



Military Despatches

Vol 18 December 2018

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It's a tradition

Some military Christmas traditions

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The fearless courage of the Gurkha

Nuts!

General Anthony McAuliffe

Head-to-Head

World War II paras



For the military enthusiast



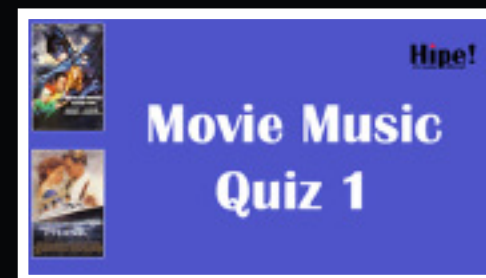
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How much do you know about movie theme songs? Take our quiz and find out.



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



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.



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.



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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Editor's Sitrep

Okay, what the hell happened to 2018. I looked away for only a few seconds and it was December again.

These days the year seems to consist of *Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgotten*, *Happy Birthday to You*, and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. Then the year is gone.

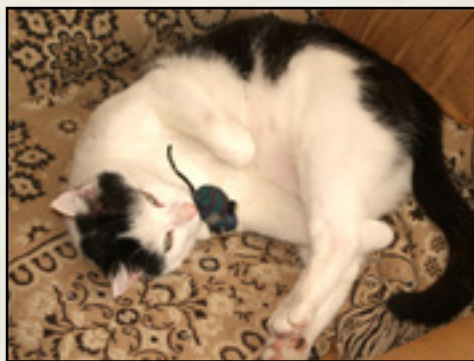
I managed to attend two Remembrance Day Parades last month, both of which were moving and well organised.

November was a bit of a sad month for me. On 14 November my 16 year old cat passed away. I had him since he was a kitten and he would always keep me company during the long nights I was busy editing magazines.

His name was Kime. It's a Japanese word that means intense or focused. He was the most stubborn cat that you could imagine.

Now I know some people will say, "Get over it. It was only a cat", but you have to realise that I liked my cat more than I like most people. I will miss him.

So, it's the festive season, or the silly season depending on your view point. I trust that



Kime

most of you will at least be taking a bit of a break this month.

I want to try and get the January edition of the magazine done as early as possible. Then at least I can also take a bit of a break over Christmas.

On Christmas Eve I will have a couple of mates around (all military veterans) for Christmas lunch. Being Irish, we have our Christmas lunch on the evening of Christmas Eve.

I trust that you will all have a good Christmas and that 2019 will be a peaceful and special one for you.

Until next month.

Matt

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December

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Front Cover

Bored US Marines on deployment in Afghanistan obviously decided to get into the spirit of Christmas.



Unsolved mysteries of Nazi Germany

Ten mysteries of Nazi Germany that have never been solved or explained.

Nazi Germany officially came to an end more than 73 years ago when Germany surrendered on 7 May 1945.

Yet to this day there remains a fascination with the Nazis and their Third Reich. There are still many unanswered questions about Nazi Germany and conspiracy theories abound.

While many conspiracy theories are absurd, there are some that raise interesting questions.

Did Hitler die in the bunker, or did he escape to Argentina? What really happened to Heinrich Müller? What happened to the Nazis 'Wonder Weapons' and did they even exist?

This month we will look at ten unsolved mysteries of Nazi Germany.

10. What was 'Die Glocke'?

In 2000 Igor Witkowski published a book called "The Truth Die Glocke



About The Wonder Weapon", which referenced a German secret weapon called 'Die Glocke' or 'The Bell'.

The weapon was a giant, metallic, bell-shaped device. It was three metres wide and approximately four metres high, containing two counter-rotating cylinders filled with 'Xerum 525', a violet, mercury-like substance.

According to author Nick Cook, the effects of the bell included a strong radiation field – one that supposedly killed a number of scientists working on the project by breaking their organic tissue down into a gel like substance.

Historians and conspiracy theorists alike have questioned where the location of such a device could be. Cook states that the bell was handed to the Americans in a deal with SS General Hans Kammler, while Witkowski alleges that it ended up in a "Nazi-friendly South American country".

One theorist, Joseph Farrell, said that the Nazis killed up to 60 scientists connected to Die Glocke in order to keep its location hidden.

Where the device is, and whether it even existed at all, remains a mystery.



Geli Raubal

9. How did Geli Raubal die?

Angela Maria "Geli" Raubal was the daughter of Hitler's half-sister, Angela Raubal. This made Geli Hitler's half niece.

From the age of 17 Raubal lived in Hitler's Munich apartment, and he maintained strict control over her actions. She was, in effect, a prisoner, but she planned to escape to Vienna to continue her singing lessons.

Her mother told interrogators after the war that her daughter was hoping to marry a man from Linz, but that Hitler had forbidden the relationship.

Hitler doted on her, but his devotion was marked by extreme possession and jealousy.

On the night of 18 September 1931, Hitler and Geli were heard having a loud argument before he left for a meeting in Nuremberg.

Later that night, Geli was

dead, aged just 23. She had what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. Immediately, rumours began to spread, accusing Hitler of her death.

She had been killed with Hitler's personal pistol, a half-finished letter to a friend was on a nearby table, and she appeared to have suffered a broken nose.

Curiously, the first policeman on the scene was Gestapo Chief Heinrich Muller, who pocked the letter and pistol before leaving.

A local journalist, Fritz Gerlich, investigated the matter and claimed that Hitler had never left for Nuremberg at all, but had instead returned to the apartment after dinner at a local restaurant.

Geli's death was eventually ruled as suicide, and both Gerlich and the owner of the restaurant were killed during the 1934 massacre known as the Night of the Long Knives.

8. What happened to the U-530?

Following the death of Adolf Hitler on 30 April 1945, command of the disintegrating Third Reich passed to Admiral Karl Dönitz.

Eight days later Germany surrendered unconditionally and Dönitz ordered that all remaining U-boats of the *Kriegsmarine* be surrendered to allied ports.

However, one ship – the U-530 – didn't arrive and surrender at Mar Del Plata in Argentina until 10 July 1945, ap-

proximately two months after the order to surrender.

The captain, Oberleutnant Otto Wermuth, offered no explanation as to why it had taken them so long to reach port, why no crew members carried any identification, why the ship's log was missing, or even how the deck gun had been destroyed.

Even more intriguingly, a US C-4 intelligence report noted the arrival of an unknown ship in the Coronel Dorrego district of Buenos Aires during the U-503's missing months, allegedly landing with a high ranking officer and a civilian.

The report claims that these individuals bore a surprising resemblance to Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun.

If this ship could be proved to be the U-530, it would add shockingly strong support to the controversial theory that Hitler did not commit suicide in bunker, and instead escaped to Argentina.

7. Who was the Thule Society?

One of the most intriguing legends of the Nazi regime concerns the Thule Society, a German occultist group formed in Munich during the dying days of World War I.

According to the historian Ian Kershaw, the society's membership included a high number of leading figures in the Nazi party. The society was officially dissolved in the 1920s after political altercations with the newly formed Nazis, but ru-



Heinrich Himmler

mours about their more secretive activities have persisted.

Thule member Heinrich Himmler would go on to form the SS, whose hierarchy and belief in racial purity is believed to have mimicked that of the Thule Society. This Thule 'purity' manifested itself in later SS operations such as *Lebensborn*, the selection of suitably 'Aryan' children for kidnapping from occupied territories.

The Thule Society has also been linked to satanic worship. According to conspiracy theorist and author Trevor Ravenscroft, the group would also hold séances and sessions of sexual magic, from which they would hope to gain wisdom.

However, without solid evidence about the Thule Society in Nazi Germany, it seems that the full extent of their influence is destined to remain a mystery.

6. Rudlof Hess' flight to Scotland

Rudolf Hess, the Deputy Fuhrer of Nazi Germany, was reputed to be Hitler's oldest,



Rudolf Hess

most loyal follower. He was the man Hitler dictated *Mein Kampf* to while in prison.

It is therefore difficult to understand why, in May 1941, he flew solo to Scotland and deliberately crash-landed his plane, allowing himself to be arrested and imprisoned by the British.

Hess had claimed that he was on a mission to negotiate terms of peace with the United Kingdom, allegedly without the knowledge of Hitler.

But then, according to historian Matthias Uhl, there is evidence that Hitler had known about the flight and that Berlin had indeed been negotiating with London for some time, in order to pursue Hitler's aims against the Soviet Union unhindered.

Some that knew Hess well claimed that he would never have undertaken a mission of this nature with the express per-

mission from Hitler.

However, this is contrary to contemporary reports that Hitler was actually outraged by Hess' betrayal – so what was really going on?

There is also an air of mystery around Hess' death in 1987, when he hanged himself in prison. Hess' own son claims that, as a frail 93 year old, he was too infirm to kill himself and was instead murdered by the British Secret Service to prevent information about the flight leaking to the public.

5. The British SS

In 2009 Polish historian Dominik Synowic was conducting routine preservation work near the Auschwitz concentration camp when he uncovered a list containing seventeen names.

Unlike anything else found at the camp before, the names were all of English origin, such as Osborne, Lawrence and Gardiner. On the back, in German, are words that translate as “now”, “never” and “since then”. The names also have checks by the side.

Synowic and fellow historian Piotr Setkiewicz have so far only managed to trace one of the men believed to be on the list. James William Gardiner was a British POW who died during a US air raid and is buried in Krakow, but little is known of the other names on the list.

Some suspect that they could have been members of the *Britisches Freikorps* (British Free Corp), British fascists and

POWs who were offered the chance to join the Waffen-SS. An estimated 54 men are believed to have joined the corps, but sometimes for only a few days.

This hypothesis is plausible given that the list was found between the SS run Auschwitz and a nearby POW camp, but it cannot be conclusively confirmed.

4. The disappearance of Heinrich Müller

In 1939 policeman Heinrich Müller was promoted to the role of Chief of the Gestapo (*Geheime Staatspolizei*), the political secret police of Nazi Germany.

Under his leadership, the Gestapo eradicated many domestic resistance movements and was instrumental in the logistical planning of the Holocaust.

But in the dying days of the war, with Berlin under fire, he was last seen in the *Führerbunker* on the day following Hitler's death.

According to Hans Baur, Hitler's pilot, Muller said that he knew “the Russian methods exactly. I haven't the faintest intentions of being taken prisoner.” After that he disappeared.

Historian Johannes Tüchel believes that he died in 1945 and was mistakenly buried in a Jewish cemetery. However, an alternative theory by author Gregory Douglas suggests that Muller was interviewed and recruited by the CIA in Switzerland in 1948.



Heinrich Müller

Despite investigations by the KGB, MI5, and the CIA, he remains the highest ranking Nazi never to have been officially caught or identified as being killed.

3. Nazi UFOs

During World War II, Allied and Axis pilots reported seeing what they called ‘Foo Fighters’, unexplained aerial objects that would easily outmanoeuvre the prop engine planes before disappearing.

This has led to speculation from various conspiracy theorists and researchers that the Nazis developed a UFO program that achieved some success.

The first record of Nazi flying saucers come from Professor Giuseppe Belluzzo in 1950 who asserted that ‘flying discs’ were designed and studied by Germany and Italy as early as 1942.

In addition, Rudolf Schriever, a German engineer, claimed to

have developed a turbine-powered flying disc, but was forced to abandon the blueprints in 1945.

Others allege that the Thule Society was involved in building flying discs to reach aliens involved in a supposed UFO crash in the Black Forest in 1936.

All these designs and assets were believed to have been handed to the Americans during Operation Paperclip. It's still unknown were these prototypes are, or whether they even existed.

2. The Riddle of the Regenwurlager

The *Regenwurlager* (Camp Earthworm) was a vast underground fortress started by the Weimar government but continued and expanded by the Nazis during the 1930s and 40s as part of the German Maginot Line.

Today it is an abandoned ruin in Western Poland, but – for some reason – the ruin has never been properly explored and

rumours persist about its true purpose. Many claim that it was actually a secret SS facility.

In the 1960s a Soviet colonel, Alexander Liskin, is believed to have led a brief investigation of some of the tunnels and local testimonies of the area.

The entire region was heavily fortified. Mines were everywhere, and anti-tank traps were set up in strategic areas.

According to legend, one Soviet sergeant major bet that he could ride his motorcycle down the tunnels. When he tried to do so he was never heard of again.

Many of the doorways in the major tunnels were blocked off, sealing the secrets of the rooms behind them, and there were no records of the activities of the fortress.

Was it merely a military training camp for training of fortification troops and a reserve storage and rest area, or did it serve a more sinister purpose. Until further expeditions are made, we're unlikely to ever know the secrets of the Regenwurlager.

1. Where is all the Nazi



treasure?

During their march across Europe, the Nazi hierarchy stole artistic, cultural, and valuable treasures from their newly conquered territories. Many of which have never been recovered.

Nazi gold is gold allegedly transferred by Nazi Germany to overseas banks during World War II. The regime is believed to have executed a policy of looting the assets of its victims to finance the war, collecting the looted assets in central depositories.

The occasional transfer of gold in return for currency took place in collusion with many individual collaborative institutions. The precise identities of those institutions, as well as the exact extent of the transactions, remain unclear.

Since they end of World War II many treasure sites have been discovered.

On 4 April 1945 the US 90th Infantry Division took Merkers, a few kilometres inside the

border in Thuringia. During an evening curfew, two military policemen stopped two women on a road outside Merkers.

While escorting them back into the town, they passed the entrance to the Kaiseroda salt mine in Merkers. The two women said that the mine contained gold stored by the Germans, along with other treasures.

Later investigation revealed 3,682 bags and cartons of German currency, 80 bags of foreign currency, 8,307 gold bars, 55 boxes of gold bullion, 3,326 bags of gold coins, 63 bags of silver, one bag of platinum bars, eight bags of gold rings and 207 bags and containers of Nazi loot that included valuable artwork.

Yet much of the looted Nazi treasures remain undiscovered. The Amber Room was an 18th century room built for Tsar Peter the Great near St Petersburg, richly decorated with gold and jewels worth over \$313 million, before it was plundered by the Nazis. The current whereabouts of the art and gold remains a

mystery. The most recent suspected location was a bunker at the Mamerki Museum in Northern Poland, but – after lengthy investigations – this proved to be a dead end.

Similarly, another search by treasure hunters for a suspected Nazi gold train underneath the Owl Mountains in Poland was called off after a week of radar imagery and digging.

In Austria a belief that a hoard of Nazi gold in the depths of Lake Toplitz in the Alps has led to at least seven deaths as treasure hunters continue to search for the many millions of dollars still missing.

These then are just some of the unsolved mysteries and conspiracy theories surrounding Nazi Germany. How many of these will eventually be solved, and how many conspiracy theories will eventually be revealed as truth? Only time will tell.



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

It's a traditional thing

For anyone in the military, spending Christmas on duty or away from home is never great. Yet there are some that at least try and make it easier.

I am pretty sure that there are numerous readers that spent at least one Christmas on duty. While others were enjoying time with friends and family you may have been the duty officer, duty NCO, or even standing guard somewhere.

Many others may have been on operational deployment. This is nothing new and has been around ever since Christmas was first celebrated and wars were first waged.

One of the things about war is that it doesn't stop over weekends or on special days of the year - including the traditional day of 'Peace and Goodwill'.

There have been occasions in history where those involved in the fighting took matters into their own hands and declared a Christmas truce. One of the most well-known of these occasions was the Christmas Truce of 1914.

On 24 December 1914, Christmas Eve, German troops in the region of Ypres, Belgium, began decorating the area around their trenches by placing candles on trees.

The British troops watched with a mixture of confusion and more than a little suspicion.

Then the Germans began to sing *Stille Nacht*. While the words may have been unfamiliar the British troops could recognise the tune of Silent Night. The British troops responded by singing English carols.

The two sides began shouting Christmas greetings to each other. Many of the Germans had worked or studied in Britain and could speak English fluently. There were calls for the two sides to meet in no-man's land.

Tentatively, in ones and twos, troops began leaving the trenches on both sides. Normally if you showed the slightest part of your body above a trench it would be hit by a bullet within seconds. Now people were climbing out of trenches, exposing themselves to the other side.

Early on Christmas

morning troops began meeting in no-man's land again. Both sides took the opportunity to bury the many dead that lay in no-man's land. Proper burials were held and in many instances soldiers from both sides mourned the dead together and paid their respects.

In more than one sector informal football matches were arranged in no-man's land.

In many sectors, the truce lasted through Christmas night, but in some areas, it continued until New Year's Day.

Naturally the top brass on both sides were not all that amused about this. After all, didn't the

troops realise that there was a world war going on?

Now days, however, there are very few, if any, truces declared

over Christmas. Yet those in operational areas usually have certain traditions that are observed over the Christmas period.

Anyone that served in the South African Defence Force

(SADF) and spent a Christmas in the operational area will have fond memories of the Southern Cross Fund.

Led by Elizabeth Albrecht, this remarkable organisation was formed in 1968. They were nicknamed the *Dankie Tanies* (Thank you aunties). They raised funds to take care of the welfare of the South African armed forces.

At Christmas every member of the SADF serving in an operational area would receive a Christmas parcel from the Southern Cross Fund.

Chris was



18 when he did his national service. He spent Christmas 1977 on the border and still remembers the Christmas gift he received from the Southern Cross Fund.

"It was the first Christmas I had ever spent away from my family," he recalls. "All of us were given a gift from the *Dank-ie Tanies*. It was a small black writing bag with the Southern Cross Fund logo on it. Inside was a Parker pen, some writing paper, envelopes, a few Christmas cards, a packet of chewing gum, and a pocket knife. There was also a tee-shirt with an image and the words 'I was there'. Most of us really appreciated the gift."

Douglas also spent a Christmas on the border and also received a gift from the Southern Cross Fund. The manner in which he received the gift was a little different.

"My company was stationed at a place by the name of Okalongo," he says. "Because my platoon would be out on patrol on Christmas Day, we had our Christmas brunch on 22 December.

"Our chef went to a lot of trouble and it was actually a damn good meal. What really made the whole thing special, however, was our company sergeant major.

"We all received a gift from the Southern Cross and it was given to each of us personally by the sergeant major. The best was that he was wearing a full-on Santa suit complete with hat and big white beard. We were rolling on the floor with laughter.

"When he gave me my pres-

ent I asked him if I could sit on his knee and tell him what I wanted for Christmas. He gave me this glare and said, 'Troop, ek sal vir jou so hard bliksem dat jou ma sal begin huil.' (Troop I will hit you so hard that your mother will start to cry). The whole thing really made our Christmas that year."

Some of the Christmas lunches at the larger base camps were pretty elaborate affairs and the food was of the highest quality. Certain units had traditions regarding the Christmas meal, as David (18) explains.

"We had a tradition in our unit that on Christmas day the officers and senior NCOs had to serve the troops lunch.

"We all sat down at these long tables that were covered with white table clothes and were decorated with Christmas crackers. Everyone got a little paper hat to wear and there were bottles of wine on the table.

"Then our OC and RSM led in the officers and senior NCOs to serve the food. They came around with trays and served us individually. It was really great fun.

"Our company sergeant major was a scream. He came in wearing his army boots, a paper hat, and a white apron and nothing else. By the looks of it, he had enjoyed a good bit of Christmas cheer before lunch.



Here he was walking around bare-arsed asking if we'd had enough to eat. I laughed so much that I nearly choked on my food. I think that it was an excellent tradition and I wonder if they still do things like that today?"

British traditions

The British Armed Forces have traditions that stretch back centuries. These include Christmas traditions. One of these is 'Gunfire'.

The drink is traditionally served to soldiers in their beds by their officers on Christmas Day. It is not, however, a drink for the faint-hearted. It is a cup of hot, black tea laced with a healthy shot of rum.

For troops away on deployment every attempt is made to make the Christmas meal special. Troops will sit down to a festive lunch together and, as is tradition, the officers will often serve the soldiers.

In 2012, troops serving in Lashkar Gah in Afghanistan organised the Lash Dash, a five



CHEERS: A troop is served 'Gunfire' by an officer on Christmas morning.

kilometre run for charity.

Participants and spectators alike sported festive costumes for the event.

Lash Dash organiser Captain Emma Wardall said: "We thought it would be a good excuse to get out of the office on Christmas morning and into the sunshine. All of the money we've raised will go to the Black Rat brigade charity and the Lashkar Gah orphanage."

During the Christmas Truce of 1914, British and German troops played a game of soccer in no-man's land.

In 2014, on the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce, British and German soldiers deployed in Afghanistan gathered in a dusty field for a commemorative game of football.

Brigadier James Stopford said: "A hundred years on to see German soldiers and British soldiers again on operations do this is just symbolic of progress and what can be achieved."

American traditions

During the American Revolution, troops were not stationed overseas, of course, but since

travel was mostly by foot and horseback, it was hard for soldiers to return home for Christmas and get back to the battlefield in a timely manner. They were forced to celebrate wherever they were, including fighting battles on Christmas Day.

George Washington crossed the Delaware River on 25 December 1776. After the Battle of Trenton was over, General Washington did his best to give his soldiers a bit of rest and time to celebrate among themselves.

The American Civil War was unique because families were split across both Union and Confederate lines. It was not uncommon for brothers to celebrate Christmas on opposite sides of the battlefield, often within sight of each other, one wearing blue, the other grey.

On Christmas Day in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln visited injured soldiers in various hospitals to brighten their spirits. Santa even appeared to Union troops one year.

Thanks to the growth of the aviation industry, air freight made sending care packages to troops in the European and Pa-

cific theaters easier and faster during World War II.

Presents, including home-made food, reached troops in time to celebrate and help them feel a bit closer to home so far away.

In addition to getting presents, troops not stationed on the front were treated to holiday meals anywhere there was no active fighting.

Many of the soldiers themselves donated their home-sent gifts to children in war zones whose homes had been destroyed in the bombing.

The conflicts in Korea and Vietnam continued the tradition of sending gifts and eating meals together but added one new layer - phone calls back home.

