



Military Despatches

Vol 15 September 2018

Game changers

Military innovations that changed the face of war

Surprise package

The dangers of booby traps

Utrinqe Paratus

The British Parachute Regiment

Dien Bien Phu

France's other Waterloo

The 'Red' Napoleon

Võ Nguyên Giáp



For the military enthusiast

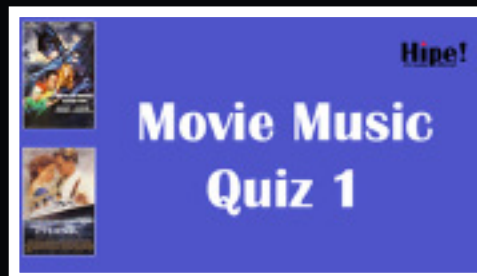


Click on any video below to view



Hipe's Wouter de Goede interviews former 28's gang boss David Williams.

How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



Part of Hipe's "On the couch" series, this is an interview with one of author Herman Charles Bosman's most famous characters, Oom Schalk Lourens.



A taxi driver was shot dead in an ongoing war between rival taxi organisations.

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The old South African Defence Force used a mixture of English, Afrikaans, slang and techno-speak that few outside the military could hope to understand. Some of the terms were humorous, some were clever, while others were downright crude.



Hipe spent time in Hanover Park, an area plagued with gang violence, to view first-hand how Project Ceasefire is dealing with the situation.

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Who am I?

This month we give you a close-up look at 15 famous military figures, and you tell us who they are.





Editor's Sitrep

August is a bit of a strange month for me. Let me explain.

I was born in August, as was both my wife (14 years and four days after me) and my brother (one year and eight days after me). So it should be a month of celebration. Not so fast.

My wife's mother passed away in August. As did my father, mother and brother. Although obviously not all at the same time.

So while I can look forward to celebrating a birthday in August, I am also very aware that my entire family chose August as the month to clock out.

So August makes me a bit nervous. Especially if I follow what seems to be the family tradition. I always breathe a sigh of relief when the calendar says 1 September.

I received an e-mail from an old friend and colleague recently. We spend a good few years working in strange and exotic locations around Africa and the rest of the world.

She had an interesting comment to make about the magazine.

"Hey Matt. Really enjoying

the magazine and will try and do a few articles for it. Just one thing though. It's time you dragged yourself kicking and screaming out of the 70s and updated the layout of the magazine."

Maybe she's right. So this month there is a slightly different look to the mag. Nothing too drastic however. I still feel any magazine (printed or on-line) should be clean and easy to read.

Last month we launched a new section called "This month in military history". From the response I've received, it seems to have gone down fairly well. So we'll continue this until all twelve months have been covered.

November will see the centenary of the signing of the Armistice in 1918. So I'm thinking of doing an entire issue dedicated just to World War I. It will be a one-off thing because I doubt whether I'll still be around in another 100 years. Then again, neither will you.

Until next month.

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With no formal military training, this history teacher would go on to become one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century.

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Formed more than 78 years ago and colloquially known as the Paras, the Parachute Regiment is regarded as one of the most elite units in the world. And they have the battle honours to prove it.



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Dien Bien Phu

In 1815 the French, under Napoleon, were defeated by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. In 1954 the French once again met their Waterloo. This time they were defeated by the Viet Minh at a place named Dien Bien Phu.

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Now you can own all 282 issues of Paratus magazine in digital format.

Front Cover

Members of the 2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment (*2e Régiment étranger de parachutistes, 2e REP*) in Afghanistan.



10 Military Achievements

Ten military innovations that changed the face of warfare.

Warfare has been around for as long as recorded history. And those involved in wars have always been on the lookout for weapons or innovations that would give them the edge over the enemy.

In this month's 'Top Ten' we look at ten military innovations that changed the face of warfare. Ten achievements that were game changers.

10. The Chariot

The two-wheeled, horse drawn chariot was one of the most important achievements in history. It provided man with his first concept of personal transport, and for almost 2,000 years it was used as a key military weapon system of war.

The critical invention that

allowed the construction of light, horse-drawn chariots was the spoked wheel. The earliest spoke-wheeled chariots date to around 2000 BC.

The chariot, with a driver and an archer armed with a composite bow, revolutionised warfare after 1700 BC.

A common tactic was for a line of chariots to approach the enemy until they were within archery range. The archers would then fire volleys of arrows at them. If the infantry charged, the chariots could quickly turn and retreat, with the archers still able to fire.

Some armies made use of a scythed chariot. The scythed chariot was a modified war chariot. The blades extended horizontally for about one meter to each side of the wheels. The chariots were normally driven by four horses and had a driver and two warriors for protection. They would charge in an extended line, cutting down the enemy with the scythes.

millennium BC, making these weapon systems the early foundation for cavalry.

9. The Sarissa

It was Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, that introduced the sarissa, a long spear or pike about 4-6 metres in length.

Made from tough and resilient cornel wood, the sarissa was a heavy spear, weighing in the region of 5,5 to 6,5 kg.

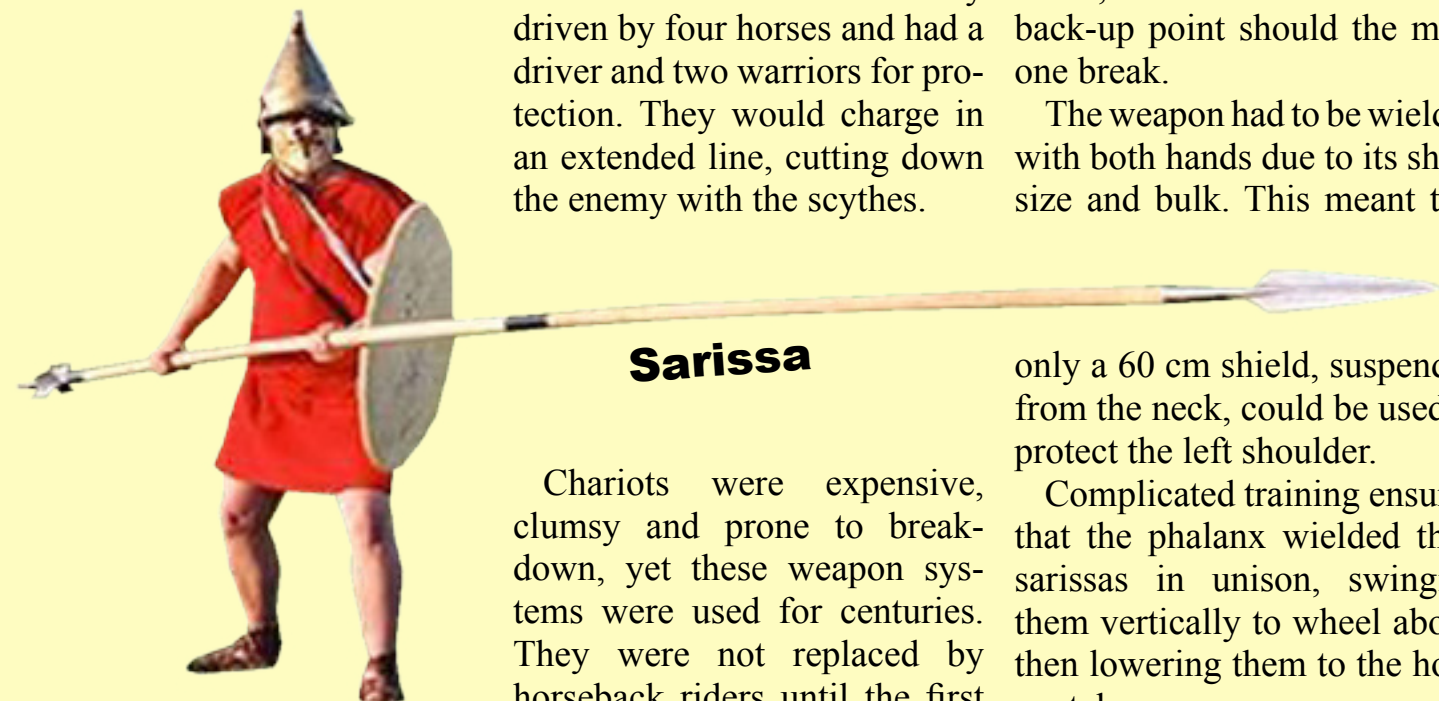
It had a sharp iron head shaped like a leaf and a bronze butt-spike that would allow it to be anchored to the ground to stop charges by enemy soldiers.

The bronze material of the butt-spike prevented it from rusting. The spike also served to balance out the spear, making it easier for soldiers to wield, and could be used as a back-up point should the main one break.

The weapon had to be wielded with both hands due to its sheer size and bulk. This meant that

only a 60 cm shield, suspended from the neck, could be used to protect the left shoulder.

Complicated training ensured that the phalanx wielded their sarissas in unison, swinging them vertically to wheel about, then lowering them to the horizontal.



The sarissa-bearing phalanx would usually march to battle in open formation to facilitate movement. Before the charge, it would tighten its files to close formation or even compact formation.

Their tight formation meant that the phalanx created a wall of spears that were so long that there were five rows of them projecting in front of the front rank of men. Even if an enemy managed to get past the first row, there were still four more rows to stop him.

The Macedonian phalanx was considered invulnerable from the front, except against another such phalanx. The only way it was ever generally defeated was by breaking its formation or outflanking it.

8. Sailing Ships

The first sailing ships were most likely Egyptian and existed around 3000 BC or earlier. They were used on the River Nile, which was ideal for primitive sailing vessels. The winds on the Nile are usually from the North. So if they wanted to go South they just raised the sails on the double mast. If they wanted to go North they just lowered the sails and drifted with the river's current. It was through these early sailing ships that the navy was born.

Produced from the 13th to the 18th centuries and commonly used in Northern Europe, Viking longboats were clinker built boats. They were sturdy, long and slender with a large square sail, making them swift

and capable of long voyages. By 1200 AD this type of ship was used by militaries throughout Northern Europe. The skeid, which means 'that which cuts through water', were larger warships, consisting of more than 30 rowing benches.

The technology of the sailing warship developed from 1775 to 1862 and required little extensive research and there were few new developments. Sails, ropes and guns would eventually become the main components of this military weapon system, and timber the most basic and vital component. Timber was available in abundance in most countries.

7. The Cannon

Once upon a time all you needed was a strong castle with towers and thick walls, surrounded by a moat and a drawbridge, and you were sorted.

Then as early as the 12th century the Chinese went ahead and invented the cannon. Suddenly castle walls were not that safe anymore. By the 1350s the cannon was used extensively in Chinese warfare.

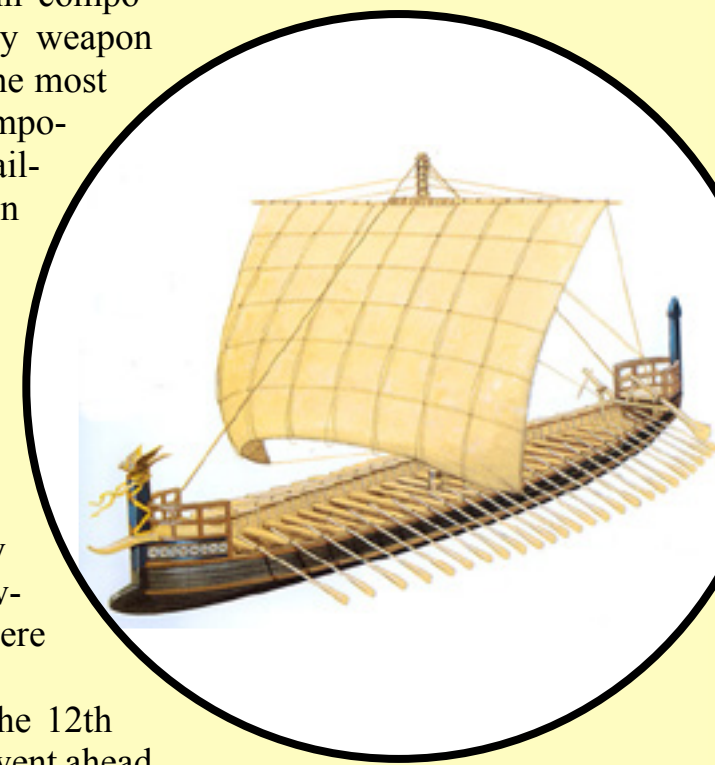
It wasn't long before the cannon made its appearance in Europe and the cannon took on its classic form at the beginning of the 17th century and remained almost unchanged until the mid 19th century when it was superseded by the breech loading rifle gun.

At first cannons were immobile and it took time before the development of the two-wheel gun carriage.

This development led to the formation of a new service within the military and the artillery joined the ranks of the cavalry and the infantry.

The cannon was a shock weapon that was usually used in mass and its placement was critical.

A volley of cannon fire at



charging infantry and cavalry could be devastating. They were vulnerable to cavalry that managed to flank them or charge the from the rear, making their powerful fire useless.

Yet it was the cannon that made the once powerful fortresses and castles obsolete.

Later developments would make artillery a valuable part of any modern-day army.

6. The Machine Gun

A machine gun is best described as “a fully automatic firearm that loads, fires and ejects continuously when the trigger is held to the rear until the ammunition is exhausted or pressure on the trigger is released.”

The first successful machine gun designs were developed in the mid 19th century.

The Model 1862 Gatling gun had a relatively high rate of fire and more importantly mechanical loading. The weapon was adopted by the United States Navy.

These early machine guns were still powered by hand. This changed with Hiram Maxim's idea of harnessing recoil energy to power reloading in his Maxim machine gun.

The Maxim machine gun used the recoil power of the previously fired bullet to reload

rather than being hand-powered, enabling a much higher rate of fire than was possible using earlier designs such as the Nordenfelt and Gatling weapons. Maxim also introduced the use of water cooling, via a water jacket around the barrel, to reduce overheating.

Maxim's gun was widely adopted, and derivative designs were used on all sides during the First World War. The design required fewer crew and was lighter and more usable than the Nordenfelt and Gatling guns.

First World War combat experience demonstrated the military importance of the machine gun. The United States Army issued four machine guns per regiment in 1912, but that allowance increased to 336 machine guns per regiment by 1919.

Machine guns became categorised into light machine guns (LMG), medium machine guns

(MMG), and heavy machine guns (HMG).

Light machine guns act as squad support weapons, require only one man to operate, and can be carried on patrols.

Medium and heavy machine guns are normally crew-served weapons and require a bipod or tripod. They are generally static weapons used for defence.

Medium and heavy machine guns can also be mounted on vehicles or aircraft.

Some modern machine guns have come a full circle, going back to the Gatling gun's use of multiple rotating barrels.

The General Electric M134, commonly known as the Mini-gun, can fire up to 6,000 rounds per minute without overheating.

5. The Submarine

If ships were such an innovation, that how about a ship that could travel undetected underwater?

Although experimental submarines had been built before, submarine design only really took off during the 19th century.

Submarines were first widely used during World War I (1914–1918), and now figure in many navies large and small. Today there are 41 countries that make use of submarines as part of their navy.

During World War II, Germany used submarines to devastating effect in the Battle of the Atlantic, where it attempted to cut Britain's supply routes by sinking more merchant ships than Britain could replace.

4. Paratroopers

Perhaps no military weapon system has provided as much flexibility on the battlefield as the employment of paratroopers. Certainly no weapon system has been so spectacular.

Shortly after World War I General Billy Mitchell proposed that parachuting troops into combat from aircraft could be effective on the battlefield.

During a demonstration of his concept at Kenny Field in San Antonio, Texas, six soldiers parachuted from a Martin bomber and safely landed. Less than three minutes after exiting from the aircraft they were on the ground, had their weapons assembled, and were ready for action.

Although US military observers dismissed the concept, not all of the observers came to the same conclusion. The German observers eagerly grasped the idea and their military planners worked quickly to establish a military parachute organisation.

The Germans developed their airborne forces and at the start of World War II they used parachute troops in their spearhead assaults in Holland and Belgium. Spurred by the successful employment of airborne troops by the Germans in the invasion

of the Low Countries, US military authorities began an all-out effort to develop this new method of warfare.

From the paratroopers of Operation Overlord who first secured the flanks of Normandy's landing beaches, to the mass drops of the US 82nd and 101st Airborne and the British Parachute Regiment that formed part of Operation Market-Garden, to the modern day paratroopers and special forces elements that jump into enemy territory, paratroopers provide a tactical edge in modern warfare.

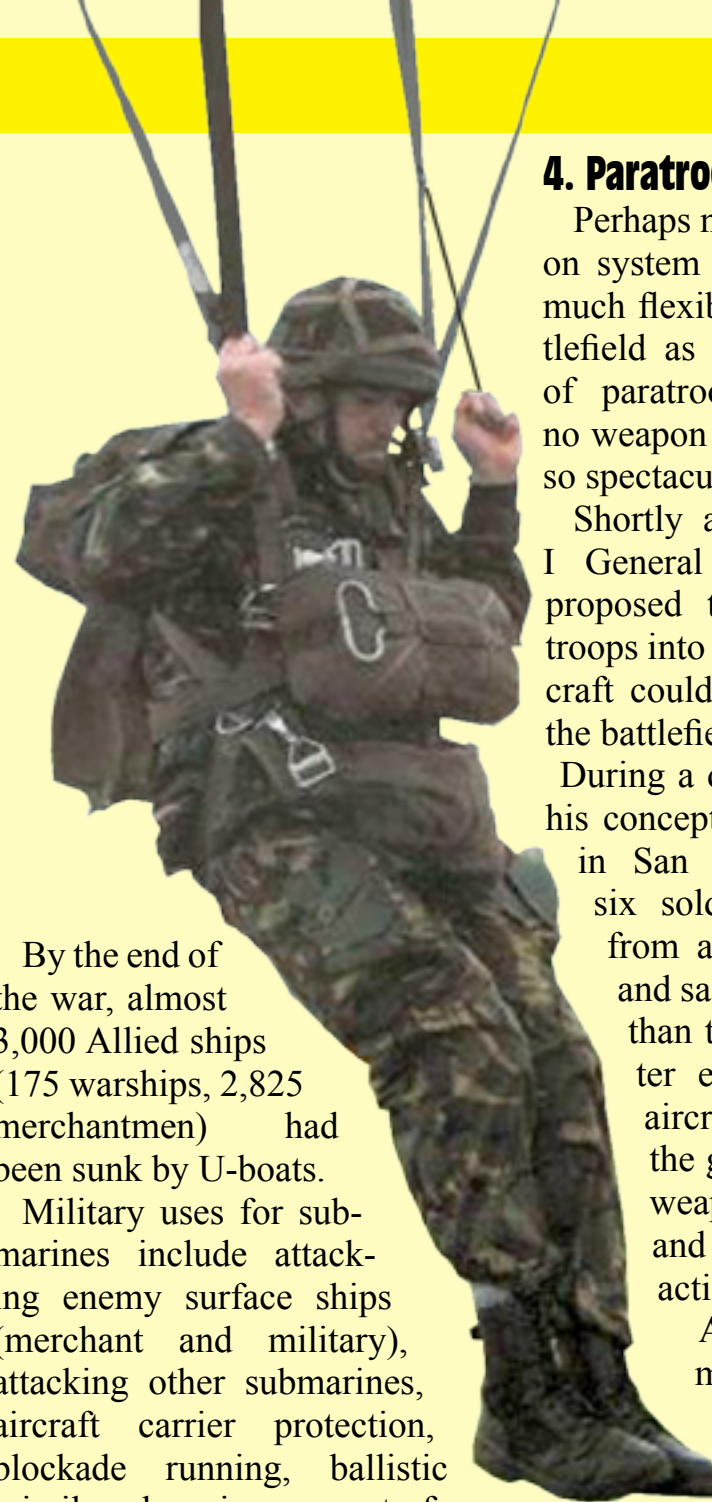
The paratrooper can drop into areas inaccessible to regular soldiers. They can thin an enemy's defences by forcing them to protect areas that would normally be safe by virtue of geography.

3. Aircraft

On 17 December 1903 a few kilometres south of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina the Wright brothers made the first powered flight.

Balloons were one of the first mechanisms used in air warfare. Their role was strictly recognised for reconnaissance purposes. They provided humans with the first available method of elevating themselves well over the battlefield to obtain the proverbial “birds-eye view.”

The first decisive use of a balloon for aerial observation was performed by the French Aerostatic Corps using the *aerostat l'Entreprenant* (“The enterprising one”) at the Battle of Fleurus in 1794. The follow-

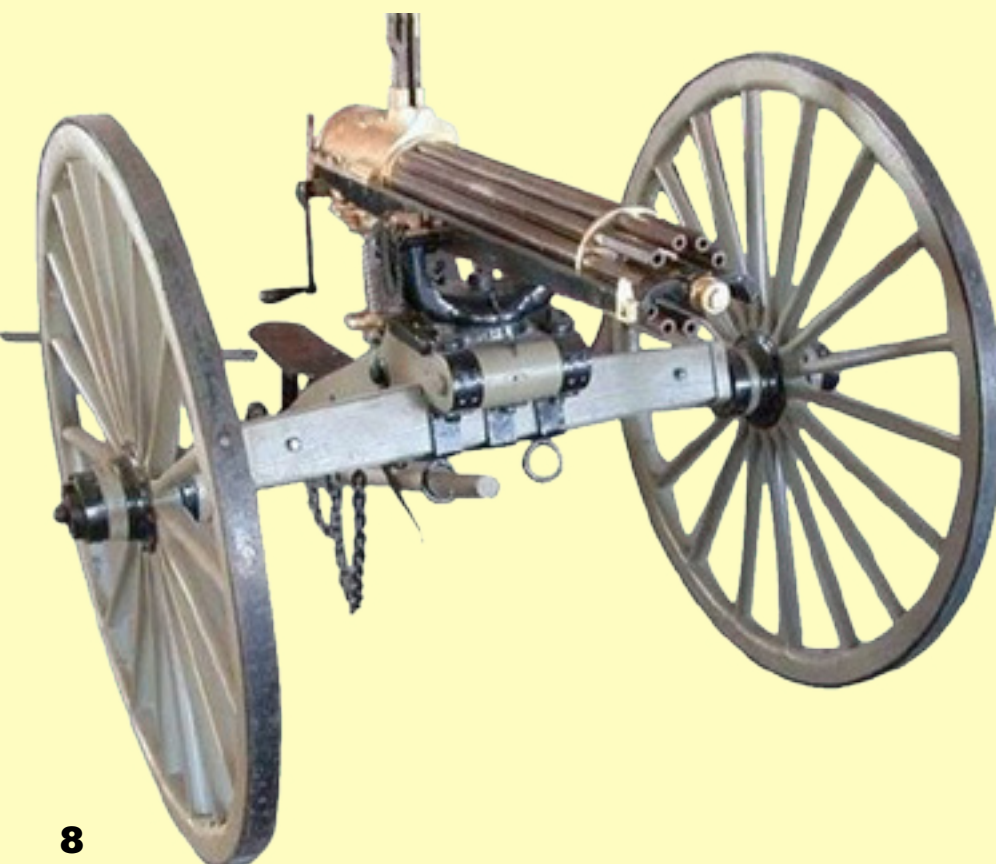


By the end of the war, almost 3,000 Allied ships (175 warships, 2,825 merchantmen) had been sunk by U-boats.

Military uses for submarines include attacking enemy surface ships (merchant and military), attacking other submarines, aircraft carrier protection, blockade running, ballistic missile submarines as part of a nuclear strike force, reconnaissance, conventional land attack (for example using a cruise missile), and covert insertion of special forces.

In September 1954 the first nuclear submarine was commissioned and these days a number of navies have nuclear submarines.

Some of these submarines are attack submarines, while others are missile boats capable of launching nuclear missiles.



ing year, during the Siege of Mainz an observation balloon was employed again. However, the French military use of the balloon did not continue uninterrupted, as in 1799 Napoleon disbanded the French balloon corps.

Eleven years after the Wright brothers had made their first flight, the world was at war. And the aircraft would play its role.

At first the aircraft were unarmed and used for aerial reconnaissance and observation. Enemy pilots would pass each other in the sky, often greeting or saluting each other.

Then someone had the bright

idea to take a revolver with them and take a few shots at the opposition.

