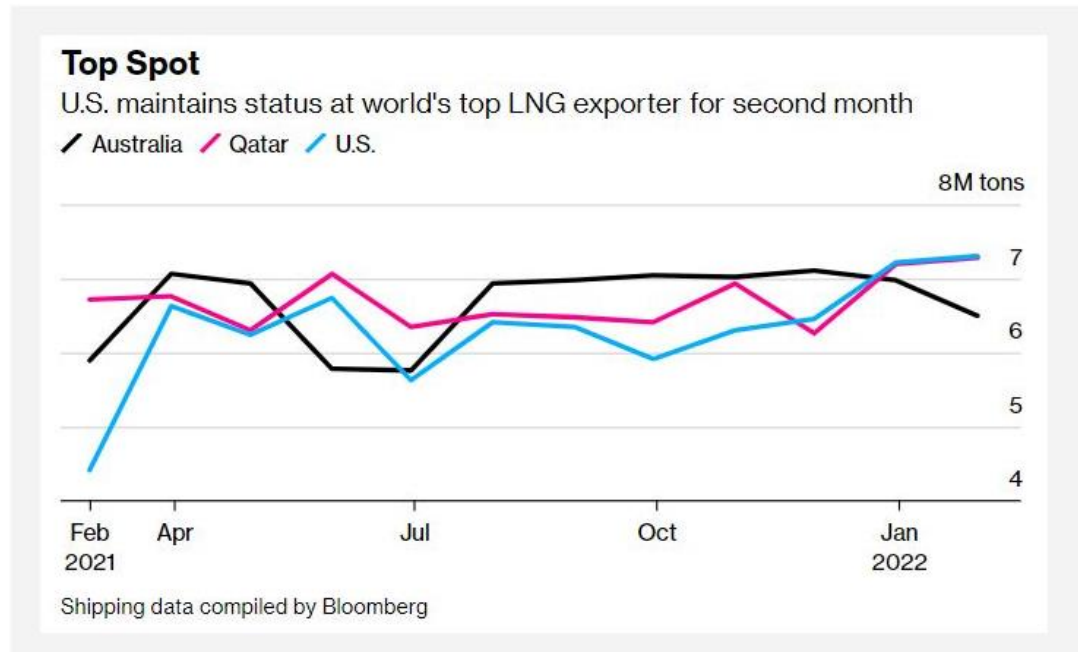
Measures will have to include energy saving, alternative sources of energy and alternative suppliers of gas.



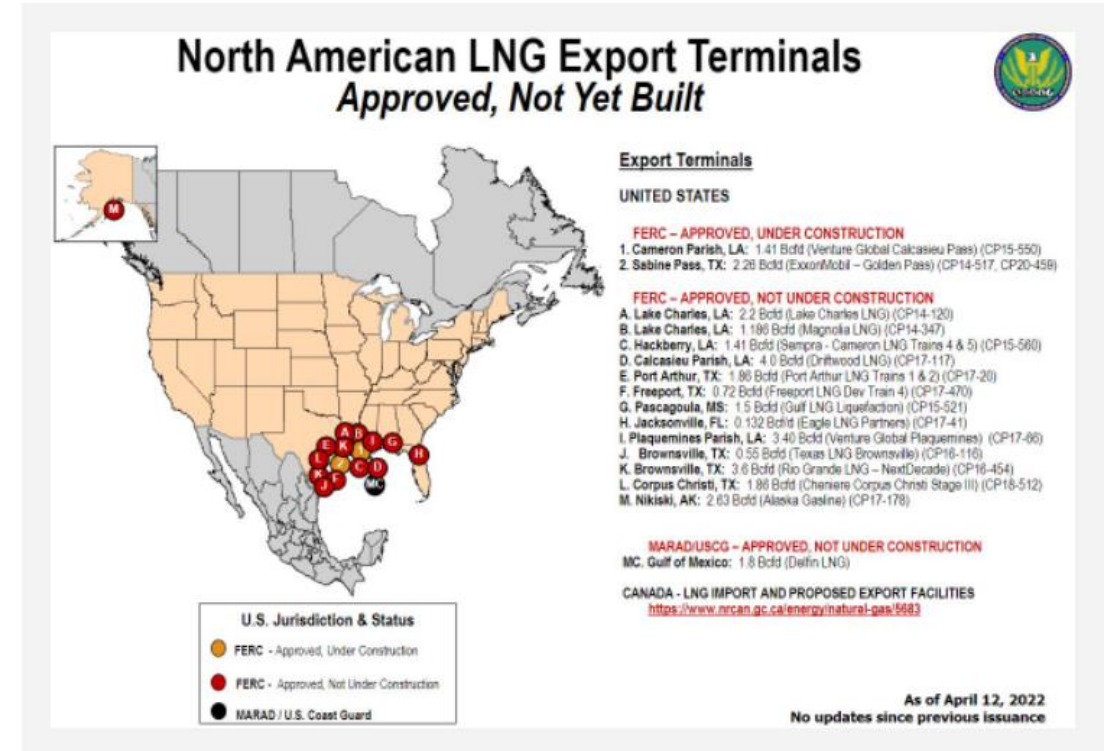
Russia reduced gas supplies to the EU and UK markets during the heating season.