Thanks to advances in telecommunications technology, soldiers in certain areas could make a quick phone call back home and talk to loved ones rather than sending letters and waiting for weeks, sometimes months for a reply.

By the time Operation Desert Storm started in 1991, overseas calls to troops was common practice, and e-mail was starting to take hold on a large scale.

Today, soldiers on foreign deployment can stay in regular touch with folks back home via Skype, FaceTime, and other instant connections. Most laptop computers have video cameras which allow face to face communication.

For all those that will be on deployment away from home this year, we at Military Despatches wish you a happy, peaceful, and safe Christmas.

Daralagdo Sahasa*

Roughly translated, the Nepali expression Daralago sahasa means 'fearless courage'. And for many Gurkha it is not merely an expression, but a way of life.

Sam Manekshaw was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of field marshal.

Manekshaw once said, "If a man says he is not afraid of dying, he is either lying or is a Gurkha."

Gurkha is a name traditionally given to soldiers recruited into the British or Indian military from Nepal. The word Gurkha is taken from an area once known as the "Gorkha kingdom" which was folded into, and became part of, Nepal around the turn of the 20th century.

The Gurkha were originally formed after British soldiers fighting in Nepal were simultaneously impressed and terrified by the soldiers they encountered during the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814.

After the war ended in 1816, the British, spying an opportunity to bolster their ranks, offered these fearless Nepalese soldiers a chance to volunteer to serve in the British army, referring to them collectively as Gurkha, a name that is still used today regardless of which area of Nepal a given soldier happens to hail from.

And Manekshaw wasn't joking when he spoke about the courage of the Gurkha. Since World War I, no fewer than 13 Gurkha have been awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy

that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Kulbir Thapa Magar VC was the first Nepalese Gurkha recipient of the Victoria Cross.

During the Battle of Loos in September 1915, Kulbir Thapa rescued three wounded soldiers from behind the German lines. Even though he was wounded himself.

Lalbahadur Thapa was the first Gurkha to be awarded the VC in World War II. Ten Gurkha won the VC during World War II.

Then there was Lachhiman Gurung, a rifleman with the 8th Gurkha Rifles. On 12/13 May 1945 at Taungdaw, Burma, Rifleman Lachhiman Gurung was manning the most forward post of his platoon which bore the brunt of an attack by at least 200 Japanese.

Part of his citation for the Victoria Cross reads:

Gurung was manning the most forward post of his platoon which bore the brunt of an attack by at least 200 of the Japanese enemy.

Twice he hurled back grenades which had fallen on his trench, but the third exploded in his right hand, blowing off his fingers, shattering his arm and severely wounding him in the face, body and right leg.

His two comrades were also badly wounded but the rifleman, now alone and disregarding his wounds, loaded and fired his rifle with his left hand for four

hours, calmly waiting for each attack which he met with fire at point blank range.

Afterwards, when the casualties were counted, it is reported that there were 31 dead Japanese around his position which he had killed, with only one arm.

Despite losing the use of his hand and right eye during that battle, among other injuries, Gurung lived until 12 December 2010, dying at the ripe old age of 92. Apparently it took the man with the scythe a while to build up the courage to pay Gurung a visit.

If anyone demonstrated the fighting spirit of the Gurkha, it was Bhanbhagta Gurung.

He was born in the small Nepalese village of Phalpu in September of 1921. In 1940, at just 18 years of age, Bhanbhagta joined the British army a few months after World War II began, at which point he was drafted to the "third battalion of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles."

He didn't get his first taste of combat until 1943 when he fought alongside several thousand other men behind enemy lines in Burma. During this time, Bhanbhagta was promoted from rifleman to the rank of Naik (the equivalent of a corporal).

However, he would later be demoted back to rifleman in 1944 when his commanding officer told him to patrol the



FOR VALOUR: Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung VC.

wrong area and then refused to admit he'd made a mistake, instead putting the blame on Bhanbhagta.

On 5 March he single-handedly took out five entrenched Japanese positions under heavy fire and out of ammunition for his gun.

Bhanbhagta was part of a platoon of men given the singular goal of taking a hill colloquially known as "Snowdon East". The hill was a strategic foothold that had been overrun by the Japanese who, in the process, killed about half the Gurkha company after the Gurkhas had run out of ammunition and been forced to fight their way through the enemy lines with nothing but their *kukri* (knives) while under heavy fire. Bhanbhagta's platoon was told to take the hill back "regardless of cost." Bhanbhagta apparently took this command quite literally.

While Bhanbhagta and his men were sneaking up on the position, they were spotted

and initially pinned down by machine gun and mortar fire. Because of their extreme close proximity to the enemy troops, support artillery from their own side wasn't possible. They were pinned down.

While all of this was happening, an enemy sniper from a tree approximately 75 meters to the south began picking off Bhanbhagta's comrades one by one.

Realising that he couldn't get a clean shot if he was lying down, Bhanbhagta stood up while still being shot at from several enemy positions and managed to take out the sniper.

Bhanbhagta then signalled to his men to follow him as he sprinted up the hill in the face of the enemy fire raining down. Several Gurkha were killed in the dash and they were again pinned down.

Apparently not one to just sit around while being shot at, Bhanbhagta sprinted the remaining 20 meters or so to the nearest enemy trench and quickly dispatched those inside with a couple of well thrown grenades.

He then ran towards a second enemy position, killing the armed soldiers inside with his bayonet. Bhanbhagta then rushed two other positions, taking them out with his now trademark combo of grenades and furious rifle-stabs.

All of this happened while Bhanbhagta was being "subjected to almost continuous and point-blank machine-gun fire," particularly from a fifth position slightly further up the hill.

Bhanbhagta then headed towards the final position, a small bunker where a machine gun-

ner was raining down heavy fire and doing a boatload of damage to the Gurkhas.

Nevertheless, Bhanbhagta managed to get on top of the roof of the bunker without being shot, and then, being out of explosive grenades, hurled two smoke grenades into the opening from which the machine-gun was firing.

When two Japanese soldiers emerged, Bhanbhagta pounced on them with his *kukri*, dispatching them both. He then ran into the machine-gun nest, having to kill the machine-gunner with a rock instead of his *kukri*, because of the extreme close quarters.

Bhanbhagta and his men then took possession of the machine gun and managed to hold the position from the counter attack by the enemy soldiers.

His regiment gained the battle honour "Tamandu" as a result of the engagement and he received his Victoria Cross from King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

Soon after the war ended, Gurung's company commander tried to persuade him to continue serving, but he declined as he had a frail widowed mother as well as a young wife and children to take care of in Nepal.

When he left the regiment in January 1946 he had regained his former rank of Naik and had been given the rank of Honorary Havildar. In addition to his VC he was also awarded the Star of Nepal, 3rd Class, in 1945.

In 2000 the Gurkha training company block at Catterick (England) was named after him.

Christmas and a world at war

Peace on Earth and goodwill to all men is a wonderful concept. But it's not all that easy when the world is at war. So how did the British celebrate Christmas during World War I?

The human race is no stranger to conflict and war. It has been around for as long as history records. Yet the war of 1914 - 1918 was different. It was the first war fought on a global scale. Which was probably why it would go on to become known as World War I.

Most countries around the world celebrate 25 December as Christmas Day, celebrating the Birth of Christ. It is regarded as a day of Peace on Earth and goodwill to all men. Yet the prospects of the British celebrating Christmas in 1914 looked glum to say the least.

And it was not just the troops at the front line that had to deal with the grim realities of war. Those back home felt the effects of the war as well.

Shortages began to appear in essential items like sugar, bread, petrol and paper, and Christmas cooking ingredients were difficult to come by.

The British government considered the celebration of Christmas a national priority. It was vital that morale be kept high.

Britain continued to embrace the Christmas spirit. Songs, useful gifts, charitable acts and ingenious cookery were all encouraged.

The celebration of Christmas was a deliberate moment of defiance against the death, destruction and deprivation of war.

Christmas on the front lines

Perhaps the most legendary moment of festive goodwill took place during the Christmas truce of 1914.

The impromptu ceasefire allowed soldiers along the western front to emerge from the trenches, meet enemy combatants, exchange gifts and even play games.

Yet the ceasefire was an unofficial one and many in authority regarded it as verging on mutiny. They were determined that there would be no repeat of the ceasefire in subsequent years.

Shortly before Christmas troops were rotated to different positions and artillery barrages were ordered on Christmas Eve that would continue on Christmas Day.

But soldiers still marked each Christmas as it arrived in the trenches with Christmas parcels and extra rations.

The British press, keen to present an official, positive view of war, published photographs and illustrations of soldiers opening parcels from home, or cheerfully cooking their Christmas pudding in a pot made from a German helmet.

It was important for the morale of those back home to believe that, even though there was a war going on, their husbands, sons, brothers or sweethearts were still enjoying the spirit of Christmas.

The realities, however, were somewhat different. Foul

weather, flooded dug-outs and constant danger took a toll on the Christmas spirit.

Sending messages and gifts

During World War I there was no such thing as e-mails, mobile phones and Skype. The only means of sending letters or parcels to and from the front was via the postal service.

During the Christmas period the demand became even greater. Over the entire course of the war, the army postal service sent 114 million parcels from Britain to conflict zones, and two billion letters.

Dubbed 'Santa Claus in khaki', army postmen struggled to deliver care packages to the front line and bring letters back home in time for Christmas.

Throughout the year families were sending letters, food, clothing, cigarettes and tobacco to their loved ones. During Christmas this increased dramatically.

Charities also rallied the British public to show their support for the troops, sending Christmas gifts en masse. Footballs, harmonicas, books, cigarettes and even Christmas puddings were sent in bulk.

Even the royal family became involved. In Christmas 1914, Princess Mary, daughter of George V, launched her own charitable Christmas initiative. Every soldier in the army received a metal case of cigarettes.

Shopping at home

As the war went on, shortages meant that it became more difficult to shop for Christmas gifts.

Shopping for children was much easier. Any military-themed toys - soldiers, guns, uniforms - and they were happy.

Adults were just as enthusiastic about giving and receiving gifts, but the moral consensus was to avoid frivolity. Practical presents were the way to go.

Shoppers were encouraged to give useful, sensible items, particularly to their male relatives at the front.

Suggested gifts included soldiers' work cases and wallets; warm gloves; pipe sets; correspondence cases; safety razors; tinder lighters and watches. Cigarettes, 'the fuel of the British Army', were particularly in demand.

NOT TO BE REPEATED:

British and German soldiers get together in no-man's land during the Christmas truce of 1914. The higher authorities ensured that this did not happen in subsequent years.

The 'Con Amore' brand offered cigarettes with a regimental crest embossed, for the ultimate personal touch for absent sweethearts. Its slogan was: "In Trench, Mess, Billet or on Shipboard, every smoke will remind him of you - the giver."

Christmas in hospital

The number of wounded during World War I was horrific. Both in Britain and in war zones, many servicemen and women spent their Christmas in military hospitals.

A bright, cheerful, healing environment was central to medical ethos, and at Christmas hospital staff went to particular effort to decorate the wards and entertain the wounded. Hospitals often threw parties and concerts for their patients.

Christmas in the navy

The Senior Service is known for doing things differently. Christmas at sea came with its own traditions, as those serving in the Royal Navy during the war (some 380,000 people by 1918) discovered. Their Christmas was formal and highly regulated in comparison with

forces on land: after a religious service on the ship, the men would assemble in their messes, with tables decorated for Christmas.

Here they were visited by the captain and officers, who would take a seat at each table in turn, sampling the food they had prepared.

Many were serving on ships in the North Sea, where the stormy winter weather and rough seas could make for a lively Christmas celebration.

Travelling home on leave

Some troops were lucky enough to be given leave over Christmas. Naturally this could not be granted to everyone. In many cases it was determined by drawing lots.

Getting leave over Christmas was one thing. Getting home for that leave was another.

Various wartime charities made it their duty to ensure that troops returning home for Christmas were relatively well looked after on their journey.

Women volunteered to serve tea at railway stations to anyone in uniform, and special army club rooms and YMCA huts



gave soldiers shelter en route. They threw cheerful Christmas celebrations for soldiers who could not make it home in time.

Refugee shelters

The war in Europe saw the mass displacement of civilian populations. During the war there were about 250,000 refugees from Belgium being sheltered in Britain.

With Belgians receiving sympathetic treatment in the press, British support for their plight was considerable in the first years of the war. Thousands of charitable enterprises were launched to help them, from large committees and organisations to newspaper subscriptions.

In 1914 *The Bystander* launched an appeal for Christmas presents from their readers: “Over one thousand toys have been personally distributed among the Belgian refugee children now being looked after in English homes and hostels.”

Christmas at home

Spending Christmas at home was often a bitter-sweet experience. It may have been more comfortable and preferable to sitting in a trench on the front, but civilians were still feeling the impact of the war.

On 16 December 1914 three east coast towns came under German naval bombardment. Five days later the south coast suffered the first attacks from German aircraft.

Apart from the shock of such direct attacks, absent loved ones made for a difficult Christmas during the war. Having them home on leave was a special



NEWS FROM HOME: The press played an important role in keeping morale up. Especially over Christmas.

wartime gift. The Christmas of 1915 was one of particularly happy surprises: delays in the post meant that some families did not get warning of their loved one’s arrival until they appeared at the door.

The Press

You must take into consideration that back in the days of World War I newspapers were the main source of public information about the progression of war and the welfare of those fighting.

At Christmas, as in pre-war years, weekly papers like *The Illustrated London News* and *The Tatler* produced their annual Christmas issues.

Many of them considered it their patriotic duty to present the war in a positive light and this was especially true during Christmas.

With beautiful images and short stories, they were careful to present a cheerful image of the wartime festivities. Sentimental images of soldiers returning home, or robins in the

trenches aimed to integrate the experience of war with the spirit of Christmas.

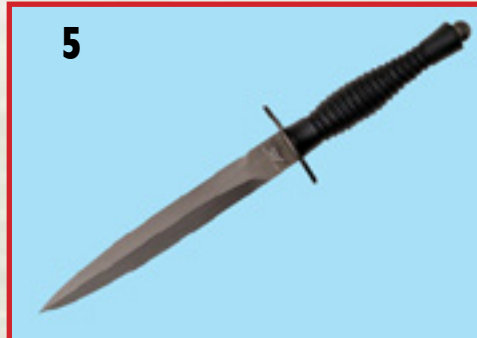
The Theatre

Pantomimes were a major Christmas tradition before the war, and continued throughout the conflict. During the war, they adapted to popular interests, incorporating favourite war sing-alongs such as ‘It’s A Long Way To Tipperary’ and ‘Keep The Home Fires Burning’.

With their expensive scenery and raucous antics, much about them seemed at odds with the war effort, while soldiers risked their lives at the front. But they were also utterly British, and a cultural emblem of Christmas cheer and communal good will. This wasn’t merely escapism, but a concerted effort to lift spirits. As one theatre review said in 1914: “Before you have been long at the Drury Lane pantomime you feel with even more certainty that when you entered the building that we are going to win this war.”

The sharp edge

This month we’re looking at bladed weapons. We show you a few knives and swords, you tell us what they are. You’ll find the answers to the quiz on page 72.

Hitting the right notes

When it comes to music, the military is not always all about pomp and circumstance.

This year we looked at a number of articles that showed the link between the military and music.

We looked at numerous military, corps and regimental marches and we also looked at music that was popular during various wars.

This month we're doing something slightly different. This is the military doing music with a twist.

Click on the blue links next to the titles to watch the video of the song.

Despacito ([Link](#))

Despacito (Slowly) is a song by Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi featuring Puerto Rican reggaeton rapper Daddy Yankee. It was released in 2016.

This is a live version done by the US Navy Band of the Southwest.

Colonel Bogey ([Link](#))

The *Colonel Bogey March* is a British march that was composed in 1914 by Lieutenant F. J. Ricketts, a British Army bandmaster who later became the director of music for the Royal Marines at Plymouth.

English composer Malcolm Arnold added a counter-march, which he titled "The River Kwai March," for the 1957 dramatic film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, set during World War II.

This is a flash mob version of the *Colonel Bogey March* performed at the Capitol Shopping

Centre in Cardiff by the Band of the Prince of Wales's Division and the Band of the Royal Welsh in 2013.

A flash mob is a group of at least 10 people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual and seemingly pointless act for a brief time, then quickly disperse, often for the purposes of entertainment, satire, and artistic expression.

Beat It ([Link](#))

The late Michael Jackson was known as 'The Prince of Pop'. during his career he had 13 number one hits.

Beat It was released in 1981 and was a number one hit. It also featured guitarist Eddie van Halen.

Here is a parody of a Chinese military band performing Jackson's hit single.

Bad Romance ([Link](#))

Bad Romance is a 2009 song by American singer Lady Gaga (real name Stefani Germanotta).

This is a version of the song performed by the Khabarovsk National Guard Band. And who says the Russian's don't have a sense of humour.

Chain Gang ([Link](#))

Chain Gang is a song by the American singer-songwriter Sam Cooke, released on 26 July 1960.

Cadence was a 1990 film that starred Charlie Sheen, his real-life father Martin Sheen, and

Lawrence Fishburne.

Charlie Sheen is a misfit soldier who gets sent to the stockade (US military detention barracks). He is the only white soldier serving time in the stockade.

When they prisoners march, they do so while singing Sam Cooke's song, *Chain Gang*.

Call Me Maybe ([Link](#))

When most of us did our military service there were no cell phones or digital video cameras.

These days, however, most troops have a smart phone that can take high resolution video. And they make full use of it.

Videos are usually posted onto websites such as YouTube and Facebook.

These US Army troops serving in Afghanistan posted a video of themselves using the Carly Rae song *Call Me Maybe*.

That Don't Impress Me Much ([Link](#))

When the women serving on board the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan shot a video of them lip syncing to the Shania Twain song *That Don't Impress Me Much*, it was supposedly banned by the US Navy.

RAF Flash Mob ([Link](#))

As part of the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016, the Royal Air Force performed a flash mob drill at Liverpool Station.

I was fortunate enough to



FLASH MOB: Shoppers in Cardiff, Wales, were surprised by a flash mob performance of the *Colonel Bogey March*.

watch this same group perform at the Castle in Cape Town. They did the drill without their weapons however - the weapons had been impounded by our intrepid customs officials.

We Will Rock You ([Link](#))

The Swiss are renowned for banking, chocolate, cuckoo clocks, and remaining neutral. Yet they do have an army.

Here some of them do a version of the Queen hit, *We Will Rock You*.

Gangnam Style ([Link](#))

Gangnam Style was a 2012 hit for South Korean pop star Psy.

The music video for the song has more than 3,2 billion views on YouTube. The *Gangnam Style* dance become a worldwide phenomenal and everyone was doing it.

In 2013 US Navy and US Marines serving in Afghanistan did their own version of the dance.

More Gangnam Style ([Link](#))

Not to be outdone, cadets at the United States Naval Academy did their own version of *Gangnam Style*.

Even More Gangnam Style ([Link](#))

The U.S. Military Academy Corps of Cadets at West Point showed everyone how *Gangnam Style* should be done.

Not only did they do their own version of the song, they even arranged for Psy (the original artist of the song) to appear in the video.

Is This The Way To Amarillo ([Link](#))

Tony Christie had a hit in 1971 with *Is This The Way To Amarillo*. Some 34 years later the British Army Dragoons serving in Iraq did their own version of the song.

Grease Lightning ([Link](#))

Many of our readers will have watched the movie *Grease* at some stage. One of the popular songs from the movie was *Grease Lightning*.

In this video a group of Swedish Marines serving in Afghanistan do a very good version of the song.

Don't Stop Me Now ([Link](#))

Don't Stop Me Now was another hit for British band Queen.

This time it's the Belgian Navy that do their very own rendition of the song.

Tik Tok ([Link](#))

Tik Tok was a song released by Ke\$ha in 2010.

This was a video done in the same year by cadets at the US Air Force Academy on their 23rd day of training.

Thriller ([Link](#))

The changing of the guard ceremony is normally a solemn occasion.

Yet in 2010 the Norwegian Army Band and the guard of honour added a twist to it.

After taking the salute the band broke into a rendition of Michael Jackson's *The Way You Make Me Feel* and followed this with *Thriller*. All while the honour guard put on a display of precision drill.

All I Want For Christmas ([Link](#))

Mariah Carey's *All I Want For Christmas* gets lot of air-time every Christmas.

Here some of the crew on the amphibious assault ship HMS Ocean present their own version of the popular Christmas tune.

We Are The World ([Link](#))

Released in 1985 to raise money for charities, *We Are The World* was performed by USA for Africa, a group made up of some of America's top singers and musicians. In 2014 the Norwegian Army did their own cover version of the song.

It was clear that none of them should give up their military careers.

Rank Structure - Salvation Army

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 Salvation Army.

As it's Christmas, this month we're doing something different. Although it has the name 'Army' in its title, it is not really a military force. The army in question is none other than the Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army (TSA) is a Protestant Christian church and an international charitable organisation. Their motto is "Blood and Fire."

The Salvation Army was founded in London's East End in 1865 by one-time Methodist Reform Church minister William Booth and his wife Catherine as the East London Christian Mission, and this name was used until 1878.

The name "The Salvation Army" developed from an incident on 19 and 20 May. William Booth was dictating a letter to his secretary George Scott Railton and said, "We are a volunteer army."

Bramwell Booth heard his father and said, "Volunteer! I'm no volunteer, I'm a regular!"

Railton was instructed to cross out the word "volunteer" and substitute the word "salvation".

The Salvation Army was modelled after the military, with its own flag and its own hymns, often with words set to popular and folkloric tunes sung in the pubs.

Booth and the other soldiers in "God's Army" would wear the Army's own uniform, for

meetings and ministry work. He became the "General" and his other ministers were given appropriate ranks as "officers". Other members became "soldiers".

Besides wearing uniforms and having ranks, they also have a unique form of salute which involves raising the right hand above shoulder-height with the index finger pointing upwards.

The Salvation Army is present in 131 countries, running charity shops, operating shelters for the homeless and disaster relief and humanitarian aid to developing countries. Currently they have more than 1,65 million members.