Soon machine guns were being mounted and the aircraft became a weapon system.

The sky became filled with flimsy aircraft performing a fascinating but deadly aerial ballet that became known as ‘dog-fights’.

If a pilot managed to shoot down five enemy aircraft they earned the title of ‘ace’.

The *Fliegertruppen des deutschen Kaiserreiches* (Imperial German Flying Corps) had

Manfred von Richthofen, better known as The Red Baron, with 80 kills.

The French air force, *Aéronautique Militaire*, had René Fonck with 75 kills. The United Kingdom’s Royal Flying Corps had Edward ‘Mick’ Mannock with 61 kills.

The aircraft had come into its own.

World War II saw the rapid development of the aircraft as a weapon system. Not only were there fighter aircraft that could reach heights in excess of 12,000 metres and travel at speeds of more than 700 km per hour, there were large

four-engine bombers that could travel more than 5,000 kilometres

Aircraft have become a vital component of any modern day military organisation and gaining air supremacy over the battlefield is considered a must.

2. Aircraft Carrier

If both ships and aircraft rated among the top military innovations, then what about a combination of the two?

We’re not talking about a flying ship here, but rather a sea-going airbase. In other words, an aircraft carrier.

Only seven years after the flight of the first heavier-than-air fixed-wing aircraft, an aircraft took off from a ship for the first time.

On 14 November 1910, Eugene Burton Ely took off in a Curtiss pusher airplane from the deck of a United States Navy ship, the cruiser USS Birmingham anchored off Norfolk Navy Base in Virginia.

Two months later, on 18 January 1911, Ely landed his Curtiss pusher airplane

on a platform on the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania anchored in San Francisco Bay. On 9 May 1912, the first airplane take-off from a ship underway was made from the deck of the British Royal Navy’s pre-dreadnaught battleship HMS Hibernia.

Early in World War I, the Imperial Japanese Navy ship

Wakamiya conducted the world’s first successful ship-launched air raid. On 6 September 1914, a Farman aircraft launched by Wakamiya attacked the Austro-Hungarian cruiser SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and the Imperial German gunboat Jaguar in Kiaochow Bay off Tsingtao. Neither was hit.

The first carrier-launched airstrike was the Tondern Raid in July 1918. Seven Sopwith Camels launched from the converted battlecruiser HMS Furious damaged the German airbase at Tondern, Germany (modern day Tønder, Denmark) and destroyed two zeppelin airships.

The development of flattop vessels produced the first large fleet ships. In 1918, HMS Argus became the world’s first carrier capable of launching and recovering naval aircraft.

Launched on 24 September 1960, the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) became the world’s first nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

Modern day aircraft carriers are typically the capital ship of a fleet, as it allows a naval force to project air power worldwide without depending on local bases for staging aircraft operations.

As of August 2018, there are 41 active aircraft carriers in the world operated by thirteen navies.

1. The Atomic Bomb

No other weapon system has changed the face of warfare more than nuclear weapons.

Building on scientific breakthroughs made during the 1930s, the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada collaborated during World War II, in what was called the Manhattan Project, to counter the suspected Nazi German atomic bomb project. In August 1945, two fission bombs were dropped on Japan, standing to date as the only use of nuclear weapons in combat. The Soviet Union started development shortly thereafter

with their own atomic bomb project, and not long after that both countries developed even more powerful fusion weapons known as ‘hydrogen bombs’.

The first test of a fission (‘atomic’) bomb released an amount of energy approximately equal to 20,000 tons of TNT. A modern thermonuclear weapon weighing little more than 1,100 kg can release energy equal to more than 1.2 million tons of TNT.

Since the first atomic bomb was tested, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted in over a dozen different sites around the world.

While modern nuclear weapons make the atomic bomb look like a firecracker, the atomic bomb makes this list by virtue of the fact that the bombs dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain the only two instances of nuclear weapons being used in combat. Let us hope and pray that this remains the case.



Winning the booby prize

A simple act such as picking up a torch and switching it on, opening a door, or starting a vehicle can be lethal. In a war zone anything could be booby trapped and throughout history these sneak devices have been employed with great success.

Not everything on the battlefield or in a war zone may be what it appears to be.

You open a door that is slightly ajar, and it blows up in your face. You pick up a pair of discarded binoculars and raise them to your eyes, but they are out of focus. When you try to adjust the focus the binoculars explode, along with your head.

You've just had your first introduction to the world of booby traps.

The Spanish word *bobo* translates to "stupid, daft, naïve, simple, fool, idiot, clown, funny man, one who is easily cheated" and similar pejorative terms. The slang of *bobo*, *bu-bie*, translates to "dunce".

The term "booby trap" gives rise to the idea that an individual with the misfortune to be caught in the trap does so because the individual is a "booby", or that an individual who is caught in the trap thereby becomes a "booby".

A booby trap is a device or setup that is intended to kill, harm, or surprise a person, unknowingly triggered by the presence or actions of the victim. As the word trap implies, they sometimes have some form of bait designed to lure the victim towards it. At other times, the trap is set to act upon trespassers that violate personal or restricted areas.

The device can be triggered

when the victim performs some type of everyday action, e.g., opening a door, picking something up, or switching something on. They can also be triggered by vehicles driving along a road, as in the case of victim-operated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Booby traps can range from the simple to the very complex.

Booby traps are often used in warfare, particularly guerrilla warfare. Many booby traps are designed to injure or maim, rather than kill the victim. And there is very sound reasoning for this.

If a soldier activates a booby trap and is killed, there is nothing more that you can do for him. The troops may pause for a moment, and then move on.

Let's say, however, that the booby trap blows the soldier's foot off. At least one, but probably two, other troops will have to move the injured soldier out of the combat zone. The injured soldier will have to be evacuated, often by helicopter, for medical treatment.

This treatment and rehabilitation of the injured soldier will cost time, resources and money.

If the soldier has lost a limb it can have a demoralising effect on others.

Booby traps are also often employed by defending or retreating armies. They can be effective at slowing down advancing forces.

In addition to the obvious ability of booby traps to kill or injure, their presence has other effects such as these:

- Demoralise soldiers as booby traps kill or maim comrades.
- Keep soldiers continually stressed, suspicious and unable to relax because it is difficult for them to know which areas, buildings or objects are safe.
- Slow down troop movement as soldiers are forced to sweep areas to see if there are more booby traps.
- Make soldiers cautious instead of aggressive and confident.
- Create no-go areas (real or imagined) after a booby trap has killed or wounded someone.
- Cause a section or platoon to have to stop in order to deal with casualties, thus slowing and delaying those troops.
- Create confusion and disorientation as a prelude to an ambush

During the Vietnam War the Viet Cong became masters at constructing cheap, simple, but highly effective booby traps.

Punji Stakes

Few booby traps were as simple, or as cheap to make, as the punji stake.

Bamboo was cut into lengths, heated to harden it, and then sharpened to form a stake or

spike. This task was normally carried out by the women and children of a village.

A pit would then be dug and the stakes would be embedded in the ground with the sharp side pointing upward. The pit was then covered with thin branches and soil, leaves, grass or bush to match the surrounding terrain.

When a person stood on the trap their weight would cause the sticks to break and the person's leg would fall into the pit. The sharpened punji stake would penetrate through the boot and foot.

Sometimes punji stakes would be embedded into the side of the pit, with the sharp tips angled downwards.

This would make extricating an injured soldier even more difficult because if he merely tried to pull his leg out of the pit, the downward stakes would penetrate the leg as well.

Often the tips of the punji stakes were coated with animal or plant toxin. Another common tactic was to smear the punji stakes with human faeces. In the hot and humid climate of the Vietnam jungle, wounds would quickly turn septic.

Punji sticks are banned from use as weaponry under the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Not that this has ever stopped anyone, or even slowed them down.

The Viet Cong also employed a number of other home made booby traps. One of them was the deadfall trap.

A heavy object, usually a log, was suspended by roped in a tree. the log would have a number of spikes driven into it,

with the sharp tips pointing outwards. This was connected to a trip wire. When the wire was tripped, the log would swing down at chest or head height, impaling anyone unlucky enough to be in its path.

Another Viet Cong booby trap was the 'grenade in a tin'. A hand grenade was fitted with a zero second delay fuse, the pin was pulled, and the grenade pushed into an empty tin can. The can would stop the firing lever from being released.

A trip wire was then attached to the grenade. When the wire was tripped the grenade would be pulled from the tin, the firing lever would be released, and it would explode immediately.

The VC would also rig a motorcycle with explosives and then abandon it. Some US sol-

dier would be tempted to ride the motorcycle and thus trigger the explosives.

Project Eldest Son

The Americans had a few tricks of their own during the Vietnam War.

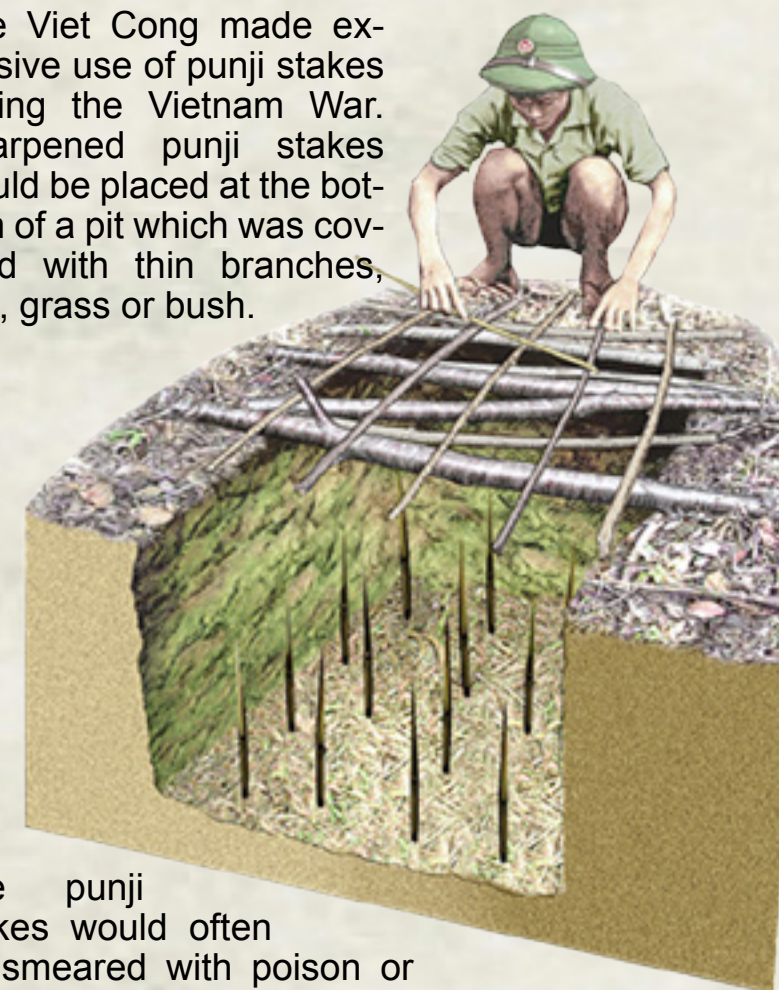
The CIA and Green Berets would booby trap the enemy's ammunition supply in an operation code-named 'Project Eldest Son'.

The propellant in a rifle or machine-gun cartridge was replaced with high explosive. Upon being fired, the sabotaged round would destroy the gun and kill or injure the shooter.

Mortar shells were similarly rigged to explode when dropped down the tube, instead of launching properly.

This ammunition was then

The Viet Cong made extensive use of punji stakes during the Vietnam War. Sharpened punji stakes would be placed at the bottom of a pit which was covered with thin branches, soil, grass or bush.



The punji stakes would often be smeared with poison or even human faeces.

carefully re-packed to eliminate any evidence of tampering, and planted in enemy munitions dumps by covert insertion teams.

A sabotaged round might also be planted in a rifle magazine or machine-gun belt and left on the body of a dead VC soldier, in anticipation that the deceased's ammo would be picked up and used by his comrades.

No more than one sabotaged round would be planted in any case, magazine, or belt of ammunition, to reduce the chances of the enemy finding it no matter how diligently they inspected their supplies.

False rumors and forged documents were circulated to make it appear that the Communist Chinese were supplying the VC with defective weapons and ammunition.

American radio stations, which were naturally monitored by the North Vietnamese, would broadcast warnings to American troops, telling them to be careful of picking up and using enemy weapons.

The 'Troubles'

During the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland, booby trap bombs were often used by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) to kill British Army soldiers and Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

A common method was attaching the bomb to a vehicle so that starting or driving it would detonate the explosive.

According to the Sutton Index of Deaths, 180 deaths during the Troubles were the result

of booby trap bombs, the vast majority of them laid by the Provisional IRA.

Baiting the trap

Attractive or interesting objects are frequently used as bait. For example, troops could leave behind empty beer bottles and a sealed wooden packing case with "Scotch Whisky" marked on it before leaving an area. The rubble-filled packing case might be resting on top of an M5 or M142 firing device, connected to some blocks of TNT or to some C4 explosive stuffed into the empty fuze pocket of a mortar shell.

Alternatively, the weight of the packing case might simply be holding down the arming lever of an RGD-5 grenade with a zero-delay fuze fitted and the pin removed. Either way, when the case is moved; the booby trap detonates, killing or severely injuring anyone in the immediate area.

Many different types of bait object can be used e.g. soldiers will be tempted to kick an empty beer can lying on the ground as they walk past it. However, the can (partially filled with sand to add weight) may be resting on top of an M5 pressure-release firing device screwed into a buried M26 grenade.

As a rule, booby-traps are planted in any situation where there is a strong likelihood of them being encountered and triggered by the targeted victims. Typically, they are planted in places that people are naturally attracted to or are forced to use. The list of likely placement areas includes:

- The only abandoned houses



HELLO HITLER - GOODBYE IVAN: During World War II no Russian soldier could resist ripping a painting of Hitler off the wall. The results were often fatal.

left standing in a village, which may attract enemy soldiers seeking shelter.

- A door, drawer or cupboard inside a building that someone will open without thinking of what might be connected to it. If a door is locked, this makes people believe there could something valuable behind it so they are more likely to kick it open, with fatal results.
- Vehicles abandoned by the roadside, perhaps with some kind of victim "bait" left on the back seat such as a suitcase or large cardboard box.
- natural choke-points, such as the only footbridge across a river, which people must use whether they want to or not.
- Important strategic installations such as airfields, railway stations and harbour facilities, all of which the invading forces will want to occupy and use.

- Anything of use or value that people would naturally want to possess or which makes them curious to see what is inside it, e.g. a crate of beer, a pistol, a flashlight, discarded army rucksack or even a picture torn out of a pornographic magazine.

During World War II when the Germans were retreating from Russia, they often made use of booby traps to slow down the advancing Red Army.

For example, all the buildings in an area would be destroyed, but one would be left intact. More often than not this building would be used as a command post by the Russians. It would be packed with explosives that were attached to one or more trigger devices. When the explosives were triggered the building and those inside would be destroyed.

A common German booby trap was to leave a painting of Adolf Hitler hanging on the wall. No Russian soldier could resist ripping the painting from the wall, thereby triggering the explosives that the painting was attached to.

Another ingenious German booby trap involved fixing a crucifix to a wall. While the

communists claimed not to believe in God, the Germans knew that most common Russian soldiers were actually deeply religious. They would never dream of defiling a crucifix.

This was not the case with the political commissars. The political commissar or political officer was a supervisory officer responsible for the political education (ideology) and organization of the unit they were assigned to. They were introduced by the Cheka (Soviet secret police and forerunner of the NKVD and later KGB) to ensure the government's political control of the military.

The commissar would have no problem with ripping a crucifix off the wall. This would then detonate the explosives. Down would come the crucifix, up would go the commissar.

This would be ideal for the Germans because a political commissar was regarded as a high value target.

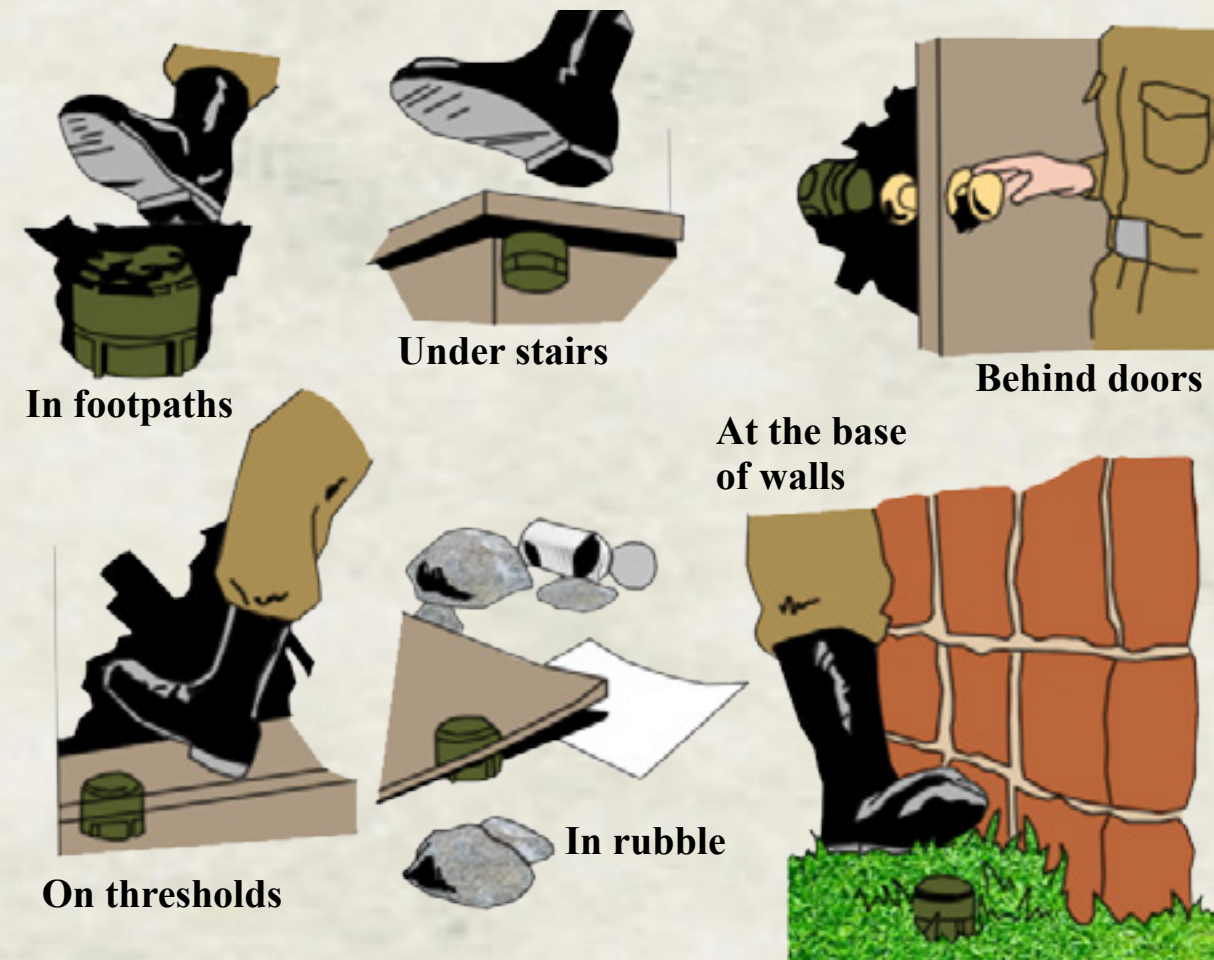
Here to stay

Booby traps have been around for a long time and they look set to remain a part of warfare for the foreseeable future.

In many conflict areas, particularly in the Middle East, the IED (Improvised Explosive Device) has become part of the scenery.

Many of these IED's can be command detonated. A cell-phone is attached to the explosives and acts as the trigger. Once the target is nearby, an observer dials the number of the phone and this sets off the explosion.

Possible booby trap and mine locations



A matter of survival - Water (Part II)

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at survival, something that has always been important for those in the military. This month we continue with methods of obtaining water.

As we saw in the last issue, water is essential to life. All life depends on it and without it life will die. And this, by the way, includes you.

The average person can survive for three weeks without food, but for only three days without water. It is the number one priority.

Last time we looked at getting water from dew and condensation, as well as how to build a solar still.

This month we're going to look at plants and animals as a source of water.

Water collectors

Sometimes nature will assist you. Some plants have leaves which are cup-like in shape and this means that water will often collect in their leaves.

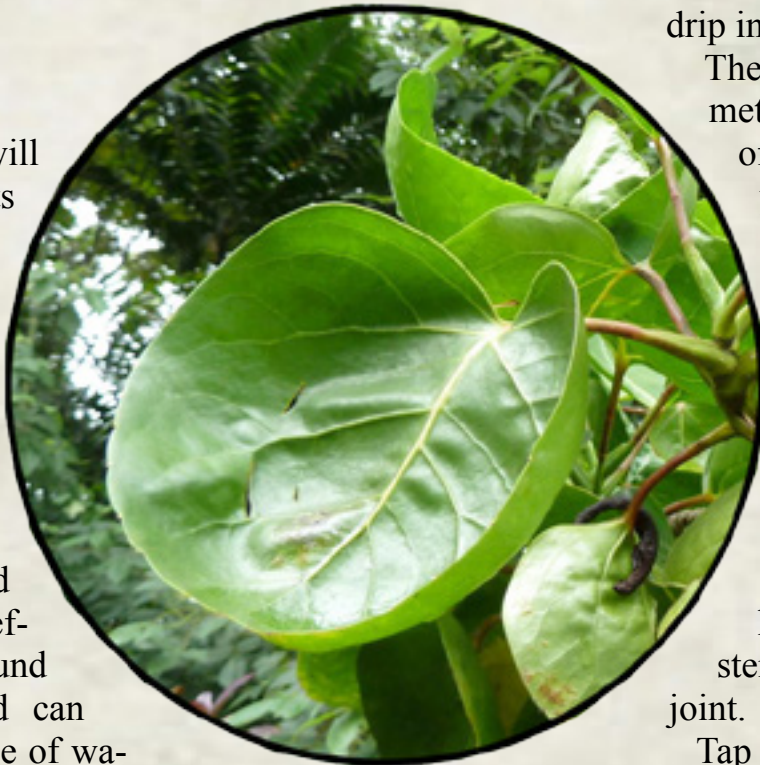
The water pools there so that the tree can slowly absorb it. These kind of trees and plants are often, but definitely not always, found in tropical areas and can provide a useful source of water.

Banana plants hold a decent amount of water in their trunk. This can be accessed by either slicing off the trunk at about 30 cm from the ground or by inserting a tap into the trunk. To tap a banana plant, take a 20 cm length of bamboo, about the

diameter of your thumb, ensuring that it is hollow all the way through.

Sharpen one end with your knife and insert the bamboo tap firmly into the banana plant at about a 70 degree angle to the trunk of the plant. This will allow the water to start running out of the trunk and down through the tap.

Create a water trap underneath the end of the tap, by placing a large leaf or piece of plastic over a depression in the



ground, for the water to drip into and leave it for a few hours before returning to have a drink. The water may taste like green bananas but it is drinkable.

The baobab tree is often known as the 'tree of life', and with good reason. Their trunk can hold a large amount of wa-

ter.

The easiest way of tapping water from a tree is to use a tree tap. They are cheap and you should consider keeping at least one in your survival pouch.

Tree roots

There is a possibility of getting water from some tree roots.

Remove the bark, cut shaving into a pile, and then pulp the shavings with a rock.

Take the crushed pulp in your hand and squeeze the water out of the pulp, letting the water drip into your mouth.

The problem with using this method is that it takes a lot of energy and usually only yields a small amount of water. Often not more than a few drops.

Water from bamboo

Bamboo will usually yield an excellent supply of water in the hollow stems, between the joints. Water can be located by tapping the stem about 7-10 cm above a joint.

Tap the bamboo and if you hear a dull sound then they will most likely have water inside. You can shake the stems and listen for water inside too. Aim for thick stem bamboo.

Water is most likely to collect in older, yellower stems. When you locate water, cut a notch just above the bottom joint and



TREE TAP

the water will run out freely. This water will be clean and good to drink as-is.