Year-on-year change in the European Union and United Kingdom natural gas imports by source, Oct 2021- Jan 2022.

US Gas exports



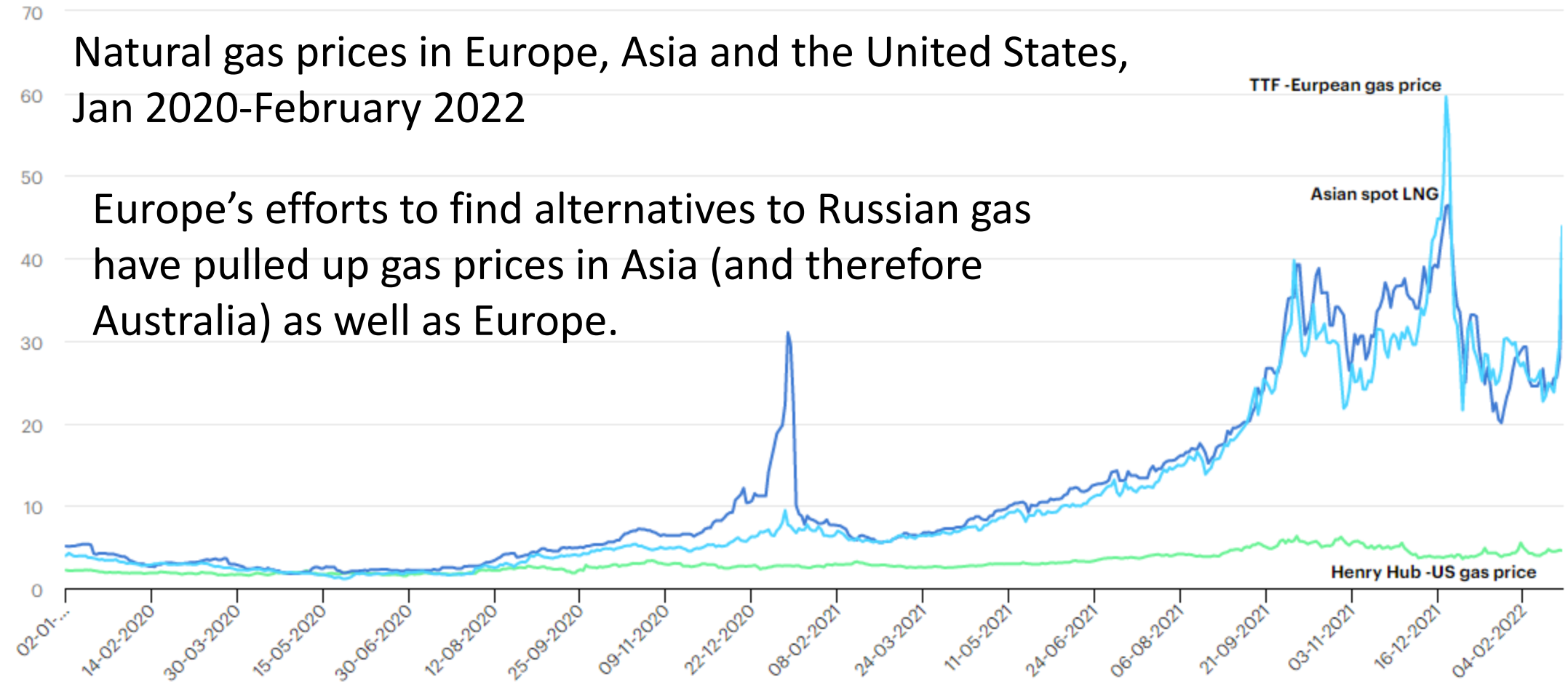
The huge increase in American oil production achieved by fracking shale beds in the last 10 years has also produced huge amounts of natural gas. An increasing percentage of this natural gas is being exported from newly constructed LNG plants.