An officer in The Salvation Army is a Salvationist who is an ordained minister of the Christian faith, but who fulfills many other roles not usually filled by clergy of other denominations.

They do so having been trained, ordained and commissioned to serve and lead and given a title which uses the terms of typical military rank.

While attending a college for officer training, the training participants are referred to as "cadets". The length of training is normally twenty-two months, but a special dispensation may allow cadets to be commissioned after a shorter period, based on prior experience or training. Once this training is complete, the cadets are commissioned.

Officer training centres are



located around the world.

Officers hold ranks throughout their service and into retirement, and their rank is reflected in their uniform. The uniform of an officer is much like that of a soldier and, like a soldier's, is defined by the region in which the person is serving.

The consistent difference between the two uniforms is that the officer's uniform has red epaulettes, while a soldier's epaulettes are black or blue. Officers' epaulettes feature the Salvation "S" in silver, as well as another insignia to designate rank.

These insignias may be sewn into the epaulette, or be separate metal pins attached to the epaulettes.

Salvation Army Ranks

Candidate

A person undergoing assessment for Salvation Army officership or envoyship.

Sergeant

A non-commissioned officer who works for the Salvation Army in a ministry position in the USA Southern territory.

Envoy

A non-commissioned officer who works for the Salvation Army in a ministry position.



Cadet

Cadet

A Salvation Army soldier who is undertaking training to become an officer at a Salvation Army college for officer training.

Cadet-Lieutenant

This rank is rare. It is given to a cadet who is sent into the field as an officer before graduating training.

Lieutenant

Following a successful term at a college for officer training, the cadet is commissioned with the rank of lieutenant.

Auxiliary Captain

Serve as officers but are beyond the minimum age for training. Auxiliary Captains never hold the ranks of Lieutenant and Cadet, and they may be promoted to Captain after five years. This rank is used in certain territories only, most notably the Southern Territory of the USA.

Captain

After five years of exemplary service, the officer is eligible to be promoted to the rank of captain.

Major

After 15 years of exemplary service, the officer is eligible to be promoted to the rank of major.

Lieutenant Colonel

Appointed to Salvation Army officers on merit by the General.

Colonel

Reserved for territorial and international leaders.



Commissioner

Commissioner

The Chief of the Staff of The Salvation Army, the leader of a territory, or international secretaries are also usually given the rank.

General

The worldwide leader of The Salvation Army, elected by the



Brian Peddle has been the General of the Salvation Army since 3 August 2018.

most senior Salvation Army officers in the world.

Other non-officer ranks

Corps Sergeant Major

The lead local officer position, somewhat similar to a chief deacon or elder.

Young People's Sergeant Major

Young People's Sergeant Major - responsible for the youth programs of the corps.

Bandmaster

In charge of the corps band.



A matter of survival - Finding Food 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 look at finding and gathering plants for food.

If you're in the right area it's easy to pick plants here and there, but it's far better and safer to gather them systematically.

If you're heading out on a foraging trip, take something with to carry your harvest. An empty bag, piece of cloth folded into a sack or anything similar.

This will stop the plants being crushed, which will make them go off quickly.

Leaves and stems

Look for young growth, which will usually be paler green. It will be more tasty and more tender.

Older plants have tougher leaves and will be more bitter. Nip off leaves near the stem. Leaves that are simply torn off are easily damaged.

They will probably wilt and lose goodness before you can cook them.

Roots and tubers

Always try and choose larger plants. The problem with this, however, is that some are difficult to pull up.

You don't want to break the root, so dig around the plant to loosen, then prise them out with a sharpened stick.

Fruit and nuts

Pick only ripe, fully coloured fruits. Hard, greenish berries are indigestible, even after cooking for a long time.

Many fruits, especially in the tropics, have tough, bitter skins. So peel them and eat only the fruit.

Keep an eye on what fruit local animals and birds eat.

Nuts lying at the base of a tree are a good sign that they are ready to eat. Others can be shaken down in the tree is a small one.

You may also be able to knock others down by throwing a stick at them.

Seeds and grains

Be careful. Some seeds and grains contain deadly poisons. Tasting will not harm you, but do not swallow.

Carry out the edibility test (see the October issue) and reject any seed that is unpalatable, bitter or with a hot, burning taste, unless you can positively identify it as a pepper or spice.

Fungi

These can be tasty and nutritious. The wrong ones can be deadly.

Again, it is a good idea to have some knowledge of the fungi that grows in the area you will be operating.

Pick the whole fungus. If the stem is left behind it will be harder to identify.

Keep the fungi separate from the rest of your harvest. If a poisonous type has been picked it could contaminate the rest of your food.

Plants to avoid

There are two fairly common poisons in the plant world. The good news is that both are fairly easy to detect.

Hydrocyanic Acid: Also known as prussic acid, it has the taste and smell of bitter almonds or peaches. Crush the leaves and discard all plants that have the above smell.

Oxalic Acid: Salts, or oxalates) occur naturally in some plants, for instance the wild rhubarb. You can recognise them by the sharp, dry, stinging or burning sensation when applied to the skin or tongue. Discard any plants which fit the above description.



- Avoid any plant with a milky sap, unless positively identified as being safe (such as a dandelion).
- Red signals danger. Avoid any red plants unless positively identified, especially in the tropics.
- Avoid fruit which is divided up into five segments unless positively identified as being safe.
- Avoid grasses and other plants with tiny barbs on their stems or leaves. With a magnifying glass you can see them as hooks rather than straight hairs. If eaten

they will irritate the mouth and digestive tract.

- Avoid old or wilted leaves. The leaves of some plants and trees develop deadly hydrocyanic acid when they wilt, including blackberry, raspberry, cherry, peach and plum. All may be safely eaten when young, fresh and dry.

Identifying plants

There are thousands of different plants and only a specialist botanist could identify more than a handful.

The trick is to learn to identify a few plants that can be found in most conditions and at most times during the year.

Close familiarity with even one or two could make all the difference between survival and starvation.

Here are some plants common to Southern Africa that are edible or useful.

Wild malva (Pelargonium cul-latum)

The leaves of this plant diffused into tea can

Peppermint-scented pelargonium

The leaves can be used in a salad. They can also be crushed and used as a poultice to soothe bruises.

Confetti bush

This aromatic herb can be used in sweet or savoury dishes. Just strip the little leaves off the stems as one would do with thyme.

Wild sorrel

The whole plant is edible and it has a nice sharp taste. It is sour due to the oxalic acid content so don't eat too much. The stalks and roots can be eaten raw or cooked in milk. Traditionally ox-

as a poultice for sores and wounds, and a rolled-up fresh leaf inserted in the ear (not too deep) can also help earache. The leaves have a very strong flavour so use sparingly, but it makes a great addition to iced tea and herbal drinks.

Num-num

The beautiful berries of the num-num can be eaten as a fruit as they are very high in vitamin C and pectin.

Wild garlic

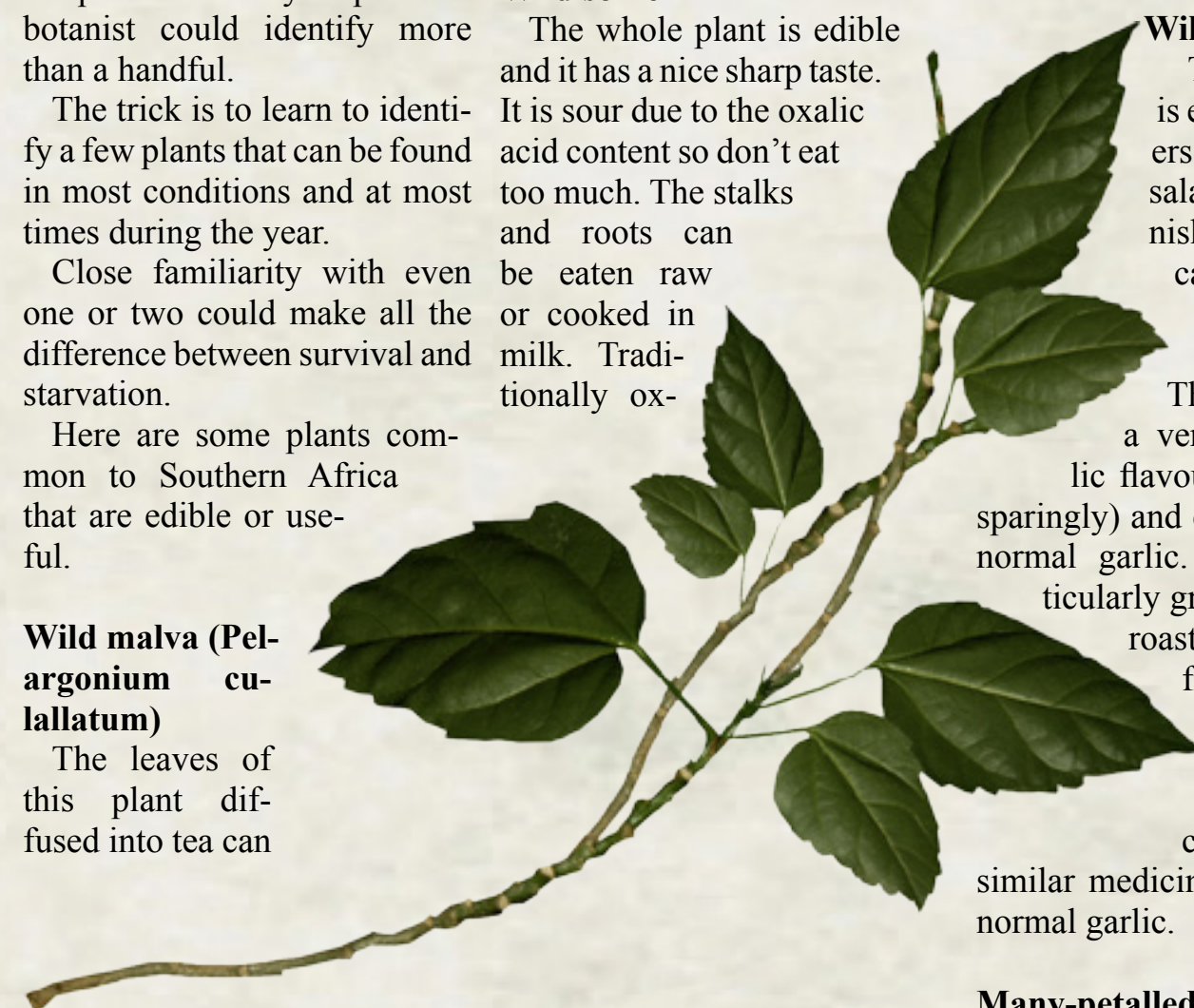
The whole plant is edible. The flowers can be used in salads and as garnish. The leaves can be used like chives or as an insect repellent. The roots have a very pungent garlic flavour (so use them sparingly) and can be used like normal garlic. They are particularly great in stews and roasts. A tea made from the roots or leaves are good for coughs and colds, and it has similar medicinal properties to normal garlic.

Many-petalled jasmine

Use the flowers in salads or, in teas or as a flavouring.

Sour figs

The succulent leaves are excellent for skin problems like sunburn, bee and blue bottle stings, rashes, cold sores and insect bites. Chew on the leaves for sore throat relief. The fruits



alis is used as an ingredient in 'waterblommetjie stew' and as a salt substitute.

African wormwood

The wormwood is used medicinally to treat fever, colds, flu, sore throats, coughs, asthma, pneumonia and headaches. The bruised leaves can be used

be used to treat stomach disorders. Bruised leaves can be used as a poultice for sores and wounds, and a rolled-up fresh leaf inserted in the ear (not too deep) can help earache.

have a tamarind-tasting juicy seed centre and are used to make jams, chutneys and sauces.

Balderjan

Use medicinally as a tea for stomach disorders as this plant has calming properties similar to exotic mint. Good for flavouring in salads. Can be used as a substitute for normal mint.

Aromatic sage

This sage can be used medicinally as a tea for coughs, colds and stomach ailments. It can be used in cooking. Add a sprig and fish it out later as it imparts a delicious flavour but is bitter to eat.

Garlic buchu

Possesses a strong garlic scent and high in essential oils. Adds a garlic flavour to cooking.

Seasonal fruit & vegetables

Depending on the season and where you are, the following fruit and vegetables may be found in Southern Africa.

SPRING (Sept, Oct, Nov)

Fruits

- Apples.
- Apricots.
- Avocados.
- Bananas.
- Blackberries.
- Cape Gooseberries.
- Cherries.
- Coconuts.
- Dates.
- Grapefruit.
- Guavas.
- Lemons.
- Naartjies.
- Nectarines.
- Oranges.

- Papaya.
- Pear.
- Pineapples.
- Plums.
- Prunes.
- Sweet Melons.
- Strawberries.
- Watermelons.

Vegetables

- Artichokes.
- Asparagus.
- Aubergines.
- Baby marrows.
- Beetroot.
- Brussel sprouts.
- Kale.
- Maize.
- Red onions.

SUMMER (Dec, Jan, Feb)

Fruits

- Apricots.
- Bananas.
- Blackberries.
- Figs.
- Lemons.
- Mangoes.
- Pawpaw.
- Peaches.
- Pineapples.

Vegetables

- Artichokes.
- Asparagus.
- Aubergines.
- Baby marrows.
- Beetroot.
- Green beans.
- Maize.
- Radishes.
- Rhubarb.



AUTUMN (Mar, Apr, May)

Fruits

- Apples.
- Avocadoes.
- Figs.
- Lemons.
- Naartjies.
- Oranges.
- Pawpaw.
- Pears.
- Pomegranates.

Vegetables

- Aubergines.
- Baby marrows.
- Beetroot.
- Broad beans.
- Butter beans.
- Hubbard squash.
- Radishes.
- Sweet peppers.
- Turnips.

WINTER (Jun, Jul, Aug)

Fruits

- Apples.
- Avocadoes.
- Dates.
- Lemons.
- Naartjies.
- Oranges.
- Pawpaw.
- Pears.
- Pineapples.

Vegetables

- Asparagus.
- Beetroot.
- Broad beans.
- Brussel sprouts.
- Fennel.
- Jerusalem artichokes.
- Radishes.
- Turnips.
- Watercress.

Next month we will look at animals as a source of food.

Our Christmas gift to you

Get a free copy of 'Service Rendered'.
Send an e-mail to editor@hipe.co.za
and use Service Rendered in the subject line
and we will send you a free copy of this e-book.



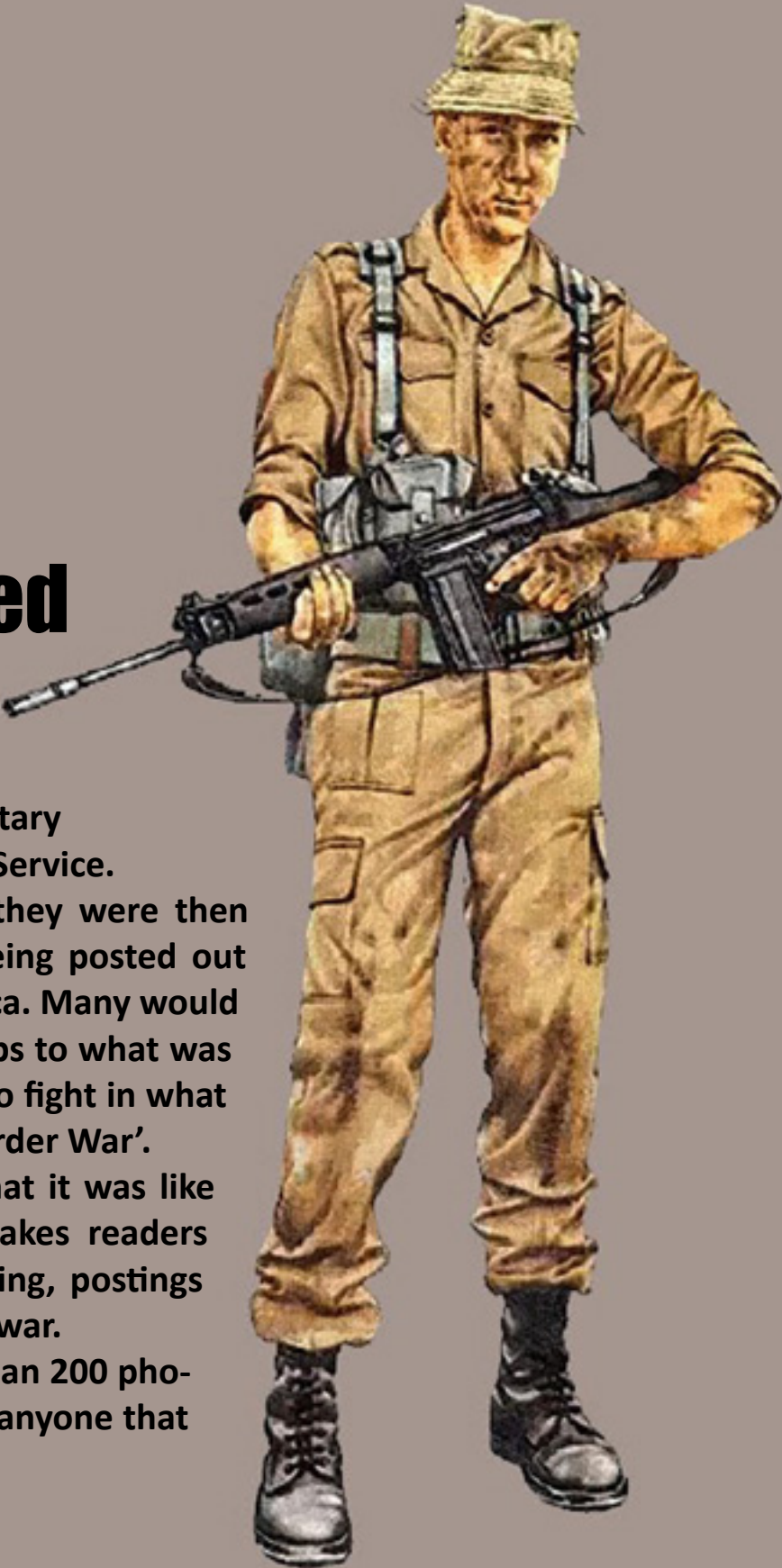
Service Rendered

Between 1968 and 1992 most white South African males were conscripted into the South African Defence Force for compulsory military training. It was known as National Service.

After completing basic training they were then trained in specific fields before being posted out to serve in units around South Africa. Many would be sent as support or combat troops to what was then known as South West Africa to fight in what has now become known as the 'Border War'.

This e-book tells the story of what it was like to be a national serviceman. It takes readers through basic and individual training, postings to various units, and to the border war.

With over 300 pages and more than 200 photographs, this e-book is a must for anyone that served.



Remembrance Day Round-up

Various parades, functions and events were held on or before 11 November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

Article: **Matt Tennyson and John Verster.**

Photographs: **Regine Lord and Andy Ward.**

Remembrance Day this year marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which brought World War I to an end.

To mark the occasion, parades, functions and events were held around the world. In South Africa most of the major cities observed this momentous event.

The first event we attended was on 7 November at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

Besides doing incredible work, the hospital has an interesting history.

In 1941 the Western Cape Branch of the Medical Association of South Africa proposed the building of a children's hospital.

In 1945 the Cape Region of the South African Red Cross Society requested that the children's hospital should serve as a living memory to soldiers who contributed to the allied victory in World War II.

Discussions took place among the South African soldiers who, in 1945 after the war, were waiting in Italy to be repatriated back to South Africa to be demobilised.

One issue was whether a war memorial should be built in South Africa, and if so, what form it should take.

The dominant view was that there should be a memorial, but

that this should be a 'living' one that served the community, not merely a monumental structure.

After various proposals, the decision was that it should take the form of a top-class children's hospital.

The servicemen, in overwhelming numbers, volunteered to donate two days' pay towards what was to become the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital at Rondebosch in Cape Town.

So it is only fitting that the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital holds a Remembrance Day event every year.

The MC for the event was Kevin Ashton and CEO of the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Dr Matodzi Mukosi delivered the main address.

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit Consultant and Nephrologist Mignon McCulloch paid a moving tribute to the late Professor Beatty.

There was a religious observance by various religious leaders, followed by a blessing and prayers.

Then there was a recording of an interview with Richard Lawrenson, a survivor of World War II. Sadly, Mr. Lawrenson passed away on 17 November, ten days after the event. He was 95 years old.

The Last Post was sounded by Bombardier Regan Daniels

and this was followed by two minutes silence and the sounding of Reveille.

Wreaths were then laid by various individuals and organisations.

Provisional Old Bill of the MOTH, Deon van Rensburg, then read out the MOTH Credo and Prayer.

The event came to an end with the singing of the national anthem.

Music was provided by the Isivunguvungu Youth Band and the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums.

John Verster attended the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph in Cape Town, both as a MOTH and as a member of the Cape Welsh Choir.

He reports that from the inclusion of Municipal Law Enforcement, attachments from all four arms of the SANDF, Ambassadors, Consulate Generals and Guards of Honour from across the globe, thought provoking addresses by the Deputy Mayor of Cape Town Alderman Ian Neilson as well as Chaplain (Rev) PW Vass, to the totally professional renditions by the Army Band and the Cape Welsh Choir it was all slick, assured and extremely impressive.



1. A piper plays a lament while the wreaths are laid at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.
2. A wreath is laid at the Cenotaph in Cape Town.
3. The Rev. Ralph Thornley delivers the service at the SA Legion.
4. Peter Horsburgh lays a wreath on behalf of the Rhodesian Army and the Rhodesian African Rifles.
5. MOTH Servaas van Breda, Commander of Admiral Halifax MOTH Shellhole, lays a wreath.



Matt attended the parade held at the South African Legion (Cape Town Branch) at Rosedale.

There was a good turn out for the parade and most of the members of Admiral Halifax MOTH Shellhole, which meets at Rosedale, attended the parade.

The Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) Band provided the music.