Water from plants

The good news is that many plants have a surprisingly high water content that you can use to hydrate. Like people, a plant is generally made up mostly of water.

The bad news is that there are many plants and flowers that are poisonous.

In Issue 13 of the magazine we looked at facing disaster. One of the suggestions is that before you set out you do some homework on the area or areas that you will be visiting. This includes doing a bit of research on what plants and flowers are poisonous.

Watermelon

If you find watermelons then you're in the pound seats as far as water is concerned.

This fruit gets its name from the fact that they are comprised almost entirely of water.

Eating watermelon is almost as hydrating as drinking a glass of water and also offers carbohydrates and nutrients.

Berries

Berries, wild or domestic, are little balls of goodness. They are packed with water. Just remember that some are poisonous, so do your research.

If the berries are edible, then you can eat the leaves and stems as well. Make sure you only eat fresh leaves. When the leaves wilt the chemical composition alters. Wilted leaves may make you sick and, if it causes vomiting, you're going to lose even more water through dehydration.

Mint

Mint not only tastes good, you can also think of it as one of nature's pharmacy's.

They're a good source of water and also have significant nutritional value. Mint is rich in vitamins A and C, thiamin, folic acid, riboflavin, manganese, magnesium, copper, potassium, iron, calcium and zinc. They're also great for soothing your stomach.

All members of the mint family have square stems and you can eat the entire plant.

If there is mint in an area it is normally not hard to find - you will most likely smell it.

Cacti

Most forms of cacti, including aloe and small cactus plants, provide a good deal of water.

Go into most supermarkets or health stores and you will find a wide variety of bottled aloe vera juice or gel. If you find aloe or aloe vera in the wild you're in luck.

Prickly pears grow both pads (leaves) and fruits that are edible and good sources of water. The fruits ripen in late Septem-

ber and are bright red with a bright orange center. Others are yellow on the outside and green on the inside and aren't quite as sweet as the red ones.

Vines

Vines that are at least 3 cm in diameter are a good source of water but you need to know which ones are safe to consume. Safe vines give a clear fluid and poisonous ones yield a milky, sticky sap.

Even the vines that contain potable water can cause skin irritation if you touch the outside of the vine so let the liquid drip into your mouth instead of putting the vine in your mouth. A container is even better.

Palm trees

Palm trees can yield quite a bit of water - up to a liter per day. The buri, nipa and coconut palms are the best ones to use; simply bend one of the flowering stalks and cut its tip, then let the water drain from it. If you cut another thin slice off the stalk a couple of hours later, the flow will resume.

Water from animals

Animal eyes contain water which can be extracted by sucking on them.

All fish contain a drinkable liquid. Large fish, in particular, have a reservoir of fresh water along the spine. Tap it by gutting the fish and, keeping the fish flat, removed the backbone, being careful not to spill the liquid, then drink it.

Be careful not to suck up the fish juices in the flesh as they are rich in protein and will use water in digestion.

Rank Structure - SANDF

Over the next few months we will be running a series of articles looking at the rank structure of various armed forces. This month we look at the South African National Defence Force.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) comprises the armed forces of South Africa. The military as it exists today was created in 1994, following South Africa's first post-apartheid national elections and the adoption of a new constitution. It replaced the South African Defence Force.

The SANDF took over the personnel and equipment from the SADF and integrated forces from the former Bantustan homelands forces, as well as personnel from the former guerrilla forces of some of the political parties involved in South Africa, such as the African National Congress's Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Pan Africanist Congress's Azanian People's Liberation Army and the Self-Protection Units of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). The rank structure of the old SADF, as well as the insignia, were changed. The SANDF consists of four branches - the SA Army, the SA Navy, the SA Air Force, and the SA Military Health Service.



South African National Defence Force (SANDF)

South African Army



Non-commissioned and Warrant Officers



Lance Corporal
**Corporal*



Corporal



Sergeant



Staff Sergeant
** Staff*



Warrant Officer
Class 2



Warrant Officer
Class 1



Senior warrant
officer



Master warrant
officer



Chief warrant
officer



Senior chief
warrant officer



Master chief
warrant officer

Officers



Candidate officer



2nd Lieutenant
** Lieutenant*



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant Colonel
** Colonel*



Colonel



Brigadier General
** General*



Major General
** General*



Lieutenant General
** General*



General





South African Navy

Non-commissioned and Warrant Officers



Able Seaman
**AB*



Leading Seaman
**Killick*



Petty Officer
**PO*



Chief Petty Officer
**Chief*



Warrant Officer
Class 2



Warrant Officer
Class 1



Senior warrant
officer



Master warrant
officer



Chief warrant
officer



Senior chief
warrant officer



Master chief
warrant officer

Officers



Midshipman



Ensign



Sub Lieutenant
**Lieutenant*



Lieutenant



Lieutenant Commander
**Commander*



Commander



Captain



Rear Admiral
(Junior Grade)
**Admiral*



Rear Admiral
**Admiral*



Vice Admiral
**Admiral*



Admiral

South African Air Force



Non-commissioned and Warrant Officers



Lance Corporal
**Corporal*



Corporal



Sergeant



Flight Sergeant
**Flight*



Warrant Officer
Class 2



Warrant Officer
Class 1



Senior warrant
officer



Master warrant
officer



Chief warrant officer



Senior chief warrant officer



Master chief warrant officer

Officers



Candidate officer



2nd Lieutenant
** Lieutenant*



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant Colonel
** Colonel*



Colonel



Brigadier General
** General*



Major General
** General*



Lieutenant General
** General*



General



South African Military Health Services

Non-commissioned and Warrant Officers



Lance Corporal
** Corporal*



Corporal



Sergeant



Staff Sergeant
** Staff*



Warrant Officer
Class 2



Warrant Officer
Class 1



Senior warrant officer



Master warrant officer



Chief warrant officer



Senior chief warrant officer



Master chief warrant officer

Officers



Candidate officer



2nd Lieutenant
** Lieutenant*



Lieutenant



Captain



Major



Lieutenant Colonel
** Colonel*



Colonel



Brigadier General
** General*



Major General
** General*



Lieutenant General
** General*



General

The General Rule

Only the Chief of the Army, Chief of the Air Force, and Surgeon General of the Military Health Services can hold the rank of Lieutenant General. Only the Chief of the Navy can hold the rank of Vice Admiral.

Only the Chief of the Defence Force can hold the rank of General (Army, Air Force and Military Health Services) or Admiral (Navy).

From the delta to the DMZ

With a long fascination about the Vietnam War, Ryan Murphy finally gets to visit the country and explore the history of the War. Good morning Vietnam.

One of my ambitions has always been to visit Vietnam. I enjoy visiting places where the culture is just so different to what I am accustomed to. But the real reason for my desire to visit Vietnam was because of the country's military history.

Earlier this year I finally realised my dream and headed off to *Cộng hòa Xã hội chủ nghĩa Việt Nam*. That means the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in English.

My plan was to visit Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Da Nang, and Huế.

My first surprise was that the airfare was reasonably cheap. There is a wide variety of accommodation available and many decent places were not that expensive. Most of the people were also very friendly.

Ho Chi Minh City is a melting pot of cultures. While it is Vietnamese, there is still a strong American and even French feel to the place. I was also surprised at the number of Americans I came across.

The first place I wanted to visit was the War Remnants Museum in District 3 of Ho Chi Minh City. It contains exhibits relating to the Vietnam War and the first Indochina War involving the French colonialists.

Over the years I have visited many war and military muse-

ums, and I would rate the War Remnants Museum as one of my top five.

The museum is large and comprises a series of themed rooms in several buildings, with period military equipment placed within a walled yard.

The military equipment includes a UH-1 "Huey" helicopter, an F-5A fighter, a BLU-82 "Daisy Cutter" bomb, M48 Patton tank, an A-1 Skyraider attack bomber, and an A-37 Dragonfly attack bomber.

The exhibits of weapons, uniforms and equipment inside the museum is really comprehensive. One of the items I was surprised to see was a guillotine used by the French and South Vietnamese to execute prisoners.

There are also numerous photo galleries, some of which are pretty graphic. In fact so graphic that it's a good idea not to eat just before you visit the museum.

All of the exhibits and photographs are accompanied by text in Vietnamese, English and Japanese.

The museum is popular and it attracts about half a million people a year, many of them foreign tourists.

My next port of call was the Southeastern Armed Forces Museum Military Zone 7. It covers all Vietnamese resistance to foreign occupation from the Chinese occupation, the First Indochina War and the Vietnam War and the Cambodian-Vietnamese War.

The museum sits on the site of the former U.S. 3rd Field Hospital and is diagonally opposite the former ARVN (Army of the Republic of Viet-



AIR POWER: Some of the aircraft on display at the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City.

nam) Joint General Staff compound, now the headquarters of 7th Military Region (Vietnam People's Army).

The museum comprises two main sections: an outdoor display of large military equipment and a military museum.

The outdoor exhibit includes a M-30 122mm howitzer, M41 tank, M48A3 tank, M107 Self-Propelled Gun, M113 armoured personnel carrier, M114 155 mm howitzer, T-54 tank, and a model of the Tet Offensive attack on the U.S. Embassy.

It costs 40,000 Vietnamese Dong (less than R25.00) to visit the museum and a further 10,000 Dong (R6.00) if you want to take photographs.

My next museum in Ho Chi Minh City was the Vietnam People's Air Force Museum.

The museum tells the history of the Vietnam People's Air Force (VPAF) in the Second Indochina War and the Cambodian-Vietnamese War. The

museum comprises one main building with a small display of uniforms and flightsuits, aircraft weaponry and engines. Outside is a static park with aircraft of the VPAF and the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.

Aircraft on outside display include a Bell UH-1 Iroquois H model, Cessna A-37 Dragonfly, Cessna U-17A, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21MF, Mil Mi-8 Hip, Mil Mi-24 Hind A, and Northrop F-5 Freedom



UNDERGROUND: Part of the Củ Chi tunnel system.

Fighter.

The final place I had to visit in Ho Chi Minh City was Củ Chi.

The 121 km long complex of tunnels at Củ Chi has been preserved by the government of Vietnam, and turned into a war memorial park with two different tunnel display sites, Ben Dinh and Ben Duoc.

The Ben Duoc site contains part of the original tunnel system, while the Ben Dinh site, closer to Ho Chi Minh City, has tunnel reconstructions and some tunnels have been made larger to accommodate tourists.

And you get to crawl around the safer parts of the tunnel system.

In both sites low-power lights have been installed in the tunnels to make traveling through them easier, and both sites have displays of the different types of booby traps that were used.

Underground conference rooms where campaigns such as the Tết Offensive were planned in 1968 have been restored, and visitors may enjoy a simple meal of food that Viet Cong fighters would have

eaten. I tried a meal and must confess that our old SADF rat packs were better.

Above-ground attractions include caged monkeys, vendors selling souvenirs, and a shooting range where you can fire a number of weapons such as the M16 rifle or AK-47, as well as a light machine such as the M60. Needless to say, I took full advantage of this.

I was lucky enough to chat with one of the curators who spoke excellent English.

He had been a major in the NVA (North Vietnamese Army) and when he learnt that I had also been a soldier, he invited me for a drink.

He cleared up one of the misconceptions that I had always believed. I was under the impression that the Viet Cong and NVA were masters of the jungle. He laughed when I mentioned this to him.

“No,” he told me. “Most of us had been farmers before the war. We worked in the fields, not in the jungle. You didn’t venture into the jungle. I think most of us were more scared of the jungle than the Americans, because we knew what was inside those jungles.”

After leaving Ho Chi Minh City I headed off for Da Nang, some 856 km away. You can fly there, take a bus, or go by train. I choose the later. The trip takes about 18 hours, but it’s a great way of seeing some of the countryside.

Da Nang was where most of the US troops deployed to Vietnam would land. It was the location of the largest air base.

While there I visited the Fifth Military Division Museum of



CITADEL: During the 1968 Tet Offensive the Hué Citadel was the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the entire Vietnam War.

Da Nang.

The massive museum is divided into four main sections, including outdoor and indoor display areas, a replica of Ho Chi Minh’s residence, and a Ho Chi Minh Museum. It houses authentic aircraft, military tanks, weapons and weapons used during the French and American wars.

There are also two spectacular beaches to visit and both were popular with American troops during the Vietnam War.

My Khe Beach boasts a 32 kilometre stretch of white sand that’s approximately 6km east of Da Nang. It was named China Beach by the American troops who visited during the Vietnam War, it is considered to be one of Vietnam’s most picturesque beaches.

A 20-minute drive from Da Nang City, Non Nuoc Beach boasts international acclaim as one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

The final place I wanted to visit was the ancient city of Hué. It’s only 95 km away from Da Nang.

During the Tet Offensive, between 30 January and 3 March 1968 it was the scene of the Battle of Hué, one of the bloodiest and longest battles of the Vietnam War.

I visited the Hué Citadel which will take you an entire day. I hired a bicycle to get around, which sure beats walking.

The Hué War Museum is located inside the Citadel and displays various weaponry used in the battle.

The following day I took a boat trip up the Perfume River. On the following day I flew back to Ho Chi Minh City and, straining under the weight of my many souvenirs, departed back home.

For those with an interest in military history, especially the history of the Vietnam War, I strongly recommend that you put this on your bucket list.

Kính chào quý khách!



Who am I?

This month we give you a close-up look at 15 famous military figures, and you tell us who they are. Four of them have been featured in our “Famous Figures in Military History” section. Some of them are easy, others not so easy. Answers on page 00.



Sea Cadets mid-year camp

During the mid-year school holidays, the Sea Cadets held a camp at TS Woltemade in Cape Town. Two of those that attended the camp tell of their experience.

By **AB Ashwin Gordon** and **AB Peter Taylor**.

Hi I'm Able Seaman Ashwin. Gordon from TS Woltemade sea cadets and I would like to share my experience at TS Woltemade mid-year camp.

The mid year camp for me was a great experience. The first day of Camp when all the cadets arrived we first started cleaning up the base and prepared for colours.

There were other cadets attending the camp and they were the TS Springs cadets from Gauteng.

At first each group stuck to themselves because we didn't know what to talk about. But after one lunch together, we started speaking to one another and start making friends.

Commander Paul Jacobs the officer commanding of TS Woltemade then split the cadets into three groups and gave us our group names.

The three groups were the Recce Division, the Marines, and the Cadet Seals. Commander Jacobs then put up a whiteboard and started keeping score.

There were many different exercises that included leadership, seamanship, and boat work. We also did a first aid course and a fire fighting course.

The leadership exercises were both interesting and challenging. One exercise involved splitting into pairs. One person would be blindfolded and the other person had to guide them through an obstacle course by giving them precise vocal commands.

For the seamanship we learnt how to pipe as well as do various types of knots and rope work.

My favourite exercises were the boat work. We did both sailing and pulling and I really enjoyed this because sailing is one of my passions.

In the morning we would be woken at 04h30 so that we could prepare for PT at 05h00. It was noteworthy that Commander Jacobs was up and about before anyone else. He would normally be in the wardroom, going over the day's planned activities.

PT involved different kinds of warm-up exercises and we also played a game called 'Three Deep'. After that it was time for morning ablutions and breakfast.

The exercises were informative, challenging and fun. One of the seamanship exercises involved building a life raft that had to hold the entire class.

Another interesting exercise

was capsizing drills. You have to remember that this was Cape Town and it was winter. So the water was really cold.

The second to last day of the camp was also the last day for the TS Springs cadets. They would be leaving to return to Gauteng.

Commander Jacobs decided to hold an inter-divisional competition that covered everything we had learnt on the camp. It included teamwork, leadership and all of the knots we had learnt on the camp.

After a few hours of fun we had to say goodbye to the TS Springs cadets. While they were packing their bags and getting ready to leave, we started sharing cellphone numbers to keep in contact.

After the TS Springs cadets had left we had sports parade. Although the sports parade was fun, I had something else on my mind - the promotions that would take



VIP GUEST: Sea Cadets with Dr Buhle Zuma who spoke on the "Use of Youth".



SCOOP: Some of the cadets that were eager to write articles for magazines.

place the following day.

After sports parade we were given time to get our uniforms ready for the parade the following day. I really hoped that I would be one of the cadets to be promoted. I even dreamt about it that night.

The following morning we made the final preparations for the parade and I was determined to be one of the smartest cadets on the parade ground.

When we were on parade I was getting nervous because a lot of my buddy's had been promoted.

When I heard my name called out by Sub Lieutenant Pillay it was the best feeling in the world.

When the parade was dismissed I went to the mess deck to thank AB Cornelius because he was the one to help my when I was struggling and he was the one that changed my whole mind set.

The camp has been an excellent experience.

AB Ashwin Gordon

Able Seaman Peter Taylor from TS Springs takes up the story.

My fellow Sea Cadets and I were invited to TS Woltemade to attend a training camp. We were

very excited and looking forward to a holiday at the sea.

Our trip started early Friday morning. We arrived at the bus station with our bags and lots and lots of snacks. Everyones parents were there to see us off. It was a bit sad as all the parents were crying because we were leaving. After a terrible, very long, very boring bus trip, we finally arrived at Woltemade. After we met the officers and other cadets, we got to spend the day at the beach.

We were having a great time and enjoying a perfect holiday, when suddenly on the third day, the wheel turned and suddenly things changed horribly.

Suddenly we were woken up at 05h00. If we didn't get up quickly enough, our hammocks were tipped over so we would fall out of bed. Once we were up, our cellphones were confiscated and then we were put into teams. Next thing we knew we were outside in the dark doing physical training. The real camp had started and it was a big shock.

Our days started at 05h00, with physical training, followed by breakfast and then lectures or different activities. Our days were filled with rowing, sailing

and building rafts. There were so many things to do and plenty of the things we got to do were things we had never done before. Everyday was exciting and fun.

The activity that was the most difficult and scary was the sailing. Most of the time while you are in the sailing boat, it feels as if it is going to tip over and you are going to fall in the water. Even though it was scary, it was interesting and fun and I would love to go sailing again.

The worst thing about the camp was the 30 second showers. You just got under the water and then someone was telling you to get out the shower again. It was really funny when the cadets were still covered in soap.

What I truly enjoyed the most was leadership. It was mostly about fun and games and then the physical training started.

The highlight of the camp was when we sang Shosholozza on our last day on the camp. It started with one cadet singing and before we knew it, every single cadet was singing. It was loud and so very powerful. Everyone felt so proud to be a cadet.

The camp was amazing. We learnt so many new and interesting things and did so many things we had never done before. It was not always easy but we learnt so many things, most importantly we learnt how to work as a team. The Commander and officers of Woltemade were amazing and I thank them so much for organising the camp. I can't wait to go to another camp again.

I would like to personally thank Commander Paul Jacobs for inviting us to a wonderful camp, it was a great experience.

AB Peter Taylor

Weapons & Equipment: WW II

This month we compare the weapons and equipment of the major combatants in the European Theatre of World War II.

British Army

The British Army was, in 1939, a volunteer army, that introduced limited conscription in early 1939, and full conscription shortly after the declaration of war with Germany.

The pre-war British Army was trained and equipped to be a small, mechanised, professional army. Its main function was to garrison the British Empire.

The standard British rifle was the bolt action Lee–Enfield Rifle, No. 4 Mk I that outmatched the standard German rifle of the war. Mid-way through the war it began to be replaced by the Lee Enfield No.4 Mk.1.

The German MP 38/40 submachine gun took the British by surprise, and the army issued an urgent requirement for its own submachine gun.

The Thompson submachine gun was effective, but heavy, and initially hard to obtain because of its American patent.

The crude but simple to manufacture Sten gun was accepted and between 1941 and 1945, some 3,750,000 were produced.

The Bren light machine gun was the standard light machine gun used by the British infantry throughout the war.

Mills bomb is the popular name for a series of prominent British hand grenades. They

were the first modern fragmentation grenades used by the British Army and saw widespread use in World War I, as well as in World War II

Infantry Equipment

- A - Combat boots.
- B - Steel helmet.
- C - Lee Enfield ammo pouches.
- D - Lee Enfield No.1 Mk.III.
- E - Thompson M1A1.
- F - Sten gun.
- G - Mills bomb.
- H - Webley revolver.
- I - Lee Enfield bayonet.
- J - Gas mask case.
- K - No. 37 Pattern small pack.
- L - Mess kit.
- M - Water bottle.

German Wehrmacht

The total number of soldiers who served in the Wehrmacht during its existence from 1935 to 1945 is believed to have approached 18.2 million.

The Germans had been prepared for war some time before it started. At the start of the war their troops were well equipped and well trained.

The standard German boot was known as the 'Jackboot'. It was made of leather with hobnails in the heel of the boot. They were impressing for drilling and ceremonial occasions, but not very practical in the field.

During the cold of the Rus-

sian winters the leather would freeze and the hobnails made it difficult to walk on the frozen surfaces.

Many Germans would replace their boots with those looted from dead Russians.

The standard German rifle was the Karabiner 98k. Later German rifles included the Semi-automatic rifles Gewehr 41, Gewehr 43 and the first assault rifle the StG 44.

Most German officers were issued with the Luger P08 pistol. However, many of them preferred the Walther P38 as a sidearm.

The MG-42 light machine gun was considered one of

the best machines guns during World War II and was used extensively by the Germans.

Infantry Equipment

- A - Combat boots.
- B - Steel helmet.
- C - Karabiner 98k ammo pouches.
- D - Karabiner 98k.
- E - MP 40.
- F - StG 44 assault rifle.
- G - Walther P38.
- H - Karabiner 98k bayonet.
- I - Mess kit.
- J - Water bottle.
- K - Model 24 Grenade.
- L - Gas mask canister.
- M - Entrenching tool.
- N - Small pack.

Red Army (Russia)

The Soviet Union expanded its indigenous arms industry as part of Stalin's industrialisation program in the 1920s and 1930s.

Yet when the Germans invaded Russia, the Red Army was not that well trained, nor were they well equipped.

The standard bolt-action rifle was the Mosin–Nagant M1891/30 and a number of variations of the weapon was produced during the war.

Designed by Georgy Shpagin, the PPSH-41 was a cheap, reliable submachine gun. It could use a 35 round box magazine or a 71 round drum magazine.

The SVT-40 semi-automatic rifle saw widespread service

during and after World War II. It was intended to be the Soviet Red Army's new service rifle, but its production was disrupted by the German invasion in 1941, resulting in a change back to the older Mosin–Nagant bolt-action rifle for the duration of World War II.

The Tokarev TT33 pistol was adopted as the standard small arm. Interestingly enough, it did not have a safety catch.

The DP-27 / DP-28 was the most widely used Russian light machine gun during World War II.

While the Mosin-Nagant and Tokarev SVT-40 did have bayonets that could be used, most Russian troops were also issued with the NR-40 combat knife.

The F1 grenade was nick-

named the 'limoka' or lemon by the Russians.

Infantry Equipment

- A - Combat boots.
- B - Steel helmet.
- C - Mosin-Nagant ammo pouches.
- D - Mosin–Nagant M1891/30.
- E - PPSH-41.
- F - Tokarev SVT-40.
- G - Tokarev TT33.
- H - NR-40 combat knife.
- I - Mess kit.
- J - Water bottle.
- K - F1 grenade.
- L - Gas mask case.
- M - Duffel bag.

US Army (America)

During the war, over 16 million Americans served in the United States Armed Forces.

The M1 Garand was the standard rifle issued to US troops. However the bolt-action M1903 Springfield remained in service as a standard issue infantry rifle during World War II, since the US entered the war without sufficient M1 rifles to arm all troops.

Despite having a similar name and appearance, the M1 Carbine was not a carbine version of the M1 Garand rifle. They were different firearms, and they used different ammunition

The standard submachine gun was the Thompson M1A1,

also known as the 'Tommy' gun. In December 1942 the M3 submachine gun, known as the 'Grease' gun, was adopted into service. It chambered the same .45 ACP rounds as the Thompson, but was cheaper to produce, and lighter, although, contrary to popular belief, it was less accurate.

The standard sidearm was the Colt M1911A1, which also used the .45 ACP round.

The Americans did not develop a light machine gun during World War II. The M1918 BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) was used as an Automatic rifle, Machine gun, Assault rifle, and Squad automatic weapon.