This is nearly 250mt of LNG per annum. 2.5x Australian exports. It's not all going to get up but the Ukraine has begun to seal the deals. Those new deals are already more than the Russian export volumes to Europe.

European Gas Supply (EU + UK)

\$ / mmbtu



Summary

Forecast

Stats

Alerts

📄 Export

Natural gas

1W



Natural gas (USD/MMBtu) 9.0050 +0.9220 (+11.41%)

More recently they have also pulled up US
Natural Gas prices.



Asian & Australian Gas Prices

- Liquefied Natural Gas Swap Futures Contract Based On South East Asian LNG Prices From Platts July 22. US\$/mmBtu.



Crude Oil Prices - 70 Year Historical Chart



Major increases in energy prices in the past have very reliably caused economic recessions. Gas prices now drive electricity prices in most developed markets including Australia.

United States Inflation Rate

Summary

Calendar

Forecast

Stats

Alerts

Download ▾

Wars and energy price shocks drive inflation upwards.
Monetary and fiscal anti inflation policies cause recessions.



1Y

5Y

10Y

25Y

MAX



Chart



Compare



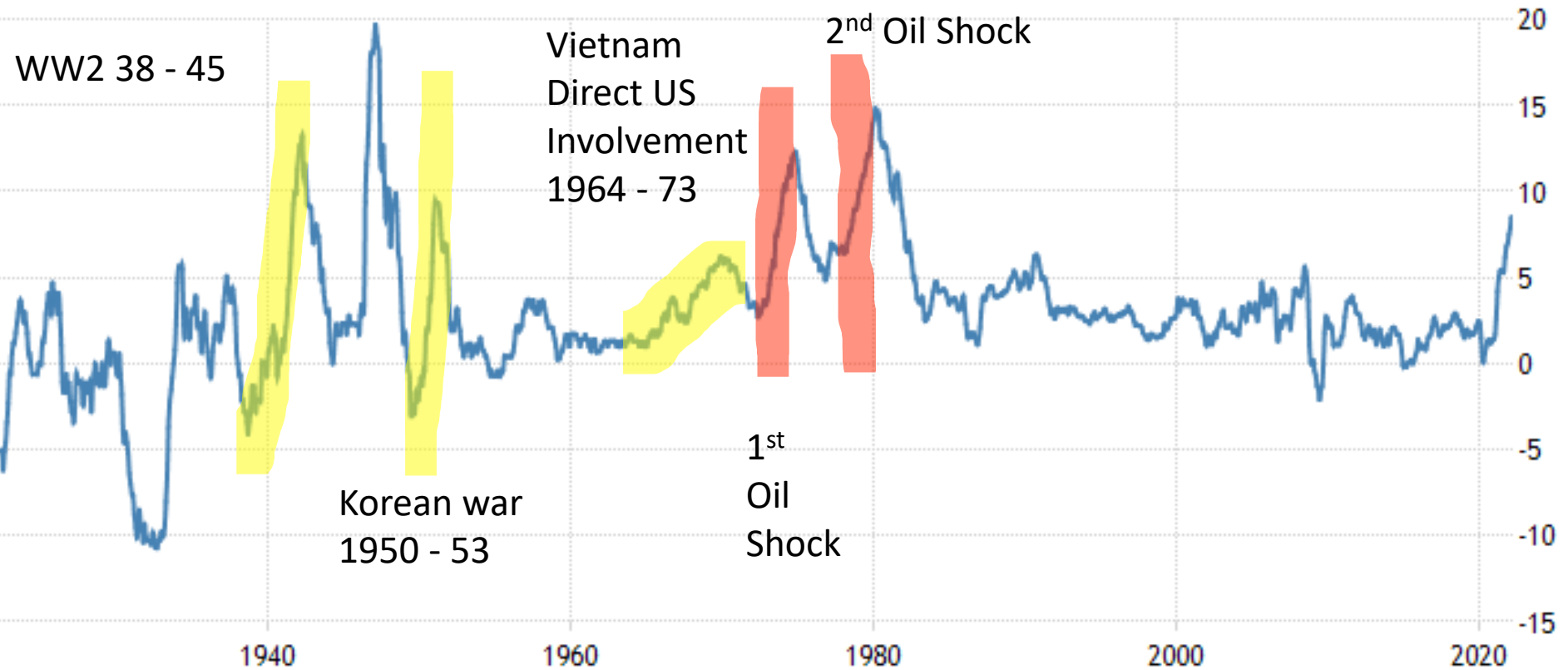
Export



API



Embed



What will happen next?

- Increased energy prices are inflationary and in 1973 and 1979 generated stagflation.
- If energy prices continue at these levels it is likely to tip the world economy into recession.
- A retreat from “Globalisation” has been set off which will generate a significant impulse of inflation.
- War is in any event inflationary.
- The war will increase the risk of stagflation, more so if it develops into a continuing stalemate.

Corn exports by value 2021

- By value, the listed 15 countries shipped 93.9% of globally exported corn in 2021.