After the guests were welcomed, Rev Ralph Thornley, SA Navy (retired) delivered a moving service.

The Last Post was played, two minutes of silence were observed, followed by the sounding of the Reveille.

Wreaths were then laid by individuals and on behalf of various organisations.

One of those that attended the parade was Richard Lawrenson, a member of Admiral Halifax Shellhole.

During World War II he served with the Royal Navy and was aboard the *HMS Carnarvon Castle* when she had a five-hour running battle with the German auxiliary cruiser *Thor*.

The *Carnarvon Castle* suffered heavily in the battle, sustaining 27 hits causing four dead and 27 wounded.

Richard also went through the entire Siege of Malta. Twice he was on ships that were torpedoed and he had to be rescued

from the water twice.

Sadly, it was to be Richard's last parade. He passed away four days later on 15 November. He was 95 years old.

Now that the 100th anniversary of this solemn occasion has passed, let us hope that this day will be continued to be remembered every year.

Let us never forget those, on all sides, that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

VETERANS: Peter Horsburgh and Syd Ireland attending the parade at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.

96 year old Syd is a World War II veteran and an Honorary member of the South African Signals Association.

The myths of alcohol

With many years of practical experience and in-depth research, Ryan Murphy debunks some of the popular myths about alcohol.

Myth One

The more you drink, the more attractive women become.

Myth One – False

If she looked ugly before you started drinking she will continue to look ugly no matter how much you drink.

What will change, however, is your perception of her. At just 0.02% your visual senses start to become impaired.

Myth Two

The more you drink, the better looking you become.

Myth Two – False

No, you will still be ugly no matter what or how much you drink.

Myth Three

Your IQ level becomes elevated. All it takes is a few strong shots of alcohol and you become Socrates, Plato and Einstein all rolled into one.

Myth Three – False

Quite the opposite in fact. If you were not the sharpest pencil in the box before you had a few drinks, alcohol is not going to improve the situation.

Myth Four

Alcohol protects you from Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

And, if you're female, there's no chance of you falling pregnant. Alcohol is a natural contraceptive.

Myth Four – False

All alcohol will do is lower your inhibitions and affect your judgement so you will be more likely to have unprotected sex.

And no, it is not a natural contraceptive.

Myth Five

Your driving skills improve. The more you have to drink, the better you drive.

Myth Five – False

You're an accident looking for a place to happen. Just pray that you get arrested before you kill yourself or someone else.

Myth Six

You can handle any drink in the bar. So what if you normally only drink wine coolers? Suddenly you can handle any spirits or skull-pop behind the counter. Bring it on!

Myth Six – False

If you normally drink those fruit-flavoured wine cooler types of drinks, then stick to them.

Myth Seven

Alcohol makes you brave and strengthens your resolve. There's nothing wrong with a bit of 'Dutch Courage' before facing a challenging situation.

Myth Seven – False

Brave, no. Stupid, probably. All alcohol will do is lower your inhibitions and impair your judgement. The mission you volunteered for after a few drinks was called a 'Suicide Mission' for good reason.

The term 'Dutch Courage' originated when English soldiers noted the bravery-inducing effects of Jenever's liquor on Dutch soldiers and dubbed it 'Dutch Courage'.

Myth Eight

You can take on anybody. Your pugilistic skills are phenomenal and you're a combination of Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, and all the WWE stars combined. Anyone looks sideways at you, take them outside and sort them out.

Myth Eight – False

If you're drunk and your opponent is sober the chances are that you're going to get a hiding. If you're an aggressive drunk it's time to stop drinking.



Weapons & Equipment: Paras

This month we compare the weapons and equipment of the World War II paratroopers.

Germany

The German *Fallschirmjäger* can trace their history back to April 1935.

They were part of the *Luftwaffe* (Air Force) and not the army.

While they were successful at the start of the war, they took heavy casualties during the invasion of Crete.

The worst parachutes used by a major power were those of the Germans which were based on the Italian *Salvatore* design.

Because of the rather athletic forward landing roll necessitated by their parachute harness, the German paratrooper could carry little more than a pistol

and some grenades on his person. Therefore, many weapons containers, called *Waffenhalter*, had to be carried and dropped.

The *Fallschirmjäger* had a wide variety of special clothing. As they were Luftwaffe personnel, the basic uniform was that of the flying units and in blue rather than the field grey of the Army.

While most were armed with either the standard K98 bolt-action rifle or the MP-40 submachine gun, some of them were armed with the FG-42.

The FG-42 was a gas operated semi-automatic rifle made only for the Airborne. Only about 10,000 were made. It had a 20

round magazine and a small bipod.

Paratrooper Equipment

- A - Jump boots.
- B - M38 Helmet.
- C - K98 Mauser.
- D - MP-40.
- E - Walther P-38.
- F - FG-42.
- G - Gravity knife.
- H - M24 *Stielhandgranate*.
- I - Canteen.
- J - *Göffel* (Fork and spoon).
- K - Trenching tool.
- L - Mess kit.
- M - MP-40 ammo pouches.
- N - Parachute badge.
- O - Jump gloves.
- P - Knee pads.

Britain

The Parachute Regiment was formed on 22 June 1940 when No. 2 Commando was turned over to parachute duties

During World War II they won no fewer than 23 battle honours, including Pegasus Bridge and Arnhem.

They wore the distinctive maroon beret and the Denison smock was the first camouflaged uniform issued to the British Army.

On landing from a parachute jump, many paras would remove their steel helmet and replace it with their maroon beret. This led to the Germans giving them the nickname *Die Roten*

Teufel (the Red Devils).

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.

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.

Paratrooper Equipment

- A - Combat boots.
- B - Mk II helmet.
- C - Lee Enfield No.4 Mk.I.
- D - Sten gun.
- E - Bren gun.
- F - Webley revolver.
- G - Fairbairn-Sykes knife.
- H - Trenching tool.
- I - Mess kit.
- J - Canteen.
- K - Mills bomb.
- L - Back pack.
- M - Sten ammo pouch.
- N - Parachute Regiment beret.
- O - Parachute wings.
- P - Toggle rope.
- Q - Scarf.

United States

The first U.S. airborne unit began as a test platoon formed from part of the 29th Infantry Regiment, in July 1940. The platoon leader was 1st Lieutenant William T. Ryder, who made the first jump on August 16, 1940 at Lawson Field, Fort Benning, Georgia from a B-18 Bomber.

Although airborne units were not popular with the top U.S. Armed Forces commanders, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sponsored the concept, and Major General William C. Lee organized the first paratroop platoon. This led to the Provisional Parachute Group, and then the United States Army Airborne Command. General Lee was the first commander at the new par-

achute school at Fort Benning, in west-central Georgia.

The first U.S. combat jump was near Oran, Algeria, in North Africa on November 8, 1942, conducted by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The 82nd Airborne Division, known as the All American, and the 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) made a total of 13 combat jumps during World War II, including during Operation Overlord as well as Operation Market Garden.

A folding butt version of the M1A1 carbine was produced especially for the paratroopers. It was stored in a special rifle bag while jumping.

Paratrooper Equipment

- A - Jump boots.
- B - M1C Helmet.
- C - M1A1 carbine.
- D - M1A1 Thompson.
- E - M1918A2 Browning Automatic Rifle.
- F - M1911A1 Colt pistol.
- G - M3 fighting knife.
- H - Trenching tool.
- I - Mess kit.
- J - M1 carbine ammo pouch.
- K - Mk II hand grenade.
- L - Canteen.
- M - Parachute wings.
- N - 82nd Airborne patch.
- O - 101st Airborne patch.
- P - M1936 Musette bag.

Other Airborne Forces

Other countries also had their own airborne forces.

France

Following the Battle of France, General Charles de Gaulle formed the *1ère Compagnie d'Infanterie de l'Air* in September 1940 from members of the Free French forces who had escaped to Britain. It was transformed into the *Compagnie de Chasseurs Parachutistes* in October 1941.

Italy

The *Paracadutisti* was a parachute division formed in 1941 and was designated the 185th Parachute Division *Folgore*.

Japan

The *Teishin Shudan* was a Japanese special forces/airborne unit during World War II.

Poland

The 1st (Polish) Independent Parachute Brigade was a parachute brigade under the command of Major General Stanisław Sosabowski, created in the Second World War Scotland in September 1941, with the exclusive mission to drop into occupied Poland in order to help liberate the country.

Russia

The Russian Airborne Troops or VDV (Vozdushno-desantnye voyska Rossii) were first formed in the Soviet Union during the mid-1930s and arguably were the

first regular paratrooper units in the world. During World War II, they formed ten Airborne Corps plus numerous Independent Airborne Brigades, with most or all achieving Guards status.

Index

- A - Russian paratrooper.
- B - Italian paratrooper.
- C - Japanese paratrooper.
- D - Russian para helmet.
- E - Japanese para helmet.
- F - French para helmet.
- G - Italian para helmet.
- H - Japanese Type 100 SMG.
- I - Japanese Type 2 rifle.
- J - Italian fighting knife.
- K - Italian Beretta M938A.
- L - Russian PPsH-41.
- M - Free French parachute wings.
- N - Italian parachute wings.
- O - Polish parachute wings.



Germany



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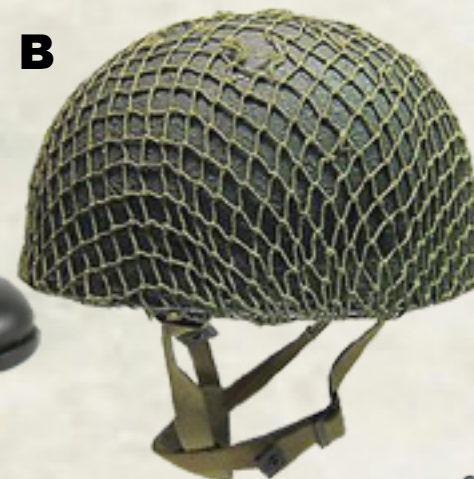
Britain



A



B



C



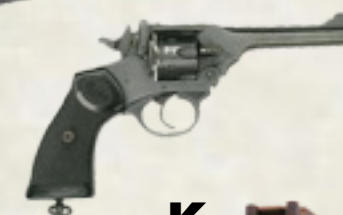
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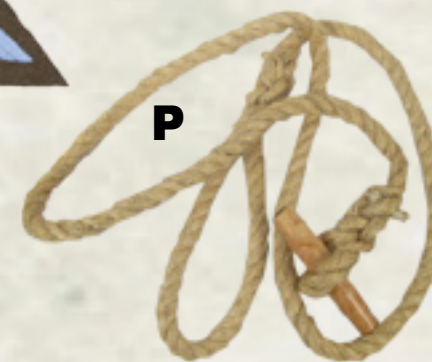
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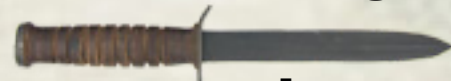
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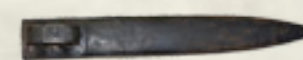
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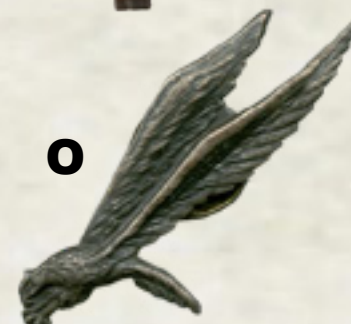
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Anthony McAuliffe

When given an ultimatum by the Germans to surrender during the Battle of the Bulge, General Anthony McAuliffe replied with a single word.

General Anthony Clement McAuliffe was a senior United States Army officer who earned fame as the acting commander of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division troops defending Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Early life

McAuliffe was born in Washington, D.C., on 2 July 1898. He attended West Virginia University from 1916 to 1917.

He was a member of the West Virginia Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity during his time at West Virginia University. He enrolled at West Point in 1917.

McAuliffe was part of an accelerated program and graduated shortly after the end of World War I, in November 1918. During this time, he visited Europe for a short time and toured several battlefields.

Assigned to field artillery, he graduated from the Artillery School in 1920. For the next 16 years, McAuliffe carried out typical peacetime assign-

ments.

By 1935, he had been promoted to the rank of Captain. Later, he was chosen to attend the United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. In June 1940, McAuliffe graduated from the United States Army War College.

Just before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour in De-

cember 1941, he was promoted again, temporarily becoming a lieutenant colonel with the Supply Division of the War Department General Staff. While in this position, McAuliffe supervised the development of such new technology as the bazooka and the jeep.

World War II

In June 1944, now promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, McAuliffe commanded the division artillery of the 101st Airborne Division when he parachuted into Normandy on D-Day.

He became deputy division commander of the 101st Airborne, following the death of Brigadier General Don Pratt on 6 June 1944.

In September 1944 he landed by glider in the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden.

By December 1944 the situation was not looking good for the Germans. They decided on one last throw of the dice.

On 16 De-

cember 1944 they launched *Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein* ("Operation Watch on the Rhine"). The Allies designated it the Ardennes Counter-offensive.

Battle of the Bulge

The operation was launched through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in eastern Belgium, northeast France, and Luxembourg.

The German offensive was intended to stop Allied use of the Belgian port of Antwerp and to split the Allied lines, allowing the Germans to encircle and destroy four Allied armies and force the Western Allies to negotiate a peace treaty in the Axis powers' favor. Once that was accomplished, the German dictator Adolf Hitler believed he could fully concentrate on the Soviets on the Eastern Front.

The surprise attack caught the Allied forces completely off guard. American forces bore the brunt of the attack and incurred their highest casualties of any operation during the war.

The phrase "Battle of the Bulge" was coined by contemporary press to describe the bulge in German front lines on wartime news maps, and it became the most widely used name for the battle.

Siege of Bastogne

By 21 December the Germans had surrounded Bastogne, which was defended by the 101st Airborne Division, the all African American 969th Artillery Battalion, and Com-

bat Command B of the 10th Armored Division. Conditions inside the perimeter were tough - most of the medical supplies and medical personnel had been captured.

Food was scarce, and by 22 December artillery ammunition was restricted to 10 rounds per gun per day. The weather cleared the next day and supplies (primarily ammunition) were dropped over four of the next five days.

Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, was attending a staff conference in the United States at the time. During Taylor's absence, McAuliffe commanded the 101st and its attached troops.

The 101st was besieged by a far larger force of Germans under the command of General Heinrich Freiherr von Lüttwitz.

"NUTS!"

On December 22, 1944, von Lüttwitz dispatched a party, consisting of a major, a lieutenant, and two enlisted men under a flag of truce to deliver an ultimatum. Entering the American lines southeast of Bastogne (occupied by Company F, 2nd Battalion, 327th Glider Infantry), the German party delivered the following to Gen. McAuliffe:

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armoured units. More German armoured units have crossed

the river Our near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honourable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term.

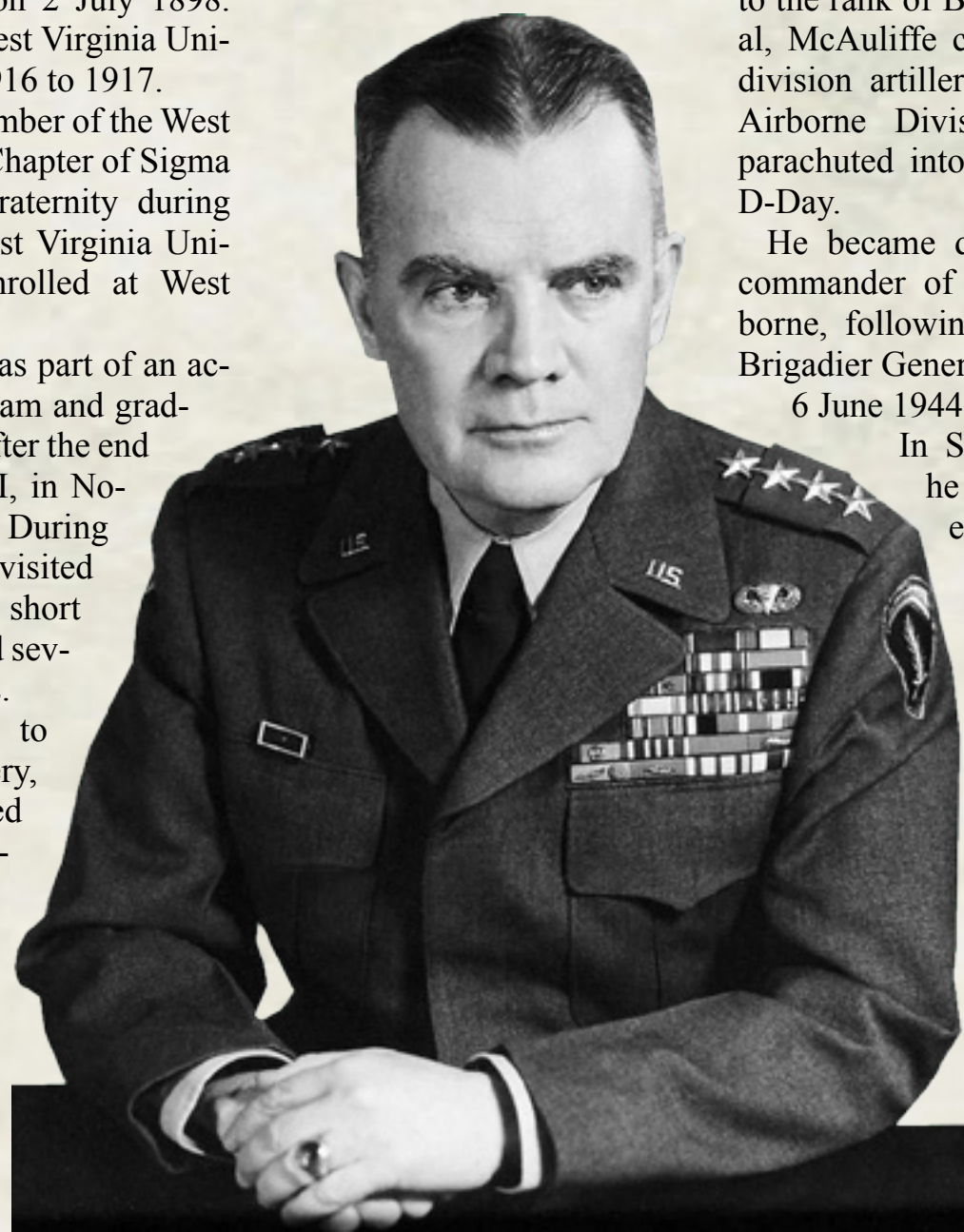
All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

The German Commander.

According to those present when McAuliffe received the German message, he read it, crumpled it into a ball, threw it in a waste paper basket, and muttered, "Aw, nuts".

The officers in McAuliffe's command post were trying to find suitable language for an official reply when Lt. Col. Harry Kinnard suggested that McAuliffe's first response summed up the situation pretty well, and the others agreed.

The official reply was typed and delivered by Colonel Joseph Harper, commanding the 327th Glider Infantry, to the German delegation. It was as



follows:
To the German Commander.
NUTS!

The American Commander.
The German major appeared confused and asked Harper what the message meant. Harper said, "In plain English? Go to hell."

The choice of "Nuts!" rather than something earthier was typical for McAuliffe. Vincent Vicari, his personal aide at the time, recalled that "General Mac was the only general I ever knew who did not use profane language. 'Nuts' was part of his normal vocabulary."

The artillery fire did not materialize, although several infantry and tank assaults were directed at the positions of the 327th Glider Infantry. In addition, the German Luftwaffe attacked the town, bombing it nightly.

The 101st held off the Germans until the 4th Armoured Division arrived on 26 December to provide reinforcement.

Post-Bastogne

For his actions at Bastogne, McAuliffe was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Patton on 30 December 1944, followed later by the Distinguished Service Medal.

Immediately after Bastogne, McAuliffe was promoted to Major General and given command of the 103rd Infantry Division on 15 January 1945, his first divisional command assignment, which he retained until July 1945.

Under McAuliffe, the 103rd reached the Rhine Valley, 23 March, and engaged in mopping up operations in the plain



FORWARD: German troops advance during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

west of the Rhine River. In April 1945, the division was assigned to occupational duties until 20 April, when it resumed the offensive. Pursuing a fleeing enemy through Stuttgart and taking Münsingen on 24 April.

On 27 April elements of the division entered Landsberg, where Kaufering concentration camp, a sub-camp of Dachau, was liberated.

The 103rd crossed the Danube River near Ulm on 26 April.

On 3 May 3, the 103rd captured Innsbruck, Austria, with little to no fighting. It then seized the Brenner Pass and met the 88th Infantry Division of the U.S. Fifth Army at Vipiteno, Italy, thereby joining the Italian and Western European fronts.

Post-war

Following the war, McAuliffe held many positions, including Chief Chemical Officer of the Army Chemical Corps, and G-1, Head of Army Personnel.

He returned to Europe as Commander of the Seventh Army in 1953, and Command-

er-in-Chief of the United States Army Europe in 1955. He was also promoted to four-star general in 1955.

While still in the service, McAuliffe attended the premiere of *Battleground* in Washington D.C. on 9 November 1949. The film did not depict McAuliffe directly, but did show a scene of the Germans presenting their surrender demands and their confusion on receiving McAuliffe's reply.

Retirement

In 1956, he retired from the Army. He worked for American Cyanamid Corporation from 1956 to 1963 as Vice President for Personnel.

He began a program to teach employees to maintain contact with local politicians. The company subsequently required all branch managers to at least introduce themselves to local politicians.

McAuliffe also served as chairman of the New York State Civil Defence Commission from 1960 to 1963.

After his retirement from American Cyanamid in 1963,

he resided in Chevy Chase, Maryland, until his death on 11 August 1975, at the age of 77. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery with his wife, son, and daughter.

Memorials

The central square of Bastogne, Belgium, is named *Place Général McAuliffe*. A Sherman tank, pierced by a German 88 mm shell, stands in one corner.

A southern extension of Route 33 in eastern Northampton County, Pennsylvania, completed in 2002, was named the Gen. Anthony Clement McAuliffe 101st Airborne Memorial Highway.