The Mk 2 grenade was nicknamed the 'pineapple' grenade and it remained in service until

the late 1960s. It was replaced by the M26 grenade in 1952.

Infantry Equipment

- A - Combat boots.
- B - Steel helmet.
- C - Rifle cartridge belt.
- D - M1 Garand.
- E - Thompson M1A1.
- F - M1 carbine.
- G - Colt M1911A1.
- H - M1 Garand bayonet.
- I - Mess kit.
- J - Water bottle.
- K - Mk 2 grenade.
- L - Gas mask case.
- M - Back pack.



A



B



C



D



E



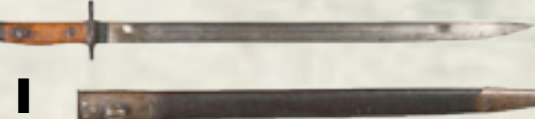
F



G



H



J



K



L



M



A



B



C



D



E



F



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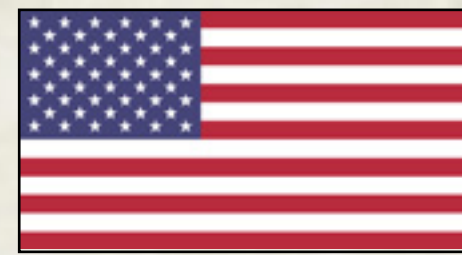


M



N





Võ Nguyên Giáp

With no formal military training, this history teacher would go on to become one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century.

He was a history teacher, with no direct military training, but he was influenced by historical military leaders, personally citing T. E. Lawrence and Napoleon as his two greatest influences.

He would go on to transform a rag-tag band of rebels into a light-infantry army capable of taking on a larger, better equipped, modernised army.

He was an effective logistician and would go on to become a general and later a politician. He was considered one of the greatest military strategists of the 20th century and would earn the nickname 'Red Napoleon'.

His name was Võ Nguyên Giáp.

Early life

Võ Nguyên Giáp was born on 25 August 1911 in Quảng Bình Province, French Indochina.

His father, Võ Quang Nghiêm, was a minor official and a dedicated Vietnamese nationalist. Giáp had two sisters and a brother.

When Giáp was eight years old his father was arrested by the French colonial authorities for subversive activities. He died in prison a few weeks later.

Soon after this one

of his sisters was also arrested. Although she was not held for long the harsh treatment in prison made her ill. She died a few weeks after being released.

Giáp was an intelligent young boy and had been taught at home before going to the village school.

He was soon transferred to the

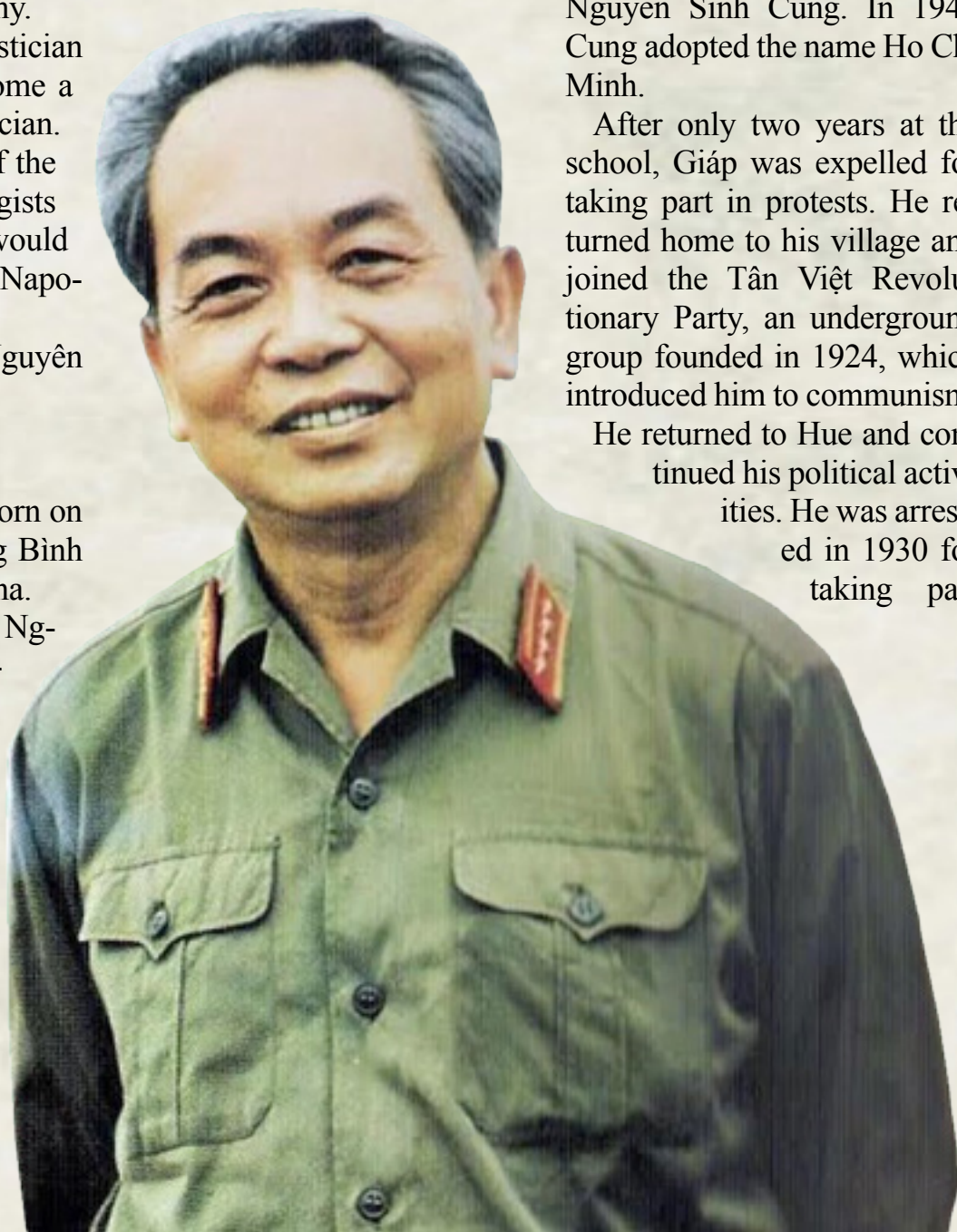
district school and, at the age of 13, he left home to attend the Quốc Học (National Academy) in Huế.

Also attending the academy was Ngô Đình Diệm, who would become the President of South Vietnam from 1955 to 1963.

Years earlier the same school had educated another boy, Nguyen Sinh Cung. In 1943 Cung adopted the name Ho Chi Minh.

After only two years at the school, Giáp was expelled for taking part in protests. He returned home to his village and joined the Tân Việt Revolutionary Party, an underground group founded in 1924, which introduced him to communism.

He returned to Hue and continued his political activities. He was arrested in 1930 for taking part



in student protests and served 13 months of a two-year sentence at Lao Bảo Prison.

He joined the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1931 and took part in several demonstrations against French rule in Indochina as well as assisting in founding the Democratic Front in 1933.

From 1933 to 1938, Giáp studied at the Vietnam National University of Hanoi where he earned a bachelor's degree in law with a major in political economy.

Exile in China

While studying at university he met Nguyen Thi Minh Giang and in June 1938 they were married.

Due to his political activities he failed the examinations for the Certificate of Administrative Law and was unable to practice as a lawyer. Instead he took a job as a history teacher at the Thăng Long School in Hanoi.

Besides his teaching, he also worked as a journalist, writing articles for Tiếng Dân (Voice of the People).

All the while, Giáp was a dedicated reader of military history and philosophy, revering Sun Tzu. He also made a particular study of Napoleon's generalship, and greatly admired T. E. Lawrence's Seven Pillars of Wisdom, learning from it practical examples of how to apply minimum military force to maximum effect.

The French outlawed the Indochinese Communist Party after the signing of the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. The reasoning

was that if Hitler and Stalin had joined forces, then the communist must be bad.

The party decided that Giáp should leave Vietnam and go into exile in China. On 3 May 1940 he said farewell to his wife, left Hanoi and crossed the border into China. Giáp's wife was arrested, sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment.

In China, Giáp joined up with Hồ Chí Minh, then an adviser to the People's Liberation Army.

In September 1940, Vichy France agreed to the Japanese occupation of Vietnam, to 'protect' Indochina.

In May 1941 the Eighth Congress of the Indochinese Communist Party decided to form the Viet Minh and Giáp was made responsible for establishing an intelligence network and organising political bases in the far north of the country.

World War II

In 1942 Giáp and about forty men moved back into Vietnam and established themselves in remote caves near the village of Vu Nhai. This and similar small groups in the mountains were the basis of the Viet Minh, the armed wing of the Vietnam Independence League.

For the next few years he and his comrades worked steadily to build up a small military force and to win local people over to the communist cause. By the end of 1943 several hundred men and women had joined the Viet Minh.

During the summer of 1943 Giáp learnt that his wife had

been beaten to death by guards in the central prison in Hanoi. Her sister was guillotined and Giáp's only daughter died in prison of unknown causes.

In September 1944 the first Revolutionary Party Military Conference was held and it was agreed that the time was now right to take the military struggle forward into a new phase. The formation of the Vietnam Liberation army was proclaimed, with Giáp as its commander.

Ho Chi Minh decided that for propaganda purposes, the Armed Propaganda Unit had to win a military victory within a month of being established, so on Christmas Day 1944 Giáp led successful attacks against French outposts at Khai Phat and Na Ngan. Two French lieutenants were killed and the Vietnamese soldiers in the outposts surrendered. The Viet Minh attackers suffered no casualties.

A few weeks later, Giáp was wounded in the leg when his group attacked another outpost at Dong Mu.

In one of the ironies of history, between May and August 1945 the United States, keen to support anti-Japanese forces in mainland Asia, actively supplied and trained Giáp and the Viet Minh.

Major Archimedes Patti, in charge of the so-called 'Deer Team' unit, taught the Viet Minh to use flamethrowers, grenade launchers and machine guns.

In a single month they succeeded in training around 200 hand-picked future leaders of the army they were to oppose a few

decades later. Growing stronger, Giáp's forces took more territory and captured more towns up until the announcement on 15 August by the Japanese Emperor of his country's unconditional surrender to the allies.

On 2 September 1945 Ho Chi Minh declared the independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. He formed a new government, with Giáp as Minister of the Interior.

He had no idea that the future of postwar Vietnam had already been decided by Truman, Churchill and Stalin at the Potsdam conference.

The country would be occupied temporarily to get the Japanese out. The northern half would be under the control of the Nationalist Chinese and the southern half under the British.

In October the British moved out and handed control back to the French. In May 1946 an agreement between the French and the Chinese was made. The Chinese moved out, and the French moved in.

Ho Chi Minh and Võ Nguyên Giáp pursued lengthy negotiations with the French, seeking to avoid an all-out war to cement their independence.

Ho Chi Minh departed for France on 31 May to negotiate with the French at Fontainebleau and Giáp was effectively in charge of the government in Hanoi.

In August 1946 Giáp married Ba Hanh and they went on to have two boys and two girls.

First Indochina War

The tense standoff between the Vietnamese government and the French occupiers escalat-

ed dramatically on 23 October when the French commander Argenlieu ordered the cruiser *Suffren* to bombard Haiphong in response to repeated skirmishes with Vietnamese forces as they tried to bring arms and contraband into the port.

Around six thousand people were killed, and fourteen thousand wounded in the bombardment.

Giáp, acting as de facto President in the absence of Ho Chi Minh, tried to maintain some kind of peace but by the time Ho returned in November, both sides were on a war footing.

Local fighting broke out repeatedly and on 27 November Ho's government, concluding that it could not hold Hanoi against the French, retreated back up into the northern hills where it had been based two years previously.

On 19 December the Vietnamese government officially declared war on France and fighting erupted all over the country.

The first few years involved a most low-level, semi-conventional resistance fight against the occupying French forces.

When it became clear that France was becoming involved in a long drawn-out and so far not very successful war, the French government tried to negotiate an



FUTURE LEADERS: Võ Nguyên Giáp (left) and Hồ Chí Minh in Hà Nội, October 1945

agreement with the Viet Minh. They offered to help set up a national government and promised that they would eventually grant Vietnam its independence.

Ho Chi Minh and the other leaders of the Viet Minh did not trust the word of the French and continued the war.

While growing stronger in Vietnam, the Việt Minh also expanded the war and lured the French to spread their force to remote areas such as Laos. In December 1953, French military commander General Henri Navarre set up a defensive complex at Điện Biên Phủ in the Mường Thanh Valley, disrupting Việt Minh supply lines passing through Laos. He surmised that in an attempt to reestablish the route, Giáp would be forced to organise a mass attack on Điện Biên Phủ, thus fighting a conventional battle, in which Navarre could expect to have

the advantage.

Giáp took up the French challenge. While the French dug in at their outpost, the Việt Minh were also preparing the battlefield. While diversionary attacks were launched in other areas, Giáp ordered his men to covertly position their artillery by hand. Defying standard military practice, he had his twenty-four 105 mm howitzers placed on the forward slopes of the hills around Dien Bien Phu, in deep, mostly hand-dug emplacements protecting them from French aircraft and counter-battery fire.

With anti-aircraft guns supplied by the Soviet Union, Giáp was able to severely restrict the ability of the French to supply their garrison, forcing them to drop supplies inaccurately from high altitude.

Giáp ordered his men to dig a trench system that encircled the French. From the outer trench, other trenches and tunnels were gradually dug inward towards the centre. The Viet Minh were now able to move in close to the French troops defending Dien Bien Phu.

On 13 March 1954, Giáp launched his offensive. For 54 days, the Viet Minh seized position after position, pushing the French until they occupied only a small area of Dien Bien Phu.

The French surrendered on 7 May. Their casualties totaled over 2,200 men dead, 5,600 wounded and 11,721 taken prisoner. The following day the French government announced that it intended to withdraw from Vietnam.

The Interwar Years

With the French gone, Giáp

moved back to Hanoi. He expanded and modernised the army, re-equipping it with Russian and Chinese weapons systems.

On 7 May 1955 he inaugurated the Vietnamese Maritime Force and on 1 May 1959, the Vietnamese People's Air Force.

During the late 1950s Giáp served as Minister of Defence, Commander in Chief of the People's Army of Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister, and deputy chairman of the Defence Council.

The departure of the French and the de facto partition of Vietnam meant that the Hanoi government only controlled the north part of the country. In South Vietnam there were still several thousand guerillas, known as Viet Cong, fighting against the government in Saigon.

It was decided that the time for escalating the armed struggle in the South was right and in July that year Giáp ordered the opening up of the Ho Chi Minh trail to improve supply lines to Viet Cong units.

The Vietnam War

Giáp remained commander in chief of the People's Army of Vietnam throughout the war against South Vietnam and its allies, the United States, Australia, Thailand, South Korea, and the Philippines.

He oversaw the expansion of the PAVN (People's Army of Vietnam) from a small self-defense force into a large conventional army, equipped by its communist allies with considerable amounts of relatively sophisticated weaponry, although

this did not usually match the weaponry of the Americans.

Giáp has often been assumed to have been the planner of the Tết Offensive of 1968, but this appears not to have been the case. The best evidence indicates that he disliked the plan, and when it became obvious that Lê Duẩn and Văn Tiến Dũng were going to conduct it anyway, he left Vietnam for medical treatment in Hungary, and did not return until after the offensive had begun.

Peace talks between representatives from the United States, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, and the NLF (National Liberation Front of South Vietnam - better known as the Viet Cong) began in Paris in January 1969.

In an effort to put pressure on both North and South Vietnam during the negotiations, President Nixon ordered a series of air raids on Hanoi and Haiphong, codenamed Operation Linebacker II.

The operation ended on 27 January 1973, after 12 days with heavy casualties and destruction. Both the U.S. and North Vietnam then agreed to sign the Paris Peace Accords that had been proposed in October. South Vietnam objected, but had little choice but to accept it. Clearly, the advantage had been given to Hanoi.

The last U.S. combat troops left in March 1973. Despite the treaty, there was no end in fighting. South Vietnamese attempts to regain communist controlled territory inspired their opponents to change strategy. Communist leaders met in Hanoi in March for a series of meetings to plan for a massive offensive against the South.

Fall of Saigon

On 30 April 1975 Saigon fell. The standard view of this period is that after Ho Chi Minh’s death in September 1969, Giáp lost a power struggle in 1972 shortly after the failed Easter Offensive where he was blamed by the Politburo for the offensive’s failure.

Giáp was recalled to Hanoi where he was replaced as field commander of the PAVN and from then on watched subsequent events from the sidelines, with the glory of victory in 1975 going to the chief of the general staff, General Văn Tiến Dũng, and that Giáp’s role in the 1975 victory is largely ignored by official Vietnamese accounts.

Post War

Soon after the fall of Saigon, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was established. In the new government, Giáp maintained his position as Minister of National Defense and he was made Deputy Prime Minister in July 1976. In December 1978 he oversaw the successful Viet-



TOWARDS THE END: This photograph of Võ Nguyên Giáp was taken in the mid-1990s.

namese invasion of Cambodia which drove the Khmer Rouge from power and ended the Cambodian genocide. In retaliation, Cambodia’s ally China responded by invading the Cao Bang province of Vietnam in January 1979 and once again Giáp was in overall responsibility for the response, which drove the Chinese out after a few months. He finally retired from his post at the Defense Ministry in 1981 and retired from the Politburo in 1982. He remained on the

Central Committee and Deputy Prime Minister until he retired in 1991.

On 4 October 2013, the Communist Party of Vietnam and government official announced that Võ Nguyên Giáp had died.

He was given a state funeral on 12 and 13 October 2013 and his body lay in state at the national morgue in Hanoi until his burial at the Vũng Chùa - Đảo Yến in his home province of Quảng Bình. He was 102 at the time of his death.



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“War does not determine who is right - only who is left”

Utrique Paratus The Parachute Regiment

Formed more than 78 years ago and colloquially known as the Paras, the Parachute Regiment is regarded as one of the most elite units in the world. And they have the battle honours to prove it.

It was none other than British Prime Minister Winston Churchill that directed the War Office to investigate the possibility of creating a corps of 5,000 parachute corps.

Churchill had been impressed by the success of German airborne troops during the Battle of France. If it worked for the Germans then Churchill was determined that it would work for the British as well.

On 22 June 1940 No. 2 Commando was turned over to parachute duties and on 21 November it was re-designated the 11th Special Air Service Battalion, with a parachute and glider wing. It was these men who took part in the first British airborne operation, Operation Colossus, on 10 February 1941.

On 10 February 1941 In September, the battalion was re-designated the 1st Parachute Battalion and assigned to the 1st Parachute Brigade.

To fill out the brigade, the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Parachute Battalions were raised by calling for volunteers from all units in

the British Army. The first operation by the Parachute Regiment was Operation Biting in February 1942. The objective was to capture a Würzburg radar on the coast of France. The raid was carried out by 'C' Company, 2nd Parachute

Battalion, under the command of Major John Frost.

In India, the 50th Indian Parachute Brigade was raised on 27 October 1941, comprising 151 (British), 152 (Indian) and 153 (Gurkha) Parachute Battalions along with the brigade signals, sapper squadron and 80 Parachute Field Ambulance.

Training

Volunteers would have to do a 12 day course carried out at the No. 1 Parachute Training School at Royal Air Force base Ringway.

The initial jumps were made

from a converted barrage balloon and this was finished with five parachute jumps from an aircraft. Anyone that failed to complete a parachute jump was returned to his old unit.

At the end of the course those that had qualified were presented with their maroon beret and parachute wings. They were then posted to a parachute battalion.

Parachute training was not without its dangers. During the first 2,000 jumps at Ringway three men were killed.

Paratroopers were expected to fight against superior numbers of the enemy that was equipped with artillery and tanks. There had to be a strong *esprit de corps* for them to have any chance of success.

Training was designed to encourage a spirit of self-discipline, self-reliance, and aggres-

siveness. Emphasis was given to physical fitness, marksmanship and fieldcraft.

A large part of the training focused on assault courses and route marches.

Equipment

The Paras did have their own distinctive uniform. First was the maroon beret at first with the Army Air Corps cap badge and from May 1943 the Parachute Regiment cap badge which is still in use today.

Parachute wings were worn on the right shoulder above the airborne forces patch of Bel-lerophon riding the flying horse Pegasus.

On operations, Paras wore the airborne forces pattern steel helmet instead of the normal Brodie helmet. After 1942, the Denison smock was issued as the first camouflaged uniform for the British Army.

The British Paras did not use a reserve parachute. At a cost of

£60 each, the War Office considered them a waste of money.

The Paras were not issued with any special weapons and their small arms were the same as the rest of the army.

They used the standard bolt action Lee-Enfield rifle and the Enfield or Webley revolver or the M1911 pistol.

For a submachine gun, they used the British Sten in North-west Europe, which was issued in higher numbers than to a normal infantry battalion. Paratroopers attached to Eighth Army used the Thompson sub-machine gun in the North African and Mediterranean theatre and during Operation Dragoon.

Each section had a Bren light machine gun and the platoon had a 2-inch mortar. The only battalion heavy weapons were eight 3-inch mortars, four Vickers machine guns and after 1943, ten PIAT anti tank weapons.

World War II Battle Honours

During World War II the Parachute Regiment earned no fewer than 23 battle honours.

These were:

North West Europe 1942

- Bruneval

North Africa 1942–43

- Oudna
- Soudia
- Djebel Azzag
- Djebel Alliliga
- El Hadjeba
- Tamera
- Dejebel Dahara
- Kefel Debna

Sicily 1943

- Primosole Bridge

Italy 1943–44

- Taranto
- Orsogna

Greece 1944–45

- Athens

North West Europe 1944–45

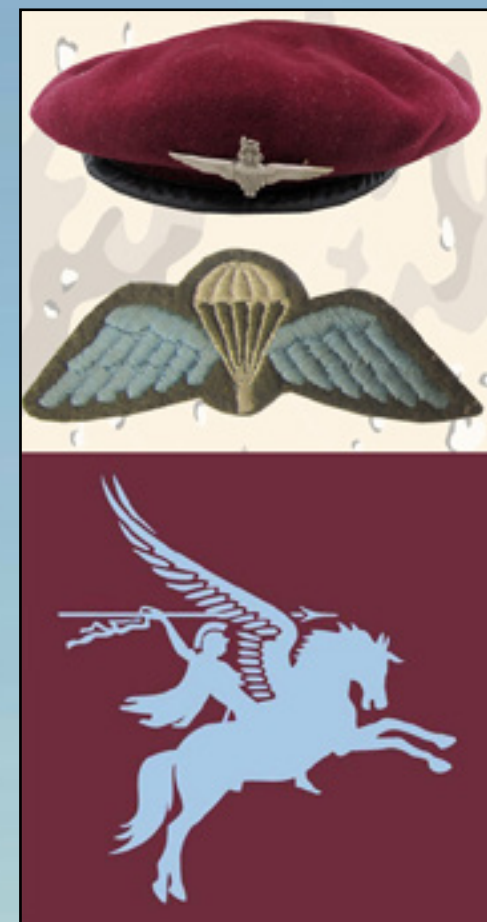
- Normandy Landing
- Pegasus Bridge
- Merville Battery
- Breville
- Dives Crossing
- La Touques Crossing
- Southern France
- Arnhem
- Ourthe
- Rhine

Arnhem

Operation Market Garden was an ambitious plan to shorten the war in Europe.

The strategic goal was to encircle the heart of German industry, the Ruhr Area, in a pincer movement. The aim of Operation Market Garden was to establish the northern end of a pincer ready to project deeper into Germany.

The success of the operation depended on taking a series



of nine bridges, the last being at the city of Arnhem over the Rhine river.

Market was the airborne element of the operation. The American 101st Airborne Division would be responsible for capturing the bridges around Oosterbeek while American 82nd Airborne Division would take care of the bridges around Nijmegen. The final bridge at Arnhem would be left to the Parachute Regiment.

They would have to capture the road, rail and pontoon bridges over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem and hold them until relieved, which was expected to occur two or three days later.

On 17 September the 1st Parachute Brigade landed and headed towards Arnhem, but only the 2nd Battalion, largely unopposed, made it to the bridges.

The railway bridge was blown up as they approached and the pontoon bridge was missing a section.