 - The volume has shrunk because of logistical problems since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 and blocked Ukraine's Black sea ports, the main routes for Ukrainian grain exports.
 - Western nations may need to enforce freedom of the seas in the Black Sea to maintain these exports.
1. United States: US\$19.1 billion (37.2% of total corn exports)
 2. Argentina: \$9.1 billion (17.6%)
 3. Ukraine: \$5.9 billion (11.4%)
 4. Brazil: \$4.2 billion (8.1%)
 5. Romania: \$1.9 billion (3.8%)
 6. France: \$1.9 billion (3.8%)
 7. Hungary: \$1 billion (2%)
 8. India: \$935.6 million (1.8%)
 9. South Africa: \$809.3 million (1.6%)
 10. Russia: \$694.2 million (1.4%)
 11. Poland: \$633.8 million (1.2%)
 12. Serbia: \$605.1 million (1.2%)
 13. Canada: \$491.8 million (1%)
 14. Bulgaria: \$486.4 million (0.9%)
 15. Myanmar: \$483.6 million (0.9%)

List of countries by wheat exports

- 2020 data from FAO.
- Ukraine also exports 5 million tonnes of Barley a year.
- An ongoing war can be assumed to inhibit agricultural production levels in future.

#	Country	Value in thousands of USD
1	 Russia	7,918,294
2	 United States	6,318,111
3	 Canada	6,317,889
4	 France	4,528,591
5	 Ukraine	3,594,217
6	 Australia	2,698,498
7	 Germany	2,105,865
8	 Argentina	2,029,494
9	 Kazakhstan	1,137,140
10	 Poland	1,047,399

What will happen next?

- Ukraine is a major food exporter.
- If its food production or food exports continue to be reduced by the war world food prices will rise and supplies will decline.

- Thank you for your attention.
- That is the end of this course.
- Thank you for your continuing encouragement.
- Drink anyone?