The new headquarters building for the 101st Airborne Division, which opened in 2009 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is named McAuliffe Hall.

A room at the Thayer Hotel at West Point has been dedicated to General McAuliffe.

Awards



Airborne Glider Badge



Basic Parachutist Badge with three combat jumps

Decorations



Distinguished Service Cross



Army Distinguished Service Medal with bronze oak leaf cluster



Silver Star



Legion of Merit



Bronze Star with bronze oak leaf cluster

Unit Award



Army Presidential Unit Citation

Service Medals



World War I Victory Medal



American Defense Service Medal



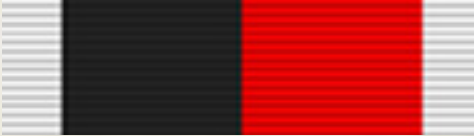
American Campaign Medal



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



World War II Victory Medal



Army of Occupation Medal



National Defense Service Medal

Foreign Awards



Legion of Honour (Chevalier)



French Croix de guerre with Palm



Belgian Croix de guerre with Palm



Netherlands Bronze Lion Medal

Zero

Mitsubishi A6M

The Zero was considered the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II and it proved a weapon that was forged in battle.

The Zero was considered the most capable carrier-based fighter in the world when it was introduced early in World War II, combining excellent maneuverability and very long range.

The Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service (IJNAS) also frequently used it as a land-based fighter.

In early combat operations, the Zero gained a legendary reputation as a dogfighter, achieving an outstanding kill ratio of 12 to 1, but by mid-1942 a combination of new tactics and the introduction of better equipment enabled Allied pilots to engage the Zero on generally equal terms.

The A6M is usually known as the “Zero” from its Japanese Navy type designation, Type 0 carrier fighter (*Rei shiki Kanjō sentōki*), taken from the last digit of the Imperial year 2600 (1940) when it entered service.

In Japan, it was unofficially referred to as both *Rei-sen* and *Zero-sen*. Japanese pilots most commonly called it Zero-sen, where *sen* is the first syllable of *sentōki*, Japanese for “fighter plane”.

In the official designation

“A6M”, the “A” signified a carrier-based fighter, “6” meant that it was the sixth such model built for the Imperial Navy, and “M” indicated Mitsubishi as the manufacturer.

The official Allied code name was “Zeke”, in keeping with the practice of giving male names to Japanese fighters, female names to bombers, bird names to gliders, and tree names to trainers.

“Zeke” was part of the first batch of “hillbilly” code names assigned by Captain Frank T. McCoy of Nashville, Tennessee (assigned to the Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit (ATAIU) at Eagle Farm Airport in Australia), who wanted quick, distinctive, easy-to-remember names. The Allied code for Japanese aircraft was introduced in 1942, and McCoy chose “Zeke” for the “Zero”. Later, two variants of the fighter received their own code names.

The Nakajima A6M2-N float-plane version of the Zero was called “Rufe”, and the A6M3-

32 variant was initially called “Hap”.

General “Hap” Arnold, commander of the USAAF, objected to that name, however, so it was changed to “Hamp”.

Captured examples were

examined in New Guinea and the Allies realized that it was a variant of the Zero, so it was finally renamed “Zeke 32”.

Development

The Mitsubishi A5M fighter was just entering service in early 1937, when the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) started looking for its eventual replacement. On October 5, 1937, they issued “Planning Requirements for the Prototype 12-shi Carrier-based Fighter”, sending it to Nakajima and Mitsubishi.

Drop tanks would give the fighter long range. Armament

was to consist of two 20 mm cannons, two 7.7 mm machine guns and two 30 kg or 60 kg bombs.

A complete radio set was to be mounted in all aircraft, along with a radio direction finder for long-range navigation.

No armour protection was provided for the pilot, engine or other critical points of the aircraft, and self-sealing fuel tanks, which were becoming common at the time, were not used.

appearance remarkably close to the Zero.

Gloster had a relationship with the Japanese between the wars, with Nakajima building the carrier-based plane, the Gloster Gambet, under license. However allegations about the Zero being a copy have been discredited by some authors.

Operational history

The first Zeros went into operation with the 12th *Rengo Kōkūtai*

tered by the Americans. Its tremendous range of over 2,600 kilometres allowed it to range farther from its carrier than expected, appearing over distant battlefronts and giving Allied commanders the impression that there were several times as many Zeros as actually existed.

The Zero quickly gained a fearsome reputation. Thanks to a combination of unsurpassed manoeuvrability - even when compared to other contemporary Axis fighters - and excellent firepower, it easily disposed the motley collection of Allied aircraft sent against it in the Pacific in 1941.

It proved a difficult opponent even for the Supermarine Spitfire. “The RAF pilots were trained in methods that were excellent against German and Italian equipment but sui-

This made the Zero lighter, more manoeuvrable, and the longest-ranged single-engine fighter of World War II, which made it capable of searching out an enemy hundreds of kilometres away, bringing them to battle, then returning to its base or aircraft carrier.

However, that trade-off in weight and construction also made it prone to catching fire and exploding when struck by enemy rounds.

The Zero resembled the 1937 British Gloster F.5/34. Performance of the Gloster F.5/34 was comparable to that of early model Zeros, with its dimensions and

in July 1940. On 13 September 1940, the Zeros scored their first air-to-air victories when 13 A6M2s led by Lieutenant Saburo Shindo attacked 27 Soviet-built Polikarpov I-15s and I-16s of the Chinese Nationalist Air Force, shooting down all the fighters without loss to themselves.

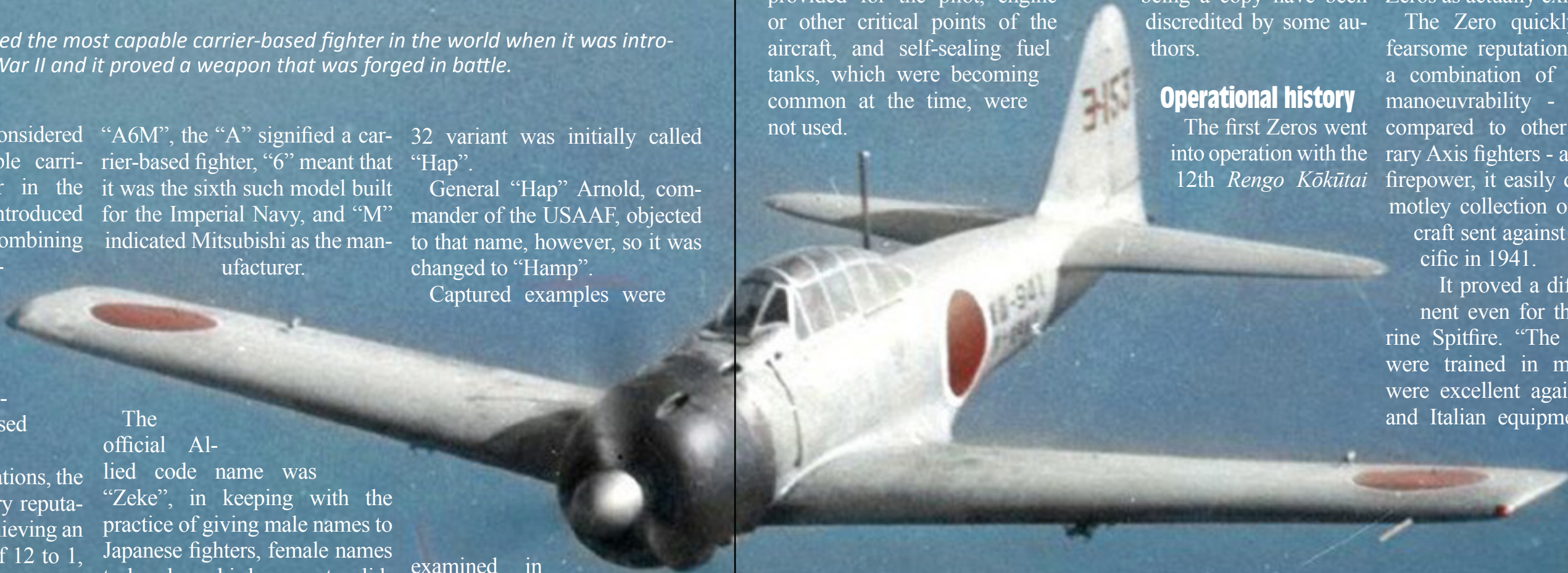
By the time they were redeployed a year later, the Zeros had shot down 99 Chinese aircraft (although some sources claim it was as high as 266).

At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbour, 521 Zeros were active in the Pacific, 328 in first-line units. The carrier-borne Model 21 was the type encoun-

cide against the acrobatic Japs”, Lt. Gen. Claire Lee Chennault wrote.

Although not as fast as the British fighter, the Mitsubishi fighter could out-turn the Spitfire with ease, sustain a climb at a very steep angle, and stay in the air for three times as long.

Many highly experienced Japanese aviators were lost in combat, resulting in a progressive decline in quality, which became a significant factor in Allied successes. Unexpected heavy losses of pilots at the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway dealt the Japanese carrier air force a blow from which it never fully recov-



ered.

When the powerfully armed Lockheed P-38 Lightning, armed with four “light barrel” AN/M2 .50 cal. Browning machine guns and one 20 mm auto-cannon, and the Grumman F6F Hellcat and Vought F4U Corsair, each with six AN/M2 heavy calibre Browning guns, appeared in the Pacific theatre, the A6M, with its low-powered engine and lighter armament, was hard-pressed to remain competitive.

In combat with an F6F or F4U, the only positive thing that could be said of the Zero at this stage of the war was that, in the hands of a skilful pilot, it could manoeuvre as well as most of its opponents. Nonetheless, in competent hands, the Zero could still be deadly.

By 1943, due to inherent design weaknesses, such as a lack of hydraulic flaps and rudder rendering it extremely unmanoeuvrable at high speeds, and an inability to equip it with a more powerful aircraft engine, the Zero gradually became less effective against newer Allied fighters.

By 1944, with opposing Allied fighters approaching its levels of manoeuvrability and consistently exceeding its firepower, armour, and speed, the A6M had largely become outdated as a fighter aircraft. However, due to design delays and production difficulties, which hampered the introduction of newer Japanese aircraft models, the Zero continued to serve in a front line role until the end of the war in the Pacific. During the final phases, it was also adapted for use in kamikaze operations.



SLEEK ZEKE: Nicknamed ‘Zeke’ by the Americans, the Zero was one of the most capable carrier-based aircraft at the start of the war.

Allied counter tactics

Allied pilots soon developed tactics to cope with the Zero. Due to its extreme agility, engaging a Zero in a traditional, turning dogfight was likely to be fatal.

It was better to swoop down from above in a high-speed pass, fire a quick burst, then climb quickly back up to altitude. (A short burst of fire from heavy machine guns or cannon was often enough to bring down the fragile Zero.)

Such “boom-and-zoom” tactics were used successfully in the China Burma India Theatre (CBI) by the “Flying Tigers” of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) against similarly manoeuvrable Japanese Army aircraft such as the *Nakajima Ki-27 Nate* and *Nakajima Ki-43 Oscar*.

AVG pilots were trained by their commander Claire Chennault to exploit the advantages of their P-40s, which were very sturdy, heavily armed, generally faster in a dive and level flight at low altitude, with a good rate of roll.

Another important manoeuvre was Lieutenant Commander John S. “Jimmy” Thach’s “Thach Weave”, in which two fighters would fly about 60 m apart. If a Zero latched onto the tail of one of the fighters, the two aircraft would turn toward each other. If the Zero followed his original target through the turn, he would come into a position to be fired on by the target’s wingman.

This tactic was first used to good effect during the Battle of Midway and later over the Solomon Islands.

Allied analysis of the Zero

American experts who evaluated a captured Zero found that the plane weighed about 2,360 kg fully loaded, some 1,260 kg lighter than the F4F Wildcat, the standard United States Navy fighter of the time.

The A6M’s airframe was “built like a fine watch”; the Zero was constructed with flush rivets, and even the guns were flush with the wings. The instrument panel was a “marvel of simplicity”.

What most impressed the ex-



FINAL PREPARATIONS: Mitsubishi A6M2’s on carrier *Shokaku*’s flight deck, prior to the Pearl Harbour attack, 7 December 1941.

perts was that the Zero’s fuselage and wings were constructed in one piece, unlike the American method that built them separately and joined the two parts together.

American test pilots found that the Zero’s controls were “very light” at 320 km/h, but stiffened at faster speeds (above 348 km/h) to safeguard against wing failure.

The Zero could not keep up with Allied aircraft in high-speed maneuvers. While stable on the ground despite its light weight, the aircraft was designed purely for the attack role, emphasizing long range, maneuverability, and firepower at the expense of protection of its pilot. Most lacked self-sealing tanks and armor plating.

Captain Eric Brown, the Chief Naval Test Pilot of the Royal Navy, recalled being impressed by the Zero during tests of captured aircraft. “I don’t think I have ever flown a fighter that could match the rate of turn of the Zero. The Zero had ruled the roost totally and was the finest fighter in the world until mid-1943.”

Zero Aces

Japan had a number of pilots that would become aces during the war. Most of them flew Zeros.

In total 13 of their aces achieved 20 or more kills, four were killed in action.

Tetsuzo Iwamoto (80 kills)

He survived the war only to die from septicemia at the young age of 38.

Shigeo Fukumoto (72 kills)

While he did survive the war, there are no records as to what happened to him afterwards.

Shoichi Sugita (70 kills)

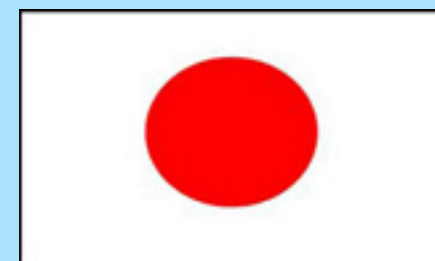
He was killed in action on 15 April 1945.

Hiromichi Shinohara (58 kills)

On his first day in combat he recorded 10 kills. He would also go on to claim a Japanese record by shooting down 11 enemy aircraft in a single day. He was killed in action on 27 August 1939 during the undeclared Soviet–Japanese border conflicts in 1939.

Takeo Okumura (54 kills)

He was killed in action on 22 September 1943.



A6M2 Type 0 Model 21

General characteristics

- Crew: one
- Length: 9.06 m
- Wingspan: 12.0 m
- Height: 3.05 m
- Wing area: 22.44 m²
- Empty weight: 1,680 kg
- Loaded weight: 2,796 kg
- Aspect ratio: 6.4
- Powerplant: 1 × Nakajima NK1C Sakae-12 14 cylinder air-cooled radial engine, 700 kW (940 hp)

Performance

- Never exceed speed: 660 km/h
- Maximum speed: 534 km/h at 4,550 m
- Range: 3,104 km
- Service ceiling: 10,000 m
- Rate of climb: 15.7 m/s
- Wing loading: 107.4 kg/m²
- Power/mass: 294 W/kg

Performance

Guns:

- 2× 7.7 mm Type 97 aircraft machine guns in the engine cowlings, with 500 rounds per gun.
- 2× 20 mm Type 99-1 cannon in the wings, with 60 rounds per gun.

Bombs:

- 2× 60 kg bombs or
- 1× fixed 250 kg bomb for kamikaze attacks

At 07h48 on 7 December 1941, the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii came under attack from Japanese carrier-based aircraft. The attack resulted in America entering World War II.

American President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed 7 December 1941, "a date which will live in infamy". Without a declaration of war and without any warning, Japan had launched a devastating attack against the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii.

The attack on Pearl Harbour was later judged in the Tokyo Trials to be a war crime.

Yet what led Japan to take this action? Why were the Americans taken by surprise? How successful was the attack?

Prelude to War

War between Japan and the United States had been on the cards since the 1920s. The relationship between the two countries was cordial enough that they remained trading partners.

Tensions did not seriously grow until Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931. Over the next decade, Japan expanded into China, leading to the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

Starting in December 1937, events such as the Japanese attack on USS Panay, the Allison incident, and the Nanking Massacre swung Western public opinion sharply against Japan.

The USS Panay incident was a Japanese attack on the American gunboat Panay while it was anchored in the Yangtze River outside Nanking, China on 12 December 1937. Three Americans were killed and 43 wounded.

Japan and the United States were not at war at the time. The Japanese claimed that they did not see the American flags painted on the deck of the gunboat, apologized, and paid an indemnity.

The Nanking Massacre, also known as the Rape of Nanking, was an episode of mass murder and mass rape committed by Japanese troops against the residents of Nanking, then the capital of the Republic of China, during the Second Sino-Japanese War.

The massacre occurred over a period of six weeks starting on 13 December 1937, the day

that the Japanese captured Nanking. During this period, soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army murdered Chinese civilians and disarmed combatants who numbered an estimated 40,000 to over 300,000, and perpetrated widespread rape and looting.

On 26 January 1938, during the period of the Nanking Massacre, John M. Allison, at the time consul at the American embassy in Nanking, was struck in the face by a Japanese soldier.

This incident is commonly known as the Allison incident. Japanese Consul-General Katsumi Okazaki apologized formally on 30 January (after the Americans demanded they do so).

This incident, together with the looting of American property in Nanking that took place at the same time, further strained relations between Japan and the United States, which had already been damaged by the Panay incident less than two months earlier.

Fearing Japanese expansion, the United States, United Kingdom, and France assisted China with its loans for war supply contracts.

In 1940, Japan invaded French Indochina, attempting to stop the flow of supplies reaching China. The United States halted shipments of airplanes, parts, machine tools,



HAVOC: Photograph of Battleship Row taken from a Japanese plane at the beginning of the attack. The explosion in the center is a torpedo strike on USS West Virginia.

and aviation gasoline to Japan, which the latter perceived as an unfriendly act. The United States did not stop oil exports, however, partly because of the prevailing sentiment in Washington: given Japanese dependence on American oil, such an action was likely to be considered an extreme provocation.

In mid-1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the Pacific Fleet from San Diego to Hawaii. He also ordered a military build-up in the Philippines, taking both actions in the hope of discouraging Japanese aggression in the Far East.

Because the Japanese high command was (mistakenly) certain any attack on the United Kingdom's Southeast Asian colonies, including Singapore, would bring the U.S. into the war, a devastating preventive strike appeared to be the only way to prevent American naval interference. From that moment, war was inevitable. It was just a matter of time.

Planning begins

Full-scale planning was underway by early spring 1941, primarily by Rear Admiral Ryūnosuke Kusaka, with assistance from Captain Minoru Genda and Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's Deputy Chief of Staff, Captain Kameto Kuroshima. The planners studied the 1940 British air attack on the Italian fleet at Taranto intensively.

Over the next several months, pilots were trained, equipment was adapted, and intelligence was collected. Despite these preparations, Emperor Hirohito did not approve the attack plan until 5 November, after the third of four Imperial Conferences called to consider the matter. Final authorisation was not given by the emperor until 1 December.

Objectives

The planned Japanese attack had several major aims. The first was to cripple the Pacific

Fleet and prevent it from interfering with Japanese conquest of the Dutch East Indies and Malaya and to enable Japan to conquer Southeast Asia without interference.

Secondly, it was hoped that the attack would buy time for Japan to consolidate its position and increase its naval strength.

Thirdly, it was hoped that the attack would undermine American morale such that the U.S. government would drop its demands contrary to Japanese interests, and would seek a compromise peace with Japan.

Many believe that the prime Japanese objective was to sink the American aircraft carriers.

Yet the Japanese knew full well that the three carriers - the USS Enterprise, USS Lexington, and USS Saratoga - would not be in Pearl Harbour when the attack was launched.

The American battleships were chosen as the main targets, since these were the prestige ships of any navy at the time.

Striking Pearl Harbour did, however, have a disadvantage. The targeted ships would be in very shallow water, so it would be relatively easy to salvage and possibly repair them; and most of the crews would survive the attack, since many would be on shore leave or would be rescued from the harbour.

Admiral Yamamoto decided to launch the attack anyway.

The attack

On November 26, 1941, a Japanese task force (the Striking Force) of six aircraft carriers - Akagi, Kaga, Sōryū, Hiryū, Shōkaku, and Zuikaku - departed Hittokapu Bay on

Kasatka (now Iterup) Island in the Kurile Islands, en route to a position north-west of Hawaii. The task force was under strict radio silence.

On 2 December 1941 Vice Admiral Chūichi Nagumo received a message from Admiral Yamamoto, ordering him to open a top secret envelope that had been given to him prior to departure.

The coded message contained just three words, "*Niitaka yama nobore*" (Climb Mount Niitaka).

The message told Nagumo that the Japanese Empire had decided to go to war with the United States, Britain and Holland.

Once in position, the task force intended to launch its 408 aircraft to attack Pearl Harbour. 360 aircraft would be used in

two attack waves and 48 would remain on defensive combat air patrol (CAP).

The first wave was to be the primary attack, while the second wave was to attack carriers as its first objective and cruisers as its second, with battleships as the third target.

The first wave carried most of the weapons to attack capital ships, mainly specially adapted Type 91 aerial torpedoes which were designed with an anti-roll mechanism and a rudder extension that let them operate in shallow water.

The aircrews were ordered to select the highest value targets, with the battleships being top of the list. Then they would go after any aircraft carriers that might be in port. The USS Enterprise was scheduled to be in Pearl

Harbour on 6 December on her way back from Wake Island, but was delayed by bad weather.

If there were no carriers in port, as Japanese intelligence suspected, they would then go after other high value ships such as cruisers and destroyers.

First wave dive bombers were to attack ground targets. Fighters were ordered to strafe and destroy as many parked aircraft as possible to ensure they did not get into the air to intercept the bombers, especially in the first wave.

When the fighters' fuel got low they were to refuel at the aircraft carriers and return to combat. Fighters were to serve CAP duties where needed, especially over U.S. airfields.

The Japanese also made use of five midget submarines dur-

ing the attack. All five of these submarines were destroyed and one Japanese sailor, Kazuo Sakamaki, was captured.