By dusk, most of the 2nd Battalion and some supporting units, including the Brigade Headquarters, numbering about 740 men, had taken the northern end of the Arnhem road bridge.

According to Allied intelligence, the bridges at Arnhem would be defended by nothing more than German Home Guard.

What they did not know was that the 9th SS Panzer Division, under SS-Obergruppenführer Wilhelm Bittrich, had been withdrawn from the front lines and stationed just outside of Arnhem for a period of rest and refitment. They arrived in Arnhem on the second day.



STALEMATE: The Paras controlled one side of the bridge, the SS the other. The above image is a still photo from the film 'A Bridge Too Far'.

At the start of the operation the Allies captured several bridges between Eindhoven and Nijmegen.

Lieutenant-General Brian Horrocks' XXX Corps ground force advance was delayed by the initial failure of the airborne units to secure bridges at Son en Breugel and Nijmegen, and German forces demolished the bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal at Son before it could be secured by the 101st Airborne Division.

The 82nd Airborne Division's failure to capture the main highway bridge over the Waal River at Nijmegen before 20 September also delayed the advance of XXX Corps.

Although they were only supposed to capture and hold the bridge for 48 hours, the Paras held it for nine days against a panzer division.

The only awards of the Victoria Cross to the Parachute

Regiment in the war were for the Battle of Arnhem. The two recipients were Captain John Hollington Grayburn of the 2nd Battalion, and Captain Lionel Ernest Queripel of the 10th Battalion. Both awards were posthumous.

Arnhem has since become a byword for the fighting spirit of British paratroops and set a standard for the Parachute Regiment.

Post War

For most of the next 20 years, the Parachute Regiment was involved in numerous peacekeeping and small scale operations associated with the withdrawal from empire.

This included operations in Cyprus and the Suez during the 1950s, and in Kuwait, Aden and Malaysia during the 1960s.

From 1970 the British spent 38 years in Northern Ireland during Operation Banner.

The 2nd Battalion spent more time there than any other infantry battalion. Between 1971 and 1996, 51 men of the Parachute Regiment were killed while serving in Northern Ireland.

The Falklands War

On 2 April 1982, the Falklands War began when Argentine forces began the invasion of the British Overseas Territories of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced on 3 April that a naval task force was being sent to the South Atlantic to "restore British administration" to the Falkland Islands.

Part of the force that was sent to the Falklands included the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, Parachute Regiment.

On 21 May, the 2nd Battalion was the first major unit to land in the Falklands, just south of San Carlos on the eastern side of San Carlos Water.

The first battle in the campaign was the Battle of Goose Green, undertaken by the 2nd Battalion on 28 May. On 29 May, after a day long battle, the Argentine commanders, agreed to surrender.

The battle had cost the battalion 15 dead and 37 wounded. The Argentinians had lost 55 dead, about 100 wounded and 1,500 were taken prisoner. Lieutenant-Colonel H. Jones was later awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross, amongst other awards, were one DSO, and two DCMs.

The Parachute Regiment won four battle honours during the

War. These were:

- Falkland Islands
- Goose Green
- Mount Longdon
- Wireless Ridge

The 21st Century

In May 1999, the British government decided to send a force of 17,400 troops to take part in operations in Kosovo, saying that the troops would be needed to rebuild the infrastructure after the Kosovo War. This force included the 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment.

In August 2001, the 2nd Battalion took part in NATO's in-



tervention in the Republic of Macedonia (Operation Essential Harvest) to disarm the rebel National Liberation Army.

In May 2000, Operation Palliser was the name given to the evacuation of British, Commonwealth and European Union citizens from Sierra Leone.

Included in the task force was 1st Battalion, less 'A' Company but reinforced by 'D' Company, 2nd Battalion.

During Operation Barras, a combined team from one Company of the 1st Battalion and the SAS (Special Air Service)

rescued six members of the Royal Irish Regiment that were being held hostage by an armed rebel group known as the West Side Boys.

In January 2003, the British government announced that the 1st Armoured Division would be sent to the Persian Gulf for potential operations in Iraq.

Included were the 1st and 3rd Battalions, Parachute Regiment. The Regiment won battle honours at Al Basra.

In May 2006, as part of the 16 Air Assault Brigade, the 3rd Battalion were sent to Afghanistan for Operation Herrick.

In December 2006, it was announced that Corporal Bryan Budd 3rd Battalion had been awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for two separate acts of "inspirational leadership and the greatest valour" which led to his death during actions against the Taliban in Afghanistan in July and August 2006.

In conclusion

Nowadays the 1st Battalion is permanently under the command of the Director Special Forces in the Special Forces Support Group. The 2nd and 3rd Battalion are parachute infantry, and the 4th Battalion falls under Army Reserve.

During World War II the Parachute Regiment was given the nickname 'Red Devils', both for their distinctive maroon berets and their fighting spirit.

Their motto is *Utrinque Paratus* (Ready for anything), something they have proved countless times. They are a regiment that was forged in battle.

In 1815 the French, under Napoleon, were defeated by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. In 1954 the French once again met their Waterloo. This time they were defeated by the Viet Minh at a place named Dien Bien Phu.

By 1953 the First Indochina War was not going well for the French. A succession of commanders – Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque, Jean Étienne Valluy, Roger Blaizot, Marcel Carpentier, Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, and Raoul Salan – had proven incapable of suppressing the insurrection of the Viet Minh fighting for independence.

During their 1952–53 campaign, the Viet Minh had overrun vast swathes of Laos, a French ally and Vietnam's western neighbor, advancing as far as Luang Prabang and the Plain of Jars.

The French were unable to slow the Viet Minh advance and they only thing stopping the Viet Minh from running amok was their always-tenuous supply lines.

In 1953, the French had begun to strengthen their defences in the Hanoi delta region to prepare for a series of offensives against Viet Minh staging areas in northwest Vietnam. They set up fortified towns and outposts in the area, including Lai Châu near the Chinese border to the north, Nà Sản to the west of Hanoi, and the Plain of Jars in northern Laos.

In May 1953, French Premier René Mayer appointed Henri Navarre, a trusted colleague, to take command of French Union Forces in Indochina. Mayer had given Navarre a single order—to create military conditions that would lead to an “honorable political solution”

The Hedgehog Concept

Navarre needed a way of stopping the Viet Minh threat to Laos. His planner, Colonel Louis Berteil, formulated the *hérisson* (hedgehog) concept.

It was a simple concept - establish a

fortified camp, supplied only by air, adjacent to a key Viet Minh supply line to Laos. This would cut off Viet Minh soldiers fighting in Laos and force them to withdraw.

The concept was based on French experiences at the Battle of Nà Sản. In late November and early December 1952, Giáp attacked the French outpost at Nà Sản. Giáp's forces were repeatedly beaten back, causing them to suffer heavy losses.

The French hoped that by repeating the strategy on a much larger scale, they would be able to lure Giáp into committing the bulk of his forces in a massed assault. This would enable superior French artillery, armour, and air support to decimate the exposed Viet Minh forces.

Dien Bien Phu

The best place to establish the new fortification was undoubtedly Dien Bien Phu, a flat valley in the mist of the T'ai mountains, a region still loyal to the French.

From there they could mount anti-guerrilla raids into enemy rear areas, using the new base as a central mooring point.

Misgivings about the isolation of Dien Bien Phu - it was 275 km by air from Hanoi and lacking ground contact with other French garrisons - were countered by the reference to Nà Sản, so successfully defended the year before.

On 20 November 1953 Airborne Battle Group I jumped into Dien Bien Phu. They met some opposition from Viet Minh regulars using the valley as a training area. Airborne Battle Group II jumped in later in the day.

The Paras found themselves in pos-



DOOMED: Part of the defences at Dien Bien Phu. The defenders couldn't hold out for more than two months.

session of heart-shaped valley, 19 km long and 13 km wide. It was surrounded by low, heavily wooded hills. Two airstrips, one near the village of Dien Bien Phu and the other to the south already existed.

The base was hurriedly reinforced and transformed into a fortified camp with barbed-wire, minefields and shelters on the pattern of Nà Sản.

By the New Year the valley consisted of a series of strongpoints, all reputedly named after the mistresses of the garrison commander, General Christian de Castries.

In the centre of the original village was the Command HQ, with strongpoints *Huguette* to the west, *Claudine* to the south, *Elaine* to the east and *Dominique* to the north-east.

Similar posts existed some way to the north-west (*Anne-Marie*), 1. km to the north-east (*Beatrice*), 3 km to the north (*Gabrielle*), and around the smaller airstrip 6.5 km to the south (*Isabelle*).

They were all isolated from

the main location.

There were several crucial differences between Nà Sản and Dien Bien Phu. Something that the French staff officers failed to take seriously.

At Nà Sản the French commanded the high ground and had overwhelming artillery support. At Dien Bien Phu they did not feel that it was necessary to control the high ground because, although the hills were low, they were too steep to get artillery up them.

At Nà Sản Giáp made the mistake of committing his forces to reckless frontal attacks before being fully prepared. It was a mistake that he would not repeat at Dien Bien Phu.

He spent months manhandling heavy artillery, heavy mortars and anti-aircraft guns into position on the high ground. He also meticulously stockpiled ammunition for the guns.

At Nà Sản the aerial resupply lines were never severed, despite Viet Minh anti-aircraft fire. At Điện Biên Phủ, Giáp amassed anti-aircraft batteries

that quickly shut down the runway, and made it extremely difficult and costly for the French to bring in reinforcements

Prelude to battle

French military forces had committed 10,800 troops, together with yet more reinforcements, totalling nearly 16,000 men, to the defense of a monsoon-affected valley surrounded by heavily-wooded hills and high ground that had not been secured. Artillery as well as ten American M24 Chaffee light tanks and numerous aircraft (attack and supply types) were committed to the garrison.

This included France's regular troops (notably elite paratrooper units, plus those of the artillery), French Foreign Legionnaires, Algerian and Moroccan *tirailleurs* (colonial troops from North Africa) and locally-recruited Indochinese (Laotian, Vietnamese and Cambodian) infantry.

In comparison the Viet Minh had moved up to 50,000 regular troops into the hills surrounding the French-held valley, totalling five divisions, including the 351st Heavy Division, which was an artillery formation and was entirely equipped with medium artillery, such as the US M101 105mm howitzer, supplied by the neighbouring People's Republic of China (PRC), together with some heavier field-guns as well as anti-aircraft artillery.

Various types of artillery and anti-aircraft guns (mainly of Soviet origin), which outnumbered their French counterparts by about four to one, were moved into strategic positions

and locations overlooking the valley and the French forces based there.

Teams of Viet Minh volunteers were sent into the French camp to scout the disposition of the French artillery. Artillery pieces were located within well constructed and camouflaged casemates. As a result, when the battle finally began, the Viet Minh knew exactly where the French artillery pieces were, while the French did not even know how many guns Giáp possessed.

Battle of Dien Bien Phu

On 13 March 1954 the Viet Minh launched a fierce artillery bombardment on the northwestern outpost *Béatrice*.

A shell hit the French command post, killing the legionnaires commander, Major Paul Pégot, and his entire staff. A few minutes later, Lieutenant-colonel Jules Gaucher, commander of the entire central sector, was also killed by Viet Minh artillery.

Using sappers to defeat French obstacles, the Viet Minh 312th Division then launched a massive infantry assault.

Shortly after midnight French resistance at *Béatrice* collapsed. Roughly 350 French legionnaires were killed, wounded or captured. About 100 managed to escape and rejoin the French lines. The French estimated that Viet Minh losses totalled 600 dead and 1,200 wounded.

Much to the shock of the French, the Viet Minh artillery were using direct fire. The artillery had been dug in by single pieces and they were installed in shellproof dugouts.



JUMPING IN: Reinforcements were parachuted into Dien Bien Phu to bolster the defences. It was too little, too late.

Two days later, the French artillery commander, Colonel Charles Piroth, distraught at his inability to bring counterfire on the well-camouflaged Viet Minh batteries, went into his dugout and committed suicide with a hand grenade. He was buried there in secret to prevent loss of morale among the French troops.

On 14 March the Viet Minh artillery resumed their attack. The air strip, already closed since 16h00 the day before due to a light bombardment, was now put permanently out of commission. Any further French supplies would have to be delivered by parachute.

That night, the Viet Minh launched an attack on the northern outpost *Gabrielle*, held by an elite Algerian battalion. The attack began with a concentrated artillery barrage at 17h00. This was very effective and stunned the defenders.

Two regiments from the crack 308th Division attacked starting at 20h00. At 04h00 the following morning, an artillery

shell hit the battalion headquarters, severely wounding the battalion commander and most of his staff.

At 08h00 the next day, the Algerian battalion fell back, abandoning *Gabrielle* to the Viet Minh. The French lost around 1,000 men defending *Gabrielle*, and the Viet Minh between 1,000 and 2,000 attacking the strongpoint.

The northeastern outpost *Anne-Marie* was defended by Tai troops, members of a Vietnamese ethnic minority loyal to the French. For weeks, Giáp had distributed subversive propaganda leaflets, telling the Tais that this was not their fight.

The fall of *Beatrice* and *Gabrielle* had severely demoralized them. On the morning of 17 March, under the cover of fog, the bulk of the Tais left or defected. The French and the few remaining Tais on *Anne-Marie* were then forced to withdraw.

17 March through 30 March saw a lull in fighting. The Viet Minh further tightened the noose around the French cen-



PRISONERS OF WAR: Guarded by Viet Minh troops, thousands of French soldiers are marched off to prison camps. 11,721 French troops were captured.

tral area (formed by the strongpoints *Huguette*, *Dominique*, *Claudine*, and *Eliane*), effectively cutting off the *Isabelle* and its 1,809 personnel to the south.

The next phase of the battle, from 30 March to 5 April, saw more massed Viet Minh assaults against French positions in the central Dien Bien Phu, particularly at *Eliane* and *Dominique*, the two remaining outposts east of the Nam Yum river.

Those two areas were held by five understrength battalions, composed of Frenchmen, Legionnaires, Vietnamese, North Africans, and Tais. Giáp planned to use the tactics from the *Beatrice* and *Gabrielle* skirmishes.

Closing in for the kill

Between 5 April and 1 May, Giáp turned away from the costly concept of massed attacks in favour of a policy of steady encroachment.

Viet Minh soldiers and sappers built a complex series of

trenches, gradually pushing them closer to the French positions under cover of fire from about 300 105 mm guns dug into the surrounding hills.

French air strikes, using air-to-ground rockers and napalm, made little impression on the Viet Minh artillery, particularly in the face of solid anti-aircraft fire.

The air defences, which included at least one complete Red Chinese regiment equipped with 64 37 mm weapons, exacted a heavy toll on the French. Especially on the transport aircraft which were now forced to fly regular sorties at the limits of their range just to keep the besieged garrison alive.

By the end of the battle 62 French aircraft had been shot down or badly damaged. Between 20 and 30 percent of all supplies dropped had fallen into Viet Minh hands, having missed the small French perimeter.

On 22 April the monsoon began. Dien Bien Phu records and

average annual rainfall of 1,525 mm. and many of the French strongpoints were flooded or became waterlogged.

With no prospect of evacuation and with the supply situation deteriorating by the hour, Dien Bien Phu was doomed.

On 1 May Viet Minh forces attacked from all sides. Bolstered by a parachute battalion dropped in on 2 May, the French continued to resist. The resistance was valiant but futile. The end result was inevitable.

On 7 May, after a siege lasting 55 days and nights, General Christian de Castries and 11,000 of his men surrendered. The *Isabelle* garrison followed suit 24 hours later. The Battle of Dien Bien Phu was over.

Aftermath

Dien Bien Phu had been nothing short of a disaster for the French. They had lost 7,184 men in six months. A total of 11,721 men were taken prisoner, of whom 4,436 were wounded.

By comparison the Viet Minh had lost an estimated 20,000 men. But they had destroyed the cream of the enemy force, leaving the French with no alternative short of political surrender at the Geneva conference two months later.

The last French forces withdrew from Vietnam in 1956. The country was partitioned into two zones - communist North Vietnam and the State of Vietnam to the south. The partition was supposed to be temporary, and the two zones were meant to be reunited through national elections in 1956, which were never held.



*With a speed that would make any weapon's tiffie weep with envy, **Matt O' Brien** strips and assembles a variety of weapons. Now he's wondering what to do with all the parts left over.*

Let's face it. It's not every day that you get something for free. Especially something that is worth while. Well the game that I am reviewing this month is actually free.

I call it a game, but it's actually more than that. It's also a puzzle and a great training guide.

The game in question is called World of Guns: Gun Disassembly and it is available on Steam free of charge.

The software can be used as both an interactive firearms reference source and encyclopedia, and a casual puzzle game with a goal of disassembling and assembling models in the correct sequence and in the least possible time.

The player is presented with an interactive model of a real-world firearm (or other mechanism) in a 3D environment. You have complete control of the camera, along with additional viewing options allowing you to explore the inner mechanical design of the piece. These include a multi-layered X-ray view, "trainer cutaway" mode and several slow-motion settings.

Depending on the game mode, the player is required to either learn the correct operation of

the weapon, or perform its disassembly or assembly.

Game modes are arranged in the order of increasing complexity, including field-stripping the weapon, complete disassembly of the mechanism, and finally disassembly and assembly against the clock and/or with penalties for incorrect moves.

Every model has local and global leaderboards and a set of in-game achievements.

The game includes interactive shooting ranges with timed objectives, as well as additional features like gun quizzes and a weapon skin editor.

As you complete various challenges you are rewarded with in-game credits. These can be used to unlock new weapons. Or you can purchase credits via steam.

There is also the option to buy a lifetime access bundle which gives the user access to all current and future models in the library.

Currently there are 159 weapons available and the game developers, Noble Empire Corp, bring out one or two new weapons each month.

Just take a look at the variety of weapons that you can get.

• 20 select fire rifles.

- Eight light machine guns.
- Nine machine guns.
- 16 submachine guns.
- 12 bolt action rifles.
- 48 pistols.
- 14 revolvers.
- 16 self-loading rifles.
- 10 shotguns.
- Three anti-tank rifles.
- Two grenade launchers.

There is also a flintlock pistol and a rocket propelled grenade launcher.

Other military hardware includes a German 88 mm flak gun, a Russian ZiS-3 76-mm divisional gun M1942, a HM-MWV A2 (Humvee), a Russian BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicle, and an American Vought F4U Corsair aircraft.

For those more into non-military stuff there are four cars (AC (Shelby) Cobra, Custom Hot Rod, Lotus Seven, DeLorean DMC-12), two motorcycles (Ducati 916, Captain America from Easy Rider), and six skeletons (Allosaurus, Wolf, Gorilla, Horse, Lion, Homo sapiens).

What I really enjoy is that most of the weapons used in our own bush war are available. These include:

- AK-47.
- FN-FAL (R1).
- G3.
- Galil (R4).



- PPSH 41.
- Uzi.
- Makarov PM.
- Tokarev TT-30.
- SKS.
- M-79 grenade launcher.
- RPG-7.

The various modes that you can access with each model are challenging and also very informative.

The first thing you can do is field strip a weapon. This is the what you would do in real life if you wanted to clean the weapon.

If you field strip an AK-47 for example, there are 14 parts that need to be disassembled and then reassembled. If, however, you want to disassemble the weapon completed then there are 96 parts.

When you disassemble and reassemble a weapon you can do it against the clock. The quicker the time, the more cred-

its you earn.

There are also three game modes. The standard mode will allow you to get hints as what to do next. Then there is the Super Game, which allows no hints. Finally there is the hardcore mode which is really difficult. The operation mode requires you do to certain things such as fire the weapon on available settings for that weapon (i.e. single shot, burst or automatic), engage and disengage the safety, reload the weapon, and add any accessories such as sights, bayonet, extended stock, etc.

You can also paint the weapon in various colours or patterns.

For those of you not interested in using the software as a game, it is also an excellent tool for observing how each weapon works. Each of the models comes with quire a bit of information about it.

This is a game that I would

really recommend. Especially as you can get it for free..

And, just to brag a little, there are currently 2.2 million people that own this game on Steam.

Of these 2.2 million I am currently ranked at 7,198. That means I am in the top one percent of players world wide.

So go ahead and beat that.



Publisher - THQ

Genre - FPS/RPG

Score - 8/10

Price - R300 (on Steam)



Platoon

Released: 1986
Running time: 120 minutes
Directed by: Oliver Stone

Released in December 1986, Platoon can almost be described as an anti-war film. It was directed by Oliver Stone, a former Vietnam vet.

Stone wrote the screenplay based upon his experiences as a U.S. infantryman in Vietnam, to counter the vision of the war portrayed in John Wayne's *The Green Berets*. Platoon was the first Hollywood film to be written and directed by a veteran of the Vietnam War.

The film centres on Chris Taylor (Charlie Sheen), a naive young American who gives up college and volunteers for combat in Vietnam.

On his arrival in South Vietnam he is assigned to an infantry platoon of the 25th Infantry Division near the Cambodian border.

Officially the platoon is led by the young and inexperienced Lieutenant Wolfe (Mark Moses), but in reality it is two older veterans that run the platoon.

Staff Sergeant Robert 'Bob' Barnes (Tom Berenger) is hard and cynical. He has already done four tours of Vietnam and has been wounded numerous times. His face is a patchwork of scars.

Sergeant Elias (Willem Dafoe) has done three tours of Vietnam. He is more laid back and idealistic.

Taylor is immediately sent

out with Barnes, Elias and veteran soldiers on a planned night ambush for a North Vietnamese army force.

The NVA soldiers manage to get close to the sleeping Americans before a brief firefight ensues; Taylor's fellow new recruit Gardener is killed and Taylor himself lightly wounded.

After his return from hospital, Taylor bonds with Elias and his circle of marijuana-smokers while remaining aloof from Barnes and his more hard-edged followers.

Both Barnes and Elias have their respective followers. A line is drawn between the two NCOs and a number of men in the platoon when an illegal killing occurs during a village raid. Barnes and Elias get into a physical fight with each other.

When the platoon returns to base, the veteran company commander Captain Harris declares that if he finds out that an illegal killing took place, a court-martial will ensue, leaving Barnes worried that Elias will testify against him. Barnes decides that Elias needs to be taken care of.

The role of Captain Harris is played by Dale Dye, a former US Marine captain who served in Vietnam. He was also the technical adviser to the film.

As the war continues, Chris himself draws towards psycho-

logical meltdown. And as he struggles for survival, he soon realizes he is fighting two battles, the conflict with the enemy and the conflict between the men within his platoon.

The platoon is sent back to the front line to maintain defensive positions. That night a major NVA (North Vietnamese Army) assault occurs and the defensive lines are broken. Captain Harris orders his air support to expend all their remaining ordnance inside his perimeter.

During the chaos Taylor and Barnes have a final confrontation.

The film was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won four of them. It's a movie well worth watching.



Click on the box cover to watch a trailer of the film.

Paratus Magazine

Anyone that served in the SADF will surely remember Paratus, the monthly magazine of the Defence Force.

The very first issue came out in November 1970 with Cmdt I.D. van der Walt as the editor. That first issue would have cost you 10 cents.

The last issue of Paratus was published in April 1994, just before the SADF became the SANDF. The editor for that last issue was Mrs AD van der Westhuizen. That final issue cost R4.50. The magazine ran for 24 years and published an incredible 282 issues.

Now you can own all 282 issues of Paratus magazine in digital format, thanks to the sterling



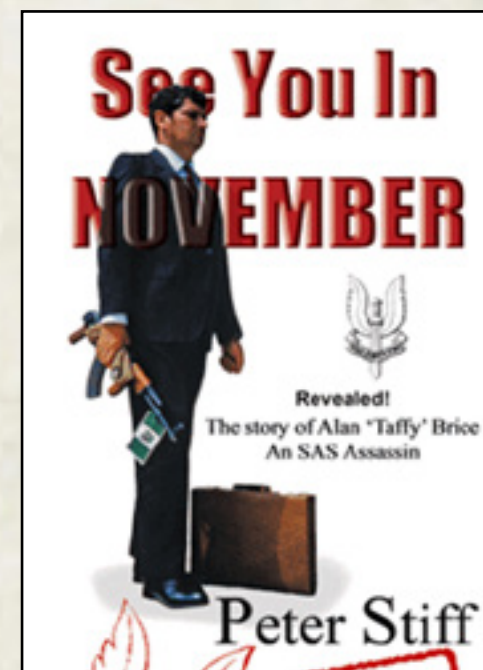
work of Bush War Books.