As the first wave approached Oahu, it was detected by the U.S. Army SCR-270 radar at Opana Point near the island's northern tip.

This post had been in training mode for months, but was not yet operational. The operators, Privates George Elliot Jr. and Joseph Lockard, reported a target, but Lieutenant Kermit A. Tyler, a newly assigned officer at the thinly manned Intercept Centre, presumed it was the scheduled arrival of six B-17 bombers from California.

The Japanese planes were approaching from a direction very close (only a few degrees difference) to the bombers, and while the operators had never seen a formation as large on radar, they neglected to tell Tyler of its size. Tyler, for security reasons, could not tell the operators of the six B-17s that were due (even though it was widely known).

As the first wave planes approached Oahu, they encountered and shot down several U.S. aircraft. At least one of these radioed a somewhat incoherent warning. Other warnings from ships off the harbour entrance were still being processed or awaiting confirmation when the attacking planes began bombing and strafing. Nevertheless, it is not clear any warnings would have had much effect even if they had been interpreted correctly and much more promptly.

The air portion of the attack began at 07h48 Hawaiian Time.

A total of 353 Japanese planes in two waves reached Oahu.

Slow, vulnerable torpedo bombers led the first wave, exploiting the first moments of surprise to attack the most important ships present (the battleships), while dive bombers attacked U.S. air bases across Oahu, starting with Hickam Field, the largest, and Wheeler Field, the main U.S. Army Air Forces fighter base.

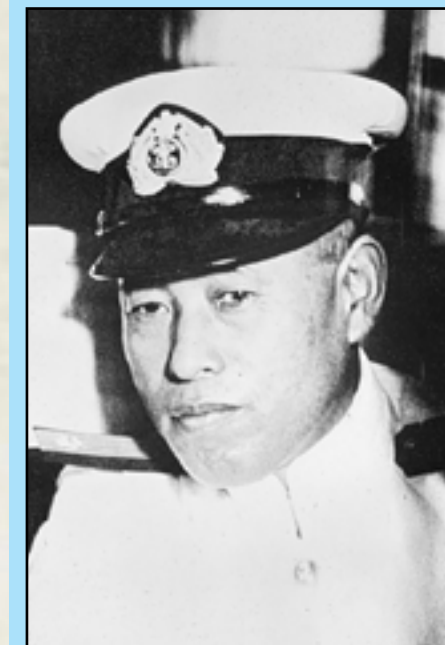
The 171 planes in the second wave attacked the Army Air Forces' Bellows Field near Kaneohe on the windward side of the island, and Ford Island. The only aerial opposition came from a handful of P-36 Hawks, P-40 Warhawks, and some SBD Dauntless dive bombers from the carrier Enterprise.

In the first wave attack, about eight of the forty-nine 800 kg armour-piercing bombs dropped hit their intended battleship targets. At least two of those bombs broke up on impact, another detonated before penetrating an unarmoured deck, and one was a dud. Thirteen of the forty torpedoes hit battleships, and four torpedoes hit other ships.

Men aboard U.S. ships awoke to the sounds of alarms, bombs exploding, and gunfire, prompting bleary-eyed men to dress as they ran to General Quarters stations. (The famous message, "Air raid Pearl Harbour. This is not drill.", was sent from the headquarters of Patrol Wing Two, the first senior Hawaiian command to respond.)

The defenders were very unprepared. Ammunition lockers were locked, aircraft parked wingtip to wingtip in the open

Isoroku Yamamoto



Japanese Marshal Admiral of the Navy and the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II until his death.

Born: 4 April 1884

Died: 18 April 1943

Yamamoto decided to make an inspection tour throughout the South Pacific to boost morale following the defeat at Guadalcanal.

US naval intelligence intercepted and decrypted a message containing specifics of Yamamoto's tour, including arrival and departure times and locations, as well as the number and types of aircraft that would transport and accompany him on the journey.

Sixteen P-38 Lightnings intercepted the flight over Bougainville and a dogfight ensued between them and the six escorting Mitsubishi A6M Zeeros. Yamamoto's plane was shot down and he was killed.



to prevent sabotage, guns unmanned (none of the Navy's 5"/38s, only a quarter of its machine guns, and only four of 31 Army batteries got in action). Despite this low alert status, many American military personnel responded effectively during the attack.

US Casualties and damage

Ninety minutes after it began, the attack was over. Two thousand and eight sailors were killed, and 710 others wounded; 218 soldiers and airmen (who were part of the Army until the independent U.S. Air Force was formed in 1947) were killed and 364 wounded; 109 marines were killed and 69 wounded; and 68 civilians were killed and 35 wounded.

In total, 2,335 American servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including five battleships. One hundred eighty-eight U.S. aircraft were destroyed

All of the Americans killed or wounded during the attack were non-combatants, given the fact there was no state of war when the attack occurred.

US ships lost or damaged

Twenty-one ships were damaged or lost in the attack, of which all but three were repaired and returned to service.

Battleships

- Arizona (RADM Kidd's flagship of Battleship Division One): hit by four armour-piercing bombs, exploded; total loss. 1,177 dead.
- Oklahoma: hit by five torpedoes, capsized; total loss.

- 429 dead.
- West Virginia: hit by two bombs, seven torpedoes, sunk; returned to service July 1944. 106 dead.
- California: hit by two bombs, two torpedoes, sunk; returned to service January 1944. 100 dead.
- Nevada: hit by six bombs, one torpedo, beached; returned to service October 1942. 60 dead.
- Pennsylvania (ADM Kimmel's flagship of the United States Pacific Fleet): in drydock with Cassin and Downes, hit by one bomb and debris from USS Cassin; remained in service. Nine dead.
- Tennessee: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. Five dead.
- Maryland: hit by two bombs; returned to service February 1942. Four dead (including floatplane pilot shot down).

Ex-battleship (training ship)

- Utah: hit by two torpedoes, capsized; total loss. 64 dead.

Cruisers

- Helena: hit by one torpedo; returned to service January 1942. 20 dead.
- Raleigh: hit by one torpedo; returned to service February 1942.
- Honolulu: Near miss, light damage; remained in service.

Destroyers

- Cassin: in drydock with Downes and Pennsylvania, hit by one bomb, burned; returned to service February 1944.
- Downes: in drydock with Cassin and Pennsylvania, caught fire from Cassin,

- burned; returned to service November 1943.
- Helm: underway to West Loch, damaged by two near-miss bombs; continued patrol; dry-docked 15 January 1942 and sailed 20 January 1942.
- Shaw: hit by three bombs; returned to service June 1942.

Auxiliaries

- Oglala (minelayer): Damaged by torpedo hit on Helena, capsized; returned to service (as engine-repair ship) February 1944.
- Vestal (repair ship): hit by two bombs, blast and fire from Arizona, beached; returned to service by August 1942.
- Curtiss (seaplane tender): hit by one bomb, one crashed Japanese aircraft; returned to service January 1942. 19 dead.
- Sotoyomo (harbor tug): damaged by explosion and fires in Shaw; sunk; returned to service August 1942.
- YFD-2 (yard floating dock): damaged by 250 kg bombs; sunk; returned to service 25 January 1942

Japanese casualties

Fifty-five Japanese airmen and nine submariners were killed in the attack, and one was captured.

Of Japan's 414 available planes, 29 were lost during the battle (nine in the first attack wave, 20 in the second), with another 74 damaged by anti-aircraft fire from the ground.

Aftermath

In the wake of the attack, 15

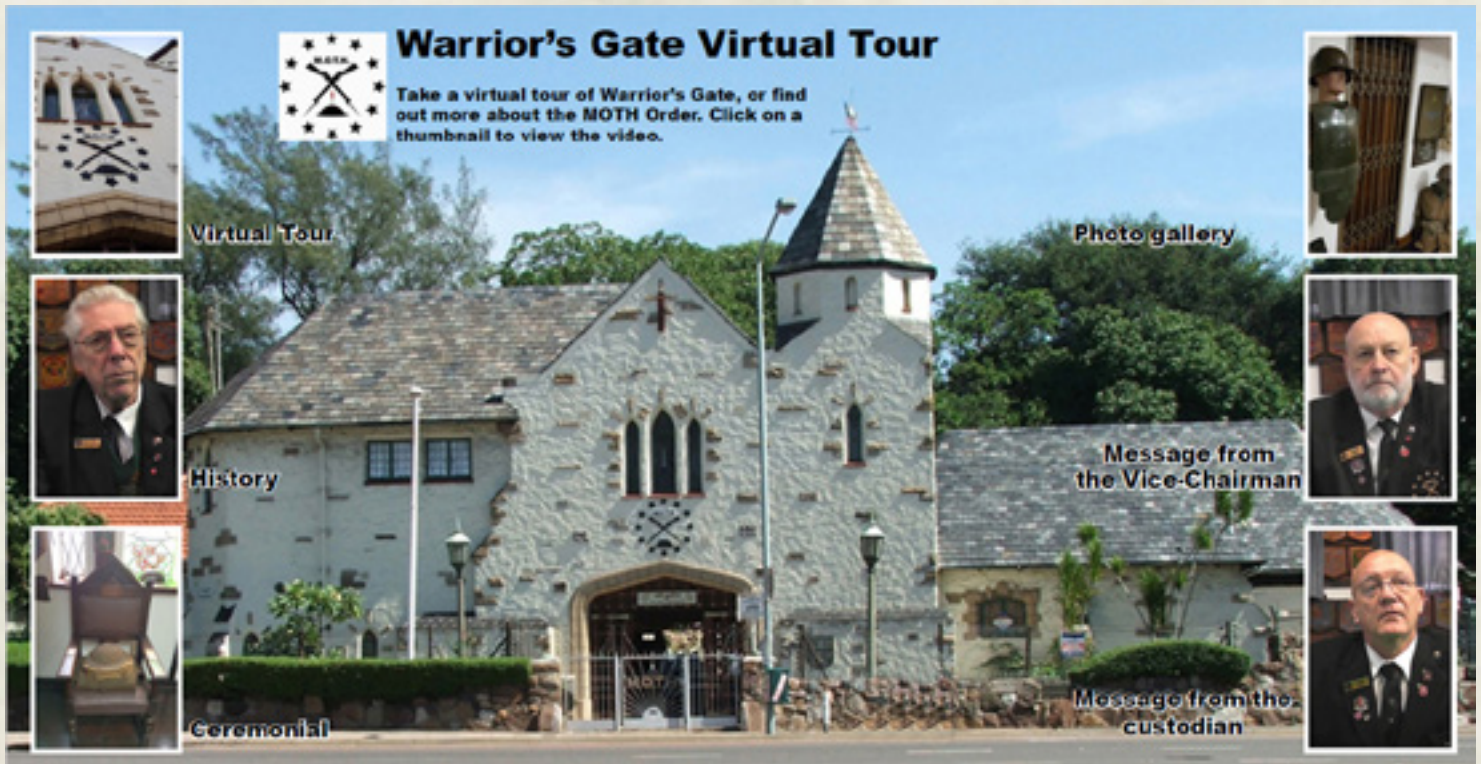
Medals of Honour, 51 Navy Crosses, 53 Silver Stars, four Navy and Marine Corps Medals, one Distinguished Flying Cross, four Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, and three Bronze Star Medals were awarded to the American servicemen who distinguished themselves in combat at Pearl Harbour. Additionally, a special military award, the Pearl Harbour Commemorative Medal, was later authorized for all military veterans of the attack.

The day after the attack, Roosevelt delivered his famous Infamy Speech to a Joint Session of Congress, calling for a formal declaration of war on the Empire of Japan. Congress obliged his request less than an hour later. On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, even though the Tripartite Pact did not require it. Congress issued a declaration of

war against Germany and Italy later that same day. The UK actually declared war on Japan nine hours before the U.S. did, partially due to Japanese attacks on Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong, and partially due to Winston Churchill's promise to declare war "within the hour" of a Japanese attack on the United States. The biggest mistake the Japanese made at Pearl Harbour was that they didn't attack the important base installations. The power station, dry docks, shipyard maintenance, fuel and torpedo storage facilities, submarine pens and headquarters building, which also housed the intelligence section, were not attacked. Had they been attacked and damaged or destroyed, the Americans would have been denied Pearl Harbour as a base. While the attack accomplished its intended objective,

it turned out to be largely unnecessary. Unbeknownst to Yamamoto, who conceived the original plan, the U.S. Navy had decided as far back as 1935 to abandon 'charging' across the Pacific towards the Philippines in response to an outbreak of war. The U.S. instead adopted "Plan Dog" in 1940, which emphasized keeping the IJN out of the eastern Pacific and away from the shipping lanes to Australia, while the U.S. concentrated on defeating Nazi Germany. Admiral Hara Tadaichi summed up the Japanese result by saying, "We won a great tactical victory at Pearl Harbor and thereby lost the war." Perhaps it is best summed up by Admiral Yamamoto who said, directly after the attack, "I fear all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with terrible resolve."

Click on the photograph below to take a virtual tour of Warrior's Gate and find out more about the MOTH Order.



OPERATIONS HOOPER AND MODULAR

This month Matt O' Brien gets to grips with a game that feels just a little bit too close to home.

Over the years I've played a lot of war simulation games. Some have been good, others not so good.

I've played games that focused on World War II as well as more modern wars. What I've never really found, however, was a game that dealt with our war - the Border War. Now, at long last, I've found such a game.

These two games focus on Operations Hooper and Modular in 1987/88. The games have been developed by Graviteam, an independent studio based in Kharkov, Ukraine.

Besides developing tactical wargames with a strong sense of realism, they also design tank simulators and simulation software for the Russian military. So they gave a good idea of what they are doing.

Now before you dig your browns out of the cupboard and rush off to buy the game, there is a slight catch.

Both Operation Hooper and Operation Modular are DLC (Downloadable content). So you need to have the original game installed on your computer before you can play either Hooper or Modular.

The original game is called Graviteam Tactics Operation Star. It was released in 2010

and then released on Steam in 2014. You will need to buy this game from Steam and install it on your computer. It will set you back in the region of R200.

Make no mistake, Operation Star is not a bad game to play. It focuses on the Battle of Kharkov in 1942/43.

The game features eight operations for the Red Army and the Wehrmacht and there are more than 60 detailed units. These include the Panzer IV, Tiger tank, MkII Matilda and the KV-1.

It features a realistic battlefield over 260 sq. km and was reconstructed by the use of topographic maps and photographs.

Once you have purchased and installed Operation Star, you're good to go and can then get Operation Hooper and Operation Modular. Each of these cost just over R90.

Operation Hooper features three operations that took place in February 1988. There is one each for the SADF, Unita, and FAPLA. This DLC was first released in 2013.

Operation Modular is set in October 1987. There are two operations, with one being for FAPLA and the Cubans and the other being for the SADF and Unita forces. The DLC was released in 2018.

The first thing that blew me

out of the water was the map. It is a precisely recreated area confluence of Cuzizi and Lomba rivers and is 144 square kilometres. One again it has been created using topographical maps, satellite imagery and photographs.

All of the weapons, equipment, vehicles and aircraft that took part in the battle are there. It is a historical organisational structure of units at the time of the operations *Saludando a Octubre* (FAPLA) and *Moduler* (SADF).

Another thing that really impressed me was the AI (Artificial Intelligence). In most simulation games the AI is based on a script and can become very predictable. If this happens, do that or do this.

In this game, however, the AI chooses the best strategy based on behaviour rather than a script. Scenarios can be replayed using different tactics, as though playing against a human opponent.

The AI is based on real soldier behaviour. Every soldier has several basic parameters, such as experience level, fatigue, and morale, which affect their behaviour and effectiveness.

The weapons are accurately recreated and they sound like they do in real life. The ballis-



tics are spot on and bullets and projectiles follow accurate trajectories.

There is a comprehensive vehicle damage system - engine, suspension, weapons, and aiming mechanisms can all be damaged separately, affecting the combat capabilities of the vehicle.

In many games when troops are killed or vehicles destroyed, they disappear from the map after a short while. In this game, all traces of previous battles remain on the battlefield. Bodies will lie where they have fallen and vehicles will burn out.

There is a dynamic day/night cycle as well as weather effects. All of which affect combat through terrain, battlefield visibility, hidden force capabilities, and more.

Line of sight plays an important role in the game. Often you can hear the enemy, but you

can't see them. You will see incoming tracer rounds but not have the enemy in direct sight.

The game also comes with a full encyclopedia with 3D model viewer and detailed data on all units, describing their historical and in-game characteristics.

The game is detailed and not something that you can just pick up and, with a few clicks of the mouse, achieve victory. There is a decent learning curve. If you use stupid tactics then you're going to get slaughtered.

During one of my first attempts at the game I took the side of FAPLA. I was going up against a much smaller group of SADF opposition.

I had a decent force accompanied by some T55/62 tanks and plenty of armoured personnel carriers. I send them rushing forward to seek out the enemy

and destroy them. They must have had an artillery spotter somewhere, because I came under very heavy and accurate fire from G5's and Valkiri MRL.

Then, before I knew it, I was being hit in the flank by Ratel 90s. My force was quickly cut to pieces and what was left took to their heels.

These are two great games and you will not need a super computer to run them. They are both games that I really recommend.



Publisher - Graviteam

Genre - Simulation

Score - 8.5/10

Price - Check on Steam



Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence

Released: 1983

Running time: 123 minutes

Directed by: Nagisa Oshima

Released in 1983, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* is a British-Japanese wartime drama film directed by Nagisa Oshima, produced by Jeremy Thomas and starring David Bowie, Tom Conti, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Takeshi Kitano and Jack Thompson.

The screenplay by Oshima with Paul Mayersberg was based on Sir Laurens van der Post's experiences as a Japanese prisoner of war during World War II as depicted in his works *The Seed and the Sower* (1963) and *The Night of the New Moon* (1970).

The film deals with the relationships among four men in a Japanese prisoner of war camp during the Second World War - Major Jack Celliers (Bowie), a rebellious British officer with a guilty secret from his youth; Captain Yonoi (Sakamoto), the young camp commandant; Lieutenant Colonel John Lawrence (Conti), another British officer who has lived in Japan and speaks Japanese fluently; and Sergeant Hara (Kitano), who is seemingly brutal and yet humane in some ways and with whom Lawrence develops an unlikely friendship.

Just as Celliers is tormented with guilt, Yonoi is haunted with shame. Having been posted to Manchuria previously, he was unable to be in Tokyo with his Army comrades, the "Shin-

ing Young Officers" of Japan's 26 February Incident, a 1936 military coup d'état. When the coup failed, the young army officers were executed. Yonoi regrets not being able to share their patriotic sacrifice.

Jack Celliers had betrayed his younger brother while the two of them were attending boarding school in South Africa. Although Celliers confesses this only to Lawrence, Captain Yonoi senses in Celliers a kindred spirit.

He wants to replace British RAAF Group Captain Hicksley (the ranking Allied officer and prisoner representative) with Celliers as the spokesman for the prisoners.

When a transmission radio is discovered in the possession of the POWs by the Japanese, Yonoi has Celliers and Lawrence forced to take the blame.

Thrown into nearby holding cells, the two men reminisce about their pasts before their planned execution.

During Christmas Eve, a drunken Sergeant Hara orders both Celliers and Lawrence to be brought to him. Hara then tells them that he is playing "Father Christmas" and orders for their release due to another prisoner confessing to having been responsible for the radio.

As the men leave, he then calls out for the first time in English, "Merry Christmas, Lawrence!"

The film ends in 1946 when Lawrence visits Sergeant Hara, who has now been imprisoned by the Allied forces. Hara has learned to speak English while in captivity and reveals that he is going to be executed the next day for war crimes, stating that he is not afraid to die, but doesn't understand how his actions were any different from those of any other soldier.

When the two bid each other farewell for the last time; Lawrence says, with his voice breaking, 'there are times when victory is very hard to take', and just before Lawrence leaves, Hara calls out again, "Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence!"



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

Dead Men Running

Imagine the most tenacious and skilled soldiers in the business fighting in the most brutal of bush wars, Gavin Manning was there, from 1982 - 88, on the border of northern Namibia and southern Angola - right in the thick of it.

The ultra-covert South African special forces unit known as Koevoet (or Special OPS-K) has been shrouded in mystery for three decades. This book will blow the lid off the box and set all the misconceptions straight.

Manning gives a gripping account of tracking the Soviet-backed terrorists, often right on their heels, using elite skills and technology. The finely honed instincts and supreme ability of

the Koevoet operators earned them the reputation of the best counter-insurgency and tracking unit that Africa and the world had ever see.

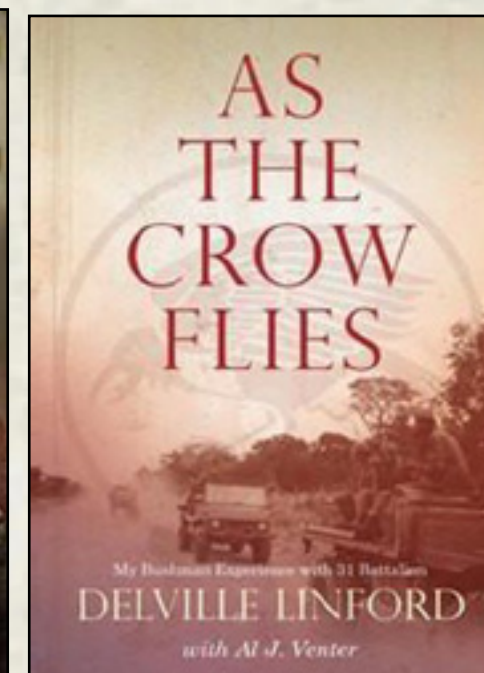
Dead Men Running is a vital book about the Angolan bush war that finally tells the truth. But it is also Manning's own story - how he realized his dream of becoming part of Koevoet, the brotherhood he inherited, and the friends he made who lost their lives.

Manning is a skillful writer who will sweep you up into the action with the precision of accurate gunfire.

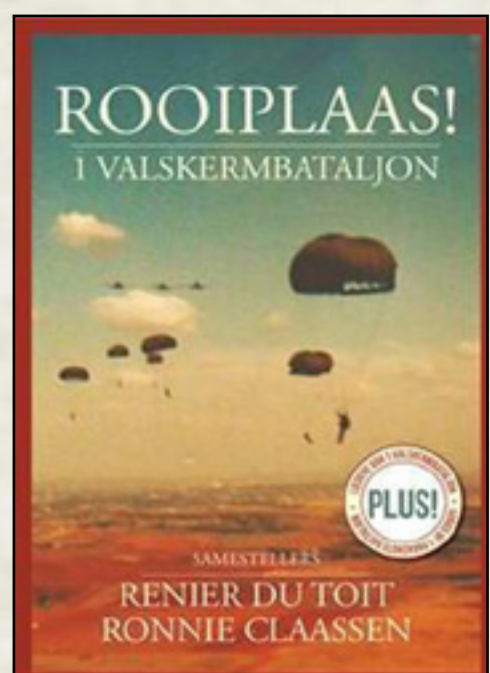
Cost: R400



1 Recce: The Night belongs to us
R285



As The Crow Flies
R280



Rooiplaas: 1 Valskerm bataljon
R240

All books are available from [Bush War Books](#)

Some of the significant military events that happened in December.

1 December

- **1914** - Col. J.F. Jordaan of the SA force captures Gen. Christiaan de Wet, on his way to German South West Africa at Waterbury, near Vryburg, Northern Cape (now North West Province).
- **1933** - Rudolf Hess & Ernst Rohm become ministers in Hitler's government.
- **1939** - SS-Fuhrer Himmler begins deportation of Polish Jews to concentration camps.
- **1992** - Cabinet decides to replace the SAAF trainer Harvard by the Swiss-made Pilatus PC-7 MK2. The joint venture will include twelve SA companies.
- **1995** - Prosecutors in South Africa formally charge former Defence Minister Gen. Magnus Malan and nineteen others with the murders of thirteen people in 1987. They were all later acquitted.
- **1998** - At least fourteen people are killed and twenty-four injured in a bomb explosion in a market in Algiers.

2 December

- **1805** - Napoleon defeated Russia and Austria in the Battle of Austerlitz.
- **1836** - Commandant Andries Hendrik Potgieter is elected chief commandant of the Voortrekkers.
- **1856** - The Battle of Tugela (also Battle of Ndongakusuka) takes place in the war between Cetewayo, eldest son of the Zulu chief Mpande, and his father's younger brother, Umbolazi (also Mbulazi). In one of the bloodiest battles fought on the southern tip of Africa, more than 5,000 warriors are killed and thousands drown in the Tugela River.
- **1877** - The Battle of Umzimtsani takes place during the Ninth Border War. Seventy men of the Prince Alfred's Guard unit are attacked by the Galekas, but ward the attack off.
- **1900** - The Battle of Goede Hoop takes place during the Second Anglo-Boer War. Chief Commandant De Wet engages Col. Herbert

- at Goede Hoop, between Smithfield and Bethulie in the OFS. De Wet takes off on the arrival of reinforcements sent by General Knox.
- **1914** - Adolf Hitler is awarded the Iron Cross, Second Class. "The happiest day of my life," he says.
- **1914** - Austrians capture Belgrade, Serbia, after several tries.
- **1935** - Abyssinian government orders troops out of Harar on humanitarian grounds.
- **1941** - HMS 'Prince of Wales' & 'Repulse' ("Force Z") arrive at Singapore.
- **1942** - The Allies repels a strong Axis attack in Tunisia, North Africa.

3 December

- **1810** - Britain seizes the islands of Reunion and Mauritius from French control.
- **1902** - Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese pilot who would one day transmit the code "Tora, Tora, Tora" (indicating that the attack on Pearl Harbour had been successful) was born on this day.
- **1915** - British 6th Indian Division falls back on Kut-el-Amara, Iraq.
- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Japanese destroyers land reinforcements.
- **1963** - The Minister of Defence, P.W. Botha, announces a reshuffle of senior defence force posts to increase

Heinrich Himmler



the efficiency of the country's Defence Department, the Defence Production Board and the Defence Organisation. Consequently Lieutenant-General C.A. Fraser, at present Chief of the Army, becomes Joint Commander, Combat Forces, in which capacity he will take command in times of war or emergency of the fighting formations of Army and Air Force elements.

- **1982** - SA Minister of Foreign Affairs Pik Botha warns that SA will not tolerate the introduction of Cuban troops and will not hesitate to launch counter-measures against Mozambique, if it allows nationalist guerrillas to operate against SA from its territory.
- **1987** - Angola claims South African troops and planes have launched attacks deep inside Angola.
- **1993** - Angola's government and its rebel foes agree to a cease-fire in their eighteen-year war. The final cease-fire agreement was only signed in April 2002.

4 December

- **1941** - US Navy Department orders Guam to destroy all codes and secret documents.
- **1943** - During World War II, the second Cairo Conference took place, attended by Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and President Inonu of Turkey.
- **1963** - The Security Council, in resolution 182 (1963),

calls upon all States "to cease forthwith the sale and shipment of equipment and materials for the manufacture and maintenance of arms and ammunition in South Africa".

- **1971** - The Defence Minister denies that South Africa has sent troops to Malawi to quell the security threat on Malawi's southern border, but admits that military equipment is being supplied.
- **1983** - US airstrikes on Syrian anti-aircraft positions in Lebanon.
- **1986** - Defence Amendment Act, dealing mainly with various ways of combating terrorism, commences.
- **1992** - President George Bush orders about 28,000 US troops to Somalia to block warring Somali gangs from intercepting food shipments.

5 December

- **1812** - Napoleon deserts his army during the retreat from Moscow.

- **1839** - George Armstrong Custer, who made his last stand at the Battle of Little Big Horn, was born on this day.
- **1861** - Richard Gatling applies for a patent on a clever device - the machine gun.
- **1911** - Italian forces at Tripoli defeat Turks.
- **1934** - Italian and Ethiopian troops clash at the Ualul (Welwel) on the disputed Somali-Ethiopian border.
- **1941** - Japanese First Air Fleet at 40 North 178 East, 2,655 kilometres from Pearl Harbour.
- **1941** - US military commanders in the Pacific are informed that Japanese embassies & consulates have been ordered to destroy their codes & code machines.
- **1941** - Moscow Counter-offensive: Under pressure from Zhukov's Soviet troops, the Germans call off their drive on Moscow.
- **1943** - Japanese air raid on port facilities at Calcutta.
- **1943** - USAAF introduces drop-tanks, allow-

PW Botha



ing P-47s & P-51s to escort bombers from Britain into Germany

- **1950** - Korean War. UN forces abandon Pyongyang under heavy Chinese pressure.
- **1979** - The Prime Minister announces the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the reporting of defence matters, to be headed by Justice M.T. Steyn. The Commission is to inquire into and make recommendations on the dividing line between the rights of the media to inform and the right of the public to be informed on the one hand, and the interests of the security of the state on the other.
- **1992** - Aid agencies are stripped by gunmen in Somalia on the eve of US troop arrival.

6 December

- **1865** - The Battle of Platberg is fought during the Orange Free State-Basotho War.
- **1912** - First underwater

submarine torpedo attack: Greek submarine 'Deflin' misses Turkish cruiser 'Medjidije' at 500m.

- **1914** - The Germans capture Lodz.
- **1917** - Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship Imo collided with the French munitions ship Mont Blanc which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.
- **1935** - Dessye palace, Ethiopia, is destroyed by an Italian air raid.
- **1941** - Admiral Husband Kimmel says, "No young man, I don't think they'd be such damned fools," when a journalist asks if the Japanese might initiate war.
- **1942** The Royal Air Force bombs Philips factory in the Netherlands, 150 die.
- **1943** - Burma: Allies cancel major amphibious operation.

• **1961** - Heavy fighting erupts in Congo's Katanga Province between United Nations and Katangan forces.



Somali gunman

7 December

- **1891** - In German South West Africa Captain Kurt von François moves his administrative headquarters to Windhoek, seven months after erecting a fort there.
- **1895** - At the Battle at Amba Alagi, Abissynia, the Ethiopians beat Italian armies.
- **1914** - Pope Benedict XIV calls on all powers to declare a Christmas truce.
- **1917** - US declares war on Austria-Hungary.
- **1940** - The British attack larger Italian forces in Libya by surprise, capturing 40,000 prisoners in three days.
- **1941** - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.
- **1981** - Spain becomes a member of NATO.
- **1987** - The US state department says it hopes South Africa's withdrawal from Angola will be followed by the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country.

8 December

- **1895** - Battle at Amba Alagi: Ethiopian emperor Menelek II drives Italian general Baratieri's forces out.
- **1914** - General Christiaan Beyers, former Speaker of the Transvaal Parliament and Commandant-General of the Union Defence Force,

drowns in the Vaal River.

- **1914** - Battle of the Falkland Islands: British battlecruisers annihilate von Spee's German cruiser squadron.
- **1940** - During the Blitz, the House of Commons and Tower of London were seriously damaged amid an overnight air raid by German bombers on London.
- **1941** - Japanese troops land in Malaya, attack Hong Kong, invade Siam and the Dutch East Indies, bomb the Philippines, and capture the USS Wake in Shanghai.
- **1941** - WWII: The Union of SA, Australia and the US declare war on Japan.
- **1943** - Japanese air raids on British airfields in Assam.
- **1944** - Iwo Jima: U.S. bombers and carrier aircraft begin a 72 day pre-invasion bombardment.
- **1952** - French troops fire on demonstrators at Casablanca, 50 die.

9 December

- **1838** - The Voortrekker commando under Andries Pretorius and Sarel Celliers make a solemn promise to God. Should they be victorious, they undertake that they and their descendants will annually dedicate the day of the conquest to the glory of God alone. This promise was repeated nightly until the Battle of Blood River on the 16th was fought.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War the Russian czar rejects President Paul

Kruger's pleas for official aid in South Africa against the British. Many Russians fought as volunteers on the Boer side.

- **1917** - General Sir Edmund Allenby enters Jerusalem, on foot.
- **1931** - Japanese army attacks Chinese province of Jehol.
- **1939** - Russian air raid on Helsinki.
- **1940** - British 8th Army opens offensive in North Africa by attacking Sidi Barrani in Egypt. They seize 1,000 Italians in a sudden thrust.
- **1940** - The Greeks begin a counter offensive against the Italians in Albania
- **1941** - South African armoured cars take part in the pursuit of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps as it retreats towards El Agheila in North Africa.
- **1941** - China declares war on Japan, Germany and Italy.
- **1946** - The Nuremberg "Doctors' trial" begins, against physicians and officers who conducted Nazi human experimentation, euthanasia, and mass murder.

- **1961** - SS Colonel Adolf Eichmann is

convicted of war crimes in Israel.

- **1967** - The United States withdraws the last of three C-130 transport planes sent to Congo in July to help the Kinshasa government airlift troops to suppress a rebellion of White mercenaries and Katangese soldiers.
- **1974** - Portuguese and Rhodesian soldiers are accused in a UN report of torturing and killing over 1,000 Africans in Mozambique during the war of independence.
- **1982** - South African Defence Force commandos crossed the border into Lesotho. Their target was a cluster of houses on the outskirts of Maseru where members of the African



Adolf Eichmann

National Congress (ANC) were believed to be in hiding.

- **1992** - American forces land in Somalia to begin humanitarian operation in famine-stricken country.

10 December

- **1665** - The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, founded by Michiel de Ruyter, was founded on this day.
- **1898** - The Treaty of Paris was signed between American and Spanish representatives following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. Under the treaty, the U.S. gained the Philippine Islands, the islands of Guam and Puerto Rico, and an agreement by Spain to withdraw from Cuba.
- **1899** - British General Gatacre is defeated in the Battle at Stormberg Junction by the Republican forces under Chief Commandant J.H. Olivier. This is the first of three

serious British setbacks known as Black Week.

- **1941** - During World War II, British Battleships Repulse and Prince of Wales were sunk by Japanese warplanes in the South China Sea, killing nearly 800 crewmen.
- **1941** - Guam surrenders to a Japanese landing force after a two day battle.
- **1992** - Troops open fire on a truckload of Somalis who barrel through a French checkpoint, killing two and injuring seven in the first bloodshed of the U.S.-led military mission in Somalia.
- **2010** - For the first time since World War II, a German infantry battalion paraded in a French city, at Strasbourg, to mark the formation of a Franco-German combat brigade.
- **2011** - Henry Lafont, last French veteran pilot of the Battle of Britain, dies aged 91.

11 December

- **1845** - The first Anglo-Sikh

War in India began as the Sikhs attacked British colonial forces. The Sikhs were defeated after four battles. Part of the Punjab region of northwestern India was then annexed by the British.

- **1878** - Sir Bartle Frere, new British High Commissioner, delivers an ultimatum to Cetewayo, Zulu chief, to disband his army, hand over certain offenders and receive a British resident. This led to the war between Britain and Zululand.
- **1899** - The British under Methuen attempt to advance and are defeated by the Boers under Cronje as the Battle of Magersfontein, one of the most decisive battles of the war, starts. Apart from the dead and wounded, many hundreds, especially the kilted Scots, are rendered medical casualties through exposure and serious sunburn.
- **1937** - Italy withdraws from League of Nations.
- **1940** - British capture Sidi Barrani, Egypt, from Italians.
- **1941** - US submarines commence war patrols against Japanese shipping
- **1941** - A major turning point in World War II occurred as Japan's Axis partners, Italy and Germany, both declared war on the United States. The U.S. Congress immediately declared war on them. President Roosevelt then made the defeat of Hitler the top priority, devoting nearly

90 percent of U.S. military resources to the war in Europe.

- **1960** - Black Sunday: Anti-French Riot in Algiers, 114 die.
- **1994** - Russia sent tanks and troops into Chechnya to end the rebel territory's three-year drive for independence.

12 December

- **1899** - The Battle of Magersfontein continues. At about midday the British retire to their camp at Modder River.
- **1899** - Winston Churchill climbs over the yard wall of the State Model School in Pretoria where he has been imprisoned and walks to the Eastern railway line where he jumps a train to Lourenço Marques.
- **1900** - During the Second Anglo-Boer War Britain announces in London that more than 11,000 British soldiers have already been killed.
- **1917** - French troop train derailed in the Alps, killing 543.
- **1940** - British troops capture Sidi el-Barrani.
- **1941** - British decide to abandon northern Malaya.
- **1941** - Germans begin house-by-house search for Jews in Paris.
- **1941** - Japanese invade Burma.

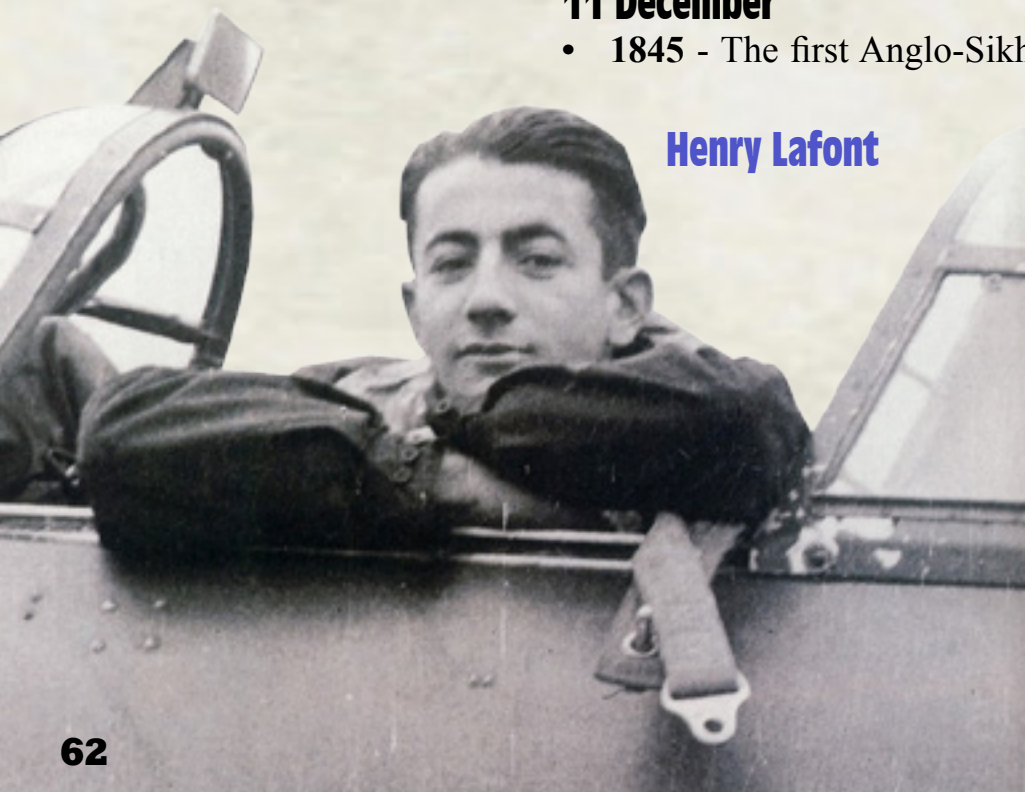
13 December

- **1862** - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Fredericksburg occurred in Virginia as the Union Army

of the Potomac under General Burnside suffered a costly defeat, losing 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on Marye's Heights. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier remarked. Confederate losses were 5,309. "It is well that war is so terrible - we should grow too fond of it," stated Confederate General Robert E. Lee during the fighting.

- **1880** - The First Anglo-Boer War (Transvaal War of Independence) begins.
- **1899** - On this night a bedraggled Winston Churchill knocks on the door of the manager of Delagoa Bay Collier, pleading for something to eat after his escape from Pretoria the night before. The manager, John Howard, hides him in the underground stables of the mine, and slips him into a goods truck destined for Lourenço Marques six days later, from where he sails to Durban to enjoy a rousing welcome as hero.
- **1916** - Avalanches kill 10,000 Austrian & Italian troops in 24 hrs in the Tyrol.

- **1916** - French chief of staff Josef Joffre replaced by Robert Nivelle.
- **1918** - The first US occupation troops cross the Rhine to enter Germany.
- **1937** - The beginning of one of the worst atrocities of World War II as the Chinese city of Nanking (Nanjing) was captured by the Japanese. Over the next six weeks, the Rape of Nanking occurred in which Japanese soldiers randomly attacked, raped and indiscriminately killed an estimated 200,000 Chinese persons.



Henry Lafont



Irma Grese

- **1939** - Battle of the Rio de La Plata: three British cruisers defeat the German pocket battleship 'Graf Spee'.
- **1941** - British and Canadian troops abandon the mainland portions of Hong Kong.
- **1945** - The "Beast of Belsen" Josef Kramer (39), the "Bitch of Belsen" Irma Grese (22), and six other Belsen war criminals, hanged on this day.
- **1969** - Britain announces agreement to withdraw all its forces from Libya within next few months.
- **1988** - Angola, Cuba, and South Africa end eight months of negotiations under US mediation for a settlement in South West Africa by signing a protocol in Brazzaville, the Congo, thereby ensuring independence for the territory. The final signing took place at UN headquarters in New York on 22 December.
- **1991** - North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression which also formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953.
- **2003** - US troops find Iraqi

Dictator Saddam Hussein in a hole in the ground.

14 December

- **1799** - George Washington died at Mount Vernon.
- **1896** - World War II General James Doolittle was born in Alameda, California. On April 18, 1942, he led a squadron of B-25 bombers launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet to conduct the first American air raid of the war against mainland Japan. He also headed the Eighth Air Force during the Normandy invasion and was awarded the Medal of Honour.
- **1901** - Reports reach London of the large number of deaths in South African concentration camps during the Second Anglo-Boer War.
- **1939** - The Soviet Union (Population 181 million) "defends" itself by attacking Finland (2 million).
- **1939** - The League of Nations expelled Soviet Russia for its aggression against Finland.
- **1939** - Norwegian politician Vidkun Quisling meets Hitler for the first time, in Berlin, and offers to betray his country to the Nazis.
- **1941** - Japanese forces in Malaya occupy Gurun & Kroh.

- **1970** - Field Marshal Viscount Slim, Defender of India, Liberator of Burma, dies at the age of 79.
- **1995** - A Bosnian peace treaty was signed in Paris by leaders from the former Yugoslavia. The treaty ended Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

15 December

- **1815** - The Slagtersnek rebels are tried in the Uithenhage landdrost court. One is reprieved by Lord Charles Somerset, the other, Cornelis Faber (43), Stefanus Cornelis Botma (43), his brother Abraham Carel Botma (29), Hendrik Frederik Prinsloo (32) and Theunis de Klerk, are sentenced to death.
- **1890** - Sioux leader Sitting Bull (native name Tataka-yatanka) was killed in a skirmish with U.S. soldiers along the Grand River in South Dakota as his warriors tried to prevent his arrest.
- **1899** - The British under General Redvers Buller make a frontal attack in the Battle of Colenso aimed at relieving the besieged town of Ladysmith. The action fails and the British lose over 1,100 men, including Lieutenant Freddy Roberts, only son of Field-Marshal Lord Frederick Roberts. Eight Boers die and thirty are wounded. This third straight defeat of British troops, which began at Stormberg on December 10, brings "Black Week" to an end.

Graf Spee



- **1938** - General Jan Kemp, acting SA minister of defence, announces during the Voortrekkereuefees festivities that Robertshoogte in Pretoria will in future be known as Voortrekkerhoogte.
- **1941** - USS 'Swordfish' (SS-193) becomes 1st US sub to sink a Japanese ship.
- **1943** - The Battle of San Pietro took place during World War II as a German panzer battalion devastated American forces trying to take the 700-year-old Italian village.
- **1961** - Nazi SS-Colonel Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death in Jerusalem for his role in the Holocaust. Eichmann had organized the deportation of Jews from all over occupied Europe to Nazi death camps.
- **1989** - Mercenary coup in Comoros gives up power after twenty-one days. The mercenary leader and ex-presidential bodyguard, Bob Denard, attempted to create a 'pirate kingdom' after the assassination of president Ahmed Abderrahman Abdallah.
- **1989** - The dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet ended in Chile. Pinochet had come to power in 1973 after a military overthrow of the democratically elected government.