You receive all 282 issues on a memory stick for the cost of R650. Considering the amount of work that went into finding all of these issues and then having

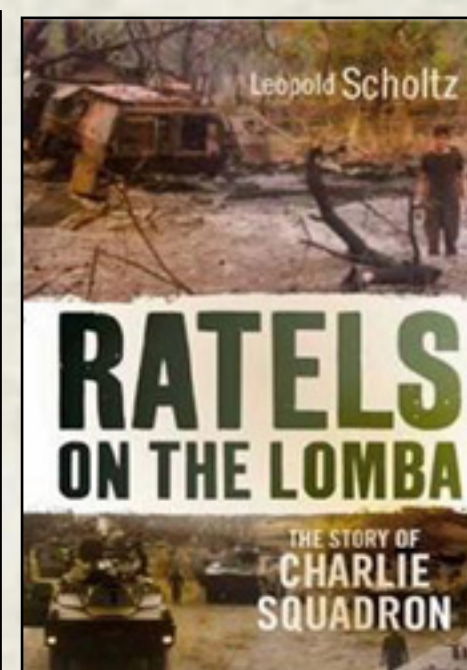


to scan them in, it's a bargain.

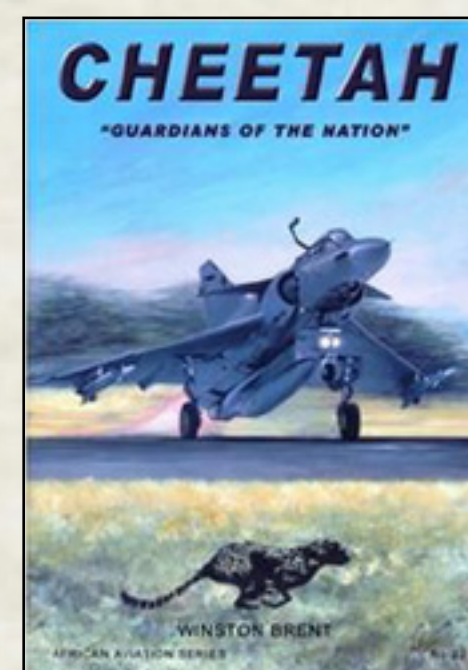
The articles will bring back memories and the odd tear to the eye. And it will provide you with reading material for quite some time.



See You In November
R300



Ratels on the Lomba
R240



Cheetah - Guardian of the Nation - R330

All books are available from [Bush War Books](http://bushwarbooks.com)

Some of the significant military events that happened in September.

1 September

- **1862** - Following his brilliant victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run two days earlier, Confederate General Robert E. Lee strikes retreating Union forces at Chantilly, Virginia, and drives them away in the middle of an intense thunderstorm. Casualties and losses: US 1,300 - CSA 800.
- **1870** - The Battle of Sedan was fought between the French and the Prussian forces in Sedan, France resulting in German victory. The French Emperor, Napoleon III was captured in the battle resulting in the end of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - British Major General John Frederick Charles Fuller was born on this day. He was an advocate of tank warfare and became one of the founders of modern armoured warfare. He was also a strong Nazi sympathiser.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Two Australians of the Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen, Lieutenant Wyllly and Private Biss-dee, display exceptional bravery during an ambush by Boers in assisting a wounded officer and
- allowing five other wounded to escape. They were later awarded the Victoria Cross for extraordinary bravery.
- **1900** - Britain annexes the ZAR (Transvaal Republic).
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Commandant Piet Fourie, joined by Nieuwoudt and Kritzing, take Ladybrand, OFS, in a street by street fight, but fail to capture the British garrison, who retreats to a position at the foot of Platberg.
- **1939** - Germany invades Poland, starting World War II.
- **1950** - Korean War: 13 North Korean divisions open assault on UN lines.
- **1963** - The new Air Force Memorial on Bays Hill, south of Pretoria, is inaugurated by State President C.R. Swart and attended by about 8 000 people, including dignitaries of other countries. The monument is a memorial to almost 3,000 members of the SAAF who died in action through the years in war and peace.
- **1967** - Ilse Koch, Nazi war criminal (commonly known as "The Bitch of Buchenwald") hangs herself in prison at 60.
- **1969** - Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seizes power in

Libya after a coup d'état, deposing King Idris and exiling him to Egypt.

- **1981** - A bloodless coup under General André Kolingba ousts President David Dacko of the Central African Republic.
- **1981** - Albert Speer, German architect and Nazi leader (Reich Minister for Armaments and War Production), dies of a stroke at 76
- **1982** - The United States Air Force Space Command is founded.
- **1983** - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 160 kilometres off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.
- **1995** - Chief warlord Charles Taylor and other key militia leaders are installed in a new ruling council in Liberia.
- **2003** - A new UN force with a wider mandate takes over from the French-led force in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.



KAL 007

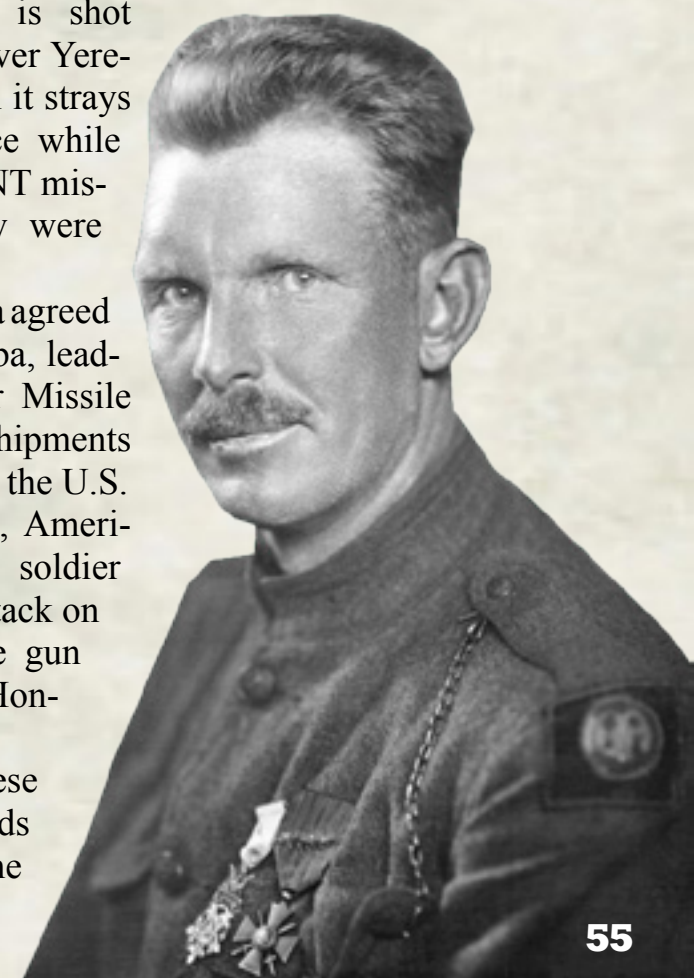
2 September

- **31 B.C.** - Roman legions under Augustus Caesar defeated Mark Anthony's naval force at Actium.
- **1862** - Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln reluctantly restores Union General George B. McClellan to full command after General John Pope's disaster at the Second Battle of Bull Run, Virginia, on August 29 and 30.
- **1864** - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.
- **1870** - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.
- **1878** - Werner Eduard Fritz von Blomberg was born on this day. He was a German *Generalfeldmarschall*, Minister of War, and Commander-in-Chief of the German Armed Forces until January 1938.
- **1898** - In the Anglo-Egyptian War Lord [Sir Herbert] Kitchener's force of 25,000 decisively defeats the Dervishes at the Battle of Omdurman, Sudan, taking Khartoum. 10,000 Sudanese fall in battle.
- **1898** - The machine gun is used for the first time in battle.
- **1939** - Nazi Germany captured the Free City of Dan-
- zig, Poland.. A concentration camp was set up at Stutthof, where several prominent Danzing Jews were deported.
- **1944** - Future President George Herbert Walker Bush is serving as a torpedo bomber pilot in the Pacific theater of World War II when his squadron is attacked by Japanese anti-aircraft guns. Bush was forced to bail out of the plane over the ocean. After floating on a raft for four hours, a submarine crew fished a safe but exhausted Bush out of the water.
- **1945** - Japan officially signs the act of unconditional surrender to the Allied nations on board the American battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.
- **1958** - United States Air Force C-130A-II is shot down by fighters over Yerevan, Armenia when it strays into Soviet airspace while conducting a SIGINT mission. All the crew were lost.
- **1962** - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, leading to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.
- **1964** - Alvin York, American World War I soldier who led a famed attack on a German machine gun nest (Medal of Honour), dies at 76.
- **2002** - The Sudanese government suspends peace talks with the

country's main rebel group, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, or SPLA, after rebels seize the strategic town of Torit.

- **1969** - The Nigerian Central Government forces began Operation OAU in order to seize the remaining Biafran cities. Though the Biafran forces were not very strong they managed to keep control over Umuahia and later recaptured Owerri and Aba cities.
- **1972** - U.S fighter-bombers attacked, Phuc Yen, one of the largest air bases in North Vietnam, and shot down a MiG aircraft. In all, 47 MiG aircraft were shot down since the North Vietnamese attack began.

Sgt Alvin York



3 September

- **1777** - The Flag of the United States is flown in battle for the first time. The British Army and their Hessian allies defeated an American militia at the Battle of Cooch's Bridge.
- **1783** - The American Revolution ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by the United States and the Kingdom of Great Britain. America is officially free from Britain.
- **1800** - Two rebels of the Graaff-Reinet Rebellion five years previously, Martinus Prinsloo and Adriaan van Jaarsveld, are sentenced to death and sixteen rebels receive life-long penalties. They had rebelled against the Company and had proclaimed the territory a free republic.
- **1916** - The Allies turn back the Germans in WW I's Battle of Verdun.
- **1939** - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.
- **1939** - The United Kingdom and

- France begin a naval blockade of Germany that lasts until the end of the war. This also marks the beginning of the Battle of the Atlantic.
- **1941** - First use of Zyklon-B gas in Auschwitz (on Russian prisoners of war).
- **1942** - In possibly the first Jewish ghetto uprising, residents of the Łachwa Ghetto in occupied Poland, informed of the upcoming "liquidation" of the ghetto, unsuccessfully fought against their Nazi captors.
- **1943** - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.
- **1950** - A US Military Assistance Advisory Group arrived in Saigon to look into the French request for American military aid and assistance in the training of the South Vietnamese troops.

- **1974** - Joint routine exercises are held between the British Royal Navy and the South African Navy, under the Simonstown

Agreement, and again from 14 October 1974.

- **1980** - General Constand Viljoen is appointed as Chief of the South African Defence Force (SADF) and Lieutenant-General Jan Geldenhuys as Chief of the Army, with effect from 7 October 1980.
- **1986** - South Africa's government re-imposes order prohibiting journalists from reporting actions of security forces.
- **2001** - Sierra Leone's president Ahmed Tejan Kabbah shakes hands with his rebel counterpart Gen Issa Sesay, and declares the West African nation's war over.

4 September

- **1862** - Union General Lee invades North with 50,000 Confederate troops.
- **1886** - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
- **1900** - Danie Theron, an Afrikaner patriot believing in the just and divine right of the Boer to stand against British interference, died during the Second Anglo-Boer War in an inferno of lyddite and shrapnel.
- **1916** - British forces take Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika.
- **1918** - United States troops land at Archangel, in north-

General Constand Viljoen

ern Russia and stay 10 months. The landing was part of an Allied intervention in the civil war raging in that country after revolution in 1917 led to the abdication of Czar Nicholas II in favour of a provisional government; the seizure of power by Vladimir Lenin and his radical socialist Bolshevik Party; and, finally, Russia's withdrawal from participation alongside the Allies in World War I.

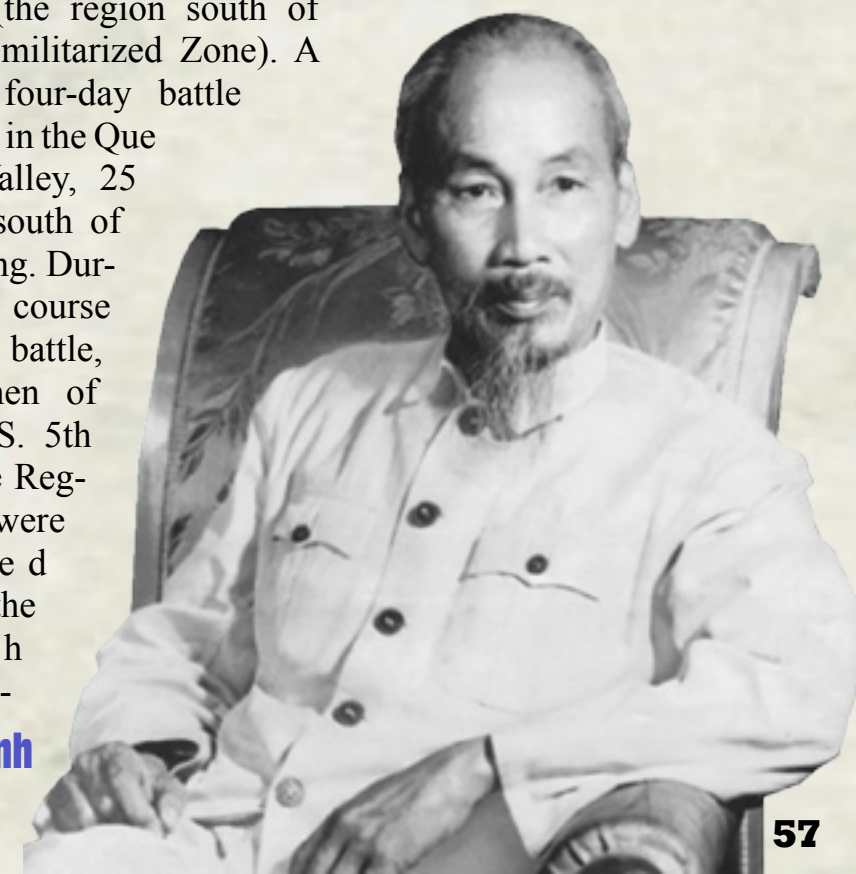
- **1939** - The House of Assembly defeats Prime Minister Hertzog's motion of neutrality and adopts Smuts' amendment in favour of joining the war. Hertzog resigns premiership the next day and he and his followers side with Dr Malan's National Party. Smuts becomes premier and retains the name United Party for his followers.
- **1940** - The American destroyer Greer becomes the first U.S. vessel fired on in the war when a German sub aims a few torpedoes at it, sparking heightened tensions between Germany and the United States. It was a case of mistaken identity. Roosevelt unofficially declared war on anyone who further attacked American vessels in the North Atlantic: "If German or Italian vessels of war enter these waters, they do so at their own peril."
- **1944** - Two days after the start of the Allied mission to liberate Belgium, the

British forces liberated Antwerp from the Germans. In February 1945, Belgium was entirely freed from German occupation, after five months of joint operation by the USA, Canada, Britain and Poland.

- **1945** - The Wake Island Japanese garrison's 2,200 Japanese soldiers finally lay down their arms and surrender to a detachment of U.S. Marines days after their government had already formally capitulated. Wake Island was one of the islands bombed as part of a wider bombing raid that coincided with the attack on Pearl Harbor and they had held since 23 December of 1941.
- **1967** - The U.S. 1st Marine Division launches Operation SWIFT, a search and destroy operation in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces in I Corps Tactical Zone (the region south of the Demilitarized Zone). A fierce four-day battle ensued in the Que Son Valley, 25 miles south of Da Nang. During the course of the battle, 114 men of the U.S. 5th Marine Regiment were killed while the North Viet-

namese forces suffered 376 casualties.

- **1969** - Radio Hanoi announces the death of Ho Chi Minh, proclaiming that the National Liberation Front will halt military operations in the South for three days, September 8-11, in mourning for Ho. He had been the spiritual leader of the communists in Vietnam since the earliest days of the struggle against the French and, later, the United States and its ally in Saigon.
- **1975** - Representatives of Egypt and Israel sign interim peace agreement in Geneva.
- **1978** - A Rhodesian civilian Vicount plane is shot down with a SAM 7 missile and thirty-eight of the fifty-six passengers are killed instantly, while guerrilla fighters murder ten survivors.



Ho Chi Minh

5 September

- **1781** - In the Battle of the Chesapeake the British Navy is repelled by the French Navy, leading to the British surrender at Yorktown.
- **1876** - German field marshal and World War II war criminal Wilhelm Ritter von Leeb was born on this day. Units under Leeb's command committed atrocities against the civilian population and closely cooperated with the SS Einsatzgruppen, the mobile killing squads primarily tasked with the murder of the Jewish population as part of the Holocaust. He was found guilty and sentenced to three years.
- **1877** - Crazy Horse, the last great Sioux war chief, dies on this day at the age of 37.
- **1901** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lieutenant Hannam and members of the Bushveld Carbineers, fighting on British side, fire on wagons with women and children who offer no resistance, killing two children and wounding a girl.
- **1914** - The Battle of the Marne. Thirty miles northeast of Paris, the French

6th Army under General Michel-Joseph Maunoury begins attacking the right flank of German forces advancing on the French capital. By the next day, the counterattack was total. More than two million soldiers fought in the Battle of the Marne, and 100,000 of them were killed or wounded.

- **1939** - President Franklin Roosevelt declares US neutrality at start of WW II in Europe.
- **1969** - In Vietnam Lt. William Calley is charged with six specifications of premeditated murder in the death of 109 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in March 1968.
- **1970** - Operation Jefferson Glen was launched on September 5th 1970 in the Hue Province to protect the critical installations. The United States 101st Airborne Division and the South Vietnamese 1st Infantry Division combined forces in what was to become the last major operation in which the U.S ground forces participated.

It was also meant to strengthen the combat capability of the South Vietnamese army so they could enable them to fight the Viet Cong in the North. This parachute regiment left South Vietnam from March 1972.

- **1972** - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.
- **1982** - Douglas Bader, the World War II RAF fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 72. Bader lost both his legs in an accident before the war, but he recovered, retook flight training, passed his check flights and then requested reactivation as a pilot.
- **1983** - The trial of Commodore Dieter Gerhardt on charges of spying for the Soviet Union began in the Cape Town High Court. Gerhardt was arrested in 1982, sentenced in 1983 to life imprisonment for passing military secrets.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian UN peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.

6 September

- **1228** - The Holy Roman Emperor, Frederick II landed in Acre, Palestine to mark the beginning of the Sixth Crusade. Frederick II was a successor to the Roman rul-

ers of the antiquity and was crowned emperor by Pope Honorius II in 1220.

- **1776** - during the American Revolutionary War, Ezra Lee, an American colonial soldier, commanding the 'Turtle' submarine attempted to time bomb to the hull of British Admiral Richard Howe's flagship 'Eagle' in New York Harbor. It was the first use of a submarine in warfare.
- **1861** - Forces under Union General Ulysses S. Grant bloodlessly capture Paducah, Kentucky, which gives the Union control of the mouth of the Tennessee River.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer war the British, under General French, occupy Carolina. On the same day forces under General Buller occupy Lydenburg.
- **1932** - The Battle of Boqueron started between the Bolivian and the Paraguayan armies. The battle was a major encounter in the Chaco War. The Bolivians had taken over the Boqueron outpost in 1932. The battle raged on for more than three weeks and finally resulted in the Bolivians surrendering.
- **1939** - South Africa declares war on Germany.
- **1944** - Soviet forces captured the city of Tartu manned by 69,000 German troops on their way to re-establishing their rule in Estonia.
- **1949** - Allied military authorities relinquish control

of former Nazi Germany assets back to German control.

- **1965** - The US Marines and South Vietnamese forces launched Operation Piranha, as part of a major event during the course of the Vietnam War on the Batangan Peninsula. The operation included a raid on the Vietnam Army 1st regiment, by the Allied forces which resulted in several Vietnamese casualties.
- **1976** - Soviet air force pilot Lt. Viktor Belenko lands a MiG-25 jet fighter at Hakodate in Japan and requests political asylum in the United States.
- **1993** - Seven Nigerian United Nations peacekeepers are killed in an ambush by Somalis in Mogadishu.
- **1996** - Army troops drive Hutu rebels from their hillside positions outside Burundi's capital after three days of fighting.

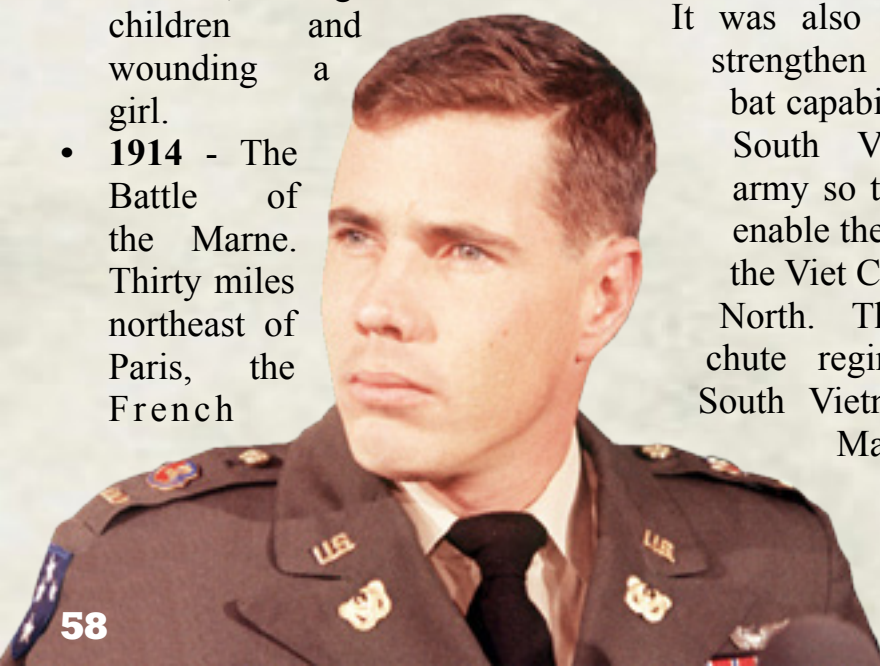
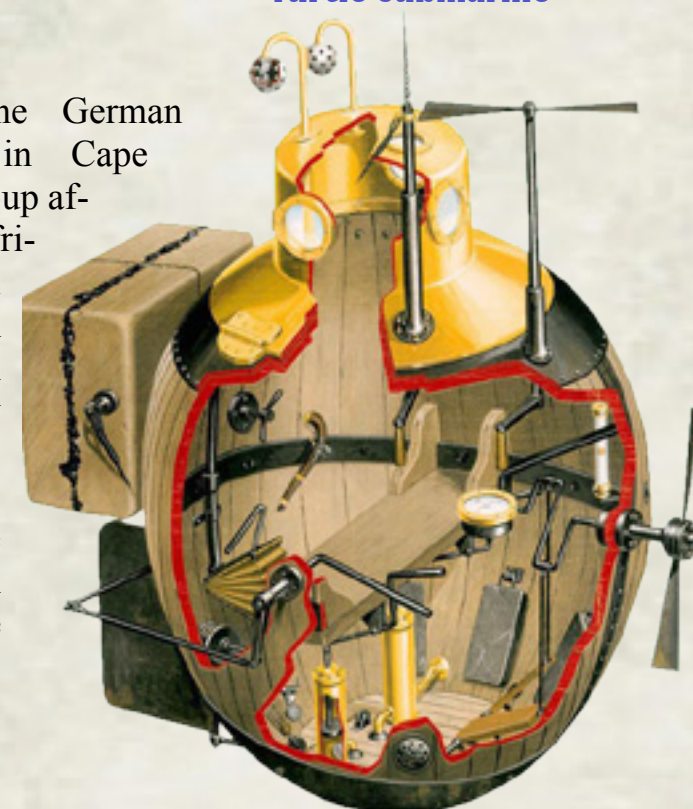
7 September

- **1939** - The German Consulate in Cape Town packs up after South Africa's official declaration of war on Germany the previous day.
- **1940** - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing cam-

paign against London during World War II.

- **1942** - Australian and American forces inflict a significant defeat upon the Japanese at the Battle of Milne Bay.
- **1987** - An intricate prisoner exchange takes place in Maputo, involving 133 Angolan soldiers, anti-apartheid activists, Klaas de Jonge, a Dutch anthropologist, Pierre Andre Albertini, a French university lecturer and Major Wynand du Toit, a South African officer captured in Angola two years before that.
- **1994** - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

Turtle submarine



Lt William Calley

8 September

- **1886** - Siegfried Sassoon was born on this day. Decorated for bravery on the Western Front, he became one of the leading poets of the First World War.
- **1900** - General Buller, with 12,000 men and forty-eight guns, attack General Botha's position at Paardeplaats, near Lydenburg and Botha, with his force of 2,000 men, evacuates his position.
- **1914** - General Louis Botha announces the South African government's decision to carry the war into German South West Africa.
- **1941** - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.
- **1943** - The United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) carried out a bombing raid against the Italian town of Frascati. The raids targeted the German General Headquarters for the Mediterranean zone (O.B.S.) and the Italian headquarters near the town.
- **1943** - General Dwight Eisenhower publicly declared the surrender of Italy to Allies in the year 1943. The Italian government agreed to suspend all conflicts with the Allies.
- **1944** - London was attacked with a V2 ('Vergeltungswaffen', or 'retaliatory weapon') rocket for the first time on this day in 1944. The attack created a crater of 10 m, took three lives and injured 22 people.
- **1945** - United States troops arrive to partition the southern part of Korea in response to Soviet troops occupying the northern part of the peninsula a month earlier.
- **1951** - Jürgen Stroop, SS General during World War II and commander of Nazi forces during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, executed by hanging for crimes against humanity at age 56.
- **1967** - It is officially disclosed that South African police are in Rhodesia actively helping in the fight against Nationalist guerrillas. This follows an attempt by several hundred guerrillas to invade South and South West Africa, from Zambia, at the urging of the Liberation Committee of the OAU in Kampala in July 1967.
- **1975** - USAF Tech Sergeant Leonard Matlovich, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, ap-

pears in his Air Force uniform on the cover of Time magazine with the headline "I Am a Homosexual". He is later given a general discharge.

9 September

- **1943** - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.
- **1948** - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.
- **1976** - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.

10 September

- **1802** - Frans Bresler, land-dros of Graaff-Reinet, confers with Lieutenant-Governor Francis Dundas in Algoa Bay on the withdrawal

of British troops from the eastern frontier of SA.

- **1813** - At the Battle of Lake Erie U.S. Naval Captain Oliver Hazard Perry defeats a British flotilla.
- **1900** - Representatives of the ZAR and the Free State governments meet in Nelspruit and decide to allow President Kruger to go to Europe (initially for a period of six months), to prevent the possibility of his falling into British hands and to plead the Republican cause in Europe.
- **1901** - The youngest Boer commandant, 19 year old Commandant Piet van der Merwe and twenty-three burghers are killed in action at Driefontein, Cape Colony, when attacked by about 700 troops under Colonel Crabbe. Only three burghers escape.
- **1914** - The SA parliament decides with 91 votes against twelve to enter into WW1.
- **1919** - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.
- **1943** - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.
- **1967** - Speaking at a special news conference the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith, welcomes the partic-

ipation of the South African Police in Rhodesian anti-terrorist operations.

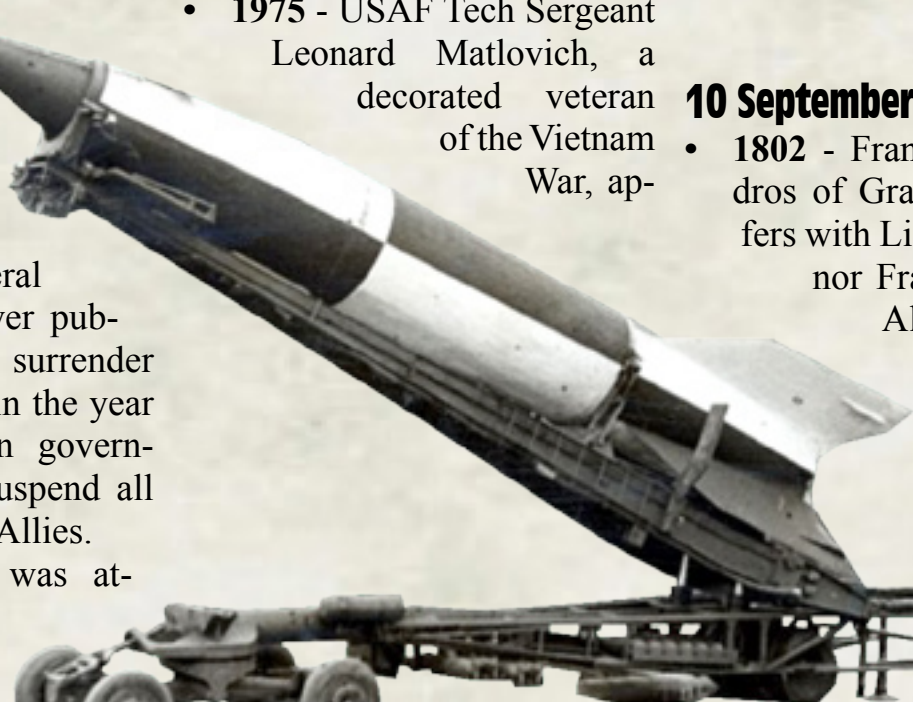
- **1974** - The South African Minister of Defence states that South Africa will provide bases and communication facilities to the maritime forces of Western nations interested in the defence of the Cape route.
- **2004** - Mercenary leader Simon Mann is sentenced to seven years in jail by a Zimbabwean court on weapons charges. This was for planning a coup d'état in Equatorial Guinea.

11 September

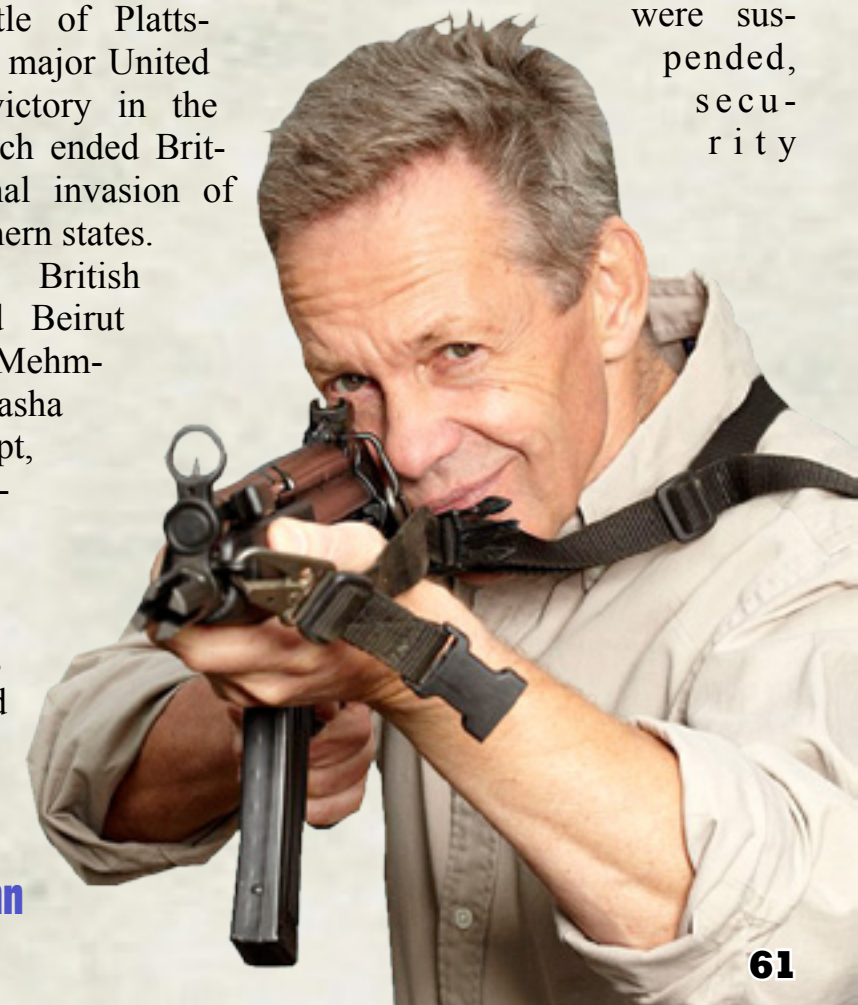
- **1813** - British troops arrive in Mount Vernon and prepare to march to and invade Washington D.C.
- **1814** - The climax of the Battle of Plattsburgh, a major United States victory in the war which ended Britain's final invasion of the northern states.
- **1840** - British bombard Beirut to force Mehmet Ali, pasha of Egypt, to submit.
- **1900** - Martial law is declared

in the Transvaal.

- **1919** - U.S. Marines invade Honduras.
- **1941** - Franklin D. Roosevelt orders any Axis ship found in American waters be shot on sight.
- **1944** - The first Allied troops of the U.S. Army cross the western border of Germany.
- **1956** - Billy Bishop VC, CB, DSO & Bar, MC, DFC, ED, Canadian World War I flying ace, dies aged 62.
- **1965** - The 1st Cavalry Division of the United States Army arrives in Vietnam.
- **2001** - Thousands are killed after terrorists crashed hijacked airliners into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. The effect was felt world wide, also in SA, where i.e. flights to the USA were suspended, security



V2
Rocket



Simon Mann

measures at airports tightened, and the economy affected adversely.

12 September

- **1861** - The First Battle of Lexington was fought during the American Civil War between the Union Army and the pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard. The battle was fought from September 12 to September 20, 1861 and is also known as the Siege of Lexington. The pro-Confederate Missouri State Guard emerged victorious in the battle.
- **1918** - American Expeditionary Forces under the command of General Pershing launched the U. S's major offensive in Europe as an independent army. The attack occurred at the Saint-Mihiel salient in France. This was a strategic location that was occupied by the Germans who blocked rail traffic between Paris and eastern sections of the front. The American offensive forced the German army decided to abandon the salient.
- **1931** - Andries J. Bester (81), Boer commandant during Second Anglo-Boer War, dies in

- Paul Roux, OFS.
- **1940** - Italian forces begin an offensive into Egypt from Libya.
- **1942** - RMS Laconia, a British troopship, was carrying civilians, Polish soldiers and Italian POWs to Britain via West African coast when a German U-boat U-156 torpedoed the ship. Operating partly under the dictates of the old prize rules, the U-boat commander immediately commenced rescue operations, broadcasting their humanitarian intent to all Allied forces in the area, and was joined by all U-boats in the vicinity. American bombers deliberately bombed U-156 and the rescue mission proved disastrous to both the survivors and the Germans. This event forced the German navy to forbid such acts of kindness to get an upper edge in the war.
- **1943** - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.

- **1944** - U.S. Army troops enter Germany for the first time.
- **1960** - The Central African Republics, Ghana and Guinea threaten to withdraw their troops from a security force unless the United Nations gives up its control of Leopoldville radio and the Congo's airports.
- **1966** - Minister of Defence P.W. Botha announces in Cape Town that the posts of Secretary for Defence and Commandant-General of the Defence Force are to be combined under one head.
- **1974** - Military officers depose Emperor Haile Selassie from the Ethiopian throne he had occupied for more than fifty years.
- **1980** - The Turkish army under the leadership of General Evren carried out a coup. Before the coup, the country was in a chaos and was without an elected president. The coup was generally welcomed by the public because it brought order to the nation.
- **1990** - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a reunified Germany.

13 September

- **1759** - James Wolfe, British Army officer who defeated

Benito Mussolini



the French in Canada and captured Quebec, dies in battle at the age of 32.

- **1847** - During the American-Mexican War, U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott capture Mexico City effectively ending the war.
- **1851** - American Army physician Walter Reed (1851-1902) was born in Gloucester County, Virginia. Best known for his Yellow Fever research, he served as an army surgeon for more than 20 years. The U.S. Army's general hospital in Washington, D.C., is named in his honour.
- **1860** - Army General John J. Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Laclede, Missouri. He commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during World War I and oversaw the Meuse-Argonne operation that helped bring about the Armistice of November 11, 1918.
- **1862** - Union soldiers find a copy of Robert E. Lee's

battle plans in a field outside Frederick, Maryland. It is the prelude to the Battle of Antietam.

- **1882** - During the Egyptian Rebellion, British forces under Wolseley rout the Egyptians at Tel-el-Kebir and proceed to occupy Egypt and the Sudan.
- **1889** - Lieutenant-Colonel R.G. Kekewich arrives in Kimberley to assess the military situation and to advise the new General Officer Commanding British Troops in South Africa, Lieutenant-General F.W.E.F. Forestier-Walker, on the defence of the town.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Lord Roberts issues a proclamation calling on the Republican forces still in the field to surrender.
- **1914** - General Jan C.G. Kemp resigns as officer in the SA army because of the war policy of the Botha government and joins the Rebellion force.
- **1940** - Italy invades Egypt.

- **1946** - Amon Göth, Austrian SS commandant of the Plaszów concentration camp, is executed by hanging at the age of 37.
- **1951** - During the Korean War the 32 day Battle of Heart Break Ridge begins.
- **1964** - Egypt and Saudi Arabia announce agreement of peaceful settlement of two-year-old Yemeni civil war.

14 September

- **1795** - British troops march from Simonstown and General J.H. Craig enters Cape Town. Sluysken formally surrenders on 16 September.
- **1812** - Napoleon and his troops first entered Moscow as the retreating Russians set the city on fire. Napoleon found it was impossible to stay through the winter in the ruined city. He then began a retreat from Moscow which became one of the great disasters of military history. Fewer than 20,000 of the original 500,000 men with him survived the Russian campaign.
- **1852** - Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington and British Prime Minister (1828-30) dies at 83.
- **1886** - Erich Hoepner, World

Heartbreak Ridge, Korea



War II German general and early proponent of mechanisation and armoured warfare, was born on this day.

- **1901** - Andrey Andreyevich Vlasov, World War II Russian Red Army general, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The first ships with South African soldiers on board leave for the ports of German South West Africa to invade the territory.
- **1942** - A plan designed to fight Italian forces, Operation 'Agreement' is executed in Libya.
- **2002** - The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Christian fundamentalist rebel group trying to overthrow the Ugandan government since 1987, stages a series of attacks in which four people are killed and forty-one abducted.
- **2003** - President Kumba Yalla of Guinea-Bissau is toppled in a military coup.
- **2004** - The South African Air Force's newest addition, the Gripen fighter jet, takes its first flight around Cape Town, causing an ear-piercing sonic boom.

15 September

- **1776** - British forces under General William Howe captured New York during the American Revolution.
- **1882** - British forces occupy

Cairo.

- **1901** - Fifteen members of the notorious special British unit called the Bushveld Carbineers send a petition to Colonel Hall of the Royal Artillery, requesting a full and impartial inquiry into the alleged atrocities perpetrated by members of their unit.
- **1914** - Boer leader General Koos de la Rey, en route to Potchefstroom with general



SA Air Force Gripen

Beyers, is shot dead when his chauffeur-driven car fails to stop at a roadblock near Langlaagte, Johannesburg. (The roadblock had been erected to forestall William Foster of the Foster Gang, who shot dead a policeman during the day.)

- **1916** - Tanks were first used in combat, during the Allied offensive at the Battle of the Somme, in World War I.
- **1940** - The height of the Battle of Britain occurred as massive German air raids took place against London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. The British claimed

185 German planes were shot down.

- **1942** - U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Wasp is torpedoed at Guadalcanal.
- **1950** - UN forces land at Inchon in South Korea during the Korean War.
- **1962** - The Soviet ship Poltava heads toward Cuba, one of the events that sets into motion the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- **1967** - Egyptian commander in Six-Day War with Israel, Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer, commits suicide.
- **1978** - France returns the deposit paid by South Africa for two corvettes and two submarines.
- **1997** - An Egyptian military court convicts seventy-two Islamic militants of subversion and sentences four of them to death.

16 September

- **1776** - The Battle of Harlem Heights is fought during the American Revolutionary War.
- **1891** - German admiral and politician Karl Dönitz was born on this day.
- **1910** - SS Colonel Erich Kempka, who served as Adolf Hitler's primary chauffeur from 1934 to April 1945, was born on this day.
- **1914** - The Siege of Przemyśl (present-day Poland) begins during World War I.
- **1940** - Italian troops conquer

Sidi Barrani.

- **1943** - The German Tenth Army reports that it can no longer contain the Allied bridgehead around Salerno.
- **1945** - The surrender of the Japanese troops in Hong Kong is accepted by Royal Navy Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt.
- **1955** - The military coup to unseat President Juan Perón of Argentina is launched at midnight.
- **1955** - A Soviet Navy Zulu-class submarine becomes the first to launch a ballistic missile.
- **1970** - King Hussein of Jordan declares military rule following the hijacking of four civilian airliners by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). This results in the formation of the Black September Palestinian paramilitary unit.
- **1975** - The first prototype of the Mikoyan MiG-31 interceptor makes its maiden flight.
- **1982** - Beginning of a two day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut as Christian militiamen (the Phalangists) entered Sabra and Shatila and began shooting hundreds of Palestinians, including elderly men, women and children.
- **2007** - Mercenaries working for Blackwater Worldwide shoot and kill 17 Iraqis in Nisour Square, Baghdad.
- **2014** - The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant launches its Kobani offensive against

Syrian-Kurdish forces.

17 September

- **1862** - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history occurred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.
- **1894** - Battle of the Yalu River, the largest naval engagement of the First Sino-Japanese War.
- **1901** - Commandant-General Louis Botha and General Cheere Emmett join forces to invade Natal.
- **1901** - A Boer column defeats a British force at the Battle of Blood River Poort.
- **1901** - Boers capture a squadron of the 17th Lancers at the Battle of Elands River.
- **1916** - Manfred von Richthofen ("The Red Baron"), a flying ace of the German *Luftstreitkräfte*, wins his first aerial combat near Cambrai, France.
- **1939** - Soviet Russians invaded Eastern

Poland, meeting little

resistance and taking over 200,000 Poles prisoner. This was done in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact in which the Nazis and Soviets had predetermined how they would divide up Poland.

- **1939** - German submarine U-29 sinks the British aircraft carrier HMS Courageous.
- **1940** - Following Nazi Germany's defeat in the Battle of Britain, Hitler postpones Operation Sea Lion indefinitely.
- **1941** - Soviet forces enter Tehran marking the end of the Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran.
- **1944** - Allied Airborne troops parachute into the Netherlands as the "Market" half of Operation Market Garden.
- **1944** - German forces are attacked by the Allies in the Battle of San Marino.
- **1963** - Adolph Gysbert (Sailor) Malan, SA fighter pilot during WWII and later national president of the Torch Commando, dies in Kimberley.
- **1965** - The Battle of Chawinda is fought between Pakistan and India.



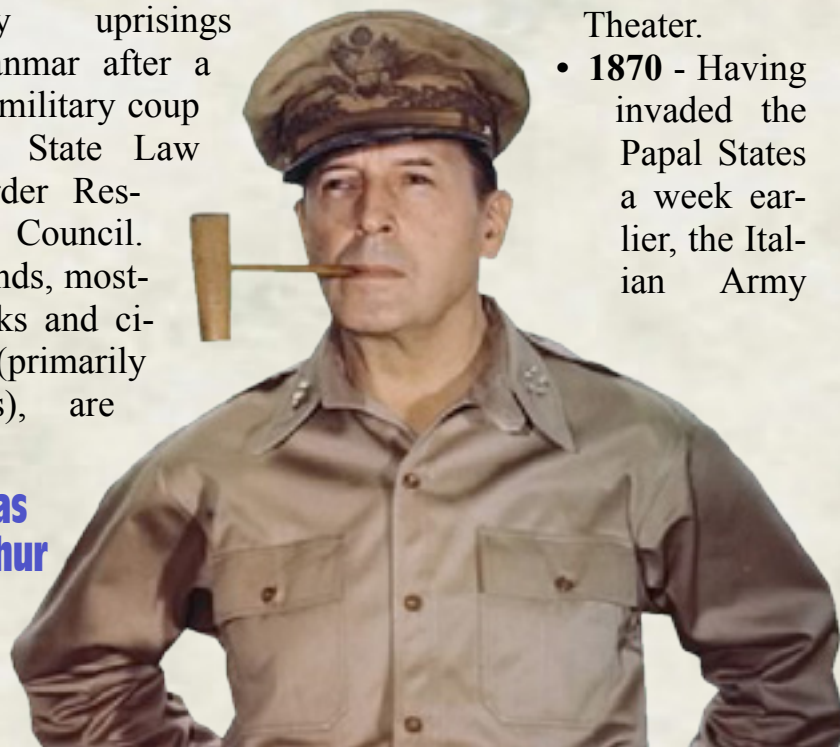
The Red Baron

18 September

- **1759** - During the Seven Years' War, the British capture Quebec City.
- **1898** - War is barely averted when a British expedition to establish a route through Africa reaches an obscure Sudanese fort and finds the French already there.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Brigadier-General Stephenson occupies Nelspruit without opposition and Lord Roberts transfers his headquarters there.
- **1914** - A body of Active Citizen Force (A.C.F.) troops of the Union of SA, nearly 1 800 strong, lands at Lüderitz Bay (Angra Pequena) in South West Africa and advance some distance into the desert.
- **1931** - The Mukden Incident gives Japan a pretext to invade and occupy Manchuria.
- **1939** - Lord Haw-Haw (William Joyce) begins transmitting pro-Nazi/anti-Allied propaganda.
- **1940** - The British liner SS City of Benares is sunk by German submarine U-48; those killed include 77 child refugees.
- **1943** - The Jews of Minsk are massacred at Sobibór.
- **1943** - Adolf Hitler orders the deportation of Danish Jews.
- **1944** - The British submarine HMS Tradewind torpedoes the Japanese ship

- Jun'yō Maru, 5,600 killed.
- **1945** - General Douglas MacArthur moves his command headquarters to Tokyo.
- **1947** - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
- **1948** - Operation Polo is terminated after the Indian Army accepts the surrender of the army of Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, Nizam of Hyderabad.
- **1961** - Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations (UN) Secretary General, dies when his plane crashes under mysterious circumstances near Ndola in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).
- **1964** - North Vietnamese Army begins infiltration of South Vietnam.
- **1971** - Egypt and Israel exchange rocket fire across Suez Canal.
- **1997** - Muslim extremists fire on a bus outside a museum in Cairo, killing ten people, mostly German tourists.
- **1998** - End of pro-democracy uprisings in Myanmar after a bloody military coup by the State Law and Order Restoration Council. Thousands, mostly monks and civilians (primarily students), are

Douglas MacArthur



- killed by the Tatmadaw.
- **1991** - Yugoslavia begins a naval blockade of seven Adriatic port cities.
- **1997** - Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention is adopted.
- **2015** - Two security personnel, 17 worshippers in a mosque, and 13 militants are killed following a Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan attack on a Pakistan Air Force base on the outskirts of Peshawar.
- **2016** - Seventeen Indian Army security personnel killed in the Indian Administered Kashmir by anti-government militants.

19 September

- **1676** - Jamestown is burned to the ground by the forces of Nathaniel Bacon during Bacon's Rebellion.
- **1863** - The first day of the Battle of Chickamauga, in northwestern Georgia, the bloodiest two-day battle of the conflict, and the only significant Confederate victory in the war's Western Theater.
- **1870** - Having invaded the Papal States a week earlier, the Italian Army

lays siege to Rome, entering the city the next day, after which the Pope described himself as a Prisoner in the Vatican.