16 December

- **1653** - Following the defeat of King Charles I in the English Civil War, Oli-

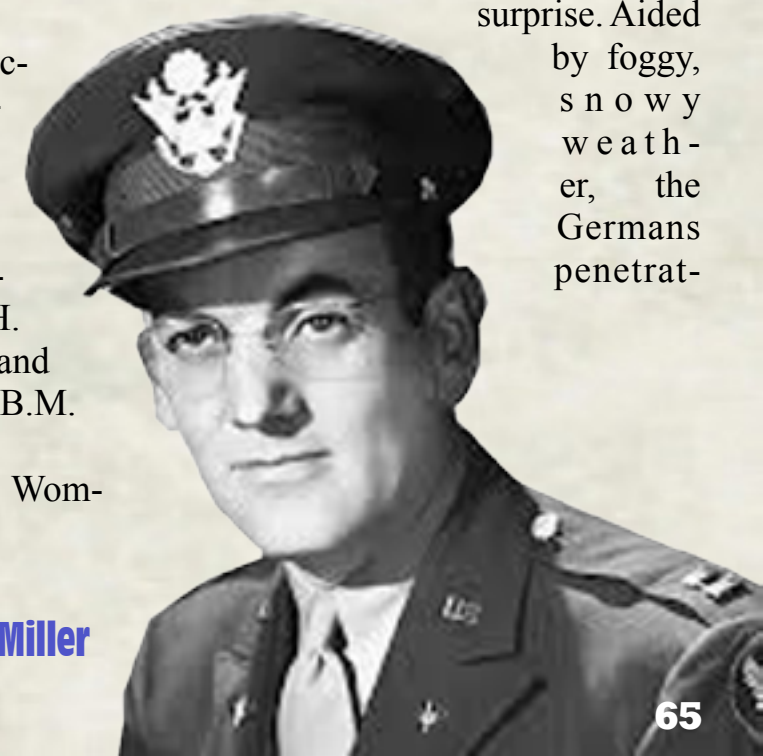
ver Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentary forces, was declared Lord Protector of England.

- **1773** - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded British ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 containers of expensive tea into the water.
- **1838** - In the Battle of Blood River, a Voortrekker commando of 470 men, under leadership of Andries Pretorius, is attacked at Ncome River (later called Blood River) by an army of Zulu King Dingane. About 3,000 Zulus are killed. This day was first commemorated by the Afrikaner community as Dingaan's Day and later as Day of the Covenant.
- **1880** - The first shots in the First Anglo-Boer War are fired in Potchefstroom. The war ended with the defeat of the British in the battle of Amajuba, on 27 February 1881.
- **1900** - The second Republican invasion of the Cape Colony starts under Commandant P.H. Kritzinger and General J.B.M. Hertzog.
- **1913** - The Wom-

en's Memorial is unveiled in Bloemfontein, to commemorate 26,251 women and children who died during the Second Anglo-Boer War, mainly in British concentration camps.

- **1914** - German battlecruisers shell the British resort towns of Scarborough and Hartlepool.
- **1941** - Dan Pienaar gains distinction in an attack on the Italian outpost of El Wak and is awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO).
- **1944** - American big-band leader Glenn Miller disappeared in a small plane over the English Channel and was presumably killed. Best remembered for Moonlight Serenade and In the Mood.
- **1944** - During World War II in Europe, the Battle of the Bulge began as the Germans launched a big counter-offensive in the Ardennes Forest along a 75-mile front, taking American troops by surprise. Aided

by foggy, snowy weather, the Germans penetrated



Glenn Miller

ed 104 kilometres into Allied lines by the end of December. The German advance was eventually halted by Montgomery on the Meuse and Patton at Bastogne. As the weather cleared, Allied aircraft attacked German ground forces and supply lines and the counter-offensive failed. There were an estimated 77,000 Allied and 130,000 German casualties.

- **1944** - German V-2 rocket strikes Antwerp theatre. 638 are killed.
- **1956** - UN troops occupy Port Said, Suez Canal Zone, following the abortive Tripartite Invasion.
- **1961** - Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), formed since June 1961 under leadership of Nelson Mandela, performs its first acts of sabotage by attacking post offices and other buildings in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Durban.

• **1971** - Pakistan accepts an armistice, ending the Bangladesh Liberation War and Indo-Pa-

**V2
rocket**

kistani War of 1971.

17 December

- **1920** - South Africa receives the League of Nations mandate over South West Africa.
- **1963** - President Christophe Soglo is overthrown in a military coup in Dahomey, now Benin.
- **1968** - The first rocket to be wholly developed and manufactured in South Africa is successfully launched from the new rocket launching range at St. Lucia Bay on the east coast. The Minister of Defence asserts that the rockets are defensive not offensive weapons.
- **1993** - American troops are pulled out of Somalia following a series of gun battles with Somali troops under the command of General Mohammed Farah Aidid.

18 December

- **1899** - Field Marshal Lord Roberts is appointed British supreme commander in South Africa.
- **1916** - During World War I, the Battle of Verdun concluded after ten months of fighting in which 543,000 French and 434,000 German soldiers were killed.
- **1939** - Air Battle of Heligoland Bight: RAF bombers attempting to raid German naval bases suffer heavily at the hands of the Luftwaffe.
- **1940** - Adolf Hitler ordered the German General Staff to begin planning Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of

Soviet Russia.

- **1972** - Operation Linebacker: US begins "Christmas bombing" of North Vietnam.

19 December

- **1941** - Italian divers sink British BBs 'Queen Elizabeth' & 'Valiant' at Alexandria.
- **1942** - General Dan Pienaar is killed as his aircraft crashes into Lake Victoria at Kisumu while returning to South Africa. The suburbs Danville (Pretoria) and Dan Pienaar (Bloemfontein) have been named after him.
- **1942** - Guadalcanal: Malaria rate reaches 972 cases per 1,000 US troops.
- **1943** - Military coup in Bolivia.
- **1946** - War broke out in French Indochina as Ho Chi Minh attacked the French seeking to oust them from Vietnam. This marked the beginning of a thirty-year conflict which eventually led to heavy U.S. involvement and ended with a Communist victory in April 1975 after U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam.
- **1992** - President F. W. de Klerk announces that he is either suspending or forcibly retiring 23 officers of the South African Defence Force, including two generals and four brigadiers for illegal or unauthorised activities and malpractice. He says further disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution will follow

pending the completion of the probe.

20 December

- **1852** - Sir George Cathcart, governor and commander-in-chief at the Cape (31 March 1852-26 May 1854), is defeated when he attacks Moshesh at Berea Mountain, Basutoland, with his force of 2 500 regular troops. He concluded peace in accordance with instructions from the British Colonial Office and returned to the Cape Colony.
- **1860** - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the American Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of nine million, including nearly four million slaves. The Union had 21 states and a population of over 20 million.
- **1880** - The Battle of Bronkhorstspuit takes place, four days after the Transvaal War of Independence started, in which a detachment under British officer Col. P.R. Anstruter is cut to pieces by a commando led by Comdt. Frans Joubert: half of the force is killed and wounded and the rest taken prisoner.
- **1900** - The Kitchener mem-

orandum concerning the implementation of concentration camps for Boer women and children is issued. Between 1900-1902 27,827 people, mostly women and children, were to die in these camps.

- **1914** - Josef Johannes (Jopie) Fourie, rebel commando leader during the 1914 Rebellion, is executed by a firing squad after being found guilty of high treason. His death caused an outrage in Afrikaans-speaking circles, and was a potent factor in the rise of the National Party.
- **1924** - Adolf Hitler is freed from prison, having served only part of his sentence for the "Beer Hall Putsch".
- **1935** - Italians are driven back to the Dembeguina Pass when Abyssinian troops cross the River Takaze.
- **1939** - Captain Hans Wilhelm Langsdorff, commander of the 'Graf Spee,' commits suicide at the age of 45.
- **1942** - First Japanese bombing of Calcutta.
- **1944** - Battle of Bastogne: Germans surround the American defenders, initiating a siege.
- **1958** - First successful

test of the US Titan ICBM.

- **1965** - A re-organisation of the South African Defence Force replaces the General Staff with a body to be known as the 'Supreme Command' with the Commandant-General as Chairman and the Executive Commanders as members.
- **1985** - Six South Africans and three Lesotho nationals are killed in an attack for which the renegade Lesotho Liberation Army claims responsibility, while the Lesotho government blames SA.
- **1989** - The U.S. invaded Panama attempting to capture Manuel Noriega on charges of narcotics trafficking. Operation Just Cause occurred seven months after Noriega had declared unfavorable election results in his country to be null and void. The invasion toppled the Noriega government and resulted in the installation of Guillermo Endara as president. Noriega temporarily eluded capture, but surrendered a few weeks later to U.S. troops. He was then tried, convicted, and imprisoned in the U.S.

**Manuel
Noriega**



21 December

- **1832** - Egyptian forces rout Turkish army at Battle of Konieh.
- **1879** - Soviet Russia leader Josef Stalin was born in the village of Gori in Georgia, Russia. His original name was Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili.
- **1900** - The inaugural meeting of the Burgher Peace Committee is held in Pretoria. Lord Kitchener discusses his concentration camp policies with this group, mentioning that stock and Blacks would also be brought in. An estimated 14,100 Blacks were to die in these camps.
- **1941** - Japanese renew their attempt to capture Wake Island.

- **1945** - World War II General George Patton died in Germany following a car accident. He had been injured on 9 December near Mannheim and was taken to a hospital in Heidelberg where he died. He was buried in Luxembourg.
- **1964** - SA signs treaty with Great Britain on the supply of military equipment to South Africa.
- **1979** - Peace agreement signed, ending seven-year Rhodesian guerrilla war and 15-year rebellion against the British crown.
- **1988** - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed.
- **2003** - The Sudanese government and rebel group Sudan People's Liberation Army reach a tentative deal to evenly divide the country's oil wealth as part of negotiations to end its 20-year-old civil war.

22 December

- **1880** - During the First Anglo-Boer War a three-month siege of Pretoria begins.

George Patton Jr

23 December

- **1910** - German SS General Kurt "Panzer" Meyer was born on this day.
- **1941** - British troops capture Benghazi, Libya.
- **1943** - General Montgomery, commander of the Allied forces in North Africa, is advised that he will be appointed commandant for D-day.

- **1894** - A French court martial convicts Alfred Dreyfus of treason on trumped up charges, triggering "The Dreyfus Affair".
- **1944** - Battle of the Bulge. General Anthony McAuliffe to a German ultimatum to surrender with the reply, "Nuts!". (See this month's Famous Figures in Military History).
- **1944** - Vietnamese Liberation Army is formed by Vo Nguyen Giap.
- **1956** - Last British and French troops leave Egypt.
- **1965** - Second military coup in Dahomey (now Benin) is led by Colonel Christophe Soglo.
- **1988** - South Africa signs an accord granting independence to South-West Africa. Angola, Cuba, and South Africa end eight months of negotiations under US mediation for a settlement in South-Western Africa by signing a formal treaty at UN headquarters in New York, after signing a protocol earlier in December.

- **1948** - Hideki Tojo was hanged for war crimes. He had been Japanese prime minister from 1941-44. Following Japan's defeat in World War II, he was arrested as a war criminal, tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to death. He was hanged along with six other Japanese wartime military leaders at Sugamo Prison in Tokyo, with the sentence carried out by the U.S. 8th Army.
- **1968** - North Korea releases 82 crewmen of the USS 'Pueblo' (AGER-2), held since January.
- **1985** - Five civilians were killed and forty injured in a bomb explosion in the Sanlam shopping centre in Amanzimtoti, Natal South Coast. Umkhonto we Siswe (MK) cadre Andrew Sibusiso Zondo, who detonated the explosive in a rubbish bin, was executed by hanging in 1986.
- **2013** - Mikhail Timofeyevich Kalashnikov, the man that designed the AK-47, dies at the age of 94.

24 December

- **1914** - The first-ever German air raid against Britain took place when a German monoplane dropped a single bomb on Dover, England, during World War I.
- **1914** - World War I. Along sections of the Western Front, British and German troops declare an unofficial Christmas truce.

- **1941** - Manila is heavily bombed by Japanese aircraft.
- **1942** - The first surface-to-surface guided missile, later known as the V-1 Flying Bomb, was launched by German rocket engineer Wernher von Braun. Called "Buzz Bombs" for the loud buzzing sound of their motor, they were used by Nazi Germany against Britain beginning in September 1944.
- **1943** - General Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force preparing for D-Day.
- **1980** - German admiral & führer Karl Dönitz dies at the age of 89.

25 December

- **1901** - During the Battle of Tweefontein, (also Groenkop or Krismiskop) General De Wet surprises British soldiers. At least fifty-seven of them are killed. De Wet takes the unwounded soldiers (about 120) with him to put them across the Basutoland border a few days later.

- **1941** - British-Canadian garrison of Hong Kong surrenders to the Japanese 38th Division.
- **1985** - The Six-day War between Mali and Algeria over the disputed Agacher strip starts.
- **2016** - Airplane crash in the Black Sea kills 92, including the Russian Army Chorus.

26 December

- **1862** - The first US navy hospital ship, 'Red Rover' commissioned, with four Catholic nuns serving as nurses.
- **1893** - Mao Tse-Tung was born in Hunan Province, China.
- **1900** - The Battle of Greylingstad takes place when Commandant Buys attacks the South Rand mine, near Greylingstad. Part of the guard is cut off and has to surrender, but the burghers are forced to retreat when the main column arrives.
- **1915** - The German gunboat, the Kingani, is captured by the British on Lake Tanganyika. It is removed by portage through the jungle of the Belgian Congo.

V1 rocket



- **1916** - Joseph Joffre is made a Marshal of France.
- **1943** - Battle of North Cape: The Scharnhorst is sunk by the Royal Navy.
- **1944** - Battle of the Bulge: US 4th Armored Div relieves Bastogne.
- **1944** - The Red Army surrounds Budapest.
- **1972** Former US President Harry S Truman dies at the age of 88.
- **1975** - Cariango, Angola is taken by Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola, (MPLA, Popular Liberation Movement of Angola) guerrillas.
- **2006** - Former naval officer and US President Gerald R. Ford dies at the age of 93.

27 December

- **1838** - In the Battle of the White Umfolozi, the Voortrekker commando is ambushed and nearly overpowered by a Zulu impi. Alexander Harvey Biggar, among others, is killed in the running fight.
- **1922** - The Imperial Japanese Navy commissions the 'Hôshô', the first purpose-built carrier to enter service in any navy.
- **1941** - British Commandos raid Vaagso, Norway.
- **1944** - B-29s from Saipan make their fifth major raid on Tokyo.
- **1956** - 5,580 Egyptian prisoners of war are exchanged for four Israelis held by Egypt.
- **1960** - France detonates its third atomic device in the Sahara.
- **1979** - Soviets invade Afghanistan, initiating a disastrous nine-year war that opens the country to a Taliban takeover.
- **1996** - A genocide trial began concerning the killing of an estimated 800,000 Tutsis in Rwanda. In 1994, a bloody civil war had broken out between the two main ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsi. After the Hutu army seized power it had

waged a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against the Tutsi population.

- **2012** - General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of the US Army during "Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm", dies at the age of 78.

28 December

- **1901** - Commandant Gideon Scheepers is found guilty on several charges by a British court martial and sentenced to death. He professes his innocence to the end.
- **1921** - The Rand Revolt begins with a strike by miners after announcements of wage reductions on the gold-mines necessitated by the depression following WWI.
- **1950** - Korea: Chinese troops cross 38th Parallel.
- **1962** - UN troops occupy Elizabethstad, Katanga.

29 December

- **1895** - Leander Starr Jameson crosses the border into Transvaal, leading about five hundred hand-picked policemen of the Chartered Company on their way to Johannesburg.
- **1900** - The Battle of Helvetia near Machadodorp takes place, with the British under Major Cotton surrendering to General Ben Viljoen. Major Cotton is fatally wounded.
- **1940** - During the Blitz, German aircraft dropped thousands of incendiary bombs on the centre of London, causing the worst fire damage since the great fire of 1666. St. Paul's Cathedral survived but eight other Wren churches along with the Guildhall and Old Bailey were badly damaged.

30 December

- **1900** - Battleships are sent to Tangiers by the Spanish government as the first part of its intended invasion of Morocco.
- **1935** - Italian bombers destroy a Swedish Red Cross unit in Ethiopia.
- **1959** - USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598) is commissioned, the first ballistic missile sub.
- **1972** - US President Richard Nixon halts bombing of North Vietnam & announces peace talks
- **1987** - The Transkei military, under General Bantu Holomisa, overthrows the administration of Stella Sigcau of the Transkei.
- **2006** - Saddam Hussein is hanged at the age of 69.

31 December

- **1967** - Prime Minister B.J. Vorster warns that the government would re-assess the Simonstown agreement during 1968. This reaction follows the British government's decision to maintain the South African arms embargo.
- **1981** - In his second military coup, Jerry Rawlings overthrows the government of President Hilla Limann in Ghana.
- **1983** - The Nigerian civil government of President Shehu Shagari is overthrown in a fourth, bloodless, military coup led by Major-General Muhammadu Buhari. He was declared Head of State on 2 January 1984.



H. Norman Schwarzkopf



USS George Washington



The Sharp Edge answers

1. Gurkha kukri

Used by the Gurkhas of India and Nepal.

2. Bowie knife

Made famous by Jim Bowie of The Alamo fame.

3. Filipino bolo knife

Similar to the machete.

4. Viking Ulfberht sword

Made famous by the Vikings.

5. Fairbairn Sykes

Fighting knife developed by William Fairbairn and Eric Sykes. Became popular with World War II British Commandos.

6. Indonesian kris

Most strongly associated with the culture of Indonesia.

7. Filipino balisong

Also known as a fan knife, butterfly knife or Batangas knife

8. Yemen jambiyas

Jambiya are found in every country that has been inhabited by the Arabs.

9. Japanese katana

Japanese swords that were used by the samurai of ancient and feudal Japan.

10. Falcata

Used by the Celtiberian warriors in ancient Spain.

11. AK-47 bayonet

This Russian bayonet could be combined with the sheath and used for cutting wire.

12. Okinawan sai

Traditional piercing melee weapon used in Okinawa.

13. Scottish claymore

Claymore is a term derived from the Gaelic claidheamh-mòr, meaning "great sword."

14. Egyptian khopesh

Egyptian sickle-sword that evolved from battle axes.

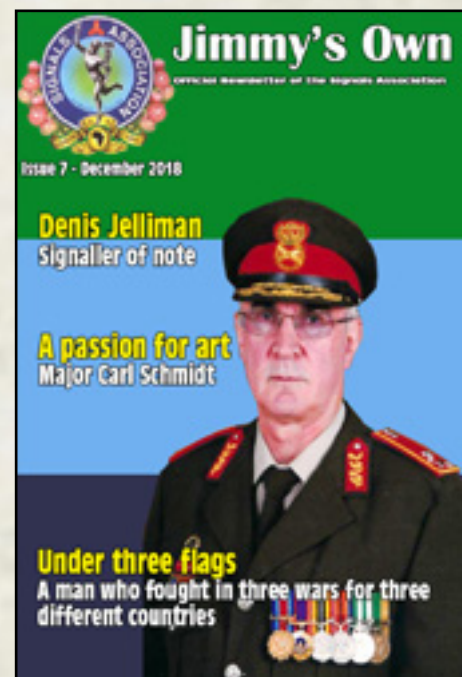
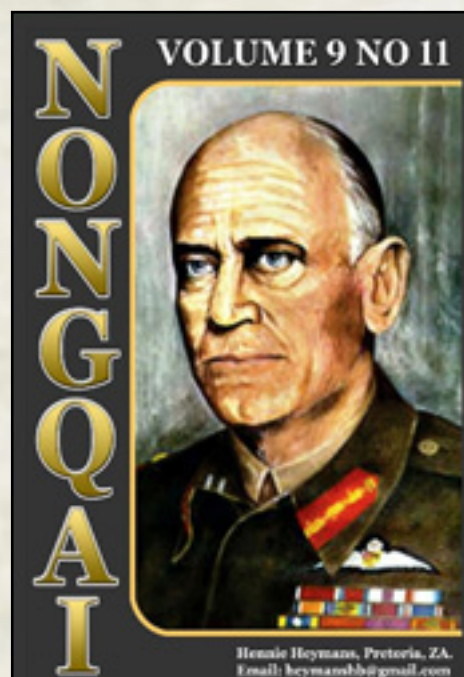
15. Roman gladius

Gladius was one Latin word for sword, and is used to represent the primary sword of Ancient Roman foot soldiers.

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.



Military Despatches

To all our readers from all of us at Military Despatches.

Thanks for your support during the year. Here's wishing you everything of the best for Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Hipe!

media

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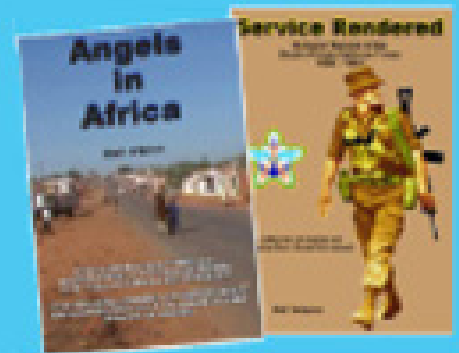
Online Magazines

Flip book magazines with pages that can be turned.



E-books

Produced in any electronic format required.



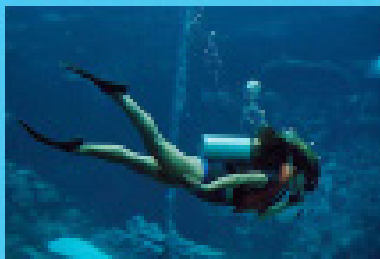
2D & 3D Animation

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.