- **1916** - During the East African Campaign of World War I, colonial armed forces of the Belgian Congo (Force Publique) under the command of General Charles Tombeur captured the town of Tabora after heavy fighting.
- **1918** - Two infantry battalions of Cape Corps capture Square Hill in Palestine.
- **1939** - The Battle of Kępa Oksywska concludes, with Polish losses reaching roughly 14% of all the forces engaged.
- **1944** - Armistice between Finland and Soviet Union is signed, marking the end of the Continuation War.
- **1957** - First American underground nuclear bomb test (part of Operation Plumbob).
- **1994** - U.S. troops invaded Haiti, with the stated goal of restoring democracy.
- **2003** - UN Security Council agrees to send 15,000 peace-keeping troops to Liberia.
- **2006** - The Thai military stages a coup in Bangkok. The Constitution is revoked and martial law is declared.

Erich 'Bubi' Hartmann

20 September

- **1834** - The troopship Charlotte is wrecked in Algoa Bay and ninety-seven people drown.
- **1857** - The Indian Rebellion of 1857 ends with the recapture of Delhi by troops loyal to the East India Company.
- **1915** - A new battalion consisting of Cape Coloured men, called the Cape Corps, is established with the view of being dispatched to East Africa in 1916.
- **1941** - The Holocaust in Lithuania: Four hundred three Jews (128 men, 176 women and 99 children) were murdered by *Einsatzkommando* 3 and the local police in Nemenčinė.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: In the course of two days a German *einsatzgruppen* murders at least 3,000 Jews in Letychiv.
- **1965** - Following the Battle of Burki, the Indian Army captures Dograi in course of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.
- **1967** - Is-



- raeli tank shelling sinks three Egyptian troop-carrying boats in the Suez Canal. Israel claims the ships violated the Egyptian-Israeli agreement banning small craft navigation in the waterway.
- **1979** - Emperor Bokassa I is overthrown in a bloodless coup in the Central African Republic.
- **1993** - Erich 'Bubi' Hartmann, World War II Luftwaffe fighter pilot, dies on this day at the age of 71. Hartmann was the leading fighter ace of World War II with 352 credited kills.
- **2011** - The United States military ends its "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, allowing gay men and women to serve openly for the first time.

21 September

- **1780** - During the American Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold gives the British the plans to West Point.
- **1896** - British force under Horatio Kitchener takes Dongola in the Sudan.
- **1899** - During the Second Anglo-Bo-

- er War, Hong Kong offers military assistance to Great Britain.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Ukraine: On the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, Nazis send over 1,000 Jews of Pidhatsi to Belzec extermination camp.
- **1942** - The Holocaust in Poland: At the end of Yom Kippur, Germans order Jews to permanently evacuate Konstantynów and move to the ghetto in Biała Podlaska, established to assemble Jews from seven nearby towns, including Janów Podlaski, Rossosz and Terespol.
- **1942** - The Boeing B-29 Superfortress makes its maiden flight.
- **1953** - Lieutenant No Kum-sok, a North Korean pilot, defects to South Korea and is associated with Operation Moolah.
- **1960** - United Nations deploys 4 000 troops to Katanga to prevent the massacre of Baluba tribesmen by provincial troops and police in Congo.
- **1964** - The North American XB-70 Valkyrie, the world's first Mach 3 bomber, makes its maiden flight from Palm-dale, California.
- **1990** - Charles Taylor, leader of a Liberian rebel faction, announces a unilateral cease-fire set to take effect the next day.
- **2004** - Major Catherine Labuschagne (25) makes history when she becomes the first woman fighter pilot in the world to fly a Gripen fighter jet during the opening of the African Aerospace and Defence Air Show at the Waterkloof Air Force base.
- **2013** - Al-Shabaab Islamic militants attack the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least 67 people.



Catherine Labuschagne

22 September

- **1776** - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
- **1828** - Shaka, Zulu chief and founder of the Zulu empire, is murdered by his two half-brothers Dingane and Mhlangana. Dingane assumes the throne.
- **1882** - Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, who served as Chief of the Armed Forces High Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht or OKW) in Nazi Germany during World War II, was born on this day.
- **1900** - As result of a military notice on this date, the first two refugee camps are established at Pretoria and Bloemfontein, initially with the aim to protect the families of burghers who had surrendered voluntarily. As the families of combatant burghers were also driven into these and other camps, they ceased to be 'refugee' camps and became 'concentration' camps.
- **1900** - The British, under Colonel Settle, enter Schweizer-Reneke, in western Transvaal.
- **1914** - German submarine SM U-9 torpedoes and sinks the British cruisers HMS Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy on the Broad Fourteens off the Dutch coast with the loss

of over 1,400 men.

- **1939** - Joint victory parade of Wehrmacht and Red Army in Brest-Litovsk at the end of the Invasion of Poland.
- **1965** - The Indo-Pakistani War of 1965 (also known as the Second Kashmir War) between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, ends after the UN calls for a ceasefire.
- **1980** - Iraq invades Iran.

23 September

- **1869** - General Christiaan Frederik Beyers, Boer general, is born in Stellenbosch.
- **1890** - Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus (1890-1957) was born on this day. Von Paulus led the German 6th Army at Stalingrad.
- **1942** - The Matanikau action on Guadalcanal begins when U.S. Marines attack Japanese units along the Matanikau River.
- **1950** - During the Battle of Hill 282 in Koera, the first US friendly-fire incident on British military personnel since World War II occurs.
- **1979** - The world press speculates that a bright flash detected by an American satellite between SA and the Antarctic was caused by a South African nuclear bomb explosion.
- **1986** - A force of about fifty armed dissidents infiltrate the Togolese capital of Lome in an attempt to topple President Gnassingbe Eyadema's government. They are defeated by the military.

24 September

- **1645** - Battle of Rowton Heath, Parliamentary victory over a Royalist army commanded in person by King Charles.
- **1780** - Benedict Arnold flees to British Army lines when the arrest of British Major John André exposes Arnold's plot to surrender West Point.
- **1877** - Battle of Shiroyama, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion.
- **1884** - German weapons designer and engineer Hugo Schmeisser was born on this day. One of the most popular German weapons during World War II was the MP-40 submachine gun. It was often erroneously called "Schmeisser" by the Allies, although Hugo Schmeisser was not involved in the design or production of the weapon.
- **1960** - USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, is launched.
- **1964** - South African ordinance workshops have pro-

duced the first Belgian F.N. rifle, which is now ready to go into production.

- **1978** - Hasso von Man-teuffel, the German general who commanded the 5th Panzer Army during World War II, died on this day at the age of 81.
- **1979** - Civilian rule is established in Ghana after the first military coup under Jerry Rawlings on 4 June, 1979.
- **1987** - Armed forces seize control of Transkei, ousting Prime Minister George Matanzima.
- **1997** - Following the slaying of hundreds of civilians in a series of incidents believed linked to upcoming elections and the long though sporadically fought civil war, the military wing of Algeria's principle Islamic opposition group calls for a truce and orders its guerrillas to 'stop combat operations'.

25 September

- **1900** - The British under Generals R. Pole-Carew and I.S.M. Hamilton occupy the deserted Komatipoort



MP-40

on the ZAR eastern border with Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique). Burnt out railway cars form a train almost twelve kilometres long on the Selati line.

- **1901** - The attack on Fort Itala, occupied by the British, takes place with the British force retreating after fierce fighting and with heavy losses on both sides.
- **1901** - Captain R.D.C. Miers of the South African Constabulary is shot and killed under a flag of truce by Field-cornet Salmon van As, who is tried and executed nine months later.
- **1915** - World War I: The Second Battle of Champagne begins.
- **1944** - Surviving elements of the British 1st Airborne Division withdraw from

Arnhem in the Netherlands, thus ending the Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden.

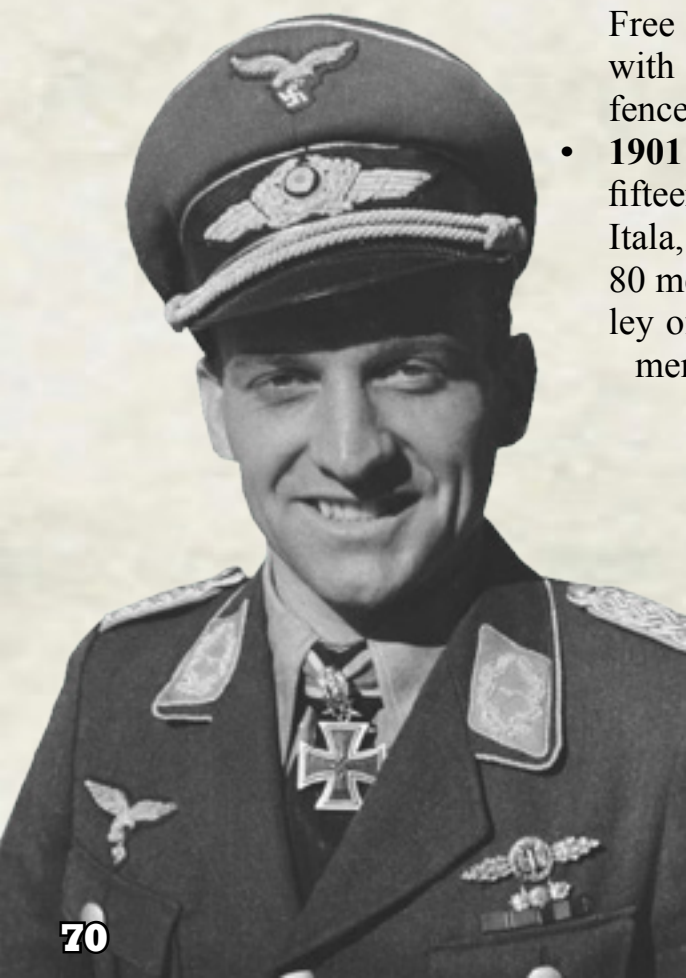
- **1955** - The Royal Jordanian Air Force is founded.
- **1964** - The Mozambican War of Independence against Portugal begins.
- **1991** - Klaus Barbie, German SS captain, known as the "Butcher of Lyon", dies on this day.
- **1993** - Three US soldiers are killed in Somalia when their helicopter is shot down.

26 September

- **1895** - Jürgen Stroop, the SS commander that led the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943, was born on this day.
- **1899** - The ZAR government formally requests military assistance from the Orange Free State in accordance with the 1897 Political Defence Agreement.
- **1901** - Fort Prospect, about fifteen kilometres east of Itala, is defended by about 80 men under Captain Rowley of the Dorsetshire Regiment when attacked by a burgher force under Cheere Emmett. A party of Zulu policemen under Sergeant Gumbi, outside the British lines at the time of the first attack,

fight their way through to share in the defence, and the attack is repelled with their help.

- **1917** - World War I: The Battle of Polygon Wood begins.
- **1918** - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 64 kilometre front.
- **1941** - During World War II, the Western Desert Force was upgraded with the addition of two complete corps: the XIII and XXX. General Sir Alan Cunningham was given overall command of the newly created Eighth Army. Troops included South African, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Free French, and Polish soldiers.
- **1941** - The Military Police Corps is created as a permanent branch of the United States Army.
- **1950** - Personnel of the SA Air Force's No 2 (Flying Cheetah) Squadron leave Durban to assist the United Nations in the Korean War.
- **1950** - United Nations troops recapture Seoul from North Korean forces.
- **1959** - Lieutenant General Sir Leslie James Morshead, who led the Australian and British troops at the Siege of Tobruk (1941) and at the



Klaus Barbie

Second Battle of El Alamein, dies on this day at the age of 70.

- **1983** - Soviet nuclear false alarm incident: Military officer Stanislav Petrov identifies a report of an incoming nuclear missile as a computer error and not an American first strike.

27 September

- **1066** - William the Conqueror and his army set sail from the mouth of the River Somme, beginning the Norman conquest of England.
- **1777** - Lancaster, Pennsylvania becomes the capital of the United States, for one day after the Second Continental Congress evacuates Philadelphia to avoid invading British forces.
- **1862** - General Louis Botha, soldier, statesman and first prime minister of the Union of South Africa, is born near Greytown, Natal.
- **1899** - The ZAR calls up the South African Republican Burgher Force.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the policy of concentration camps is officially sanctioned by Lord Roberts.
- **1940** - The Tripartite Pact is signed in Berlin by Germany, Japan and Italy.
- **1942** - Last day of the September Matanikau action on Guadalcanal as United States Marine Corps troops barely escape after being surrounded by Japanese forces near the Matanikau River.

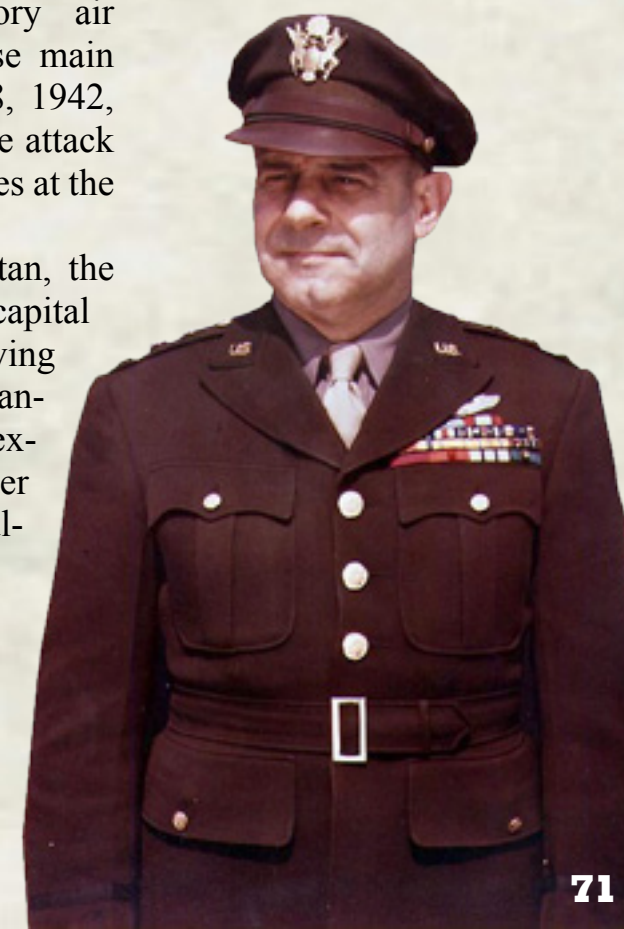
• **1944** - The Kassel Mission results in the largest loss by a USAAF group on any mission in World War II.

- **1987** - A British newspaper reports heavy fighting between Angolan government forces and Unita, in which SA is allegedly taking part.
- **1992** - A Nigerian military-transport plane crashes shortly after taking off from Lagos September 27, killing all 163 people on board.
- **1993** - The UN Security Council bans sales of arms and fuel to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) because the rebel movement failed to stop fighting the government and renegotiates a 1991 peace settlement to end the country's civil war.
- **1993** - General James 'Jimmy' Doolittle, commander of the Doolittle Raid, a bold long-range retaliatory air raid on the Japanese main islands, on April 18, 1942, four months after the attack on Pearl Harbour, dies at the age of 96.
- **1996** - In Afghanistan, the Taliban capture the capital city Kabul after driving out President Burhanuddin Rabbani and executing former leader Mohammad Najibullah.

Jimmy Doolittle

28 September

- **1781** - American forces backed by a French fleet begin the siege of Yorktown, Virginia, during the American Revolutionary War.
- **1918** - The Fifth Battle of Ypres begins.
- **1939** - Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agree on a division of Poland after their invasion during World War II.
- **1939** - Warsaw surrenders to Nazi Germany during World War II.
- **1944** - Soviet Army troops liberate Klooga concentration camp in Klooga, Estonia.
- **1961** - A military coup in Damascus effectively ends the United Arab Republic, the union between Egypt and Syria.
- **1991** - Strategic Air Com-



mand (SAC) stands down from alert all ICBMs scheduled for deactivation under START I, as well as its strategic bomber force.

- **1995** - Bob Denard and a group of mercenaries take the islands of the Comoros in a coup.
- **2012** - Somali and African Union forces launch a coordinated assault on the Somali port city of Kismayo to take back the city from al-Shabaab militants.



**F-22
Raptor**

29 September

- **1865** - The Battle of Naauwpoort, near Clarens in the eastern OFS, takes place during the second Basotho War.
- **1900** - The position of Commander-In-Chief at the War Office in London is offered to Lord Roberts.
- **1900** - Major His Highness

Prince Christian Victor Albert Ludwig Ernst Anton, heir of Norway, grandson of Queen Victoria and ADC to Lord Roberts, dies of enteric fever in Pretoria.

- **1911** - Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.
- **1918** - Bulgaria signs the Armistice of Salonica. The Hindenburg Line is broken by an Allied attack. Germany's Supreme Army Command tells the Kaiser and the Chancellor to open negotiations for an armistice.
- **1935** - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, warns the League of Nations that he is going

to mobilise his forces because of threats of invasion by Italy.

- **1939** - The Active Citizen Force units of SA are authorised to accept volunteers for the duration of the war.
- **1941** - Holocaust in Kiev, Soviet Union: German *Einsatzgruppe C* begins the Babi Yar massacre, according to the *Einsatzgruppen* operational situation report.
- **1942** - East Africa. South African troops are landed at Tulearon (Toliara) on the south west coast of Mada-

gascar, to support the East African force based at Tananarive (Antananarivo).

- **1979** - Ex-president Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea is executed following his overthrow on 3 August. No Equatoguinean soldier participates in the execution, because Macias Nguema was and is still believed to have magical powers. The job is done by hired Moroccan troops.
- **1990** - The YF-22, which would later become the F-22 Raptor, flies for the first time.

30 September

- **1832** - Lord Frederick Sleight Roberts, British officer in command during Anglo-Boer War 2, is born in Cawnpore, UK.
- **1901** - The Battle of Moedwil takes place, with the Boer forces under General De la Rey and Kemp retreating after fierce fighting.
- **1901** - Cornelis Broeksma, an attorney from Holland, is executed as a traitor by firing squad at the Johannesburg Fort. Information about appalling conditions in concentration camps and the number of deaths that he had collected got into the hands of the British. His information made its way in code via Amsterdam to London.
- **1915** - Radoje Ljutovac becomes the first soldier in history to shoot down an enemy aircraft with ground-to-air fire.

- **1931** - The War Museum at the 'Vrouemonument' (Women's Memorial) in Bloemfontein is officially inaugurated by General Hertzog.
- **1966** - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.
- **1949** - The Berlin Airlift, which delivers 2 million tons of food and fuel to West Berliners while circumventing a Soviet blockade, and

in which the SAA took part, comes to an end.

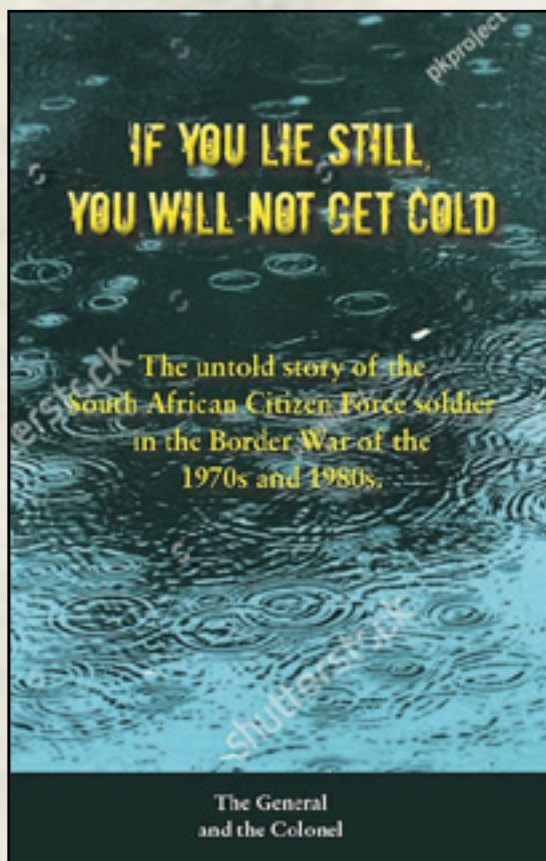
- **1954** - The U.S. Navy submarine USS Nautilus is commissioned as the world's first nuclear reactor powered vessel.
- **1971** - It is officially announced that the British and South African naval units will engage in a month of joint manoeuvres in South African waters from 4 October to 3 November 1971.
- **1975** - The Hughes (later McDonnell Douglas, now Boeing) AH-64 Apache makes its first flight. Eight years later, the first production model rolled out of the

assembly line.

- **2004** - The AIM-54 Phoenix, the primary missile for the F-14 Tomcat, is retired from service. Almost two years later, the Tomcat is retired.



F-14 Tomcat



If you lie still You will not get cold

Fellow Cape Town Highlanders; Members of Veterans' Associations; Members of the Press; Friends and Family

You are cordially invited to the launch of "If you lie Still, You will not get Cold"

At The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town
At 17h00 for 17h30
On Tuesday 18 September 2018

Snacks will be provided and there will be a cash bar. Please note that the book will be 'live' on Amazon web-sites from the end of October 2018 - in both hard copy and e-book formats.. However, limited advance copies will be available for sale at the launch on a First Come, First Served basis. In the case of South African readers who require a hard copy, the authors are arranging with a facility in Cape Town where you will be able to order and not have to wait for Amazon USA to deliver. We shall notify you at the launch about these plans.

We hope to see you there. To assist with catering, please could you RSVP. Feel free to bring any family or friends.

RSVP

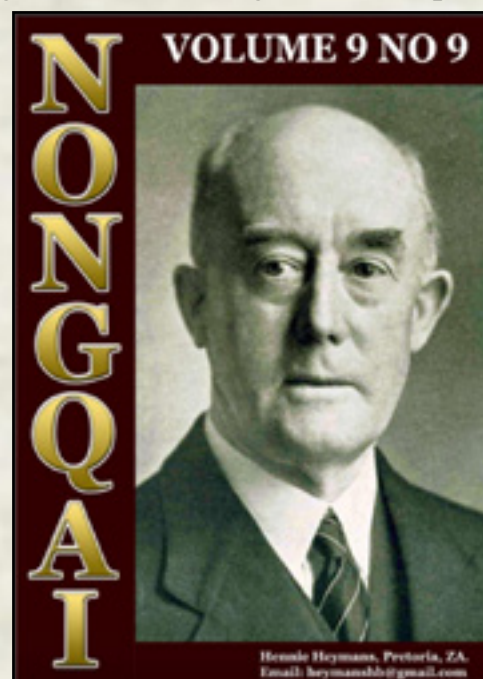
Simon Burrow

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Useful links

Every month we will be featuring a few useful links to military websites, newsletters and on-line magazines. Stuff that we think our readers will appreciate.

Here are two of our favourites. The first one is Nongqai, the unofficial police newsletter for veterans of the former South African Police Force and for those interested in Police History. The second is Jimmy's Own, the official newsletter of the South African Signals Association. Click on the magazine covers to go to the respective websites.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. George S Patton.
2. Douglas MacArthur.
3. Joseph Stalin.
4. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.
5. Constand Viljoen.

6. Dwight D Eisenhower.
7. Adolf Hitler.
8. Manfred von Richthofen.
9. Winston Churchill.
10. Jan Smuts.

11. Bernard Montgomery.
12. Erwin Rommel.
13. Heinrich Himmler.
14. Võ Nguyên Giáp.
15. Benito Mussolini.



Hipe!

media

E-mail
editor@hipe.co.za



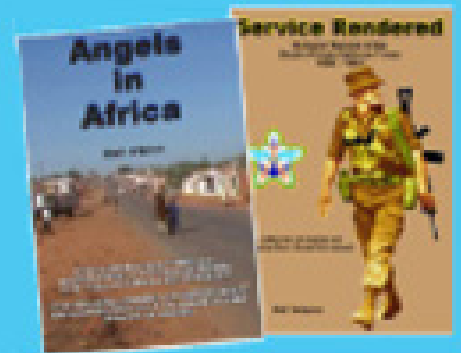
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



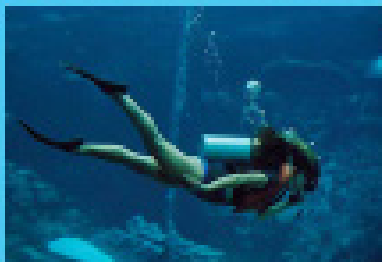
2D & 3D Animation

Produced in any video format.



Video Production

Scripting, storyboard, filming and editing done to any video format required. We also do aerial and underwater video and stills.



Still Photography

If you're thinking digital media then think Hipe Media.